

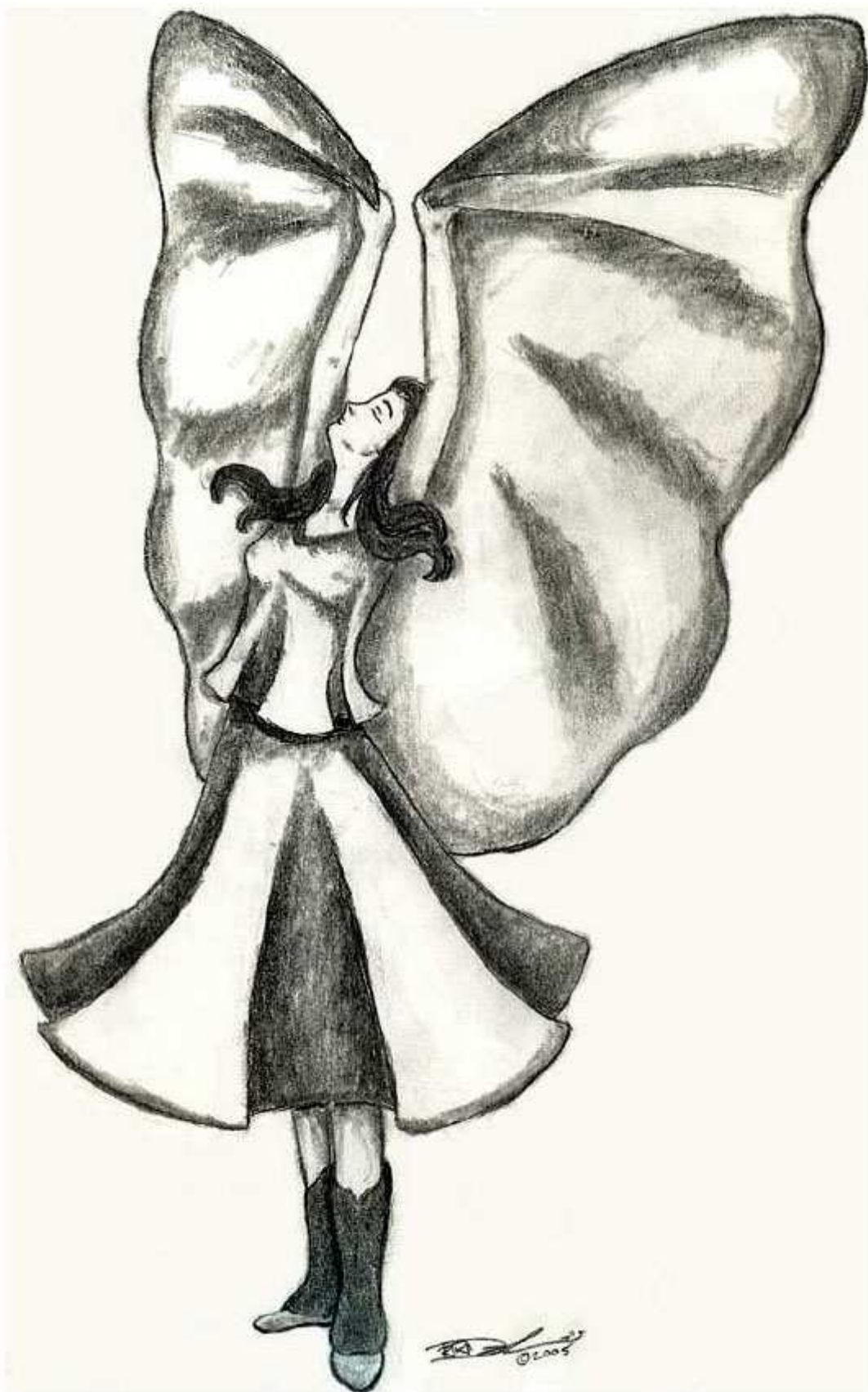
VEGAS SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION



The VSFA Valley Voyager

Vol. 1 No. 5

October 2005



Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary

Thesaurus

13 entries found for **fan**. The first 10 are listed below. To select an entry, click on it. For more results, [click here](#).

fan[1,noun] ▲ Go
 fan[2,verb]
 fan[3,noun]
 fang
 Fang
 alluvial fan ▼

Main Entry: ³fan

Function: *noun*

Etymology: probably short for *fanatic*

1 : an enthusiastic devotee (as of a sport or a performing art) usually as a spectator

2 : an ardent admirer or enthusiast (as of a celebrity or a pursuit) <science-fiction *fans*>

ARTists:

Ruth R. Davidson; cover

Usagi; pg. 6

Sarah Glasgow; pg. 7

All else is clip art, unless otherwise noted.

Not sure what to send?

Art work is always needed and Letters of Comment (LoC's) are always appreciated. Fannish articles are also welcome. If you are unsure if something is acceptable please ask me about it. If you have local SF/F group reports, turn those in to Arnie Katz, the editor of Vegas Fandom Weekly, a fanzine dedicated to all of Las Vegas fandom. His email is crossfire4@cox.net.

V3 submissions go to rcmalgroups@gmail.com. *All content is subject to approval by the editor.*

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.

VSFA Valley Voyager Vol. 1. No. 5

The official organ of the Vegas Science Fiction Association

This issue was completed on October 14, 2005.
 Edited by Ruth R. Davidson – Internet Publications.
 Send your submissions to rcmalgroups@gmail.com.

All Letters of Comment (LoCs), and other submissions are to be sent to the official editor at the above address (rcmalgroups@gmail.com) with V3 in the subject line.

Do NOT send submissions to the listserv!

Submission Deadline for the next issue is November, 2005.
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All opinions herein are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the VSFA Board of Directors or other VSFA members except where so noted.

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 VegasSFAssociation-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

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State of the Union

You say potato; Dan Quayle and I spell in potatoe. Not many of you know that "potatoe" is VP Code for, "What the Hell do you mean, the President isn't here?!" I was told sometime yesterday (and through the grapevine, I might add) that I was Acting President. No, silly! Not acting like I AM the President, which I do all the time... But actual Acting President until Tuesday. Fear me, Mortals.

It would appear that Fearless Leader has gone off to chase Moose and Squirrel. My first action as Acting President is to burn it all to the ground and start all over again... (Just kidding, Rebecca...)

My first Official act (for real this time) is to welcome some new members to VSFA. Through the Magic Mirror I see: dragonsflight33, tracyvegas2000, pr_nerd2001, jaja-toq, hood_clara and marandakeane. All of them brand-spanky new to us in October so don't scare them away. I would like to extend a Platonic Presidential welcome and invitation to The Sunday Social at The Blue Ox, October 16th 2005 at 2 PM to all.

Currently on our plate we have the upcoming Hallow's Eve Festivities. Mainly the Halloween Party at James Willey's house. We are all getting crazy out of hand with all of the things we want to do and poor James is probably cringing every time we suggest hanging something else from one of his walls.

We still have room for more Helping Hands and would like to coerce you into joining our prep work such as the Pumpkin Carving Night we are going to be announcing. The pumpkins will be proudly displayed on the front lawn. For those of you who don't know how to carve, James also has a back yard. You can contact any of the BoD for directions, suggestions, bribes (bbob_29@yahoo.com) and/or offers of assistance. And if this not something we're going to be announcing you're just going to smack me real hard later. That's what you get for leaving me In Charge.

Sandra Bean – VSFA Vice President

VSFA Board of Directors

Please note the changes!

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Business in VSFA-land

So you want to know about VSFA's Monthly Business Meeting? Well, it was more like Carol's Halloween Meeting! Once the big hand passed seven, the small group assembled at the meeting table at Clark County Library pretty much threw out the planned agenda after the changes to the Board of Directors were announced.

Joshua Andrews is leaving Las Vegas for the balmy climes of Winnipeg, Canada. He announced his retirement from the Board stating that he is seeking a change of scenery to spice up life. Since they have shown so much interest in VSFA and are eager to help, Sandra Bean and James Willey were both confirmed to positions on the BoD. Sandra claimed the Vice Presidential title and James will be easing his way into a Member-at-Large position (Manager of the Party House). "Just don't call me Julie, the Cruise Director," he said.

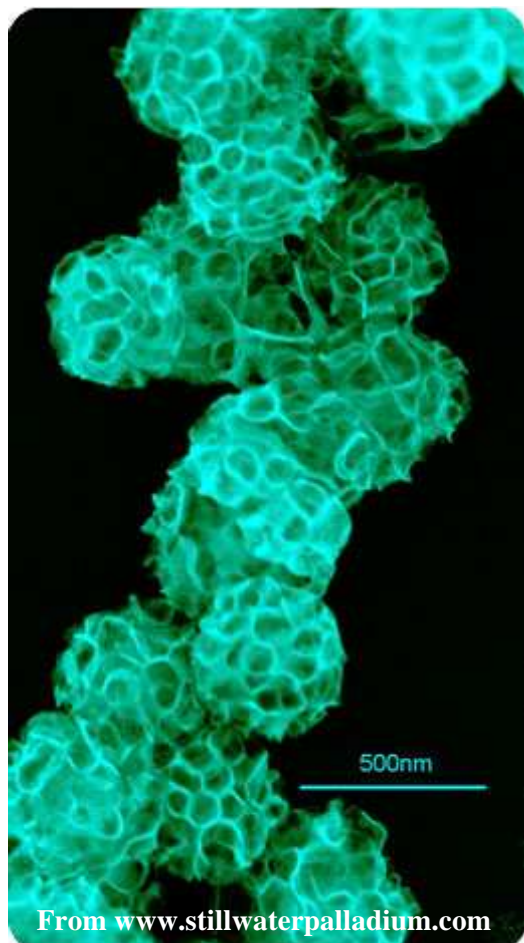
With that little bit of business over and done with for the evening, the agenda was turned into scrap paper as everyone excitedly chimed in ideas for the Halloween Party (pending James's approval for what we'll do to his house, of course). The President sat back bemusedly as control was stripped from her while other members (namely the Secretary) tried to rein in the many flights of fancy whipping about the room.

Finally hunger called an end to the proceedings and everybody regrouped at the IHOP on Maryland Parkway (by the Boulevard Mall) where excited, social chatter ruled the rest of the evening.

Mindy Hutchings – VSFA Secretary

Radical Changes to Human Life Predicted in 20 Years

By Dick Pelletier



If you live 20 more years, you may never die. Much decorated entrepreneur and technologist Ray Kurzweil sums up how new technologies might play out between now and 2025 in this simple futuristic claim.

Kurzweil looks at existing technology curves and trends to piece together a convincing picture of what humans could conquer through advancing technologies: disease, suffering, ugliness, stupidity, pain, being fat, forgetfulness, even death. "If you live well for the next 20 years", he says, "You could become immortal, or at least live as long as you want, because technologies are moving that fast".

In a time when ethical debates over stem cell research, genetic modification, cloning, and nanotechnology dominate scientific discussions, Kurzweil offers a bold, positive vision of potential technological developments that could raise humanity's goals to unimaginable heights.

To understand why this radical future is unfolding so quickly, it helps to look at how technologies have already advanced. In the 1970s, Intel co-founder Gordon Moore correctly calculated that computer chip power/value would double every 18 months, and his prediction has remained

true to this day. Similar scenarios to what scientists have termed "Moore's Law", are now happening in many other technologies.

Speed to sequence the human genome doubled every year, finishing what some thought would take more than 100 years in a measly 14 years. Experts believe 21st century technologies will advance 1,000 times faster than what was experienced in the 20th century.

Four technologies make possible our achieving these life-changing miracles – genetics, biotech, nanotech, and infotech. Genetics will one day provide the means to change genes in adults: we will create not only designer babies, but designer baby boomers and seniors as well.

Biotech breakthroughs in stem cell research promise to replace aging and worn organs, bones and skin with new, youthful versions; and future nanobots will insure that every cell in our body remains healthy.

In a recent *New Scientist* article, Kurzweil says we will soon go beyond the limits of biology, and replace our current "human body version 1.0" with a dramatically upgraded "version 2.0". The "killer app" to help accomplish this miracle is nanobots that travel in the bloodstream to destroy pathogens, remove debris, and reverse aging.

The most important transformation promises to be the intelligence revolution, which refers to "strong" artificial intelligence that surpasses human levels. Stronger-than-human machine intelligence already exists today – whenever we send an email or use a cell phone, intelligent algorithms route the information. AI programs diagnose EKGs, fly aircraft, and guide weapons.

I-Robot founder Rodney Brooks believes by mid-2020s, technology could provide a synthesis combining human strengths with machine intelligence: pattern recognition and inference from humans; large memory, instant recall and easy data sharing from machines. Nanobots would add the final touch by facilitating a seamless connection between humans and machines.

Critics question whether we would still be human with 'bots roaming through our bodies? While many conservatives believe that weaknesses help define our humanity, Kurzweil sees us as the species that seeks – and succeeds – to reach far beyond its limitations.

Accelerating life-changing technologies hold great promise for a breathtaking "magical future" which many of us alive today can live to enjoy.

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

You may contact him at futuretalk@cox.net.

Editor's Note: For other interesting articles on nanotechnology visit the following website:

www.stillwaterpalladium.com/research/nanotechnology.html

Sunday Social

By Sandra Bean

Hey there Boys & Squirrels,

I'm mostly new around here and although I joined VSFA sometime in August, it took me a while to work through the better part of that month and half of September to make it out to an event. Having had one whole VSFA event under my belt by Mid-September (The Firefly viewing at Cooperville.) I decided to brave the Sunday Social. I packed up some good directions and my will to make new friends and headed to The Blue Ox where I was promptly flagged down by Mindy – who I'd originally met at Cooper-ville.

Inside I found Joelle Barnes, Carol Kern, Rebecca Hardin, Gramma VSFA, The Bushyagers, James Willey and Stacy I-didn't-get-his-last-name-but-why-the-Heck-didn't-anyone-tell-me-he's-a-BOY! (I'm so embarrassed.) Everyone was uber-nice and chatty and I fell right in step as we began to stream our way through random topics as they came up; driving in the backwoods of Georgia (don't do it), to all sorts of books, grandchildren and movies. Oh, and Star Wars: Why I'm Mad That They Made Darth Vader a Whiny Punk. (You can all email me off-list with your insults and rants about why I am way out of line about this).

The Blue Ox is a great venue. The server was very accommodating and attentive. The menu is affordable and has several things to choose from; the servings were also more than enough for the price (here's were I suggest you ask Stacy HOW he ate all of those Nachos without blowing up) and much to Carol's surprise they include lots and lots of pickles on the side. The room we were seated in was nice and bright with more than enough room for all of us to lounge comfortably for hours. Which we did. We even had some Jerry Springer Action in the parking lot provided by total strangers.

There was much thanks to Gramma VSFA who was presented with a card and gift from the Group for finding a new home to host the Socials. My own personal thanks to Gramma for finding this place just in time for a straggler like me to come join in. You're cute as a button, Lady.

[Your editor must interject. Every time I see Gramma VSFA I always think, Wow, what a beautiful old lady! —Ruthie]

I've made some fine friends thanks to all at the Sunday Social and I am now ready to take over your world. I come in peace.

Dinner & a Movie w/VSFA

"Serenity"

This month's pick of the litter was Joss Whedon's Serenity... And it was a winner. I'm happy to report that, based on the film itself, Universal must have either a sequel in mind or a pickup of the series Firefly. I never saw more than five minutes of Firefly prior to heading over to Coopersville for a two-night and one Sunday marathon viewing of the series. Whether it was the company and Cold Stone ice cream or the actual show, I am all about rooting for Firefly.

This may be one of the better sci-fi films I've seen in the theaters in a long time. It has some flaws, but they remain minor. The movie does not take itself too seriously but doesn't offend its audience with dumb gags and one-liners, either (ok, maybe a few one-liners).

I am also happy to report that whether he knows it or not, Adam Baldwin is my new Sci-Fi Boyfriend. He damages my calm...

In attendance at the soiree were Mindy Hutchins, James Willey, Rebecca Hardin, Joshua Andrews and Nacho... Again, we were provided by in-house entertainment when a round of healthy swearing broke out in the middle of the movie in an attempt to shame an unknown cell phone user. We wont mention that the outburst was louder than the actual Cell Phone Offender.

Dinner was great as we all enjoyed breakfast items from the Jerry's Nugget menu leaving dessert for our next event. Tell that huge chunk of carrot cake that I'll be back. Join us next time for more adventures at Dinner and A Movie with VSFA.

—Sandra Bean

"Corpse Bride"

The much-anticipated Tim Burton flick, *Corpse Bride*, was viewed by movie-going VSFAns on September 24th, who gathered, as usual, at the Crown Theatre at Neopolis (Fremont and Las Vegas Boulevard). Those who had not seen Tim Burton's previous effort, *Nightmare Before Christmas*, generally liked the movie. For those who had seen it, this movie was a disappointment. Slow-moving and predictable, it failed to recapture the magic we were eagerly awaiting. The discussion about the movie's failings was continued during dinner at Jerry's Nugget.

—Mindy Hutchings

"Fight for your opinions, but do not believe that they contain the whole truth, or the only truth."

— Charles A. Dana

VSFA Movie Night at Cooperville

We had so much fun with the *Firefly* viewings at James's house, we just had to make this a regular event! Since his miniature Schnauzer's name is Cooper, our fearless Pres, Rebecca Hardin, couldn't resist naming the house "Cooperville." Besides, we all know the pet owns the house and not the other way around!

Starting in November there will be two gatherings a month: First Friday and Second Sunday. First Friday will feature episodes of SF/F television shows and snacks will be provided, the festivities to start at 6 pm, probably settling down to watch the tube around 6:30. We know that work schedules might not permit you to arrive on the dot, so feel free to join in at any time. We'll be showing eps until we can't take it anymore! On Second Sunday we'll be watching a variety of SF/F movies, starting at 12 noon, and we'll have lunch/dinner: Pizza? Barbecue? Of course, feel free to bring something to pass around.

On November 4th we'll be kicking things off with *Farscape*, a television show that was featured on SciFi channel on cable. It lasted for four seasons to great critical acclaim, only to have the powers-that-be suddenly pull the

plug on this dramatic production. Why? They cited financial reasons saying they wished to develop other programs for their channel and needed the millions that each ep of *Farscape* was costing them. To their credit they've produced such wonders as *Children of Dune* and *Anaconda*. Hmmph....

On November 13th, *Matrix* will be the feature of the day, perhaps with the other two in the series to follow. Just depends on who's awake to watch 'em!

This event is hosted by James Willey (horgon@yahoo.com) and Mindy Hutchings (lady_shayir@yahoo.com).

Please email one of us for location and directions.

—Mindy Hutchings



Halloween Preparations - Craft Day



Preparations for the Halloween Party are well under way, but that doesn't mean we don't need your help!

On Saturday Oct 22 (the only time Carol, the gal in charge, was able to get off work), to get the ball rolling for Halloween party decorations, we're going to need some help with carving pumpkins, making tombstones, the stalker, etc. (Sugar skulls???) Ultimately, any crafty things that are nonperishable. That way we aren't trying to get everything done at the last minute.

Start time is around 11am. If you're going to the SNAFFU movie outing maybe you can join us afterwards, if you're not going then help us out; just call James for directions, please email him for his number and address; hortons.vsfa@gmail.com.

We're also accepting any and all help on food, decoration materials, and other useful tools to make this an awesome party.

It would be nice if this truly were a United Las Vegas Fandom effort. It all really depends on who's forking over the time and resources. Ya know? The only group (other than VSFA) helping out at all is SNAFFU.

If you would like to know how you could help out, or have questions, or ideas, please email Carol Kern, at:

av_queen@yahoo.com

Secret Fan Exchange!



A what exchange you ask?

The secret fan exchange is just what it sounds like. You're assigned a "Secret Fan", and someone else will be assigned to you! If you sign up, you are responsible for sending a card, or e-card, to your secret fan by a particular date with a hint about who you are. Don't be too obvious

with your hint! (More than one card and/or e-card hint is okay.)

You will also be responsible for getting your Secret Fan a gift. This gift should be in the \$15 range (you can spend more if you wish). Handmade gifts are encouraged! (Getting your fan more than one gift is okay.)

You are allowed post on the VSFA listserve who you think your secret fan is, but you're not allowed to answer if they guessed you and were correct. You can say no, though, if they guessed wrong. You may also post when you get your hint(s) and gift(s). In fact, it is encouraged as it'll help your fan know you got your hint and gift.

You do not have live to in Las Vegas to participate!

What are the dates and deadlines?
THESE DATES WILL NOT BE CHANGED!

November 16th - Last Day to Sign up:

This is the cut off date to sign up. If you ask to sign up after this date, you will not be allowed to.

November 23rd - Receive Fan:

You will receive an email with your secret fan's information by this date.

December 5th - Hint Card to be Sent Out:

You will be required to have a card snail mailed, or an e-card delivered by this date. Don't forget! - remember to write or enclose some sort of hint about who you are. Do not put your name on the outside of the envelope. Putting your address is fine if you'd like to have a return address. If the post office insists on a name, you may use a fake one. For email, you can set up a secret fan specific email account.

January 1st - Gift to be Sent Out:

You should have the gift for your secret fan sent out by this date. It's very important that you remember, or you'll end up hurting your fan's feelings.

January 15th - Pals revealed:

I will give you the "who gave to who" list.

How do you sign up? Easy!

Send an email to: secretfanexchange@gmail.com

Put Secret Fan (YOUR Name) in the subject. For

example, if I were signing up I would put: Secret Fan (Ruth Davidson). This will make it easier for me to find your information.

Fill out the short questionnaire, listed below, as it will be forwarded to your secret fan so they'll have some ideas about what to get for you!

PLEASE DO NOT SIGN UP IF YOU DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN PARTICIPATE!

If for some reason you sign up and can't participate - email me by November 16th (the cut off date) and **LET ME KNOW**. There are no excuses otherwise.

If there is anyone you don't want to be paired with, or prefer someone from your region, please let me know, no questions asked.

And on that note - good luck, and I hope you guys have fun! Feel free to ask me any questions, you can send those to secretfanexchange@gmail.com. You will receive an email upon signing up that will let you know that your email was received.

Note: If you don't follow through, you will not be able to participate in the next exchange, and it will be made known that you were a taker.

Questionnaire for the Secret Fan Exchange

1. What is your name and mailing address?
2. What is your email address? (Make sure this is an email that actually works and that you check it regularly.):
3. Do you have any favorite colors/smells?:
4. Are you allergic to anything? This is important!:
5. What's your favorite movie or TV show?
6. Who's your favorite author?
7. Do you read any fanzines or prozines? If so, which ones?
8. Is there anything else you'd like to mention that you think might help your secret fan learn more about you, or your interests? Hobbies, etc.?
9. What kind of gift (that can be shipped easily) would be your dream gift?
- 10: Is there anything you absolutely do not want to get?



More Yakkin'.

Laurraine Tutihasi

Thanks for the zine. I hope the article about robots is right. I look forward to employing a robot in our retirement.

Please continue to send future issues.

Lloyd Penney

Dear VSFAans:

Many thanks for V1#4 of the VSFA Valley Voyager. I gather this is a busy weekend for everyone in Vegas, so I thought I'd sneak in a loc while everyone's distracted, having a good time.

It's tough to comment on the zine, seeing how many other Vegas zines I've responded to lately. I've got Implications 2 in the on-deck circle, so I might not have much more to say, seeing how many issues of Vegas Fandom Weekly I've responded to lately.

From what I've read, the Blue Ox is working just fine. Yvonne and I know how difficult it is to find a good place to have the monthly pubnight. In the ten years we've been staging the monthly event, we've been in 8 different locations, from four years' straight in one place to one evening in another. We seem to have settled in a pub in the upper downtown area, close to the main university, but we've had to be a little firm with them about giving us sufficient space to party in. They cater to the university crowd, and to the local businessmen, so we've had to compete with them.

I hope Dick Pelletier's timeline is on track. Robert Sawyer's recently written a book about a man who has transferred his consciousness into an android brain, and about the reactions of his family and friends who see his consciousness in the android, but do not see him.

The letter column...ah, I get it. Yak, yak, yak.

[Yay! Someone got it! —Ed]

My first name does indeed take two L's to start.

[Oops. Apologies. —Ed]

I have to wonder aloud that if both China and the US have announced ambitions to go to the moon, will this mean a new space race, and some new excitement? Did American announce its return to the moon because of the prospect of those Godless Communists getting there first? That was pretty much the incentive to get to the moon in the late 60s. Will it work again?

Time to wrap up and send, and hope it gets to you safe, sound and uncorrupted. Take care, all, and I'll see you through the pages of VFW, or whatever other project Arnie may be working on.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

Rebecca Hardin

I was really surprised at how much you hated this movie. It was about what I had expected and I found it interesting and entertaining. I didn't consider the violence gratuitous, but mostly in keeping with the story, except for

that part with the kitten. I hated that. It really wasn't all that gory (it could have been a lot worse).. We're just so used to the sanitized version of fairy tales that Disney puts out, that we've forgotten how truly grim the real stories were. I definitely gave the movie a thumbs up.

[I've read the original fairy tales, and yeah, they are grim, but the violence wasn't so stupid either, like it was in the movie. But hey, different strokes for different folks. ^^ -Ed]



VSFA Event Calendar

October

16th Sunday; 2pm – Sunday Social at the Blue Ox Tavern on Sahara Ave..

22nd Saturday; 11am – Halloween Preparations Craft Day at Cooperville.

29th Saturday; 8pm – Halloween Party! at Cooperville.

November

7th Monday; 7pm – Business portion of VSFA's Monthly Meeting at the Clark County Library on Flamingo

7th Monday; 7:45pm – Social portion of VSFA's Monthly Meeting at the Clark County Library on Flamingo, followed by dinner at the nearby IHOP on Maryland Parkway.

4th Friday; 6pm – *Farscape* viewing at Cooperville

13th Sunday; 12noon – *Matrix* viewing at Cooperville.

20th Sunday; 2pm – Sunday Social at the Blue Ox Tavern on Sahara Ave..

Check the Calender of Events on our website at www.vsfa.us, and/or on our listserve for updates.

Movie outings at the Neonopolis will likely be added to the calendar in the couple of weeks or so.

We're also in the idea stages for Game/Craft nights too!

