



DE PROFUNDIS 424



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May 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 LASFS Meeting	2 Open Gaming	3 Estrogen Zone
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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, Manchester 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

May 1 - Nothing Scheduled
May 8 - Nothing Scheduled
May 15 - Nothing Scheduled
May 22 - Nothing Scheduled
May 29 - Nothing Scheduled

COLOPHON

De Profundis 424 –April 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 address: 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.

New in the LASFS Library

Polyphony 5, Anthology, Deborah Layne and Jay Lake, eds

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Darwinia, Robert Charles Wilson

Daughter of the Forest, Juliet Marillier

Wheelers, Ian Stewart

Wicked Lovely, Milissa Marr

Beastly, Alex Flinn

Moonlight and Vines, Charles De Lint

Reader and Raelynx, Sharon Shinn

Battlestar Galactica The Official Companion, David Bassom

Battlestar Galactica The Official Companion Season Two, David Bassom

Battlestar Galactica The Official Companion Season Three, David Bassom

(Two reference works in the Harry Potter universe:)

Fantastic Beasts and Where To Find Them, Newt Scamander

Quidditch Through The Ages, Kennilworthy Whisp

(Hugo nominees:)

The Yiddish Policemen's Union, Michael Chabon

Rollback, Robert J. Sawyer

The Last Colony, John Scalzi

(On order:)

Halting State, Charlie Stross

Nebula Weekend

LASFS will be hosting the Nebula Weekend April 24-26, 2009. The event will be held at the Doubletree Hotel, San Pedro. Science Fiction Writers of America will be presenting the annual Nebula Awards at the banquet Saturday evening. More information will be available shortly.

Next LAFA Filksing

Saturday, May 3, 2008 Filk: 7 pm

Sean and Linda Cleary

13637 Oxford Ct,

Chino, CA

(909) 464-9892

(909) 762-1844 (cell)

seanearlyaug@juno.com

For Further LAFA Information

Contact Lee and Barry Gold

(310) 306-7456

email barrydgold@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, March 9, 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, Milt Stevens, Bob Null (vice-chair), Elayne Pelz, Mike Thorsen, Arlene Satin

Absent: Ed Green (excused for being shot),

Others Attending: Marcia Minsky, Judy Zeff, Anne Morrell, Joyce Sperling, Joe Zeff, Marty Cantor, Tony Benoun, Sherry Benoun, Jenny Burr, Greg Bilan, Frank Waller, Gavin Claypool

Meeting called to order at 11:09 am

Minutes: Approved as amended

New Members: Patrick von Lydegraf of Sun Valley, Grant Brown, of Granada Hills, Terry Palestra of Encino, Angela De La Chastaigier of Encino.

Treasurer: We have \$88,104.70.

30 second reports

Chairman: Put together an agenda. Had a note saying Shangri L'Affaires should be added to agenda. Not sure why. Unless someone remembers why it was placed on there in the first place it will be removed from the agenda. Added Tom Safer's event and the Nebula Awards banquet. Still fine tuning the process.

Vice-chair: Archives - proceeding as usual. Pubs computer now has two functional mice. No news on keys.

Secretary: Minutes were distributed. Assuming archives are proceeding as usual. By-laws subcommittee met. Got through standing rules. Meeting again on the 25th of this month to go through the by-laws. Will have report next month on recommendations, changes, etc.

Comptroller: The comptroller is meeting with Elayne today to do the internal audit of books. Beginning work on a "How to be a comptroller" document. He will ask Loscon chairs to note that Loscon is a registered service mark on various materials.

Library: We bought books. Nothing new.

Physical Plant: Will need additional time to do complete report. Two more repairs recommended by the building inspector have been completed: the toilet in the front building has been re-ringed and bolted down to the floor so it no longer wobbles, and the leak under the sink in the front building is fixed.

AV: No official complaints have come in, but there have been rumblings about problems with connections to the existing system. We need to get an inexpensive distribution amp for the audio and the video which will eliminate the need for patching and re-patching. George is researching how much such an item would cost.

Quartermaster: Not here yet. Nothing has been heard about problems, shortages, et cetera.

Publications: We haven't been able to find a lockable power cord for the Gestetner. May have to make one. Website to be discussed separately.

Events: LaLa Con will be June 28th and 29th. Program and other info TBA.

Loscon 34 treasurer has turned his records over to Elayne. Final number: approximately \$10,500.

Fundraising and Recruitment: Will be covered in the Marketing Committee report. Working on some ideas for recruitment, to be presented in the future.

Procedural President: Item for discussion has been added to the agenda.

Video Librarian: CLJ reports through Bob Null that there is no news at this time.

Agenda Items

Insurance: Elayne informs us that we are currently insured for replacement value only of the property. If the place burns down, we will have enough money for a 1948 lathe and plaster garage. We would not be able to demolish or clear away the old building and re-build to current code. Her research shows that rebuilding would cost between \$200 and \$250 per square foot. Our property is 4500 square feet. She requests another \$1500 in order to purchase sufficient insurance to rebuild to code in event of disaster. We are currently paying \$2800. This increase in insurance coverage was approved.

Physical Plant: The cost quoted by Warren Construction for covering the entire back area of Freehafer Hall, dropping T-bar, adding new energy efficient light fixtures and appropriate switches, and disposal of all construction debris: \$5820. Elayne says we have \$15,000 in the Treasury and the building line in the budget should cover it. It was moved to approve an expenditure of up to \$6000.

Bob asks that we consider repair of lighting in the rest of the building and the APA-L room to increase energy efficiency. It was recommended that discussion of this be deferred. Bob reports that the light outside the door needs replacement. It was agreed that Bob will buy the part and someone at the March work party will do the installation.

Marketing: The Marketing Committee is intending to replace the old banner, which was a leftover from the L.A. Festival of Books and is starting to look a little beat up. Marketing would like copy of bylaws and standing rules to include in the "Now that you are a member" packet.

After last year's successful booth at the West Hollywood Book Fair, we have been asked by the Fair admins to help with programming. Marketing would like to attend this years festival with an expanded booth, as last year's was quite cramped. It was moved and approved that the Society supply \$150 to cover the cost of a double booth for this years fair, which is taking place September 28, 2008.

Marketing has been exploring a fundraising idea: Approach artists to donate original art to be sold on eBay, proceeds to be donated to the club. Artists would set the minimum bids and use the auctions as an opportunity for promotion. We would send out email announcements to other SF clubs and related organizations about the auctions while they are live. These announcements would be the major promotional value of this venture. There are details still to be worked out: exact amount of eBay fees, storage of unsold items, what insurance coverage will be needed, how to handle unsold items, how will payments be handled, how will money get to the club? What are we offering pros that they can't generate themselves on their own

websites?: It was recommended that further information be gathered to figure out how these would be handled. Moved and approved (with two abstentions) that we accept the idea in principle with a request that a further report on the

development (to include the mechanics of how this would work) be made at the next board meeting.

The interim webmaster reported on some progress that had been made in fixing typos and updating society officers and board members. It was pointed out that if we continue to move our archives onto the web, we will need to change to a web-hosting account with larger available disk space and bandwidth. It was suggested that planning for expansion would be a good thing.

The concern was raised that the current website, while it's doing a better job of documenting the society's history, doesn't contain any sort of outreach or promotional focus such as was discussed when the Board of Directors adopted a 10-year plan in December 2007.

There followed substantial discussion of the pros and cons of various web design strategies, during which the point was raised that functional design (the behind the scenes stuff) should not be confused with visual design (eye-candy). There was substantial concern expressed about how new content should be generated, trafficked, and published. Several directors spoke in favor of a content management system that allows content to be added by a number of people with a small group holding editorial oversight.

The director in charge of publications [[Milt Stevens]] stated that he felt the internet was "a playground for perverts and crackpots, to be avoided generally." [[The point of this comment was that you don't want just anybody wandering in and doing just anything to your website--Milt Stevens]] and that he preferred paper. It was pointed out [[by George Van Wagner]] that, given such an attitude, he was perhaps not the best choice to oversee the website. [[You may have guessed Milt Stevens and George Van Wagner are on absolutely opposing sides on everything regarding the website. Honest!]]

It was decided that we do not yet have sufficient clarity to approach a web designer with a list of our needs and that discussion would continue at the next board meeting. Brett Achorn said that he would speak with a web designer friend of his for some guidance and send a more detailed site map to the directors via email within the next two weeks. The interim webmaster was instructed to continue cleanup chores. Further discussion was tabled until next month.

Miscellaneous: Proposed movie day by Tom Safer: possible dates of June 28th, July 26th or August 30th or 31st. Elayne says none of those dates are available. August 23rd might be available, but we may want to have a work party on that date. Moved with 2 abstentions to offer August 23rd for the movie day.

Procedural President: SFWA emailed Marcia to inquire about the possibility of LASFS hosting the Nebula Awards banquet. There was some discussion of what would be involved, as we need to know how much it will cost before making any decision. It was moved that Milt will gather further details, including talking to Fuzzy about what happened before. Website user requirements:

Commentary from members: A member notes that she runs a web-based business, has more SF related conversations with web friends than with LASFS members, and thinks the web is a good way for SF fans to get together.

Takeaways:

T-bar project - Elayne
Exterior light project that he needs an able body for - Bob
Insurance correction - Elayne
Loscon service mark - Brett
Book Fair - Arlene
Fundraising proposal - Arlene
Nebulas - Milt
Website design, something to go out by email within 2 weeks - Brett
Adjourned:
1:13

MEETING #3682, March 9, 2008
Marcia Minsky, President
Matthew B. Tepper, Scribe

It was as late as 2018 when President Marcia Minsky slammed the Spoon of Righteousness to the head table to bring the meeting to order. She admitted that she had just returned from ConDor, and boy, was her throat sore.

Under Special Orders of Business, CL noted the death of E. Gary Gygax, who (to gather from reactions from preachers over the years) was "apparently the greatest threat to organized religion."

Your humble Scribe revved up his trusty Toshiba Satellite to play a snippet of the "Holy Bomb" music from "Beneath the Planet of the Apes," as a tribute to another departed creative person, composer Leonard Rosenman, who wrote lots of scores for SF and fantasy films.

CL added a memorial for Perry Lopez, another actor who had appeared in "The Creature from the Black Lagoon," and many other things.

Also we had lost writer-director Richard L. Bare, responsible for many things including "Green Acres," about which CL added, "if you don't think it was science fiction, you never saw it."

Fred Patten noted the death of Milton Lesser, who wrote SF, juvenile and mysteries in the 1950s, under his own name and as Steven Murlow. Also departed was SF writer Janet Kagan, who had a small but top-notch bibliography.

Rev. Darnell Coleman had just learned of the passing of Pamela DuPree, a frequent attendee of Loscon and a presence in the huckster's room under the fan name "Artemis"; this was confirmed by Eric Hoffman.

And now it was time for something else that was unfortunate, only in a different way. Menace of the previous week's meeting were read, out loud, in English, in this room, and after some consultation were amended and approved as: "Joe, can you hear me now?" "No!"

We collectively paid tribute to the week's Patron Saint, Dave Fox. Hare Hobbs said, "If you had the time to listen to him, he was the best storyteller about LASFS members of yore." Dave was the one who held down the couch in the old front room, before we divided it to make room for computers and for the Library Stacks. Dave is LASFS' unofficial ghost, and may well have been our official dirty old man. When he died, the strip joint on Magnolia went out of business. CLJII noted that Dave's best work may have been another LASFS member, Elizabeth Fox, known in olden years as "Vixen." He wrote of a fictional country called Khorlia, through many distributions of Apa L. Even the discovery of his will was occasion for a sort of "purloined letter" story, when it was discovered by Bill Warren. We honored the memory of St. Dave Fox with three cheers "and a blessed beast."

Guests: Registrar Michelle Pincus had identified three of them skulking in the room: Joshua Becker, a student; Justin Becker, a writer (two guests with the same last name imagine that!); and Marly Halpern-Gruser, media fan, literature fan, aspiring writer. The populace was urged to help them feel welcome.

Treasurer Elayne Pelz had sent her report to the front of the room for our notice: We have \$88,104.70, but we can't spend it. As the saying goes, dang.

Moment of Science: Michelle relayed the welcome news that Karen Anderson was pretty much over her bronchitis, and couldn't be here tonight because she was doing a sleep study. Her report in absentia was that scientists had observed an avalanche on Mars. And we're not done with the space program, because we're sending another probe to the Red Planet! This one will have the ability to drive over obstacles, sort of like that dune buggy that Picard and Worf drove around in the last "Star Trek" movie. It is hoped that it will be followed eventually by manned missions.

The absence of both Old and New Business was acclaimed by the massive massed throngs.

Announcements: One of the guests wanted to arrange a screening of a movie which seemed to be about widows seeing revenge after the Battle of Thermopylae, or something like that.

Charles Lee Jackson, the Second noted it was the 75th anniversary of the Los Angeles premiere of "King Kong." (Presumably the original one.)

Reviews: H. Richard Foss had enjoyed Kat Richardson's novel *Graywalker*, about a private eye who has some sort of time-binding psychic abilities.

Milt Stevens said the new TV series about an immortal detective, "*New Amsterdam*," had made him go "Enh?"

Christian recommended a new novel, *Territory*, by Emma Bull and John Jude Palencar, set in Tombstone around the time of the Earps and Doc Holliday, but with some sort of dark magic as an undercurrent. Maahtin Young said he had heard Emma read at a convention, and felt her work was very atmospheric.

Faanish Committee Reports: Tadao said that a relative back in Japan saw him in "Heroes," and had said, "He looks so dignified!" Other relatives exclaimed, "We didn't know he spoke Japanese!" (He also submitted this alternate gag: "Your son is on TV!" "Tell him to get off, he's too heavy.")

Robert Jansen had a report on really big radio telescope.

Rick Foss said that the same people who invented the spork have a new utensil: no, not the foon, but the knork. It seems to be a tad clumsy to use.

Miscellaneous: Rick Foss was recognized one more time, a nice accomplishment for somebody who has a twin brother. Whichever Foss was here had sold another story to Analog. He said it had started out with an argument with Larry Niven, forcing him to think it out, and lo and behold, it turned into a story entitled "*Madman's Bargain*." "Just being in the same room as Larry Niven makes you smarter." Your humble Scribe muttered: "I'm still waiting for it to kick in." Pretty much the whole room replied, "We are too!"

CL is still doing his movie-watching pool, and hasn't reached the magic number yet, so there's still time to participate. He just hit 79, which wouldn't even be so bad for a golf score.

Dr. Jerry E. Pournelle announced that his and Mr. Niven's classic novel *Inferno*, originally written in 1975, would be republished soon, and they have even been working on its sequel, *Inferno II: Escape from Hell*. [Reality update: It's now finished, and has been turned into the publisher.]

By now, things had gotten as weird as they were ever likely to be, so we adjourned at 21:23 to run out screaming into the night.

MEETING #3683, March 13, 2008
Marcia Minsky, President
Matthew B. Tepper, Scribe

President Marcia Minsky surveyed the meeting hall, muttering, "There's nobody here!" But fortunately, there were enough of us nobodies for a LASFS meeting, so she did her duty and once again utilized the Spoon of Infinity to call the pitifully small leukemia.

Your humble Scribe then had some good news to share: LASFS member Laura (Brodian) Freas is returning to the radio airwaves on a permanent basis next week, taking over the 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. weekday shift to keep those classical music hits cominâ€™ at ya on KCSN, 88.5 on your FM dial.

Even with the small turnout, some unpleasant rituals had to be maintained, so the previous week's Menace were read, out loud, in English, in this room, and were approved as "Too long." Gee, thanks, guys.

Then it was back to the fun stuff, such as the easy task of finding nice things to say about the week's Patron Saint, Gavin Claypool: Michelle Pincus called him "One Hell of a Hell player," and reminded us that he was a leading pusher source for DVDs. Charles Lee Jackson, the Second observed that Gavin was a pretty straightforward regular kind of a guy, but he was sometimes inclined to be silly, such as the time he sat in a restaurant with a "This Section Closed" sign on top of his head. Jerry Pournelle said that Gavin is "frighteningly competent at doing the technical stuff" in theater, and who knows, probably other things. Joe Zeff remembered the L.A. con II masquerade group of Niven characters, in which Gavin played someone from Wunderland, complete with asymmetric beard. St. Gavin was saluted with three cheers "and a guaranteed antique linotype machine."

Guests: Registrar Michelle Pincus brought forth Wendy Wiseman, who already knew her way around the clubhouse due to being a member of the Time Meddlers. But Wendy, a media and literature fan, had never been here on a Thursday, so decided to check us out. On Friday we had had two guests, Shellee Howe and Chris Corney, who were greeted and green-carded by Rev. Darnell Coleman.

From the depths of the south side of the room, Treasurer Elayne Pelz admitted we had \$88,154.92. But she added, "In fact, I'm about to spend \$6,000 of it, to get a new drop-ceiling with six energy-efficient lights, all construction to be done by a real contractor!" (Unlike us real expanders, one assumes.) The thought of a new ceiling elicited applause from the crowd.

Moment of Science: Michelle said that Karen Anderson is still in need of some treatments so couldn't be here this week, but would still welcome visitors who phone in advance. The news was of a graduate student at San Francisco State University (your humble Scribe's alma mater!) who has calculated that there may be a planetary system around ϵ Centauri B, perhaps even including a planet in a habitable zone.

Committee Reports: Arlene Satin said the Marketing committee planned to have a LASFS presence at the West Hollywood Book Fair on September 28th, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. They will need help with setup, teardown, programming, so come and help promote the club if you can.

Reviews: It took a bit of persuading, but Dr. Pournelle made his way to the front of the room. Somebody exclaimed, "He's got a manila envelope!" And sure enough, that envelope contained the expected item, a MacBook Air. Dr. P.'s review in brief: "This is cool! It's light, it's fast, it's got 80 GB of hard drive, it's all solid state, it's bright. The battery holds up for many hours, and the keyboard is backlit. It's got Word 2008, and it's all a writer needs." From his spot on the eastern couch, Karl Lembke was heard to mutter: "I can't wait for MacBook Earth, Fire, and Water to come out."

Elementary, my dear Lembke, elementary.

Faanish Committee Reports: Joe Zeff had a Surrealism report, Subcommittee for Rotsler-related items. He had found a website that had gone a little too far cleaning up the language, resulting in such neologisms as "breasttanic," "parbreastion," and "breastanium."

Hare Hobbs reported that Locus had an article about how China, perhaps to put on a happier face for this year's Summer Olympics, is banning horror, and basically anything that depicts nasty things. Ah well, there goes the history of the Long March!

Also, Borders is completely remaking itself, starting with the Ann Arbor store. What will happen? Stay tuned! (He added the following week that they will be adding publishing-on-demand machines.)

Announcements: CL had a cautionary tale. He had been using Google to find information related to his research on monster movies, and one of the links he clicked on turned into the worst sort of porn site. He literally had to pull the plug on his modem to stop it. Fortunately, AVG found (and neutralized) a pretty bad virus.

Ryan Nichols began to tell us about an upcoming philosophy conference, and was informed that we had already heard about it some weeks ago from Mahhtin Young. CL observed: "But now it's from a reliable source."

With regard to the New York governor's scandal, Charles then pointed out an inscription in his own hand (and incidentally accompanied by a Schirmeister artwork) on the whiteboard: "Emperor Club not affiliated with The Emperor."

Jerry Pournelle wondered what a girl could possibly do that's worth \$4,000/night. Oh, what a straight line, but your humble Scribe is desperately trying to keep these Menace safe for family consumption, so let's just leave that where it is, OK?

There were many silly closing motions, but the ever-practical Fred Patten suggested that we simply adjourn the meeting, and so we did exactly that, at 2112.

MEETING #3684, March 20, 2008
Marcia Minsky, President
Matthew B. Tepper, Scribe

Prelude to a Meeting: President Marcia Minsky & Semi-Vice President Tadao Tomomatsu had mentioned beforehand that we would have photographers present, so anybody who didn't want to get their souls stolen would do well to hide, or to avert their eyes, or put a paper bag over their heads, or something. Thus it was we were called to order at the curious and appropriate time of 2008.

Right away we had Special Orders of Business. CL first noted the passing of one J. Kent Clark, a longtime literature professor at Caltech, who taught several S.F. writers and a lot

of fans. He also wrote funny songs – la Tom Lehrer, some of which have been sung at Loscon. His students wrote and produced a fantasy musical called “The Castle.”

But it had not been a good week for people named Clark(e), as we had also lost one of the absolute major writers in the fields of science fiction and science fact, Sir Arthur C. Clarke, aged 90. Karen Anderson, a longtime friend of Sir Arthur, spoke first. His nickname was “Ego,” and it was well-deserved, perhaps even if self-applied. “He was never known for keeping his light under a bushel.” He had been an active fan in his younger days, and came to whatever conventions he could. His interest in electronics caused him to write that famous article in *Wireless World* suggesting there might be a possible use for geosynchronous satellites in radio communications. Dr. Jerry Pournelle continued the personal reminiscences: “Arthur was a very old friend. I talked to him last Christmas. He was the world’s nicest man. I was the science correspondent for the *National Catholic Press*, and had been elected president of SFWA because I had some management experience and Poul [Anderson] had pushed me into it. So here comes the whole press corps, including Dr. Pickering, director of JPL. Arthur sees my badge, says “Hi, you’re the new president of SFWA. I’ve been reading your serial in *Analog*. It’s a very good story! Suddenly, everyone wanted to do my interview! I had a standing invitation to visit him in Sri Lanka, but I never did. I wish I had. We’ll all miss him.” Tom Locke had this to say: “I’ve been reading Arthur Clarke stories for the last fifty years, and I think he could be called a founding father of hard science fiction. I remember his stories from my early adolescence. I always enjoyed both his science and his subtle British wit that he had in so many of his stories.” Fred Patten said “Clarke was one of the first authors I ever read. The student reading club at my junior high school gave me a number of early Ballantine books, including *Expedition to Earth* and *Childhood’s End*, some of the more thoughtful science fiction books I had read at that time, when I was twelve years old.” (And as we all know, the Golden Age of Science Fiction is, in fact, twelve.) CL wrapped up the tributes for the evening by noting that the previous night on “Jeopardy!” Sir Arthur was one of the responses and the contestant got it right. He concluded by reminding us that the LASFS Library has quite an assortment of books by Sir Arthur. We observed a full minute of silence.

Marcia informed us that because of the big auction tonight, our meeting would be run on “agenda lite,” and we’d be skipping a few regular meeting items so don’t yell at me!”

Menace of the previous week’s meeting were read, almost listened to, and justifiably savaged, before they were approved as “Breastillating.”

It turned out it was the week of the year when we customarily celebrate Patron Saint Dan Deckert. So we did that. Joe Zeff said that Dan managed to remain lifetime positive at Hell by the simple expedient of playing a minimal number of games each year and quitting as soon as his score was positive. He was also the originator of the “Ayes have it” business that Joe likes so much. Milt Stevens said that Dan had been in Apa L for 500 weeks, chaired a Loscon, was President of the LASFS, married Danise (the

eldest of the delightful Cook sisters), moved due to his defense job to South Dakota, and invented chocolate. Actually, Milt didn’t really say that last one, but it rounds out the sentence, doesn’t it? Charles Lee Jackson, the Second noted that Dan was descended from two U.S. presidents, Zachary Taylor and Andrew Jackson, and so was his distant cousin. We saluted St. Dan Deckert with three cheers and a roomful of silence, because nobody could think of anything clever. Wow, like that’s a first.

Registrar Michelle Pincus looked high and low (attorneys-at-law in Beijing), and found us some guests: Alexander Barrett, whose interests include film and TV science fiction; and Sherry Ziegelmeyer, who favors *Buffy*, and old horror movies, and is a publicist.

We had our Big Auction, and auctioneers Tadao and Cathy raised a heap of cash by getting rid of lots of useless stuff. Inanimate objects, that is, not the members. When it was all over, it was getting awfully late, so after Marcia ran through the traditional “No old business” (Yay!) and “No new business” (Yay!), she called for appropriate motions. Mary Ann Canfield rose to the bait, by moving to “run screaming into the night,” and so we pretty much did that, at 2138.

MEETING #3685, March 27, 2008
Marcia Minsky, President
Matthew B. Tepper, Scribe

2010: The time the froggy spoon made contact with the head table. President Marcia Minsky wielded the spoon, and by gum she did so deliberately and with determination. It’s kind of too bad, in a way, that it was the LASFS and not some hifalutin’ corporation, but give her time, boys, give her time.

Unfortunately we had a Special Order of Business, in that Rabbi David Montag, affianced to member Clare Lasby, had passed away of natural causes at his home. Members who are in touch with Clare were urged to proffer messages of condolence.

There was no escaping a reading of *Menace* of the previous week’s meeting, and after a variety of odd suggestions, the always-reliable Fred Patten proposed one which routed all competition. Thus it was that the said *Menace* got approved as “The Giant Rat of Sri Lanka.”

Moment of Science: Karen Anderson showed off a diagram of the flight profile of the Xcor Lynx aircraft, which is intended to lead to affordable seats for rides to suborbital altitudes, perhaps beginning as soon as 2010. The craft is reusable, with liquid fuel that burns cleanly, and is intended to be used for several flights a day, “the greatest ride off earth,” in which passengers get to ride up front with the pilot,

rather than in the back like cargo. It will be capable of horizontal take off and landing, with a flight time of about thirty minutes. For further information, see <http://xcor.com>. (Note that Richard Pournelle is a vice president of Xcor.)

Reviews: George Van Wagner had ventured forth to Fry's and bought himself a Sony Reader, practically the latest in e-book technology. He strongly prefers it to Amazon.com's rival Kindle, which is more expensive and uses DRM. The competing systems use the same highly readable e-ink technology, and George finds it extremely usable, with its Linux-based OS, even though it's less than graceful with PDF files that are not already correctly sized to its page. The head table folks goshwowed over it and found it very readable. George continued, "after fifteen minutes, I totally forgot it was a piece of technology, and it felt like I was reading a real book." The battery lasts 7500 page turns, and in the three weeks he's had it so far, the power is halfway used. You can load 160 books into the stock memory, and it will keep you occupied for a good long while, all for \$299 plus the Terminator's take. He summed up calling it a really convenient way to carry a massive amount of reading material around, and gave it a big hand gesture that is trademarked by those movie critics in Chicago. (Well, you can't be too careful when these are going to be published, you know.)

Marcia reviewed *In Living Blood* by Tananarive Due (who happens to be married to another writer, Steve Barnes). It's a fascinating horror book, and Marcia highly recommends it.

Hare Hobbs was enjoying the quaintness of Ian Fleming's James Bond novel *Moonraker*, first published in 1955, calling it interesting for its period details about rockets and space travel.

Milt Stevens had seen the movie "*Mirrors*," from the Neil Gaiman story, which played as if Gaiman had set out to write *Through the Looking Glass* without any basis in Carroll and as a completely different story, a lot more sophisticated. Whiskey added that the visuals were done by Jim Henson's Creature Shop.

Larry Niven had just flown back from Israel, and boy, did he enjoy his stay! (He didn't say whether or not his arms were tired.) Israeli fandom he called "a generous bunch, smallish but intense, and they mean it when they say they learn how to read and speak English in order to read our books. Israeli publishing is kind of weird there are no reprints, so there is a thriving used book industry.

They're friendly and they love visitors, and I didn't get shot at at all." Michelle had seen "Doomsday," and said that it was not a good movie, but the last third of the movie made a great BMW commercial.

Stephen Paschke had seen "Horton Hears a Who!" and enjoyed the 3D animation, as well as the fact that they used 2D animation for inner narratives of the character's thoughts.

Faannish committee reports: Your humble Scribe played a ten-second clip of a girl or a woman, singing a line from the French folk song "Au clair de la lune" made in 1860, seventeen years before Thomas A. Edison designed his first phonograph. It turned out there had been an earlier device, called the phonautograph, made by a French inventor. Unfortunately for his place in history, he envisioned no way of playing them back. This made a nice challenge for engineers at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, who have now been able to use those wiggles to reconstruct the original sound.

There was some lively discussion. Karl Lembke had once heard of accidental recordings of sounds done in paint, and George Van Wagner suggested this was a hoax based on an episode of "Mythbusters" where the crew were unable to get results from trying to record in clay on a potter's wheel. The Scribe cited a 1991 April Fool's Day hoax of a purported recording of Chopin playing his "Minute Waltz." But this current item appears to be for real. Christian Bainbridge McGuire claimed that CERN would be using their new supercollider to analyze the beams in the Clubhouse to see if anything intelligible could be deciphered from LASFS meetings of the past. Nah, too easy.

Doug Crepeau noted that Saturn's moon Enceladus seems to have organic matter in its tiger stripes. Attempt no landings there?

This time around it was June Moffatt who suggested we adjourn to go running into the night. This eventually carried, and we stood (or ran, or waddled) adjourned at 2118 or thereabouts.



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