

VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

Las Vegas Fandom's Sorta Weekly Newszine

Las Vegas Fandom Gets Ready For Fabulous Fannish Weekend

The Las Vegas Fantasy & Science Fiction Day, the city's first fan-run general-interest convention since Silvercon 4, is still a ways off (April 30), but April 16-17 looks like one of the biggest fan weekends of the year. There'll be three major local events on Saturday and Sunday — virtually a mini-convention in itself.

Here's what's in store:

? Daugherty Open House

James and Kathryn

Daugherty will host an Open House on Saturday, April 16, at their home in Henderson

The festivities will start at noon and run to 5:00. It should be a warm and sunny afternoon — after all the wind and rain we've had in the last six weeks — so swimming will be on the menu for those aquatically inclined. For the rest of us (and the swimmers when they've gotten a good start on the season's first

sunburn), there'll be food, entertainment and chitterchatter.

It's open to all fans, so RSVP to Kathryn at: kd9@jsd.com. They'll also provide directions to the house.

? Las Vegrants Open Meeting

In the ecumfanical spirit of the weekend, Las Vegrants invite Las Vegas fans to come spend an informal evenings with one of the city's liveliest fan groups.

It's a good opportunity to get to know some of Glitter City's most active and accomplished fans a little better. (That way, you'll recognize them coming before they get too close next time.)

As at all Vegrants' Open Meetings, the living room, kitchen and dining room will be 100 per cent smoke free. On the other hand, smokers will have a room inside and can also smoke outside if they prefer. That system seems to result in maximum comfort for all concerned.

Non-Vegrants are encour-



Vegas Fandom Weekly #20, April 6, 2005, is written and produced by Arnie Katz (PMB 152, 330 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107; Email: crossfire4@cox.net; phone: 702-648-5677).

Special Thanks to Alan White (all photos). Joyce Katz (proofreading) and Woody Bernardi (star Reporter).

Reporters this issue: Woody Bernardi, Roxanne Gibbs, Linda Bushyager, Teresa Cochran, 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 efanazines.com. No Aliens were harmed in the preparation of this fanzine.

Member: fwa. Supporter: AFAL.

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aged to RSVP to Joyce (joyceworley1@cox.net) Contributions of food and drink are delightful, but not necessary.

? **Sunday Social**

The first Sunday Social turned out to be one of the most enjoyable recent fan events and the second one has every chance of being even better. The April Sunday Social, scheduled for The Tap House on Sunday, April 17 at 2 PM, will salute the early days of Las Vegas Fandom.

Besides the eating, drinking and nonstop chit-chat that made the first Sunday Social so enjoyable, the April event will spotlight many of the fans who helped make Vegas Fandom what it is today.

They'll share outrageous, amusing and poignant stories about those by-gone days of 1990 and reveal lots of naughty secrets about anyone who is so unwise as to not attend.

Woody Bernardi, heads the sponsoring VSFA, the

welcome mat is out for all Las Vegas fans, both old and new, to come to this free event.

It all happens on Saturday and Sunday, April 16 and 17. Joyce and I will be at all three, her medical situation permitting, and we look forward to spending time with a great many Vegas fans over those two days.



David Brun pulled an excellent crowd for his appearance on Tuesday, sponsored by VSFA.

Las Vegrants Rock At 4/2 Meeting!

Woody Bernardi and Kent Hastings arrived at the April 2 gathering of Las Vegrants laden with an assortment of tasty vittles to get the evening off to an early start.

They'd just come from a semi-successful attempt to visit one of the city's two *Star Trek* clubs — these two can't resist anything that sounds like a science fiction outing — so the subject turned to the ups and downs of local fan organizations. Woody filled us in on the checkered history of Vegas' *ST* groups and we all shook

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Hoaxed! — Arnie Katz

This week's column deals with one of Fandom's more colorful aspects, the perpetration of hoaxes. I'd have written it last week, but I was afraid you'd think I made it up out of whole cloth.

It wasn't long after Fandom began that fans started perpetrating hoaxes. They come in all shapes and sizes, from humorous to malignant. Let me tell you about a few of notable ones...

The first recognized hoax, which took place in *Astounding's* letter column, boomeranged on the fan who pulled it. Bob Tucker must've been in a strange mood when he wrote to the prozine, in the guise of a bereaved reader, to report the untimely death of — Bob Tucker. When the editor found out it was a joke, he banned Tucker from the letter column. Karma caught up with Tucker 20 years or so later, in the post-war 1940's, when a misguided young fan name Ben Singer told Fandom that Tucker had perished in a movie theater fire while working as a projectionist.

Jack Speer, a frequent visitor to Las Vegas Fandom, sprung the first hoax within Fandom (as opposed to the prozines). True to his personality, it was quite benign. He invented a fan named John Bristol, who became more active than Speer himself for awhile in the 1930's. Jack eventually worked things around so he feuded with himself — and laughed about the private pledges of support both he and Bristol received from the very same fans.

A hoax rocked the 1941 worldcon, the Denvention. Fans had no sooner reached the Mile High City than the convention received a telegram of greeting from outer space! Well, that's what it *said*. Most of those at the con laughed, but one young neofan had a much more extreme reaction. He didn't stop at claiming to believe that the telegram was an interstellar communication, despite the lack of Western Union offices beyond the Earth, he created a whole philosophy based on the belief that fans were the sons and daughters of aliens from beyond the stars. Claude Degler cut quite a swathe through Fandom, but that's a story for another time.

In 1952, Rich Elsberry made up an entire convention, the Invention. It was supposed to be the ultimate convention, and the con reports the hoaxers wrote sure made it seem like a catastrophe for anyone who hadn't attended.

When Lee Hoffman, the greatest female fan of all time, came into the hobby, she didn't correct the misapprehension that she was a teenage boy. Once it got started, this hoax took on a life of its own and she preserved the illusion until she went to the Nolacon (New Orleans Worldcon) in 1950 to reveal that her full first name is "Shirley."

The greatest hoax in fanhistory had only one downside: people were very sad when they learned that Carl Joshua Brandon was the imaginary creation of Terry Carr, Dave Rike and Pete Graham, three San Francisco fans. Carl pioneered a type of parody that is still called a Brandonization in his honor and he was extremely popular, too.

When the hoax was exposed at the 1958 worldcon (Solacon), Ted White turned to Terry Carr and said, "I wish you were the hoax." He couldn't contain his disappointment. (In the mid-1960's, Carl Brandon Jr. contacted US Fandom and began producing fanzines, some English language, from Sweden. That was more *homage* than hoax, though. He eventually dropped it and has fanned as John-Henri Holmberg ever since

Some of us lazy types are too slothful to perpetrate a hoax in real-time, so we write articles about them, instead. Las Vegas has been party to several, beginning with a retro-bid for the 1973 worldcon (to oppose Minneapolis' equally fanciful bid) and including the Chicago Science Fiction League. This club has met sporadically at Chicago Hot Dog for over a decade. The CSFL claims it is the rightful continuation of the Chicago Science Fiction League, an organization that disbanded after it hosted the ChiCon. The current group claims that, as heir to the original organization, it deserves a share of the proceeds from all Chicago conventions, including the worldcons which have been held on its turf!

And in 2004, Gordon Eklund won the "Best Fanwriter" FAAn Award largely on the strength of a long faan fiction story that claimed Las Vegas Fandom invented me. —Arnie

The Vegas Fandom Trivia Game!

It's good to know when to stop. I don't know whether to ascribe the lack of participation in the trivia challenge to a dislike for the game, ignorance of local fanhistory or a combination of both. Whatever the cause, the effect is pretty obvious: it's not working.

So rather than swim against the tide when there are so many things that *are* going as planned, let's put that idea on hold and go in a different direction. Rather than attempting to measure your knowledge of Vegas Fandom, I'll impart more of mine in the form of fanhistorical capsules starting in the next issue. I'll try to make them small enough to be easily swallowed.

Thanks to those who displayed their knowledge. I'm sure we'll revisit this down the road — and you'll have your deferred justice.

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our heads at the memory of people wearing *Trek* costumes 24/7 and other bits of foolishness.

Once Ross Chamberlain, Alan & DeDee White, JoHn Hardin and James Taylor arrived, conversation turned more general. We delved into the highly controversial Terry Schivo story. Predictably, we failed to find a way to unravel that Gordian Knot, but



JoHn Hardin back to camera), James Taylor and Kent Hastings are shown in a reflective moment at the Vegants meeting.

at least we talked about it calmly and intelligently. Considering the super-heated climate around this controversial issue, that's a triumph.

Kent's SNAFFU meeting report in the last *VFW* led to discussion about some of the comments made about various religions as potential menaces in the future. It seemed like bias, however unintentional, to focus on the danger of Islamic fanaticism without giving at least equal concern to Christian fanaticism, which appears to be leading the US in some scary directions.

This prompted me to wonder why the Christian Right hadn't yet targeted *Battlestar Galactica*. The show, which posits that Earth is a lost colony of a star-faring culture makes clear that the prevailing religion is more like the Greco-Roman pantheon rather than the Christian trinity. The best guess is that the would-be censors haven't attacked *BG*, because no one has told them about it, yet. I guess this is one case where the SciFi Channel's low ratings are a blessing in disguise.

Joyce's spontaneous declaration of love for Batista, scheduled to fight for the World Heavyweight Championship at *WrestleMania 21* the next day prompted Woody's reminiscence of his days working at the movie theater that showed Hulk Hogan's *No Hold Barred*. Woody gave us all an insight into the strange economics of the movie biz when he revealed that the producers of *NHB* had demanded (and received) 115% of admission receipts from theaters authorized to show that garish clinker of a flick. I guess we know



Woody Bernardi and John Hardin make Important Points.

why movie popcorn and Arab oil now cost about the same per ounce.

LesGayBiTrans SF Club Greet Old & New Faces at 3/27 Meeting!

The April meeting of the LesGayBiTrans SF Club of Las Vegas featured two new attendees and the return of two others from past meetings. In all, the meeting drew six fans: Brent Fisher, Jennifer Weber, Stacey Lawrence, Joshua Andrews and his new boyfriend Drew, Terry Wilsey and me (Woody Bernardi).

We talked about Jennifer's upcoming showing at one of the libraries in town, of



Brent Fisher snapped this with his new cell phone camera at the LGBT SF Club.

her pulp cover print collection. When the show takes place in August, VSFA and the LesGayBiTrans SF Club plan an opening reception for her.

After the meeting, the group moved along to the Eureka Casino.

The club meets on the 4th Monday of every month at the Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada, located inside Commercial Center on E. Sahara Ave (2 blocks West of Maryland Pkwy) at 7:30 pm. — Woody Bernardi

Sunday Social Sets Themes for May & June Events!

Speaking on behalf of VSFA, Woody Bernardi has announced plans for the third (May) and fourth (June) editions of this new series of events.

It now seems likely that the Socials will settle in as the *third* Sunday of the month to keep it from coming too soon after the group's first-Monday sessions at the library.

The Socials will continue to use the Tap House, which did such a good job as venue for the March Social. Good basic facilities, reasonably priced decent food and a responsive service staff make it a real asset.

The May Sunday Social (May 15) will present a showing of science fiction, fantasy and fan art. It will include paintings and drawing from around the country as well as the outstanding creations of locals Alan White and Ross Chamberlain. If you have paintings or sketches you'd like to show to your fellow fans, contact Woody and he'll make sure you're included in the presentation.

The June Sunday Social (June 19) will tie in with Father's Day to salute the Fathers of Fandom (of which, contrary to what some of the younger locals may think, I am *not* one). Attendees will receive a special anthology about Fandom's history absolutely free. (*The Sweetheart of Fanac Falls*, an anthology of Joyce Katz's fanwriting. Was given away free to everyone who came to



the March Sunday Social.)

We'll have more details on both closer to the actual events.

Non-Con Taking Shape for July 4th Weekend!

It has been more than a decade since the first Las Vegas Non-Con in 1991, but it looks like another one is coming together for the July 4th weekend this year. That first Non-Con, hosted by Joyce and me, brought Vegas fans together for the first time for a fan-run convention in this city and the 2005 incarnation aims to do the same for a new generation of Las Vegas Fandom.

July 4th is the traditional time of year for the Westercon, but it

seems few locals are planning to make the trip. The Non-Con gives fans some fan activity to enjoy to take the sting out of staying home.

Details are still extremely sketchy, but the centerpiece will be the Bernardi Barbeque on Sunday. Also already in place are an Open Meeting of Las Vegrants for Saturday night and a meeting of the Vegas Science Fiction Association on Monday.

Any fans who'd like to host events during the Non-Con weekend should contact me, since I am playing traffic cop by coordinating the various elements of the local scene that will cooperate to make it a stellar fan weekend, even by Vegas' notoriously high standards.

SNAPS Debuts This Friday!

The Southern Nevada Amateur Press Society (SNAPS), a new local apa with distributions at each month's Westside SNAFFU meeting, will have its first distribution this Friday (4/8). Joyce Katz is official editor and will assemble and give out mailings at the end of the meeting.

Those who have already submitted contributions are James Taylor, Linda Bushyager, Ross Chamberlain, Teresa Cochran and me. Others claim to be working on their SNAPSzines, so it should be a surprisingly robust packet for a first distribution.

There's still time to participate in this fan-historic (and highly enjoyable) occasion. Just bring 15 copies of your SNAPS contribution to the 4/8 SNAFFU meeting and you're covered. (Reminder for first-timers: Put your name, address and the date on your fanzine, like I do on the front page of this one...)

A full description of SNAPS and how it works was distributed as a flyer at the February Westside SNAFFU meeting. A slightly abridged rundown can be found in VFW 17.



Chatback... the VFW Letter Column

First up, fittingly enough, is a note from the first Trufan, the man who invented fan-nishness...

Bob Tucker

Thank you kind sir.

This is the first issue I've been able to read, thanks to my computer's inability to decode pdf. Don't ask me why it suddenly started un-coding today. I don't know.

Arnie: I think it might be a conspiracy, but I'm glad your slan-like powers overcame the computer difficulty.

Here's a short comment by an out-of-town fan who is getting to know Vegas Fandom through the pages of VFW...

Robin Phillips/Rose76246@aol.com

I wanted to tell you that I think you are doing a fabulous job on these. It feels like I almost know these people already. Love the title about the Formans

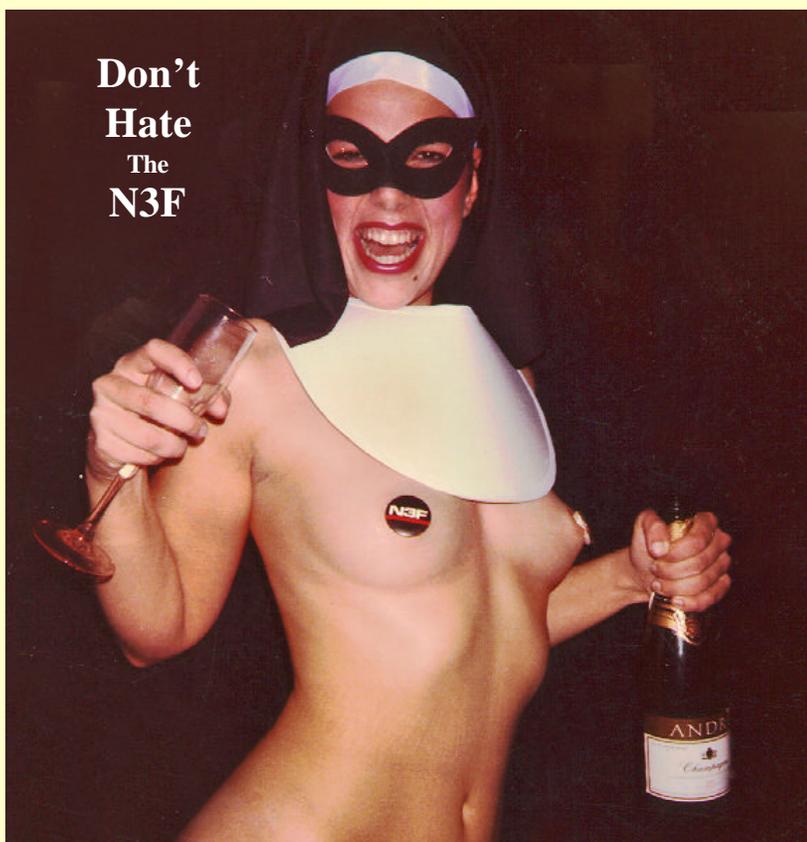
Arnie: The main purpose of VFW is to chronicle local fan doings to stimulate more and diverse activity in Las Vegas, but an important second purpose is to foster contact between fans here in Glitter City and those in the rest of the world. As you've probably noticed, the letter column has many familiar fannish names, which is a way of introducing Vegas fans to some of the most colorful, stimulating and flat-out interesting people I've ever known.

And now a recent addition to my distribution list, but an old friend from Brooklyn days, weighs in with a few thoughts about his first copy of Vegas Fandom Weekly.

Eric Mayer/

A quick note on VFW 19. Weekly publication is all well and good. but most of us take more than a week to get around to loccing! I can foresee the loccol falling further and further behind the zine until they are operating in totally different eras. VFW will be chugging along in 13th Fandom or something while the loccol will remain back in the Golden Age.

And while this may be fine from the point of view of electrons, the moment anyone tries to print the zine, the physical



Back in 1979 when I decided to put out another fanzine, I started "Rampant Nun Productions". At every Westercon, I would have a party to get fans to contribute art and articles to the zine. I always conscripted a rampant nun for the occasion.

In 1986, T. Kevin Atherton sent me ("in lieu of monetary contribution"), "2 jolly N3F buttons; one for each nipple.". I published his letter and a photo showing just whose nipples I thought the buttons looked best on in issue three of my zine *Delineator*. — Alan White

David Brin in Las Vegas — Woody Bernardi

Editor's note: Author David Brin attracted a banner crowd at the Las Vegas Library on Tuesday, April 5, sponsored by CSFA. Naturally, Woody was there — and filed this report.

David Brin was a fantastic speaker and a great guest. He conducted himself the way an author should, not like an inapproachable movie star. He was more like an average "Joe" who happens to make a living writing for the enjoyment of his readers.

Brin's speech touched on several areas: talked about several things: the Reading for the Future Project was his main topic, but he also discussed his criticisms of the *Star Wars* series, in general to his thoughts on Fandom.

The award-winning author complained that many Fans seem to feel like we shouldn't seek to recruit new fans. He said, they seem to feel that we should be like the Shakers and be the last generation.

Brin complained about the many inconsistencies in the overall story arc of the *Star Wars* series. He said that it would have taken only a few short paragraphs to have explained it all as Darth Vader going undercover and never really joining the dark side.

In his talk, Brin described the Reading for the Future Project as a tool for educators and librarians to teach young people about the world as we know it as well as how our children and grandchildren will know it. He mentioned that the University of Kansas is interested in establishing a position to create model curricula to provide said educators with "cookie cutter" models to use on the local level. He said the U. of Kansas is the only univ which treats SF with the respect it deserves.

Brin criticized conventions, especially those in the Southwest, for their lack of cooperation with such projects. He said that cons in the Northeast and Northwest seem to be more excited about the idea.

Brin sold several of his books and autographed each one of them. He donated 50% of the proceeds to be split evenly between VSFA and the Las Vegas Library. He also donated two large hardbacks to the Branch Manager of the Las Vegas Library.

We had about 20 attendees, including 10 who have been to at least one other LV Fandom event: Woody Bernardi, Kent Hastings, Mindy Hutchings, Rebecca Hardin, Jolie La Chance, JoHn Hardin, DeDee White, Gilda Cabral, Michael Korn and Amie Norris.

Other attendees included librarians and educators and even a few newcomers who haven't previously made contact with Fandom, including Dick Pelletian (a columnist for various local weekly newspapers), Tim Urey, Stuart Wilson, Jean Childs, Joyce Kohler (yet another Joyce), Laura Gold, Tim May, Michael Rush and Harvey Matthews.

The Las Vegas Library couldn't have been any better. Julie, the rep who plans such events, was most gracious. She even provided the refreshments; all I had to do was provide a bag of ice for the sodas. She also provided a copy of the Kevin Kostner film *The Postman*, based on Brin's Novel "The Postman" for viewing after Brin's talk.

— Woody Bernardi

impossibility of a publication existing in two eras at once will result in...

Well...some sort of catastrophe.

I did enjoy Woody's close encounter.

Sorry it didn't work out. From the illom it looks like the Aliens gave him at least two

good reasons form an alliance.

The fan who wrote a letter of introduction followed by a letter of gafiation pretty much reduced the whole fannish experience to its essence. As someone once put it - To fan is to learn to gafiate.

And then come back, of course.

Before regafiating etc etc

Arnie: I was half-joking when I named this fanzine, but the brisk pace of local fan-

dom cries out for this level of frequency. I imagine there will come a time when I throttle back to biweekly or even triweekly, but every time I think about skipping a week, I

Heard Around Fandom — Roxanne Gibbs

Congratulations to Suzanne (Suzle) Tompkins on winning the 2005 TransAtlantic Fan Fund (TAFF) race. She will be attending the 2005 Worldcon in Glasgow. Suzle, the long-time Significant Other of Jerry Kaufman, first came to fannish prominence as co-editor of *Granfalloon* with Vegas own Linda Bushyager. For those of you who are unfamiliar with TAFF, take a tour of the home page: <http://crete.dcs.gla.ac.uk/SF-Archives/Taff/Index.html>...

Gail Abend is on the move again. Those who have been following her walkabout that started in 2002 won't be surprised to find she is on the move again. One of her recent adventures was living in Arizona in the sticks surrounded by mesquite and mountains with the music of nature as her back drop. While there, she worked on a book about her travels. She shared with me that, last October, she, "Loved my straw bale house in the mesquite wilderness, but the job situation was like a rollercoaster," and that she needed to move to improve her job prospects. So after a brief stay in Texas to find work, which didn't pan out, Gail has again decided to return to Arizona after a visit with family in Boston. Gail is planning on a new career in the travel and tourism biz, but I am hoping she will publish some of the writing she has done while traveling in recent years...

Natasha Moore has been conspicuously absent from fan activities for the past year, so I tracked her down for an update on what she has been up to and where has she been. Being the 19 year old that she is, her response to my questions was: 'I didn't do anything, I have been right here the whole time. I swear'.

Janole Marchant, another conspicuously absent member of local Fandom is working extra hard beyond her normal work day as a teacher spreading literacy through encouraging her students to read Science Fiction and Fantasy. Her after school Science Fiction group which formally meets on Mondays has segued into five days a week with her classroom being filled with students when they should be roaming the streets and causing trouble. Since the end of the year is coming up she is looking for books to give her students (some of them have never owned any books except for children's books) to keep them interested in reading and Science Fiction and Fantasy. If you have any books to offer her, send them along with Michael Bernstein (who will do anything to get his name in *VFW*) at any SNAFFU meeting. You will once again see Janole when school is out for the summer...

I have been slowly but surely improving. I am still tethered to an oxygen tank, but I am getting better at dragging it around. Thursday I am going in the hospital overnight for tests and on the 25th of the month I am going in for a chemical stress test as if being out of work for 9 months wasn't stress enough. The 25th of the month also marks the anniversary of Michael Bernstein and I sharing our lives together, it has now been 6 years, he has kept me laughing most of the time so it has just flown by. Some day I might make an honest man out of him, but it has sure been a lot of fun living in sin.

— Roxanne Gibbs

Event Calendar

SNAFFU April 8 8:00 PM

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

Las Vegas Futurists April 8 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.) This meeting's featured speaker is John Smart.

Daugherty Open House April 16 Noon

All of Vegas Fandom is invited to the home of Kathryn & James Daugherty.

Las Vegrants Open Meeting April 16 7:30 PM

The informal, invitational club meets at the home of Arnie and Joyce Katz.

Sunday Social April 17 2 PM

VSFA is sponsoring this event, open to all Las Vegas fans, at The Tap House. The theme this time is the pioneers of Las Vegas Fandom

Las Vegas Fantasy & SF Day

April 30 10 AM-5:30 PM

A free, one-day convention for all Vegas fans. Woody Bernardi is chairman.

VSFA May 2 7:30 PM

This formal club meets at the Clark County Library on the first Monday of each month.

realize how many fascinating things are going on around here and buckle down to do another one.

Although I did have a backlog when I first started the letter column a few issues ago, I've managed to stay fairly current. There are a couple of letters of comment about this issue that must wait till next week, but I'm basically keeping current.

And it's Damn Good to see you in my letter column.

We Also Heard from: Lar-raine Tutahasi, Mindy Hutchings, Richard Lupoff, Steve Stiles, Roxanne Gibbs, Woody Bernardi..

The Katz Tale

Non-fan imperatives have made this issue a little harder, though no less enjoyable, for me to produce than most issues of *Vegas Fandom Weekly*. Truth to tell, though, it's still much more fun than it is a chore, so it looks like you can expect the next issue more or less on schedule next Wednesday.

It'll be kind of special for me (and VFW). The 21st VFW is, metaphorically, a "coming of age," issue. I'm hoping some of the out-of-towners (and the locals, too) will do a little writing, too.

See ya all next week!
— Arnie

