

SNAPS First Electronic Distribution Is Now Available Online!

The 4th distribution of SNAPS (the Southern Nevada Amateur Press Society) is now available as a free download at www.snaffu.org. Official Editor Joyce Katz posted it the middle of last week.

The distribution contained 28 pages, including a full-color Alan White cover. James Taylor had the largest SNAPSzine at six pages.

Contributors (in order of appearance): Charles Fuller, Marcy Waldie, James Taylor, Teresa Cochran, Joyce Katz, Chris Haraway, Linda Bushyager, Lori Forbes and me.

The deadline for Distribution #5 is August 12. You can email your contribution to Joyce (joyceworley1@cox.net) or hand Joyce a data disk at the Westside SNAFFU meeting that night.

Ayesha Ashley to Hold Pre-Move Garage Sale This Weekend!

Here's a chance to spend a little time with one of Vegas' newer fans, and maybe pick up some valuable white elephants at the same time.

VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

Ayesha Ashley is moving to a new condo, so will have a yard sale this weekend, Saturday and Sunday, July 23-24. She'll be there from 9-5. The address is 2615 West Gary Avenue, Garage 56. This is important: she lives in a gated community, so you have to telephone before you go there. Her number is 838-3580.

There'll be lots of stuff, including women's shoes (7 – 8 ½); medium sized women's clothes, a stack of books, a sewing machine, computer desk, chairs, various knick-knacks, linens, and lots more.

Arnie and I plan to go – maybe she'll even sing to us while we're there! (Joyce Katz)

The Name Game—Fannish Style!

Vegas Fandom Weekly #35 posed the question of what Joshua Andrews should rename the house on Cosmo Lane, now that he has replaced Woody as a resident. No doubt eager to take the pulse of local Fandom on this weighty matter, Joshua moved the discussion to the VSFA listserv where it has been a lively topic for the last week.

Most of the suggestions involve some play on

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the street name because, as I explained to Ruth Davidson, "Cosmo Lane" is such a cool name.

Joshua inclines to Cosmodrome, but Cosmic Circle and Cosmic Corners are also in the running.

What to call it may be up in the air, but don't forget that this Saturday at 1:00 PM is the Joshua Andrews Potluck Birthday Barbeque. All of Las Vegas Fandom (and Trek-dom) is invited. Since it's a potluck, bringing some food would be a nice idea, too.

This Weekend in Vegas Fandom

Here are the major events scheduled for Las Vegas Fandom for this coming weekend:

* **Eastside SNAFFU Meeting**
Friday, 8:00 PM

* **SNAFFU Library Committee
Work session**
Saturday, 9:00 AM

* **Andrews Potluck Birthday BBW**
Saturday, 1:00 PM

You'll find all the info you need in preview articles or the calendar.

Inside Story Save the Sermons

The July Social, reported in this issue, reminds me that one of the things I like best about Fandom is its diversity of thought and opinion. Too often in life, we find ourselves surrounded by people who think more or less like we do. People need support for their ideas, true, but it can also lead to the misconception that "everybody believes" whatever it is or, worse, that that the opinion is fact. Fandom thrusts us into contact with people we might not ordinarily get to know, folks who have a different slant on things. People need to have their opinions challenged to avoid the kind of fatuous complacency. Fandom does a mighty good job of keeping us from confusing our opinions with *ex cathedra* Truth.

Something I like even better about Fandom is respect for those differences. John Hardin is more radical politically than me and Ruth Davidson is a lot more religious than me, yet we all get along as fellow fans. We understand that Fandom doesn't have a political or religious agenda. Fandom is a hobby, not a cause or a political action group or a charity or a Bible study group. It has no "purpose" or "cause." It's a hobby; we're here to have fun.

Fandom preserves its diversity by not crossing the line between discussion and proselytizing. What may be fine for a political meeting or a religious convocation is not necessarily suitable for a fan gathering where there is no political or religious consensus — and none is desired by the overwhelming majority of fans.

Fans reacted negatively to the Social program, because it was inappropriate. Even though it was not the scheduled topic, I am reasonably sure fans would've accepted it if the "panel" had made room for divergent opinions. Without any form of discussion, it came across as a political sermon. Kent Hastings put a lot of work into his presentation under extremely trying circumstances and deserves praise for stepping forward in a crisis. It was an honest mistake, and an understandable one given Kent's background and interests apart from Fandom.

And it gave some Vegas fans a chance to exercise their Insurgent impulses and others an opportunity to see Fandom rally to protect its freedom from dogma..

— Arnie

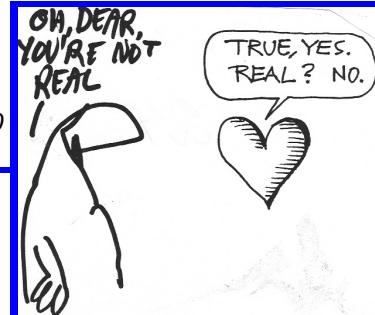


Josh asks for RSVPs
(email: An-drews1701@gmail.com) as quickly as possible. Josh has put up a website (<http://www.geocities.com/kehstat/bbq>) for the barbecue that has maps and a way to click an RSVP.

This is a potluck, so attendees should bring some kind of food — and it probably wouldn't hurt Josh's feelings if you brought hard and soft beverages. It's open to all fans.

Import Note Regrettably, Joyce and I will be unable to attend what looks like a large and entertaining event. I would deeply appreciate a report (and photos, if you're taking). It doesn't have to be fancy, but the reports on events are part of the "feedback loop" that promotes the next round of activities. Besides, Joshua is working hard on this one and deserves his egoboo.

Cont. on page 10



Vegas Fandom Weekly #36, July 20, 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 Carol Kern (photos), Michael Bernstein (motivation), Joyce Katz (proofreading), Woody Bernardi (Star Reporter Emeritus).

Reporters this issue: Rebecca Hardin, Ayesha Ashley, Josh Andrews and Joyce Katz
Art/Photo Credits: Alan White (1, 4, 5), Bill "Potshot" Kunkel (13), Carol Kern (11), Luke McGuff (8, 9) Bill Rotsler (all other cartoons)
Columnists This Issue: Randy Byers

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 confused neofen were harmed during the production of this fanzine.

Member: fwa. Supporter: AFAL. Believer: United Fans of Vegas Toner II in 2006!.

Meet Las Vegrants Katzenjammer

I don't usually talk a lot about Las Vegrants, the informal club Joyce and I have hosted here in Las Vegas for a dozen years or so. I guess it's because none of us consider Las Vegrants much more than a handy rallying point and a convenient way to assemble these folks on a regular basis.

Then, too, Las Vegrants doesn't recruit, though we always welcome new folks. The club's unstructured ambience, interest in fanzines and a dash of Insurgentism generally appeal to more experienced fans, so there's little point in questing among the SF readers and media fans.

I've noticed some curiosity about the group. I've decided the topic may be worth a column. I wouldn't want you to think we're lurking in the shadows with some fell purpose in mind. The members of Las Vegrants are the same folks you see at all the other Vegas fan events.

The Vegrants do recruit, but not for our club. Experience teaches that Las Vegrants does best when the Vegas fan community is active and thriving. That's probably why so many Vegrants have made significant contributions to Vegas Fandom.

So how does Las Vegrants add members? There's nothing resembling a formal process. Sometimes a Vigrant meets someone who seems like they belong and points out the fan to the rest of us. Sometimes fans step forward and ask. Either way, there's no voting. We talk about it until we reach a consensus. We weigh the nature and strength of any objections until everyone's comfortable with a decision.

Just as SNAFFU and VSFA trace their lineage as formal science fiction clubs to LASFS (Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society) and PSFS (Philadelphia SF Society), Las Vegrants has its roots in a tradition started by the LA Insurgents in the early 1940's.

The earliest clubs were formal and focused on the discussion of science fiction. It's easy to understand why. The impetus for all those bookish, introverts to get together was the chance to discuss SF. The thwarted desire to talk about science fiction was what those pioneers had in common.

In fact, it was *all* they had in common — so far as they knew. A formal structure is very convenient for managing large groups of strangers.

Fandom began as an Interest Group, a bunch of people who got together to pursue a single interest and then go their separate ways. As Fandom developed in its first dozen years, it changed into the subculture we know today. By the early 1940's, there were a growing number of fans who liked to spend time together that was *not* spent discussing science fiction. Some fans, mostly in the large coastal cities, actually thought it would be nice to just "hang out" with fans, even when not doing something overtly fannish.

The LA Insurgents established the idea that a small fan group based on friendship didn't need a lot of structure and formality. Toronto's Derelicts carried the banner into the 1950's, but it was large and fractionalized New York Fandom that birthed Las Vegrants most direct remote ancestor, the Fanoclasts.

Joyce and I hosted the Brooklyn Insurgents in the 1970's, until we gafiated in 1976. Las Vegrants is organized along the same lines as both Fanoclasts and the Brooklyn Insurgents — and there are several other groups that branched off from the Fanoclasts in several other fan centers.

It is untrue to say that Las Vegrants has no rules. We have three:

1. Las Vegrants is an invitation fan club with an emphasis on fanzines that meets on the first and third Saturdays of the month.
2. Las Vegrants admits new members only after discussion and consensus among the existing members.
3. The host always has the right to refuse entry to his or her home to anyone.

You might see them phrased a little differently next time, because I just wrote them from memory, but that's the gist. We don't have (or need) a written constitution, so no one's going to check for accuracy.

Las Vegrants holds Open Meetings, to which we invite all local (and visiting) fans, fairly frequently. They're pretty good parties and I think most fans enjoy visiting Las Vegrants even if they don't want to become members. Take a walk on the wild side.

— Arnie



The Vegrants at Play

Arnie reports on the 7/16 meeting

James Taylor, Teresa Cochran and Merric & Luba Anderson arrived at the stroke of 7:30. I was somewhat distressed to discover that Merric and Luba had arrived a little early -- and waited outside in their car! The thought of them sweltering in their car 10 feet from the Launch Pad's front door made me most unhappy. While we'd just as soon have fans show up at 7:30, I don't want anyone to lurk rather than just knock on the door.

James, Merric and Luba immediately headed to the kitchen to help Joyce. I noticed Teresa, looking a bit uncomfortable, was standing next to one of the living room sofas. When I encouraged her to sit, Tee answered that she didn't know whether to stay in the living room or follow the crowd to the kitchen. I informed her that I'd now finished my pre-meeting chores and that I could guarantee that she wouldn't be alone in the living room.

Merric set a plate of something down on the coffee table and joined us. As might be expected, we talked about the ramifications of Woody Bernardi's sudden decision to stay

in Boston. We all agreed that he will certainly be missed as a friend, but we all also think Las Vegas Fandom will find its way without him, just as it has without the Formans, Wilsons and Springers.

Richard Brandt, our visiting BNF (from Colorado Springs, CO), arrived bearing caffeine-free Diet Pepsi. He seemed to think that this was a magic passport that would admit him anywhere. We'd have let him into Las Vegrants without the soft drinks, but drank them all anyway. I mean, Richard is one of the most frequent, and best-liked, fannish visitors to Las Vegas. I wish he'd find an excuse to move here, because he would sure add some dynamism to the local scene.

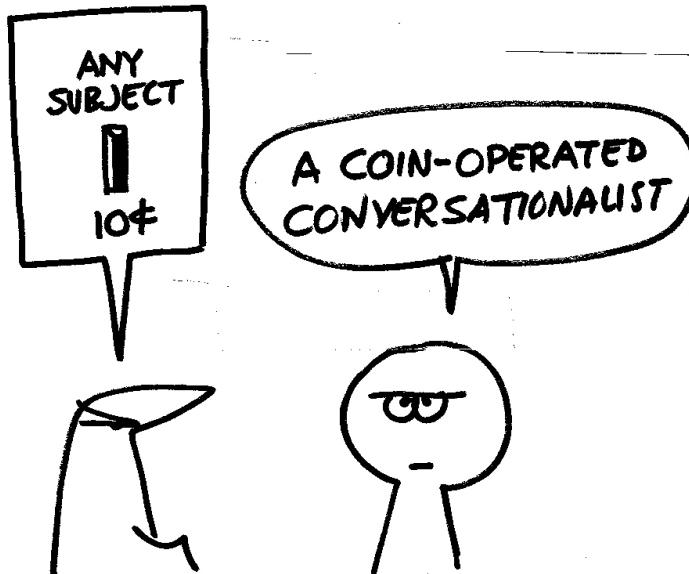
Richard told us about a tournament he'd entered this week. It was free, of course, and consisted of rounds of video poker, blackjack and slots – the cylons' answer to the World Series of Poker. He didn't do very well in the tourney, Richard admitted, but it was free and there were all sorts of comps. It certainly sounded like he'd had a good time.

It reminded me of something that happened to Bill Kunkel, Joyce and me when we came to Vegas in the early 1980's for the Consumer Electronics Show. As we walked through the casino toward the elevator that led to our rooms, Bill picked up a quarter off the carpet, put it into a jumbo-sized slot and won something like \$9. He scooped the money out of the bin – this was before slots paid off in credits – and caught up with us in time to take the same elevator.

On the other hand, Richard won \$100 on a convoluted promotion that



Luba Anderson seems reasonably happy to have Ross Chamberlain on her right and Arnie Katz on her left.



ended with him dropping a token into the top of a giant pachinko-type machine. The token fell into a slot and Richard was a hundred bucks richer.

Richard also mentioned that he'd visited the San Remo hotel to get some souvenirs. By this time next year, there will be a Hooters Casino on that lot. As Joyce pointed out, we almost used it for cons, but we always came up to the same problem: the meeting rooms and the guest rooms were on opposite sides of a fairly busy street. Joyce had visions of traffic accidents wiping out the Group Mind late Friday or Saturday night.

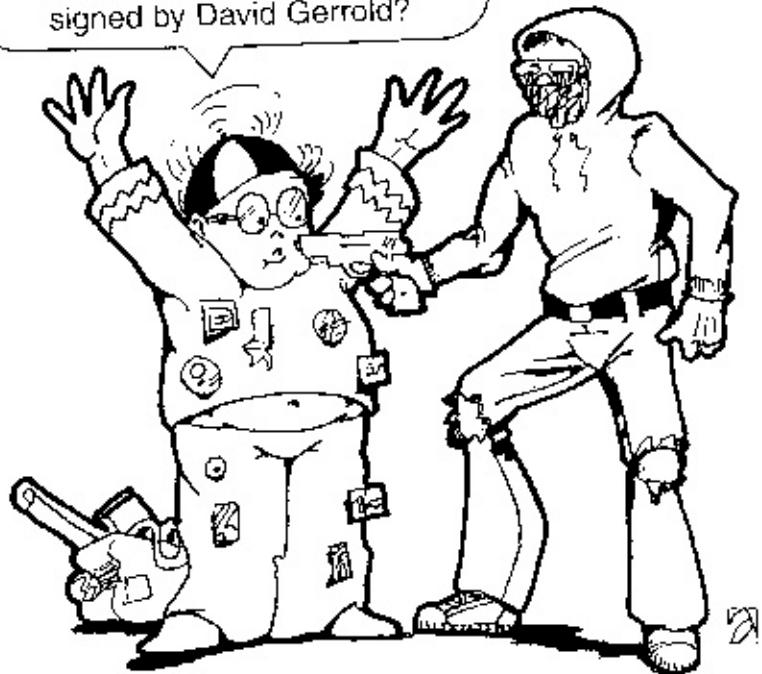
Derek Stazenski returned to the Vegrants after an absence and was soon in the middle of a film discussion with Bill Kunkel, JoHn Hardin, Merric Anderson and I in my office. The movie on the critical griddle, *Shaolin Soccer*, from Czechoslovakia, sounded bizarrely fascinat-

ing, though I immediately wished we'd been talking about something easier to spell. The movie sounds somewhat similar in spirit to *Six-String Samurai*, which Alan and DeDee White screened at Brunchcon 1. Maybe this is a flick to consider for a possible Brunchcon 2.

JoHn, James and Little Tee lingered at the end of the evening, encouraged by offers of food, drink and chatter. Joyce and I really enjoyed spending that extra time with them letting the party slow down in a highly enjoyable manner. The last Vegrants floated out the door about 1 AM.

The Trufen assembled for the evening were: Richard Brandt, Merric Anderson, Lubov Anderson, Ross Chamberlain, Teresa Cochran, James Taylor, Derek Stazenski; Bill Kunkel; Alan White; JoHn Hardin; Joyce Katz and me.

My money or my life? Uh, how about an Elvira poster, three Hershey bars, a can of Diet Coke, a copy of "The Enchanted Duplicator" and a styrofoam cup signed by David Gerrold?



The Cosmic One

Fancyclopedia II profiles Claude Degler

Note: The Formans and Wilsons' impending move to the Ozarks and the discussion about giving Joshua Andrews' new home a name have combined to raise questions about the Cosmic Circle and related matters.

This entry from Fancyclopedia II, produced by Dick Eney has a lot of the basic information, though there is much, much more for those inclined to read further.

CLAUDE DEGLER was one of the most influential, ghod help us, fans who ever marched across the Microcosm, and his career deserves to be chronicled at some length:

Degler had been confined in the Indiana Hospital for the Insane from 1936 to 1937, and released against the advice of the doctors (as Speer learned in an investigation after the Cosmic Circle fuss had blown over). He attended the ChiCon I in 1940, and at Denver in 1941 delivered a speech purporting to have been written by Martians.

He appears to have had some activity in the Indiana Fantasy Association, and a part in publishing a minor fanzine, INFINITE. At the 1942 MichiConference several attendees got bad impressions of him, but he was still virtually unknown when he arrived late at the 1943 Boskone [in Boston]. In the meantime, as the above-mentioned investigation later showed, he had (1942) been forced to leave Newcastle because of illicit relations with a minor.

After the Boskone he appears to have gotten a 4F classification and spent a month hitch-hiking thru Dixie, with his mother in Newcastle Indiana sending money orders to him along the route from funds he had saved. Getting names and addresses from readers' departments in the prozines, he contacted various stfnists unknown to fandom and, whenever they were willing, constituted each as a local and state organization, which he hoped would grow. Since Degler was constantly thinking up organization and conference names, they will not be treated elsewhere; for example, on this trip he created a Circle of Atzor (Tennessee), Louisiana Fandom, Alabama All-Fans, Valdosta (Georgia) Philosophers, and Georgia Cosmen; at the "Live Oak Conference" with Raym Washington and sister he organized the Cosmic Thinkers (a local), the statewide Florida Cosmos Society, and a revived Dixie Fan Federation, all with Raym at the head.

From the South he returned to Indiana, where a bunch of locals were supposed to exist already. After earning some more money, he departed late in June for the Schenectacon, and thence visited Boston where he "had a long talk" with Widner on such subjects as Slan Center. After organizing a few more groups -- even one in Quebec, the Future Fantasy French -- he returned alone to New York.

He slept on the floor at Little Jarnevон till some time after Schwartz and Shaw began telling him to leave, and worked on some Cosmic Circle publications which were sup-

posed to be angelled by someone in Indiana. In the Cosmic circle, which was to be a union of all persons everywhere who had a cosmic outlook, these local and regional organizations Degler had organized were affiliated with the Planet Fantasy Federation, whose council included Don Rogers (the pseudonym for Degler used in all his publications of this period),

Raym Washington, and some people around Newcastle. It is claimed that the movement was tested in Newcastle for years before the missionary work began (1943 was the Year 4 of the Cosmic Concept) but information from others than Degler is very vague.

Larry Shaw was at first impressed by Degler's ideas, and against his wishes was named head of Slan Slum (local) and the Empire State Slans. Degler took down the names and addresses, past and present, on Fantasy Fiction Field's subscription list; this made up most of his mailing list for the Cosmic Circle publications. After Coordinator Claude left New York in August, many of the fanzines from Schwartz' and Unger's collections were missing, and they charged that Superfan had taken them. Because of this, a personal fight, and the fact that the Cosmic Circle had begun to look grotesque, Larry Shaw resigned from the Cosmic ranks and declared feud on Degler.

Meanwhile, the latter's lank form appeared briefly in Philadelphia and Hagerstown, whence he caught a ride west (visiting some unknown stfnists in Oklahoma on the way) to Shangri-LA. There he joined the LASFS and used the clubroom facilities to publish weekly "news" sheets alternately titled Cosmic Circle Commentator and Fanews Analyzer, and some publications written by and credited to others tho re-worked by him. In these weekly sheets the Cosmic Circle program reached full form; Don Rogers answered a resounding "yes!" to the old question, "-are fans slans?". He proposed to contact cosmic-minded mutants everywhere, even by use of radio broadcasts. Numerous special service bureaus, for functions such as purchasing mimeo supplies cooperatively, supplying fans in the Army with free fanzines and prozines, and planning tours for other travelling fans, were announced as being set up by the Newcastle HQ.

Publications projected included a directory of fans' addresses, True Fantastic Experiences, Spicy Spaceship Stories, and others. A fanational literature was urged to promote cohesiveness in the new race. It was announced that a piece of land in the Ozarks (owned by Degler's mother) was available for use as Cosmic Camp for vacationing Cosmen. The Slan Center idea was pushed to its ultimate extreme, and the coordinator foresaw the day when those who now "carried" 22 states (that many state organizations were claimed to exist) would inherit the Solar System. The first step was organization of just the sort that grotches Fanar-

chists. With the demise of the N3F [already moribund in 1944] Degler said, Third Fandom had ended, and the Fourth Fandom was now coming into existence under the aegis of the Planet Fantasy Federation. Pending their consent (which was emphatically not given) prominent fans were named as regional representatives, and almost every actifan he'd visited (and some he hadn't) who received him civilly and listened to him politely was named as a supporter of the Cosmic Circle.

The weeklies carried a hodge-podge of policy pronouncements by the Coordinator, recollections of his trips, a few items of general interest and inaccuracy, and Cosmic Circle news like Rogers being shut out of the LASFS clubroom one day or Helen Bradleigh conducting a summer school for Cosmic Children. (Helen Bradleigh was a pseudonym for Joan Domnick, the teenage girl whom townsmen had prevented from starting the super-race with Degler; she tended children for working mothers in her spare time.) The most noticeable characteristic of the publications was that they were the worst-looking legible fanzines ever published; abounding strikeovers, paragraphs nonexistent, stencils crowded to the edges, no spacing after periods, misspelling, overuse of capitals quotemarks and underlines, wandering unplanned sentences, grammatical errors like "can and has went", malapropisms like calling Widner a stolid and far-seeing fan, *ad nauseam*.

T Bruce Yerke became alarmed at the prospect of publicity for fandom directed at potential fans and the general public appearing in such garments, and sent several fans a request for information about Degler, on which to base a report on the Cosmic Circle. Degler reacted with violent denunciation of Yerke, but was persuaded to cease firing till the report was prepared and published. In the report, Yerke stated his belief that Cosmic Clod was a nearly precipitated case of schizophrenia, a paranoiac with delusions of grandeur and a persecution complex, and called for a ban on him if he refused to reform his practices. Leading Ange-leno endorsement his report.

While he was new in LA, Superfan had gained James Kepner and other new fen as members, and Ackerman let himself be named honorary member of one more organization. Before long, everyone except 4e had resigned and the branches of the CC set up in California were memberless after Degler left.

Upon learning thru Fanewscard of the Michiconference date, Degler gave up plans to expand the Cosmic Circle in the West Coast area in order to attend. He arrived on 29 October as the Ashleys were beginning to move to Slan Shack. Al Ashley told him the Conference didn't want him, and tried to explain why, but only got arguments in return. Finally Degler said he had no place to sleep and only 60¢, but the Ashleys refused to loan him anything.

When Superfan came back to Newcastle, Frankfort Nelson Stein (whose existence has been questioned, for obvious reasons) was imputed with having taken over an Oak-grove Fantasy Society and reestablishing Slan Slum there; Frank N. Stein formed a Futurian Alliance to fight the old-fan clique who were responsible for this new Exclusion Act, the Ashley Atrocity, and were trying to keep down the new and young fans (--all this per Claude Degler). The Cosmic One claimed that the CC was neutral in this war, but left no doubt where his sympathies lay in the fight against the "National Fantasy Fascist Federation," and seemed to identify his cause historically with the old Futurian movement.

By this time Raym Washington was the only active fan who supported him; Raym had privately deplored the "morass" of publishing, and urged Degler to moderate his statements, but still hoped that some good might be done with the Cosmic Circle. In the face of this situation, a Cosmic Circle Conference (Councilcon) in Newcastle announced the resurrection of the MWFFF.

Meanwhile, a copy of the Cosmic Circle Commentator had come into the hands of Amazing Stories' Ray Palmer. The declaration of existence of a super race smelled to him of Nazism, and the fanationalistic program seemed the horrid ultima of fans' movement away from the proz which he, as a fan of the First Fandom and now a frankly commercialistic editor, decried. Because of this, and because fans were now not the type of readers his publications catered to, he made it known through FFF Newsweekly that fans of fandom would not get into the letter departments in future, originals would not be contributed for auction at fan gatherings, and so on.

Some fen reacted by saying that Degler's ideas in some form had all been spoken in fandom before, and who the hell was Palmer to try to dictate to fandom or criticize others as crackpots, and as for Amazing and Fantastic Adventures, good riddance to bad rubbish. But others, alarmed at the possibility that other proz might follow Ziff-Davis' lead and cut fandom off from financial, recruiting, and publicity assistance, made haste to inform Palmer that Degler didn't speak for fandom. Palmer modified his statement of the ban, but urged fen to return to the ways of their fathers.

On the theory that the Cosmic Circle could best be laughed out of existence, the Boston boys had issued a Trivial Triangle Troubadour, FTLaney produced the Comic Circle Commentator, Kepner followed with Caustic Square Commentator, and Tucker announced formation of the Cosworms. When the Z-D affair broke proceedings were started to expel Clod from FAPA, which he had lately joined (Laney and others made up specimen batches of surplus CCCCommentators Degler had left in LA to send around FAPA in illustration of their criticisms of the Coordinator.) And Clod found it expedient to let his LASFS membership lapse because of the overwhelming sentiment against him there. It wasn't a joke any longer.

After the war the Cosmic One, using a new penname of "John Crisman," published *Weird Unsolved Mysteries*, a flying saucer review thing, which he circulated at the PhilCon I. Future issues (which apparently never appeared) were to feature such articles as "EE Smith is Earthbound and Unimaginative."

He also announced *Monster Stories*, to feature "Behind the Super-Nova" ("a tale of sheer cosmic horror and weird vengeance"). Later he crossed out the "Crisman" and inserted a new pseudonym, "John York," and used WUM to exchange for fanzines. Any further history he may have made is unknown to your Gibbon.

— Dick Eney

Arnie's Postscript

Dick Eney published *Fancyclopedia II* in 1958 and his closing paragraph was accurate at that time. I seem to recall that he came to a Midwestcon incognito (well, actually, in Cincinnati).

Perhaps the only person who recognized him, Bob Tucker, will enlighten us in a future issue of *VFW*.

The Seattle Tun

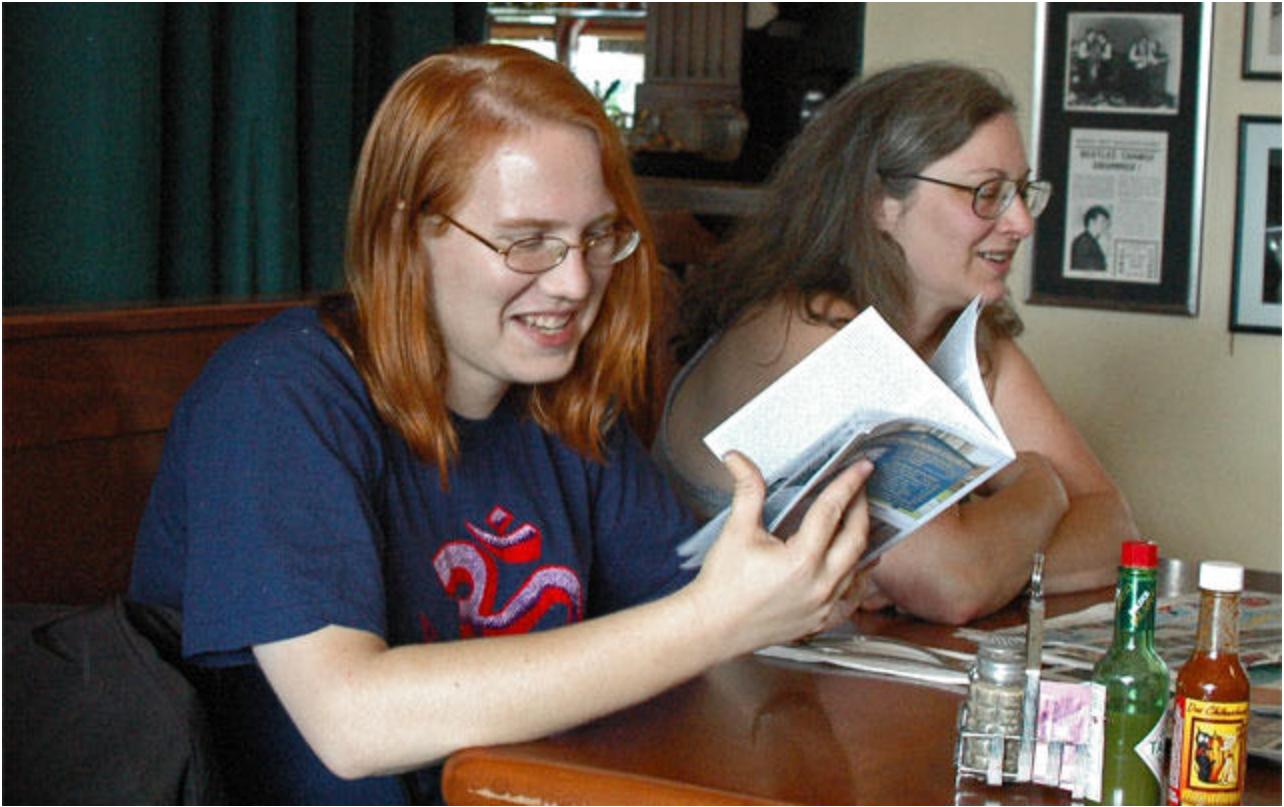
Randy Byers reports on a July 10 Gathering

Inspired by the ancient and venerable tradition of the London Tun, which Rob Hansen described in an earlier issue of VFW, Ulrika O'Brien had the idea of starting a monthly fannish pubmeet in Seattle. Ulrika wanted to create a social event where fans from different groups could mingle and see how the other halves live, and also where out-of-town visitors could drop by for a pint of good cheer. After a false start or two, the Seattle Tun began in earnest last year, initially meeting at the Elysian Brewpub on Capitol Hill, then giving the smoke-free Hales Brewpub in the wasteland between Fremont and Ballard a try. Meanwhile Marci Malinowycz was conducting a search for the ideal venue, and she eventually suggested we try the back room at the Blue Star Café in Wallingford. This proved an idyllic combination of quiet, smoke-free, and spacious, and the Seattle Tun has apparently settled in for an extended stay.

The Seattle pubmeet happens on the second Sunday of every month between 3:30 and 6:30, come rain or Mother's Day, and I made it to the most recent occurrence on July 10th. This one was a little smaller than the previous two I'd



Kate Schaefer, popular Seattle fan, photographed at the fanhistoric gathering.



Rachel Blacjman (left) reads a copy of Pete Young's *Zoo Nation* while Janice Murray talks to an unseen friend.

been to, particularly the June Tun, which had filled the back room with upwards of thirty people. We probably peaked at fifteen people this time around, probably because most people were burned out on the weekly Clarion parties of this time of year.

I stopped at the bar on my way in, ordered a pint of Dick's Danger Ale, and chatted with Luke McGuff about his girlfriend, Julie Humphries, who is contemplating abandoning fabulous Madison fandom to move to Seattle for the sake of love. Eventually we gravitated to the back room, where I found Ulrika and her husband, Hal, sitting at a table between Luke and Julie on one side and, on the other, Janice Murray and two relative newcomers to Seattle fandom, Rachel Blackman and Fey Boss. I sat with them, and we discussed the various ways they have been coerced into volunteering to help with fannish events around town. They're obviously already wise beyond their years to know that this is a good way to meet the locals and see if they're worth befriending.

Jerry Kaufman and Suzanne Tompkins (familiarly known as Suzle) arrived, and soon I was deeply involved in hashing out TAFF politics and procedures with Jerry and Ulrika, while Janice explained to Rachel and Fay what the fan funds

were all about. (Wish I knew!) Suzle will be attending this year's Scottish Worldcon as the TAFF delegate, and Jerry is bringing his DUFF experience to bear in helping her to plan the trip. Eventually my good friend Ron Drummond showed up with another longtime doyenne of Seattle fandom, Marilyn Holt. I'd lost my seat to Alan Rosenthal by then, so I sat with Ron and got caught up on the publishing project he's spearheading, which will put out a 25th anniversary edition of John Crowley's masterwork of modern fantasy, *Little, Big*, with book design by longtime fanzine fan and typographical rock star, John D. Berry. (See www.littlebig25.com for details.) Suzle came over to chat about TAFF, and I waved to Kate Schaefer and Mary Kay Kare in the corner. Rachel replaced Suzle and told us about her adventures in horseback riding, one of which had recently led to an ankle injury.

I had to leave early to head to another social event, so I bid all a fond farewell and headed out the door. Ulrika has gotten something good going here, and it's creating new connections — or at least new opportunities to drink and gab. If you're ever in Seattle on a second Sunday, I hope you'll swing by and say hello.

— Randy Byers

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If you would like to report the BBQ, please email me (crossfire4@co.net). That way, we'll prevent two volunteers from writing reports; I don't want to waste anyone's time.

Rachel Hardin Assumes VSFA Presidency!

Rachel Hardin, recently named vice president of VSFA, acted decisively to keep the club on an even keel in the wake of Woody Bernardi's move to Boston.

She has assumed the presidency of the group on an interim basis. At its August 1 business meeting, VSFA members will probably decide between simply having Rebecca fill in the final month of Woody's term, elect a new president immediately or choose someone else to fill out the term until the elections at the end of August.

Woody Returns in Aug. But Only for a Visit!

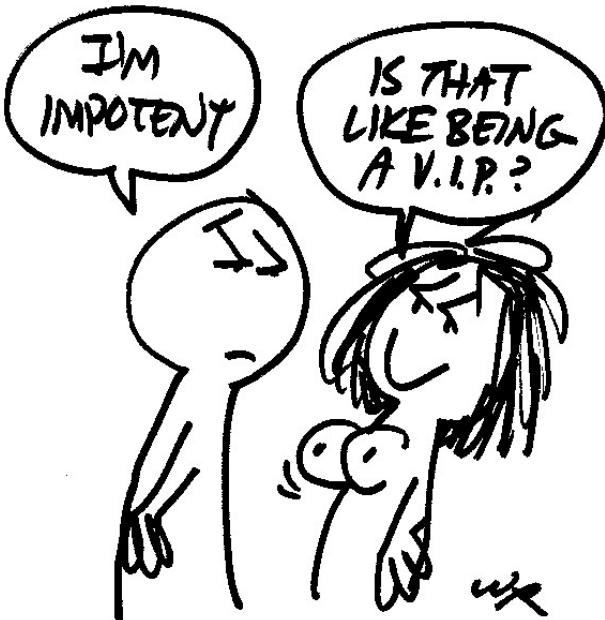
Woody Bernardi, who stunned local Fandom by turning a vacation trip to Boston into a permanent move, will be back in Glitter City on August 6. No, he hasn't soured on NESFA and his new job; he's coming back to collect his stuff for transport to Beantown.

Las Vegrants will host the Bye-Bye Bernardi Bash, an Open Party for our beloved emigrant on Saturday, August 6, starting at 7:30.

The party, hosted by Joyce and me, will take place at the Launch Pad (909 Eugene Cernan Street). All Vegas fans, and any fans who plan to be in Vegas that weekend, are cordially invited to an evening of relaxed socializing and nonstop chitterchatter to salute one of the most popular fans in the city's history.

You don't have to bring anything, but donations of beverages and food are always greatly appreciated.

Non-Vegrants are encouraged to let us know you're coming. You can email (joyceworley1@cox.net) or call (648-5677). Look at everything Woody has done for Vegas Fandom in just the last year, think about



Continued on page 12

The July Social VSFA Report

The rollercoaster July Social, held on Sunday, July 16, was unlike any of the previous ones. The attendees all seemed to have a very good time, but many wouldn't want a rerun.

Joyce and I arrived at The Tap House a little later than usual, mere moments before the scheduled starting time to find a few fans milling around the banquet room. With Merric Anderson's help, I arranged the tables into the customary "U" while a few others positioned the chairs. It's easy to play hero at the Social. The tables are sturdy, but extremely light. Either Merric or I could've swung a table around unassisted with very little effort, but the sight of the two of us painstakingly, laboriously situating each table earned us admiration and egoboo from all quarters for our simulated industry.

Joyce and I commandeered our usual place at the end of one of the legs of the "U." I sat at the end with Joyce to my left and Merric to my right. Luba sat next to her husband. Joelle Barnes took the seat beside Joyce and Teresa Cochran and James Taylor sat down on the other side of the Andersons.

With the weather so warm outside – and only beginning to benefit from the air conditioning inside The Tap House – conversations veered to summer time activities. The Andersons disclosed that their apartment complex has pools and Jacuzzis and Teresa mentioned that she likes to swim in her apartment complex's pool at night.

Teresa is very intrepid, but I admit that we are all very protective toward her. She must have heard the worried murmurs, because she immediately said, "It's



Merric Anderson (right) looks pleased about something. Teresa Cochran is in the foreground at left. Luba sits between them, contemplating.

very well lit."

I couldn't help myself. "How do you know?"

"People tell me," she said.

"Yes, but what if they are lying?" came the reply.

We ordered food and had made considerable progress eating it with no sight or sign of Kent Hastings. He'd become responsible for the Social when Woody moved to Boston and Mindy Hutchings went out of town on vacation. And then he had to go to Los Angeles to deliver some lenticular art to Denise Crosby! About 3 o'clock, halfway through the meeting, a phone call from Kent told us that he was speeding toward The Tap House and would arrive in mere moments.

Joelle and Luba started a dialogue on the subject of marriage. Joelle said she really wanted to find someone to marry, while Luba felt that it should be the other way around; find the person and then form the permanent attachment.

Kent's prediction came true and our leader was soon settling into his seat at the bend of the "U," where the panel for the Social's program usually sits. "I need a plug," He said, though he seemed to be working fine without one. It turned out that he wanted to plug in an assortment of electronic gizmos on which he had assembled numerous clips for the program, which had changed from "Freedom in Science Fiction" to a combination of Libertarian polemic and salute to the late Samuel Konkin III.

I felt bad for Kent, who put a lot of effort into the presentation. It just wasn't the right audience and the one he had eventually rebelled. I have no doubt that this presentation would – and probably will – be gangbusters at a Libertarian gathering. I hope Kent understands that the hostility toward the program was in no way meant to be personal; he's a great guy and a terrific asset to Las Vegas Fandom.

At first it looked like everyone was ready to drift homeward, but instead we all stood in a circle and talked about VSFA after Woody. I don't think it's appropriate to repeat off-the-cuff comments in this fluid situation, but Carol Kern and Linda Bushyager really had thoughtful and intelligent things to say – and Merric and James made me proud with their light touch of Insurgentism.

Enjoying a pleasant afternoon with fan friends were: Linda & Ron Bushyager, Merric & Lubov Anderson, Joyce Katz, Joshua Andrews, Rebecca Hardin, Joelle Barnes, Carol Kern, Teresa Cochran, James Taylor, Kent Hastings and me.
— Arnie

what a great guy he is and get you faanish butt over to this shindig.

Heard Around Vegas Fandom...

Ayesha Ashley, who still hasn't said those Two Little Words we are all longing to hear ("You Bastard") is moving to a new condominium next month. It's a little further South than her current place, which puts it nearer to work, but maybe a little farther from her friends. Now go back and read the item about her yard sale...

Alan White is expecting to have surgery in mid-August. He's anticipating a four-day stay in the hospital. The prognosis is excellent, but some Positive Thoughts from you wouldn't hurt...

Ken & Aileen Forman and Ben Wilson (and his

daughter Megan) are enroute to Flippin, AR as we go to .PDF. Cathi Wilson is staying behind in California to collect a bonus before quitting her current job...

Merric Anderson may seem quieter than usual lately. He has made three, week-long, out-of-town trips in the last four weeks as part of his work as a hotel security specialist. He doesn't usually have email access while he's away, hence the silence. He expects the travel to ease up soon...

Chatback: The VFW Letter Column

It has been a couple of weeks since the last edition of Chatback and, thanks to your generosity, there are quite a few letters.

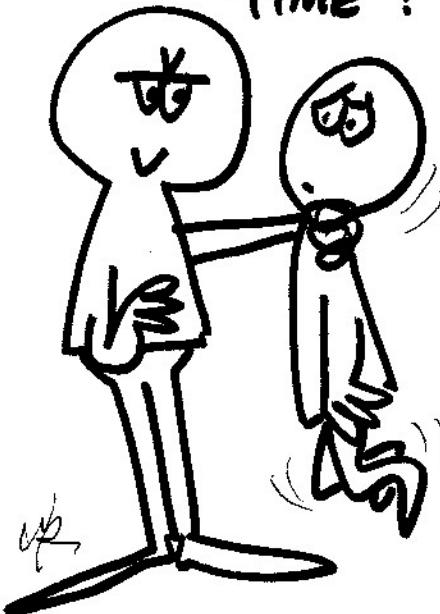
And who better to start with than Canada's gift to fanzine letter columns...

Lloyd Penney

28... Good to hear that Joyce got past the angioplasty, and is getting on with getting well. More and more, I hear about health problems of people my own age, so I've taken some tentative steps. Yvonne lost a substantial amount of weight through Weight Watchers, and now, they have their own version of Atkins, called the Core Diet.

We've been on the Core Diet for about three weeks now, and I've lost about 10 pounds. Not much, but it's a good start. When I see folks like Mike Glicksohn losing about 30 pounds, and Robert Sawyer losing about 65 pounds, I figure I could do it, too. Core Diet isn't as strict as Atkins, but it still seems to be ef-

**YOU WILL WRITE
A LOC NEXT
TIME?**



fective.

29... Woody Bernardi should know that as he goes to Gaylaxicon in Boston this coming July 4 weekend, Gaylaxicon 2006 will be in Toronto, and Yvonne and I will be helping out chairman Lance Sibley on this effort. I'll be in charge of the dealers' room, and will probably be in charge of making the flyers and badges.

Ah, more fanhistory is explained. Articles like this one should be collected for a single volume, but I'd wonder who but a select few would value it.

My loc...yeah, Glicksohn laughs at me for complaining at being 46 when he's about to hit the big 6-0, but there are times I really do feel my age. My joints make more noise than

my breakfast cereal.

I'm trying to think of where that printing plant is, the one that handles almost all large-scale comics in North America. I know there's a big comics distributor in Winnipeg, but I don't know where that plant is. Someone tell me so I can apply for a job there

30... Another Toner! Sounds great! Wish I could get there. We've been working with the LAcon IV folks as Canadian agents, but going there has become impossible to afford, so I expect getting to Las Vegas would be much the same. Randy Byers distributes the bribes? Where's mine?

The Founding Fathers of Fandom...some of them are still around, like Dave Kyle in his First Fandom jacket. Maybe one of the discussion topics should be First Fandom, its activities in the past, and its relevance today. I qualify for associate membership in a couple of years, and I am thinking of joining, and seeing what it will get me To Bill Wright...I've heard your title Interstellar Ramjet Scoop before, but never seen an issue. Could I get a copy of the next one? Pleeeeeeeze?

31... Fandom is a Lot of Fun. I think that's the best attitude to take. I would like to be even more active because I am having fun, and I'm like to have more. We have our priorities, and our limits, and perhaps we are frustrated when we reach those limits, be they physical, temporal or financial.

I wouldn't mind printing out all the e-zines I receive, but I would have gone through dozens of cartons of photocopy paper just to do so. I save them all in a file on my desktop, and I will burn them onto a CD-R at some point.

Arnie: The absence of Meaningful Fanac in his life must be aging Mike Glicksohn at unnatural speed. I thought he was considerably younger than me back in the 1980's, but now he's a year older. Maybe if he wrote a letter to VFW, he could reverse the process and fully enjoy the precious years he has left.

And now let's go to one of the leading members of Vegas Fandom's New Generation....

Teresa Cochran

It sounds like the music circle was a great success. I look forward to the next one. Actually, my first exposure to a "filk circle" was at Loscon this last Thanksgiving weekend, and a good 50% of the songs were old-fashioned sea chanteys.

The upcoming ConChord, which Woody and I may attend (Aug.26-28) features a poet and satirist, Les Barker from the UK, who, as far as I know, isn't a "filker" per se, but he's brilliant.

I really love reading the fan history pieces in *VFW*. Rob's column on UK fans is great to read. If I go to London, I'm going to try hard to make sure I go to a get-together at the local pub. I have always wanted to go to pubs for folk sings, anyhow.

Arnie: Well, you were one of the stars of the July Vegas Music Circle meeting, so I guess things turned out pretty well. I wouldn't want to go to a convention to hear fans sing sea chanteys, but that's not to say that others shouldn't do so.

It's time to welcome back one of VFW's favorite letterhacks, the toast of the BArea...

Chris Garcia

Alan and DeDee White are great people for showing one of my all-time favorite films, *Six-String Samurai*. I've seen both the other films, and neither are as brilliant as Jeffrey Falcon's classic film. In fact, I saw it the first time on video and the shoes that one of the characters wears were ordered less than ten minutes after the last credit crossed the screen. Interestingly, I had to order them from The Attic in, where else, Las Vegas, Nevada. I also want to know what exactly a Cthulhu Omelet is and can it be made with Egg Beaters.

Can't wait to read the Toner Anthology on eFanzines. It'll give me more reason to sit and wait with baited breath for August 2006.

The Westercon Bid for LV is one that I'm going to be supporting, especially since I'll always support anything that wears the Daugherty badge. It's

got a great name: Burning Fan. Wonderful title, if you ask me, so long as it doesn't draw too many of those Burning Man, incense-burners to the con!

I've read a lot of numbering fandom theory and I've been working on my own which deals entirely with transitions as major, fandom-changing events. First fandom ending with the first WorldCon, for example. I've got some work to do on it, but I wanna be the first guy to get his PhD with a dissertation on the history of science fiction fandom. (Now all I have to do is find a University that will let me take a path towards a PhD in Popular American Cultural Studies).

I love the stories that I've heard from folks about the old White Horse and the Globe days. Since I've never made my way to the UK, I can only get my info second hand, but it's usually from a funny set of hands. I'm always enjoying Rob Hansen's work.

Sounds like you all had a great Vegrants meeting. Having been attending BASFA meetings for about a year now (and recently being made vice-president), I can say it sounds like y'all have more fun than we do, though I must admit there is a certain joy in our form of "Recreational Parliamentarianism."

You know, some day, perhaps when I'm writing the Unified History of Fandom from 2000-2050, *VFW* will serve as the documentation of how Vegas became the centre of the fannish world.

Arnie: You have what sounds like a very solid

Potshot's Cartoon Theater



Las Vegas Fan Event Calendar..

SNAFFU July 22 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. The subject is Robots.

Joshua Andrews Birthday BBQ July 23 1:00 PM

Joshua Andrews hosts this open-to-all at Cosmo Corners (6400 Cosmo Lane).

Las Vegrants Meeting August 6 7:30 PM

Las Vegrants invites *all* Vegas fans to its Open Party It's at the Launch Pad, the home of Arnie and Joyce Katz. We are awaiting confirmation of a Major Guest Star. Hint: He is a Boston fan... now.

SNAFFU August 12 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 August 12 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.)

Vegas Music Circle August 14 2:00 PM

All fans are invited to make music or just listen at the Launch Pad. The session starts at 2:00 PM.

Las Vegrants Meeting August 20 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

Sunday Social August 21 2 PM

VSFA sponsors this event, open to all Vegas fans, at The Tap House. Specifics about the August Social are pending the VSFA business meeting.

premise for a fanhistory article. If you'd like to write a version for Fandom, I hope you'll consider VFW. I am also working on a new fanhistorical theory and expect to have my article ready to print by the second issue of Implications, the new fanzine I'm doing with Joyce and JoHn.

And speaking of writing, I'd welcome some coverage of Bay Area fan events along the lines of the VFW columns that cover Seattle, London and other fan centers. I didn't know there even was a club in your area these days.

A recent — two time — visitor to Vegas Fandom offers a comment...

Richard Brandt

rich brown's reference to fandom's historic legal tussles reminded me of one of the quieter and lesser-known feuds in fandom: Bob Shaw once wrote me that the title of my fanzine, "Light in the Bushel," was trans-

parently plagiarized from his column "The Glass Bushel," and demanded a share of the proceeds from my fanzine. "If your fanzine is operating at a loss," he continued, "please disregard this letter."

Arnie: On the other hand, Andy Main gave me "Katzenjammer," which he had been using, because he said it fit so naturally.

We Also Heard from: AP Sawyer

Say 'So Long'

... because like in the rock ballad of the 1950's, weekly fanzines never have to say "good-bye." Even with the smaller type size for the news, I'm still out of space for this week, but there'll be another issue along about next Wednesday.

Meanwhile, I hope you'll recommend VFW to your friends and give it a read yourself. And if you can find the time to write a letter, I'd be delighted to read it and print it in next issue's "Chatback." — Arnie Katz