

VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

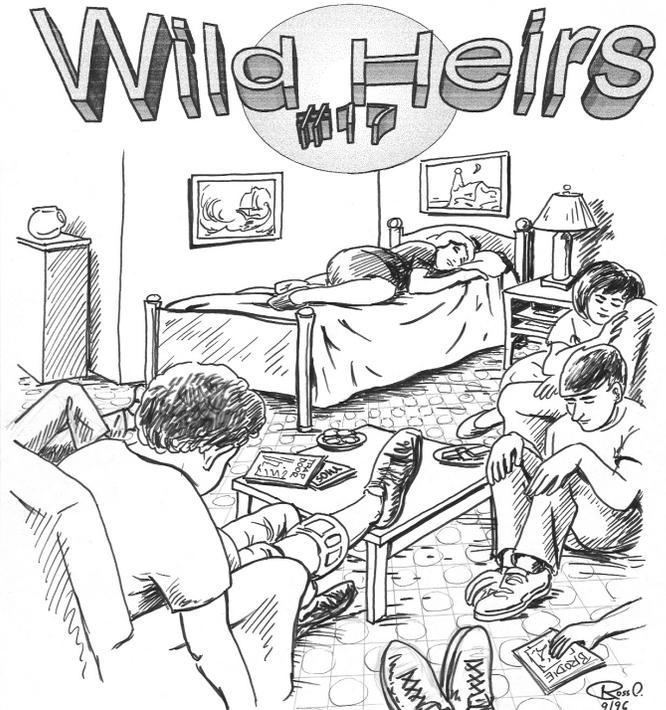
Toner II Planned For Las Vegas Aug. 26-27, 2006!

The New Generation of Las Vegas Fandom is reaching into the past to revive one of Las Vegas' most popular convention inventions, Toner! Merric & Lubov Anderson have announced their plan to revive the informal party con on the weekend (August 26-27) before the 2006 World Science Fiction Convention in Los Angeles. This duplicates the same basic scheduling that led to the incredible success of Toner I, chaired by Ben Wilson and Tom Springer, the weekend before the 1997 LA worldcon.

The couple, inveterate con-goers for a decade, have mulled the idea of a con in Las Vegas for some time. They wisely held off making an announcement until they had time to sufficiently refine the concept.

Merric's enthusiasm burst its chains toward the end of last week and exploded in my *Outlook Express* in-box. The more he talked about the idea in emails and on the telephone, the louder it plucked the chord of fannish memory.

"What



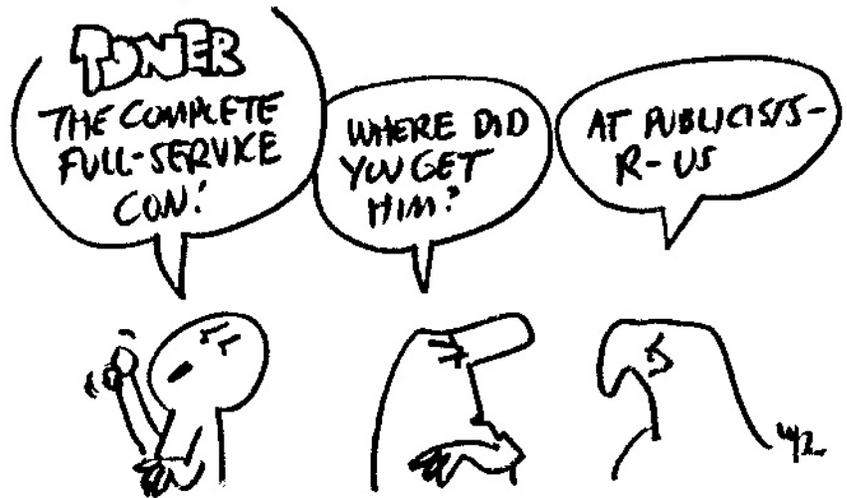
Toner - Day 3: The Hilarity Continues

Ross Chamberlain's cover for *Wild Heirs* #17 expresses the "party till you drop" fan philosophy that ruled Toner.

do you think?" he asked me, expectantly.

"Sounds a lot like Toner," I told him. The more I described the original Toner, the more Merric liked it.

When Ben Wilson was contacted to get his fannish blessing for Toner II, the founder benignly approved. "It's win-win for me," he ex-



Inside Story

The Con Game

The big news this week is pretty obvious: conventions are coming back to Las Vegas. Merric & Luba Anderson have announced Toner II for August 26-27 and Woody Bernardi is again planning to sail the turbulent waters of an all-out SF regional con. Both will be welcome additions to our activity and VFW will support any convention effort that reflects the desires and interests of the Vegas fan community.

I hope both the Andersons and Woody will look beyond the artificial and unimportant “boundaries” of clubs (which have gigantic membership overlap, anyway) and enlist the broadest possible support for their events. Other local Fandoms suffer feuds and flare-ups, but our community prospers because we have always worked together toward common goals. Vegas doesn't have the long fannish history, huge population or cadre of wise BNFs (Big Name Fans) that bolster some other fan centers, but they don't call us “The Fandom of Good Cheer” for nothing. (I send a check each month to Randy Byers in Seattle and he distributes bribes to the rest of Fandom.)

Fans have always liked coming to Las Vegas. The exciting city and low-cost hotel rooms are certainly a factor, but so is the friendliness of local fans and the absence of tension-building factionalism and time-wasting, juvenile fan politics.

So, let's see what we can do to support both convention efforts. I can't wait for Las Vegas Fandom to meet my old friends — and for those long-time buddies to meet Vegas' New Generation.

— Arnie



plained. “If Toner 2 is great, then Tom and I will get credit for starting the tradi-

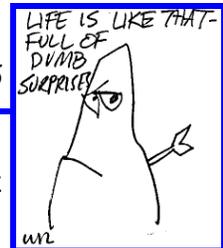
tion. If it stinks, everyone will say, ‘Boy, this isn't nearly as cool as that great Toner back in ‘97!’.” That first Toner will be hard to equal, but the Andersons have the cream of Las Vegas Fandom to help them make Toner a blast.

Like the first Toner, this one will empha-

size relaxed socializing with well-stocked con suites, a very light program and a banquet. Both the TAFF and DUFF winners appeared at Toner I and Merric plans to extend similar invitations to the winners of the races with an LACon terminus.

One new element is that professional science fiction and fantasy art-

Continued on page 5



Vegas Fandom Weekly #30, June 9, 2005, is written and produced by Arnie Katz (PMB 152, 330 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107; Email: cross-fire4@cox.net; phone: 702-648-5677).

Special Thanks to Alan White (cartoons), David Gordon (photos), Rob Hansen (photo) Joyce Katz (proofreading), Woody Bernardi (Star Reporter), rich brown (columnist), Rob Hansen (columnist)

Reporters this issue: Michael Bernstein, Mindy Hutchings. Aileen Forman and Joyce Katz

Art/Photo Credits: Ross Chamberlain (1), Ken Forman (12), Bill Rotsler (all other cartoons)

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 efanazines.com. No overwrought fan politicians have been harmed during the production of this fanzine.

Member: fwa. Supporter: AFAL. Toner II in 2006!

A Twisty Toner Tale!

Arnie Katz



Merric & Luba Anderson's fanhistoric announcement about Toner II brings up the logical question: What's a "Toner?" The answer reminds me of something my life-long friend and fellow fan Lenny Bailes once said: "All Fandom's an allusion!" (It is possible that someone said this before Lenny, but they haven't known me since I was four and they don't get this fanzine, so screw 'em.)

In the big world outside Fandom, "toner" is the fine dark powder, dearer than gold by weight, that allows a copier to reproduce an image. It's roughly analogous to the ink used by mimeographs and offset presses.

"Toner" in the fannish context is a reference to Toner Hall. That was the name Joyce and I gave our home at 3701 Bridgeglen, site of so many fannish events -- Noncon, 60 monthly Socials, Vegrants, Apa V, pre-Corflu and pre-Silvercon and pre-Toner mega-

parties and lots more. (I never thought about the connection, to tell the truth, but Ben Wilson told me when I called him that they had called the convention "Toner" to honor Toner Hall.)

The name "Toner Hall" is itself a fannish reference. Ted White called his circa 1960 Greenwich Village apartment "Towner Hall" as a play on the New York City auditorium Town Hall. We dubbed our home Toner Hall in the hope that it could be a mecca for Las Vegas Fandom the way Towner Hall was for the Fanoclasts and fellow travelers. (Ted White is my principal fannish mentor.)

BUT WAIT... Towner Hall is, itself, a fannish reference! It is a play on Town Hall, but it is also in honor of a legendary fan named Frances TOWNER Laney whose fan career flourished in the 1940s. Ted wanted to honor Laney, presumably, because FTL was the greatest Insurgent fan of his era and Ted pretty much picked up the mantle (and has worn it proudly ever since.) Laney's memoirs *Ah, Sweet Idiocy!*, will be reprinted by Damian Warman in July and is a "must read."

THAT'S NOT ALL. Toner Hall was the birthplace of Las Vegrants and the club spawned the popular 1990s-era fanzine *Wild Heirs*, The title is a play on the title of a 1940s fanzine called *Wild Hair*, produced by the Los Angeles Insurgents, an informal group that included Francis Towner Laney.

THERE'S MORE. Laney's partners-in-crime on *Wild Hair* were Bill Rotsler and Charles Burbee. Now, we could follow Bill's fannish trail to his years of close association with Las Vegas Fandom, his visits to Toner Hall and his many cartoons about all of us. Valid, to be sure, but there is another, even more satisfyingly allusive pathway:

Charles Burbee gave away the bride at the Fan Wedding at Corflu Vegas (hosted by the same folks who resided at Toner Hall).

And the groom at that wedding was... Ben Wilson

And it was Ben Willson who co-chaired Toner (with Tom Springer!)

I guess Lenny is right. — Arnie

Tiny Fingers & a Good Imagination

Arnie reports on the 6/4 Vegrants meeting

In a bow to a hallowed tradition that goes back to the early 1970s and the Brooklyn Insurgents, Ross Chamberlain arrived first to start the evening's festivities. It seemed like the harbinger of good things and it was definitely the beginning of another well-attended and highly enjoyable meeting of Las Vegrants.

Merric & Luba Anderson soon joined us. Merric and I talked about his ideas for a Toner 2 convention (August 27-28) and we spent a little time Deploring the bureaucratic and fan-political tendencies of some of our fellow Vegas fans. Neither of us is eager to enter an era of marathon meetings that almost inevitably lead to gut-wrenching confrontations.

Meanwhile, Luba fell under the spell of the tribe of cats that now clusters by our back door. Animal-lover Joyce keeps feeding them and a couple of litters of kittens have swelled the ranks of the feral cats until it looks like a feline version of "The Trouble with Tribbles" out there. Joyce is trying to find homes for some of the tamer and younger ones, so it was nice of the cats to cooperate by being Aggressively Cute. "It's like an ant farm, but with kitties," Merric observed.



Fans kept arriving and I soon found myself in the dining room, seated around the table with a group that included Alan White, Kent Hastings, Teresa Cochran, JoHn Hardin, Ross and Merric. The topics ranged from Harlan Ellison to steroids

(though I am reasonably sure that Harlan is not a steroid user). Everyone was duly shocked by the story about Ron Kittle, a well-known former baseball player, and his encounter with the already controversial Barry Bonds.

All pro sports players give lots of time and money to charities and it is customary for players to help each other's favorite causes. At considerable expense to himself, Kittle bought game-worn Barry Bonds jerseys to auction for a cancer charity.

Kittle explained this to Bonds and asked if he would help out by autographing the jerseys. Bonds' alleged response was: "I don't sign nothing for White people." Kittle is reputed to have said, "You know, Barry, Black people get cancer, too."

The topic veered toward cartoons and animation, which caused Teresa to remind us that she'd never actually seen the images. That caused some of us to try to describe Marge Simpson to her, a task only a little easier than describing a rainbow. I doubt we imparted much knowledge, but at least our hearts were in the right place.

Teresa mentioned that one way she does get an idea about such things is to handle the action figures. "She has tiny fingers and a good imagination," Joyce volunteered on her behalf.

"That's what everybody wants in a female fan," JoHn declared.

Talk of science fiction horror movies led to an impromptu trivia contest in which we all attempted to recall the title of a vampire western that had once caught Teresa's good imagination. (Presumably, her tiny fingers

were occupied by a tub of movie popcorn.)

When someone asserted that science fiction movies are shallower than SF novels, I reminded everyone of Neil Shulman's pertinent comments on the subject at the Las Vegas Fantasy & Science Fiction Day. Shulman pointed out that novels generally center on the protagonist's internal dialogue while movies stress action and look at things externally. (Some movies cover this "internal narration" with voice-over, but the result is often clumsy.)

James Taylor asked a provocative question that put me in a reflective, nostalgic mood. He wanted to know why Joyce and I gaffiated and wanted to know if our professional involvement with video and computer gaming played a role.

It brought all the feelings back. Career certainly played a part, because work-related things took more and more of my time, but that was far from all. Almost as important is that so many of our New York City playmates — Terry & Carol Carr, Jay Kinney, Bruce Telzer, Chris Couch, Dick & Pat Lupoff, Steve Stiles and a dozen others all exited the Big Apple in the mid-1970s. And though we liked some of the fans who remained, the lack of friends with whom to do fanac gradually altered our priorities.

As I told James, Joyce and I are firm in our belief that we made a huge mistake. It may've been time to cut back on Fandom, but we should've maintained ties with friends. Ultimately, the desire to see, and interact with, the people who'd meant so much to us, was what brought us back.

A forthcoming Katz article will elaborate on all that, but the topic shifted again when Bill Kunkel brought up the British electronic gaming market and how different it was from the US business, at least during the 1980s and 1990s when he, Joyce and I wrote ream of game content. I told of a particularly frustrating afternoon Bill and I spent at the offices of First Star Software, which wanted us to evaluate some games the company might want to buy for US sale. They were games on tape for the Commodore 64, which meant that we had to wait 20-30 minutes for the games to load into the computer — with a strong likelihood that a bad read on the final bit would ruin everything and make us start from the beginning. And when we finally did get one of the games to load, it was a crudely drawn action-adventure in which the player's character repeatedly shot up with a hypo to gain benefits!

Bill topped that anecdote with the story of Rick Hooper and his LSD Flight Simulator. The goggle-like apparatus used spinners to bombard the users eyes with flickering light that allegedly had a psychedelic effect. Hooper was working with Lalapalooza as an exhibitor, but when something the tour planned misfired, they decreed that the LSD Flight Simulation was now "a ride." So they set up rows of chairs, handed out the goggles and — people began hitting the ground with epileptic fits.

Fatigue began to take its toll about midnight. David Gordon was the first to admit sleepiness. His confession triggered a quick exodus and the end of a fine evening shared by 15 Vegrants.

— Arnie.

Continued from page 2

ists and fan artists and cartoonist will be joining the Trufen for this hedonistic weekend. Many of the artists will also participate in an indoor art walk.

The hotel and guests of honor will be revealed soon, when the necessary arrangements are complete. Meanwhile, Vegas Fandom hopes you'll start making tentative plans to join us.

Contributions Arriving For SNAPS Fisty #3

Chris Haraway, the latest addition to Las Vegrants, showed his mettle by copping the honor of being first to complete a contribution for the third SNAPS distribution and email it to Official Editor Joyce Katz (joyceworley1@cox.net). The deadline is June 10 at the Westside SNAFFU meeting.

Continued on page 8

Another Fannish Monday

Mindy Hutchings reports on the 6/6 VSFA meeting.

Although I arrived just barely after 7 pm, I found an already jovial crowd vying for space with the plethora of VSFA recruiting materials filling the table of the Clark County Library meeting room.

Woody Bernardi was expounding on his recent trip to Baycon. The VSFA President barely allowed time for the Secretary (me) time to settle in before declaring the June VSFA Monthly Meeting to be open for business. Also present at that time were: Terry Wilsey, Rebecca Hardin, Bettye Hardin, Tim Popejoy, Kent Hastings, and Joshua Andrews. Joining us after 7:30 were: Joelle Barnes, Teresa Cochran, and Kimberly Lauridson.

The first item of business was the June Sunday Social to be held on June 19th. The working title of "Founding Fathers of Fandom," while nicely alliterative, was generally felt to be

too limiting. Also, as we have had quite a few discussions of Fandom history lately, some expressed a desire to broaden our horizons. Several attendees introduced the thought that we are running the risk of becoming too formal with this particular event; the key to the event's name is "social" and we should be encouraging the fun of socializing with others in a relaxed environment.

After a great deal of reasoned and reasoning discussion, it was decided the current title to be: "Founding Fathers of Science Fiction (and Founding Mothers too!)." All "firsts" of the SF universe will be considered legitimate grounds for discussion: first fanzine, first pulp, first SF author, first artist, first award, etc. Any and all topics are fair game. If you have a story to share or an item for show-and-tell, please bring it to the VSFA June Sunday Social at the Tap House on East Charleston.

The discussion then veered to the topic of July's Social. The topic is to be "ID4: The Spirit of Independence in SF." All attendees were encouraged to bring old convention materials to the next meeting to help stimulate Sunday Social Theme Generation. All Social themes will continue to be discussed (and therefore evolve) at the VSFA Monthly Meetings. To that end, bringing Ideas is highly encouraged.

Attendees were then reminded that the library will be closed on July 4th. In lieu of a formal meeting, Mindy and Rebecca will be hosting an Indoor



Picnic (there is no actual barbecue apparatus available) at Woody's house even though he will not be there as he is abandoning us for the holiday to join his large family back east for his grand-nephew's christening. The menu continues to evolve, as does the start time, but the details will be nailed down very soon.

As the same situation exists for the September Monthly Meeting (it will be Labor Day), it was thought that this would be a good excuse for yet another informal get-together over good food and good conversation. The idea was floated that it was about time that Kent should host something, and there are thoughts of a Pahump event. However, Mr. Hastings didn't appear to be taking the rest of us seriously, so it is highly unlikely this will come about. More than likely, there will be another party at Woody's house.

At this point, Terry Wilsey interjected with a subject completely off-topic. He is currently working on the American Council of the Blind National Convention (4th of July week, beginning Sunday the 3rd). He issued a call for volunteer drivers for several events they will be having on the weekend. The first is a triple-threat roller coaster event (three Las Vegas roller coaster rides in one day) and dinner cruise on the Desert Princess. Please contact Terry or any VSFA Board member if you are interested in helping out.

The logistics for VSFA's newest event, "Dinner and a Movie With VSFA," were then discussed. This event will take place at the Crown Theatre at the Neonopolis in downtown Las Vegas, aiming for the first Saturday after a movie's opening date. The June movie is *Batman Begins* with an event date of June 18th. While *War of the Worlds* is officially released in June, the VSFA event will be held on July 2nd. Other July movies will be *Fantastic Four* (July 9th), *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (July 16th), and possibly *Night Watch* (July 30th). On the *Night Watch* website it has been indicated that the movie will be distributed in a limited release (at least initially), so this event is subject to change.

The discussion then moved on to the RFF (Readers For the Future) service project. Woody offered a synopsis to the two new attendees (Tim and Kimberly). He is working very hard at coordinating various factions (librarians and educators) to produce a date for an initial meeting. Currently he is aiming for the last week in June.

All event dates were handed over to Rebecca for coordinating in the VSFA Valley Voyager, our group's new newsletter. The inaugural issue was handed out for admiration (also available electronically). Tim and Kimberly told us they are graphic artists and could help us with logo creation. This was wonderful news and we won't let them forget it. It is duly noted that submissions are needed for the next issue, especially for the calendar of events. All news/events notices can be sent to: VegaSFAssociation@yahoo.com. And, of course, Letters of Comment are welcome.

Next on the agenda was convention attendance plans. Woody wants VSFA to have a presence at southwest/west coast cons with the intention of hosting a room party at various conventions. Hopefully we will be able to get groups of local attendees together to share costs of travel. Rebecca then announced that there will be a Harry Potter symposium here in Las Vegas: Lumos 2006: A Harry Potter Symposium, July 27-30, 2006, JW Marriott Las Vegas Resort (221 North Rampart Boulevard, Las Vegas, Nevada). For more information go to www.lumos2006.org.

With all business concluded, the meeting happily evolved into a discussion of various movies, books, and events. While not exactly a free-for-all, the fannish conversation was quite organic and covered a broad range of topics.

Once the library staff flicked the lights to indicate closing time, Woody Bernardi, Rebecca Hardin, Bettye Hardin, Kent Hastings, Joshua Andrews, Joelle Barnes, Teresa Cochran, Fay Hutchings, and I regrouped at the neighboring Blueberry Hill restaurant for food and conversational fun.

— Mindy Hutchings

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Continued from page 5

That means Chris' contribution will lead off Disty #3, ahead of other advance contributions by Linda Bushyager, David Gordon, Joyce Katz and me.

SNAPS is a local monthly apa (amateur press association). It's a time-tested way to reinforce community among fans.

Each contributor writes one or more pages, turns the content into 15 identical copies and gives them to Joyce by the deadline for the distribution.

VSFA Hopes to Sponsor A Regional SF Convention

In the wake of a Friday (6/4) meeting, the Vegas SF Association reaffirmed its intention to work toward hosting a full SF regional con-

vention in Las Vegas. Woody Bernardi issued this statement:

"Just in case there is any doubt in anyone's mind, VSFA still has plans on the drawing board to host a Fan-run general SF Con. We have been working over the past several months to establish VSFA as a full corporation with nonprofit standing and once we get all of the details regarding our corporation worked out, we will be moving forward with plans to host a con.

"In the meantime we have been planning other events such as the VSFA Sunday Social and Dinner and a Movie with VSFA. BTW--we scheduled several movie outings over the next two months so keep an eye on the Calendar Section for updates on those events."

*(Editor's Note: Surely what Woody meant to say is, "So keep an eye on **VFW** and the Calendar for updates on those events.")*

Toner Memories Rekindles The Spirit of a Great Con!

A special fanzine, *Toner Memories*, is in preparation and will be distributed free to attendees of the June Sunday Social and electronically through efanazines.com and the SNAFFU and VSFA web sites.

Toner Memories will reprint articles about the 1997 event, including pieces by Joyce Katz, Ken Forman, Tom Springer, Ben Wilson, Aileen Forman, Cathi Wilson and me.

I AM A PROFESSIONAL
FILLER. DO NOT TRY
THIS AT HOME. —



Toner Memories' artists are Ross Chamberlain, Alan White, Bill Rotsler and Ray Nelson.

Heard Around Vegas Fandom

Roxanne Gibbs' health problems turned more severe last week, causing a short hospital stay. Her symptoms caused doctors to order an angiogram. The procedure didn't detect significant blockage, so Roxy is in line for more tests...

Teresa Cochran notified fans that she had been exposed (and that, therefore, we have been exposed) to a particularly virulent flu. Little T is just about over the worst of it, but she is keeping a low profile to reduce the chances of causing an epidemic...

David Gordon has had a little liver trouble. It may have been brought on by a bad mix of medicines, though, so he is currently off everything — and feeling a lot better.

Ayesha Ashley no sooner joined the local rock band, Envious, than the same forces that created the opening for her continued to destroy the group. Our sweet singer will have to look elsewhere for the right band...

Bill & Laurie Kunkel told folks at last Saturday's Vegnants meeting that there's a good chance they will move to Michigan in 2006. Laurie has a lot of family there. I'll miss them a lot if they go, even if Bill is Vegas Fandom's Certified Grump...

Woody Bernardi and Mindy Hutchings deserve kudos for producing the long-promised first issue of *VSFA Valley Voyager* when Joshua Andrews encountered a gap between words and deeds. The zine's uncertain parentage would make any review unfair, if not downright impossible, but it is available at the VSFA website as a free download. Membership in VSFA, also free, is required to access the files area.

Chatback: The VFW Letter Column

I've always admired fanzines with huge letter columns (and published a few). Obviously, the letters can't pile up that way for a weekly, but VFW readers have honored me with another fine crop for this issue.

Batting lead-off is that cagy fannish veteran, having one of his best seasons in years....

Eric Meyer

Just a note (as they say... for some reason, because, obviously, it is "just a note" so what is the point. Better to say, just a very long missive, pages and pages of fascinating stuff... even though it is only two lines, because, hey, the editor might not notice it is just a note... he might just believe it is a real loc, because you told him so...but then do you suppose any fanzine editors are Bush voters?)

Anyway, I'm amazed you are keeping up this schedule. Man, the last week we've been trying to start a new book and it's knocked me out for even blogging. I don't have very good multi-tasking ability. The slightest thing knocks all my schedules and fine resolutions out of whack.

I don't know whether I'll ever travel as far as Vegas but thanks very much. Hey, if I ever do, maybe for old time's sake, I ought to just call you up unexpectedly from the crummiest dive in the city. Of course as we are all older and slower I'd likely be killed before I escaped this time.

Arnie: I'm usually pretty good when it comes to switching around from task to task, pushing several things forward at once, but it can get out of hand. Applying it to Fandom, I have found that a sure harbinger of impending Gafia (for me) is starting and not finishing a great number of fan articles and stories. Now that I know I periodically spin my wheels that way, I can head off the cycle of frustration before it really impacts me, but it isn't always easy to see it coming.

Like a lot of writers, I always have unfinished works. At this moment, and speaking only of fan stuff, I have an unfinished fan novel starring Andre Casino, articles about fannish devil worship, the historical cycles of Fandom, the future of fan funds and several others. That's pretty usual for me.

When I have two or three times as many unfinished pieces, though, it's time for me to

buckle down and complete some of them before starting new ones..

Chris Garcia

Ya made it to six months as a weekly! Congrats are well deserved! Kathryn Daugherty and I were on a fanzine panel and VFW came up and everyone in the room was amazed at the fact that you manage to do it without fail. I also proposed that I will, someday, do the first daily print fanzine. If I can keep that up for six months, I'll be amazed (and broke if I send it to enough people!)

Glad to hear that Joyce's procedures have gone well to this point. As my Dad says "every procedure is one closer to the final one" which has helped him get through all the treatments he's had of late. Glad to hear things are steady on The Road to Wellville.

Rich brown's article is, as all his stuff seems to be, entertaining and insightful. At the Fanzine in an Hour panel at BayCon, I had to explain fannish feud concepts and I used the two extremes of Very Very Real (The Breen Issue) and very very comical (the Great Staple War) and folks seemed entertained. Somehow, I had yet to read VFW with rich's article, so when I finally did get a chance, I was amazed at the coincidence. Oddly,

I've actually been the subject of a hoax. Besides my once in a while hoaxing (such as my run for mayor of San Jose on a platform of reconstructing the giant light tower that stood in SF from the 1880s through 1908 and the parties to celebrate the successful sex change of unseen fan Monty, I mean Moira, Mandelove) someone put up notices at Con Jose stating that Chris Garcia had been excluded from the con for his radical pro-Israel stance. That is, I'd said in a panel that "I wanna go to Israel sometime" and that was the header of the flyer. There were at least two made, as I saw them in front of rooms where I had panels. A small hoax, yes, but a funny one, to me at least. I never did find out who did it.

On the topic of Electronic APAs, I'm in one called eAPA, with the Grand Poobah being

Dave Burton. My little piece for eAPA, Alternate Wildly, is yet another of my pieces that just seem to happen while I'm typing. There are at least two other all-web APAs, though neither of them really appeal to me. The APA concept is one that I love and I'd like to get involved in at least one more sometime soon.

Must run, much work to be done on a Bay-Con report that will likely top 4k words by the time it's finished!

Arnie: I think you're wise to keep that daily printed fanzine in the realm of four-dimensional hyperfanac. It's so much easier to do there than in our world. While VFW has been a little more of a strain than usual during the last two weeks, I don't foresee its demise. Although I always enjoyed the physical side of fan publishing, back in those mimeo days, there's no denying that the whole process is much easier now that it can be done electronically.

I love the look and feel of a printed fanzine, but my wallet doesn't like them much. I still have our mammoth copier, so I have no plans to cease print publication altogether, but I'm just as happy to have VFW distributed digitally.

Bill Kunkel

Good issue, but please, don't try and fool an old fakefan by telling him that that was a photo of Rob Hansen. I mean, geez, I KNOW what RINGO STARR looks like when I see the bugger!

Enjoyed Arnie's meditation on Gafia. He's quite correct in my case, though it comes across sounding a trifle more superficial than I see it. To me, the currency of fandom is egoboo -- I drew or wrote something and GAVE it to them and, if it works, they respond by telling me what they thought of it. Even criticism qualifies as egoboo because it means they looked at it and thought about it.

Now in those alternate "fandoms" ("furry animal fandom"? Brrr, I don't even want to KNOW what the fuck that is), we're really talking more about avocations that became vocations than fandoms. From screwing around playing guitar to making actual money playing

ski resorts and local dates in Queens, NY, in the '60s and '70s; from rediscovering comics to writing them; from getting into mid-70s pro wrestling to co-editing a magazine about it and co-hosting a radio show; from discovering the joy of electronic games to co-creating the first magazine on the subject (btw: EG #1 made the latest *Time* magazine as part of its gaming timeline). That "hobby" has continued to feed both my fan and my financial circuits quite well since 1978.

Would I consider contributing more to fandom? Hell, I still write pieces for nobody in particular and do tons of cartoons that sit in drawers, but unless somebody specifically asks, I wouldn't consider submitting them. As far as I can tell, fandom has never found my work particularly appealing -- certainly if you look at the egoboo awards or fan awards or whatever, I'm never even considered. Not that I expect to be up there with people like Dan Steffan and Steve Stiles who can REALLY draw and are as funny or funnier than me. That's not my point. My point is that I got sick of watching the Teddy Harvias of the world GET on those lists. So it's not like I'm "taking my sketchpad and sulking home," it's just that I'm not getting any currency, any reaction, in return for my investment of time and creativity in fandom so why the hell would I want to keep going after that audience?

I'm sure there are people out there who enjoy my stuff and have enjoyed it, but I guess they never enjoyed it enough to consider it among the better work being done. So, unpaid and wary of the personal aggravation that fandom inevitably brings, where's the "money" or the "egoboo" or whatever you wanna call it?

Well, if anybody understands, it's Arnie and Joyce, as they were the "co" part of most of my successful ventures alluded to above. So no hard feelings; I'll just hang out in the places where they ask me to write books about myself and let me teach university courses in the subject.

Arnie: Sorry if my explanation of fans who gafiate from lack of egoboo sounded superficial, but it was only a short article; everything was superficial. I can't dispute your feelings about not getting enough feedback, because I have never experienced it. Oh, I've written things I wished Fandom had liked better, but I certainly can't complain about the amount of egoboo fans have given me. (This is not a signal to stop. In fact, you may feel free to increase the egoboo at will.)

Once again, beamed all the way from the BArea, here's one of VFW's finest with intriguing comments on everything from BayCon to Gafia...

Chris Garcia

Dang, if I had known Woody was at Bay-Con, I would have done a better job with Mastering the Toast! It's a shame I didn't get a chance to chat with him, or maybe I did, it was all a kind of multi-colored blur. His disappointment over the lack of a fanzine lounge is shared by yours truly, so shared that I've said that I'll run one next year: even if I have to get a hotel room and run it separate from the Con Staff. There's a definite lack of Fanzine programming at BayCon, and I'm hoping to rectify that situation, so all fanzine fans might find good reason to join us in San Jose next May. Plus, James Daugherty is Toastmaster next year, so there are strong Vegas Fandom ties!

Bob Tucker's one of my faves. You know, I guess I've always thought that there was no fanac during WWII. I certainly didn't know anything about the original Slan Shack and even less about Al Ashley. Having discovered another historical fan building, I must make my trip to see it someday...or at least where it used to be as almost all of the Booby Hatches, Fan Hiltons, Asylums and the like are long gone.

Oh, no, a mention of Moore's Law. I go to fanzines to avoid work topics (and often to avoid working) and all day long I get questions about Moore's Law. I've actually got to meet Gordon a few times; nice gent, always

well-dressed. He once rode to our warehouse to see our collection in my beat-up 1984 Chrysler LaBaron with shaggy seat covers. Such is the life of a Computer Historian.

GAFIA. It's a phrase that sends shivers down my spine. I've never really gafiated, though when my Mom and Dad broke up, Pops stopped going to cons and so I didn't go to cons until I was brought to work Green Room in 1990. I went off and on from 1990 through 1996, the last LA Worldcon, and shifted my focus to reading old fanzines that a friend of mine collected.

I came back full bore in 2000, when Kathryn Daugherty sent me an invite to talk at BayCon. Haven't even thought of slowing down ever since. My Dad's gafiation continues until today, though he says that he'd like to go to one more Worldcon, which will likely be 2006 in LA. Many of my Dad's old friends are on the outer rim, so to speak. I've always

believed that GAFIA follows major life points. More of my friends have drifted due to marriages, graduating, promotions and the like. Most come back, at some point, when they are in the troughs between the crests.

Filk Vegas has a nice ring to it. I'm a closet filk fan (OMG, I just outed myself!) and have written the odd ditty or two along the way. I'd be most interested in seeing Joyce's Songbirds. There have been several excellent filkzines over the years, but I haven't seen one in ages.

We're in the middle of a year full of fannish anniversaries. The 75th of the First British fan meeting, the first SF fanzine (I was just reading about that in the new Banana Wings), 50 years since the last issue of SilverBob's *Spaceship*, 30 years since the first Australian Worldcon, and various others. Seems like we can say that about many years, but ones ending in "5" are particularly notable.

Ah, discussions of exceptional comic

Formans & Wilsons Flip for Flippen!

They're Heading for Arkansas in July

Ken & Aileen Forman have agreed to purchase a 12-acre property in Flippen, AR, that they plan to convert into a Bed and Breakfast operation. Ben Cathi & Megan Wilson will also be quitting Yucaipa for Flippen.

The two fan families expect to leave their present homes in California in mid-July, a little later than originally planned. This will allow them to visit Vegas Fandom during the NonCon II weekend so we can give them a proper send-off. All are expected to be at the Vegnants Open Party on Saturday night and the VSFA Barbeque on Monday. (Sunday is still open for anyone who'd like to do some hosting.)

If Aileen, Cathi, Ben or Ken has time, perhaps they'll fill in more details, but for now, check out the photos of their new home..



books that I have known and loved. In my occasional comics reporting for Fanboy-Planet, I've discovered that I've never really read Watchmen, though I'm sure I'll be reading it any day... right after I finish my five year project to finish Dune.

Arnie: While some of the anniversaries you mention mean little to me, I am willing to celebrate them all. When do the parties start?

I guess I'm nearly a "closet filker," too, since I neither sing nor play an instrument. I did publish one of the first filk fanzines back in the mid-1960s, but never devoted much time to it. I enjoy some filk and certainly wish the new Vegas Filk Circle the best, but I must admit that I don't love a lot of what I hear. Too much filk lacks the fannish context that would validate it for me. Amateur folk music strikes me as somewhat like amateur science fiction. There's nothing to keep such music from professional distribution except quality; the songs are readily understandable by non-fans. I know it's great fun for those doing the singing and playing, but it is less enthralling for a listener.

Bill Wright

Thank you for VFW #29. That Joyce's angioplasty was 100% successful is good news as far as it goes, but fans prefer a girl with well turned ankles. Tell Joyce to get her ankle-fusion surgery over and done with as soon as possible. We want her back in mint condition.

Woody Bernardi's lament on the absence of a Fanzine Lounge at Baycon this year struck a chord. At my suggestion, the Continuum (Melbourne) 2003 concom set up a fanzine room at the end of a corridor on the main convention floor. Fans loaned their desktop computers and nerds on the committee set them up. There was bench space for collating fanzines and to leave copies of the finished product for collection and comment by interested fans. Children of all ages (the youngest was eight) tried their hand at fanzine production under adult supervision. The experiment was repeated in Continuum Two in 2004, with equal success. I won't be at Continuum Three

in July this year, but I have suggested that the committee establish an Internet connection on at least one computer for tutorials on e-zine production. I am on the fanzines panel at Thy-lacon IV (the 44th Aussie Natcon to be held in Tasmania on June 10-13th, 2005). There, efanzines.com and its treasury of Arnie Katz ezines, as well as VFW itself, will definitely get a plug. Expect feedback.

Bob Tucker's article was a welcome surprise. Older Aussiefen remember him with Rusty Hevelin at the first Aussiecon (33rd Worldcon) in 1975. Those were the good old days when Bob had a seemingly inexhaustible capacity for imbibing Jim Beam bourbon. He might still have it today for all I know, in that he would appear to have inherited some of Robert A Heinlein's Howard Family genes (see *Methuselah's Children*). There are not too many fans old enough to remember roughing it in slant shacks during World War II.

I read your article 'Gafia: There and Back Again' with the kind of horrified fascination that comes from having been there. Gafia is a ghastly topic that deserves an airing in fanzines now and again, if only to brighten up the rest of the zine by way of contrast. I might as well get it over with in the October 2005 issue of my fanzine *Interstellar Ramjet Scoop – the Journal for Inquisitive Readers*. May I quote extensively from your piece?

Rob Hansen's piece on the forthcoming 75th anniversary of the United Kingdom fandom, on Monday, October 27, 2005, ought to be archived for fan historians. It is just like the British to be precise about founding dates. And he's expecting a cake, forsooth! It's just like the post-WWII 'Food for Britain' era. Australians didn't stop sending those damned parcels to relatives in Britain until well into the nineteen fifties.

The cartoon reference on page 11 to Las Vegas being the epicentre of all fandom is not quite so. It might be true in the Northern Hemisphere, but not in the Antipodes. As I imply on page 27 of *Interstellar Ramjet Scoop* (June 2005), southern hemisphere fandom subsists in polar array around its epicentre in Melbourne.

Las Vegas Fan Event Calendar.

SNAFFU June 10 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 June 10 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 topic is online education

Las Vegrants Meeting June 18 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

Sunday Social June 19 2 PM

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

Science Fiction Research Association June 23-26

Ursula K LeGuin leads a roster of well-known authors at this convention that stresses the academic aspects of science fiction discussion and analysis. It will be held at the Imperial Palace. Admission is \$140 or by the day for \$25. Website: <http://www.sfra.org/>

SNAFFU June 24 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 the East Side.

Las Vegrants Meeting July 2 7:30 PM

Las Vegrants invites all Vegas fans to its Open NonCon 2 party (and Arnie Birthday Festival). It's at the Launch Pad, the home of Arnie and Joyce Katz.

VSFA Barbeque July 4 3:00 PM

Mindy Hutchings hosts at the home of Woody Bernardi.

Arnie: Hey, it was Rotsler who cartooned Vegas into being the epicentre of fandom. Your point is well taken, but you may have a little trouble getting WR to draw cartoons about it. Seriously, I think Las Vegas Fandom is quite content to be a link, not the chain.

Fanzine Lounges are a wonderful thing and I wish every sizable con had one. I wonder how long it will be before an enterprising con-runner scraps the lounge concept in favor of a sealed environment. They could hang up a sign that says, "This is how it used to be" and let con attendees watch us carry on our quaint version of fanac. Maybe they could even sell visitors little packets of chocolate chip cookies (and other fannish necessities) so they can feed the Fanzine Fans and maybe even get us to Do Tricks..

We Also Heard From: Linda Bushyager, Mi-

chael Bernstein, Roxanne Gibbs, Eric Mayer, Dick Lupoff.

Thirty Is Not the End?

Professional journalists traditionally put "30" at the foot of an article to signify that it is done. I'm hopeful that 30 is just the beginning for VFW and, if I can postpone an attack of sanity, I believe it will be.

Meanwhile, #31 looks like a safe bet, so send your news, event reports and letters of comment. I'll see you all again next week!

— Arnie

