

VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

Calendar Quirk Alert

Because most Vegas fan events are keyed to a day of the week and a week of the month rather than a specific date, this coming weekend will not have any large events, while next weekend will have three major ones.

It's all because Bloctober 1 fell on a Saturday. That puts the second Friday of the month (SNAFFU) and the third Sunday (Sunday Social) the same weekend as the Las Vegrants meeting,

So don't go showing up at any of the regular venues. (If you go to The Tap House despite this warning, pick up a thin crust pepperoni pizza for Joyce, please.)

Not that there won't be a lot of fannish socializing this weekend. There are at least three or four

Vegas Fan Events This Week

.... Shhhhh...

Vegas Fandom is watching movies

little gatherings to watch movies — and there are probably numerous others that lie beyond *VFW*'s prying eye.

No Vegrants Open Party Next Saturday!

Joyce is not feeling up to next weekend's planned activities at the Launch Pad and has requested that we postpone the Open Party announced in *Vegas Fandom Weekly* #46. Consid-

A Letter to Vegas Fandom from Chris Garcia

Dear Vegas Fandom:

I have arrived home to the beautiful Silicon Valley (73 degrees with Variable High Clouds) and on the eight hour drive, I tried to think of enough nice things to say about everyone I met on my visit to Vegas Fandom. I could do no such thing...mostly because I was trying not to fall asleep on the drive through country that looks like it repeats every 100 yards or so, but still, y'all were great!

Attending the Vegrants gathering, I did not feel like any sort of Guest who was to be viewed like a caged animal, but instead like a member of the group who just happened to get out to parties a little less frequently than others. That's a rare thing for any first timer anywhere, and one that I've never experienced in fandom. I got to meet people I've admired for years, like Arnie, Joyce, Alan White, Ross Chamberlain and Bill Kunkel, all of whom I got to chat with at least a bit. I thank you for all the hospitality (and any polite laughter you may have ventured my way after one of my dreadful gags) and especially want to thank Arnie and Joyce for putting up with me as well as for putting me up. I enjoyed myself thoroughly and only wish I had had a little more time to get to know more of you.

I do hope that I'll get to visit again, certainly for Toner II, (and NO I will not be a part of any kick-line at Toner, Merric!) if not sooner. I hope I'll get a chance then to meet the folks who couldn't be there whom I've heard so much about.

Thanks for making a BArea guy feel so at home in the valley of Hopes, Dreams and Pawned Wedding Bands.

Your Obedient
Christopher J. Garcia

Inside Story A Little Too Much

Normally, Joyce is the last fan to turn down a party, but her current recuperation required her to put her foot down — no, not the one she's not supposed to put on the floor for at least three more weeks — just after the last issue of *Vegas Fandom Weekly* went into distribution.

We would've hosted two rather taxing events next weekend, a large Open Party and the Vegas Music Circle, but it is simply too much for her right now. So we're going to have a regular meeting of Las Vegrants so Joyce can see her friends — she misses you all — and will postpone the VMC gathering until she (and the group's music director Ayesha Ashley are in a better position to participate.)

On the other hand, Joyce and I are sincerely sorry to miss the special Friday night SNAFFU meeting and the October Social on Sunday. Both should be fine events and we are counting the days until Joyce will be walking again even as we resign ourselves to being fannish shut-ins. I'm sure Las Vegrants will schedule another Open Party — you know us by now, I would think — when Joyce feels she can handle it (with the welcome assistance of her fellow Vegrants.)

— Arnie

ering the size of recent Vegrants' Open Events — there were two-dozen fans at the one for Chris Garcia last (10/1) Saturday — it would be better to put off the next one for a while until she is able to handle more of the hosting chores. (Merric & Lubov Anderson, James Taylor Teresa Cochran and Joelle Barnes have helped extensively at one or both of the last two Vegrants *soirées*.)

The Vegrants will instead have one of their regular irregular meetings so that Joyce will have a chance to see some of her closest friend — and



vice versa. She hopes everyone understands that this is nothing more complicated than an attempt to keep her from overdoing during her difficult convalescence.

Charles Fuller Extends His SNAPS Streak

Although the deadline for the seventh distribution of SNAPS (Southern Nevada Amateur Press Association) is not until Sunday, October 16, Charles Fuller has already extended his streak.

Continued page 7

Vegas Fandom Weekly #47, Bloctober 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 Roxanne Gibbs (many things), Bill Burns (posting), Mindy Hutchings (posting) and Joyce Katz (proofreading).

Reporters this issue: Roxanne Gibbs, Michael Bernstein, Chris Garcia and Joyce Katz

Art/Photo Credits: Alan White (4, 5), Shelby Vick (9), Bill "Potshot" Kunkel (11), Bill Rotsler (all other cartoons)

Columnists This Issue: Shelby Vick, Michael Bernstein, David Gordon

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 directors, bored or otherwise, were harmed during the production of this fanzine.

Member: fwa. Supporter: AFAL. Believer: United Fans of Vegas; Toner II in 2006! Vegas Westercon in '08!

The Ages of Fan *Katzenjammer*

When I first returned to Fandom in 1989, I read many comments about “the graying of Fandom.” According to numerous seers, Fandom was spiraling in for its Final Death as hardening of the arteries overtook the Spirit of Trufandom.

Not a pretty picture. That’s why it’s nice that they were completely wrong. Fanzine Fandom rebounded strongly, activity has more than doubled and the influx of new and returning participants has continued to outpace subtractions due to gafia and death.

What’s easier to see now, looking back, is that Fanzine Fandom was simply evolving from a youth-oriented hobby to an adult pastime. Where once most fanzine fans shot their wad by age 30, we now have venerables like Earl Kemp and Marty Cantor, who are turning out the best fanzines of their lives.

Fanzine Fandom used to be able high school and college age boys — women were comparatively rare until the late 1960s — who often exited the hobby shortly after leaving school. There have always been exceptions, and quite a few of them, but the *center* was the younger guys.

There may be a few teenaged fanzine fans, but I don’t know them. Mega-Fandom (the people who do anything beyond watching, reading and listening to the primary SF/F content) has a zillion boys (and girls) in that age bracket, but they are not the intellectual, word-oriented types who produce fanzines.

When that type of young man or woman looks for a way to express rebellion — a prime motivatin for fanzine fanac in earlier times — they don’t think of SF Fandom or its fanzines. How can SF be a vehicle for demonstrating independence from parents when mom and dad watch it all the time on TV and in the movies. Teens want something that belong to them. In the 1980’s, that was video games, but once the pioneering gamers became parents themselves, it became harder to outrage mom and dad.

These days, most of the teen and

collegiate fanzine editors are involved with anime. Go to a 2005 anime convention and you’ll see a demographic mix very similar to our Fandom 50 years ago!

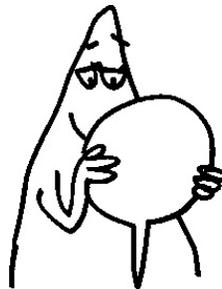
There’s no gainsaying that Fanzine Fandom got a lot from its generations of 16-to-24-year-olds. They had the enthusiasm of youth, the fearlessness of inexperience and an unparalleled zest to go and do.

The change is not all for the worse. If Fanzine Fandom has lost the awesome vitality of youth, it has gained by acquiring the depth and perspective of maturity.

The average length of an actifan’s career has also lengthened considerably. Lots of those high school and college fans had a fannish “prime” of five years. They learned the ropes for a year or two and then maybe produced at a high level for another three or four years before cutting back (or cutting out) their active participation.

There were always exceptions, fans who produced a good volume of quality writing, drawing and publishing over a span of decades, but the exception has become the rule. Adults are more settled, less apt to move on to other interests than someone who contracts fanac fever at a very young age. Our productions don’t have that dewy-eyed exuberance, but they also benefit from increased experience and skills polished over 30- and 40-year fan careers.

I’d like to have those younger fans join us, too, but that ships appears to have sailed when it comes to Fandom’s more intellectual pursuits. And unless the current trend against reading makes the activity alienating enough, those young fans are not likely to suddenly start appearing. If the current influx of mature fans continues, that’ll be all right, too.



WRITER WHO LOVES HIS OWN WORDS

— Arnie

Stairway to Hell

Arnie reports the 10/1 Vegrants Meeting

The first visit to Las Vegas Fandom by Chris Garcia provided the Vegrants a more than sufficient excuse to turn the group's "first Saturday" meeting of Blochtober into one of its well-known open parties. More than two dozen fans took advantage of the opportunity to visit the Launch Pad, gorge on chitterchatter and bundt cake and meet one of the BArea's top current fans.

Chris arrived in the mid-afternoon and immediately exceeded all reasonable expectations when he proved to be a kindred fannish spirit, a great

guy and a lot of fun to have as a houseguest.

He was justifying the trip as a chance to pick up a sizable donation of material for the Computer Museum (of which he is assistant curator). We left that for Sunday morning, though, and tuned up for the party with a lot of "get acquainted" conversation. I mentioned some BArea fans who might be interesting to him (and good catches for the fan group to which he belongs, BASFA). I'd found a small cache of duplicate old fanzines and celebrated Chris' first Vegas visit by giving him a

copy of the 1971 edition of *The Enchanted Duplicator* illustrated by Ross Chamberlain that rich brown and I produced in 1970.

"There's the authoritative knock of Merric Anderson, I said when we heard an authoritative knock on the door about 6:30. When I opened the door, I discovered that Joelle Barnes also has an Authoritative Knock. She'd arrived early to help Joyce with the party preparation. James Taylor, Merric Anderson, (whose knock is not quite as authoritative as Joelle's), Lubov Anderson, Kent Hastings and John deChauncey were only a few minutes behind Joelle and the set-up



Chris Garcia made a big hit with Las Vegas fans during his visit.

began with a minimum of preamble.

I surprised John, I think, by telling him that I had heard him mentioned quite a few times as someone who feels somewhat negatively about Fandom.

“That bothered me a little at first,” I admitted, “but then I realized you were in Los Angeles and that may give us something in common.” JoHn also pointed out that he is currently secretary of the LASFS which certainly speaks for both his willingness to mix with fans and his popularity in his local fan community. John

teased us with the possibility that he might linger in Vegas a while. That would definitely please the Vegrants, who’d love to add him to their gang of regulars.

Many people brought food and drink, but Michael Bernstein set new standards for generosity as he unloaded plates laden with goodies on the dining room table. The bundt spice cake — or is that a spice bundt cake? — was the featured attraction, but it had plenty of company.

Joelle protested that the capsule biographies of current Vegas fans I wrote for *Implications #2* made her sound like the Church Lady. I looked her up and down, all 4’7” of her, and told her I thought of her as the Chapel Lady. She later got revenge for that smartass remark by singing an acapella version of *Stairway to Heaven* that had fans scurrying for acoustic dead zones. (It is a very tough song to sing without musical accompaniment.)

Some VSFA members arrived to swell the throng about halfway through the evening. VSFA had thoughtfully scheduled its Dinner & a Movie to conflict with the open party, despite a number of available non-conflicting options. They seemed to have a good time once they arrived, however, and made an impressive dent in the desserts.

Among the late-arriving group was Sandra Bean, whose posts and emails I’d been enjoying.



Su Williams holds Joyce’s Famous Foot and its cast, already sporting some new decorations.

She came off a little more subdued than expected, but surely repeated exposure to the Vegrants will put her at greater ease.

A visit to the orthopedic surgeon had resulted in Joyce getting a standard hard cast to replace the intricate, and painful, split-type cast she had after the operation. Since this was the first Vegrants meeting since that event, fans found a totally unmarked cast just waiting for their doodles, drawings and pithy epigrams.

As always, Ross Chamberlain did an exemplary illo on the cast, prompting memories of other Chamberlain media feats of the past. I told about how he drew such

a compelling picture on Mike McInerney’s then-new Etch-a-Sketch that it had remained unshaken, sitting on a shelf in the living room, for years. Joyce immediately announced that she will *not* be wearing the cast one day longer than necessary.

Teresa Cochran made a grand entrance about 10:30. She’d been in the BArea, perhaps balancing the fannish population while Chris Garcia was in Las Vegas, but had made a major effort to get back in time to meet Chris and attend the meeting.

She used a service of the bus system that provides door-to-door transportation for the disabled to get from the airport to the Launch Pad. Everyone was delighted to have her back after her jaunt to see friends and revisit old haunts.

Although fatigue claimed some of the revelers, quite a few stayed until after 1 AM, talking about current fannish scene.

Those on hand for the fun were: Chris Garcia, Merric & Lubov Anderson, Bill & Laurie Kunkel, Ross Chamberlain, Marcy Waldie, James Taylor, Su Williams, Teresa Cochran, JoHn Hardin, Lori Forbes, David Gordon, Alan White, Kent Hastings, John deChauncey, Joelle Barnes, Sandra Bean, Michael Bernstein, Joshua Andrews, Mindy Hutchings, Robert Aynsworth, Rebecca Hardin, Joyce Katz and... — Arnie

Apocalypse at the Bookstore

Michael Bernstein reports the 9/23 SNAFFU meeting

As is traditional in SNAFFU, several members were running on fanish standard time so the meeting started at 8:30 pm.

Attending were Lori Forbes, Darmon Thornton, James Taylor, Lynn McGibbony, and Michael Bernstein (El Presidente and author of this report).

After dealing with various items of old and new business, including the Library project (books to be moved out of the Bernstein-Gibbs residence in the next few weeks), possible venue changes (now being vigorously discussed on the SNAFFU

listserv), inter-club Halloween party preparations, and my usual relaying of Roxanne's plea for updated contact info and future topic suggestions.

Lynn McGibbony apologized for forgetting the coffee can he had intended to donate as a Donation Jar ("I washed it and everything!"), after following the listserv thread on the subject, and someone suggested using a 'cyclone' change collector as folks always enjoy watching their cash disappear down a black hole.

After taking care of business, the topic under discussion was Apocalyptic and Post-apocalyptic fiction. Lori stated that the topic as presented was too broad, so I immediately recast it as "Why are apocalyptic and post-apocalyptic stories so popular?", which set the conversation going.



Lori observed that one reason is that it gives the author a clean slate to create on, I added that it gives the author the chance to blow shit up, which is always great fun.

On a more serious note, I proposed that by portraying people in extreme stress, you get to see what they're truly made of. Nothing quite brings out the best and worst in people like a catastrophe or disaster. After exploring this for a while, we went off on tangents such as the nature of good and evil, people only able to have as much morality as they can afford, and whether 'civilization' is orthogonal to 'morality'. Whew, heady stuff.

Various literary works were mentioned, including *A Canticle for Leibowitz* by Walter M. Miller Junior, 'Dies the Fire' by S.M. Stirling, and an obscure 1954 work, *Dark Dominion*, by David Duncan.

I'll gloss over the various political pot-shots that were salvoed (by myself as well) in the interstices of the conversation, inspired no doubt by current events.

Eventually, we adjourned at 10pm, but none of the members present wanted to go to dinner, so we bid each other good night, and solemnly vowed to never again to mention the words 'Act of God', 'gerbil', and 'bubble-gum' in the same sentence.

See you at the next meeting!

-- Michael Bernstein

Special 10/14 Meeting! FUTURISTICS

The October 14 Meeting Topic and start time have been changed to accommodate a very important speaker.

Topic: "Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation"

Speaker: Dr. Robert Boehm

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: Borders Bookstore (2190 Rainbow Blvd.)

Speaker's Bio:

Robert Boehm is Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Director of the Energy Research Center at UNLV. He has been on the faculty at UNLV since 1990. Prior to that he was on the faculty at the University of Utah for 22 years. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and a Registered Professional Engineer. He is the author or coauthor of nearly 400 publications in the technical press. He holds a PhD from the University of California at Berkeley. www.me.unlv.edu/research/energy.htm

Abstract:

Some of the key categories of renewable energy particularly important for Nevada will be discussed. In addition, more conventional energy conserving approaches will be noted, with focus on building energy use and vehicular applications. Some of the issues to be discussed are the role of government in these topics, concern about the business opportunities being lost because the US is not moving quickly enough in this, and some discussion of hydrogen and the controversies surrounding this possible approach to the future energy situation. Projects underway at UNLV in several of these areas will also be mentioned. After the meeting, we will host Dr. Boehm and his wife at one of the nearby restaurants where we can continue talking about this timely topic.

— David Gordon

Continued from page 2

Once again, his contribution arrived mere days ahead of the second revival issue of *DClutter Bug* from Laurie Kunkel. The "first come, first served rule" promulgated by Official Editor Joyce Katz means that Charles' zine will come first in the new distribution.

While a number of Vegas fans have participated in SNAPS, there are quite a few who haven't tried their hand. SNAPS is a local apa (amateur press association) that gives members of the Las Vegas fan community a chance to do a little fanzine fanac at virtually no cost in a safe environment.

The set-up is fairly simple. If you want to con-

tribute a SNAPSzine, just send a file to official editor Joyce Katz (joyceworley1@cox.net). A .PDF is best, but if you can get her something in Word (*.doc) or Text (*.txt) and she'll put it into shape for the distribution. After the October 16 deadline, Joyce will assemble a bundle containing all the contributions. This .PDF file will then be sent to all participants as an attachment and will also be posted on the SNAFFU web site. It is *not* posted at efanzines.com or Trufen.net, so you'll be able to learn the ropes by writing for your local fan friends.

You can write about anything that interests you, from the latest science fiction movie to memories of something you did as a kid. The dis-

tribution after you contribute will contain responses (distribution comments) from other SNAPSters. That can lead to some very entertaining multi-pathed conversations.

If you've already enjoyed SNAPS, you've still got plenty of time to hit the distribution with your zine. If you're a first-timer, you may want to download the most recent distribution and get started on what has proven to be a very enjoyable local fan activity.

Bushyagers Offer to Host a Special SNAFFU Meeting on 10/14

Where do the city's trendiest science fiction fans go on a Friday night? Well, if it's Friday, Bloctober 14, it's possible that they'll be at the Sunrise Cafe at The Palms. Ron & Linda Bushyager, generous as always, *are comping dinner for the entire group!* Is that the Trufannish way or what?

SNAFFU president Michael Bernstein had this to say:

"As some of you know, Lori shared with us that Borders Bookstore is being remodeled, and

will not be available as a meeting place for our October 14th meeting.

"Roxanne and I had been investigating the Iowa Cafe as a new venue, but it turns out that the place is undergoing a management and format change and will no longer be suitable as a meeting place for groups like ours.

"So, where to meet on Friday the 14th?"

"Linda and Ron Bushyager have very generously offered to host a meeting at the Palms' Sunrise Cafe, comping everyone's food and drink. In the past, this place has been a bit noisy for a meeting (actually noisier than I like for a dinner venue too), but they've also recently undergone a remodeling, so perhaps this is less of a problem now.

"So, I'm opening this up for discussion. Please suggest any other meeting venues you think might be suitable, and feel free to comment on any venues suggested. I'll make an executive decision on Sunday."

I'll have the final word on this in the next VFW.

Andrews Plans Winnipeg Move!

Joshua Andrews stunned attendees at last Saturday's Vegnants Open Party with the news that he has decided to relocate to Winnipeg, Canada. He plans to leave Glitter City in November.

A somewhat controversial figure in the local fan community since coming to us from *Star Trek* Fandom, Joshua holds various club offices around turn including the presidency of the Neon Rainbow SF/F Club. No word yet on who will take over from Josh. (VFW invites that successor to contact me to firm up coverage of the group's events.)

See 'Serenity' with the SNAFFUties!

It's often fun to see a movie the first day it opens, but a lot of folks like to take their time and go to the movie theater after the initial crowds have come and gone. Those who haven't yet seen *Serenity* -- or who are ready to go again -- might want to join the SNAFFU Movie Outing scheduled for Saturday, October 21.

Roxanne Gibbs, organizer of the



Confessions of a Fan **NOW & AGAIN**

Put lotsa thot into the title. Doing something for a weekly fanzine – *weekly!*

Gave serious thot to calling it “Weakly!”, but decided to skip that.

Weekly.

WEEKLY!!!

So, let the column title warn you. . . .

Also, as stated, right now it’s the True Confessions of a Fan. Nothing like “Drugs led me to a life of crime!” or, more fannishly, “I was a teenage werewolf!” Nope; far more horrible! “I was an insurance salesman!” followed by (shudder!) “I was a telemarketer!”

But that’s all for later. Right now, “The confessions of a weekly columnist!”

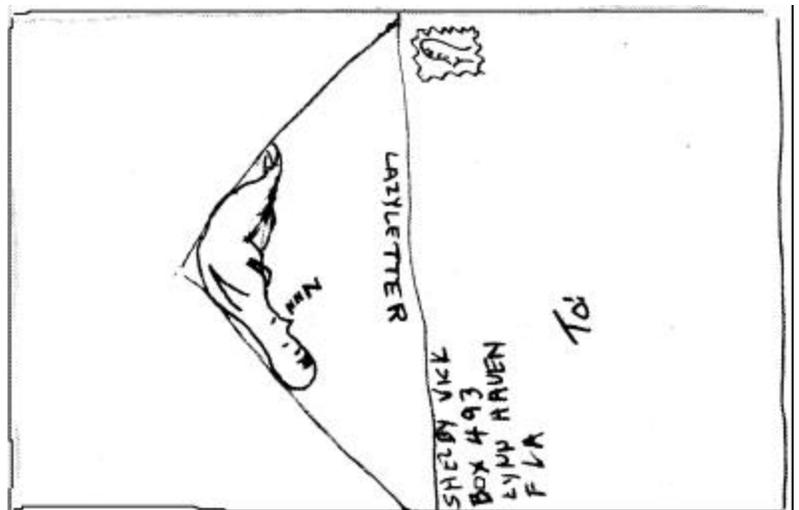
Arnie has many pages to fill – and does it quite successfully, page after page after page, week after week after week. . .

As editor of Planetary Stories – www.planetarystories.com – I worry about getting enuf material for the next issue. . .and Planetary Stories *isn’t on a schedule*. Arnie, wonder that he is, fills weekly issue after weekly issue, and here I am worrying about a single – short! – column. Bear with me! (Or is that ‘bare with me’? Whatever!)

This weekly stuff reminds me of a little-known part of Ancient History. Back in the closing days of the Willis Campaign, I did a weekly fanzine myself. Wonder if anyone out there still has a copy? Of course, I cheated; I only did a one-sheeter, I used the lazyletter format, which left me a page-and-a-half to fill. (Seem to recall there was a time or three when I even left the half-page blank, altho, due to explana-

tions and everything, the first issue was packed..)

It was quarter-folded, with a drawn stamp containing a puffin head. Postmaster questioned the puffin stamp, but I pointed out that the actual stamp was used to seal the letter and, reluctantly, he agreed. “These weird Buck Rogers readers!” his expression said. Mostly, it was to push the idea that ‘Time’s-A-Wastin’!’ and, “Let’s got those contributions in!” (Only did six of them, so Arnie’s record is not in danger!)



I think I headed it ‘confusion’ or ‘li’l confusion’, but I’m not sure and, like all old issues of cf. and, for that matter, all my old fanzines, they is GONE. A few are on fanac.org and, better yet, good-hearted Robert Lichtman informs me he has several copies he is gonna copy and mail to me. That’s the kinda stuff that makes fandom. . .well, fandom!

— Shelby Vick

Next: “Confessions of an insurance salesman”.

event, had the following comments about the latest addition to the club’s calendar of events.:

“For those of you who avoid the first few weeks of a movie screening, SNAFFU will be hosting an outing on Saturday October 22, 2005. We will meet for lunch at Red Robin Restaurant at 11:00 AM, and then go to the 1:00 PM (approximately) showing of Serenity the Movie at Regal Cinemas inside Sunset Station, followed by a visit to Cold Stone Creamery. Everyone is wel-

come to join us for one or all of the activities.

“Quick Facts

Date: Saturday October 22, 2005

Lunch: 11:00 am meet at Red Robin Restaurant at Galleria Mall (across the street from Sunset Station)

Movie :12:45 pm meet at Sunset Station’s Regal Cinemas

Dessert : 3:15 pm meet at Cold Stone

Contact Information

Las Vegnants	Arnie & Joyce Katz, PMB 152, 330 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas 89107 Email: JoyceWorley1@cox.net Phone: 648-5677
Neon Rainbow SF/F Club	Joshua Andrews Email: Andrews1701@gmail.com 702-759-9303
SNAFFU:	Michael Bernstein Email: webmaven@cox.net Phone: 765-7279
VSFA:	Rebecca Hardin Email: hardin673@aol.com Phone: 453-2989

Creamery at the mall directly in front of Sunset Station”

And if everything goes right, that comely stranger sitting next to you may turn out to be Roxanne Gibbs, who hopes to break out of her fannish isolation and attend the outing (health permitting).

Fans Plan a Sweet Thanksgiving!

If you're not swamped with family obligations to heading for LosCon, SNAFFU has cooked up an event to add some fannish fun to the Thanksgiving weekend: a tour of the Ethel M candy factory and Christmas Cactus Garden Display.

The candy store at the end of the tour sells exceptional Ethel M ice cream, hot chocolate and, of course, plenty of candy. “For those of you who have never experience a tour of Ethel M's you are in for a treat,” notes Roxanne Gibbs. “Several free samples of chocolate candy are given to you during the tour, and those who have been there before, we know you will come for the chocolate.”

The tour will take place on Saturday, November 26, at 6:00 PM. Ethel M's Factory and Cactus Gardens are located at 2 Cactus Garden Drive, Henderson Nevada

<<http://www.ethelm.com/images/us/local>

Heard Around Vegas Fandom...

Merric & Luba Anderson will soon be moving to a new house! It's approximately at Russell and 215. More details when the Andersons reveal them...

Chris Garcia is taking over the editorship of *SFSF*, the Bay Area's local newszine. He picks up the reins from Warren Harris, who produced it under the *nom de fanac* of Jack Avery...

ChatBack: The VFW Letter Column

I've been catching up on the backlog a bit each week and this should empty the virtual mailbag. This would be a good time to write that letter of comment.

Let's lead off ChatBack this time with one of the most successful of recent de-gafiates and a long-time friend from back in the 1970's...

David Burton

I know that you've worn a lot of "hats" in your professional life; with issue #45 of *VFW* I'm convinced that at least one of those hats was as a patent medicine salesman or (along the same lines) an insurance agent.

Mentioning my name, in the same sentence with Messrs. Lichtman and Kemp and the words "major fanac," and suddenly I found Outlook Express opening of its own accord, and my fingers tapping out on the keyboard what is very probably my first real LoC in two years. (Major fanac, indeed!)

Not much to say regarding the goings-on of Vegas fandom, except that it makes me incredibly nostalgic for the scene we had here in Indianapolis in the late 1960s. Not quite as large as your Vegas group, but it was exciting just to hang around with other fans. Jim and Lee Lavell's house was the focal point, and there was always someone there stenciling a fanzine, printing a fanzine, talking about fanzines, planning a fanzine, smoking a fanzine...

No wait, we didn't *smoke* fanzines (well, not *often* anyway), although we did have to carefully monitor some folks use of corflu. The monthly club meetings were always fun and I looked forward to them. At the moment, even though there is some sort of fairly active local club here, they aren't my sort of fans, so I carry on solo, doing the Proud and Lonely thing. (I long ago lost my Sensitive Faanish Face.)

Re: your comments to Eric Mayer about young fans. I don't think traditional fanzine fandom (and I count my own zine as a trad zine, along with most others published as PDFs, even if they aren't on paper) is going to survive if there aren't some young

people who want to carry on with it. And when I say "young people," I mean teenagers or those in their 20s. For me, a zine is something quite different than a blog or a Web site -- not necessarily better, just different.

And "online" seems to be where most of the young folks are most active these days. (I'm writing about this in a little more detail in the next issue of CPG, available soon on newsstands everywhere. Everywhere, South Dakota, that is, pop. 14.) Maybe that's a Good Thing; I don't know. But Eric's comments about "wow, do it yourself magazines, just for fun (no literary pretensions) with a whole net work of people producing and reading these things" really strikes home with me. There *is* something about creating a fanzine as a discrete piece of work that stands on its own that a blog or even a Web site just don't have.

Well, not much of a LoC after saving up for two whole years. But I suppose if you just keep mentioning my name in VFW I'll probably be forced to respond.

Arnie: I thought the Lavells did a great job of fostering Indianapolis fandom back in the day and have always felt that their success represented a benchmark

Potshot's Cartoon Theater



for us later nurturers. Vegas Fandom isn't one huge Trufannish utopia, but we are developing an exciting New Generation of Classic fans and even our fugg-heads are relatively inoffensive.

From a fan making his ChatBack debut, we go to another who has become a standout regular in VFW over the last couple of months...

Peter Sullivan

I'm not sure that reading is going out of fashion. Say what you like about J.K. Rowling (and Terry Pratchett, amongst others, has), but she has made reading cool for a significant minority of children in a way that it never has before. I don't recall any midnight queues for Enid Blyton. And whilst television was driving out reading for much of the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, the growth of the web, e-mail and even text messaging means that words are probably fighting back as part of our culture.

Hmm, I can't see me ever running for TAFF - when I end up wanting to go to a US convention, I'd probably just reach for my "flexible friend" and go.

And the target convention is more likely to be Corflu than Worldcon in any case. If I've read the TAFF rules right, I wouldn't be eligible for an east-to-west race until 2010 anyway, and I'm perfectly capable of succumbing to Nydahl's Disease at some point before then. (Or is Nydahl's Disease, like chronic acne and writing pathetic non-rhyming poems to imagined girlfriends, only a teenage affliction?) In any case, I thought that the Official Katz line on TAFF wasn't hostile per se, but at any rate along the lines of "Some People are interested in TAFF. That's nice for them. I'm *not* Some People."

Arnie: The info about TAFF is very disappointing. I haven't seen so much enthusiasm for a new British fan among American fans in some time. Your candidacy would have my interest and support (and endorsement if you need it.)

I have a hunch that the anti-reading trend is more advanced in the US than in the UK, because it is certainly observable in American society. There are still mammoth best sellers - which become media events that have little to do with actually reading them - but people are turning away from books and magazines as an entertainment source. One dead giveaway that something is happening is TV sitcoms' use of reading as a punishment for children. Kids are sentenced to read when they have been very bad and they grumble loudly about it. All that video propaganda is rapidly turning reading into the newest target of derision, replacing holiday fruitcake.

Here with some comments about hot water heaters and Toner, possibly a volatile combination, is another Chatback regular, this time from southern California...

Laurraine Tutihasi

So good to hear that Joyce is recovering so well.

I agree that seventeen years is an extraordinarily long time for a hot water heater to function. I recall that in my condo, I had to replace it when it was less than ten years old. Our house was built in 1967, and the pipes and gas lines going to and from the heater were the original ones. Our plumber replaced all those fixtures, so there is a big difference now. Whenever he does work for us, he has been bringing our plumbing up to today's building codes.

I don't know about Toner 2 before Worldcon, as I am considering CopperCon the weekend after. If I suggest three cons in a row, Mike will probably have an apoplectic fit. Can you give me more info about Toner 2? Details of next year's CopperCon had not been finalized at the time they printed their last flyer, so I don't know yet whether or not I want to attend. It may seem unfannish, but the guest of honour line-up at a con does affect my interest in them. It turns out that all the other Arizona cons next year conflict with other things we already have on our calendar. If it turns out that we don't go to CopperCon, we may be able to do Toner 2.

Arnie: Toner 2 will leave you plenty of strength with which to enjoy the Worldcon, but I'm not sure many will want to go to another convention the week after LACon IV. At least we're hoping that's the way our fan friends feel. We'd like to see as many as possible in Las Vegas the weekend before the 2006 Worldcon.

It wouldn't feel like a real ChatBack without the tall gentlean from the Sunshine State, who's got a couple of thoughts about VFW #45...

Shelby Vick

Now *that's* a name to go with, Arnie -- "Neon Rainbow Science Fiction and Fantasy Association" -- yeah!

I'm really glad Joyce is improving; sorry about the splint trouble. Now, you treat that girl right, you hear?

Number 45! Y'know, I think that's more than ALL the fanzines I've put out!

Arnie: It's an over-the-top name, to be sure, but it's actually an improvement over the literalist "Les-Gay-Bi-Trans SF Club of Las Vegas."

Out of the sun and into the cold North we go to pick

up a LoC from a BFW contributor who has been sending his comments since the very beginning...

Lloyd Penney

44... I like the Alan White illo...sure, put an AK caricature and "Arnie's Army" on a t-shirt, and there's the official shirt of Vegas fandom.

Is anyone a member of organized fandom? If there's an organized fandom out there, it can't possibly be ours. One thing I do like about our fandom is that there is a variety of activities to take part in, to see what you like, and to see where you can excel. Con running, filking, costuming, club management...there is something for just about anyone. There's still a few out there who believe that theirs is the only true fandom, but with all the fun, networking and life-long friendships going on out there, there can't be anything wrong with sampling it all, or settling onto one thing you really like.

Fandom may be good at timebinding, but we could use some practice at dissemination. We often mention a classic fanzine or other fannish publication, such as *Warhoon 28*, or *The Neofan's Guide*, and we tell people to get a copy, but seldom if ever do we tell our readers how. So many good faneds reprint these mentioned zines, but what we really need is a clearing house so newer fans get copies, or as some have already done, scan the zines, and place them on a page on eFanzines.com. We have to make these zines more readily available.

Good letter column, and the arrival of Murray Moore makes it all the better. Having Creath Thorne back adds him to a small army of returning fans. I will soon reveal who the newest returning fan is, RSN.

45... More fanac? Arnie, aren't you afraid these good folks are going to burn out at some point? It's a good idea to see what qualifies, but for the most part, heard it before: anything at least two fans do together is considered fanac. And, I will let your minds wander from there...

To Shelby Vick... other than a bird with a big beak, what is a puffin? I'm intrigued, mostly because of the term used in this context. A&P Food Stores? There are still lots of them in Canada, especially in this province. My father built many of the small A&Ps that were scattered through central Ontario, but this was in the 60s and 70s. Yvonne worked for A&P for a few years, working accounts payable and some warehousing work at the huge A&P warehouse just down the street from us. Just recently, A&P Canada (their offices are visible from my balcony), plus their associated stores, were sold by the A&P head office in Atlanta to the Metro chain of supermarkets in Montreal.

I agree with Eric Mayer, one thing I like about fanzines is that you can produce something physical in the form of a paper fanzine. That's not done so much now, and some zines don't require the paper, photocopying, stuffing and mailing, but you're still producing something. The SF part, yes, the fandom part, yes, and the publishing and contributing part, yes. It all works for me.

Hi, Laurraine... Yvonne and I are saving as best as we can for a trip to LAcon IV, and we are making some investigations to see how we can shave some bucks off the cost. We may fly out of Buffalo instead of Toronto to save some money, and we may already have a roommate. There are the local cons to go to, and I've also got to save some money for Corflu. Anyone got a full bank account lying around they're not using? Hmmm?

Arnie: Members of the Cincinnati Fantasy Group used to march around in identical virulent green bowling shirts (with Saturn insignia). I'm not sure I want to be a member of a club whose members dress alike (with or without Saturn insignia).

What's better than a Shelby Vick letter? How about two...

Shelby Vick

Thanx for the plug, Arnie --

Let me put in that, at present, confuSon is available only by request or (as with so many other fanzines) on efanzines.com.

This was a great issue, like always -- and there are so many fans you are dragging out of the woodwork! Old fans, like Dick Lupoff and me, and more and more new ones. Keep it up!

Any word from/about Ian Macauley?

*Arnie: I'm not sure "only" is the right word to describe distribution that includes both direct digital delivery and posting on efanzines.com. I don't know how many copies of **confusion** you distributed when you published in the early 1950's, but I have a hunch your circulation has at least doubled on **confuSon***

*The Ian McCauley who was a member of the ASFO and participated in the publication of *The immortal Storm* was living in Las Vegas the last time I knew. I was sort of excited about his arrival in town, but he'd royally pissed off more than half of local Fandom by the time I finally got to meet him. He exhibited a lack of self-control in a couple of sensitive areas.*

*If you mean Ian McAulay who co-edited *Hyphen* for a time, I do not know. It would be nice to have him back.*

And what can you tell us about Bea Mahaffey?

Las Vegas Fan Event Calendar

SNAFFU October 14 8:00 PM

This formal SF club meets the second and fourth Friday's of each month. Renovations at the usual location necessitate choosing a venue for this meeting, but that decision has not yet been made.

LV Futurists October 14 6:00 PM

Dr. Robert Boehm is the special guest at this "early start" meeting at Borders Bookstore (2190 Rainbow).

Las Vegrants Meeting Bloctober 15 7:30 PM

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

VSFA Sunday Social October 16 2:00 PM

VSFA continues the highly successful series of Sunday meetings, though the venue is now the Blue Ox (5825 Sahara @ Dunesville). There is no official subject this time, but the talk is always first class.

SNAFFU Movie Outing: *Serenity* October 22 11:00 AM

Lunch, a movie outing and ice cream for dessert — what could be better on a pre-holiday Saturday? You can join fans at the Red Robin at Galleria Mall at 11 AM for lunch, or catch up with them at Sunset staion's Regal Cinemas at 12:45 PM.

SNAFFU Meeting October 28 8:00 PM

This formal SF club meets the second and fourth Friday's of each month. This time, it will be held at Borders bookstore on the East Side

Las Vegrants Meeting November 5 7:30 PM

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

VSFA 'First Monday' Meeting November 7 7:00 PM

Club business and socializing are the main features whenone of Las Vegas' busiest fan groups gets together at the Clark Count Library (1 block East of Maryland, corner of Escondido & Flamingo Road).

Vegas Music Circle November 12 2:00 PM

All fans are invited to make music or just listen at the Launch Pad. The session starts at 2:00 PM.

How active, if at all, was she before Palmer brought her forward as a member of the Other Worlds family?

On to 48!

That's all for this time. I'll be back next week with another issue, but it won't be nearly as good (or nearly as full) as it would be if you wrote something. It can be a report of a fan event, a letter or comment or an article like Shelby's in this issue.

The digital fanzine editor has no threat to wield over the readers, so I won't bluster about it. Let's just say that your contribution will bring a ray of sunshine into the toil-worn life of a lovable fan who wants nothing more than to inform and entertain you each week.

— Arnie Katz

In This Issue...

Open Letter ::: Chris Garcia ::: 1

Inside Story ::: A Little Too Much ::: Arnie ::: 2

Katzenjammer ::: The Ages of Fan ::: Arnie ::: 3

Vegrants ::: Stairway to Heaven ::: Arnie ::: 4

SNAFFU ::: Apocalypse at the Bookstore

::: Michael Bernstein ::: 6

Futuristics ::: Special 10.14 Meeting ::: David Gordon ::: 7

Now & Again: Confessions of a Fan ::: Shelby Vick ::: 9

ChatBack: The VFW Letter Column ::: The Readers ::: 10

Contact Information ::: 10

Potshot's Cartoon Theater :: Bill Kunkel ::: 11

Calendar ::: 14

... and a *ton* of news.