



DE PROFUNDIS 426



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July 2008

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

Legend of Inscrutable Abbreviations

BoD - Board of Directors
 CFO - Cartoon Fantasy Organization
 Cinema Anime - Japanimation
 Estrogen Zone - Ladies Auxiliary Sewing and Fallout Society
 FWEMS - Fourth Sunday Movies - 2 pm
 Time Meddlers - Dr. Who Club
 TRIPE - Temporal Retrieval of Information Programming and Entertainment
 TSPC - Tom Safer Presents Cartoons - 10 am

CFO - 1 pm to 8 pm
 Estrogen Zone - 2 pm
 Marketing Committee - 7:30 pm
 Meets at IHOP, Manchester and Sepulveda
 Time Meddlers - 10:30 am
 TRIPE - Noon until whenever

Thursday Program Items

July 3 - TBA

July 10 - TBA

July 17 - Special Election for vacant Board Seat.

July 24 - TBA

July 31 - TBA

Calendar Details

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

COLOPHON

De Profundis 426 –June 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:** Brett Achorn (2008). **Secretary:** George Van Wagner (2008) **Other members:** Bill Ellern (2008), Elayne Pelz (2008), Tadao Tomomatsu (2009), Arlene Satin (2010), Milt Stevens, (2010), Mike Thorsen (2010).

Special Advisor: Charles Lee Jackson II. **Advisors:** Forrest J Ackerman, Len & June Moffatt, and Fred Patten.

Official Committees

De Profundis Editor: Milt Stevens. **Speaker to Gestetner:** Marty Cantor. **Librarian:** Vanessa Van Wagner. **Assistant Librarians:** Elayne Pelz, Darnell Coleman. **LASFAPA/APA-L Liaison:** Marty Cantor. **Committee to Gouge Money from the LASFS:** C.B. McGuire, Elayne Pelz **** Eulogist, Public Relations, Video Collection Curator, Film Coord. Committee, & Party Rabbi** (take a deep breath here): Charles Lee Jackson II. **Assistant Video Curators:** Doc Reames, Alison Stern. **Asian Affairs Desk:** Brett Achorn. **Key Control:** Bob Null. Elayne Pelz, Christian McGuire, **Special Photographic Collection:** Mike Donahue. **Webmaster - <lasfs.info>:** Barry Gold. **Sysadmin:** Chaz Baden. **Ministry of Silly Gavel:** Bob Null. **** Committee for Children's Literature:** Anne Morrel, Editor; Greg Barrett, Facilitator. **Computers & LASFS Archives:** Bob Null. **Charity Coordinator:** Liz Mortensen. **LASFS Historian:** Fred Patten. **North Hollywood Arts District Liaison:** George Van Wagner. **Hagiography & Ecclesiastical Affairs:** Vanessa Van Wagner. **Westercon Liaison:** Program: George Van Wagner, Readings: Vanessa Van Wagner, Liaison to Enigma (The UCLA SF Club not the German encryption machine) George Van Wagner

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.

Procedural Officers July - December 2008

President - Mike Thorsen

Vice President - Maryann Canfield - Rob Powell

Scribe - Matthew Tepper

Treasurer - Elayne Pelz
(Elected in mid-year only)

Registrar - Michele Pincus

LaLaCon Postponed

Due to circumstances and conditions, LaLaCon has been postponed (probably until next year)

Reading Rocketeers

The next program by the Reading Rocketeers, the LASFS children's reading program, will take place Monday, July 14 at 6:30 pm. It will be held at the Valley Plaza Branch Library, 12311 Vanowen St., North Hollywood. The book for the evening is *My Teacher is an Alien* by Bruce Coville.

The Reading Rocketeers is a continuing program of readings for young people 7 - 14. LASFS members do the reading and the set-up for the room. If you might like to participate, contact Arlene Satin.

Next LAFA Filksing

Saturday, Saturday, July 12,, 7 pm
Terry Brussel, host
8515 Penfield Ave., Winnetka, CA 91306
818/361-6737

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

New Books In The Library

How to Build a Robot Army by Daniel H. Wilson

Finding Serenity: Anti-Heroes, Lost Shepherds and Space Hookers in Joss Whedon's Firefly

Serenity Found: More Unauthorized Essays on Joss Whedon's Firefly Universe

The Dangerous Alphabet by Neil Gaiman, illustrations by Gris Grimly

The Book of Joby by Mark Ferrari

The Ten Cent Plague: the Great Comic Book Scare and How it Changed America by David Hajdu

The Starry Rift: Tales of New Tomorrows by Jonathan Strahan, ed. An anthology of near-future short stories. N.B. The library also has a copy of the James Tiptree collection entitled *The Starry Rift*.

A Well-Timed Enchantment by Vivian Vande Velde – selected for the Reading Rocketeers public library presentation.

Special Board Election

At the regular meeting on Thursday, July 17, there will be a special election to fill the Board seat vacated by Ed Green.

CONDENSED CREAM OF MENACE

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

LASFS Board of Directors
Sunday, May 11, 2008
Karl Lebke, Presiding
George Van Wagner, Secretary

Attending Board Members: Karl Lembke (Chairman), George Van Wagner (Secretary), Tadao Tomomatsu, , Brett Achorn (comptroller), Bill Ellern, Milt Stevens, Bob Null (vice-chair), Mike Thorsen, Elayne Pelz, Arlene Satin

Others Attending: Mike Donahue, Barksdale Hales, Michael Pell, Marcia Minsky, Judy Zeff, Joe Zeff Marty Cantor, Barry Gold, Jenni Burr, Fred Lazelle, Rob Powell, Christian McGuire, Lee Gold, Sherri Benoun, Tony Benoun, Anne Morrell, Vanessa Van Wagner, Greg Bilan, Michelle Pincus, Frank Waller

Meeting called to order at 11:13 AM

Minutes: Approved.

New Members: Chris Johnston of Los Angeles.

Treasurer: We have \$92,411.98 as of May 1, but we just spent \$4,000 of that on new lighting and electrical work.

30 second reports

Chairman: Ed Green has resigned from the board due to time conflicts with work. A vote of thanks was offered to Mr. Green for his years of service on the Board. A special election has been scheduled for July 17th. Usual voting rules will apply. Scheduling conflicts prevented a meeting about the website. If there is still interest, we'll try to schedule a face-to-face meeting or see if everything can be resolved through email.

Vice-chair: Archives were put to good use in researching when the adult recommended reading list was started. By digging through minutes it was confirmed that it was started by Michael Mason. There are now 3 functioning mice on the pubs computer. One is an RF mouse.

Secretary: No additional news re archives. Minutes were distributed.

Comptroller: Submitted for the record was the latest Loscon budget. It is hoped this will become a tradition. Even though Loscon is substantially independent, this way the Board can be aware of what they are planning. Another budget will be submitted as the con date approaches.

Library: No news.

Physical Plant: Work party is set up for May 24th. Working on replacing batteries in the emergency power-outage lamps. Thanks to Elayne and the work crew for taking care of installing the new lights.

AV Equipment: Deferred to secretary. Plan is in the works to put in an AV server and routing everything through a computer so there is only a single video output. We have most of the hardware.

Publications: First batch of Moffatt slides have been delivered to Barry for posting on the website. 2nd batch is being processed. \$5000 in financing has been secured to continue the project of scanning the Moffatt photo collection. They've requested copies also be given to Joe Siclari at fanac.org.

Events: Loscon is going on.

Fundraising and Recruitment: Art release form was distributed for feedback.

Procedural President: No report at this time.

Video Librarian: The video curator submitted a written report. He continues to receive VCR tapes on occasion. All new purchases are being done on DVD. Where possible tapes are being replaced with DVDs. All is running smoothly.

Marketing Committee Report: The book has been selected (*A Well-Time Enchantment* by Vivian VandeVelde) for the children's library reading program. Shawn Crosby will be reading. June 9th at 6:30 at the Valley Plaza branch library. Ages 7 -10. Promotional materials have been prepared and are ready to distribute. Volunteers who help with setup will get t-shirts (designed by Dave Okamura).

Art release form: checked with art galleries to find out what they use, created form, distributed to Board for feedback or review by an attorney. A concern was expressed about using a form that had not been vetted by an attorney. Forms from Nolo Press are available for use by the club. A pertinent one was distributed to the Board, no feedback heard. It was noted that John Hertz is on retainer for club legal matters. Could he look at both the Nolo Press form and Arlene's release? It was mentioned that Intellectual Property is not John's speciality.

Reading Rocketeers Academy Program: based on Space Cadets concept from Worldcon. Kids read, make their own little logos, progress through "The Academy" (painted styrofoam) and receive certificates as they read more books. Will be on display in the Valley Plaza branch library. Said library is holding its own program which ties in to this. Volunteers to help set up and just generally support the program are sought.

Quartermaster: We have supplies - no new developments. 6,796 units of soda sold since the machine was installed, 469 this last month. Total sales to date is \$3,980, \$361 this last month.

An inquiry was made about possibly using air fresheners. Quartermaster reported that some fen are sensitive to them, so we generally don't use them, preferring to open doors and turn on exhaust fans.

Agenda Items

Loscon Hotel Contract: Five more years, 2009 - 2013. Almost the same as the last contract with a few improvements in the details. Rooms and parking will cost more. Parking will go up to \$10 in 2009 and \$12 in 2013. Room rates (single through quad) will go up \$10 course of the five years: \$100 in 2009, \$102 in 2010, \$104 in 2011, \$106 in 2012, \$108 in 2013. Guest room commitment has changed. New block is 650 room nights. Our commitment is 80% (520). We again have the suites on the 17th floor at the same rate and same corkage waiver. There are provisions for backing out of the contract. Board moved to authorize Christian to sign the contract with the LAX Marriott.

Westercon: an organization called ISL (Institute for Specialized Literature) (McGuire and Pelz) have put out a bid for 2010 for the Pasadena Hilton. Thursday, July 1 - Sunday July 4, single through quad rates of \$129.

First Unavoidable Miscellany: A question came up about whether the board member elected to replace Ed Green would automatically take on his assigned responsibilities. Seating of new board member might be a good time to review the assignment of duties to each board seat and see what changes might be advisable. It was suggested that members consider the current assignments and keep in mind any proposals for reshuffling.

Clubhouse Remodel: Three options were presented.

- 1) demo the entire lot and start over.
- 2) Keep existing parking layout (four non-compliant real spaces and our imaginary five virtual spaces in the courtyard, one of which Monstro occupies)
- 3) Remodeling current structures. This is a 2-stage process. Front building, Monstro, the shed, the lemon tree would go. Back building would be in operation, rest of lot scraped to the sidewalk. Library and con storage would have to go off-site.

This project would more than double our available space, from the current 2280 sq. ft. to 4999 sq. ft, as well as make our parking compliant. It would also make the entire clubhouse more accessible for wheelchair users, and possibly increase utility efficiency because of zoned HVAC.

Mike Donahue has interviewed 22 contractors onsite. Rob Klein of Klein Construction impressed Mike with his knowledge of the building codes and can design a concept study to go to the city building dept. where they

would have a conversation about what we could do here that would make the city happy and give us more space. We can avoid problems upfront by having someone involved who knows the building regulations well. Mike asked that the board approve an expense of up to \$10,000 for concept design study, drawing of and approval of plans, and obtaining of permits. Then we would begin fundraising for the build. Asking for a budget study on taxes, insurance, income and mortgages to determine the fiscal impact of trying to do this.

There was some discussion of the various options: building versus selling the current clubhouse and buying a new facility, buying one of the adjacent properties, restructuring meetings so that we make better use of the space we have. Several people noted that no matter how we decide to proceed, some kind of long term plan is needed.

It was recommended that we begin fundraising as soon as possible. Members support of the planning phase will help us know how fundraising will go for the construction phase. We would have to project monthly club income based on activity of the past six months. Another recommendation: a marketing campaign targeting those members who don't come around much anymore because of lack of social space.

Board moved to have Mike Donahue get a price on the design documents and Elayne prepare draft cost estimates, with the decision about proceeding with design plans to be placed on the agenda for next time.

LASFS member John Christopher would like to use the clubhouse for meetings of the 3D Video Task Force, a group of a dozen writers and 3D video hobbyists. These would be round table discussions/script readings held two or three times a month, open to LASFS members and anyone else interested in attending. It would be up to John Christopher to find a keyholder to be responsible for opening and closing of the building. Board moved to approve with adult supervision to insure that the content and activities won't get the club into any trouble.

Website Interim Report: The chair suggested that more work is needed on the site map and there should probably be a discussion outside of the board meeting. Barry Gold is being kept on as webmaster to update the site and maintain information. Hiring of a college student or a professional web designer is being considered. A question was raised about what we are hiring them to do. This is the 5th meeting where the question has come up. A meeting was scheduled for May 16 to thresh out the specifics of what should be on the website. Thanks were offered to Barry for his work as webmaster.

Open Forum: No takers this month

Take-Aways:

Licenses: George will re-send the licenses from Nolo Press.

Building project: Mike and Elayne

Website meeting

Adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 13:11

***Meeting #3690, May 1, 2008
Marcia Minsky, President
Matthew B. Tepper, Scribe***

Things were a tad more chaotic than usual, as the usual time came and almost went, while various LASFS members stood and wandered about Freehafer Hall. President Marcia Minsky purred, "We've got plenty of seats, so come on in." "I've already got one," said your humble Scribe, and before Marcia fully recovered she had already wielded the Spoon of Responsibility to call us to order at 2010.

Menace of the previous week's meeting were read and approved, by suggestion of Larry Niven, as "Scarlet."

And speaking of Larry Niven, it was his night to be celebrated as Patron Saint, so we did so. Scratch Galloway said, "Niven and Pournelle are wonderful writers, thank you." Charles Lee Jackson, the Second noted that of his favorite writers, Larry Niven is the one other people recognize. Elayne called Larry "a generous person, who cares about people, and has cared about this club for as long as he's been in it." Mike Donahue said, "Larry has a very wicked sense of humor, in a very sly way. When he makes a joke, it's always worth it. I like his books, and especially the books he writes with Jerry." This prompted Dr. Pournelle: "I suppose I should say something. I'm certainly a wealthier man for knowing Niven. That's all right; he's a wealthier man for knowing me. When we started writing together, he said, 'stick with me, you'll be rich and famous.' And he was already rich!" We awarded Patron Saint Larry Niven three cheers "and a flying horse."

Registrar Michelle Pincus said we had no guests, but happily noted the annual attendance of LASFS member Ken Ozanne, who was visiting us, as he tends to do, all the way from Australia.

Timebound Announcements: Fred Patten noted that kind fen have been donating their unwanted cell phones to help defray his medical expenses. Anybody yet to do so

could bring their old phones to the next couple of LASFS meetings to be passed along to Glen Wootton, who is expected to be attending Califur. [Ad lib: "That reminds me, I left something in the trunk of my car. No, not an ex-girlfriend."]

The usual semi-enthusiastic cheers greeted the revelation that we had neither Old nor New Business.

We closed with some news on the health of LASFS members. First, Marcia said that George Mulligan is suffering from an MRSA infection in his other, thusfar "good" foot, but the sulfa treatment seems to be working, and the doctors think they won't have to amputate any toes this time. The Scribe was directed to send the club's good wishes to George, preferably in the form of an appropriately inappropriate greeting card. Dr. Pournelle said he would be having an MRI on Friday to see how much of the "damn thing" (i.e., the tumor in his head) had gotten killed, so think good thoughts. Your humble Scribe notes the good doctor's voice is sounding stronger and clearer, which seems like a good sign.

And on those hopeful notes, the meeting was called to a close at 2124.

***Meeting #3691, May 8, 2008
Marcia Minsky, President
Matthew B. Tepper, Scribe***

Considering the lateness of the hour, President Marcia Minsky was just a little bit impatient as she waited for all of the bub, hubbub, and rebub to die down. This was, after all, to be a meeting of the LASFS, that well-oiled machine we all know and love. Say, does "grease" count as "oil"? Anyway, it wasn't until 2013 that the froggy spoon went splat and kathunk on the front table. "We are mikeless tonight," quoth Marcia, but it's possible she may have overlooked Mr. Thorsen.

Menace of the previous week's meeting were read, had one teeny correction made, and ultimately were approved as "Not rich and famous."

For a saint this evening, we had a Null set, namely our own Merlin R. "Bob" Null. Hare said that Bob had preceded him only slightly in joining the LASFS, but was already doing things for the club by then. CL made the irrefutable observation, "He's the Bobnulliest Bob Null we've had." After a bit of actual thought, he added, "Bob puts the lie to the old expression, 'Never buy teeth through the mail.'" Barksdale Hales noted Bob was "a member of the old crew who moves LASFS back and forth, and served as Soda Fairy in his time as Vice President." Mary Ann praised Bob because he has consistently done just about anything he saw that the

club needed doing. Milt Stevens thought Bob had become so indispensable to local cons that there now exists essentially a "Bob Null position." Christian B. McGuire recalled the general L.A.con III committee meeting when people were introducing their staff, and said that when Elayne introduced Bob, he received the only standing ovation of the day. Zed Null (no relation) said Bob always had a ready smile. (See CL's earlier remark about teeth through the mail.) Scratch Galloway called Bob "a quiet man with a phenomenal sense of humor." Michael Thorsen said that Bob "occasionally does infuriating things, but unfortunately it's impossible to stay mad at him." Marty Cantor essentially agreed – he said he "has never gotten annoyed with Bob, ever, for any reason," uniquely in the club. Your humble Scribe noted Bob as a local expert on such varied subjects as exonumia (things resembling coins which aren't), Turkish history, and Stephen Foster. We gave Saint Bob Null three very loud cheers, "and an old gray mare."

Michelle Pincus, Registrar, had a surprising announcement for us: we had no guests! Charles Lee Jackson, the Second, suggested, "Go out and shanghai a couple." Michelle surveyed the room and said, "But Ed Green's back." Your humble Scribe disagreed: "No, that's his front!"

A Money Gouge performed by Christian B. McGuire and Cathy Beckstead moved some stuff out of the Clubhouse in exchange for some of the green stuff living in members' pockets. No, not algae.

We had no old business, but there was some new business. Ed Green spoke to the attendees, saying he is resigning from the Board, and any other appointive positions, because his career is making him busier than ever. He did this with great regret, but felt it was only fair to the club since he has so many other things on his plate. Members awarded him a standing ovation.

Announcements: Marcia said we had a postcard of the Pyramids from Bill Squiggle Anderson, a British fan, who wrote to us all the way from Cairo, Egypt.

Reviews: Hare Hobbs had seen "Iron Man," and had mixed feelings about it. His parents had worked in the aerospace industry, and he didn't like the fact that weapons-builders were the bogeymen here. (Frank Waller reminded him, "It's only a movie.") Other than that, Mrs. Lincoln, he enjoyed it for the cool special effects and action plot. Michelle started to defend the movie, but her possible spoilers were shouted down, so she just concluded, "Best superhero movie to date." Dave Morgan said that he and his son were very pleased with it, especially the performance by Robert Downey Jr. playing a drunken playboy. Who said that Method acting

is dead? Nicole Rubins said to be sure to sit through all the credits.

Milt Stevens had seen "The Perfect Creature," a sort of an alternate-universe steampunk movie on HBO, featuring lots of dirigibles in a weird 1950s New Zealand, with vampires posited as the next step in evolution, with their lifestyle presented as generally normal as the Church of England.

Carl Lembke said he was enjoying "The Sarah Jane Adventures," a sort of a spinoff of "Doctor Who," which inherited a lot of the quiriness from that series and added loads of fun featuring silly monsters. Sandy Cohen added that it's aimed at a younger demographic, much in the way that "Torchwood" is aimed at an older audience. It's still rather simplistic, but it's a sort of gateway drug to The Doctor.

Your humble Scribe finally got around to extolling the CBS sitcom "The Big Bang Theory." It's sort of the opposite of the old hit series "Friends," except that while that one was about five hip, cool young people and one nerdy scientist type, this one is about five nerdy Cal Tech scientists (including Sara Gilbert in a recurring role), and only one hip, cool young adult. (Well, she does appear to have two hips, but you know.) Zed Null suggested that the writer's strike had caused them to rethink the focus of the show, which made it much funnier. It succeeded where "Chuck" failed ... but in hindsight, that wouldn't be so difficult, would it?

Fred Patten said that Disney is collaborating with a studio in India to make a feature-length CGI Bollywood version of "Lady and the Tramp," called "Roadside Romeo." It'll be out around October, but only in India,

Faanish Committee Reports: Hare reported on some politician who was running without opposition, and somebody decided to run and campaign for the other guy. Your humble Scribe tried to make sense of it, but seems to be having some pronoun trouble.

Miscellaneous: Edwin Austin reported on a substitute teacher in Florida who performed a little sleight of hand in his classroom, making a toothpick seem to disappear and reappear, and who then was canned because a student complained that he was performing "wizardry." Marc Schirmeister wondered, "When do they burn him at the stake?" Maybe they have to determine whether he weighs the same as a duck. Oops!

By this time it was 2107, and Fred Patten moved to adjourn. Marcia happened to find a convenient bowling pin, so she decided to strike it on the table, and we split, with no time to spare.

Meeting #3692. May 15, 2008
Marcia Minsky, President
Matthew B. Tepper, Scribe

The chatter in the room got louder and louder, then softer and softer as President Marcia Minsky made a determined face and called us to order at 2010.

Just then, to show that there could also be good Special Orders, your humble Scribe confided that it was the birthday of LASFS member Clare Lasby, who was in attendance that evening. Members were invited to help her celebrate by assisting in eating a very large birthday cake that had been placed on the freebie table.

Patron Saint of the evening was the delightful Tom Digby, who had been a regular attendee for many years before his move to the Valley of the Silicon. Hare Hobbs celebrated Tom for his humor and strange jewelry, as well as his polite and soft-spoken nature. Milt Stevens recalled how Tom had come up with "practical" applications for fantasy ideas, such as coin-operated crypts for traveling vampires, as well as the famous frog/prince perpetual motion machine. A conversation with Tom was "like explaining things in our dimension to friends and family in another one." CL reminded us that Tom's home had been a sometime locale for the LASFS during its travelling years before the Clubhouses. Tom had an assortment of wall clocks, no two of them displaying the same time; these included one which went backwards, and one which moved a random number of minutes ahead or back, at random intervals. Tom was "the sort of person who would live around the corner from a place that would sell dill pickle ice cream ... and he did!" Karl Lembke noted that Tom's webzine Silicon Soapware contained what he called "observations from a slightly parallel universe, well worth reading." Michelle Pincus hadn't known him in the olden days as some of us had, but when she finally met him a few years ago, she found him "a pleasure to be around." Dr. Jerry Pournelle said that Tom was famously the inspiration for the central character in Larry Niven's "What Can You Say About Chocolate Covered Manhole Covers?" "Fortunately," Dr. P. added, "Niven found a lot to say." Jerry said he had once asked Tom why he wore that thing through his nose, and Tom answered, "Why does anybody wear jewelry? To make themselves attractive." Here Jerry added, "I did not dare to ask the next obvious question." Joe Zeff had seen Tom last year at Westercon, wearing a green sari leaving half of his chest exposed, and also did not ask Jerry's question. Scratch Galloway remembered Tom's novelty song, "Little Teeny Eyes." Karl opined that it is now old enough to be a traditional drinking song. And your humble Scribe hauled out his tired old story of Tom Digby being the first fan he ever met at a fan convention, helpfully suggesting that "That

man over there might know where Larry Niven is." (As it happened, that man over there certainly did know where Larry Niven was!) We saluted St. Tom Digby with three cheers "and a bubble machine."

Registrar Michelle Pincus said the drought was over, and we had 4! Count 'em! 4 guests! These were Clare Layendecker, a makeup artist by trade (you could tell from her sapphire-blue hair), interested in social networking, time travel paradox and cyberpunk. There were also three very technically-skilled visitors from JPL and Caltech: Ratatosk Lamar, Jeremy Yager, and Eric Chi. Also with us again was Diane Lass, who used to attend regularly back in the 1980s.

Word was passed to the front of the room from Treasurer Elayne Pelz to the effect that we had \$88,687.22, with the usual admonition.

Michelle Pincus had for us a Moment of Science, an article asking the musical question, "Where are the Milky Way's missing supernovas?" Dr. Pournelle scoffed at some sloppy phrasing in the article claiming that some astronomical object in the center of the galaxy was 140 years old, when what was really meant was that it's been 140 years from the time we first observed it. Diane agreed.

Committee Reports: Arlene Satin, Marketing Committee, had some welcome news: The Reading Rocketeer's first voyage was to be piloted by Shawn Crosby. She will talk to him about "caping up," and he will be bringing his famous "H-Wing," a Honda del Sol customized as a "Star Wars" X-Wing fighter, because it's what he travels in. David Okamura created all of our logos, including one for the visors, and Arlene made him stand and accept applause from the room. Also, "The Other Scott" had designed one of the bookmarks, so she thanked him as well. We will have a booth at the West Hollywood Book Fair, September 28th, in a tented outdoors area, and volunteers were requested for set-up and tear-down. She will be sending out invitations to various area authors, so we will have a presence there beyond our booth. See her or Tadao if you are able to help make it a success, and keep in mind, there will be t-shirts for those who volunteer!

The aforementioned Tadao Tomomatsu strode to the front of the room and gave his spiel for La La Con 14, our annual relaxacon, this year scheduled for the last weekend in June. Membership is a mere \$20, plus a further \$6 for the optional banquet, so spread the word. There will be all the usual fun program items, video sweatlodge, a lemon-tree-watching marathon, and of course, an auction.

Under Business (and your humble Scribe is not certain whether to count this as Old or New), we heard from Michael Donahue. As you may recall from previous chapters, he was responsible for the Library remodel 15 or so years ago, and has lately been speaking with building contractors in order to get estimates for various substantial building improvements that could be made on this lot. Wouldn't you know it, there are legal limitations on what we could do – we can't change our stated purpose for existing, so we'll have to operate a science fiction club, not a taco stand or anything else. (You don't want to know what sort of a business Dr. Pournelle asked about.) We are allowed to build up to 5,000 square feet, so long as we have a suitable amount of parking. He laid out several of the possibilities, some of which include enough space for lounges, libraries, bathrooms, kitchenette, etc., and so forth. Bill Ellern's face lit up with an evial grin: "Does this mean that instead of buying two parking spaces every month, I could buy four?" Mike showed off a jar for cash donations toward this project. The Southern California Institute for Fan Interests had already been **sounded out**, and was potentially interested in some sort of capacity with funding if possible. CL had made a drawing on the whiteboard depicting a locale in Anaheim that he thought would be ideal for various S.F., Fantasy, and Western-themed areas, or "lands," and has plenty of room we could work with, if we could rid it of all those pesky mice, ducks, bears, and so on. Bill Ellern had the capper, from a fannish tradition of long ago: "Do we still get to put a tower on top?" Mike replied, "Only if we have the money for it." Don't ask how, but Bill's gleam suddenly got, well, gleamier.

Announcements: Doug Crepeau had some favorable news about his health, in that a clinical trial had thusfar allowed him to reduce his weight from 265 to 239 pounds. He also introduced his friend, Mrs. Pamela Culshaw, who is recuperating after surgery. Qarl Lembq reminded us that there is a convention coming up in November. He is running the Con Suite, and is looking for able bodies and weak minds to help him run the thing. He said he intends it to be really nifty, and could use some help.

CL added that he has responded to requests and produced a list of his 150 favorite motion pictures, and hopes to have it as a web page if you are interested in seeing it. Send him email at the-emperor@cljii.com and he'll send it to you. Hare Hobbs, not to be outdone by Doug, had some news of his own, namely that he has received a mostly clean bill of health.

Reviews: CL, that movie-watchin' fiend, had gone to see "Iron Man" and was pleasantly surprised to note that it did not offend him for messing up the characters. The

picture had many good things about it, except for one bit of business at the end, which he found racist. The film was accompanied by a trailer for "The Incredible Hulk," which looked very realistic – until you saw the Hulk, who looks all CGI and very fakey. (See your humble Scribe's remarks of 11 years ago, in which the mini-series "The Odyssey" was described as having "the best cheesy CGI griffins I've ever seen.") The trailer for the new "Indiana Jones" movie looks exciting, even though it reminds him of "The Mummy Returns." Qarl said that he and Kevin enjoyed "Iron Man," as well as a "triple-wide" trailer for "Prince Caspian," which makes him really want to see it. Hare Hobbs was one of the lonely few who had seen "Speed Racer," and noted that the little brother and chimp have what he called "The Jar-Jar Syndrome." Still, it's a "wonderful eye candy movie," and he does recommend it. CL was reminded of "Tarzan's Greatest Adventure," in which Cheetah is told at the beginning of the picture that he has to stay behind, and is never seen again. The audience cheered in wonderment that such a thing could have happened. Ah well, those were the days of old.

Richard Costas had gone to see the Very Large Array, and was very impressed. By luck he even got to film them moving one of the 27 telescopes. Krystal Raines bought a DVD that she thought people might like to see. Jerry Pournelle wrapped up the "Iron Man" critiquing for now, saying he had liked it a lot, particularly for "the way they found 35-year-old Gwyneth Paltrow to be an ingenue ... but then she's probably one of the best actresses in the business."

Faanish Committee Reports: We still couldn't shake the "Iron Man" references, as Doug reported that Sarcos Inc. has built an exoskeleton which can multiply its wearer's strength and endurance 20 times, and yet weighs only 150 pounds. Charles had received an article from Greg Bilan about a Swiss pilot named Yves Rossy who jumped from a plane, using a jet-powered wing to fly solo and perform stunts over the Alps. "That was to impress the girls," Rossy said afterwards. Dan McCarthy was impressed by the film footage he saw on TV, which really looked like a flying man. His flight time was nine minutes, much more than you can get with a JetPack. Hare Hobbs had an addendum to a previous report, that safety in stock car collisions has been helped by a sort of artificial rock, made the same way as styrofoam. Your humble Scribe noted that Honda's ASIMO robot had been programmed to conduct at a recent concert of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. This would make it the first robot to perform in public with an orchestra, that is if you don't count Anthony Daniels or Glenn Gould.



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