

VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

Las Vegas Fandom's Sorta Weekly Newszine

It's Party Time!

You don't exactly have to *fight* for your right to party, as the Beastie Boys claim. Just come to the SNAFFU-Vegrants Christmas Party on December 18 at the home of Arnie and Joyce Katz (909 Eugene Cernan St.) any time after 7 pm. (It is a much-appreciated courtesy to RSVP if you plan to attend, but don't let that stop a last-minute decision to join the fun.)

Among those who have definite plans to come are Ken & Aileen Forman, Alan & DeDee White, JoHn & Karla Hardin, Woody Bernardi, Kent Hastings, Laurie Forbes, April & Lee Reckling, Michael Bernstein, Darman Thornton, Teresa Cochran, Marcie & Ray Waldie, James & Kathryn Daughtery, James Taylor and, making his in-person Vegas Fandom debut, David Gordon. Others are threatening to attend, but we'll have to see who actually shows up at the party.

If you want to participate in the Alien Auction (*see VFW #3 for the rules*) bring a *wrapped present*. It can be a new item costing no more than \$15 or a "white elephant." It is definitely not necessary to take part in the Alien Auction.

There'll be plenty of interesting people

and enough food to keep them from talking your ear off. If you are feeling the holiday spirit to the extent that you'd like to add to the array of food, the best idea is to contact Joyce (648-5677) and talk it over with her.

Currently, the Christmas Party is the only event of the year that draws from all of Las Vegas Fandom. Joyce and I look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible.

SNAFFU Studies Strange Celebration

Thirteen fans turned out for the December 10, SNAFFU, but it turned out to be a pretty lucky number. The meeting, the last one of 2004, turned out to be quite lively and entertaining.

With President Michael Bernstein and Vice President Darman Thornton presiding from the comfy executive chairs, the group discussed party plans and delved into the night's topic, unusual celebration in science fiction.

Two newcomers made their SNAFFU debut: Lynn McGivoney (mingthemercilessII@hotmail.com) and Chuck (Hammill) (WeaponsRUs@earthlink.com). Chuck is an out-of-towner whose re-

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Special Thanks to Alan White (all photos) and Joyce Katz for proofreading and other assistance. Reporters this issue: Roxanne Gibbs, Joyce Katz, Woody Bernardi and Michael Bernstein.

VFW is free for the asking — and you may get it anyway. It can be downloaded at the SNAFFU and VSFA websites as well as at efanzines.com

Members (and Co-Past Presidents, 2003): fwa. Supporter: AFAL.

Contact Information

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turn visits will be welcome, while Lynn is a Las Vegas cab driver. I guess that makes him a prime candidate for Fandom, since he has probably seen just about everything a l-ready.

Michael Bernstein announced that newly minted pro SF writer Elizabeth Bear will be at the February 25 SNAFFU meeting to promote her first novel, *Hammered*. The assembled fans heeded my counsel, based on reading a lot of first novels, that SNAFFU combine her reading with a group review of the book as a courtesy to the nouveau pro.

Michael issued the annual call for the election. No one challenged the incumbents at the meeting, though a subsequent written notification may elicit some opposition.

Once again, *VFW* offers to print the platforms of any candidates. Please don't make me invent them out of whole cloth. That would not be pretty.

Vegrants to Ring In the New Year

Joyce and I will again host a New Years Eve

“Open House” for Las Vegas fans. We invite fan to stop by, get a little nosh and push on to the next party or whatever. (We'll watch the ball drop at 9 and midnight, so it's fine if you want to stay.)

You don't have to bring anything but your good spirits. (Any food or drink you may want to share is gratefully accepted.) All we ask is that non-Vegrants call before they come calling. The number is 648-5677.



Michael Bernstein may've been celebrating the chance to put his platform in *VFW*, but more likely his joy resulted from completing the Christmas tree for the party.

SNAFFU Starts Listserv

Michael Bernstein (who is fast becoming an International Fannish Celebrity due to his frequent mentions in *VFW*) has added a second, discussion-oriented listserv for SNAFFU members to complete the announce-only list the group already had in place.

VSFA was the first local SF fan group to start a listserv and it has generated a lot of discussion. Its success has inspired SNAFFU to follow VSFA's example.

If you didn't see (take advantage of) the emailing Michael sent to the SNAFFU member-

ship, you can get in on the new listserv by going to www.snaffu.org and filling out the short submission form located at the bottom-center of the page.

Andrews Spawns Group

The Southern Nevada Alliance of Clubs, Organizations and Associations (SNACOA), founded by young local fan Joshua Andrews, is the latest addition to the Vegas fan club scene.

According to a statement distributed by Joshua over the weekend, "It is my vision that this organization will be an organization that links other organizations together. It will

be very similar [to] the Chamber of Commerce in most cities."

The announcement mentions an annual "book or manual" that will give facts about each of the club. Sounds like this would be a very useful small fanzine to give newcomers who show up at local events.

If you want more information, contact Joshua at: andrews1701@gmail.com.

As we were about to release this issue, Joshua Andrews issued a statement, in a post on the VSFA listserv, that membership will be limited to representatives of the city's clubs and that the organization will no longer

Recruit... Who?

A discussion on the VSFA listserv, a current focus of local online activity, raised the subject of recruiting new Las Vegas fans. It's hard to disagree with that goal. We all sometimes wish things would last forever, but they don't. There are losses to relocation, schedule conflicts and just plain disenchantment. New people balance those inevitable losses. Neofans keep activities fresh and provide enthusiasm for projects.

Several fans wrote about the need to find lovers of science fiction. Though the comments were well intentioned, I vehemently disagree. The last thing we need to do is target "SF lovers."

That tactic worked well 50 years ago, when a tiny sliver of the population liked science fiction and mainstream society looked down on it. The situation has changed. Studies show that there are 80 million Americans who claim to love science fiction and fantasy. The little pool of SF lovers has become a vast ocean.

Our recruiting should not focus on finding science fiction lovers. They are everywhere. Go to the mall and, if you stop three people, one will like science fiction.

The goal is to find people who want to cross that invisible line that separates passive interest from active participation. Back in the day, anyone who liked SF was a potential fan, because they were often so alienated and lonely. Today, the typical SF lover is indistinguishable from the general population.

That requires an adjustment. We don't want all SF lovers, just the ones who'll *join in our fan activities*. The SF lovers who don't want more involvement will come, sit silently in the audience and depart to their Mundane lives. We must reach out to that uncommon person who is not content to just read a novel or watch a movie, but who wants to be a fan. If someone asked me, I would say that I am a football fan. Really, though, I mostly listen to football while I work or write fanzines like this. If the UNLV booster club contacted me, I wouldn't do them any good. I just wanna sit in the stands, not participate in organized football fan activities. There's nothing at all wrong with me sitting in the stands, but from the point of view of those UNLV boosters, I'm a dud.

These days, finding fresh blood for our local fan groups is more challenging than ever. It is important that we align our sights correctly before we expend a lot of what could turn out to be wasted energy. — Arnie

All Around Vegas... with Roxanne Gibbs

Michael Bernstein just completed a lengthy paying client project to develop a prototype Neuroscience education resource. You can see the results at <http://www.perpich.com/neuroed> <<http://www.perpich.com/neuroed>>. He has also undertaken his first 9-5 job in several years. In order to make room for him, they converted half of a closet into a windowless office. He tells me it's hot and stuffy in there, so I gave him a fan (you knew there was something fannish about this). Hah! Now he's just another cubicle drone, working for The Man! Damn the Man.

Janole Marchant, our resident redheaded high-school teacher, has successfully launched an after-school Science fiction group that meets on Monday afternoons. Last year she had some difficulty getting official permission to meet, but as fans in the past have done, they met anyway and this year the numbers have swelled to 13 students. *I* think the whole thing is just a ruse so she can say she is doing "extracurricular research" if she gets caught reading a Science Fiction book at work. Damn the Man.

Linda and Ron Bushyager again have demonstrated that Las Vegas Fans are extremely hospitable. After SNAFFU's December 10, 2004 meeting, they took the whole crowd out for dinner yet again.

Kent Hastings (co-author of *Anarquia*) brought along a guest, Chuck Hammill who was visiting from L.A. During dinner it was noted that Chuck had wanted to extend his stay here in L.V. over the weekend, but was unable to find an available hotel room. Linda finagled him a hotel room for Saturday night. Damn the Man.

Now you all know from a previous report that I (Roxanne Gibbs) have been ill for quite awhile, but it is all a cover. What I am secretly working on is perfecting a formula for World Peace and Nuclear Fusion Power by sitting around reading Science Fiction and occasionally ranting on mailing lists. Whoa! This bottled oxygen is some good shit! Damn the Man.

—Roxanne Gibbs

accept memberships from individual fans. So if you write to Joshua about SNACOA, be sure to indicate what organization you represent.)

Vegas Fans Impact TAFF Race

The current Trans Atlantic Fan Fund (TAFF) race, which sends worthy fans on trips between the US and UK to improve understanding between these two fandoms has more of a Las Vegas angle than it usually does.

Suzle Thompkins, one of the candidates is the long-time friend (and former co-editor on *Granfaloon*) of Linda Bushyager. One of the seconders for another candidate, Curt Phillips, is the High Priestess Herself, Joyce Katz. The third candidate is Chaz Baden, a

popular Los Angeles fan who has visited Las Vegas.

And that's all for this week. VFW returns next Wednesday! — Arnie

Club Calendar

.Las Vegrants December 18 7:30 PM
This time, the meeting is part of the Vegas Fandom Christmas Party..

VSFA January 3 7:30 PM
This formal SF club meets at the Clark County Library on the first Monday of each month.

SNAFFU January 14 8:00 PM
This formal SF club meets on the second and fourth Friday's of each month. This time, it will be held at Borders bookstore on Sahara at 8:00 PM