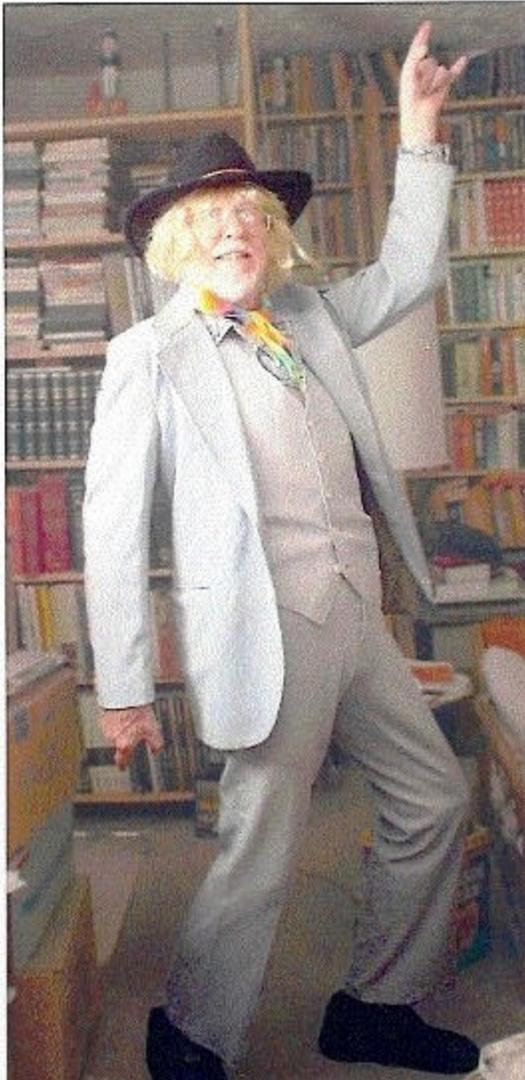


# VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY



Ross Chamberlain put together this costume for a company Halloween party.

Sadly, he didn't get to show it off for fans due to a scheduling conflict.

So here it is in its full glory.

## **Vegas Halloween Is 'Scary-licious'!**

Close to two-dozen people attended the annual Las Vegas Fandom Halloween Party. James Willey and Mindy Hutchings did an outstanding job on the hospitality and decorations, which helped make it the most successful Halloween party in years.

*Joyce Katz has a report, accompanied by photos by Alan White, later in this issue.*

## **Leukemia Claims Calvin Demmon**

Calvin Demmon died on October 10 in Monterrey, CA. He succumbed to Leukemia after a long struggle. The highly influential fanwriter was laid to rest in a ceremony at the Sacred Heart Church in Salinas.

*Full coverage begins on page 8*

## **Hank Reinhardt, Southern Fandom Legend, Passes**

Fans were shocked and saddened to learn of the passing of Southern Fandom legend Hank Reinhardt. The immensely popular fan, considered one of the pioneers in the development of the Southern Fandom subculture, died of natural

*Continued on page 16*

## **Corflu Silver Breaking News**

- Music-making plans are starting to develop under the benign rule of Teresa Cochran (flyingfox692003@yahoo.com). Fans will get to flex their musical muscles on Friday evening, after the Official Kick-off and Welcome. If you'd like to join in the fun, contact Teresa and tell her what you play and what kind of music you like. Most likely, there will be performances in the rock/blues, country/folk and a jug band. Don't forget to mention if you write filk or sing. An estimation of skill level on instruments and vocals might not be a bad idea, either.
- A progress report will be distributed within the next two weeks.

# Inside Story

# Backache BLUES

**Author's Note:** *This article contains no labored descriptions of the agonies of back pain. You can proceed with confidence, secure in the knowledge that I will not be delving into the symptoms, causes and cures of back ache.*

After a year of less-than-usual fanac on the local Las Vegas scene, the weekend of October 27-28 looked like heartening upswing. There were four events scheduled over a three-day period, a special guest in town and who knows what other surprises.

And when the last fan staggered home from the final event on Sunday, I had done a clean sweep. Yup, I missed all four of them, something unprecedented since I started *VFW* in late 2004. Even with Joyce's spate of illnesses, maladies and conditions, I have missed a surprisingly small number of Vegas fan events; to bail on four in 72 hours was quite a novel, if unpleasant, experience.

Friday evening was Cineholics, an evening of movie-watching and merriment at Alan & DeDee White's lovely home. I couldn't have sat anywhere near that long on their plush, comfy couch, so we crossed that off the list. Word is that the movie, *Transformers*, disappointed the majority, but everyone had a great time eating, drinking and gabbing.

Saturday was the annual Las Vegas Fandom Halloween Party, again hosted by James Willey and Mindy Hutchings on behalf of VSFA. After drum-beating among the Vegrants to insure a banner crowd, I wasn't in shape to attend even a sedate party for a couple of hours. This was especially disappointing, because out-of-town visitor James Young was among the partiers. I haven't seen this budding Fealthy Pro for decades, but he and I were neofans at more or less the same time. I've always admired what he, Fred Levy-Haskell and Ken Fletcher did to regenerate Minneapolis Fandom. Joyce decided to show the Katz Flag and reported back in very positive terms.

The first of the two events I missed on Sunday was the monthly SNAFFU Discussion Meeting at the Library. The main discussion topic asked members to discuss the story that had scared them the most. I thought about it a bit, having every intention of going to the meeting, but I couldn't come up with a story that really terrified me. I finally settled on "The Family," Ed Sanders' chilling account of Charles Manson and his band.

I climaxed my weekend of non-fanac by staying home instead of going to the weekend's second Cineholics gathering. No report on this one yet — I'm not sure they've sobered up — but I'm sure it was another fine fannish good time. I think, on the whole, I prefer actually participating. — Arnie

**Vegas Fandom Weekly #102, Volume 3 Number 14, November 12, 2007**, is written and produced by Arnie Katz (909 Eugene Cernan St., Las Vegas, NV 89145; Email: [crossfire4@cox.net](mailto:crossfire4@cox.net); phone: 702-648-5677).

**Special Thanks to** Bill Burns (Posting), David Gordon (Mountaineering Consultant), Alan White (Arty Fella), Bill Mills (Technical Advisor), Joyce Katz (proofreading and So Much More).

**Reporters this issue:** Robert Lichtman, James Taylor, James Willey, Guy Lillian, Charlotte Proctor, Linda Bushyager and Joyce Katz

**Art/Photo Credits:** Alan White (cover, 5, 15), Joe Station (4), Ross Chamberlain (4, 5, 7), Craig Miller (7), Shelby Vick (11), Bill Mills (12, 13, 14), Frank Wu (25) and all else by Bill Rotsler.

**Columnists This Issue:** Shelby Vick, Joyce Katz, Bill Mills

*VFW* is free by request — and you may get it anyway. It can be downloaded at [efanzines.com](http://efanzines.com) and [LasVegrants.com](http://LasVegrants.com). No Fanspeak words were harmed during the production of this fanzine..

Member: fwa

Supporter: AFAL

Corflu Silver in 2008!

# My Own Fannish GREAT MOMENTS Katzenjammer

- Life is measured in many ways, but our memories often cluster around “tent pole” moments that stand above and apart from the day-to-day events of our lives. When I recently wrote up a chronology of Fandom’s Great Moments, it got me to thinking about my own landmark memories as a fan.

I’ve written about some of them in other articles, so I will try not to go over too much old ground, but I won’t cast out any of the tent poles, even if I have written fuller accounts of them elsewhere.

I don’t think I could rank my fannish Great Moments according to importance, so I’ll put them in chronological order.

**Lenny Bailes and I publish *Cursed #1*.** We knew, from columns in backdate prozines, that Fandom was out there, but our efforts to make contact all failed. In late 1962, we decided to produce a fanzine, publicize it through my letters to the prozines and combined our talents to create a pretty terrible fanzine. Though double-spaced and printed on only one side of the page, *Cursed #1* accomplished its mission.



**I make contact with Fandom.** Lenny and I had our little stack of copies of *Cursed #1* ready to go, but we didn’t have anywhere to send them. My letter in *Amazing* finally appeared in March, 1963, after an agonizing wait and, within days, I received a bulky manila envelope with fanzines from Judi Beatty Sephton. We devoured the fanzines while noting addresses and names for further action and we were on our way.

**Lenny and I attend our first convention.** We took the bus from New Hyde Park to a subway station in Queens and rode the train to the stop nearest Adelphi Hall in Manhattan. That’s where the one-day 1963 Lunacon took place on a murderously hot day. We were typical neofans, goggling at the pros and hovering around the edges of conversations. Somehow, I didn’t

find Judi, even though it wasn’t a very large event and took place all in one meeting room, but I did meet some folks who would later impact my life more than I realized at the time, including Sam Moskowitz and Elliot Shorter.

**I read *The Eighth Stage of Fandom*, *The Enchanted Duplicator* and *Ah! Sweet Idiocy!* in one night.** Lenny and I took the bus to Washington DC, to attending Discon I, the 1963 worldcon. The longest lasting aspect of the con for me was buying and immediately reading those three publications. I was a very different fan by the time I got to the last page of Laney’s memoirs.

**Ted White invites me to a Fanoclast meeting.** After attending meetings of a couple of other clubs, I worked up my courage to write to Ted and ask if I could come to a Fanoclast meeting at his Brooklyn home. With prodding from rich brown and Mike McIn-



Continued on next page

erney, Ted sent a post card that tendered an invitation.

**I attend my first Fanoclast meeting.** The thrill of getting the invitation paled beside the exhilaration of the meeting itself. For the first time since I'd become a fan a year earlier, I felt like I'd found a home. Still in high school, I was the youngest by several crucial years, but they all sort of shared in my fannish (and life) education. Ted White and rich brown deserve special thanks in that regard; they pretty much made me the type of fan I am today. This was, in effect, a Cluster Great Moment, because going to that meeting introduced me to my two main fannish mentors, Ted White and rich brown, as well as such long-time fan-

nish associates as Dave Van Arnam, Steve Stiles and Les Gerber.



**I meet Ross Chamberlain.** Mike McInerney and rich brown co-hosted FISTFA, the Fannish and Insurgent Scientifiction Association in the mid-1960's. The week after my Fanoclasts debut, I went to the Lower East Side for the group's third or fourth meet-

ing. Attendees included some of the Fanoclasts and a large crowd of others attracted by the hippie ambience. And then there was this shy guy, a co-worker of Mike's at the book distribution center. Mike pointed out Ross and advised me, as a budding faned, to get to know him, I sat down next to Ross and, after a little chat, he



showed me his fabulous and varied book of artwork, I don't exactly know how our personalities meshed so well – Ross is like a rolling river and I am like the same river, only on fire – but that meeting launched us on four decades or so of collaborative effort and friendship.

**The FAAn Poll selects me as the Best Neo of 1963.** I don't know by what arcane sense the voters used to divine the fan I might become from the callow one I was, but they picked me. It felt a little like vindication at the time and it certainly inspired me to do better to be worthy of such an honor. Steve Stiles wrote the entry in the results booklet and I always thought he was as delicate about it as one could be.

**Quip makes a splash.** Lenny and I had done four spirit duplicated issues of *Cursed*. When I bought a Sears Tower mimeograph, we continued the improvement with the re-titled *Excalibur* for another six quarterly issues. Contributions from John Berry, Ed Cox and FM Busby convinced Lenny and I to try to make a quantum leap. *Quip* swam against the sercon tide, but a lot of fannish fans seemed to consider it a rallying point. The 102-page *Quish III* was also an important milestone for me and my co-editor at that time, Lon Atkins.

**I go with the Fanoclasts on the Great Trek.** Ted White and Dave Van Arnam, spearheading a bid for the 1967 worldcon, came up with the idea of going to the 1965 Midwestcon and then Westercon to boost the bid. We set off in Ted's Greenbrier and had a fabulous time at both conventions. It was also pretty exciting to be a 19 year old fan getting so much attention from West Coast female fans, something that was outside my pre-

vious experience in or out of Fandom. Several other moments cluster around this one, including visiting the Ackermansion, and attending LASFS for the first time.

**Lenny Bailes and I start TAPS.** I couldn't spell the name of the monthly rotating apa – it was officially the Terrean Amateur Press Society – but it lasted close to 300 issues.

**I go with the Fanoclasts on the Greater Trek.** At the risk of seeming redundant, the cross-country trip of the two-car Fanoclasts caravan in 1966 may have been even more of an adventure than the Great Trek of '65. I wrote both of them up at some length in *Quip*.

**I meet Joyce at NyCon 3.** I met her in the art show room. I was standing there with Harlan Ellison. (Yes, we see). Confining this strictly to Fandom, this encounter led to Joyce and I becoming one of Fandom most active couples over the next 40 years. She claims to have screwed me 15,000 times. The instances of oral sex are still being tabulated.

**I become co-editor of *Focal Point*.** The newszine, started by rich brown and Mike McInerney, had gone dormant after its mid-'60's run. Rich suggested that we bring it back as co-editors. I'm normally not a big fan of revivals, but this one worked very well, especially after I'd absorbed some of rich's lessons. I think I added something to the original concept with my 'news and articles' format that veered away from *FP*'s inspiration, *Fanac*. I've worked over that idea in several subsequent fanzines, including *VFW*.

**Rich brown and I co-chair the Bosh Fund.** When Bob Shaw didn't win the TAFF race that would've brought him to Noreason, a bunch of fans decided not to wallow in disappointment. We started the Bosh Fund, which brought Bob to the US for the worldcon. The campaign, which featured the publication of sev-



eral "Bob Shaw Issues" of popular fanzines to raise money, was enjoyable, but the actual visit from BoSh was even better. By the time he arrived, Joyce and I had moved into the apartment on Livingston St. in Brooklyn Heights and played host for the pre-con portion of his visit.

**I become co-host (with Joyce) of the Brooklyn Insurgents** I co-founded the group with rich and Colleen brown and we became hosts when they moved to the DC area. From 1971 to 1975, when many members moved to other parts of the country, it was one fine informal invitational fan club. The many fanzines (*Focal Point*, *Potlatch*, *Rats!*, *Nope*, *Cypher*, *Swoon* etc), the great parties and the rising group of newer fans that I think we helped (Moshe Feder, Jerry Kaufman,



## Corflu Silver Info

Corflu Silver will be held April 25, 26 and 27, 2008, at the Plaza Hotel, One Main Street, Las Vegas, NV 89101. Room rates are \$35 per midweek night (Monday-Thursday) and \$72 per Friday, Saturday & Sunday. Reservations must be made prior to **March 22, 2008** in order to obtain the special Corflu rate; after that date, the regular room rates will apply.

Membership is \$60 attending (£35). Send checks payable to Joyce Katz to 909 EUGENE CERNAN ST., Las Vegas, NV, 89145, USA.

You can also submit funds via Paypal. It's a good idea to send me (Joyce) an email to let me know that you've done this.

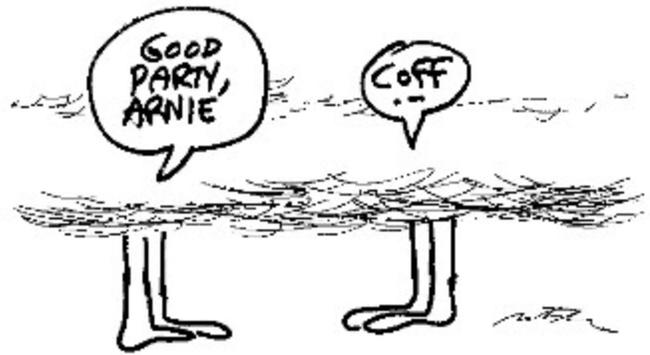
The name of the account is Joyce Marie Katz. Email for the account is [JoyceWorley1@cox.net](mailto:JoyceWorley1@cox.net).

David Emerson, Stu Shiffman, Susan Palermo, and the late Barry Smotroff) are especially important to me.

**I return to TAPS for its 250<sup>th</sup> issue.** Mark Blackman wrote to me in 1989, shortly after Joyce and I moved to Las Vegas, to invite me to contribute to the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue of *The Terrean*. This triumphal return ended more than 13 years of gafia.

**Fandom takes *Folly* to its heart.** When I decided to emerge from TAPS and actually get back into “real” Fandom, I was astonished by the first fragments of information about the seismic convolutions that had shaken Fanzine Fandom to its foundations in the early 1980’s. Honestly, I thought it was some kind of initiation joke until two different fans laid it out for me in gory detail. *Folly* brought fresh enthusiasm and a positive attitude to Fanzine Fandom at a time when it needed the boost. I’d like to believe that *Folly*, combined with the efforts of others, including Andy Hooper, Geri Sullivan and Chuch Harris, helped re-energize Fanzine Fandom and trigger the 1990’s boom.

**Aileen Forman Answers Fandom’s Call.** A query from Mike Glicksohn led me to Shawn White of the VegasCon (1991) committee. Though a gamer rather than a fan, Shawn sent me to Ken and Aileen Forman. I called them about 11 AM one morning and got a sleepy



Aileen. Ken was also a night worker, as it turned out, but he somehow got untracked and we had The Conversation in which Las Vegas Fandom, then merely months old, met Fandom. Las Vegas Fandom’s successes have brought me immense pleasure as something I nurtured pays dividends for all of Fandom.

**Joyce and I host NonCon I.** It was just a big party, of course, but it brought a lot of new things to Vegas Fandom, including the very first oneshot. It also proved that Fandom could operate successfully in the hot-weather months, The NonCon led to such “Great Moments” as the monthly Socials and *The Vegas All-Stars* series of 60 oneshots.

**Joyce and I attend our first Corflu.** Objective appraisal might put the Los Angeles Corflu in the middle of the pack, but it was a tremendous thrill to see so many old friends again for the first time since the 1970’s. I really felt the Spirit of Trufannishness, which may account for the fact that Corflu is the only con that I make any strong effort to attend.

**Joyce and I found Las Vegrants.** The development of Las Vegas Fandom can be charted as a series of milestones, some of which are also among my personal Great Moment. The start of the monthly Socials showed that a group feeling was developing and then we took the next leap and formed Las Vegrants as a once-a-month informal invitation fan club for those with a strong interest in Fandom outside Las Vegas.

**Wild Heirs becomes a major fanzine.** Just as the Socials gave birth to the oneshots, Las Vegrants led to *Wild Heirs*. The growing friendship between the members of the club and Charles (and Cora) Burbee and Bill Rotsler led to the choice of title, but the ambience of the fanzine was remarkably faithful to what many called The Fandom of Good Cheer. The zine helped a lot of newer fans like Ken Forman, Aileen Forman, Tom Springer and Marcy Waldie reach Fanzine Fandom for the first time. The 100-page Third Annish is also a personal Great Moment, made even more mem-





orable for me by the publication of my lengthy “The Philosophical Theory of Fanhistory.”

**I publish *The Trufan’s Advisor*.** I really labored over my attempt to provide a successor to the now-obsolete *Neofan’s Guide*. I was very happy with the final fanzine, though I confess that it didn’t fulfill my hopes for it. I’m working on a full revision.

**I co-chair Corflu Vegas.** There’s a lot of work associated with putting on a Corflu, as with any convention, but I’ve always thought it an honor to be entrusted with Core Fandom’s world convention. It was especially nice that the 1993 event found us with good financial resources that allowed us to add some frills like the Deli Lunch and the Barbeque Feast. The emotional peak for me came right at the end, when Ted White praised our Corflu.

**We Go to Meteor Crater to Scatter Burbee’s Ashes.** It was a very sad occasion, yet it was also a wonderful trip that brought a number of the Vegrants closer to each other and to both Rotsler and Lichtman.

**Corflu Blackjack Names Joyce and me Past**

**Presidents of the fwa.** This is such a pure honor, carrying with it as it does no duties, power or token of achievement. I can tell you that when almost the entire banquet shouted our names in unison – we have the names of those who didn’t – I got a lump in my throat. This blazing moment of egoboo should not obscure the fact that Corflu Blackjack was a veritable bonanza of egoboo for me – and with very little work involved. That my Vegas fans, the Formans and the Wilsons, could put on such an outstandingly successful Corflu gave me a mentor’s pride in their performance.

**I co-found SNAPS.** Although it was a monthly in-person apa when Joyce, JoHn Hardin and I started it, it has since become Fandom’s second electronic apa. With the hard copy apas all faltering to some degree, groups like this will carry the concept into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

**I lead the Bring Bruce Bayside Fund to a successful conclusion.** I was surprised when fandom drafted Joyce and me to run the BBB Fund, but I tried to bring it home a winner even when Joyce’s ankle surgeries largely took her out of the equation. There are a lot of good moments associated with this one, such as the resounding popularity of the *Bring Bruce Bayside Bulletin*, Bruce Gillespie’s decision to make a side trip to Las Vegas, and the party held at the Launch Pad in his honor.

**Corflu Quire awards Corflu to Vegas.** I couldn’t believe it was happening, even though the events unfolded right in front of me. It seemed incredible that Corflu Quire would give the ’98 edition to Joyce and me when we weren’t even at the con!

— Arnie



### Fannish Links

LasVegrants.com — stuff by and about the infamous fan club

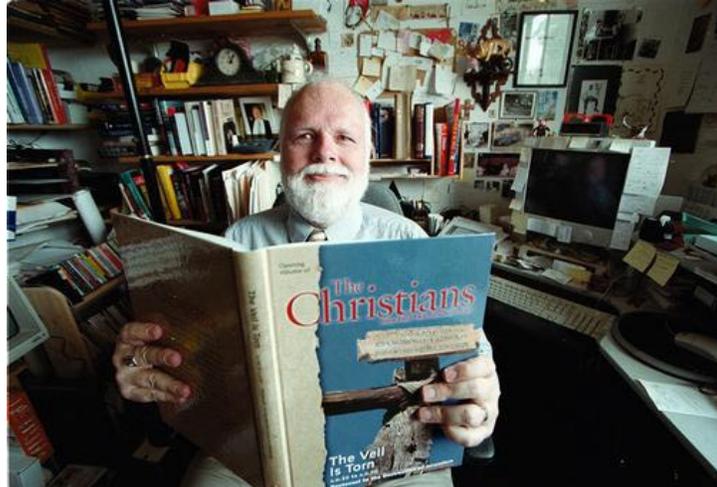
TheVoicesOfFandom.com — Bill Mills’ covers Fandom in sound and images.

Efanzines.com — Bill Burns operates the free online fanzine newsstand.

SNAFFU.org — CochTayl (Cochran & Taylor) now operate this site for Las Vegas’ formal science fiction club.

# GOOD-BYE, \*BIFF\*

Calvin W. Demmon  
is dead at age 65,  
a victim of  
the implacable  
disease, Leukemia.  
These pages are  
lovingly and respectfully  
Offered in tribute  
to his memory.



## The Mainstream Obituary

*Calvin W. \*Biff\* Demmon, superb fanwriter and editor and a fabulous fannish character, died October 10 after a long struggle against the scourge of Leukemia. The 65-year-old is survived by his wife of 41 years, India, four children (two sons, two daughters) and his brother Robert.*

*Here is his obituary, compiled and re-written from mainstream sources. Calvin hadn't been an active fan for 25 years or so; this focuses on his career as a journalist and author.*

Calvin Demmon, creator of one of *The Monterey Herald's* most endearing columns, "Serra's Children," died in Community Hospital from leukemia at 65 after a two-year battle. He had successfully recovered from a brain aneurism in the 1990's, but this was a battle he could not win.

Calvin Demmon was born in Los Angeles on August 6, 1942. He received an MA in English from USC.

Before becoming a newspaper journalist, Demmon attended five different colleges and worked a variety of jobs, including flower truck driver, radio parts salesman, clerk-typist and night shift guard at LA's Juvenile Hall.

During this period, he also dabbled with writing science fiction and sold several stories. His most successful was "The Importance of Being Important," which Isaac Asimov subsequently anthologized in his "100 Greatest Fantasy Short Stories" anthology.

He moved to Canada in 1973 to assume the post of circulation manager for the *Edmonton Report*. Demmon switched to journalism and eventually rose to the editorship.

He returned to the US in 1976. After toiling at a couple of smaller newspapers, Calvin arrived at *The Monterey Herald*. He started as a copy editor, switched to reporter and created the highly popular weekly column that earned him many awards. "While at the *Herald*, he was best known among his news sources and his fellow employees for his gentle wit and compassionate heart," observed Joe Livernois, a fellow journalist at the *Herald*.

"Journalistically, he was one of the cleanest, best and most sensitive writers we had," said Thom Akeman, a former colleague at the *Herald*. "As a person, he was everybody's favorite big brother. He was so full of love. He could find something good about everybody."

After leaving the paper in 2001, Demmon taught at Hartnell College and Salinas Adult School. Calvin, a deeply committed Christian in his later years, also co-authored a history of Christianity's first millennium.

# Science Fiction Bibliography

Fred (1963) [ as Calvin W. Demmon ] FSF Aug 1963  
Manhattan Square Dance (1974) with Ted White AMAZ AUG 1974  
Servo (1971) AMAZ MAR 1971 FTRPSTMSB3 1977  
The Importance of Being Important (1963) [ as Calvin W. Demmon ] FSF Mar 1963  
The Switch (1965) FSF FEB 65  
Who's Afraid (1972) FAN DEC 72  
You Have to Stay Inside (1964) [ as Calvin W. Demmon ] FSF MAY 1964

## A Fabulous Fannish CHARACTER **KJ Annex**

Fandom feels each death with an intensity of feeling that may strike some outsiders as extreme, perhaps even over the top. That's because they don't know our beloved subculture the way we who have given years to it do. Ignorant of the essence of Fandom, they don't understand the source of the great lamentations, even by fans who may not have met the deceased in person or even had a lot of direct contact with him or her.

What gives fannish grief its special poignancy is our knowledge that every fan is a special, irreplaceable character. Others will come forward and march in the fannish parade, but the great fans are unique, singular individuals. When they are gone, they can only survive in our subculture if we remember them, if we continue to enjoy their fanzines, writing, artwork and legends.

Calvin W. \*Biff\* Demmon is the definition of that kind of special, one-of-a-kind fan. When Robert Lichtman reported his death to Fandom, it became clear that, like other similarly worthy fans, years of *gafia* had made him a stranger to many current fans.

To those of us who were active in the 1960's and 1970's, though, Calvin W. \*Biff\* Demmon is not only a fine human being and a warmly humorous, larger-than-life character, he is a fannish colossus. His wit and cleverness made him a leading fanwriter and publisher almost from the first — and his influence is still very much felt today, even by those who don't realize what they owe to him.

A favorite Demmon story involves the editorial of the second issue of his first fanzine, *Grunt*. After acknowledging letters from fans who pointed out that (the equally fabulous) Gina Ellis had published a fanzine called *Grunt*, he wrote at length about the confusion and unfairness of this duplication. Then he solved the problem — by rename Gina's fanzine *Pomade*.

His economical, precise style that still brought his personality through loud and clear made Calvin perfect for the weekly fanzine. He pioneered with *The Celebrated Flying Frog of Contra Costa County* with Andy Main) in the mid-1960's and did it again in the following decade with *Hot Shit* (with John D. Berry).

Calvin may be the most influential fanwriter of the last 50 years. He was, in a way, the fanwriter's fanwriter. His distinctive prose, so often laugh-out-loud funny, was as infectious as it was memorable. Many fanwriters, including Gordon Eklund, Robert Lichtman, Gary Deindorfer, Steve Stiles and me, are among those who adopted elements of the Demmon style. Even Terry Carr and Ted White, already firmly established as top fanwriters before meeting Calvin, incorporated elements from his work. His mannerisms, like Capital Letters and words surrounded by \*asterisks\*, are still widely employed in fanwriting today.

Calvin was also a great guy, an exciting co-conspirator and a loyal friend. The direction of his life took him far from Fandom, but it sure was great to have him here. All we can do now is treasure the articles and fanzines and regret the loss of a sterling individual. — Arnie

# HANK REINHARDT, R.I.P.

This insightful obituary appeared in the *Birmingham News*, written by Jerry Proctor, edited by Hank's widow, Toni. The illustration was provided by Guy Lillian and originally appeared in his fanzine *Challenger*.

Julius Henry "Hank" Reinhardt, 73, a widely known authority on medieval arms and armor, and an icon of Southern science fiction fandom for over 50 years, died Tuesday morning at an Athens, GA, hospital following complications of heart surgery.

Known widely as "Hank," he had written numerous articles on swords and knives, and was in the process of writing a book on the history and use of the sword at the time of his death. He produced two videos with Paladin Press on the sword, and was a columnist for *Blade* magazine on swords in the movies.

He was a cofounder of the mail order business Museum Replicas, Ltd. and a consultant to many sword makers. Unlike many experts, Reinhardt insisted on actually making and testing the weapons he wrote about, and through his various activities he has been instrumental in increasing the popularity of arms and armor in mainstream America.

Hank, born and raised in Atlanta, was a founder of the first Atlanta science fiction club, ASFO, organized in 1950. Since then he has been guest speaker and entertainer at numerous science fiction conventions, where he staged panels on medieval arms and armor, plus exhibitions of the fighting techniques of that era, most recently at Dragoncon in Atlanta in September. Reinhardt also founded units of the Society for Creative Anachronisms, a medieval re-enactment society, in Alabama, where he lived for many years, Georgia, and Louisiana. He has received numerous awards for activities in science fiction and for his work with bladed weapons, most recently the Industry Achievement Award given at the 2006 Blade Show in Atlanta. Hank will appear in the *Reclaiming the Blade* documentary due for release in 2008.

A sword and knife buff from early teen age, Reinhardt received an education in both during Army service in Europe in the 1950s, visiting famous museums. Upon returning to the United States, he worked at various jobs before meeting Bill Adams, founder and president of Atlanta Cutlery. Together in the 1980s they launched Museum Replicas Ltd., making accurate and battle-ready replicas of medieval weapons, and selling them via mail order throughout the world.

Reinhardt enlisted as a business contact Ewart Oakeshott, the head curator of the Tower of London Armories. Oakeshott wrote the authoritative book on European swords, and at the time Reinhardt was the only outsider allowed to enter the Armories and make photographs of its treasures. Because of these visits, Museum Replicas, Ltd. for years made quality arms and armor.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Janet. He is survived by wife Toni Weisskopf Reinhardt; two daughters, Dana Gallagher and Cathy Reinhardt; grandchildren, Hannah and Owen Gallagher; and the many, many friends he made throughout his life.

Services will be held Saturday 3 p.m. at Bernstein Funeral Home, Athens, Georgia.

— Jerry Proctor



# Memories of A HOAX! Now & Again

Since it has come out that the subject of my last column was based on a hoax -- sorry 'bout that, everybody! -- it naturally brought hoaxes to mind. So I thot I'd reveal fandom's Biggest Little Hoax!

'Big' becos it involved what grew into the Willis Campaign.

'Little' 'cos, in a way, it wasn't even intended to be a hoax! 'Little' also, becos the fanzine involved had a small circulation.

With the exception of Arnie Katz and Robert Lichtman, I doubt if any of you remember the name Tommy Lee Tracy. Well. . . .

I wanted to start a fanzine. At the time, Joe Green was living here, and I managed to twist his arm to get him to do a column. He called it 'Joe's Bar'.

My mother, Anne Vick, was a darned good artist and I had no trouble convincing her to become a fan artist. She decided to use a pen name -- Anne Shan. The 'Sh' was from her maiden name, Shelby, and the 'an' of course was for Anne.

What about Tommy Lee Tracy?

Hold yer horses; I'm getting there!

Becos of all the hullabaloo surrounding the creation of the fanzine, I decided to call it *confusion*. My mother came up with the idea of putting the CON on top, with FUSION going down from it and, becos of FUSION, decided to outline it with lines of an atomic bomb mushroom cloud.

So we had our cover.

Now, we needed an editor. I decided to use Tommy Lee Tracy becos my first name is Thomas, Joe's middle name is Lee, and -- since there were three of us -- I did a play on the latin 'tre' for 'three' and chose Tracy.

So Tommy Lee Tracy was born.

We weren't trying for a hoax, just wanted a handy, single name for the editor.

Later, I came up with 'In the Midst of Confusion' for a collection of things in the middle. Started off with 'In The First Place', went on to 'And So, Fourth' for things in the fourth location. The editorial on the back page was 'Back Talk'. For the contents page, I'd have a theme, like, for instance, one was Off To The Races. Each article or feature was listed under Entry, the author was Jockey, the page number was under Odds.

And suchlike.

I'd have sayings at the bottom of some pages, Confusion Sez. Headed with a small Chinaman's head; Confusion, of course. And, being taken with Lee Hoffman's lil peepul, I wanted something of my own, thus the birth of puffins.

Why do I call them puffins? Well, when I was a kid I liked a poem that went, 'Once there was a puffin, that lived by the sea,' 'Puffin' became, to me, something with a touch of fantasy. So

It's purely coincidental that my puffin has a pointed nose that might be considered like bird's beak, and that the arms could be considered a cartoon version of wings.

Eventually came the Willis campaign, and the rest is history.

So that's the story of the Big/Little Hoax, Tommy Lee Tracy, and *confusion*.

— Shelby Vick

# Las Vegnants Two for BLOCHTOBER

## Vegrants 10/6

The 10/6 Vegrants meeting began, as have so many, with the arrival of James Taylor and Teresa Cochran. While James helped Joyce in the kitchen, Teresa and I chatted about my recent decision to stop posting the group's monthly eMailings on SNAFFU.org.

This wasn't a Hostile Action aimed at SNAFFU, but rather my reaction to the request by several members that I discontinue the practice. I had no strong feeling about the matter – I usually assume that everything gets out to the Internet eventually – but some of the group's members felt that it would aid the group feeling by encouraging those who read to participate and nudge those who don't want to contribute to find another source of entertainment.

eAPA, the first electronic apa, posts about one bundle a year on efanazines.com. SNAPS might do the same, in a bid for more members, but I tend to doubt it. More likely, we'll use James Taylor's announced "best of" anthology to recommend SNAPS to potential members.

I didn't take a vote on it. The majority probably would've allowed posting the bundles, but a sizable minority wanted to discontinue the practice. I thought we ought to respect the wishes of so many of the members, even if they'd have been out-numbered in an actual vote. I'm trying to apply the principles that govern the Vegrants to running an apa, which means I try to keep it on a more human level than a convention business meeting.

James bemoaned the chaos at his job at the title company, which he said had now "moved to hell and gone." When he then added that it was so close to the Launch Pad that it would encourage more after-work visits, and I informed him that we consider this area no worse than purgatory.

Teresa is studying to become a piano tuner. She has attended Tuning Class and also recently went to a Piano Tuner's Guild meeting. Naturally, they love her.

Bill Mills related remarkable information about a '70's porn movie that featured a number of prominent Los Angeles fans behind and in front of the camera. According to Bill, this 8mm classic has surfaced after being "lost" for many years, on a recently released vintage smut collection. Midnight Show at Corflu? Well, we'd have to find it first and I don't think Bill is going to supply enough information to do that.

Bill also interviewed me about the 100<sup>th</sup> issue of *VFW* for his podcast series and *TheVoicesOfFandom.com*. I'm confident that his edit will make me sound a lot smarter than I did pontificating in my office. If you haven't picked up on the podcasts, they are definitely worth a listen. He doesn't leave them up indefinitely, so it's worth periodic trips to TVoF for that, if nothing else.

When I sauntered back to the living room, the main subject was *Star Trek*. This sort of thing occasionally happens in a freewheeling, unstructured environments like Vegrants, so I entered the debate on the merits of *Deep Space Nine*. Joyce lambasted it as the *Trek* series she likes least. Under questioning from others, Joyce agreed that there were some good characters, but she felt the captain was weak.



Eric Davis & Belle Churchill were members in the 1990's and are very welcome returnee now.

Continued on next page



Derek Stazenski, one of the most senior Vegrants, chats with Luba

Roxanne Mills and I brought the stfnal media chatter back to the present day with some give-and-take about the final episode of the third season of the revived *Dr. Who*. She joined several others in wishing Derek Jacoby had somehow been able to stay The Master, but she also thought the episode was a bit excessive.

Making merry at the Launch Pad were: Ross Chamberlain; Lubov; Merric Anderson; Alan & DeDee White; Derek Stazenski; Belle Augusta Churchill & Eric Davis; CochTayl (James Taylor & Teresa Cochran); Bill & Roc Mills; Joyce Katz and me -- Arnie Katz

### **Vegrants 10/29**

Illness and injury ran riot through the Vegrants in early October, so I knew it would not be one of the larger meetings. Marcy Waldie had knee surgery and Roxanne Mills was bedridden, so that took six fans out of the mix, right there.,

CochTayl (Teresa Cochran and James Taylor) arrived in time to help us prepare for the evening. Tee expressed a little nervousness about her progress on the harp. She's so musically inclined that she's used to getting the hang of instruments very quickly and was disappointed that her harp was not, in her opinion, ready for public performance. (She has actually done a few in venues with good results, so this may've been modesty.)

It reminded me of my brother Ira, who played the Hammond organ pretty well but who never quite gained mastery over the saxophone. My mom was serviceable on the mighty electric organ, too, but my extreme nearsightedness made it impossible for me to read the sheet music well enough to do more than peck out simple tunes. I think it was very frustrating for my

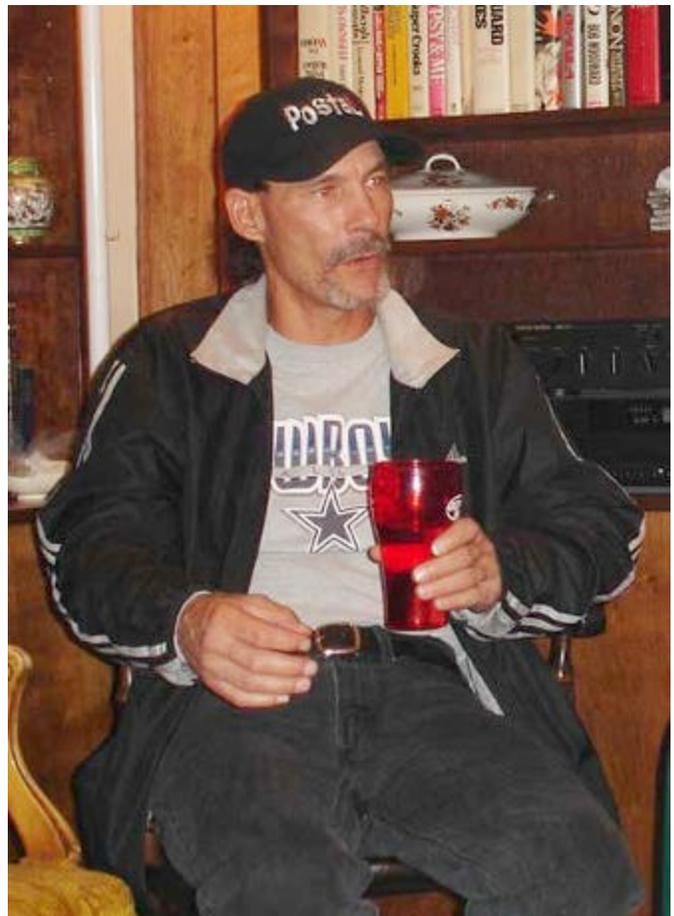
brother, because he was really pretty good on the keyboard.

The stars are veering from their heavenly courses and pigs are heading for airfield runways. Merric Anderson has performed a genuine, certified Act of Fanac. Despite the cajoling of his friends, who would like to share him with all of Fandom, or at least find an outlet for some of his energy, Merric has confined his fannish antics to in-person socializing and rabble-rousing. Even designating him chairman of the Christopher J Garcia Fannish Sex Change Fund did not elicit so much as a digital pocsard.

Now, though, he has broken the ice and, for all we know, a torrent of marvelous fanac will follow. Meanwhile, he is working on a commercial supporting Westercon for posting at places like YouTube. He has shown some locals a preliminary cut and plans to have the final version ready to show at the 11/9 Cineholics meeting.

I was particularly happy to see April Reckling return to Las Vegrants after a long absence and hope that she will persuade her husband Lee to come to future gatherings. April told us about her recent pilgrimage to Ethel M Candy Company here in Vegas and a pleasant walk through their garden.

I regaled the cabal that gathered in the office with



stories of my days as a radio talk show host in New York in the late 1970's. Bill Kunkel and I, ably assisted by Joyce and Charlene (Bill's first wife), hosted a weekly wrestling news show on New York's WHBI.

We'd started a wrestling magazine, *Main Event*, with the then-unique concept of focusing solely on the WWWF, then dominant in the Northeast but inactive outside that region. It quickly grew from something turned out on my Rex Rotary mimeograph to an offset-printed publication sold by consessionaires at all major arenas in the Northeast, including Madison Square Garden.

The three hosts of a wrestling news show invited us to be guests. Even though the half-hour program aired after midnight (early Tuesday morning), we decided to do it as a way to publicize *Main Event*. When we arrived, early as good guests should, we found two of the hosts arguing about who was going to scratch a check to pay for the air-time. Soon, all three members of the triumverate were snarling at each other, seemingly oblivious to the fact that the show was supposed to be on the air!

They never did get on the air that night. When the time slot was half-gone, the engineer announced that the remainder of the time would be filled by musical selections. After the trio took their argument outside, the engineer sidled up to us, said we looked like decent people and that we should apply for a timeslot.

And that's how we started dispensing news and information at 1 AM every Friday morning.

While I was telling this tale, we all gradually became aware of a strange, or at least unexpected, sound. It was someone whistling "Taps." It turned out to be Merric Anderson, standing in the dining room area that is adjacent to my office. He did it very well, but we are still considering ways to make use of this special talent.

The Supreme Court decision to not hear a case aimed at eliminating a n Alabama law prohibiting the sale of sexual aids caused some comment. I had an update from a friend in the state, that Alabama sellers circumvent the law by claiming that their wares are educational devices. I've been out of school for while, but I don't remember any teachers using a rabbit or a strap-in class.

The second Blochtober meeting ended like most of them, with a few of us talking about the News of Fandom as we corral the debris from another entertaining meeting

Present during the revels were: Ross Chamberlain; Lubov; Merric Anderson; Alan & DeDee White; CochTayl (James Taylor & Teresa Cochran); April Reckling; Lori Forbes; Bryan Follins; Joyce Katz and me – Arnie Katz



Joyce (above) and Belle (below), captured by Alan White's lens at the Vegrants.



# Halloween HIJINKS! Blue Jazant

As customary for the last few years, VSFA was the hosting club for the Las Vegas fandom-wide Halloween Bash. Once again, James Willeg and Mindy Hutchings opened their home to all comers and the Halloween party was the finest since the old days when Ken & Aileen Forman hosted this annual event for SNAFFU.

The decorations were absolutely stunning. The front lawn, as per the SNAFFU tradition, was filled with a cemetery. The fake graves were very spooky, with headstones and mounds of earth and skeletons clawing their way out of the dirt. The back lawn was dominated by a wonderful pumpkin patch. There must have been a dozen illuminated carved jack-o-lanterns, plus a painted banner covered with ghosts, and additional pictures on the back fence. Inside and out there were wonderful ornaments and hanging horrors, such as spiderwebs, ghosts, body parts, and other ghoulish creatures.

A long dark tunnel, illuminated by a row of small lights, led to the front door. When I rang the bell, James Taylor welcomed me and I sat down in the living room to chat with Linda & Ron Bushyager, Teresa Cochran-Taylor, Luba, and Merric Anderson. Soon we were joined by DeDee and Alan White, who brought his camera along, and out-of-town visitor from California, James "Mention My Name in Minneapolis" Young. I hadn't seen Jim Young in many many years, so we sat and talked for a long time about his exciting career, his recent gigs in Hollywood and as a science fiction writer, and his hopes to attend Corflu Silver. We were joined by April & Lee Reckling, and Lori Forbes – it really seemed like an impromptu Vegrants' meeting.

Eventually I decided to mingle, and wandered through the rest of the party area. Every flat surface seemed to be covered with wonderful edibles, and every table surrounded by fans enjoying the spread. There was plenty of standard party fair, like excellent homemade brownies and cookies and pie, plus wonderful Halloween specials like Eyeballs, Pond Slime, Sliced Crittur Meat, Jelled Organs, and other nasties that were really very nice.

The backyard featured another table full of treats surrounded by lots of familiar faces, such as Bridgett Westerman (in a very attractive gypsy outfit); Lynn whom I hadn't seen since SNAFFU at the German Restaurant (wearing a beautiful Mae West gown and hat); Catherine Daugherty (wearing a rat on her shoulder); Carol Kern, Rebecca Hardin, and our hosts James & Mindy. There were a few others whose names I didn't get – Mindy's brother, and Bridgett's roomy, and maybe some that arrived after I had gone.



The graveyard drew raves, harking back to the decorations Ken & Aileen Forman used to present at Vegas Fandom's Halloween parties in the 1990's.



It was a wonderful Vegas fan event, probably the best of the year to date. VSFA, and Mindy & James deserve many thanks and much egoboo for doing such a good job!

-- Joyce Katz

Continued from p 1

causes at age 73 on Tuesday, October 30.

Hank had had a hospital stay earlier in the month. Despite some complications in the form of infections, the doctors had sent him home. His death came about a week after the report of his apparent recovery.

A service will be held in Athens, GA, on Saturday (11-3) at the Bernstein Funeral Home. A wake for Hank's family and many friends is planned for later on Saturday. More information from Julia Wall ([jlwall@usa.net](mailto:jlwall@usa.net)).

A fund for education of his grandchildren will be established.

### **LV Halloween Party Is Huge Success!**

Maximum Egoboo goes to James Willey and Mindy Hutchings, co-hosts of the 2008 Las Vegas Halloween Party, for the most successful renewal of the annual event in several years. Over 20 fans attended the gathering, which took place on Saturday, October 27.

James, Mindy and their cohorts did a great job with the decorations, highlighted by a exactly detailed (and suitable gruesome) graveyard. The food and socializing also got good marks. Among the guests was long-time fan James Young, visiting from California.

### **United Fans of Vegas Fills Out Holiday Schedule!**

The Last Vegas Fandom Christmas and New Years parties are now set. Here's the basic information:

\* James & Kathryn Daugherty will again host the annual Las Vegas Christmas Party. As in past years, this event will feature the Alien auction, a lively gift exchanging game.

\* Arnie & Joyce Jatz will open their home to reveling fans on New Years Eve for the 16<sup>th</sup> consecutive

year. The Open House will take place on Monday, December 31. Arrive any time after 7:30.

### **Katzes to Host Vegas New Years Bash!**

All local fans, and any from Afar who decide to venture to Glitter City on Monday December 31, are invited to see in the New Year with Joyce, me and the rest of the Vegrants at the Las Vegas Fandom New Years Eve Open House. The Katzes began hosting this annual gathering in 1991 at Toner Hall and have continued right through the Launch Pad era.

Arrive any time after 7:30, partake of the food drink and fangab and either stay to watch the ball drop on TV or continue on to whatever other New Years plans you may have.

There'll be plenty of food, highlighted by Joyce's celebrated Auld Lang Syne Buffet and an enhanced version of the SNAFFU bar. Contributions of food or drink are encouraged and gratefully accepted.

The normal Vegrants Party Smoking Rules apply. The living room, dining room and kitchen are designated as non-smoking areas. The Launch Pad has both indoor and outdoor areas for those who want to light up and a smoke-free Livingroom, Dining Room and Kitch for those who don't.

For directions and questions, either write to Joyce ([joyceworley1@cox.net](mailto:joyceworley1@cox.net)) or call us at: 702-648-5677. You never know who'll show up; last year 23 fans spent at least part of the evening at the Launch Pad and quite a few stayed until after the dawn of the New Year.

### **Daugherty's Unveil Christmas Party Plans!**

Kathryn and James Daugherty will again play hosts to Las Vegas Fandom during the Christmas season. Repeating last year's successful format, there'll be a

# **TVoFact First Annish!**

## **TVoF Podcast #10 - October/November 2007**

### **THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY AND HALLOWEEN EPISODE.**

We celebrate a year of podcasts with an episode in the Halloween spirit, which includes an interview with Arnie Katz about his fanzine Vegas Fandom Weekly reaching it's 100th issue, we conjure up SF author Hal Clement, who died Oct. 29, 2003, for an interview (hey, it's Halloween, okay?), Boris Karloff shows Bill his house, a reading of Poe's "The Raven" from REB Audio Books, as well as some news and a new filk song recording from Bill of Julia West's "Mutants". With 'drop-in' appearances by Jack Benny, Basil Rathbone, Peter Lorre, Allan Sherman, Bob Hope and more. It's a Halloween hoot from The Voices Of Fandom. Program time: 57:42.

— Bill Mills

# Las Vegas Club Directory **Contact!**

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

## **Cinaholics**

**Alan & DeDee White**

**Email:** [podmogul@cox.net](mailto:podmogul@cox.net)

**Website:** <http://fanbase1.com/cineholics/cineholics.html>.

## **Las Vegrants**

Arnie & Joyce Katz,

909 Eugene Cernan St., Las Vegas, NV 89145

Email: [JoyceWorley1@cox.net](mailto:JoyceWorley1@cox.net)

Phone: 702-648-5677

Website: [LasVegrants.com](http://LasVegrants.com)

## **SNAFFU:**

James Taylor

Email: [dfh1@cox.net](mailto:dfh1@cox.net)

Phone: 702-434-5784

Website: [SNAFFU.org](http://SNAFFU.org)

cookie-baking party with the annual Las Vegas Fandom Christmas Party to follow the next weekend.

Says Kathryn: "James and I would like to offer our house for the December Holiday Party. Again, I would like to hold a CookieFest, where we make delicious treats for the party, on Thursday, December 13, and the Las Vegas Fandom Christmas Party (and Gift Exchange) on Saturday, December 15. It's not too early to put this on your calendars."

Because of the scheduling conflict, Las Vegrants won't meet on 12/15. It isn't yet decided if the meeting will be moved or just skipped.

## **SNAFFU Meeting to Salute Halloween!**

The main discussion topics for the October 28 SNAFFU meeting will be: "What's the scariest story you ever read, saw or heard?" The formal SF club also offers reports on science, the media, Fandom and other subjects likely to interest the membership.

The meeting takes place from 2:00 PM-4:00 PM at the Clark County Library (Flamingo Ave. at Maryland Parkway). Admission is free and open to all those interested in attending a gathering of Las Vegas' oldest and most established science fiction club.

## **Marty Cantor Has a CoA!**

In a search for better email service, Marty has changed his eAddress to: [martyhoohah@sbcglobal.net](mailto:martyhoohah@sbcglobal.net).

## **Fannish Health Report**

Linda Bushyager had cataract surgery on Hallow-

een, but it wasn't nearly as scary as she feared. Linda reports that the eye is recovering nicely. The other one will need similar surgery, but not for a while yet...

Joyce Katz got good news from the doctors about a breast cancer scare. The results from her biopsy, done at the beginning of the month, came back cancer free....

Best wishes to Las Vegrants mainstay Marcy Waldie, who underwent arthroscopic surgery on her knee on October 17...

Alan White is scheduled for some tests this week, a six-month follow-up to his cancer treatment earlier this year. Everyone is pulling for the best possible result for one of Las Vegas' most popular and talented fans...

## **Heard Around Fandom...**

Sympathies to Bill & Laurie Kunkel, who lost another beloved pet when they had to put down their cat Speckle...

George & Jill Wells, long-time participants in Southern Fandom, have finally found their desired new home. It's located in Chandler, AZ, and should be ready for occupancy in December...

Jim Young, one of the founders of modern Minneapolis Fandom, will be visiting Las Vegas Fandom for the first time this coming weekend. Jim currently lives in Fullerton, CA, where he is trying to become a full-time professional writer....

Happy Birthday to Teresa Cochran (11) and Happy Anniversary to Bill and Roxanne Mills (11/18).

— Arnie

# ChatBack

## The VFW Lettercol

ChatBack: The VFW Letter Column

*Here's where the readers Have Their Say, so let me get out of the way and let them Say It...*

*Returning to ChatBack with an illuminating letter is one of the brainiest of the Vegrants...*

### David Gordon

I hope all is well. I am attempting to catch up with piles of messages and just now enjoyed VFW (Thank you!), when I was stopped in my tracks by a common error.

The error? A fellow named Shelby Vick forwarded to you an OLD email forward that purports to be the "first home computer as envisioned by the RAND Corp..." but it is anything but that. An examination of the [Snopes website](#) for 'urban legends' unmasks this fabrication for what it is.

So the error, of course, is the obvious one -- the photo's fabrication; alas, the more insidious error is the continued forwarding without first checking the truth of these legends and urban myths -- even though there exists a website free to all that debunks the lot of them.

I hope this information (and resource) helps.

*Arnie: Shelby, who is currently suffering through computer troubles, was appreciative of your info when I forwarded it to him. Several others point out that the photo was a hoax, but your explanation was the fullest, so yours gets published and the others go to the WAHF.*

*The next letter deserves careful reading and, I hope, a lot of response from you fine folks...*

### Kevin Standlee

You write "For instance, did you know that the people who run the worldcon claim ownership of the word "worldcon" and threaten suit against anyone who uses the word to refer to any convention other than the World Science Fiction Convention."

As it happens, WSFS has never "threatened suit" at the level you seem to suggest. The most serious

threat to the name "Worldcon" -- yes, it's a registered service mark, and has been for almost twenty years now, by order of the fans who attend Worldcons and give directions to what is now called the Mark Protection Committee -- was when a group of energy engineers (not fans) grouped several of their smaller shows under one roof and called it "Worldcon." Remember that WSFS doesn't have much in the way of permanent structure, but past, present, and future Worldcons kicked in the money necessary to pay for the lawyers' fees for a series of progressively stronger-worded letters -- not a lawsuit; it never got that far, thank Ghod -- asking the Association of Energy Engineers to stop using our name. It was only when the AEE discovered that the US Patent & Trademark Office wouldn't let them register the mark (WSFS had it first) that they gave up and changed their name to "GlobalCon."

How is protecting the name of the convention "far, far from the ideals and principles of Fandom as conceived by those who created the World Science Fiction Convention"? Your house style is to print the word lowercase, as a common noun rather than a proper one. Do you think anyone should be able to set up their own convention ad hoc, without sanction from their fellow fans, and call it "worldcon"?

WSFS, through the Mark Protection Committee, also registers and protects to the best of its ability the name "Hugo Award," although this one is more difficult because there is at least one other award out there that uses the name "Hugo" in its name.

I'm sorry to hear how much you dislike this year's Hugo Award trophy. As you have heard from others such as Chris Garcia, this trophy was unveiled to much oohing and ahing in Japan, and most of the feedback I had read -- until you -- had been along the lines of "Coolest Trophy Ever," even from people who have legitimate "fanzine fan" credentials.

You seem to imply that this was corporate sponsorship, as if the studio had paid Nippon 2007 for the right to put their character on the trophy. Did you really mean that?

# Oct. eMailing REPORT *SNAP Shots*

SNAPS, the monthly electronic apa issued its October, 2007 eMailing, the groups 28th, in a reasonably timely fashion. The file, sent directly to each member, contained 13 contributions for a total of 55 pages. Charles Fuller and I had the largest SNAPSzines, each 10 pages.

SNAPS is a friendly group with a lively cross-section of fans from southern Nevada and other areas. There are no dues and the activity requirement is a zine every other month. If you'd like to see a sample eMailing, just drop me a note ([crossfire4@cox.net](mailto:crossfire4@cox.net)) and I'll zap it to you.

— Arnie

## Deadline for Nov. eMailing: 11/17

Personally, I'm happy that each Worldcon can put its individual stamp on the trophy while retaining the traditional rocket as a constant design element. As Worldcons have grown, the cost of manufacturing the trophies has become a progressively smaller portion of the cost of the convention (it was around 1% of the cost of the 2002 Worldcon), which means they can be much more than just a cheap block of wood from a local trophy house (at best). As you probably know, there's now an archive of past designs on the new Hugo Awards web site (<http://www.TheHugoAwards.org/>).

Finally, I'm slightly amused at hearing Worldcons castigated as monstrously huge and impersonal media-fests, when from the other end of the spectrum, we have people who hold DragonCon and ComicCon to be the pinnacle of SF/F experience and look down their noses at "elitist, snobbish, literary" events like Worldcon, where less than 5,000 people attend (if you can't draw at least mid-five figures, you're obviously irrelevant). Those of us who run Worldcons are beset from both sides, it appears.

*Arnie: I've printed your letter in its entirety, because you present your viewpoints with intelligence and skill, but I disagree with many of your opinions. Fandom accommodates a wide range of views, but some of yours appear to infringe on the freedom of speech of other fans.*

*Under normal circumstances, I have little interest in any big convention, because I don't plan to attend any. As long as they (and the people who run them) neither intrude on my fanac nor hold all of Fandom up to ridicule, I don't care what the World SF Convention*

*or DragonCon do. That's their fanac and I wouldn't want to limit their right to fan as they see fit, Conventions and con-runners have little to fear from me, beyond the occasional joke.*

*When I get a letter from someone writes to me to say that the World SF Convention may sue me if I use the word "worldcon," it infringes on my rights as a fan (and as an American citizen). That's something I can't ignore.*

*No group of fans, no matter how well-intentioned and serious-minded, owns "worldcon." (Note lower-case "w.") The word "worldcon" has been part of the fannish lexicon for nearly 70 years and, while the World Science Fiction Convention may want to trademark a "Worldcon" logo or the like, the use of "worldcon" in lower-case in a context unrelated to the World Science Fiction Convention or to any similar convention is part of every fans cultural heritage. There is no attempt to defraud or deceive when we call Corflu Silver "the Core Fandom worldcon" and, therefore, nothing that need concern the mercenaries at WSFS, Inc.*

*I've expressed my opinion about the tacky and commercialized Hugos given at the most recent worldcon, so there's no reason to go into it again. The fact that my good friend Chris Garcia feels otherwise only shows that Fandom has room for lots of opinions.*

### **Robert Lichtman**

I love Taral's Astroboy Hugo on the front page of VFW No. 101—it meshes well with the various sponsored Hugo suggestions I made in one of my many letters in that issue.

Southern Fandom is a phenomenon that never

### Las Vegas Fan November Events Calendar

**VSFA Monthly Meeting** Saturday, December 1 11:00 AM

The small, but active formal club meets at Dead Poet Books (937 South Rainbow Blvd.). The meeting usually focuses on club business, followed by a socially oriented after-meeting meal or snack.

**Las Vegrants Meeting** Saturday, December 1 7:30 PM

The informal invitational Core Fandom club meets on the first and third Saturdays at the Launch Pad.

**SNAFFood December Dinner** Saturday, December 8 6:30 PM

The dinner meeting will take Artem. Contact LindaBushyager@aol.com for details

**CookieFest '08** Thursday, December 13, 6:30 PM

James & Kathryn Daugherty (kd9@jsd.com) will host a gathering to make goodies for the Christmas Party.

**Las Vegas Fandom Christmas Party** Saturday, December 15 7:30 PM

James & Kathryn Daugherty (kd9@jsd.com).

**SNAPS Deadline** Saturday, December 22

Contributions should be sent to Official Editor Arnie Katz (crossfire4@cox.net). Everyone is invited to participate in this popular and enjoyable fan activity.

**SNAFFU Discussion Meeting** Sunday, December 23 2:00 PM

Vegas' formal science fiction club meets for a lively discussion meeting once a month at the Clark County public library on Flamingo (near Maryland.)

**Las Vegas Fandom New Year's Open House** Monday, December 31 7:30 PM

Arnie & Joyce Katz (crossfire4@cox.net) are the hosts for the popular annual event.

ceases to amaze and amuse me. I've never quite understood *why* there was this divergence on a large regional basis from the Core Fandom of the period in which it happened, but I'll readily admit that my own activity at that time was increasingly focused on an ever-smaller circle of close fan friends as "The Sixties" and my move to San Francisco after graduating from UCLA coincided. When I pulled up stakes and moved to Tennessee in 1971, I was still minimally active in fandom and on that basis I guess I became part of Southern Fandom myself. I wasn't interested in playing the game, though, and given my newfound poverty living on The Farm wasn't in a position to do so even if I'd wanted to. At times I checked the "Club House" column in *Amazing* when I went to town and had time to visit a newsstand. I did this to see if people I knew were still publishing fanzines—for the most part there was little evidence of that, as I recall, especially as the decade crept on—but in at least a couple of columns I noticed that someone was publishing one out of Loretto, Tennessee, a small town (more a wide spot along Highway 43 going towards Alabama) about 25 miles from where I was living. And later in the decade I would visit the Great Escape comics and SF store in Nashville to pick up my Howard the Duck fix, and would sometimes see and overhear clumps of overweight guys standing in the back of the store discussing what sounded like vaguely fannish stuff. I

never made myself known.

Like you, I was also a member of the Southern Fandom Press Alliance—where I produced seven rather spotty issues of *The Northern Californian*—and am currently sporadically active on the Southern Fandom Classic Yahooogroup. Through these outlets I've learned that the primary gathering place for Southern Fandom is the annual DeepSouthCon, and that strange and mysterious rituals are performed there. There's the Rebel Award, which appears to be something like a FAAn award but narrowly focused, and there's also ritualized "smoooothing" far beyond what I find reported at Yankee SF conventions. Probably there's more, but my interest and focus is somewhat detached. This is not out of disrespect, but simply recognition that I have time for only so much fanac (even though retired) and that I already tend to over-extend myself. I hope that your outreach is successful in drawing more southern fans into the bigger tent of Core Fandom.

Somehow it's hard to believe that the photo Jerry Page sent to Shelby and that you reproduce here of an alleged 1954 concept of what a home computer would look like in 2004 is for real. Did they *really* think that a \*steering wheel\* would be an essential component? No, wait, I've got it—they couldn't envision the creation of the mouse.

I kind of enjoyed reading your revelation, your

Vegrants “meeting” report and James Bacon’s commentary on TAFF and Chris Garcia, but am at a loss for comment hooks. This happens even to the most prolific of LoC writers, so I’m not going to take it as A Sign.

John Purcell reports that Lee Anne Lavelle wrote “a brief, two-paragraph ‘rant’ about a couple of ‘fannish’ pet peeves she has regarding some stories.” Stories? What could that mean? He goes on to ask, “Are there any ‘fannish’ pet peeves that drive you nuts?” And offers to publish them together with Lee Anne’s in an upcoming *Askance*.

Although you write that you’re “definitely going to participate” I’m finding myself wondering what a fannish pet peeve would be. Perhaps age and senility have finally caught up with me.

This is the October 7th issue of *VFW* and yet you report, “Robert & Carol Lichtman have just returned from a visit to Portland, OR, during which they got to spend a lot of time with Dan & Lynn Steffan.” We went on our trip to Oregon, which also included a day at Crater Lake, in late July, Arnie, not exactly recent. And if we were ever to move to Portland it would be because a big earthquake had destroyed our house (which would probably mean my fanzine collection would have crumbled into its constituent atoms of Twiltone and cheap WW2 mimeo paper) and we didn’t wish to rebuild. We’d take our earthquake insurance proceeds and beat it out of town. As part of the activities of that fan club you describe, we could all take turns pushing Dick Geis around in his wheelchair.

Your advice that fans should get broadband connections in order to “aspire to be active in today’s fandom” is good, but unfortunately it’s either not economically possible (Bruce Gillespie) or simply unavailable (Ken & Aileen Forman). Perhaps for such unfortunate fans a subscription system could be set up whereby they would pay an annual fee and be sent occasional CDs containing in the usual PDF form all the electronic fanzines that have appeared. They could download these and be able to comment on-line, although with more frequent ones such as yours they’d have to play catch-up (in the way Lloyd Penney occasionally does).

I agree with Mark Plummer’s including those various other titles of John Bangsund’s as “manifestations of the same thing” John did with *Philosophical Gas*. I guess I mainly mentioned *PG* because it was the title of which John did the most issues (87 or so). Also, I agree with Mark that apparently Greg Pickersgill did do the lion’s share of the work on *Fouler* after the initial issues.

Regarding your comments on your careful word-

ing of “Great Moments in Fandom” to avoid the strong possibility that “73 fans would immediately suggest ‘The first time I got laid at a con’ or some variation of that,” I observed that I’ve *never* been laid at a con. The closest ever was at the ‘65 Westercon in Long Beach, to which I took a girlfriend I had at the time who strongly resembled Grace Slick on the cover of the “Surrealistic Pillow” album. We snogged here and there, but that was about it. But somehow I don’t feel I’ve missed out on some Quintessential Fannish Experience.

It was reassuring to read Shelby’s reassurance to me that he continues work on his epistolatory LoC on the last *Trap Door*. But “physically weighty”? I hope this doesn’t mean it’s going to come in the former traditional way: on paper in an envelope. Oh, the retyping!

*Arnie: I don’t think many Core Fandomites will do targeted fanac for Southern Fandom or vice versa. We should aim for wider contact between the Fandoms. Expanding fanzine distribution lists to include members of the other Fandom will inevitably lead to more interaction. Maybe Corflu, which represents “common ground” for both Core Fandom and Southern Fandom’s writers, artists and publishers could serve as a meeting place.*

*It wasn’t so long ago that US and UK Fandom went through a period during which there was comparatively little contact. Now, thanks for the listservs, expanded fanzine circulation via the internet and Corflu, the groups have moved closer together again. I’m not saying that the situations are identical, but I think they are sufficiently similar to offer some hope of achieving something like that between Core Fandom and Southern Fandom.*

*I won’t tip the Askance piece, so I won’t go into what I wrote, but I fannish “pet peeves” might include:*

*\* Fans who chronically RSVP for events but don’t show up.*

*\* Fans who criticize a host’s food and drink as they shovel it down.*

*\* Fans who ask for awards in their fanzines.*

*\* Fans who publish articles that would have looked So Good in My Fanzine.*

*I note your use of quotation marks around “meeting” with reference to the Vegrants. It’s true; it’s very hard to tell a Vegrants meeting from a fan party. That’s why I usually devote my reports to subjects brought up in conversation at the meeting rather than babbling about votes and business and such.*

*As you say, some fans can’t get broadband. I feel really bad for them and look forward to the day when*

*this essential technology is available to everyone. Not a day goes by when I don't miss Ken and Aileen's participation in Fandom and mourn the fact that Ben and Cathi Wilson have had no contact with fans for at least the last year. I hate that unavailability of broadband (or even DSL) has separated these fine folks, and no doubt others, from us.*

*I'm stunned to learn that you've never been laid at a con. Or don't you count spouses?*

*One of Las Vegas' foremost fans and a stalwart contributor to VFW, weighs in with some comments...*

### **Bill Mills**

Great Oggily Moogily! VFW #100 was/is amazing. Congratulations on a great milestone issue virtually bulging at the seams with wonderful and entertaining content. It's one to remember... well, actually it's four to remember. Sorry. I forgot. Thanks for chatting on mic with me about VFW's history and your thoughts on reaching the 100th ish for The Voices Of Fandom web site, and for inclusion in TVoF's podcast #10.

But VFW #100 was overwhelming at the time. I never found the time to send comments specific to it then and now there's a #101. Holy Hannah! I think I better opt to comment on 101 before I am just waaaay too far behind. So to start, a big Vegas "Howdy!" to VFW's newly added Southern Brethren and I hope they respond to Arnie's invitation to join the party.

John Purcell's call for faanish pet peeves sounds like it will result in an interesting, and undoubtedly humorous, article which I look forward to reading. I'd contribute something to it, but my biggest fannish pet peeve is that when asked to contribute something to such an article, I can't think of a thing. But, thanks John for your favorable comment on James and Tee's Wedding video (which I shot and edited). I am personally delighted that you found it "delightful".

Great (and very funny) expose' by Arnie of the Underground Secret Professional Neo Feuding group. Clearly they should be stamped out. No group that would settle on a name that ends up abbreviated as USPNF should be allowed to continue. And remember, you heard it from that TVoF guy from LVNV in VFW.

Awesome photo of the Rand display of future technology from Shelby Vick. I gotta mention that I really loved the Forry material in Shelvy's *Planetary Stories* an issue ago. The shaggy dog's with the 4E-esque puns for punch lines were a hoot! And, Mr. Vick, please DO record some audio of your writing in your own mellifluous southern (or so I'm told) voice. That was part of the reason I recorded a reading of one

of your VFW articles. I quietly hoped to kinda egg others, especially you, into doing some audio themselves. Either by inspiration... or aggravation!

Bloody brilliant piece from James Bacon in support of Chris Garcia and TAFF. He should go. He should be sent. And those who send him should get a medal... it would be called... a Sent Christopher medal. Ouch... sorry... moving on now...

Cine-sational that Alan and DeDee have resumed the White Nights Flim Flest! Guess they had to wait till the big neon marquee could be put up. Let me know when the drive in section is complete and we'll be there!

Nice to see a mention of Chuck Connor and PHLIZZ. Chuck graciously contributed the mp3 audio of Doreen Parker's GoH speech at the 1972 NovaCon that you'll find at The Voices of Fandom web site on the Oral History page. ( [http://www.thevoicesoffandom.com/mp3/Doreen\\_Parker\\_Novacon2\\_1972.mp3](http://www.thevoicesoffandom.com/mp3/Doreen_Parker_Novacon2_1972.mp3) ) Chuck's got an interesting and ambitious web site that one can spend some entertaining minutes cruising at: <http://boople.aboutus.vg>

Congrats to Greg Benford on the great press for his latest book release "Beyond Human". FYI: you can also hear an unedited interview recorded by phone with Greg in 1982 for the Science Fiction Radio Show produced by Odessa College students (Carson, Lane, Cruz and Johnson) on TVoF's Oral History page. It's historic, faanish and pretty neat too! ( [http://www.thevoicesoffandom.com/mp3/Greg\\_Benford\\_Interview\\_for\\_SF\\_Radio\\_Show.mp3](http://www.thevoicesoffandom.com/mp3/Greg_Benford_Interview_for_SF_Radio_Show.mp3) )

Mr. Lichtman, I agree with you about Arnie's CochTayl concoction. It hits me a little like a recorded comedy routine can... wherein the first listen is pretty funny and then it loses its impact a little more with each listen until it nearly loses all humor value. I don't mean that in relistening one discovers it was never a funny routine at all, only that some gags/jokes/puns etc. lose their 'cute' the second (fourth, twentieth) time you hear them.

I am flattered that you took some time to have another look at TVoF's web site. I try to keep it a dynamic site, meaning it is regularly being updated and having new material added, as long as I continue to find new material to add. That includes other things as well, like recently taken photos and vintage pics (from the collections of Roxanne and I ) of fan photos which are being scanned and added to the Mills Photo Archive as often as possible. A link for it appears in the menu at TVoF. Here's the Archive's url: <http://billmills.net/coppermine/>

I appreciate the time you took to visit the site and

mention it in your comments. I wish I knew if it was a negative or positive review though. Perhaps I should point out (to the world at large) that TVoF is only my electronic fanac. It's all it was ever intended to be and I really never meant to present the site (or myself) as something more grand than it is. But I recognize that anyone coming to the site expecting some very formal, massive, studious, library-like service consisting of the best, most entertaining, most important or the world's largest collection of fan audio will, no doubt, be hugely disappointed. TVoF is my way of still having a faanish presence, having fun doing the kinds of faanish (and creative) stuff I like to do, without even leaving my home. I don't get out much these days, ya' know? But, I am very passionate about the concept of oral history and of the importance of having some recorded evidence of the voices, presentations and thoughts of faanish notables and other relevant individuals. So, my heart is genuinely 'in it' and I do the best I can.

Nonetheless, I agree completely that TVoF has mega 'room to grow' and you are echoing the very sentiments that I have tried to present when begging, er, soliciting contributions from one and all. I would love to have the legendary recordings you refer to and would help in any way possible to get them safely transferred to digital form and encoded for the web... if someone would come forth with the material. And yes, there has simply got to be loads of cassette tapes, recorded on those little portables everyone used to carry around, of speeches, panels, parties and other fan events which I would happily devote server storage space to and add to the pages of TVoF for all to hear. But, all I can do is ask and await my faanish fate. And, Arnie is correct that my personal friendship and history with Forry has, over the years, resulted in a fair amount of Ackerman audio that I feel is worth sharing. So, at this point you find a lot of it on the site. I guarantee ya' that if I could get my hands on the Burbee and Laney stuff get 'em up and showcase 'em proudly.

Chris Garcia mentions that he is trying to 'get to' and spend time with all the First Fandomites he can. Chris is going to end up a walking archive of faanish history and Ghod knows, he's very oral (hey hey, get yer minds out of the gutter... ya' don't have to STAY out, just come out for a few minutes, okay?), so maybe someday he'll at least sit down and record some audio recounting for us and future faanish historians his experiences as a student of fandom, past and present. Jeez Meyer, if you were ever to record any of those meetings, they would make for awesome audios to hear now and in years to come.

Big Bad Con, indeed! Look out Arnie these feisty filkers have got you publishing filk song lyrics now!

Great to see a contribution from Jolie LaChance. I'd say something here about how well she blows... her flute, but I'm sure it would be seen as obscene and a little more than the cheap lurid come-on that it is. So, I won't.

And to Mr. DeChancie... yes James was resplendent in his Wedding Suit. He was very nervous and easily confused that day though and did the rehearsal in his Birthday Suit. Fortunately he was shown the 'bare of his ways' before the ceremony. There's a 'faux' interview in TVoF podcast #10 with James about Teresa his blushing bride, (which I faked, a'course), that is intended to make his bride blush. You might get a laff out of it too. Or not.

Glad to hear Andy Porter has recouped and is well enough to travel Europe. Send us some postcards Andy!

Thanks, Arnie, for all the kind mentions (and plugs). I was proud to see the inclusion of photos of you modeling my gift in honor of VFW's 100th Issue, the Vegrants/VFW 100th ish Memorial Baseball Jersey (it's not a tee-shirt bubbala). Though it DOES suit you to a TEE... tehe.

GAK... I see I have written quite a bit. I hope I've actually said something in the process. I know it's taken me so long to compose this much that I am likely to miss the next issue. So, even though I am a long way from actually covering the contents of *VFW 101* I am gonna wrap up this missive and stuff it in the ol' Loc Box in hopes of making the deadline for #102.

Arnie, whether you call it VFW, or Vegas Fandom Watch, Vicious Femfans Wrestling, Various Fannish Writings, Vegas Fans Within, VeFaWe, VegaWe, Vegas Fandom Whenever, Vegas Fans Wherrareyou... as long as you have the enthusiasm and desire to continue to publish it, may nothing ever keep you from it. Mazaltov Arnie and *VFW*!

*Arnie: I can hardly believe that you're unable to summon even one pet peeve. Or is it that you have the peeves, but don't want to make pets of any of them? So, John, how is the peeve-collecting going?*

*Interaction with BNFs – not necessarily First Fandomites – is certainly part of keeping in touch with one's fannish roots. I count myself extremely lucky that I had a chance to get to know such as Walt Willis, Charles Burbee, Terry Carr, Lee Hoffman, rich brown, Bob Tucker, Bob Shaw and so many other fine fans who are no longer with us. Today's fans should cherish the chance to get to know such as Jack Speer, Earl Kemp, Robert Lichtman, Ted White, Shelby Vick, Greg Benford and all the other still-living BNFS, too.*

*Unlike Robert Lichtman, you don't have to fear the creation of one of those "couple names" for you and*

*Roxanne. I don't think anyone can squeeze "Mills" and "Smith Graham" into a single, pronounceable word.*

*And here, by way of example, is the first appearance in VFW by a fan with a fine pedigree...*

### **Joe Fillinger**

I read the article on Ken Krueger and found it pretty accurate. Ken and

I have been friends since the late '40s without much contact during the California years. For several years he has been back in his home area of western New York. If Kemp wishes to get in touch with him have him get in touch with me. Kenny is in very poor health and doesn't have a long future in front of him.

We had more than a few wild times together in the past. He is still a member of the BUFFALO FAN-TASY LEAGUE. He and I are 2 of the founding members and there are 2 others, besides us, still active in it. It has been going since 1949; we run EERIE-CON which Kenny attends but his health doesn't permit him to do much in running it. I'm sure he would be happy to hear from Terry Kemp.

*Arnie: I spent four years in Buffalo, 1964 to 1968, earning a degree at the University of Buffalo. I lament not meeting you and your buddies, but that's tempered by the thought that I was probably far too young and callow to mix easily with them.*

*Joe has provided some incredible vintage fan photos, which I'll have for you in the next issue.*

*The first-place finisher in the "Best Loc-Writer" category of the 2007 FAAn Awards winds up this issue's "ChatBack" with another fascinating commentary....*

### **Lloyd Penney**

I have here issue 100 of *Vegas Fandom Weekly*, all four parts jammed into one big zine. Sorry I haven't gotten to it yet; you might have read that I have gotten myself some full-time employment with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, and I still have my evening job at the *Globe and Mail*, so I must use what little time I have for loccing zines on a piecemeal basis, and pasting pieces of loc together. Let's see if that's what I can do with this stellar issue.

First of all, congratulations on getting to 100 issues. It's not quite a rarity these days, but it is still a pleasure to see. After all these various zine titles, you seem to have settled into a niche you're comfortable with. Don't let us stop you, keep going, keep going...

The great moments in fanhistory is a great point in

itself...to launch a series of articles detailing each moment. I'm sure we've read a lot of fine articles on many of these moments, but is it the time to get started on the definitive article, pulling together all sources? In the meantime, this provides a good summary of the major events that has created the fandom we feud over on a regular basis.

ShelVy's 100<sup>th</sup>? I have to go with Futurama, and think we're all going to be bottled heads way into the future. For all the work we put into fanhistory, I pray there'll be someone in the future who'll give a damn about it all. The more working on it and publishing we do, the more likely someone will unearth it, and ask, what the heck was all this?

I must think that in spite of all the negative attention the N3F garners, the idea of a national club is worthwhile, and it must provide more than what a local club can promise. Chris is a whirlwind with fanzines, but I'd have to doubt that even he could devote as much time, effort and research needed to create, maintain and update all the promised services and information sources required for the membership. I didn't know that Jan Stinson was the current president...I haven't seen anything about her presidency in the various publications she produces...perhaps she knows the low esteem in which the club is held, and is keeping mum about the whole thing.

It is possible that Ken Krueger is still living in Buffalo. I will be attending Eeriecon this coming April, the weekend before Corflu Silver, and I may be on a panel about fanzines with Joe Fillinger, chairman of Eeriecon and Editor of Ghuvna, and Ken Krueger. When it happens I can write it up and chat about it at Corflu. (Update! Ken Krueger is indeed still living in Buffalo, and I will be on a panel on fanzines with Ken and Joe at the next Eeriecon, no. 10 in Niagara Falls, NY this coming April.)

Read all about the CochTayl celebrations! Hope the marriage is plugging along and making two people extremely happy. Moving? So many fans have moved away from Vegas over the years, and many have faded from all contact. James and Teresa, don't let this happen to you! Yvonne and I met through fandom, and we mark 25 years this coming May. (Either we're not bored yet, or fandom hasn't figured out a way to get rid of us. Six of one...)

Well, I won't be at the Ditto in Gualala, but I will say that it's good to see Ditto revived, and I hope there will be others who will carry on with Ditto in future years. Every opportunity to meet your fellow fanzine fans on the other side of the fanzine, .pdf or e-mail address is a good one.

The content list reminds me that I had articles in

issues 57, 71, 75 and 93. All odd issues. Well, no odder than usual

The local! I should have sent something in, but 24/7 just isn't enough these days to get caught up and do all the things I'd like to do. I can't wait for Corflu Silver, so I can meet lots more of you. Roxanne, you're not leaving for Colorado before Corflu, are you?

I am really afraid this Purcell guy is going to go through with his threat of his fannish Sound of Fanac, and Floyd Pfennig will actually see the light of day. Oh no, more therapy!

Based on my researches of the past, I had traced Richard Bergeron to a post office box in Perth, Ontario. Perhaps it's a different Bergeron, not sure. I had also Rosemary Ulyot in Kingston, Ontario, but perhaps Toronto. David Vereschagin of Edmonton Fandom long ago lives in Toronto as well.

A Hugo to Science Fiction Five-Yearly is a knowing salute to our fanzinish past. If only LeeH was still around to enjoy it...I hope she knows. Yup, Montreal has their own Worldcon now, and Yvonne and I have come out retirement and stepped forward to assist. Yvonne will probably be working in finance or in programming, or possibly both, and I have volunteered to run their fanzine lounge. We'll see what happens there...I know that Colin Hinz and Catherine Crockett have got their own fingers in the bid, so we may share this responsibility for possibly daytime and nighttime fanzine lounging.

I miss Midwestcon. I've been to two of them, and had a fine time, but felt like I was on the outside looking in. Now, I might have a foot inside because there's so many of the folks I know. I have no plans for travel after 2009, so who knows what will happen? Maybe they'll finally invent the transporter, and I can be there in seconds.

I think what I'm going to do, Arnie, even with issue 101 in the hopper, is get this ready to go to you, take my leave, and get to that zine real soon now. See you shortly, and I'll be caught up.

*Arnie: As someone who has been legally blind for a long time, I'm always glad to hear about people working to aid those who are totally without sight. What do you do for the Institute? Teresa Cochran has been working with Vegas' version of it on several fronts, including teaching computing to other blind people.*

*That's it for this letter column. More letter, including some held over, will be in the next issue (if you write 'em.)* — Arnie



## KINGFISH SAYS

Whew! I had begun to fear that I would never get this issue of *VFW* closed and out to you. Not only has this been a busy time for fannish news, but some illness for Joyce, a crisis with my pro wrestling website ProWrestling-Daily.com, a siege of back problems and serious Internet connectivity woes have made working on it unusually difficult. I confess to feeling a little overwhelmed for about a week or so.

After I'd had to rewrite most of the news twice to update developing stories, when other factors delayed publication, I drew a line and decided to Pub My Ish as quickly as possible and get on to the next one. After all, this is still *Vegas Fandom Weekly*.

That decision meant postponing some really great stuff until #103. My apologies to those are waiting to see their contributions.

I plan to have a new issue out around November 23. I'd actually aim for even quicker publication, but I do need to turn out a Corflu Progress Report.

I didn't put the usual WAHF (We Also Heard From) section at the end of the letter column, because I am holding a number of locs for next issue. There'll still be plenty of room for your comments, though, so I'll be watching my email inbox for your comments.

See you all in the genzines!

— Arnie

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... and tons of news!