



VSFA Valley Voyager

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Vegas Science Fiction Association: A Universal Fandom Organization



David Brin Article (part 3)

www.VSFA.us

A Lonely Fan No More

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Mindy's Musings

Right, so here we are, one month after Woody's departure for cooler climes and a better job, leaving VSFA behind to soldier on. We're loving it! Sorry, Woody. We really do miss you, but we're also having fun! At the very least, we can say it certainly has been, er, interesting.

In general, VSFA's goals haven't changed at all. It's in the specifics of the execution that we've had to take a different tact. The club was on the path to planning a Con for Spring 2007. Since Woody was the only one in VSFA who had any experience with the multitude of tasks necessary to pulling a big event off, the remaining VSFA members are working hard at gaining the knowledge and contacts we need to make our first Con a good one.

The active members of VSFA have always been excited about mixing education with fun, so it's natural that we'll continue that tradition. We're keeping the events we have (the *Sunday Social* and *Dinner and a Movie with VSFA*, and the RFF service project), but we've been tossing around ideas for special events. It's going to take a while to plan things out, but we're ready, willing, and able to take on new projects.

The biggest excitement this month is the opening of VSFA's official web site (look for Ruth's announcement in this issue [pg 8]). Since there will be several interactive areas within the site, it will now be easier than ever to participate in the fun! We're still adding to it, so keep checking in to see what's new. As always, for the most up-to-date information, check in with the Calendar on VSFA's listserv: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/VegasSFAssociation/>.

This month's V3 features a full meeting report of our historic August meeting: the first in the club's history without Woody presiding. There's also announcements about various projects and events, as well as new columns from President Rebecca Hardin (State of the Union address), and Joelle Barnes (a movie review). The regular book review column continues, although with a bit of a twist this month.

Please, if any of this sounds interesting to you, join the listserv (at the above address) and talk to us. At the very least, we'd like to hear your thoughts about our clubzine. Send letters to: lasvsfa@yahoo.com or VegasSFAssociation@yahoo.com.

Thanks for reading and see you next month!
Mindy Hutchings – Secretary

State of the Union

As most everyone knows, VSFA has been presented with a few challenges in the last few weeks. Our fearless leader, J. Anthony Bernardi, aka Woody, has deserted us for greener pastures in Boston. The Board of Directors scrambled to try to prevent any rumors about the club disbanding, assuring everyone that we would continue, a little sadder, but wiser (well maybe not too much wiser). Alas, not all gossip was avoided, but we've done our best to squelch any undue blathering. It hasn't been easy.

To add to this stress, we were recently informed by The Tap House that August would be the last month we could have the Sunday Social there. They've opted to kick us out in favor of football parties on Sundays (stupid football). So now we have one more challenge. Since we absolutely want to continue the Social, we are in the process of trying to find a new location. Any suggestions would be welcome. We will keep everyone posted on our progress via this newsletter, the VSFA Yahoo listserv and the Vegas Fandom Weekly.

Other than that, we seem to be doing pretty well. I'm sure we'll stumble a little along the way, trying to find our post-Woody footing. We relied heavily on Woody's energy and enthusiasm. He will be missed, mainly because that leaves a lot more work for the rest of us.... just kidding. We wish him success in his new endeavors.

Rebecca Hardin - VSFA President

“FAITH MANAGES.”

—Brother Theo (to Captian Sheridan),
Babylon 5; *Passing Through Gethsemane*.

Using Science Fiction to Help Turn Kids on to Reading . . . And the Future! Part III © 2001 David Brin *used with permission*

The rest of this note is addressed to these aficionados of strong literary science fiction: We've all heard about declining literacy in America. Sherry Gottleib tells that when she first opened the Change of Hobbit bookstore, in L. A., it thronged when the local junior high let out. Over time, these customers stayed loyal, but weren't replaced. In the store's final years, Sherry's average customer was gray-flecked or balding, and the few teens who showed up focused on media or comics.

(1) Who will keep fandom going, and run the cons later, when we all want to kick back and be Big Name Fans?

(2) If the readership declines, your favorite authors might have to get day jobs.

Polls show an aging of the SF readership. Science fiction themes are popular in films, comics, and games, but the genre's literary heart faces demographic collapse. Worst of all, countless kids forget how to say the most beautiful word in any language: "Wow!"

That is where it all finally comes around. No altruism is more effective than the kind that begins at home. Each of us lives near some school where bright kids now languish—bored, bullied, or unmotivated. Who among us can't recall facing the same crisis once in our own lives? For many, it was science fiction that helped us turn the corner. Science fiction welcomed us home.

As a community of science fiction fans and professionals, shouldn't we make it our chief socially responsible activity to help expose another generation to a love of "the good stuff?"

Ever since Greg Benford, Greg Bear, and I first raised these questions, a number of SF-oriented clubs and fan groups have focused their con-auctions, fund-raisers, and charity drives toward raising SF literacy in their own communities. In many cases this meant "adopting" a local junior high school English teacher and/or librarian, finding out their needs and doing some of the following:

*Recruiting guest speakers to visit classes or school assemblies, giving inspirational talks about science, writing, or history....anything to fire enthusiasm and imagination at an age when these are precious, flickering things.

*Donating funds to buy SF books and sponsoring a reading club, and/or writing contests, to encourage a love of SF and the creativity that helps produce more of it.

*Persuading bookstores to offer prizes and discounts for teens.

*Holding a special session at every local con, to which teachers are invited for free, to share ideas with fans and pros, then carefully using one-day passes to attract some of the brightest local teens to the con.

There is self-interest operating here. Authors who give

talks often acquire new fans. Local conventions that sponsor a SF club may soon have new con-com members. If your charity auction sends \$500 to the "Special Wish Fund," you'll get a thank-you note; but hand the same amount over to a stunned librarian and the photo will make your local paper!

Some committees, such as the Baltimore-based Worldcon, have organized nationwide contests for SF-related stories, essays, and artwork created by teens across North America, with awards and prizes to be presented at their convention.....and now, Junior Memberships in the Science Fiction Writers of America! Others—in the Northeast especially—have followed suit. But this is only just the beginning.

4. Holding a teacher/librarian mini-conference.

One thing local conventions can do:

Most fan organizations have in their charters a major provision for "outreach and education." Yet this seldom gets priority. Here is a relatively painless approach, already tried with success at several conventions, offering a win-win situation for all: the Saturday morning SF-education mini-conference.

It starts by simply gathering all the routine "SF/youth/education" panels into a cohesive group, then making a real effort to invite area teachers and librarians to attend that part of the con for free. (With reasonable upgrades for those wanting to stay.) Some teachers can then be recruited to help adjust next year's program to their needs. In a year or two, the mini-conference can be granting credential credit with momentum all its own. Moreover, it can be a moneymaker for the convention, as attendees convert their free half-day memberships and tell their friends! Later, corporate sponsorships become a real possibility.

With teachers and librarians on board, you can generate great projects that involve kids in creative ways; for example, running a science fiction reading/writing/art contest in area schools, involving several grade levels, culminating in a grand awards ceremony at the local con. (With reasonable con memberships available to the winners, their parents, and friends....)

This kind of thing has worked already! At Worldcon in Baltimore, Chicago, Philadelphia, and every year in Salt Lake City. Experienced fan groups stand ready to help through the Reading or the Future network.

If nothing else, running a focused "SF & Education Miniconference" sure beats scattering the usual youth- and education-related panels all over the weekend. It seems worthwhile to focus some effort on the future, since that's what SF is all about.

So there it is. A general outline of some efforts that are currently underway, to use the most American form of literature—Science Fiction—in the cause of helping kids learn. So far, it is only a rough outline, with some sincere

efforts being made along the way. This letter is not so much a prescription as a call for people to think about possibilities: how the literature that is most about foresight and hope can somehow influence both young people and society at large to do the one thing that separates humans from all other creatures of Earth, Sky or Sea....

5. At the University level

The University of Kansas, under the leadership of eminent author and professor James Gunn, has undertaken one bold move, at one of the few SF friendly campuses. A position of "Coordinator of SF Projects" will be established, enabling many proposals to start getting some attention. Included (we hope) will be some of the ideas described above, along with:

a speaker's bureau to connect SF authors with events ranging from a library in their area to high-paying gigs across the world.

A consortium of SF-friendly universities, to coordinate programs and counter the hostility towards this genre that seems to infest so many lit departments.

Education programs in conjunction with the SF Museum and Hall of Fame.

A web-centered resource center to help volunteers,

teachers, librarians and others stay connected and use new ideas that are all aimed at this positive end.

The positive end of helping a positive, assertive, problem-solving civilization raise enthusiastic and bold generations. Not just this one, or the *next* generation, but many more culminating in the stars.

Think ahead...With respect, David Brin <http://www.davidbrin.com/>

More resources

*The International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts:

<http://ebbs.english.vt.edu/iafa/iafa.home.html>

*Science Fiction Research Association:

<http://www.sfra.org/>

*Science Fiction Foundation Collection:

www.liv.ac.uk/~asawyer/sffchome.html



Business in VSFA-land

VSFA met on August 1st at our usual venue: the Clark County Library on Flamingo Road. Unfortunately, the library was a bit late opening the meeting room, so our start time was 7:15 p.m., instead of 7.

We had a great turnout for our first meeting with our new president. The entire current VSFA Board of Directors (Rebecca Hardin, Terry Wilsey, Mindy Hutchings, Ruth Davidson, and Joshua Andrews) promptly signed in, as well as regular attendees Teresa Cochran and Joelle Barnes. Merric Anderson and Lubov were also on hand for this historic meeting. New attendees (stragglers in a bit late) were Marvin Ravis and Brian McCauley.

The first order of business was to publicly announce Woody Bernardi's permanent departure to Boston and Rebecca Hardin's assumption of the VSFA Presidency. Ruth Davidson was also confirmed as a BoD Member-at-Large (in charge of Internet Publications). She was also confirmed as the official editor of V3 and the VSFA web site which is under construction. The final submission date for articles to be included in the August issue of V3 is August 14th.

Of course this rapidly brought us to related business. Although a plan for an election at the end of this year was announced in VFW in May, that plan was contingent on having bylaws in place by August and having the federal non-profit paperwork filed by November. The abrupt departure of the previous president puts us one to two months behind schedule; therefore, the first VSFA election is now planned for the end of 2006.

There was then an announcement that official con-

vention planning will be postponed indefinitely as the remaining members of the group have little to no experience running a Con. However, interested members will continue to work to gain experience. Ideas in this direction were: expand the Sunday Socials to include another day in another location, visit other Cons, and volunteer to work local and regional Cons. Since there's an anime Con and a Harry Potter Symposium coming up next year, this last idea is most opportune.

Terry then brought up the idea of creating special events in conjunction with major film releases. This is something we can take advantage of immediately as *King Kong* and *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* are films coming out very soon. Everyone liked the suggestions, but the special projects will undergo further discussion and/or development before anything official is implemented.

The President then made a statement: Planning a general SF convention was Woody's primary goal for starting VSFA and that's what the majority of us signed on to do. However, in order to implement this goal, more members are needed. VSFA is a Universal Fandom Organization: we welcome members of all SF creeds (comics, movies, literature, gamers, and anime/manga fans, for example). VSFA will continue to develop events to attract the attention of general and specialty interests.

Along this same vein, there was a suggestion to create a regular event on the far east side of town (not in Henderson) which is an area not currently being served by any group. This could be something along the lines of a Sunday Social, possibly held at an IHOP, at least initially

until interest in the event builds. The biggest benefits to such a location is the known quality of the food and the fact that there are no service charges involved.

Next, the RFF project, the library contract, the web site, and the next VSFA Monthly Meeting were quickly mentioned. The RFF service project is officially on hold until Woody's return as he has information we need. The library contract is due to expire in October; all BoD names will be put on it to allow any one of us to sign the group into the room. We will also ask for an opening time of 6:45 p.m. so the meeting can start on time. The web site is very nearly ready for public presentation. Various items are needed for the home page are needed, as well as the "contact me" addresses.

The next VSFA Monthly Meeting is again on a holiday. September 5th is Labor Day and the Clark County Library will be closed. In the past, there has been discussion of finding another place to hold the after-meeting dinner and it was felt this would be the perfect time to try out another place. It was decided to try the café at the Tuscany Hotel and Casino (on Flamingo Road). Watch for an announcement for the official start time. This will NOT be an official meeting; it will be a social event.

The VSFA Sunday Social was next on the agenda and stimulated a lively debate. As this topic took up a great deal of time, a separate announcement regarding the Socials will be created. To keep the story short, we'll just say that basically nothing is going to change.

The last really big piece of business was the announcement of a logo contest. VSFA really needs a logo but not one of us feels up to the monumental task of logo development. Time is in short supply at the moment. Besides, what better way to bring attention to ourselves?! Rules for the contest are being formulated as we speak and be posted in the next issue of the VSFA Valley Voyager (V3).

The official bits were over and done with shortly after 8 p.m. Once the Member Meeting began, it was agreed that, overall, the meeting was positive, many of the attendees expressing optimism for VSFA's future. The general discussion portion of the meeting was lively, as usual. The Secretary was too busy having fun to take many notes, but she does remember one of the new members asking what our most successful topic was. Rebecca told him it would have to be the 1-day event and all the topics presented there. The presentation on art at one of VSFA's Socials would be a close second. George Lucas and Star Wars cropped up as did the debate-laden topic of "books made into movies, are they worth it"?

It was at this point that Merric made his Toner 2 presentation. He very explicitly said that it is not Arnie's event. He explained that it is to be a "relaxicon," heavily leaning toward a party atmosphere. Merric has many plans for activities and hopes to attract a diverse crowd of volunteers so his ideas can be implemented. President Rebecca Hardin gave her immediate endorsement but also specified that this was a personal endorsement and other VSFAites can make up their own minds about volunteering. She also

Dinner & a Movie: "Sky High"

By Joelle Barnes

I'll admit I was reluctant to see "Sky High," which is about an elite high school for the teenage kids of superheroes. Without having kids, I didn't see the point. I went primarily for the company of the group, which I would enjoy even if we saw "Ishtar." Those who came were President Rebecca, Mindy, Joshua, Carol, myself, and three newcomers (1 man, 2 women) whose names I wish I could remember.

Surprisingly, I found it to actually be cute from an adult perspective. Yes, the school is in the sky; and the bus flies; but I was rooting for the "sidekicks." They are the outcast kids who haven't yet developed super powers, or have "inferior" powers. In a superhero movie, I don't think I'm giving anything away by saying that the sidekicks defeat the evil villain and become heroes of the school. I saw this as sort of a Marvel Comics, high school version of "Revenge Of The Nerds."

However, my favorite thing about the movie was the original 80's songs (not re-mixes) from when I was in high school. I even sang to myself. I would like to sincerely shake the hand of the person who arranged the music, because I take music very seriously.

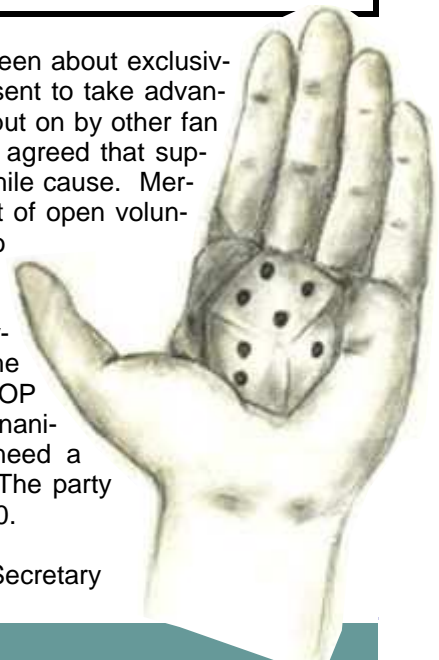
Afterwards, we ate at the top of the Stratosphere. No, just kidding! Actually, we went to Fitzgerald's, where the newcomers were active participants in dinner conversation. I envy food critics, who get paid to eat and write. So I'm going to say that the French toast - tantalizing to the taste just to see it covered with nuts, bananas, strawberry's, and syrup - has become popular with some in the group (myself included).

I would not give "Sky High" 4 stars, but it was a lot better than I expected. A "fun for the whole family" Disney movie. Looking forward to seeing you soon!

said that VSFA has never been about exclusivity and urged everyone present to take advantage of the many activities put on by other fan groups. Everyone present agreed that supporting Toner 2 is a worthwhile cause. Merric was urged to make a list of open volunteer positions and post it to the listserv so people can start signing up.

At 8:50 p.m. everyone (except for one of the newbies) retired to the IHOP on Maryland Parkway, unani- mously agreeing that we need a break from Blueberry Hill. The party finally broke up around 11:30.

Mindy Hutchings – Secretary



Earth 2075 – Moon, Mars Colonies; alien life discovered

By Dick Pelletier



What will life be like in 2075? Of course nobody can accurately predict that far in advance, but by examining present-day knowledge, we can come up with plausible scenarios of how our future could unfold.

We begin with technologies that radically changed our lives and re-defined what it meant to be human. Biotech, nanotech, and infotech advances quickly led to development of powerful bodies and minds resistant to disease and aging, and by 2040, indefinite lifespan had become the norm. Robots, immersive virtual reality, and a terabyte-speed Internet provided excitement that kept us forever active in our extended lives.

With concerns over health and dying gone, environmental issues took center stage. Nano-replicators, appearing in mid-2020s, supplied most of our food, clothing, and gadgets. By mid-century, researchers began using this wonder science to terraform Earth by converting greenhouse gasses to oxygen and creating an abundance of clean water.

Space exploration took on added importance early in the 21st century. Military budgets racing upwards, diverted to a more logical area to achieve peace – creation of other worlds that promised new experiences for the bold-at-heart, and as many believed, would also lessen conflicts between war-minded neighbors.

Moon trips resumed in 2020 and explorers established the first colony with safe habitats for permanent living in 2025. Humans-to-Mars dreams finally became reality too. In 2030, astronauts made the first Mars landing and began construction of a permanent base. Trips initially taking 10 months one-way now take only 10 hours by utilizing new fuels, and by jumping off planets from space elevators instead of old-fashioned launch vehicles.

By mid-century, terraforming also began on Moon and Mars, and today, people enjoy Earth-like atmosphere on these remote worlds, with lakes, rivers and forests. Free land and housing for settlers has helped Moon population reach 10,000, Mars 50,000, and by the end of the century, experts predict growth to 2 million and 10 million respectively. "Territorial" governments are now claiming "independent" status and efforts are underway to form an alliance of world governments similar to the fictional Star Trek "Federation."

However, our joys of progress turned to shock and caution recently when the newly-launched "Space Eye" observatory detected radiation rising from a star system at the far end of the Milky Way galaxy indicating the existence of an alien world, classified "Type 3" by astronomer Nikolai Kardashev's advanced civilizations' ratings. This alien world could amass power billions of times greater than Earth, and may already be developing wormholes which would enable travel throughout their galaxy, including to our three worlds.

Discovery of these powerful aliens have brought people together, minimizing religious and ethnic differences, but huge issues remain. Are they friendly or hostile? Do we attempt to contact them, or should we conceal our presence until we can protect ourselves? World leaders are polling every citizen for their opinion. (I ask you, the reader, which course humanity should take. Confrontation or concealment – please email your vote to futuretalk@cox.net)

Every scenario mentioned in this article is consistent with known laws and theories of physics and biology, and are within the capabilities of human accomplishment. Get ready to enjoy this bold "magical future."

Dick Pelletier writes science and technology articles for VSFA Valley Voyager.

You may contact him at futuretalk@cox.net.

Burning the Woodshed - by Joshua Andrews

Ladies and Gentlebeings of Fandom. I, Joshua Andrews, am proud to announce the Burning of the Woodshed...

Long ago (about 4 weeks) Woody Bernardi announced that he is leaving Las Vegas. With that announcement we gave him fond farewells. And the last pleasure that one gets falls to me, The burning of his home, The Woodshed.

Well, the figurative burning. No Wood or Plaster will be harmed in the burning of the name... But since the Woodshed was Woody's Home and now that is gone so



shall the Woodshed be. Being that the Woodshed is on Cosmo Lane, I decided that the Word or a variation of the word would be included in the name. So without Further adieu....

**PRESENTING THE NEW
NAME OF THE HOME AT
6400 COSMO LANE....**

**COSMIC TREE
HOUSE**

Come and Join the Party!!!



VSFA Logo Contest!

Currently, the Vegas Science Fiction Association (VSFA) has no logo and we really, really want one. Since the Board of Directors currently lacks the time for developing a piece of artwork, we thought we'd let everyone else in on the fun!

So here's the official announcement of the VSFA Logo Contest. The contest begins immediately, ending on November 20, 2005. That gives you three months to be creative, so for heaven's sake, don't leave it until the last minute.

Now, logo creation is an art unto itself. Keep in mind that the picture should look good in miniature (for bookmarks, business cards, etc.), as well as larger sizes (for the listserv home page and the web site).

Here's the rules:

1. It can be in color or black and white. We're not predisposed to choosing one over the other.
2. You are welcome to enter more than once; however, no more than four submissions will be accepted from any one individual. Only the first four submissions will be accepted, so send your best first!
4. All submissions must be sent in electronic form (high quality .jpg and .png file) to lasvsfa@yahoo.com.
5. All submissions are due by midnight on November 20, 2005. Anything with a time stamp after that will be dropped from consideration.
6. Once your work is submitted, VSFA (Vegas Science Fiction Association) has the right to use it for various public purposes for a term of one year (from November 20, 2005

to November 20, 2006). For example, the winner and runners-up may be published on the web site. After this time period, the rights revert to the original owner and the image may be used as they wish. However, all VSFA affiliated content must be removed. The exception to this rule is the winner of the contest (see Rule 7).

7. The winner's work will be owned by and used by VSFA in perpetuity (basically forever). The winner cannot display this work in other venues except as part of a portfolio presentation. It cannot be used in any other professional, volunteer, or fan organization publications.

8. The winner will receive recognition for their achievement in the form of a notice in all areas of its use, where practicable. The winner will also receive the right to have their email or web site address displayed along with their name. In addition, the winner will receive a certificate with their name and featuring the winning design.

9. The winning design will be chosen by the VSFA Board of Directors and announced in the December 2005 issue of VSFA Valley Voyager (V3), the club's electronic newsletter.

10. The winner will receive a dinner paid for by the VSFA Board of Directors at a restaurant of our choice. We promise it won't be at McDonald's!

11. The winner does not have to reside in Las Vegas. However, you must come to Las Vegas to get your dinner. Gift certificates will NOT be awarded! Your dinner prize must be claimed by April 1, 2006.

12. Any contingencies heretofore not thought of and elucidated in these rules will be decided by the VSFA Board of Directors. All rulings and decisions are final.

Book Review by Mindy Hutchings

My plan for this column was to review a different author each month. In accordance with that plan I was going to review Kim Robinson's books (*Dead Witch Walking*—funny!—*The Good, the Bad, and the Undead*—definitely a bridge novel—and *Every Which Way But Dead*—fantastic!). The minute I received the news that Nevada's own Elizabeth Bear had won the 2005 John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer, I knew my next article would have to be devoted to that fantastic author! However, since I'm obviously biased when talking about this fabulous, wonderful, excellent author, I thought I would do a little Internet research and see what others are saying.

Another review of *Hammered* here (much longer than my own):
<http://trashotron.com/agony/reviews/2005/bear-hammered.htm>

An excellent review of *Scardown* here:
http://www.reflectionseidge.com/bookrev/bookrev_s.html

A nay-sayer on *Scardown* (spoilers abound):
<http://www.sfcrownsnest.com/articles/books/2005/nz8407.php>

Her website:
<http://www.elizabethbear.com/>

An interview with Elizabeth Bear, a snippet, really:
<http://www.scifi.com/scifiwire2005/index.php?category=0&id=31897&type=0>

Other links:
<http://www.livejournal.com/users/elizabethbear/>
<http://www.speculations.com/rumormill/?z=673&f=467842>
<http://sff.net/campbell-awards/award.htm>

VSFA Website - LIVE! Introducing www.VSFA.us

That's right folks, we are now officially a part of the world wide web! Huzzah! Sections of the site are still under construction, but for all intents and purposes, it's alive and kicking for public consumption.

Let me go down the menu and tell you a little bit about each section.

"Home" is the main page. A logo will be featured after the Logo Contest is over.

"What is VSFA" is an introduction to what we're all about. Eventually there will be a link to our constitution and bylaws (something we're working on as we speak), and maybe even one for tax deductible donations once we're officially a non-profit organization.

"Calendar of Events" is rather self explanatory, but currently it is offline. I'm having a bit of trouble with the database. Once that's all cleared up it'll be available for all to see without having to join, or log on to, our listserv.

"RFF Project" is all about Reading For the Future. Currently there are only two articles by David Brin and the main RFF site listed. More info to come later.

"Publications" has all of V3 available for download. It also has a link to VFW, SNAPS, and Implications.

"Links of Interest" will have all sorts of various links that may be of interest to local and non-local fans. There will be a list of local groups and organizations., and one for non-local groups and orgs as well. There will be links to general SF/F information and even one for the sciences. Also, there will be a "link to us" option with mini banners/buttons for people to use to link us to our website. If we provide link to you, it would very nice if you return the favor and link back to us.

"Reviews" is exactly that. Since we're a universal fandom organization, there are LOTS of sections for SF/F reviews. Too many to go into them all here, so you'll have to go the site to check it out. ::wink:: Anyone can post a review, but if you want to comment on one, you have to do so via the listserv or in the form of an LoC for V3. Every section is up and ready for use!

"E-cards" will provide a neat way for fans to contribute to the site. Sending your fellow fans

a fannish greeting would be a spiffy thing to do me-thinks! If you want to add to it, you'll have send me a .jpg or a .png (subject to approval) owned by you, and state that you are giving VSFA permission to use it. Your copyright will be retained. This section will be up and running as soon as I receive three submissions so peeps can have at least a few e-cards to choose from at first.

"IGCD" is the Intergalactic Complaint Department. It is run by Cosmic Trouble (aka Carol Kern). This is the place where you can literally make a complaint about anything. It could be about your next door neighbor's dog digging up your rose garden. All you do is submit a complaint (subject to CT's approval) to her and she posts it up via the IGCD blog, with comments on your complaint. Unlike the reviews, you can reply to CT's posts.

"Contact Us" has the email addresses of everyone on the Board of Directors as well as CT's.

A few points of interest: The background image is one large image of REAL stars graciously provided by Ron Wodaski (www.wodaski.com).

All other images were taken from public domain images of REAL stars, planets, nebulas and other space features. The only exception to this (as in something nature did not make) is the RFF Project which shows a top-forward view of the back of the Discovery Shuttle, and the top banner displays our very own Las Vegas skyline. There's something about everything being taken from nature and real life that makes me grin inside.

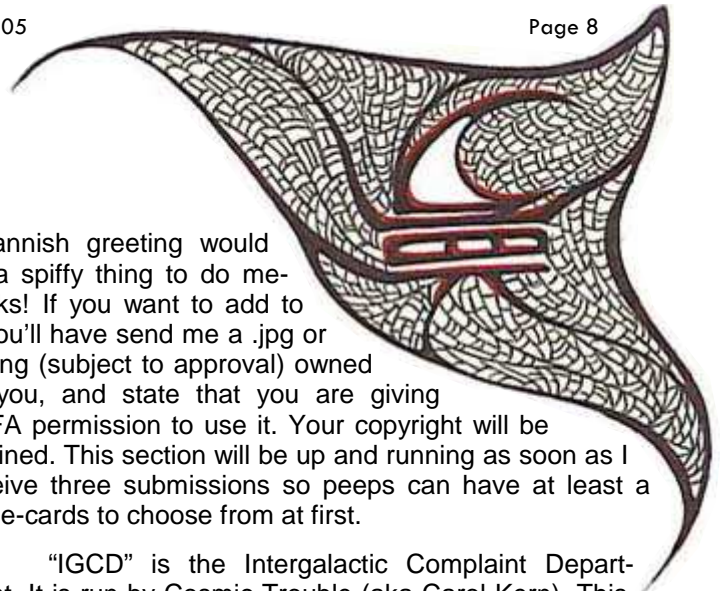
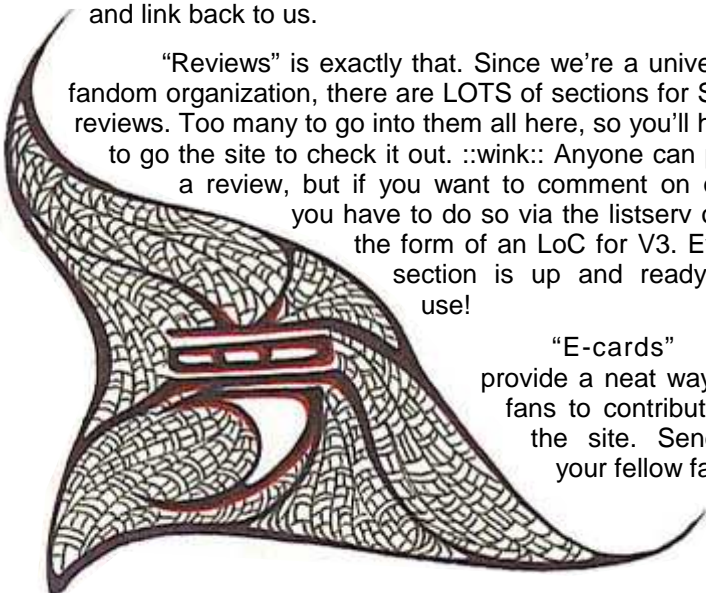
Our web space is graciously provided by Lord Xarph (www.xarph.net). If it weren't for him, we'd have to pay for webspace or be stuck with geocities site.

Why vsfa.us? Vsfa.org is owned by the Virginia State Firefighters Association. Vsfa.com is owned by a bulk registrar; askmysite.com. We'll try to nab it when it expires in January. Vsfa.net is actually owned by Woody, but with his new busy schedule he hasn't had the chance to relocate his password and change the info for me. If all else fails, it can be bought again after it expires at the end of the year. And last, but not least, because vsfa.us is a LOT easier to remember than garlic.xarph.net/~vsfa.

Suggestions and comments are always welcome. I can't possibly think of everything! The site is easily – well, it's not always as easy as it seems – expandable to fit VSFA's growing needs without too much worry about space (Xarph is cool like that).

I hope you enjoy the rewards of all my hard work.
::wink grin::

I look forward to hearing from you!



A Fan is EGO BOO DEPRIVED!

Yes, fellow fans, you heard it right. One of your own is ego boo deprived! You can help this poor fan gain some by sending in **LETTERS OF COMMENT!** Yes indeedy, that's all it'd take. All it requires is an extra 10 to 30 minutes out of your life after reading this issue of V3.

A fan without ego boo is a cruel thing. Help stop the Death of Fandom, the Apathy Epidemic, now. Send in your LoC today; rcmailgroups@gmail.com.

This is a fannish dramatization, yo.

SF/F Senryu & Haiku

By Ruth R. Davidson

I'm sure many of you are familiar with Haiku – a style of poetry originating in Japan. Traditionally, they consist of 17 syllables (though many now have less) like so:

Five syllables first
Then seven follow after
And five to end it.

What's the difference between senryu and haiku?

“George Swede of Toronto, Ontario, who co-founded Haiku Canada in 1977 and active in the international haiku community, provides the clearest and most logical answer I have found. After studying haiku types, he came to the conclusion that English-language haiku consist of “three content categories”: Nature haiku, Human haiku (senryu), and Human plus nature haiku (hybrids).”

—<http://members.tripod.com/~Startag/HkSenDiff.html>

I'm not sure how it happened, but I was thinking about science fiction, fantasy, and haiku at about the same time, which caused me to write four with a science fiction or fantasy twist.

Great science fiction
Technology yet to be
Spurs our dreams forward.

• • • • •

Dragons and Fairies
Dance unseen among the clouds
Their wings bring the breeze.

• • • • •

The trees still whisper
Telling secrets that are deep
In their magic wood.

• • • • •

If you've ears to hear
And eyes to see, you may see
Dreams Philosophy.

Have I inspired you try to this too? ::hint hint::

A Lonely Fan No More!

By Ruth R. Davidson

I was sitting at the café in the Tuscany Casino with Woody Bernardi before he departed, that Tuesday night of August 9th, to return to Boston. Dining with us was Kent Hastings, Rebecca Hardin, Carol Kern and late arrival Joshua Andrews.

We were having a grand ol' time talking about whatever came to mind when somehow the subject of the abuses we endured in middle and high school came up.

Carol, gesturing towards those sitting at the table, said, and I paraphrase, “We are the outcasts. We were the ones, scorned and laughed at.” I looked around the table, and thought of other fans I had the pleasure of acquainting myself with and I realized she was right.

We truly were the outcasts. The ones who were made fun of in school. We were truly laughed at, scorned, even spat upon. Harassment for not conforming to our peers abounded. We were lucky if we found a true friend. Blessed if we found two. We're the day dreamers, the bookworms, the geeks, the nerds, the weird, the eccentric.

I was sitting amongst comrades, we had each other. Then it occurred to me, that we don't have to be lonely anymore. So I said, paraphrased again “Ya know, you're right Carol. You know that popular quote “It is a proud and lonely thing to be a fan” [Rick Sneary, Former N3F President]? Once upon a time, that was probably true, but fandom has gotten to be so big and more inclusive, that it doesn't really ring true anymore.” I gestured towards those at the table, indicating that I was including them. “We have each other. We became friends with each other,” I said.

Everyone nodded in agreement, I assume, since no one said otherwise.

So instead, I would like to shorten Rick Sneary's quote to simply say, “It is a proud thing to be a fan.”

As I am ending this, I think to myself, it is also a beautiful and wonderful thing to be a fan. We have no need of separatism, we know what it's like to be back stabbed and trodden down on. We know what it's like to be excluded so we include every caliber of fans, our fellow outcasts, in our circles. We're forward thinkers, and we dream big, and it is good to be a fan.

**“TO GIVE REAL SERVICE YOU MUST
ADD SOMETHING WHICH CANNOT BE
BOUGHT OR MEASURED WITH MONEY,
AND THAT IS SINCERITY AND
INTEGRITY.”**

—DOUGLAS ADAMS

VSFA: A Universal Fandom Organizarion

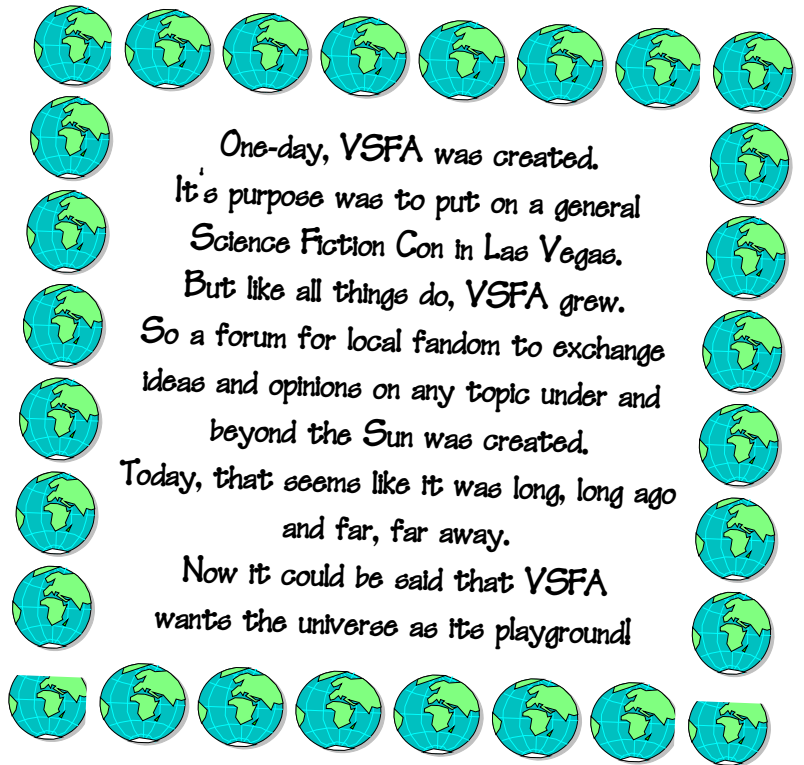
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One-day, VSFA was created.
It's purpose was to put on a general
Science Fiction Con in Las Vegas.
But like all things do, VSFA grew.
So a forum for local fandom to exchange
ideas and opinions on any topic under and
beyond the Sun was created.
Today, that seems like it was long, long ago
and far, far away.
Now it could be said that VSFA
wants the universe as its playground!

Credits & Disclaimers & All That Jazz

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The official organ of the Vegas Science Fiction Association

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Do NOT send submissions to the listserv!

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All else is either a public domain image or clip art.

Not sure what to send?

Art work is always needed and LoC's are always appreciated. Con-reports, genre poetry, flash fiction (original short stories; 1000 words or less), and other fannish material are also welcome. If you are unsure what formats I accept feel free to ask me.

Please send only copies of your work, whether it is art or text.

If you've never submitted an article to any zine, and aren't comfortable with writing an article per se, you can always write about something in an LoC and the editor can do a bit of editing to turn it into an article. More than one article started out that way. Just let me know if that is what you would like to do.