A FIERY EDITORIAL

This is all Arnie Katz’s fault. Blame him.

Every week I read the Vegas Fandom Weekly and I just get madder and madder.

I’m mad because I keep reading all of the cool fanish stuff going on in Las Vegas and I wonder just where all of this stuff was when I was living there. Where were the fans, where were the clubs, where were the fanzines and the apas and the fanish goings on?

And I’m mad that there doesn’t seem to be the sort of organized (or even disorganized) fandom here in the Bay Area that they have in Las Vegas. Or at least not any visible to me.

When I moved from the wasteland, I thought I was going to find science fiction Mecca in California. Surely there would be many groups, lots of fans, tons of fannac.

So where is it? This is my answer. I think it’s out there, it just isn’t getting any publicity. I’m putting the blame for the high profile of Vegas fandom squarely on Arnie Katz’s shoulders. And I’m willing to do the same thing here.

But I ain’t gonna do it alone.

The SF Bay Area is just too big, and I’m too far north here in Santa Rosa, to get to all of the events and keep up with it. Plus, I’ve GAFlAted. I’m not going to cons and such anymore. I’m not going to go to meetings or do reports. About all I’m willing to do is the editorial work of putting the issue together. That’s something I can handle.

Arnie has it easy, half the stuff he writes about takes place in his living room. That’s not going to happen here, I had to go on a diet so I could fit myself into my apartment without getting rid of any books. I’m also not going to drive four hours after getting off work down to Campbell to attend the BASFA meeting on a Monday night only to turn around and drive two hours back and then have to show up for work at 8 a.m. Tuesday morning. You think I’m cranky now? You should see me when I’m short on sleep.

So if you (and I’m talking to YOU) want to see a second issue of SF/SF, I want to see some submissions. If the fans in the Bay Area aren’t interested enough to contribute, if this isn’t useful to my readers, I’m not interested enough to put out another issue.

I’m specifically looking for meeting reports like the ones Arnie runs. Does PenSFA still meet? Let me know. What’s up at the latest BASFA meeting? Fans from out of town visiting you?

Let me know. Run a con? Tell us about it. Go to an event, see a movie, attend a con, have an outing, pub a fanzine, stub your toe? Basically anything involving any area of fans or fandom in the greater San Francisco Bay Area is more than welcome. Perhaps fans would be fun. Introduce yourself, promote your fan interests.

To paraphrase Rusty Hevelin: It’s your convention zine. (Sorry. Pulpcon humor.)

If you know of an event that would be of interest, send me the information so I can add it to the schedule. I’m not going to be picky, conventions, shows, movies, events, meetings, book clubs, author events, plays, whatever. I want to have a comprehensive calendar listing lots of stuff of interest to local fans.

So that email address is: backnumbers@gmail.com. I can work with Microsoft Word files, RTF files or Appleworks files. I’d love photos, jpg or eps format preferable. I can work with lots of other formats too, just email and ask.

And I certainly wouldn’t turn down LOCs if you were so inclined to write one.

Bring me the head of Arnie Katz.

Jack Avery, Cranky Editor In Chief
The Bay Area Fanish Calendar

Saturday, July 23 (That’s today folks)
Books By The Bay
Yerba Buena Gardens
San Francisco
Free
San Francisco’s annual book event, with publishers and booksellers. I can’t recall ever seeing any used books for sale here, just new ones. Borderlands Books (the SF bookstore) will have a booth.

Saturday, July 23 (Ends tonight)
Mudd’s Women
Theater Tableau Vivant
Additional info (415) 621-8417
574 Natoma Street
San Francisco
8 p.m., 10 p.m.
$15
Reservations required
This is a gender reversed reenactment of the Star Trek episode. Please, please, somebody go see this and give me a review. I want pictures! This just begs to have a fanzine article done.

Sunday, July 24
John Varley
Borderlands Books
www.borderlands-books.com
866 Valencia St.
San Francisco
3 p.m.
Free
SF author John Varley will discuss his new book “Mammoth”.

Sunday, July 24
Wonder Woman
Bad Movie Night
The Dark Room Theater
2263 Mission St.
San Francisco
$5
Watch a bad movie and listen to guest comedians heckle it. From what I can tell, this is the pilot to the Linda Carter show, and not the movie that starred Riccardo Montalban and, um, you know, what’s her name. Sort of a live version of MST3K, I guess.

July 30
Barbarella: Queen of the Galaxy
Midnight Mass with Peaches Christ
www.peacheschrist.com
At the Bridge Theater
3010 Geary Blvd.
San Francisco
$10
Hosted by Peaches Christ as part of her summer midnight movie series. This will feature a drag queen roller derby competition. Attendees will have to sign liability waivers. I’d advise buying tickets early, when I went to see Faster Pussycat! Kill! Kill! they sold out.

July 30-31
Sunrise Mall Anime Show
www.sacramentocomics.com
Sunrise Mall
Citrus Heights.
Free
Yes, I know that this is too far to be considered a bay area event, but a number of local cosplayers usually make it up for these shows. This is being held in the mall, and attendees will have to mingle with the usual weekend shopping crowds at the mall. The upside is that it’s free. There will be anime showings, a costume contest on Saturday afternoon and dealers.

Send your reviews, reports and notes about Bay Area fans and fan activities to: backnumbers@gmail.com.

Aug. 21
*SF Book Club*
Borderlands Books
www.borderlands-books.com
866 Valencia St.
San Francisco

Aug. 21
*Legion of Rassilon*
(Dr. Who fan group)
Meets in the south bay.
groups.yahoo.com/legion_of_rassilon/

Aug. 26-27
*Ultraman Festival*
Castro Theater
www.bayareafilmevents.com
Put on by the folks who did the Godzilla Festival earlier this year. There will be dealers upstairs, a live Ultraman Stunt Show on Saturday, prize drawings, and lots of Ultraman on the screen.

Oct. 7-9
*Silicon 2005*
www.siliconventions.com
Doubletree Hotel (Is there a fan in the bay area who doesn't know where this hotel is?)
San Jose
A small general science fiction convention. Anime track, dealers room, programing track.

Oct. 8th
*5th Annual Metreon Festival of Anime*
Metreon
101 4th Street
San Francisco
11 a.m. -
This is usually a small, but nice event. The price is free since most of it is held in the public areas of the Metreon, but if you want to watch the anime being shown or be eligible for a prize in the costume contest, you have to buy a membership.

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Ongoing:
*Bay Area Science Fiction Association*
The Original Hick’ry Pit
980 E. Campbell Ave.
Campbell
Mondays at 8 p.m.
Free

*Heart of the Forest Renaissance Faire*
Saturday and Sunday through Aug. 14
www.heartofforest.com
Stafford Lake
3549 Novato Blvd.
Novato
11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
$17-$20

*Blood Bucket Ballyhoo*
Thurs., Fri. and Sat. through Aug. 13
www.hypnodrome.com
At The Hypnodrome
575 10th Street, SF
“A Grand Guignol triple terror stage show”
8 p.m., 10 p.m.
Tickets $18-$69
The $69 tix are for some sort of special box seating with some kind of gimmick. If anybody goes to see this, I’d love a review.

Local Fan Notes:

**Chris Garcia** has pubbed issue 35 of *The Drink Tank*. It can be downloaded at www.efanzines.com.

Send your items for inclusion in our calendar section to:
backnumbers@gmail.com
I’d always meant to see Faster Pussycat! Kill! Kill!, but I’d never had the opportunity until recently. As the kickoff for this summer’s Midnight Mass at the Bridge Theater in SF, host Peaches Christ brought star Tura Satana to appear in person. I decided I just had to see this.

I’m glad I went, the now 70-year-old Satana still looks like she could kick my ass. She gave a great interview before the movie, sitting beneath a banner that read “Church of Satana” and dishing celebrity dirt with Peaches.

The show opened up with Peaches singing her new signature song, accompanied by an elaborate dance routine. It was very camp, as could be expected from a transvestite schlock movie hostess. I was amused.

Satana has led an interesting life, born in northern Japan, interned by the U.S. government during WWII along with her family in Manzanar, and learning kung fu and akiko. She was gang raped at 9, then sent to reform school for “tempting” her teenage assailants. Married at 13 and soon divorced, she came to Los Angeles and began a career that would include being a nude model for Harold Lloyd, an exotic dancer, and roles in movies and tv. She had relationships with a number of stars, including Elvis Presley and Frank Sinatra.

And as befits the actress that brought to life the murderous leader of the gang of tough strippers in Faster Pussycat, she eventually tracked down and got even with the five boys who raped her.

I’m not going to say that Faster Pussycat is a great movie, but it was very entertaining and it was even better having heard Satana tell about the filming of the movie. She didn’t think much of the acting abilities of the actress who played the victimized young girl, so in order to get a performance out of her Satana terrorized her until the actress really believed Satana was going to kill her. There are some great lines in the movie, Satana has the best of them, and delivers them with style.

She mentioned that she’d finished her autobiography. I’m not much on Hollywood biographies, but if she finds a publisher, I’ll be sure to buy a copy.
Since I had half a day to kill in San Francisco waiting for Faster Pussycat! Kill! Kill! to start, I decided to stop by a temporary art installation that I’d read about.

Each year, this artist, and no I don’t remember his name, takes plywood scraps that he gets from a local manufacturer and uses them to build a temple for Burning Man. As a warm up, this year, he started to build one in the North Bay, but had to tear it down because of neighborhood opposition or something. So the City of San Francisco invited him to build a temple at a park where the new Octavia Blvd. expressway peters out. (I sure hope those traffic engineers know what they’re doing, it looks to me like a recipe for gridlock.)
Anyway, I took a look at it and really liked it. It reminds me very strongly of oriental architecture. I love the rawness of the plywood and the ornate shapes. I like the way the artist used the repetition of forms to build up his designs. The interplay of light and shadow caused by the cutout shapes was nice too.

This is temporary art, it is supposed to be torn down in September. I don't think I agree with art that is meant to be ephemereral. If it’s art now, it should be art forever. If something is indeed art, at some point it should become the property of humanity. Destroying art seems like theft from posterity.

The other thing I disagree with is that the artist not only allowed, but encouraged viewers to take markers and write on the surfaces of the wood. I'm sure the artist had some sort of high-minded symbolism here, but to me it seemed like it was a surrender to the barbarians. If you can't keep No high thoughts or poetic phrases here, just that of the trite Go U.S.A. or Peace Now sort or people's names written in a vain attempt at brief immortality and fame. I didn't write anything. Not only didn't I feel that I should mark up a piece of art, but I don't have anything to say worth immortalizing.

Well, that’s the end of the issue folks, I had the idea while walking home from work today and five hours later, I have a six page zine. I now think this was a really bad idea, but oh well, what’s done is done. My apologies to Arnie Katz.