

VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

With Every Beat Of Her Heart!

Joyce Katz had a successful angioplasty at Las Vegas' Valley Hospital on Monday (5/23).

The High Priestess of Vegas Fandom entered the hospital at about 7:00 AM, attended by Ken & Aileen Forman and me.

They wheeled her into the operating room at about 9:00 and she was sufficiently recovered from the procedure to allow me to see her by 10:00.

The surgeon expressed satisfaction about the surgery to me in a brief conference. He said that one artery was 75% blocked, but that they had removed all obstructions. The doctor assured me that Joyce would be back to her old self within days.

We escorted her transfer to a room, where she was to spend the night, visited a while and went home.

By the time we came back to



visit her in the evening, she had started to feel strong and her color looked better than it has in a long time.

Joyce left the hospital on Tuesday, again with the Formans giving lavish help. She must be somewhat careful for the rest of the week, but this is more a fear of undoing the surgical closures than anything to do with her heart.

Joyce reports that she feels stronger than she has in years. She also claims that her brain is working better and that her wits are sharper. She keeps muttering about being the world's greatest female insurgent and how she's going to "get them, get every last one of them."

Well, ok, she didn't really say that. She smiled enigmatically and

WOW!
THE BETTIE PAGE
OF FANDOM. -



Inside Story
Thank You... Very Much

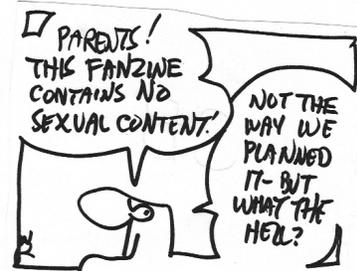
A fanzine's half-annish (anniversary issue) is like a couple's three-week anniversary. It's as if they have to celebrate now, because they don't expect to reach Paper, much less Silver or Gold.

That's how I saw it, it, that is, until I started publishing 8-16 pages a week. Now, surviving a half year and starting on the second six months looks pretty important. So, Happy Half-Anniversary to me!

Great thanks to all of you who have made *VFW* possible. And believe me, I've got plenty of folks that deserve thanks. It starts with Joyce Katz, who proofreads every issue and Roxanne Gibbs, Michael Bernstein, Woody Bernardi and Bill Burns, who help Joyce and I distribute it. Then there are Alan White, David Gordon, Bill Kunkel and Ross Chamberlain, who provide abundant and wonderful photos and artwork. Let's not forget valued reporters, which includes most of those already mentioned plus Mindy Hutchings, John Hardin, Kent Hastings, Linda Bushyager, Merric Anderson and Gilda Cabral.

Don't forget columnists rich brown, Rob Hansen, Bruce Gillespie and Bill Wright and LoCol stalwarts such as Lloyd Penney, Shelby Vick, Eric Mayer, Chris Garcia and all the rest of that gallant band.

Most of all, thank you for reading *VFW*. I hope the next six months will see even more of you participating in it, too. — Arnie



contemplated her next spate of wryly amusing fannish essays.

Joyce returned home to find an email queue bristling with good wishes from many top fans, both from here in Vegas and from all over the world. She has asked me to extend her warmest appreciate for the way Fandom

has expressed its caring and affection for her.

Although

we won't be at this Friday's

Eastside SNAFFU meeting, this is due, as in the past, to Joyce's night vision problems caused by the developing cataract in her left eye. So, although we are hoping and expecting to have fans come to visit us, her Grand Return to local fanac is set for June 4 Las Vegas grants meeting. She will return to SNAFFU at

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Vegas Fandom Weekly #28, May 25, 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 (cartoons and photos), David Gordon (photos), Ditmar Jenssen (photo) Joyce Katz (proofreading), Woody Bernardi (Star Reporter), rich brown (columnist)

Reporters this issue: Bill Wright, Mindy Hutchings, Ditmar Jenssen, Merric Anderson and Joyce Katz

Art/Photo Credits: Alan White (1, 6), David Gordon (10, 11), Dick Jenssen (9),

VFW is free by request — and you may get it anyway. It can be downloaded at the SNAFFU and VSFA sites as well as at efanzines.com. No members of the VSFA Board of Directors were harmed during the preparation of this fanzine.

Member: fwa. Supporter: AFAL. Shop Steward: Gossip Rag Union.

Chicago Science Fiction League Makes Bold Moves!

Arnie Katz

Note: Las Vegrants, VSFA and LGBT aren't the only fan groups that met this last weekend. Ever mindful of the obligation to bring you all the news in Vegas, VFW presents this incisive report which I swear on a stack of Enchanted Duplicators is somewhat True.



The Chicago Science Fiction League (CSFL) held an important strategy meeting on Monday at its customary meeting venue, Chicago Hotdog. The organization, which some feared had gone dormant, held its second session of 2005 with what is likely to be momentous results for all of Las Vegas Fandom — and beyond!

The group, formed a decade ago, claims continuity with the Chicago Science Fiction League that sponsored the 1940 Chicon I (the second World SF Convention) and then broke up in a vicious feud. After securing permission from Bob Tucker, the only surviving member we could locate, the CSFL launched its campaign for truth, beauty and justice — and our share of all the proceeds from the subsequent Chicago worldcons. After all, they've poached on our territory.

And it is that unflagging desire for what is rightfully ours that has made the Chicago Science Fiction League the third-oldest fan organization in continuous operation in Las Vegas. Only SNAFFU and Las Vegrants have shown more tenacity.

President Ken Forman called the meeting to order as the waiter brought a round of soft drinks. Attending were Aileen Forman (President) and Arnie Katz (President).

Ken expressed some reservations about a club that has three members and three Presidents, but the owner of the restaurant specifically stated that we did not need reservations. Accordingly, we voted to make Joyce Katz and JoHn Hardin Presidents, too.

Though nominations were still open, the attending Presidents voted two-to-one to refrain from adding further Presidents at this time. Therefore, Aileen moved, seconded by me, that we make Ben & Cathi Wilson Co-Executive Directors of the CSFL.

During what proved to be a lengthy, yet productive, business meeting, the CSFL ratified a constitution ("We of the Chicago Science Fiction League want your money!"), adopted a slogan ("Your money or your beanie!") and discussed a proposal to give each President a cape and a Funny Hat. Aileen said she would proudly wear her Cape of Office, but rejected the Hat of State. After a spirited discussion, a compromise exempted Aileen from wearing the Hat. In return, she agreed to wear a tiara, but only at Official Business Meetings.

That's when the hotdogs arrived and we got down to the really important business of demolishing them.

— Arnie Katz

A Fannish Staple

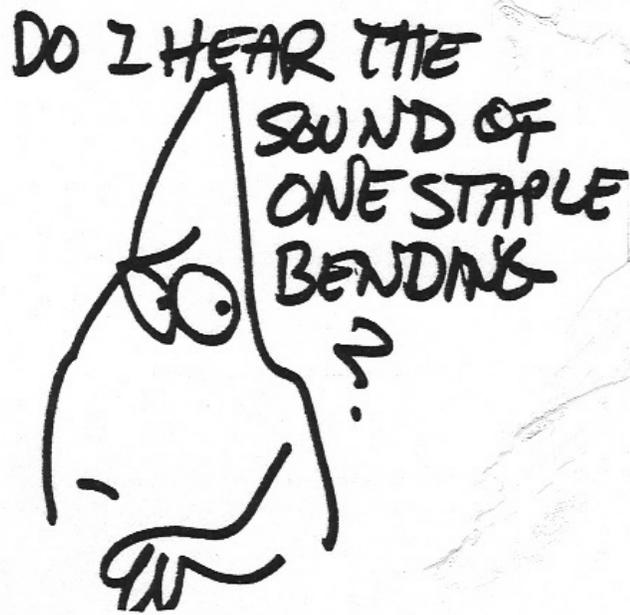
rich brown's Fanhistory Corner

From the very early in the beginnings of the microcosm of sf fandom, fans have rather consistently used humor to poke fun at their own foibles. This is nowhere more evident than in the "mock feud," in which the excesses of real fannish feuding-- which on the internet today would be called "flaming"--have been parodied and made fun of.

Perhaps the earliest of these was the mock feud known as the First Staple War, or even at times the Great Staple War, which got under way in 1934. That was when Bob Tucker, a fan already well known for his humorous approach to the microcosm -- who, btw, later came to write some really excellent sf under his given name, Wilson Tucker -- wrote a tongue-in-cheek letter to "Brass Tacks," the letter column of ASTOUNDING STORIES.

Making fun of fans who'd been complaining

for ages about any number of inconsequential aspects of the sf magazines, ranging from their size to the quality of their paper, from their rough edges to the size of type used to print the stories, Tucker announced the formation of the Society for the Prevention of Wire

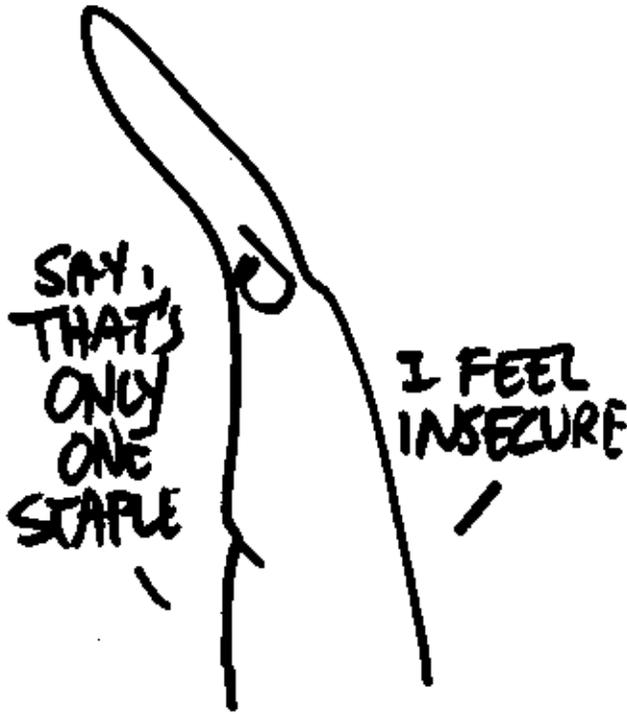


Staples in Science Fiction Magazines, or the SPWSSFM for short.

In mock seriousness, he demanded that the wire staples which bound the magazine together be removed, arguing that their use was a sorry reflection on the supposed originality of any forward-looking sf magazine, which would be better advised to use flavored chewing gum for that purpose. He expressed a willingness to compromise if greater dignity was seen as a primary goal, suggesting that platinum staples should be used in place of the common wire ones used in lesser journals.

Another prominent fan of the period who went on to a distinguished career as an sf





professional, Donald A. Wollheim (who near the end of his career used his initials as the name of his publishing company, DAW books), entered the lists by forming the IA-OPUMUMFSFPUSAU, or the International Allied Organization for the Purpose of Upholding and Maintaining the Use of Metallic Fasteners in Science Fiction Publications in

the United States of America, Unlimited, whose members insisted this means of binding magazines was no cause for fans of the genre to hang their heads in shame. The two supposed organizations battled away good-naturedly at each other in the pages of fanzines as well as in the letter column of *Astounding Stories*.

In the former, Wollheim was seen to score big points when he observed that Tucker, contrary to his ethical stand, had used wire staples to bind his fanzine *D'Journal*.

The fun might have continued for some while longer had not some prankster hoaxed F. Orlin Tremaine, the editor of *Astounding Stories*, into printing a notice of Bob Tucker's death. (It might be worthwhile to note that while several death hoaxes have been perpetrated on fandom -- albeit fortunately none that I know of in the past half century or more -- the only people who've

regarded them as even remotely funny have almost exclusively been the perpetrators, and sometimes, belatedly, not even them.) When Tremaine found out what had happened, he declared an end to the silly staple stuff in "Brass Tacks." Fandom, fortunately, had other venues for its silliness.

--rich brown

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the June 10 Westside SNAFFU meeting.

Futurists Shift August Meeting!

The Las Vegas Futurists' long-contemplated schedule change will take place with the group's August gathering. According to Gilda Cabral, the August meeting will be held at the regular Border's bookstore location (2190 N. Rainbow Blvd), but it will be on the *first* Friday of the month, rather than the second as has been customary,

According to Gilda, it is not yet known if this change can be implemented in exactly this way for future meetings, though that is the intention. Additional changes, if needed, will be reported here as they develop.

Interest in getting to know the Futurists

— a parallel, but separate group from our Fandom — has been very strong since the discovery that the discussion-oriented first came to the notice of local Fandom.

SNAPS Regains Its Official Editor And Prepares for Disty #3

With abundant thanks to JoHn Hardin for shepherding the third distribution of SNAPS (Southern Nevada Amateur Press Society) through its impressive second distribution, Joyce Katz has resumed her role as the Official Editor of the group she helped found.

"Everyone did so well with the second SNAPS disty," she says. "I hope all the fans who contributed will be back for the June disty and that some more people will give it a

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Night Life of the Vegrants

Arnie Katz reports on the 5/21 Las Vegrants meeting

Merric and Luba Anderson, with Teresa Cochran in tow, tapped on the Launch Pad's front door at almost exactly 7:30, which signaled the unofficial start of the May 21 meeting of Las Vegrants. Note the absence of phrases like "called to order." We've never called anything to order and, honestly, I don't think we could impose order on a Vegrants meeting, even if we were so minded.

The festivities started much earlier in the day for Joyce and me. "We've crossed the state line," Aileen shouted into her cell phone over the road noise when she called about 12:30. Sure enough, less than an hour later, the Ken & Aileen Forman *shlepped* their baggage into the living room and from there to the guest room.

Knowing that Ken and Aileen are getting ready to move to Arkansas (or some place similar) made me relish the time we got to spend with them on Saturday afternoon. It was

a rather leisurely afternoon. We filled them in on the New Generation of Las Vegas Fandom – we must've said nice things because they didn't leave – and talked about the possibility of an electronic successor to apas (amateur press associations) like FAPA and SAPS.

We'd just finished a dinner of pot roast, baked potato and green beans when the first fans arrived. James Taylor arrived shortly thereafter, also bearing food and the big square coffee table in the living room soon had plates, bowls and platters of food covering every inch.

Merric and I talked about Chris Haraway, who we were expecting to make his second guest appearance at the Vegrants meeting. Chris may have some scheduling problems when he returns to his casino job, but he has made a positive impression on everyone – and he's a very talented writer.

When Merric made a passing reference to how glad he was to be at another Vegrants party, I stiffly corrected him.

"Meeting," I said. "It's a Vegrants meeting." He looked around, a somewhat puzzled look on his face.

"No, this is it," I assured him. "This is as close to a meeting as we ever get." Joyce reminded him that we don't have officers, business, a constitution or other, similar trappings. "We don't vote on anything, not even on new members," I added. I told him a little about the tradition that continues with Las Vegrants and pointed out that the Fanoclasts sponsored a world-



David Gordon (left), Merric Anderson (center) and Arnie Katz smile for Alan White's camera.

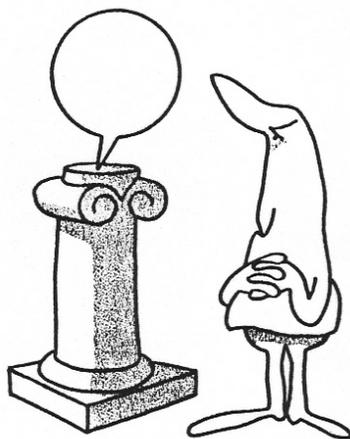


con under similar rules.

James Taylor, Ross Chamberlain and I got into a discussion of egoboo. I described how it felt the first time one of the fans I respected made favorable notice of one of my essays. I become so enthralled with reading his glowing comments that I road right past by subway stop and had to go clear to the end of the line and then head back in the opposite direction before I could continue my journey home from the Fanoclasts meeting.

As always, movie talk was plentiful. Quite a few had seen *Hitchhiker's Guide* and gave it mostly favorable reviews. The fans who went to the Saturday afternoon *Star Wars* outing arrived a little later in the evening, so I didn't get to take their pulse about *Episode Three*. The fact that none of them came in the door raving about it, though, suggests that it is might not be the science fiction film of the century.

Su Williams made a most welcome return to Las Vegants after several months, no doubt lured by Ken and Aileen's presence. She, like many others, got a chance to see Ken's excellent photos of the properties the Formans



THE ONLY GOOD THOUGHT
HE FVFR HAD

are considering. They all looked inviting and a couple of them are absolutely spectacular. I could see Yearning for Home on Joyce's face as she looked at the Ozark mountain scenery. I think the weather will keep us from following the Formans and Wilsons to the East, but the appeal is undeniable.

Ayesha Ashley, who still has not called anyone a Bastard, told us that she is auditioning to be the lead singer in a rock band. I wouldn't be at all surprised if she gets the gig (assuming she wants it), because the little I have heard of her singing is very good, indeed. She also practiced her Healing Arts on Joyce's throbbing ankles with considerable short-term success. A lot of the members have encouraged her to pursue her idea of getting some clients. I don't know how she does it, but the effects are easily observed and very striking.

Richard Brandt used to get to visit more often than he does these days and I am always really happy to meet him. I think we caught him in a somewhat reflective mood this time, but he always adds a lot to the room. His encyclopedic knowledge of shlock movies made him a natural conversation partner for David Gordon and others.

Fans began saying "good night" a little before midnight, but the talk raged on until about 12:30 AM. Woody, Mindy, James, Teresa, JoHn and Kent helped us close out one of the largest, and liveliest, Vegrants meetings of all time.

Attendees were: Arnie & Joyce Katz, Ken & Aileen Forman, Alan & DeDee White, Ray & Marcie Waldie, Merric & Lubov Anderson, James Taylor, JoHn Hardin, Ross Chamberlain, Kent Hastings, Ayesha Ashley, Woody Bernardi, Teresa Cochran, David Gordon, Su Williams, Linda Bushyager, Lori Forbes, Mindy Hutchings, Chris Haraway and Richard Brandt.

— Arnie

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try.”

SNAPS is a local monthly apa (amateur press association). It's a time-tested way to reinforce community among fans.

The mechanics are easy. Each contributor writes one or more pages, turns it into 15 copies and give them to Joyce on or before the deadline for the distribution, which is June 10. (Many desktop and word processing pro-

grams work just fine for doing your SNAPSzine. If you don't want to use Kinko's or the like, contact me and we'll work out something.)

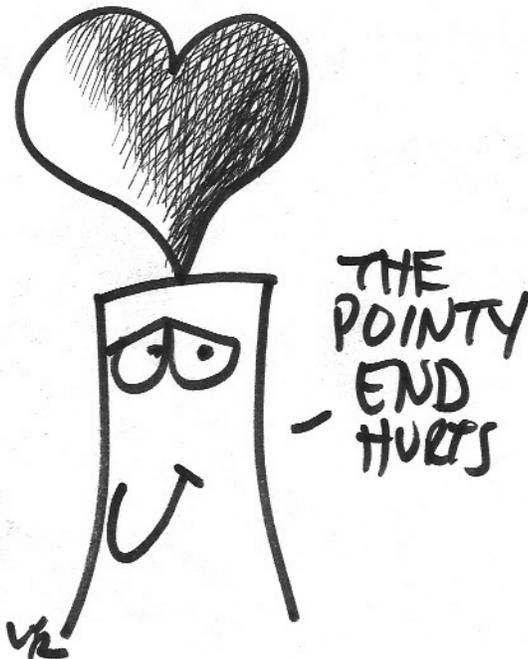
One of the most engaging aspects of an apa is mailing comments. Contributors in the new mailing will often respond to things said in the previous one. This creates wide-ranging, multi-pathed conversations.

SNAPS is a way to try doing a fanzine in a very small way. You don't have to be a great writer, either. Your SNAPSzine is going to your best local fan friends — and they'll automatically be interested in reading about your thoughts, opinions and experiences.

Some folks, especially those who haven't done much with fanzines, wonder what to write. Truly, the possibilities are unlimited. Sometimes, I think the open-endedness is what makes it hard for some to focus on specific topics.

With that in mind, let me suggest a few possibilities. You could write about your summer-time experience, what one change you think would most improve the Vegas fan scene, your favorite type of music or individual performer and/or your impressions of *Star Wars: Episode Three* and what you think it “means” after six full-length movies.

**NonCon 2 Firms Up Two Events;
Needs a Third to Complete the Weekend**
Vegas NonCon I, over Labor Day 1991,

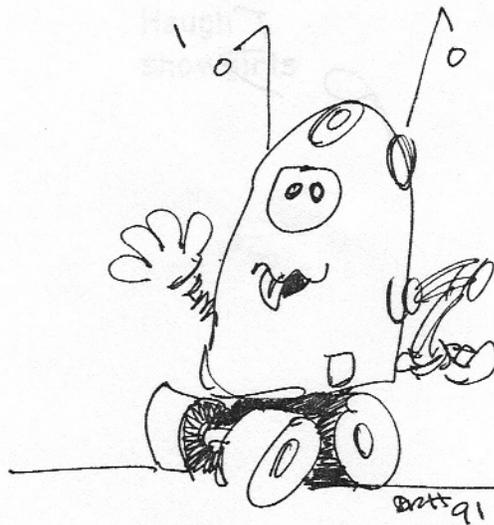


was the first large fan-run event in the history of Las Vegas Fandom. It provided the catalyst for much of what subsequent happened here in the glorious 1990s. It was also a lot of fun for all concerned.

Vegas NonCon II, set for the July 4th weekend, may (or may not) have the same huge effect, but one thing's for sure — it'll be a lot of fun.

Two major events are already in place: the Las Vegrants Arnie Katz Birthday Blast for Saturday, July 2 at 7:30 PM at the Launch Pad and the VSFA

PUPUFFNIK SCHMUFFNIK!
WHEN DO WE GET TO THE
SHOWGIRLS?!



Woody will be in Boston during the weekend, tending to family obligations, but Mindy should be a delightful hostess.

She's done everything she's tried so far in exemplary fashion and I hope everyone will take up the invitation to what figures to be a highly enjoyable time among the burgers, hotdogs and other grillables.

That's a great start on putting together the weekend, but this is the time for those who'd like to contribute to the NonCon II to step forward.

To make the weekend really fly, we need someone to volunteer to sponsor an event on Sunday (and perhaps someone to set up a movie or similar outing on Friday evening or early Saturday afternoon to end before the Vegrants party's 7:30 start).

If you have some ideas, give me a call (648-5677) or send me an email (crossfire4@cox.net) and we can kick ideas around. This would be a perfect spot for folks who are generally guests to reciprocate.

Fannish Connections **Melbourne & Las Vegas Fandom**

For those who might wonder why *Vegas Fandom Weekly* shows interests in the doings of a club half a planet away, consider this: We are all fans and we are all connected through our participation, sometimes in unexpected ways. This is a good example of that network.

Even leaving aside that two of the fans pictured here (Bruce and Alan) have visited Vegas Fandom, there's actually a direct link between the Melbourne SF Club and SNAFFU! The Australian group gave Joyce Katz a stack of wonderful old pulp science fiction magazines — and those magazines will soon be part of the SNAFFU Library!



Seven Melbourne luminaries (left to right): Bill Wright, Merv Binns, Dick Jenssen (who wrote last issue's account of the ceremony), Jack Dann, Lee Harding, Bruce Gillespie and Alan Stewart

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Everything for Art

Arnie Katz reports on the 5/22 Sunday Social

The May Sunday Social in every way eclipsed its two predecessors to rank as the most successful edition of what is becoming a “must” for Vegas fans. A lively gang of 25 fans took over the back banquet room of The Tap House on Sunday (5/22) to break bread together, gab with friends and enjoy a very entertaining program about fan and professional art.

When Ken & Aileen Forman, Joyce and I arrived, about 15029 minutes before the 2:00 PM start, we discovered that quite a few fans had gotten an early start on the afternoon. VSFA, the sponsoring club, had arranged to have art hangings and Linda Bushyager did a great job of setting up a very creditable exhibit, She and Woody Bernardi had the whole thing complete in hand, so I joined the other early



Woody Bernardi toasts the record throng at the May Sunday Social.

birds in the usual chitterchatter, except Kent Hastings, who – shock and surprise! – manned the computer in a corner of the room. Kent showed me a neat bit of technocool by routing his ipod through the computer’s speakers. We’ll have to remember *that* one if we have a music-oriented program.

The seating worked out better this time than at the two previous Socials. Fans sat around the inner and outer sides of a “U” with the seats across the bottom of the letter left empty for the panelists during the two program items. The only drawback was that, when Joyce and I went up to be on the Fan Art panel (with Ken and Alan White), another couple took our places at the table. (There were other seats, so we took them away from two other nameless and blameless fans and said nothing.)

The Fan Art panel turned out pretty well, I thought. I wish Ross Chamberlain had been able to come and that Bill Kunkel had wanted to do so. It’s rare that a fan center has three such respected cartoonists and I would have liked to see them do the panel with Ken, Joyce and I commenting from the audience.

As moderator, I described the role of art in fanzines and gave the back-stories of the two things I’d brought to show: the cover of the Bob Shaw issue of *Focal Point* by Joe Staton and Ross’ incredible multi-page comic strip cover for *Quip #1*. Ken did something similar with Greg Dees’ drawing of Sparky the Miner, SNAFFU’s mascot.



Alan & DeDee White were among the BNFs who turned out to enliven the gathering.

Inevitably, the topic turned to Bill Rotsler after Ken showed a copy of *Rotsler's Rules*. Done in conjunction with Rotsler's stint as Fan Guest of Honor at Silvercon 2, this booklet of sayings, epigrams and observations, illustrated by the Man Himself, was the first project Rotsler did with Vegas Fandom. We discussed his many talents and his close association with Las Vegas Fandom in the 1990s. All four panelists knew him fairly well, so there was a lot to say about him, too.

The pro panel included Lubov Anderson as well as Vicki Visconti and Francine DuFour. They all showed their work, answered questions and talked up the new fantasy art gallery in Henderson, Land of Legends.

I noted some divergence among the comments of the three artists with regard to this new venture. Some made it sound like a version of SCA (Society for Creative Anachronism) medieval fantasy roleplaying, while others suggested a wider spectrum of fantasy graphics. We'll just all have to go there on June 1 when it opens.

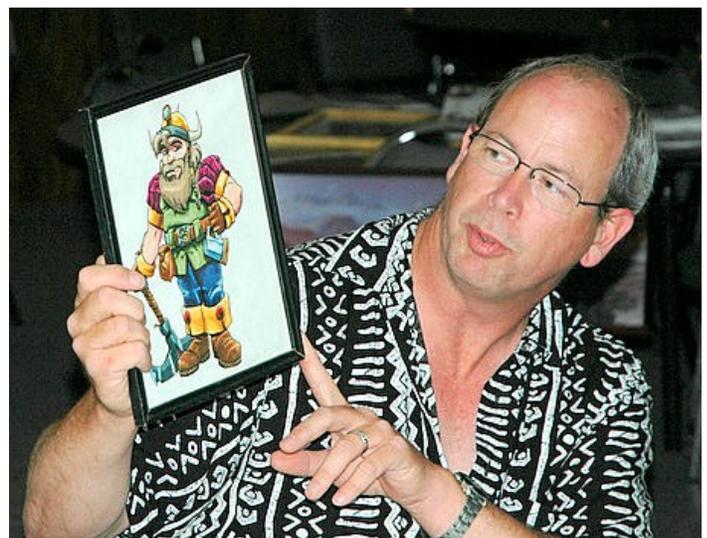
As we surveyed the crowded room, Merric Anderson and I mused on the recent influx of Vegas fans, the New Generation. He said that it was great that so many people came out to be entertained at the Social and other events.

I agreed, while also pointing out that what we ultimate desire to find are folks who want to entertain as well as be entertained. Fandom is, after all, a cooperative venture. I love to create fanzines and tell amusing anecdotes, but it's nice if there's feedback. And sometimes, even a big mouth like me wants to just sit back and enjoy.

Kent Hastings regaled us all with his view of the electoral process. He explained that his approach is to not vote in any election no matter how large or small. That way, he explained, he can always go up to someone and self-righteously intone, "I didn't vote for him!" I pointed out that this attitude might be harmful if the vote concerned something like the FAAn Awards.

There was much more, of course, but there's no real way to capture a dozen simultaneous conversations. It was a banner day.

Attendees were: Arnie & Joyce Katz, Alan & DeDee White, Ken & Aileen Forman, Ron & Linda Bushyager, Merric & Lubov Anderson, April & Leigh Reckling, Teresa Cochran, David Gordon, James Taylor, Kent Hastings, Mindy Hutchings, Lori Forbes, Darmon Thornton, Chris Haraway, Rebecca Hardin, Joelle Barnes, Francine DuFour, Vicki Visconti and CSFA president Woody Bernardi (who gets a round of applause for a job exceedingly well done), — Arnie



Ken Forman displays Greg Dees' Sparky the Miner, SNAFFU's mascot, during the Fan Art pnael.

Las Vegas Fan Event Calendar.

Las Vegrants Meeting June 4 7:30 PM

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

VSFA Meeting June 6 7:30 PM

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

SNAFFU June 10 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 June 18 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.) The featured topic is online education

Sunday Social June 22 2 PM

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

Science Fiction Research Association June 23-26

Ursula K LeGuin leads a roster of well-known authors at this convention that stresses the academic aspects of science fiction discussion and analysis. It will be held at the Imperial Palace. Admission is \$140 or by the day for \$25. Website: <http://www.sfra.org/>

SNAFFU June 24 8:00 PM

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

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Vegas Fandom Weekly will provide updates on NonCon II Weekend as it comes together in the next few weeks.

Fantasy Art Gallery Set to Open!

The budding Henderson art scene, and local Fandom, will soon benefit from the opening of a fantasy-center art gallery, Land of Legends. The gallery is located in Henderson's increasingly chic Water Street district.

According to Merric Anderson, who is working hard on the set-up team, Land of Legends will open June 16.

So Many Words... So Little Room

You'd think a 12-page weekly fanzine would be large enough for me to include everything my fevered mind can produce, but the bottom of the last page always seems to arrive too quickly.

Please send news and letters of comment, the lifeblood of this fanzine marathon. The news is the reason I am publishing — and those letters keep me going even when the software rebels and the computer ignores my instructions. See you all next week!

— Arnie Katz

