

# VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

## Vegas Fan Events

**Vegrants DeChancie Party**  
**Saturday (5/27) 6:30 PM**

**SNAPS May Distribution Deadline**  
**Monday (5/29)**

**VSFA 'First Friday' Video Group**  
**Friday (6/2) 6:00 PM**

**VSFA Monthly Meeting**  
**Saturday (6/3) 11:00 AM**

**Vegrants Meeting**  
**Saturday (6/3) 6:30 PM**

*Check out the Calendar and preview stories*

### **Vegrants Fete John DeChancie!**

Las Vegrants threw a party for John DeChancie on Saturday, May 27. Although this turns out to be a visit rather than a permanent relocation, the group was delighted to see their friend. John has been in Los Angeles for a couple of months, after his all-too-brief sojourn in Glitter City. (Did I write "sojourn"? Maybe I've been watching too many documentaries about the DaVinci Code.)

The idea originated at the previous Saturday's Vegrants meeting when Merric Anderson reported that John would be in Las Vegas on Memorial Day weekend. Several fans immediately suggested that we have a party to welcome him back.

"He said he *hoped* to be in Vegas on Memorial

Day Weekend," Merric temporized. "He'll be here if he can."

"That's no problem at all," Joyce assured him. "If he comes, we'll honor him and if he doesn't we still need something fannish to do over the long weekend."

Her logic convinced us, so we scheduled the party for Saturday, the 27th.

Ironically, Merric & Luba Anderson were among the absent at the actual party. His company gave him a last-minute assignment to do a teaching seminar, so he and Luba were out of town on the day of the get-together.

### **Books Hit SNAFFU Library Shelves!**

Thanks to the effort of Lori Forbes, chairman of the

*Continued on page 15*

MR. BRIAN GREGGS: ONE MILLIONETH  
RECENTLY-ARRIVED SOUL TO HUM THE  
'TWILIGHT ZONE' THEME MUSIC UPON  
ARRIVING IN THE AFTERLIFE.



# Inside Story An Upgrade...

Those who've grown used to me whispering into a Sony mini cassette recorder at fan meetings, parties and Corflus will now have to get used to something completely different. Though I considered simply jettisoning the recorder and whispering into my empty hand, I decided it's better for my reports, not to mention my image of (relative) sanity, to go with a miniature digital recorder.

As much as I like Sony's televisions and monitors, that's how much I hate and despise the fiends at Sony who developed the mini-cassette recorder that bears the company's otherwise-proud logo. And please understand, I've had maybe a dozen of these damnable devices since my handwriting became too indecipherable, even to me.

At first I thought something was wrong with me.

My first experience wasn't encouraging. I went through two of them in the first week. Something happened that made the heads on the first one incapable of recording or playback, while the recording button stopped working on the second about two messages into its mayfly lifespan. The "record" button on the second one broke the first night. I got the store to give me a replacement — and that one didn't last a week.

My most recent Sony mini-cassette recorder lasted about two weeks. After struggling to do without it, I succumbed to the inevitable and went to an electronics store. They had mini-cassettes, but those newfangled digital mini recorders caught my eye. The price wasn't much different and the idea of greater dependability and freedom from tiny tapes was also a plus.

This week's report on the Vegants meeting is the first one I've done with the new gadget. Of course, there's still a learning curve. For instance, it took me a while to figure out that the LCD is much easier to read after you remove the adhesive transparent sheet that covers it. Brilliant me couldn't figure out why the display never changed.

The road to tomorrow is not without its potholes. — Arnie



**Vegas Fandom Weekly #76, Volume 2 Number 23, May 26, 2006**, is written and produced by Arnie Katz (909 Eugene Cernan St., Las Vegas, NV 89145; Email: [crossfire4@cox.net](mailto:crossfire4@cox.net); phone: 702-648-5677).

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

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

**Art/Photo Credits:** Steve Stiles (1), Alan White (4-6), David Gordon (4), all else by Bill Rotsler.

**Columnists This Issue:** Richard Lupoff, John DeChancie

VFW is free by request — and you may get it anyway. It can be downloaded at the SNAFFU site and at [efanzines.com](http://efanzines.com). No chocolate-munching gourmards were harmed during the production of this fanzine.

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

# 2006 LV Fan Awards *Katzenjammer*

The results of the 2006 Las Vegas Fan Awards are finally done. Spurred by the appearance of the 2006 FAAn Awards, I've tabulated the ballots and am pleased to announce the winners and congratulate everyone who placed in one or more of the six categories.



I also want to congratulate those who voted for helping to get such a healthy turn-out for the



first annual Las Vegas Fan Awards. Giving egoboo to those who've made Fandom better for us is one of the lynchpins of Fandom.

This also seems a good place to thank everyone who voted for me, *Vegas Fandom Weekly*

and various events held at the Launch Pad. It means a lot to know that you, the fans who have to put up with me on a weekly, if not a daily, basis, think so highly of my efforts.

## Most Important Happening in Las Vegas Fandom in 2005

1. 46 Vegas Fandom Weekly 813
2. 26 SNAPS 163
3. 24 LV Fantasy & Science Fiction Day 411
4. 8 Formans move to Arkansas 110
5. 7 Revival of the Sunday Socials 102

Other placers: 6 Library Relocation 020; 6 Woody Leaving Vegas 013; 5 More New Fans 100; 3 United Fans of Vegas Events 010; 3 Joyce Katz receives a gift of a computer 010; 3 More Visitors 010; 1 Rebecca Becomes VSFA President 001

# SNAPS

Arnie's comment: I'd like to think that the votes for *Vegas Fandom Weekly* are meant as recognition of the impact of this weekly fanzine on the quantity and quality of fanac in Las Vegas. Things were at a pretty low ebb when I began in

Continued on next page

## Decoding the Results

I really liked the way Murray Moore presented the results of the FAAn Awards poll, so I am using substantially the same format for the 2006 Las Vegas Fan Awards Poll.

The Rank column is the total of points. A first place vote is 5 points, a second place vote is three points, and a third place vote is one point.

In the line "1. 46 Vegas Fandom Weekly 813" "1" is the rank (first), "46" is the point total and "813" is the number of first, second, and third place votes. (First place votes, 8; second place votes, 1; third place votes, 3.) Eight first place votes x 5 points = 40; one second place votes x three points = 3; three third place vote x 1 point = 3; total 46.

— Bean Counter Arnie



Joyce Karz, Arnie Katz and Steve Brust keep the audience from catching an afternoon nap during the “Fans into Pros” panel at the Las Vegas Fantasy & Science Fiction Day.

late 2004 and this poll indicates that all the drum beating had some positive effects.

Yet it is important to remember (especially for me) that *VFW* is no more than a catalyst. It’s the individual fans of Las Vegas whose energy and talent who brought the Glitter City fan community back from isolationism and stagnation.



Arnie Katz and Aileen Forman enjoy a little conversation at the Farewell Formans Party.

Voters rated the founding of SNAPS as the year’s second-most-important happening. That’s great, as far as it goes, but it’s the participation of Vegas fans that makes it a worthwhile activity. I hope that some of those who awarded it points will give SNAPS itself a try.

The Las Vegas Fantasy & Science Fiction Day was eligible in two categories and finished well in both. It came in a very close third as an important development on the local scene, because it was the first general con held in the city since Silvercon IV.

Even though Ken & Aileen Forman left Las Vegas a couple of years ago, they were so close to Vegas and visited so often that a lot of us pretended to ourselves that they were still here. The move to Arkansas signaled a more serious separation and, in effect, the end of the first big era of Las Vegas Fandom. (I’ve invited both Ken and Aileen to write for *VFWm* so perhaps they’ll be able to maintain a connection to the Fandom they did so much to create.)

### Outstanding Local Event In Las Vegas Fandom in 2005

1. 38 LV Fantasy & Science Fiction Day 622
2. 17 Christmas Party 221
3. 15 Good-Bye Formans Party 04
4. 12 Halloween Party 04
5. 11 Big Weekend 201
- 11 Sunday Social Art Program 201

Other placers: Other placers: 5 Sunday Socials 100; 5 Cookie Fest 100; 3 Andersons’ Russian Dinner 010; 3 New Year’s Eve 003; 3 Vegnants

# Who Voted?

*Seventeen fans participated in this first annual Las Vegas Fab Awards poll. That’s an impressive turn out for a first-time survey that concerns a single fan center. Let’s hope even more participate next year (and that I don’t shilly-shally about posting the full results...)*

Luba Anderson, Merric Anderson, Ayesha Ashley, Joelle Barnes, Michael Bernstein, Linda Bushyager, Teresa Cochran, Ruth Davidson, Lori Forbes, Roxanne Gibbs, JoHn Hardin, Arnie Katz, Joyce Katz, Robert Lichtman, Peter Sullivan, James Taylor, Alan White, DeDee White.

Open Party for Chris Garcia 0101; 3 Vegrants Open Party for Bruce Gillespie 010; 1 Daughtery Pool Party 001.

**Arnie's comment:** Although this category included a huge number of live events — club meetings, parties, outings and more — one event stood head and shoulders above the others in the minds of Vegas Fandom: The Las Vegas Fantasy & Science Fiction Day. It scored more than twice as many points as the second-place finisher and the reason is no



Many fans picked the revival of the Socials as an outstanding happening — and chose the Art Day as the best of the series. Alan white grins his approval as he stands in front of one of the exhibits.

mystery: this was the first general-interest convention held in Las Vegas in well over a decade.

Behind a great day of fan activity was a great show of unity by the Las Vegas fan community. The committee, under the leadership of Woody Bernardi, did all the work that made it a tremendously positive experience. Our local Fandom gained a few new faces, too.

Anyone who doubts that Vegas Fandom is at its strongest when its fans co-

operate need only look at the the results of this category. Four of the six top finishers were the fruits of that kind of cooperation!

The strong support for the Halloween Party is very satisfying to those who fought so hard to bring it back from virtual extinction. Hopefully, next year's holiday party will be able to build on this year's outstanding showing.



### Outstanding Non-Vegas Fan

- |    |    |                 |     |
|----|----|-----------------|-----|
| 1. | 54 | Chris Garcia    | 930 |
| 2. | 25 | Art Widner      | 236 |
| 3. | 15 | Bruce Gillespie | 050 |
| 4. | 10 | Robert Lichtman | 112 |
| 5. | 9  | Shelby Vick     | 111 |

**Other Placers:** 5 Chaz Baden 100; 5 Bill Rotsler 100; 3 Peter Sullivan 010; 1 Ken Forman 010; 1 Dave Burton 001; 1 Formans 001

**Arnie's comments:** This category is a rough index of how Las Vegas fans see the rest of Fandom. And from that vantage point, there are a number of fans who've become important to the LV fan community.



Woody Bernardi's departure was one of the year's most significant events — and the party for him was one of the most enjoyable of the year.



Chris Garcia is shown practicing shooting lightning bolts from his fingertips. He has not fully mastered the technique, but he is a still a young fan.

Chris Garcia, who recently won the 2006 FAAn Achievement award as Core Fandom's foremost newcomer, visited Las Vegas twice and also contributed often to locally produced fanzines. While he's especially popular with the Vegrants, Chris is a favorite with just about everyone in Glitter City.

Art Widner was always one of the most popular non-Vegas fans in the 1990's and his popularity has risen right along with the resurgence in LV Fandom. He came through town twice in his

uniquely decorated car and sparked two of the year's most entertaining Vegrants meetings.

Bruce Gillespie made a special side-trip to meet Las Vegas Fandom while he was here to attend Corflu and Potlatch as the honoree of the Bring Bruce Bayside Fund. It's an understatement to say that LV fans appreciated both the effort and the man. His knowledge of science fiction and his friendly, fannish personality proved to be an unbeatable combination.

Both Robert Lichtman and Shelby Vick both have long-standing connections to Las Vegas Fandom. Neither has visited in the last two years, however, so they have not yet met any of Vegas' New Generation. Despite that, both are very popular as a result of fanzine and Internet contact.

### Outstanding New Las Vegas Fan of 2005

1. 48 Ayesha Ashley 734
2. 31 James Willey 351
3. 29 Mindy Hutchings 342
4. 26 Joelle Barnes 413
5. 6 Sandra Bean 101

Other placers: none

Arnie's comments: New fans, those who haven't had any previous contact with the hobby, have a special place in Fandom. We honor and cherish them, not so much for their fannish achievements, but for their fannish potential.

## What about Next Year?

Participation was excellent. I'd hope more members of SNAFFU and VSFA will join in this effort to honor the many fans who make the fan-year so enjoyable for the rest of us. The voters should be congratulated for awarding egoboo without reference to irrelevancies like club membership.

The pollster's performance was less sterling. When I finally buckled down to it, it took less than one evening to tabulate everything. I'll remember that for next time and promise a speedier report. What can I say? I'm an Old Fan and Tired.



Some may fade out while others will flourish beyond our expectation. Meanwhile, fresh faces and fresh enthusiasm are always welcome.

Ayesha Ashley's effervescent personality and sharp mind made her an instant hit when she came to a Sunday Social and charmed everyone. She's a solid member of the Vegrants and has sampled most of what local Fandom has to offer.

James Willey and Mindy Hutchings found Fandom and each other in 2005 and I wish them profound and long-lasting joy in both. James and Mindy have primarily confined their fan activity to VSFA so far, as well as spending a generous amount of time in nest-building as any new couple would do, but everyone is hoping that they'll share more of their intelligence and energy with the entire LV fan community in the coming year.

Joelle Barnes continues to be a fascinating, intriguing mystery. Her passage through Vegas Fandom has had a few bumps, but it's hard not to be captivated by her sprightly manner.

#### **Outstanding Addition to Vegas Fandom in 2005**

1. 51 Teresa Cochran 832
2. 30 Luba Anderson 262
3. 22 David Gordon 152
4. 16 Merric Anderson 206
5. 13 John DeChancie 122

Other placers: 5 Ruth Davidson 100; 5 Daugherty's 100

**Arnie's comment**: The poll recognizes that there are now two categories of new fans: the ones who come to us direct from the non-fan world and those who come to Core Fandom after previous involvement with other segments of Fandom.

This second type of fan has it easier in some ways and tougher in others. They have some familiarity with the fan world, but they have often learned lessons that may contradict what they find in Core Fandom.

Teresa Cochran is a wonderful example of how we gain from migration to Core Fandom within All Known Fandom. In little more than a year, she has become a vital part of the local scene — and, incidentally, finished fourth in the FAAn Awards balloting for the best neofan of the year in

*all* of Fandom. She is a key member of the Vegrants, has staked a claim as a fanwriter and editor and inspires us all with her determination and upbeat approach to life and fanac.

It's cause for celebration when a local Fandom gets a fabulous fannish couple like Luba and Merric Anderson. They're irresistibly charming, and also smart and talented. They've mostly participated on the local level to this point, but the coming year is likely to bring wider recognition (especially if Merric amends his refusal to write).

Call him "That Guy," call him "Tony," but don't forget to call the name of Dave Gordon when you list highly-prized additions to Las Vegas Fandom. He's a good conversationalist, generous to his friends and a damn fine writer.

John DeChancie was an accomplished professional writer and an active Los Angeles fan before he ever encountered Las Vegas Fandom. And yet when it did, it was mutual love at first sight. Talk about fitting right in! John subsequently had to return to LA, but we are preparing to rejoice in his return, hopefully this coming weekend.

#### **Outstanding VegasFan of 2005**

1. 64 Arnie Katz 11-3-0
2. 44 Joyce Katz 392
3. 17 Roxanne Gibbs 214
4. 7 James Taylor 014
5. 6 David Gordon 101

Other placers: 3 James Willey 010; 3 Alan White 010; 3 Teresa Cochran 010; 2 Michael Bernstein 002; 2 Rebecca Hardin 002; 2 Linda Bushyager 002; 1 Laurie Kunkel 001

**Arnie's comment**: The votes for Joyce and me are appreciated, to say the least. More important, though, is the egoboo for Roxanne Gibbs, James Taylor and David Gordon, whose fannish efforts have helped elevate Vegas Fandom in the last year.

Roxanne is a tireless worker for Vegas Fandom who, due to illness, gets to enjoy little of what she does for the rest of us. James Taylor is now a major LV fan and David has excelled in all forms of fanac.

What a year! What a year! — Arnie

# Them Days The Duke

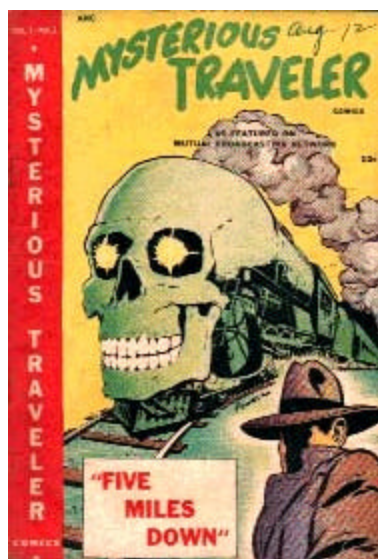
So, now you know about two of my high school teachers, Al Verdel and J. Henry (“Don’t Call Me Jake”) Eisenhart. Both had been professional baseball players. Both had made it to the big leagues. Each had appeared in just one National League game in the summer of 1944, Al pitching briefly for the Philadelphia Phillies and Jake (Take That, You Bastard!) even more briefly for the Cincinnati Reds.

Another memorable character was Percy William Downing, known unofficially and affectionately as the Duke. He taught chemistry, a subject which I found sublimely boring. I learned little and remember less of that year’s work.

Something about positive and negative valences and shared electrons. Something about the periodical table of the elements. And my mantra for that course: An acid plus a base yields a salt and water.

No, I have no idea what that means.

But although I could hardly have cared less



about the course material, I never minded Duke Downing’s class because he was such a delightful individual. And if you could get him to wander away from chemistry and talk about other matters, he had fascinating tales to tell.

He was also a remarkably humane person. I think he

realized that I had something to offer the world but that it would not be in the field of chemistry, and he mostly left me alone. On one occasion I recall sneaking a digest-sized fiction magazine into class and reading it while the subject of benzene rings was discussed. It was either *Suspense* or *The Mysterious Traveler*. My magazine was, I mean.

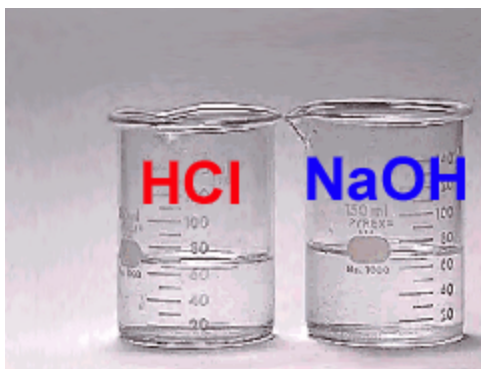
The Duke wandered over to my desk, snatched the magazine out of my hands, and perused its pages for several minutes. Then he handed it back and said, “You could read a lot worse material than that.”

He had wavy hair that must once have been blond. By the time I knew him, in the late 1940’s and early 50’s, it was almost entirely white. He was a slight man. He usually wore a tweed or checked sports jacket, button-down shirt, striped tie and flannel slacks. This was virtually a uniform for teachers at my school.

The Duke was English. He had served in His Majesty’s Royal Fusiliers (or something like that) in the First World War. He had been in the trenches in France when the war bogged down. The opposing armies faced each other, a few hundred yards of murdered earth and barbed wire separating them. The trenches became swamps, their bottoms deep in cold water and mud, human excrement and blood.

Spads and Fokkers buzzed overhead.

Then both sides started using poison gas. The soldiers had been issued gas masks but they weren’t very effective, especially after prolonged







exposure. The casualty rates were horrifying. At one point the Duke found himself so weak from gas and hunger and diarrhea that he lay in the bottom of the trench, unable to move. He had his rifle at his side, bayonet fixed and pointing upward. To his left was another British soldier, dead. To his right was another British soldier, dead.

And then the Germans mounted a charge.

A German soldier came over the top, lost his balance, and belly-flopped onto the Duke's rifle. He impaled himself on the bayonet, then fell the rest of the way into the trench, landing face-down across the Duke. He wasn't killed instantaneously. He lay there bleeding and moaning until he died. The Duke, already too weak to move, could neither shove the German off himself nor wriggle out from under. He lay there for three days.

Finally a graves registration unit came by, removing corpses for burial. They pulled the dead German off Percy Downing and found Downing lying under him, still alive, although just barely.



He wound up in the hospital and eventually recovered, although he could never again speak much above a whisper, not with his ruined lungs.

All of this, of course, had happened thirty-odd years before I found myself sitting in the Duke's classroom, struggling to stay awake.

Christmas break came and everybody went home. I think I've mentioned that this was a Christian (!) military (!) boarding (!) school with an all-male (!) student body. No wonder I hated it.

January arrived and everybody returned from vacation. The first day that Percy Downing's chemistry class met, the Duke hobbled into the room with a sticking plaster on his forehead and one arm in a sling.

A student asked him what had happened.

"My wife and I were driving to a restaurant and the roadway was icy. Our car skidded off the road and overturned."



Several students offered expressions of sympathy, to the general effect of, "Oh, that's too bad."

The Duke shook his head. "No, it was very nice," he said in his soft, whispery voice. "For the first time in twenty years my wife sat on my lap."

Oh, there were bastards like Jake Eisenhart and sweet characters like Duke Downing teaching at my school. I guess any school will have a spectrum of teachers ranging from dedicated educators and true humanitarians, to martinets, bullies, and psychological sadists. The Duke fit into the first class, Jake fit into the second.

I recently used both of these fellows as characters in a story called "Patterns." It will be in my collection *Visions*, in print before the end of 2006. Elder Signs Press, pals. Buy it off their website. They're lovely folks and they need your support.

— Richard A. Lupoff

There's no need to wait for Dick's newest book to spend your money at the Elder Signs Books online store. Go browse it to your heart's content at: <http://www.eldersignspress.com/shop/>.

The fine folks at Elder Signs Books have a wide assortment of tasty items for fans with a literary bent.

# High Risk The Way I Write

Lots of you are curious as to my professional writing methods. (You in the back, pay attention! Time enough to sleep when I get into the lecture proper.) Permit me to bring out a few salient points on the subject.



First, let me state that I write every day that I am writing. Without fail. The days that I am not writing, true, are many and lingering, but when I write, by gum, I write every day that I write. I defy anyone to point out to me a day that I write in which I fail to write. So, let's set that as a parameter of something. Write every day you write.



What time of day? I get up every morning on a day I am writing at 6 AM

sharp. At 7 AM, after a nourishing breakfast, I am sitting at the computer, opening up a new file. I type my name and address in the upper left-hand corner of the screen, then my address and contact information, including my agent's name and contact information.

Then I type the word "The..." I wait. If nothing follows, I close the file, and go back to bed; I usually regain consciousness again at approximately 12 noon.

I then go out to lunch. Lunch is from one to four PM, whereupon I take a long walk on the beach. I get back home in time to either fix dinner or go out with friends to a restaurant. In the evenings, barring other activities, I read. At 11 o'clock, I reopen the file and stare at the "The..." If nothing comes, I type "...hell with

it." And close the file again.

If this pattern persists for more than a week, I employ one of my patented methods for overcoming writer's block. One such is writing the word *the* several more times, a couple of thousand times for a novel, a few hundred for a short. You will have to write them eventually; might as well get them out of the way. The same goes for punctuation. Hitting the period and comma keys a couple of thousand times is guaranteed to give you a head start on a composition. The average word processing file for a novel is around 400k. With this method, you have between 40-75 of those Ks locked in and done with.

Now all you need do is fill in, and presto, your novel's all but written itself. This procedure can be followed for *he said, she said*, and any variations thereof. More Ks. Still more are prearranged when you lay in a few dozen *however*s, *therefore*s, and a brace of *moreover*s, just for good measure. In point of fact, one can browse the dictionary for likely useful words, using the genre of the work as a general guide.

For instance, a mystery would quite clearly call for at least a dozen or so uses of the word *murder*. The same goes for *Inspector, clue, fingerprints, gun, conservatory, and lead pipe*. What

else can be assumed to be needed? Well, paragraph indents, of course. Lay them in, by all means! A few per page, easy as pie.

We have already covered punctuation, but blocks of dialogue are a special case. Space for these in the manuscript can be set aside and seeded with flurries of quotation marks, from which stirring, terse, dramatic dia-



logue is sure to grow. Be sure to set aside enough *he said's* (add a *tersely* or two).

For other genres, simply follow your inclinations. *Rocketship, planet, Martian, horse, six-gun, tin star*—you be the judge of what you will need. Type in as many as you think will come in handy, plus a good safety margin. You can always delete any over-supply.

By the time you get all this done, it will surely be time for bed, and you can start the whole process over again the next day. Eventually, what is produced is a template. All you need then is a few character names, and a plot element or two or



three. From there on in, it's paint-by-numbers sort of procedure.

I realize that letting the professional cat out of the bag this way takes some of the glamour out of the writer's *mystique*. But trade

secrets cannot be kept forever. Millions of people are finding out how easy it is to write fiction. Their works are getting published every day on the Internet, in non-paper form mostly, granted, but this is merely the march of technology. The age of the mute, inglorious Milton is over, the Muse be thanked. Today, every man and woman can be an unmuted Milton, an all-stops-pulled-out Shakespeare, an uncollared Collins (Jackie), an unbe-nighted Brown (Dan), and there is glory enough to go around.

However, there is a hitch. These new Browns and Miltons will have their art as their only reward, as well it should be; for the same new technology that has created them will deny them compensation for their craft.



Copyright is going the way of the dodo, and no one can guarantee that anyone will ever get paid for writing again, unless it's a stipend or salary of some kind. Straighten that livery, Maestro. Your table is reserved for you in the kitchen with the rest of the staff.

Stick with it, never say die, and all that, and you'll succeed. And lay out your book or story in detail before you write, so that the actual writing part will be as painless as possible.

— John DeChancie

### **Welcome Back to Las Vegas!**

I'm particularly pleased to have one of John's fine contributions in this issue, because today (5/27) marks his return to Las Vegas and the Vegants.

We're thowing him a party. The fact that it's a long weekend and we're all bored has nothing to do with it. — Arnie



# Las Vegrants Many Happy Returns!

The 5/20 Vegrants meeting started with a pleasant surprise when JoHn Hardin knocked on the door a little after 7:00 PM. He'd vowed to start attending regularly again once he got a car and cleared up a license problem, but we hadn't heard from him about this particular meeting. Right behind him came James Taylor and Teresa Cochran, so the evening got off to a roaring start.

The start of the meeting was only distant thunder to me. Early arrivals caught me still at the computer, frantically trying to finish something before all the Vegrants arrived. Hearing the fannish fun in the living room was certainly an incentive..

I brought a copy of *The Glitter City Goofballs #3* to the living room and declared it electronically distributed. No one applauded, but they did look quite happy. By accident, the printer ran a full color proofreading copy, so it looked especially good. Still, I did take the precaution of warning them not to look at Joyce's proofreading notes on the pages.

We immediately began talking about the next one-shot. We chose a theme and expect to have a title by the time we pump out the pixels at the 6/3 meeting.

Alan White seemed subdued, even when he found out about his finish in the "Best Fan Artist" category of the FAAn Awards. Only under insistent questioning by a half-dozen Vegrants did our Arty Fella reveal that his mom had died that morning! His mother was 91 and went peacefully, but that still doesn't cushion the blow. The Whites were due to leave for Hemmet, CA, on Sunday morning to wind up his mother's affairs.

Joyce mentioned yet another new spam-laden virus in case everyone was getting too happy. This one has a subject line about vacations and mangles your hard drive. Merric Anderson made a casual comment about sexy spam and I replied that I didn't think it was terribly sexy to get 15 emails from women who all agree that my penis needs to be much larger..

Joyce deftly guided this discussion so that, within a few minutes, John and James had volunteered to set up Joyce's shiny new HP inkjet printer. When I chided her for putting our friends to work, she said, "Well, they wanted to talk about computers anyway, so it's better to send them into another room."

It turned out that, as with so many of the new devices, the printer didn't come with the necessary cables. The Vegrants Techno Team made a run to the store and soon had it churning out lovely samples.

Jolie LaChance assured her welcome with a home-baked flour-less chocolate cake that seized a stranglehold on the palates of several chocoholics. This was Jolie's second guest visit to Las Vegrants and she has impressed everyone with her intelligence, independence and charm.

JoHn found my copy of *The Worry Book*, a humorous little volume Dick & Pat Lupoff showed me many years ago. As I told JoHn, *The Worry Book* amused me so much that I bought my own copy and, with Jay Kinney, produced *The Fannish Worry Book* as a half-number issue of *Quip*. The passage of four decades has dated the references, but I might try my hand at a completely revised version.

Joyce, who is still getting used to the idea of being Vice President and Meeting Director of SNAFFU asked Merric and Luba about the SNAFFU Discussion Meeting they'd attended a week earlier. "Be harsh," Joyce encouraged. They voiced some reasonable criticisms, but their overall verdict was fairly lenient.

The Andersons had watched *Munich* at a viewing party at Alan & DeDee White's home the previous evening. They were surprised we weren't there, too, since we're regulars at these screenings. Joyce explained that I didn't want to revisit a horrible incident that I remembered all too well.

"Arnie makes the decision on holocaust movies and I decide about the Indian massacres," Joyce explained.

"And we'll decide together if it's about a Native American war party that attacks the Warsaw Ghetto," I clarified.

When Merric revealed that John DeChancie was going to return to Las Vegas on Memorial Day weekend, everyone was so elated that we decided to have a party to welcome him back.

Making his return *this* time, after an extended work-related trip to Los Angeles, was Kent Hastings. He not only brought a very interesting friend, Randy Herrst, but also two tasty pepperoni pizzas from nearby Pizza Heaven. I'd had nothing but a tuna sandwich in the morning, so a couple of slices did much to brighten my evening.

Kent and Randy explained that they are making a movie under the creative baton of Neil Shulman. Nichelle Nichols – Lt. Uhura – plays a madam in a story about hookers and terrorists, *Lady Magdalen*.

Randy talked informatively about the gear that

allows indy moviemakers to work at such a high level. *Lady Magdalen* will be edited completely in digital video, a far cry from the days of laborious hand-cutting of celluloid. The movie is a several-week project, so I hope we'll see more of Randy while he's in Parumph.

As an aside during the group movie discussion, Randy asked if I'm "an overall buff."

"Yes," I said. "I like movies with overalls, especially when they are over buff females."

Lori Forbes announced with some glee that she has survived the statistics course that has bedeviled her for the last semester. Of course, being Lori, it turned out that she aced this killer course. Now she is fully prepared to count stuff; maybe she ought to supervise the next edition of the FAAn Awards...

Lori celebrated by taking a short course about tea that finished in a blaze of glory with a high tea at the Four Seasons. A local fan group, the 4F, used to do events like that. Now that there is again a sufficient female fan population, perhaps they ought to think of a revival. (Lori also got a free dinner for being "Employee of the Month" at one of her jobs, so this was a week of High Living.)

Worldcon plans occupied several fans later in the evening. A six-member contingent that planned to drive to LA is now considering the alternative of flying. With gas prices likely to rise through the summer, flying is not that much more expensive. Merric and James debated Southwest vs. America West and the latter logged onto the Internet to get some prices. No decision on transport yet, but the important thing is that Vegas fans are going and will be looking to meet you.

Luba expressed her unease about participating in serious discussions of politics, religion and such. She explained that she'd always enjoyed such debates until she got into one with a guy who went nuts on the Palestinian problem. He was about 6'8" and she thought he might kill her.

Fortunately Core Fandom is a good deal more tolerant. As I told her, the Fanoclasts back in the 1960's had both a doctrinaire Communist and a self-styled Nixon Republican who didn't come to blows over burning issues.

Joyce told her about the singular exception: Stan the Inferno going ballistic during a discussion with Bill Kunkel, twice, and then having no more contact with any of us. Stan was always a fellow-traveler rather than a real fan, so maybe he's not a true exception.

A much more objectionable person who briefly touched Fandom was Ivan Musican. He started attending FISTFA in '66 or '67 while I was away at college in Buffalo, so I didn't meet him until Thanksgiving vacation.

I'd arranged to stop by Dave Van Arnam's midtown office and go with Cindy VA and him to dinner and then the meeting. Dave had to work a little late, however, so he sent us on ahead with the intention of joining us in an hour or so.

On the way, Cindy mentioned the new faces at FISTFA (an informal open club) since I'd left for school. That's when she told me a little about Ivan Musican, who'd evidently upset her a lot.

We got to Mike McInerney's apartment, where FISFA was already going strong. We took seats and continued our conversation. Suddenly, I became aware of a fat little guy approaching us.

Cindy whispered, "Here he comes." The words had hardly left her mouth before Ivan Musican was standing in front of us. He clicked his heels and gave us an enthusiastic "Heil Hitler!" with accompanying stiff-arm salute. In case this wasn't sufficiently offensive, he fingered the zipper of his pants and asked Cindy to pull it down for him.

I stood up, a big 19-year-old moustachio'd hippie in a cowboy hat and jacket, and told him what he could do with his suggestion, Adolf Hitler and any other damn thing he had in mind. I suggested, admittedly without my usual subtlety, that he needed to get out of that room and stay away from me and my friends. I did not have to say I would bust up his dumb Nazi face, because that was sort of implied by my steely stare and the way I loomed over this fubsy butterball of hate.

Jolie mentioned enjoying *V for Vendetta* and discovered that Luba is also very fond of that film. It's now playing in an Imax version, so it's possible there'll be an excursion to see it.

Attending were: James Taylor, Teresa Cochran, Merric & Luba Anderson, Alan White, Ross Chamberlain, Lori Forbes, Su Williams, JoHn Hardin, Kent Hastings, Randy Herrst, Jolie LaChance, Joyce Katz and...

— Arnie

## Next Meeting

The June 3 Las Vegrants meeting will see the return of several members who've ben absent of late and the start of the fourth oneshot in the current series.

Vegas fans, and out-of-towners who'd like to play, too, are encouraged to write a short article about something to do with summer.

# SNAFFU Central Night of Prophecy!

It was the largest SNAFFU meeting for some time, when the Southern Nevada Area Fantasy Fiction Union gathered at Borders Bookstore on May 12. A total of 13 crowded into the meeting space. When President Michael Bernstein called the meeting to order, the first discussion was about our hopes for a new place to gather perhaps as soon as next month. It now looks like we'll be approved to use a meeting room on campus at UNLV; we should have some answer on this soon.

Lori Forbes announced a library meeting for the next day, and called for volunteers to alphabetize and shelve books. Michael assured us that funds are available to buy any needed lumber or fittings, and carpentry-wizard Jolie LaChance said she is ready to finish the building project, which now only involves the addition of more shelves into the standing frames. Michael led a discussion of what to do with duplicate books; most likely they'll be sold and the money used to buy more, along with some excess books that Michael is donating to benefit the club. Lynn McGibboney volunteered to manage eBay sales, which will probably also involve some scientific collectibles, action figures, games, etc.

I (Joyce Katz) asked if there was any decision about a SNAFFU picnic. In the following discussion, Linda Bushyager pointed out that it's already getting pretty hot in Nevada, and it was suggested we aim toward October when it's a bit cooler. Michael has appointed a Picnic Committee of Teresa Cochran and Lori Forbes to check feasibility of locations and dates.

Linda suggested a movie outing to see *The DaVinci Code*, and will report back to the group via email with date and time. The outing was subsequently scheduled for Sunday morning, May 28, so the moviegoers will be able to then go directly to the VSFA Social at the Blue Ox, at 2 pm.

## Next Meeting

At the June 9th Discussion Meeting, SNAFFU members will tackle a question that has fascinated fans for almost 80 years: "Why a Fan?" And, says Joyce Katz, "friendship" won't cut it as an answer.

There'll be all kinds of news and information—and some good chatter, too.

After the nuts-and-bolts, Michael turned the meeting over to Vice President Joyce Katz (That's me, folks!) for the discussions. She introduced the group to Bridgett Westerman who formerly lived in Florida and Albuquerque. Bridgett had already attended a couple of VSFA meetings, but this was her first attendance of a full-blown science fiction club. She merrily joined right in the discussions, and we all hope she'll be back regularly.

We kicked around the age of the universe, and the relatively rapid rise of life on earth after the formation of the Solar System. We also went over the SFWA Nebula Awards, which makes a fine recommended reading list.

Teresa delivered the monthly Science Report, with a clutch of reports gleaned from the announcements of the past month. Lori gave a report of science fiction drama, concentrating on *Dr. Who*, which recently won a number of awards in England for the BBC presentations. Joyce presented a list of books soon to be released, as well as a couple of volumes of reprints of Dean Foster and George Lucas materials. Arnie Katz reported on fandom, talking mostly about the recent Toronto Corflu, and next year's destination in Austin, Texas. The group also discussed the upcoming worldcon in Anaheim, which many of the locals plan to attend, and the announcement that the worldcon would honor Star Trek's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Michael Bernstein then delivered his report on books he's read recently, with his recommendations

I then introduced the topic of the evening, "Should science fiction be predictive?" The group discussed the merits of trying to conform SF to a level of reality that makes prediction possible, versus giving it free-rein and no constraints of true science. Although everyone agreed they enjoyed the occasional correct prediction in fiction, it was felt the literature shouldn't be forced that direction, and that it doesn't need to be predictive to be enjoyable or valid. Science Fiction authors everywhere no doubt breathed a great sigh of relief at this decision.

The meeting was turned back to Michael, who closed the proceedings. Then most of the group adjourned to Chili's for dinner.

Others in attendance included James Taylor, Ron Bushyager, and Merric & Luba Anderson.

— Joyce Katz

Continued from p 1

SNAFFU Library Committee, books are going onto the shelves of the SNAFFU Library. With her statistics class behind her, Lori is now having regular filing sessions and has made some progress.

There are still some questions pending, including the appointment of a librarian and a decision about purchasing the additional shelving needed to fill out the book shelf frames scavenged so productively by Lori from Borders book store. One worthy volunteer has already stepped forward, but I'll hold off on the announcement until SNAFFU's officialdom confirms.

### **Vegrants Plan Fourth Oneshot!**

Now that *The Glitter City Goofballs #3* is in distribution, the Vegrants will turn their attention to producing the next one in this new series at the Core Fandom fan club's June 3 revel.

The title will remain a secret until the oneshot is actually published (or we actually think of a good one, whichever comes first), but the theme is "Summertime."

The Vegrants encourage fans in and outside of Vegas to participate in this forthcoming assault on fannish culture. There is still time to send that witty (yet sensitive) letter of comment on the third issue — crossfire4@cox.net — and we'd also welcome articles on topics that relate in some way to summer.

### **VSFA Continues at Dead Poet Books!**

The monthly VSFA meeting has settled into its comfortable new venue and will continue to be held on the first Saturday of each month at 11:00 AM for the foreseeable future. Dead Poet Books is located at 937 South Rainbow Blvd.

The meeting is formal and focuses on club business. There's an after-meeting trip to a nearby restaurant that adds some socializing to the mix.

If you need more info, the person to call is Rebecca Hardin (743-5628).

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

A major sinus infection is giving Roxanne Mills all she can handle in the pain department. She is supposed to see a specialist and get the problem properly medicated...

Mike Glicksohn stunned fans this week with the announcement that he is suffering from bladder cancer. We are all pulling for you, Mike...

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

*The news is done, the articles are in place*

*and now it's time for me to turn the spotlight where it belongs – on Fandom's best letter writers.*

*Leading off this week's column is one of the stalwarts of Chatback with some cogent comments about Corflu 23.*

### **John Purcell**

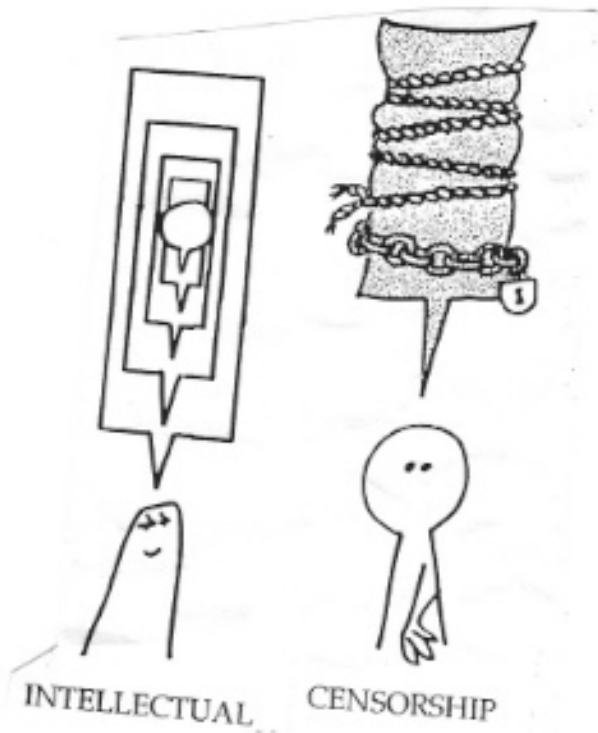
Well, it seems to me that Corflu #23 was successful, based on the things I have read so far in the fannish press. Lloyd's report thish helped cement this assessment, too. A con's success really shouldn't be centered solely on the attendance numbers at that con; it is the *people* who are there that can make or break a con, and set the tone for it. Just remember: it's not the size, but the frequency that matters. (female voice murmurs, *oohhh...*) Like I said, everything that I have heard about Corflu #23 so far is positive. Next year, I am there.

Ah, me. What else is in here that I can get in trouble with...

"Missed Comedic Opportunities" is a common vexation in fandom and real life situations, although the non-missed ones are sometimes worth

SOME FANZINES  
ACHIEVE GREATNESS!  
SOME FANZINES  
HAVE GREATNESS  
THRUST UPON THEM!





the re-telling. The years of practice I have had in fandom have sharpened my wit and ability to slip in a zinger or two in my doctoral classes. Case in point was during the first week of classes last September in my "History of Education" class, taught by Dr. Burlbaw, who has a rather fannish attitude when it comes down to teaching. He's a pretty cool guy who prefers an active discussion over flat-out lecturing; a much more interesting pedagogical approach.

So there we were, 26 graduate students talking about Chapter One, "Education in the Ancient World," in particular, the teachings of Confucius. Dr. Burlbaw was prodding us along by asking about what kind of a curriculum Confucius was working with and why, so students were tossing philosophical ideas and contemporary educational theories out, which just made him shake his head. Once again, he asked the class, "But by what authority did he go by? Was he given a curriculum to work with? Where was the basis for his ideas?" Finally, people started getting the idea that all of Confucius's work was ground-breaking because it was *new* and had never been written down before. It was at this point that I made my sole contribution to the discussion:

"Well, we have to keep in mind that at the time

Confucius was teaching, nothing was yet written in stone."

That elicited some groans, some ugly faces, some chuckles, and a smile from Dr. Burlbaw, who said, "Exactly!"

So I try not to miss as many comedic opportunities as I possibly can. Heck, they make the classes I teach more fun and keep the students awake and involved. Humor can be very effective in a classroom if you use it right.

Great discussion/analysis of this year's FAAn Awards. There's not one single winner that I disagree with; all are quite deserving, and I think the quality and quantity of all of the winners and nominees are indicative of how healthy fandom is, core or otherwise. I am quite amused by where my name showed on the Harry Warner, Jr. Memorial Award - 12th place - and who I placed above: Alexis Gilliland, Ted White, Ross Chamberlain, Victor Gonzalez, and Mark Plummer, besides a few others. When next year's results are tabulated, we'll see how the numbers crunch. Murray Moore's work is muchly appreciated, of course. We shall have to keep his tabulating fingers busy next year.

Dick Lupoff's write-up of the World Horror Con was enjoyable, of course. I really like the publishing insights that he gives, which most fan con reports can't delve into due to their lack of professional writing/publishing experience. What I can do, then, is compare Dick's report with, say, Chris Garcia's (if he attended and wrote a con report) to get somewhat of a general overview of the entire event. Dick's comment about the extent of small press publishing in the horror genre is encouraging, and despite the pitfalls and problems inherent in running any convention, he admits that he still had a good time, which is the bottom line for evaluating such events.

Oh! I didn't realize until too late that I could have sent a greeting to Corflu 23. A Missed Opportunity, Comedic or Otherwise -- MOCO? Thank your including the Vegrants mis-sives to the con. Neat touch, and I wish I had remembered I could have done this.

Lettercolumn comments: Chris Garcia, I have heard some of the soundtrack from *The Third Man*, and Yoko Ono is thankfully not doing much recording anymore. The only thing she's ever re-



corded that I actually think was decent was "Kiss kiss kiss" from the *Double Fantasy* album, which had some of John Lennon's best songs of his entire solo career. Granted, some of them were very pop-oriented, but I really liked "Clean Up Time" for its bluesy feel. A fine, fine album marred by the presence of Yoko's voice. Gotta give Lennon credit for loving her so much. He was such a passionate man. I still miss him. George, too.

Arnie, you have a knack of making old, tired fans come out of the woodwork to write locs. I am impressed. But, this "I don't feel like a fan" attitude that Ian Maule and others are taking is one that I really don't share. I most definitely "feel like a fan," especially when I'm working on my zines, locs, or articles for other fanzines. Otherwise, I don't feel like a fan; I simply feel like a husband and father. Or teacher. Fill in the blank; it's a multiple choice pop quiz.

Robert Lichtman, have you and I ever met before? I have never really been short, but I most certainly have had longer hair in the past. In fact, in the early 90's when I was playing professionally in jazz bands up in Minneapolis, my hair was long enough to pull into a ponytail, plus I had a full beard at that time, too. This reminds me of a joke I heard at that time:

Q: What's the difference between a mutual fund and a jazz musician?

A: The mutual fund matures and earns money. (rim shot)

Totally love the illo on page 19. Are you sure this isn't the Chris Garcia fanzine assembly line? It would help to explain the rapidity and prolific nature of our favorite Best New Fan of 2005 award winner. Makes sense to me.

Sorry I misspelled the FISTFA name. My bad. I also agree with you that Core Fandom has multi-varied interests. For me, this is the main thing that makes fanzines and fandom so interesting to me; I adore the variety and it makes my chosen hobby interest that much more enjoyable.

Lloyd Penney is absolutely correct: it was Marc Ortlieb who produced *Q36* back in the day. I always enjoyed it, too. Is he still knocking about down under?

*Arnie: I agree that attendance is not the deci-*

*sive factor in whether or not a convention was fun. I'd go even farther and say that the organizers' technical performance has little impact on a con like Corflu, where attendees are knowledgeable enough about Fandom to have large networks of friends. Corflu attendees tend to make their own good time.*

*Whether Corflu 23 was a success from the point of view of Core Fandom as a whole may be a different question. Corflu generally draws 100-125 fans and this one drew only 20%-25% of that. That suggests that Corflu, from the perspective of all Core Fandom, fell somewhat short of the ideal.*

*Corflu Sunsplash was a similar situation. I had a terrific time and, in fact, consider it one of my most treasured fannish memories. Yet it was almost like a year without Corflu for the rest of Core Fandom.*

*I share your admiration of the FAAn Awards, though I'd like to see participation rebound to the higher vote totals of recent years. My ballot doesn't look that much like the final totals, but I can't argue with any of the highly placed finishers in any of the categories. See what happens when voters know the material?*

*An old fan friend makes a rare, welcome appearance in the letter column...*

### **Don Anderson**

Just a note to let you know how much I enjoy Vegas Fandom Weekly. Sadly, I admittedly am not much of a loccer.

Just a couple of things I noted in Issue #75, in picture captions. I seem to recall that Corflu Blackjack was in 2004, not 2005

And, Corflu Toronto was not Don and Sue Anderson's first Corflu. No, indeed, we're old timers. We also went to Corflu Blackjack, in 2003. We also were starting our plans to make Corflu Blackjack when Sue's horrendous illness struck and put us in a lockdown mode for more than two years. That's why Corflu Toronto was so important to us. It was our first real excursion away from home in three years. It was a small but pleasant con. I have been making rumbles about Austin next year but Sue, non-fan that she is, is giving me askance glances when the subject is broached

I have a better chance at getting to LV, since

Sue has a niece there who we can visit, and Sue likes casinos. I think I could wedge in a bit of Fanning if that happens.

*Arnie: Sorry for the mistaken (and inadvertently slightly) caption that overlooked your previous Corflu history, Don. I'm especially ashamed that I forgot your participation in Corflu Black-jack.*

*By all means come back to Las Vegas whenever you have the opportunity. I know the Vegrants would love to host you and Sue.*

*Now here's a shifty individual – shifty with the shift key, that is...*

### **Chris Garcia**

Lots of great CorFlu coverage. I'm so mad that I didn't get to go. It wasn't the recent unpleasantness that caused me to miss things, but in fact it was money issues over the last few months that kept me away. Still, Colin's been nice enough to keep me in the loop and I'm eagerly awaiting the materials from the con. I still refer to my CorFlu Titanium program book every now and again.

And on the subject, I'm firmly of the opinion that there aren't nearly enough capital letters in the world, and so I add them heRe and there in the midDle of words. So it will remain CorFlu (and maybe it's my spelling that will keep me from having to chair one!)

I try not to miss comedic opportunities, but every now and again you just happen to let one swing by. This gets me in trouble at times (never tell jokes with unhappy family members if a guy is dying in the room...though if they're cool family members, the results can be brilliant). Sadly, I could go deeply into the historical basis for many portions of the DaVinci Code, but I won't because they make mistakes that any conspiracy theorist wouldn't make in their sleep.

Have to say that I approve of Banana Wings highly. Chunga is pretty damn good too. I was rooting for Catchpenny myself, and I think I voted for eI in first because I just can't get enough Kemp. Congrats on second place for Best Fan Writer.

Sadly, it was the recent unpleasantness with my Pops that led me to passing up the World Horror Convention, which sucks because my good pal

Jay Lake was in town and I again missed hanging out with him. Still, Bob Hole was kind enough to pick me up one of everything and I got to live the con through the publications...including a program book that was really the most useless thing ever.

*Arnie: I'm still not convinced that adding upper case letters to the middle of words is such a capital idea. If we lard words with superfluous upper case letters, it's much harder for readers to detect and appreciate the extra capital letters we already add to suggest tone of voice. Or Maybe \*Not\*. Besides, between your extra capitals, Widner's Ackerman-like orthography and Sullivan's "zeen" heresy, my spellchecker is ready to make the trip to the Old Software Home (located right next to this Really Big Magnet.) Of course, my own typing proclivities already had the poor thing on the critical list.*

*He's the fan of the hour, the fan with the power... too Sweet to be sour. (I'm just getting ready for ECW on the Sci-Fi Channel)*

### **Robert Lichtman**

On the first page you write that "Corflu Toronto was the smallest in the history of the Core Fandom Worldcon"—I like that term, by the way—but as Lloyd Penney points out in his coverage of the convention it was simply the smallest since Corflu Sunsplash back in 1999. It should be amply evident this far down the line that the number of people attending any given Corflu has a lot to do with a complex batch of factors: general economic conditions to some extent but also to where a given year's convention is located (more out of the way locations tend not to attract as many people) and how much advance notice and/or publicity is provided by each year's organizers. Thus, Toronto could be most directly compared to the 2001 Boston Corflu. Each took place in a large city easily reached by air and ground transportation, but each suffered from an insufficiently communicative committee—leaving some would-be attendees whose personal situations required a long lead time to make arrangements up in the air (or, rather, grounded). Overall, the small ones are balanced out by the large ones, and they all have in common what you say: "Everyone who has commented to me about it had a very fine time."

Thanks for printing the 2006 FAAn award results in a place where I can easily access them without the need to go on-line. A mild surprise to me in this year's results was that *Trap Door* got any votes at all, given that no issue was published during the year under consideration. The high placing accomplished by Dave Burton's *Catchpenny Gazette* for best fanzine, Dave Locke for best fan writer, and Peter Sullivan, Milt Stevens and Eric Mayer for best letterhack puts the lie to those who wrongly claim that these awards are dominated by what they call the "Corflu Cult" or "Corflu Conspiracy." I would like to see more participation than the two dozen or so who voted this time around, and it would be good if the ballot form and any supporting information (such as my annual list of fanzines received) were made available at more venues than just Trufen.net.

I'm a bit mystified by your comment that you would "like to see Claire [*Brialey*] stretch herself in terms of subject matter." Reading her in fanzines and on the various lists where she makes occasional appearances, it seems to me that she already writes on a fairly wide range of subjects.

In the best fan writer category, I'm wondering if you were aware that Graham Charnock, Philip K. Cartledge and "Frank Looney" (which you "corrected" to Lunney) are one and the same person. If you add up all his points, he actually places second in the final result with seventeen points.

I blush at your characterization of me as "one of the very best letter of comment writers in fan-history," thinking back to such paragons in that field of fannish endeavor stretching back through to the dawn of fanhistory as (in no particular order and a *very* partial list) Rick Sneary, Terry Carr, Ron Bennett, F. Towner Laney, Bob Tucker, Redd Boggs, Marion Zimmer Bradley, Don Wollheim, Joe Kennedy, Elmer Perdue, William F. Temple, Milt Rothman, Art Widner, J. Chapman Miske, Jack Speer, Walter Breen, Ted Carnell, Robert Bloch, and (let's not forget) Harry Warner Jr.

Unlike you and Chris Garcia, I was never voted best new fan of the year. I had the dubious fortune of coming into fandom the same year as Les Nirenberg and George Locke, and came in third on that year's *Fanac* poll after those two worthies. My disappointment was mitigated con-

siderably, though, by my first genzine *Psi-Phi* placing 17th in that year's poll in a field that included the likes of *Oopsla!*, *Hyphen*, *Innuendo*, *À Bas*, *Retribution* and *Void*. All those (and others) were ahead of my fanzine, but I polled higher than Guy Terwilleger's fanthology *Best of Fandom 1958*, Bruce Pelz's *ProFanity*, Bill Meyers's *Spectre* and the Bentcliffe/Jeeves *Triode*.

As you might guess from the prologue of Dick Lupoff's account of the World Horror Convention held in San Francisco, it was my query concerning his attendance there that led to his writing this report—which I saw first as an e-mail. Regarding his short story collection, *Terrors*, I wrote in my letter of several issues ago that I'd run into a roadblock in ordering it from the publisher's Web site because of their insistence that I provide considerable personal information before they would reveal the cost of shipping. As I wrote then, I sent them an e-mail objecting to this practice. They replied saying that they didn't give that information up front because in their minds each order was different. To me that made no sense, since even a simple eBay listing often has a box in which one enters one's zipcode and shipping charges pop up—and rates for out of the country are also easily summarized and exceptions not difficult to deal with. In the end I decided I wanted one of the 75-copy signed limited edition hardcovers (which were no longer available from the publisher) and found one locally at Dark Carnival, an SF/mystery bookstore just a few blocks from where Dick lives. I've read nearly half the stories in it, and can add my personal recommendation to Dick's shameless self-promotion of several issues back. Although everything so far has been a pleasure to read, I particularly enjoyed "The Horror South of Red Hook," an HPL pastiche describing Dick's taking a job with IBM and moving to Poughkeepsie.

Lloyd Penney's "Short Trip" did exactly what the title promised—provided a concise overview of the Toronto Corflu—and I enjoyed seeing all the photos, but I'm looking forward to Ted White's account in a forthcoming *VFW* for further details. In the Vegrants' "Greetings to Corflu" Joyce wrote in connection with visiting Canada: "Oh, I crossed the border when I was about 10 in Detroit visiting my sister, and she drove

across the bridge ‘just so you can say you’ve been there,’ and again when I was 15, near Glacier National Park, with my Montana aunt who also said ‘just so you can say ...’” And that’s similar to my own sole Canadian soiree—a bus trip across the border via Detroit with my parents when I was two years old. Mind you, I have no direct memory of this but it’s nonetheless an unimpeachable part of the Lichtman family history. And at least I’ve been to *one* of our neighboring countries—Mexico has forever escaped my presence, because even during the fifteen years I lived in Southern California I never felt the urge to cross the border.

In his musings about where the next Bay Area Corflu might be, Chris Garcia seems to dismiss the notion that it could take place once again in Oakland, San Francisco, Napa or Walnut Creek—not quite sure of his thinking on this, though, since Why Not?—and mentions Sonoma as a possible venue (and that he “might be convinced to chair that one”). As a former resident of Glen Ellen, which is near the town of Sonoma and definitely in Sonoma County, I’m well familiar with the tendency of people who live in the more southerly reaches of the Bay Area to refer to *everywhere* in

Sonoma County as simply “Sonoma.” Knowing that the town of Sonoma is a prime tourist area and has relatively little in the way of suitable hotel accommodations and is pretty pricey (although perhaps not so bad during the off-season in which Corflu takes place), I’m wondering just where Chris is thinking as the location of this prospective Corflu.

Sorry, Ian Maule, but your denials of Being A Fan here and on the In The Bar mailing list simply don’t cut it. The presence of your brief LoC in the pages of *VFW* are to my mind proof positive that despite your protestations you *are*. Get over it!

John Purcell writes, “As much as I thoroughly enjoy Bill Burns’ site, efanzines.com, it really doesn’t get much play.” I’d be interested to know how John arrives at this conclusion since the efanzines home page includes a counter that shows over 220,000 visitors since December 2000. That breaks down to well over 3,000 visitors per month. How is that not “much play”?

*Arnie: I wouldn’t want any of my comments about the size of the con or its possible effect on Core Fandom to be taken as an indictment of the Toronto fans. This was definitely a year for those*

# Contact! Las Vegas Club Directory

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

## Las Vegrants

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## SNAFFU:

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## Las Vegas Fan Events Calendar

### **First Friday Video Group** June 2 6:00 PM

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

### **VSFA Monthly Meeting** June 3 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** June 3 7:30 PM

The informal invitational Core Fandom club meets on the first and third Saturdays of the month at the Launch Pad, the home of Arnie & Joyce Katz.

### **SNAFFU Discussion Meeting** June 9 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: Why Are You a Fan?

### **Second Sunday Movie Screening** June 11 6:00 PM

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

### **Las Vegrants Meeting** June 17 7:30 PM

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

### **Sunday Social** June 18 2 PM

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

### **SNAPS Deadline** Sunday, June 18

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). 204-4332).

### **GayLesBiTrans SF Club Gathering** Monday, June 26 7:30 PM

This alternative lifestyles group meets on the fourth Monday of the month at The Center (953 East Sahara Ave., Suite B-25).

*“macro factors” and I think they overshadowed any problems the committee had in setting the stage for the convention.*

*Could there have been more (and earlier) advance info on Corflu 23? Of course. Would a more active approach have brought in more fans? That's a much harder question to answer, precisely because there are so many huge non-fannish aspects to the situation, including the greater cost and inconvenience of air travel and crossing US borders. Corflu will recover its attendance and all will be well in Core Fandom. Meanwhile, the last thing we need is a witch hunt and lots of pointless finger pointing.*

*As one who voted for Trap Door, I feel compelled to explain my reasoning. I consider Trap Door the best genzine published in the years since I returned to Fandom. In fact, it is so good that even in a year in which it had no issues, it still retains enough residual glory to justify a mention in the FAAn Awards.*

*Or to look at it another way, you generally publish one issue of Trap Door per year. (And don't go telling me about the year you did two or even three. One issue years are the most prevalent.) In a year in which you produce that issue, Trap Door will score in the upper echelons of the “Best Fanzine” category, if not win it outright.*

*Well, in 2005, you published only one less issue than usual. That ought to be worth at least a few points.*

*I, too, am looking forward to Ted's report.*

*He's a little confused, but nonetheless ready to handle the all-important task of closing out this edition of ChatBack.*

### **Peter Sullivan**

I'm still a little confused about the official results for the Best New Fan category in the FAAn Awards. The original published results that I saw on trufan.net showed me as finishing both 4th and 6th, which was a pretty neat result. I \*think\* the final conclusion from awards head honcho Murray Moore was that, given that I am not a character from a daytime soap, I was entitled to combine the votes from myself and my evil identical twin brother. Which puts me in 2nd place, just 11 points behind Chris. This is actually far too narrow a margin given our relative levels of fan activity, but so it goes.

I think your comments about not seeking to re-engineer Corflu based on this year's turnout are spot on. Pretty much every comment I've seen about Corflu has been very positive, proving that (contrary to what those spammers keep trying to tell us on the way to the Junk folder) size really doesn't matter - it's what you do with it that counts.

Interesting to read your recollections of John

Koning. As I wrote on livejournal, John Koning was also a leading light in postal diplomacy fandom in the 1960s and 1970s, including running the first two Dipcons (at Youngstown, Ohio), and inventing one of the first Diplomacy variants (also called Youngstown). The John Koning Best Player Award was started in 1986 in his memory - not sure if it is still running.

*Arnie: I'm glad you cleared up the confusion. I'd been wondering which of the two "Peter Sullivan's" you were. I assumed you were the more highly rated one, but there also seemed to be a lot of support for the "other" Peter Sullivan (the one who finished sixth). I'd call your amended finish, second to Chris, highly appropriate and very pleasing.*

*Yes, I did introduce an error in my presentation when I assumed that "Frank Looney" in Murray's count was a typo for "Frank Lunney." I wonder where totalling all three entries, minus any points awarded to more than one identity on the same ballot, would place Graham?*

We Also Heard From: John DeChancie. Jan Stinson, Jean Marie Stine.

### **C'mon, Let's Go, Little Darlin's!**

... But I'll be back with a new issue of VFW with Taral Wayne, Mark Plummer, Robert Lichtman and a lot more, including your letters, on Friday or Saturday!

— Arnie Katz

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... *and a ton of news.*