

# VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

## Vegas Fan Events

**SNAFFU Dinnern Meeting**  
Friday (4/28) 7:00 PM

**VSFA Game Day**  
Sunday (4/30) 2:00 PM

**VSFA First Friday Video Group**  
Friday (5/5) 6:00 PM

**VSFA Monthly Meeting**  
Saturday (5/5) 11:00 AM

**Las Vegrants Open Party**  
Saturday (5/6) 7:30 PM

*Check out the Calendar and preview stories*

The popular Core Fandomite arrived on Saturday and had a buffet lunch with Merric & Luba Anderson and David Gordon. After that, it was off to the Vegrant meeting, where Chris participated in the audio oneshot fanzine. He stayed with the Andersons Saturday and, before leaving, visited the Launch Pad for a couple of hours.

The only fault that could possibly be found with his visit is that we'd all have loved to have Chris stay longer. We're already looking forward to his next trip here.

### **SNAFFood Digs in This Friday!**

Buca di Beppo (412 E. Flamingo (Flamingo & Paradise; Phone: 8662867), a family-style Italian restaurant, is the restaurant of choice for the April SNAFFU Dinner Meeting.

The deadline for RSVP's, April 21, is past, but din-

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### **Chamberlain on the Mend**

— **And in Good Voice!**

Ross Chamberlain underwent successful surgery on Monday, April 17 at Valley Hospital for the removal of a mass in his throat. The one-hour operation has left the beloved and admired Vegas fan in full possession of his remarkable voice. (You'll be able to hear him, pre-surgery, on the forthcoming *Fannish Voices #1*, the audio oneshot that Bill Mills is editing on behalf of the Vegrants.)

Ross went home a couple of days after the surgery and is now preparing to return to work. Tentatively, that's scheduled for April 25.

### **Chris Garcia Visits Vegas Fandom!**

The pride of BAarea Fandom (and one of today's Publishing Giants) Chris Garcia visited Las Vegas Fandom over the April 15-16 weekend.



# Inside Story Lazy Bones

At the risk of disappointing those who enjoy baroque excuses in situations of this sort, I don't think I'm gonna bother with all that razzmatazz. After all, is this not "Las Vegas Fandom's Sorta Weekly Newszine"? (See logo of the first issue, reproduced below.)

During the course of correspondence with Dick Lupoff, he had cause to remind me of his life-long commitment to laziness — and, if only by inference, beckoned me to renew my own commitment to procrastination, indolence and Real Soon Now.

It shocked me to realize that I had abandoned my cherished principles. Publishing relentlessly, regularly and prolifically has mired me in a rut of competence.

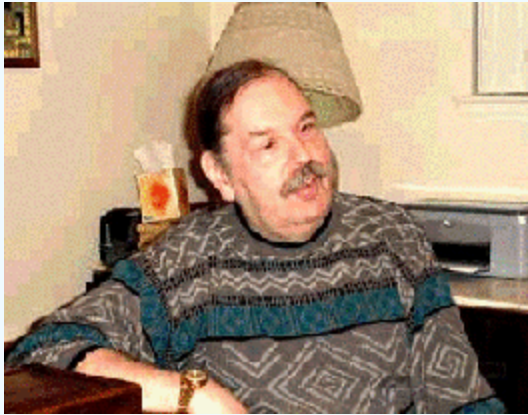
By skipping a week, I have reaffirmed my devotion to doing things the easy way, putting off what can be postponed and then doing half of what remains. Now I can go forward with confidence, happy in the knowledge that I stand shoulder to shoulder with my old friend Dick on the point.

Writing those two little faan fiction stories took a lot out of me, creatively (which only shows

how little I have to work with...) After filing approximately 70 weekly installments of *Katzenjammer*, I felt a bit drained.

A week off for recharging seemed like a good idea — and I think it has proven to be so.

Not only am I very enthusiastic about this issue, but I already have a running start on my *Katzenjammer* column for next week.



— Arnie

**Vegas Fandom Weekly #73, Volume 2 Number 20, April 28, 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), Bill Mills (technical advisor) and Joyce Katz (proofreading and So Much More).

**Reporters this issue:** Roxanne Gibbs, Rebecca Hardin, Linda Bushyager and Joyce Katz

**Art/Photo Credits:** Ray Nelson (10), Alan White (10, 11, 14), David Gordon (10), all else by Bill Rotsler.

**Columnists This Issue:** Richard Lupoff, James Taylor

VFW is free by request — and you may get it anyway. It can be downloaded at the SNAFFU site and at efanzines.com. No N3F Presidents were permanently harmed during the production of this fanzine.

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

# Future Fanac Katzenjammer

In the Spring, a fanzine editor's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of future fanzines. No, not *my* future fanzines — *Vegas Fandom Weekly* has no successor on the horizon — but rather I've been thinking about what fanzines might be like in the near future, say five years from now.

So I've put away the faan fiction and Core Fandom polemics for the week. Instead, I'll share some recent thoughts about what fan-literary effort will be like in 2011.

"Fan-literary effort?" I hear some of you mutter. "Why can't he just write 'fanzines'?" Of course, I could, but it would be using the term in the same sense as "fan writers of america" means "fanzine producers and contributors around the world."

The reason for the broader term "fan-literary efforts" is that fanzines will continue to exist, but only as one option, side by side with the forms of amateur writing, drawing and editing that the digiverse has made possible.

Las Vegas' New Generation tends to keep my focus on the future. A number of them are developing into really fine fans, but it isn't an instantaneous process. It's a fan historian's delight: plenty of questions to answer and information to provide.

The latest additions to the Vegants, Bill & Roxanne Mills, live fairly close to the Launch Pad. A pleasant side effect of their recent entry into local Fandom has been frequent visits from one or both.

We talk about a lot of things, sometimes even Fandom. Sometimes, we even discuss fan-literary and artistic efforts.

Bill and Roxie are both technologically sophisticated, especially compared to run-of-the-mill gizmo-users like Joyce and me. As Joyce and I teach them more about the Vegants, they impart technological information.

For example, some suggestions from Bill have cut the memory size of an average issue of *VFW* nearly in half at no sacrifice in visual quality.

He is also the Prime Mover behind the Audio Oneshot. I did set the theme, but all else, including an awe-inspiring production job, is Bill's work.

Naturally, this ground-breaking project has crept into a few of our conversations. And those talks inevitably lead to speculation about what the future might hold in the way of other innovative ways to express the desire to communicate with and entertain our fel-

low fans. So, somewhat enlightened by fragments of the Mills' superior knowledge of electronic technology, I'll cast that look forward a half-decade.

What will the fan-literary landscape look like by 2011? Here's what I see:

- **Printed Fanzines**

The copy shops will still be there for those who want hard copy fanzines enough to pay for them. At least two postage rate increases, higher overhead costs for the copy shops (due to escalating energy prices) and high paper costs will make it 10%-15% more expensive.

I think there will be fewer general circulation paper fanzines, but there will definitely be some. Core Fans love hard copy fanzines and still support the good ones very strongly. That won't change; any decline will be due to the economics of print publishing.)

Most of the print apas will bite the dust in the next five years, replaced by listservs



Continued on next page





*Stellar*, Ted White's fanzine of the mid-to-late 1950's combined technological and graphic innovation with sold fan-literary merit. Hopefully, so will the fanzines of 2011.

and electronic apas. Even FAPA, despite the efforts of eager young fans like Chris Garcia and Art Widner, will either switch to electronic distribution or will be ready to fold. Local groups like Apa L will be unaffected.

- **Electronic Fanzines**

There'll be a lot more of them in 2011. Most of those who come to Core Fandom in the next five years will concentrate on electronic fanac and some of them will produce fanzines (as opposed to other expressions of fan-literary activity).

Despite the current success of *VFW* and *The Drink Tank* probably won't prevent a

trend toward screen-friendly layout, s [irred by wider availability of fairly inexpensive portable readers. Yes, thanks to the miracle of technology, you will be able to resume reading fanzines in the bathroom!. Truly, the best of all possible worlds is heading our way! (Zip-a-de-doo-dah.)

The electronic fanzine editor's lament will be about the same in 2011 as it is now: When will the average Core Fan have the currently available technology?

Improved data compression, better broadband and faster computer processing are rapidly expanding what is *possible* in electronic fanzines. The gap between the possible and the *practical* is huge and significant. No one wants to exclude fans who haven't acquired the needed software, hardware and Internet access, so the pace of introduction of new technology is not as important to Fandom as that technology's penetration into the subculture..

- **Web sites**

Trufen.net is showing the way toward the fan-oriented web sites of 2011. That's no knock against two of today's excellent fan sites, Fanac.org and efanzines.com. The former is essentially an archive and info dump, while the latter is Core Fandom's online fanzine newsstand, but Trufen is based on timely, frequent posting of content.

Trufen is a huge site that posts as much news as *Fanac* or *Focal Point*, plus enough other content to fill several traditional monthly genzines.

Trufen.net proves that a website can be just as integral to Core Fandom as a fanzine. Most fans won't want to do such a large website, but smaller sites are fairly easy to generate and keep stocked with fresh material. The Core Fandom webring may be an important feature of 2011.

- **Webzines**

The fanzine and webs site formats merge

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in a hybrid form that could prove very popular, given Fandom's tendency to lag behind in the adoption of new technology. The webzine gets around the problem of memory limitation by linking memory-hogging features to a server.

The appeal of this hybrid is that it allows the fanzine editor to include some exciting bells and whistles without burdening readers with a huge memory file. A webzine doesn't use much more memory than a comparable electronic fanzine and those who don't want to be bothered with the extra enhancements can print it out or read it on screen with the same ease as any ordinary electronic fanzine. If the user wants the extras, they are activated with hotlinks.

A type of fan-literary effort that is basically a website might also fall into this category. If the site is set up like a publication with pages and so forth, it would have capabilities similar to the webzine, though you wouldn't be able to download it like an electronic fanzine.

- **Email zines**

Email fanzines, in plain text or HTML, have not caught on in a big way in Fandom, though Tommy Ferguson and Joyce Scrivner had success with email fanzines a few years ago,

There are a lot of email-based newsletters *outside* Fandom. I wouldn't be shocked to see one or more fans produce them in 2011. For example, this would be a good format if someone wanted to send out a *daily* fan newszine.

HTML code gives the slightly more ambitious fan editor the ability to give an emailzine a more sophisticated appearance than an ordinary email, so that is likely to be a factor if such publications catch on in Fandom.

- **Blogs**

Blogs come and go — and few, if any, around now will still be active in 2011. This medium won't be dead, but the current decline will continue.

As fan-run websites proliferate, blogs may move from places like LiveJournal to

take up residence on fan sites where they will function somewhat like columns did in paper fanzines.

- **Listservs**

This form of written electronic fanac is now firmly established as an integral part of Core Fandom, online. Trufen, Wegenheim and InTheBar may still be the main ones, though it's possible that one of 2006's "low-key" listservs — Nurofen, Fmzfen, Timebinders — could rise to renewed prominence.

Since listservs will more and more come to replace print apas, more listservs are also a distinct possibility. I suspect any such new groups will be restricted in membership, subject matter or both.

That's the spectrum of fan-literary effort as I believe we will see it five years hence. Next, let's explore what a "cutting edge fanzine" (or its equivalent) will be in 2011.

First, it might be a webzine rather than a stand-alone electronic fanzine such as the one you are reading. The technology to do wondrous things will be available, but its use in a stand alone ezine might exceed the technological capabilities of too many fans.

The ultimate fanzine of 2011 will be multimedia. It will have animation, video, audio and even interactivity.

Fanzine purists may howl and some fans will consciously avoid what they may perceive as useless gimmicks and frills. It isn't necessary to use technology just because it's available, but it's available will insure that *somebody* will use it.

I can almost hear the debates at the 2011 Corflu! Traditionalists will want to keep fanzines firmly focused on words with a leavening of art, cartoons and photos.

The progressives will claim that the audio and visual enhancements enable them to tell a fuller story than is possible with words alone. They will instance the addition of talking to movies and the morphing of big-time radio into network television as examples of how existing media benefit from enhancements.

I enjoy what I am doing right now in Fandom, perhaps as much as I've enjoyed any writing and publishing I've done, but I have to admit that I am also eager to go forward to see what might be waiting for Core Fandom down the road, just around the bend.

— Arnie

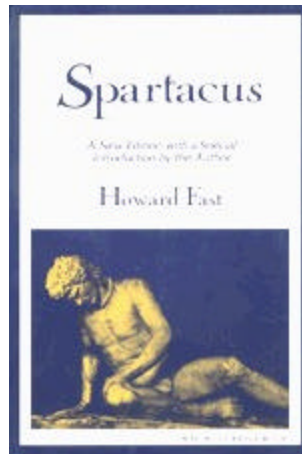
# Them Daze

## Shameless Self-Promotion

A few years ago I came across a copy of *Being Red*, the autobiography of Howard Fast. Fast was a fascinating character as well as a talented writer. He served in the United States Army during World War II, or maybe he was a civilian “attached” to the Army. It wasn’t quite clear to me, and I’m feeling too lazy at moment to look it up. In any case, he did have some amazing adventures in the service of Uncle Sammy, and recounts them in detail alternately suspenseful and hilarious in the book.

I recommend it very highly.

After the war he wrote regularly for the Communist newspaper *The Daily Worker*, turned out a



number of fine novels including *Spartacus* and *Citizen Tom Paine*, and wrote a fair number of pretty good science fiction stories. He was not above selling those stories to periodicals like *Amazing Stories*, *Fantastic Universe*, and (mainly) *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*, although, alas, he shied away from calling them science fiction when they were collected in book form

In the course of his autobiography, Fast mentions his attitude toward schoolwork. By the time he reached high school, he records, he had decided what profession he would pursue and had pretty well formed his interests and attitudes.

Thus, he worked hard and performed brilliantly in composition and literature courses, as well as in such subjects as history. Courses which did not interest him, and which he expected never to use, he simply ignored. These included algebra, geometry, chemistry, and physics. He slept during class and he ignored homework assignments.

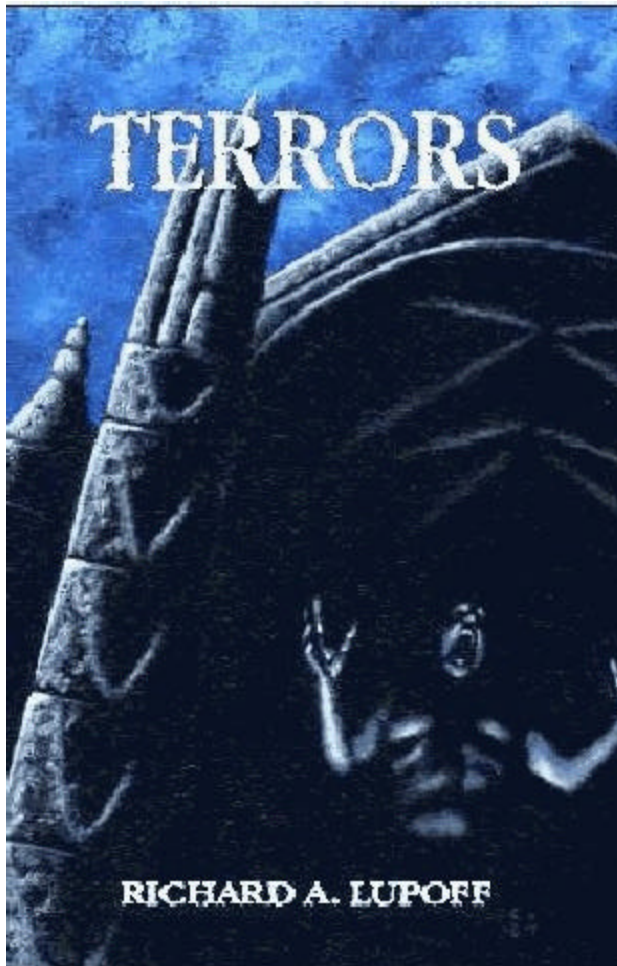
As a consequence, he wound up with a report card consisting entirely of A’s and F’s. Nothing in between.

When I reached the end of this section of Fast’s autobiography I laid down the book, put my head in my hands, and heaved a great, despairing sigh.

Why hadn’t I thought of that fifty or sixty years ago? What kind of educational system do we have and how did it get that way?

Maybe some history-minded reader will answer these questions. As for me, I think I might have the answers, but they’re more a matter of inference and conjecture than of fact. I think our educational system is essentially the system we inherited from the English, and it originated in the first quarter the eighteenth century, just about the time the Industrial Revolution was getting into high gear.

While farmers and artisans were being herded







Howard Fast, noted, author, giving a talk on the book-to-film process.

into smoky new cities and set to work in factories and mines, and new fortunes were being built by capitalist entrepreneurs, the children of the upper classes and the inheritors of “old money” were being taught the values of a disappearing way of life.

The educational system was especially designed to prepare the sons of the British gentry to become the next generation of country squires. As such they would assemble in the evening over a pipe and a glass of port and discuss such matters as gentlemen of culture ought to find of interest.

I don't think the store of human knowledge had grown so great or spread so wide by then that an educated individual had to pick and choose.

One could more or less “know everything.” You were expected to know Latin and Greek and maybe even a smattering of Hebrew, as well as French and German. You would learn Euclidean



geometry and some “natural philosophy” – a mixture of chemistry, physics, and biology. You would be able to quote classical literature in the original languages and to translate your citations into English.

Most of the sons of the gentry had private tutors until they were of age for further studies at Cambridge or Oxford.

As for young females, their education was somewhat different, and did include at least a few of the practical arts such as weaving and sewing

What I think happened was this. The English system of education, which was never suited for more than a very narrow stratum of society, was imported to the American colonies. This provided the basis for American education in the colonial and post-colonial eras, and we've never got over it.

Maybe I should mention, *en passant*, that there was also a good deal of religious indoctrination included in the curriculum. We've been trying for the past couple of hundred years to get that out, and we seem not only not to be winning that struggle but actually to be losing ground, these days.

To which I can only say, *Oy, gevalt!*

When I was in high school the preprinted report card forms we received still listed Greek and Rhetoric, although neither was taught any longer. But I suffered through courses for which I had no aptitude and in which I had no interest: algebra, geometry, trigonometry, chemistry, physics. Hey, not to put these fields down and certainly not to denigrate people who specialize in them. I am endlessly grateful to the great scientists and engineers who have made my life longer and better than would have been the case had I been born a few centuries ago.

Still, those fields are not *my* fields. Like Howard Fast, I am interested in and use literature, composition, history. Heck, I even cook a little! But I never did figure out what



a Wheatstone Bridge was. The Bronx Whitestone Bridge, yes.

It took me a long time to get around to doing what I wanted to do with my life, instead of what I thought I “ought” to do. Maybe it was my upbringing or maybe it was a generational thing. I don’t want to start over-generalizing again. Been there and done that! But it seemed to me, when I was a teenager, that the path was pretty clearly marked.

Finish high school, go to college, spend a couple of years in the Army, get a job with a large corporation, work my way up the ladder...jeez, there I was at the age of 17 and no adventures left.

Straight from adolescence to retirement with only a few decades of soul-deadening labor in between. Was that what life was all about? Why didn’t somebody tell me about sex, drugs, and rock ‘n’ roll?

For the next eighteen years I followed the ordained path, not because I chose to but because it never dawned on me to do otherwise. Before you mutter to yourself, *Oh, the poor dodo*, let me pose a question: Do you wake up in the morning and ask yourself, “Shall I walk around on my hands today with my feet in the air, or on my feet with my head uppermost?” Of course not. It isn’t a question. You just do it.

Oh, there were a few times when I felt like chucking



The typical product of the American educational system, Rich Uncle Pennybags.

the whole thing and going off to become a writer, but practical considerations (and maybe a case of cold feet) always held me back.

Finally, in 1970, I decided to take the plunge. And in the three-and-a-half decades since then, I think I’ve had a much better time puttering around this planet. Not that there have been no rough spots. And I *know* I’d be in better financial shape if I’d stayed in the corporate world. But it would have been a hell of a life. And I mean that in a *bad* way.

So comes a moment a few years ago – August, 2001, in fact – and I’m attending a little convention in Providence, Rhode Island. Visiting the huckster room I stop off at the Fedogan & Bremer table. F&B is a Minneapolis-based company that published a collection of my stories called *Before 12:01 and After* way back in the 1990’s. There ain’t no Fedogan, BTW, and there ain’t no

Bremer, neither. The company is run mainly by a pair of onetime University of Minnesota buddies, Phillip Rahman and Dennis Weiler, along with a kludge of fans, pals, and hangers-on.

They’ve turned out some nifty books.

At the table this day I saw Scott Wyatt, a Minnesota wild man, motorcyclist and poet, and a member of the F&B family. Scott says, “You’ve been writing Lovecraft-type stories for a while now. Do you think you have enough to make a book? If so, we’d like to publish it.”

I answered in my usual authoritative manner: “Dunno. I’ll check when I get home.”

Which I did, and it turned out that I did have enough such stories, and we wound up with the electronic equivalent of a handshake deal for the book





But F&B didn't push me to deliver a manuscript and I didn't push them to send me a contract and the whole project just kind of drifted along for several years. Finally I got my act together and wrote to them suggesting that we get moving on the book.

Back comes an email from Dennis Weiler. Alas, as happens so often with small publishing companies, they've run into some personnel problems and some financial reverses. The company is still there and still getting out books, but on a v-e-r-y stretched-out schedule. They really like the idea of my book but they don't know when they can possibly get to it, certainly no time soon, and if I would like to pull it and find another home for the book, they will surely not object.

In fact, I got the distinct impression that they would be relieved.

So I went outside and kicked a rock around the block, then came home and worked up a little proposal for the collection and sent it to half a dozen publishers. I think this is too much of a "niche" book for any major commercial house, so I concentrated on specialty publishers.

Back came, let's see...I think there was one rejection, one this-sounds-intriguing-but-we're-overstocked-right-now-try-us-in-six-months, and three acceptances. One company didn't answer at all, which I also took for a *no*.

Of the three *yeses* (is there such a word?) one appealed a lot more than the others. The editor wrote to me personally. He has a day job. This *is* a small press. He's a lit prof, has followed my work for years, and uses some of my short stories in his honors composition classes. Hey, nice! Also, he says, I have too many suitable stories to fit into one book. If I would be willing, he'd like to make it a three-decker.

Well, of course I hesitated and sighed, but eventually I gave in. The company is called Elder Signs Press and it's located in Lake Orion, Michigan. And I always thought that Sauk City, Wisconsin was an obscure ad-

dress! Once we were up and rolling ESP announced the first book on their website. There was to be a limited hardcover edition plus a larger trade paperback edition. The hardcovers sold out in less than twenty-four hours, just from the website, although I'm sure that some of the buyers were bookstores or dealers who will resell their copies.

The book actually appeared at the end of 2005 and the paperback version is still in print.

Each of the three books has a mix of stories – some never-before-published, some published in magazines or anthologies but not previously collected collected, and a few recycled from my earlier collections. The most fun has been a trio of novelettes set in San Francisco in the winter of 1905-1906. The stories feature a Jewish psychic detective named Abraham ben Zaccheus and his "Watson," an Irishman named John O'Leary.

These stories will be the backbone of the second book, *Visions*. Peter Beagle is writing an introduction for the book (as Fred Chappell did for *Terrors*). I handed Peter a printout of the stories in the book, and after he'd read them he said that the Abraham-and-John stories were his favorites. "Abraham ben Zaccheus reminded me of Avram Davidson," Peter told me.

"That's funny," I said, "Abraham *is* Avram Davidson."

"Oh," said Peter Beagle. "Ah, oh, I see."

If you're interested in the professional exploits of this old fan, you can pick up *Terrors* now. I hope your local bookstore carries it. If not, I'm sure they could get it for you. You can also buy it from an internet marketer, or from a dealer (via [abebooks.com](http://abebooks.com)), or best of all from Elder Signs Press. Just google 'em and you'll find their website. Tell 'em Lupoff sent you.

I've got one more story to write for *Visions*. The book should be out before the end of 2006.

And *Dreams* should be along in 2007.

— Richard A. Lupoff



# Las Vegrants Garcia Live!



Joyce and I were awaiting news of Chris Garcia, our special guest for the April 15 Vegrants meeting, when Bill Mills called to see if he and Roxanne could come over early to set up things for the audio oneshot – and do a little socializing. We told them to show up at will and they knocked on the door about 5:30. They had a very cute photo of Candy Matson – the ferret whose name I have been misspelling – in an Easter basket. The Mills'es pinned it to the front door for the amusement of later arrivals.



Lori Forbes battles temptation.

Ever the perfectionist, Bill was having a little trouble getting the equipment set up to his satisfaction. I chatted with Roxie and Joyce until Aye-



Bill Kunkel, Joyce Katz and esteemed visitor Chris Garcia enjoy a leisurely chat in the living room of the Launch Pad.





Teresa Cochran puffs her signature tobacco pipe.

sha Ashley called about 7:00 to find out if it was all right for her to arrive early. I'm very fond of the Vegrants' Platinum Princess, so I encouraged her to head to the Launch Pad.

So the meeting was already going full blast by the time fans began arriving at 7:30. Ayesha told us about playing and singing at the Guitar Society the previous Wednesday. It all went extremely well and she got to do her stuff for about 45 minutes. That brought up Teresa Cochran's impromptu gig at the E-String, which also went extremely well. (See *Taylor-Made for a fuller report.*)

Ayesha, perhaps thinking of the theme of the oneshot – "How I Found Fandom – or It Found Me" – seized upon a chance mention of the term to ask me the meaning of "Gafia." I said that it's an acronym for "Getting Away From It All." I further explained that it originally meant getting away from the Mundane

World to become immersed in Fandom, but that it's meaning has reversed so that it now represents getting away from Fandom.

Ray Waldie flashed a heretofore unrevealed talent as a photographer. He brought a sheaf of black and white photos that he shot back in the 1970's. They were extremely impressive. We all enjoyed looking at them and Ray got a lot of encouragement for the idea of resuming his photographic explorations.

Much as I predicted, many of the Vegrants showed a degree of fear – that's what we call it when our friends turn into craven cowards – about plunging into participation in the audio oneshot. No one wanted to be first, though several fans had contributed in advance of the meeting.

Bill Mills looked disappointed and agitated when no one volunteered during the first hour. This was Bill's first major piece of Vegrants fanac. Roxie and I increased the level of encouragement and volunteers became satisfyingly numerous.

A congenial group that included James, Teresa, Bill & Roxanne Mills, Lori, Joyce and me sat around until close to 2:00 before the last of the Vegrants dispersed to their homes.

Contributing to the good times were: Ross Chamberlain, Bill & Roxanne Mills, Ray & Marcy Waldie, Ayesha Ashley, Dave Gordon, Lori Forbes, Bill Kunkel, Alan White, David Dal Valle, Teresa Cochran, James Taylor, Merric & Luba Anderson, Chris Garcia, Joyce Katz and me

## Next Meeting

Las Vegrants invite Las Vegas fans to come to its "Can't Go to Corflu" Open Meeting on May 6 at the Launch Pad. Gitter City's informal Core Fandom fan club promises a convivial evening with some of the city's best-known fans — and maybe a few surprises.

If you'd like to come, contact Joyce Katz (joyceworley1@cox.net) for directions. As always, donations of food and drink are welcome, but not necessary.



"ZAP, YOU'RE A FAN!"



# SNAFFU Central

## 'What I'd Like...'

SNAFFU had one of its liveliest meetings in some time on April 14. The high level of participation somewhat made up for the absence of such stalwarts as president Michael Bernstein, Ron & Linda Bushyager and Kent Hastings.

Attendance has not yet reflected the improvements, but the much-desired switch to a better venue will likely see an increase to 10-14 fans in fairly short order.

Lori Forbes came by a few minutes before 7:00 to collect us for the SNAFFU Discussion Meeting scheduled for Friday, April 14. The meeting starts at 8:00 but she'd set a SNAFFU Library Committee session for 7:30. Unfortunately, our ace carpenter Jolie LaChance wasn't able to attend, because she was out of town visiting her family, so it was mostly an update. (See story in the News section for more details.)

As we waited for meeting to start, we talked about the new issue of *Challenger*, from Guy



Lillian III, which hit the Launch Pad mailbox that very day. It's a large issue, so neither of us had read it all in time for the meeting. Joyce settled for touting the stunning article by Dennis Dolbear about Dennis and his mom's horrific adventures in the wake of Katrina.

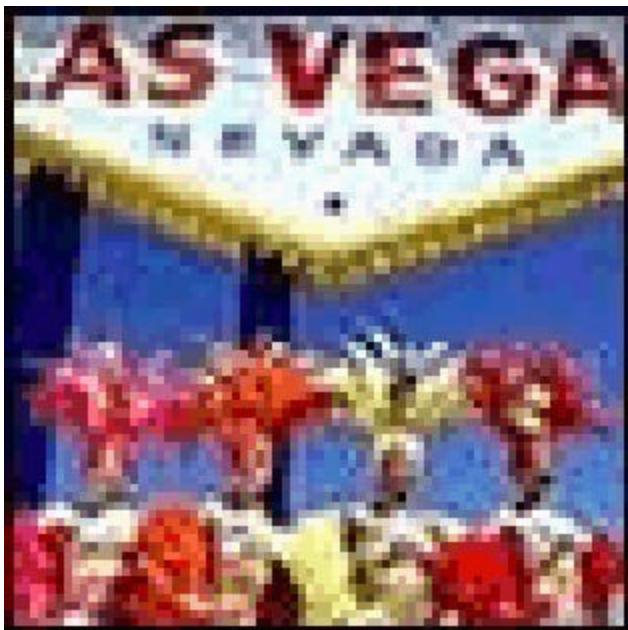
It's truly harrowing; a fine answer to insensitive comments about the tragedy that have turned up on the local listservs in the last month or so.

Lynn McGiboney, whose fez and modified ZZ Top beard have become familiar sights at SNAFFU events this year, entertained everyone with inside stories of his brush with one of my favorite TV series, *Taxicab Confessions*. A cabdriver, Lynn actually piloted the "interview taxi" for a couple of the segments on the first batch of shows.

Joyce ran the meeting in Michael's absence. She showed a little rust, not having done this sort of thing for a few years, but also a nice touch with the club members. She kept things moving, didn't monopolize the floor and made sure everyone had a chance to contribute.

Among several interesting science reports Teresa Cochran presented, two caught my attention. The first was a prediction that global warming could cause one-fourth of current species to go extinct by 2050. I wonder if the government will be considering global warming a threat by that time.

The other was a report that scientists now believe that the edge of our universe is expanding at twice the speed of light. Apparently, the universe itself is not subject to the limitation that would keep objects in the universe from exceeding the speed of light. Sure sounds like the first step toward a faster-than-light drive. (I've given you the theory; now one of you should be able to knock it together.)





The evening's main discussion topic was: What science fiction concept, other than space travel, would you most like to see realized?

Joyce wanted a matter replicator, "something to make tea and skim milk." Tea and skim milk? What happened to the bold hussy I married?

Robert Lichtman, who wasn't there but sent his comments to Joyce, opted for what he called "a *Star Trek* future" in which people lived in peace and harmony with freedom from want.

JoHn Hardin, who also relayed his answer through Joyce, is most eager for the arrival of nano technology. Alex Borders, also writing from out of town, picked "reaction-less force." He looks forward to the day when there are anti-gravity devices, tractor beams and other permutations of this idea.

April Reckling expressed a desire for morphing. Several members looked a little shocked, until she reiterated her choice, mentioning that she meant shape-shifting, not a shot of the well-known opiate. She didn't say whether she wanted to go from one shape to another, like Odo in *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, or merely acquire the abilities of Mr. Fantastic or Plastic Man.

Lynn McGiboney, a former trucker as well as a current cabbie, picked futuristic conveyances. Rebecca Hardin picked life-extending medicine, including non-invasive detection and surgical techniques. As I agreed, the MRI machine is the precursor of such marvels, but Rebecca is hoping

for something along the lines of the gadget Dr. McCoy wields on the *Enterprise*.

Control of the force of gravity is the stfnal concept that most appeals to James Taylor. A personal, AI-directed vehicle is the relatively modest wish of Teresa Cochran. I was a little surprised that she picked something that would help her circumvent her blindness rather than something that would simply cure the problem. I kind of understand it, though my vision problem is trivial beside hers. Since I was a three-year-old wearing coke-bottle-thick eyeglasses, kindly folks have held out the possibility that some revolutionary bio-medical breakthrough will endow me with perfect vision. I know that if I had fixated on that long shot, I probably would've done much worse coping with the situation. The belief that my problem was permanent did a lot to help me face it.

I put forward a concept I first encountered in *Worlds of the Imperium* by Keith Laumer. He posited alternate realities and a technology that allowed people from one reality to journey to the other versions of reality.

Joyce announced that the discussion topic for the May meeting will be: Is science fiction predictive – and should it be?" That should make the conversation pretty lively!

Attending the meeting were: James Taylor, Teresa Cochran, Lori Forbes, April Reckling, Lynn McGiboney, Rebecca Hardin, Joyce Katz and me

-- Arnie





# Taylor-Made E-String Night!

It was a very strange experience. Teresa and I entered the deserted dining room on Sunday for another round of acoustic American roots music, the music formerly know as “Folk.”

Our steps echoed throufg the room as we picked a booth and sat down. Now the E-String has never really been crowd on a Sunday. but it also has never been empty, either.

The chirpy server of previous visits appeared and, after getting over her amazement, rushed over to us. She took our beer order and allowed that the band was canceled since it was Easter and no one would be coming. We did not ask how the date of Easter had

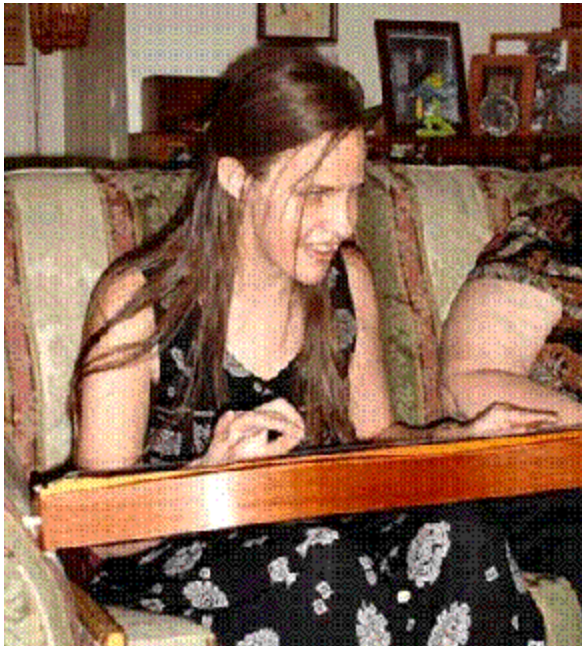
changed since the prior week and accepted the statement at face value.

No sooner had our beers arrived than Ayesha Ashley came in, armed with a six-string and Irish drum, ready to fight her way onto the stage. She quickly adapted to the changed circumstances, pulled

up a chair to our booth, got out her guitar and commenced to sing.

Teresa had brought her Braille lite note taker, loaded with song lyrics and joined in on the ones she knew. It was a very enjoyable hour or so and then the E-String Insurgents broke up and went our separate ways.

Except for bar patrons making their unsteady ways to the restrooms, we never saw a single other paying customer. – James Taylor



James Taylor (top) chronicles the musical adventures of Teresa Cochran (bottom) and Ayesha Ashley (on the right).

**Reminder: Our address is now: 909 Eugene Cernan St., Las Vegas. NV 89145**



Continued from p 1

ner meeting coordinator Linda Bushyager (LindaBushyager@aol.com) might be able to fit you in if you hurry. Already signed up are: April Reckling, Teresa Cochran, James Taylor, Linda & Ron Bushyager, Rachel Mainz, Lori Forbes and Merric & Luba Anderson.

Only Joyce's dire allergy to garlic prevents our joining the happy dinner group. Otherwise, we'd be there — and so should you if you like good food at reasonable prices, spiced by plenty of fannish conversation.

### **VSFA Hosts Game Day!**

This coming Sunday (4/30), VSFA invites fans to a Game Day at James Willey's home Cooperville (7279 Clearwater Circle). The game is poker, so put on your best face and show up any time after 2:00 PM.

If you need directions or other help, call Mindy Hutchings (204-4332).

### **Ron Bushyager Gets Vision Verdict!**

A trip to the ophthalmologist has disclosed a couple of correctable problems with Ron Bushyager's eyes. He has developed a "dry eye" condition that is fairly simple to treat and is also slowly developing a cataract.

The cataract is basically a waiting game. It has to ripen, as the doctors say, before it is appropriate to excise it surgically.

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

Shelby Vick has announced his intention to re-trench in Fandom, at least for the foreseeable future. He has a family emergency that he feels must take precedence over fanac...

Jason Burnett, who made such a splash in fanzines a couple of years ago, is planning to return to fan activity! He'll be out of school around mid-May and expects to launch a new fanzine...

Art Widner's visit to Vegas Fandom got waylaid into the Chorp Dimension. Art arrived, unexpectedly and unannounced, while Joyce and I were out on Saturday evening. He hung around for a couple of hours, as witness the note he left on the Launch Pad's door, but he eventually disappeared into the night. We are desolated and hope that he returns this way ...

Chris Garcia, who recently visited Vegas Fandom, has written of his travels in the latest issue of *The Drink Tank*. You can get a free download at efanazines.com...

Long-time protégé and friend Steven Kent, author of the recently published *The Clone Republic* (Ace

Books) has been nominated for the Phillip K. Dick Award. Congratulations!

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

*It's time for the letters of comment, which I confess is one of my favorite parts of the zine.*

*And leading off this installment is The Sage himself, here with a fine letter that lost its way between the BArea and Glitter City...*

### **Robert Lichtman**

Reading the details of How To Do It in the latest VFW, I dutifully went to Bill Millis's Web site to record my piece for "How I Found Fandom." Imagine my dismay when I discovered that to do so one must have a camera or a microphone into which to speak. Lacking either, I resorted to typing in the Very Small Space provided for Very Large Text and sent it packing.

Meanwhile, I'm looking forward to reading the April 1st oneshot—and eventually hearing this one. (I hope it will come in a form playable by Real Player, Windows Media Player and/or QuickTime.)

I'm sorry to read in VFW No. 71 that Ross Chamberlain is headed for throat surgery, and certainly join you in hoping that there will be no effect on his "celebrated mellifluous voice," especially since—as he wrote on one of the lists we jointly inhabit—he apparently has a job opportunity recording e-books.

Your notice concerning the conclusion of my auction to generate funds to publish *Trap Door* is incorrect. I didn't "pile up enough money to do the issue after next, too." Instead, depending on the cost of the first upcoming one there might be enough money to cover about half the cost of the following one. At this point all the winners have checked in and many have sent money and been sent the fanzines they won. Atop a nearby file cabinet four more parcels sit, waiting for payment to arrive.

Since you pre-announce it as fiction, the events described in this week's "Katzenjammer" are probably *not* "the end of Vegas Fandom," so my blood pressure didn't rise as I read of one horrific turn of events after another. I was amused, however, by the reference to the Best Western man-

ager's name, "a Mr. Don Rogers," and wondered how many of *VFW*'s readers will catch it. I also noticed with some concern the time travel inferred in your byline of "Arnold D. Katz." And then there was the inevitable Katz Typo of "metal diction" for "metal detection," leading me to mental images of robots quoting the verse of Lilith Lorraine or perhaps Edith Ogutsch. With all this to distract me, I'm definitely looking forward to next week's "pulse-pounding sequel."

I continue to enjoy Joyce's "How I Found Fandom," with this installment's jaw-dropper being that Joyce found *Yandro* to be "the most sophisticated fanzine I'd seen since making contact." Not to put too fine a point on it, but I didn't see the Coulsons' monthly until I'd been around fandom for at least six months and had already been spoiled by fanzines such as *Oops!a!*, *Grue*, *À Bas*, *Hyphen* and others. I even liked *Cry of the Nameless* more than I did *Yandro*, and by the time I saw the latter I was a confirmed letterhack for the former (and have the official signed-by-Don-Franson card to prove it!). But I imagine it was a major step up from a steady diet of Apa-45 publications.

David Gordon may not be fictional, but he certainly lives in a different part of All Known Fandom than I do, because I've never heard of the three people he names and says he "recalls forming deeper relationships with": Keith Kato, Kenn Bates and Rochelle Uhlenkott. I certainly agree with his dismay in how Worldcons "once a joyous gathering of fans, had morphed into a business

meeting for the pros."

Lloyd Penney's "Return to Pubnight" was interesting in its depiction of a very lively Toronto fan scene.

Chris Garcia writes, concerning the Best Fan Artist Hugo nominations, that he's "rooting for Frank Wu, but it would be very nice to see Steve Stiles get it." Given that Wu—a latecomer to the ranks of fan artists compared to Steve—has already won a rocket (in 2004) and Steve has never gotten one despite having been worthy for decades, it would be good if Chris (and others) would vote for Steve this time around. As for the fanzines he mentions ("...good to see *File 770* back on the list (and I'm betting it'll give *Plokta* a run for its money)"), those two would be downward on my voting form—and I'm still undecided whether to give *Banana Wings* or *Chunga* the nod for first place. Both are so good, each in its own way.

Chris also wonders why he's never seen an issue of *Quasiquote*, Sandra Bond's estimable fanzine. Perhaps it's because the last issue appeared three years ago, well before Chris surfaced in fanzine fandom. And I imagine Sandra is even now snickering at Chris's concept of her joining the "once weekly eZine plan."

As for Sflovers.com, Chris apparently has nothing to worry about, since it seems to have morphed its way onto another server. At least I'm getting Timebinders digests, and so assume that All Is Well.

I'm one with Jean Marie Stine in having "lulled myself to sleep with Tuck and Bradford Day's bibliographies." Actually, it's been more Tuck than Day since I don't have copies of the latter's tomes. Another insomnia cure is the 1,000-page Tymms/Ashley volume, *Science-Fiction, Fantasy and Weird Fiction Magazines*. While much more interesting a read than Tuck—I went through it fascinated at every turn—it's a lot to take in. I read it over a period of weeks, and at the end my head was swimming with the vastness of the pulp/digest universe represented between its covers.

Even before the Internet, "Core Fandom's Secret Weapon can be summed up in the phrase, 'Everybody comes back.'" It's not just the past decade that's brought "a steady stream of returnees." Back in the early '80s I was part of a similar wave of fannish revenants that included people



like Walt Willis, Chuch Harris, Vince Clarke and others.

Regarding the “Not Forrest J Ackerman” photo you ran in the last issue, Dick Lupoff suggested to me in private e-mail that it looked a lot like Clark Ashton Smith. Returning to my Google Images search that netted it, I noticed that the file name was “Cas03.jpg,” which confirms that it was ol’ Klarkash-Ton.

*Arnie: Alas, your typing went for naught, since **Fannish Voices #1** is 100 per cent audio. Bill Mills is working on a finished version now and it isn’t completely certain that there’ll even be room for me, given the excellent participation of so many others. As you now know, Bill has even come up with a way that fans who don’t have microphones can participate in future ones – and I very much hope that you will do so. Meanwhile... if you’ll re-send your typed version, I’ll run it in the next VFW!*

*My feelings about Yandro are probably closer to yours than to Joyce’s. I saw Yandro for the first time in late ’63, shortly after I’d begun to see other fanzines. I was more impressed by its competence than by its brilliance. As a young, inexperienced fanzine publisher, equaling Yandro seemed like a good goal, though I at no time wanted to produce a fanzine like Yandro, but it took me a couple of years before I could do one as good.*

*I felt I had to label “The End of Vegas Fandom” as faan fiction. When I published my Jekyll & Hyde story a couple of months ago, I actually*

*got a letter from a fan asking if it was true. I didn’t want to trigger a spree of reports of our demise.*

*And now a letter from a fan who hits his weekly deadlines with a precision unknown in southern Nevada...*

### **Chris Garcia**

The visit has ended and now, a mere 10 hours after I returned to my pleasant little part of Northern California, I sit at my work computer and phrase another LoC to my favourite weekly PDF.

I wish I’d been able to make the SNAFFU and VSFA gatherings, but alas, the road called, and Easter weekend was a bad time to choose to travel. 15 was a nightmare, but then it got better. I had visions of Vegrants meetings dancing in my head. I still say that it’s a party, the presence of chips and salsa also making that plenty apparent.

Another amusing piece of Faan fiction there Arnie! I’m all over it again! Wonderful, wonderful stuff and I hope this isn’t the last of these things we read in VFW. Perhaps this calls for a film version to be made. I’ll produce it for three percent of the adjusted North American gross (minus my triple-breakeven over my expenses, of course)

I was wondering why Merric kept mooing. I just sorta chalked it up to him being Merric, but knowing there was a reason...well, it’s still best to just say that he’s Merric after all. I saw the programme book for MidSouthCon. Looks like a fun time. It’s a big ‘un as far as cons go. I think they

## **Vote in the 2006 FAAn Awards**

Colin Hinz of the 2006 Corflu hosts in Toronto, has announced that the 2006 FAAn Awards (Fan Activity Achievement) are now open for voting at <http://www.trufen.net>. The FAAn Awards are the highest honor that Core Fandom can bestow on its own. (The FAAn Awards also have a special connection to the Las Vegas Fan Community, because Corflu Vegas revived them after a hiatus and they have now been going strong for 16 years.)

There are six categories. This year, they’re: Best Fanzine, Best Fanwriter, Best Fan Artist, Best New Fan and the Harry Warner Memorial Award for Best Fan Correspondent. You can vote for up to three fans in each category.

The FAAn Awards voting process is very simple and it doesn’t cost anything to participate. Most importantly this is a terrific opportunity to give some egoboo to the editors, writers and artists who make hard copy and electronic Fandom so enjoyable for all of us.

— Arnie



showed my film, *The Chick Magnet*, last year.

Sadly, this'll have to be a short one as I've got too many things piling up and I gotta find a way to record an audio file of a forty-five year old printer playing Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head using a card deck someone donated. Only at my museum!

*Arnie: My jokes and shticks aside, I suspect that those two faan fiction stories had something to do with the larger-than-usual gap between issues.*

*We enjoyed having you visit, Chris, though it would've been nice if you could've had a chance to sample one or both of the weekend's other events. The Vegrants are already looking forward to your next visit – and you don't even owe any of us money!*

*It's always a pleasure to welcome one of the Leading Lights of Vegas Fandom's New Generation with perhaps her longest letter to date...*

### **Teresa Cochran**

Hey, Arnie, what a fun story about the resurgence of Vegas fandom. I liked the twist on the Braille/not-Braille message; I was sure it would be in Braille, but it was something much more mysterious.

Playing in colleges might not be so bad, but I'd have to adopt the Bose boom-box and keyboard with top-forty standards in order to perform in casinos. I can't even imagine myself doing that in a piece of faan fiction, not even with James Taylor as a manager. (Our James Taylor, that is.) I came away from the story with a new appreciation for the Vegrants, and I have to admit I felt a little misty-eyed and even more Trufannish than usual when I knocked on the door at Vegrants time.

John Purcell discusses Roots Fandom as a possible alternative to Core fandom. Coming at it from a background in Roots music, I like the idea. I don't think, as Ted White says of Traditional Fandom, that it sounds stale. Roots music is alive and well, and so is Roots fandom. To me, it simply suggests a long history and tradition, and I like that.

Hmm, did I finally discover a niche for myself as a fakefan? I couldn't help thinking of myself in that way as I read Ted White's comments. I al-

ways thought it was a derogatory term, but perhaps I'm all wrong. I do feel that I've always had a fan-ish attitude, even though I haven't been in fandom for long. Another difference is that I've been an SF reader for years, but I've also been a part of many subcultural groups, and I feel comfortable relating to people on an egalitarian level. I'm also sure that if I'd met you and Joyce outside of an SF context, I would have become a friend and one of the Vegrants. I just felt instantly comfortable around you guys, whether or not we discussed science fiction. Still do.

It was great to see Chris at the last Vegrants meeting, and I'm looking forward to seeing him again in the fanzines and the rest of fandom.

I can't wait to hear the audio one-shot. I've always been interested in oral tradition and history, and I enjoy hearing the actual voices of those who have something to say. I'm usually very shy on the phone and in front of a microphone, but I enjoyed participating.

*Arnie: "Fakefan" was a pejorative term when it was coined, because it meant someone who was faking his or her way through Fandom without knowledge of, or extensive experience with, science fiction.*

*Especially among Core Fandomites, the connotation has turned more positive in recent years. I imagine there'll always be a place for science fiction discussion in fanzines (and other fan-literary media), it is certainly possible to be an active and worthy Core Fan without an extensive SF background. Maybe it's because there are so many Media Fans in All Known Fandom – and even fakefans probably see enough electronic SF to dodge the "fakefan" label in its traditional sense.*

*Honestly, I've never liked the term "fakefan." It sounds so negative – and I would hate for anyone to think it was the opposite of "Trufan," since there are some fans for whom both terms would be applicable.*

*Drawn back to the fold after thirty years by the clamor of ChatBack comes yet another familiar name from an earlier era...*

### **Tim Kyger**

Once upon a time, long, long ago, back in the Jurassic (or was it the Pleistocene?), I was active

in fandom. I lived then in Phoenix, Arizona. I was so active ("how active were you, Tim?") that, for my sins, I ended up as Chairman of IguanaCon II, a WorldCon.

Anyway, I was looking at the efanine site, which I'd been pointed at by Gary Farber. I tend to do things like that here at work (I work in the Pentagon; your tax dollars Doing Things) since we've got a T-1 line. I haven't been active in fandom in literally decades, but I do try to keep an eye on Things, since fannish doings are still Cool, and I still read stf. Besides, I've always liked the art of the fmz.

But back in the day, back in \*my\* day, living in isolation in Phoenix, there just wasn't any Las Vegas fandom. Now I see there is. And not only that, I see that it's been an active fandom for decades now.

So why should \*I\* give a damn about Las Vegas fandom?

I was born in Las Vegas. Clark County Hospital, 29 October 1955. As they say, you could look it up. My family lived at Nellis AFB until late 1961 when Dad got sent to Viet Nam as one of JFK's original military advisors (Mom and I moved to her small home town of New Lexington, Ohio, and I ended up growing up in Dayton).

I have tons of great memories of the "old" Las Vegas; the one that still had a Flamingo, and the "Vegas Village" store in Glitter Gulch. At least Las Vegas still has the Stardust. And Las Vegas \*still\* has a Jack in the Box right outside the Nellis main gate; a fast food joint I remember as a kid (it's obviously been remodeled since). I guess what stays in Vegas \*really\* stays...

We lived next door to Mike Collins for a few years in the Capehart housing at Nellis. Whoo hooo! He remembers my climbing all over his car in the shared carport; it pissed him off royally.

A thriving Las Vegas fandom. Damn. I \*love\* it.

*Arnie: After false starts in the 1950's and 1960's, Las Vegas Fandom finally took hold around 1990 with the formation of SNAFFU and, soon after, the encounter between the club and a pair of de-gafiating fans (Joyce and me).*

*I recommend Andy Hooper's wonderful anthology of **Wild Heirs**, *How Green Was My Ve-grant* for a look at Vegas Fandom in the '90's.*

*Vegas Fandom Weekly #54, a collection of stuff from this fanzine's first year, sheds some light on Vegas Fandom as it is today.*

*Both of these anthologies are available at efanines.com.*

### **Rich Dengrove**

Ted White supports Randy Byers' Traditional Fandom as opposed to Core Fandom. How about this? Generalized Fandom as opposed to Specialized Fandom. At one time, fandom was just SF, fanzines and cons; and everyone embraced all of them; they were generalists. Now most fans specialize. There are special fandoms for Star Trek, gaming, media, fantasy, funny animal, slash, etc., etc. What do you think? Sometimes the specialties crowd out us generalists.

*Arnie: I'm not too excited about either "Traditional Fandom," which is so backward-looking or the one you suggest, but I definitely do agree that you've identified a signature characteristic of Core Fandomites, as opposed to participants in All Known Fandom.*

*Because Core Fandomites have a greater interest in and access to the written output of Fandom, they may tend to see "the big picture" better than those who specialize in one activity. I think we tend to see Fandom as a subculture with a lot of activity choices, while a lot of the specialist fans seem to view it as more of a one-topic interest group.*

### **John Purcell**

Since I have a little time here at school, here's a quickie loc on your latest. It probably won't make it in time for inclusion in #73, but that's fine by me. It's the thought that counts. Fannish courtesy, and all that rot, y'know.

Great conclusion to your faan fiction. My favorite line was a self-referential remark that smacks so beautifully of great faan fiction:

"If we don't [meddle]," said Chris, "the next few pages in this fanzine will be blank."

"Point taken," said Robert.

Oh, how I love this kind of silliness!  
Grand fun.

Thank you for elaborating on why there was a time-gap between *VFW's* 71 & 72; I was beginning to worry that you really *had* gafiated! Wouldn't that be a self-fulfilling prophecy? Sometimes I get too caught up in writing locs and pubbing *In A Prior Lifetime* that I put off things that should be taken care of first -- little things like grading papers and studying for my doctoral classes -- and then spend a frantic week or two catching up on them. All is fine now, and I am deliberately back-burnering pubbing fanac - except for quick locs - until finals are over in three weeks' time.

Some things really are more important, and I am treating my fanac during this fannish incarnation in the true, original sense of the term "gafia": fanac will help me maintain my sanity by "getting away" from the daily grind of academia, which at this time of the year is very hectic. Praise Roscoe for fanzines! I've been reading *Banana Wings* #25 to help me unwind at night so I can sleep better without thinking about what else I have to do for the next week or two at school. Sometimes I will even print out a hard copy of some e-zines - like *VFW*, *Chunga*, and *eI* - for this very same reason. It really *does* help. (Fanac as sleep therapy. \*yawn\* Time for a nappy-poo. . .)

That being said, I think it's time to put the Core Fandom debate to rest. Granted, fans love to talk about themselves; when I wrote my little essay in *IAPL* #8 about fans being post-modernists, this is what I was getting at: fans are very self-reflective and can get really picky at it, too. Drives some of us nuts. However, this very nature has become the back-bone of the communication that makes fandom such a strong, self-contained community. We truly love to natter back and forth on a subject until someone - or some people - get fed up enough with it all that they gafiate either quietly or with a big bang. Hopefully such won't happen this time around. Even so, it has still been a rather interesting discussion. We're all fans, and that's all that really matters. 'Nuff said.

Case in point is the discussion that seems to be heating up in here about whether or not *Ansible* and *Emerald City* should be considered fanzines or semi-prozines for Hugo categorization nominees. If it was up to me (and maybe it's fortunate that it isn't) but I'd create a permanent separate category for Fan Web Site Hugo (it's been done selectively

before, right?); both *Ansible* and *Emerald City* would fall into this category along with Trufen.net, efanzines.com, and even *Plotka*. Maybe what needs to be done is make the Best Fanzine and Best Semi-prozine Hugos *print-only* awards, or something like that.

Beats the heck out of me. This is something for the Worldcon SMOFs to hash out. But this is my input as an interested fan: given the recent technology shift of our genre, modify the awards a bit to reflect the technology and interests of fans. Just a thought.

And if anybody takes me to task about it, well, a big **BLZZSFFLPLATZ** on ya!

Translation: for crying out loud people, stop taking this kind of stuff so seriously. It ain't life or death. Not mine, at any rate. We're all doing this on a voluntary basis anyway, so let's be adults about it.

Note to Ted White: I did indeed download Rob Hansen's *Then*. When I get some time next month I plan on enjoying it. From what I've glanced at already, it looks good.

I am looking forward to hearing the Audio One-Shot. Interesting concept, and sounds like a lot of fun. I most certainly enjoyed contributing my 3-minute shtick.

*Arnie: If it was up to me, and it's probably a good thing it isn't. there would be no fan Hugos. I think the Hugos (and Nebulas) belong to the profession science fiction and fantasy world.*

*I think Ted White had the right idea when he tried to create a parallel series of awards, the Pongs, for the 1967 NyCon 3.*

*A separate set of awards for fans, bestowed at the worldcon, would honor fans without creating some of the situations that I sincerely feel have cheapened the awards. I'm not too concerned about awards and rewards in Fandom, but the ones I most respect (and would be most flattered to win or even place) are the FAAn Awards.*

*Here's a letter from one of VFW's leading UK contributors, illuminated by his usual good sense and mature perspective. (That's two bucks you owe me.)*

**Peter Sullivan**

When you actually get down to it, I think we



are all saying fairly similar things about the “Best Semi-Prozine” Hugo, albeit with different slants (or even different hyphens). The problem is that it is in danger of becoming a de-facto “Best Fanzine Whose Editor Felt Pressurised Into Withdrawing From the Best Fanzine Hugo” Hugo. This is a not unreasonable description of the situation for both Emerald City and Ansible, and might apply (in part) to Locus too – not sure of the history here. As Randy notes, it’s a lose-lose situation for the editors, and to me it’s a lose-lose situation for fandom as well.

Possible solutions? I can think of at least three:

- a) Have three separate Fanzine Hugos (for Best Sercon Fanzine, Best Fannish Fanzine and Best Newszine – definitions in each case to be left to the voters) to avoid the “comparing apples to oranges” problem we have at the moment. If we have to yield the Best Fanzine and Best Semi-Prozine categories to avoid increasing the overall number of Hugos, so be it.
- b) Drop all of the Fan Hugos, and leave them to people for whom putting “Nominated for a Hugo Award” on the cover is common-sense commercial promotion.
- c) Stop taking any of this seriously, and just vote in the FAAn Awards.

As for Core Fandom, I think it’s one of those phrases that no-one, including you, is necessarily 100% happy with, but no-one can think of a better one, in this era when fanac can be just as much posting to your Livejournal as pubbing your ish. How about “Fanzine Fandom & Friends”? A bit messy, but it allows us to explain that FF&F are people who don’t necessarily ever get around to reading SF&F...

*Arnie: In a sense, “Fanzine Fandom and Friends” is just what we are, but there are way too*

*many “f”s in that acronym. Someone might think we were horning in on Chris Garcia’s outfit . Besides, “fanzine” as a description of fan-literary effort becomes less and less applicable with each passing day. It’s a new world out there and we’ve got to learn to describe it meaningfully.*

*What’s better than opening with a Lichtman Loc? Opening and closing with one...*

### **Robert Lichtman**

“The Rebirth of Vegas Fandom” was an enjoyable read, and I’m sure I join Chris Garcia and Dick Lupoff in a sense of relief that our parts in bringing it back worked successfully. I’m trying to remember who were the other Las Vegas fans who “melted away” when Dwain Kaiser moved to the L.A. area back in the ‘60s. I remember reading about it, but at the time he made his move I was becoming increasingly involved in what eventually morphed into the Haight-Ashbury scene and my fanac was minimal outside a fairly tight focus. Years before that, I remember that a previous Vegas area fandom disappeared with the gaffiation (and probably moving away) of David McCarroll (who published a couple issues of a fanzine called *Phantasia*) and Paul Cook (whose fanac I don’t remember at all).

Chris Garcia’s letter is the first I’ve heard of the “Hollister in 2008” Worldcon bid. Having been to the Casa de Fruta, which looms large in the bidding materials at their Web site, I believe it would be a perfect location for that year’s collection of All Known Fandom And Then Some. There would, of course, be an ongoing program item called “This Moment’s Earthquake.” If AK-FATS (not a fat-fan reference, but a new acronym!) were *really* living right that weekend, perhaps they might even experience that very special program item known as “The Big One.”

Given the complex and slightly weird rules for what constitutes a semiprozine, it would appear that hitching one’s publication to that category would be fairly easy and not necessarily be either “self-aggrandizement” or “creating...a hierarchy.” The Hugo rules define “fanzine” as follows:

“A generally available non-professional publication devoted to science fiction, fan-

tasy, or related subjects which by the close of the previous calendar year has published 4 or more issues, at least one of which appeared in the previous calendar year, and which does not qualify as a semiprozine.”

And a semiprozine is defined as:

“Any generally available non-professional publication devoted to science fiction or fantasy which by the close of the previous calendar year has published 4 or more issues, at least one of them in 2004, and met at least 2 of the following criteria in 2004:

- “1. had an average press run of at least 1,000 copies per issue,
- “2. paid its contributors and/or staff in other than copies of the publication,
- “3. provided at least half the income of any one person,
- “4. had at least 15% of its total space occupied by advertising,
- “5. announced itself to be a semiprozine.”

Under a stretched definition of the first of the five criteria—I don’t know about *Emerald City*, but I’m pretty sure that Dave doesn’t print “at least 1,000 copies” of *Ansible*, and both publications are counting number of hits on their Website as “copies”—along with the sheer chutzpah of the fifth criteria, it’s possible that the editor(s) of any number of what we think of as fanzines could redefine themselves as semiprozines. I believe that Bill Burns keeps a counter that tracks the number of hits received by each publication hosted on his site. And I suspect that Earl Kemp’s *eI*, for one, would qualify if Earl was so inclined (although I bet he’d prefer that one of his qualifiers be the third criteria). Hey, perhaps even *VFW* might make the cut!

So, in a way, it comes down to a matter of choice governed by the above rules. I don’t for a minute believe that Dave Langford feels any additional sense of “self-aggrandizement” over having won a rocket for *Ansible* at Interaction than he did all those years it scooped up best fanzine Hugos. If anything, he’s probably running out of room in his house for them all. As for Cheryl Morgan, I long ago quietly ceded all fannish commentary about her to rich brown.

John Purcell writes about your story in *VFW*

# 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

### **First Friday Video Group** May 5 6:00

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

### **VSFA Monthly Meeting** May 6 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** May 6 7:30 PM

The informal invitational Core Fandom club invites all of Las Vegas Fandom to an Open Party, the club's first of the year. Call 648-5677 for info.

### **Second Sunday Movie Screening** May 14 6:00

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

### **SNAFFU Discussion Meeting** May 12 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: Should Science Fiction Be Predictive?

### **Las Vegrants Meeting** May 20 7:30 PM

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

### **Sunday Social** May 21 2 PM

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

### **SNAPS Deadline** Sunday, May 21

Las Vegas Fandom's own electronic amateur press association has its deadline for contributions to the May distribution. Send your file to Joyce Katz (Joyceworley1@cox.net).

No. 71 that it "supports a theory that I've been formulating: Robert Lichtman and Richard Lupoff have been long-time Secret Masters of Fandom." Not so, John—both Dick and I are ordinary journeyman fen working long and arduous hours at Arnie's faan fiction factory, and count ourselves lucky when (as all too rarely happens) Arnie's muse runs temporarily dry and we get a break from the never-ending task of having to save fandom from yet another of the many ominous forces lurking in the creative mind of Arnie that would wreak havoc on it. We're glad that Chris Garcia has recently joined us on the shop floor and brought the full weight and influence of the N3F

to bear as well. (I can't make any cracks here about what that might entail, though, out of concern that Ruth Davidson might cause a major earthquake in the vicinity of Yuba City.)

John muses that in response to the issue of *Banana Wings* he was sent he "can either mail a traditional loc or e-mail it to Claire and Mark." Speaking as a fanzine editor myself, I've found it much easier to assemble a letter column now that most of the response comes in electronic form and doesn't have to be laboriously typed up by \*me\*. My guess is that Claire and Mark feel the same way.

I hate to burst yet another of your illusions,



Meyer, but Ted's letter in *VFW* No. 72 is not "his *VFW* debut." That happened in No. 66 *waaaaay* back in February. But it *is* good to see Ted turn up again with words of wisdom such as his comments on fannish tradition: "our 'tradition' is to find contexts in which to quote good Burbee lines...and I always say you can't have too many of them." Indeed not, and I would add that good Willis lines are always welcome in our tradition as well. I particularly like the one that came to Walt in a dream in which secrets of the universe were revealed and Walt scrawled down one of them in a semi-comatose state. The following morning he awoke and read, "The obvious is not necessarily untrue." These are words I've always lived by.

And I also agree with Ted's lauding Rob Hansen's *Epsilon*, a fanzine I occasionally refer back to, picking out an issue at random and each always guaranteed to contain some fannish gem. It's true that "*Epsilon* was at times overshadowed by zines like Malcolm Edwards' *Tappen*," but the latter appeared for only two years (1981-82) and had only five issues, while Rob's zine had eighteen issues spanning 1976 through 1985. Speaking of *Tappen*, Malcolm recently joined the Wegenheim list and revealed that the better part of another issue has been on stencils for many years. It's apparently possible that it might appear in the not too distant future. Since it contains the many letters of comment Malcolm received on D. West's seminal article, "Performance," I certainly hope it doesn't

turn out to be a latter-day Daugherty project.

*Arnie: Dwain was definitely the hub of '60's Las Vegas Fandom. I was pretty active at the time, but honestly, the only other one I recall is Lynn Peterson (or was it "Pederson"?), the group's artist. He owned a comic book store in town, Page After Page, through most of the 1990's.*

*But I wouldn't want VFW to be anything other than what it is – a fanzine, published as a hobby activity to entertain my fan friends in Las Vegas and in Core Fandom. I have no need to puff it up into something that sounds more prestigious to a bunch of nitwits. I am seldom lonely, but always proud to be a fan.*

We Also Heard From: Alan White, Art Widner, Laurraine Tutihasi, Jan Stinson, Andy Sawyer

#### **Thank You and Good Night**

I can see the end of page 24 and that definitely means it's time to write one of these farewells.

I hope you enjoyed this issue and that you'll join me on May 5 for the next one. And if you have an article or a letter of comment you'd like to share with the far-flung *Vegas Fandom Weekly* audience, they would be very welcome here.

I hope someone who's going to Corflu will favor us with a report of the convention, which is next weekend. Meanwhile, those who can't attend (like Joyce and me) should have a *VFW* to assuage some of that longing to be in Toronto.

— Arnie Katz

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...

*and a ton of news.*