

VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

Las Vegas Fandom's Sorta Weekly Newszine

Looking Ahead to a Big Fanac Weekend!

Vegas Fandom is in high gear this coming weekend. There are meetings of SNAFFU and Las Vegrants as well as out-ings — no pun intended — by the GayBiLesbianTranssexual SF Association and VSFA.

There's so much happening that even Kent Hastings and Woody Bernardi won't be able to go to them all. You can read about what's in store in this issue of *VFW* — and check back next week for reports on all these events (assuming that our Star Reporters cooperate.)

Quiet... Maybe Too Quiet

On the other hand, last weekend represented a lull after weeks of high-octane fan activity. Even stay-at-home hermits like Don Miller was in serious contentiob for the *Vegas Fandom Weekly* Actifan of the Week award until his bribe check failed to clear.



(Did you know you can get checks decorated with Sexual Positions of the Zodiac? Me, either.)

After I distributed *VFW* #1, Linda Bushyager sent a very nice encouraging letter. Linda, who has done a fan newszine in the past (*Karass*), could not resist the temptation to observe that she didn't think there was enough news to fill the pages.

Beam Them Up, Woody!

Woody Bernardi has everything ready

for the January 16 fan excursion to the *Star Trek Experience*, the popular site ride at the Hilton that has done tremendous busi-



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Special Thanks to Joyce Katz (proofreading)
Reporters this issue: Roxanne Gibbs, Woody Bernardi and Joyce Katz

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 efanazines.com

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

Contact Information

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ness since it began beaming up visitors several years ago.

More than a dozen participants have signed on to go where No Fan Has Gone Before (even though lots of fans have gone there before.) and there is a rumor of a substantial contingent from one of the local Star Trek clubs.

One of the things that is making this outing so popular is that Woody has secured a tremendous discount. You can see it all for a sliver under \$20 instead of the regular \$35.

You don't have to reserve a spot in advance, but Woody has asked those who plan to attend to let him know. You can contact Woody by email at: woodybernardi@yahoo.com if you want to join the crew on January 16.

'Sci-Fi Friday' Set for Jan. 14

The LesBiGay-Trans SF Club of

Las Vegas will host "Sci0Fi Friday" at the Pride Factory (953 East Sahara, inside the Commercial Center). The event starts at 7- and participants are invited to stay the whole evening if they like.

The program is built around the premiere of *Battlestar Galactica*. What a pity that it had to be scheduled opposite the year's first

meeting of SNAFFU, because the event has considerable appeal beyond the gay community.

The Pride Factory is extending a two-for-one discount, plus coffee and soft drinks. You can get more information at: 444-1291.

Fandom to Unite for One-Day Con

After a raging discussion on the VSFA listserv about finding new fans, it looks like a group of major local fans will spearhead a one-day general interest convention.

The one-day

NO FANZINE MAY BE PUBLISHED
IN THE KNOWN FAN WORLD
WITHOUT A ROTSLER
DRAWING.



That's a well-known rule of tentacle!

The late, great William Rotsler drew this ironic comment on the huge number of his illos that have graced fanzines for the last 60 years. Michael Bernstein has a wonderful website (rotsler.com) that presents some fine examples of the cartooning brilliance of this close friend of Vegas Fandom and former Silvercon Fan GoH.

Exploring Fandom on the Internet

Fandom has many traditions that go back almost to its genesis 75 years ago. Yet the hobby has also shown a great ability to adapt to changing conditions. Today, the Internet has many (and varied) attractions.

A logical place to start is the sites and listservs of the local clubs. SNAFFU has a very attractive site with some good content at www.snaffu.org, while VSFA maintains a more utilitarian site at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/VegasSFAssociation>.

Both of these groups have listservs, too. You can get info at their sites. The VSFA listserv is fairly active, though many of the participants do not yet possess much knowledge of fandom.

There are many listservs that embrace national and international fandom, rather than just concentrating on southern Nevada. The best for fans who don't have a lot of experience is Trufen.com. It is large, has an open membership roster and includes quite a few Big Name Fans (BNFs) with historic connections to Vegas, including former Guests of Honor at Vegas conventions: Robert Lichtman, Ted White, and Bob Tucker. The roster also includes such luminaries as rich brown, Marty Cantor, Ken Forman and Joyce Katz. Since there are quite a few local fans already in Trufen.com, you won't lack for familiar faces.

Wegenheim.com, founded by leading British fan Greg Pickersgill is a listserv with an intriguing difference: it's based in the United Kingdom. It features some of the British Fandom's best, including Pete Weston and American expatriate Rich Coad.

Listservs are great fun and foster a lot of communication among fans. Discussions start, reach a peak and ebb within the same week, at a torrid pace. They are more a form of correspondence than a source of fandom's best creative content.

For excellent fanzines, you'll need to go to fandom online free newsstand, efanzines.com. Bill Burns has operated this wonderful website with taste and smooth efficiency for a couple of years. If a fanzine has an electronic edition, you're likely to find it here, available for downloading.

Fanac.org, established under the direction of Joe Siclari, is the oldest of the major fan sites on the Internet. It isn't just resting on its laurels, though. It is a treasure trove of information about fandom and downloadable (for free) editions of some of the best fanzines of all time.

Victor Gonzalez's Trufen.net is the newest of the "big three" general interest fan site, it has already gained a reputation as one of the liveliest spots on the Internet. It presents plenty of news, columns and other features that are well worth a look. Victor doesn't shrink from controversy, but he is a professional reporter and a very good fanwriter and editor — and it certainly shows.

That gives you plenty to explore. I'll be back in an issue or two with information about sites with a somewhat narrower focus.

event, tentatively scheduled for the third Saturday in April, will present panels and speeches with an emphasis on science fiction and Las Vegas Fandom.

The event has several goals: We want to do something visible that might attract po-

tential new fans to one or more of the local groups, we want to take the first little step back into the convention field and we want to give everyone an enjoyable day.

Though we hope to draw a few hardy fans from nearby fan centers, this one will

Walk Around Fandom... with Roxanne Gibbs

Alan White's artwork graces the cover of *A Bear Went Over The Mountain*, Chaz Boston Baden's first fanzine. Alan's art can make me smile every time, but I love the back cover of this fanzine in particular. And as always, wonder "How did he do that?" If you are not familiar with Alan's work you need to visit his site: <http://members.aol.com/fansite2/fansite2/gallery.html>. You may also want to check out *Smokin' Rockets*, the fanzine he does with Joyce Katz at efanzines.com.

As noted above, Chaz Boston Baden, a very lovable and recognizable fan (just look up at most West Coast conventions and you will see his bear ears coming or going) has written his very first Fanzine. Besides the gratuitous picture of me, you will find pics of other Fans, Flamingos (you'll just have to see for yourself) and articles about various conventions and his musings. I'm sorry, you won't find this one at efanzines.com, but to those of you who are interested in reading a copy, I will loan you mine, minus the back cover (only kidding).

Jason Burnett, who discovered fanzine fandom through *Crazy from the Heat* and Arnie Katz's *Flicker*, has produced his first general fanzine *All Sinking, No Power*. It's also doing double duty as his credentials for FAPA (Fantasy Amateur Press Association) is also his FAPazine. You can find it at efanzines.com. I would suggest taking a look. I found it well worth reading. His book reviews are diverse and interesting enough that I have ordered a copy of 'The Arctic Grail'. A lot of fans will see themselves in his article 'Consider the Alternative', an account of how he found himself *again* involved in fandom. I'm looking forward to his next edition.

I have been sidetracked enough this week by fanzines; it's time to get back to my life mission to find World Peace and Nuclear Fusion Power. — Roxanne Gibbs

focus on developing local fan interest.

Vegas Fandom Weekly is 100 per cent behind this reasonable, do-able project.

I'll have more details as they develop in the next few weeks.

Club Calendar

SNAFFU January 14 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 at 8:00 PM.

Las Vegrants January 15 7:30 PM
The informal, invitational club returns to its regular meeting schedule.

VSFA February 8 7:30 PM
This formal SF club meets at the Clark County Library on the first Monday of each month.

Done Already?

Sometimes, it's tough to make everything come out exactly to the final line. And when juggling and re-sizing doesn't work, it's up to the fanzine editor to figure out *something* that will banish all that unseemly extra white space.

Fortunately, I don't have to resort to cheap tricks, because we've reached the end for this week. See you next Wednesday with *VFW #9*. — Arnie Katz

Convention Information

Corflu Titanium will take place February 25-27, 2005. You can get full details at: <http://www.corflu.org>.

Potlatch 14 will be held March 4-6 at the Ramada Plaza Hotel International in San Francisco. The Book of Honor is *A Scanner Darkly* by Philip K. Dick. Full details are available at: <http://www.potlatch-sf.org>.