



DE PROFUNDIS 431



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December 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4 LASFS Meeting	5 Open Gaming	6 Estrogen Zone
7 TRIPE	8	9	10	11 LASFS Meeting	12 Open Gaming	13 Cinema Anime
14 BoD Open House	15	16	17 Marketing Committee	18 LASFS Meeting	19 Gift Exchange	20 CFO TSPC
21 Time Meddlers	22	23	24	25 LASFS Meeting	26 Open Gaming	27
28 FWEMS	29	30	31			

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

December 4 - Nominations for President.

December 11 - Nominations of Other Officers and Elections

December 18 - Major Auction

December 25 - Winter Holiday Party (plus Tom Safer presents Christmas Cartoons

COLOPHON

De Profundis 431 –November 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: 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), 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.

The Budget That Went Bump In The Night

The Board of Directors decided that the LASFS needs to do some cost cutting next year. We are bleeding money in water, power and electricity. To reduce costs, the club will no longer host Estrogen Zone, TRIPE and FWEMS each month. Starting in 2009, these three events will be limited to six times a year. Friday gaming will be limited to twice a month.

Estrogen Zone will be held the first Saturday of:
February, April, June, August, October and December

Tripe will be held the first Sunday of: January, March,
May, July, September and November

FWEMS will be held the fourth Sunday of: February, April,
June, July, August and September.

Friday gaming will be reduced to twice a month on the
first and third Fridays of each month.

Second Sunday will remain monthly.

Holiday Parties

The LASFS Winter Holiday Party will be held on Thursday,
December 25. Since the usual LASFS meeting will also
be held that day, the party will be sort of wrapped around
it. The party will run from 3 pm to 7:30 pm and then from
the end of the LASFS meeting to midnight.

A Mid-Holiday party will be hosted at the clubhouse by
Greg Bilan on Saturday, December 27. The party will run
from noon until whenever.

Next LAFA Filksing

Saturday, December 13, 2008, 7 pm
Brandyhall
Hosts: Lee and Barry Gold
3965 Alla Rd.
Los Angeles, CA 90066 (
310) 306-7456

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

How I Keep Making The Same Dumb Mistake Over and Over and Over

You may have wondered why the gift exchange has
appeared in the calendar several times this year.
Doesn't Milt Stevens know that the gift exchange only
occurs in December? Well, it's this way about that.

There is a master copy of De Prof in PageMaker. It
contains material that doesn't have to be changed every
month such as page 10 and most of the stuff on page 2.
Each month, the master is opened, necessary changes
are made (such as changes in procedural officers and
Board members), and the master copy is saved. Then
the master is saved as De Prof #N. All the changes and
data entry for that particular issue are then made.

The calendar is done in either a five row or a six row
PageMaker grid depending on the month. The master
copy contains a five row grid, because that's what is
needed nine or ten months of the year. For the other two
or three months, the five row grid is deleted, and the six
row grid is inserted. The cells of the six row grid are then
numbered for the particular month. At some point in the
past, the gift exchange was entered in the master of the
six row grid. The next time the six row grid was needed,
the gift exchange was deleted in the grid in the De Prof
for that month but not in the master grid. Since the
editor knew he had deleted the gift exchange from the
grid, he didn't think about it again. Which is why the gift
exchange has kept coming from the voodverk aus.
However, this month, the gift exchange is for real.
Honest!

New At The Library

Tyrant Eric Flint
Mankind: Have a Nice Day Mick Foley
Little, Big John Crowley
Duainfey Sharon Lee
Nation Terry Pratchett
Dark Delicacies II Del Howison
Last Days of Krypton Kevin J. Anderson
**Cosmic Motors: Spaceships, Cars and Pilots of
Another Galaxy** Daniel Simon
The Skillful Huntsman Khang Le
In the Night of the Heat Blair Underwood
Big Bento Box of Unuseless Japanese Inventions
Kenji Kawakami
Vampire Hunter D Hideyuki Kikuchi
Zoe's Tale John Scalzi
Wee Free Men Terry Pratchett

LASFS
GIFT EXCHANGE

Date: December 19, 2008
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: LASFS Clubhouse

THE RULES OF THE LASFS GIFT EXCHANGE
by Leigh Strother-Vien and others

The Gift Exchange is considered an extension of the previous night's meeting. Dues will be collected, if not previously paid. All **paid-up, active** members of LASFS are eligible to participate. You must be present **in person - - NO PROXIES!** *You should expect to spend several hours at this event.*

To participate in the Gift Exchange, bring an **anonymous, wrapped** gift, with a value of **at least \$10**. The gift **must** be related to **Science Fiction, Fantasy, or Fandom** (see GUIDELINES & SUGGESTIONS if unsure). The gift you place in the Exchange should be considered a donation. Because of the wide range of gifts that may be contributed, and because of varying tastes, you might not receive a gift that you really want! You *might* in fact get a gift you don't want at all! In this event, please bear in mind that **THE PURPOSE OF THE GIFT EXCHANGE IS TO HAVE FUN**. (If you also happen to get some nice loot, that should merely be considered a very nice bonus!)

On entering the Gift Exchange, you will receive a registration number. The registration numbers will be randomized, to determine when each person will be called to choose a gift from the table.

The first person called will choose a gift from the table, open it, and **show it to the audience**. Make sure the rest of the crowd knows what the gift is, because that lets the crowd have fun, and **THE PURPOSE OF THE GIFT EXCHANGE IS TO HAVE FUN**.

The rest of the participants, in the order called, will each choose a gift from the table, open it, and **show it to the audience**. If the person who has just opened a gift desires, he/she may "Force Trade" that gift with any gift that has been previously opened. **THE PERSON HOLDING THE DESIRED GIFT MUST ACCEPT THE TRADE**.

The first person in the Gift Exchange is allowed the last "Force Trade," after everyone has selected & opened a gift.

CRUD CALLS: a "Crud Call" may occur if a gift is deemed unsuitable. "Crud Calls" may **only** be made if (1) the gift has insufficient value; (2) the gift is not related to Science Fiction, Fantasy, or Fandom.

"Crud Calls" may NOT be made merely because a person is unhappy with a gift, if it otherwise meets the requirements. If you don't like it, trade it away. **THE PURPOSE OF THE GIFT EXCHANGE IS TO HAVE FUN**.

The person **opening** a gift may make a "Crud Call" at that time. Also, a person **receiving** a gift on a "Force Trade" may make a "Crud Call" at **that** time. "Crud Calls" are **not** allowed at any other time.

"Saves" may be made after a "Crud Call," if any participant wants the gift that has been declared "crud." If more than one person wants the "crud" gift, the person holding it may choose among the gifts offered in exchange. If only one person offers to take the "crud" gift, the person who made the "Crud Call" **must** accept the trade.

After the trade, neither person may make another "crud Call" on either of the two gifts in question. A participant may trade his/her future gift choice on a "Crud Call." The person making the "Crud Call" will then select another gift at the appropriate time. The acceptor of the "crud" gift may not make another "Crud Call" on it.

If no one volunteers to "Save," a "Forced Trade" with the perpetrator of the "crud" gift - - whether an already opened gift or a future selection - - is mandated.

The participants may overrule a "Crud Call" by a majority vote if they consider it unjustified.

If A Judgment Call is required in any instance, the decision of the Gift Exchange "Producer" is **FINAL!**

Please note: Gifts in the gift exchange are considered the Property of the club until the Gift Exchange is officially declared "**over**." If you are in possession of an opened gift and need to leave (either the room or completely), you **must leave your gift** with someone else. It is still open to "force trades."

Also: Tantrums will result in the person or persons having Tantrums being Banned from future gift exchanges. Tantrums are Not Fun. AND THE PURPOSE OF THE GIFT EXCHANGE IS TO HAVE FUN.

After the Gift Exchange is over, Free Trading of gifts may occur. This trading is outside the Gift Exchange, and is done by persons willing to trade all or parts of their gifts with each other.

*****SPECIAL RULE:** The "**Chocolate Covered Manhole Cover**" is a traditional feature of the Gift Exchange. While not an acceptable gift by itself (due to insufficient monetary value - if you have possession of it, you got it for free), it can be added to any gift. **Whoever ends up with the Manhole Cover at the end of the Gift Exchange is charged with the responsibility to see that it is reintroduced in the next year's Gift Exchange. The possessor of the Cover does not have to add it to his own right, just see that someone does.*****

GUIDELINES & SUGGESTIONS

1. If you wouldn't be happy to get a gift, **don't** put it in the Gift Exchange. Others probably won't like it either.

2. Having participants fight over an expensive gift ruins the spirit of the Gift Exchange. **THE PURPOSE OF THE GIFT EXCHANGE IS TO HAVE FUN.** If you bring a gift worth MORE than minimum value, do **not** expect equal value in return.

3. Rotsler's Rules for Masquerade Presentations can apply to Gift Exchange presentations as well: "Funny is better than serious. Short is better than long. Short and Funny is best."

4. Do **not** put anything **offensive** into the Gift Exchange. **Lewd, crude, or rude** gifts are *not* funny. **THE PURPOSE OF THE GIFT EXCHANGE IS TO HAVE FUN.**

5. If it took more than 20 minutes to wrap the gift, it will take too long to unwrap it at the Gift Exchange. Keep the wrapping **simple**, so that it can be opened in a reasonable amount of time. When giving books that are part of a multi-part series, it is considered good form (and perhaps even good taste) to include the first book (and perhaps **all** previous books) of the series.

6. Some gifts that were very popular at previous Gift Exchanges were: stuffed animals (especially those from comic strips); telescopes; recently published books (in new condition!); toy ray guns; coffee table books about S.F., Fantasy, or Space; and stuff for computers. High quality gifts of chocolate are considered Fannish!

Please note that, prior to 1996, "quality" alcoholic gifts were also encouraged. **THIS IS NO LONGER THE CASE.** The use of alcohol is your own business, but the Club would prefer to NOT encourage alcohol in the Gift Exchange, as more and more members are either abstainers or minors!

7. Items that bombed: miscellaneous (dull, boring, mundane) food, hand-crafted "artwork," used paperbacks if small in number or poor in condition, and **anything** having to do with 'Zotz!' or the Hubbard Decology, unless Crud Insurance (high quality chocolate, for example) is included.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS OFTEN ASKED

Q. "What exactly does 'related to science fiction, fantasy, or fandom' mean?"

A. **If you don't know what's related to science fiction or fantasy, you're in the wrong club.** As for **Fandom**-related, these would be things that are associated with the activities of organized fandom, ie: Mementos from conventions, propeller beanies, chocolate, costumes, computer hardware and software, comic books, collected fanzines, manuscripts from pro authors, bookshelves, video storage devices, interesting toys, games, puzzles, sheet music

and/or recordings by Filk artists, miniatures, leather-craft tools, chain mail, etc.

Q. "I've just been force traded a large box of "Magic The Gathering" Cards. I don't *like* "Magic The Gathering." Am I allowed to call Crud?"

A. **No.** The **nature** of the gift is unquestionably related to science fiction, fantasy, or fandom. The **value** of the gift is unquestionably in excess of \$10. **There are no other criteria.** Your options are to (a) hope that someone force trades for the Magic cards, leaving you with something else, or (b) wait until after the Exchange and try to obtain something you prefer during Free Trading.

Q. "I've ended up with the Chocolate covered Manhole Cover, but I think it's a silly tradition and I don't want to deal with it. Can I throw the darned thing away?"

A. **Only if you want to be ostracized by all of organized fandom.** Most people don't have that much masochism in them, so you would be advised to simply give the Cover to someone who takes it more seriously than you do.

Q. I've picked the Pournelle Box (greed is good!), but someone wants to force trade me a box of "Magic The Gathering" cards for it. Should I allow it, or scream, whine and complain in a loud annoying voice until they relent?" **In the first place, they *won't* relent. The rules are on their side.** In the second place, throwing such a tantrum would only get you **thrown out** and **banned** from future Exchanges. Your only real option is to make an effort to act like an **adult** (yes, it's terribly hard, but necessary) and allow the trade without putting up a fight.

Q. "I'm on a diet, but the buffet table looks so tempting. Should I eat more?"

A. **Yes.** The club *always* lays on too much food for this event, and we have no place to store leftovers. Feel free to eat us out of house and home. **Diet later!**

Once again, **THE PURPOSE OF THE GIFT EXCHANGE IS TO HAVE FUN.** With that firmly in mind, Go Thou And Do Likewise!

CONDENSED CREAM OF MENACE

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

***LASFS Board of Directors
Sunday, October 12, 2008
Karl Lembke, Presiding
Darnell Coleman, Secretary***

Attending Board Members: Karl Lembke, Bob Null, Darnell Coleman, Elayne Pelz, Bill Elern, Christian McGuire, Marcia Minsky, Tadao Tomomatsu, Arlene Satin, Milt Stevens, Mike Thorsen.

Other Attendees: Marty Cantor, Rob (Gizmo) Powell, Heidi Nichols, Vanessa Van Wagner, and others.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Karl Lembke, at 11:15 a.m., and the minutes were approved as corrected.

New Members: David Gerald and Stephanie Lawson were approved for membership.

Treasurer's report: Total LASFS funds are approximately \$89,000. The Loscon treasury was placed in another bank for security. This was done before the \$250,000 FDIC bank account security was done by the Federal Government.

Chairman: Nothing reported

Club President: We still have a club, also mentioned the Forry Awards No problems.

Vice Chairman: Is looking for LASFS Minutes from the 1930s to complete the access at all the club's minutes.

Robert Powell AKA Gizmo said computer is working fine.

Comptroller: Nothing to report

Librarian: \$50.00 from Book Fair. The Library received 20 new and 16 used books.

Physical Plant: Neighbor issue: No new developments.

Audio Visual Equipment: Everything is smooth

Quartermaster: Rug shampooer repaired. Machine units, Sold to date 9,055/ this period 911, Machine total

sales: To date \$5695.00. This period-\$320.00.

Publications: asked the Gold's to update the website space; De Prof is going along as usual.

Mike Thorsen reported that Barry Gold updated the forum software to the newest version for improved spam control, and Bill Ellern asked if extra money is needed for the website. Milt Stevens replied no, we are fine. Arlene Satin gave the Gold's credit for doing a great job on the website..

Christian McGuire wanted to know about Shaggy and Milt Stevens said that a club fanzine today would cost more than the club would be willing to pay (i.e. \$1000 an issue) . The website is doing the function that Shaggy had done in the past.

Marty Cantor: Said that Shaggy would not work because not enough good writers would contribute to it.

Loscon report: Christian said that Loscon 35 has 585 members, and 322 room nights, which is pretty good. PR was sent on 10/09 all looking good, Loscon 36 on track, and Westercon 2009, is called Fiesta con.

La La Con planning should be started in January.

Milt Stevens: The Marriott is not taking debit cards for rooms; this will be confirmed by Christian.

Fund Raising and Recruitment: John Hertz is working on wording our new art release form.

Marketing: The end of September we had the West Hollywood Book Fair which went quite well, The panel was well attended, autographs went well. Paid for books that weren't sold cost \$50.00.

The Star Trek program at the club did well; we will get a copy of the production sometime after December.

Children's Reading program is going well. It will be continued next year. The public library wanted this done every month but it will be done every other month.

Tadao Tomomatsu: Wanted to have a discussion of possible code of conduct rules.

The discussion lasted 45 minutes and could be summarized with these points:

One: To have a Code of conduct would be like a slippery slope in that what rules to add and what punishment to enact for those transgress the Code. Also there maybe a chance of someone suing the club if there is no clear

rules on something that was done.

Two: Fandom is mostly a group of controlled anarchists. Fandom does not have a code of conduct but has unwritten rules that are followed.

Three: Children must be protected from the bad language that goes on in the clubhouse computer room. Also there should be some rules against rude comments about women around new people in club and children. This was countered by Milt Stevens mentioning there was a time when LASFS had two extremely foul mouthed fifteen year old girls.

Four: How can we enforce the rules if there are no rules written a person who gets kicked out of the club on an unwritten Code issue could sue because it wasn't written?

Outcome of discussion, though nothing was passed. This was agreed upon:

That if a person were to do things that some people would find offensive they would be talked to, if the person continues doing things that were offensive then they would be given a stiff talking to by an officer of The LASFS then if the problem continues then their name may be given to the Board for removal from the club. Again this agreement was not voted on.

Tadao requested that the discussion on a Code of conduct should be tabled for some other Board meeting since there were no pressing issues concerning a need to make the Code at this time. The vote was 10 for and 1 against to table the discussion.

Elaine Pelz: There will be a By-Laws discussion at the December meeting.

Arlene Satin: Our lit sign is hard to see because of trees. Add additional lights in the front of the club, going process possibly get solar lighting. It would cost \$1,000.00 to get the lights we need.

Tadao: also doing research on lighting. Lighting will be improved and will be on an on-going basis.

Rob Powell asked if the bulbs in the sign need to be changed. This was discussed and decided this work on the sign would be too tedious to do. The sign was still in good condition. Christian thanked Tadao for the on-going on the lighting problem.

Bob Null: we could improve the lighting in the front of the building by moving the lights around. Tadao said he was doing that, but it will be an ongoing process.

Greg Bilan requested the use the building on December 27, 2008, for a film gathering for members of the LASFS. The Board approved for Greg Bilan to use the building.

Copier information: Arlene met with a Sales Rep. buying a new copier. Nothing was settled.

First two weeks of November four seats are up for re-election, Christian B. McGuire, Darnell Coleman, Elayne Pelz, and Bill Ellern.

Heidi Nichols wanted to form a Committee to discuss the Code of Conduct. The Chairman will work out the details with her.

Elayne moved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 PM

Meeting #3712, October 2, 2008
Mike Thorsen, President
Matthew B. Tepper, Scribe

It was a fairly small turnout. Perhaps many of the members were home in front of their TVs, watching a perky young woman who was in way over her head, and a pseudo-intellectual blowhard who doesn't know when to shut up. Imagine how surprised they would have been if they had come to the Clubhouse, where they would have discovered, at the front table, a perky young woman who was in way over her head, and a pseudo-intellectual blowhard who doesn't know when to shut up.

This was because, in the absence of the President and both Vice Presidents, it fell to Registrar Michelle Pincus (complete with a frog in her throat) to call the meeting to order at 2005.

A description of the previous week's proceedings were read, nitpicked a bit, and finally approved as "Menace Pepper, mostly." You had to have been there – but sometimes, even that doesn't help.

Our evening's Patron Saint was Steve Bilan, whom CL characterized as "the least Bilan-like member of his family." Joe Zeff pointed out, "somebody gave us a lot of money in his name." Milt Stevens added, "he was never accused by anyone of being a member of the communist party." Greg Bilan admitted, "You want nice things about him? He's unlucky enough to be my brother, so I took pity on him and made him a saint." We gave fraternal Patron Saint Steve Bilan three cheers, "and a branch on the old money tree."

We had no New Business ... but we did have some Old. At this point, our Fearless Leader, President Michael Thorsen, magically appeared as if out of nowhere to

reclaim his rightful place of power at the front of the room. CL explained the meaning and history of the Forry Award, pointing out that the people listed on the whiteboard have already received it and are thus no longer eligible, it being a lifetime achievement award and all. Also, living people give better speeches than dead people, and it's probably better to give it while they're alive so they'll appreciate it better. John DeChancie asked, "What about a widow?" "She might wonder why you didn't give it when he was alive," replied the Emperor.

A whole bunch of people got nominated, and after the votes had settled, Joss Whedon was declared this year's recipient of the Forry Award. Presumably somebody will tell him.

Appointed Committee Reports: Marketing Committee head Arlene Satin stated that last weekend was one heck, er, hell of a weekend. First, the crew of a UK programme, "Bring Back Star Trek," had been at the Clubhouse on Saturday, and we will have three minutes on the show, including some comments provided by longtime LASFS member Bjo Trimble. ("She had plenty to say," noted Arlene, without a bit of irony.) The other event was the West Hollywood Book Fair. Arlene thanked those who helped with the set-up, and with the event itself: Tadao Tomomatsu, Nick Smith, Gavin Claypool, Michael Thorsen, Karl Lembke, Greg Bilan, Chris Johnston, Vanessa Van Wagner, and Sherri Benoun. She also shouted out "a big thank you" to local bookstore, Dark Delicacies (which took care of the actual book sales since we as a nonprofit could not sell them on site). Authors who appeared included Kevin J. Anderson, Brian Herbert, Larry Niven, Harry Turtledove, and Steve Barnes, and there was also a special appearance by Shawn Crosby (as Obi-Shawn). Panels were well attended, and the autographing was well-organized. Future events include the next performance of the Reading Rocketeers, at the Valley Plaza Branch Library on the evening of October 27th. Michelle Pincus will be reading from Coraline by Neil Gaiman.

Michelle then skipped happily around the room, collecting money in the Lantern O'Jack, while CL touted the Autumn Holiday Party, October 31st right here at the Clubhouse, from 7:00 to midnightish.

Guests: We had none.

Reviews: Jesse enjoyed a recent Analog story, "Moby Digital" by Joe Schembrie, calling it a good explanation on how to make VR dangerous to life and limb. Michael Thorsen found that he likes the Flavor of the Month, Hansen's Diet Ginger Ale, which "tastes really nice because of the good ingredients." George Mulligan suggested people read Baen Books editions of the writings of Christopher Anvil, such as The Trouble with Aliens, "one of the best answers to Damon Knight's 'To Serve Man' that I've ever seen." Hare Hobbs said Baen has been doing lots of large hardcover and paperback collections of this sort. CL enjoyed a store called Halloween Club, "just the other side of the Babylonian fortress pretending to be The Citadel." It's jammed with costumes, accessories, all kinds of stuff for Halloween both silly and serious, a lot of it discounted. They're open all year but obviously do the best business this time of year. George Mulligan liked the novelty arm that you can hang from your car's trunk. Bill Ellern remembered all the way back to 1955, when somebody did that sort of prank in Philadelphia, leading to a TV show using it as a plot device. Jerry Pournelle remembered back even farther, to 1952, when some medical students from Columbia put a quarter in the hand of a cadaver's arm, and used it to play a prank on a toll collector. Your humble Scribe thinks this sort of humor actually goes at least as far back to Edinburgh in the 1820s, with the comedy team of Burke and Hare. Sorry, Hare.

Miscellaneous: Arlene Satin told of a crook who would rob a bank, and then go to Disneyland to celebrate ... until they figured out his MO. Right now he's in a place that isn't exactly "The Happiest Place on Earth," except that if he's lucky, his roommate is named Goofy. Scratch Galloway said that tomorrow (that is, October 3rd) is his birthday. And there was much rejoicing.

We had no further program, so we adjourned at 2117.

Meeting #3713, October 9, 2008
Mike Thorsen, President
Matthew B. Tepper, Scribe

At the start of the meeting, there was an unfamiliar face at the head table. This turned out to be that of President Michael Thorsen, who had hit a favorable

wind in his evening commute in time to call things to "some semblance of disorder" at 2015.

Menace of the previous week's meeting were read, trimmed a bit off the sides, given a light tune-up, dipped in rancid yak fat, allowed to dry at room temperature for three hours, and finally approved as "Perky and over their head." After all this was a done deal, Doug Crepeau had an esprit d'escalier which went unspoken and unrecorded.

Registrar Michelle Pincus was delighted to inform us that we had guests! The first was Bob Mutascio, who heard about us from Marty Massoglia, and is fond of various TV shows and books. He's a literary fan and a writer, interested in computers, music, and photography. The other guest was Lee Roberts, who heard about us at the West Hollywood Book Fair; by profession he's a banker, so he had already fled for his life.

The evening's Patron Saint was Beverly Kanter. Joe Zeff noted she was the former roommate of "Dr. Shack the Quack," who gave us money to make her a saint. There being little more which needed saying, we gave Patron Saint Beverly Kanter three cheers, and various mumbled after-remarks.

President Thorsen called for Faanish Committee Reports, and heard crickets. Just as Nature abhors a vacuum, Doug Crepeau could not let this opportunity pass, noting that this year's Nobel Prize for Physics had been awarded to one U.S. and two Japanese scientists for discoveries regarding "broken symmetry" in particle physics. Briefly, parity is violated, as George Gamow would have been interested to know, had he not died forty years ago.

There were, amazingly, no reviews.

The Committee to Gouge Money Out of the LASFS auctioned off a number of odds and ends, including a postcard with a photo of a kiwi bird.

Appointed Committee Reports: CL made the usual announcement about the deadbolt on the back door of the front building, namely, don't leave it out if you're going to close the door. Somebody made a remark about cranks at the Clubhouse. "Crank?" said CL. "If I had known that back in 1967, I wouldn't have come here." The obvious

question came: "What would you be doing instead?" "Probably making money. And Jerry's hair would still be red." "My hair was never red!" muttered the puzzled Dr. Pournelle. "And some of us would still be reading it," countered the Emperor.

A Moment of Science was exposted by Karen Anderson, who said that an asteroid the size of a kitchen table that had been predicted to hit Earth had in fact exploded over Sudan. Your humble Scribe thinks it too bad that it didn't fall farther south and sever all of Nigeria's connections to the Internet.

There followed a Sage Break by Dr. Pournelle, with occasional interpolations by Doug Crepeau, largely about the Great Solar Storm of 1859, which started fires spontaneously over lots of telegraph wires. Imagine such a solar event occurring today, and hitting a world much more wired than a sesquicentury ago. He added that he has been commissioned by a government agency to come up with some worst-case scenarios for various disasters, real and man-made. So if you think of some horrors that government agencies might be interested in, let him know and he might stick some of them in his report. Doug couldn't resist: "What do we get as subcontractors?" Jerry replied, "My thanks. If it's a good one, I'll buy you a drink. If it's only half-good, you buy me a drink." He concluded by mentioning that his son Philip was just promoted to full Commander in the US Navy.

Neither Old nor New Business had we. Under Miscellaneous, Hare had some family stuff, and Carl Lembke reminded one and all of the Board of Directors meeting on Sunday, followed by the 2nd Sunday Open House. Cathy Beckstead advised us of the new production by Camarillo Community Theatre of "Little Shop of Horrors," opening next Friday with Patrick Beckstead as a doctor of dental surgery. She also reminded us of Loscon over Thanksgiving weekend, so get your reservations to the hotel in now, \$98/night per room. Rick Foss is teaching a UCLA Extension class on culinary history, so talk to him if you are interested. And finally, Charles Lee Jackson, the Second, made a persuasive argument to the effect that the evening's program was "What have you been reading lately?" with an all-star panel consisting of various LASFS members who just love to read.

There was nothing more from the usual suspects, so we adjourned at 2130 to fly, good Fleance, fly, fly, fly!



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