



DE PROFUNDIS 423

De Profundis is archived at
<http://www.nyx.net/~bgold/deprof.html>



April 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3 LASFS Meeting	4 Open Gaming	5 Estrogen Zone
6 TRIPE	7	8	9	10 LASFS Meeting	11 Open Gaming	12 Cinema Anime
13 BoD Open House	14	15	16 Marketing Committee	17 LASFS Meeting	18 Open Gaming	19 CFO TSPC
20 Time Meddlers	21	22	23	24 LASFS Meeting	25 Open Gaming	26 Work Party
27 FWEMS	28	29	30			

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, Westchester and Sepulveda
 Time Meddlers - 10:30 am
 TRIPE - Noon until whenever

Thursday Program Items

April 3 - Nothing Scheduled

April 10 - Nothing Scheduled

April 17 - Nothing Scheduled

April 24 - Nothing Scheduled

More current information on Thursday programs may be found at www.lasfs.info/phpcalendar/month.php

Calendar Details

Asian Cult Cinema - None Scheduled This Month
 BoD - 11 am, gaming starts at 2 pm
 Cinema Anime - 1 pm until it ends

COLOPHON

De Profundis 423 –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.

LaLaCon

This Year's LaLaCon will be held on the weekend of June 28-29. More information as soon as we figure it out.

LASFS Website

At the February meeting of the Board of Directors, Barry Gold was appointed interim webmaster of the LASFS Website, and Lee Gold became assistant interim webmaster. A number of things have been done since then. The Board Officers, Board Members, Procedural Officers, and Appointed Positions have been updated. The email addresses should now go to the correct people. The About LASFS/Awards page has been updated. All pages that have been recently updated should have a date of last update at the bottom of the page.

The previous Membership/Members List has been replaced by a new list provided by Elayne Pelz. The new list contains approximately 2500 names and the dates on which each person joined the club. If you joined in the last forty or fifty years, you're probably on this list. Members who have been around for awhile may find names they remember, names they sort of remember, and names that don't spark even a single synapse.

Next LAFA Filksing

Saturday, April 12, 2008, 7 PM
Pre-filk dinner at 5 pm.
The House of Perpetual Commotion
Hosts: John & Mary Creasey
3754 W. 170th Street
Torrance, CA
(310) 329-6772

For Further LAFA Information
Contact Lee and Barry Gold
(310) 306-7456
email barrygold@c.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, February 10, 2008
Karl Lembke, Presiding
George Van Wagner, Secretary

Attending Board Members: Karl Lembke (Chairman), George Van Wagner (Secretary), Tadao Tomomatsu, Brett Achorn (comptroller), Bill Ellern, Arlene Satin, Elayne Pelz

(Procedural Treasurer), Bob Null (vice-chair), Mike Thorsen, Milt Stevens.

Absent: Ed Green (excused)

Others Attending: Tony Benoun, Joyce Sperling, Michael Pell, Lee Gold, Barry Gold, Marty Cantor, Greg Bilan, Heide Nichols, Sherri Benoun, Marcia Minsky, Frank Waller, Jenni Burr, Robbie Bourget, Anne Morrell, Fred Lazelle, John Harold, Darnell Coleman, Michelle Pincus

Meeting called to order at 11:09

Minutes: Approved as submitted

30 Second Reports:

Chairman Distributed agenda. Will get contact information for town hall member groups from Tadao.

Vice-Chairman: Pubs machine is working fine. Archive - nothing new. Keys - we're in good shape.

Secretary: Minutes were distributed. New minutes are being recorded. Thank were offered to the Chair for finding a copy of the Standing Rules of the Board of Directors and posting it to the LASFS LiveJournal. The by-laws subcommittee has not met due to scheduling. By-laws and Standing Rules (including changes as gleaned from old DeProfs) have been mailed to the board. Corrections and additions are requested.

Comptroller: Was advised that someone in an oversight position should have access to the records but should not have authority over money. Elayne will find someone else to add as the second name on the club checking account.

Library: No report this month. The video curator will be presenting a report next month

Physical Plant: Front building beam has been repaired. A work party will be scheduled to work on the list of "to-be-done" items designated by the building inspector and Captain Olsen.

Some of the items on the "to do" list are:

Cleaning up grounds

Trimming of alleyways

"General sweep of the place between the back building"

stucco repair

repainting and varnishing as applicable

lemon tree trimming/harvest

general cleanup of clubhouse with cleaning, clutter, et cetera

It was recommended that we either change out or purchase covers for the two damaged couches in the front building.

The neighbor to the east complained to the Time Meddlers at their January gathering about lemon tree branches and fruit extending into his yard. Rose bushes have been replanted behind the door. No action will be taken on this until after the

tree trimming work party and consultation with Capt. Olsen regarding any possible fire hazard.

It was also recommended that we review the roof situation on both buildings.

It was asked whatever happened to the proposal that up to \$30,000 from the Century Fund be available for building infrastructure repairs. This idea was placed in abeyance at the meeting of the general membership where this was discussed. Based on the inspection reports, we won't need to spend that.

Re-roofing would take considerably more than the \$30,000. If Board members want to discuss this, they can have it put on the agenda.

Elayne got a quote on the Frehafer hall ceiling. To drop T-bar, re-do the electrical workings, and add fixtures, she was given an estimate of \$5820.

Call to place the specifics of large expenditures on the agenda for next month.

AV Equipment: No report.

Quartermaster/Supplies Quartermaster/Supplies
Supplies are being purchased, quartermaster is being reimbursed and is happy.

Vending machine to date has sold 5511 units at a total income of \$2997.

Publications:

De Prof continues to appear, cost \$100 per issue.

Shaggy - no developments.

Gestetner - nothing to report.

Website to be discussed later in the meeting.

Events:

Loscon 34 had their wrap-up meeting. Final number - somewhere between \$8000 and \$9000. March 1 is turnover day.

Christian is negotiating with the LAX Marriott for the next five years and a full report will be made in March.

Loscon 36 presentations will be later in the meeting. LaLaCon will be chaired by Tadao only. Date to be announced.

Westercon - no formal bids for 2010. Under the new rules regarding the different zones, if no bid from the eligible zone is mounted by Jan 31, any zone - north, central or southern - is eligible to bid. Deadline is April 15. Contact person is Ed Green.

Diamond Anniversary – First meeting held, initial ideas discussed. Another meeting to be scheduled in the near future.

Fundraising and Recruitment:

Has been researching fundraising ideas.

Agenda Items:

New Members:

Nicole Rubins of Glendale, CA, Nicki Baric of Sunland, CA, Kyle Baric of Sunland, Hillel Cogan of Los Angeles were all accepted as new members.

Treasurer:

We have \$90,857.34 (this is the short-form report)

Loscon 36 Bids:

Those assembled were reminded that in order to be valid, a bid must have a chair, a treasurer, a hotel liaison and a weapons policy.

All bids presented met these criteria and it was moved and approved that they be forwarded to the general membership for selection.

Heidi Nichols' "Past to the Future: It's All About the Fans"

Marcia Minsky: "But Wait, There's More"

Greg Bilan: "Multidimensional Cross-time Convention"

Arlene: "Where's My Flying Car? Where's My Moving Sidewalk?"

Website:

A quick summary: here was much discussion and a paucity of agreement over what the website should be and who it should be for. The sound of axes being ground was deafening while hammers pounded stakes into the ground to mark territory. The only common ground established was that the website, as it currently exists, isn't doing us any good. Torches were lit and carried from the village as we marched on the castle, only we kept dropping them in the muddy weeds and soon everything was murky and indistinct. The matches were wet, and we all sat down and had a good cry. After much tearing of hair and rending of clothing, nothing of import was accomplished, except for the purchase of new paint to slap on the same old falling down house.

The grotesque details:

Milt Stevens presented a site map of the existing website. It was noted that there are many misspellings, instances of building names being incorrect, and general typos on the current site.

There ensued much discussion about what purpose the website should serve, who is its intended clientele, and what face we want to show to the world. A number of board members expressed the sentiment that we need to make those decisions before we start to put a lot of effort into patching up the website that we have. There were many suggestions about what material should be on the website, and Marcia Minsky contributed a list of suggestions that had been solicited from the membership at a recent meeting, as follows:

- Calendar should have narrative descriptions and specifics from month to month rather than just saying name of event.
- links of science fiction interest
- links to other fannish sites, including our own members'.

- LASFS and LOSCON histories
- Listing of Patron Saints
- Short biography of a different member each month
- Treasures of the LASFS - bi-monthly or quarterly item spotlighting and explaining some of the trophies and memorabilia displayed in the clubhouse.
- Members recommendations for Hugo nominees
- Saluting a different author every month. Charlie Jackson offered to write some of these.
- Blog area for members eyes only to discuss internal club matters
- Book reviews
- Listing Thursday night program items in advance
- "Shaggy"
- Some members report difficulty finding things on the calendar - seems to be a web browser issue
- Front page should have something about what we do on a weekly basis
- Ad trades, possibly. Google pays for banner ads on websites.
- FAQ page
- photo of the registrar so that visitors know who she is

Milt Stevens reported that Scott Beckstead has resigned as webmaster and that he had approached Barry Gold about taking over the job. The suggestion was raised that, since we've been going through volunteer webmasters at a record pace, perhaps we should consider finding a professional to do the maintenance and such so that content/changes/etc. are not bottlenecked.

A concern was raised that most input seems to point to members wanting to put content out to the website, but what we have now is not designed to let that happen. Everything still needs to be sent to a webmaster. We would still need someone to set up the framework by hand, since the current site does not allow this now. Can we have various people update various parts of the site, the way marketing is preparing to be able to update itself? Once again a content management system was suggested. It was noted that decisions about mechanics cannot be made until we figure out what the website is going to be and who it's going to serve.

Charlie Jackson submitted a proposal to put together a virtual fanzine for the website.

The Marketing team noted that it has a page independent of the website that allows promotion to the public, with a link to the website. The idea is that this page will link to the calendar page. It's intended to be an online press packet - not necessarily for members. It will have links to current flyers, videos done at Loscon, other promotional materials. Anyone on the marketing team can update it. The page is not yet

available to look at because it's a work in progress. Expect this to be ready by next month.

It was moved (but not seconded) that we simply abandon the current website.

There were more suggestions made about possible structure, changes, etc. and it was decided that we weren't going to resolve the issue at this meeting. Milt volunteered to put together a user requirement document for the website. It was suggested that several other board members who had expressed concern help him, but this was not acted on.

The Chair appointed Barry Gold as interim webmaster for the next 90 days, with the situation to be reviewed after that time. Mr. Thorsen was heard to say, "This shouldn't be as hard as we're making it."

Added to agenda:

Proper respect to volunteers

The Board had received a copy of the email Milt sent to the previous webmaster which led to the webmaster's resignation. Brett notes his opinion that he found the email disrespectful of a club member and club volunteer and expressed, or at least implied, a policy position on the part of the Board that the Board had not taken.

The following is a copy of what Milt Stevens sent to Scott Beckstead,

Scott,

I left messages on your answering machine Sunday and Monday, but I haven't received any reply. I was calling regarding the LASFS website.. In case you aren't aware of it, the Board has decided to divide the responsibilities for various club functions between the Board members. I am now responsible for the website as part of publications.

The website is going to be a major topic at the Board meeting next Sunday. As you can probably guess from the last meeting you attended, the Board is not happy with the current state of the website. They want change. It might be a good time to discover that the time demands of other activities don't allow you enough time to continue being in charge of the website. Barry Gold has already expressed an interest in taking over the job, and I know several Board members favor him taking the job.

Of course, this is only a suggestion.

Yours truly,

Milt Stevens

As a result, the club is very unlikely to receive the services of that member or that volunteer in the future. He would like it noted that as stewards of the club, it is a requirement of being a good director that we at all times be respectful of the members and volunteers, and encourage people to participate in the future, no matter what direction we may choose to take. He thought that the email in question was not in keeping with

good stewardship of the club. Though the tone may have been unintentional, he felt it was out of line.

Milt responded that he had tried to reach the person by phone without result. He was not trying to write an ill humored document, but one that was devoid of any feeling, just stating the facts in order – not trying to be either friendly or unfriendly, but sometimes you have to just communicate an idea, sometimes an idea the person won't like and that's just the nature of organizations. He feels he did what was necessary.

It was moved that the former webmaster be thanked for the work that was done and for being willing to take on a job that has chewed up any number of people. George will draft a letter of thanks.

New Agenda Items:

Elayne has a request from an upcoming convention in Las Vegas in 2009 for Art Show equipment along with 2 people who know how to put them up. It was moved to approve, with an expenditure of \$25 per baggie.

Gallifrey would like to borrow Art Show hangings, tech buckets, and the Gestetner. A \$350 donation will be made as a thank you for the club. In addition, Gallifrey will provide replacements for any items as needed. It was so moved and approved

Open Forum:

March is photo day. Photos will be taken during 2nd Sunday and during that week. It is not mandatory.

Marketing Committee Report:

Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Los Angeles had requested bookmarks for swag bags for their upcoming charity event.

Submitted a proposal for the readings to be done at the LAPL. Suggestions and revisions may be sent to Arlene.

Take-Aways:

Getting back to George about reading his emails about the Bylaws and Standing Rules

Agenda items were added for next month

Website design items listed above

Adjourned:

1:06

MEETING #3678, February 7, 2008

Marcia Minsky, President

Matthew B. Tepper, Scribe

Ribbit! The Frog of Power rode the Magic Wooden Spoon of Justice to victory as President Marcia Minsky called us to order at 2010. And that was probably the most fun any entity in the room would have for the rest of the evening.

Under Special Orders of Business, we noted the passing from this world of the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, considering that "he certainly lived science fiction and fantasy." Some of his followers claimed to be able to fly, to which CL added that, while alive, he had learned the trick – "it's to fall down dead, and miss." Dr. Jerry Pournelle practically smacked his lips in glee as he quoted Paul McCartney's remark that the Beatles'

decision to study with the Maharishi was "the biggest mistake they ever made, which given the existence of Yoko Ono is saying something."

We particularly mourned the passing of "Gordo" cartoonist Gus Arriola, whose work had to count as fantasy due to the presence in its cast of talking animals and worms. Also recently deceased was actor Barry Morse, with many genre credits to his name, such as "Space: 1999" and the "Controlled Experiment" episode of "The Outer Limits." This was the one with Morse and Carroll O'Connor as a pair of Martians studying the curious human custom of murder by using a time machine to play it back and forth and fast and slow and braided. CL thought it must have been a simple episode to shoot, but very expensive to edit.

Previous week's Menace were read in the usual parade silence, and then got approved as "Captain, the minutes canna stand it any longer!"

Guests: Registrar Michelle Pincus had searched the sea of faces and found some for us. The first was Kat Richardson of Seattle WA, a friend of Rick Foss; she's a full-time writer of a series of urban fantasy novels. Next, Jamal Hannah, from Cambridge, Massachusetts, a friend of Marc Schirmeister, who says he's a pro or aspiring writer. Jamal will be running Xanadu in Las Vegas in 2009, and has thrown parties at Loscon. Last was Terry Palestro of Encino, who had learned about us from surfing the net, and wants to be around serious science fiction people. CL pointed east: "NESFA is over that way...." Terry's occupation is "HR," which caused much scratching of heads among the crowd, until your humble Scribe declared that it means he's Catbert.

Treasurer's Report: The official word was relayed from Elayne: "\$91K, and don't spend it!"

Karen Anderson had returned this week to present her Moment of Science: There is a new slick magazine on the stands, Science Illustrated, full of fascinating articles and full-color illustrations, about on the level of Discover. Features of the present issue included puzzles and a lengthy article on Tyrannosaurus Rex. Charter subscriptions are available, 6 issues for \$24. She has coupons if you want to get the magazine.

Patron Saints: We had two. First, "the ever-shrinking Frank Waller." Scratch Galloway felt Frank has many good points and some bad, but then so have we all. Next we heard from Mary Ann Canfield (yes, but can she hit?). She said Frank is always good for a laugh. Doug Crepeau reminded us of the days when his name was Mudd. Whiskey pointed out his love of vintage cars. Richard Foss noted that he saves us the trouble of poking fun at him by doing it himself, with a pleasant and intelligent sense of humor. Joe Zeff said he attained his Sainthood through auction income by donating tasty foods to our auctions. (Your humble Scribe is still looking for those potato-flavored potato chips.) We honored Patron Saint Frank Waller with three cheers "and a box of cookies." "and a box of Charles Chips."

The other saint was Mike Glycer, whom Marty Cantor described

as a person who makes you realize, once you get to know him, just how nice an IRS agent can be. "He collects Hugos the old fashioned way – he earns them," with awards for his File 770, and sometimes as Best Fan Writer. Milt Stevens said he had achieved a unique fannish trifecta, by having chaired a Worldcon, won the Down Under Fan Fund, and incidentally won all of those Hugos. Michelle Dane said Mike had a heart of gold, which your humble Scribe thinks goes perfectly with his sterling character. Joe Zeff, a former Scribe himself, felt Mike had written some of the most marvellous Menace you ever heard – on the fly, in ink. Hare Hobbs said he had one of the best senses of humor. Charles Lee Jackson, the Second observed that, since he had had some illos in File 700, if you parse it properly, that makes him a "[Hugo Award-winning fanzine] artist." We cheered Patron Saint Mike Glycer with three cheers and "a non-audit by the IRS."

Marcia was pleased to announce that we had a brand-new Saint! This was the late and much lamented Allan A. Rothstein, poet and gentleman, whose saint's meeting will be #35 of the year.

Appointive Committee Reports: Arlene Satin announced that the Marketing Committee would be meeting on February 20th, not at the Clubhouse but at the IHOP in West L.A. at Westchester and Sepulveda... curiously, not too far from where the LASFS used to meet in the early 1970s.

It was just at this moment that Steve Barnes, author and gentleman, walked into the room and was greeted warmly by the assemblage.

Announcements: Doug Crepeau said there was a production of the musical "Li'l Abner" playing at the Freud Theatre at UCLA, with Cathy Rigby as Mammy Yokum ("Natcherly!") and Fred Willard as General Bullmoose. Also, a play based on H.G. Wells' "The Time Machine" was playing at the Women's Club in Hollywood. Rick Foss mentioned the Culinary Historians of California, with a cook who recreates Tudor dishes, at the Robin Hood Pub on the 20th, adding, "you can run a whole chicken through a sieve and wind up with something really delicious. And they had no potatoes." Nick Smith noted an event 265 years in the making, a book signing in Glendale by Forrest J Ackerman, Ray Bradbury and Ray Harryhausen, all appearing at the Bookstore of Mystery & Imagination, February 25th at 7:30. Tadao said Gallifrey One was happening next weekend, February 15th -17th at the LAX Marriott. Also, Dr. Susan Gleason has information on her address change available to those who want it. German Gonzales announced Cinema Animé, Saturday at 1:00 p.m.

Reviews: CL had enjoyed a Japanese flick, "King Kong Escapes," with an evil villain called (of all things) "Dr. Who." Your humble Scribe notes the cast also includes Japanese actress Mie Hama, whose resume also includes the characters Kissy Suzuki in "You Only Live Twice" and Teri Yaki in "What's Up, Tiger Lily?" Nick Smith knew of a DVD set, "Mobile Suit Gundam: Igloo," combining digital animation with motion capture, from the viewpoint of an engineer evaluating weapons systems under fire. Unfortunately the two discs go for \$100.

Rick Foss loved Robert Rinkan's Hollow Chocolate Bunnies of

the Apocalypse, a fantasy novel about a series of murders with a chocolate bunny left behind at every scene. It's set in a world where toy teddy bears might be sentient. Ed Hooper said another book by the same author is titled The Toyminator. Heide Nichols had read another John Ringo book, Nashome Foe, unfortunately laboring under a slow-moving plot. Mary Ann had polished off two books by Lois McMaster Bujold, and found them very gripping, interesting novels of cultures clashing. Frank Waller saw a magazine called Geek, apparently specializing in computer and tech stuff. Rick Foss seemed disappointed that there was nothing in it about biting the heads off of chickens.

Dr. Pournelle stepped up to the front of the room and slyly noted, "I could actually review forty books, because I'm carrying them." What he actually had in his hand was a Kindle, the latest electronic book device, which he thinks will be the killer of the paperback. It looks sort of like a paperback book, but holds a very large number of them as data, with easy access to any place in the contents. He was reading Murder at the Metropolitan Opera by the late Margaret Truman, having ordered the book on the Kindle, wirelessly over the air, after which it was delivered the same way in a matter of seconds. You can add footnotes, "dog-ear" pages, and just generally read your ever-lovin' heart out. The one bad thing about it was the price, which he characterized as "too much – I wouldn't have bought it, but I didn't have to." Darn these well-known tech reviewers; they have all the fun! The price will probably drop in a couple of years, and it will then be kindled, er, bundled with a bunch of books. It reads PDF, Mobi, and even just plain text files that you can get for free from Project Gutenberg – the whole of which would fit on an optional 4GB SD card. CL was reminded of Clarke's observation, "Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic." Dr. P. concluded: "I think you're looking at something like the future. It would look kind of geeky as a telephone. But it doesn't have one in it. I suspect that in a few years, everyone will be carrying something like it."

Miscellaneous: Bill Ellern made a Generosity Report, saying that the Illustrators and Matte Artists Local, in the person of Rainy Smyth, had sold some movie posters and then turned the proceeds over to the LASFS, to the tune of \$175. This was received gratefully by those present. Then Casey Bernay had given him a check of \$150 for the hangings, which she didn't want back. CL uttered: "Yay people." Your humble Scribe was directed to send thank you notes to both parties, and as soon as he remembers, he will do so. Tom Safer said TSPC is this Saturday, and he will be showing a movie, starting around 10:00 a.m.

Faanish Committee Reports: Your humble Scribe had found an article claiming that some scientists were said to have devised a cyclotron technique which would supposedly cause particles to move backwards in time, leading to the manifestation of time travellers from the future. He did so at maximum speed and was soon out of breath. It wasn't worth it. The article, for what it's worth, is at newkerala.com.

The bonds of time were slipping inexorably away, so we adjourned, finally, at 2131.

MEETING #3679, February 14 2008
Tadao Tomomatsu, Presiding
Matthew B. Tepper, Scribe

It was a coup! A Vice-Presidential coup! Of course, since we have a tag-team of two vice presidents, that made it a coup-coup. The first member of the tag-team, Tadao Tomomatsu, used some sort of implement to knock on the table at 2010, justifying his presence by reading a note from his President, Marcia Minsky, recusing herself because of – well, you'll see. He greeted the throng with the words, "Happy Valentine's Day, or for the rest of you, happy black Thursday." (Or for some people, Jack Benny's birthday.)

Your humble Scribe snarled, "Bah humbug!" George Mulligan concurred more elaborately: "Every idiot who goes about with 'Happy Valentine's Day' on his lips should be boiled in chocolate, and buried with a long-stemmed rose through his heart." Unfazed by this display of literature, Tadao suggested that we would be running under "Agenda very lite, or at least different."

Special Orders of Business: Charles Lee Jackson, the Second noted the passing of actor Roy Scheider, best known in our genre for the likes of "2010," but also for "Jaws," "All That Jazz," etc. We had also lost comic book writer Steve Gerber, most familiar as the creator not only of Howard the Duck, but also of associated characters Hell-Cow and Stewart the Rat. Somebody uttered, "Waugh! You're a corpse!" We had a brief moment of silence. Marty Cantor turned us to far happier considerations, collecting donations for Fred Patten's Apa L zine printing fund. Not only has Fred never missed a distribution, he is now producing his 'L zines partly in color! The membership applauded our dedicated friend Fred.

The Friendly Pine-Veep asked for previous week's Menace to be condensed, but your humble Scribe objected courteously to the idea and offered instead to read them as quickly as possible, so as to rush through the unfunny parts (which were pretty much the whole thing). After several suggestions, a few of them not openly insulting, these were ultimately corrected and approved as "Maharishi Mahesh Minutes."

Patron Saint Craig Miller was the object of our veneration this evening. Milt Stevens had first met him when Craig was in high school, but noted that Craig "got into fandom, fell among bad company, and became a Worldcon chairman." George Mulligan had fond memories of a con run very smoothly. Karl Lembke ventured, "He's no longer on strike." Len Moffatt remembered that Craig had come into the Club in the late 1960s, and when we needed a new meeting place, he set us up with one at the Palms Playground and Recreation Center, about which legends abound. (Ask any of us oldsters about Larry Niven vs. the Park Punx.) Dr. Jerry Pournelle cackled with glee in pointing out that Craig's unique signature got him known to the Park authorities as "Mrs. Cecy Miller." More recently, Craig has developed a career writing for television animation, including "Pocket Dragon Adventures." We cheered him with three cheers, and "animated creatures which (unlike Pokémon) don't cause nausea and vomiting."

Guests: Registrar Michelle Pincus bade us welcome Cassidy

"Casey" Herndon of Los Angeles, a gamer who found us on the Internet, and who hoped to meet similar people. Likewise Anthony McKenny, who was delighted to meet fans interested in such subjects as time travel. Too bad he missed the article that got read at the previous week's meeting. Oh well, he can just go back in time and – aw, skip it. Tadao apologized by pointing out that this was not going to be one of our typical meetings. Do we ever have a typical one?

It was now time for the Old Business at hand, which was the election by ballot of the chair, committee, and theme of the 2009 Loscon. Tadao had the bid chairs choose playing cards in order to determine the order of presentation. One of the bidders, Heide Nichols, was not present, so the Scribe tried to phone her.

First to speak was Marcia Minsky (with help of Mahhtin Young as "Igor"), whose bid would emphasize all different kinds of science fiction, in a wide variety of media. "I would like to bring a taste of every kind of science fiction that exists today."

Arlene Satin asked the musical question: "We can put a man on the Moon, we can make a fairly decent cup of instant coffee [Scribe: "Yecch!"], but what I'd like to know is, where the heck are our flying cars? What are the latest in 21st century advances in science, and how does science fiction influence science?"

Greg Bilan reminded us that he has been involved in working on science fiction conventions since 1986. His goal was to bring in special effects companies and people from UCLA and USC to talk about science fiction films, and planned presentations by Bill Ellern and others. On his proposed schedule were such things as educational programming, filking, masquerade, dances, etc.

Heide still hadn't arrived, so Tadao read her bookmark, "75 years of LASFS, 36 years of Loscon," and her slogan, "It's all about the fans."

Tadao asked confirmation of Chairman of the Bored Board Karl Lembke, who stated that all these bids had indeed met the minimum requirements for being considered by the club membership – which is really all the Board is supposed to do in this matter.

Next, Tadao posed the traditional "team player" question: Will all bidders be willing to cooperate if they don't win their bids? Unsurprisingly, all bidchairs present enthusiastically indicated their assent.

Tadao asked for a sense of the room, about how we should proceed in the continued absence of Heide, and decided we could vamp for time with some of the more usual LASFS meeting items. For this he stepped down and asked for his non-alliteratively-named co-Veep, Michael Thorsen, to take over at the head table. Mr. Thorsen called for Committee Reports. Arlene, in her guise as head of the Marketing Committee, said the next meeting of same would take place at the West L.A. IHOP on February 20th.

Moment of Science: Michelle, deputizing for the absent Karen Anderson, read a newspaper clipping about a solar system much like ours, 5000 light years across the galaxy, containing detectable gas giants and with room for smaller planets.

There was no new business, but old business was indeed the Loscon election.

Reviews: CL had viewed a recentish DVD of "Lost Horizon" which claims four additional minutes of newly discovered footage. But more strangely, the featurette about the making of the film has a credit for "the late Sam Frank," who is thus given a distinction not allowed to other deceased persons in the credits. Maybe they just wanted to make sure? George Van Wagner had been greatly entertained by O'Reilly's new quarterly magazine devoted to do-it-yourself, with plans for building a solar-powered xylophone, a light-sensing blimp, or a self-powered shop whistle. It's called Make, with lots of projects for cool stuff you can make yourself. The Website is at makezine.com.

The other George (Mulligan) was enthused over shared military universe series with a wide range of contributors called "The Fleet" and "Battle Station," about a mostly-human alliance vs. four-foot-tall weasels. (Your humble Scribe is startled to find that his stepsiblings have thus been Tuckerized.) Mr. Thorsen gave favorable notice to a DVD set of Season 1 of "Torchwood," particularly liking the behind-the-scenes and other value-added features. If you want these shows to continue, buy them rather than using Bittorrent other methods of retrieval. Ed Hooper then noted some episodes of Season 2 have been on BBC America, and include "Martha Jones" [Scribe: "sigggggghhhh!"] as a supporting character.

The Committee for the Preservation of Jerry Pournelle had a report, unsurprisingly delivered by Jerry Pournelle. The good news is that he does not have a multiple myeloma. The interesting news is, nobody has the foggiest notion what he's got. It may be inoperable, but they will try radiation, including proton beams. (Zap! Zap! Proton beams not passé with fiends!) They're still not sure what they're treating, but it just ... might ... work. Speaking of working, he wrote 10,000 words last week, and his editors think they're pretty good. Joe Zeff added helpfully: "If you're using proton beams, just don't let them cross." CL suggested, "If you have a choice: Reed Richards yes, Bruce Banner no."

Heide had arrived at 2058 – eighty-eight minutes late, unlinked train at Anaheim – so Tadao returned and we continued with our old business. The delay had not been Heide's fault, but she launched straight into her campaign with great vigor: The theme is "The Past to the Future, or, It's all about the fans." Her goal is to combine old fans who are young at heart with newer fans who are still young chronologically. Heide also passed the "team player" question, cheerfully promising to cooperate with others if they win.

Question Time followed, which is here presented for the record: CL: "Will you make audio recordings of the con (assuming the approval of participants)?" Heide gave an unequivocal "yes," Marcia offered "audio or video," and Greg mused, "I guess

we'll have to have them."

Thorsen: For Greg specifically: "What ... is your convention theme?" "Multi-Dimensions of science fiction: Different worlds, different ideas and times, different events in stories."

Frank Waller: "How much different from previous Loscons are you going to run your conventions?" Marcia: "Basically the same." Arlene: "We'll take the best of past ideas, if it ain't broke why fix it, unless it needs fixing." Greg: "Tried and true programming and maybe new stuff added in." Heide: "We'll take the more experienced people and use them to tag-team with the younger ones."

CL: "Is the same hotel contract still running?" Joyce Sperling, sitting on the couch doing her knitting, said "Yes." Karl added that Christian McGuire was negotiating deals with the hotel for the next five years.

Scratch Galloway: "Will there be an ice cream social?" The answer from all bid chairs was a resounding "Yes!" Marcia added, "No peanuts, no green peppers, no onions." Kay wanted a sugarless alternative, and your humble Scribe wanted garlic. (Note to self: See if this has a bearing on the no-girlfriend situation.)

Doug Crepeau: "What kind of attendance are you looking for, and what kind of publicity will you use to get it?" Marcia: "I want to increase membership by going to as many different cons as I can to promote the con." Arlene: "I already market this club, so I have the full intention of using my team of people to help me promote this convention." Greg: "We'll bring in some very interesting writers and programs to attract people, including some who may not have attended before, and more science programs." Heide: "We'll try to bring in more young people and university students."

Crepeau with the follow-up: "What type of use will you make of the media in your publicity?" Greg: "Advertising at schools, book stores, and comic stores." Arlene: "Invitations to cable stations, local news, networks, and magazines." Heide: "While it's great to send out press kits, I'm not willing to commit money to advertising in the LA Times which may not bring in many people."

Michael Bloom: "Have you considered having some real panel programming after 6:00 p.m.?" Marcia: "It could be beneficial, but I would want to see what people actually want." Arlene: "We expanded night programming in the past, such as Goth and vampire panels." Greg: "Only if we find programming that would attract more than a few people." Heide: "I like to offer a variety of things to do at any given time."

Frank Waller: "Have you any people in mind for guests of honor?" All bid chairs answered, "Yes."

Voting was done on ballot cards prepared in advance by Elayne. When the dust had settled, the counts on the first and only ballot were: Marcia 30, Arlene 9, Heide 12, Greg 6. Marcia Minsky was duly installed as Chair of what seems be fated to be called Loscon 36.

We adjourned, at long last, at 2140.



De Profundis
c/o The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society
11513 Burbank Blvd.
North Hollywood, CA 91601
USA

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE RUSH