



## COLOPHON

*De Profundis* 347—November, 2001. Editor: **Marty Cantor**. Production Assistants: **Bob Null** and **Phil Castora**. Mailing List: **Liz Mortensen**. Mailing Labels: **Fuzzy Pink Niven**.

*De Profundis* is the official newsletter of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society (11513 Burbank Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91601, USA). Our telephone number is: (818) 760-9234. Our web site is: [www.lasfs.org](http://www.lasfs.org). *De Profundis* is available to active LASFS members, Patron Friends of the LASFS, voluntary active LASFS members, and in exchange for other fanzines. VAMs are available for \$10 per year, payable to LASFS, Inc.

Westercon is a service mark of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, Incorporated (LASFS, Inc.), Worldcon and NASFIC are service marks of the World Science Fiction Society (WSFS).

We want any news of interest to LASFS members (no poetry or fiction). Send items to the LASFS address *c/o De Profundis* or leave them in the *De Profundis* mailbox at the clubhouse. The editor, Marty Cantor, can be reached at the clubhouse on Thursday evenings or at his edress: [louishoo-hah@netzero.net](mailto:louishoo-hah@netzero.net). Deadlines are a bit fluid, but mid-month Thursdays are probably it.

Address corrections should be given or sent to the LASFS Treasurer at the clubhouse.

Due to the press of other material there is currently no space available in *De Profundis* for advertising. I will always try to find room to announce upcoming events of interest to members.

Due to space limitations, priority is always given to content mandated in the LASFS by-laws and by any applicable traditions. Also, after that stuff, by what the editor wants to do.

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Statements herein are those of the speaker/writer and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the club.

This is Hoo Hah Publication No. 638

## LASFS GIFT EXCHANGE

**Date: Friday, December 14, 2001**

**Time: 8:00 pm**

**Location: LASFS Clubhouse**

*(This is one LASFS function which traditionally starts very close to on-time, so please do not be late.)*

All members are encouraged to attend this long-time traditional function of the club. One must be a member in good standing to be able to participate in the festivities.

The complete rules start on page 8 of this issue of *DE PROFUNDIS*.

**THE PURPOSE OF THE GIFT EXCHANGE IS TO  
HAVE FUN**

## LASFS OFFICERS

### Elected Procedural Officers

**President:** Ed Green. **Vice-President:** Merlin R. "Bob" Null. **Scribe:** Mike Glycer & Karl Lembke (tag team). **Treasurer:** Liz Mortensen. **Registrar:** Lynx & Mona Lisa Martinez (tag team).

### Board of Directors

**Chairman:** Bill Ellern (2002). **Vice-Chairman:** Karl Lembke (2003). **Comptroller:** Mike Glycer (2002). **Secretary:** Mike Glycer (2002). **Other members:** Michael Mason (2003), Merlin R. "Bob" Null (2003), Mike Stern (2003), Joe Zeff (2002), Elayne Pelz (2002), Liz Mortensen (2004), Mike Thorsen (2004), Cathy Beckstead (2004). **Special Advisor:** Charles Lee Jackson II. **Advisors:** Forrest J. Ackerman, Walt Daugherty, Len & June Moffatt, and Fred Patten.

### Official Committees

**De Profundis Editor:** Marty Cantor. **Librarian:** Michael Mason. **Librarian Emeritus:** Leigh Strother Vien. **Assistant Librarians:** Greg Barrett, Lucy Stern, Alison Stern, Joyce Sperling, Lynn Baden, Eric Stokien, Rosalinda Duran-M<sup>o</sup>Killip & Tadao Tomomatsu. **Special Guest Librarian:** Charles Lee Jackson II. **LASFS Answer Guy:** Greg Barrett. **LASFS/APA-L Liaison:** Tim Merrigan. **Committee to Gouge Money from the LASFS:** Tadao Tomomatsu, C.B. McGuire, Dale Hales. **\*\*Legion of Substitute Gouges:** Bruce Pelz, Sandy Cohen, Ed Green. **\*\*Strategic Reserve Registrar:** Robert Keller. **Eulogist, Public Relations, Records, Shangri L'Affaires Editor, Video Coordinator, Programming Committee, party Rabbi, & Tontine Committee** (take a deep breath here): Charles Lee Jackson II. **Assistant Video Curator:** Alison Stern. **Hall Decoration:** Tadao Tomomatsu. **Silent Auction Coordinator:** Tadao Tomomatsu. **Science Monitor:** Christian McGuire. **Non-Science Monitor:** Mike Stern. **Asian Affairs Desk:** Brett Achorn. **Key Control:** Liz Mortensen, Bob Null. **Janitorial Services:** Greg Bilan, Mike Thorsen. **Special Photographic Collection:** Mike Donahue. **Webmaster - <lasfs.org>:** Karl Lembke. **Sysadmin:** Chaz Baden. **Ministry of Silly Gavels:** Bob Null. **\*\*LASFS Imaging Project:** C.B. McGuire. **Committee for Children's Literature:** Anne Morrel, Editor; Greg Barrett, Facilitator. **Computers & LASFS Archives:** Bob Null, Eylat Poliner. **Charity Coordinator:** Liz Mortensen.

### Honorary Officers

**Sergeant-at-Arms:** Roy Tackett. **Windmill-at-Arms:** Kees van Toorn. **Samurai-at-Arms:** Takumi Shibano. **Librarian-at-Arms:** Heather Stern.

# December 2001

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 ESTROGEN ZONE
2 TRIPE	3	4	5	6 LASFS MEETING	7 Open Gami- ing - Magic Tournament	8 Cinema Anime
9 BOD - 2nd Sun. Open House	10	11	12	13 LASFS MEETING	14 LASFS GIFT EXCHANGE	15 CFO
16 TIME MEDDLERS	17	18	19 FUCC	20 LASFS MEETING	21 Open Gaming	22 WORK PARTY
23	24	25 Winter Holiday Party	26	27 LASFS MEETING	28 Open Gaming	29
30 SERIAL SUNDAY	31					

## KEY TO CALENDAR & OTHER IMPEDIMENTA

ESTROGEN ZONE = Ladies Auxiliary Sewing and Fallout Society

TRIPE = Temporal Retrieval of Information Programming and Entertainment.

BOD = Board of Directors

2nd Sunday = Board and other gaming

Cinema Anime = Japanimation

CFO = Cartoon Fantasy Organisation

Work Party = Varies with what needs doing

FWEMS = Fourth Sunday Movies - 2 pm

FUCC = Fandom Universal Computer Club

TIME MEDDLERS = Dr. Who club

## CALENDAR DETAILS

TRIPE - Noon until whenever

BOD - 11:00 am, games start at 2:00 pm

Cinema Anime - 1:00 pm until it ends

CFO - 1 pm to 8 pm

Work Party - 10:30 am

FUCC - Evening

TIME MEDDLERS - 10:30 am

ESTROGEN ZONE - 2:00 pm

Serial Sunday - Undersea Kingdom & Don Winslow of the Navy

## THURSDAY PROGRAMME ITEMS

**DECEMBER 6-** Nominations for LASFS President

**DECEMBER 13-** Elections for Procedural Officers

**DECEMBER 20 -** Audio Christmas Presentations

**DECEMBER 27-** Boxing match

## ADDENDA AND CORRIGENDA TO ST. RON ELLIK

in Menace of #3346 in DE PROF #346

*by Bruce Pelz*

Ron Ellik Co-edited the news fanzine FANAC with Terry Carr from #1 (Feb. 1958) through #66 (Nov. 1960), after which it was published by Terry and Miriam Carr through #71 (Jan.

1961) and then by Walter Breen through #97 (Nov. 1963). Under Ron & Terry (and Terry & Miriam) the zine was generally published semi-monthly.

Under Ron & Terry, it won the Hugo for Best Fanzine in 1959.

He did indeed die in a car crash on an icy road in Wisconsin in February 1968, but it was while he was there on behalf of his employer. He was engaged at the time (to Lois Lavender), but was not on the way to his wedding.

His project wasn't just a Lensman Concordance but a Concordance to the Lensman and Skylark books, which he worked on with Bill Evans of the Washington DC area. It was eventually published as The Universes of E.E. Smith, by Advent Press in 1966, two years before Ron died (and a year after Doc Smith did.) He also co-wrote a Man From Uncle novel with Fred Langley/Steve Tolliver -- The Cross of Gold Affair, published in 1968, shortly after he died.

The Root Beer bit was Old News -- his TAFF Trip to England in 1965 (Anyone want a copy of his report -- A SQUIRREL'S TALE -- for \$2?) got him to drinking white wine instead of root beer. (That's why a wine glass, together with June Moffatt's memorial quote from Khayyam, represents Ron at the annual Ellik-Jacobs Memorial Wine & Cheese Parties.)

And not even the standard *de mortuis nil nisi bonum* attitude should permit calling Ron "a gracious soul." He was bright, witty, and outgoing, but never suffered fools gladly, no matter how many of them he ran into in fandom.

I will leave it to others to tell the stories behind the lines

"In Toronto, almost everyone hates Ron Ellik" and

"Ellik is the only true Squirrel, let's pickle..."

- Bruce

### CONDENSED CREAM OF MENACE

(complete minutes can be read in APA-L and are filed in the archives)

*Meeting #3347, October 4, 2001*

*Ed Green, presiding*

*Karl Lemke, Scribe*

At 3-:10:06, President Green brought a Very Impressive Gavel down on a discussion of the Hapsburg succession to take up the succession of LASFS meetings. Number 3346 has stepped down in favor of 3347.

One special order of business has come to light: Douglas J. Stone, a Vice President with Odyssey Press, was in the first plane to crash into the World Trade Center on September 11. We have also lost Dr. John Lilly, aka Speaker To Dolphins.

**Registrar** Mona presented a guest, David, from Virginia. He apparently intends to let a long commute keep him from regular attendance.

Tonight's **Patron Saint** is **Tom Safer**. About him, it was said, "There's nothing he doesn't know about cartoons." CLJII pointed out a few things he's caught Tom out in. "Shut up, we're being nice to him." He's also a fan of good cinema, contrary to Marty Cantor's claim that this is the empty set, and of classical music. He and Roberta Pournelle both sing in the same chorale. There was some discussion of what the name of the chorale was, and the best we could determine is that it's not the O.K. Chorale. (Did Aaron Copeland write any choral music?) He was given three cheers, and "Th' th' that's all, folks!"

**Old Business:** With June Moffatt's recover from bronchitis, the Moffatt's Patron Saint announcements from two weeks ago were taken off the table. First to be patronized was June Moffatt. Len said, "I think she's great!" Ed Green stated that the Moffatts have had this habit of adopting new fen into their household and teaching them fannish manners. (*Any resemblance 'twixt fannish manners and no manners at all are purely coincidental. - ed.*) Ed was the recipient of such treatment, and declares himself honored to be one of their "bastard children."

Charlie Jackson stated that if Phil Castora were here, he'd no doubt declare that although there may be better people on the planet, it is by an amount too small to measure. He himself has rarely met any finer people, especially with better taste in film. They also deserve heaps of praise for all the stuff they've done for the club.

Marty Cantor said they love mysteries, and started Boucher-Con. June is a regular contributor to APA-L. Regular in frequency, that is; superior in quality. Len has been contributing his fan memoirs to *NO AWARD*. May he live long enough to get up to the present day! Scratch said, "They're nice people!"

Jerry Pournelle decided he had to put a stop to the flood of treacle. Unfortunately, he couldn't think of anything to say about June. Len, on the other hand, killed the Fanquet by continually auctioning off his dessert.

Mike Stern pointed out that they are both winners of the Evans Frehafer Award. Marty Cantor added that they're former TAFF winners. Ed Green stated that they are official Advisors to the Board of Directors, and really ought to show up and advise more often. (The scribe suspects the trip may be too onerous for them. They are welcome to send e-mail to <board@lasfs.org>.)

Len got three cheers and no more desserts. (His doctor may concur with that.) "I bid a quarter!" said Jerry Pournelle. June got three cheers and better taste in men.

The **Committee To Gouge** gouged. There being no new business (shut up, Zeff!), we moved on to

**Committee Reports:** Bruce Pelz announced the winners of the annual Mah Jongg tournament. Fourth place was Beth O'Brien, third was Tadao Tomomatsu, second was Liz Mortensen, and in first place, Ulrika O'Brien. Suze Campagna won the monster prize, having achieved the highest score in the tournament.

Bruce also took the opportunity to announce that he can order bound collections of on-line comics, and rare books from Stealth Press. He will not be buying these on spec, but he'll accept orders. Next week, he will go over the procedure for voting on Worldcon bids, which is useful to

## LAFAs

(Los Angeles Filkers Anonymous)

LAFAs Filksing

Saturday, December 15, 2001

Filk: 7 pg to ???

Pre-Filk Dinner: 5 pm

Filk:

Brandyhall:

Lee & Barry Gold, hosts  
3965 Alla Rd.

Los Angeles, CA 90066  
(310) 396-7456

Directions: See Thomas Bros. L.A.  
Co., page 672, B-5 (1992 ed.);  
page 49, grid E-3 (older editions)

Pre-Filk Dinner:  
Royal Star Seafood  
(Chinese Cuisine)  
3001 Wilshire Blvd.  
Santa Monica

LAFAs info: Barry & Lee Gold:  
(310) 306-7456

know, now that Los Angeles' bid is a contested bid.

**Time Bound Announcements:** CLJII announced that the October Amazing Adventures is out. Can't be! It's still October!

Scratch reported that the candle on his birthday cupcake scorched the ceiling. *Scratch, you just gotta move out of that low-ceilinged cave. - ed.*

Matthew Tepper reported on the account of a fellow who was working on the bathroom at Buckingham Palace. This is the bathroom used by Her Majesty. In the tub was a rubber duck, with a crown - apparently a gift from one of the grandkids.

"Never before have I lost control of a meeting like this," said President Green. *(Even though he has lost control of all other kinds of meetings. - ed.)*

Mike Stern reported on one of the weird sites from the Earthlink Bulletin. A page with rubber duck races.

**Miscellaneous:** Frank Waller has Christmas catalogs. Order your Christmas now and avoid the rush.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:16:43.

**Meeting #3348, October 11, 2001**

**Ed Green, presiding**

**Karl Lembke, Scribe**

The meeting was called to a bizarre sort of order at 20:11:10.

**Special Order of Business:** Milton Rothman, of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society, passed away. Said Phil Castora, "In all the years I've been around, I've never heard an unkind word said about him." Len added some comments the following week: "He was a great guy. During World War II in the army his tentmates were calling him a "Christ Killer." He responded, "Honest, guys, I didn't do it. I was too young!"

Ed Green had an announcement: Due to oddities in scheduling, Karl Lembke was not expected to be at this meeting. Although he managed to show up anyway, Ed offered thanks to Joe Zeff for being willing to step in and handle a pretty thankless job. (And let the scribe note here that

he only asked Joe to sub for him because he knew it would get done. That's what you get for being so damn reliable, Joe!)

The **Menace** were read, corrected, and approved as "A crowned big mouth bass."

**Registrar** Mona introduced David Sherman, the brother of Diana, here for the first (and hopefully not the last) time.

**Patron Saint Beverly Kanter.** She must have been a saint, because she put up with Dr. Shack the Quack for many years. She also got him to donate a lot of money in her name. Three cheers, and a heart of gold!

Before anything else, the **Committee To Gouge** announced a yard sale this Sunday. After that, the Committee auctioned off some chocolate. And then some chocolate. And some more chocolate. And some cookies. And other stuff. And did I mention the chocolate?

**Smoffing,** Bruce Pelz explained the mechanics of voting for Worldcon. There will be more info next week.

**Fannish Committee Reports:** Robert Keller noted that his is Ed Green's 100th day of office. The honeymoon is over. *(It was over before he even took office. - ed.)*

A motion to apocalypse passed at 21:18:36.

**Meeting #3349, October 18, 2001**

**Ed Green, presiding**

**Karl Lembke, Scribe**

The meeting was called to order at 20:10:13. Deal with it.

There were two announcements. On Sunday, there was a minor issue with one of our guests who became unruly. Anyone approaching any member and asking to speak to "the proper owner" should be directed to a club officer. If he becomes quarrelsome, he should be asked to leave. If he refuses to leave, the police should be notified. In an unrelated incident, a mysterious brown powder was found on the floor of the clubhouse. It was eventually identified as probably desert dust. If anyone wants to talk to a doctor about the possibility of contact with Rigellian Fever, they are free to do so. Club members who make a mess are being asked to clean it up. The club is thinking of reinstating the currently unenforced fine for making messes.

The **Menace** were read, corrected, and approved as "Too young at the time."

**Registrar** Mona had no guests to introduce at this time.

**Patron Saint Randy Greiner.** One of the set of people known as a "human wallet." He was soft-spoken, and not just in comparison with Jerry Pommel. He currently lives in Glendale, where he has more important stuff to do, like avoiding LASFS meetings. He was given three cheers and a ginger snap.

The **Committee To Gouge the LASFS** lowered the boom on some accumulated stuff, and raised some money.

**Time Bound Announcements:** Tadao Tomomatsu offered his thanks to those who helped with the yard sale.

**Reviews:** CLJII observed that technology is now so good that old films can be restored to a condition better than they were when new. (*It is now possible to improve their plots? - ed.*) "Devil Bat" and "Scared to Death" have both been restored, and are now digitally crystal clear. Of course, restoring them to blank film might well have resulted in considerable improvement. Francis Hamit stated, "You're out of tune with the market, Charlie." I guess that was a review of Charlie.

Francis Hamit states that Enterprise has "real legs." Commander Tripp, he stated, is well named. I guess he has fake legs.

At this point, **Registrar** Mona introduced TJ, a guest who turned up in the interim. (*Mona will look everywhere for guests, but she forgot to tell us what the guest was doing in the term. - ed.*)

Francis Hamit reported on the rumor that England has recognized "Jedi Knight" as a valid religion. It turns out to be urban legend, so Francis has been Jedi Rooked.

**Miscellaneous:** Frank Waller has Christmas Catalogs and makes strange noises.

A motion to go to the program was passed at 20:51:52, at which point my jeopardy-sensitive sunglasses darkened.

*Meeting #3350, October 25, 2001*

*Ed Green, presiding*

*Karl Lembke, Scribe*

The meeting was called to order at 20:10:15. Two seconds later than it was called to order last week!

**Special Order of Business:** Joe Zeff rose to explain his absence last week. His brother-in-law had been admitted to the hospital. To make a long story short, he took several turns for the worse, which were not balanced by the occasional turn for the better. He died Monday, after being taken off life support. He had spent six years married to LASFS member Marcia.

The **Menace** were read, corrected, and approved as "Over-corrected."

**Registrar** Mona introduced Tess Kessler, all the way from "nearby."

**Patron Saint Lee Jacobs.** He's from before Ed's time. Phil Castora remembers him as popular and likeable, a good man. He was given three cheers and a building.

There was no business, old or new.

**Time Bound Announcements:** Christian McGuire announced the plan for a "winter holiday club" for LASFS members who might be interested in buying Worldcon memberships. This club will allow people to deposit \$4 every month toward membership in Worldcon. Participants will attain enough of a balance to buy a supporting membership for Torcon, and thus be able to vote for the Los Angeles 2006 bid, and hopefully win us a local worldcon. (If we get insufficient

votes, the Worldcon will, of course, be in Kansas City.) Bottom line, this plan allows LASFS members to buy Worldcon memberships for \$127 each.

Scott Beckstead announced SoLaLaCon, next year, May 4-5. (*This is a Time Bound Announcement only if your time machine is malfunctioning.*)

**Fannish Committee Reports:**

Joe Zeff had taken to banging his head against a pillar while dealing with certain types of calls. While he was out, his section was moved to another part of the building. His supervisor very kindly made sure Joe's desk was placed near a pillar.

Valerie states that Tony Evans sends his good-byes to the club. He's packing for his impending move. To Utah. (Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow you may be in Utah.)

A motion to go to the program was passed at 21:32:04.

*LASFS Board of Directors*

*Meeting of October 14, 2001*

*William Ellern, Chairman*

**Board Members present:** Bill Ellern, Karl Lembke, Kim Marks-Brown, Michael Mason, Liz Mortensen, Bob Null, Mike Stem, Mike Thorsen, Joe Zeff. Excused absences: Mike Glycer, Elayne Pelz.

**Other present** included Lucy Stem, Marty Cantor, Joyce Sperling, Robert Keller, Greg Bilan, Ken Porter, Tony Benoun, Sheri Benoun, Anne Morrel, Scott Beckstead, Sundance Bekinnie, Ed Green.

The **Minutes** from the previous meeting were reviewed and corrections were offered.

**Treasurer's Report:** The library fund is exactly on track for this time of year. The air conditioner repair came out of the operating fund, taking it to \$13,579.93. Total assets are \$56,000, more or less. Out of the tickler file pops the news that it's time to call the plumber. This timing was decided upon so that any repairs deemed necessary would be expensed in the 2002 calendar year. The September 20 auction raised \$497.33. The auctioneers were thanked.

**Applications for Membership:** Diana Sherman, Darrel Exline, Matt Stansfield, Karen Merrill, and Jordan Mann were approved for membership without dissent.

**Building Closing Policy** The Chairman has received two laminated copies of the Building Closing Time Policy statement. They will be posted. He extended the Board's thanks to Kim Marks-Brown for her work.

**MAGIC**

The Gathering

\*\*\*\*\*

**Tournaments  
held at LASFS**

**First Friday  
every month**

\*\*\*\*\*

Contact for Magic The  
Gathering:

Drew Sanders,

mailto:

Drew\_Sanders@hotmail.

com

The Chairman himself has still not come up with a **Facilities Policy**. He hopes to have one within the month.

**Facilities:** Bob Null is still working on the Jack Harness computers. The Gestetner is making a funny noise, identified as a grinding sound during the master creation step. He was unable to identify any sign of anything causing immediate damage. He and the frequent users of the machine will keep an eye on things, and recommend corrective action if needed.

We have a new printer from Sheri Benoun. It will go into the library. There was some discussion over where to move various printers. A plan was developed, and Bill Ellem recommended that it be implemented.

Soda “shrinkage” continues to be back down to a low level. We have a second microwave oven. We may actually have a use for it. Mike Thorsen has been looking at the microphones, which are malfunctioning. He will check the cables.

Greg Bilan notes that one of the gaming groups has been neglecting to clean up after itself on Friday nights and Second Sunday. Mike Stern commented that we have, or at least used to have, fines for littering on club property. Maybe club officers need to remind people to put stuff away when they’re done with it, and to put litter in its place. (*We have a litter box? - ed.*) In any event, gamers will be put on notice that messes are not acceptable.

Bob Null reports that our neighbors have new renters in their front building. So far, so good. The floodlights over the front door are now fluorescent bulbs. Although not rated for outdoor use, the location is sheltered. Similar bulbs in a similarly sheltered location have worked just fine. The parking situation was discussed. Bob Null will bring up the driveway use and parking agreement with our neighbors, and especially with the new tenants. Further discussion eventually wound down with no real conclusion. Two people have volunteered to look into occupancy/parking regulations.

**Archives:** There have been minor additions to the archives.

**conventions:** Liz Mortensen will be at WindyCon next month.

**Library:** The new database has not been set up yet. A backup person has been recruited to build it.

**Phone Tree/E-mail list for emergencies:** Karl Lembke is working on the emergency mail list. He will prepare a phone list for phone trees from the membership database spreadsheet provided by Mike Glyer. Kim Marks-Brown suggested that we set up two lists, one for emergencies, the other for updates, as discussed in previous meetings. Joe Zeff seconded. After some discussion, it was moved, with one abstention, that both lists be prepared.

**Burbank Blvd. Disruption:** bob Null notes that, according to the latest literature, the City may not be digging holes on our block, after all.

Tadao Tomomatsu announced the upcoming LaLaCon, “SoLaLaCon.” Scott Beckstead will be chairing this convention, to be held the weekend of May 4-5. LosCon is proceeding on schedule.

The meeting adjourned at 12:42.

## FANZINES

By Ted White

*Fanzines are a basic part of science fiction fandom, having been in existence as long as fandom itself – the past 70 years. Fanzines are a reflection of many fans’ interest in the printed word and amateur publishing. The publication you are reading this in is a fanzine, but a specialized one. A variety of other fanzines are also available – many of them by request – and this column will cover some of them each issue.*

*All fanzines are published as a hobby and lose money. Their editors appreciate money to defray their expenses and sometimes list single-copy or subscription prices, but they appreciate even more your written response – a Letter of Comment, or LoC. Feedback – better known in fandom as “egoboo” – is what fanzine publishing is all about.*

*Check out the fanzine below and broaden your participation in fandom.*

**ARGENTUS** (Steven H Silver, 707 Sapling Lane, Deerfield, IL 60015-3969; e-mail to shsilver@sfsite.com; available for \$3.00 or “the usual” – letters of comment, contributions of material or fanzines sent in trade)

Steven H (no period) Silver is a young up-and-comer who has, he tells us, a three-book contract (for anthologies of authors’ first stories) with DAW Books, and who has campaigned vigorously for a Fan Writer Hugo for a couple of years now. He started planning *Argentus* #1 more than a year ago, originally hoping to publish it in 2000 and then scheduling it for May 2001. It finally appeared in late September.

“Initially, I had viewed *Argentus* as having a specific theme: ‘Origins, Beginnings and Geneses,’ as it was my first issue,” Silver tells us in his editorial, “The Mine.” “This theme quickly fell by the wayside as I decided to get articles which were interesting in and of themselves, rather than because they fit a specific theme. The only article which survives from that period is Pat Sayre McCoy’s memoir of her first professional sale [“‘Winter Roses’ Bloom”] ... The only theme remaining in this issue is the final, mock section, which is made up of several reviews of science fiction films. I commissioned film reviewers to select a science fiction novel or story which they would like to see made into a movie. They could cast and staff the film however they chose, giving it the type of budget they wanted and then write a review of the final product. None of these films has been made, nor are plans in the works to make these specific films. I hope you enjoy their efforts.”

What Silver has produced for *Argentus*’ maiden voyage is a rather earnest attempt at the sort of “sercon” fanzine better exemplified by *Nova Express*. The lead article is David Truesdale’s “Thoughts on the State of Short Science Fiction,” which turns out to be only part one of an extended series and

deals, somewhat unsatisfactorily, with the present state of the surviving prozines. Pat McCoy's piece describes, a bit breathlessly, how she came up with and sold her first story. Rich Horton describes what it was like to be a contestant on *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*. Michael A. Andaluz's "Dumpster Diving and Conspiracy Theory" is a tease: he thinks up a scheme which strikes him as clever and tells us he intends to execute it "next week." Silver offers a last-minute page of thoughts on September 11th. Tom Whitmore, the chair of the forthcoming Worldcon, ConJose, gives us a dense four paragraphs entitled "Do We Know the Way to ConJose?" without telling us any facts about the convention (date, location, address to join) at all. Erik V. Olson's "The Five Throated Voice of Ghu" is a heavily footnoted piece about a trip to Kennedy Space Center. Silver plugs Midwest Construction, a con-runner's con for the Wimpy Zone. Mike Resnick has produced an annotated list of "The Best African Movies" which is both more comprehensive and better thought-out than one might expect. The issue concludes with six "mock" reviews of never-made SF movies, followed by a two-page rundown of the issue's contributors. That's a lot of wordage, some of it serious in tone and some of it lighter. Not all of the pieces are successful, but none is a complete waste of space.

Physically, *Argentus'* 40 pages are photo-copied (and occasionally creased by the copier) from double-columned computer-set type. The layouts are dull and unimaginative and every page without exception has an obtrusive running head of swords and the *Argentus* logo, which Silver has promised to banish from #2. In sum, like many first issues, this one has flaws of both conception and execution, but holds promise for future improvement.

—Ted White

#### ZINES RECEIVED IN TRADE

(All zines are available to read and are in the *De Profundis* mailbox and can be taken out for a week)

**club zines:** INSTANT MESSAGE #692 & #693 (NESFA). PSFS News Nov. 2001 (PSFS). DASFAx Vol. 33, No. 10 (DASFA). FOSFAX#204 (FOSFA). WARP 52 (MonSFFA).

**other zines:** PABLO LENNIS November 2001 (John Thiel).

#### NEW BOOKS

(This is a section devoted to listing new books and other items received by the LASFS Library. Our extensive library is not just for collecting and looking at that wonderful collection of books on shelves. Members may take them out and read them. Here are some of the newest additions.)

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Recent Additions to the Video Collection

(There were none listed for this month.)

#### LETTER OF COMMENT

Robert Lichtman  
robertlichtman@yahoo.com

The assertion in the minutes that the late Ron Ellik "edited a monthly zine titled *FANAC*, and got it out on a schedule for most of a decade." The facts: *FANAC* appeared between 1958 and 1963. It began as a weekly from the first issue (Feb. 24, 1958) through the 23rd issue (mid-August 1958), after which it was more or less every other week. *FANAC* received the Best Fanzine Hugo (for 1958) at the Detention in 1959. Also, the minutes say that "One of [Ron's] projects was a Lensman concordance," which somewhat understates the case. Together with the late Bill Evans, Ron wrote and Advent published (in 1966) *THE UNIVERSES OF E.E. SMITH*, subtitled "A Concordance of the Lensman and Sklyark Novels." LASFSian Al Lewis provided a bibliography, and Bjo Trimble did the dust jacket and interior artwork. I agree with the minutes that Ron was "always a gracious soul" and still miss him.

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# LASFS GIFT EXCHANGE

**Date: December 14, 2001**

**Time: 8:00 pm**

**Location: LASFS Clubhouse**

## THE RULES OF THE LASFS GIFT EXCHANGE

*by Leigh Strother-Vien and others*

The Gift Exchange is considered an extension of the previous night's meeting. Dues will be collected, if not previously paid. All **paid-up, active** members of LASFS are eligible to participate. You must be present **in person** - - **NO PROXIES!** *You should expect to spend several hours at this event.*

To participate in the Gift Exchange, bring an **anonymous, wrapped** gift, with a value of *at least \$10*. The gift **must** be related to **Science Fiction, Fantasy, or Fandom** (see GUIDELINES & SUGGESTIONS if unsure). The gift you place in the Exchange should be considered a donation. Because of the wide range of gifts that may be contributed, and because of varying tastes, you might not receive a gift that you really want! You *might* in fact get a gift you don't want at all! In this event, please bear in mind that **THE PURPOSE OF THE GIFT EXCHANGE IS TO HAVE FUN.** (If you also happen to get some nice loot, that should merely be considered a very nice bonus!)

On entering the Gift Exchange, you will receive a registration number. The registration numbers will be randomized, to determine when each person will be called to choose a gift from the table.

The first person called will choose a gift from the table, open it, and **show it to the audience.** Make sure the rest of the crowd knows what the gift is, because that lets the crowd have fun, and **THE PURPOSE OF THE GIFT EXCHANGE IS TO HAVE FUN.**

The rest of the participants, in the order called, will each choose a gift from the table, open it, and **show it to the audience.** If the person who has just opened a gift desires, he/she may "Force Trade" that gift with any gift that has been previously opened. **THE PERSON HOLDING THE DESIRED GIFT MUST ACCEPT THE TRADE.**

The first person in the Gift Exchange is allowed the last "Force Trade," after everyone has selected & opened a gift.

**CRUD CALLS:** a "Crud Call" may occur if a gift is deemed unsuitable. "Crud Calls" may **only** be made if (1) the gift has insufficient value; (2) the gift is not related to Science Fiction, Fantasy, or Fandom.

"Crud Calls" may NOT be made merely because a person is unhappy with a gift, if it otherwise meets the requirements. If you don't like it, trade it away. **THE PURPOSE OF THE GIFT EXCHANGE IS TO HAVE FUN.**

The person **opening** a gift may make a "Crud Call" at that time. Also, a person **receiving** a gift on a "Force Trade" may make a "Crud Call" at **that** time. "Crud Calls" are **not** allowed at any other time.

"Saves" may be made after a "Crud Call," if any participant wants the gift that has been declared "crud." If more than one person wants the "crud" gift, the person holding it may choose among the gifts offered in exchange. If only one person offers to take the "crud" gift, the person who made the "Crud Call" **must** accept the trade.

After the trade, neither person may make another "crud Call" on either of the two gifts in question. A participant may trade his/her future gift choice on a "Crud Call." The person making the "Crud Call" will then select another gift at the appropriate time. The acceptor of the "crud" gift may not make another "Crud Call" on it.

If no one volunteers to "Save," a "Forced Trade" with the perpetrator of the "crud" gift - - whether an already opened gift or a future selection - - is mandated.

The participants may overrule a "Crud Call" by a majority vote if they consider it unjustified.

If A Judgment Call is required in any instance, the decision of the Gift Exchange "Producer" is **FINAL!**

Please note: Gifts in the gift exchange are considered the Property of the club until the Gift Exchange is officially declared "**over.**" If you are in possession of an opened gift and need to leave (either the room or completely), you **must leave your gift** with someone else. It is still open to "force trades."

**Also: Tantrums will result in the person or persons having Tantrums being Banned from future gift exchanges. Tantrums are Not Fun. AND THE PURPOSE OF THE GIFT EXCHANGE IS TO HAVE FUN.**

After the Gift Exchange is over, Free Trading of gifts may occur. This trading is outside the Gift Exchange, and is done by persons willing to trade all or parts of their gifts with each other.

**\*\*\*SPECIAL RULE:** The "**Chocolate Covered Manhole Cover**" is a traditional feature of the Gift Exchange. While not an acceptable gift by itself (due to insufficient monetary value - if you have possession of it, you got it for free), it can be added to any gift. **Whoever ends up with the Manhole Cover at the end of the Gift Exchange is charged with the responsibility to see that it is reintroduced in the next year's Gift Exchange. The possessor of the Cover does not have to add it to his own right, just see that someone does.\*\*\***

## GUIDELINES & SUGGESTIONS

1. If **you** wouldn't be happy to get a gift, **don't** put it in the Gift Exchange. Others probably won't like it either.
2. Having participants fight over an expensive gift ruins the spirit of the Gift Exchange. **THE PURPOSE OF THE GIFT EXCHANGE IS TO HAVE FUN.** If you bring a gift worth MORE than minimum value, do **not** expect equal value in return.
3. Rotsler's Rules for Masquerade Presentations can apply to Gift Exchange presentations as well: "Funny is better than serious. Short is better than long. Short and Funny is best."
4. Do **not** put anything **offensive** into the Gift Exchange. **Lewd, crude, or rude** gifts are **not** funny. **THE PURPOSE OF THE GIFT EXCHANGE IS TO HAVE FUN.**



5. If it took more than 20 minutes to wrap the gift, it will take too long to unwrap it at the Gift Exchange. Keep the wrapping **simple**, so that it can be opened in a reasonable amount of time.
6. When giving books that are part of a multi-part series, it is considered good form (and perhaps even good taste) to include the first book (and perhaps **all** previous books) of the series.
7. Some gifts that were very popular at previous Gift Exchanges were: stuffed animals (especially those from comic strips); telescopes; recently published books (in new condition!); toy ray guns; coffee table books about S.F., Fantasy, or Space; and stuff for computers. High quality gifts of chocolate are considered Fannish!

Please note that, prior to 1996, "quality" alcoholic gifts were also encouraged. **THIS IS NO LONGER THE CASE.** The use of alcohol is your own business, but the Club would prefer to NOT encourage alcohol in the Gift Exchange, as more and more members are either abstainers or minors!

8. Items that bombed: miscellaneous (dull, boring, mundane) food, hand-crafted "artwork," used paperbacks if small in number or poor in condition, and **anything** having to do with 'Zotz!' or the Hubbard Decology, unless Crud Insurance (high quality chocolate, for example) is included.

#### ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS OFTEN ASKED

**Q.** "What exactly does 'related to science fiction, fantasy, or fandom' mean?"

**A.** **If you don't know what's related to science fiction or fantasy, you're in the wrong club.** As for Fandom-related, these would be things that are associated with the activities of organized fandom, ie: Mementos from conventions, propeller beanies, chocolate, costumes, computer hardware and software, comic books, collected fanzines, manuscripts from pro authors, bookshelves, video storage devices, interesting toys, games, puzzles, sheet music and/or recordings by Filk artists, miniatures, leather-craft tools, chain mail, etc.

**Q.** "I've just been force traded a large box of "Magic The Gathering" Cards. I don't like "Magic The Gathering." Am I allowed to call Crud?"

**A.** **No.** The **nature** of the gift is unquestionably related to science fiction, fantasy, or fandom. The **value** of the gift is unquestionably in excess of \$10. **There are no other criteria.** Your options are to (a) hope that someone force trades for the Magic cards, leaving you with something else, or (b) wait until after the Exchange and try to obtain something you prefer during Free Trading.

**Q.** "I've ended up with the Chocolate covered Manhole Cover, but I think it's a silly tradition and I don't want to deal with it. Can I throw the darned thing away?"

**A.** **Only if you want to be ostracized by all of organized fandom.** Most people don't have that much masochism in them, so you would be advised to simply give the Cover to someone who takes it more seriously than you do.

**Q.** I've picked the Pournelle Box (greed is good!), but

someone wants to force trade me a box of "Magic The Gathering" cards for it. Should I allow it, or scream, whine and complain in a loud annoying voice until they relent?" **In the first place, they won't relent. The rules are on their side.** In the second place, throwing such a tantrum would only get you **thrown out and banned** from future Exchanges. Your only real option is to make an effort to act like an **adult** (yes, it's terribly hard, but necessary) and allow the trade without putting up a fight.

**Q.** "I'm on a diet, but the buffet table looks so tempting. Should I eat more?"

**A.** **Yes.** The club **always** lays on too much food for this event, and we have no place to store leftovers. Feel free to eat us out of house and home. **Diet later!**

Once again, **THE PURPOSE OF THE GIFT EXCHANGE IS TO HAVE FUN.** With that firmly in mind, Go Thou And Do Likewise!

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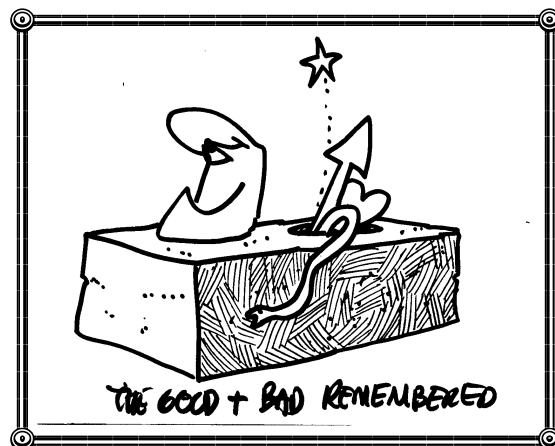
(Addendum by the editor)

*In my twenty six years of participating in the Gift Exchange I have twice won the Chocolate Covered Manhole Cover. Putting it into the freezer for a year is not much of a problem, and it does help maintain a fun fannish tradition, with minimal hassle, returning the Cover in a gift at the next Exchange.*

*There are many fannish traditions, some of them more important than others. One of the traditions attached to the LASFS Gift Exchange is The Pool. This is a pool involving how many fans will be participating in the Exchange. The Pool was started by Bruce Pelz in the late '70s or early '80s; and, after a few years of running it, he turned it over to me. I have continued this tradition ever since and will be again running it this year.*

*The rules are simple: every participant in the Gift Exchange can pick up to 2 numbers at 25¢ each, with the winner being the person who picks the exact number of participants in the Gift Exchange. The winner will be announced as soon as the Gift Exchange Administrator (or assistant) announces that no more participants can be accepted. In the rare event of nobody picking that number and there is a gap (or gaps) in the list, the person picking the closest lower number will be declared the winner.*

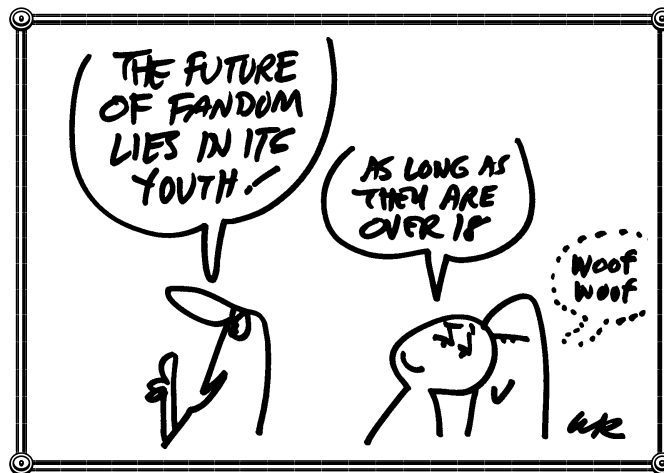
*The winner of The Pool gets one-half of the money collected in wagers, the LASFS gets the other half.*



**NEW LASFS**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**MEMBERS**

Liz Mortensen (re-elected)  
Mike Thorsen (re-elected)  
Cathy Beckstead

*Kim Marks-Brown did not stand for re-election*



*Illo by Rotsler*



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