

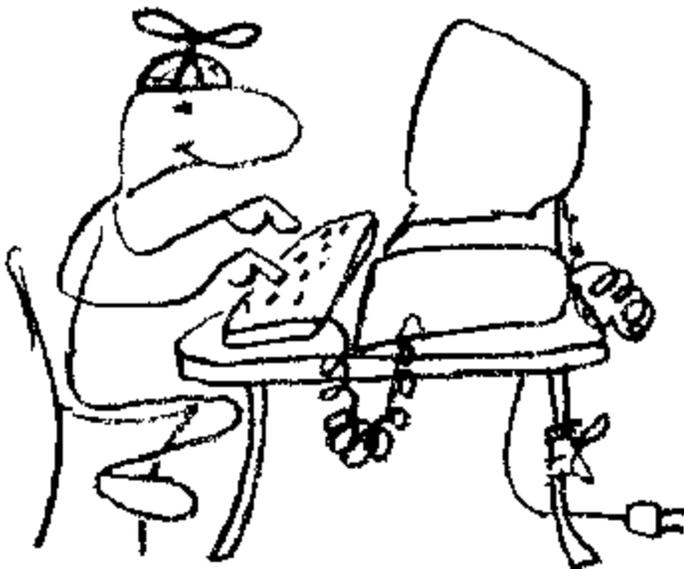
# VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

## Fannish Heroes Snag Shelves for the Library!

With Lori Forbes orchestrating the effort, The Fannish Way triumphed again — and acquired what may be enough deluxe shelving to hold the entire SNAFFU Library! And the price was right: Nothing!

It started at the Vegrants meeting. Lori told us that the renovation of the Borders bookstore where she works (and which hosts the Westside meeting of SNAFFU each month) had resulted in all the old shelves going into the dumpster. Apparently, Borders has decided on a facelift for all its stores — this is about the 19th to get the makeover — so they were tossing the old-look shelves.

She sounded so wistful about all that shelving going to waste when SNAFFU could use it that the rest of the group rallied around her. Our attempts to borrow a fan-owned truck didn't pan out, so we started a collection. But then SNAFFU president Michael Bernstein — absent from the meeting but always in our hearts — said on the phone that Vegas' foremost formal SF club would put up the cash for the rental.



## Vegas Fan Events This Week

Here's What's Happening

**SNAFFU Movie Outing**  
**Saturday (10/22) 11:00 AM**

*Check out the Calendar and preview stories*

Lori hit the phones hard and found a place that could give us a truck in time to beat the 8 AM garbage pick-up (which would've carted away those lovely shelves). A fannish work detail collected the shelves and brought them to the Launch Pad. Lori, Linda & Ron Bushyager, James Taylor, April Reckling and I unloaded the truck and filled up the garage with some of the prettiest shelves you ever saw. Joyce watched from her wheelchair, made sure we didn't all over-exert and got a glass front cabinet as a goodwill gesture from SNAFFU.

You can read a more amusing account of this exploit elsewhere in this issue by James Taylor. Damn, but Fandom is cool when it works.

## SNAFFU Movie Outing Is This Saturday!

*Serenity*, the movie based on *Firefly*, may have the same name as an adult diaper, but it's a "must see" for lovers of the TV series. If you haven't seen it or want to see it again, there's no better way than an outing with your fan friends.

SNAFFU invites all Vegas fan to take part in its first Movie event in a while, which combines lunch at Red Robin with a showing of *Serenity*

# Inside Story Five Hundred!

At the risk of another “that’s not too many” letter from Father Tucker (or maybe Peter Sullivan) that it’s “not too many,” I am pretty excited about something that’s going to happen on page four of This Very Issue. When you get to that page, you’ll see a cool article of some kind — not sure which one as I write this — but as nice as that is, there’s something else.

Page four is the 500th page of *Vegas Fandom Weekly* since the first two-pager last November. That may not be many to the likely of Bob Tucker, but it sure seems like a big steaming pile of fanstuff to me. I sure never expected to produce, to be *able* to produce, this quantity of material for what started out as a simple little fanzine to cover Las Vegas fanac. I never dreamed there would be so much of it or that so many fine folks from all around Fandom would send so many entertaining contributions or that I would get so many wonderful letters of comment.

Showered with this bounty, how could I *not* publish 500 pages? Exciting local events and terrific outside contributions draw me to the keyboard like a moth to a flame, though I hope for a less disastrous outcome. I’ll probably gush embarrassingly when I round off *VFW*’s first full year in a few weeks, but I thought the 500-page milestone was a good excuse to share my joy.

Less joyful is the tension that has arisen between the majority of Las Vegas fans and the VSFA clique. Some readers have criticized me for not writing more in *VFW* about this recent development, but I figure if it bores me, it is almost certain to have the same soporific effect on you. This is a newszine and I will report major developments, even when they are negative (like my article on calendar conflicts and last issues “Law of the Sandbox,” but who cares about petty wrangles? I’d rather do four-dimensional mental crifican with my friends.

— Arnie

(and maybe a dessert run after the film). If you’re not hungry, the movie is 12:45 at Sunrise Station’s Regal Cinema.

The fannish excursion is set for 11:00 AM on Saturday (10/22) morning. Fans will meet at the Red Robin Restaurant (Galleria Mall, across from Sunset Station).

If all you want is a chance to dig into dessert with a bunch of fans, they’ll be at Coldstone Creamery in the Mall at about 3:15.

Roxanne Gibbs, the organizer, has this to say: *“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.*

*Continued page 7*

*Vegas Fandom Weekly #49, Bloctober 20, 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).

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**Columnists This Issue:** Shelby Vick, James Taylor

*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 obtuse ingrates 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!

# Neos and Fandom

# Katzenjammer

Classic fans love our subculture's history, literature and traditions, but there is a special place in their hearts for the neofan. That's because fanzine fans (and others who belong to Fandom's core) look to the future as eagerly as they honor the past. As befits those weaned on SF, they understand that preserving the past is important, but so is insuring the future of our colorful tribe.

The only way to perpetuate our subculture is to bring in those who will take Fandom beyond the span of years allotted to even long-lived fans. The process Fandom developed by trial and error to keep the parade marching has worked for 75 years and shows no signs of breaking down in the next 75.

It begins with the recognition that Classic Fandom is not for everyone. Some are cut out for the fringes of All Known Fandom, even more for the tenuous connection to the hobby that I've dubbed Mega-Fandom — and some would be better off concentrating on church groups, PTA and fraternal organization. There are also many who are best-suited to Interest Group activities in which they do not partake of the subculture, but nonetheless enjoy some form of SF-connected activity that goes beyond the primary source material. Newcomers are free to select their level of involvement, understand that picking some options disqualifies them from others.

Fandom is more like a call girl than a street-walker. It is available and accessible, but we don't go out looking for people. That would be a lot of effort with very little result. Those who want Fandom will find it. Aggressive recruiting seldom works. For all Woody Bernardi's zeal, I don't think he brought in anyone who has become much more than a fringe fan. The problem with aggressive recruiting is that the minute the recruiter eases back on the sales pitch, the recruit begins to run out of steam.

After contact comes education. Some fans like rich brown and Ted White are wizards at teaching newcomers what they need to learn to become part of the subculture. It's a form of mentoring, a one-to-one relationship in which the neofan is guided into exploring Fandom and understanding its aesthetics, traditions and mores. Joining Fandom is like emigrating to a new country, so a

little help getting oriented in the strange land eases the culture shock. It would be ridiculous to expect all neofans to become fanhistorians — that's why we *have* fanhistorians — but a general knowledge of this virtual country is the basis for future participation. And make no mistake, Classic Fandom is about doing stuff, fanac, not sitting on your butt in an audience.

Neofans get a *lot* of leeway, because newcomers will inevitably make mistakes as they try new things. If Fandom fell on them like a ton of bricks every time they miss-step, they'd soon become fearful and that would frustrate the socialization process.

Because Fandom is a subculture with its own, unique social contract, the neofan has responsibilities, too. They must fight the temptation to bristle at the unfamiliar and the even worse trap of over-estimating their importance. A neo who thinks Fandom is going to dance attendance is in for a shock. They can join the Fandom Parade, but it is unrealistic to expect the parade to stop and explain itself to the newcomer.

Yet Fandom loves newcomers

It's very similar to the socialization to mundania that begins when we shoot out of the womb. As in Mundania, Fandom doesn't come with an instruction book. Though help is plentiful and freely available, the search for knowledge is ultimately the neofan's responsibility.

A Blunt Truth: Fandom loves neofans and wants those who are suited to the hobby to become active participants. It really doesn't make a difference to Fandom whether any particular neofan joins the subculture as long as *some* neos do so. We may mourn the loss on a personal level, but the world is full of fine people who don't happen to be fan material.

The thing every neofan needs to keep in mind is that we were *all* neofans at one time. The experienced fans they meet recall very well what it was like when they first washed up on Fandom's shore and understand the socialization process from *both* sides. They understand what neos go through as they wrestle with heaps of new information, but they also understand the necessity of letting neos demonstrate that they care enough to learn about Fandom.



— Amie

# A Mellow Evening

## Arnie reports the 10/15 meeting



Joyce Katz looks to be in good spirits, surrounded by friends, despite the wheelchair and bulky (if decorated) cast.

It was only 6:30 when the first knock came at the door, an hour before the unofficial start of Las Vegrants meeting. In this case, though, I was expecting several early arrivals, Vegrants who'd volunteered to help prepare for the night's festivities.

I knew from the Authoritative Sound on the rapping on the door that it was invited guest Joelle Barnes, who more than "paid her way" with timely help.

Joelle, who first contacted the Las Vegas fan community (and, indeed, Fandom itself) was feeling sad, because she felt harshly treated by club members she considers friends. I admitted that I thought her comment on the VSFA listserv that "single mothers get everything" was wrong-headed, but that I also thought some of the responses were... excessive.

Seeing how downcast Joelle was, Joyce re-

mind her that if there are people in Fandom who don't like her — as is true for every fan (except Shelby Vick and Ross Chamberlain) — there are also a lot of people who like her. She mentioned all the fans around the world who would certainly be glad to meet her and pointed out that, in the grand scheme of things, she was only troubled by one small fan club in one small city.

I don't know if Joyce and I cheered her any, though Joelle seemed to enjoy the meeting, but I hope she doesn't gaffate Joelle comes from an extremely parochial religious background, but she has also distinguished herself as someone who actually *listens* to contrary opinions and often then modifies her position.

Two more carloads of fans arrived about 7:00, ready to pitch in, too. James Taylor and Teresa Cochran arrived with JoHn Hardin



in one vehicle and Ayesha Ashley and her guest Rex Bennett came in another.

Rex, to whom I awarded a medal for Name of the Night, works for the school board, which caused JoHn to remark that he had fixed computers for the school board earlier this year. Ayesha, a teacher immediately started laughing and then regaled us with examples of the kind of calls she thought JoHn probably got. "The first thing they ask you," she recalled, "is, 'is your computer on?'"

I heard Joyce telling a few other Vegrants about what she called my aversion to fire.

"You mean someone *likes* to be burned?" I challenged.

This caused her to elaborate her original remark. She said I am slightly nervous in hotels because I was in a hotel fire many years ago. I conceded the point and she rewarded me by adding that I had led a group of old people trapped in the fire to safety. (I told the story of my semi-heroic adventure in Boca Raton, FL, but you will be spared. For now.)

Lori Forbes told us all about the book shelves when she arrived. Many of the Vegrants are SNAFFU members and the rest are at least cordial, so the opportunity generated a lot of excitement. Lori, with help from James and encouragement from others, soon had the whole thing wired for the next morning. Kudos also to Michael Bernstein for a quick presidential decision about renting the truck at SNAFFU's expense.

There are always some political discussions going on at a Vegrants meeting, though there are always concurrent, non-political topics in the air, too. After Bill Kunkel brought up the rift between the traditional conservatives and the neo-cons, talk drifted to the amazing revelation by Jed Bush that he has someone called Chang the Mystic Warrior inside his skull.

I wonder how this will affect Jed's Presidential hopes. Usually, people who have strange addi-



"Why aren't there more photos of JoHn Hardin in VFW?" ask his many friends and admirers. Here JoHn is showing modeling the lovely Corflu Blackjack tee-shirt.

nett, Joyce and....

tional personalities are under professional care, but you never know with Born Again Republicans.

How's this for a typically unlikely Vegrants meeting topic: the rise in peanut allergies among younger Americans. According to Laurie Kunkel, there's medical evidence that the allergy comes into the picture when new moms who are breast-feeding their infants continue to eat peanut butter and related products.

Making merry at the meeting were: Ross Chamberlain, James Taylor, Teresa Cochran, Bill & Laurie Kunkel, Lori Forbes, JoHn Hardin, Ayesha Ashley, Joelle Barnes, Rex Ben-

– Arnie Katz

FANDOM IS  
SO NEAT,  
SO NIFTY!



# NOW & Again Confessions of a Telemarketer

Yeah, bad enuf that I used to sell insurance – but, after retiring, I really went off the deep end. I became a telemarketeer!

Well, now, with a major difference. You're thinking of the phone ringing and there's someone at the other end who has The World's Greatest Deal!

Nope. Not me. I worked for a telemarketing firm where the people called me! (Or my employer, anyway.) Postcards containing 'winning numbers' went out saying: "You have won one of the prizes listed below! Call to claim your prize!"

Listed below the winning number was a mink coat, a 17 inch color TV, a \$1000 savings bond . . . and a new car! Now, they really gave away one car each year, two savings bonds, three TVs (since these cards went thru the mail, it was clear that the government would be watching, so they had to really give the things away). . . and lots and lots of mink coats!

What's the catch? (Naturally, there has to be a catch!)

The mink coats were real mink. . . bits and pieces sewn together in China. They told us (for our own info, not to be passed out) that they paid \$89 for each mink.

Well, y'say, still ain't bad – a free mink coat, bits-n-pieces or not. But then your skeptical side raises an eyebrow.

"Yes, sir; you have won a free mink coat! All you will need to do is give us \$149 dollars for insurance, shipping and handling, and it's yours."

"One-hundred-forty-nine-dollars?" It came out as one word.

"Of course! You wouldn't want us to send you an uninsured mink coat, would you? Now, if you would get out your credit card, we can send you your mink coat."

"Credit card? I was always told not to give my credit card information over the phone."

"Quite wise! However, when you call one of those TV offers, they

always ask for your credit card, don't they?"

"Well, yes, but. . . ."

"Do you use Visa or Mastercard?"

". . . Well, Visa."

"Please read the numbers slowly, so I don't make a mistake transcribing them." Of course, I was putting the number into one of those credit card machines, so we could be certain the card was valid – and, of course, certain we put it in correctly.

One reason I stayed with this outfit was that they told us to always answer all questions, don't lie, and take as long as necessary. Generally I would have a sale wrapped up in five minutes – but some sales took as much as fifteen. And another reason I stayed with them was they paid us \$300 a week for only five hours a day – and the hours, two til seven weekdays, two til five on Saturdays, fit in fine with my convenience store work – the midnight shift.

You might wonder why I kept two jobs, particularly when one paid so well for short hours.

'Cause I knew it wouldn't last! They were bound to run out of cards or mink coats or whatever before too many weeks passed by.

Now, in addition to \$300 a week, three top salesmen of the day got bonuses. The leader got an additional fifty, second place got twenty five, and third place an additional ten bucks.

At least three days a week I would be in first place.

We got the bonus (in cash, which was a bonus in another way) at the end of each day. After seven, the phones were turned off and we gathered around our leader (a really stacked blonde, by the way; no male would have any objection to gathering around her!) to see who got bonuses. (*Y'know, 'bonuses' just doesn't sound right. 'Bonus' seems like one of those words where the plural should end in 'I', or . . . 'ice'? Bonice???*) ANYway, the third or fourth time bonuses were handed out, our Leader Lady said, "I want to con-



gratulate Shelby. Hardly a day goes by he doesn't get a bonus! Shelby, how do you do it?"

'Unaccustomed as I am to public speaking...' But I take egoboo gladly. "I just go in expecting a sale," I said. "I use the old 'Ask questions you know they'll answer' routine. Ask their name, address, card number, etc. Then, while they're in the habit of agreeing, go in for the sale: 'Is this your correct address?' Then: 'Visa or MasterCard?'" I shrugged. "Assume they're buying, and they probably will."

Nobody applauded, but our Lady Leader smiled at me, and that (plus the cash!) was enuf.

Then they went to vitamins. Your card would say, "Buy our vitamins and you will win one of our prizes." Same list. Same routine. . .but, instead of paying \$149 shipping and handling, you paid \$89 for a year's supply of vitamins. (The year's supply cost us, we were told, \$19; \$70

profit on each sale!)

"I'll bet I can buy 'em all for \$29 at Wal-Marts!"

"Not all of them, sir. But, more importantly, those from super stores either have no expiry date on the label, or it's many years in the future. Our vitamins have only a one year expiry date, which is very important." (This was quite true.) Again, five minutes usually brought in a sale.

Ordinarily, our group would wrap up a hundred sales a day – or more! But as time went by, some began sloughing off, sales went down, and we were finally told they would have to close up shop.

From there, my spare time went into politics.  
— Shelby Vick

Next:

"I Was a Political Pollster!"

*Continued from page 2*

*"Everyone is welcome to join us for one or all of the activities."*

### **Who Sawed Joyce's Cast?**

The decorated cast that previously adorned Joyce Katz's right ankle is no more! At a Thursday (10/20) appointment with her surgeon, a personable medical technician removed her hard cast with a lethal-looking (but allegedly safe) electric saw. As he removed it, he marveled at the illustrations and quips. He said he thought casts like hers should be photographed and hung on the office walls and was pleased to know that we already had photos of it.

"Do you remember his name?" I asked Joyce.

"No," she said. "It's usually Peter, but he didn't do it this time. I didn't get the name."

"That's too bad," I replied.

Joyce must have noticed the crestfallen expression on my Sensitive Fannish Face, because she quickly added, "We could say it was Peter. Marcy [Waldie] knows him and she could back it up."

Reluctantly, I had to refuse her generous offer to fabricate the story. That kind of thing might be all right for lesser newszines like *Locus* or *Ansible*,

but that kind of thing doesn't go in *VFW*.

Never.

Well, except for when I told you about the rise and fall of Elk City Fandom or the night the voluptuous blonde space alien visited a SNAFFU meeting.

Oh, and there are several sections of *Gist of the Magicon* you might not want to take literally, either. Of course, that wasn't in *VFW*, which makes it totally irrelevant to the present discussion.

Dr. Morris, Joyce's orthopedic surgeon, had her issued a replacement for the cast, removable footwear known as a "cam boot." It is nothing like CamBot on *Mystery Science Theater 3000* and also doesn't seem to have the ability to take photographs of any sort.

That's very disappointing to me, but Joyce is quite thrilled with this development. Not only can she remove the cam-boot at night or for showers, but it means that she will soon be taking her first steps with the walker.

### **SNAFFU to Honor Vegas Fandom Weekly!**

Roxanne Gibbs has announced that SNAFFU will honor *Vegas Fandom Weekly* for one year of weekly publication at a special luncheon on Sunday, December 11 at 2:00 PM. Several locations



are under consideration by SNAFFU, the most likely being the Blue Ox.

According to the organizers, the club wants to celebrate VFW for its role in rejuvenating local Fandom and its service to the Las Vegas fan community.

The editor of VFW is blushing and grinning at the same time, but otherwise has no comment beyond a heartfelt “thank you” and the hope that as many fans as possible will be there to share the joy. (This is also likely to be Joyce’s first foray to a fan event outside our home since her ankle fusion surgery.)

### Las Vegas Fandom Halloween Party Revs Up For a Gala (and Spooky) Celebration!

The United Fans of Vegas, an ad hoc group representing all of the Las Vegas fan community has tapped relative newcomer James Willey as the host of this year’s Las Vegas Fandom Halloween Party. The traditional event, hosted for many years with flair and panache by Ken & Aileen Forman had fallen into disuse, but it certainly looks like James is going to bring it back as strong as ever.

Here’s the “official” bulletin about the party:

*“The Las Vegas Fandom Halloween Party will be taking place at the home of James Willey, Saturday October 29th, 2005 starting at 8:00 pm. This is a pot luck event. Further details will follow in the coming weeks.*

*“The following is a list of possible items you can bring:*

- \* Chips, salsa and dip: 7 layer dip - Sandra*
- \* Desserts: Cake-Roxanne; pies-Ruth*
- \* Vegetable tray: Black olives-*
- \* Cheese and crackers:*
- \* Finger foods:*

- \* Soda and Ice: SNAFFU*
- \* Dinner food:*
- \* Meats: smokies sausages-Roxanne*
- \* Casserole dishes: Burger/Mac-Rebecca*
- \* Salads: Chinese Cabbage Salad - April*
- \* Liquor — SNAFFU traveling bar will be available,*

*“BYOB and anything you would like to drink and / or add to bar (now's your chance to clean the liquor cabinet).*

### “Special Notes:

- \* There will be No Smoking of any sort in the house; a Tobacco smoking area will be provided outside.*
- \* Please RSVP by Saturday, the 22nd so that SNAFFU can supply enough drinks to go around.*
- \* We apologize for any inconvenience, but this will be an "Adults Only" party, it will not be a child-friendly event with some of the decor we are planning to provide.*
- \* Please e-mail Carol Kern <rhatany@earthlink.net> with your RSVP, questions, pot luck contribution, decoration contribution or if you can volunteer.”*

Any fans with Special Needs should contact Carol.

Unfortunately, Joyce’s physical condition won’t permit us to attend, but this well-prepared event deserves support — and it’s also likely to be a lot of fun.

### Heard Around Vegas (and Fandom)...

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Elaine Cochrane, home from the hospital following a double hernia operation. Now all she has to do is survive Bruce Gillespie’s nursing...

Bopper and Typo, the two cats owned by Bill & Laurie Kunkel, have both had medical problems in the last week. On the other hand, Bill reports that Typo has learned to play the guitar. We’ll be looking forward to him at the Vegas Music Circle...

Surgery for a C6 disk has temporarily post-

# Capt. Forbes & the Borders Horse! Taylor-Made

## Captain Forbes and the Borders Horse save the SNAFFU Library

It was a quiet night of drinking and eating in the common room of the Fannish Garrison of Nevada Sur when Captain Forbes came through the door with a burr under her saddle. Fresh Intelligence indicated that an unknown number of bookshelves would be gathering briefly the following morning at a certain outlying trading post.

The Fannish Garrison had been struggling for a long time with endless roadblocks and diversions to the planned move of the precious SNAFFU Library to a new facility after it's forced relocation from it's long time home . The greatest of these roadblocks was the lack of bookshelves or the funds to procure bookshelves. The Intelligence was sketchy as to number of bookshelves and what cooperation from the Natives could be expected, but the opportunity was too good to pass on.

Within minutes Captain Forbes had Corporal Hardin hard at work finding the necessary Bookshelf Transportation Vehicle (BTV), then she began to gather the Borders Horse for the mission. Some could not be reached in the short time available, like Sgt. Thornton, Lt. Cochran who is on leave or like the Ruiz Patrol who would not be able to return from the Outlands in time. Col. Bernstein and Major Gibbs could not free themselves from other responsibilities but aided in the rallying of the Horse and facilitated the procurement of the BTV.

Being an experienced leader Captain Forbes sent everyone to their bunks once a plan was in place. The Borders Horse is a veteran outfit and could be relied on to be

ready at the trading post at 8:00 am. Some leaders would have stayed up all night drafting contingency plans and pondering the unknowable fate coming with sunrise, but not Captain Forbes. A plan in place, she went to her quarters and to bed. The morning found First Sergeant Bushyager and Doc scouting out the trading post and vicinity while awaiting the arrival of the Capitan and Padre with the B.T.V.. Loading commenced with their arrival. After a brief hesitancy the natives volunteered to help and the BTV was soon full. The Padre, First Sargent and Doc lead the convoy with Capitan Forbes next, personally driving the BTV and yours truly acting as rearguard. In due course we arrived at the new HOME of the SNAFFU Library where we were greeted by members of the Corps of Veterans already in place.

Captain Forbes and the Padre saw the unloading of the BTV through but then had to leave to take up their regular duties. But Veteran Katz and First Sergeant Bushyager saw to it that the transfer was completed with a minimum of fuss.

While this effort was completed successfully the campaign has barely started. Many more days of hard work lay ahead as the bookshelves are made ready for the enshelvement of the SNAFFU Library. So despair not! You may have missed this splendid little adventure, but there is plenty of work still to be done. And all the members of the Borders Horse will be needed.

Yours,  
Pvt. James Taylor  
F (Towner Laney) Troop  
Borders Horse

poned Marc Cram's return to Las Vegrants. Get well soon Mr. Palindrome. We're looking forward to your return...

Marcy Waldie has been a bit quiet lately, mostly because she's engaged in the epic struggle

to help move Las Vegas College. Apparently, the school believes that all its teachers have minors in furniture moving.

Richard Brandt is in Las Vegas this weekend. He was here to meet a friend, so he probably

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won't have a chance to do any visiting. Maybe next time.

### **ChatBack: The VFW Letter Column**

*The letter column is percolating nicely, so let's bring it to a boil without further delay.*

*Leading the charge this week is a recent addition to the ChalBack roster and one of England's foremost active fans...*

### **Mark Plummer**

An interesting point (Katzenjammer), that the increased longevity of a fan 'career' goes some way towards offsetting the relative absence of younger fans.

I never knew a fandom where the centre was 'high school and college age boys'. My instinct -- unbacked by anything serious like research -- tells me that these days most active UK fanzine editors fall in the 30-50 age bracket, and most of those are clumped towards the middle of that span.

There are a few people in their twenties, but -- and I think this is interesting in the light of your comments about 'venerables like Earl Kemp and Marty Cantor' -- very few who are older than fifty: while talking about this with Claire we could only come up with three people, all of whom are only

just over the line. British venerables do not publish.

Now granted I'm specifically talking about \*editors\* here, and specifically active editors by which I mean people who have produced fanzines at some point in the last year or so and who might be reasonably assumed to do so again, but I think it's maybe interesting that the older fans -- including a lot of the returnees -- aren't actually producing fanzines of their own unlike some of their US opposite numbers. For the returnees in particular, the lists seem to be where it's at now.

I wonder exactly which TAFF rules Peter Sullivan has been looking at to deduce that he's not eligible for an east-west race until 2010. As it so happens, he's not eligible to run until 2008, but only because the nominations for the 2006 east-west race have just closed and 2007 will presumably see a west-east trip. Having said that, I'm generally in sympathy with his 'reach for [my] flexible friend" and go' approach, although I guess that's at least in part because I can afford it.

*Arnie: The "venerable" generation in UK Fandom has, historically, been less committed to fanzine production than, say, the group that came before them. Yet some of the newer British fans seem very much into fanzines, so perhaps this is something that will change with the passage of*

time. After all, it wasn't that long ago when it was rare to find a fanzine editor in the US who was over 40.

Meaning no insult to any of the east-west TAFF candidates, I wish the timing had been different for Peter Sullivan, whom I would love to meet sooner rather than later.

Sticking with the international theme, it's time for one of the true stalwart letterhacks in today's Fandom...

### Lloyd Penney

Two more issues of *Vegas Fandom Weekly*, 46 and 47. The Great Garcia-Katz Race continues!

46... Good to see that the happy asylum is getting more inmates, and others are being re-committed. We've love to join you folks some time, but getting to Vegas is always the tough part.

I like the fact that some people are asking for recommendations on what fan-

#### Help Needed

Since Joyce and I can't attend the Halloween Party (10/29), VFW needs someone to write it up — and a few photos would be much appreciated. Email me if you're willing.

zines are good to read. I won't make recommendations; such preferences are extremely subjective. Besides, I want a look at them all, and that's one big reason I respond to them all. I want to see what people are thinking, and what they're writing about, and what they're doing. I can understand the Mainspring's opinion of FOSFAX... that's the only current fanzine going I don't want.

Seeing Randy Byers' article on the Seattle pubmeet reminds me that when it's time for Corflu next May, it will start the day after Toronto's First Thursday. Corflu Toronto will take place May 5-7, 2006, and First Thursday is the 4th. Must get the word out, and that will make a great

article all on its own. I know the fans in Vancouver, and if you're going to talk about a World-con in

## Potshot's Cartoon Theater



Vancouver, you'd better be glad the Strait of Juan de Fuca separates you from them.

46 days without food? Impossible for me. More like 46 minutes in my court. Arnie, if Joyce is fandom's Gracie Allen, you know what that makes you...may you make it to 100 yourself!

47...Looks like you impressed Chris Garcia a lot. It is difficult to welcome strangers sometimes, and I won't go into the obvious line.

I guess Marty Cantor is busy with LASFS publications, because I haven't seen an issue of his fanzine in some years now. Such classic smartassery is missed, Marty, gentle hint...

We're hoping that Chris Garcia may be able to make it up to Corflu and Toronto next year. Chris and Yvonne will soon be trading information back and forth about, hold your breath...a Hawaiian smoking jacket. And you people complain about my shirts. We all know where the complaints should really go.

Joshua Andrews moving from Vegas to Winnipeg? That's quite the move. I wonder what's in Winnipeg waiting for him, or should I warn Winnipeg fandom that he's on the way?

Most of you know that Thanksgiving in Canada comes about six weeks early, so we had our Thanksgiving just this past weekend, on October 10. The usual turkey, ham, etc., and we had 15 of our closest friends over to celebrate and party, especially those who had nowhere to go for Thanksgiving. We all brought a little, which means we all had a lot.

In my loc here, I mention another returning fan... that's none other than Mike Glicksohn, who will be wanting as many paper fanzines as he can handle as of June of 2006. The warning is out there, and I will be making Mike a hitlist of zine editors to pester for a copy. He says he'll give me lots of competition...well, this will mean two letters from Toronto in the locol.

*Arnie: Once Joshua crosses the border, he becomea a Canadian fan – and your problem.*

*Mike Glicksohn about to*

return? That's great, but why the obsession with paper fanzines? More and more titles are essentially electronic, including everything Chris Garcia and I are doing. C'mon, Glicksohn, explain yourself!

*Here's what I believe may be the writer's first letter of comment to a non-N3F publication...*

### Ruth Davidson

First, I must say, I was absolutely *floored* when I saw the way Arnie corrected his credit error in *VFW* 46. I was touched, and amazed. I expected a quick little blurb in the credit section, not something so spectacular. Thank you so much Arnie!

Second, I had the urge to download all *VFW*'s that ever were! No, I didn't read every single one word for word, but I did skim and read lots. *VFW* has certainly come a long way, from 2 pages to anywhere from 10 to 16! That's pretty darn good. And in a few weeks, *VFW* will have been in production for a whole year! I smell another celebration in our midst.

Third, (hey, why am I numbering this stuff?) Arnie is correct that there are similarities between Anime fans and SF/F fans. They even have "wars" similar to *Star Wars* vs, *Star Trek*. And then, of course, there are the wackos, the normals, and the inbetweens, etc.. Just like in Fandom, only with a different flavor. While they generally don't have traditional fanzines for that genre (I think I'm the only one who does at [www.sffamoc.net](http://www.sffamoc.net)), they have fansites.

That leads to this comment. Many youth do not engage in traditional fanzine fandom, but create fansites instead. Many of the same elements are there. Event announcements, reports, commentary, editorials, art, reviews, articles, humor, etc.. Some are really great, some are awful.

I'm really bad about writing LoC's, which is almost hypocritical of me since I love getting them myself. So, I've decided that by the end of the



year, every fanzine that I read on a regular or semi-regular basis will be receiving an LoC from me. Look forward to it, or be surprised.

*Arnie: At the risk of driving you crazy, what I did is an expression of The Fannish Way. It may have more merit than you at first perceived.*

*My point about Anime Fandom is that it is the kind of subculture that attracts teenage fanzine fans the way SF Fandom did at one time. And, yes, I definitely think web sites are an important expression of contemporary fanzine fanac. I hope everyone is regularly visiting Victor Gonzalez's Trufen.net; it's a terrific piece of fanac.*

*And now, a leading candidate for "Best Vegas Neofan of 2006," with a short, but intriguing, note...*

### **Teresa Cochran**

Thanks for the discussion of sandboxes. I make a habit of staying well clear of them. They have mean kids and some of the bigger sandboxes even have quicksand.

There are so many other people and things to play with outside the sandboxes that are so much more fun ...

*Arnie: Block that metaphor! I only invoked the sandbox as a symbol of a small, interrelated community (like Las Vegas Fandom. I could've compared it to a village, a summer camp or many other things. My point is that every subculture has a social contract and that, when one or more individuals ignore or violate that contract, the rest of the populace may not look upon them with kindness.*

*Rising from his Bed of Pain comes the BArea's reigning Publishing Giant with a most welcome addition to ChatBack...*

### **Chris Garcia**

I'm being chased by the spirit of NyQuil, so I mustn't dawdle (dawdle? Dahdel? I have no idea how to spell it). Evelyn has a fever and it's trying to get me too, but I'm fighting like Jet Li to stay out of its grasp.

Pete Sullivan gets his own column! Excellent! If there's a Best New Fan FAAn award this year, I'm voting for him, Geneva Melzack and

Niall Harrison. All Brits. Why am I the only American coming to this world? Well, except for half the people in SNAPS. In fact, they're pretty good too.

Nice to see that wonderful conversation about All Known Fandom in print. I certainly hope Fandom is a meritocracy, but at times it's more of an old boys club. Not that that's a bad thing, sometimes. There are times when people who aren't deserving are well-awarded, and other times when people who are worthy aren't recognized as such by many of those who just aren't in their age bracket or scope of fanac. It happens almost every year after the Hugos are announced. It would be nice if more of fandom read fanzines, and with eFanzines.com that's far more possible than ever before, but people will still be voting for a name that's familiar for some reason or another.

The one thing that's never really changed in fandom and has been greatly helped by the growth of Giant Fandom, is The Fan In Need concept. I've seen it with my own eyes. A Star Trek fan is being evicted. He puts up a Craigslist ad and he's got himself a place to stay with a bunch of Trek fans for a month or two. That happened to a friend of mine. I've seen it time and again and it's one of the things that I love about fandom. It's a safety blanket that watches the same TV shows as you do! (OK, I stole that line)

I had a paragraph here, but it didn't make any sense, so I deleted it in a moment of clarity. It's almost sleepy time.

Bragging rights are always around, and I'm not above it. I want to be able to say that I've put out the most issues of a crudzine in a single year! I might just make it.

It's always great to read ShelVY. This edition was even better than the last! I'm excited to see that he's gonna keep us running with it and I'll get to read him!

Glad to hear that Alan got good news. The art of treating various cancers is getting more and more advanced. Even my Dad, who at one time was given 6 weeks to live, has managed to go back to work and even stopped by the museum for a visit and is doin' good. It gives me hope.

We should have done an hourly fanzine, which would have been a compilation of our minute-by-minute zine! I'm also glad for Eric's plug

for my Mayoral Campaign!

Must sleep. I'm still fighting the fever that I can see knocking on my forehead. Only sleep is knocking louder.

*Arnie: I think "dawdle" will do the trick. Coincidentally, my first published prozine letter of comment, in Fantastic I think, turned on the fact that one of the authors spelt the synonym for evidence "clews" instead of the more familiar US "clues."*

*The idea of Fandom as a Meritocracy can only be properly understood within the context that awards and honors are essentially meaningless. What really counts is what you produce, your feeling about your fanac and the respect of fans whom you respect. The critical judgments of worldcon members who have never seen most fanzines and have little basis to judge those they have seen-meaning zero to me. A few egoboosting words from Bob Tucker... priceless.*

*Guilt runs riot in another hilarious LoC from a resurgent fan...*

### **Richard Lupoff**

I really, r-e-a-l-l-y want to send you a nice meaty loc but I'm up to my ears in professional-type obligations, and I guess I'm actually a filthy pro at heart as I tend to give such things priority over fannish matters.

Oh, the guilt, the shame!

As I was saying to Earl Kemp recently, I tried to retire when I reached age sixty-five, but it didn't take. Tried again when I hit seventy. Still no luck. I discovered that when I stopped running after editors and publishers pleading with them to buy my stuff, they started chasing me pleading for stories, books, articles, interviews, reviews.

As of now, I've had one book published this year and one more scheduled for 2005, three for 2006, and several more as soon as I get around to writing them. (I should live so long!) Plus a dozen or more short stories slotted for various magazines or anthologies, a regular column on writing, et and also cetera.

H-E-E-E-L-P M-E-E-E !!!!!

*Arnie: Joyce says I'm semi-retired, but only my income tax statement reflects that status. Editors and publishers are running after nee for work,*

*except that in my case, too many of them want it for free.*

*And, Dick, I am really glad that you're taking some time out from those pro obligations to get with your old friends in Fandom. You've been missed and your return is cause for jubilation here at VFW.*

*Shelby Vick's new column is the main subject of this letter from another beloved VFW columnist -- and when is the next installment coming...*

### **Bill Wright**

Keep sending me VFW. Responses may be sporadic but I do read them all. I was interested in Shelby Vick's 'Confessions of an Insurance Agent' in VFW #48 because I spent my entire working life – forty-seven years of it - as an insurance clerk and a fan. Not, mind you, in seamless harmony one with another but in two mutually exclusive compartments.

Emerging from boarding school in the mid-1950s, I found myself in the renewals department of a large life insurance office very like the Metropolitan Life of New York mausoleum so ably described by Shelby Vick. My ambition then was to join the lords of creation who accounted for premiums but for twelve long years of apprenticeship I had to labour on the lowest rung, which consisted of pulling punched cards out of one tray and filing them into another. As you can imagine, that had a deleterious effect on both my eyesight and my personality. Science fiction was my refuge from those horrors, but SF magazines and books were hard to find. The Melbourne Science Fiction Club (founded by Race Mathews in 1951 and continued courtesy of Mervyn Binns who provided its club rooms and nurtured its library) drew damaged souls like moths to a flame. I warmed myself in its glow through to the 1980s when I gafiated. My myriad interests continued at arms length one from another which, in retrospect, I see as a form of insanity. In 1996 a mature age rush of common sense propelled me back into fandom.

Shelby's article reminded me of details of my early working life that I didn't notice at the time but are now seen to have significance in relation to Shelby's experiences. Shelby was an Industrial agent who, street by street, collected premium

from householders in his assigned territory. My company also ran an Industrial department. In 1957 a collecting agent reported a five-fold increase in new business. The 1950s was the era of stay-at-home Mums and he had organised a competition offering status to whichever household bought the most life insurance. I kid you not when I say that competition was fierce as to who would be named Queen of the Street.

Before and during WWII the company ran a nursing service offering free home nursing to Industrial policyholders. It was a great selling point, but fell in a heap with the post-war professional status accorded to nurses and consequent escalation of costs. The cruel irony of the situation was that many Industrial policyholders were under the mistaken impression that their whole-life policies would provide home nursing services in their old age.

Instead, post war community affluence and the increasing scope and efficiency of social banking made collectors redundant and the Industrial department was closed. Under the Industrial regime, as Shelby points out, overdue premiums resulted in a policy being automatically made paid up for a reduced sum insured. When my company's Industrial policies were transferred to the Ordinary department (loosely defined as all policies that remain after some are put into separate administrative categories), those with premium arrears were not made paid up and, instead, arrears of premium were accumulated without interest and deducted from the sum insured when the policy is paid out on maturity or on prior death of the life insured. The company figured that the cost of foregoing interest on premium debts was miniscule compared with the administrative cost of billing for premiums of less than a dollar a week.

During the 1950s and early 60s, I worked in a granite and marble palace as ornate as Shelby's New York office. It killed people when it was built in the nineteenth century for - believe it or not - Mutual Life of New York, and it killed more people when it was torn down in 1962 to make way for Melbourne's second state-of-the-art glass house. In the 1990s my company was demutualised, reengineered and corporatised. Then it was taken over by a bank, which unloaded non-performing assets including the glass house. Then



the new owners discovered that the glass house was riddled with asbestos. One of the things I like about the Australian Finance Sector Union is that I am on its register should I ever exhibit symptoms of asbestosis and require compensation.

Mundane institutions such as my former employer may have fallen, but Melbourne's core fannish institutions are exhibiting healthy marks of permanence consistent with their much more *really real* status. I refer, of course, to the Melbourne Science Fiction Library begun by Mervyn Binns in the 1950s and the Nova Mob, an SF-oriented literary discussion group founded by the late John Foyster in 1970. Nowadays, monthly meetings of the Nova Mob constitute Melbourne's major fannish activity in, I should imagine, much the same wise as the Vegas Science Fiction Association is the milieu in which Las Vegas fans live and move and have their being.

*Arnie: Back when I was a neo (but after that German fan Gutenberg introduced movable type), biographies of science fiction authors always emphasized the array of wildly different jobs they'd held enroute to sfinal celebrity. Although I have*

*done a huge number of different things as a writer, I've only worked a few non-writing jobs. I'm just not that good at anything else besides writing and editing, I guess.*

*A recent addition to ChatBack, but an old friend of mine, has several interesting points to make in a fresh LoC...*

### **Hank Luttrell**

Thanks for another great fanzine. I find it a rather overwhelming that you can create this much material every week. Well, almost every week.

When I wrote that I thought Bea Mahaffey was a great editor, I meant her, I didn't mean to type Ray Palmer. Palmer was clearly some kind of strange genius as well, but I remain convinced that Mahaffey brought her own considerable talents to the collaboration.

I really can't know for sure, of course. I'm actually too young to have a good understanding of all of this. I didn't start reading and collecting older science fiction magazines until the mid-sixties. But at that point I started buying as many as I could afford, mostly mail order from Richard Minter -- I mowed lawns and helped deliver newspapers! I can't say exactly why I think this about Mahaffey, it must be just some impression that I have from reading all those old magazines, and also from reading the comments and notes by many writers who contributed to the Amherst magazines, who frequently mentioned their relationship with or debt to Bea Mahaffey.

When I moved to Madison, Wisconsin in the early 70's, Palmer was still alive and active a bit north of here, as a job printer and (as always) an eccentric small publisher. I loved hearing stories about what he was up to! I became acquainted with a young fellow who worked in Palmer's shop during those last year's of his life. Soon, however, he passed away and Amherst Press was purchased by some folks who distanced themselves from what we booksellers call "nut books" (well, I do anyway), and started publishing cook books and things like that. Then, only a few years ago I was reading a new sf novel by a young writer who used the name "Bea Mahaffey" as a character. My first thought was that this guy isn't old enough to remember her work! I found his website and

dropped him an email, inquiring about the character's name, and he replied that after Palmer's death, Mahaffey had moved to Cincinnati and provided him with considerable encouragement and inspiration in his efforts to become a science fiction writer.

*Arnie: Like you, I'm too young to make that evaluation from first-hand knowledge of either Palmer or Mahaffey. It seemed to me that Palmer's personality was so colorful and charismatic that he overshadowed everything else in Other Worlds, but readily concede that Bea may've been the steady hand behind all that bombast.*

*Here with more about the age demographics of Fandom is another of those dandy de-gafiates who enliven fanzines so much these days...*

### **David Burton**

Lots of interesting comments about the "graying of fandom" and the lack of young blood in *VFW 48*. By chance I was browsing through the few copies of *Hyphen* that are online at fanac.org, and ran across the following portion of a LoC by Dave Ish in *Hyphen #5* (1953):

"Another thing about Seventh Fandom that strikes me as being a definite defect is the youthfulness of it as a group. With the lone exception of Dean Grennel (sic), I don't think there's a fan in it that can legally drink a glass of beer. Youth is a fine thing, but what Seventh Fandom needs is more people with youth behind them and a tendency to reminisce. Seventh Fandom is full of people just finding out about life and about themselves, and uttering concepts that are new to them, but unfortunately old hat to the 30 year old.

"I haven't got anything against people who discover themselves and think it's pretty wonderful and form a general philosophy of life. Hell, I do that myself. It's just that when you have a predominance of it in fandom, it's as bad as completely living in the past as fellows like Gernsback do. A balance has to be struck, and there aren't enough older fans to do it.

"There aren't enough fans who have had experience enough in life to view things objectively and say 'so what?' when somebody makes a statement at right-angles with his beliefs. There are too



*Vick, et al), the antics of Peter Vorzimmer and his pals may have been a little tough to take. We might well find that we feel the same about a horde of pubescent neos.*

*Let's make some room for one of the sweetest of the Chatback writers, the belle of social...*

### **Laurraine Tutihasi**

I'm glad to hear that Joyce is doing so well. Too bad I can't be in Vegas to see those whip marks myself. Also glad to hear Alan is also doing well.

Today I spent almost four hours at the Veterinary Cancer Clinic with our cat Shadow. Add in two hours of commute time and ... Unfortunately the ultrasound held bad news. We have stopped the chemotherapy, as it is obvious that it wasn't helping or not helping enough. It is now just a matter of time. To try to make Shadow's last months (weeks or whatever) as comfortable as possible, he will be

many young fans that scurry around writing furtive little articles, forever clarifying their points. There are too many fans that can't take it easy, but have to put out top drawer stuff and bootstrap themselves to BNFdom, instead of doing it graciously and quietly as Hoffman did. It's no longer a case of "This is a fanzine, if you like it .. fine: if you don't .. read someone else's." It's now "This is my fanzine --isn't it terrific!" It's a bandwagon with too many people wanting to jump on. It's a bandwagon that's headed for oblivion at a high rate of speed, pushed by too-eager fans. We need a few older fans to slow it down."

What a difference a scant 53 years makes, eh?

*Arnie: While the age of members of "Phony Seventh" was often mentioned, as in this Hyphen letter (by a fan who was pretty young himself, I believe), I think a lot of the objection was to the relative immaturity of those fans more than to their chronological age. Coming right after the mature and urban Sixth Fandom (Hoffman, Willis,*

seeing a homeopathic vet. She gave him an acupuncture treatment today and gave me all sorts of instructions for feeding him more healthful food. He will be eating better than I.

The Kunkels' problem reminds me of a power outage we had earlier year. It took the power company over twenty-four hours to fix. On their web site, it says that if it takes over a day to fix an outage, except in an emergency, we are due a certain amount in refund. When I tried to collect it, I was told the situation had been an emergency. Well, the weather couldn't have been at fault, since it had stopped raining a few days before. Their phone message described it as an equipment malfunction. And as far as we could tell, the outage covered only a few blocks. I complained to the state Public Utilities Commission, and we were given the refund. I don't know if any of our neighbours' got the refund. Maybe the only ones to get it are the ones who complain.

I am one of those organized fen you think are

## Las Vegas Fan Event Calendar

**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 station'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 Vegas Fandom Halloween Party** 8:00 PM

All Las Vegas Fandom unites for a wild Halloween celebration at the home of James Willey.

**Las Vegrants Meeting** November 5 7:30 PM

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

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

Club business and socializing are the main features when one of Las Vegas' busiest fan groups gets together at the Clark County 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.

**SNAFFU** November 11 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.

**LV Futurists** November 11 8:00 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

so rare. I've had to reorder my priorities many times, but I think I'm close to perfect now. Of course, stuff still happens. By being organized, though, I find I accomplish more things in a more timely manner. On the other hand, I still want to do more and am still looking for one of those watches that stops time.

*Arnie: I fall somewhere in the middle between the Highly Organized and the Totally Chaotic. I like to have things in good order, but sometimes my laziness overcomes this desire quite thoroughly. And sometimes, the muse calls and must be answered no matter how messy the desk looks.*

### **Time to Go**

But I'll be back next week with news, Shelby Vick, Dick Lupoff and, I hope, all those great LoCs you are about to write to *Vegas Fandom Weekly*. — Arnie Katz

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... and a *ton* of news.