



# DE PROFUNDIS 430



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## November 2008

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

### 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 - None This Month  
 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

**November 6 - Board of Directors nominations**  
**November 13 - Board of Directors elections**  
**November 20 - Nothing Scheduled**  
**November 27 - Nothing Scheduled, but there will be a meeting at the Clubhouse**

### Calendar Details

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

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## COLOPHON

*De Profundis* 430 –October 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.

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### 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** - <<http://lasfsinc.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: Charles Lee Jackson II, 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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## Forry Award

At the meeting of October 2, Joss Whedon was chosen as the recipient of this year's Forry Award. Now all we have to do is figure out how to actually give him the award.

## Now For Something Sort of Different

In honor of Jim Tanenbaum's sant day (November 27), ice cream and catsup will be served courtesy of Jeni Burr. Jeni explains that Jim introduced her to LASFS, and he is fond of ice cream and catsup. So she is going to provide ice cream and catsup on his saint day.

## Next LAFA Filksing

Saturday, November 22, 2008, 7 pm  
House of Perpetual Commotion  
Hosts: John and Mary Creasy  
3754 W. 170th St.  
Torrance, CA  
310) 329-6772

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)

## CONDENSED CREAM OF MENACE

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

***LASFS Board of Directors  
Sunday, September 14, 2008  
Karl Lembke, Presiding  
Darnell Coleman, Secretary***

Meeting started by Chairman Karl Lembke 11:05 am.

**Attending Members:** Karl Lembke, Tadao Tommatsu, Bob Null, Michael Thorsen, Arlene Satin Christian McGuire, Darnell Coleman, William Ellern, , Marcia Minsky, Elayne Pelz, Milt Stevens.

**Others Attending :** Michael Pell, Heidi Nichols, Tom Safer, Joe Zeff, Judy Zeff (Mama), Sherri Benoun, Tony

Benoun, Jeni Burr

Congratulations to new board members Darnell Coleman, Christian McGuire and Marcia Minsky.

Tadao brought up that we should thank the outgoing Board Members Brett Achorn, George Van Wagner and Ed Green for their time and efforts. The Chairman agreed and gave thanks to those people.

Minutes of the July meeting were passed out. Minutes of last Board meeting were unanimously approved.

### Review of assigned duties:

**Election of Secretary:** Karl appointed Darnell Temp secretary. Nominations: Karl nomination Darnell. Marcia nominated Christian who declined. Darnell Coleman was elected Secretary.

**Election of Controller :** Bill Ellern was nominated for Controller. No one else was nominated so he won.

Tadao Tommatsu requested That Bob Continue His work as Computer Person for the APA L Room and Elsewhere as Necessary. Mike Thorsen wanted to continue to be Quartermaster. Event coordinator: Christian McGuire volunteered for this. Marcia Minsky was given AV equipment supervisor position. The Assignments of the BOD were made.

**Approval of new members:** Kent Eckland, Jesse Weinstein, Kara king, Todd Brun all of these paid their five dollars. They were unanimously approved.

### 30 second reports:

**The Chairman:** sent agenda to the board,

**The Vice Chairman:** Computers have no problems, computer games have no problems.

**Secretary:** Darnell Coleman: Gave thanks for being given the position of Secretary

**Comptroller:** Signed papers statement of domestic stocks legal document.

**Library:** No report

**Physical Plant:** No change

**AV Equipment:** Once she gets her committee then there will be a report, Christian suggested Marcia ask Brett to give her a report on equipment for second Saturday anime.

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**Quartermaster:** Supplies have been restocked. Regarding the soft drink machine, we have sold 911 units and have an income of \$697.75 for the month,

**Publications:** Gestetner problems, the machine is 12 years old, plus too many people are using. It may be able to take one more repair. Webmasters report. The Website does not have a budget at all, Elayne corrected and said that the website has \$100 a year. De Prefunds is running along as usual.

**Events:** No report from LosCon 35 Westercons 2009 and 2010 are progressing reasonably. No report from the 75th anniversary people.

**Fundraising and Recruitment:** Two fund raising ideas: We will get donations from art from pros and non pros in the art field. These works will be put on eBay to sell and the funds will go to club. The other idea is to use Fannish art to put it on rassel.com so people could buy the art and we get most of the money. They make t-shirts and mugs. Christian wanted to know what Rassel makes they could have make thongs which would be bad for the club, like thongs. Arlene replied that Rassel does not make thongs and she had the papers to show what is done.

#### **Significant Others:**

**Institutional Memory Committee:** would set up a system to remind the club on what is coming up with the club. They also track dates a tickler file short term and long term and historical archive up keep. Christian volunteered to be the main in that group. Darnell also volunteered.

**Marketing committee:** The British TV show on the 27th of September they will interview Star Trek stars and fans to show how Star Trek impacted on culture. Can we set up on 4pm and the interviews from 5-7pm. They will do the food and drink, they will supplies. They will supply the food.

The Book Fair scheduled on September 28th in West Hollywood, was discussed.

**Excess Pipe and Drape:** Anime Los Angeles who used our hangings now will buy their own stuff. They will need a place to store it and some assistance to pay for it. This will cost \$4,500 and would like a donation of \$750.00 to use this. Discussion this matter took place, and it was voted to give \$75.00 to Anime LA.

**Budget and Treasury:** A copy of the budget was given to the Board. The Treasurer gave her report, We are on track with the budget.

, Bill asked was the LASFS and LosCon money in WAMU which looks kind of shaky. Maybe the LASFS treasury needs to be moved from Washington Mutual. Elayne said she could move LosCon money to another bank. The motion was reviewed, and was passed unanimously.

Darnell Coleman wanted the book that was given to members that are on the BOD. So Darnell will get George's book. Darnell needs a sign in sheet because he does not know names of the people in attendance.

Marcia Minsky moved to adjourn the meeting, this was seconded and approved. Meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm.

#### ***Meeting #3708, September 4, 2008 Mike Thorsen, President Matthew B. Tepper, Scribe***

A very strange thing happened on the first Thursday of September. Or actually, several very strange things, not all of them sitting in the meeting hall. First of all, the realo trulo President of the LASFS, Mr. Michael "Mighty" Thorsen, was at his station from the git-go. Next, it was 2003, seven or so minutes before usual, when Mr. Thorsen got to call the meeting to some semblance of order.

And now was the strangest thing of all. We had a genuine, bonafide guest, an actress whose career had intersected with some genre productions, to the extent that she had portrayed four different aliens in various versions of "Star Trek." Your humble Scribe offered to delay the reading of the Menace so that we could better appreciate our guest, Suzie Plakson. The meeting was recessed for that very purpose.

Once Miss Plakson had finished, the Scribe was asked to do his thing, whereupon several members (including some he had thought were his friends, even) vanished from the room. The Menace were thus read to parade silence, much in the way a slideshow of New Yorker cartoons would be if they were presented to a tribe of Amazon Indians, and were finally approved as "By the book: minutes seem like hours, hours seem like days, days seem like weeks." Seems like it from this side of the table, too.

Patron Saint Emil Luwish was honored in the usual way, Joe Zeff getting the obligatory joke out of the way, "Funny, he didn't look Luwish." Ann Totusek offered: "I never heard him say an unkind word about anyone." Thorsen added: "Somebody gave us money." Patron Saint Emil Luwish (whose son Mike had actually paid for his honor) received three rousing cheers "and that's the

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most rousing thing we've had in the meeting so far."

Patron Saint Greg Bilan was up for annual honors, too. Joe observed, "He's sitting in the back of the room glaring at us." Christian Bainbridge McGuire added, "He's a nice Klingon." Also, he's got something in common with the aforementioned Mike Luwish, as Greg has purchased sainthoods for himself and at least one brother. "On top of that, he has given every year, for at least a decade, hundreds of hours of his own time. He is also an evangelist for the club." The gentle Nick Smith had some thoughtful observations: "I appreciate his taste in chocolate, and his small carbon footprint. He's doing something for himself, and for the world around him. That's important." Arlene Satin said that Greg is always willing to help the Marketing Department to help publicize the LASFS. Charles Lee Jackson, the Second said Greg was "very kind in not leaping forward to stage a duel to the death when another Klingon came into the building." Michelle Pincus said, "He's also a decent Hell player." We gave Patron Saint Greg Bilan three rousing cheers, "and a barrel of blood wine and some gokh."

Registrar Michelle reported that we had no guests, apart from the evening's speaker.

Neither Old or New Business were in evidence, though Greg Bilan pointed out that the previous day had been Michael Thorsen's birthday. There were rumors of a cake, which the Scribe never substantiated.

Since we were running under Agenda Lite on account of the program coming first, such frippery as Reviews, Fannish Committee Reports, and even (gasp!) Miscellaneous were forfeited for the evening.

Appointive Committee Reports: Under the watchful eye of CL, Michelle tripped happily around the room, gathering nuts in September money in the Lantern O'Jack, to be used toward the Autumn Holiday Party. Next week, Roger Hill would present his "Road Thingie Classic" slide show. The last week of the month, we were to be blessed with a visit by David Gerrold. FWEMS this month is to be part three of a tribute to the new edition of Bill Warren's book, *Keep Watching the Skies!*. Mike Thorsen said that Saturday was to be Estrogen Zone (the theme, a tribute to Robert Rodriguez), and Sunday TRIPE (theme TBA).

Michelle had a short Science Minute, mainly, that the minimum mass for our Milky Way Galaxy may be ten million times the mass of the sun. And your humble Scribe was glad to have lost ten pounds.

Nick Smith said that Patrick Ball was performing in Pasadena this Saturday night, and the following

weekend is ConChord at the Marriott.

Michelle moved that we drift out the door, and a fait accompli became codified at 2116.

**Meeting #3709, September 11, 2008**  
**Mike Thorsen, President**  
**Matthew B. Tepper, Scribe**

President Michael Thorsen surveyed the meeting room with a jaundiced eye. The other one wasn't quite so yellow, but it was getting there. The time on the atomic clock was 2009, and it was "that time already," so the mighty Thorsen gave a tap of his hammer to bring things to some semblance of disorder.

Menace of the previous week's meeting were read to a silence-stricken crowd and were approved, without corrections, as "6' 1½" tall and gorgeous." Your humble Scribe graciously accepts the compliment, but admits to being two or three inches shorter.

Registrar Michelle Pincus had used her magical guest-finding abilities to examine every schnook and granny of Freehafer Hall and environs, but delivered this sorrowful verdict: We had no guests.

Our first Patron Saint for the evening was Dale Hales. Joe Zeff said: "Barksdale Hales, Jr. not only provides us with lots of charcoal for second Sundays, but also supplies the hot spiced cider for the Gift Exchange." "Which we pour over the charcoals," muttered a suddenly attentive Dr. Pournelle. Christian Bainbridge McGuire said that Dale once gave out lots of pewter drinking cups, seemingly to everybody but your humble Scribe. Charles Lee Jackson, the Second admitted to some of the blame for Dale having found LASFS, because they had been friends in childhood. Dale showed up at the 1984 Loscon (which CL chaired), and joined thereafter, to the benefit of us all. Michael Thorsen recalled that when role-playing gaming was prevalent at the Friday night open house, Dale was a regular contender here, running some interesting and complex scenarios. Joe added that he thought the sessions that Dale GM'ed were always very entertaining. Thorsen pointed out that Dale helps out a great deal at Loscons. We gave Patron Saint Dale Hales three cheers "and punching his way through the mountain, with his head yet."

Our Fearless Leader emitted an almost embarrassed sigh and called for comments on the evening's other Patron Saint. Christian said that Michael Thorsen (for that's who it was) has been around the club for quite a while and has been helping the club ever since, and he's underappreciated. Jerry Pournelle couldn't help but ask, "has anybody seen him?" Thorsen countered, "I haven't

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seen him." CL noted, "that explains the crummy shave." Ed Hooper said Michael had taken over the underappreciated job of LASFS President. CL recalled that Thorsen's acceptance speech consisted of, "enh, whatever." Hare Hobbs said Mr. Thorsen runs TRIPE, and has been known to make the occasional Executive Decision there. Joe Zeff described Mr. Thorsen as "a very unconventional role-playing gamer. He also gave us '9¢,' several thousand times." Christian said that Thorsen also created the "Virtual Masquerade" at Loscons, one of the most original things he (Christian) has seen in fandom in his 21 years, and was also a driving force behind producing the video of the Gift Exchange rules. Your humble Scribe recounted the time Thorsen was a welcome last-minute invitee on a visit to Universal City Studios, despite having holed up at the Clubhouse playing on the computers all night. (Dr. Pournelle muttered, "This is the third time I've heard this story, and I still don't understand it!" The point is that not only is Michael Thorsen a hard worker, he also knows how to have fun with his friends.) And then, feeling that a man should not have to beg for his own acclaim, the Scribe pulled a micro-coup and led the throng in giving Patron Saint Michael Thorsen three cheers "and 9¢."

The Committee to Gouge Money Out of the LASFS did its thing. Result: Money was gouged, crap was dispersed.

We had no Old Business nor New Business, and there was much rejoicing in the usual manner.

Appointive Committee Reports: Christian said somebody will be interviewing fans of "Star Trek" TOS in Los Angeles, and if you want to participate, see him. (The much-missed member Kay McCutcheon walked in the door around this time.) CL asked for his lovely assistant to pass throughout the Hall with the Lantern O'Jack, but Ed Buchman missed his cue, and the task fell to the even lovelier Michelle. Tonight's program was to be the "Road Thingie Classic" slideshow, presented by the estimable Roger Hill. Two weeks from tonight, David Gerrold will speak to us. The meeting of October 2nd would have us voting for this year's recipient of the Forrest J Ackerman Award for Service to Science Fiction. (Say, whatever happened to the "Folly Award for Lifetime Achievement"? Weren't we going to do something with that classic typo Real Soon Now, a few years ago?) October 9th is "What have you been reading lately?" with a roundtable discussion by "a distinguished panel." October 16th was the date for the next Big Auction, and October 30th would be Tom Safer presenting Halloween-themed animated cartoons. Time-travelling back to September, the last Sunday of the month was given to FWEMS, part 3 of a tribute to the new edition of Bill Warren's Keep Watching the Skies!

Arlene Satin said that September 28th was the day of the West Hollywood Book Fair, to be held in West Hollywood Park, of all places. We need to set the booth up beginning at noon the previous day, so she is looking for volunteers to swoop in and swoop out to do the job. ("Hang on Swoopy, Swoopy hang on....")

Ed Hooper declared, in front of the Moffatts and everybody, that the Loscon 35 committee meeting would be on September 27th, Right Here.

Your humble Scribe observed a disturbance in the fabric of reality: Marty Cantor hadn't fled the premises early, as he usually does, and was sitting in the front row of the Hall yet. "Why are you still here?" hissed the Scribe. "Roger Hill's Road Thingies." "You realize it's a media presentation?" Marty just grinned and pretended he hadn't heard anything.

Timebound Announcements of General Interest: Michelle averred that tomorrow is another day the first day of ConChord at the Woodland Hills Marriott. German Gonzalez said that Saturday from 1:00 p.m. on would be Cinema Animé, in the usual location of Right Here. Qarl Lembqe reminded all those dried in the sun that Sunday would be the monthly Board of Directors meeting, adding in the newly-directed Directors and discussing the ever-popular subject of money, probably how the club can get more to come in and less to go out. Afterwards, we'll have the usual festivities and barbecue. Thorsen tried to sum it up: "Grinding up the sausage, and jamming it into cases." Qarl: "And then barbecuing it."

A Moment of Science was presented by our own Karen Anderson: The land bridge over what is now known as the Bering Strait has often been thought of as a one-way thoroughfare. But some species went both ways. (And some were merely bi-curious.) For example, the North American mammoths migrated back to Siberia, probably for tax reasons. The last mammoths were of American, not Siberian, lineage. One more triumph for good ol' American know-how!

CL had heard some talk from Switzerland about the end of the world being nigh. A familiar voice from the back of the hall uttered, "We're doomed!" But this wasn't about the Large Hadron Collider, rather the unpleasant news that the price of Swiss chocolate was going to rise sharply. Sigh! Anybody got a rope?

The owner of that "familiar voice" requested a few minutes to speak, and so Thorsen declared a Sage Break for Dr. Jerry Pournelle. The good doctor spake unto us: his voice has returned to normal, but his hearing and balance haven't. The thrust of his talk was that some organizations want to return our country's natural land to

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its original state, but the problem is that we're not entirely certain what it was. It turns out that the pretty picture we all have of mills by natural streams is false, because most of it was really swamp before the earliest Western Europeans arrived. The settlers who made their homes in New England, Jamestown, and the Carolinas didn't know that transforming the land was difficult to impossible, and just did it anyway. Then he reiterated his usual warning about the possibilities of a new Ice Age, feeling it is better to work to prevent that than to prevent warming. After all, he concluded, "two kilometers of ice over your house really gives you a bad day." Karen Anderson added: "In other words, if you're not sure of the solution, don't be precipitate."

Since we had a program tonight, Thorsen skipped right past Reviews and Faannish Committee Reports, and asked about miscellaneous. Frank Waller said something that the Scribe has hastily noted as "Calabasas, Village Coffee Roasters, Big Car Show," and concludes that it's something about an organisation of spies, collecting information on behalf of the foreign office of – URK! We moved to Road Thingie at 2106.

***Meeting #3710, September 18, 2008***  
***Mike Thorsen, President***  
***Matthew B. Tepper, Scribe***

It was 2015, "about that time," when President Michael Thorsen decided to get down to business and start the meeting.

Under Special Orders of Business, CL had good news for us: He had visited eofan Forrest J Ackerman, who was doing fine. Forry is presently using a walker to get around, but staff are hopeful that he will graduate to the use of a cane, and finally just his own feet. Hmm, what walks on four legs, then on three legs, and then on two legs? Acker-man! (Take that, Sphinx!)

Menace of the previous week's disaster were read to grim silence, which your humble Scribe would rather think of as "attentiveness," and finally approved as "Media: the downfall of Marty Cantor and Jason." Karen Anderson wished to elaborate that her daughter Astrid had in fact been a founding member of the Society for Creative Anachronism, but did not dispute the fact as reported, which was that the said Astrid did indeed benefit from that organization's openness toward participants of all ages.

Registrar Michelle Pincus bounced happily with the news that we had a guest! Jeremy March heard about us from the web, but showed up anyway. His interests include alternate history, heavy metal, and Stephen King's The

Mist, and he identifies as a media fan, literature fan, lawyer, professor, and writer.

The Patron Saints for the evening were the gentle Moffatts, Len and June, who unfortunately were not present. Milt Stevens recalled that Len was one of the fans he met at the first LASFS meeting he had ever attended. "Even as First Fandomites go," Milt added, "Len's been around a long time." Joe Zeff reported that Len had told him that a movie with action set on Saipan didn't look the way the place had when he had actually been there. Christian Bainbridge McGuire noted that Len attended the first Los Angeles Worldcon all the way back in 1946. Charles Lee Jackson, the Second, pointed out that Len has been an important figure in fandom for a really long time, and that he, June, and the late Bruce Pelz essentially invented the "worldcon" of mystery fandom, Bouchercon. In addition, the Moffatts published the JDM Bibliophile, and got to be friends with lots of mystery writers in addition to s.f. writers. "They are certainly very proud of Ed Green, whom they took in and helped to raise in fandom," CL added. Frank Waller called Len and June "pillars of this society," who were among the first people he met who were friendly enough to talk to him when he arrived at the gates of Hell LASFS in 1986. Dr. Jerry Pournelle called his friend Len "a symbol of hope – anybody's who's that much older than me, and still looks good, gives me something to look forward to!" Christian couldn't help mentioning that June makes a mean cheesecake. President Thorsen regretted that "they have their cloaking device on right now," but nonetheless led the gathered throng in three cheers for Len, three cheers for June, "and South Gate again in 2010! And it's almost here!"

There was no Old Business and no New Business, and you can pretty much guess the reaction.

Timebound Announcements: Krystal Rains, attired in garb redolent of the Jolly Roger and other symbols of scoundrels of the high seas, reminded us that she used to manage a pirate store, and since the next day was International Talk Like a Pirate Day, she let us know of a party at Studio City Tattoo, near the corner of Vineland & Ventura from noon to midnight. Rory Flynn would be there promoting her book *The Baron of Mulholland: A Daughter Remembers Errol Flynn*. Hare Hobbs breathlessly announced the forthcoming stage premiere of Frank Zappa's three-act opera *Joe's Garage*. It was Zappa's late '70s protest against what Hare called "Christians who want to take over the world." Mr. McGuire objected to this characterization. German Gonzales was looking forward to the premiere of "Spaceballs: The Animated Series."

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PR Committee Arlene Satin excitedly showed off the new LASFS bookmarks, specially designed for us by artist Mario D'Ana. September 28th was the day we would have a booth in the West Hollywood Book Fair, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., setting up the previous day at noon.

The Committee to Gouge Money Out of the LASFS performed miracles, transmuting junque into cash.

Moment of Science: Karen Anderson said that extrasolar planets are coming at us faster and faster (maybe we should duck?), and now an image has been made of a planet orbiting around a normal star similar to our own Sun, about 500 light years from Earth. This is the first time we have seen a planetary object in likely orbit around a star. The planet is Jupiter-sized, orbiting at 300AU from a K7 star. Also, red dwarfs are being systematically looked at for potential planetary bodies in orbit around them. Perhaps there may even be some habitable planets among them? Karen was reminded of Hal Clement's speculating about a "Red Empire," about a race on planets orbiting red dwarfs, just because there are so many of them.

A Sage Break gave Dr. Pournelle the opportunity to explain his take on the subprime mortgage bubble. Drawing an ascending line on the whiteboard, he asked, "Should you invest in this? Because this is an account at Merrill-Lynch ... until this week," whereupon he drew a precipitous drop. He also likened it to the happiness of a turkey, up to the week before Thanksgiving. "Normal statistical models don't hold with regard to disaster. Some events are very rare, but they are so disastrous that all your statistical models up until there are just stupid. The real wisdom of Wall Street is, don't risk your money, talk somebody else into risking theirs – and take a percentage."

Reviews: Doug Crepeau said that in the new series "Fringe," "they actually have a character who is literally a mad scientist," while "Discovery Project Earth" includes wild ideas about changing the climate. Hare saw "Fringe" too, and liked some of the characters, but found it contained too much of the attitude that "there are some things we were not meant to know." Jerry Pournelle had the most telling review of all: "I saw the first half."

Dr. Pournelle had also seen Howard Shore's new opera "The Fly," lately given its first production outside of Paris by the L.A. Opera. "The acting is terrific, and the people look like they're supposed to look, and it's all really gripping ... but there's no music. It's nothing compared with Puccini or Gershwin. Well, this was said to be an opera."

By this time, many of the throng were making like a tree, and so the President, with the fervent agreement of your hungry Scribe, gavelled the whole mess to adjourn at a quarter to ten. Really!

**Meeting #3711, September 25, 2008**  
**Mike Thorsen, President**  
**Matthew B. Tepper, Scribe**

Another coup? This week, Frank Waller was sitting in the catbird seat. It was not immediately known whether he was pretending to be the cat or the bird. Fortunately, President Michael Thorsen waved him away in order to gavel the meeting to some semblance of order at 2014, or "eight o'clock fannish standard time." Steve McGinty volunteered that it was "very little semblance of order."

Menace of the previous week's meeting were read, torn apart by wild wolves, reassembled by a mad scientist working in a castle whose skylight opens only on dark and stormy nights, and after much wailing and gnashing of teeth were finally approved, Victor Borge-like, as "Pieces of nine, pieces of nine."

We had two Patron Saints to celebrate. The first was a LASFS member from olden times, Ron Ellik, aka "Squirrel." Karen Anderson had a photo to pass around showing Ron with Adrienne Martine and (maybe) Steve Tolliver in a prize-winning costume from the 1961 Worldcon in Seattle. Len Moffatt called Ron "one of the good guys who died too young. He had a wicked sense of humor, but could also be very serious. He's pretty much responsible for the fact that we published the JDM Bibliophile," by breaking the ice with Mr. MacDonald. It was supposed to be a one-shot, but Len and June got asked for more. "Ron was also one of the few TAFF winners who actually wrote a report after making the trip. Apart from being a devil driver, he was a lot of fun, and did a lot of good-hearted things in his time." Bill Ellern recalled: "I knew Ron for quite a while. He rather surprised me when he and another fan brought out a book called The Universes of E.E. Smith," a sort of concordance. "Ron was an extremely personable individual, who became an engineer for one of the electronic companies. Shortly before he died, he gave me a phone call and we discussed some of the improvements that might be made to his book. He then headed for Wisconsin to attend a convention, and rented a car there. During a snowstorm, he struck his head and this resulted in his death." June Moffatt had this remembrance: "In his way, Ron was sort of innocent. When he was back East during a spell of cold weather, he looked at a sign showing the temperature and wondered, 'why do they have a hyphen in front of that number?'" We gave Patron Saint Ron Ellik three cheers,

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"and a bag chock full o' nuts."

Our other Patron Saint was fortunately still with us, and alive, too: Karl Lembke. Christian Bainbridge McGuire said, "Karl produces the finest mead I have ever tasted." Dr. Jerry Pournelle was heard to murmur, "It's the water." Charles Lee Jackson, the Second noted, "He is almost as good a mountain climber as he thinks he is." Mike Thorsen said, "He's a damned good cook, who has cooked for many La-la-cons." Clare Lasby offered: "He's one of the sweetest, kindest people I've ever met, a very good guy." Joe Zeff appreciated Karl's con suites at Loscon, and many others chimed in to agree. John DeChancie offered, "Karl Lembke is in his right mind." (Karl smiled his most sinister smile in return.) Albert gave perhaps the highest praise one can bestow upon a fan: "He borrowed a Cajun cookbook from me, and he returned it!" Thorsen added that in Real Life (whatever that is), Karl keeps up the quality of our municipal water supply. Christian reminded us that Karl is a longtime member of the LASFS Board of Directors, and the current long-suffering Chair thereof. We awarded to Patron Saint Karl Lembke three cheers, "and a large glass of hydrogen hydroxide."

Had we any guests? Registrar Michelle Pincus was a little cagey: "We had a guest, but in the time it took before introducing him, he upgraded to a member!" Cathy Beckstead admitted, "I helped by locking the doors." And who was this individual new to our midst? Why, none other than Brian Q. Kelley, of far-off Burbank, literature and media fan, filmmaker and editor. His loss of sanity engendered much applause from those of us for whom it is already too late.

A Moneygouge shifted junque off the premises in return for cold hard cash, as well as renting out the parking spaces, and deciding on the last-slot soda selection for

October. Next time, it could be you!

Neither Old nor New Business raised its head this evening. Timebound Announcements there were, beginning with Christian, who said this was our last chance to get on the list for getting interviewed by a British television crew wanting to talk to Los Angeles fans about the original "Star Trek." Bill Ellern advised that as of Monday, the discount at Acres of Books is 75% off. They will close on October 18th, so if you want to shop there, do so without delay.

Appointive Committee Reports: CL asked lovely assistant Michelle to travel the room seeking alms for the Lantern O'Jack. Your humble Scribe responded to the Emperor's plea for shekels by tossing a real Israeli coin into the lantern. Unruffled, Charles reminded one and all of FWEMS this weekend. Next week, we vote for this year's recipient of the Forry Award for Service to Science Fiction, so give some idea to how you might want to vote. But tonight, "The good news is that all the Frankish kings have been able to pay the ransom on Richard Lionheart, but he escaped from the Saracens, so we have used that money instead to ransom David Gerrold so he could speak to us with words of wisdom." Upon hearing this, The David pronounced: "Because of the financial crisis, I have decided to suspend the words of wisdom."

Michelle filled in for Arlene Satin to give the rundown on the club's participation in the West Hollywood Book Fair.

Noting that we had a program by a special presenter, President Thorsen said "we will blow past committee reports from people who ought to be committed," and after very little discussion, we adjourned at 2059 (!) to the program, in which David Gerrold presented a workprint of his current project, a story of love and

**New LASFS Website: <http://www.lasfsinc.info>**

An interactive Joomla! website where everyone can participate,  
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