

Situation Normal!??

We're late, but it's still October, 1995

Raising Our Spirits For Halloween!

150 At SilverCon 4

Haldeman, Tucker, Foglio, Hooper Star

SNAFFU played host to about 150 fans at SilverCon 4, in Las Vegas' annual regional science fiction convention. Aileen Forman, Chairperson, and a small group of helpers, served up a weekend buffet of science fictional and fannish programming, hucksters room, games, a Hooper play, the Vick wedding, medieval swordplay, a masquerade, and special food functions: a breakfast, a tea, and the banquet. In addition, a steady stream of treats kept the hospitality suite swimming in good cheer and chocolate.

The honored guests, Joe Haldeman, Bob Tucker, Phil Foglio and Andy Hooper appeared on numerous panels, at special events, and hung out in the con suite, meeting rooms and gazebo much to the delight of the attendees who were able to get acquainted with them through the weekend.

Other special highlights included the first appearance of the 1945

fanzine collection, brought by Burce Pelz; the first meeting between Burbee and Tucker since 1946; a kick-off party on Thursday night, and the dead dog on Sunday.

Only problem: the hotel fertilized the courtyard lawn the day before the con, turning outdoor events into smelly affairs. But the final verdict: an excellent con, great fun for all. Thanks, Aileen and the Committee!



SNAFFU Pizza Party Oct. 22
at Godfathers on Trop & Pecos
6pm - Lovecraft Readings

Ken Forman Declares Candidacy; A Public Statement of His Platform

January's not too far away, and with the new year arrives the elections for SNAFFU. Peggy's term is coming to a close and we need to start thinking about what next year will hold, and who can lead this band of boisterous fans?

Consider my chapeau flung into the cirlet. (Read this dramatically and it sounds very impressive.)

I'd like the opportunity to run SNAFFU the way most of us (including me) would like to see it run. There's no point in itemizing any "faults" of the past, I intend to concentrate on the future.

"You'd make a great president," someone said recently. I obviously agree, but I have no intention of doing this alone. Normally at this point in an article such as this, I'd start in on a pep-talk on how you can (continued on page 3)

About This Issue
Situation Normal!??
is the monthly newsletter of the
Southern Nevada Area
Fantasy & Fiction Union.
It is edited by Joyce Katz
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The editor wrote all unsigned material.

October Club Meeting

The discussion topic
for this special club meeting is:
Oct. 22 - Pizza & Lovecraft
at Godfather's on Trop & Pecos
The special meeting starts at 6:00PM
Members will take turns reading
from Lovecraft while we gobble
the goodies at Godfather's.

Rest Stops on the Infobahn

Ten WWWebsites for Fans

by JoHn Hardin

If you're connected to the World Wide Web, here's a short list of sites you may want to see.

#1. The 50 Greatest Conspiracies of All Time is rich fodder for aspiring paranoids and would-be conspiracy buffs. Log onto this website and let the Illuminati know you're interested.

(<http://www.webcom.com/~conspire/>)

#2. A Fannish Homepage is the work of Laurie Mann, fanzine fan. Read: Evelyn Leeper's Intersection report (did she just go on Saturday?! See: pictures of people you don't know but look like science fiction fans anyway! Hear: The sound of blood pounding in your ears at this exciting page! (<http://worchester.lm.com/lmann/fan/fan.html>)

#3. If you're into downloading free and shareware off the net, try Happy Puppy's Online Gaming Ramp. It's a database of hundreds of games for Windows and Mac users. (<http://happypuppy.com/games/link/index.html>)

#4. SciFiaku. No it's not a Klingon insult, it's a Haiku poem written with Science Fiction themes. One example:

Asteroids collide
without a sound...

We maneuver between
fragments.

You can see more, or contribute your own at

(<http://www.crew.umich.edu/~brinck/poetry/manifesto.html>)

#5. If you're a sound clip or .wav file collector, here's an irresistible site brimming over with cool clips. The Animaniacs Sounds page has

hundreds of .wav files to download for free. Check it out:

(<http://www.jovanet.com/~amlyne/a!sounds.html>)

#6. For the freshest news online, CNN Interactive is better than a poke in the eye with a sharp stick. (<http://www.cnn.com/>)

#7. Piercing Mildred is a game that combines the hottest trends around, piercing and the Internet. You'll be the coolest as you add decorative scars and piercings to your player character. Don't get an infection though. Win the contest, and: you get more money to buy more scars and piercings!

(<http://streams.com/pierce/>)

#8. The Contact Project is a simulated scenario of alien contact.

BOO!

It's Halloween

Get Ready To Party

at Kurillas on Oct. 28

at Formans on Oct. 29

Come In Costume If You Dare

Join a team of scientists and decipher a message from Tau Ceti. (<http://sunsite.unc.edu/lunar/alien.html>)

#9. He's dead Jim, now will you shut up? The Captain James T. Kirk Singalong Page is a sure stop on any pilgrimage into weirdness. Hear William Shatner do unspeakable things to songs that never hurt anybody. Contains files of varying length that may be downloaded to savor again and again.

(<http://www.ama.caltech.edu/~mrm/kirk.html>)

#10. Strangedays is the hot new film coming out from James Cameron and Lightstorm Entertainment. It's supposed to be pretty cool, and you can get an inside track to the hype by checking out the Strangedays page. (<http://www.strangedays.com/>)
Sappy Hurfing!

-- John Wesley Hardin

SNAFFU Plans Special Outings For Fans

As Las Vegas move into the Holiday Season, the calendar is filling up with special events for SNAFFU members.

The highlight of the month is the double dose of Halloween, at Tom & Peggy Kurilla's on Sat. Oct. 28, and at Ken & Aileen Forman's on Sun. Oct. 29. Costumes are encouraged, though not required. (Still, it'd be pretty chilly without one.)

It's a month of highlights, starting with the annual pizza party at Godfathers on the 22nd, 6 pm. We'll be reading Lovecraft to put us in the Halloween mood.

In November, in addition to movie nights, there's an outing to Caesars Omnimax on Nov. 23, at 5 pm (before the club meeting). We'll also be rollerskating at the Crystal Palace, 4740 S. Decatur, from 2-5 pm on Nov. 19. Cost is a mere \$4 per person. Where else could you see fans fall on their fannies for such a low price?

The Forman Platform

(Continued from page one)

revitalized "your" club, but I'm not going to do that. Rather, I want to outline my plans for SNAFFU if you elect me.

First of all, I feel that the office of President carries with it a responsibility to represent the club, not only locally, but nationally. In addition, the president should also be prepared, and available, to make certain decisions necessary for running the club. I am ready to make that commitment.

As Vice President, I choose Joyce Katz, but not just because she's a snappy dresser, I think she's the right person for the job. "What 'job'?" you might ask. "The VP doesn't do anything unless the Pres. is absent." I'd like to change that and give the duty of Program Director to the VP. She'd line up meeting topics and also be in charge of the

Program portion of the meetings.

Another thing I'm ready to do is change the way the meetings are conducted. I've observed that the meetings tend to be a little stoic, almost like an executive board meeting for Thompson's Tongue Depressors. I think we'd all like

We'll use Robert's Rules of Order For Firestarter!

to have a little more fun at our semi-monthly get-togethers. I know I'd prefer it that way, so here's my plan...

The first (and only) bylaw of SNAFFU is: The only thing we'll use Robert's Rules of Order for is firestarter. For some reason, however, we still insist

on making motions, seconding them, holding discussions and voting on the results. Blech, if I wanted such a thing, I'd become a politician instead of trying to be president. R.R.o.O. is a great way for uncooperative groups to accomplish things, but damn it, fandom is just a ghod damn

Meetings have been stoic...I don't think they need to be business-like

hobby! Why do we have to be so anal?

I don't think the meetings need to be business-like, hell, they don't need to include business at all. If anyone in the club has any business questions (like "How much money does the club have?" or "are we incorporated as a non-profit organization or a not-for-profit organization?" or "What's our tax status?") they should feel free to call the president, secretary or anyone else who might have the answer and ask them. The telephone is a wonderful invention. Meetings *should* include announcements important to the members and anything else that people need to know before the next issue of Situation Normal!?? Otherwise, information and business is what newsletters are for.

I picture the meetings to go something like this...we'll get things underway on time (I'd suggest that we start an hour earlier, too), announcements, news, updates, information and (continued on page 4)

No SilverCon Next Year

Tired Committee Says 'Never Again'

The committee is understandably tired. They've worked hard for the benefit of we lazy slackers, and we've benefitted from their labors with four lovely self conventions. But, "enough is enough," say they. No one is willing to undertake the job of chairing and running another full-service science fiction convention. We applaud their good sense, and thank them for our past good times. Perhaps another year...

Meanwhile, the fanzine fans are planning TONER, a small fanzine con the weekend before the Worldeon. Fearless Leader Tom Springer will tell us more soon.

Ken Makes Plans

For The Club

continued from page 3

any questions from the members answered. I imagine that might take all of fifteen minutes.

Then we'd ask the waitress to take food and drink orders for those of us who'd like to have dinner during the meeting. (This would also be a good time for people to chat, instead of during the meeting.)

Next, after the dinner orders, I'd turn the meeting over to the Program Director for the important part: The Program! Joyce plans on making sure the meeting is a place to discuss F &

land for a living, and I see no reason why we shouldn't use his talents to our benefit.

While I'm on the subject of promoting the club, JoHn Hardin promises to act as Public Relations for us. His journalistic connections and writing talent should help promote SNAFFU to Las Vegas, and any potential new members.

Without a doubt, my suggestions are not the only

options for the club. I don't expect to be the only one with ideas, but I do think my suggestions are well thought-out and workable. Joyce, Tom, JoHn and I are willing to dedicate ourselves to improving SNAFFU and I've just told you how we plan on doing it. Voting for me means you agree with me and you support our plan.

-- Ken Forman



A Look At The Past: The Fanscient #7, 1949

The Portland Science-Fantasy Society published this quarter-sized zine in Spring 1949. The editor, Don Day, was understandably proud of this issue, which boasted a strong line up of material. The cover is by D. Bruce Berry, and there are illustrations by Miles Eaton,

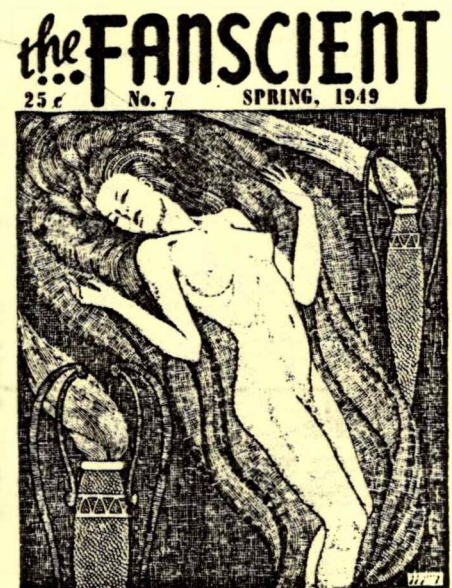
G. Waible, J.M. Higbee, O.G. Estes, and Bill Rotsler. There's fiction by Geo. Wetzel and Len Moffatt, a check list of British Prozines by Ken Slater, and an article on book reviewing by David H. Keller. W. E. Bullard writes about Kipling; there's a profile, checklist & photo of Murray Leinster, and an article about Fantasy by T.L. Ladd, with a fantasy checklist.

This is a beautifully offset piece of the past, given to me by Burce Pelz, and on view at the Katz'...a fannishtreasure!(JK)

We're willing to dedicate ourselves to improving SNAFFU...

SF, rather than the latest sexcapades of Supreme Court Justices. The Program could easily last 45-60 minutes, afterwards those of us who would like to stay and talk could do so; we meet in a bar, after all.

Another thing I think we've neglected is new members. Not just recruiting them, but greeting them, talking to them, introducing them to SNAFFU. Tom Springer has volunteered to act as Glad Hand or Official Greeter for the club. He sells



8 October	9	10	11	12	13	14 Social! 7PM At the Katz' 3701 Bridge- glen 648-5677
15 Movie Night at the Formans 6pm 896-6338 Dr Detroit	16 Starfire Roger's Birthday	17	18	19	20	21
22 SNAFFU Pizza party Godfathers on Trop & Pecos 6pm. Lovecraft	23	24	25	26	27	28 Kurilla Halloween Party. 6725 Bremerton for info call 878-1698
29 Forman Halloween Party. 7215 Nordic Light 4pm till dead 896-6338	30	31 Halloween!	1 November	2	3	4
5 SNAFFU Video Night at the Forman's. starts at 6pm 896-6338 Cast a Deadly Spell	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Omnimax at Caesars 5pm. Meeting at Skinny D's afterward	13	14	15	16	17	18 Social! 7PM At the Katz' 3701 Bridge- glen 648-5677
19 Roller- skating at the Crystal Palace. 4740 S Decatur 2- 5pm. \$4 pp	20	21	22	23 Thanks giving!	24	25

SilverConned Highlights of the Con

Approximately 60 fans gathered at the Katz for Thursday afternoon and evening's kickoff party. The highlight of the evening featured a fine circle of fans, including Tucker and Burbee (meeting for the first time since 1946) Speer, Vick, Lichtman, Widner, Donaho, Hooper, Haldeman, and surprise attendee Rusty Hevelin. Combined with the long-timers of Vegas, Hooper estimated it represented about a thousand years of fan history.

Another surprise attendee, Nevenah Smith, arrived too late to make it to the Katz, but left her indelible mark on fans at the con.

The convention itself was housed in the Mardi Gras Inn. Sadly, the hotel fertilized the Courtyard lawn the day before Silvercon, wreaking

havoc with the outdoor events planned, and causing Tucker to nickname this "The Manure Con". But the stench didn't stop the fun.

The Vick Reaffirmation of Vows was a riotous charade, followed by wedding cake. Tucker's Dessert in the Desert was a sweet orgy. The Haldeman Breakfast was well attended, as Joe regaled members with amusing tales. Phil Foglio was ever-present in the huckster room, available for chats with any and all.

Don Fitch dispensed expensive goodies (ah, those nuts and candies!) through the convention, and Victor Gonzales regaled one and all with Seattle stories.

The fan year 1945 arrived with Bruce Pelz, and on view throughout the convention. (Photocopies of same are available for viewing at the Katz'.) After browng the set, it's clear it was a Fine year for fandom.

Fans took excursions around the city to see the sights and try their luck at the tables. There were a few

winners, and apparently no one lost too much.

Hooper's play starred a bevy of fans, and the performance was judged quite entertaining. Thanks, Andy, for doing this.

Bob Tucker was available for fine discussions of fan history, and able to answer some of the Mysteries of the Ages, with a first-hand description of Al Ashley, the straight skinny about the Chicago Science Fiction League, and inside info about fandom's past.

Joe Haldeman similarly made himself available to the fans, ready to discuss everything from VietNam to serious science fiction, to the future of fans in the age of giant conventions.

It was a tough con for the committee; too much to do, and not enough helping hands. But for the attendees, it was a jolly event, filled with fine fans, good cheer, and lots of cameraderie.

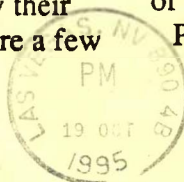
Personally I had a great time! (JK)

Situation Normal???

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