

VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

Vegas Fan Events

VSFA Lunch and a Movie
Saturday (3/18) 1:00 PM

Las Vegrants Meetings
Saturday (3/18) 7:30 PM

SNAPS Distribution #11 Deadline
Sunday (3/19)

VSFA Sunday Social
Sunday (3/19) 2:00 PM

SNAFFood Dinner Meeting
Friday (3/24) 7:00 PM

— and abundant (and discreet) help is available from Joyce or me for those who need some fan publishing guidance. It should be pointed out that a long list of local fans have done SNAPSzines without spontaneously combusting, so it's pretty safe to give it a try.

If you need more of an explanation, check back issues of *VFW* in which I have run on endlessly on this subject.

You can see what a SNAPS distribution looks like by visiting SNAFFU.org and taking advantage of the free downloads.

Sunday Social Looks for Bigger Crowd!

And if it's true what they say about the generous portions at the Blue Ox, the Sunday Social will gain from enlarged individuals as well as the addition of new ones.

The monthly get-togethers have been a little small of late, but that trend is set to reverse this coming Sunday when Las Vegas Fandom gathers for a pleasant Sunday of casual dining and conversation.

Joyce, James Taylor, Teresa Cochran and I all plan

SNAPS Distribution Deadline is Sunday!

SNAPS (Southern Nevada Amateur Press Society) will complete its first year of operation under the benevolent despotism of Official Editor Joyce Katz. SNAPS, Las Vegas' own amateur press association (fanzine trading club), has a deadline of Sunday, March 19 for the final distribution of its inaugural year.

All you have to do to participate is write (and draw, if you can...) something, send the file to Joyce and wait for her to send you a copy of the distribution with everyone's contributions included.

You can do your SNAPS fanzine with just about any kind of software, from .TXT to .PDF

Continued on page 11



Inside Story Techno-Confessions

We've been talking about technology a lot in recent issues of *VFW* with such confidence and certitude it obscures the fact that electronic fanzines are laboring under some technological handicaps in the here and now. I got a stronger reminder when I prepared the last issue for mailing — and saw that I had a 6.2 MB .PDF file!

I couldn't send it to you that way. There are still many fans who have small e-mail capacities or low limits on the size of attachments or a slow Internet connection or a slow computer. I like to see *VFW* come in at 800 K-1.5 MB, so I was pretty shocked.

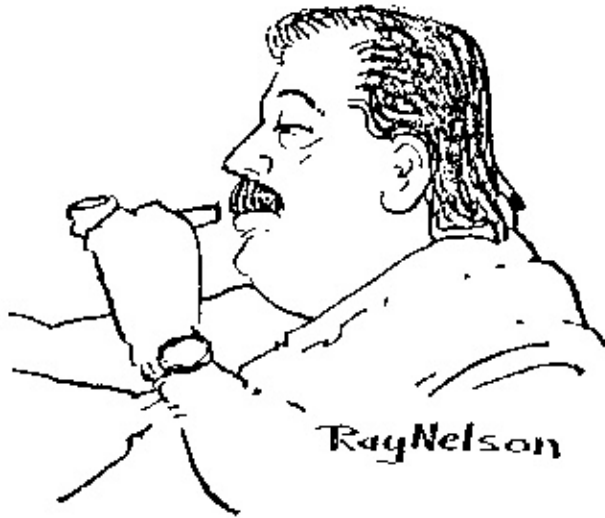
After some study and tinkering, I sent out a version that was 1.23 MB, not bad for a 20-pager. And the difference? In the original version, the text ran around the illos (instead of being squared off) in *Inside Story* and the first page of *Katzenjammer*.

Time will cure these technological limitations within the next few years. And then I can indulge myself in such little frills without worry. Meanwhile, I'd much rather make those concessions to reality than have all of you curse me for blowing up your in-box.

But you'll excuse me if I don't occasionally daydream about adding those little frills — or at least figuring out what *Acrobat* has against such harmless fripperies. For that matter, a universally available free reader with a higher compression ratio would be a significant plus for electronic fanzines, much as MP4 will revolutionize Old Time Radio and Television Fandom.

Maybe the next version of *Acrobat*.

A faned can dream, can't he? — Arnie



Vegas Fandom Weekly #69, Volume 2 Number 15, March 17, 2006, is written and produced by Arnie Katz (909 Eugene Cernan St., Las Vegas, NV 89145; Email: crossfire4@cox.net; phone: 702-648-5677).

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

Reporters this issue: Rebecca Hardin, Linda Bushyager, Art Widner and Joyce Katz

Art/Photo Credits: Steve Stiles/Bill Rotsler (1), Ray Nelson (2, 9), Don Miller (4), Steve Stiles (5), Ross Chamberlain (8), Lynn Masamitsu (10), all else by Bill Rotsler.

Columnists This Issue: Dick Lupoff, Chris Garcia

VFW is free by request — and you may get it anyway. It can be downloaded at the SNAFFU site and at efanzines.com. No elitist fanzine fans were harmed during the production of this fanzine.

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

Why I Love Corflu **Katzenjammer**

In last week's installment of *Katzenjammer*, I wrote about the first fan convention I ever attended.

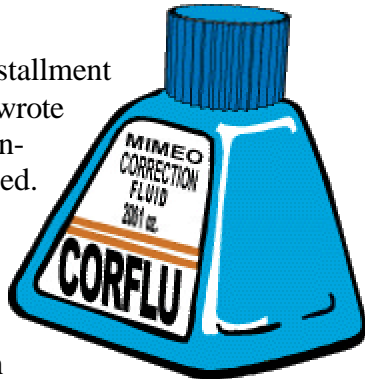
This time I want to tell you about my favorite convention, Corflu. Toronto has now gotten

squared away for the '06 edition (May 5-7), and though finances will keep Joyce and I from being there, the recent news splash put Corflu very much in my mind.

Even before Joyce and I gafiated in 1976, I had pretty much had it with large conventions. I hadn't been to one since Noreascon II in '71 and had no plans to break that string. When I returned, I did go to Magicon — which did a fabulous job of taking care of Core Fandom — primarily because Walt Willis asked us to be there in flatteringly strong terms.

The last sizable con I attended was the Westercon in Los Angeles two years ago. I went mostly because two of my best friends in Fandom, Ross Chamberlain and Robert Lichtman were both Guests of Honor. My next large convention will either be because other friends are being similarly honored — or I am. (“Have Mouth, Will Travel,” reads the card of a fan...)

I always do my best to enjoy myself at cons and, as a result, I've never been to a convention at which I did not have fun. I go into them with a very low level of expectation,



which puts me in a good frame of mind to savor the good moments and slide past the bad ones.

Honestly, there have been very few bad moments at the eight Corflus I've attended. Even the anti-party patrol at Corflu Nova proved a small, surmountable obstacle to a good time. Local Core Fans like Dan & Lynn Steffan graciously opened their homes to Corflu visitors.

I find that, with Corflu, my pre-con preparations have less to do with cushioning disappointment than with preventing over-enthusiasm. I've come to enjoy Corflu so much that I have to guard against over-enthusiasm, which may be too emphatic (and therefore intrusive) to others.

By starting the con in a beatific state of calm, I can usually prevent myself from becoming a character in a bad faan fiction story three days later.

Emotions run high for a lot of folks at Corflu. I have seen people cry when it's time to go — and not just well-known softies like rich brown and Joyce. This is reflected in the steady decline in the number of fans who leave during the Sunday banquet at Corflu. It's a gut-wrenching way to leave the folks whom you may not see again for a year or two.

Corflu has become Core Fandom's worldcon. It's far and away my favorite convention and I



Tracy Benton has done a great job of enrich the content of the Corflu.org web site she created. (Photo taken at Corflu Blackjack in Las Vegas.)



Lucy Huntziner, one of Corflu's three founders, also put on Corflu Nashville in 1996..

Continued on next page

would go there if I could only go to one convention in a year.

Lately I've been thinking, and not for the first time, about *why* Corflu means so much to me.(and, by extension, to others).

It begins with the concept. Shay Barsabe, Allyn Cadogan, and Lucy Huntzinger came up with the idea for a "Fanzine Fan" convention in 1984 as an alternative to the large commercial conventions like the worldcon and all they represented.

I wasn't there, so I don't know if Corflu consciously reflect the same principles as the fabled Fanoclasts club on NYC in the 1960's and early 1970's. Looking back at both, though, makes the similarities obvious. Some of the important ways that Corflu, which is gradually developing into the Core Fandom Worldcon, differs from, the World Science Fiction Convention:

* **Corflu is non-Commercial.**

There is no real attempt to make a profit and most Corflus cheerfully go into the red. There's no effort to sell ads in progress reports or program books or to set up a huckster room as a revenue stream. Most Corflus try to recoup some expenses with a Fanthology and/or a Corflu tee-shirt.

* **Corflu Is Non-Competitive.** Corflu is consistently avoided any suggestion of site bidding. When two groups are interested, they talk it out and only one comes to Corflu prepared to ask for fans' approval to host it the next year.

* **Corflu is egalitarian.** Corflu emphasizes this by choosing its Guest of Honor by lot. All members are on the same footing as fans.



Don Miller designed this graphic for Corflu Blackjack, put on in 2003 by Ben Wilson and Ken Forman with Cathi Wilson and Aileen Forman.

* **Corflu has more of what used to bring fans to cons.** It's small, friendly, down-to-earth with little of the star-trip pomposity that disfigures so many cons.

* **Corflu has a sense of humor.** Sometimes large cons exude an air of pomposity and self-aggrandizement as petty strivers reach for titles and perks. There's nothing like that with Corflu. That's part of the reason that such a small crew is needed to set up and host one.

Philosophy is nice, in its place, but it can't substitute for a great time. So let's move from the theoretical to the empirical...

I feel the difference between Corflu and other conventions the



minute I get there. It's hard to tell the lobby at the worldcon hotel from the main hotel of, say, the Consumer Electronics Show, except that people at the latter are better dressed. All Known Fandom is so Balkanized and diverse these days that most of the folks you meet around the worldcon registration desk are apt to be strangers — and are likely to remain so due to almost no common ground.

By contrast, Corflu enfolds fans in a tribal atmosphere. I don't know everyone at Corflu, or

More about Corflu

This installment of *Katzenjammer* tells you a lot about how I feel about Corflu and why, but it may well not answer all your questions about the Core Fandom Worldcon. *Chatback* is one way to get questions answered, but there is also a fine site online devoted to the subject.

Corflu.org is a highly attractive and easy-to-use web site with lots of content about Corflu, past and present.

It's the best place to get full details concerning this year's edition — Corflu Toronto, May 5-7 — as well as the history and traditions.

Tracy Benton, who has worked on several Corflus, is also responsible for creating the Corflu.org site and keeping it filled with the latest information.



adore everyone I know, but I feel a kinship with them all. When I walk into a Corflu con suite or

into the registration area, I feel surrounded by people who “get it,” who have some understanding of the subculture of Fandom (even if it may not be exactly *my* understanding).

There are extremely few lurkers at Corflu; some of the good folks may not have pubbed their ish in three or four decades, but Core Fandom remains in their hearts. If they are at Corflu, it's because they want to share that gestalt.

I don't know whether Corflu will ever truly become Core Fandom's worldcon, but that really doesn't matter; it's the con that is the worldcon to me.

And though Joyce and I won't be there this year, we'll look forward to our next opportunity to return.

— Arnie



Steve Stiles drew this wonderful illustration for the Corflu Valentine (Annapolis, MD., 2004) tee-shirt.

Them Daze

Lumpkin Highway

Combat has been described as long periods of grinding boredom interrupted by brief moments of abject terror. I wouldn't know. I was never in combat. I was never in a war, unless you consider the Cold War as war. But even in that, my duties were divided between Fort Gordon, Georgia, Fort Benning, Georgia, and Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana.

Never fired a round in anger (although I could hit a target pretty good), never had one fired at me (except machine-gun rounds flying overhead while I crawled along beneath them), never saw an enemy soldier (although at Benning we did train against mock units wearing Russian uniforms, carrying Russian weapons, and speaking Russian).

My time at Fort Benning (The US Army Infantry School) came in the summer of 1954. I was a sophisticated nineteen years of age. I had finished two years at college, including ROTC courses, and I was ordered to report to Fort Benning for a summer training period, roughly equivalent to Basic Training that draftees received. Well, and it also had some ingredients borrowed from OCS – Officers Candidate School.

There were trainees in my unit from any number of different colleges. The guys from my school, the University of Miami, were a pretty sophisticated bunch. The other schools represented had some kids who were pretty innocent and backwoodsy. The drill sergeants and other instructors worked us pretty hard. I think reveille was around 0430 hours (4:30 AM). We'd make our beds, clean the barracks, assemble outside for calisthenics, and then have our breakfast.

Legends about Army food abound, but I can tell you



The M1 Garand rifle goes into combat action in the hands of a skilled rifleman.

that Fort Benning fed us well. Er, depending on how you define "well." The food was plentiful, pretty well prepared in a minimalist fashion, and tilted strongly to protein and carbohydrates. Mmm, nothing like a hearty breakfast of pork chops and pan-fried potatoes to stoke you up for a hard day's training.

We went out on long hikes, practiced taking our rifles apart and putting them back together, spent a lot of hours practicing marksmanship, had some night map-reading exercises, and spent a few nights in foxholes. You could get pretty tired by the end of a day like this. I remember one night, out there in the red-clay hills of western Georgia, digging myself a foxhole, crawling into it, and opening a can of C-rations (or was it K-rations – I can't remember, Dave) for my dinner. There was something like meatloaf in the can. It was cold. I didn't care. I was hungry and it was delicious.

There were a lot of ants around, and some of 'em decided that they'd like to share my meatloaf. Next thing I knew there was a fair-sized ant population in my C-rations. I was really hungry and really, really tired. I took one look at them and decided, "Tough luck, little pals, that's my dinner you're crawling over," and I just pitched in and ate the food, ants and all. They actually tasted pretty good.

We learned to take our instructors seriously. One sergeant taught us how to fix (attach) and unfix (remove) bayonets on our rifles. You put the butt of the rifle on the ground between your feet, pointed the muzzle away at about a 45 degree angle, and worked the bayonet on or off in that position.

It was actually easier to do the job if the rifle was vertical, and one fellow decided that the easy way was better than the Army way. He got the bayonet onto his rifle okay. When it was time to take it off, alas, the thing slipped and he wound up puncturing his jugular.

Not that I was all-wise. We learned to use a weapon called the BAR (Browning Automatic Rifle). This was a hell of a good weapon, a sort of cross between a rifle and machine gun. Pretty damned heavy, but – wow! – did it pack a wallop. Unlike our normal rifles, where the barrel was mostly covered by a wooden stock, the BAR barrel was exposed for about its last two feet.

"Never touch the metal barrel after you've fired a BAR. They get very hot."

Ho, ho. We use these things for a little while, I have to pick mine up and move to another position, I get careless and pick it up with one hand on the wooden stock and the other on the metal barrel. *Whooooo-eeeeee!!!!* I never made *that* mistake again!

What with weapons training, maneuvers, physical conditioning, caring for equipment, KP duty, guard duty, and "GI parties" (barracks scrubbing), we



The Springfield M1 Garand Rifle

were kept pretty damned busy and pretty damned tired. But we got a little time off, including the opportunity for an occasional Saturday night expedition into nearby Columbus, Georgia.

A friend of mine had access to a car, and a gang of us piled into it and headed down the Lumpkin Highway into downtown Columbus. This was something of an Army town, of course, and many of the local businesses catered to off-duty troops from Fort Benning.

We parked and started on our evening of fun and games. We'd just been paid. I don't remember how much we were paid as would-be officers, but I do recall the amount of my paycheck once I did receive my commission a couple of years later. As a new second lieutenant I earned \$222.30 before taxes. *A month.* Livin' high at the taxpayer's expense!

We wandered into a saloon on Columbus's main drag. There were a variety of local citizens bellied up to the bar and a modern TV set raised above eye level in one corner. Modern in 1956 meant a flickering black-and-white image on a seventeen-inch screen. There was a prize fight in progress.

Well, it seemed to be in progress. Actually, the bout was on film, part of a series called "Great Fights of the Century." One member of our gang was a farm boy from Arkansas. I'll call him Jed Hopkins. Another was an urban slickster, Duke Carter.

"Who do you think is going to win?" asked Duke.

Jed studied the screen. "That fella in the dark trunks looks pretty good to me."

"Nah," replied Duke, watching the screen go to black and a beer commercial replace the boxing ring. "I'll take the boy in the light trunks."

"Don't think so."

"Say, let's place a little bet. Just to make it interesting."

By now we're all drinking beer, watching the TV screen, listening to the dialog between Jed and Duke.

"Okay, how's about five dollars?"

"Tell you what, Jed. I'll bet my paycheck against yours that the boy in the white trunks

wins by a knockout in round eight."

"You're crazy. You can't pick the outcome like that!" "I think I can."

Everybody else knows that this is a filmed fight and clearly Duke knew the outcome. But Jed thought it was going on live.

"Everybody witness this bet?" Jed asks. "I'm gonna take this fool's money."

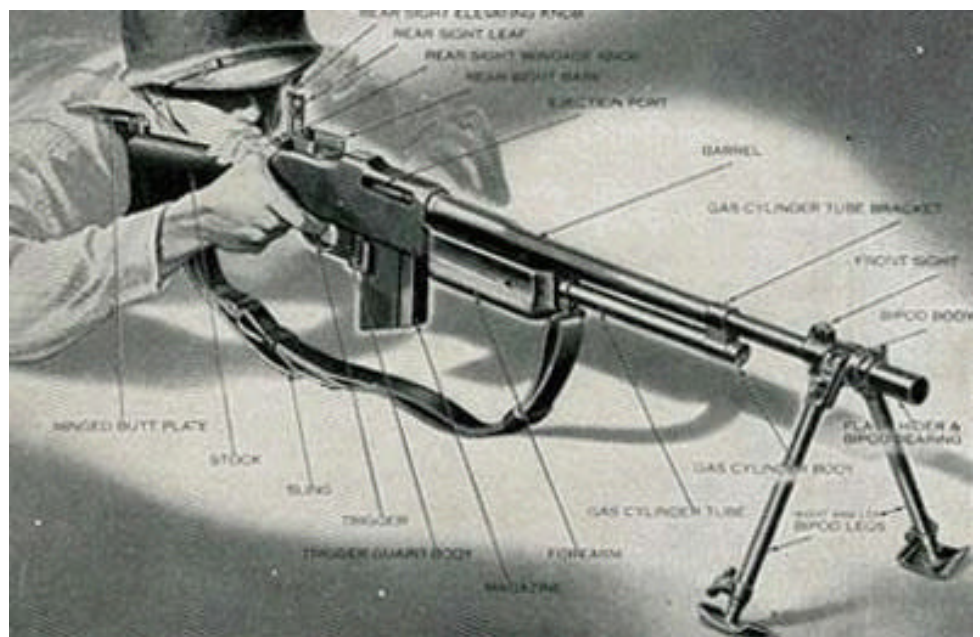
They put up their cash. The bartender, who has been restraining himself throughout the exchange, agrees to hold the bet. Everybody settles in to watch the fight, counting down to round eight.

The fatal round arrives, White Trunks lands a hay-maker, Dark Trunks goes down for the count, everybody in the room starts whooping and hollering, and poor Jed watches, baffled and silent, as the bartender hands the stakes over to Duke.

We all finish our beers and head out into the hot Georgia night. Oh, I remember that night, believe me! We wound up in a restaurant where I had the best steak of my life, then found a whorehouse that offered a special GI discount, then went back to the saloon for another drink, then back to Fort Benning and to bed.

I wonder if poor Jed ever figured out how Duke took him. Oh, them wuz sum daze.

-- Dick Lupoff



The Browning Automatic Rifle (BAT) is a heavy-hitting infantry weapon.

SNAFFU Central The New Order

If this was one of those heay-handed faan fiction stories such as one might encounter in one of the less scrupulous fan-zines, you'd now be wading through many paragraphs of dither about this being Joyce's first meeting as Vice President and Meeting Director of SNAFFU. Were this not a high class rag like *Vegas Fandom Weekly*, the alleged reporter would now be speculating, in polysyllabic prose, whether the good folks at SNAFFU would have a throne for Joyce or merely a crown and scepter when she arrived at Borders bookstore for the March 10 meeting.

Then, just as you began to wonder what the hell those 10 fans did at the SNAFFU Discussion Meeting, you would instead have been regaled with a fanciful description of how the newly elected Vice President Joyce Katz walked through the book store on a carpet of royal purple as browsing customers bowed, stood at attention or merely pulled their forelocks.

What a relief, a blessed relief, to be free of such jejune excesses! Now that the High Tone of this report has been assured, let us proceed to the actual account, secure in the knowledge that no hint of creativity or imagination will sully its journalistic integrity.

Since Joyce's vision is still not fully restored, we gratefully accepted Lori Forbes' kind offer to pick us up at the Launch Pad and



bring us with her to the 3/10 SNAFFU meeting. She arrived a few minutes early, so we chatted about things like the Library Project and Lori's work and school schedule.

Already feeling the weight of Official Responsibility on her shoulders, Joyce asked if we could get there a little early. It turned out to be a good idea, because we quickly discovered that the store hadn't made arrangements for handling our group. (The book store's remodeling, which got the Library all those lovely shelves, also eliminated the nook where we schnooks clustered for the "first Friday" discussion meetings.)

Lori jumped in very decisively, yet charmingly. She enlisted the cooperation of the Borders staff — she has worked there a long time and knows everyone very well — and soon had enough chairs for the meeting in a cul-de-sac formed by three shelf sections.

There was, just barely, room for everyone, but the venue problem can no longer be ignored. Nice as Borders has been to the club, it really isn't set-up to handle current meetings, much



less the larger ones that Joyce predicts so confidently. Besides, an operating book store with no private room is probably not the best place to hold a club meeting anyway.

Naturally, finding a new home for the SNAFFU Discussion Meetings came up during the “old business” segment. Teresa Cochran, with some guidance from James Taylor, has picked up the mission of getting through to the Nevada Water & Power, which has a local facility with a meeting room that would be excellent for SNAFFU. Michael Bernstein promised to look into Greyhound Books, which might well let us meet after business hours, assuring a better ambience.

SNAFFU members are encouraged to join the search for the club’s new home. If no member will step forward and offer a private home as a site — the club’s best days were when it met at the home of Ken & Aileen Forman — we will need to find a pub, library or other location that will accept a not-for-profit group like SNAFFU.

The clock struck Eight, but Joyce prevailed on Michael to hold off the start of the meeting in case more members might be on their way to honor her first night as Vice President and Meeting Director. (I get a royalty from Joyce each time I mention her title...)

Once satisfied that no more fans were coming, Michael got things rolling and the group quickly moved through the old and new business and went into the night’s reports, part of Joyce’s plan to get everyone to participate. I did a fan news recap, two others contributed science reports and Michael gave everyone a first look at some new book releases. This phase of the meeting went very well and will be expanded over the next couple of meetings.

Michael introduced the night’s main discussion topic, “What is your favorite piece of science fiction?” with an a capella rendition of “These Are



a Few of My Favorite Things” and then attendees took turns answering the question. It was good to see so many club members contributing to the meeting. No coincidence that this was a good meeting.

Jolie LaChance opted for “anything with horses,” James Taylor described his love of winged spaceships and, mostly to liven up things, I disclosed my passion for the scantily clad women on the old pulp science fiction magazines.

Joyce’s favorite was *The Lord of the Rings*. Her mention of that led others to digress into tales of their experiences trying to read the somewhat unevenly paced fantasy classic.

The New Regime is still getting into gear, but this first meeting was quite promising. The consensus seemed to be that it was the best, overall, in some time.

Attending the meeting were: Michael Bernstein, Joyce Katz, Ron & Linda Bushyager, Lori Forbes, Teresa Cochran, James Taylor, Jolie LaChance, Lynn McGiboney and...

— Arnie

Next Meeting

The next SNAFFU discussion meeting is Friday, April 7. At this point, it is still planned for Borders bookstore. Starting time is 8:00 PM. There’s usually a post-meeting expedition to a restaurant for a snack and socializing for those who don’t want to end things at 10.

The discussion topic for the next meeting speaks to the prophetic aspect of science fiction:

“What science fictional concept, except for the obvious one of space flight, would you most like to see come true?”

VFW readers are invited to send in their thoughts to ChatBack.

Messages

Call Me MISTER P r e s i d e n t !

Two guys walk into a hotel bar during a con. The first one says “I just got elected president of the N3F” the other one says “Great, nothing I do could possibly be that funny.”

OK, here’s the business: no one was running for President of the N3F last winter, which I thought was unusual. Ruth Davidson had just come off a big year and had done a lot of good stuff bringing the group forward, exposing the N3F to new people and bringing in new members. Heck, she was responsible for making me a member. Since no one was running, I put my name out there as being willing to stand for the office, and lo-and-behold, I was elected.

Hail to the Chief, Baby!

Anyhow, some of the folks out there may be wondering why a mild-mannered guy like myself would get involved in such a group, and there are a lot of good reasons, and you may further be thinking about what it is I did in a past life to deserve such treatment. The fact is even though the N3F has a certain reputation, I love it. I really do. There’s a lot of good stuff here in the form of good people and good ideas.

Sadly, while the numbers have dropped, the N3F still goes forward and puts out good stuff. My own dad pointed out that the N3F ‘wasn’t the type of place for a guy like you’, but when I pointed out that he had a few N3F things in those old boxes of fanzines he said “well, I was MUCH younger then.” I explained what I was thinking and he said something that will certainly inform my next steps.



“Kid, just go and do good stuff. People’ll catch on.”

That’s where I come in. In my vision of the N3F, the group expands its membership and more fans are involved in the doing of stuff. I’d love to see the N3F be a less isolated group whose presence is only known to those who have been around for years and have an N3F joke ready for every occa-

sion and those who are already members.

There are a lot of ways to do it, from distributing flyers to standing on an apple box and yelling ‘Join the N3F’ on every street corner in town. My thought is that the N3F just has to put out good material, increase visibility, and pump the website full of good stuff that both members and non-members can access to show that the N3F has a lot to offer.

If I do one thing in my year (which is really 9 months, but the idea is there), it’s that I’d like to see the N3F become a portal where all fans can come for info. With the potential loss of a couple of the fannish super sites, I really think that NFFF.org can fill that gap and powerfully.

So, I’m president and I’m working on putting together a plan. You’ll hear more about it over the coming months. Right now, I’m just facing forward, keeping my humor about me, and getting to work on the next steps that I think the club should make.

This is the biggest project I’ve ever worked on, but it’ll also be the one that will make me feel like I’ve done the most good for the most people.

— Chris Garcia



Continued from p 2

to be there and hope to see other Vegnants and SNAFFUties gathered around the table with the VSFAns, too.

Cool Cuba SNAFFood Set for 3/24!

The highly successful SNAFFood Diner Meetings, begun in January, continue on March 24 at the Cool Cuba restaurant.

Here's a recap of the information Linda Bushyager, dinner meeting coordinator, provided a few weeks ago:

*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/

[lvrij_home/2004/Jan-30-Fri-2004/](http://lvrij_home/2004/Jan-30-Fri-2004/weekly/23080842.html)

[weekly/23080842.html](http://lvrij_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 22 to joyceworley1@cox.net
(Since Linda will be out of town in March)*

Vegnants Plan Something New for 4/15 Meeting!

The April 15 Las Vegnants meeting will have a special added (optional) feature. Bill Mills, a master of audio technology for Renaissance E-Books, will produce an audio oneshot at the meeting!

Those Vegnants who want to give it a try, will be conducted to Joyce's computer and given a microphone to enter their contribution. Bill will make the results, if they don't prove too embarrassing, available as an MP3 called *Vegnants Voices #1*, a oneshot separate from the *Glitter City* series of electronically distributed oneshot fanzines.

To give those who choose to contribute to the audio oneshot something to talk about and to give the whole thing some coherence, Vegnants will be asked to talk on the theme "How I Found Fandom — or It Found Me." Individual contributions must, of necessity, be held to five minutes or so, but the results should still prove interesting.

Las Vegnants is an informal, invitational club for Core Fandomites.

VSFAns to See *V for Vendetta*!

The venue shifts to Green Valley Ranch (2300 Paseo Verde Parkway), but the idea remains the same.

The group will meet around 1:10 PM to catch the 1:20 PM showing of *V for Vendetta*.

After the movie, the group will continue its "food and film" tradition at a restaurant in the Green Valley area. Which one will probably depend on who's there for the flick.

Library Committee Hits Major Milestone!

Let's give a tip of the propeller beanie to Lori Forbes, the chairman of SNAFFU's Library Committee, for a well-prepared work session that pushed the SNAFFU Library to a significant milestone. The Sunday (3/12) work session at the Launch Pad, future site of the Library, set up all the shelves and dredged up a bunch of stuff to be sold for SNAFFU at the forthcoming Roxanne Gibbs/Michael Bernstein garage sale.

Jolie LaChance, who has increased her fannish visibility since changing jobs last month, applied her considerable skill and experience as a professional carpenter to directing the effort to position the shelves in a solid, stable configuration — and Jolie did almost all the actual assembly work, too. (Out of respect for her outstanding effort, I will refrain from saying that she spent the entire day screwing.)

A crew, composed of Lori, Jolie, James Taylor, Teresa Cochran, April Reckling, Ron & Linda Bushyager, Lynn McGiboney, Joyce and me, started promptly at 9:00 AM and, defying dire predictions of snow — yes snow! — worked until 2:30 PM.

Well, minus a break for pizza from Pizza Heaven and chocolate from Ron and Linda's hoard of premium goodies. According to Joyce, she was so charming on the phone that the Pizza Heaven gave us a free pizza when we bought two. She did concede, however, that the coupon for a free pizza she had may have been at least a contributing factor.

The shelf units are now properly placed, though we will need to buy shelves to completely fill the units. (Lori is inserting shelves with the spacing needed for paperback books. Since the shelves, when they were in Borders bookstore, were spaced to accommodate several sizes of books, we couldn't salvage enough shelves to make up the difference.

After checking out some prices, Jolie and Lori estimate that we will have to spend about \$300 to fill the units. There'll probably have to be some fundraising; maybe we could get fans to "adopt a shelf" for \$20.

No date is set for the next work session, but we'll probably have news on that from Lori by next week.

SNAFFU Sets April & May SNAFFood Dinner!

The May SNAFFood Dinner will take place at a relatively inexpensive restaurant in Henderson, reports

dinner meeting coordinator Linda Bushyager. Here's what she had to say about it:

"I thought it would be good to go to Henderson since the Friday meeting replaces the old Henderson meeting, so in May we will go to Shiraz in Henderson, another very economical place where you can eat for under \$10.

"Note I've already made a booking for Buca di Beppo - I had to book through "group sales person" there and guarantee with a credit card. Tentatively booked for 20 people. We are too large for their semi-private room if we go over 16 people and too few for their private room which holds about 30+. If over 16 people group will have to split into at least two tables."

And here is the full information on the April and May dinner meetings to help you make plans in advance.:

April 28, 2006 - Buca di Beppo (Italian - family style) - 7pm - RSVP by April 21 to LindaBushyager@aol.com (reservation under the name Bushyager)
412 E. Flamingo (Flamingo & Paradise)
Phone: 8662867

Recommended by: Lori Forbes

Non-smoking area

Cost \$ (\$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 nonsmoking;

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-](http://las-vegas-hotels.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant_Review-g45963-d422814-Reviews-Buca_di_Beppo_Las_Vegas_Paradise-Las_Vegas_Nevada.html)

[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/>

May 26, 2006 - 7pm - RSVP by May 19 to LindaBushyager@aol.com
Shiraz Cafe
375 N. Stephanie St. (Stephanie & Warm Springs)
Henderson, NV 89104
Phone 933-6682

Recommended by: James Taylor

Non-Smoking Restaurant

Cost \$ - Economical

No private area

Gratuity: 18% for group

Comments: Very economical Persian/Middle Eastern cafe with gyros (\$7.95), burgers, all day breakfasts, plus dinner entrees such as grilled chicken breast (\$9.95), country fried steak (\$8.95), fried Shrimp (\$10.95), Amazing berries and chicken kabob (\$13.95), etc.

Heard Around Vegas Fandom...

David Gordon has family visiting this coming weekend, so he won't be around like usual. He'll be missed, but this should be a very short separation...

Art Widner may visit Vegas Fandom again! He wrote to say that it might be as soon as April 1, which would coincide with the Vegants meeting...

Su Williams leaves on Tuesday for a visit to the Formans and Wilsons in Flippin, AR. She'll be there nine days.

ChatBack: The VFW Letter Column

It's already Spring in Vegas and the letters of comment are in full flower. Time for me to pipe down and let Fandom's greatest letterhacks take over the zine...

*He's humble and self-effacing, yet here he is, leading off **Chatback**...*

Peter Sullivan

I seem to have gotten behind in LoCcing VFW, so it's time for another Lloyd Penney-style LoC. Actually, the distinguishing feature of a *true* Lloyd Penney-style LoC is that it never acknowledges itself as a Lloyd Penney-style LoC. So I suppose, technically, this is a John Purcell-style Lloyd Penney-style LoC. Or something.

On issue 67, I don't see that Chris Garcia becoming President of N3F is necessarily as outrageous as you claim. Whilst Chris's style is fairly insurgent, he's never used that label himself as far as I am aware. And in any case, even self-proclaimed Insurgents are more than happy to act as club officers and suchlike where they think it's worthwhile. As the current Vice-President of SNAFFU can no doubt inform you (Hi, Joyce!)

If I read your *Katzenjammer* article correctly, you are basically saying that both amateur journalism and sf fandom had to make the choice between (a) staying with letterpress and (b) exploring the new mimeo technologies alongside letterpress. Ajay chose (a), fandom chose (b).

Today's version of (a) and (b) are (a) staying with paper distribution only and (b) exploring the new e-fanzine technologies alongside paper zines – and your fear is that fandom is choosing (a). But I don't see any

real evidence of this – I would have thought that fandom as a whole is self-evidently and clearly choosing the (b)-route. Even people who are still producing paper fanzines are mostly supportive of the e-fanzine trend, even if, for reasons of personal preference or whatever they stick with paper. There may be a few die-hards who think that a zine isn't a real zine unless it's on paper – but surely only at the margins?

I downloaded the second issue of the new Vegas one-shot, and really ought to get around to writing a LoC on it real soon now. Maybe it would just be easier to contribute to the third issue.

If Shelby is happy with Wordperfect, then more power to his elbow! I mentioned Open Office mainly because so many people's experience of word processors begins and ends with Microsoft Word. And having a monoculture in software can be almost as dangerous as having a monoculture in farming, with computer viruses as the equivalent of potato blight.

Interesting to see your comments on weblogs, with which I largely agree. It's interesting to note that one of the fannish traditions of the 20th Century that we appear not to have brought with us into the 21st is the crudzine. There may be good zines, there may be not so good zines, but the one thing we don't seem to have is the out-and-out crudzine. It would be wicked of me to suggest that the reason for this is that the typical crudzine editor is, these days, writing a blog instead.

An interesting link (well, to me, anyway) is that the Shield of Umore which you had pictured on page 15 is, I believe, the self-same one that Greg Pickergill wrote about in a piece that ended up in *Can't Get Off This Island*, the anthology that was mentioned in passing through much of the rest of that issue.

Whilst Robert is right to say that obitfandom, like death itself, has always been with us, my perception is that it has stepped up a gear over the past few years. Plus, by definition, deceased fen these days tend to have much more fannish history behind them than previous generations.

I'd better stop this train of thought now before I fall into a similar trap to Steve Bieler, who solemnly announced in a recent LoC to *Banana Wings* "Fans are dying who have never died before." Which is, I suppose, technically unarguable, but not probably what he meant to say.

I wasn't aware that *Warhoon* 28 was actually available in a reprint dead-tree version – thanks to Robert for the heads-up. At least that solves the problem of answering A.'s increasingly desperate pleas of what I want for my birthday this year.

I've actually tracked my reference that Robert called me on to the "last letterpress FAPA zine" when

re-reading an old issue of *File 770*. And it wasn't earlier this year, it was back in 1998. But apart from that fairly major mistake, I was completely right. For the record, it was actually Bill Danner's *Stefantasy*, which had run for 44 years, as reported in a "FAPA news" squib by... Robert Lichtman. I dunno, Sandra Bond always makes this "quoting fanhistory back to your elders" lark look easy – it's obviously more difficult than it looks.

Onto issue 68, which seems to have rather a lot of mentions of me, despite not having a Peter Sullivan LoC anywhere. Shelby Vick's basic thesis seems to be that, unless there actually is some way of breaking through the light speed barrier, all our sf-based myths of galactic empires are going to remain just myths. Actually, I thought that the latest thinking was that the speed of light wasn't an absolute limit per se, just that anything traveling faster than light was impossible to observe by someone in "normal" space. I wondered if his line about "a city sized ship" where the residents "develop newspapers and fanzines" was going to end up as "and this ship so was big that it was often mistaken for a planet and called The Earth," but of course Douglas Adams already beat him to that line.

And a rare LoC from Sandra Bond – can the next issue of *QuasiQuotes* be far behind? Sandra can be assured that her anti-honours story is safe with me, at least for the moment. In retrospect, it's obvious that a 600-page zine isn't going to be stapled, at least not in any conventional way. But I guess I'm still partially thinking on terms of postal games zines, which tend not to be as large as science fiction ones. The 100th (and final) issue of *Voice of Doom* was 270 pages (all ditto, too) but I never saw that. Probably the largest normal postal games zine I ever saw was an issue of *Costaguana* that ran to 96 pages. Not that massive by sf fanzine standards, but this was one of a series of monster issues at that time being churned out every three weeks.

I would echo John Purcell's praise for Chris Garcia, who has to be the best thing to happen to fanzine fandom for a number of years. As I write this, Hugo nominations for 2005 have just closed, and I guess it'll be a while yet before we find out who the nominees are. But it's a fairly safe bet that *The Drink Tank* won't even be on the list for Best Fanzine, which is a travesty. Quantity is not of itself a virtue, but quantity plus quality should be an unbeatable mix. But then I know your view of the Hugo fan awards, and you're probably right. The FAAN Awards at Corflu are probably more representative from that point of view, even if the electorate is numerically smaller.

But I think that bracketing me with Chris is a bit

much, albeit very flattering. I'm just a humble letter-hack, and haven't really considered starting a zine myself, either now or in the future. (FAFIA, as John recognises, is a bit of a special case.) Part of it is that, having done 142 issues of a postal games zine in 9 years, I don't feel I need to prove I can do it. Plus, there's so many other ways to get involved in fanzine fandom (letters, articles, conventions, APAs) that there just isn't the same urge to "pub my ish."

This LoC seems to have come to a sudden.

Arnie: Actually, I think you guys have even Lloyd calling them "Lloyd Penney-style LoCs." The miracle of jargon creation adds a new term to the fannish dictionary – and You Were There.

Understanding that my piece about Chris becoming N3G president was mostly an attempt at humor, the surprise is that a dynamic and talented fan like Chris would put himself in line for the heartache that eventually comes to all N3F reformers. I hope Chris can realize his vision for the N3F, as outlined in his article this issue, but anyone who knows the National Fantasy Fan Federation is likely to maintain skeptical until empirical evidence mandates a change in attitude.

I agree that most of Core Fandom has chosen to embrace the new technology. That willingness to explore the New is one of the characteristics that supposedly typifies fans. The problem is that word, "most," because if "most fans" are doing something, it means that "some fans" are not.

I don't want to leave any of those Old Bastards behind or see the current technological transition separate Core Fandom into two non-communicating camps.

Core Fandom needs all of its participants, not just ones who utilize a particular technology.

I don't pay much attention to awards – I saw the Oscars for the first time in 40 years in '06, because Alan & DeDee White invited us to a small Academy Awards party – but my opinion of the fan Hugos is particularly low. Even though the vote-count for the fan Hugos is significantly lower than for most of the pro categories, too many people cast ballots who do not know the material. When I look at a list of fan Hugo winners and then contemplate the fanzines and fans who have not won (or even been

nominated), it would be hard for me to take the awards seriously even if I cared about such things.

I think the FAAN Awards, given out each year at Corflu, are a great deal more meaningful, because they are bestowed based on the vote of fairly knowledgeable people. It's a great honor to be acclaimed by one's peers, even if awards aren't a prime motivation for activity.

The rise of electronic Core Fandom may make the Hugos more relevant in the future than they have been in the past. At least the voters will have the possibility of seeing electronic fanac, though I wouldn't be shocked to find that a lot of voters still won't take the trouble.

I love to see fans return from Gafia, so I'm especially pleased to present the next letter...

Jean Marie Stine

Wow, yours is a real life honest to gosh fanzine with the spirit of Trufandom beating in its breast. Better yet, it has a column by Dick Lupoff. I have long admired his writing, how long I won't say, as it would date us both pretty quickly. But when I began reprinting the classic "Toffee" series from the old pulp *Fantastic Adventures* (Toffee is very much in the spirit of Thorne Smith's *Topper*, only she is the staid hero's dream girl who materializes every time he thinks about her),.

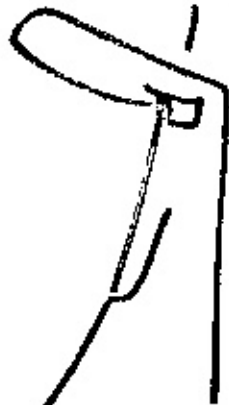
I stumbled over a zine where Lupoff was reminiscing about Toffee and quoted several lines in the book description. The rest of the issue was informative and lively, and made me wish I didn't live 2000 miles away. Keep me on the list please. I haven't received a fanzine in years, and yet utterly love them.

Arnie: It's great to hear from you after all these years – and I hope you'll feel sufficiently welcome to write again.

My late Aunt Mina owed a puppy sired by the dog on the *Topper* television series of the 1950's with Leo G. Carroll. Alas, the scion of the star turned out to be a bad apple that fell pretty far from the tree. Ever see a St. Bernard attack people?

Take some well-expressed opinions, toss in some deft nostalgia,

LAS VEGAS FANS
ARE JUST ONE
BIG HAPPY
FAMILY!



GREAT
FR
HUN?

and you have the main ingredients of an excellent LoC. And here it is...

Dick Lupoff

Okay, an honest-to-Roscoe LoC, although it'll hafta be brief.

Regarding your discussion of fanzine technology, I think that PDF is a great way to publish. Any paper junkie (and/or archivist) can print out the pages, knock two or three staples through 'em, and have a nice, trad-type fanzine to fondle and cuddle and rub against his face, and file away for future reference. Anybody who just wants to enjoy the zine as a fleeting experience can read-and-delete. For that matter, I suppose some people will create an electronic archive of the things. Imagine sitting there on an airplane or commuter bus reading a fanzine on your hand-held whatchamacallit.

The honorable Robert Lichtman's list of fine fans is most evocative. Fact is, thinking back over my own years in and around this community, it's astonishing how many truly wonderful people I've come in contact with. I don't think I can remember the first fellow-fan I ever met in the flesh. Probably somebody in ISFA whom I would have met in 1956 or so. Prior to that I was only a "paper fan," and I do remember the people I met via fanzines or correspondence: Walt Willis, Lee Hoffman, and Gregg Calkins.

I wouldn't even venture a list of best or worst fans. But howzabout this one: In the 1970's I was the regular book reviewer for Andy Porter's fine fanzine (or semi-prozine) *Algol*. Andy had a good many pro or semi-pro writers on board. I remember Ted White as another regular contributor. I'm pretty sure Fred Pohl wrote for *Algol*, as did Isaac Asimov, James Gunn, and Fred Saberhagen. *Algol* eventually morphed into *Starship*, then spun off *Science Fiction Chronicle* before Andy sold it. I think it still exists as simply *Chronicle* but I ain't seen an issue in so long, I'm not really sure. Phew!

Anyhow, back when I was writing for the magazine, Andy ran a poll asking his readers, among other things, to name the "most liked" and "most disliked" writers or features of the magazine. I eagerly awaited the results and was obviously flattered to come in as Number One Most Liked Writer. Then I turned to Most Disliked, hoping to win the Daily Double, but alas, I only finished as Number Two Most Disliked. I was beaten out for that title by Ted White.

Oh, Dang!

BTW, I am variously fascinated, charmed, and dismayed by the rumbles of fan organization politics and rivalries that I detect through *VFW*. Hereabouts we have a little group that meets for lunch from time to time, mainly to bitch about voracious publishers and to

compare the sorry states of our respective purses. The core members are Peter Beagle (who lives just a few blocks from here), Michael Kurland (who lives in Petaluma these days, but travels down to this neighborhood fairly often), and myself. Michael Chabon lives a short distance away in the other direction, but has become increasingly reclusive (I won't say stand-offish) since he won the Pulitzer.

Every once in a while somebody in the core group mentions the possibility of formalizing the association in some manner, such as regularizing our meeting schedule or naming our group. So far, based on past failures of local writers' groups one or more of us have been members of, we're resisting the temptation.

Maybe we're just too individualistic, or too disorganized, or whatever. Somehow it just seems to work better when we keep it strictly informal and ad hoc.

Arnie: Las Vegas, for all its local activity, is really a very small fan community. You could drop the whole thing into the LASFS or WSFA and it would be the size of a smallish club faction. As a result, there's more contact among groups of fans with very different ideas about the subculture. That's likely to cause occasionally friction, as you have perceived reflected in VFW, but things are pretty peaceful most of the time.

No matter what letterhack is current rage, VFW is always delighted to welcome the Sage...

Robert Lichtman

The first thing that comes to mind when I surveyed the list of "Vegas Fan Events" in *VFW* No. 68 and saw the March 19th deadline for SNAPS 11 is that although this is only the 11th mailing due to January having been skipped, it's actually the First Anniversary Mailing. I hope that everyone who participates is aware of its very special nature and does right by the occasion. This would be a good time for a bumper issue of *Softcore Fantasy Adventures* instead of the "placeholder" issues you've been doing lately. Please consider following Joyce's example in the current mailing and do a 14-pager.

The next thing I noticed after reading through the entire issue was the total absence of a letter from Chris Garcia, President of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. It made me wonder if your gentle tweaking and honest curiosity about how he came to fill that position had caused a Big Deal to happen within the hallowed, musty corridors of power in the N3F, and that even as I write a committee (or perhaps-dare I say it?-a bureau) is being formed with round robins and lines of authority and all the organizational creakiness inherent since the days of Ralph Holland and Alma Hill (we'll leave

dear ol' Janie Lamb, Heiskell, Tennessee, out of it). And the function of that committee (or bureau), complete with 8x10 color glossy photographs of the last issue of *VFW*, is to determine the Proper Response to your dissing that venerable group. Why, it would be almost like getting asked to change the name of your fanzine, except that lawyers would not (yet) be involved. (Yes, this is a reference to Harlan's lawyers asking a certain L.A. area bookstore to stop using "Dangerous Visions" even though Harlan approved its use a quarter-century ago.)

I checked out the current issue of Chris's Drink Tank thinking that perhaps he might have mentioned his N3F presidency there, but instead it's a special Sex Issue with contents so steamy they make your article, "Meet My Libido," in the new *Vegrants* oneshot seem like Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm by way of comparison. After my cold shower, I decided that perhaps with the passage of time-or even, with luck, in *VFW* No. 69, Chris would relent and respond in full.

In "My First Convention" you write that you "made contact by publishing a fanzine, Cursed." This was more or less how I became known to fandom as well. As I've written many times, I discovered fandom during the late summer of 1958 in the final issue of *Imagination*, specifically in Robert Bloch's "Fandora's Box" column, and sent off my sticky quarters for the first batch of fanzines I ever saw: issues of *Oopsla!*, *Grue* and *Sphere* (the latter the product of long-forgotten Florida fan, Lance Thorndyke).

By year's end I'd published the first issue of *Psi-Phi* with coeditor Arv Underman (in whom no one believed at first-due to the recent revelation that Carl Brandon was a hoax, Arv's surname sent up warning signals to a wary fandom) and sent out around eighty copies to an unsuspecting fandom based on names and addresses culled from the several dozen fanzines I'd received by then (having sent away for others from Bloch's column and from the fanzine review and letter columns of zines already received). Before long I received a call from one George W. Fields informing me of the existence of the LASFS and inviting me to attend a meeting. I did so, and as it happened arrived on that scene just in time for the beginning of the "Bjo era" and the revival of *Shangri-L'Affaires* following the purchase of the club's first Gestetner.

But I didn't get to my first convention until the July 4th weekend of 1961, when I attended the Baycon-the name given to that year's Westercon, held at the venerably seamy Leamington Hotel in downtown Oakland. (I could have gone to the Solacon-"South Gate in '58"-but was too shy to consider it after having received my first fanzines just a month or so earlier.) I don't

remember much about it except that I had an unalloyed good time. That year's guest of honor was Fritz Leiber and the fan guest of honor was Jack Speer. I don't remember meeting either, but I definitely hung out with the likes of Ray Nelson, Bill Donaho, Dave Rike, the Busbys, and more.

Where you wrote that Elliot Shorter sold you a copy of "the beautiful, but cruddy Engram, the fanzine of the CCNY science fiction club," the name rang a distinct bell. Checking out my hunch, I learned that Gary Deindorfer had used that title the year before-publishing two issues in 1962 (for SAPS) before changing the name to Gaseous Vertebrate in 1963, but continuing the numbering. In that fanzine he makes no mention of having made the name change after discovering that the CCNY club was already using it.

Of the world populated by Puffins that take off on a "city-sized ship that can sustain thousands of puffins" in order to find another world to solve their overpopulation problem, Shelby writes, "Makes good fiction, and that is it!"

But is it? Suppose there really was such a world and such a ship and they used their advanced technology to seek out planets out of their own system hospitable to Puffins. As they approached our solar system and tuned in to our internet and somehow discovered "Google Images," they would find several of Shelby's Puffin cartoons posted there and realize that Earth could be that new home. Try that Google search yourself, and you'll see that I'm not spouting fiction here at all!

Dick Lupoff writes that the straight-eight engine in his 1950 Pontiac was "probably one of the last that General Motors ever built." In fact, Pontiac continued to build that engine through the 1954 models. It was finally replaced in 1955 with a V8 engine. My own first car was also a 1950 model, but it was a Chevy fastback (photo attached) that I bought for \$50 from one of my brother's friends. It had a straight-six engine (Chevy didn't have a straight-eight at all and didn't begin offering a V8 until 1955) and a three-speed manual column shift. I never got very good at the shifting, the car needed some work that hadn't been revealed to me when I bought it, and in about three weeks I returned it and got my money back. My next car was a 1955 Oldsmobile 98 four-door hardtop (as per the attached photo, but mine was a bright blue) with a big V8 and a Hydramatic transmission. Like Dick's Pontiac, I'm sure it got terrible gas mileage-my memory recalls something like 8-10 miles per gallon in city driving and maybe 12-15 on the highway-but gas was only nineteen cents a gallon back then and during the frequent price wars it got down about a nickel or so below that.

"Joyce Katz looks on as Arnie Katz makes some no-doubt-telling point that has since been lost to fanhistory." Perhaps it's because I watched the first show of the new season of "The Sopranos" last night, but I think that in the interests of fanhistory you should begin wearing a wire. These no-doubt-significant moments should not be lost!

Sandra Bond's examples of "worst fans" -- Gertrude Carr and George Wetzel -- are more properly examples of "mixed fans," with both good and bad characteristics. Wetzel is indeed a major figure in Lovecraft fandom, as Sandra points out, and G.M. was the first editor of the long-running *Cry of the Nameless*; but Wetzel's racism and anti-Semitism and Gertrude's 1957 attack on Willis tend to outweigh their respective good points.

Thinking of other fans who are mixed bags, I come up with Dick Eney (whose writing and publishing *Fancylopedia II* is overshadowed by his half-century relentless and unprovoked attacks on Ted White), Bill Donaho (whose accomplishments as the publisher of *Habakkuk* are forever colored by his lead role in the 1964 "Breendoggle"), and Richard Bergeron (whose splendid fanzine, *Warhoon*-and especially the 620-page hardcover issue collecting Walt Willis's fanwriting-goes up in dust as he self-destructed in 1983/84 over TAFF matters).

Sandra also writes, "I dropped out of FAPA last year and haven't gotten around to rejoining." Hey, Sandra, it's not too late! You are missed. We're saving a spot for you. (And it wasn't Helen Wesson who put a letterpress fanzine through FAPA in recent times. Like the ayjay people I wrote about last issue, her publications are photocopied from computer-typeset text.)

Your listing Ken Forman as an "Elder Ghod" who would perhaps have information on Claude Degler makes me wonder if Ken is perhaps a direct reincarnation of some early fan who did have such knowledge. Of fans who are still with us and lived through the Degler era, I suspect Jack Speer, Bob Tucker, Langley Searles and Art Widner would be the most likely sources. Perhaps VFW should reprint Speer's Investigation in Newcastle? (If you don't have it, I'd gladly scan my copy.)

John Purcell writes that Eric Mayer dislikes the term "Core Fandom." That's odd and a little disingenuous, since it was in the Fall 1985 issue of Marty Cantor's *Holier Than Thou* that Eric coined the phrase "Café Fandom" to characterize then what is now called "the Corflu Cult" by present-day pseudonymous fan "E. B. Frohvet." Eric meant it back then as a put-down in the same way "Frohvet" does now. Does Eric think that "Core Fandom" is an elitist concept? Your recap

explanation of it at the end of John's letter makes it amply clear that it isn't.

Arnie: We are all pretty much "mixed bags," but you're right that some of us have both bigger plusses and bigger minuses than the usual person. Others who occur to me are Abi Frost and Vijay Bowen, fans who had compiled good enough records to win TAFF before sullyng their reputations with financial chicanery while administering that fun.

Your math is a little off on the SNAPS Anniversary. Had the apa not skipped January '06, the March distribution would, indeed, have been the 12th. However, that would only make it the last distribution of the group's first year. The April distribution, now numbered 12 due to the skipped month, is the anniversary.

*My only "placeholder" contribution appeared in the February distribution. The issues before that were all fairly substantial, if not quite as magnificent as Joyce's latest issue of **Hard Science Tales**.*

I included Ken's name in the list, because he is the only fan whose career grows at both ends. Although In introduced him to "real" Fandom in 1991, many fans now believe that Ken was active as far back as the 1958 Solacon. I thought that, as his fan career continues to reach farther and father back in time, it is inevitable that he will soon have met Degler and can tell us all about the Cosmic One.

Thro away ur spelchekrs, here comes a man whose dfeatd Mundane orthography without brakng a swet...

Art Widner

VFW continues to guilt me week after week. I dont see how U do it. I cant even keep up withe hektik 1/4ly pace of FAPA & SAPS. To get on my 2weel segue, & way in on the paper v. electronic debate, I wantd to point out to those saying that ezines are much less work than paper & BOFs like me r delusional in clinging to the outmoded teknoogy of the mimeo, etc. Thats a straw man; mimeo went out the windo at least 10 yrs ago. I made the transition in 91, when Dave Rike pusht me into a dedicated WP, "Starwriter 80", & shortly thereafter, imprest by Canon products, i investd in a copier. I forget the model #, but i now have an NP 2020, altho i dont think it superior to the earlier model. I wont go into detail, since i have other fish to fry. My point is that it isnt better teknoogy that will drive us into the EAge, but the hi cost of pstg. Mor later.

On N3F bashing, i once sneakt into a SFWA suite on the coatails of Poul Anderson, & saw Damon Knight, who startd it all, sitting w Kate Wilhelm, waiting for others to arive. I went over to him & gave him

the "remember me?" shot. He didnt, so i told him. Neither one of us lookt anything like we did the last time we'd seen ea other. He laft & turnd to his wife & sed, "Kate, i'd like U to meet the guy who helpt me start the dumbest organization in all fandom." I'm astonisht that it survivd all these yrs. First, all time champion fuggheads, Dunkelberger & Co, tried to destroy it, then it seems a succession of totally clueless fen, who thot they were IT. The vision Knight, Widner & Chauvenet had for it was something like the WSFS, capable of dealing w hotels, media & other serious parts of mundania, wch we cd see was just over the horizon w the end of WW2 & the pop xplosion of worldcons. I wish somebody like U or Ted who saw the need for an ept org, that N3F wasnt it, & so WSFS became it, wd do an arkle clarifying. I see N3F bashing as clueless also, just continuing a thred that no longer has a needle to sew with. When i first startd going to cons agn, late 70s or 80s, i stopt in at a N3Fbooth/room, pretending interest in joining. The poor little neos who were manning & womanning the booth were so delited to think they had hookt a live one, that they fell all over themselves giving me pamphlets & stf stuf & telling me over & over what a great outfit it was & that i shd join RIGHT NOW, but never a word abt Y, or what it had done in the past. I askt how it got startd & who startd it.

I had my baj on, but that meant doodley to them. They just didnt kno & cared less. When that became clear to me, i complimentd them on their zeal,

bcoz they didnt have anything else, & wanderd off.

On fannish books, i'd like to plug *Fancestral Voices* by Jack Speer, publishd by NESFA in conjunction w Jack's being Fan GOH @ Noreascon 4. PObox 809, Framingham, MA 01701. This is the best book of its type, & i am honord to have been selected to write the introduction.

Dave Romm was mentiond. I have fond memories of the Minicon the week B4 Corflu in Madison WI. He was my host, putting me up in his apt only a mile from the con hotel, to & from wch he taxied me. What mor cd any fan ask? But he did mor, burning me a CD special w the song i liked most from the music GoH, Steve Donaldson, "Hell Froze Over Today," plus a dozen mor he thot i myt like. My own individual album! I treasure it.

On Degler, my account was publishd in "The History of the Stranger Club" wch apeard in the program book & a PR of Noreascon 3, where all the living members of that great fanclub were GsoH. NESFA certainly knos how to do things ryt. Degler was not totally inept, altho his elevator didnt go all the way to the top. He stole some prized items from my collection, & was otherwise a capital pain in the ass, altho not as bad as he has been painted.

Even tho U say yre not a "car lover," i enjoyed yr bit on the Silver Streak. But i wonderd what yr dad was doing w a ragtop B4 he gave it 2U? Back in the 80s FM Busby was reminiscing abt the various cars

Contact! Las Vegas Club Directory

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

Las Vegrants

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 March 18 7:30 PM

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

Sunday Social March 19 2 PM

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

SNAPS Deadline Sunday, March 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 March 24 7:00 PM

The SNAFFU Dinner Meeting will take place at Cool Cuba (2055 E. Tropicana (Burnham near Eastern). RSVP (this time only) to Joyce (joyceworley1@cox.net).

VSFA Monthly Meeting April 1 11 AM

The small, but active formal club meets at Dead Poet Books (937 South Rainbow Blvd.). The meeting usually focuses on club business, followed by a socially oriented after-meeting meal or snack.

Las Vegrants Meeting April 1 7:30 PM

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

First Friday Video Group April 7 6:00

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

SNAFFU Discussion Meeting April 7 8:00 PM

This formal SF club meets the second and fourth Friday's of each month. This time, it will be held at Borders bookstore on Sahara. Topic: What SF concept would you most like to see come true?

Second Sunday Movie Screening April 9 6:00

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

he'd ownd & given pet names to, wch moved me to do an arkle on mine. It turnd out to b the story of my life, "Anthropomor-phic Automobiles" & took 3 ish of YHOS to complete. U myt like to reprint it. Other stuff from YHOS, wch i think few of today's fen have seen, wd give me material for a colum in VFW if yr interested. One curiosity, wch influenced my degafiation, was "The Cruise of the Foofoo Special, Jr." an account of a bicycle trip in WW2 from Boston to NY, foloing LR Chauvenet's tyre trax, literally. I went to a party at Poul Anderson's in the 80s, & as i enterd the door, there it was, casually lying on top of an old trunk. I was crogged that a copy still existed & that such myty folx as the Andersons wd have one & think well of it.

Who is Ralph Holland?

Arnie: I switched from a Selectric typewriter to a computer for professional writing around 1981. (My office came with a manual typewriter, so I moved the Selectric there as an upgrade. At that time, the magazine I edited, Electronic Games, was still published using linotype machines, but by the end of the decade I was editing magazines in Quark on a Macintosh. Subsequently, I switched to PC (and Microsoft Publisher), which is how I produce VFW.

Is it e, Art, or is your simplified spelling getting more radical by the month? This letter is reminiscent of things by Ackerman written during the height of his interest in such things.

Ruth Davidson

I was out of the loop for about two weeks or so

when my hard drive failed me. Replacement HD (and other upgrades) were ordered, and the shipment was delayed (curse you Murphy). Eventually I quit jonesing for my computer and was able to do other things, like play a fantasy game called Kingdom Hearts; and find really old SF anthologies and stories for sale at the crappy local library (that was interesting).

Over the weekend, with the help of the master of the household (aka husband), my machine was back up and running. I had over 500 email messages to read (99% of which were NOT spam); and I have about half to go.

Between reading email, reinstalling a plethora of programs and utilities, I decided to read a bit of VFW, only to discover to my surprise that not only were people bashing N3F, but Chris Garcia himself!

I am appalled by such behavior.

If N3F were some backwater organization I would never have devoted three years of time and energy into it; and I doubt Chris would have decided to get actively involved. Every org has its ups and downs; even Arnie's favorite organized fannish group, SNAFFU.

Everyone here seems to love Chris, so why not trust his judgment and support him? He has some good ideas to continuously help the club in assisting new members 'n fans to enjoy fandom in and out of N3F.

I don't care if N3F's not your cup of tea. That's fine. But don't hurt other people for enjoying it under the guise of "tongue and cheek."

We're working on gathering our N3F History. It's a big job. We have quite a bit of material that's just recently been published on the website. If anyone has any

old N3F material from "back in the day" and would be willing to help us fill in the gaps, that'd be really cool; and if any were made, I may even forgive slanderous comments. *wink* Email me: qualtree@ruthiechan.net or talk to Mr. President Chris.

Oh, and before the death of my HD, I had wanted to say to Joyce . I love your new hairdo! It makes you look younger.

Arnie: And I'm appalled by your inability to take a joke. It's ironic that the such humorlessness about a little kidding often unleashes exactly the sort of all-out criticism of the National Fantasy Fan Federation that you obviously wish to avoid. Anyone who wants the N3F to grow and prosper would do well to begin by coming to terms with the club's checkered past rather than being so thin-skinned about it.

We Also Heard From: Janine Stinson, Richard Brandt

A Fond Farewell..

... but not "good-bye," because I'll be sending you another issue of *Vegas Fandom Weekly* next Friday.) And, ues, I am pushing the deadline back one day per issue now that my back is in reasonable shape again).

I hope you'll enjoy this issue enough to want to participate in the next one. I restlessly, ceaselessly, scan the in-box for signs of letters of comment, news, artwork or writing. Core Fandom and, on a local level, Las Vegas Fandom have supported *VFW* most handsomely, for which I am very grateful. I hope you're looking forward to future issues as much as I am.

— Arnie Katz

In This Issue of Vegas Fandom Weekly

Vegas Events ::: 1

Inside Story ::: Techno-Confessions ::: Arnie ::: 2

Katzenjammer ::: Why I Love Corflu ::: Arnie ::: 3

Them Daze ::: Lumpkin Highway ::: Dick Lupoff ::: 6

SNAFFU Central ::: The New Order ::: Arnie ::: 8

Messages ::: Call Me MISTER President ::: Chris Garcia ::: 10

ChatBack: The VFW Letter Column ::: You ::: 12

Contact Information ::: 18

Calendar ::: 19

... *and a ton of news.*