

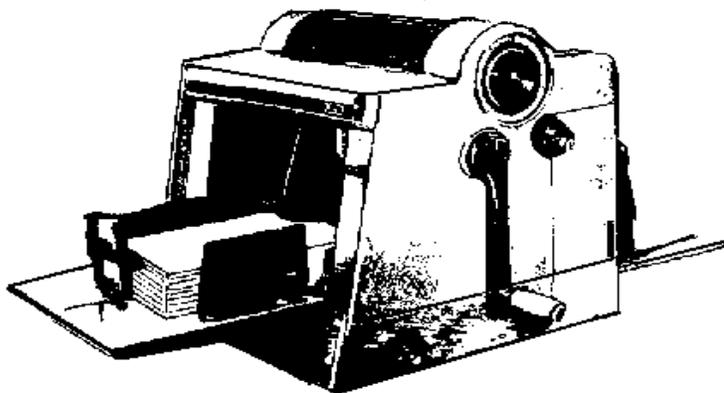
VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

Las Vegas Fandom's Sorta Weekly Newszine

It's Double Digit Doozy Time!

"What's that?" you say. "Is this another of those mysterious fan traditions you keep telling us about, Kingfish?"

I guess you could say it's a Fan Tradition, except that I just invented it after I deleted last issue's text to prepare my template for this one. So at the least, you're hearing about it at the same time as rich brown and Robert Lichtman, which more or less puts you in the Inner Circle of Fandom. (That confers lots of extra benefits, though I have not yet encountered any.)



This, for those who came in late, is a mimeograph, more or less like the machine on which I published my first thousand or so fanzines. Now we push buttons instead of turning cranks.

What happened is that, as I prepared for this issue, I realized that it is the 10th time I've done this. *Vegas Fandom Weekly*, a fanzine started on a whim and prayer, has reached the age of 10, double digits.

Many fanzines reach double digits. Look to the amateur press associations for fanzines that have reached *triple* digits. (Harry Warner published *Horizons* quarterly for FAPA from 1937 until his death last year.)

I've done a number of fanzines that have reached double digits — *Quip*, *Focal*



THE TALKER

***Vegas Fandom Weekly* #10 January 26, 2005**, is written and produced by Arnie Katz (PMB 152, 330 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107; Email: crossfire4@cox.net; phone: 702-648-5677).

Special Thanks to Alan White (photos) 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 efanzines.com

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

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Point, Folly, Xtreme, Wild Heirs and The Bring Bruce Bayside Bulletin, to name a few — but 10 issues in as many weeks is pretty good going, even for a Publishing Jiant.

The most appropriate way to celebrate this milestone is with what I just called a Double-Digit Doozy. Whether I will, in fact, reach eight pages is still up in the air, but I'll give it my best shot.

Vegrants Extend Magical Invitation!

The next, February 5, meeting of Las Vegrants will have a tinge of mystery and magic — and the club is opening its doors so that the rest of Las Vegas Fandom can enjoy the experience.

Besides the usual foolishness, Stan and

Tintin Jackewicz will treat fans to a special, private performance of their astounding feats of mental magic. Those who saw Stan's memorable fire magic show at one of the monthly Socials a few years back know Stan is a tremendous magician and showman. His

new act has already wowed audiences of professional magicians and now he and his lovely bride will present it for the amusement and amazement of Las Vegrants and a number of guests.

Although Las Vegrants is an invitational club, we've decided to make this an Open Meeting. This is a chance to see a great show and find out a little more about Las Vegas' best-known and most successful fan group.

The only



So I asked my good friend (and fellow Vegrant) Alan White to send me a photo of himself, because all I could find were 130 pages of photos of the "Alan White" who drummed for Yes. "I will do that," he promised — and then this arrived in my mail queue the next day.

Upon close inspection, this is *not* a photo of Alan White or, indeed, of anyone in his family. Perhaps he is trying to cultivate an Air of Mystery. Regardless, the search for an Alan White photograph continues.

Presumably, Alan sent this photo because he hoped mention of my name would distract me. Curiously, it has a rather spectacular typo. It should read: "Arnie Special/Music by Meatloaf." (An Arnie Special, as described in Robert Lichtman's *Trap Door* is Corned Beef, Pastrami and Turkey on rye.)

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Meet the Trufan: Joyce Katz

Current Las Vegas Fandom includes quite a few who have not looked beyond the local fan scene. This section will present the fanographies of Las Vegas fans who have carved fandom-wide reputations.

Joyce Worley Katz is one of four major fans born in the otherwise unremarkable hamlet of Poplar Bluff, MO. She married an e-fan, Ray Fisher, and read his marvelous fanzine collection until she got the opportunity to actually enter the hobby in 1965. Her subsequent fan career can be divided into three phrases: St. Louis, Brooklyn and Las Vegas. Her subsequent exploits have made her one of the three greatest female fans of all time.

In St. Louis, she was a founding member of both the city's formal club OSFA (Ozark Science Fiction Association) and its informal group, The Saturday People. She served as Director of the former and co-host of the latter. Joyce co-chaired Ozarkcon I, St Louis' first regional, and then co-chaired St. Louiscon, the World Science Fiction Convention, in 1969.

Joyce was instrumental in the revival of Ray Fisher's early 1950s fanzine *ODD* and, as its coeditor, made it one of the most popular fanzines. *Odd* featured impeccable offset reproduction at a time when other fanzines were mimeographed and spirit duplicated – and then did an all-mimeo 100-page issue that set a new higher standard for that technology. The material included a mix of social conscience, fannishness and science fiction discussion, all lavishly illustrated with art by all of fandom's (and quite a few of prodom's) masters. Its most famous piece, the Jack Gaughn-Vaughn Bode Cartoon War, has been reprinted several times, in and out of fandom, as a landmark splurge of creativity.

While still in St. Louis, Joyce started the charming *What about Us Grils?* with two other St. Louis female fans. It featured articles by Robert Bloch, Bob Tucker and me, among others, in its three-issue life. Joyce came to New York City in July 1970. She soon fell among evil companions, one of whom she married on April 25, 1971. She served as co-host of the Brooklyn Insurgents, an invitational informal club for about five years and attended several other New York groups during the early and mid-1970s.

Potlatch, easily recognized by its hilarious Jay Kinney covers, combined Joyce's humorous essays with excellent outside contributions by Terry Carr, Bill Kunkel and other prominent fan writers and artists. Her other fanzines included *Swoon*, *Tandem* and *Four Star Extra*. An anthology of *4SE*, in which each issue focused on a single theme, is in preparation.

Career demands and other factors caused Joyce and I to Gafiate in late 1976. We returned in 1989, by which time we had moved to Las Vegas. Joyce co-hosted the Socials, a series of mammoth monthly parties that ran for five years and is currently co-host of the invitational club, Las Vegrants. She served as President of SNAFFU, co-chaired Corflu Vegas and worked on Silvercons 1-IV and Toner. She is Co-Administrator of the Bring Bruce Bayside Fund to send Australian fan Bruce Gillespie to two US conventions in late February.

Her fanzine credits in Las Vegas include: *Wild Heirs*, *QUANt Suff*, *SitNorm*, *Smokin' Rockets*, *Western Romance*, *Crazy from the Heat* and *Hard Science Tales*. She is co-founder of the monthly local apa, Apa V, and has served as President and Vice President of FAPA several times since she rejoined 15 years ago. She is a perennial "top 10" in the FAPA Egoboo Poll and has also received considerable attention in the annual Fan Achievement Awards. She was co-Fan Guest of Honor at the El Paso Westercon and was elected co-Past President of fwa at the 2004 Corflu Blackjack.

The High Priestess remains one of today's most active fans, both locally and nationally. You can see a fair amount of her written work at efanzines.com. An anthology will appear this spring. — Arnie

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catch — and it's a small one — is that space is somewhat limited. We figure we can host approximately 30 fans. We anticipate 15-20 Vegrants (who naturally have first call on attending), which leaves room for 10 or so guests.

If you are not a member of Las Vegrants, all you have to do is call or write Joyce or me (contact information on page 2 of *VFW*) to tell us you plan to join us on February 5th. We'd also appreciate hearing from Vegrants, so we can keep a good head count.

Star Trek Beams Up Ten!

A group of seven fans and three fellow travelers came out to battle both the Borg and the Klingons at the Las Vegas Hilton's



Star Trek the Experience at a VSFA-sponsored outing on Sunday, January 16. Thanks to Charles O'Neill, who unfortunately could not join us, the fans got a healthy discount, \$19.95, off the regular \$35 tag.

WKFs (Well Known Fans) in attendance were Woody Bernardi, Michael Bernstein, Kent Hastings, Teresa Cochran and Terry Wilsey. Making their debuts, thanks to Teresa, were Melonie Medelin and someone named Leslie from Baen's Bar, a website sponsored by Baen Books (www.Baen.com.) Terry brought three nonfan friends. Perhaps some or all will take the next step and begin to explore Fandom a little more. (Not present



were the horde of Trekkies promised by Joshua Andrews or the 15,000 gung ho comic book fans once promised for Silvercon 2.)

The Klingon Experience transported us from the bowels of the present-day Las Vegas Hilton to the 25th Century's starship *Enterprise* (from *Star Trek: The Next Generation*). Commander Riker informed us of an attempt by the Klingons to kidnap and kill us, in the hope of taking out one of Jean Luc-Picard's ancestors to eliminate him. Naturally, Riker and the *TNG* crew saved the day and returned us safely back to our time and place.

The Borg Experience sent us rocketing to space station *Galileo* in a shuttlecraft to take part in an experiment conducted by The Doctor (from *Voyager*). The Doctor is convinced that we all have a genetic strain that makes us immune to the nanobots used by the Borg to assimilate their victims. But before he could begin his experiment, a Borg





Cube attacked and captured the *Galileo*.

Fortunately Admiral Janeway and the crew of the *Voyager* infiltrated the Cube and saved us all by tractor beaming our shuttlecraft out of the Cube just before the auto-destruct initiated by the Borg Queen did its work.

After these two very harrowing experiences, the group moved to Quark's Bar and had some badly needed sustenance and some friendly conversation before beaming out of the LB Hilton to our normal lives.

The food was rather pricey. Hamburgers started at about \$8.50 (more if you wanted cheese or peppers or anything else on it) and the dinner entrees were \$10 and up. Desserts were \$7 and up.

Quark's did have a nice selection of appetizers ranging in price from about \$7 to a \$15 sampler platter. I highly recommend the Nachos made with "Prime Rib" Chili, which were very tasty.

—Woody Bernardi (with a little help from the Kingfish.)

Katzes Host *LOTR* Marathon!

Those who know Joyce Katz realized it was only a matter of time. On Saturday,



Arnie and Joyce dig into the sandwich makings.

January 22, the inevitable finally came to pass.

Yes, once all three movies of *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy were in her grasp, it was inevitable that she would insist on seeing them — in the extended versions, no less — all in one day.

Joyce decided to share the experience with several fans, including Your Beloved Editor and invited JoHn and Karla Hardin, Derek Stazenski, Alan White and Woody Bernardi. (We would've invited more fans, but we only had so many decent seats for viewing.)

Derek arrived first, followed shortly by JoHn and Karla. This was a Good Thing, because Joyce had hidden her Precious — her copy of *The Fellowship of the Ring* so well that even a day in



Marathoners chow down to gather strength for the journey to Mordor. (L to R): Joyce, JoHn, Karla and Derek.



Towers and stayed through to the finish of *The Return of the King* at about 11:30 PM.

I'll say this: watching the trilogy like that certainly promoted identification with Frodo's long struggle to destroy the ring. The next video marathon is likely to either be something considerably shorter or else broken into a two-day event.

Heard Around Las Vegas Fandom...

Stan and Tintin the Inferno

Sauron's torture chamber would not have reminded her where she hid it. JoHn and Karla had a DVD of *Fellowship*, so the point was moot.

We started at 12:30 and had made it to a lunch break toward the end of *Fellowship* when Alan White arrived. He stayed long enough to eat some Hobbit food (mushrooms, green veggies and such) and take some photos of the rest of us chomping on that and a selection of cold cuts.

Alan didn't stay very long, but Woody Bernardi arrived midway through *The Two*

are moving, though not very far. They're moving out of their somewhat cramped apartment into Stan's much more spacious house...

Marcy Waldie had bad luck on the medical front. After she made extensive preparations, including a leave of absence, for her knee operation, the doctor pulled out. Now she must start all over with a new surgeon...

Several prominent local fans have been battling the flu lately. Darmon Thornton and Ron and Linda Bushyager have all come out the other side.

Fannish Numerology (not really)

I made up "double-digit doozy" on the spur of the moment, because I wanted an excuse to do a large *VFW*. Still Fandom actually does have some special numbers..

The number one carries weight in Fandom as it does in Mundania. So does the "coming of age" number, "21," and that, too, extends to Fandom. It's a Big Deal when a convention or fanzine hits 21. The *Bring Bruce Bayside Bulletin*, which I do for the BBB Fund will have it's 21st issue just before Bruce Gillespie attends the two cons.

The number "30," which journalists use to mark the end of stories, has performed a similar function for several fanzines, including *Quandry*, Reaching that mystic 30 and then stopping has seemed right to more than one fanzine editor.

The century mark is fannishly significant in at least two ways. Quarterly amateur press associations celebrate the hundredth mailing, sometimes in a big way. FAPA generated 1,200 pages and SAPS (Spectator Amateur Press Society) did over 800 with just 25 members! One way to celebrate a fanzine's first anniversary is to publish a 100-page annish (anniversary issue).

And now we've got the Double-Digit Doozy.
What an honor to live in such an age.

THE Divination of Vegas Fandom

By Joyce Katz

The arrival of a New Year always sparks questions about the future. Generally, we can only speculate with anticipation. But this year I decided to do something about it, so I dug up my trusty Tarot cards on the day before the New Year's Eve party.

The normal Stations of the Cross pattern didn't seem appropriate for a fan future such as I was seeking, nor the Points of the Pentagram layout that some prophets prefer. Instead I threw the cards into the air, and they came down in the form of a propeller beanie.

Chanting "Tucker, Bloch, Hoffman and Vick," I exposed the cards in the traditional four-striped skullcap pattern. Then "Laney, Burbee, White and Carr," and I unveiled four cards atop the cap in the four-point propeller pattern. I was ready to divine the future. I

threw out all the pentagrams – we'll have no witchcraft around here, thank you – and made sure all the cups were upright so the beer wouldn't spill out. The wands seemed about the right size to use to drive off the fuggheads among us, so I used most of them to scrape the rest of the cards



aside. Don't need any fools around here; don't need any royal cards. It's only prudent to get rid of the troublesome Arcana; we don't need no stinking badges. Left with only the cups, swords and a few staves, I was ready to begin.

Seeing that several fans seemed to be in their cups, I started with the beanie. The first card was the two of cups – a sure sign of a revealed love affair. The meaning is clear: during 2005, a love affair from the past will become visible in the present. Wonderful! We can only hope for entertaining scandal! In this case, I predict Claude Degler, the embittered fan from the 40s who gafiated from fandom to start a commune, will come out of the mountains with the true story of the Ozark Love Camp.

Next, the six of cups. A lost acquaintance will return. I predict our founder Alex Borders is moving back to Vegas.

The nine of cups shows that a wish will come true. This more than likely means that the person presenting the Fan Writer Hugo will fall on his face just before he hands another one to England's Dave Langford, who has a whole collection of them now.

The final quarter of the beanie cap is a re-

**Treachery in
the past,
difficulty,
depressed
state of
mind, disquiet,
fatality.**

versed three of cups....gossip! Something really juicy is coming back from England with the TAFF winner. I'm sure this is bound to be the return of the appropriated TAFF money from Abby, who promised to make restitution Some Time Ago.

The blades of the propeller, formed by four cards, gave a sharper picture of the future, with four sword cards.

The seven of Swords shows a trickster stealing the weapons, while the two-armed encampments regroup. This clearly means that two mighty fandoms will feud (Los Angeles and Phoenix?) and Vegas will inherit a sharp-tongued punster. Smart-ass Marty Cantor is moving to Vegas!

The six of Swords – The Change -- came next, showing a refugee surrounded by blades, rowing toward shore. Will he make it safely? Will he expire? We can't tell. I believe this means that the upcoming club elections will be a big upset. Michael and Darmon will be replaced by Ron Bushyager and Kent Hastings. Is this good or bad? We can't tell. All we know is that Change will come to Vegas fandom.

The eight of Swords – Blind Justice. A blindfolded femmefan will be judged. Will she be a trufan, or will she be a fugghead, condemned forever to remain outside the warm community pictured just over the hill. I figure this means it's up in the air whether Teresa will ever actually finish reading The Enchanted Duplicator. Or it could mean that some anonymous letter writer will get his. Hopefully, from me.

The four of Swords – The Dream – shows a sleeping fan with three swords hanging over his head, and one beneath his cot. Well, this is obviously Woody, dreaming of a Vegas Regional Convention, but subject to the stabs of disinterested club members, lack of financial support, and undeveloped housing plans. Under him, he is supported by the sharp wit of his friends. Clearly this means Vegas will host a regional event this calendar year. Or some calendar year.

A carpet of staves lies under the propeller beanie, indicating the strength of Las Vegas Fandom's position. But before I could look at the individual cards, a big wind blew the entire construction away, putting an end to this look at the future of our local clubs.

Club Calendar

SNAFFU January 28 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 (Stephanie & Sunset), Henderson. at 8:00 PM.

Las Vegrants February 5 7:30 PM
The informal, invitational club returns to its regular meeting schedule.

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

Las Vegas Futurists Feb. 11 7:00 PM
This discussion group looks to the world of tomorrow on the second Friday of each month at Borders bookstore (2190 N. Rainbow Blvd.)

Goodnight, Sweethearts, It's Time to Go

That's more or less what the Mellow Kings (and if you were wimpy, the McGuire Sisters) sang back in the day when I was absurdly young and most of you were as yet among the unborn. And, indeed, it's time to wrap up this double-sized issue.

Next issue won't be as big, but it will have some interesting material. I expect to have some details about Las Vegas Science Fiction Day, a biography of a leading Vegas fan, letters of comment (if you write 'em) and all the news you send me via phone or Internet.

I think we're doing well in our organizational coverage, but Fandom is individuals, not clubs or apas or other institutions. It is about individual fans. So tell me your news and I'll share it with Vegas Fandom next week.— Arnie Katz