

VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

Las Vegas Fandom's Sorta Weekly Newszine

SNAFFU Election Results!

The winners of the 2006 SNAFFU election were announced at the 2/11 meeting — and things did not turn out altogether as expected. While Michael Bernstein overcame Ron Bushyager's involuntary campaign to earn a new one-year term as President, Kent Hastings narrowly out-pollled incumbent Darmon Thornton.

It's nearly impossible to analyze this type of election, in which two very popular local fans ran extremely low-key — make that “no key” — campaigns for an office that doesn't have well-defined functions. Maybe the electorate realized that putting Kent in office is the best way to lure him from his new home in Parts Unknown to the twice-a-month SNAFFU meetings.

Wish we had thought of this ploy to insure his

attendance at Vegrants meetings. We might've run into a little trouble, since the Vegrants do not have officers.

Science Fiction & Fantasy Day Announces Venue

The First Annual Las Vegas Science Fiction & Fantasy Fay, sponsored by the city's three major fan clubs, has announced a venue for the event. The one-day convention will be held at the Clark County Library at 11 E. Flamingo Rd. It is located at the corner of Escondido (1 block East of Maryland Pkwy).

The convention is scheduled for Saturday, April 30. Meeting of both SNAFFU and Las Vegrants will be held in conjunction with Science Fiction and Fantasy Day, the largest fan-run general convention in Las Vegas since the legendary Silvercons.



Vegas Fandom Weekly #13 February 16, 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 Ken Forman (photos), Joyce Katz (proofreading)
Reporters this issue: Michael Bernstein, Woody Bernardi, Gilda Cabral and Joyce Katz

VFW is free for the asking — and you may get it anyway. It can be downloaded at the SNAFFU and VSFA websites as well as at efanzines.com

Members (and Co-Past Presidents, 2003): fwa. Supporter: AFAL.

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Chairman Woody Bernardi promises more announcements are on the way.

SNAFFU Organizes Library Committee

SNAFFU has appointed Lori Forbes and Woody Bernardi as co-directors of the SNAFFU

Library project. (See proposal on page 4).

Woody and Lori will work closely with Joyce and me to line up club members to help with the various tasks that must be completed before the new, larger SNAFFU library is ready to go into active service. The first step will be to clean out the Ga-

rage, followed by building the shelves, alphabetizing the books and preparing a computerized card catalogue. The four fans plan to get together late this week or early next and should be ready to begin nagging the

Continued on page 4



“Their Chilli Is Illogically Good,” says semi-retired TV action Leonard Nimoy at the Yucaipa (CA) Chilli Cook-off. Ken Forman (the one on the left in the Silvercon 4 tee-shirt) spared no expense bring in the likeness of Mr. Spock to promote the Yucaipa Insurgents’ Alien Chilli. There is no report that the group’s Green Chilli won any awards, medals, citations or other honors in the competition.

On the other hand, there are also no reports of untimely death arising from this substance.

Let’s call it a technical victory.

The Library Proposal

Joyce and I originally intended to make this proposal about the SNAFFU Library at the 2/11 meeting. Unfortunately, the weather here in the Mojave Jungle was rain with flooding, so Joyce wisely elected to stay home and watch "The Buddy Holly Story." So, as I promised SNAFFU's esteemed President, here is a detailed, written version of the proposal.

The SNAFFU Library is the club's most important asset, aside from the members themselves. It could be argued that it is the most important asset, again apart from the people, of Las Vegas Fandom. In recent times, the Library has not been displayed on shelves and, as a result, has become very hard to use.

April Reckling, among others, brought this dissatisfaction to a head at a recent SNAFFU meeting. Michael Bernstein explored several alternatives, none of which proved viable. Joyce and I think we have an answer and, after conferring with both Michael and Roxanne, are putting our offer in writing.

We would like to offer our garage as the new home of the SNAFFU SF Library. In addition, we want to give our own collection of science fiction books and magazines to the club. (This should come to at least 5,000 non-overlapping books and many, many science fiction magazines. We would make the library available, by appointment, to club members weekday early evenings and Saturday afternoons.

There has always been a question about whether SNAFFU or the Katzes have the largest collection in Nevada. This would end that discussion and give SNAFFU the largest collection in this region of the country.

That's what we offer, but there are some conditions:

1. Joyce and I will remain in physical possession of the collection unless we either move to a dwelling that is not large enough to keep it or move out of town. In those eventualities, the club takes possession of the unified collection. While we can house it, however, the club may not act to move it elsewhere (taking all our books and magazines in the process) as long as we maintain proper access.
2. We need the club's help to clean out the garage, build the shelves, unify and alphabetize the collection and make a computerized card catalog. Help means individual club members putting in some time working instead of whining.
3. The club must appoint a project leader who will be responsible for organizing the effort to set up the library, Joyce and I will help, but this is not going to be our project.
4. When the Library is established and ready to lend books, the club must appoint or elect a Librarian to oversee and maintain this giant collection.

I hope the members of SNAFFU will consider this proposal, discuss it online and in person and be ready to vote it down or accept it at the next Westside SNAFFU meeting.

Can I help?



rest of local fandom to back their encouraging words with deeds.

Sunday Is Potluck Feed & Game Day!

Sunday, February 20, is the day for the AFFU Potluck Feed and Game Day. Hosted by Linda and Ron Bushyager, it is open to all Las Vegas fans.

The Bushyagers have a selection of social and card games and encourage you to bring your favorites to this lighthearted game-fest.

According to Linda, she'll be serving spaghetti with meat sauce, but welcomes contributions of soft drinks, snacks and so forth.

Ron and Linda ask that fans call (702-873-7930) or email (LindaBushyager@aol.com) an RSVP.

Linda offers the following directions: "We live near Jones and Flamingo. Easy access via the Rt. 202 bus (get off at Duneville). From Las Vegas Blvd: Go West past Rio and Palms; pass Lindell Rd., Turn Right at next street - Duneville (next to Sun West Bank Bldg.). Turn Left at Stop Sign (Saddle Ave.), turn Left at next street (Mitra Ct.) - 3rd house on right, 4025 Mitra Ct.)"

Bean Me Up, Scotty!

If you've always wondered whether Klin-

gons know how to make chili, you'll be able to satisfy your curiosity at the *Star Trek* Chili Cook-off. Sponsored by one of the two local Las Vegas *ST* clubs, K'Ehleyr Station, it is scheduled for Saturday, February 26.

Fans are encouraged to bring a pot of their chili with them, but it isn't a requirement.

Joshua Andrews (email: andrews1701@gmail.com) can provide a lot more information about what looks like an entertaining, if slightly gassy event.

VSFS Inaugurates Sunday Social

It's official; The Vegas Science Fiction Association (VSFA) will be hosting a Sunday Social on Sunday March 13, 2005 from 1 PM to 5 PM at The Tap House bar and grille on West Charleston.

We will be in the banquet room, located in the back of the establishment. It's a beautiful space that can accommodate 50-75 fans without serious overcrowding. However, 10-15 would make a very nice event without feeling like we are lost in a huge hall.

The Tap House has a nice menu with varied items that aren't too expensive. Those who wish to eat and/or drink are most welcome and encouraged to attend.



BIG QUESTIONS ONLY EVOKE OTHERS

An Introduction to the Futurists

Las Vegas fans recently made the surprising discovery that another club, the Las Vegas Futurists, meets at a Borders bookstore close to the one SNAFFU uses for its meetings that same Friday night. Correspondence with Gilda Cabral, a leading member of the group, indicates that the Futurists have no direct connection to Science Fiction Fandom, but may well have common ground and shared goals. Gilda kindly provided the following capsule history and backgrounder.

The Las Vegas Futurists (as well as LAFuturists, BAFuturists, and SDFuturists) has its roots starting out as a book club. In true book club form, the LvFuturists reading focus is on science and technology books.

The format being: each monthly session has a pre-determined topic based on ideas presented by a specific book. It isn't a prerequisite to have read the book prior to the meeting, but each meeting has a discussion leader (the discussion leader changes from month to month) who has read the book and will summarize the book for the meeting attendees. Additionally, the leader is to come up with discussion topics which are based from ideas presented by the book but are geared to find application of the ideas in a society of the future or an exploration of a particular technology, or style or notion. These explorations include public opinion, acceptance, public policy, etc. My personal goals are to educate, to inspire, and to reduce fear of change as many people find the science and technology a fast moving train that not everyone can catch.

As you see, there is less "fan-dom" here, but like science fiction and science fantasy there is a lot of room in "science fact" for creativity and opportunity to get the "neurons firing". I search for books and topics such as artificial intelligence (my special interest and career focus), biotech, neuro-science, nanotechnology, etc. Here is where I think I our respective groups can have some fun exploring: all these topics have analogous fiction-based books and fact-based books. Some SF writers deliver both. I've found that a science fiction-based reading can still be the springboard of discussion based on the real world as a science fact-based book.

Now all of the futurists groups mentioned above have evolved from being strictly a book club to speaker oriented presentation. Our LVFuturists group celebrated a 1 year birthday in November 2004 and is one of the younger futurist groups. It is somewhat of a hybrid of a reading group and a presentation-style meetings.. I attempt to bring in people who have their hearts and minds on a particular subject to share with the group. On months where I can't find speakers, we review books. I have had the fortune to have met so many people and in many scientific and literary disciplines. While the futurists meetings have a by product of being a professional networking venue (this is more true of the Bay Area Futurists) the various futurists groups, clubs, special interest groups provide a venue for people who are primarily optimists who look at each discovery and invention with anticipation and wonder. — Gilda Cabral

This event is open to all fans in Las Vegas. Please feel free to pass along the information. Those who wish to bring minors (under 21) should note that they will not be permitted in the bar, though this does not af-

fect the room for the Sunday Social.

Explaining the impetus behind the Sunday Social, Woody Bernardi notes, "There are several fans who are only off on Sundays, who can only make a Sunday

event. Also, a few of the fans who live on the Westside, including myself, thought it would be good to host a monthly VSFA Sunday Social on that side of town.”

Marcy Waldie Surgery Successful!

There’s finally some unequivocally *good* medical news about one of the most widely popular and admired fans on the Vegas scene, Marcy Waldie.

The road to the operation on her left knee, needed to replace worn parts from the earlier knee replacement, has been rocky. She actually got to the hospital for the operation in early February, only to have it canceled at the last minute.

The good news is that Marcy had her knee surgically repaired on Wednesday (2/8) and so far everything looks great. She is now convalescing at home and should be ready to play “kneesies” after some rehabilitation.

Joyce’s Operation Set for February 25

Just about the time the fanzine fans are settling in for a long weekend of revelry at



This is the “One-Percenter” seal, given to fans who donated \$25 or more to the Bring Bruce Bayside Fund to convey Bruce Gillespie from his native Australia to the Corflu and Potlatch conventions in San Francisco — and then, hopefully home again.

Bruce will visit Vegas on March 8 for a special party, where you can discover why fans gave over \$5,500 to import him.

their worldcon, Corflu, in San Francisco, Joyce Katz will be entering an operating theater at the Southwest Medical Center for additional surgery on her right ankle.

The High Priestess broke both ankles, the right one in three places, last April. The left one has healed fully, but the right one has not responded as well. It was fine until the beginning of February, when it abruptly began hurting very badly to the point that it became hard for Joyce to walk.

A foot specialist who examined her last week feels that removing the plate and seven screws in her ankle is the logical first step. On Tuesday (2/22) she will go for pre-operative tests, Thursday the surgeon will check her over and Friday will be the operation. She is expected to come home on the same day, though there will be some recuperation ahead.

Chat Back: The VFW Letter Column

I haven’t run a letter column until now, though I want it to be a regular feature. If you have an opinion about something in VFW, send it here and share it..

Let’s start with a LoC I got on the first issue from one of today’s great fans...

Robert Lichtman/RobertLichtman@yahoo.com

This was a fun read -- well, as much fun as reading about the Whites' auto acci-



Continued on page 8

SNAFFU (2/11) Meeting Report — Michael Bernstein

The election included a minor upset. Kent Hastings was elected vice president by a very narrow margin over Darmon Thornton. Yours truly was elected President by a wider margin. Although Kent is moving to Pahrump, he does intend to regularly attend meetings and believes he can carry out his Vice-Presidential duties. In fact, he already has many vices.

The Katz's generous offer for housing the library was enthusiastically received by the members. We've formed a library committee for organizing and planning. Committee co-chairs: Lorie Forbes, Woody Bernardi. Other committee members: Darmon Thornton, Rachel Mainz, Jolie LaChance. (Jolie is a new member who joined on Friday, but has the unique qualification of being a carpenter. besides, she volunteered)

Darmon Thornton proposed that, to raise money for the club, we set up a CafePress store to sell SNAFFU-branded items. As this involves no out-of-pocket expense, this was approved by the membership. Darmon volunteered to set it up.

Once we had disposed of the elections, dues collection and the library, we continued with the actual meeting, which was a discussion of the best books we had read in 2004.

My pick was *Singularity Sky* by Charles Stross, a rollicking big-ideas novel that grabs handfuls of inspiration and concepts from existing sub-genres such as space-opera, time-travel and espionage, and synthesizes them with a whole gob of original material to create something truly original. Kent Hastings chose a new graphic-novel reinterpretation of L. Neil Smith's 1980 novel *The Probability Broach*.

Ron & Linda Bushyager reported enjoying the first three novels in Steve Brust's Draeger series, *Jherog*, *Yendi* and *Teckla*.

Lori Forbes read Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* for the first time as part of the library district's 'One Community, One Book' program, and found it to be a very good read that had stood the test of time very well.

Rachel Mainz said she enjoyed Jane Lindskold's "Wolf" series (*Through Wolf's Eyes*, *Wolf's Head*, *Wolf's Heart: The Dragon of Despair*) and that although the third book was somewhat disappointing, the recently released *Wolf Captured* made up for it.

Shane Roth talked up *Fitzpatrick's War*, an unusually constructed book conceived as something of a palimpsest. The novel purports to be the memoirs of someone in the 25th century describing the emergence of a pre-industrial global empire (after all technology more advanced than steam power had been permanently destroyed in the late 21st). Overlaid on this are extensive footnotes written by 26th century historians debunking the entire work as a fraud, as it contradicts nearly everything they consider factual about the origins of their own culture, and particularly the revered leader (Fitzpatrick) who created it.

Jolie LaChance mentioned Lois McMaster Bujold's *Paladin of Souls*, a sequel to *The Curse of Chalion*. Other members who had read both agreed that the second book was indeed better, but that both were definitely worth reading as very original high fantasy that owed nothing to the Tolkien inspired tradition.

Terry Wilsey suggested *The DaVinci Code*. Some objected that it wasn't meant as a work of fiction. Terry replied that *he* enjoyed it as such, so who cared what the author thought? Woody Bernardi reported reading many of the novels Catherine Asaro has written in her "Skolian Empire" universe.

After wrapping up the discussion, we went to dinner at Chili's restaurant. All in all, the meeting was informative and enjoyable.

— Michael Bernstein

dent can be, but y'know what I mean. Hope it results in some revived LV fan activity and maybe another fanzine fan or two.

Arnie *The credit belongs to the fans of Las Vegas, but the upswing in actual fan activity since I started VFW is very heartening. And, yes, I cherish the hope that a few may come to an understand of fandom that harmonizes with mine.*

Not surprisingly, one of fandom's foremost letterhacks had something to say, about the first issue, too:

Lloyd Penney/penneys@allstream.net

A little while ago, Woody Bernardi sent me issue 1 of Vegas Fandom Weekly be-

Event Calendar

Las Vegrants February 19 7:30 PM
The informal, invitational club meets at the home of Arnie and Joyce Katz.

SNAFFU February 25 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 Sunset. Elizabeth Bear will speak.

VSFA March 7 7:30 PM
This formal club meets at the Clark County Library on the first Monday of each month.

The Gillespie Gala March 8 6:30 PM
A mid-week party for Bruce Gillespie, open to all Vegas fans. RSVP to Arnie or Joyce.

Las Vegas Futurists March 11 7:00 PM
This discussion group looks to the world of tomorrow on the second Friday of each month at Borders bookstore (2190 N. Rainbow Blvd.)

Las Vegas S F & Fantasy Day
April 30 10 AM-5:30 PM
A free, one-day convention for all Vegas fans. Woody Bernardi is chairman.

cause I subscribed to the VSFA Yahoo! Group. I told him that I'd wait for a couple more issues to come down the pipe before making some comments. Well, issues 2 and 3 are here now, so here comes the promised loc.

VFW 1...this is the kind of newsletter, IMHO, that most fannish cities could use. I know Toronto fandom could, and I have been thinking about doing it, but I haven't... not sloth, but unemployment, and the frantic search for same, has kept me from it. Toronto fandom is fairly mediafan-heavy, and local fanzine-type fans are not that communicative, so I don't know if I'd be preaching to the choir, or to an empty room.

I certainly sympathize with the Whites re their car crash...you probably know that we were in a crash on our way home from the Friday night of the Toronto Ditto more than two years ago. Yvonne still has problems with her left wrist, as I do with my left knee. Car sustained some damage, but with taking it to a specialist in Suzuki cars, our '98 Esteem wagon is as good as new, if not better.

2...As long as VFW doesn't stand for Vegrants' Fannish Wars, all will be fine. .

3...The toughest thing about a newsletter is keeping the correspondents active and interested. Many years ago, I did the monthly newsletter for a local Trek club, and I kept things interesting for 15 issues. Unfortunately, few people contributed, and most were happy to let me prattle on in print. The Happy Deadwood won the day, and after some filthy politics, the newsletter resurfaced a couple of years later under new management.

Ah, the SNAFFU elections are tonight! Sounds like thanks to you folks, the fannish population of LV has greatly increased. Your willingness to be inclusive is a refreshing change from the rest of fandom's tendency to be exclusive.

Arnie: This is my fourth newszines — Focal Point, FIAWOL and crifanac preceded it — so I pretty much knew what awaited me when I started this fanzine. I had every inten-

tion of being frequent, but maybe twice a month or so, as the slogan the logo on the front page indicates, but it's like munching really food bar-beque potato chips.

The Sage of Glen Ellen (and editor of Trap Door) returns with thoughts on VFW #3.

Robert Lichtman/
robertlichtman@yahoo.com

Goshwowoboyoboyoboy!
Now VFW is double the size, double the chatter -- and full-color photos, too! I don't know if anyone in Vegas fandom prints out the issues in color (or at all), but those two shots of the Launch Pad Christmas tree are awesome.

The Alien Auction sounds rather like the annual LASFS gift exchange, which back in my days of attending the club (late '50s to early '60s, the prime period of what might be called the Bjo Era) this was an interesting, amusing and sometimes annoying part of club activity -- and always graced (if that's the word) by at least one copy of that sterling novel, *ZOTZ* (the *THURBANI* of the novelistic world).

The mention of Forry's *WORLDS OF TOMORROW* sent me to Bookfinder to check it out. It's available as inexpensively as \$23.12 from Half.com, but probably the best deal (because it comes with free shipping) is the \$26.37 price offered by Amazon.com.

Forry's book *is* from Collectors Press -- the same company that did Frank Robinson's *SCIENCE FICTION OF THE 20TH CENTURY: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY* (now available in a trade paperback for \$19.95 -- but only at Barnes & Noble, Frank informed me last weekend when Carol & I joined him in San Francisco to see *POLAR EXPRESS* in 3D at the IMAX) and Dick Lupoff's *THE GREAT AMERICAN PAPERBACK* -- so one might expect (and as I re-



call) the print quality of those bubble-gum trading card-sized images is pretty good.

Thanks for Woody's and Teresa's Los-Con impressions, the first I've seen on that convention.

Arnie: Thanks for the book recommendations. I saw Dick Lupoff's book and was quite impressed with it. I wish he would poke his head back into fandom more often than he does these days.

Yes, it's time for another letter from Las Vegas' favorite Canadian....

Lloyd Penney/penneys@allstream.net

VFW 4 is downloaded and is opened on the screen. We are digging out of a cold, snowy and icy storm, so I'm staying inside, and I'll get a loc or two done. Here's the first one.

Hope the party on the 18th was a blast. Ken and Aileen certainly seemed to enjoy themselves; they said as much on the VSFA list. It also looks like David Gordon had a good time, and I'm glad he's finally been able to get in touch with you all, and become a part of the group.

I'm glad that there are readers in the crowd, and that they like a loose structure to the club. For some reason, it's the media fans that like the hard structure to a club, plus titles, rank, killstripes, etc.

That may explain Joshua Andrews trying to impose an overclub onto all the organizations in town. I hope that doesn't happen; I think he was making a pre-emptive strike for some illusion of power. Has he totally gafiated because no one wanted to play with his ball?

Arnie: Joshua is more inexperienced in

Fandom than a would-be dictator. He comes to us from Trek-dom and is only slowly beginning to learn our ways. He's young and enthusiastic — and neither of them are bad things. He'll either learn or he'll leave.

Linda Bushyager/LindaBushyager@aol.com

Enjoyed the zine and pictures. Ron got a kick out of his description opening packages. He drives me nuts each year!

Have a Great New Year's Eve. Sorry we can't make it to your party - we will be across town.

Arnie: Alan White has led the way in photography. His pics are great. I hope others will follow his example. And speaking of following his example, we'd sure like to see you and Ron around the Launch Pad..

Lloyd Penney weighs in next with comments on VFW #5 and #6/.

Lloyd Penney/penneys@allstream.net

Issue 5...I'm glad Vegas has someone who opens their doors for local fandom's regular get-togethers. And, a real core of people has formed, a community to make fannish mingling even more enjoyable.

I wonder if it might be an idea to take some of the party to Roxanne Gibbs' home, if she's not well enough to go out. Obviously, from the VSFA feed I get, the Net is allowing her to take part in things, but it's just not the same without some company. Quite a group that attended the Christmas festivities, and ready again for New Year's, I see...

I am pleased to see that David Gordon is fitting in just fine with the local crowd. I've never met David, but he was so polite and accommodating when

it came to the sale of my Noreascon membership to him, I knew he'd be okay when it came to referring him to you and Joyce.

6...It looks like Joshua Andrews may be growing up a little. Putting together a directory of local clubs is a better idea. In the New Year, one project I have in mind is producing a tri-fold flyer for all the local cons, clubs and other organizations.

Great card, Ross! The next time someone accuses you of talking to yourself, you'll have the perfect excuse. Some PhotoShop wizardry?

Arnie: Teresa is sort of our current prize neofan. It is absolutely wonderful that modern technology makes it possible for her to participate in Fandom as fully as she does. I only wish more of the fan classics were available to her.

We Also Heard From: (Unquoted but much appreciated): Linda Bushyager, Marcy Waldie.

Ten Pages, That Is Too Many

So I was going to do a little two-page fanzine, maybe two or three times a month. And here I am with a 10-page issue!

I guess this is where I might be expected to pump up myself and my "achievement" with a lot of self-pitying whining about the work, the horrible crushing work. Except for one thing: that would be total bullshit. It didn't take much longer than a four-page issue and it was a lot of fun to do..

So if you send the news and views, I'm here to turn it into the Unofficial Newsletter of Vegas Fandom. See you all next week!

— Arnie
Las Vegas, NV

