

De
Profundis
Ad
Astra

DE PROFUNDIS 359



COLOPHON

De Profundis 359 – November, 2002. Editor: **Marty Cantor**. Production Assistant: **Bob Null**. Mailing List: **Liz Mortensen**. Mailing Labels: **Fuzzy Pink Niven**.

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 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, Marty Cantor, can be reached at

the clubhouse on Thursday evenings or at his edress: hooah-pubs@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.

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Statements herein are those of the speaker/writer and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the club.

This is Hoo Hah Publication No. 755.

LASFS

GIFT EXCHANGE

Friday, December 13, 2002

Doors open at 7:00 pm

Exchange of Gifts begin at 8:00 pm

(All welcome - bring a present to exchange. See rules at the end of this thish)

LASFS

WINTER HOLIDAY PARTY

December 25

from 2 pm until midnight

(a celebration of any Winter holiday you care to celebrate)

Gift Exchange rules can be found near the end of thish on pages 7 & 8

LASFS OFFICERS

Elected Procedural Officers

President: Ed Green. **Vice-President:** Merlin R. "Bob" Null. **Scribe:** Karl Lembke. **Treasurer:** Liz Mortensen. **Registrar:** Robert Keller.

Board of Directors

Chairman: Karl Lembke (2003). **Vice-Chairman:** Michael Mason (2003). **Comptroller:** Mike Glycer (2002). **Secretary:** Mike Glycer (2002). **Other members:** Bill Ellem (2002), Merlin R. "Bob" Null (2003), Ed Green (2003), Joe Zeff (2002), Elayne Pelz (2002), Liz Mortensen (2004), Mike Thorsen (2004), Cathy Beckstead (2004). **Special Advisor:** Charles Lee Jackson II. **Advisors:** Forrest J. Ackerman, Walt Daugherty, Len & June Moffatt, and Fred Patten.

Official Committees

De Profundis Editor: Marty Cantor. **Librarian:** Michael Mason. **Librarian Emeritus:** Leigh Strother Vien. **Assistant Librarians:** Greg Barrett, Joyce Sperling, Doc Reames, and Lynn Baden. **Special Guest Librarian:** Charles Lee Jackson II. **LASFS Answer Guy:** Greg Barrett. **LASFS/APA-L Liaison:** Tim Merrigan. **Committee to Gouge Money from the LASFS:** Tadao Tomomatsu, C.B. McGuire, Dale Hales. ****Legion of Substitute Gouges:** Sandy Cohen, Ed Green. ****Strategic Reserve Registrar:** Robert Keller. **Eulogist, Public Relations, Records, Shangri L'Affaires Editor, Video Collection Curator, Programming Committee, Party Rabbi, & Tontine Committee** (take a deep breath here): Charles Lee Jackson II. **Assistant Video Curators:** Doc Reames, Alison Stern. **Hall Decoration:** Tadao Tomomatsu. **Silent Auction Coordinator:** Tadao Tomomatsu. **Science Monitor:** Christian McGuire. **Non-Science Monitor:** Mike Stern. **Asian Affairs Desk:** Brett Achom. **Key Control:** Liz Mortensen, Bb Null. **Janitorial Services:** Greg Bilan, Mike Thorsen. **Special Photographic Collection:** Mike Donahue. **Webmaster - <lasfs.org>:** Karl Lembke. **Sysadmin:** Chaz Baden. **Ministry of Silly Gavels:** Bob Null. ****LASFS Imaging Project:** C.B. McGuire. **Committee for Children's Literature:** Anne Morrel, Editor; Greg Barrett, Facilitator. **Computers & LASFS Archives:** Bob Null, Eylat Poliner. **Charity Coordinator:** Liz Mortensen. **Mid-Town North Hollywood Neighborhood Council Liaison:** Marty Cantor.

Honorary Officers

Sergeant-at-Arms: Roy Tackett. **Windmill-at-Arms:** Kees van Toorn. **Samurai-at-Arms:** Takumi Shibano. **Librarian-at-Arms:** Heather Stern.

December 2002

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 LOSCON	2 LOSCON UNLOADING	3	4 Marketing Committee	5 LASFS MEETING	6 Magic Tourn. Open Gaming	7 ESTROGEN ZONE
8 BOD - 2nd Sun. Open House	9	10	11 Marketing Committee	12 LASFS MEETING	13 LASFS GIFT EXCHANGE	14 Cinema Anime
15 TIME MEDDLERS	16	17	18 FUCC - Mar- keting Comm.	19 LASFS MEETING	20 Open Gaming	21 CFO
22	23	24	25 Winter Holiday Party	26 LASFS MEETING	27 Open Gaming	28
29 FWEMS	30	31				

KEY TO CALENDAR & OTHER IMPEDIMENTA

ESTROGEN ZONE = Ladies Auxiliary Sewing and Fallout Society
 TRIPE = Temporal Retrieval of Information Programming and Entertainment.
 BOD = Board of Directors
 2nd Sunday = Board and other gaming
 Cinema Anime = Japanimation
 CFO = Cartoon Fantasy Organisation
 Work Party = Varies with what needs doing
 FWEMS = Fourth Sunday Movies - 2 pm
 FUCC = Fandom Universal Computer Club
 TIME MEDDLERS = Dr. Who club

CALENDAR DETAILS

TRIPE - Noon until whenever
 BOD - 11:00 am, games start at 2:00 pm
 Cinema Anime - 1:00 pm until it ends
 CFO - 1 pm to 8 pm
 Work Party - 10:30 am
 FUCC - Evening
 TIME MEDDLERS - 10:30 am
 ESTROGEN ZONE - 2:00 pm
 Marketing Committee - 7:30 pm
 FWEMS - Serial Dbl Feat.: Fighting Devil Dogs/Crimson Ghost

LASFS PROGRAMME ITEMS

DECEMBER 5 - Nominations for President + Video
DECEMBER 12 - Procedural Elections
DECEMBER 13 - LASFS Gift Exchange
DECEMBER 19 - Unscheduled
DECEMBER 25 - Winter Holiday Party
DECEMBER 26 - Holiday Video

CONDENSED CREAM OF MENACE

(complete minutes can be read in APA -L and are filed in the archives)

Meeting #3399, October 3, 2002

Ed Green, presiding

Karl Lenke, Scribe

The prequel to the meeting featured an animated hard-boiled detective story, whose writers were undisputed masters of the single entendre. Following this, gravity took its course and pulled us downhill to a Meeting. It was called to order at 20:12:06. The President announced that we'd likely be running Agenda Lite. The **Menace** were read and approved as "Anna doesn't like it."

The **Registrar**: no guests tonight!

Patron Saint: Tom Safer. Eylat had good things to say about Patron Saint Tom Safer, who is currently singing with Jerry Pournelle's wife.

He is really sweet, and generous - not just money but time as well. He knows his cartoon information. He's a great helper on conventions, and one of my dearest friends. Matthew Tepper stated, he's a good friend, very quick witted, and a very fine musician.

Mike Thorsen stated, "He plays a mean game of Talisman." Jerry Pournelle seconded Eylat's remarks. Christian McGuire stated that he has a very earnest desire to share his interests in animation. It's been quite enlightening to see some of what he's unearthed over the years. He was given Three Cheers and a dead wabbit!!!

New Business: Nominations and voting on the Forry Award. The winner was some dude named . . .

Forrest J. Ackerman

Committee Reports: Library. Thanks to all for returning their checked-out books. But please return them to the right library.

Mah Jongg: the winner was Susan Gleason.

Time Bound Announcements: Happy Birthday, Scratch Galloway!

The meeting adjourned at 21:26:34.

Meeting #3400, October 10, 2002

Ed Green, presiding

Karl Lembke, Scribe scribbling

Good news! It's OK to drink the water in the region once again! "OK, start the meeting and save us!" At 20:11:09, Ed let fly and called to order meeting #3400 of the LASFS.

Special Orders of Business: Dalvin M. Coger went into the hospital on 9/23 and passed away on 10/02. He was 79.

The **Menace** were read and approved as "Happy Birthday, Scratch."

The **Registrar** didn't announce anything, because he wasn't here. No guests offered to be introduced in any case.

Patron Saint: Beverly Kanter: She doesn't show up much any more. She was active many years ago. She has a great first name, and the last is much better than if she had spelled it with a C. (*Neither a "K" nor an "e" belong in the proper spelling of her last name. - ed.*) She got Harry Andruschak to give us money. She also put up with him in the same house with her for years, thereby earning the designation "saint." And she got him to stop coming, too. Beverly had a unique personality, which impressed many in the club. She was given three cheers, and a wonderful attendance record.

The Committee to Gouge: was deflowered

New business: A petition was submitted, regarding chemical agents, and a demand for unfettered inspections of NESFA. It was voted tabled until next week.

Time Bound Announcements:

Due to time constraints, we opted to Freas out of any mention of . . .

Reviews

Fannish Committee Reports

and

Miscellaneous

announcements

The meeting adjourned at 20:41":46.

The programme was a slide show by Laura and Kelly Freas.

Meeting #3401, October 17, 2002

Ed Green, presiding

Karl Lembke, Scribe

The 3401th meeting of the LASFS was called to order at 20:11:09, the same time as last week. The **Menace** were read and approved as "a bang, bang, orgy with a happy birthday."

The **Registrar** was here this week, but the guests were not.

Patron Saint: Randy Greiner. He was the original human wallet, and we thank him for his generosity. He still lives in Glendale and gets *DE PROF.* He was given Three Cheers and Thanks For All of the Money.

Old Business: moved to table for 1 week.

Time Bound Announcements: Bob Null stated that there are three spare monitors in the front building. Please make them go away.

Miscellaneous: Joan Steward has a birthday this week. The rendition of The Birthday Song was mercifully brief. But not brief enough, nor merciful enough.

Frank Waller has Christmas catalogs available.

The meeting adjourned at 20:35:57.

Meeting #3402, October 24, 2002

Ed Green, presiding

Karl Lembke, Scribe

It's time to start the meeting. Go away!

Meeting number 3402 was started at 20:10:15. Obviously they didn't go fast enough.

Special Orders of Business: Christian McGuire announced the death of 52-year-old David Lathram, cause as yet unknown. Stroke or heart attack complicated by extreme hypertension. There will be a memorial on 11/16 at Dockweiler beach. He is survived by his wife and his mother (92 yrs.) Expect another large influx of books in a few months. He was a great asset to the community and will be sorely missed. A minute of silence was observed.

The **Menace** were read and approved as "Ach du lieber Augustine."

The **Registrar:** There was one guest, Clinton Steeds.

Patron Saint, Lee Jacobs: Jerry Pournelle had some stuff to say about him. Easily characterized by noting that when we used to have LASFS poker games, when we asked someone how he was doing, the reply was, "Oh, I'm down Lee Jay." He was generous, a good friend, a really

rotten poker player, and in some respects, the cheapest man you ever met in your life. Once, Jerry was awakened at 4 am by a phone call, from some local ham who had managed to be patched into Lee Jay's phone call, from North Carolina, and JP was the only one he was willing to wake up at 4 am for no reason except that he could do it from North Carolina for free. Len Moffatt recounts that he was quite a good fan writer. He was in FAPA and SAPS. He wrote the Muskeet Kid, which was made into a fan movie. He called many people using the ham system. He used to call Rick Sneary a lot. Very amusing, lots of fun, and very generous. And he could sip his nuclear fizz. We gave him Three Cheers and a nuclear fizz, with four cards to a flush.

Old Business: In the back is a box of *DE PROFS*. Pick up your *DE PROFS*. Our resident anti-media fan is home, glued to the TV set, watching baseball. Other business deferred. Mike Glycer asked, "Since when is Marty Cantor on the side of the angels?" (*Since their debut 41 years ago . . . and Very happy that they won the World Series. - ed.*)

New Business: was postponed yet again.

Committee Reports: Christian, the Science Monitor, announced that Liz has complete a chronological experiment. She's not quite willing to reveal her number, but maybe the LASFS should offer her, in its best voice, a salute - Jerry led it in the fannish key of off. Once again, it was not merciful enough, nor brief enough.

Bob Null: Marty says, pick up your *DE PROFS*.

Time Bound Announcements: Greg Bilan reports that the President has been immortalized by an international company. There is a beverage, called "Mr. Green."

Reviews: Hare Hobbs said that we have a new Vorkosigan book by L. M. Bujold. Miles spends half the book in cryogenic freeze. His brother tries to save clones from the lab where he was created, and bungles it, and Miles is frozen on account of this. It presents a different perspective on things. He enjoyed it a lot.

Fannish Committee Reports: Phil Castora, reporting as the Committee to Nauseate the LASFS, mentioned that at 8010 Wentworth in Sunland, there is a garage sale, with items for sale including one electric chair. (*You will get a charge out of sitting down. - ed.*)

Miscellaneous: CLJII showed off a bottle of Vampire merlot, produced and bottled in Rigas, Transylvania.

The meeting adjourned at 21:04:16.

Meeting #3403, October 31, 2002
Ed Green, presiding,
Karl Lembke, Scribe

Meeting number 3403 was started at 20:10:16. In his opening remarks, the President offered his thanks to the attending members. Many are wearing masks tonight. We appreciate that. (*And then there are those who are not wearing masks as they are scary enough. - ed.*)

The **Menace** were read and approved as "Loath to draw it out."

The **Registrar**, Robert Keller, announced the presence of one guest,

who felt he was too freaky to enter the club. It was proposed that we go out en masse to welcome him in. Or maybe not.

Patron Saint: There were two tonight.

First: A great man who is no longer with us, **Bill Rotsler**. He was a renaissance man who objected to the use of the term, at least as applied to him. But he was good at any number of things. He's missed. Hare: He was a photographer who took pictures of great women with no clothes on. One time, he asked to photograph Hare's sister. He managed to ask without getting her upset, and with her recognizing it as a compliment.

CLJII: When he had a talk show on cable access, Rotsler was a guest one time. When he was introduced as an author, Rotsler corrected him. "Authors have three names, like serial killers," he said. Mike Stern recounted the legend that the universe will end when the last Rotsler illo is published. Marty Cantor pointed out how long it would take him to immanentize the eschaton.

Fred Patten stated that he was winning fan art awards from 1946 to 1996. Len Moffatt: When Terry Carr died, Rotsler said, among other things, "I wasn't through with him yet." Doug Crepeau stated that he donated a lot to the club, including lots of officially blank videotapes. Hare Hobbs once sent a cousin with a book Rotsler had ghost authored. Unable to legally autograph the book, he drew a cartoon in the book and autographed that. Joe Zeff: While doing radiation at the VA hospital, he had to be quarantined as a radiation hazard. He was given Three Cheers, and another thousand illos.

Second: **Francis Hamit**, a hard worker and one of our stand-by members. Author: Mike Stern called him a card-carrying columnist. And one of the 500 known columnists in the LASFS. Hare stated that he's more active than a lot of people who live cbscr. Scratch observed that he's writing a book. Three Cheers, and a new ream of paper.

Old Business: It was moved to table a disastrous motion for ten thousand meetings.

Reviews: MBT saw a masterful 20th century opera, Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk. He disagrees with Stalin.

Ed Hooper says Singapore is muggy, and everyone speaks better English. (*A valid comparison to LASFS members, I presume. - ed.*)

The meeting adjourned at 20:54:31.

LASFS Board of Directors
Meeting of November 8, 2002
Karl Lembke, Chairman
Joe Zeff, Substitute Scribe

Attendance: Karl Lembke, Joe Zeff, Mike Thorsen, Bill Ellem, Ed Green, Michael Mason, Liz Mortensen, Elayne Pelz, Bob Null. (Absent was Mike Glycer, proxy held by Ed Green.) Others: Anne Morrell, Francis Hamit, Tadao Tomomatsu, Christian McGuire, Marty Cantor, Joyce Sperling, Greg Bilan, Greg Barrett.

The meeting was called to order at 11:19:39. The chair warned us of a probably closed session. The regular scribe was not present, but had sent

the minutes. The substitute scribe was thanked for taking over at extremely short notice. After brief nitpicking, the minutes were accepted without objection.

New Members: Katie Rice, Jon Charles Trapnell, William Bogart, Luke Cormican, and Stephen Worth. All were accepted and doomed.

Treasurers Report: We have a treasury and the totals in every fund are positive. The report was accepted as offered. Ed Green suggested presenting Bruce's Pillar Plaque to the LASFS during the half-time at LOSCON.

Facilities: Nothing from Mike Donahue. His cage will be rattled. Bob Null priced couch and loveseat combos. Fabric covered, about \$500, with another \$50 for delivery if needed. Christian volunteered Mr. Zeff's truck for transportation. However, what we need most is exterior seating.

Computers: Bob Null got rid of a number of 486's via Ky Moffatt. More computers are being received. The laser printer is failing at increasingly short intervals. Something needs to be done, but not right now.

Parking: Greg Barrett was right last month, in his claim that the handicapped sign was painted over. We suspect that this was done by one of our neighbors, in a blatant attempt to gain extra space by vandalism. Clear-Coat for a new sign was discussed. Mr. Zeff will check with Mike Morris and Ed Hershey, as they probably have large quantities available.

Hall Decoration: the display units above the cabinets in the meeting room were placed in the Big Green Storage Unit outside.

Gestetner: We have received a new drum, which made a horrible noise. A replacement replacement has been received and is working.

Publications: No report on the Kid's Lit list. Anne Morrell will have a revision Real Soon Now and it will be passed on to Mr. Barrett. Michael Mason is updating the adult version. Both will be ready for LOSCON.

Copyright Clinic: Francis Hamit reports that the NWU approved his suggestion to co-sponsor this. We will be working with their secretary usually very reliable. All he needs now is a date, with at least 90 days lead time.

LASFS.org: status quo, as the webmaster hasn't had the time.

Library: We've upgraded to 256 meg. The program upgrade is still in progress, so we're using the old, mostly.

Video Collection: No divestments, purchases, or acquisitions. The spreadsheet should be usable by LOSCON and complete by year's end. Doc Reames is now Assistant Curator and an assistant librarian, doing a fine job in both capacities. The Curator expects to be at the November Board meeting. The Standards Committee has no reports.

Archives: BTDTGTTS. (*Gesundheit*. - ed.)

Events: LOSCON 29 is proceeding about as expected. LOSCON 30 is still working on guests, having had multiple possibilities decline. LALACON is on the back burner right now, with no official name.

Bylaws and Standing Rules: No change.

Mid-Town North Hollywood Neighborhood Council: It was certified on September 24 and is now an official part of the City of Los Angeles government.

Convention Delegates: Michael Mason for Con Jecture.

New Business: Ed Green asked the Board's permission to make some new cloisonné lapel pins as the price has been coming down. The chairman considers the idea cool, spiffy, and keen. Liz, as treasurer, suggested authorizing this today, as the cost is around \$2 the each, in quantities of 500. Elayne moved to allocate up to \$1000 for this, seconded by Bill Ellem. This was approved, with Mike Glycer's proxy abstaining, as Ed wasn't sure how he'd vote. Next, we had a closed session, with Tadao and Christian asked to remain.

After the closed session, it was moved, seconded, and approved to adjourn. The meeting ended at 12:34:45.

FANZINES

By Ted White

Fanzines are a basic part of science fiction fandom, having been in existence as long as fandom itself – the past 70 years. Fanzines are a reflection of many fans' interest in the printed word and amateur publishing. The publication you are reading this in is a fanzine, but a specialized one. A variety of other fanzines are also available – many of them by request – and this column will cover some of them each issue.

All fanzines are published as a hobby and lose money. Their editors appreciate money to defray their expenses and sometimes list single-copy or subscription prices, but they appreciate even more your written response – a Letter of Comment, or LoC. Feedback – better known in fandom as “egoboo” – is what fanzine publishing is all about.

Check out the fanzine below and broaden your participation in fandom.

THEY MADE US DO IT #2, Autumn 2002 (Max, editor & publisher; probably available for “the usual” (letters of comment, contributions, or fanzines in trade) or send \$1 for a sample copy; 20 Bakers Lane, Woodston, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire PE2 9QW, England)

Max (who uses that name alone) is one of the brightest new lights in UK fandom, and won this year's FAAN Award as Best New Fan. *They Made Us Do It* (subtitled “A genzine by Max”) is the successor to Max's “perzine” (personal zine, written entirely by the editor), *They Made Me Do It*. “Some work really is crying out to be committed to paper, no matter how happy it is sitting there on the internet. This zine grew legs, but it's definitely still the same fanzine. I think there will be more. I might even relent on the artwork and LoC [letters of comment] Column stance. They're not

Lafa

(Los Angeles Filkers Anonymous)

Lafa Filksing -
Saturday, December 14, 2002
Filk: 7 PM to ???

Pre-Filk Dinner: 5:00 PM: Royal Star
Seafood (Chinese cuisine)

Brandyhall: Lee and Barry Gold, hosts
3965 Alla Rd., Los Angeles, CA
90066; (310) 306-7456

PRE-FILK DINNER: 5 PM at Royal
Star Seafood. 3001 Wilshire
Boulevard,
Santa Monica

DIRECTIONS: See Thomas Bros. L.
A. Co., page 672, B-5 (1992 edition);
page 49, grid E-3 (older editions).
Brandyhall is located southwest of the
intersection of the San Diego
(I-405) and Santa Monica (I-10)
Freeways.

Lafa info: Barry & Lee Gold:
(310) 306-7456

here this time but next
time, who knows?"

What *is* here this time
is content, in an
austere but attractively
simple package: Ten
pages of single-
columned type with
wide margins, without
art or gimmicks. I'm
reminded of the
simple, straight-
forward, all-typing
m i m e o g r a p h e d
fanzines of several
decades ago. Hardly
anyone uses a
mimeograph any more
and Max is no
exception. The pages
are computer-typeset
and printed/copied on
canary paper. But
there is a warmth
which belies the
s i m p l i c i t y of
presentation.

There are four pieces in addition to the short inside-cover editorial from which I've quoted. Simon Bradshaw's "Watching Falling Stars" describes watching the Perseid meteor showers with contrasting sections (in italics), which provide an objective description of the history of one dust particle in that shower. Ang Rosin provides in "Gathering Rain" what was once called a "mood piece" in one page, its perfect length. Max's own "July 4th, Kenwood Beach" is the longest piece, a detailed narrative about swimming in the Chesapeake Bay at midnight (and, not surprisingly, getting stung by what we always called "sea nettles" – jellyfish), while visiting Nic and Bobbi Farey. And the final piece, "Life Without Anne" is by Douglas Spencer, whose wife died one year earlier. It's heartfelt but free of sentimentality.

None of these pieces discusses science fiction, or, for that matter, fandom. Yet each is permeated with fandom in its own way: each is a personal communication from fans to fandom, a product of the *community* of fandom.

This is the innermost circle of fannish fanzines: writing about one's personal experiences and concerns for one's friends. It can be done well or poorly, depending on who is doing it. In this case it is done well. Max listed no price, but I'd suggest sending at least a dollar to help pay the postage.

zines received in trade

(All zines are available to read and are in the *De Profundis* mailbox and can be taken out for a week)

club zines: FUTURE TIMES Vol. 5, #10 (ASFS). PHORGET IT, NOV. 2002 (PSFS). INSTANT MESSAGE #709, #710 (NESFA). DASFAx Vol. 34, #10 (DASFA). EINBLATT! OCT. 2002 (MinnStf). NASFA SHUTTLE VOL. 22, #10 (NASFA). EINBLATT! DIRECTORY (MinnStf). BCSFAzine #354 (BCSFA). THE SHUTTLE Vol. 148 (SFSFS).

other zines: THYME #135 (Alan Stewart).

NEW BOOKS

(This is a section devoted to listing new books and other items received by the LASFS Library. Our extensive library is not just for collecting and looking at that wonderful collection of books on shelves. Members may take them out and read them. There are none listed for this month.)

Recent Additions to the Video Collection

(There were none listed for this month.)

MAGIC The Gathering

Tournaments
held at LASFS
First Friday
every month

Contact for Magic The
Gathering:
Drew Sanders,
mailto:
Drew_Sanders@hotmail.com
or
peggy_little@earthlink.net

LASFS GIFT EXCHANGE

Date: December 14, 2001

Time: 8:00 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.
 6. 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.
 7. 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!
8. 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!

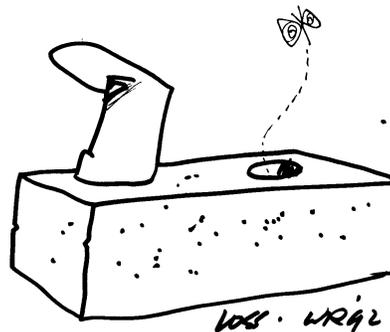
(Addendum by the editor)

In my twenty six years of participating in the Gift Exchange I have twice won the Chocolate Covered Manhole Cover. Putting it into the freezer for a year is not much of a problem, and it does help maintain a fun fannish tradition, with minimal hassle, returning the Cover in a gift at the next Exchange.

There are many fannish traditions, some of them more important than others. One of the traditions attached to the LASFS Gift Exchange is The Pool. This is a pool involving how many fans will be participating in the Exchange. The Pool was started by Bruce Pelz in the late '70s or early '80s; and, after a few years of running it, he turned it over to me. I have continued this tradition ever since and will be again running it this year.

The rules are simple: every participant in the Gift Exchange can pick up to 2 numbers at 25¢ each, with the winner being the person who picks the exact number of participants in the Gift Exchange. The winner will be announced as soon as the Gift Exchange Administrator (or assistant) announces that no more participants can be accepted. In the rare event of nobody picking that number and there is a gap (or gaps) in the list, the person picking the closest lower number will be declared the winner.

The winner of The Pool gets one-half of the money collected in wagers, the LASFS gets the other half.



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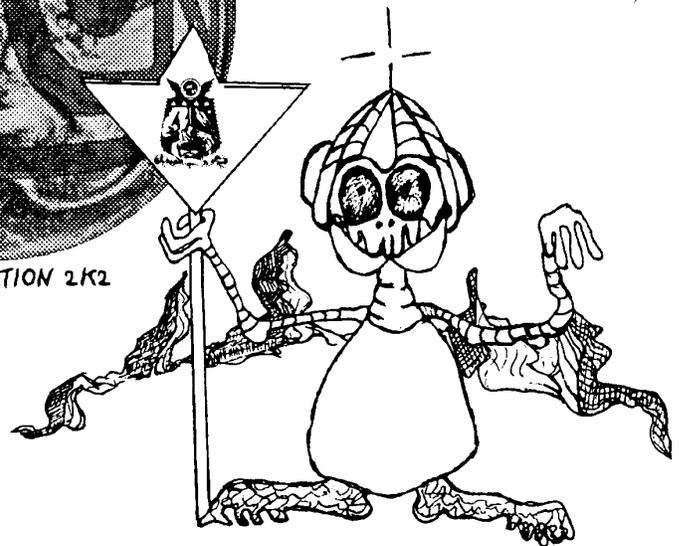
David Weber
Writer Guest
Of Honor

Patty Wells
Fan Guest
Of Honor

Nene Thomas
Artist Guest
Of Honor



SPACE STATION 2K2



*Through the authority granted by: the Sacred Elephant,
the Blue Soda Fairy and all the Saints of the LASFS,
I claim this land as PLANET LOSCON!*

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Illo by Rotsler



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