

VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

Second SNAPS Disty Set for May 13th!

Despite the Official Editor's medical problems and some confusion over dates (see *Bulletin to the right*), the Southern Nevada Amateur Press Society is getting ready to distribute its second bundle on May 13.

Joyce Katz will be at home, recovering from an angiogram, but JoHn Hardin will be there to collate the contributions and make sure everyone gets their copy of what should be a terrific batch of locally produced fan stuff. (JoHn is now fully conversant with the schedule — see *Bulletin to the right* — and will handle the duties of Emergency OE in exemplary fashion.)

SNAPS is a local amateur press associate that is open to all Las Vegas fans. Each contributor furnishes 15 copies of their SNAPS publication. The OE assembles 15 identical sets and distributes them to contributors. Contributors also send or give Joyce an electronic version of their fanzine — .pdf or .pub files are best — so that she can post everything on the SNAFFU website. (This is both a support for our beloved blind fan and to let a few other local fans see SNAPS.)

As the 10 contributors to the April Distribution can attest, it's easy, fun and not too expensive to do a SNAPSzine. Write about anything that interests you with word processing or desktop publishing software (*Microsoft Word* and *Microsoft Publisher* are good, though there is freeware that can do the job, too.) Then

URGENT BULLETIN!

A Hard-Hitting VFW Special Report!

I became suspicious as far back as issue #23, while editing Kent Hastings' SNAFFU report. Everything looked great — until Kent announced that the next Westside SNAFFU meeting would be May 8.

It didn't sound right, so I checked the calendar. Sure enough, May 8th falls on a Sunday and SNAFFU meets on Friday. I made the correction and confirmed it with SNAFFU President Michael Bernstein.

Then others began dropping comments about "see you this Friday" and "finishing my SNAPSzine for the 6th." I sat with one especially stubborn member on Thursday afternoon for over two hours trying to convince him that there is no meeting on May 6.

Even armed as I was with a back issue of *VFW*, the *World Almanac*, a calendar and a tub of 200 mini chocolate doughnuts, it took nearly two hours to penetrate his Cloak of Ignorance. (The doughnuts weren't much of an argument, I admit, but begging and pleading are hungry work.)

With great fortitude and tenacity, I brought that wayward SNAFFUtie to the realization that there is no meeting on the 6th, because SNAFFU gathers on the *second* and *fourth* Fridays of the month. Finally, with tears staining his Sensitive Fannish Face, he — let's protect his identity and call him "JoHn" — accepted the Truth.

Yet just as I settled back on the couch, satisfied by what I'd achieved, Joyce shook me from my self-congratulatory reverie. "There is more to be done," said the High Priestess. "A bookstore full of misplaced fans awaits deliverance from this calendar conspiracy!"

And so, I am telling you today, now, while there is still time: the SNAFFU meeting is *next* week, May 13.



Inside Story **Back to Abnormal**

Two issues in the same week! I don't think you'll see *that* again for a while. Well, not until the week after the July 4th NonCon Weekend, anyway. Meanwhile, this issue, the second of the two, is not exactly leftovers. Thanks to my propensity for running off at the keyboard, #25 has plenty of news, columns, letters of comment and all the other Good Things you've come to expect.

This issue marks the debut of "London Calling," a column by Rob Hansen that will present the doings of Fandom in the United Kingdom. I'm hoping to add other, similar columns to bring Las Vegas fans news about what other groups are doing.

I also want to welcome Mindy Hutchings, who'll be reporting on VSFA Monday meeting-beginning in this issue.

either take it to Kinko's — there's one right next to Borders bookstore — or get it to me by Thursday noon to get the 15 copies you need. (I charge \$2.50 for 15 two-sided copies.) You can either pick up your copy of SNAPS #2 at the Westside meeting or the OE will arrange for you to get it.

"What should I write about?" several people have asked me. There's no limitation, so the best answer is, "Anything." Those who need a nudge could consider writing about one or more of the recent fan events they've attended, their feelings about the end of the *Star Trek* franchise, a book or movie that made an impression, the state of Las Vegas Fandom or the possibility that Glitter City will soon get a major league baseball team. In short, you can write

about science fiction, Fandom, your personal life and time — or anything else.

One of the things that gives an apa its special appeal is the institution of mailing comments (MCs). Those who read the first distribution can respond to anything they read, whether its to disagree, amplify or maybe tell an anecdote that came to mind as a result of something someone else wrote. Mailing Comments allow multi-pathed back-and-forth discussions

It looks like SNAPS #2 will be even larger and more successful than the first one. Don't be left behind.

May Sunday Social Changes Date Announces Program Details!

Due to circumstances that are definitely be-

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Vegas Fandom or the possibility that Glitter City will soon get a major league baseball team. In short, you can write

Vegas Fandom Weekly #25, May 6, 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 (cartoons & photos), Joyce Katz (proofreading) and Woody Bernardi (Star Reporter).

Reporters this issue: Mindy Hutchings, Rob Hansen and Joyce Katz

Art/Photo Credits: Alan White (page 1), Rotsler (pages 2,3,

VFW is free by request — and you may get it anyway. It can be downloaded at the SNAFFU and VSFA sites as well as at efanzines.com. No Aliens were harmed in the preparation of this fanzine.

Member: fwa. Supporter: AFAL. Shop Steward: Gossip Rag Union.

The Secret History of Las Vegrants

Joyce and I formed Las Vegrants as an informal, invitational group centered on, but definitely not limited to, those interested in fanzines and related creative expressions. We wanted to provide a radically different form of activity than SNAFFU. (we love SNAFFU, but variety is the spice of Fandom.)

The urge to build institutions and nail down rules for organizations is an understandable impulse in or out of Fandom. Fans have started formal clubs and written elaborate constitutions ever since Forry Ackerman was a neo.

One of Fandom's charms is its diversity. There's room for a lot of different ideas. It's the interplay among the various fan philosophies that produces results that are beyond the reach of any one, single-minded view of Fandom. Fans who felt constrained by rigid and formal organizations and wanted a more relaxed and, as they saw it, mature social structure, developed a very different concept.

Las Vegrants only dates back to 1993, but its ideals trace back at least a half-century. Ironically, some of the fans who had most to do with forming the fan philosophy on which Las Vegrants is largely based became closely associated with Las Vegas Fandom.

Stirrings of Insurgentism began in the 1930's with Bob Tucker, who held pomposity up to the mirror of satire as Hoy Ping Pong, but the concept matured in Los Angeles in the early 1940's. That's when Charles Burbee, Francis Towner Laney and Elmer Perdue spearheaded the LA Insurgents. The dynamic combination of Fandom's best humorist (Burbee), most trenchant essayist (Laney) and most outrageous character (Perdue) made Insurgentism one of Fandom's most important movements. When Bill Rotsler joined the LA Insurgents in 1946, it ratched up things another notch.

Though they originally opposed the formalism, bureaucracy and phony boosterism of the Los Angeles Science fantasy society (LASFS), they soon applied the same attitudes to Fandom as a whole. The LA Insurgents soon inspired other freethinking fans to start their own local groups and it wasn't long before Art Rapp had begun leading a similar group called the Wolverine Insurgents. When Uncle Sam abruptly sent Sgt. Rapp to Korea, he turned over his focal point fanzine *Spacewarp* to Burbee, Laney and Rotsler for two incredible issues, the second of which is one of the all-time greatest issues of a fanzine.

Those two fanzines and Laney's controversial memoirs (*Ah, Sweet Idiocy!*, published in 1947) spread the gospel of Insurgentism even more. Toronto's active fans formed The Derelicts and produced the highly literate and devilishly funny *A Bas*. Boyd Raeburn, who spearheaded the group and its fanzine, invented one of the most unique and fascinating forms of insurgent writing — the Derelicti Derrogation. Each Derrogation consisted of a playlet that featured a number of the Derelicts as well as one or more fans who'd written or spoken particularly stupid things. The Derrogation uses the target's *own words* to tie the noose and drop the trap door.

The Fanarchists pioneered Insurgentism in New York in the mid-1950's, a reaction against the lawsuit-happy, over-organized clubs in New York City. The Fanarchists made their main impact in the local scene and paved the way for the much more successful Fanoclasts.

Formed by four couples — Ted & Sylvia (Dees) White, Terry & Carol (now Lichtman) Carr, Bob & Barbara Silverberg and Dick & Pat Lupoff — the set-up of the group has become the pattern for all the Insurgent fan groups that have followed in its illustrious tradition. *Robert's Rules of Order* never stood a chance with this crew! The Fanoclasts had no written constitution and only about two informal rules. One held that the club was invitation, primarily for fanzine fans and met every other Friday. The other rule confirmed the host's right to bar anyone from his or her home, regardless of membership status.

Fanoclasts worked exceedingly well. The group not only produced lots of fanzines, art and writing, but even put on the 1967 worldcon without succumbing to bureaucracy. Two other groups, FISTFA (The Fannish & Insurgent Scientifiction Association) and the Brooklyn Insurgents, sprang from the Fanoclasts. (FISTFA differed in that it was open to all, though it was even more unstructured, if that's possible.)

St. Louis also acquired a similar group, dubbed The Saturday People, which met in the home of co-founders Ray & Joyce (Worley Katz) Fisher in the late 1960's. And when Ted White and rich brown relocated to northern Virginia circa 1970, it was only natural that these Fanoclasts would start a similar outfit called Fabulous Falls Church Fandom. Seattle, San Francisco and Yucaipa (CA) are three fan centers that have had such clubs in more recent times. And, of course, there is Las Vegrants. — Arnie



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yond the sponsoring group's control, the May Sunday social will be held on May 22 instead of the third Sunday of the month as is usually the case. The Tap House will be celebrating its anniversary on the regular meeting date so VSFA has had to make an accommodation.

A week's postponement certainly won't hurt anything. The theme this time is Professional and Fannish Art. Several artists will be there to discuss their work and some fans with good collections will display their favorite pieces and tell the stories behind them. (If you have art you'd like show fans at the Sunday Social, contact Woody (woodybernardi@yahoo.com) to set it up.

The May Sunday Social will be 2:00-4:00 PM. The two previous Sunday Socials have been really enjoyable, so I hope to see a lot of you on 5/22.

Lubov Anderson to Exhibit At 'First Friday' Art Walk!

One of the newest addition to Las Vegas Fandom, fantasy artist and newly minted Vegrants member, Lubov Anderson will be showing some of her impressive art at the "First Friday" event today (5/6).

Her husband (and fellow Vegrant) Merric Anderson explains: "Lubov and I would like to invite all to join us at the funk house at the gypsy camp for "First Friday" art walk. We decided for the first time to get a table and try to promote scifi/fantasy art. Lubov will be showing her new art on tiles line. Although not all pieces fall into scifi/

fantasy, her work is always fantasy oriented. Please come by our table and share your thoughts. Hope to see you all."

Vegas Filk Circle Begins to Organize!

It looks like Joyce's Katz's diligence will soon make the fondest wish of area filk/folk fans come true. Joyce's efforts hit paydirt and now only her getting past the angiogram (and possible angioplasty) stands between the Vegas Filk Circle and its first get-together.

Three accomplished fan musicians — Teresa Cochran, Ayesha Ashley and Steven Brust — have now committed to the idea. A fourth, Bill Kunkel, also seems to be receptive.

There should be more news on this by about the third week in May.

VSFA Changes Monday Meeting Format!

Starting with its "first Monday" meeting in May, the Vegas Science Fiction Association has revamped the structure of its meeting. From now on, reports Mindy Hutchings, there will be a business meeting from 7:00 PM to 7:45. A regular meeting will then commence at 7:45 PM and run to about 8:45 PM.

Both parts of the meeting are still open to all. This is an attempt to segregate the boring business from the (hopefully) non-boring main part of the meeting.

Heard Around Vegas Fandom...

Merric Anderson will be setting up a fantasy-

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London Calling

Saying 'Good-Bye' to John Brosnan

Ever seeking to strengthen transatlantic links, Arnie has offered me a regular to occasional (depending on how often I write, naturally) column in this fine newsletter. The title I've chosen comes from the song by the Clash, of course, but I don't live by the river, alas. You need big bucks to be able to do that here in London these days.

I've been in fandom 30 years now, more than long enough to qualify as an Old Fart (*Flatus Geriatricus*), and one of the sadder aspects of such a lengthy tenure is the number of friends and acquaintances who start dying off. Fan and writer John Brosnan - author of many fine novels and books on the movies (bibliography at:

www.fantasticfiction.co.uk/authors/John_Brosnan.htm) and of such wonderfully scurrilous fanzines as SCAB and BIG SCAB - is the latest of these. On Friday, I attended his funeral at the West London Crematorium. It was a secular ceremony - John was an avowed atheist - and the speakers were Malcolm Edwards and John's fellow Aussie, John Baxter. His casket was committed to the flames to the sound of the James Bond theme. Others at the ceremony included Harry Harrison, Christopher Priest, Garry Kilworth, Lisa Tuttle, Pat Cadigan, Chris Evans, David Langford, Roz Kaveney, and old time fans Ian Maule, Peter Roberts, Leroy Kettle, and Pat & Graham Charnock, a roll call of most of those Londoners who had been Big Name Fans (*Flatus Maximus*) during John's fannish heyday back in the 1970s. (An account of those days can be found in the fourth part of *THEN*, my history of the first 50 years of UK fandom, at: www.dcs.gla.ac.uk/SF-Archives/Then/then_4-1.html)

After the ceremony we reconvened for a wake/celebration of John's life in a private room at The French House in London's Soho, a pub which served as the unofficial HQ of the Free French in London during WWII. It was a hot, very bright day, and the sun blazing in through the windows mostly played havoc with my attempts to take decent photos with the somewhat inflexible camera in my Palm Zire, alas, though I hope Arnie has found one of the photos I'm sending along with this column usable.



Malcolm Edwards, Linda Krawecke, and Peter Roberts

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I'd expected a pay bar with maybe a few bowls of nuts and potato chips to be laid on, but in fact there was an impressive buffet lunch with lots of wine, and the food and the drinks just kept coming, paid for, I gather, by one of John's publishers. A whole bunch of other people joined us here, bringing the number up to around 50 I'd say, and along with Alun Harries and Linda Krawecke, who I've seen recently, were others such as John Hall, Jimmy Robertson, and John Jarrold, whom I hadn't seen in years. Malcolm Edwards, Rob Holdstock, and Leroy Kettle had organized the

funeral and the later event, and all three spoke both movingly and entertainingly about John. As Malcolm had commented at the ceremony: "When you've known someone for 35 years they become more than a friend - they become part of the fabric of your life."

I was particularly pleased to make contact with people like Malcolm, Leroy, Rob, and the Charnocks again after what had been far too many years. Though older and greyer, I still recognized most of them immediately. Back in the 1980s we and John all used to meet up regularly at a pub in Harringey to play pool, drink beer, and talk about pretty much anything and everything - which is the thing about fannish friendships I probably value most. As so often happens, life took us in different directions and I mostly lost touch with them. I hope the next time we meet it will be under happier circumstances. And after a shorter time.1st May 2005 are reflected in the wall mirror behind.

— Rob Hansen (www.fiawol.demon.co.uk)



The late John Brosnan, circa 1983.

A Con Report by Woody Bernardi

The Las Vegas Fantasy & Science Fiction Day

With the Las Vegas Fantasy & Science Fiction Day behind us, it's time to describe the event for the benefit of those who did not attend. An estimated 50 people attended.

There were at least two sessions in which we had some 32 attendees, with most sessions maintaining 22-25 audience members. There were a number of our regular locals (about 15-20) and the balance of the attendees were newcomers.

The one-day con was complete with authors, fans, a sign-in table, a club table and a freebee table. We had fanzine displays, SF paperbacks available and even a media DVD presentation.

A number of professional authors came; Steven Brust headed up our all-star cast with Elizabeth Bear, J. Neil Schulman, J. Kent Hastings, and James Hudnall. Linda Bushyager, Arnie Katz, Joyce Worley-Katz, and David Gordon were on hand to provide some Fannish insight into the universe of Science Fiction Fandom.

Steven Brust and J. Neil Schulman have been publishing for more than 20 years and they both have scores of novels and short stories to their credit. Brust is primarily a Fantasy

author with at least one SF novel (*Cowboy Feng's Space Bar & Grille*) to his credit. Gordon did a fabulous job conducting an interview-style panel with Brust providing the answers to both his and the audience members' questions.

J. Neil Schulman has several SF novels out, with at least one featuring a gay protagonist (*The Rainbow Cadenza*) and another featuring a wayward radio talk show host being called to Heaven and promptly sent back to Earth on a mission from God (*Escape from Heaven*). Schulman discussed and even showed an animated recording of the graphic novel, currently in the works, based on his novel *Escape from Heaven*.

While both Bear and Hastings have recently had their first novels published, Bear's first novel is *Hammered* and her second novel *Scardown* is due out, from Bantam Spectra, in the Summer of 2005. She is apparently working on the third book in her trilogy. In addition, Bear has scores of short stories printed in various magazines over the past several years.

Hastings' first novel is *Anarchia* coauthored with Brad Linaweaver. Hastings also has had a number of nonfiction articles published in various publications, over the past decade or so. He and Linaweaver are working on the sequel to *Anarquía*. Hastings talked extensively on his collaboration with Linaweaver (*Anarquía*).

Hudnall is a Graphic Novelist who has been publishing for about 20 years; he now resides in Las Vegas, Nevada. Hudnall studied computer science and started writing comics in 1985. He wrote for Marvel (*Strikeforce: Morituri* and *Alpha Flight*) and DC Comics (*Superman*). He is the writer of the creator-owned *Espers* and *Harsh Realm*. *Harsh Realm* was adapted for television by producer Chris Carter.

Linda Bushyager touched on one or two of her professional credits but focused primarily on her opinions regarding the depictions of gambling meccas in general and Las



Woody Bernardi speaks at the Las Vegas Fantasy & Science Fiction Day.

Vegas in particular in various Fantasy and SF genre films and TV productions. While both Arnie Katz and Joyce Worley-Katz have a number of professional sales to their credit they chose to focus primarily on their fanish knowledge and wisdom. Both Katz and Worley-Katz acquitted themselves very well on the "Fans to Pros" panel, on which they participated with Brust.

We also staged a panel entitled "50 Years of Las Vegas Fandom," a nod to the Las Vegas Centennial. Arnie Katz, Joyce Worley Katz, Woody Bernardi, and Teresa Cochran spoke about the history of organized science fiction activities dating back contiguously to the Spring of 1987.

The Fantastic Fiction Club of UNLV (FFCU) was formed at that time, with both the Southern Nevada Area Fantastic Fiction Union (SNAFFU) and the Vegas SF Association (VSFA) being established in 1991. Only SNAFFU has survived continuously since its inception, making it the oldest and longest running SF club in the history of Las Vegas. The FFCU died out after about four years of increasingly sporadic activity, while VSFA was established to host the first fan-run general SF convention--VegasCon 1991--and was only revived in the past two years.

There were two much shorter-lived clubs in both the 1950s and 1960s. Not much is known about the very small group that gathered on at least one occasion in the 1950s.

The 1960s group included Dwaine Kaiser and Len Peterson. Dwaine and his family moved to Orange County, California within a few years and it apparently die. Len Peterson, a member of Kaiser's 1960s club, was the owner of Page After Page Comic Bookstore.

He did business from his East Charleston location for over a decade during the 1980s and early 1990s. Len was also a fan artist. According to Dwaine at least two other members of his club went on to become professional comic book artists. There was also a short lived club established at UNLV during the first part of the 1970s, but this group also died out without much fanfare.

In a way, the crowning glory in the history of Las Vegas Fandom was that of the visit to Las Vegas of longtime Irish Fan Walt Willis. It seems that during his trip to the US in 1952,



Kent Hastings supported the con as both a fan and a pro.

on the historic first fan fund trip across the Atlantic, Willis paid a visit to Las Vegas.

The Southern Nevada Area Fantasy Fiction Union (SNAFFU), the Las Vegrants, and the Vegas Science Fiction Association (VSFA) all contributed, not just talent to the "Steering Committee" which orchestrated the one-day convention, but also materials for both display and distribution.

SNAFFU put together a fabulous club table from which they gave away free SF books and bottled water, as well as information regarding their club meetings.

The Vegrants contributed samples of fanzine publications edited, produced, and published by their members. We also had copies of *Vegas Fandom Weekly*, edited by Arnie Katz, for distribution compliments of J. Kent Hastings.

VSFA provided the sign-in table, flyers announcing future events planned by VSFA, and bookmarks for distribution. We also had a free-bee table which offered copies of a technology column, compliments of Dick Pellitier of the Las Vegas Futurists Salon. Pellitier was also one of our program participants.

The "Steering Committee" was comprised of Woody Bernardi, committee chairperson; Arnie & Joyce Katz; Michael Bernstein & Roxanne Gibbs, and Darmon Thornton. On behalf of "United Vegas Fandom," I wish to thank all the members of the "Steering Committee" as well as all those who supported this event by attending and participation. — Woody Bernardi

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oriented art gallery in Henderson in the near future. More details when he gives 'em out. We certainly will all want to support this major addition to the stfnal scene in Las Vegas...

Laurie Kunkel is still seeking justice for her disability claim. She has gotten very good feedback from a letter-writing campaign directed at our elected officials and she is reasonably confident that a hearing will go in her favor...

John & Karla Hardin (and their three children) have moved! In fact, they ended up having to move two weeks earlier than expected, which is why they weren't at the F & SF Day and Vegrants Post-Con Open Party.

Roxanne Gibbs's stress test didn't go any more smoothly than Joyce Katz's two recent attempts to take one. In fact, the doctor stopped Roxy's test when her reaction was extreme enough to raise serious medical concerns.

Chatback: The Letter Column

It's time to pull the emails of comment off the Outlook Express queue. Since I didn't publish any last week, we've got a few very tasty ones.

Charged with the awesome responsibility of Going First this time is a fan with the savvy and aplomb to handle the responsibility, the Sage of Glen Ellen. He has some more information about the imaginary convention mentioned in my hoax article...

Robert Lichtman/

To the best of my recollection, Elsberry did it all -- but then there's this entry in FANCY II:

INVENTION(Elsberry)A convention held by a group of MFS members 1 April 1952.Name was given because admission was by invitation only. This weeding process made it easily the most brilliant fan gathering in history, marred only by the double entendre of the title.

The thing was brainstormed at a one-shot by Elsberry, Boggs, Grossman, Shay and Shapiro; Elsberry did most of the writing on the report of this imaginary con, which was much enjoyed by frivolous fans.

Now that I'm home, I've pulled out my copy of the INVENTION REPORT and have more to report. First, the *publisher* of the report was Hal Shapiro, who also has a half-page "publisher's introduction." There is a one-page prologue by John Grossman, and after Els-

berry's 12-page report there's a piece called "Sidelights" by Shapiro that runs three and a half pages, closing with an announcement for an "InVention Memory Book," which "will be on sale at the Chicon, money and printing schedule permitting."

But what's most interesting about my copy, which I think must have been Redd Boggs's, is a one-page dittoed sheet from Shapiro urging recipients *not* to reveal the hoax. It names the same people reported in the excerpt from FANCY II I sent you this morning, and I suspect they may have been among the very few whose copies of the Report had this cover sheet.

Arnie: Thanks for the research job, Robert. I've actually been to one or two real conventions that I sort of wish had been imaginary.

My old friend from Brooklyn days returns with a comment on my fan religions article...

Eric Mayer

I did enjoy *VFW 21*. I am still learning. I honestly didn't realize it was Foo Foo who was associated with hekto and not Ghu. I always pictured Ghu as purplish. And me being one of the remaining few to use hekto. I guess I always talked about Ghu. Foo Foo must've been royally pissed off. Maybe that explains *what happened.*

Arnie: Distinguishing among the fan religions is not always easy. For example, that fan decked out all in blue might be a FooFooist -- or could be one of the adherents of Pthallo, Karen Anderson's deity who hold scared the deep blue of Obliterine. And in light of the fact that the Fanzine Worldcon is named after that very same fluid (Corflu), who is to say that Pthallo is not an underrated divinity?

Your letter raises a point that only Fandom's grammarians like Jack Speer or David Gordon, are fit to judge. Does the punctuation go inside or outside the asterisks?

From the Spring Break playground of Panama City, FL, comes that human ray of sunshine with a take on #22...

Shelby Vick

Ish 22 received and marveled over! Not only is it amazing that you have been able to keep it going so strongly -- it's also amazing that so much is going on in Vegas. And growing!

I thoroughly approve of your idea of having to give your email address before downloading a fanzine. And how about setting it up so that you get following issues by loccing???(Of course, there are arguments there,

VSFA (5/2) Meeting Report – Mindy Hutchings

The VSFA Monthly Meeting opened at 7:15 pm in its usual meeting room in the Clark County Library on Flamingo Road. In attendance were: Woody Bernardi, Rebecca Hardin, Joshua Andrews, Terry Wilsey, Mindy Hutchings, and Melonie Medellin. Concern was expressed by all over two missing members who had promised to come to tonight's meeting: Ruth Davidson and Teresa Cochran.

The one item of old business was the registration of the group's officers with the State of Nevada. This was duly accomplished by the Secretary in the previous week.

New business proceeded with the acknowledgement of two new members to the VSFA Board of Directors. Rebecca Hardin will be taking on the duties of Vice-President, and Joshua Andrews will be a Member-at-Large. His duties will include the production of a newsletter-type of publication, and he was duly bestowed the title of Chair of the Newsletter Committee.

VSFA voting eligibility was the next item on the agenda, producing a lively debate. Eligibility requirements were announced and "active member" vs. "inactive member" were defined for the record. This then produced a discussion of when and how elections should take place. It was decided that nominations for officers to the BoD will be accepted in December 2005. The election of officers is planned for February 2006. Since Ruth Davidson was absent, presentation of her efforts in developing a VSFA logo and web site were deferred.

Woody Bernardi and Mindy Hutchings then presented a report on the RFF service project. The project and the reasons for VSFA involvement in it were briefly discussed. A tentative meeting agenda has been created, but a meeting date must be nailed down. Woody Bernardi said he would make contact with library staffers already expressing an interest in the project to find out when they will be available. In view of the high activity for educators at the end of the school year, there was a discussion about the best time for educators to attend a meeting.

The Secretary then handed out drafts of VSFA bylaws for later perusal by the BoD. The necessity for changes will be discussed at a later date.

Various aspects of the May Sunday Social were discussed, including the necessity for changing the date to the 4th Sunday of May. It appears that the Keeper of the Tap House Calendar neglected to notice that the 3rd Sunday of the month was the anniversary of that establishment. Apparently, by long-standing tradition, they produce a large event of their own to celebrate. There was no choice: our event was to be moved to another date. In other Social matters, a reminder was issued that the theme for the June Social is "Founding Fathers of Fandom." Woody hinted at various ideas he has for making this yet another fun event. It was also noted that there is a need for themes beyond the June event. An informal discussion ensued, and while ideas were bandied about, nothing solid was produced.

While two separate sections to the Monthly Meeting had been planned, this was mostly disregarded due to the small size of the group and various SF topics were happily mixed with formal VSFA business. All the formal sections of the agenda were finished up by 8:30 pm, and the group briskly moved on to reviewing the movie events on the calendar.

There will be an outing for *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. This will take place on May 14th at the Neonopolis Theatre. A matinee show is planned (time to be determined but will be between 5 pm and 6 pm). Melonie Melledin announced that she had seen an online preview for *Serenity* (a *Firefly* movie). She was very impressed by the preview and says that the movie is supposed to open September 30th. This immediately brought the discussion around to continuing the *Firefly* viewings. A date could not be immediately determined so this decision was deferred. At this time, Woody mentioned that he has the first three seasons of *Stargate* available, and he would like the group to think about this show as material for a future viewing.

To wrap up, release dates for three movies were announced: *Star Wars III* (opens May 19th), *Batman Begins* (opens June 17th), and *War of the Worlds* (opens June 29th). Dates for these movie outings will be determined as we get closer to the actual dates.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm. Woody Bernardi, Mindy Hutchings, Rebecca Hardin, and Joshua Andrews retired to the Blueberry Hill restaurant for food, fun, and good conversation.

– Mindy Hutchings

Las Vegas Fan Event Calendar

Las Vegrants Meeting May 7 7:30 PM

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

SNAFFU May 13 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 Vegas Futurists May 13 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.) The featured speaker is Ted Kaehler.

Sunday Social May 22 2 PM

VSFA is sponsoring this event, open to all Las Vegas fans, at The Tap House. The theme this time is science fiction and fannish art.

VSFA Meeting June 6 7:30 PM

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

too; like, a loc saying 'Got it; read it.' is still a loc.)

Welcome to Ayesha! Sounds like a good addition to the group. Serious, dedicated serious people -- or party animals; the choice is obvious!

Arnie: Las Vegrants try to take the moderate, middle course between those "serious dedicated serious" fans and the party animals. We're serious about partying, though the only animal in the vicinity (Foggy the cat) usually hides until the last ones stumble out the door for home.

And now, direct from a place that is getting ready for Winter, is the fan who visited Vegas less than two months ago...

Bruce Gillespie

I have been reading VFW as it arrives -- especially as it is the ideal size for reading at one sitting -- but don't have much to say about those exciting events in Las Vegas. Where I've met the people, I feel an extra quickening of interest. And of course I'm interested in general topics, such as the piece about great fan hoaxes.

It's not clear if you have room for news from other fannish centres. I do have a fair amount of material now (including good photos) of the investiture of the Lifetime Members of the Melbourne SF Club a couple of weeks ago, but I can't see that you would have room for such a piece.

Life goes on here -- not much work, so I'm not ex-

actly flush with cash. But the Indian summer continues, with some of the best weather we've ever had in Melbourne (I brought it with me from Seattle, San Francisco, Las Vegas and Los Angeles, but I wish I had brought some rain as well.) It's not clear that we're ever going to have a winter at all -- shades of George Turner's Drowning Towers (The Sea and Summer), where he sees global warming for Melbourne as a disappearance of winter and gradual rising of the waters.

Thanks for sending me the Weekly weekly.

Arnie: It looks like you and I had a very similar idea at about the same time. Everyone in Fandom is reading all about Vegas Fandom; now I'd like to enable Vegas fans to read about their brothers and sisters in other fan centers. In other words, Bruce, get cracking on that Australian column.

We also Heard From: Rob Hansen, Mindy Hutchings, Shelby Vick, Damien Warman, Roxanne Gibbs, David Gordon

Write When You Can

Whew! Two issues totaling 22 pages in a single week can take it out of you, even if you're already used to an "ordinary" weekly schedule.

I'll be back next Wednesday and hope that you'll all join me then. And wouldn't you feel a *lot* better if you sent me a letter of comment (LoC) between now and then? You know you would.

— Arnie Katz