

De
Profundis
Ad
Astra

DE PROFUNDIS 354



COLOPHON

De Profundis 354— June, 2002. Editor: **Marty Cantor**. Production Assistant: **Bob Null**. 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. *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 address: hooah-pubs@earthlink.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.

Written in Publisher 2000 on a custom-built Pentium III 500 computer, printed on an HP DeskJet 895 Cxi, with reproduction on a Gestetner CopyPrinter 5329L.

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

This is Hoo Hah Publication No. 702

THIS IS THE BRUCE PELZ MEMORIAL ISSUE OF DE PROFUNDIS

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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

Marketing Committee - 8:30 m

FWEMS - No Themes

THURSDAY PROGRAMME ITEMS

JULY 4- Bruce Pelz Memorial meeting at Westercon

JULY 11- No programme set at this time

JULY 18- No programme set at this time

JULY 25- No programme set at this time

CONDENSED CREAM OF MENACE

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

Meeting #3377, May 2, 2002

Ed Green, presiding

Karl Lenke, Scribe

The natives are restless tonight," muttered Ed Green. All that remained was to power up the jungle drum and call to order meeting 3377, at 20:10:16.

Special Orders of Business: demise of three people: 1) John Nathan Turner, producer and creative mind behind several seasons of Dr. Who, 2) Richard Cowper, aka John Middleton Murray, Jr., 3) George Alec Effinger, Hugo and Nebula Award Winner. All will be missed; there

was a moment of silence.

Bill Warren is sounding very good, and his health is much improved. He's now two-thirds the man he used to be, which has done his weight problem a great deal of good. Also, Rick Foss had an announcement about Forrest J. Ackerman. He was up and walking without assistance, and feeling well enough to sing. He had a minor complication this week, discovered to have a minor kidney infection. He won't be out quite as quickly as we'd hoped. No visitors, since he's in a "no germs allowed" ward. (*No germs allowed? No wonder they do not want visits by fans. - ed.*)

The **Menace** were read and approved as "under all that turbidity."

Patron Saint: Larry Niven, whom we're lucky enough to see on a regular basis. Just as friendly and outgoing as he was 30 years ago when Ed was a kid. (CLJII) When the club was meeting on Ventura Blvd., we had a member who somehow got the idea that, CLJII, was Larry, and that Ed Buchman was CLJII. Larry was very pleasant to him anyway. (Leigh SV) When I first started coming to LASFS, I met a cute guy and spent time snogging, then we introduced each other. "I'm Larry Niven." LARRY NIVEN!!! Mike Glycer: recounted how a friend stated that he played poker with Larry Niven. His response: You do? How??? The answer: come to aftermeetings, but you really ought to join the club. At the Atlanta Worldcon, one fellow had a copy of a magazine with a Zelazny story. He went up to a man with a beard, and asked, "Mr. Zelazny, will you sign this story?" "I can't sign that one, but I'll sign this one instead," and flipped to the Larry Niven story.

Ed Green was Head of volunteers at the '94 Westercon. At one point, exhausted, since coming in from National Guard. Wrote a note, "Committee member, please help." Larry Niven walked by, wrote "Professional author, well design worlds for food." Sat down next to him. Week after Worldcon in Australia, Harlan giving GOH speech which was another "I'm quitting the field" speech, Larry was in the elevator later, and some kids in the elevator saw his Hugo and asked how he got it. His reply: "Harlan's quitting science fiction. He's giving away his awards..."

Joe Zeff remarked that when the club was running a "most memorable FANAC of the year" contest. Ed and Larry's performance was nominated and won. Don Wenner stated that Larry Niven was probably the second LASFS member he met before moving out here. One thing he noticed was that he would come out and hobnob with fans. By god, they actually act like normal people. (*Fans are normal people? - ed.*) Janis Olsen recalls that when she was new to fandom, the first convention she went to was a LOSCON. She wandered into a party with dancing on Friday night. She learned about why Regency people thought waltzing was so dangerous. If the person leading is good enough, you can become tipsy from dancing. Larry is one of those good leaders.

Ed Green notes that in his body of pro works, you can find many people you know on a day-to-day basis popping up in his novels. He's a patron saint of the library. Turned 64, two days ago. We still need him, we'll still feed him. He was given three cheers, and a Beatles song.

Registrar: Alexis Waite and A gaggle of guests (geestes?)
Brought here by boyfriend.

Marilyn Wright (a friend of Frank)

Chris Reynolds, stand up and wave.

Matt McGrath, Diane Davis. Matt found out about the club from the book fair, never knew about the place, and is leaving town next month.

Committee Reports: Greg Bilan (about the Festival of Books). Gave away all 500 packets we printed up, hopefully people will show up. Thanks to all who helped with display, especially Karl and Tadao. On behalf of the society, thanks to Greg Bilan for all his hard work.

We sang "Happy Birthday" to Larry, on key, amazingly enough.

Time Bound Announcements: Scratch reported that Eyclat Poliner is now Momma Poliner. Anna K. Poliner. Eyclat did have a relapse, got out of ICU, and is much better now. Birth Friday, 9:39 am. 20', 7#13.

Reviews: Rick Foss reviewed Tom Hold books published recently. Djinn Rummy, a story that features the re-emergence of genies into the world. In *Wish You Were Here*, all of his characters talk like witty Englishmen, even in a story set in Iowa. Definitely in a rut. Fairly weird book, as he's making fun of his own stories.

A motion to adjourn, was made, seconded, and passed at 21:17:38.

Meeting #3378, May 9, 2002

Ed Green, presiding

Karl Lembke, Scribe scribbling

President Green noted that it was 8:11 in the evening. He also noticed a whole bunch of other stuff, so we'd better begin. Meeting #3378 began at 20:11:34.

Special Orders of Business: Nancy Share Rapp has died. She was a noted fan, big in the APA SAPS since the 1950s. Len Moffatt observed that Art Rapp is still alive, but has Alzheimers. He came to know them because of the Carboniferous Amateur Press Alliance, over 40 years ago. The APA still comes out, with 5 members. Nancy was very inventive at coming up with multicolored covers. She also did cartoons and pop-up covers for fanzines. Their kids were probably army brats. Nancy must have been in her 60's - 70's, hailing from an era when fanzine fans were core fandom, not fringe.

(Happy announcement). Melbourne Australia has a science fiction club. It has no building, but holds meetings in a church that allows them to have a library. The club puts out a fanzine, titled "Ethel the Aardvark." On Friday, May 10th, it will be their 50th birthday, let's wish them a happy one. (The Scribe was instructed to drop them a line.)

Eyclat has an announcement . . . Friday, good news is that on Saturday, April 26, at 9:39 am, Anna Kay Poliner was born, 7 pounds, 9 ounces. Saturday, Eyclat went into pulmonary arrest and nearly died. She was unstable all of Saturday, and most of Sunday. By Monday, she was taken off most of the anesthetics, and was lucid enough that she could communicate. (*I thought that with Eyclat it was the other way around. - ed.*) By Monday night her tracheal tube had been taken out. Her summary of the whole experience: "I'm happy to be here with you guys."

Mike Stern resigned from the Board of Directors. On June 6 an election was held and Ed Green was elected to fill out the remainder of Mike Stern's term.

The **Menace** were read and approved as "having the gift of laughter and a sense that the world is mad." (The opening line of Scaramouche.) (At the reading the following week, it was noted that this opening line was Bruce Pelz' favourite opening line of any book.)

Patron Saint: Bob Null is almost vice president in perpetuity, and a critical member of the club. He is responsible for a lot that happens here, and is close to being the logistics guy of local fandom. He is also the Minister of Silly Gavels, and the Soda Fairy. Matthew Tepper noted that he has great knowledge of such things as local bookstores and record and video stores, and he knows more about Turkish coins than anyone else he has ever met. Charlie Jackson said that he's willing and able to help out with almost anything. For the past few months, he has helped Charlie get to the clubhouse.

Joe Zeff stated that the Vice President's job is a whole lot of work, and he's glad Bob's willing to do it. Adding up the amount of time Bob's put in the office, he notes that Bob is truly a ten-year VP. Liz Mortensen appreciates the fact that we've never run out of Diet coke when Bob's been handling drinks. Len Moffatt stated that there's lots to admire about Bob Null. When SCIFI put on the non-science-fiction con, Boucher con, Bob helped out. Mystery writers and fans are fairly mundane, but Bob likes them anyway. "You know," he says, "these folks are like the people at cons, only the hall costumes are different."

Marty Cantor called Bob an invaluable help in putting out *DE PROF*. "Thanks for the help," he said. (*And all the fish, too. - ed.*) Bob was given three cheers, and nothing else.

The **Registrar** introduced two guests, Rochmanna Miller, a teacher and a writer of short stories, and Timothy Bryant, who came in with a bang. He is, among other things, the producer of a new SF movie.

Lary Niven had an urgent **Special Order of business:** Bruce Pelz died this afternoon. He lost consciousness at home, and died at the hospital. An impromptu minute of silence was held.

Let the minutes reflect the sincere regret at this loss, and we will schedule some form of memorial at a future date. (Jerry Rumelle noted the minute of silence.)

At a consensus of the members, the meeting was adjourned. 20:52:15.

And the rest is silence.

Meeting #3379, May 16, 2002
Ed Green, presiding
Karl Lembke, Scribe

Due to recent events, the pre-meeting nonsense was rather subdued this

week. Meeting #3379 was brought to order at 20:12:22.

Special Orders of Business: The Obvious. One week ago, we lost one of the keystone members of the society, Bruce Pelz. Ed Green forwarded a report from Diane Crayne. Bruce died of a pulmonary embolism, either a small clot from legs or the beginning of an underlying case of cancer. Tonight, we'll get through it as best we can. We will be doing a memorial on a weekend to be named later. We don't have a date yet. Elayne has no problem with having a memorial, and a date will be set RSN. The meeting date should be at least 21 days from now, so there will be time to announce it in *DE PROF*.

Don Simpson has had at least one heart attack, but is stable and resting comfortably at Bates Medical Center, despite being afraid to take a shower.

Tuesday, someone stopped in to see Forry Ackerman, who is very weak and groggy, but doing reasonably well. He needs a lot of rest. Contrary to what's being circulated on the internet, he's not at death's door. He does not need lots of visitors. Probably not leaving the hospital this week before going to a care facility. We may be able to have him at LOSCON. Ed and Liz visited Sunday. He made a pass at Liz, so a full recovery is expected.

To honor the memory of one of the great monetary vampires, what am I bid to lead a moment of silence? For \$25, Christian McGuire led a minute of silence.

The **Menace** were read and approved as read.

The **Registrar** introduced one guest, Tracy Vivlmore.

Patron Saint: Tom Digby, one of the more interesting members of the LASFS. Those not here when he was active in the club, envy and pity. He was described as "tilted 25 degrees to the rest of the universe." (A Bruce-ism?) The "Chocolate Covered Manhole Cover" story by Niven was inspired by Digby. Thom Digby is so polite, sometimes his comments make no sense until you backtrack through the conversation and recall what the subject was twenty minutes ago. He is also the LASFS' Resident Alien.

Christian called him a brilliant left-field fan writer, and a writer of really strange stuff. Look in APA-L, other fanzines, and on-line. He also has always expressed himself completely honestly. He has a habit of wearing body jewelry. (*And sometimes even antennae - ed.*) One time he surprised Christian by showing up with a bone in his nose. Joe Zeff had three illustrations of Tom Digby's way of thinking. 1) He came in holding a lithium battery for a computer, stating that the only reason he had it was that it was in doomail mode. 2) In APA-L, he came up with a race called the Clarinichi, whose most important attribute is that they could only have existed had the laws of physics been different. So they write books, philosophical treatises on "why we don't exist." 3) Several years ago at LOSCON, he told anyone who would listen that he was under consideration for a job designing and maintaining environment tanks for beings that could not survive in terrestrial atmospheres. He would be working with the "Mimbari," aka MBARI, the Monterey Bay Aquarium and Research Institute.

Jerry Pournelle: noted that once, in his APA-L zine, "Probably Something," he once wrote that it must have been fascinating to live near the airport in the last century, because you'd only be disturbed by the clip clop of horses as they took off. 2) One time he showed up with some body jewelry - a pound of crystal in his nose. "Why are you wearing that???" Jerry asked. "Why does anyone wear jewelry? To make myself look attractive." Jerry forbore from asking, "Attractive to whom???" (*Or what???* - ed.)

Doug Crepeau states that Digby has documented on his web site the history of PutriDos. Also, whenever he came to the club, a sighting of bubbles floating by meant that Thom Digby was around. Jerry Pournelle recalled that PutriDos had many unusual features. For example, it was modified by the use of hex patches - hexagon shaped patches glued onto the floppy disc.

Marty Cantor gave one more example of the workings of the mind of Digby. He came up with one of the more interesting theories about why the Bermuda Triangle does not exist. It seems that the Triangle, lying entirely inside itself, has caused itself to disappear. PLERGB defined as mentioning that strange omnidefinitional word Thom came up with for APA-L.

CLJII mentioned the Mergerville newspaper, which, by the time all was said and done, included "Times," "Clarion," "Express," and 16 other names. (I wonder if that's the paper that carried the news of the success of that computing project in Arthur C. Clarke's story?) Phil Castora recalled having stated, once, that if Thom Digby were a character in a story, he would live around the corner from a place that sold dill pickle ice cream. Then he recalled that he did. Swensons was trying different flavours and had dill pickle ice cream for a few weeks, and sold maybe a dozen cones of it. And was located not far from where Digby was living at the time. At one party, Phil noticed that Thom had three clocks. One in the dining room was reversed. The kitchen clock moved forward or backward by random amounts at random times. The cuckoo clock in the living room kept the right time, but cuckooed at the right time to punctuate any silly remarks a guest had just made. Nobody ever figured out how he managed that.

Allan Rothstein said that Thom is a great poet. He recalls one line in particular, about someone sharpening a sword until nothing was left but the edge. He also raised Allan's consciousness. On a drive home from a meeting one night, down Santa Monica Blvd., Thom pointed out someone on a corner, who had stuck a sock in his pants to make himself look attractive. "It'll get him arrested," he said. when Allan pointed out there's no law against stuffing a sock down one's pants, Thom replied, "It has always been illegal to be disliked by the police." He was given three cheers and probably something.

Old Business: We'd talked about sponsoring a letter. Defer until next week.

Recycled Business: We have a condolence card for Elayne. Everyone sign it.

Time Bound Announcements: Bruce remains as the official chair of Westercon 55. He's just delegating a lot more than he used to.

In Memory of The Elephant ...

Many things were said. If you weren't at the clubhouse; well, you should have been.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:32:48.

Meeting #3380, May 23, 2002

Ed Green, presiding

Karl Lembke, Scribe

In the absence of the usual silly gavel, President Green had to make do with the emergency substitute silly gavel.

Special Orders of Business: Addendum to last week's news: The people at BASFA were rather upset by the news of Bruce's passing. Due to a vacancy in the office exceeding the three-month trigger for the election of a replacement, they had to elect a new Vice President. someone suggested that Bruce's name be on the ballot. He won by a wide margin. So, for the next twelve weeks, Bruce is the vice-president.

Further Addendum: Last weekend at Baycon, they held a memorial panel for Bruce, had a full page ad featuring Shawn Crosby's art, (*Which is featured in a later page of this zine.* - ed.) and badges were made up showing Bruce as Ringmaster. For those who knew him, the con provided "Bruce" ribbons, small black ribbons that attached to the con badges. (Add for acknowledging it. Thanks to Michael Seladi.)

The **Menace** were read and approved as fixed.

The **Registrar:** Two have already run screaming into the night. Chris Schaeffer, of Long Beach; Michael; Omar Rashad, who found out about us from our web site; and Betty Schulman.

Patron Saint Dee Dee Lavender, whom Len described as Roy Lavender's wife. She liked mysteries as much as she did SF, was a very nice lady, and an excellent hostess. She helped Roy put on the World SF convention in Ohio. She was active in First Fandom, and N3F. Died some time ago. Roy's still around, though he's over 80. Dee Dee Lavender was given three cheers and a handful of purple prose.

Committee Reports: Bruce's Memorial will be taking place at Westercon at the LASFS meeting on site. Probably appropriate time. More details as they become available, subject to the approval of the convention chair or his delegate.

Miscellaneous: Len Moffatt phoned Fory at the Amberwood Convalescent Home in Highland Park. Fory sounded tired, and said they're giving him physical therapy. He hopes to be home in about a week. History does not record what his doctor hopes

Tadao offered his thanks to all as LaLaCon went off quite well.

Cheryl Monk is looking for character actors and thinks LASFS might offer a good supply of them. Actually, Cheryl, we're just characters. (I'm not an actor, but I do play one on TV...)

The meeting was adjourned at 20:59:09.

LAF A

(Los Angeles Filkers Anonymous)

LAF A Filksing
Saturday, July 20, 2002
Filk: 7 PM to ???
Pre-Filk Dinner: 5:00 PM

Alison Stern
6730 Riverton #119, North
Hollywood, CA 91602
(818) 623-0474

PRE-FILK DINNER:
HomeTown Buffet, 1850 Empire Ave.,
Burbank, 91504;
818-955-5797.
South of I-5, West of Buena Vista.
Tell Alison by Friday evening if
you're planning on coming.

Directions: See Thomas Bros. L.A.
Co., page 533, grid A-5 (1992+
edition); page 16, grid E-4 (older
editions). The filksite is located near
Burbank Airport, between the 101,
170, 134, and I-5 freeways, in an
apartment building. Dial 119 at the
door.

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

*Meeting #3381, May 30,
2002
Ed Green, presiding
Karl Lembke, Scribe*

On this night, the gavel was exceptionally silly. (*Ed Green used me as a gavel? - ed.*) The meeting was gavelled to order with a multiple-repeater action at 20:10:49.

The **Menace** were read and approved as read.

The **Registrar** reported no visible guests.

Patron Saint: Ed Baker.

Left us too soon. Lee Gold: He was a wonderful chowderhead. Treasury reports were considered a program item in their own right, by the time he got done explaining all the items and converting them to Esperanto stelloj. Phil Castora: It was hard not to smile when he was around,

if not laugh out loud. He was a consummate actor. He could utter a double entendre, someone mentions the other meaning, and he could blush on cue. He had a very good deadpan expression. // At the LASFS meeting the night after he died, the announcement of his death surprised many who could have sworn they saw him at the other side of the room. He was shot by a hitchhiker, lost consciousness due to blood loss, crashed into a tree, and that killed him.

As an illustration of his tendency to do favors, he once drove Drew Sanders all the way to Bob's Big Boy restaurant, because Drew liked it. He was the world's nicest guy. Fred Patten: Ed and he got into a bitter scheme (not quite a feud) against each other, the object to see who got first call at "Return of the King" when it came out. (Before either had discovered LASFS.) (Fred won.) Three Cheers, and a chowderhead (and two stelloj).

Old Business: That amendment.

Also, looking at doing a LASFS memorial at Westercon. We want to get a consensus of the club that we can proceed along this line. Traditionally, when Westercon is in the area, we meet at the site. We'd like to start the meeting between 7 and 7:30, charging no dues. The President, the Chairman of the Board, the acting con chair, the treasurer, the con treasurer, and even the Scribe and Webmaster think this is the best plan. The meeting will be open even to non-members, and con badges will not be required for entry. Meeting will be in one of the double ballroom segments. Room capacity is easily a couple of hundred

people. The club consensed.

Two amendments to the by-laws.

1) to Article Vi, Section 1 - Finances:

The LASFS shall recognize as pillars of the LASFS those deceased members in whose name a specific lump sum of money is donated. The specific amount may be changed by a resolution of the Board and the Membership, but may not be made post facto. The name of each pillar of the LASFS shall be engraved on an individual plaque, with dates of birth, death, and becoming a member of the LASFS (or at least as much of these that are known), and up to 40 additional words of description or tribute. Such plaques shall be displayed on interior walls of a LASFS building, and shall be transferred to an interior wall of a building on any new site should LASFS move. Funds from pillars shall be split 75% to the Century Fund, 25% to the Operational Fund.

Move to repeal standing rule 27 (Millennium Awards) and replace it with: 27. The Pillar of the LASFS specific lump sum amount shall be \$4000.

Should the membership for some reason object to repealing the Millennium Awards Standing Rule - which has never been used - then it is moved to add the above as Standing Rule 29.

The sense of the LASFS (HA!!!) was that we don't want to get rid of the Millennium Awards.

The by-laws amendment passed, and Standing Rule passed this week.

Article 6: Video Collection

S e c t i o n 1 : H o l d i n g s

The Video Collections holdings include, but are not limited to: all recorded video-tapes, LASER discs, DVDs, and other visual media not held by the Library.

Section 2: Curator

The Video Collection Curator shall be appointed and/or removed by a majority of the Directors voting at any Board meeting.

Section 3: Housing

The Curator shall have jurisdiction over the room or area used principally to house the Video Collection holdings, including shelf arrangement, lighting, and environment. When the Video Collection is housed within the area dedicated to the Library, the jurisdiction of the Librarian shall be deemed to have precedence in matters relating to the environment.

Section 4: Policy

The Curator shall set Collection policy, subject to approval by

the Board of Directors, concerning hours, circulation, acquisition and/or depletion of Collection holdings, and expenditure of the Collection funds.

Additionally, ask following articles in the by-laws should be re-numbered one up from there current enumeration.

(The above should directly follow and is virtually identical to existing by-laws material relating to the Library, with only changes to the referent and the additional second sentence in Section 3. The Librarian has been consulted and this wording meets with his approval.)

Currently: The Board did appoint a person to do the job, and he has been acting as if this material is in the by-laws. (CLJII was appointed about 1993, since it was sufficiently separate from the Library itself that we needed someone to do it.)

After the motion was beaten to death, the question was called. The motion carried, many/5/1.

Committee to Gouge: Exploited space by selling some of it to members.

Time Bound Announcements: Eylat reviewed her doctor's pronouncements, declaring her fit and well, and her baby's doing wonderfully. Darcee is getting married this summer to this Sean. She even has a ring. Sandy Cohen has a stack of bid buttons handed out in Heidelberg for LA Con I. (*These should be handed out at the next Minneapolis in '73 bid party. - ed.*)

Miscellaneous: On Saturday, 1 pm at Westercon, there will be a filksing featuring Bruce's filk songs.

CLJII: A member of the society has been immortalized. The Jeopardy answer in the "things in common" category was: "Niven, King, Zonka." the correct question: "What is Larry?"

The meeting was adjourned at 21:35:09.

LASFS Board of Directors
Meeting of April 14, 2002
Karl Lembke, Chairman
Mike Glycer, Secretary

ATTENDANCE: Karl Lembke, Michael Mason, Joyce Sperling, Mike Donahue, William Ellem, Liz Mortensen, Cathy Beckstead, Mike Stern, Elayne Pelz, Bob Null, Mike Glycer, Christian McGuire, Ed Green, Greg Bilan, Marty Cantor, Anne Morrel, Barksdale Hales, Casey Bernay, Greg Barrett, Mike Thorsen, Arlene Satin, Lucy Stern.

MINUTES: No minutes were available from the previous meeting. Several members demanded copies of the minutes from Glycer, who reminded them he had not been at the March meeting. Karl said he was sure somebody sat alongside him at last month's meeting. No one present admitted having been that person. An argument could be made that Lamont Cranston had been acting secretary.

NEW MEMBERS: Applications were received from Heide Nichols and Sharon Mannus. Mike Stern, seconded by Mike Thorsen, moved to

accept the applications. The motion passed by voice vote unopposed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Liz announced, "We have less money." She read details of what had been paid for various building repairs and innovations, \$5,794.00 in all. The budgeted amount had been \$4,000.00.

FACILITIES: Mike Donahue reviewed what had been done. He said \$750.00 was needed to complete the rest of the work. Hayne Pelz, seconded by Bill Ellem, moved to authorize the additional \$1,794.00. The motion passed by voice vote unopposed.

Donahue described what should be done to finish the ceiling of the meeting room, build storage space in the rafters and change the light fixtures. This would be a near-future project when authorized.

Bob Null said he has been networking some club computers. Cathy Beckstead and Joe Zeff offered detailed information on how several kids are rotating turns on the computers and the effect on their retained scoring levels. The Board was raptly fascinated. Ed Green queried who has control over computer usage on Friday night. The Board figured out it was not a Board issue.

Bob Null described what filing cabinet space is being used by Charles Lee Jackson 2 for video storage. Ed pointed out that the video stuff is also a club matter.

Karl Lembke thanked Mike Donahue for all the work he's done and is doing, and also Bob Null.

Mike Donahue reported on his meetings with Building and Safety and other such city employees. He determined that a private club does not have to be ADA compliant, although we want to be. Our property is zoned C2 with a variance that adds up to what is called "C-1.5." Donahue asked about tearing down our front building - the city says we can put up no more than a 3-story building and it may not be over 25 feet tall. Based on our usage, the city regards this place as a large conference room rather than a meeting hall.

Donahue shared his ideas for the new building and ways of reconfiguring the parking to increase the number of spaces. We could ration out the expense by becoming ADA compliant in stages, for example, designing in an elevator shaft but not installing one until some later time. He suggested ways of financing the plan, beginning with the Century Fund and a mortgage.

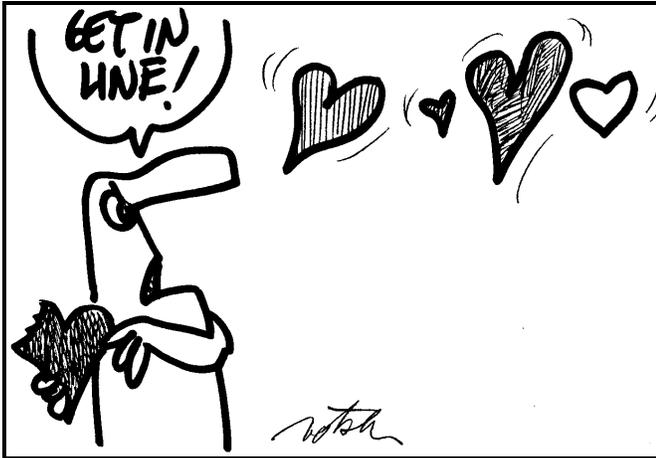
Ed Green passionately reminded listeners why we aren't eligible for public and private grants - we don't serve the public in any way that attracts grant money.

Elayne Pelz, seconded by Joe Zeff, moved to thank Donahue for his presentation and for his continued investigation of zoning and legal issues. They

MAGIC
The Gathering

Tournaments
held at LASFS
First Friday
every month

Contact for Magic The
Gathering:
Drew Sanders,
mailto:
Drew_Sanders@hotmail.com
or
peggy_little@earthlink.net



asked him to bring any interesting information to the Board's attention. The motion passed by voice vote unopposed.

CHILDREN'S RECOMMENDED READING LIST: Greg Barrett asked for the Board to approve his passing of the list's editorship to Ann Morrel.

LIBRARY: Michael Mason and friends have processed another six boxes of Gary Louie hardbacks. They'll have it all finished in another year.

EMERGENCY PHONE, E-MAIL LISTS: Karl Lembke will be catching up.

FESTIVAL OF BOOKS: It's this month. Greg Bilan had printed the info pack envelopes on Mr. G. Stetner. Karl reminded that this is a major expenditure and outreach effort by the club. We need some bodies to work the table. Ed Green said he would ask for volunteers at the next meeting.

LOSCON 28: Elayne said the convention turned over \$9,400.00.

LOSCON 29: Tadao said things are proceeding, the first committee meeting was held. The first progress report has a submission deadline of May 1.

LOSCON 30: Michael Mason has selected Jack Chalker as LOSCON Fan Guest of Honor. (Glyer was glad he got in before the minimum best-selling book requirement was instituted!).

LALACON: Co-chair Scott Beckstead said things are proceeding on schedule.

COMANIA: It's happening.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE: Bill Ellem said the last meeting had been delayed indefinitely. They're (not) working on the LOSCON section, which Bill said could be delayed in completion all the way 'til LOSCON has to be set up.

MARKETING: Arlene Satin said they'll be sending stuff out tonight. "Thousands of Thursdays" will be distributed at the Festival of Books. The Children's Recommended Reading List had been revised by Anne-she had the copy in hand. Bookmarks are at the printers. They're being done for free. They're working on book covers, which won't be done before the Festival.

NEW BUSINESS: Mike Stem resigned from the Board of Directors. The Board elected him to be the interim director to fill his own vacant seat.

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.

QUASIQUEOTE #4, May, 2002 (Sandra Bond, 7 Granville Road, London N13 4RR, UK; available "for a broadly defined fannish usual, for whom, or for £2 or \$5 (reviewers take note that a 19p SAE does *not* cut it)"; e-mail to sandra@ho-street.demon.co.uk)

Quasiquote is a solid, 50-page fanzine which blends a modern (and British) sensibility with curiously old-fashioned-looking production.

In earlier eras of fandom when computers were rare or unheard of and photo-copying was expensive and rarely used, fanzines tended to be banged out on mimeograph stencils (with old-fashioned typewriters) with only a rudimentary attention paid to layout and with hit-or-miss art which might be rather poorly transferred to stencils by the often artistically-inept editor (the art had to be traced with some skill).

These days many fanzine editors have access to publishing programs, routinely turn out double-columned text, and scan in their art, creating a digital fanzine (before it is printed out), which could as easily be made into a PDF file. So it is curiously refreshing to encounter a well-written fanzine which has been created with only rudimentary attention paid to layout (no double columns here) and hit-or-miss art (the crudely amateur cover is particularly off-putting, while the back cover is of professional quality). At the midway point (well, page 28) the type size, never very large, shrinks by

another point or so, and this, combined with printing that seems to get worse as the issue progresses (Sandra's printer broke down), makes reading *Quasiquote* not so different from the experience of reading a poorly mimeographed fanzine forty years ago.

But only until you actually *read* the issue. Sandra's editorial leads off. It presents both short bits of topical interest (she's editing the 1995 *Fanthology* and is looking for pointers) and longer bits which could stand on their own as short articles. Bond is a solid fannish writer, capable of both serious topics and lighter moments. She came into fandom as a teenager in the mid-'80s, but has become knowledgeable about the fandom which preceded her.

Gail Courtney's "How To Purge" is about getting rid of books when one has too many; long-time UK fan Ron Bennett describes the dodges he used to get past French customs when he was selling comic books at Paris shows in "To The Custom House Borne;" Harry Warner (another long-time fan and former newspaper reporter) tells about becoming a radio news announcer at one point in his career in "Bems In The Thames;" Arnie Katz remembers some undeservedly forgotten fanzines with "Say, Don't You Remember?" and I have "Over The Top at Corflu," a 2001 Corflu report (Sandra was delayed in producing this issue).

But the piece which dominates the issue is Australian Laura Seabrook's story of her more than twenty-year career in fandom, "From ShadowFan to GothicGallae," in which she describes her discovery that she was transsexual and what she did about it. It is not a triumphant story (the article is sub-headed "A bitter-sweet recollection of fandom") – Laura apparently did not feel she fit into (Australian) fandom as either a male or a female, and her choice of friends (as she describes them) may have been part of her problem. But the piece is uncompromisingly written (and extensively footnoted) and is the sort of intensely personal journalism one occasionally finds in the better fanzines.

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: ETHEL THE AARDVARK #102 (MSFC). RUNE #86 (MinnStf). INSTANT MESSAGE #701 & #702 (NESFA). DASEFAX V. 34, # 5 & V. 34, #6 (DASFA). NASFA SHUTTLE, June 2002 (NASFA). EINBLATT!, June 2002 (MinnStf). PSFS News, June 2002 (PSFS)..

other zines: PABLO LENNIS, June 2002 (John Thiel). CHALLENGER 16 (Guy H. Lillian III).

FAN TAROT DECK

Elayne Pelz
has copies of the Fan Tarot Deck
for sale

\$20.00 delivered at LASFS
\$25.00 by mail

Contact Elayne at:

elayne@socal.rr.com

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. There are no new additions to the Library listed this time.)

Recent Additions to the Video Collection

(There were none listed for this month.)

COMANIA

July 27th at LASFS

Come to our Comic and Animation Swap. Tables for selling and buying comics and animation will be available. For details or to book a table contact Scott Beckstead at shb@scottbeckstead.net. Free event! Sodas available at the usual prices.

Bruce Pelz

Aug 11, 1936 - May 9, 2002



Fanzine Archivist ✪ Fanhistorian ✪ Fellow of NESFA
Worldcon Chair ✪ "The Elephant"
Fandom's Institutional Memory

Bruce passed away on the evening of May 9th, 2002.

Please post and view messages, memories and condolences
at the following web address:

<http://www.lasfs.org/lasfs/bruce/>

A Memorial Service will be held at the LASFS meeting on Thursday night at Westercon

I have yet to come to terms with Bruce's death and how it affected me. Bruce was very influential in directing my natural interests in things fannish once he found out what they were. Indeed - after *I* found out what they were.

Soon after I discovered fandom - and LASFS - just before my fortieth birthday, I found my fannish niche in fanzines, producing weekly zines for APA-L. Eventually I started contributing to other APAs and even ran a couple of them, including APA-L, for awhile.

Within a few years I was producing a large genzine, *HOLLIER THAN THOU* - and I even got Bruce to write one of his by-then-rare articles for it, an article with descriptions of LASFS Poker.

I went semi-gafia in much of the '90s but returned to zine production in '97 after I got my first computer. When I got this computer I told Bruce that I was going to again start doing genzines as soon as I could afford to do so. I found another side of Bruce as he immediately gave me enough money to fund the next couple of issues of *NO AWARD*, the zine I continue to pub.

And he was supportive of my desire to take over the LASFS' newsletter, *DE PROFUNDIS*, which I have kept on its monthly schedule since issue #328.

In the late '80s I came up with the idea of having Los Angeles be the site of Corflu, an annual con for fanzine fans. Bruce came on board; and, through his efforts, Corflu 9 in Los Angeles became a reality.

When the original Publications person for the upcoming Westercon 55 had to resign that position, Bruce asked me if I would like to take over that job. Up to that time I had never produced any zines as ambitious as the Progress Reports and, especially, the Programme Book for a large con like Westercon. I said yes; and, with his encouragement and assistance, I produced two PRs. I learned enough from him that the Programme Book, the major push on it coming right *after* his death, was completed on time. It is my personal memorial to Bruce. Without him, I never could have produced the PB.

After Westercon I will finally have the time to sit back and reflect upon all that Bruce has meant to me. But I already know that he changed my life in a profound manner and my time in retirement is now entirely different than what I had planned many decades ago.

I now go into my future along a path which Bruce, with his encouragement, helped direct me. There are just not enough thanks in the world which I can give him for what he meant to me.

-- Marty Cantor

Bruce Pelz: Aug. 11, 1936 - May 9, 2002

by Mike Glycer

Bruce Edward Pelz, who led Los Angeles sf fandom for over three decades and chaired the 1972 Worldcon, suffered a massive coronary and died on May 9. He is survived by Elayne, his wife of nearly 30 years; and Cecy, daughter of his first marriage.

Bruce also was chairman of the forthcoming Westercon (host to the Locus awards.) Elayne is taking over leadership of the convention, which she has served as treasurer.

If a list was made of every significant contribution Bruce made to fandom or every honor he received, a reader couldn't tell whether he was holding a fanzine or the telephone book, and if a list was made of every fan Bruce's life influenced, he would be holding the telephone book.

He went all-out for anything that interested him. He was famed for being a "completist" collector of fanzines, comics, etc., though he must have had the trait before he became a fan. Milt Stevens recalled, "Bruce was an Eagle Scout. Really. I guess once he started collecting merit badges he had to have all of them."

Bruce was that rare fan who excelled in every kind of fanac: fanzines, conrunning, costuming, filksinging, collecting, fanhistory. His comprehensive memory justified his nickname "the Elephant."

He had an encyclopedic knowledge of fanhistory. He made a lot of history, too. He co-chaired the L.A.Con I, the 1972 Worldcon, with Chuck Crayne. He was fan guest of honor at the 1980 Worldcon, Noreascon Two. (They also published his Fan Tarot Deck, a set of cards made from original sf/fan arti.) He chaired the 1969 and 1976 Westercons (the former with Chuck Crayne). He founded Loscon and chaired the 1983 edition. He worked at innumerable other convention jobs over a 40-year span.

He was appreciated by worldwide fandom as only a few others have been. He was selected a Fellow of NESFA, no small accomplishment for someone on the opposite side of the country from Boston. He was even an honorary Kentucky Colonel, thanks to the connections of Louisville fans.

Trying to capture the spirit of the man for anyone who never met him brings to mind words like Edwardian, Dionysian: Bill Warren called him, "the reincarnation of Henry VIII." The image Pelz cultivated in the 1960's was best phrased by Lenny Bailes: "When Puck made his declaration about 'what fools these mortals be,' I'm sure Bruce was probably sipping mead somewhere in the background and trying on a cape of

some sort.”

The mythic quality was enhanced by Bruce’s habit of naming the things around him. Wherever he lived was “the Tower.” In the 60s and 70s a host of LA fans took cross-country road trips to conventions in “the Ox,” Bruce’s blue Ford van, named after “Babe the Blue Ox” from the Paul Bunyan legends. (The name was carried over to his next van, although it was red.)

Bruce discovered fandom at the University of Florida. He was part of a group of cave exploration enthusiasts who were members of the Florida Speleological Society. Around 1957 the cavers discovered they shared another interest, science fiction, and they started an sf club called SCIFI that met weekly.

Bruce finished undergraduate work and moved to LA in 1959 to study library science at the University of Southern California, a choice probably determined by the new friendships he made with LA fans at that year’s Worldcon in Detroit.

Pelz first lived in LA with John Trimble, Jack Harness and Ernie Wheatley: they rented a house in the hillside area above LA civic center, ’til John married Bjo in July, 1960. Then the whole “Fan Hill” group moved to the soon-to-be-famous house on 8th Street. John Trimble wrote:

“As might be expected, with fans packed beyond critical mass (as F.M. Busby put it), there was a fair amount of tension and discord, along with all the fun and fanac. So it was no surprise that the group splintered when the house was sold to a developer. Bjo, Al Lewis, Ernie Wheatley and I, along with others, had been the moving force in the LASFS for several years. Bruce, Ted Johnstone and some other fans saw themselves as our competition. We let them be the loyal opposition until we were convinced they’d do a good job with the club and then let them take it away from us. Obviously, looking at where the club is today, it was a sound move.”

Bruce definitely had a hard time breaking into LASFS leadership. The first three times he ran for club office, he lost. He even opposed the creation of the building fund to purchase a LASFS clubhouse when it was proposed in 1964, according to Bill Warren.

Paul Turner got the club to adopt the goal and by 1969 the fund contained \$7,000, not bad for a fan group but still only a fraction of the money needed to buy a property. That year Bruce was elected treasurer. His persistent fundraising allowed LASFS to purchase its own clubhouse just four years later, the first club ever to do so. Club membership was booming and the first building was barely big enough to contain the first meeting in it. Under Bruce’s impetus LASFS was able to move into a larger property in 1977.

Bruce’s vision and energy helped reshape LASFS and

fandom at large.

In 1964, Bruce persuaded LASFSians to copy the idea of a local weekly apa from New York fandom’s APA-F. APA-F folded within a couple of years but APA-L survived a months-long break and has appeared for over three decades.

Bruce helped create the first conventions for mystery fans in 1970. Len Moffatt explains, “It was Bruce’s idea to make the convention a memorial to Anthony Boucher, who had died the year before.” So Bruce Pelz and Chuck Crayne held the first annual Anthony Boucher Memorial Mystery Convention (to become known as the BoucherCon) in Santa Monica in 1970. The con is still going, under the name of the World Mystery Convention and Bruce Pelz was its Fan Guest of Honor in 1991.

In the mid-70s Bruce convinced LASFS to start holding its own proprietary convention. His vision of Loscon was that it would support the club and provide a training ground where members gained experience running conventions.

Bruce was the catalyst for a number of projects carried out by other fans. In the mid-70’s he began a project to get fan fund trip reports back in print. In the late 90’s he persuaded SCIFI, the group that ran L.A.con III, to undertake publication of a hardcover version of Harry Warner Jr.’s *Wealth of Fable*. Richard Lynch handled the editorial chores and Warner won a well-deserved Hugo. Bruce conspired with others to launch the Fan Photo Gallery as a surprise for 1997 Loscon fan guest Geri Sullivan.

Bill Warren said of Bruce, “He had many friends and some enemies in fandom, but even his enemies respected him. But he only had a very, very few truly close friends over the years, including Ted Johnstone, Drew Sanders, Elayne, Larry Niven and, for a while, people such as me and Craig Miller.”

Drew Sanders shared Bruce’s Santa Monica apartment in the early 70s.

Sanders once compared them to Nero Wolfe and Archie Goodwin.

Larry Niven celebrated his friendship with Pelz by writing a story about the character “Gregory Elephant.” And Niven’s story “What Can You Say About Chocolate Covered Manhole Covers,” published in 1971, was partly inspired by a party Bruce and Dian Pelz threw in connection with their amicable divorce (there actually was a cake with a bride and groom on top, facing in opposite directions.)

Few of today’s LASFSians knew two friends that Bruce greatly missed after they passed away in the 1960s, Ron Ellik and Lee Jacobs. However, club members often heard about the pair because Bruce named his annual wine and cheese party in their honor.

Ron Ellik edited the newzine *Starspinkle* from 1962 to 1964.

Bruce published the zine and later became unofficial co-editor. During the zine's heyday Bruce ran for TAFF, finishing third in the 1963 race behind Wally Weber and Marion Zimmer Bradley.

Starspinkle ceased publishing when Ellik moved to Washington, D.C., so Bruce started his own newzine, Ratatosk in November 1964. The zine was named for the squirrel in Norse mythology that ran up and down Yggdrasil, the Tree of Life, carrying rumors from the eagle at the top and the dragon at the bottom, and passing them on to other various creatures that resided on the tree. The title referenced Ellik's fan nickname, "The Squirrel."

Bruce's greatest claim to fame was his fanzine collection. It began growing dramatically when he acquired the holdings of The Fanzine Foundation from Alan Lewis in 1965. There was over one ton of fanzines, including the partial or complete collections of Alan Lewis, Howard DeVore, Phyllis Economou, Larry Shaw, Martin Alger, and R. D. Swisher. In the 1970s he spent many lunch hours at UCLA keypunching data about the collection onto hololith cards, then proudly showed off the updated list printed on great wads of 11 x 16 computer paper.

Bruce's collection filled many filing cabinets. He had the most worthy zines custom bound in hardcover. The results were usually beautiful, though once he complained bitterly when he discovered the binder trimmed the pages of Locus. He took it all apart, replaced the damaged issues and had the job redone. Bruce's penchant for binding fanzines in hardcover was the subject of a satirical article in the quite tardy (and evidently unexpected) final issue of Dick Lupoff's Xero. Dick described Pelz' "stubby peasant fingers" opening the envelope and his frustration at having his complete bound collection marred by a loose issue. Since I happened to read the article from the copy in Bruce's bound volume of Xero, I was puzzled. Bruce said Lupoff had credited him with too much efficiency—the run of Xero had been sitting in a stack to be bound real soon now when the last issue arrived.

Bruce was very active in apas: SAPS, N'APA, The Cult, OMPA, and FAPA. He coined the reference to the Cult as "The nastiest bastards in fandom."

By the end of the 1950s Bruce Pelz and Jack Harness had achieved their ambition to join every single apa and were dubbed 'omniapans.' But there was a backlash. Members of one apa took umbrage at the presence of omniapans, who wanted to be in an apa only for completeness, rather than supposedly a genuine interest in the organization. So they conspired to declare the apa dead. Two versions of the official organ containing the announcement were sent to members. Everyone but the omniapans received the version announcing the creation of a successor apa, APA-X, and were invited to join. The effect was that the omniapans were dropped: Harness, Pelz, and also Ted Johnstone (who was

in many, but not all, apas.)

In addition to collecting fanzines, Bruce was a comics enthusiast. His extensive collection once included a bound set of Fantastic Four starting at #1. His other interests and collections included, to greater or lesser degrees: books collecting newspaper strips (a la Peanuts or Dilbert) but including a lot of unusual and foreign strips; historical mysteries;

Gilbert & Sullivan; sweet wines; miniature liquor bottles; and stuffed/plush animals.

Pelz was long active in the field of filk songs. He wrote the music for three songs from John Myers Myers' Silverlock: "Little John's Song" (published October, 1960), "Widsith's Song" (along with Ted Johnstone, aka David McDaniel) and "Friar John's Song" (published in December, 1960). He made an epic trek along with Ted Johnstone to Myers' home, half-way across the US, to sing him these melodies—plus Gordon Dickson's tune for "Orpheus's Song" (aka "I Remember Gaudy Days"), and got Myers' permission to legally publish the words along with the music.

Pelz later republished these songs and a number of other ones in his first Filksong Manual (published for the 1965 Westercon). This was the first compilation of filksongs that published not just the songs' lyrics but (where legally possible) the sheet music, thus enabling filkers who had never heard the tune to still attempt to sing it.

Pelz also appeared as an actor/singer in the Westercon XX production of "Captain Future Meets Gilbert and Sullivan" (by Stephen and Virginia Schultheis), playing the Master of the Universe, at the 1967 Westercon.

Pelz also earned fame in convention masquerade competitions - and afterwards. Walt Willis reported that after the 1962 Worldcon "fancy dress parade" contestants "were mutely challenging people to guess who they were... The most remarkable transformation was that of Bruce Pelz, who had performed the notable feat of wearing fancy dress throughout the convention until he looked quite normal in it, and then had changed his clothes, shaved off his beard, had his hair cut and left off his glasses."

Pelz' successes on stage included the 1974 Worldcon where he entered as a one-legged character from Mervyn Peake's Titus Groan, achieving the effect by keeping one leg belted double against itself.

Sandy Cohen recalled, "One of my earliest memories is seeing him with dyed hair for a costume and hearing him almost gleefully discuss how his co-workers would react."

And Lenny Bailes wrote, "When I met him in person at the 1963 Discon, his hair was dyed blond, he had a shaggy blond beard and he carried a huge broadsword—all in preparation for his appearance as Fritz Leiber's Fafhrd at the Masquerade Ball. (None of this got in the way of his selling

me a copy of the Filk Song Manual, taking my application for membership in the Spectator Amateur Press Society, and selling me a subscription to Starspinkle, the newszine he published/edited with Ron Ellik.)”

Pelz won Costume Awards at several Westercons: 1963, Heavy Trooper (from Dragon Masters); 1965, Gorice of Carce (with Dian Pelz as the Lady Sriva);

1966, The Fat Fury (with Dian as Ticklepuss) from the Herbie comics; 1967, Barquentine (from Titus Groan); 1978, Nick van Rijn from the Poul Anderson’s Polesotechnic League series. He won awards at Worldcons, too:

1963, Fafhrd (with Ted Johnstone as the Gray Mouser and Dian as Ningauble);

1966, Chun the Unavoidable; 1968, Heavy Trooper (from Dragon Masters);

1969, Countess Gertrude of Groan (from Titus Groan); 1970, Gorice of Carce.

Lee Gold wrote, “Of these costumes, the one I particularly remember was Countess Gertrude [1969]. Bruce wore a green and gold caftan, a green cap, and a string of snails. He spent the presentation murmuring to a dove which perched on his finger (and was actually stuffed). No one recognized him including old friend Charlie Brown, who actually helped ‘Gertrude’ up the ramp. The panel of judges was sufficiently impressed by the whole affair to award him MOST EVERY THING, including Most Beautiful, Best Presentation, and Best Group (after all, there was Gertrude and the Dove). When the name of the winner was announced, the entire audience burst into applause.”

Bruce’s interests and activities changed over the years, but he gave them everything he had. At one time or another he avidly played contract bridge, LASFS poker, “Oh Hell”, and mah jongg. He loved conventions, of course. When he retired as a librarian at the UCLA Engineering school, Bruce started huckstering books. It accomplished the dual purpose of paying his way to conventions and giving him a dealers table. Whether huckstering or bidding, Bruce enjoyed camping out someplace where everyone gravitated to talk to him. As a dealer his elephantine memory served both business and friendships, because people loved the way he would remember the books they’d bought and recommend comparable writers they’d enjoy - he was a living Amazon.com.

Bruce loved cruising on passenger ships. He and Elayne went often, once taking a 65-day cruise up the coast of Africa and around the Mediterranean to places most of us have only heard about in Hope and Crosby pictures. Bruce took advantage of Internet cafes around the world to e-mail news from port. Good eating and good shopping were always worth a headline. Bruce and Elayne were such good customers of Princess cruises their photo was published in

the Spring 2002 issue of Captain’s Circle - though, amusingly, they hadn’t noticed until people started reading copies at a Westercon committee meeting and made the discovery.

Bruce continued mentoring the latest generation of fans, and investing in his family. In March, Bruce’s daughter Cecy was about to wed Judith MacQuinn and he asked if she really wanted him to walk her up the aisle. MacQuinn wrote online, “He was not trying to back out of it; he was concerned over his ‘hobbling gait’, as he referred to it. He was concerned about being too slow and holding up the ceremony. Cecy told him she didn’t care if he held up the ceremony—she wanted her father to be there to give her away. He replied that if he had to crawl on hands and knees, he would do so.”

It is inconceivable that a man so richly endowed with every gift for living could be taken away. Once gone, it’s impossible that he could ever be forgotten by anyone who enjoyed his company.

Bruce was cremated and his ashes scattered at sea by the Neptune Society. LASFS will be holding a memorial gathering. There will also be an observance at Westercon.

Thanks to Lee Gold, Richard Lynch, Craig Miller, Len Moffatt, Milt Stevens and John Trimble who contributed substantially to this article which is appearing in LOCUS.

FROM THE LASFS.ORG WEB SITE

Bruce Pelz, Fanzine Archivist, Fanhistorian, Fellow of NESFA, Worldcon Chair, "The Elephant," Fandom's Institutional Memory, passed away the evening of May 9th, 2002.

He fainted at about 6:00 pm. Elayne Pelz, his wife, called 9-1-1, they rushed him to the hospital. His heart stopped at the hospital. More details will be posted as they are available.

Bruce is survived by his mother, his wife Elayne, his daughter Cecy, and innumerable friends of all ages.

When Larry Niven announced this at the LASFS meeting tonight, there occurred the first and only instance of a spontaneous minute of silence in the club's history, as the fans in the room sat, stunned. The meeting was immediately adjourned.

An autopsy showed the cause of death to be a blood clot in the lung. It may be the result of a clot in the leg that broke loose, or it may have been a side-effect of the beginnings of cancer. I'll miss him.

Messages, reminiscences, et cetera may be posted to the following web address: <http://www.lasfs.org/lasfs/bruce/>

(The following was printed in Ed Green's zine in APA-L #1933, the APA-L Bruce Pelz Memorial distribution.)

They call it a "Hollywood Wall." It is the place in a military person's office where they hang all of the awards, certificates, photos, and crap a body collects during their career.

Although retired from the Army, I still have a "Hollywood Wall" at the apartment. Awards of all flavors, for all sorts of 'good work.' Among them is a single sheet that was knocked out on a computer and laser printed. It is about the simplest looking thing you can find. A big award ribbon, with the words 'Hero of LOSCON' on it.

It's hanging right next to the award for duty during the L.A. Riots.

Bruce Pelz gave it, years and years ago, after my jumping in and helping at a LOSCON. It meant a lot when he handed it to me. It means more now. After all, it was from Bruce. When Bruce said you did well, you *did* do well!

For the history books, I was running the standard business meeting of the LASFS on Thursday, May 9th, 2002. The Committee to Gouge the LASFS was just starting to hawk stuff and I left the front table to grab a soda. Walking by him, Larry Niven looked up at me and said,

"I have an announcement to make."

"Sure, Larry, What's up?" A book sale or something like that was my thought.

"Bruce Pelz is dead."

"What?"

"Bruce is dead."

I shut everyone up, then turned the floor over to Larry. He made that horrible announcement. After the shock, we all fell into what Jerry Pournelle noticed later was the first spontaneous minute of silence he'd ever observed around the LASFS.

Following some fumbling about, there was a call for an adjournment and we ended the formal meeting. Then stood around in shock.

It should be pointed out that at least one thing about the meeting would have made Bruce chuckle. He was the man who created "The Committee to Gouge the LASFS." And, he caused us to stop in the middle of one. Not that he would have wanted to do it. But if the meeting had to be stopped, how correct is it that the master should interrupt the students?

This last weekend at Baycon, there was a memorial panel for Bruce. I was surprised and honored to find myself at the

front of the room, on the dais with Michael Saladi, the Chairman and organizer of the Convention (which was celebrating its 20th Anniversary), and Christian McGuire, who was the Fan Guest of Honor. It was a small panel, fewer than 75 people. Among those attending were LASFS members Tadao Tomomatsu, Tony Benoun, and Kris Bauer. Also attending was Harry Turtledove, the Author Guest of Honor at this year's Westercon.

The three of us spoke about Bruce, what he meant to us and to fandom in general. During the panel, Michael opened a package and pulled out a stack of small black ribbons. Stamped on each one, in gold lettering, was the name BRUCE. He passed one out to everyone in the room to wear on our name badges. Previously, Christian had arranged to have Name Badge sized reproductions of Shawn Crosby's art of Bruce (morphed as an elephant ringmaster) handed out to those of us who knew him. (*This is on page 10 of this DE PROF. - ed.*)

It was, for all, an emotional panel. Everyone spoke highly of Bruce, mentioning the loss to not just the LASFS, but fandom in general. And Elayne as well. She certainly wasn't forgotten during the process, and almost all expressed their deepest sympathy for here, also.

To select any one speaker as 'the best' would make a mockery of it all. When speaking from the heart, it's all 'the best.' But it was when Harry got up to speak that the tears flowed the most for me.

I didn't write it down, and I don't remember it exactly, but he spoke of the problem with being middle aged was that there wasn't any instruction book for dealing with the hard stuff. And how we need one. To deal with hard things. Hard stuff like the loss of an old and dear friend.

It was a simple and yet moving commentary.

People better with the written word will describe in detail his career and his accomplishments. They will comment at length on his sense of humor, his ability to plan. His drive to accomplish things that were important to him.

Perhaps someone will be able to describe how fandom may well indeed be thought of in terms of DP and AP (During Pelz and After Pelz). And if not of fandom in general, certainly for the LASFS.

They will point to everything around our clubhouse and see, correctly, Bruce's direct influence.

Maybe someone really clever will point out how his passing, like that of the King in Hamlet, will affect the lives of all, because the father figure has left us.

I leave those comments for the others.

All I can manage is that a dear friend is gone. someone who

shared faith and confidence. Someone who was willing to share laughs, and frustrations. Someone who never beat me over the head with a chair during a game of Hell (although he must have been tempted at times). Someone I could talk to during the bad times. And share the victories.

And, damn it all, a friend gone far too soon.

- - *Ed Green*

These are not easy words for me to write, and for a solid month, I've wrestled with thoughts of Bruce, and thoughts of No More Bruce. As I write this, it has been one month to the day since Bruce died, and one month since the announcement of his death paralyzed a LASFS meeting.

I had come to know Bruce over the years, and we had become friends. We weren't close friends, and I hadn't experienced Bruce in his prime, when he was building the LASFS clubhouse, penny by penny, or when he was building his legend. All of what I know about his exploits, I've heard well after the fact. I read tributes written by those who know, and I marvel at the life he has achieved. If we imagine him, like George Bailey in "It's a Wonderful Life", never having existed, think of all the things we take for granted that would never have been. These are named in other tributes, and I'll not rehash them here.

Many years ago, Bruce started an APA. I hadn't known he was the culprit until it was mentioned at a LASFS meeting last month. Add that to the list of things I didn't know about him. He titled his zine, *Nyet Vremya* which is Russian for "No Time", and indeed, all the things he did should have used up several lifetimes of time. He did a lot of living in his 65 years.

No Time. We can't spend any more time with Bruce, hearing his story from his own lips, or tapping into the rich store of fannish history locked in his head. We're all the poorer for it.

The canonical human lifetime is seventy years, which is about 35 million minutes. Each minute passes us by at a steady clip; sixty of them disappear forever every hour. We cannot stop them or save them for later. All we can do is trade them. We can't trade minutes with Bruce any more, but we should look around us and resolve to trade more minutes with other friends -- old, new, and yet unmet.

It's those minutes you get in trade that stay with you forever.

.....*Karl Lembke*

Another Friend -- Gone....

Some things that happen make me want to sit in a small room filled with the books I love, and ignore the rest of the world. This is one of them. This is something I never expected to write, indeed I expected to be written about by him.

A long time ago in a world long gone, Bruce showed up at LASFS just as I was just beginning to distance myself from it. Beginning to venture back out into the real world with very hesitating steps. He was a type of person I had never met before. One with a foot firmly planted both in the real world and in the fannish world.

He loved science fiction and fantasy, as did the rest of us, but what did he do in the real world? Did he become an Engineer and try to make it possible to get to the Moon? No. Did he try to build a fantastic computer or computer program that would help mankind? No. Did he become an adventurer and explore hidden parts of the world? No. (Well, maybe later...) Did he become a detective and solve strange crimes and mysterious happenings? No, no, no to all those things and heroes in the books and magazines we read. He became a librarian! When I discovered that I hit myself on the forehead. Why didn't I think of that? Why did I spend 4 years pounding math and science into my head, when my real love was just the books and stories? Free library books at that! So obvious!

Bruce showed up at LASFS and was totally unimpressed by the power structure he found there. Someone who is a controller will recognize immediately when someone is trying to control him. Bruce was not just a controller, but a natural politician (or maybe he read a book on it). In an environment where there were a lot of paranoids, who believed that anyone who wasn't their friend was their enemy, Bruce held neutral ground. He did it so well that no one noticed. Well, not at first. He was never one to suffer fools willingly, and sometimes someone went beyond the pale. Well beyond until they got stomped. A couple months ago I reminded Bruce that someone had called him "Brucey Bastard". He smiled, said "Oh, yes," and then laughed. "I had forgotten that one." He did his own thing.

He immediately recognized fanzines as the equivalent of letters in a former age, and collected them. He knew that some day they would show how fandom grew and changed. Almost no one else other than 4E collected them, and 4E was running out of room and interest in them. He grabbed and hung onto every piece of paper he met. He especially collected those that would not automatically go into a library, books with low print runs, program books that would be thrown away, comic books that would some day be like the dime novels of yore.

He married the second best looking woman in fandom. (No one, but no one, even came close to Margie Ellers. Hmm. Well, maybe the third best looking woman. There was another...) I left fandom for the real world, and Bruce stayed behind and worked with fandom. He became a power in it, but power only satisfies for a while. I heard about some of the things he did, and even went to LACon II with all my kids. What a party!! There had been nothing like it before, and has been nothing like it since.

I started coming back into fandom, first as a convention fan, and then as an occasional visitor to LASFS. I was in and out for several years, and then Bruce, the controller, the politician, found my button. First, he was instrumental in my becoming the Fan Guest of Honor at a LaLaCon. Then he suggested that I run for Board of Directors. "Why?" I asked him. "Because I've tried everything I can think of to make the club bigger, and it hasn't worked," he said. "Would you try?" He knew I was a sucker for a challenge. I was an outsider, outside the existing power structure (Yes, there definitely is one.) "Maybe you can see what is wrong."

I consulted with Bruce a number of times when it was obvious that something wasn't working. We sat outside in the cold, behind his table of books, away from that silliness inside the club, and talked. His knowledge and no nonsense attitude cut through to the heart of the problems. He was a friend, a confidant, and a guru to whom I could ask questions and expect examples of what was tried in the past. I didn't like, and didn't agree with some of his answers, but he gave them freely. He hadn't thought some of them through in a methodical way, but then I'm an Engineer and he was a Politician.

He was a friend to all and trusted by both sides in a controversy. He cared about the club, but had run out of patience with the idiocy. He would let egotists and small minds run until they ran out, but not on his time. He could be Brucey Bastard, and a lovable curmudgeon, and go stomp, and say just the right word of encouragement at the right time. The world has suddenly become a little darker, because a light has gone out. I shall miss him, and I very much want to go to that little room and hide from the rest of the real world and cry.

- - Bill Ellern 11 June 2002

THE ELEPHANT

He called himself the Elephant
Perhaps because of size
but what he proved to those who knew him well
Was that Elephants are wise.

The African and Indian type
Of elephants are fine
But cannot compare to our fannish one
Who was your friend and mine

He was a true renaissance fan
With wisdom, wit and ways
To money-gouge for our old club's good
Or give deserved praise

Yes, s-f fandom is in his debt
Conventions and fanzines
Around the world in so many ways
He improved the fannish scenes

Another fandom is in his debt
Thanks to him, the BoucherCon
Gave mystery fans and pros alike
A con to build upon

He called himself the Elephant
And he walks among us still
Reminding us of joyful times - -
We know he always will!

- - Len Moffatt

At the LASFS meeting when Bruce's death was announced we stood stunned, unable to believe that someone who had been so much a part of our universe was gone. Immediately afterward, several of us stood around between the LASFS buildings and started listing the things that Bruce had brought to fandom and to our lives. To me, it was an appreciation of Christopher Moore - I bought my first Christopher Moore book from Bruce because he said that I should, and I deeply trusted his judgment. I found it hilarious and bought more Moore, and thanked Bruce for bringing him to my attention.

After a few such comments, in which various LASFS members mentioned ways in which Bruce had enriched our lives, I noted a pattern. When I last saw Bruce, he seemed very happy, a man doing what he loved to do amid the company of friends who appreciated his skills and learning. Matthew Tepper mentioned how much Bruce seemed to enjoy life, how happy Bruce was that last time he was there at LASFS, a complacent cat in one hand, and a book in the other. Matthew was not the only one who remembered a man profoundly at peace and living joyously.

May we all transmit our joy in literature to others, to inspire them to read new authors, as Bruce did. May we all live so well as to gift our friends with the memory of a life well

lived. Whenever a good person dies we regret the times we will never spend with them, we wonder if they knew that we appreciated them as much as we did. I trust that Bruce knew that I respected his wisdom, though we just talked about books. That has to be enough, because there's no time for talking any more.

There were some people at that LASFS meeting who were there for the first time, and I talked with them for a while, encouraged them to come back to the club even though their first experience of the place had been us grieving for a lost friend. They said they wished they had known him, because they could tell he had been someone worth knowing. They were perceptive. Goodbye Bruce, I'll think of you every time I look at my Christopher Moore books, and other times too...

- - Rick Foss

A BRUCE STORY

Many years ago before I headed out here to the "left" (West) coast, my stomping ground was around the Midwest.

Little did I realize that in my wanderings of the Dealer's Room at Minicon in MN, I met Bruce and Elayne. They were watching a book dealer's table - ironically, not Verips.

Somewhere along the line I said something funny one time and Bruce guffawed . . . and the room heard it.

Flash forward to my time out here in California. And I was at some party or function . . . I was chatting with a group and I said something like, ". . . and I really like the Huxter's Room . . ." The replies of Quizzical stares and noises followed.

Someone said, "Huxter's Room???"

"DEALER'S Room," was the immediate reply from Bruce . . . (nowhere to be seen and somewhere behind me . . .) and suddenly Lightbulbs over everyone's heads and, "aaahhss."

Bruce Pelz: Universal Fan Translator . . .

- - Tadao Tomomatsu

What I remember best about Bruce is how much he loved Elayne. He would sit and watch her talking with people at parties, and quietly observe that she had everything she needed. He carefully crafted parties to surround her with friends and loved ones, and always ensured that she got the things she wanted and saw the things she wanted to see when they were on vacation. People who delighted Elayne were on his "A" list.

I'm sorry that so much of fannish history will go into the ages with his passing.

I know there is never enough time, no matter if we live 10,000 years, so I'm glad that Bruce lived a good life and did what he wanted with the time he had.

He loved fandom and smoffing and fannish politics- he told me that it was usually very easy to get fans to do what you wanted, unless it was something very important. He was a force in fandom, but always conscious of the fickle nature of power and leadership.

Recently, it seemed he wasn't quite so vigorous, and he mentioned a cold that was hanging on at SoLaLa con the previous weekend.

Odd I think, his passing, in that he was without a doubt in my mind going to be one of the great grandfathers of fandom, old and gray and still seeing things were properly done. I shall miss his voice echoing the hall at the LASFS, but I will always remember it.

- - Mike Donahue

I talked to Bruce on the phone about 4:30 or 5:00 on the day he died.

See, Bruce Pelz started a project in 1997 called the Fan Gallery. If you've been to a Worldcon or two in the past few decades, you may have noticed a photography exhibit. Black and white 8"x10" portraits of science fiction authors and other professionals, it's also known as the "Pro Gallery."

Well, an idea that Bruce and some other folk had kicked around for a while was to create another exhibit, but this one would be of fans. Worldcons are a celebration of science fiction, yes, but also of science fiction fandom, and this would fill in that gap. To distinguish this exhibit from the Pro Gallery, the Fan Gallery would be color 5"x7" photos, and they wouldn't all be posed portraits.

In 1997, Minneapolis fan Geri Sullivan was due to come to L.A. to be Fan Guest of Honor at our local convention, Loscon. Bruce had asked her if there's anything special she'd like to have at Loscon, and she said "Surprise me."

Bruce got together with some of those fans who'd been talking about this project for ages, and got the ball rolling to make it happen. Some photos arrived in time (including one of Geri herself), including a big batch from David Dyer-Bennet of Mpls., and the exhibit was launched.

Loscon/LASFS weren't in a position to fund the project, but SCIFI (Southern California Institute for Fan Interests) was, so it was created as a SCIFI project under the "Benefit to Fandom" clause. It was set up on pegboard at Loscon, and

from all reports, Geri was delighted.

Meanwhile, by about this time, Bruce was trying to unload all of his projects and burdens - even though he'd started this new project. He'd retired from his library job, and from bidding conventions. (He also started peddling books in his spare time, mostly so he could still sit behind a table and talk to people, which he loved to do.) It was an open secret that Westercon 55 would be his last chance to chair a convention.

At a SCIFI meeting, Bruce announced that he wanted to dump the Fan Gallery in someone's lap. I was intrigued, but Bruce didn't think much of my photographic abilities or aesthetic judgment. (A few years later, he said I'd gotten better at it, by the way.) Nobody spoke up and volunteered for the task.

I talked to Christian McGuire, and asked what if we took it over as a tag team? I'd do the grunt work, he'd be the one to try to make sure that we didn't add any new crappy photos. (We'd also look into replacing some of the crappy photos we already have. One of the heartbreaking photos in the Fan Gallery is a great pose, the subject looks happy and good-looking, and all that, but she's heavily shadowed because of backlighting. That one's not going to be easy to replace.)

But how do we pick that list? Fandom is mind-bogglingly huge. How do we decide that just because X has been seen at Worldcon for 20 years, they haven't done enough for fandom to be included?

Well, we worked out a system. I'd collect suggestions for inclusion, and we'd show the list to Bruce. Bruce would give thumbs-up or thumbs-down, Christian and I would rubber-stamp Bruce's opinion, and they'd wind up on the list to be included. This year we've been taking the Fan Gallery on the road. It's been to Boskone, Condor, and Minicon, and this month we'll take it to ConQuest. (And I'm bringing my camera too, of course.) ConQuest doesn't have room for the entire exhibit (any more than ConDor or Boskone did - it's huge) so I had to figure out which photos to ship.

We can send 2/3 of them, but we'd have to leave 1/3 out. Ouch! How to make this kind of decision? Answer: Call Bruce. Read him the names, and see what he says. That's what I did on Tuesday.

Wednesday I determine that we can get more room for the exhibit in Kansas City, after talking to ConQuest's chair and art show head. Back in go those captionless core photos.

About midnight I start working on that list. Start by leaving out anyone who has no caption data, there's about sixty of those. Include anyone who's passed away (we call that an "inactive" fan), to honor our dead. Make a list of the people

to choose from. And I e-mail that to Bruce and Christian.

I've got a list that has room for about 3 more photos. I send out yet another e-mail. (I've sent out a flurry of them, working on this.) Any last requests of someone to be added to the exhibit?

Then I realize that we need a little space for signs explaining the exhibit, so I decide the list is done. I call Christian back.

And about 5:00 Thursday I call Bruce. He's very hoarse, sounds like he's still sick from the cold he and Elayne brought back from the Retreat at the end of the April. I say "This is Chaz, again" (which is how I've started announcing myself when I call them, because I call them so many times) and ask if he received his e-mail. Yes. I tell him that Christian and I have the exhibit all worked out -- he can disregard everything I've sent out since midnight, because we've got the Fan Gallery under control ourselves. He sort of chuckles at that, I tell him I hope he feels better soon, and I hang up.

I get home to pack the Fan Gallery shipping case, and I get that all ready so it can go out via UPS shortly. I putter around for longer than usual, not heading out to the club as early as I do on my regular First-Thursday-of-the-Month appearance, so I'm sitting on my couch when I get the call from Christian on my porta-phone.

And here we are. Bruceless.

We can't run the lists of "who should we add to the exhibit" by him anymore.

He can't help play little tin god and pick who will be displayed this time around and who will not.

But at least he knew that this project that he started, which he'd had an active role in as late as Tuesday the 7th, was out of his hands, and Christian & I are taking care of it and perpetuating (Bruce would have said perpetrating) it.

- - Chaz Boston Baden

About a month ago, Elayne handed me an envelope bulging with Rotsler illos which Bruce had been holding for use.

Her instructions were to share them with Mike Glycer - and I did so by handing Mike an unsorted handful of about half of them. In amongst these illos is the one presented here. Considering the regard in which fandom held Bruce, I think that the answer to the question in the illo is, "Not for a long, long time." - - Marty Cantor



NEW LASFS
PROCEDURAL OFFICERS

President: Ed Green
Vice President: Bob Null
Scribe: Karl Lembke
Registrar: Robert Keller
Treasurer: Liz Mortensen

(The Treasurer serves for a term of 1 year - all other officers serve for six months)



Illo by Rotsler

The LASFS meeting of July 4, 2002, will be held at Westercon (which is at the LAX Radisson Hotel). The meeting will be free - no dues will be collected - and will be open to all. One not need be a member of Westercon to attend and no con badges need be shown to enter. Check at the con to see which room will be used for the meeting.



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c/o The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society
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