

# VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

## Las Vegas Fandom's Sorta Weekly Newszine

### Woody Saves Vegas Fandom

Las Vegas Fandom owes Woody Bernardi a tremendous debt of gratitude.

This is, of course, *another* debt of gratitude, because Woody has done so much for the local scene in recent months. This time, however, it was more significant than the Sunday Socials or even the upcoming Las Vegas Fantasy & Science Fiction Day scheduled for April 30.

Some might argue that Woody also *caused* the problem in the first place. *VFW* prefers to look on the bright side (even if Woody did stiff this publication when it came to his overdue report on the 3/7 VSFA meeting.).

According to his account, given at an impromptu press conference at the Towner Laney Institute for the Fannishly Confused, it all started with Woody's well-known penchant for recruiting new fans.

"I've searched for new fans for 16 years," he told reporters and an

observing psychiatrist. "I've found a lot of new fans, but it's harder and harder to find people who can sit upright in a chair at a two-hour fan meeting, much less potential active local or mainstream fans.

"It's getting worse, too. Even expanding the Gay/Bi/Lesbian SF Association to include Transsexuals hasn't helped as much as I'd hoped.

"It got so bad that I even considered Arnie Katz's idea of a science fiction club called the 'Freako/Perv/Maniac/Molester SF Association, but I didn't think they could keep their minds on science fiction and fandom with all their distractions.

"Then I got a new problem. Every person I tried to recruit was already a fan or had rejected the idea. Las Vegas is still relatively small, so I was running out of people.

"I knew I was in trouble when I tried to recruit Darmon Thornton for the third time. He was very nice about



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Special Thanks to Alan White (all photos) and Joyce Katz (proofreading).

Reporters this issue: Kent Hastings, Woody Bernardi, Teresa Cochran 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](http://efanzines.com). No Aliens were harmed in the preparation of this fanzine.

Member: fwa. Supporter: AFAL.

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it, but I didn't want to risk it happening a fourth time.

"I had to face it: I'd run out of prospects." Here Woody wiped a tear from his eye, shed for all those unfortunates who would never know the Joys of Fandom.

His voice often cracking with emotion, Woody explained how he'd conceived the plan of broadcasting an appeal for new fans. "I hoped there might be some prospects who didn't go out much," he stated.

Woody told them about how he had bought a bunch of parts and a book and had assembled his own home radio station. "I figured it would be about a 50 watter," he claimed, "but I connected something wrong." Unknown to him, his little station actually put out about 500,000 kilowatts. "I wish I knew what I did so I could do it again," he said sheepishly. "They took it when they left."

Woody broadcast his appeal every day and then, on Wednesday, the night of his Open House, he got his first response. "But it wasn't what I wanted, not what I wanted at all," he said.

He recalled that he had finished his nightly broadcast a bit early because of the party. "I was getting ready to make the food when I heard a throbbing, rumbling hum from somewhere outside the house.

"I went outside and looked up. I saw it, hovering there. It was incredible — a flying saucer!" The reporter from *File 770* chuckled a little, only to be shushed by a girl who claimed to represent *Locus*.

"A strange light erupted from the bottom of the craft," said Woody, continuing his story. "Then I felt something pulling me, pulling me into the sky!" The recollection of fear contorted his sensitive fannish face "Then I was inside the ship. My eyes began to adjust to the light inside the saucer and, suddenly, I saw the alien! It was..." Emotion overcame him and, for a moment, he could not continue his description of his first encounter with the monstrous alien from the stars.

Everyone craned forward to hear this revelation, but the only words Woody could choke out were, "The Horror, The Horror!" The psychiatrist rushed to Woody's side, jabbed his arm with a needle and pumped a slug of Thorazine into the badly shaken trufan.

"The alien began to speak," Woody said when the powerful drug had done its calming work.. "It was more like voices in my head." He looked around the room, eyes bulging with terror. "The voice was *inside*



Artist rendering of the alien from description by Woody Bernardi

*Continued on page 4*

## Katzenjammer — Arnie Katz

*Recently, Ruth Davidson, president of the NFFF (National Fantasy Fan Federation) had her first contact with Las Vegas Fandom. The following is written in honor of her debut.*

Recent contact with N3F president Ruth Davidson prompted me to sign up for the Forum on the NFFF website. And after a little behind-the-scenes tinkering by that selfsame Fan Executive, I am now able to post.

I felt a rush of that ole Sense of Wonder as I read a post by neffer Lyne Masamitsu, in which she said she'd been away from the NFFF for "a long time." I imagine her hiatus can be measured in weeks, or at least months, but it sent my mind barreling down an old, track, rusty with 40 years of disuse. That's how long it has been since my last brush with the N3F.

I joined the group in 1963 at the behest of Judi Sephton. She was the first fan who contacted me after Lenny Bailes and I used the unique strategy of publishing a fanzine to bring us to Fandom's notice after other attempts to make contact proved fruitless. (We knew Fandom was there; we just didn't know how to get in touch with it.)

Judi saw my letter in AMAZING and, just as we'd hoped, wrote us a letter and enclosed copies of her genzine and her N'APAZine. So we both joined the NFFF and soon found ourselves swapping mailing comments with the likes of Bruce Pelz, Fred Patten, Roy Tackett and other N'APA luminaries of the mid-'60s.

Since I was a total neofan and knew absolutely nothing about Fandom, they made me the head of the Welcommittee so I could pass along my ignorance to the raw recruits. I resolved to not only get the Welcommittee to actual welcome new fans, but to learn enough about Fandom so that I would be able to answer questions and impart information.

My greatest achievement as Welcommittee Bureau Chief was not anything I did, but rather something I didn't do. Rick Sneary joined under the name "R. Monroe Sneary," possibly in an attempt to recreate intentionally Charles Burbee's hilarious encounter with the N3F. (You can read it in *The Incompleat Burbee*).

Rick's ploy failed, because I recognized "South Gate" in his address and, paired with the name "Sneary," suggested that the new neffer in question was not a neo at all, but one of Fandom's most popular BNFs! I believe he'd actually been president of the N3F at one point and was certainly a Director for at least one term.

What I *didn't* do was welcome him to Fandom. And through the Welcommittee newsletter I'd started, I warned other Welcommittee members against doing so, too.

Maybe they thought I'd learned *too* much for the Welcommittee. The N3F Powers soon had me trying to pump life into the Correspondence Bureau. The only problem was that the Correspondence Bureau had no function not already addressed by other N3F Bureaus.

Since it sometimes seemed, in those days, that the N3F had more Bureaus than members, I suggested that the Welcommittee and Correspondence Bureaus be merged. And to avoid any incipient clash of egos, I offered to resign so that the Welcommittee Bureau Chief could assume control of the combined entity.

That shows you how much of a neofan I was. To 102 per cent neffers like Racy Higgs, Art Hayes, GM Carr and Alma Hill, any move to reduce the number of Bureaus smacked of treason. So I ceased to be Correspondence Bureau Chairman.

Actually, that was a pretty good ting. The Correspondence Bureau continued exactly as before, doing nothing, and I explored Fandom outside the N3F with very satisfying results.

So it ended happily for everyone. —Arnie

## Play the Vegas Fandom Trivia Game!

The third round of the Las Vegas Fandom Trivia Challenge continues! All the questions are based on Las Vegas Fandom, so those who know a little about their roots will be able to breeze right through. The rest can check out the correct answer to this issue's question *in one week*.

### The Rules:

1. VFW will print one question per issue, with a point value assigned on the basis of difficulty.
2. Answers may be submitted in person or by email to Joyce Worley (joyceworley1@cox.net). She will report only correct answers, so please feel free to guess.
3. VFW will print the names of all those who get the right answer. In the case of ties, everyone wins the same thing (nothing).
4. We'll maintain cumulative standings. At the end of the year, the fan with the greatest number of points will be proclaimed the Vegas Fandom Trivia Champion. The winner will also receive *twice* as much nothing as the weekly winners.

### The Current Trivia Question

#### Who was the Fan Guest of Honor at Silvercon I? (Two Points)

my head!" He shook slightly and a tear slid down one cheek.

"You don't hear the voices *now*, do you my boy?" asked the kindly observing psychiatrist, who had a hypo loaded and ready "just in case."



"No-no-no," Woody said. "I heard the alien's voice in my head, telling me the strangest story ever told." He raised his head and looked defiantly at everyone. "It happened." The observing psychiatrist whispered to him and, finally, Woody composed himself enough to resume.

"We have come from a distant star you call Wilson Tucker Beta Three, drawn here by your invitation.' That's when I realized that something had gone wrong with my broadcast. Instead of reaching Blue Diamond and maybe Pahrump, the message had fanned out through the universe!" Murmurs of shock and awe rippled through the press conference.

"The Alien told me that they were the last survivors of a dying fan club. 'We have come here to merge with your young, vibrant fan club and preserve our members!'

"At first I was excited about new recruits, no matter how hideous their form, but then the Alien told me they would be moving the VSFA meetings to all the way to a Borders Bookstore on Wilson Tucker Beta Two.

"I couldn't let that happen," he declared

with unexpected fierceness. "I can barely make it to the Eastside SNAFFU meetings!

"No! You will never take our beloved club," I told the Alien. "We will never give it up! We will resist you down to the last neo-fan!" The Alien's faze locked with mine. I felt invisible mental fingers probing into my brain." Again Woody lowered his head and sobbed uncontrollably into his hands. "I saw visions of that far-off world, filled with club members, every one of them just as horrible-looking as the one who stood in front of me.

"I resisted with all my might. I tried to think of the Spirit of Trufandom that has always protected Las Vegas Fandom. I thought of this coming Saturday's Vegrants meeting and wondered if I would live to see it!

"Maybe it was the image of all those fanzine fans in my brain, but whatever it was, the Alien recoiled in terror.

"I see in your mind a force we cannot fight," said the Alien. "Our club cannot merge with yours." I could feel the sadness. "I must return to Wilson Tucker Beta Two to tell them the news."

"I don't know what it was that made me say it," Woody recalled, "but I invited her to the Las Vegas Fantasy and Science Fiction Day on April 30. The Alien thanked me, but said it was too far to go for a fan meeting.

"I must go now," the Alien said. "I will return you to your home." Everything began to swirl and I felt a rush of cool Las Vegas night air.

"When I regained my senses," he concluded. "I was back in my living room. The flying saucer was gone. My radio station was gone.

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



That's a  
well-known  
rule of tentacle!

"And she took the fried chicken."

"That's an amazing story," the observing psychiatrist said. The reporters, sensing that they would get no more from Woody at this time, rushed from the room, intent on filing their stories.

I lingered, safe in the knowledge that no fan publication brings the news faster than *Vegas Fandom Weekly*. I guess that's why I was the only one to hear Woody whisper, "I wonder if we could have set up something halfway between, maybe on a long weekend."

And *that*, dear fan friends, is why Woody served sliced ham last night at his Housewarming instead of chicken at his Open House.

### Woody's House Is Now Fully Warmed!

A banner turn-out of 14 fans made the Bernardi Housewarming the second successful midweek event for Las Vegas Fandom in



Oeter & Joyce Grace made quite a hit with Vegas fans in their first visit to the city.

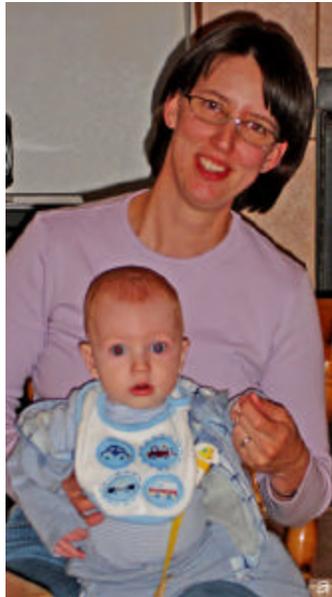
less than a month. (The other was the Gillespie Gala & Hardin Birthday Bash on Tuesday, March 7.)

Woody (and his sister Marie) put out a lavish spread, somewhat augmented by donations from visiting fans.

Mindy Hutchings proved to be even more pleasant in person than in her introductory posts on the VSFA listserv and I can personally testify that she bakes Extremely Acceptable chocolate chip cookies.

Peter and Joyce Grace, fan friends from Woody's NESFA days in Boston and now in southern California, were the special out-of-town guests. What a shame so few Vegas stalwarts had the chance to meet this absolutely charming and convivial couple. I hope they'll return to Glitter City again soon, now that they live so close.

I talked with Woody, apparently completely recovered from the harrowing events recounted elsewhere in this issue of *VFW*, about a subject that had drawn a lot of comment on



Glen Norris, Vegas' youngest fan, contemplates his new playmates as mom Amie beams.

the VSFA listserv, the recruiting of new fans.

As I told Woody, I generally agreed with his post. It is wise to keep Vegas fandom as open and accessible as possible to potential fans and we *should* bear in mind that each fan will find the degree and type of involvement that suits him or her best.

I took the opportunity to trot out a new fan-sociological observation: the mathematics of recruiting. There are 40 million people who consider themselves fans of science fiction, by which they mean that that they enjoy watching or reading SF content.

I peg what I call Mega Fandom, which consists of everyone who does anything whatsoever beyond the primary source material, at 250,000, thanks to the explosive effect of the Internet.

There are perhaps 25,000 participants in what I call All Known Fandom. That includes everyone who attends a club or convention, publishes a fanzine, posts to a listserv or otherwise conducts fan activity within the context of the fan subculture.

And then there are maybe 1,000 people who are the notables in each of the major sub-fandoms, including those who run local clubs and put on conventions.

That means that an average of one recruit in 160 will ever find a place at the extreme periphery of Fandom. Only one fan in 1,600 will perform a noticeable piece of fanac. And one prospect in **40,000** will end up as a member of the core Fandom sub-



A historic conjunction of Joyce's occurred at the housewarming. Shown are (left to right): Indian Joyce (Katz), Blonde Joyce (DeDee White) and Tall Joyce (Grace). Yes, DeDee's real name is "Joyce."

There is idle talk of a fanzine called *Joyce*<sup>3</sup>.

culture. (And one out of every 800,000 or so potential recruits will ultimately end up in a smoke-filled convention suite with the rest of the Virtual Fan club/Group Mind.)

And yet, as I told Woody, we are like a major league baseball club when it comes to mining prospects. We've always got to hope that the person who contacts Fandom through us will be a superstar, not a bench-warmer.

Although scheduling (and maybe just a little sloth) kept away many fans, the Open House drew several new faces. These included the enigmatic Amie Norris, whose previous fanac consisted of an introductory post and a second that announced her Gafiation on the VSFA listserv, her baby Glen (whose face is pretty much new anywhere he goes and may well be the understandable cause of his mom's seemingly mercurial behavior) and Eric Anderson, who heard of us through the Las Vegas Futurists.

All were very nice, but I must admit that I took an immediate liking to Eric. He's intelligent, wide-ranging in interests and is receptive to the idea of Fandom. (This would bring to three the number of Vegas fans who



Is Woody pointing at the Alien — or just pointing to make... well, a point?



Eric Anderson made his first foray into Fandom at the Housewarming party.

share names with music superstars, the others being James Taylor and Alan White.)

Attendees at the Open House were: Woody Bernardi, Linda & Ron Bushyager, Alan & DeDee White, Peter & Joyce Grace, Mindy Hutchings, Rebecca Hardin, Amie Norris and son Glen, Stacy Lawrence, Eric Anderson, Marie Bernardi and, of course, Joyce and me.

### **David Brin to Speak In Las Vegas on 4/5!!**

David Brin, the best-known science fiction author to appear in Las Vegas in some time, will autograph his books and talk about Reading for the Future.

Brin will be at the Las Vegas Library (833 Las Vegas Blvd. North) at 12:30 PM on Tuesday, April 5. Those who'd like Brin books signed are advised to bring them to the library by noon on the day of the meeting.

Admission to this event is free and open to the public.

### **James Taylor Submits The First SNAPSzine!**

James Taylor has become the first fan to submit a zine for the inaugural distribution of Las Vegas' new monthly amateur press association, SNAPS. He narrowly beat out Teresa Cochran for the honor of having the first contribution in the disty when Joyce puts it together at the April 8 Westside SNAFFU meeting.

Linda Bushyager, John Hardin, Lori Forbes, Joyce Katz, Woody Bernardi and I have all declared the intention of appearing in the first distribution, too.

You'll find a complete explanation of



ing and I will run off a two-page (one sheet) for \$2.50. You need to submit 15 copies.

### **April Sunday Social Salutes Vegas Fandom's Pioneers!**

The next Sunday Social, scheduled for 4/17 at The Tap House, will be a homecoming reunion for the fans who helped make Las Vegas Fandom what it is today. VSFA, sponsor of the event, has issued a call for members of the Fantasy Fiction Club, SNAFFU and other local fans who were around in the late 1980s and early 1990s to come home for a Sunday celebration,

Besides the eating, drinking and nonstop chatting that made the first Sunday Social so enjoyable, the April event will spotlight many of the fans who helped make Vegas Fandom what it is today. (Attendees may not bring weapons or rotten vegetables.) They'll share amusing and poignant stories about those bygone days of 1990 and reveal lots of spicy secrets about anyone who isn't in the room.

The Sunday Social is open to all fans and the admission is free. Last time, attendees also received copies of *The Sweetheart of Fanac Falls*; who knows what surprises might occur at this one.

### **Fickle Finger of Fate Fondles Formans!**

Two unfortunate happenings have put some clouds in the general blue skies that canopy Ken & Aileen Forman in recent days.

Aileen had a tangle with her relatively new horse Tango. While riding on a bad weather day, lightning spooked the horse. It bucked her off to a hard landing. She was bruised but unharmed and recovered sufficiently to attend this year's Norwestcon last weekend.

Ken's bad news came in the form of an unanticipated down-sizing at the environmental company he joined in 2004. The Mainspring explained that, though the office he ran was profitable, it did not hit the pro-

jections, a problem experienced by some of the company's other offices, too. The solution, conceived by the executives whose salaries contributed significantly to the problem, took an ax to the employee roster in response.

Ken says that there are at least four companies he could join without having to move. He is also looking at government jobs asso-

## **Event Calendar**

**SNAFFU** April 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.

**Las Vegrants** April 2 7:30 PM

The informal, invitational club meets at the home of Arnie and Joyce Katz.

**VSFA** April 4 7:30 PM

This formal club meets at the Clark County Library on the first Monday of each month.

**Las Vegas Futurists** April 8 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.) This meeting's featured speaker is John Smart.

**Daugherty Open House** April 16 Noon

All of Vegas Fandom is invited to the home of Kathryn & James Daugherty.

**Sunday Social** April 17 2 PM

VSFA is sponsoring this event, open to all Las Vegas fans, at The Tap House. The theme this time is the pioneers of Las Vegas Fandom

**Las Vegas Fantasy & SF Day**

April 30 10 AM-5:30 PM

A free, one-day convention for all Vegas fans. Woody Bernardi is chairman.

ciated with the National Parks System. Much as it has appeal, Ken indicated that a return to Las Vegas is unlikely.

### Joyce Katz Avoids Stress —Or at least the Test!

Joyce's second stress test, scheduled for Wednesday, March 30, turned out to be a non-starter. When she got to the facility, she discovered that their voluminous instructions failed to mention one salient point. Although the doctor had told her not to eat after midnight on Tuesday, which she followed scrupulously, he neglected to mention that anything with caffeine fell under the prohibition against medications. Therefore, the diet soda and the piece of chocolate she had Tuesday afternoon made it impossible for them to run the test to see if she needs an angiogram.

The stress test has been rescheduled for April 11.

### Marcy Waldie Is on the Mend!

Dedicated rehab is paying off for popular



Vegas fan Marcy Waldie. The latest word is that she expects to resume teaching at Las Vegas College on April 11. Apples for the teacher will be cordially accepted.



Brad Linaweaver and J. Kent Hastings with Karl Hess Club facilitator Mike Everling at a Libertarian (but not necessarily Party) meeting about *Anarquia*. They are the surviving members of the founding Gang of Four who started the club back in 1994.

### Lower the Curtain, Boys!

The bottom of this issue's final page approaches, so it's time for me to lower the shade, turn out the light and go back to sleep for another week. (I'm gonna need plenty of strength if issues stay at 10 pages like #18 and this one.)

Bill Burns, of efanines.com, is currently in Europe and will not be posting immediately. You can get *VFW* on the VSFA and SNAFFU websites.

Sorry there wasn't room for the letter column this time, but it'll be back in force next week, so why not add your opinions to the ones already in the hopper for that.

Meanwhile, have a great week!

— Arnie