



DE PROFUNDIS 422

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March 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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2 TRIPE	3	4	5	6 LASFS Meeting	7 Open Gaming	8 Cinema Anime
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Legend of Inscrutable Abbreviations

BoD - Board of Directors
 CFO - Cartoon Fantasy Organization
 Cinema Anime - Japanimation
 Estrogen Zone - Ladies Auxiliary Sewing and Fallout Society
 FWEMS - Fourth Sunday Movies - 2 pm
 Time Meddlers - Dr. Who Club
 TRIPE - Temporal Retrieval of Information Programming and Entertainment
 TSPC - Tom Safer Presents Cartoons - 10 am

CFO - 1 pm to 8 pm
 Estrogen Zone - 2 pm
 Marketing Committee - 7:30 pm
 Meets at IHOP at National and Sepulveda
 Time Meddlers - 10:30 am
 TRIPE - Noon until whenever

Calendar Details

Asian Cult Cinema - 2 pm
 BoD - 11 am, gaming starts at 2 pm
 Cinema Anime - 1 pm until it ends

Thursday Program Items

March 6 - TBA

March 13 - TBA

March 20 - Large Auction

March 27 - TBA

COLOPHON

De Profundis 422 –March 2008. Editor: **Milt Stevens**.
Mailing List and Mailing Labels: **Elayne Pelz**.

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 & Saints 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, Milt Stevens, can be reached at the clubhouse on Thursday evenings or at his edress: miltstevens@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.

Statements herein are those of the speaker/writer and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the club. Interjections in square brackets [[]] are solely the responsibility of the editor.

LASFS OFFICERS

Elected Procedural Officers

President: Marcia Minsky. **Vice-President:** Mike Thorsen, Tadao Tomomatsu (tag team). **Scribe:** Matthew Tepper. **Treasurer:** Elayne Pelz. **Registrar:** Michelle Pincus.

Board of Directors

Chairman: Karl Lembke (2009). **Vice-Chairman:** Merlin R. "Bob" Null (2009), **Comptroller:** Brett Achorn (2008). **Secretary:** George Van Wagner (2008) **Other members:** Bill Ellern (2008), Elayne Pelz (2008), Ed Green (2009), Tadao Tomomatsu (2009), Arlene Satin (2010), Milt Stevens, (2010), Mike Thorsen (2010).

Special Advisor: Charles Lee Jackson II. **Advisors:** Forrest J Ackerman, Len & June Moffatt, and Fred Patten.

Official Committees

De Profundis Editor: Milt Stevens. **Speaker to Gestetner:** Marty Cantor. **Librarian:** Vanessa Van Wagner. **Assistant Librarians:** Elayne Pelz, Darnell Coleman. **LASFAPA/APA-L Liaison:** Marty Cantor. **Committee to Gouge Money from the LASFS:** C.B. McGuire, Elayne Pelz ** **Eulogist, Public Relations, Video Collection Curator, Film Coord. Committee, & Party Rabbi** (take a deep breath here): Charles Lee Jackson II. **Assistant Video Curators:** Doc Reames, Alison Stern. **Asian Affairs Desk:** Brett Achorn. **Key Control:** Bob Null. Elayne Pelz, Christian McGuire, **Special Photographic Collection:** Mike Donahue. **Webmaster - <lasfs.info>:** Barry Gold. **Sysadmin:** Chaz Baden. **Ministry of Silly Gavels:** Bob Null. ** **Committee for Children's Literature:** Anne Morrel, Editor; Greg Barrett, Facilitator. **Computers & LASFS Archives:** Bob Null. **Charity Coordinator:** Liz Mortensen. **LASFS Historian:** Fred Patten. **North Hollywood Arts District Liaison:** George Van Wagner. **Hagiography & Ecclesiastical Affairs:** Vanessa Van Wagner. **Westercon Liaison:** Ed Green. **Shaggy Editor:** Ed Green. **Program:** George Van Wagner, **Readings:** Vanessa Van Wagner, **Liaison to Enigma** (The UCLA SF Club not the German encryption machine) George Van Wagner

Honorary Officers

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

Minsky Wins!

At the meeting of February 14, Marcia Minsky was elected chair of Loscon 36. But wait, there's more, (but not in this issue.)

Next LAFA Filksing

Saturday, March 15, 2008, 7 pm
Brandyhall
Hosts: Lee and Barry Gold
3965 Alla Road
Los Angeles, CA 90066
(310)306 7456

For Further LAFA Information
Contact Lee and Barry Gold
(310) 306-7456
e-mail barrygold@ca.rr.com
or lee.gold@ca.rr.com

CONDENSED CREAM OF MENACE

(Copies of the complete minutes are filed in the archives.)

***LASFS Board of Directors
Sunday, January 13, 2008
Karl Lembke, Presiding
George Van Wagner, Scribe***

Attending Board Members: Karl Lembke (Chairman), George Van Wagner (Secretary), Tadao Tomomatsu, , Brett Achorn (Comptroller), Bill Ellern, Arlene Satin, Bob Null, Mike Thorsen (Vice-Chair), Elayne Pelz (Procedural Treasurer), Milt Stevens

Absent: Ed Green (excused)

Others Attending: Tony Benoun, Heide Nichols, Vanessa Van Wagner (Librarian), Joyce Sperling, Michael Pell, Marty Cantor, Sherri Benoun, Jenny Burke, Adam Willis, Joe Zeff, Fred Lazelle, Marcia Minsky (Procedural President), Judy Zeff, Frank Waller, Robbie Bourget, Tony Young, MaryAnn Canfield, Greg Bilan.

Meeting called to order at 11:12 am. The Chair welcomed the new board members, Arlene Satin and Milt Stevens.

Minutes: Approved as submitted.

Roll Call: As it was the first meeting of the year, and we have new board members, a roll call was called for and made. Responding were Karl Lembke, Chairman; Tadao Tomomatsu, Brett Achorn, Bill Ellern, Elayne Pelz, Treasurer, Arlene Satin, Milt Stevens, Bob Null, Mike Thorsen, Vice-Chair, George Van Wagner, Secretary. Also present: Marcia Minsky, club president and liaison, Vanessa Van Wagner, librarian.

New Members: Applications from Mike Farrow of Arleta CA, Lillian Farrow of Arleta, CA, and Scott Simpson of Canoga Park, CA, were approved.

Treasurer: We have about \$89,000. (this is the short version. Longer below)

New Board Task Assignments: It was decided that tasks should be distributed before election of Board officers. Tadao distributed binders with the year 2000 version of the By-laws, the preliminary breakdown of tasks, and other resource materials. Current copies of bylaws and standing rules were emailed with minutes, including updates gleaned from DeProf back to Issue 328 (April of 2000)

There are 11 clusters of tasks defined for assignment as follows:

1. Chairman: Conducting Board Meetings, Coordinating Board Activities, Overseeing Town Hall.

2. Vice-Chair: Conduct meetings when Chairman is not available, Key Committee, Oversee opening clubhouse on nights other than regular Thursday meetings.

3. Secretary: Take Board Minutes, do Board correspondence, oversee archives.

4. Comptroller: Audit club finances, chair Institutional Memory Committee.

5. Library: Liaison to librarian.

6. Physical Plant: Oversee and arrange for building and systems repair, maintenance, furniture needs, etc.

7. A/V Equipment: Oversee A/V equipment, club computers, etc.

8. Quartermaster/Supply Officer: Oversee supplies (paper products, sodas, etc/)

9. Publications: Oversee DeProf, Website, and other club publications.

10. Events: Loscon, Lalacon, Westercon, etc.

11. Fund Raising and Recruitment: Self-explanatory.

There has been a change from previous discussions re vice-president's role. Opening the clubhouse is listed as a responsibility of the vice-chair of the Board and taking charge of supplies is a responsibility of the vice-president. The various archives (LASFS, Loscon, and Westercon) would all be under the same person. Key committee would now be a subgroup under vice-chair of the Board. It was moved (with one opposing vote, no abstentions) to adopt the task division structure and review after six months at the July meeting to see how well it's working.

Board Elections: Karl Lembke, the Incumbent chair was nominated. In response to a question, he stated his intent to distribute agendas at procedural meetings before the monthly board meeting. He also intends to have a template of the agenda put up on the website for reference. There were no other nominees. Incumbent was elected.

Vice-chair: The incumbent declined the nomination. Bob Null was nominated. There were no other nominees. Bob Null elected. There was some discussion of Vice-chair's responsibilities for the key committee. Currently, Procedural vice-president duties described in by-laws require opening and closing of the clubhouse. If we intend to change that, the bylaws will need to be amended. Board member responsible for key committee and building opening/closing would not have to do the job him/herself hands-on. Board member would be in charge of making sure the job gets done, as these are intended to be oversight roles.

Board secretary: George Van Wagner, the incumbent was nominated. In response to a question: nominee indicated willingness to oversee archive functions, but currently plans to leave them with the people currently doing them, as they have expressed a willingness to continue in that capacity. There were no other nominees. Incumbent elected.

Comptroller: Brett Achorn, the incumbent, was nominated. There were no other nominees. Incumbent elected.

Call for volunteers for various appointments

Members volunteered as follows;

Library: Elayne Pelz

Events: Tadao said that Ed Green has expressed an interest

Fund Raising and Recruitment: Arlene Satin

Publications: Milt Stevens

Physical Plant: Tadao Tomomatsu

A/V Equipment: Bill Ellern

Brett notes that long-term planning has not been assigned.

Should furniture/storage be bundled with building, leaving long-term planning as a single item to be assigned?

It was re-iterated that these are oversight roles and tasks can be delegated. The "building" board member need not be on-site when the roofer arrives, but could assign/delegate/insure that someone is here.

Equipment (Computers/AV) - Bill Ellern

Quartermaster: Mike Thorsen

Long-term planning assignment to be decided later.

Treasurer's Report, Part II: Budget: The 2007 Financial statement and 2008 budget showing 2007 actual expenditures was distributed. Loscon 34 numbers show preliminary numbers only (some ~10 grand art show related checks still not cashed). The treasure informed us that Loscon 34 and 35 reflect what was in the checkbook on Dec. 31 and should not be considered an income line as they had to be accounted for in the financial statement so that taxes could be filed correctly. Next year's financial statement will probably show a minus because of adjustments as checks get cashed. The opening balance for Jan. 1 2007 of \$66,423 was pulled off of last year's tax records. The ending balance showed more than Elayne could account for, hence the miscellaneous income line of \$7,446. She hasn't been able to backtrack to find out where it came from because the treasury records for the past ten years are not currently at the clubhouse. The Society had \$116,000 at year end.

Proposed 2008 budget: Maintenance has been bumped up \$3000 - now includes all emergency expenditures, to cover day-to-day repairs. Add MPLC license renewal fees of \$250.

Due date to be verified.

Line items added: storage budget. Currently covered by SCIFI but may not always be. Due Dec. 31 of each year.

Equipment: \$1200 already approved for new Art Show computers. Also had some AV expenditures. Line item added for whatever equipment might be needed over the course of the year. We won't necessarily spend this line item amount every year.

Our current trademark application was published for opposition on Dec. 25, 2007. If no opposition is filed within 30 days, we will receive the registration certificate. Fees to be filed in 5 years.

Soda machine accounting breakdown is available. We made \$2000 this year on soda sales/recycling. The soda machine came in partway through the year. Soda machine is a plus, probably because shrinkage has been eliminated and soda pricing more accurately reflects supply cost.

The Marketing budget was bumped up to \$500.

LASFS savings accounts have been moved into a 5% money market. The Comptroller's name should be added to our accounts as a backup.

2008 budget shows 29,800 income, 28,900 expenses. With the adjustments we just made, we are running just slightly in the black for the year. Budget approved as submitted, with usual quarterly review.

Maintenance: Building has been rekeyed. Hose bibs: knobs have been removed from faucets. Soda machine is working. The annual check of the air conditioning is to be done on Tuesday. Bob Null is attending to broken knob on rear door of front building. Needs to be fixed so if a non-keyholder is the last to leave, the building can be locked.

The question was raised if we need a motion sensor alleyway light? The neighbor's light currently illuminates the driveway. During convention truck loading: would the truck take out the light fixture? It was recommended that the new facilities person investigate lighting in the alley.

Electronic Equipment: A/V receiver was replaced. Old receiver is probably repairable and could be useful as a backup item. Gizmo donated a receiver that might be used as an amplifier for the PA to the front building. Scott was working on that. A/V squad is working on figuring out how to hook up laptops to the new video projector system.

Communications:

Website: It was suggested that if we want to have a website, we need to decide what we want it to actually do for the club. Once we know what we want it to do, we can figure out how we get it to do that, and how we will handle upkeep. It was stated (again) that the club website is too big a job to be done by one volunteer. We keep trying that and it has never worked. Club members are needed to contribute content, but we need to consider how we are going to maintain the website five or more years out.

Milt asks what is wanted for next meeting re: website. It was recommended that a site map be prepared, as it will give a picture of where we are now and therefore give some clue about where we might want to go. Marcia reminds us that the January 17 procedural meeting program item will be a discussion of what the members want the website to do. It was stated that we are perhaps conflating website design with website maintenance. Until we know what we want to publish, the details of how we publish it are secondary. Milt will bring a site map next month. Marcia will bring in what the members have to say from the Jan. 17 procedural meeting. We have a volunteer to investigate web designers, but it's too early for that step. We can probably use open source solutions once we figure out what we want the website to be.

Marketing Committee Report: Marketing has worked out a way of getting a page on the website that any member of the marketing team can update, so that events can be publicized. The marketing committee will be presenting this idea to the board next month. Still working on the proposal to take to the public library.

Speaker to Gestetner: No News is Good News.

Soda Machine: No report submitted.

Library: Work party on January 26 at noon, short story reading on last Tuesday of February. The moratorium on donations has ended. Information about donations has been posted on the LASFS LiveJournal. A FAQ is being prepared.

Archive: No news.

Institutional Memory Committee: No report.

Events: A request for the Classic SF date had not been presented to the board. They asked Elayne, who was not aware that the group needed to come to the Board to ask permission. Since the club did make \$100 from the event last year, it was decided to let them proceed, with a reminder that one-time events do not establish a precedent and they need to come to the Board and ask before scheduling an event.

There was an inquiry about photos from the most recent Loscon. There are no official photos because the photographer had an accident and was not able to attend. Unofficial photos may be available. Discussion to be continued offline.

Loscon 34: There is supposed to be a wrap up meeting sometime in February.

Loscon 35: Has the highest pre-reg ever.

Loscon 36: Bids will be qualified at the next meeting. Voting by membership will be February 14, the Thursday after the February board meeting. In order to be qualified, a bid must have a chair, treasurer, and hotel liaison. Bidders usually make a short presentation about the general theme of the con, but this is not required for qualification.

Diamond Anniversary Committee: A first brainstorming meeting will be held January 23, 2008.

LaLaCon: The LaLaCon chair said that it's a bit early yet for planning this event.

New Business: When we updated the dues, we did not update minimum lifetime payments, minimum payments for lifetime and yearly combination. If we want those changed, we're going to have to bring another standing rule amendment before the club. Currently \$140 a year to go toward lifetime (which was twice the yearly dues). The same formula would now be \$220 with the new dues structure. Bylaws show a specifically hardwired dollar amount. George will draw this up, showing an amount indexed to the yearly amount rather than a hard-wired dollar amount. The Treasurer would like the board to discuss this before bringing the change before the club.

Worlds of Wonder Seminars: Charlie Jackson reports roughly breaking even, with \$60 in honoraria, \$35 income from paid admissions, and \$35 donations. Moved to discontinue the seminars. Thanks offered to Charlie, the presenters, and all others who worked on this. A suggestion was made that at some point in the future we consider webcasting/podcasting of similar presentations.

Building Inspections: Glen Olsen performed an unofficial inspection informed by his experience as a fire captain. Generally gave us a B+, with one major concern that the eastern wall emergency exit has only cinderblocks and a plywood plank to get people out of the door. Suggests a sturdier substrate.

Real Estate Building Inspector's Report: Found small things, such as naked light bulb that should have a fixture, mainly important if planning to sell, not safety hazards. Dangerous: broken beam in the attic of the front building that is causing the roof to sag. End of the library, loose shingles overhanging the peak, 1 inch gap between the wall and the overhanging shingles. Water could be getting in there, creating mold and other problems. Asphalt needs to be leveled and replaced. May need to strap down the water heaters. The inspector was going to check on this. Elayne will call him to follow up on his findings. Roof is in pretty good shape. Major problem is area that allows water to pool. Fixing this would require total re-roofing (building permit required) rather than re-covering. It was noted that the broken cinderblock wall at the north end of the building, mentioned in the report, is not our wall. Elayne will contact the roofer for guidance about getting the beam fixed and also talk to Scratch Galloway about possibly doing the roof shingle repair. It was suggested that we come up with a list of items from the report that would make good work party jobs. The board member with building responsibilities ("The Super") can then take advantage of the free fourth Saturdays to organize work parties. Board members will review summary from building inspector's report and let it season before finalizing decisions about how to proceed.

Ed Green was nominated in absentia for the super's job. Ed Green declined in absentia by proxy. Chair will run this past him within 48 hours of today's meeting.

Possible Changes in VP Duties: There was some discussion about changes in the procedural vice-president's

assigned duties due to issue that had arisen when life got in the way of the then current three person tag team and schedules changed so VPs weren't available for a couple of club functions. The problem that has developed is that, if the incumbent declines, there have been no willing nominees for the job, because the VP does more than what's described in bylaws and has many tasks and responsibilities, but no authority designated in the bylaws to follow through on said responsibilities. Proposed: bylaws be updated to reflect actual division of duties: opening and closing the building, taking care of supplies. New division of board responsibilities: Board vice-chair does opening/closing of building; supply officer takes over unspecified but expected VP tasks. It was recommended that bylaws strip things out of the VP role since no one wants to do the job as now understood. It was decided that we would postpone any bylaws change until July meeting in order to see how the new operational model is working out. There was a concern that procedural elections will take place before July. As the VP role has been lightened considerably, this should make some difference in availability of nominees. Moved that Bylaws Committee be resurrected for one year. Chair appointed George as titular head, Elayne, Bill, Brett, and Tadao all volunteered to help.

Several other questions were raised for future discussion.

1. What are clubhouse hours? Concerning putting things away after cons, library work parties, etc. - can we work without opening up.
2. Photo day - will do sometime in the next month or three. When do we want to do this? The proposed plan was for a second Sunday group photo and a general photo at the clubhouse.
3. Photo ID cards for Board of Directors and elected officials or maybe a photoboard with names and roles designated. Have a "blank of the month" and auction the space off.
4. Draft of code of conduct. Open to suggestions, revisions. Includes existing rules that have never been added to bylaws or otherwise made official. It was moved that discussion on these items be tabled until March since the Feb. agenda is already heavy and we need time to review.

Agenda has changed. Directors should let the chair know if they are bringing something up so that he can inform the general membership. The 30 second project reports are intended for reports only. Input/discussion should take place during agenda items or during open forum, when board members are pledged to listen and not talk back. General members may also send requests to the chair if they want items added to the agenda.

Take-Aways: Brett needs to be added to checking account authorization. Tadao is looking into the outdoor lighting idea. Website is up for next month's discussion. George is looking into rewording of the lifetime dues rules in the bylaws, bylaws committee. Elayne is talking to the roofer about the beam repair. Tadao is working on the list of work party items from the building inspection report. The board is reminded that this will be the last time following the functional-based agenda.

Adjourned: 1:33 pm

Meeting #3673, January 3, 2008

President: Marcia Minsky

Scribe: Matthew B. Tepper

With a cynical eye, or rather two of them, President Marcia Minsky surveyed the silliness surrounding her, and called the meeting to order at 20:05 with "the umbrella of power." President Minsky noted the change of scribal identity next to her and welcomed the returning victim back to the front table.

Previous week's Menace, by outgoing Scribe with the Sideburns Joe Zeff, were picked at a bit and finally approved as "a dickens of a set of minutes – the best of minutes, the worst of minutes." Well, you had to have been there, I guess. I was, and I still wake up screaming. Really annoys the cows, too.

This being the first meeting of the year, we began again the cycle of Patron Saints with two who range from A to Z – Dan Alderson and Joe Zeff.

First, Dan: Milt Stevens reminded us that our departed friend had been a for-real rocket scientist at Jet Propulsion Laboratory. There were some things that bothered Dan which wouldn't bother anybody else on Earth. He was once obsessed with an "ugly equation," and would not give up working with it until he had made it "prettier." Charles Lee Jackson, the Second said that Dan's TRAM trajectory monitoring program has long been used to plan the exit routes of spacecraft from this solar system, effectively leading to "Star Trek: The Revenge of Dan Alderson." Jerry Pournelle said that Dan had supplied math for his SF books, and he missed him as a friend, too. Scratch Galloway called Dan "a wonderful mad scientist." Joe Zeff said that if you ever saw him at JPL in the morning, it was because he'd been there all night. Fred Patten called Dan "the greatest scholar of Captain Marvel comic books." Doug Crepeau remembered Dan as a former business associate in Science Fiction Consultants of Hollywood, Inc. We shouted to the rafters with three cheers (and/or "weep wails"), and "a confounded voting system."

About Joe Zeff: Whisky identified him as "sideburns, sideburns, sideburns." Scratch called Joe a unique gamer, who always comes up with a little twist. Milt reminded us that Joe had been Dan's seeing eye person. Michael Thorsen pointed out that Joe had held the elected post of Vice President for two terms. Alison Stern remembered that he had also been Scribe several times, "and made us all laugh." George Van Wagner said that Joe has had the persistence to complete NaNoWriMo four times. Frank Waller said he finds Joe "well-versed and well-spoken." Marcia was pleased to report that her brother Joe is a most reliable fixer of computer problems. We gave Joe three cheers and "an open-source operating system."

Sole Registrar Michelle Pincus had scoured the room and brought us two guests: Herman Rubin, a friend of George Mulligan, who admits an interest in space opera and professes statistics and mathematics. Er, that is, he's a professor of statistics and mathematics. Whatever. We also had Nicole Rubins (no relation), who had found us on the Internet. Those darned search engines work, folks! Nicole is a

gamer who is also looking to set up a practice as a podiatrist. Karl Lembke remarked, "The game's afoot!" I knew he'd find some way to needle us.

Karen Anderson, Science Monitor, said that NASA was so overbooked for their modified McDonnell Douglas C-9B Skytrain II (if I screwed that up, blame Wikipedia), nicknamed the "Vomit Comet," that they will have to subcontract another plane for their parabolic flights, from Zero Gravity Corporation. Nice to see private industry helping out.

Elayne then relayed her Treasurer's Report to the front table. Yes, we have \$87,000. No, we're not going to use it for parties! Too bad – I just can't help thinking how much falafel that would have bought.

The twin absences of both Old and New Business were cheered by the disdainful crowd.

Reviews: Eric Hoffman recommended a pair of new books, Walter B. Gibson and the Shadow by Thomas J. Shimeld and Robert W. Gibson; a new edition of The Lurker in the Lobby: The Guide to Lovecraftian Cinema by a bunch of writers; and a film, "Man in the Chair," about forgotten film crew members, starring Christopher Plummer. Adam Wills issued the warning that a new film, "In the Name of the King," is not having media previews, which is generally a bad sign. Whisky had seen it and said it was horrid, a waste of celluloid about ninjas, pirates, and rubber orcs. Ali Stern thought "The Golden Compass" was pretty good, but she had issues with the end of the film. Mike Sheffield, on the other hand, had no such reservations. Ed Hooper liked the latest "Macross" series. Glenn Olsen & son Johnathan enjoyed the new "Animusic" DVD. Fred Patten was pleasantly surprised with "Persepolis," the autobiography of Iranian writer/director Marjane Satrapi; it may not be fantasy, but it does have very good animation and held his interest throughout. Ali loved "Alvin and the Chipmunks," calling it "awesome." Dr. Pournelle was moved by mention of The Chipmunks to remind us there is a shortage of helium, but if you want to talk funny, do not attempt to substitute hydrogen!

George VW reported for the Committee for Technological Justice, about a woman at a fast food place who was being held up when her mobile phone rang, and the perp, in telling her not to answer the phone, tripped her voice-activated Bluetooth device. Justice ensued. Marcia told of a stupid would-be bank robber: a police officer sneaked up behind him in line, and was able to collar the guy after he made his demand and collected the money. And finally, Dr. Pournelle suggested we had front-runners for the Darwin Award, namely those guys in San Francisco who had had that little mishap at the San Francisco Zoo. He noted that Niven's Second Law has a new possible interpretation: "Never stand next to the man who is taunting the tiger."

Misc: Marcia said the Sunday after next will be devoted to the Board of Directors meeting, as well as the usual Second Sunday Open House. CL said he didn't have his cinematic statistics yet, but advised he would give them next week, "in

case Jerry wants to leave early." Michael Thorsen had acquired his first region 0 DVD, "Santa Claus Conquers the Martians." George VW said we had no program this week or next.

There had been some lively discussion as to whether a move to adjourn should be named after Marty Cantor or Rob Cole, so Joe Zeff moved to Marty Cole, which we did at 20:59.

And the moral is: "You can't change the laws of physics; but you can change the bag!"

Meeting #3674, January 10, 2008
President: Marcia Minsky
Scribe: Matthew B. Tepper

President Marcia Minsky calmly surveyed the utter chaos and disarray before her. As the circumstances were exactly right for a LASFS meeting, she called us to order at 20:07. Special Orders of Business: CL deferred to Marty Cantor, who reported the passing of British fanned, Derek Pickles, who originated the idea of fanzines available for "the usual" (i.e., trade, contribution, LoC, or what would come to be called sticky quarters), rather than strictly for sale.

The previous week's Menace were then read, nitpicked, and finally approved as "Hangin's too good for him – make him read the minutes again!" Be careful what you wish for, because you might get it.

Patron Saints: We had two this evening, the late Bruce Pelz and the still-with-us Christian McGuire. To start us off, Christian said Bruce, who arrived in town about fifty years ago, was "pretty much everybody's idea of the fan who did everything." He and a few others were omniapans, fans who tried to become members of every fannish amateur press association then in existence ... which of course caused several apas to be created for the purpose of keeping them out. When he had finally retired from his position as a Reference Librarian at UCLA, he began a new career as a bookdealer. In this capacity, he had this knack for knowing what you wanted to read this week. Hare Hobbs felt Bruce had deserved the nickname of "Elephant," for his amazing memory. Len Moffatt reminded us that Bruce could be kind and gentle, depending on whom he was dealing with, but he did not suffer fools gladly. He devised entertaining names and ideas for clubs and parties. One of these was for divorced persons and was called the "Captain Bligh Appreciation Society," because it was for those who had been "set adrift by their first mates." Aaaaa! Charles Lee Jackson, the Second, pointed to one of Bruce's posthumous achievements, being elected vice president of the Bay Area S F Association, since they felt he could do no worse than his predecessor. Bruce could observe a good idea and make it work better. One example was the Building Fund, as a result of which we have our fine building here. He promoted the "Pillars of the LASFS" category, but ironically and typically was the first honoree. Scratch had been impressed with Bruce's fannish collections, as well as his collections of collections. Michael Thorsen pointed out that Bruce had originated the acronym "FIASOI": Fandom Is A Source Of Income. Christian enumerated some of Bruce's many honors: the Evans-Freehafer Award (twice), the Sampo Award, the

Filking Hall of Fame (for his songs from John Myers Myers' Silverlock), and Friend of NESFA. Your humble Scribe remembered one more honor, that of an Official Kentucky Colonel. So, for Bruce E. Pelz, Friend of NESFA, suh!, we shouted three cheers, "and money for the LASFS" and "*elephant's trumpet sound*."

And now it was time to honor our other Patron Saint, Christian. Michelle Pincus praised him as a real gentleman and a true friend, who works very hard for all fandom. Robbie Bourget noted that he has many of the fine qualities he had just ascribed to Bruce, but also many that Bruce never wanted, such as caring for too many people; he does everything wholeheartedly, with no in-between. Ed Hooper was amused by Christian's habit of rocking back and forth when speaking to a group. Mr. Thorsen said there was even a Mah Jongg tile named after him, because it resembles a rocking chair. Joe Zeff remembered it was Christian who, as acting Scribe, had given him the nickname, "Guy with the Sideburns." Frank Waller thought that Christian and Tadao were twins. CL corrected him: "He meant twits!" Now that things couldn't get any worse, we gave Christian Bainbridge McGuire three cheers, "and a center of gravity."

Registrar Michelle identified some guests: Hillel A. Dodge Cogan, Victoria Shapero's gentleman-friend. His answer to "What area of science fiction are you interested in?" was "Between the shoulder blades." Michelle also said we had two new members: Mike and Lillian Farrow. You'll be sorry!

Reviews: Ed Hooper warned us of a new animé series, "Gundam 00," which is not yet licensed in the US, and isn't very good. Christian, reviewing Animé LA., said that customer service at the former Burbank Airport Hilton (now Marriott) has gone down the hill incredibly. Even the venue itself was showing signs of disrepair, as rains on Friday flooded part of the convention center. CL wondered: "Did they charge extra for the flood?" "No, but they tried to." Still, many people had a good time in spite of the problems. Chaz had "lots of fun watching people ½ to ? my age having a hell of a good time," and thanked Robbie in particular for her tactical assistance. Tadao Tomomatsu, our Friendly Pinetree, said that as MC he got to sing "What a Wonderful World" and had the crowd holding up cellphones and glowsticks like matches. (He does do a great Satchmo impression.) Marcia felt the artwork this year was really phenomenal. Hare complained that the hotel was undergoing remodeling, and the lobby was essentially gone, or to use your humble Scribe's term, it had a lobbyotomy. Fred Patten took note of the hall costumes, this year with a predominating theme of Gothic Lolitas. (Hmm, I wonder what ever happened to ... no, never mind.)

CL had viewed a Biblical blockbuster, the 1927 "The King of Kings." He noted that most of the supporting cast went immediately into serials, most of the music went into serials, but most interestingly portraits of Jesus for the public trade around that time suddenly started to look like star H.B. Warner. Hare said The Hero, by John Ringo and Michael Z. Williamson, needed editing. Doug Crepeau had found a "Hello-Cthulhu" website, crossing the Lovecraftian mythos with Hello Kitty. Victoria Shapero said that her friend Diana found Animé LA. the most fun she had had at a convention in years ... and she

goes to six or seven animé cons in a year. Hillel Cogan promoted freerice.com, an online vocabulary quiz which donates food to people in needy countries. Timon said The Gripping Hand, by a couple of guys we may have heard of, reminded him why he began reading SF in the first place. It's a safe assumption he enjoyed it very much.

Faanish Committee Reports: Jo Jerry Pournelle had the prime surrealism and stupid crooks report for the evening: A pair of con artists in New York had a friend who got his Social Security payment, but before he could cash the check, he cashed in. So they put his corpse on an office chair and rolled him to the bank to try to get the money. They'll probably get more than a weekend for trying that, and it won't be at Bernie's. Richard Costas realized that they must have been real friends – they were moving a body.

Miscellaneous: Ed Hooper mentioned a rare, possibly unique, occurrence: there were three "Queens" in New York Harbor. Come on, Ed, haven't you ever heard of Christopher Street? Oh, the cruise ships. Well, that's very different. Never mind! Nick Smith pointed out that the Delta Queen, which has been a moving national monument, is being retired, because its wooden superstructure is in violation of ADA, and Congress did not grant an extension. What's up, dock?

As threatened promised, CL had his film viewing statistics for 2007. The highlights were: 333 first-time viewings, 465 total features, and a lifetime total of 6,043. Marcia said next week's program is to be "What do you want to see on the LASFS Web site?" Constructive suggestions, please. Darn; your humble Scribe was going to suggest, "A picture of Caroline Munro." We finally fled screaming into the night at 2138. And the moral is: Do not meddle in the affairs of wizards, for they are – ribbit! Ribbit! Ribbit!

("And on that note, my frog thanks you." – Marcia)

Meeting #3675, January 17, 2008
President: Marcia Minsky
Scribe: Matthew B. Tepper

With a magisterial blow, LASFS President Marcia Minsky wielded the mighty spoon of power to call us to order at 2017. Under Special Orders of Business, Charles Lee Jackson, the Second noted the death of actress Maila Nurmi, better known as "Vampira," who appeared in Bert I. Gordon's "The Magic Sword" and some Ed Wood pics, hosted horror films on television, and was essentially the prototype of Elvira and others. Marty Cantor had news of a death in our extended fannish community, Australian fan Marea Ozanne. She and her husband Ken were in fact LASFS members who visited here on occasion. Marty recalled that he and Robbie had stayed with them in Australia when there as DUFF winners.

As we had a program in the middle of tonight's meeting, Marcia averred we would be on "Agenda light."

Menace were read without benefit of Doc Severinsen's orchestra to fill in the dull spots, and ultimately got accepted as "Defenestration's too good for him – I say throw him out the window." Well, to some of us, defenestration is a sort of historical Prague-nosis.

Our Patron Saint this evening was Jeff Siegel. Dr. Jerry Pournelle commenced the honors: Jeff is a Major, US Air Force (retired), now an ordained Lutheran minister, who is likely to become a military chaplain at an Air Force base. He was part of the neighborhood "brat pack" which included the Pournelle boys. Fred Patten said Jeff was a regular attendee of LASFS in the 1970s, and was one of the people who helped get local Japanese animation fandom started, along with Mark Merlino. We honored St. Jeff Siegel with three cheers "and a snappy salute."

Registrar Michelle Pincus presented some guests: Dirk Sanders, who found out about us on Internet search, and Carol Stone and her son Shane Schwartz, who got the word from A&M Book Cellars. They are aspiring writers. Jerry Pournelle added: "So are we all."

Right here is where the program was inserted, to garner members' valuable opinions before the mad rush to Coral Café, homes, and other seedy places. Marcia called on George Van Wagner to take temporary possession of the head table. He recorded it on a little 'lectronic device, "so it could be accurately reported to those what care, or the Board, whoever comes first."

The subject at hand: "What you would like to see on the LASFS Website." This was not an opportunity to complain; people complain about things at LASFS all the time, so this was for constructive suggestions. Mahhtin Young wanted a montage of what Loscon looks like. George added, "and other club functions." Timon felt the events on the calendar merited descriptions, and specifics from month to month; also, he can't actually log on to the Forums, for some reason. Doug Crepeau wanted to see an expanded list of web links of SF interest. Marty Cantor felt links to other fannish sites, including those of our own members, were of highest importance. After all, the pros already have their outlets; we need the fannish ones listed. Fred thought we should find room for LASFS & Loscon histories, the sort that he used to update every year for the Loscon Program Book. Dr. Pournelle wondered about the possibility of a listing of Patron Saints of the LASFS. George said there is already a hagiography in the works, which could be put up as PDF document.

Doug suggested that a page detailing "why join LASFS?" could explain the actual benefits – now, let's not snicker here – particularly the availability to members of Library privileges. Milt suggested a bibliography of the Library. CL supposed that would be a monstrous undertaking. Joe Zeff thought a sample of what the Library has might be sufficient. CL answered that if we have that, we should post the recommended reading and viewing lists, "and if you're looking for something else, here's everything." We shouldn't keep a complete list of videos in the Archive because of potential (ahem) problems with the studios.

David Okamura thought it might be worthwhile to have a short biography of a different member each month, in addition to those of the Patron Saints. Perhaps there could also be a bimonthly or quarterly item, "Treasures of the LASFS," spotlighting and explaining some of our trophies or other displays, or items of sentimental value. Milt wanted to steal plagiarize research an idea from NESFA, namely club members'

recommendations for Hugo nominees. CL suggested saluting a different author every month, and really sold the idea by offering to do the writing. Volunteerism is alive. Dr. P. wanted to buy a digital camera in order to show a bit of the meeting every week. For some reason he wanted to stick the Scribe with this important gesture, but as The Worst Photographer in the World, your humble Scribe suggests another victim be found.

M Jerry recounted, as background, the time a briefing at the Pentagon required the first, second & third best experts on the subject of ending a thermonuclear war. The solution was to pick three smart junior officers and have them think about it for a week. Your humble Scribe trembles at the thought of anybody being compelled to think about nothing but the LASFS for a whole week.

George wanted to solicit book reviews from the members, and CL felt this could be like a sort of a fanzine within the site, changing every month to encourage repeat visits. Milt thought the website could be a sort of staging area to revive Shangri L'Affaires (Shaggy), the official LASFS genzine, again. Zoinks! Karen Anderson asked if we could try paying someone to be in charge, so that there will be a stake in regular updates? George promised the Board will discuss that and other ideas next month. Jerry reminded us that "if we exist on charity, we are at the mercy of whoever is giving us the charity. If we pay something like \$500/year, we should get better service. That's hardly a bankruptcy amount of money." Adam Wills said that when he first saw the website, he was rather put off by the difficulty of finding things on the calendar. There should be explanations of everything that happens here. Well, wouldn't that be a novelty? George reminded him that we cannot name individual films that are being shown. But, continued Adam, having a calendar that's mostly empty looks bad. Jerry asked, "Can we at least mention themes?" Vanessa Van Wagner thought the front page should have something about what we do on a weekly basis.

Hare Hobbs suggested photos of the Clubhouse and our outside sign. George said that we do have a link to Mapquest to help people find us. Adam asked about ad trades, and Jerry noted that Google pays him about \$300 per quarter – but of course, he gets quite a bit of traffic at his site. Jerry said he selects which letters go on his site, which is a good way to handle it. In any event, we should not allow anonymous posting. Gizmo wanted a FAQ page; George said there is a space for one, but it's currently blank. Mahhtin Young said that the very first question on the FAQ page should be, "Do we have a FAQ page?" Vanessa noted that the Forums are active, thanks to Michael Thorsen throwing in the occasional topic and removing the junk posts. This brought spontaneous applause from the room. Jerry thought it ironic that our TLD is "info" when there's such a dearth of info. "It's irony!" answered Mahhtin. Dr. P. suggested a photo of the Registrar, so that new people will know whom to look for when they arrive. George wanted photos of the club officers. By this time we were down to silly suggestions, such as putting in a link to <http://www.coralcafe.com>. The end.

Marcia thanked all who participated in the website discussion. Adjourned: "Move to Lancelot" 21:35.



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