Long Ago Minutes
July 17, 2025
Meeting #4588
Cathy Johnson, presiding
Matt Mitchell, Scribe

A fascinating discussion of names being passed down with suffixes, by luminaries as diverse as Frederick Pohl, Tyrone Power, George Foreman and Nancy Sinatra, was terminated by the call to order by president Cathy Johnson at 8:01 p.m.

Hatchings, Matchings and Dispatchings [Nick Smith]
Hatchings:
- Billy Lourd, actor in *Star Wars* films and daughter of Carrie Fisher
- J. Michael Straczynski, creator of *Babylon 5*

Media anniversaries:
- Disneyland opens in 1955
- *Apollo-Soyuz,* the handshake in space in 1975

Passings:
- Gregory Hart, *Doctor Who* fan, technical director for Gallifrey One for a dozen years. He was remembered by Cathy and by Matt Mitchell. A minute of silence was observed by the members.

The minutes of meeting 4587 were read. The winning bid to name was $10 from Barbara Harmon: "APA-L May Be Back!" Eylat Poliner moved to approve. The motion passed at 8:18 p.m.

Patron Saints:
Bill Curry was this week's Patron Saint. Chris Marble remembered that he was a book vender. Apparently Bill wore what Chris thought was called a beanie back in the day, or more commonly referred to a stocking cap nowadays. Eylat Poliner consulted the Book of Armaments, or rather, the Patron Saints list recently mentioned in meetings. Bill appeared on the rosters of L.A. Con, MythCon, IguanaCon, and others. He donated materials to an auction that provided funds to the Down Under Fan Fund. He was a frequent attendee of LASFS in the 70s when the club met at a park. Bill was given three cheers and a good paperback book.

Committee Reports:
Honor Guard [Charles Lee Jackson II]: The spot of honor is SciFi.Radio - Sci-fi for your Wi-Fi.

Registrar: Matthew Tepper reported no first time guests this evening.

Treasurer: Elayne Pelz said we currently have 1 non paying member, and to please donate.

Board of Directors: Michelle Pincus reported there will be no board meeting in August, possibly due to Worldcon. Next BoD meeting will be September 14th. Contain your disappointment.

Programming Eylat recited the July & August programming, reminding us that next week Mary G. Thompson will do a reading for one of her stories.

Loscon 51: Eylat reminded us that this is happening Thanksgiving weekend at the LAX Hilton. Guests of Honor were listed in the chat. Anyone wanting to place art in the Art Show, if you want a dealers table, or if you want to have a hotel room, book early, book often.

Fannish wellness: Chris visited George Mulligan. He's doing okay, he's working on his problem foot. Selina Phenara is still job hunting

Eylat reported Heidi Nichols is not doing well. She barely could speak, she was in so much pain. She also said Joyce Sperling is not doing well either. She is barely able to get out of bed and walk around. Eylat suggested, as both Heidi and Joyce are club members, we can send them cards as we sent to Don Fitch. Matt will send them cards, pursuant to the traditional duty of the Scribe

CL reported that his sister Margaret has three broken ribs, most likely when one of her doctors was performing a procedure, and one rib punctured her lung. They apparently couldn't tell because the lung still functioned, the only apparent symptom was an elevated white blood cell count. Lawyers are being consulted.

Old Business:
Reporting on the new clubhouse building, Elayne said the bicycle shop people are on track to leave at the appointed time. She is going over on August 4th with our contractor and Dean Johnson to go over the building thoroughly. And she would rather that the lookie-loos stayed home.

No New Business managed to sneak onto the agenda this week.

Timebound announcements:
CL announced Stephen Colbert's show is canceled. CBS/Paramount Claiming that it really has something to do with complicated financial matters, and not with political pressure from Washington. In other news, swampland on Arrakis has just opened up.

Eylat begged everyone not to give any spoilers on the *Strange New Worlds* premiere. Cathy and Dean had to rewatch the previous season because it has been a couple of years. The members agreed to not let any spoilers be mentioned before the guillotine had to be hauled out of storage.

From there, exercising presidential fiat, which could be just a car she used to own, Cathy called for Reviews:
Eylat reviewed *Continuum*, a time-travel show on Amazon Prime. She also again mentioned the Jack Kirby exhibit at the Skirball Museum. Finally, she mentioned that she, Debra Levin and Matthew Tepper went to see *Superman*, and she enjoyed it so much she'd pay to see it again!

Matthew added this is the *Superman* movie he's been waiting for since the 80s. He praised the superb casting, especially the Jimmy Olsen who actually has red hair, and the best Lex Luthor. CL chimed in, saying the director James Gunn seemed very knowledgeable about DC comics but wondered why Superman's outfit didn't look like it was sewn together by Ma Kent. Barbara added that she saw it with her grandson and they both liked it, but she found the music uninspiring.

Tom Safer reviewed the 1963 film *Captain Sinbad,* with Guy Williams, saying it was worth picking up. CL agreed it was a remarkable little film, though perhaps not as good as *The Seventh Voyage of Sinbad*, but this movie had a surprising number of mechanical effects on a shoestring budget.

Science report:
Tom Safer presented the following luminaries:

- Monsignor Georges Lematre, Belgian cosmologist and ordained priest, who among other things in 1927 formulated the modern Big Bang Theory
- Barnabi Oriani, Italian astronomer, geodesicist, and priest, (lots of scientist/ clergymen this week!) who found the Virgo Cluster Galaxies;
- Mary Leakey, the wife of Dr. Louis Leakey, found what was later classified as an *Australopithecus*.

Dean Johnson reported that Peter Jackson of *The Lord of the Rings* fame has donated/ invested $14 million to bring back the extinct New Zealand Moa, a flightless bird similar to the ostrich. As if he didn't get into enough trouble with that *King Kong* movie...

Lee Grixit mentioned a new technique of in-vitro fertilization has apparently successfully over-come a genetic deficiency in the mitochondria. On the other hand, it will completely screw up the ancestry breakdown you would get from 23 And Me.

Cathy and Dean showed a quick video they took in their backyard of the Dragon spacecraft re-entering the atmosphere, bringing back four astronauts from the ISS, before splashing down near Long Beach.

Regular announcements/Miscellaneous
Tom announced he's turning 65 next Wednesday, to the derisive remarks of the many geezers in the membership.

CL spotted the first Halloween-themed food item: Pumpkin spice Swiss Miss cocoa mix. He's pretty sure the early appearance of such holiday items is due to the impending tariffs … but what has their excuse been for the last thirty years?

Lee Grixit mentioned leftover Halloween candy from his local Democratic club, with Tootsie Rolls that none dare take because they don't know how old they are!

And on that scary note, Cathy reminded us of the aftermeeting, and Eylat moved to adjourn, as if daring someone to try to sneak it past her again. Tom seconded, and the members upheld the motion at 9:11 p.m. so they could go watch *Strange New Worlds.*