

VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

Vegas Fan Events This Week

SNAFFU Meeting
Saturday (11/19) 7:30 PM

SNAFFU/VSFA Dinner & a Movie
Sunday (11/20) 11:00 AM

Sunday Social
Sunday (11/20) 2:00 PM

SNAPS Deadline
Sunday 10:00 PM

*Check out the Calendar
and preview stories*

Vegas Fandom Weekly Wraps Up First Year!

This is the final issue of *VFW*'s first year of publication. (There were 52 weekly issues, plus one extra for a major con report.)

Thank you all for your support. I hope *Vegas Fandom Weekly* will continue to be worthy of your attention.

Next issue, #54, will be the First Annish. It will be a collection of some of the best non-news contributions of the year, plus an index to Volume One.

There'll also be a regular issue, so send that news, contribution,

artwork or letter of comment. In fact, you can send several of those things if you are so inclined.

VSFA/SNAFFU Slate Joint Movie Event!

Vegas' two formal science fiction clubs have decided that now is as good a time as any to live up to the community's motto, "The Fandom of Good Cheer," by uniting for a movie event this coming (11/20) Sunday.

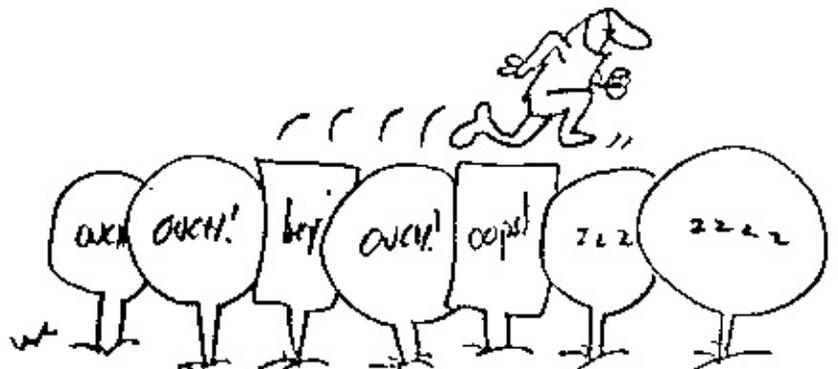
Mindy Hutchings and Linda Bushyager have put together a movie outing to see *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*. The idea is to use the "dinner and a movie" format — with dinner being the November Sunday Social.

The film starts at 11:15 AM, so fans will gather at the theater at 11:00 AM or a little earlier.

Widner Plans Vegrants Return!

Art Widner plans to be among the revelers when the Vegrants gather for another of their twice-monthly meetings. The club has drawn extremely well in recent months, averaged 15-20 fans at the invitational fanzine fan club's regular meetings on the first and third Saturdays of each month.

According to Earl Kemp, Art is presently visiting an ailing Jack Speer in Albuquerque. He expects to return home by the route that will take



Inside Story

Growing Pains

Several items *Vegas Fandom Weekly* published back in October — times flies when you're having weekly deadlines — about frictions in Las Vegas Fandom occasioned considerable out-of-town comment. Vegas Fandom's strong tradition of easy-going co-operation and morbid curiosity prompted more than one well known fan to wonder whether the fan world should brace for fireworks (or at least reserve good seats to observe the carnage).

I don't think it's going to happen, so connoisseurs of fan feuds will probably have to look elsewhere. Las Vegas Fandom, like every local Fandom, is extremely heterogeneous in attitudes toward and degree of participation in that nebulous entity called Fandom. We have a disproportionate number of neofans at the moment, some of whom have not gotten a real handle on the subculture yet, and that will lead to mistakes, miscalculations and hurt feelings.

It was ever thus. Vegas Fandom has always had such fits and glitches, but the fans who caused the problems had no contact with the rest of you. We didn't mention 'em in *Wild Heirs* much, because we didn't care that much about these troublemakers, but they existed.

The most noticeable thing about fans on both sides of current frictions is that they are all nice people who genuinely want things to work out for the benefit of the entire fan community. Some may not understand how to achieve that goal, but there are remarkably few locals who are anything but intelligent and well-meaning.

A good example is the VSFA-SNAFFU joint event this coming Sunday. The movie outing and the Sunday Social will likely make both elements better and create a whole day of entertaining local fanac for those who attend both. Kudos to both groups.

— Arnie

him through Las Vegas and hopes to hit Glitter City in time for the meeting. (*My report on the last meeting can be found elsewhere in this issue.*)

Cochran Dethrones Fuller in SNAPS!

Charles Fuller's streak as the first contributor in SNAPS distributions will end with the November Distribution, the group's eighth monthly collection. Although Charles did submit his contribution

to official editor Joyce Katz as far in advance of the deadline as usual, Teresa Cochran got her SNAPS fanzine in even earlier. As a result, Tee will have her SNAPSzine first in the bundle and Charles will have to content himself with having the *second* contribution in the group's 8th Distribution.

The Southern Nevada Amateur Press Associa-

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Vegas Fandom Weekly #53, Nivenber 17 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), David Gordon (Futurists liaison) and Joyce Katz (proofreading).

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Art/Photo Credits: Ray Nelson (3, 16), Alan White (4,5), all else by Bill Rotsler.

Columnists This Issue: Richard Lupoff, 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 efanzines.com. No unrepentant Trufans 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 Golden Age

Katzenjammer

*Boy the way that Willis wrote
Remember White got Eney's Goat
What became of Prentice Choate?
Those were the days!*

*Back when fen were really fen
We each had a fanning den
Listen people, we could use a fan
Like Harry Warner again!
— Arnie Katz (secret filker)*

Nostalgia is a popular theme in Fandom. Today's fans, most of whom are a lot closer to social security than to puberty, will go into rhapsodies about some alleged "Golden Age" of Fandom at the spin of a propeller beanie. (See? Even I occasionally dabble in antiquated references.)

The first question any newer fan must ask is, "Was there a Golden Age of Fandom?" A wit once suggested that the Golden Age of Science Fiction is "12" — or whatever year you first read the stuff — but no one has made a similarly authoritative pronouncement on the Golden Age of Fandom. That leaves us free to analyze, contemplate, theorize and generally make it up as we go along. (OK, as *I* go along.)

At the risk of seeming derivative, I think each fan's golden age is two-to-five years before they got into Fandom. It's like the Old Fishing Hole (says the Old Brooklyn Boy). You shouldda been here yesterday when they were *really* biting; today, it's not nearly as good, but you shouldda been here then!"

Strangely, few fans pick their formative years in Fandom as a Golden Age. By analogy with that facetious statement about SF's Golden Age, you'd think a lot of fans would enshrine their neofan days. After all, most fans have a soft spot for their early fannish years and the backlog of superb fanstuff that awaits every newcomer can make Fandom seem especially rich during those initial two or three years.

I think the reason more fans don't succumb to this temptation is that they are only too aware of their own role and status during their neofan period. Who wants to say, "It was a Golden Age, though of course, I stunk and said and did lots of things I now find callow and foolish."

So, surveying the 75 years of recorded fanhistory, is there one span of years that qualifies as a Golden Age? Objectively, there are quite a few periods that have the credentials. Subjectively, which one is the Golden Age depends more on the individual fans in-



terests and attitudes than on the eras themselves.

If you are a red hot science fiction fan, for instance, you might select the mid-1930's or the mid-to-late 1960's as the golden Age, because discussion of science fiction and fantasy reached peaks of excitement at those times.

Someone who inclines toward the Trufannish view of things will almost surely pick the early 1950's, when Hoffman, Vick, Keasler and Willis were establishing that philosophy's ideals or the early- and mid-1990's, when Las Vegas and Seattle led Fanzine Fandom back from post-Bergeron War burn-out and Joe Siclari chaired the Fannishly memorable Magicon.

If sheer literary excellence is the measure, many would favor 1958-1962 as the Golden Age. Great fanzines such as *Hyphen*, *Void*, *Fanac*, *Innuendo*, *Xero*, *Warhoon* and *Grue* offered some of the finest writing and art ever seen in Fandom.

In other words, there are quite a few periods that are *some* fan's idea of a Golden Age. Which particular Golden Age depends on the predilections of the fan making the choice.

In fact, Fandom shows no signs of running out of Golden Ages. With the increase in the size of Core Fandom and the greater ease of electronic publishing, we could be on the verge of one right now.

And some day, maybe a decade or two from now, more than one fan reading *VFW* right now could be looking back nostalgically at the "Oh-Oh"s as one of Fandom's Golden Ages. — Amie

Las Vegrants Widner & the Gang

A long drive from California got special guest Art Widner to the Launch Pad a little later than expected, 5:30 PM, on Saturday, but



A happy Art Widner, caught telling a BNGicent story.

that just made him the first to arrive for the night's (11/5) meeting of Las Vegrants. The initial confusion surrounding his visit caused us a little worry, as evidenced by the wanted poster on the front page of *VFW #52*, but Art arrived in robust health and good humor, especially for someone who'd spent the day behind the steering wheel.

The paint job on Art's car drew a lot of admiring looks. It's visually unique, semi-3-D graphic scheme based on Australian aboriginal art.

Art lost no time proving that he was in top form with a couple of hilarious anecdotes involving the N3F. My favorite was his account of meeting damon knight and Kate Wilhelm at a convention. Damon looked up, saw Art and introduced him

to his fellow science fiction author as "the guy who helped me start the silliest organization in the world."

James Taylor and Teresa Cochran arrived about an hour early, as planned, to help set-up for the evening's festivities. They even made a small shopping trip for Joyce to acquire two necessities not available at our home-delivery supermarket — Tab and kitchen matches.

And just as I was bragging about Vegas' plethora of neofans, invited guest Joelle Barnes came in the front door, also ready to give Joyce some assistance. I don't know how we'd have continued to hold Vegrants and other get-togethers through Joyce's convalescence with the help of these three, Merric & Luba Anderson, Alan & DeDe White, Su Williams and Ray & Marcie Waldie..

With preparations well along, I returned to the living room to find Joelle complaining about her current apartment and Teresa trying to get her to consider doing something rather than waiting for the ideal luxury that is well beyond her financial reach. Much as I admire her determination to Aim High, Joelle might consider the value of some improvement in her living conditions now rather than staying in a place she hates with no reason to think she will *ever* be able to afford that Ultimate Apartment.

Art brought bottles of sparkling wine and single malt Scotch with him. We shared out the former and left the latter for such discriminating palates as James Taylor and Art himself.

The always surprising David Gordon provided yet another reason for happiness over his recent return to the Vegrants when he arrived with a *home-made*



Joyce Katz listens intently.

lemon cake. Asked what had inspired this unprecedented excursion into culinary performance, David quipped: “I had the two ‘B’s — a bundt pan and boredom!”

Merric and Luba were understandably excited about their new house. It’s a two-storey, four-bedroom job less than 20 minutes from the Launch Pad. Merric seems especially enthusiastic about doing some entertaining in the house’s large living room room, so the Andersons’ relocation may bring forth another local host.

James expressed surprise when Luba took a tiny piece of pie instead of the usual, fan-sized portion. (Fandom’s food code seems to be that if you can carry it off, you can eat it. And if you can’t carry it off, you can gnaw on it where it sits until you *can* carry it off.) I pointed out to James that there might be a correlation between the size of the slice and the fact that the diminutive (4’11”) Luba is probably in the best shape of any Vegas fan.

Art told Ross Chamberlain, Teresa, James and me about living with Francis Towner Laney. He explained that things went downhill after Art’s wife and kids showed up unannounced and moved in with the Laney’s, too. Cele got Fran to get the Widners to depart within the month.

Laney’s homophobia came up for discussion. Art is of the opinion, which I largely share, that Laney was from a fairly rustic background and was really only antagonistic with flamboyant predators who cruised LASFS’ 12-14-year-old young fan. I asked Art about Laney’s friendship with such fay fans as James Kepner and he said he doubted that Laney was even aware of his friends’



A croggled look steals over the face of John DeChancie.

gender preferences.

David lit up noticeable when he heard for the first time, from Merric and Luba, about informal SF cons that are basically weekend-long sex parties. I wasn’t sure if David’s interest was quite as strong as it seemed or if, possibly, he was having a little extra fun with Joelle. He’d press Merric for some new piece of information and each revelation seemed to rock her. (Joelle is very resilient, though, and I expect to see her at the next Vegrants meeting, to which she has been invited.)

John DeChancie, who has written at least a couple of dozen

books, and I acquainted David with the economic realities of writing SF and fantasy. John was especially scornful of news reports of “six-figure deals” for SF novels and contended that few, actually reach such stratospheric numbers.

The frivolity continued until quite late, even for a Vegrants meeting. Quite a few fans were still there at 1:30 AM and I didn’t batten things down to go to bed until close to 2:30 AM.

It was great to see Art again for the first time since the LA Westercon and he certainly added life to what was already a pretty energetic get-together. I think everyone is eagerly anticipating his return at the next meeting.

Helping to make the evening especially merry were: Art Widner, Ray Waldie, James Taylor, Teresa Cochran, Ross Chamberlain, Merric & Lubov Anderson (Ugutin), Alan & DeDee White, David Gordon, Ron & Linda Bushyager, Kent Hastings, Su Williams, Joyce Katz, Joelle Barnes, John DeChancie and...

— Arnie

NOW & Again Fans & Refugees

Now, I have realized the truth! I can write weekly columns, if I just think of it as talking – and I never run out of something to talk about!

(The question is now not “Can I write a weekly column?” Now, it’s “Can I write an *interesting* weekly column?”)

What? You want me to be weekly *and* interesting, even *enjoyable*???

+ + +

Today’s theme is: How are hurricane refugees like science-fictions fans?

For weeks, now, I have been doing volunteer work at a local shelter. This particular shelter is, ordinarily, a Christian retreat. That is, churches pay a minimal amount to bring some of their members down to enjoy the Gulf of Mexico – and religious teachings. They are put up either in dormitories or individual rooms, based upon what payment is made. There is a swimming pool, a laundry, a large dining room (which doubles as a meeting hall for classes) and a large living room containing two big screen TVs, couches, chairs, and a long table at the other side on which there are seven online computers.

(The living room is, primarily, for entertainment, but refugees use the computers to get in touch with friends and relatives, to job-search, to deal with FEMA and insurance companies, and all that. . . .Of course, the refugees use the computers for entertainment, as well.)

Whether as a retreat or a refugee center, meals are served three times a day. Fruit and donuts and cakes and breads are always available for snacks.

As an aside (yeah, another aside) I am amazed at what has been donated. You would expect food and clothes, but – luggage? Wheelchairs? Computers? (Reminds me of something that happened today.)

I always spend the lunch hour in Infants Store. Most stores close for lunch but, with me filling in, Infants can stay open. Since, besides clothing, it also carries diapers, baby powder and baby wipes, the store has been quite popular. Anyway, today the lady who usually runs it pointed to a monitor on the counter and said, “I was given this today. Do I have anything worthwhile? I don’t know much about computers. I know I need a keyboard.”

“And a tower,” I said.

“As I said, I know nothing about computers. What’s a tower?”

“The computer,” I said. “A monitor and a keyboard

are needed, but they won’t do anything without a tower to go with it!”

End of ‘aside.’

What made me think of comparing Katrina refugees with fans was the fact that they were from New Orleans. At one time or another, I have know lots of fans from NO, tracing back to Harry B Moore and Nolacon, my first worldcon. (By the way; the Nolacon committee was so proud of the number of fans who attended – over 400!)

Guy Lillian is my most recent addition in the line of New Orleans fans – and that was ages ago! And, what first looked like bad luck for Guy turned out to be good luck: He lost his job in New Orleans and moved, almost a year before Katrina

Now, NEAR New Orleans I have a much more recent addition. Several months ago I got an email from an artist, William Jackson, who was from Gulfport. He volunteered his help on Planetary Stories and I immediately gobbled the offer up. He did the current cover, and is working on the next one.

So, as I said, the Katrina relief work set me to comparing refugees to fandom. For one thing, their common experience had melded them into a widespread family. Even tho most of them didn’t know each other, they. . .related. They had their own way of talking to each other about the disaster. “Photos,” meant the world to them – things that could never be replaced.

Also, like fans at a convention, most of them were hundreds of miles from home.

Most of them had developed a sense of humor about the whole thing, tragedy or not.

Of course, what really made me start thinking about fans and refugees happened one morning in the kitchen. All volunteers wear identifying tags – partly for identification, of course, but also to enable one volunteer to recognize that another is a volunteer and not a refugee!

Antway, I usually start off in the kitchen around nine o’clock – getting there in time to help clean up. There are always a few stragglers there; breakfast is supposed to be over by nine, but we don’t chase late arrivals off. (Of course, they don’t have as much to choose from! Like, when the last of the scrambled eggs are gone – they’re gone. No more are fried until the next day.)

Well, I was behind the counter putting away those little boxes of cereal when a late-comer showed up. I greeted him, and asked if I could get him anything. He asked for biscuits, and was staring at me. At last –



“Are you by any chance the Shelby Vick from Lynn Haven?” he asked.

“No chance to it,” I said. “Moved there with my folks in 1941. Of course, I live on the beach, now. You wouldn’t,” I went on, “be a science fiction fan?” I asked. Who else would think of me as living in Lynn

Haven? But, on the other hand, he looked like he was somewhere in his late to mid-thirties. Not at all the right age.

“Kinda,” he said. He reached across the counter to shake my hand. “I’m James Smiley. No reason you should have heard of me,” he added. “I know your name from some old pulp magazines. They have ‘Shelby Vick’ written inside the cover and several of them have letters from you.”

“That’s where they got off to!” I said. “Years ago, I donated a bunch of pulps to a local fan club. It broke up, and the pulps went with it.”

“I’ve got ‘em,” he said. “At least, twelve of them,” he said. “Planet Stories, Thrilling Wonder Stories and Startling Stories. When we were packing up to get away from Katrina, I made sure to have them.”

“A true fan,” I said. “You brought what was valuable!” I looked at the rapidly-diminishing business. “Eat, and then we’ll get together. I can finish cleaning while you eat.”

We finished at about the same time. I asked him if he was computer-savvy and he said that another thing he’d grabbed had been his laptop. I took him upstairs to the living room area and, luckily, a computer was available. I showed him several fan sites and, of course, Planetary Stories, then asked if he could bring one or two of the pulps to breakfast the next day. I said I would like to see them and, possibly, borrow one to take home to scan.

He said, “Sure!” – but several days have past, and I haven’t seen him again.

Well, if you ever run across a fan named James Smiley, you can thank (or blame!) Katrina and me!

— Shelby Vick

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tion is an activity sponsored by SNAFFU and is open to all Las Vegas fans. This local amateur press association offers Vegas fans a chance to do a little fanzine fanac and swap ideas and opinions at length with the folks whom they know so well on the local scene.

It’s very easy to participate. Just write your contribution — you can write about anything that interests you — and send the file to Joyce (joyceworley1@cox.net) before the deadline, which is November 20. Within a few days, you’ll receive a file that includes a copy of each contribution. If you have the ability to make a .PDF,

that is always best, but Joyce can work with a .PUB. DOC or .TXT file if that’s what you can manage.

You can get free copies of distributions by going to the SNAFFU site, where they are available as free downloads, but it is a lot more fun to participate as many other local fans have done. The multi-pathed conversations (done through distribution comments) are often extremely enjoyable.

Take a look at a disty and give it a try.

Toner II Gets into Gear!

Plans for Toner 2, to be held the weekend before the LAcon IV in Las Vegas in 2006 are starting to come together. Due to problems caused by inces-

sant business trips that have him out of town most weekdays of late, Merric Anderson has taken the sensible step of sharing the chairman's responsibilities with fellow Vegrant James Taylor. Naturally, the rest of the Vegrants will be there to take credit and supervise as necessary.

Merric and James expect to meet with the prospect on hotel this week and VFW should have hard info about the con in the next two issues.

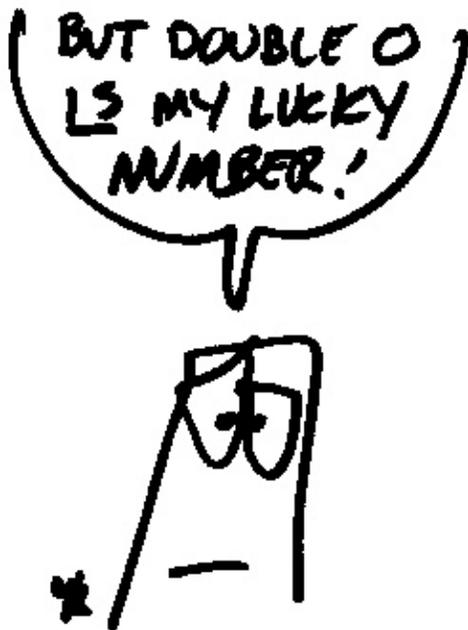
Vegas Music Circle Scraps Meeting!

The Vegas Music Circle cancelled the meeting scheduled for Sunday, November 12, because it proved impossible to round up enough members to make the meeting viable. Both of the main singer/musicians, Ayesha Ashley and Teresa Cochran had other plans for the day and VMC is not viable without at least one of its two musical leaders.

A discouraged Joyce Katz, one of the founders of the group, has not given up the idea, but she does plan to talk to others who have been involved to see what can be done to improve participation.

Library Committee Slates Meeting!

Lori Forbes, head of the SNAFFU Library Committee has called for another work session this coming Tuesday (11/22) and asked for volunteers. She says:



"With Arnie and Joyce's ok, I'd like to announce a library night this coming Tuesday, November 22nd. If you have the time, a couple hours at most, I'd like to ask volunteers to meet at the Launch Pad at about 7:00 pm to do some fanzine sorting and bookshelf arrangement.

"We're going to try and figure out how to arrange the bookshelves so that people can walk between them and, hopefully, get the fanzines put away. Please call me at 290-6017 if you can make it."

Heard Around Vegas Fandom...

Bill Kunkel was an honored guest at a big video game/pop culture event held in Philadelphia last weekend. The appearance was designed to dovetail with the imminent release of his video game memoir...

Joyce Katz is continuing to recuperate. She is now walking, albeit with much difficulty, using a walker for short distances in the house. She is still a distance from being able to leave the Launch Pad, even with the walker. It won't be long, though...

Sandra Bean reports that she is finally over her bout with the flu. She tried to come back a little too quickly at the last SNAFFU meeting and had to make a hasty exit...

ChatBack: The VFW Letter Column

You don't have to tell me, I know you're not here for these little italicized introductory bits. So let's move right into the letters of comment.

First up is something that looks and reads a lot like a LoC, but its esteemed author says it's not. And when you read it, and my response, you'll know why things aren't quite normal at the BArea Fanzine Factory...

Chris Garcia

I'm not in the mood for LoCing much this weekend following the death of one of my all-time favorite wrestlers, Eddie Guerrero, but as I read issue 52, I knew I had to drop a line.

Glad to hear that Art made it down there and y'all had a good time. All of my interactions with Art have left me smarter than I was before that

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Going Potter-y!

SNAFFU Central

Due to continuing renovations at the Decatur & Sahara Borders, the November 11th SNAFFU Meeting was moved into the Cafe area of the bookstore.

Attendees were: Meric & Lubov Anderson, SNAFFU Prez Michael Bernstein, Linda & Ron Bushyager, Lori Forbes, April Reckling, Sandra Delgado and Rebecca Har-
din.

It looks like our old meeting space in the back may be gone for good, as it is now filled with bookcases, so the December 9th Decatur & Sahara meeting will also be held in the Cafe area, assuming a new meeting location is not found and announced before then.

A new site for future 2nd Friday meetings will need to be found, because the Cafe area is small and not suitable for groups much larger than eight people or so. Also, if possible, a more central location would be nice. April Reckling will be making some phone calls to try to find a new location, but will need help, especially for someone to visit prospective locations that are identified.

The Nevada Power building is one possible location (on Sahara), but none of the library branches are suitable since they close much too early on Fridays. Any suggestions for locations would be very appreciated.

For Nov. and Dec. the 4th Friday meetings will continue to occur at the Henderson Borders at 8pm. In Jan. the 4th Friday meetings will switch to a 7 p.m. "Dinner with SNAFFU" format at various restaurants.

Restaurants that we like will be used repeatedly, along with occasionally trying new locations. Linda Bushyager is acting as the coordinator to find and select restaurant locales. Suggestions are muchly appreciated (contact her at LindaBushyager@aol.com).

Since the 4th Friday of November the 25th (Black Friday), Lori suggests that it is a great time to come to a meeting to get away from your relatives, and suggests that perhaps after the meeting people will want to have some pasta (or *anything* except turkey).

Unfortunately the Andersons, Teresa, and perhaps other fans will be at Loscon and unable to attend, but Michael noted that he and several other fans would be at the meeting, and that in the past the fourth-Friday meetings in November and December have tended to bring out members who hadn't been seen in a while.

SNAFFU and VSFA are working on a joint movie get-together for *Goblet* on Sunday, immediately before or the VSFA 2 pm Sunday Social.

All interested persons are invited to attend the movie, Social, Snaffu meetings, Xmas party, and other Vegas fan-nish events.

The meeting began at 8:10pm with general chitchat on topics such as April reporting that the new movie "Zathura" was very good, though perhaps not quite as good as "Jumanji" (from the same production team).

April also asked how many sol-diers are in a Legion? Which led to several jokes and some discussion, eventually digressing to a point that led Sandra to ask "What are the Dorsai?" (Answers: The Dorsai are a military group featured in several novels by Gordon R. Dickson.)

The Saturday, December 10th Christmas party was mentioned, which will be at James and Kathryn Daugherty's home in Henderson. Since Roxanne will not be participating in this event due to her health, others will need to step up and fill her shoes and take on the responsibility of purchasing and transport of ice and sodas, hauling tables and coolers (if needed), paper products and take care of the other things Roxanne normally does for SNAFFU parties.

Lori presented several science notes, including the fact that the Somalian pirates who tried to hijack a cruise ship were dissuaded by some sort of sonic ray which aimed sound at them. Michael quipped that, "Being attacked by pirates is cool -- but Ninjas would have been even cooler."

Then the discussion turned to the topic of the nightm *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*. Michael felt that the book may have been smaller than the previous one because Rowling had given in to complaints that the books had become too large for their intended readers to lift.

The fans discussed Dumbledore's death, and decided he probably really is dead as a doornail (except for possible appearances as a portrait). Many also felt that Harry will die in the last book. Lori said Harry is sort of a Christ-like figure, and will nobly die to kill off Voldemort, and that his 'love-interest' Ginny, will remain a virgin.

There was speculation that the last scene of the last book will have Ron and Hermione Weasley explaining to their son why he was named 'Harry'.

Linda complained that Harry is too wimpy for a hero, Everyone disagreed, feeling that while Harry may be a flawed hero, he is only acting like a fairly normal 14-15-year-old. Ron felt that the earlier books were better written and edited. The discussion then veered to other series that ran out of steam as they went on too long. Sandra felt that Stephen King's writing has gotten sloppy and lacks the intensity of early books.

As the meeting came to a close, April pointed out that the Narnia movie is coming out soon and looks good (prompting some speculation as to whether there would be "Turkish Delight" product tie-ins). She also believes that next week's release of "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire," will bring another great Potter movie, based in part on what she saw in the trailers.

Michael closed the meeting at 9:45 after determining that no-one was particularly interested in going to dinner for various reasons.

— Michael Bernstein

moment. It's nice to have one of those who were around when fandom was still cooling on a window-sill in fandom and telling us what we might otherwise never get told.

Wow, Real Soon Now means the same thing as On The Radar to a number of folks I know. Anything Two Fans Do Is FANAC is a good phrase, but even if it's just

one fan putting out a fanzine that never gets read, that's FANAC. If it's not, then half of my *Drink Tanks* aren't FANAC!

I got an email from a guy not long ago that simply said the following "It is now possible to say that all Truth is Contained in GarciaZines." I laughed a lot when I read that.

The Little One loves the Titans, but I'm not a fan. She also really likes Static Shock, which is based on a comic book that I used to read in the mid-1990's that went away too soon. Evelyn is a smart girl and knows good cartoons.

John DeChancie's article is just about the funniest thing I've ever read. I loved the bit about roping and breaking whores. That's an image that I'm sure my pal M will play with in her mind as soon as she reads it. And here's another shout out for my man, Art Bell!

Good issue. Now I'm back to answering emails and dealing with writing the Guerrero obituary and trying to get the right words down on paper.

Arnie: The death of Eddie Guerrero at 38 rocked Joyce and me, too, Chris. In fact, it was one of the factors that caused this issue to be a couple of days later than intended. I worked a lot of extra time on my site – prowrestlingdaily.com – because I wanted to do the very best I could to honor the memory of this outstanding and popular performer.



He's a blinding flash and a deafening rapport... He's our lovable columnist from the BArea... but most of all he's...

Richard Lupoff

Hank Luttrell mentions Seth Johnson's attempts to resuscitate worn-out typewriter ribbons by dousing them with Three-in-One oil. He says it didn't work very well, but did produce some very interesting smelling correspondence.

Too bad Seth didn't know the great Edward Elmer Smith, Ph. D. I had the privilege of being Doc's editor for the last book he completed, Subspace Explorers. (There I go, sounding like an arrogant blowhard again. "I was Doc Smith's editor and you weren't, nyah-nyah-nyah-nyah!" Sorry 'bout that, folks.) Doc told me that he saved money on typewriter ribbons by simply re-inking them. Apparently buying a bottle of ink was a lot cheaper than buying new typewriter ribbons, and Doc didn't mind performing a little manual labor. He said that the system worked out fine for him.

BTW, did you know that Doc wrote a hard-boiled mystery novel? It's called Have Trenchcoat -- Will Travel, and was published after Doc's death by our old pals, Advent: Publishers. Distributed by NESFA Press, and I suspect that it's still in print although I haven't checked lately. I can't honestly say that it's a great book. You wouldn't mistake Doc's prose for Hammett's or Chandler's. But it was good fun, and it was a joy for me to read a "new" book by my old idol, Doc Smith.

Arnie: Shortly after I began reading magazine science fiction in the early 1960's, Amazing (I think) published Doc Smith's attempt to write a "modern novel. His attempt to portray sexual hijinks earns this book a place on any list of the most awkward and uncomfortable science fiction nov-

els. *The Skylark series had a charming naiveté, sort of like Archie Comics in the 1950's.*

In a short cover note, he referred to this as a "late LoC," but it's never too late for a fine piece of commentary from Britain's fastest rising fan-nish star...

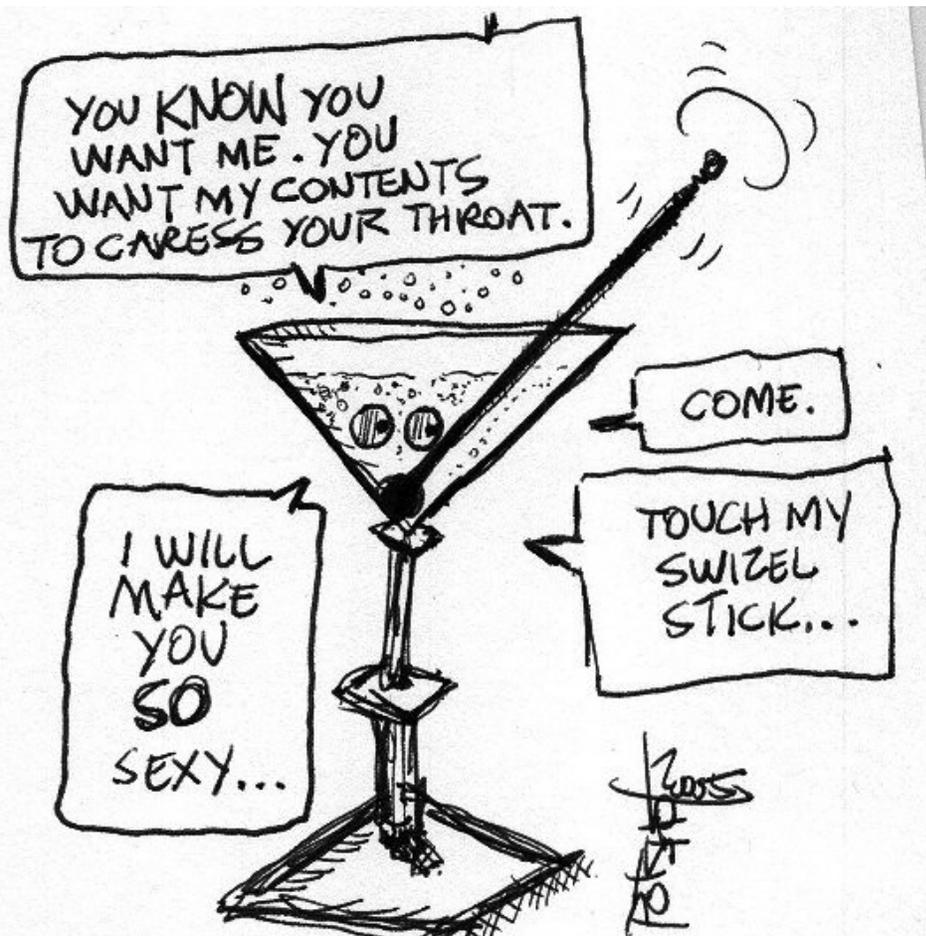
Peter Sullivan

Interesting to see you mention the US Constitution in the article on Insurgentism. I remember one old American friend who said something like "The U.S. Constitution gives every American the

absolute, unqualified right to be an absolute, unqualified idiot. It just won't protect them from the consequences thereof." Insurgentism in a nutshell?

And Shelby Vick's mention of tape recorder fanzeens. This is yet another fannish medium that would be much easier these days - you could just duplicate CDs, or even just send compressed .WAV files across the internet (e-mail or web). It would be a bit quicker than typing things up, and (more importantly) would be a lot more accessible to the increasing number of fen whose eyesight is such to make even 200% zoom on an Adobe Acrobat file difficult. Actually, I believe

Potshot's Cartoon Theater



Contact! Las Vegas Club Directory

Looking for a local group? These are the major ones.

Las Vegrants

Arnie & Joyce Katz, PMB 152, 330 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas
NV 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

Bill Bowers experimented with a video version of his fanzine at one stage.

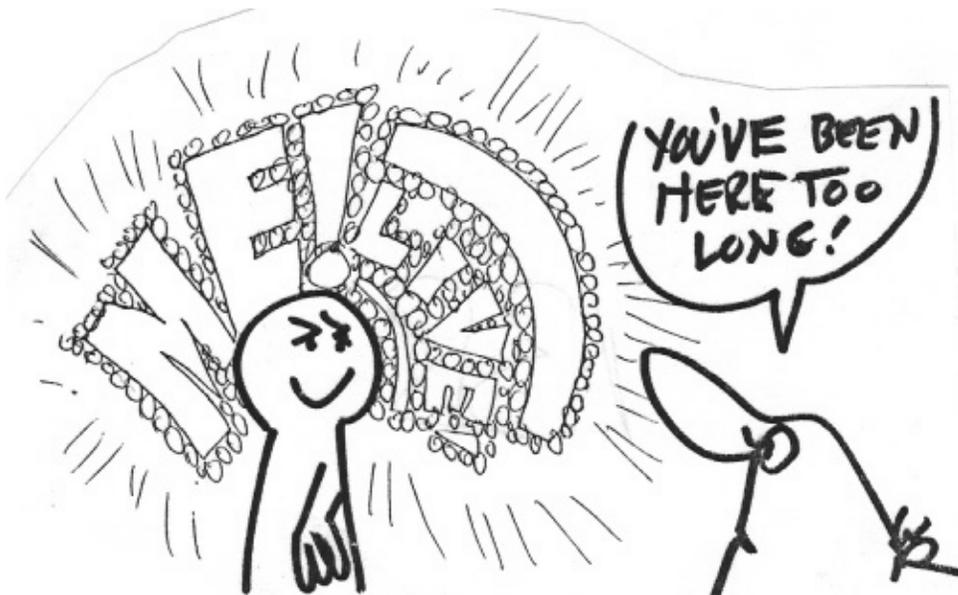
Now I have revealed Shelby Vick's ultimate shock-horror secret ("I was a WSFS Business Meeting Attendee"), I guess I'd better see who else I can smoke out.

I See All.

What I don't see, I Make Up. Isn't that the faanish way(TM)?

Digital vs. paper publishing is one of those topics that will never die - at least until the next publishing paradigm comes along, and we can switch to arguing about digital vs. neural injection, or whatever.

Dave Burton says "What a PDF allows me to do that HTML doesn't is to present my fanzine to the reader as I conceive it, not as whatever browser they might happen to use interprets." You can tell that this is someone from a graphic design background speaking! To me, not needing or wanting to control the formatting is the biggest advantage of electronic formats. I can just concentrate on get-



Continued page 14

In Search of.. Ish! **Them Daze**

Writing about my Army life in 1956 made me think about them daze and my earlier military experiences at a couple of army posts in Georgia. Wound up reliving what amounted to Basic Training for officer wannabe's, which I underwent at Fort Benning, Georgia, in the summer of 1954. That gave me the material for a short story I'd promised UK editor Mike Ashley I'd write for an anthology of "impossible crime" stories.

Well, my opus, working-titled "Benning's School for Boys," is about two-third complete and I should be working on it this afternoon but instead I'm writing for *VFW*. This is the great peril of fanac.

Hank Luttrell faunches for a chance to read Dave Ish's legendary screed, "The Fantasy People." I am happy. if not actually smug, to be able to report that the superior man, Mr. Robert Lichtman, turned up a copy of that 1956 New World Writing, photocopied Mr. Ish's piece, and sent it to me.

It is, as I'd previously indicated, a combination personal essay and convention report, done up in the form of a short story. As such, Ish's Holden Caulfieldish narrator ignores the program at his fictitious or even generic convention and concentrates on his own coming-of-age experiences with alcohol, sex, and socialization. Everything is written in a melancholy, understated, self-pitying tone. Very appropriate for *New World Writing*.

There's a little author biography with the story. In the magazine-as-book it was set, artistically, with flush-right, ragged-left type. I will quote it in its entirety, line breaks and all:

Mr. Ish is eighteen years old and a freshman at the University of Chicago. He was born in Rutherford, New Jersey, where he lived for ten years, and where the family doctor was William Carlos Williams. Since 1950 he has lived in Ridgewood, New Jer-

sey. At Ridge wood High School he edited *The Arrow*, a school literary magazine, and a story of his won first prize in the National Scholastic Writing Awards contest. "The Fantasy People" is his first work to appear in a national publication.

Mr. Lichtman informs me that he tried to locate Mr. Ish via an internet search, but while he was able to locate several persons of the correct name, none of them seems to be our David Allen Ish.

I imagine that an inquiry directed to Ridgewood High School or the University of Chicago might be helpful. Alumni offices don't like to give out addresses, but they frequently offer to forward mail to last-known-address.

If any kind reader of *Vegas Fandom Weekly* would care to track down Mr. Ish, or at least give it a whirl, I would be most curious to learn the results.

In a sense this is just a case of "Whatever happened to ___?" But here was one of the bright lights of our (my) fannish generation. He scored big and he scored early. Here he was selling to an ultra-prestigious, high-ton literary publication while the rest of us were still staining our fingertips with purple hekto jelly.

David Ish should have gone on to outshine Bob Silverberg and Harlan Ellison and Terry Carr and Ted White and Greg Benford and all the rest of us.

But he didn't. He just dropped off the radar screen. Or so it seems.

Well, Whatever Happened to Dave Ish?

— Richard Lupoff

Taylor-Made A Day at the Movers

Fate nudged SNAFFU again on Saturday, November 12th. The SNAFFU Library long in exile in the garage of Roxanne Gibbs and Michael Bernstein was successfully moved to my garage for what should be a brief stay while the Hanger at the Launch Pad is made ready for its arrival and merger with the Katz's additions.

Doesn't sound so earth-shaking, except for all the time and energy that will be required to permanently re-house the collection. Left homeless by the Foremans' move to California some years ago, the Library has remained in boxes awaiting fund raising efforts for shelves to be competed.

The Katz'es offer of the Hangar (and their collection) reinvigorated the Library effort. Cleaning and organizing began. Then suddenly bookshelves became available due to a timely remodeling of a local Borders Book store.

Saturday's event was triggered by Micheal and Roxanne's need to reclaim the space in their garage to facilitate renovations in their house. About the same time, Darmon Thorton found out he'd have to put many of his possessions in a storage facility, because he couldn't immediately put them in his new home before he had to give up his old one. Somehow Roxanne and Darmon became aware of their common need for a U-Haul truck.

A plan was born.

So about 8 am on Saturday, I drove over to Michael and Roxanne's to help load the truck since I hadn't seen any volunteering on the SNAFFU listserve. Indeed, Darmon and I loaded the truck. as it turned out This was not very demanding, maybe 30 boxes in twenty minutes.

Concerned about having no one at my house while I was away loading the truck, I asked Teresa Cochran to keep watch in my absence. I returned to find that somehow Michael and Darmon in the U-Haul had beaten me there. David Gordon was also waiting having arrived while I was away.

Unloading was quick and uneventfully. The boxes were piled on a plastic tarp which was then folded over them to give some additional protection.

After mutual pats on the back for a job well done, it was off to Darmon's for the considerably longer job of loading the truck with his belongings for there trip to storage.

— James Taylor

Continued from p 12

ting the words on the page, structured into sections, headings, body text and so on and know that the formatting is taken care of for me at the other end. More to the point, if the reader needs or wants the content in a radically different format (reflow onto a small-screen palm pilot, or even do text-to-speech) then they can do that as well.

I've actually been doing some research into accessibility issues on PDF, initially for a blind friend, but if I'm honest as much for my own interest as well. The new version of Acrobat Reader has a "Read Out Loud" feature, which is a good start, although it seems to go wrong quite quickly if people start using it on "fancy" fonts. However, to really help screen readers, you are meant to in-

clude "tags" in the PDF document to describe the reading order and other structural information. For an old hand like me, these tags look suspiciously HTML-like; see <http://www.webaim.org/techniques/acrobat/understandingtags> and <http://www.planetpdf.com/enterprise/article.asp?ContentID=6067&mp>

Reading order is especially important as fanned formatting becomes more professional - and hence complicated. Without tags, Adobe Acrobat Reader has to try to "guess" the correct reading order. Where the structure is fairly simple, it can do a reasonable job. But it doesn't seem to take much to get it confused. For instance, I've often seen a first page layout with a heading across the page, then article text in two columns, then a colo-

phon at the bottom of the page. The Reader may treat the colophon as part of the middle of the article, instead of reading down both the two columns before doing the colophon. Actually, there may be some text layouts (e.g. using a sidebar in a main article) where even I'm not sure as a sighted reader *what* the natural reading order is - at the end of the article? In the middle? As long as there are tags in the PDF document, the zeen publisher can tell the Acrobat Reader software what is going on.

However, all of the documents I've found online talk about adding tags via the Acrobat Writer software. The program will have a go at deducing tags and reading order in the document, which you can then edit (or even throw away altogether and start again). This is fine as far as it goes, but I'm guessing that most of the people producing PDF fanzeens for efanazines.com are not using the Acrobat Writer, as it costs too much, and there are cheap or free alternatives like PDF Creator and Cute PDF that work just as well. Just as well, that is, until it come to adding tags. Despite much searching on the internet, I can't find any free or cheap software that enables a user to add or edit tags. Has anyone else found anything helpful on this?

Eric's point about HTML zeens requiring the user to download a folder full of HTML and picture files is fair enough. But, firstly, most readers of an HTML zeen are probably viewing it via a browser, which will find and download all the files you need automatically. Even if you want to pre-

sent an HTML zeen as a bundle of files (e.g. to e-mail it or for download), this is much easier these days than it used to be. As Windows XP treats zip files as a native format - you can open a zip file as if it were a normal directory, and use the files directly.

In the end, I think that Theresa's point is probably the most important - any kind of digital fanzeen has a much better chance of being accessible to her than its paper-based forebears.

Arnie: Bowers and others tried "live" versions of their fanzines at some conventions. I think all such experiments occurred while I was out of Fandom, so I can't comment on their degree of success.

I'm especially interested n the idea of a recorded or podcast fannish program. There are quite a few that take the usual heavy-handed approach to discussion of Serious Science Fiction, but I believe fans are capable of producing lighter and livelier programming, too.

A couple or three local fans – James Taylor, Kent Hastings and Joyce – have expressed interest in creating something like this, so perhaps we will give it a try. Why, I could tell the story of the night Lenny Bailes and I went to a Lunarians meeting and had to wait about three hours in the frigid cold of Long Island winter for the bus to take us from the subway to our stop at the very end of the line.

And now it's back to the BAarea once again, this time for a superb letter from the Sage Himself. Forget Yoda, it's...



Robert Lichtman

In VFW No. 52 I loved your renaming of the Christian Sabbath day at the bottom of the first page. "Sundae" indeed – a day for eating ice cream and making music. I also see on page 2 that this is the "Nivember 11" issue -- am I correct in postulating that Nivember follows Blochtober and is an homage to Larry Niven?

In your "Say What?"



Laugh, dear. I think it's supposed to be funny.

survey of fannish "adages and aphorisms" you conclude with "All Truth is contained in fanzines." This is a new one on me. "All knowledge is contained in fanzines" is how I've always heard it (although there's a contingent of fans who think it should be "All knowledge is contained in fandom").

You also left out a few fannish catchphrases from the '60s such as "I have a piece of chicken stuck in my teeth" and "or maybe not," both of which may be credited to my high school buddy, Calvin Demmon.

Linda Bushyager writes, "Also, let's try to determine what to do about Nov. 24 and Dec. 23 meetings..." I imagine that the first-listed will be a difficult meeting to hold, since that's Thanksgiving Day and at least some fans will be Otherwise Engaged.

Like Bill Kunkel, I can definitely do without Microsoft Word butting into my every keystroke to suggest alternative word and grammatical choices. Fortunately, there's a way to get rid of this intrusiveness. From the "Tools" pull-down menu, select "Options" and then the "Spelling and Grammar" tab. Uncheck everything, click on "OK," and get outta there. I'm not sure if this gets rid of the annoying paperclip – maybe so!?

That's such a *sweet* photo of Dick Lupoff at age three! It's a shame the publishers of his new book wouldn't accept it for the dust jacket since it's clear at a glance that this is a child who would definitely grow up to be warped enough to write horror stories.

Hank Luttrell is correct that the NEW WORLD WRITING with David Ish's "The Fantasy People" in it is Mentor MD170. It's hardly surprising that none of the many listings for it on the book search engines include Ish since he was a complete unknown at that time except to us faaans. I think it's fairly unlikely that Hank will ever run across it "in a used book store, a thrift shop or a box of old books offered to me by a customer," but you never know. If I didn't already have a copy, I'd send off for that \$3 one immediately. As it is, I photocopied the story for Dick Lupoff and when I saw him last week he hinted that he might write about it for your pages.

It was nice to see a page from John DeChancie in VFW. I've never read a word of his professional work, but for a few months I was very much enjoying his literary pastiches in the form of LASFS minutes in the copies of DE PROFUNDIS I receive regularly from Marty Cantor. I first heard of DeChancie back in the mid '80s when he and one Lawrence Connolly put out two issues of GLAROON, a fanzine most noteworthy for having contributions by Bob Leman in each issue.

Good to hear from Creath Thorne after all these years, and I'm as pleased as he was that I got to spend time with Redd Boggs in his final days. You're right, Arnie, that there was an anthology of Redd's writing put out by Dave Rike. It came out back in 1997 and runs 57 pages. If you'll forward a note to Creath from me asking for his mailing address, I'd be happy to send him an extra copy of it that I have here.

Arnie: Now be honest, isn't it worth waiting an extra day for VFW when it contains compuwisdom of this caliber? Verily, All Knowledge Is Contained in Fanzines! As far as the adage goes, though, this may be one of those Regional Differences. I'm positive that "All Truth Is Contained in Fanzines" is the way I learned it.

Kent Hastings brought John DeChancie to a Vegrants meeting as an out-of-town guest a couple of months ago as an out-of-town guest and we've

Las Vegas Fan Events Calendar

Las Vegrants Meeting November 19 7:30 PM

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

SNAPS Deadline November 20

Get your contributions to OE Joyce Katz (joyceworley1@cox.net).

SNAFFU/VSFA Movie Outing November 20 TBA

The two formal clubs will sponsor a trip to see the new Harry Potter movie.

Sunday Social November 20 2 PM

One of Vegas' most convivial groups gets together at the Blue Ox for food and chatter.

SNAFFU Meeting November 28 8:00 PM

This formal SF club has a dinner/social gathering on the fourth Friday of the month.

SNAFFU December 9 8:00 PM

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

Vegas Fandom Christmas Party December 10 8:00 PM

James and Kathryn Daugherty are the hosts for this years Christmas Party, open to all Vegas fans.

Vegas Fandom Weekly First Anniversary Celebration December 11 2 PM

SNAFFU salutes Vegas' newszine with a dinner and social.

invited him back ever since. He's a little shy and more reticent about giving his opinions, but we are hoping to draw him out of his shell.

Wanna see a fanzine editor blush? That's what I'm doing now, because I just read this letter of comment...

Peter Sullivan

Good to see Randy Byers mention the Bring Bruce Bay-side Bulletin, your first (?) foray into *high-frequency* e-fanzeen publishing. I actually found this a really useful read in getting up to speed on fanzeen fandom over the summer. Robert Lichtman's descriptions of the auction items were, oddly enough, a good

way of filling in some of the fan history for me.

After all, what better way of judging what a "community" like fandom values - than seeing what it will pay for at a fund-raising auction?

But then I suppose it's part of the grand traditions of fanzeen fandom for a fanzeen to develop uses way beyond the original creative intent of the editor.

After all, *Vegas Fandom Weekly* was originally intended to be a local listings/newszeen, albeit with the strong fannish tint that anything with "by Arnie Katz" is inevitably going to have. In practice, it seems to have turned into the Last Stomping Ground of the De-Gafiated BNFs. (By the way, if anyone wants to script a horror movie -



or even a National Novel Writing Month entry - with that title, you can have it for free, as long as I get 'title inspiration' credit.)

As it is, I suspect that Vegas Fandom Weekly



has turned into the de facto focal point fanzeen of whatever-numbered-fandom-we-are-in-now. But that's a whole other LoC - or maybe even an article...

Arnie: Don't you know that it's impolite to use the "F-word" in public that way? That's for the fanhistory books to judge; I'm just pubbin' my ish and havin' fun. Though I am a little disappointed that you think this was not all planned from the very first issue.

My Work Here Is Done...

But *Vegas Fandom Weekly* will return in just a few days with its gala First Annish. Does that mean that each and every one of you should make an extra effort to send written or artistic contributions, letters of comment, news and fabulous fan photos? Yes, I think that would be the appropriate thing to do.

Hope all who are going enjoy Loscon (and short reports would be most welcome) and I'll see all of you in the fanzines.

— Arnie Katz

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... and a ton of news.