



DE PROFUNDIS 425



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June 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 TRIPE	2	3	4	5 LASFS Meeting	6 Open Gaming	7 Estrogen Zone
8 BoD Open House	9	10	11	12 LASFS Meeting	13 Open Gaming	14 Cinema Anime
15 Time Meddlers	16	17	18 Marketing Committee	19 LASFS Meeting	20 Open Gaming	21 CFO TSPC
22 FWEMS	23	24	25	26 LASFS Meeting	27 Prep For La-La Con	28 La-La Con
29 La-La Con	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, Manchester and Sepulveda
 Time Meddlers - 10:30 am
 TRIPE - Noon until whenever

Thursday Program Items

June 5 - Really Big Auction

June 12 - Nothing Scheduled

June 19 - Nothing Scheduled

June 26 - Filking with Lee and Barry Gold

Calendar Details

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

COLOPHON

De Profundis 425 –May 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), 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:** 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.

Letters to De Prof

I look forward to receiving De Prof each month, and never fail to learn something new and fascinating. This latest issue introduced me to the idea that “€™ is the new apostrophe. Change can be good, I know, but personally, I’m hoping this is a fad that passes quickly. The old style apostrophe is more concise, which I feel weighs heavily in its favor.

[[You know how it is with fads. I think that one both arrived and departed in one issue. Or at least, that’s what I’m hoping.--Milt Stevens]]

The menace from meeting #3685 reminded me of an X-Files episode that featured the Lazarus Bowl, a bit of pottery that was made in the presence of Jesus when he was resurrecting Lazarus. I looked up the episode date (April 30, 2000) to see where it fit on the timeline in relation to the Mythbusters episode and the 1991 April Fool’s Day Chopin hoax. As I continued to look around the internet, I found several other examples of sound captured in either pottery or pant brush strokes.

The earliest fictional instance I found was a pottery example in a 1979 short story by Gregory Benford called “Time Shards.”

Surprisingly, I also found a reference to a letter written by Richard G. Woodbridge III and published in the *Proceedings of the IEEE* (August 1969, pp145-146, in which he describes both methods of potential recording from antiquity. It is not entirely clear whether he was presenting the idea as humor or for serious consideration.

Rick Young

I note a comment in De Profundus about the necessity of protecting the service mark of Loscon(R) or ®. Shouldn’t such comments include the circled “R” ?

[[The knowers of such things tell me I don’t have to include the ®.or any other special mark for a service mark. This saves me from a possibly long trip through extended ascii looking for the symbol.-- Milt Stevens]]

George H Scithers

Ed Green Resigns Special Election Scheduled

Because of conflict with work, Ed Green has resigned from the LASFS Board of Directors. Ed has been getting more film work in the recent past, and much of that work is done on weekends. This has created conflicts with the second Sunday Board meetings. Ed regrets that he has to resign, but work is sometimes necessary in order to pay the rent.

A Special Election will be held on Thursday, July 17 to fill the vacant position on the Board.

Really Big Auction Thursday, June 5

Gasp at the incredible array of flotsam and jetsam. OK, so don’t gasp. Just bring money and be prepared to part with it. One third of the club’s budget comes from doing this sort of thing. A list of items to be sold is on the LASFS LiveJournal.

Next LAFA Filksing

Saturday, June 21, 7 pm
Pooh Bear Lair, Harry, Mara and Madeline Brener
325 Sharon Road, Arcadia, CA 91006 626/447-1664
Pre-filk dinner at 5 pm. Tasty Choice (626) 286-3338

For Further LAFA Information
Contact Lee and Barry Gold
(310) 306-7456
email: 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, April 13, 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), Mike Thorsen, Elayne Pelz, Arlene Satin

Absent: Ed Green (excused for work)

Others Attending: Marcia Minsky, Anne Morrell, Marty Cantor, Mike Donahue, Sherri Benoun, Tony Benoun, Joyce Sperling, Michael Pell, Greg Bilan, Heide Nichols, Lee Gold, Barry Gold, Vanessa Van Wagner, Rob Powell, Ed Hooper, Christian McGuire, John DeChance.

Meeting called to order at 11:16

Minutes: Approved as presented.

New Members: Wendy Wiseman of Los Angeles, Paul D. Wirtz of Brea

Treasurer: As of Feb 1, we have \$82,208.03. We have our Westercon service mark back.

SCIFI has paid for the library storage unit for the year. Cinema Anime, acting through Brett Achorn, donated the cost of maintaining our MPLC blanket license.

30 second reports

Chairman: Agendas were sent out.

Vice-chair: No news on keys, archives.

Resolution has been upped on pubs computer. There is now a backup person who has the password to the root user maintenance account.

Secretary: The By-laws subcommittee needs to have one more meeting to review and finalize proposed changes before presenting them to the Board for review before submitting them to the membership.

Comptroller: Did an informal audit and went over taxes with the procedural treasurer. Working on a document of "how to be a comptroller". Spoke to Loscon about submitting their budget into the record for the Board's information next month.

Library: Hugo nominees have been purchased.

Physical Plant: Work party took place, another work party set up, ceiling done, batteries being changed.

Committee to Shoot the LASFS: "Most Wanted" poster is now hanging. There will be another photo day scheduled in the near future. Date will be announced in De Prof.

AV Equipment: Little change from last month's report. George is researching what equipment is needed.

Quartermaster: 6,327 sodas sold to date, total sales to date \$3,619. In the past nine weeks we have sold 816 sodas, income of \$621.25. Sales were down a bit, so Second Sunday food quantities have been somewhat reduced, but this month is up over last month - probably a climate issue.

Publications: Len and June Moffatt's photo collection is being scanned.

Events:

Loscon 34: Turned over \$10,500 to the LASFS treasurer.

Loscon 35: Meeting on Saturday, April 26. Expanded website should be up soon.

Diamond Anniversary Committee: Next meeting has been scheduled. We have a preliminary logo for the event and the beginning of a contact list of possible donors.

LaLaCon: Is on.

Still no bids for Westercon.

Fundraising and Recruitment: An online company called Goodstorm sells merchandise for non-profits. Similar to Cafe Press. We provide the designs, select product mix and set prices, people buy the merchandise, they ship the merchandise, we get a percentage (amount of percentage set by us). We would solicit original art specifically for this purpose. Several club and Board members expressed a concern about having appropriate legal releases from the artists. Funding would be required to secure the services of an attorney.

Video Librarian: No report.

Marketing Committee Report: We received an email asking if we want to send any handouts to Comic-con. We can send bookmarks.

A partial mock-up of the marketing webpage. This webpage is intended to house press kits, current flyers and other promotional materials.

Book Fair: donated decorations (of reasonable size) for the booth are being requested.

Procedural President: Programming items: April 24th, monster mask demonstration by Heide Nichols, May 1st, big auction.

Agenda Items:

Budget Review: Requested a total budget increase of \$900 to be distributed to the following categories: Admin: \$150 added, raising it \$400 to cover the rest of the year. This is a catch-all category that includes stamps, bank fees, assorted stuff.

Insurance: Legal: \$250 added to legal to cover cost of consultation on artist's licenses for promotional items. Board approved the budget increase.

Treasurer wanted the following reminder minuted: "Please remember the reason why we auction crap is because one-third of our budget is donations to this club. The way we get donations is people bring us crap and we auction it." Non-auction donations are negligible.

The possibility of auctioning off the right to not have an auction was considered.

Nebula Weekend: Milt has negotiated a contract with the San Pedro Doubletree on the Cabrillo Marina for the last weekend of April 2009. Basic outline of contract is \$139 sleeping rooms, 250 room nights. \$10,000 food and beverages between Nebula banquet and cocktail reception. SFWA President Michael Capobianco's name is on the contract. There is no expenditure by LASFS. Recommended charge is \$125 for SFWA members, \$150 for non-members. This would give break—even at about 200 people. Budget at that level would be about \$25,000, which should be adequate funds for hospitality suite. SFWA would take care of the balloting and fabrication of the Nebula awards and a single track of programming for Friday and Saturday of the weekend. LASFS would take care of registration, doing the hospitality suite, membership badges, and a program publication. Milt will recruit four or five people to do the registration and hospitality and will probably do the program publication and name badge himself. He will look at past programs to get an idea of what is expected.

Christian notes that he recently spoke to Mike Wuneth(?) and Lee Whiteside of Arizona who had recently been through this experience. They advised being very clear about what was expected, that it would cost nothing except a good deal of sweat. (Possibly ten or twelve people will be needed rather than four or five. It was recommended that we be very clear about SFWA's expectations. Liz Mortensen ran the hospitality suite in the past and could probably offer useful suggestions. Board moved to approve with one abstention.

Insurance: It was pointed out that for our insurance to cover rebuilding cost at 21st century prices, we would need to increase the amount of **insurance** we carried. \$500 was added to the budget for this purpose, bringing the insurance line to \$4000.

Telephone: We currently pay \$1200 a year to have a telephone because we pay at a business rate. Elayne is researching less expensive options including ones that come bundled with DSL access. Another option would be a cell phone kept secured in the library.

Lights in Back Room: it was moved to replace/upgrade the ceiling light fixtures under the area used for storage. The company that did the drop ceiling has given Elayne a quote of \$4,000 or less.

Clubhouse Remodel: Mike Donahue presented a plan to expand the clubhouse by putting a second story on the front building. Can build up to 5,000 square feet, (up from approx. 2400 currently) keeping the same parking and other city requirements. Would be like a carport - new post and beam construction. Library and computer room would go into the new upstairs, which would be handicapped accessible. There would be possible storage space under stairs. Construction timeframe estimate from contractors is 2 or 3 months. It might be possible to build without closing down front building entirely except for a week or two.

This construction would not overhang the shared easement on the west side of the building. Might block truck access on east side. Billboard income would be lost. Mike has been getting bids from contractors. People he has talked to are quoting \$90 - \$100 per square foot, roughly broken down as: foundation: \$6000, frameout \$30,000, roof \$10,000 - \$12,000, new electric service \$10,000, stairs, "couple of thousand apiece". At that point, finishing costs come in. Putting in a bathroom would be another 30,000. Since finishing is the most expensive part of a project like this, we can keep costs down by going for fewer windows and doors, basic materials, et cetera. There would be additional costs in insurance, utilities, taxes. More space would make larger membership possible because there would be more social space for conversation, gaming, etc.

Overall economic conditions for the construction are currently favorable. However, it was pointed out that we would be committing not only to the financing and fundraising (35 - 40% increase in annual budget, going from 22,000 per year to make our nut to 30,000 per year), but also to serious recruitment efforts to justify the expenditure.

There would be no expenditures until we are ready to have actual plans drawn up. Before committing to any construction, we should also take a look at moving to another location. Board moved to thank Mike for the legwork done in researching this and ask him to go on with the next step, which would be talking to two or three contractors, hearing their ideas. If one of them seems good and affordable, Mike will have him draw up a sketch which he will bring back to the Board for consideration.

Website Interim Report: Interim webmaster distributed a "how to help the webmaster help you" handout. Email bounces are working. "To do" list has shrunk from 25 to 14 pages. There are plans to develop a content management system alternate website that would allow users to click back and forth to the regular website, and also to develop a different, better site map and put it as a second skin, with the information exactly the same. The design that is being developed for the marketing committee page could possibly be used for the rest of the site.

It was suggested that the alternate site map previously distributed be considered. The suggestion that a non-club member be hired to handle the website was once again brought up. the person Brett had consulted for information recommended hiring a maintenance person for a set number of hours per month, with an hourly rate for time beyond that. \$200 for 10 hours, \$25 per hour if you need more. 20 -25 per hour is a good rate for basic maintenance. Also had suggestions for finding someone on Craigslist. For a complete re-design, we would need to solicit bids and do more research on costs.

It was mentioned that since we've never finalized what we want the website to be, we can't decide how to go forward, though not deciding is also a decision. Marketing believes it is being held back by the delay in figuring out direction for the website and that dynamic content that encourages repeat visitors is needed. 10 year plan called for expansion of outreach and recruitment and there are Board members who

feel that the website should support that. Mike Donahue mentions that in his research with contractors he received positive feedback about our website, and Elayne reports that two new members found us via the website (though they didn't specify whether it was the lasfs.org site, LiveJournal, MySpace, or other site that brought them in). Chair will schedule a meeting to have an extended conversation about what we want to accomplish with the website.

Network Solution has Chaz Boston-Baden listed as the contact person. It was suggested that we consolidate all our domain registrations with one company and have a consistent contact person for all our domains.

Open Forum: No takers this month.

Take-Aways:

Comptroller requests a copy of the Loscon finances

George and the By-laws committee will report next month

Arlene is looking into the merchandising fundraiser and artists' release form

Milt is working on the Nebula Awards Weekend

Elayne is going to look into changing phone service and upgrade of light fixtures

Mike is finding information as part of the Upper Space Committee

karl will convene a meeting on the website

Barry and George will facilitate the transfer/consolidation of domains.

Adjourned: The Meeting adjourned at 1:26 pm.

Meeting #3686, April 3, 2008

Marcia Minsky, President

Matthew B. Tepper, Scribe

It was the traditional 2010 when President Marcia Minsky called the usual gang of fans to the traditional semblance of order. Semi-Vice President

Tadao Tomomatsu had one Special Order of Business: Michael Mason's father David had passed away on Saturday, either from a heart attack or aneurism. The funeral was on Tuesday, and both Tadao and Christian McGuire had attended on behalf of the club. The Scribe was directed to send a condolence card to the family, and will do so when provided with an address.

Menace of the previous week's meeting were read, that is, after some discussion of the meeting number, and were ultimately corrected and approved as "And LASFS said ... Let there be light!"

It was time to honor our week's Patron Saints. First, Chuck Donahue II. Milt Stevens pointed out that Chuck was a former

LASFS President, quite a good card player, and had served in the US Marine Corps. Sandy Cohen said that Chuck had taken up playing bridge and attained a professional level. Hare Hobbs reminded us that Chuck and Mark Poliner are the reasons we have a ban on clothing reviews during the Thursday night meetings. Nick Smith said Chuck has a huge collection of animé and manga, and Michelle Pincus called him "an awfully nice guy." We gave St. Chuck Donahue II three cheers, "and no two bid."

Our other Saint was Tom Stern. Christian said Tom loves to wear Disney-related clothing, but maybe it's just that he's a member of some Mickey Mouse outfit. Sandy said Tom had been a fan a lot longer than most of us realize, because he had first been active in comics fandom. He was the one who had caused 400 rocket ship cookies to be shipped to Canada for our Worldcon bid, and he had the good sense to marry Marina, a registered nurse. We awarded St. Tom Stern three cheers "and a Mickey Mouse watch."

Registrar Michelle Pincus introduced us to Chris Johnston of Los Angeles, who found out about us on the club's website. The fees turned out to be a lot cheaper than he had feared, and he professed an interest in hard science fiction (not the easy stuff).

Treasurer Elayne Pelz had no report tonight, because she was off on a cruise. It took a few seconds for that to sink in. So we still can't spend the money ... and now we know why!

Moment of Science: Michelle said Karen Anderson was up at Death Valley to look at the stars, so that's why she's not here. Michelle read a newspaper article, for which the executive summary is that Japanese and Chinese mission control managers say their various space projects are working very well.

Committee Reports: CLJ reported the Recommended Video List will soon be posted on the Club's website, so he's looking for updates and other suggestions. If you have any, see him.

We had a Money Gouge with auctioneers Tadao, Christian, Cathy, the kilted Mike Sheffield, and a special "guest auctioneer" Ann Totušek, who had flown here all the way from Iowa for some unfathomable reason. The items on offer included two issues of Mad, complete with a plastic bag "for the prevention of disease" (at least, according to CL). Christian said the next big auction will be on May First, so bring some real money, because there will be some bigish stuff available. Tadao won't be around for the occasion, but stick around, as the reason will be revealed later on in these Menace.

CL explained the drawing on the whiteboard, depicting a stick figure with a brush mustache in front of a portrait of himself containing a portrait of himself, and so on. This was Ed Buchman's version of Stephen Colbert's famous portrait, which is now on display in the Smithsonian. "If you put a hooked nose on him, of course, he becomes Joe Stalin." Does that mean he has Georgia on his mind?

The delightful Ann Totušek promoted Demicon, an annual Des Moines fanfest which she co-chairs, coming up the first

weekend in May. Pro Guests of Honor are Steve Barnes and Tananarive Due, with, wait for it, Tadao Tomomatsu as Toastmaster. Aha! The reason is revealed!

Meeting #3687, April 10, 2008
Marcia Minsky, President
Matthew B. Tepper, Scribe

Reviews: Robert Janson reviewed *The Road to Reality: A Complete Guide to the Laws of the Universe*, by Roger Penrose, all about the present cosmological model. "If you think you're smart, read it, and when you're done you won't think so at all."

The Committee for the Preservation of Jerry Pournelle said that his healthcare providers had finished the round of treatments for his brain tumor, and said he hopes they got all of it, even though his symptoms have been weird. But he thinks the prognosis is good for his eventual recovery, and there are no further tumors evident; in other words, good news so far. (He had played hooky from us the previous week because his daughter, formerly a captain in US Army intelligence, was in town and he was having dinner with her.)

Nick Smith liked Cat Richardson's *Greywalker*, about an undead detective, saying it "does a nice blending of fantasy and detective genres in an urban environment." There is a sequel called *Poltergeist*, which CL thought was "about dead chickens." A poultry error, to be sure.

CL said he was able to use the time spent on public transport to reacquaint himself with the Matt Helm adventures by the late Donald Hamilton, "literally reading these books to pieces. They are very well conceived and well written, although there is some harshness in them and people tend to die interestingly." He also counter-challenged Dr. Pournelle's challenge that they're not science fiction.

Marcia had a review of the operating system Ubuntu Live (a flavor of Linux) from a free CD brought in the previous week by Stephen Paschke; it turned out to be fortuitous, and she is enjoying using its word processor in preference to Word for Windows. There were a few bumps in the road, such as the fact that it would not support her Lexmark printer. That gave her the opportunity to help boost the economy by buying a new printer. "I Love Linux," she concluded, as CL hummed a variant of a certain old TV theme.

Guest Chris Johnston said that the Universal HD channel was going to start a new showing of "Firefly," in high definition, so check your listings.

Amazingly, there were no Faanish Committee Reports, which is almost a Faanish Committee Report in itself. But we did have some Miscellany, as Hare expressed his enjoyment of Barbara Hambly's January books, even though they're not science fiction or fantasy, but still an interesting historical series. CL had some antique technology to give away, a Gemini X-10 dot matrix printer. Yes, but are there drivers to let it work with Ubuntu Live?

Marcia said there was no program this evening, and the ever-witty CL moved that we go to Oregon or Iowa or someplace. We finally stood (or ran) adjourned, at 2129.

President Marcia Minsky calmly wielded the froggy spoon of power, as so many times before, to call the LASFS to some kind of (hah!) order at 2012.

Amazingly, the previous week's *Menace* were read and approved as ... read. That's right, no corrections, although a sharp-eyed person spotted an error of fact upon publication of that set on LiveJournal. Your humble Scribe is not responsible for reality, but in the interest of Truth has abused his authority in order to sneak that correction in, and finding it is left as an exercise for the reader.

Special Presentation: Mahhtin Young made a dramatic reading, accompanied by Marc Schirmeister's "real-time animation" on the whiteboard (actually on-the-spot cartooning), of *At the Mountains of Murkiness*, a somewhat Lovecraftian piece of fan fiction by the late Arthur C. Clarke, written for a British fanzine as far back as 1939. (It even contained a reference to Alexander Mosolov's "The Steel Foundry," which nobody but your humble Scribe seems to have noticed, let alone found hilarious.) (The Scribe's favorite line: "I say 'face to face,'" but actually we were the only ones with faces.)

The week's sole Patron Saint was Elliot Weinstein, M.D., better known in the fannish community as Elst. Milt said Elst has always been fond of hoaxes and other silliness, and his most famous accomplishment was the Hogu Awards Ranquet, traditionally held at a McDonald's or other "casual dining" eatery. This was in response to the official Hugo Awards banquets, which were viewed as too expensive; and ironically, those banquets have gone the way of the dodo. Elst also founded Friends of Klingon, an idea which seems to have grown somewhat over the years, and published a massive tome of silliness, "Glyer & Weinstein's Hoax-A-Rama." Charles Lee Jackson, the Second added: "Elliot Steven Weinstein has the distinction of being the person connected with science fiction who created a true religion which does not take money from people accosted on the street," referring to Herbangelism, based on the comic book character Herbie Popnecker. "His childlike, or even childish, qualities have served him in good stead for his real job, which is that of a pediatrician." Hare Hobbs said that Elst was the first one to get him to volunteer. Christian McGuire noted that Elst and Keith Kato have their respective wine & cheese party and chili party at Loscons. We awarded St. Elst three cheers "and a happy meal." "And a portrait of Auric Goldfinger, whom he happens to look exactly like."

Registrar Michelle Pincus had combed the building using calipers and a Geiger counter, and announced the sad result – we had no guests! Something really must be done about this.

We did have a Moment of Science, delivered by the perspicacious Karen Anderson. Planets which may be analogues of Jupiter and Saturn have been observed orbiting a star about 5,000 light years away. "Kind of a scaled-down version of our solar system," she noted. Dr. Martin Dominik of St. Andrews University is hoping to be able to find habitable

planets for humankind. Ed Hooper said today there had also been an announcement of what may be the smallest extrasolar planet yet detected, about 50% larger than Earth.

Appointive Committee Reports: Arlene Satin said that yesterday's auditions for the adult and children's reading programs had been a big success. She is still waiting to find out exactly which Monday in June the Library will schedule the first reading, but she hoped to have flyers for us when she does. See her or Tadao if you're interested in helping out.

A Moneygouge consisted of the usual quasi-fannish oddments, plus a couple of very good seats for a Dodger game. Strangely enough, Ed Hooper did not bid on that.

Announcements: Hare Hobbs said that Terry Pratchett, recently diagnosed with early onset of Alzheimer's, has donated \$1,000,000 (£500,000) for Alzheimer's research, and the "Match It for Pratchett" website is urging us regular Joes and Josettes to contribute matching funds.

Bill Ellern said that Book Expo 2008 would run at the Convention Center in downtown L.A., May 29th through June 1st. He and Anne Morell call it their "Annual Festival of Greed," on account of all of the freebies available there. The cost is \$125, but "if you cannot pick up \$125 worth of books in the first hour you are there, you are somewhat defective."

Bill Ellern returned, and jointly with CL stole Bob Null's regular announcement that kosher-for-Passover Coke can now found at many area Ralphs markets. The 2-liter bottles with the yellow cap indicate the sweetening is done with sucrose instead of corn syrup, so get them while you can, because they only make this one batch every year. CL has heard speculations that the price of corn (which you call maize) may influence some manufacturers to go back to sucrose anyway.

Amazingly, we had no reviews! And we would have gotten away with having no Faanish Committee Reports either, except that your humble Scribe said that Ann Totusek had so enjoyed the meeting last week that she called from Des Moines just to say "Hi!" to the club, and the club said "Hi!" back.

We nearly got away with no Miscellaneous, except that Frank Waller said he had "stuff and car shows." Isn't there an over-the-counter remedy for that now? He added that Charles Chips, his longtime employer, had had many owners in recent years and would probably be going out of business soon, but he was hoping to remain in the business himself somehow.

By this time, things were so ridiculous that we simply could not continue in the same way, so CL made a "Motion to Rob Cole to Pay Paul." It passed, and as if in reply, Marcia swung the froggy spoon of justice at 2126, and hordes of LASFS members escaped screaming into the night. (Because most of them could read numbers.)

Meeting #3688, April 17, 2008
Marcia Minsky, President
Matthew B. Tepper, Scribe

President Marcia Minsky surveyed the room and said, "are we all in our places with sunshiny faces?" After a few muttered

responses, she swung the mighty Spoon of Joy to call us to order at 2013.

Menace: These were read and finally approved, without corrections (gisp!) as "At the meeting of murkiness." CL, who had expressed his preference for another title, coolly said, "I'll hold up the headline that says 'Fraud at Polls!'" Interestingly, this was not a reference to that well-known former resident of Warsaw, Roman Totenberg.

The Patron Saint for the evening was Stan Burns. Len Moffatt did the honors: "I can't remember exactly when Stan came to club [and here June suggested, 1964], and he was doing a paper on S.F. fans. He came here to study us and wound up joining us. He's worked as a photographer, and a camera repairman, and he went back to school recently and got a teaching degree. We saw him at the paperback show last month. He's also active in mystery story fandom, and is a member of Dapa-Em." We exulted in a lusty three cheers "and a sociology term paper."

Substitute Registrar Arline Satin had checked under the couch cushions and in between the stacked chairs, but found no guests, so that was that.

Treasurer Elayne Pelz was here and accepting payments of dues, but she had no treasurer's report, but Marcia assumed the club still has money. Sandy Cohen tartly noted "She was on a vacation, so we're not sure at the moment."

Old Business had we none. New Business: Marcia read a statement: "It was brought before the Board of Directors, during budget discussions that over 1/3 of our income comes into the club by way of donations. This money is garnered by auction of those items donated to the club." Presumably this was read to the membership as a reminder that more donations are always welcome.

Announcements: Mahhtin Young relayed that Ryan Nichols of the SF & Philosophy conference is looking for SF stories with ethical considerations. Marty Cantor suggested a consultation with Mr. Memory, a/k/a Marty Massoglia, who could rattle off titles until you beg him to stop. Marcia read a note from "Bucky the Robot" (actually Nick Smith) to the effect that Fahrenheit 451 is being staged soon, and old-time LASFS member Ray Bradbury himself will be at one performance, on Saturday.

Reviews: Maahtin: "Darkon," a 2006 documentary that is apparently getting wider release, about a group of live-action role-players in the Baltimore area. This is being pitched as humorous, but he found it touching and encouraging and hopeful, a very fair movie about a group of monthly gamers who role-play and have a heroic attitude and "live large." He doesn't have time to do that himself, but he admires them for being able to do that. He added, "Most of the people who laugh at them are the kind of people who sit in bleachers week after week watching other people do stuff."

He also reviewed the Cal State Fullerton Philosophy Symposium, saying that a lot of the papers were very accessible. He likes being able to hear arguments that are logically bad so that he can mock them. No wonder he's in

fandom! One paper was by Greg Benford, treating global warming as an engineering issue. The last paper was, "Are we living in a computer simulation?" (CL cautioned against use of what he called "the Jackie Gleason argument: 'Homina homina homina!')"

Timon also had a review of a newish documentary picture: "King of Kong: A Fistful of Quarters." It's about an attempt to beat a Donkey Kong record, which he felt actually became interesting for the conflict involved. Don Wenner said that iconic filmmaker Ray Harryhausen has embraced the formerly odious practice of film colorization. He has had his earlier films thus enhanced to his satisfaction, and is now planning to do the same for other people's movies. Don likes the results. The dead hand of Orson Welles hasn't been heard from yet. Nor have the still-living bowing and fingering hands of Roman Totenberg.

We had, amazingly, no Miscellaneous! Marcia said there was no program, either, so we would basically be on our own for socializing and/or entertainment. Next week, Heide Nichols will present, "How to make a monster face with makeup." She had been scheduled to do this before, but life intervened, so now she's going to do a makeup program of her makeup program. The ever-watchful Fred Patten took the welcome opportunity to make a motion that we adjourn, and we did so, at 2052.

Meeting #3689, April 24, 2008
Marcia Minsky, President
Matthew B. Tepper, Scribe

President Marcia Minsky was in no mood to waste time, and rapped the Spoon of Perseverance to call us to order at 2011. There were no Special Orders of Business this week. Hare Hobbs asked, "Have they stopped dying?" CL replied, "no, they stopped telling me." Previous week's Menace were subsequently read and approved (without corrections, again!) as "Roman Totenberg, where are you?"

This week was the time to honor Patron Saint Bill Warren. Sandy Cohen said he would be having brunch with him on Saturday, indicating that he's still alive and kicking. Billybond is still doing film reviews for Audio Revolution Online (and wife Beverly has retired). He has been a film reviewer for decades, and produced the seminal book on the topic, Keep Watching the Skies! After Bill Rotsler died, Billybond compiled several issues of Masque for him posthumously, with monies received going to SCIFI to fund the Bill Rotsler Award, and is still giving out Rotsler illos to faneds upon request. Marty Cantor said that Bill had been Lord High Janitor at our previous building back around 1975. Bill used to contribute to Apa L, but has since gotten away from the fannish things as a lot of other people have, but none of this has detracted from his career. CL said Bill has been working on the 2nd edition of Keep Watching, revising it heavily because he has been able to see lots of movies previously unviewed before the days of VHS and DVDs. In fact, FWEMS' Summer Festival will be a tribute to the book. Scott Beckstead said that he ran a BBS 'way back in the late 80s called "Paradise Alley," and Bill was one of his frequent users. "He always had something to say," added Scott, "Always." We awarded St. Bill Warren three cheers "and a Hawaiian shirt with Gorts on it."

Registrar Michelle Pincus had joyous news: We had a guest! He was David Parker, an animé lover, and "geekdom is what encouraged him to visit us." He likes science fiction and fantasy, is a gamer and a media fan, and his occupation is that of city clerk.

Marcia read a report from Treasurer Elayne Pelz to the effect that we have \$93,649.20 all told, but let's not spend it right now. Perhaps there's a ceiling on our spending?

For the Moment of Science, Michelle returned and read an excerpt from an article actually written by Karen. Ken Fraser, editor of Skeptical Inquirer, had written asking Poul for an article about the late Sir Arthur C. Clarke. Karen wrote back tactfully informing him, "Poul is dead." "Well, that explains why I haven't heard from him."

Committee Reports: Librarian Vanessa Van Wagner showed off a few newly-acquired books, including Lynd Ward's God's Man. (Your humble Scribe waxed enthusiastic about this wonderful "novel in woodcuts," having learned about it from, of all people, Fritz Leiber's first wife Jonquil.)

Committee to Gouge Money out of the LASFS: An auction that was very short was performed by Cathy Beckstead, who was very enthusiastic. We moved the three parking spaces (a nice trick in itself), two of which went to Bill Ellern for \$30 each and the third to President Marcia Minsky for \$25; and the selection of May's Soda of the Month went to David Parker, who paid \$15 for the privilege of selecting Propel, the sports drink.

Announcements: CL had written on the whiteboard a URL relating to this weekend's Corflu, thanks to the tech skills of Bill Mills. Bill Mills' tech skills? How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if the woodchuck were Chuck Crayne? Whatever. Whiskey asked for an explanation of Corflu, and CL described the substance as once used by faneds, its name now adopted for what is essentially a fanzine fan's convention. Joe Zeff heard from Marty Cantor that a guest of honor is selected at random from among the attendees.

Reviews: CL had enjoyed revisiting the 1961 TV series "Diver Dan," with marionette fishes as characters, originally shown as part of "Sheriff John's Lunch Brigade"; it had a strong storyline, and included Suzanne Turner as Miranda the Mermaid. Vol. 1 cost him 99¢, so he would be delighted to find more at that price.

Miscellaneous: Karl Lembke had a work story, which gets kind of interesting when you're a water quality tester for the DWP. It seems that there was bromine contamination, and so while reservoirs were emptied, somebody had the bright idea that it also might be a good time to clean out the gunk, a task which went much faster than originally expected. "If the Harbor Freeway winds up being washed up into the L.A. River," quoth Carl, "you'll know what happened."

CL "moved to disembowel," which idea was not well received by the crowd, which largely went "ugh." Karl moved to table that motion until after we adjourned, and then moved to adjourn, so we did so, at 2101.

La-La Con the 14th
June 28-29, 2008
at the LASFS Clubhouse
Fan Frolic
Chili Cookoff. Banquet
Auction
Admission \$20
Banquet \$6 Extra



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