



# DE PROFUNDIS 429



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

## October 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2 LASFS Meeting	3 Open Gaming	4 Estrogen Zone
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12 BoD Open House	13	14	15 Marketing Committee	16 LASFS Meeting	17 Open Gaming	18 CFO TSPC
19 Time Meddlers	20	21	22	23 LASFS Meeting	24 Open Gaming	25
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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 - None This Month  
 BoD - 11 am, gaming starts at 2 pm  
 Cinema Anime - 1 pm until it ends

### Thursday Program Items

October 2 - Forry Award Voting

October 9 - What Have You Been Reading Lately?

October 16 - Major Auction

October 23 - TBA

October 30 - Tom Safer Presents Halloween Cartoons

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## COLOPHON

*De Profundis* 429 –September 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](http://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](mailto: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

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#### Elected Procedural Officers

**President:** Mike Thorsen. **Vice-President:** Maryann Canfield - Rob Powell (tag team). **Scribe:** Matthew Tepper. **Treasurer:** Elayne Pelz. **Registrar:** Michelle Pincus.

#### 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.

### Board of Directors

**Chairman:** Karl Lembke (2009). **Vice-Chairman:** Merlin R. "Bob" Null (2009), **Comptroller:** Bill Ellern (2008). **Secretary:** Darnell Coleman (2008). **Other members:** Christian McGuire (2008), Marsha Minsky (2009), Elayne Pelz (2008), Tadao Tomomatsu (2009), Arlene Satin (2010), Milt Stevens, (2010), Mike Thorsen (2010, Tadao Tomomatsu (2009).

**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:** Christian McGuire Program: George Van Wagner, Readings: Vanessa Van Wagner.

### De Profundis By E-mail

We would like to send you your copy of *De Profundis* by e-mail. It would save the club money and maybe a few trees too. In order to change from receiving *De Profundis* by mail to by e-mail, just provide your e-mail address to our treasurer, Elayne Pelz, and tell her you want the change.

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## Special BoD Election

Darnell Coleman and Christian McGuire were elected to the LASFS Board of Directors at the special election which was held August 21. This filled the two seats which were vacated by the resignations of Brett Achorn and George Van Wagner.

## Autumn Party

The traditional LASFS Autumn will be held at the LASFS Clubhouse on the evening of Friday, October 31. This will replace the usual Friday Open House for that week.

## New Books At The Library

*Farewell Summer* by Ray Bradbury

*Scientists and Scoundrels: a Book of Hoaxes* by Robert Silverberg

*Dragons of Babel* by Michael Swanwick

*Ultimate Encyclopedia of Fantasy* David Pringle, ed.,  
forward by Terry Pratchett

*By Schism Rent Asunder* by David Weber

*Batmobile Owner's Manual* by Mike McAvennie

*Kirby, King of Comics* by Mark Evanier

*Thursday Next: First Among Equals* by Jasper Fforde

*Saturn's Children* by Charles Stross

*Little Brother* by Cory Doctorow

*Rude Astronauts* by Allen Steele

*Nebula Awards Showcase 2008* Ben Bova, ed.

*Eclipse One* Jonathan Strahan, ed.

*Deluge* by Anne McCaffery and Elizabeth Ann Scarborough

*Batman: The Dark Knight Returns* by Frank Miller and Klaus Janson

*Trial of Flowers* by Jay Lake

*Wastelands: Stories of the Apocalypse* John Joseph Adams,  
ed.

*SFWA European Hall of Fame* James and Kathryn Morrow, eds.

*Year's Best Science Fiction Collection Twenty-Fifth Annual*  
Gardner Dozois, ed.

*Sorcery & Cecelia or The Enchanted Chocolate Pot* by Patricia  
C. Wrede and Carolin Stevermer

*Baltimore, or The Steadfast Tin Soldier and the Vampire* by  
Mike Mignola and Christopher Golden

## Next LAFA Filksing

Saturday, October 18, 2008, 7 pm

Hosts: Terry Brisse;  
8515 Penfield Av.  
Winnetka, CA 91306  
(818) 361-6737

For Further LAFA Information  
Contact Lee and Barry Gold  
(310) 306-7456  
email [barrydgold@ca.rr.com](mailto:barrydgold@ca.rr.com)  
or [lee.gold@ca.rr.com](mailto:lee.gold@ca.rr.com)

## Letter to De Prof

Two comments on De Profundis # 428:

Someone seemed to think the march, "Colonel Bogey" inappropriate for an American celebration. But when I was at West Point (1946-1950), the band played it regularly at parades.

Someone else remarked having heard the Tolkien estate got nothing from the recent Lord of the Rings movies. Whether this is true, I do not know. However, Tolkien's hardcover publishers mishandled matters so badly that he lost copyright for the book in the U.S. It's also possible that the estate sold all movie rights some years ago. Years ago, Don Wollheim told me that Tolkien's problem was that he did not have as tough an agent as he should have had. He also told me that when Ace Books, under Wollheim, made a voluntary gift in lieu of royalties, the amount was greater than what Tolkien had received from all other publishers.

George H Scithers

## CONDENSED CREAM OF MENACE

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

**LASFS Board of Directors**  
**Sunday, July, 12, 2008**  
**Karl Lembke, Presiding**  
**George Van Wagner, Secretary**

**Attending:** 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

**Others Attending:** Joyce Sperling, Michael Pell, Michelle Pincus, Greg Bilan, Marty Cantor, Vanessa Van Wagner, Mike Donahue, Anne Morrell, Sherri Benoun, Tony Benoun, Frank

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Waller, Joe Zeff, Darnell Coleman, Fred Lazelle, Jeni Burr, John DeChancie, Scott Tygett, Ed Hooper.

Meeting called to order at 11:14 am.

**Minutes: Approved as corrected.**

**New Members: None.**

**Treasurer:** We have money. Can we spend it? No.

### **30 second reports**

**Chairman:** Agenda has been distributed.

**Vice-chair:** Pubs computer is working. No developments on archives or key committee this month.

**Secretary:** Minutes were distributed. No developments on archives. Tadoa adds that he went through most of the Loscon and LaLaCon archives and began work on reorganizing them.

**Comptroller:** The comptroller distributed "How to be a comptroller," meant to be an evolving document. A copy is attached at the end of these minutes.

Moved with one abstention to add to the standing rules of the Board of Directors that the comptroller should not be granted signing authority for LASFS accounts or LOSCON or any financial accounts that the club may hold.

**Library:** Books have been purchased and a new volunteer has been recruited.

**Physical plant:** No developments on building projects. Some items in the clubhouse have been disturbed - posters moved, shelves rearranged, boxes missing - presumably by members who are trying to assist in some way. Tadao and the procedural president are working on a "please stop helping" announcement to be made to the general membership.

The issue of the neighbor and the lemon tree has come up again. Moved, with two opposed and two abstaining, to approach the neighbor with the following proposal: since the branches overhanging his property are his responsibility, he is free to have them cut to his satisfaction. We are willing to arrange to have the branches cut and send him the bill, but since he doesn't want us on the property, that could be problematic. Which solution does he prefer?

**AV Equipment:** There appeared to have been issued with the DVD player. AV server needs to be setup but requires an internet connection to grab the correct drivers. George is working on this problem.

**Quartermaster:** Supplies are okay. Vacuum cleaner will need servicing soon. Vending machine: in the last 8 weeks, we've sold 531 units, \$398. Totals to date: 7,720 units, \$4677

**Publications:** No developments on De Profundis.

Website: Barry submitted a report

Rights to various domains: Scott Beckstead renewed rights to lasfs.org through 2010. Chaz Boston-Baden has rights to lasfs.info, which is due for renewal in November. The main site is now at lasfsinc.info and is using the Joomla content management system. 4 people have administrative rights. 27 people have signed up as site users. Club officers are encouraged to sign up and start posting.

The chair expressed a concern about the proliferation of alternate websites for the club. Eventually we'll need to consolidate registrations and have one contact person.

The "old" website at lasfs.org has a note directing visitors to lasfsinc.info. The live site may be moved back to lasfs.org once the registration situation is sorted out.

**Events:** The board position responsible for events is vacant until September.

Joyce sent a report on Loscon 35: alive and well and right on schedule. As of June 30 we have 470 members, which is on par with previous years. A postcard mailing is in the works. Next meetings are July 26 and August 31.

No developments on Loscon 36. LaLaCon is still in abeyance.

75th Anniversary: Theresa Mather has agreed to do the cover of the yearbook. Venues are being investigated. Work is beginning on generating content from pro members, including features on Ray Bradbury and Forry Ackerman.

There is currently no Westercon liaison to the board at this time, but this is probably not a problem.

**Fundraising and Recruitment:** Waiting to hear from John Hertz about the art releases. Chair notes that John Hertz says he is not on retainer. How should his legal capacity be described? Chair will ask next time he speaks to John Hertz.

**Marketing Committee Report:** Children's program at the Valley Plaza Branch library will take place in July. Reading to be done by Chris Johnston.

West Hollywood book fair: confirmed participants are Larry Niven, Stephen Barnes, Harry Turtledove, David Gerrold.

We have new bookmark designs created by Maria Deanna and Scott Tygett. ordering 3 bookmarks at 500 each for the book fair and other events.

One of marketing's bins had been emptied and removed and the items in it had been placed on top of a shelf. Stuff has accumulated in front of the marketing storage area, blocking access.

Quartermaster and Physical Plant will work with Marketing to address these problems.

President: Condolences were offered to the new club president. No changes to existing committees except for adding himself to Hall Decoration and handing Programming off to Charlie Jackson.

**Video Librarian:** No report.

### **Agenda Items**

August meeting will conflict with Worldcon. It was moved with three abstentions that the August meeting be cancelled. Marty requested and was granted permission to open the building early on that Second Sunday.

**Budget Review:** Complete budget review was postponed. Marketing is requesting an increase, having spent all but \$200 and needing to order bookmarks and other supplies.

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Following a discussion about obtaining the best prices on bookmarks and the utility of handouts, The Chair suggested going with only one bookmark design, with one of the new designs being recommended.

Reservations were expressed about increasing the budget when no marketing plan or itemized budget has been presented.

It was moved with 2 opposed and 1 abstention to increase marketing committee budget by \$300.

**Nebula Weekend:** Plans and requirements changed following election of new leadership at SFWA and we are no longer involved with hosting the Nebula weekend. The club has no legal or financial liability as neither the club's name nor Milt's ever appeared on any of the paperwork.

**Clubhouse Remodel:** Mike Donahue has been talking to Jerome Scott. Can't find record of covenant or easement on west driveway - needs to be investigated: look up who pays taxes on that property, send a letter saying there appears to be a de facto (not recorded with the city) easement. We're thinking of building a new building. Does the neighbor want that to continue? If so, we would have to file with the city that there is an official easement so that it would be in perpetuity. There was some discussion about whether this should be done now or if it can wait. It was decided that we would ask Chris Wilson (real estate attorney) for recommendations and then revisit the matter in September

**Website Interim Report:** Editorial board for the website: Lee and Barry Gold, Karl Lembke, Heide Nichols, possibly Rob Powell. Anyone who would like to be on the editorial board should speak to Karl. If we have an editorial board for the masthead we can be indexed by Google as a bona fide news site. Miscellaneous items

Neighbor to East problem is being referred to Chris Wilson along with the easement issue.

Code of conduct is not yet ready for report.

The issue was raised that perhaps parking space auctions should be limited to one per customer. It was then suggested that anybody who wanted a parking space could place the high bid if they feel that strongly about it.

It was suggested that the code of conduct for the club should simply be "Play Nice".

The board issued a vote of thanks to the outgoing procedural officers and welcome to the incoming team.

**Open Forum:** Seeking clarity, the librarian requested ideas and feedback on what exact, directed message we should be communicating to those who come to the booth at the West Hollywood Book Fair. Send her your ideas at library@lasfs.org.

It was mentioned that there was some repair needed in the Alderson parking spot due to settling of the area around the cover for the checkdrain.

**Take-Aways:** Milt is looking into domain name transfers

Mike Donahue and Tadao will be looking into property legal issues

Physical Plant Committee (Tadao) will be scheduling pavement repair.

Brett Achorn announced that he would be resigning the board. This leaves us without a comptroller.

The board decided to schedule a special election for August 21st.

George Van Wagner announced that he is also resigning from the board. This leaves us without a secretary. That means two seats will be open at the August special election.

**Adjourned:** Meeting was adjourned at 1:05

**MEETING #3704, August 7, 2008**  
**Mike Thorsen, President**  
**Matthew B. Tepper, Scribe**

Once again, Vice President Rob "Gizmo" Powell thought he saw his chance. "They say third time's a charm!" he exclaimed, vaunting to the head table and quickly calling the meeting to order at 2016, when President Michael Thorsen was still lumbering his way to the dais. Rob shrieked "Dammit!" as he saw his opportunity to run a LASFS meeting drift away for the third time. Will he ever get to oversee more than the first five minutes of one of our shindigs? Only time will tell.

Mr. Thorsen now had a positive kind of Special Order for us, as it was the actual 75th birthday of Dr. Jerry Pournelle. And there was much cheering. This love-fest was briefly and rudely interrupted by a reading of the previous week's Menace, which got approved (at Dr. Pournelle's suggestion, in fact) as "Don't quit your day job."

And now it was time to celebrate Patron Saints, of which the first for the evening was, guess who? That's right, Jerry Pournelle! Scratch Galloway called him "one of my favorite authors. With all of his talents and years of experience, he still treats us as normal human beings, and we try to do the same." Karen Anderson said he is "one of my oldest friends. I met him in 1961, and I'm always glad to see him when I can." Joe Zeff had this appreciation: "Jerry has spent many years doing strange, weird, and sometimes extremely dumb things to the computers at Chaos Manor, so the rest of us don't have to do it." Hare Hobbs had particular praise for Mutually Assured Survival, written with Dean Ing. Hm – Deaning? That's a very interesting collaboration, Jerry and a gerund. Tadao N. Tomomatsu was "happy to say that Dr. Pournelle is the only person who can embarrass me, and the only one I will let call me 'Kaka' in public." Tom Safer simply remarked: "I have never known a nicer man than Jerry Pournelle." Len Moffatt reminded us: "Jerry gave more than money to this club, he gave a lot of sweat to fix up this room we're sitting in now. He's a multitasking person, including being one hell of a carpenter." Michelle Pincus noted: "Jerry knows how to be a proper gentleman, especially when walking me to my car, because he always walks on the outside to protect me from splashes and hooligans. Things like that are disappearing from our society. It's nice to know there's someone who still remembers." Mr. Thorsen remembered "a number of times when Dr. Pournelle regaled us with strange and interesting things which I had never known before, such as how to build a helicopter which could fly to the moon." Your humble Scribe saluted "another

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appreciator of opera, which is after all a form of fantasy." John DeChancie stated: "Dr. Pournelle is a very good friend of mine. You can't imagine the things he does for his friends. I'm proud and pleased to know him, and to call him friend." Karen called Jerry "the only person alive who still knows the words to 'Die Beiden Grenadiere.'" That's Heinrich Heine's poem as set by Schumann (not Schubert; trust me, I'm a musicologist). That aside, we gave our beloved Patron Saint Jerry Pournelle three rousing cheers "and anything but more rads!"

Our other Patron Saint this week was Tim Merrigan. Hare reminded us that Tim was that longtime Official Collator of Apa L, a mild-natured, soft-spoken guy with a great sense of humor. Joe Zeff remembered the time Tim got so tired of his father bothering him to get a haircut that he shaved his head. Apparently, he was pretty much unrecognizable until he began collating. Mike Thorsen said that Tim was a recipient of the Evans-Freehafer award, celebrated for his other efforts on behalf of the club. We gave Patron Saint Tim Merrigan three hearty cheers, "and they sometimes call him Tim."

Did we have any guests? Registrar Michelle Pincus skipped to the front of the room to say we had one, Brenda Duarte, a friend of Eris Young; she likes animé and RPG, and identifies as a student, gamer, artist, and student [sic]. We couldn't welcome her just then because she was actually touring the front building.

There was no Money Gouge, but Tadao said that next week would be the Big Auction. Bring your money!

We had neither Old nor New Business, and there was the usual reaction to this good news.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ms. Pelz was in Denver already for Worldcon, so Marcia Minsky was virtual Elayne for the evening, and wanted people to pay their dues.

**Reviews:** Tom Safer went to the Hollywood Bowl the previous weekend to see a performance of Eric Idle's "Not the Messiah (He's a Very Naughty Boy)" and found it hilarious, an oratorio version of "Monty Python's Life of Brian." It was a wonderful evening, with fireworks at the end. And remember, always look on the bright side of life. Hare enjoyed Catherine Asaro's Alpha, about an evil android, the sequel to her Sunrise Alley. Mike Thorsen had been entertained by a new series, on the ABC Family television network, "Middleman." His review was a gesture, which was how some of the characters in the show itself expressed four exclamation points. Your humble Scribe would represent it as [phonetic punctuation, in the style of Victor Borge, here]. Hare liked it too, particularly for sneaky references to the names of various directors of Westerns. Tom Safer was pleased that "Eureka" had returned to the Sci-Fi Channel with new episodes.

Bill Ellern was at Acres of Books yesterday for their going-out-of-business sale, and while they've sold thousands of books, he said you can't really tell it. Tom Safer had seen an Oddly Enough story about British athletes photographed nude as part of an ad campaign for a sports drink, Powerade. Timon was astonished: "Not Naked Juice?" Your humble Scribe recommends the photo of Rebecca Romero riding a bicycle,

but still thinks she ought to have been wearing a helmet, to promote safety.

**Moment of Science:** Karen Anderson brought us up to date with current observations, from a series of satellites arranged in a row, about what causes the Northern Lights. Evidently they are related to Earth's magnetotail, and energy from the solar wind. When they snap, you get a spectacular light show. Satellites and ground stations are being coordinated to observe these magnetic storms.

And with that, there was nowhere to go but screaming into the night, and a motion to do so passed at 2100.

**MEETING #3705, August 14, 2008**  
**Mike Thorsen, President**  
**Matthew B. Tepper, Scribe**

As is so often the case, the meeting began with an exercise in futility. No, not the usual one of the President trying to call things to order, but the one where the Vice President, Rob "Gizmo" Powell, once again attempts to usurp the office according to the sacred By-Laws. He did manage the call to order at 2013, proclaiming it a "meeting lite, because we have a fun-filled agenda tonight," and gesturing to the tables of stuff to be auctioned.

Somewhere around 2020, the real President, Michael Thorsen, displaced Mr. Powell at the front table, and immediately punished the gathered throng by calling for a reading of the previous week's Menace. When this ordeal had concluded, and the appropriate corrections made, the usual suspects began to suggest things to approve the minutes as. Ed Hooper must have thought he had a winning idea, but when he was finally called upon, he had just taken a long draw on a Tootsie Pop. Not wishing to allow any of this chocolatey goodness to go to waste, he gestured and grunted frantically. We'll never know what idea Ed actually had in mind to say, but at the Scribe's suggestion the Menace were finally approved as "Mm-mm, mm-mm!"

Time it was to celebrate the week's Patron Saint, Bjo Trimble. Tadao Tomomatsu called her a "tremendously funny person, strong-willed, and very knowledgeable. Oh yeah, and isn't she the one who sort of brought back 'Star Trek'?" Marty Cantor noted, "She owns a sizable proportion of the world's supply of freckles." (Cathy Beckstead was not present to challenge this assertion.) Joe Zeff explained that Bjo was responsible for "Star Trek" being picked up for its 3rd season (it was then ruined by other hands, but that's another story), as well as for the proof-of-concept space shuttle being named Enterprise, and for the costuming (or lack of same) in the film "Flesh Gordon." Karen Anderson enjoyed the fact that Bjo had wanted children of all ages to be welcome in the SCA, which then helped the organization and its image immensely. Karen and Poul's daughter Astrid was noted as an example of someone who benefitted from this. Hare Hobbs knew that Bjo was a great organizer in her day in LASFS, and could get people involved in her projects. Charles Lee Jackson, the Second praised Bjo as instrumental in helping the club through its fallow period in the 1950s. "She was an important member of redhead fandom," he added. Mike Thorsen cited the fannish

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term, "Trimbled," applied to anything that has been misplaced through things getting piled on top of it. Don Wenner called Bjo "one of the first people in fandom that I became familiar with, through her writing." Karen Anderson had one more bit of praise: it had been Bjo who founded the art show at cons. We gave Patron Saint Bjo Trimble three rousing cheers, "and a martini." (The shade of Fritz Leiber smiled knowingly.)

Thorsen asked: "Do we have any guests?" Registrar Michelle Pincus declared: "Yes!" (Clare Lasby was crogged: "They're still here?") First at bat was Thomas Treasure, who likes film and literature, and is an aspiring writer. Next we greeted Kent Ecklund, who describes himself as a fan of old movies, an artist, a filker, an aspiring writer, a musician, and a security guard. Last was Douglas J. Geduld, who said he heard about us from "the Interweb," and was interested in "you name it"; he's a writer, producer, animator, educator, and cynic. Yeah, right.

We were blessed by the absence of both kinds of Business, Country and Western, er, Old and New.

Appointed Committee Reports: Arlene Satin said that Monday had been the finale to the successful first season of our own Reading Rocketeers, at the Valley Plaza Branch Library in North Hollywood. Tadao, Michelle, and eventually Shawn Crosby all showed up in costume to entertain the kids, and to present the award (a book bag) to the youngster who had read the most books, as well as participation favors (yo-yos) to everybody else. Shawn and Tadao gave light saber lessons to the padawans, some of whom acquitted themselves quite well, and a good time was had by all. Our next event there will be on October 20th, the 3rd Monday of the month for a change. We will also be making a contribution to the West Hollywood book fair this year.

Karen Anderson had a charming Moment of Science. It has now been shown in a laboratory that a dog can tell the difference between a person merely opening his mouth, and a person yawning: the dog sympathetically yawns back.

President Thorsen called for motions intended to transition us to the auction. Your cranky Scribe asked the magic question: If the auction is the program, does that mean we're technically adjourning? Receiving an affirmative nod, he begged for a substitute auction recorder, and darcee was kind enough to volunteer. That settled, we ran screaming into the program, at 2051.

**MEETING #3706, August 21, 2008**  
**Mike Thorsen, President**  
**Matthew B. Tepper, Scribe**

It was 2016 by the clock, and President Charles Lee Jackson, the Second was sitting at the front table – what, another coup? But CL had reason for his claim on the place of power, as the Pasadena Star-News had recently declared him to be the holder of that office, and who wants to doubt the veracity of the press? Your humble Scribe said that if this were true about the Weekly World News, he wanted to know who the space alien is endorsing this time. CL answered, "Bat-Boy." And just when you thought it couldn't possibly get any worse, the Real President Michael Thorsen made his way to the head table, and

called for Special Orders of Business. CL recognized Tadao (like, who wouldn't?), who related the sad news of the death of Sue Kangas, Midwestern fan and wife of the chair of Duckon, famous in her own right for her "Have a Cow" parties. On a more upbeat note, he reported that old-time LASFS member Jack Jardine is still alive, and hopes to be leaving the hospital soon.

Menace of the previous week's disaster were read, out loud, in your humble Scribe's strangely Eastern dialect, and got hammered at for a while before being approved as "If it ain't Bronx, don't fix it."

Our evening's Patron Saint was Marilyn Niven. Larry Niven got to speak first: "Marilyn holds my life together." After a round of applause, he noted that they have been married for thirty-nine years now. Joe Zeff called her "very very good at running art shows for us." Dr. Jerry Pournelle coyly observed: "Yes indeed, she holds his life together, and I'm in a good position to know. I know what he's like when she's not in town." He gave her part credit for helping end the Cold War, because she would prepare a meal which smelled wonderful, and then would not let certain big brass into the dining room until they signed a treaty. Christian Bainbridge McGuire said that she was originally an East Coast fan, and helped to start NESFA, and so has been honored with the title, "Fellow of NESFA." We gave Patron Saint Marilyn Niven three rousing cheers, "and a Jane Russell movie."

Registrar Michelle Pincus said we had no guests. But all was not lost, as Christian pointed out that we had three longtime members who come here too rarely: Ed Buchman, Bea Barrio, and Roger Hill. CL made the astute observation that Bea "is the Fuzzy Niven of the Buchman household." Roger offered the thought that they were not visitors, merely "long-lost."

Gavin Claypool pointed out that iconic author (and loooooongtime LASFS member) Ray Bradbury will be turning 88 tomorrow. Your humble Scribe remarked that the perfect gift for such an occasion would be a piano. Nick Smith, as ever a voice of clarity among the insanity, said that Ray will be signing the book version of his "Moby Dick" screenplay at the Bookstore of Mystery and Imagination on Saturday.

The dreaded Old Business was now upon us, special elections to fill the two spots on the Board of Directors, lately vacant due to the resignations of George Van Wagner and Brett Achorn. CL explained the procedures of nominating a candidate, acceptance by the candidate, explanation by the nominator and a statement from the candidate. Each member of the Board is now assigned an area of responsibility and/or supervision, something of a change from the 1990s when your humble Scribe coasted through two terms.

Milt Stevens nominated Marty Cantor, noting Marty is a longtime member, as well as past editor of both De Profundis and Shangri L'Affaires ("Shaggy"), who has previously served as Board Secretary. Marty then responded, saying he would be willing to hold that position again if so desired. Even though he's not on the Board at the present time, he does attend all the meetings because of his interest in the Club's business.

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Tadao N. Tomomatsu then nominated Christian B. McGuire, calling him a "phenomenal and rather insane member of the club" who has performed many jobs and chaired many cons, including a Worldcon. "He's always there, always ready to stand up, and always a pleasure to work with." "I would love to come back," replied Christian, "and could not serve for a while because I had been very busy. But now I have time to devote to the club's potential expansion, and to its future."

Don Wenner was recognized and nominated Darnell Coleman. "He's been around the club for a number of years, has been around and knows what's happening, and is fairly new blood. We need new ideas, new directions, and new paradigms." Darnell pointed out that his association with the LASFS spans twelve years, including the position of Assistant Librarian for four of those years. He added that he has performed many tasks at a Board level for his council of churches. He suggested that he could serve as Secretary, be in charge of library oversight, or work as an event coordinator. He wants more accountability from groups that use this building. "I will work with people I need to work with, do whatever jobs need to be done, and I swear that I will not piss off people too much."

Mahhtin Young nominated Michelle Pincus. "She is 17' tall and shoots lasers out of her eyes. Actually, she has enthusiasm, has new ideas, and really loves the club. I have utmost confidence in Michelle." Michelle responded, "I want to work to make this a great club. I'm willing to work with everyone, and I just want to get things done." Greg Bilan nominated Rob "Gizmo" Powell, who regretfully declined. Nominations were then moved and ordered closed, although your humble Scribe was still looking around nervously, trying to dodge those lasers.

Tadao then performed the absolutely essential task of auctioning off the selection of the color of the ballot, which went for \$10 to Scott Beckstead, who chose "green." CL explained the "Alderson process" which we use in our balloting, producing an automatic runoff. The first round went to Christian by a clear majority on a single count, 38 out of the 57 available ballots certified by Treasurer Elayne Pelz. The second round awarded the other seat to Darnell, 33 out of 57. President Thorsen asked the crowd to direct the appropriate condolences to the winners and congratulations to the runners-up.

Appointive Committee Reports: Milt said that the new print edition of De Profundis was available out of a box on Elayne's desk. CL asked Michelle to flit through the room with the Lantern O'Jack, to collect donations toward the Autumn Holiday party. Sunday the Clubhouse would host FWEMS, science fiction movies of the 1950s shown in tribute to the new edition of Bill Warren's Keep Watching the Skies!. Next week's LASFS meeting was scheduled to be a tribute to Superman. Then, the first meeting in September, we would have a visit from multiple-threat thespian Suzie Plakson, to see if she is as charming as she is portrayed on her website, [www.suzieplakson.com](http://www.suzieplakson.com). Tom Safer reminded us of the next iteration of Tom Safer Presents Cartoons on September 20th. President Thorsen wondered aloud what had become of Fred Patten. Joe Zeff had the answer from Fred's Apa L zine. In it, Fred says he has had some further health problems, but he still hopes to be at the meeting where the Forry Award is voted.

CL had one breaking addition to the program schedule. The second meeting of September will be Roger Hill presenting his "Road Thingie Classic" slideshow, mainly because Roger is too lazy to put together a brand new show. Your humble Scribe waved, "Goodbye, Mahler 'Symphony of a Thousand!'"

**Reviews:** CL saw an amusing wall prop in "Romance of the Rio Grande," namely, a "wanted" poster offering a reward for one Charles Jackson. His grandfather, no doubt. Hare had slogged through Stephenie Meyer's Twilight, a vampire novel for teenaged girls, strange though that may sound.

**Miscellaneous:** Jerry Pournelle said, "Niven won't tell you, so I will." They had been in Alamogordo NM for the 15th anniversary reunion of the DCX crew. It was partly fun, and partly educational. He noted that it now would cost only \$1 billion to build an orbiter, suggesting that this could ultimately lead to "airline prices" to go to orbit. "Most everybody at the conference believed this, but didn't know everybody else did. So it's part of my job as an intellectual honeybee to cross-pollinate." CL reviewed Dr. Pournelle's voice, which "sounded good, strong and loud" as of old. The membership applauded this improvement of the health of one of our most beloved members. Tom Safer regretted to inform us that the "Star Trek Experience" in Las Vegas is closing because it wasn't making enough money to keep it going. CL mused: "It's going to be replaced with the Jar-Jar Binks Experience." Michael Thorsen reviewed three new novels by some British author. Frank Waller did a health report on himself and one on behalf of his father.

And with that, all the words that could be invented had been invented, and we adjourned to that great big room with the dark ceiling at 2131.

**MEETING #3707, August 28, 2008**

**Mike Thorsen, President**

**Matthew B. Tepper, Scribe**

It was 2018, time for the coup-of-the-week, and at least we were back to the original personnel. Ever-ready (as in the battery) Vice President Rob "Gizmo" Powell tapped the gavel to start the madness, and asked for Special Orders of Business. Charles Lee Jackson, the Second admitted he had "none that have been brought to my attention enough that I still remember them."

Menace of the previous week were read, and subjected to a few emendations, including fixing an instance of "pronoun trouble." When the horror had ended, this record of the meeting was finally approved as "'The Jar-Jar Binks Experience': \$10 to get in, \$15 to get out." President Michael Thorsen had actually arrived during the reading, but cordially allowed Gizmo to stay until we had a natural break in the proceedings.

We had a new Patron Saint this evening, in the person of a much-cherished but physically departed old member, Allan A. Rothstein. Milt Stevens started off: "Much to Allan's chagrin, he bore a close resemblance to Bay Area fan Jerry Jacks, and noticed at cons that he was getting pinched on the ass by other men. Allan finally admitted that while Jerry was much rounder than he was, he was much straighter than Jerry." Joe Zeff

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recounted how Allan had been instructed by his physician that losing weight or doing exercise would not help, and that he was delighted to have doctor's advice he could follow. Your humble Scribe had once witnessed, from a distance, Allan at a yard sale haggling with a lady for a good-sized Mickey Mouse statue. "How much?" Matthew had asked. "I got her to agree to take ten dollars," Allan replied. "How much was she asking?" "Five." And such was the nature of Allan Rothstein. Thorsen told how Allan had had his car totalled in a collision just off the 170 ramp, and the other driver made as though to blame it on him... until Allan noticed that there was a surveillance camera on the police station which had likely covered the incident. Hare Hobbs said he regrets losing Allan for the stories he was able to tell about the LASFS. Qarl Lembq alerted us to the fact that Allan is a comic book character, as can be seen from several examples in the display cases. Gavin Claypool had his own special remembrance: "Allan became my closest friend over a long period. Then I began supplying him with DVDs, and it was all downhill from there. I miss him very much." CL pointed out that Allan had found the LASFS many years ago, came to one meeting, and then didn't come back for another thirteen years... basically after he had gotten divorced. Once he came back, he pretty much stayed, to our great benefit. His absolutely most favoritest place in the whole wide world had been Disneyland, and he would have loved to move in there if he could. After he retired from his rewarding but exhausting career as a probation officer, one of the gifts he was given at the retirement banquet was a pair of passes to the Magic Kingdom. He took Charles there, and when he found that the annual passport cost about the same as 2½ admissions, and was valid for both of the Anaheim parks, he gave one to CL, saying "Merry Christmas, Happy Birthday, Merry Christmas, and every Hanukkah you've ever been to. He was always happy at Disneyland, even when he was dragging around his little green friend [oxygen tank] and had to stop now and then to breathe." After this reminiscence, we remembered Patron Saint Allan Rothstein with three cheers "and a Mickey Mouse life."

We had a ritual changing of the President, which, fortunately for the Scribe, did not in any way resemble certain other types of changings. "Do we have any guests?" Mr. Thorsen asked. Registrar Michelle Pincus said we had two. The first was Kevin Pimentel of Walnut, whose interests included comics, Buffy, and BSG, and who in real life was an estate planning attorney. The other guest wanted to remain anonymous. Your humble Scribe has toyed with that very idea on occasion.

A Money Gouge auction included a Starfleet Academy cap which actually fit the Scribe's head, and a Watchmen tote bag. The odor of garlic (from a jar of sauce containing same) pervaded the air thereafter. Ah, garlic! We also auctioned off parking spaces and the "Flavor of the Month" in the soda machine, which was determined to be Barq's diet root beer. Hm, are there any garlic drinks this side of Gilmore?

Fannish Committee Reports: None!? Reviews: the Scribe enthused over his new Antec laptop cooler, which actually does help with ventilation of his hot-running Toshiba. Jerry Pournelle requested a science moment or two, and got the nod for a Sage Break. Today he had had his appointment with his radiation oncologist. "And tonight, I am pleased to say I no

longer have cancer." The brain tumor is gone, and while he has a little loss of balance and of hearing, he hopes he can now be with us another ten years. And there was much rejoicing.

His other report was his musings on climate changes. Dr. P. reminded us of historical evidence of change in the past, in that the Hudson River no longer freezes over sufficiently to support the transportation of cannon, as it had done during our Revolutionary War. And remember those Viking-era dairy farms in Greenland. The last prolonged period without sunspots was the Maunder Minimum, which appeared to correspond with the Little Ice Age. His conclusion regarding "the coming warming" is that "we don't know what the heck is going to happen" so he feels we should invest some time and effort in learning which is going to happen, warming or cooling, instead of just assuming it's going to be warming.

John DeChancie strode to the front of the room and said, "I hate to follow an act like that." But do you think that stopped him? He showed off a DVD of "Spacebabes Meet the Monsters," aka "The Low Budget Time Machine," originally written by Brad Linaweaver, and rewritten for the screen by an infinite number of monkeys. The picture stars, among others, Patrick Macnee, Daniel Roebuck, and William Sanderson. John is donating the disc to the LASFS Video Collection on behalf of Mr. Linaweaver.

CL said tonight's program was a 70th anniversary tribute to Superman.

Kicking off Miscellaneous, Bill Ellern had some interesting news: The estate of E. E. "Doc" Smith had been approached by lawyers representing director Ron Howard for rights to certain unspecified projects, the potential writer of same to be no less than J. Michael Straczynski. It's an eight-month option renewable for an additional eight-month period.

CL had gone the previous week to Bob's Big Boy in Toluca Lake with Ed Buchman, Bea Barrio, and Roger Hill, and much to his surprise witnessed a personal appearance by "The Big Boy," in costume and head and all, whom he had never seen there before. Hare had seen a concert by Starship, which has a tenuous, if titular, S.F. connection.

At this point it was all of 2145, so CL moved to "dart into a phone booth to change clothes and get out of here," which we did, in spirit at least.

**New LASFS Website: <http://www.lasfsinc.info>**  
An interactive Joomla website where everyone can participate,  
Read the callendar of upcoming events, (and post information on it),  
Find a growing list of LASFSians websites,  
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