

## **Condensed Cream of Menace of the LASFS**

### **Meeting #4487**

Aug. 10, 2023

Scribe: Heath "Scribbles" Row

### **Call to Order**

Cathy Johnson called the meeting to order at 8 p.m.

We are on agenda light tonight because we have a guest, Kevin R. Grazier.

### **Hatchings and Dispatchings (Nick Smith)**

#### Hatchings

- Author and screenwriter Curt Siodmak
- Actor Noah Beery Jr.
- Actor Claudia Christian
- Courtesy of Susan Fox
  - Actor Antonio Banderas
  - Author Suzanne Collins

#### Dispatchings

- Director William Friedkin (d. Aug. 7, 2023)
- Actor Mark Margolis (d. Aug. 3, 2023)
- Film editor Arthur Schmidt (d. Aug. 5, 2023)

#### Media anniversary

*Dinosaurus!* appeared on the big screen on this date in 1960. It had previously screened in New Orleans and Los Angeles on June 24 and July 20, respectively.

### **Reading of the Minutes (Heath Row)**

Scribbles read the Condensed Cream of Menace for Aug. 3, 2023.

### **Additions and Corrections**

None

### **Auction to Name the Minutes**

Heide Nichols bid \$5, won, and named them "Excellent Minutes for August."

### **Call for Approval**

Moved to accept as read, and approved.

### **Celebration of Patron Saints**

Charles Lee Jackson II described the patron saints of the LASFS for guests and newcomers.

Ed Hooper was celebrated and recognized by Nola Frame-Gray, Chris Marbles, Matt Mitchell, Eylat Poliner, and Matthew B. Tepper. Hooper received three cheers—and a broken bokken.

Tim Merrigan was celebrated and recognized by Charles Lee Jackson II and Chris Marble. Merrigan received three cheers—and a bag of chips, a bottle of corflu, and a hat with a bunch of nickels banged into it.

Jerry Pournelle was celebrated and recognized by Nola Frame-Gray, Tim Friedline, Matt Mitchell, Heide Nichols, Eylat Poliner, Tom Safer, Nick Smith, and Matthew B. Tepper. Pournelle received three cheers—and a can of haggis.

### **Committee Reports**

- Programming (Eylat Poliner)
  - Aug. 17: Gail Carriger, author of *Divinity 36* and *Demigod 12*, the first two Tinkered Starsong books
  - Aug. 24: Tom Safer presents a program of cartoon shorts after the meeting
  - Sept. 7: Arlene Busby, on the Aerospace Legacy Foundation
  - Sept. 28: David Raiklen, on the music of *Star Trek*
  - Oct. 14: Forry Award nominations and vote
  - Nov. 2: Board of Directors nominations
  - Nov. 9: Meeting #4500 and Board of Directors election
  - Nov. 16: History of the LASFS featuring longtime LASFSans
  - Nov. 23: Meeting at Loscon 49
  - Dec. 7: Nominations for president
  - Dec. 14: Procedural elections
  - Dec. 28: Loscon retrospective

### **Honor Guard** (Charles Lee Jackson II)

The Spot of Honor is held by the 48 Hour Film Project in Los Angeles.

### **Treasurer** (Debra Levin and Elayne Pelz)

Elayne Pelz reminded members to pay their dues.

### **Time-Bound Announcements**

- Nick Smith:
  - Upcoming Dark Delicacies signings featuring Vera Strange's new Disney Chills series book and Moss Lawton's graphic novel *Hellaween*. On Sunday, there's also a local walk between stores.
  - Upcoming American Cinematheque screenings of *Rosemary's Baby* and *Teen Witch*
  - The New Beverly Cinema will screen *The Ring* on Friday and *Toy Story 3* this weekend.

**Special Event:** Planetary physicist Kevin R. Grazier, science adviser for movies and television

Grazier gave a presentation about what science advisers do, how people can prepare to become one, and his books, including *Hollyweird Science: From Quantum Quirks to the Multiverse* and *Hollyweird Science: The Next Generation—From Spaceships to Microchips*. He shared stories about his experiences working on *Star Trek: Voyager*, the reboot of *Battlestar Galactica*, *Eureka*, *The Zula Patrol*, *Defiance*, *Gravity*, and *Foundation*.

One of the key themes of Grazier's talk was the need to find a balance between accurate science and compelling storytelling. He utilized quotations from Kevin Murphy and Michael Crichton to underscore the point.

After Grazier's presentation, he and members of the LASFS discussed Dan Alderson of the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory; the difference between scientific accuracy in literature, cinema, and television; and the interactive elements of the *Defiance* TV show and video game—and how that affected storytelling and scientific accuracy.

### **Moments of Science**

- Gregory Lipscomb announced the Perseid meteor shower, which peaked that upcoming weekend.
- Lee Grixit offered an update on the legitimacy of the room-temperature superconductor.

### **Regular Announcements**

- Tom Safer emailed Elayne Pelz the telephone number for American Lutheran Church.
- Scribbles mailed a birthday card to Bjo Trimble on behalf of the LASFS.

### **Miscellaneous**

- Cathy Johnson reminded members of the aftermeeting.
- Charles Lee Jackson II remarked that Jerry Pournelle is the worst doctor he's ever heard of, but he has heard of him.

### **Call to Adjourn**

Eylat Poliner so moved. That was seconded. The ayes had it.