

# De Profundis

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 51

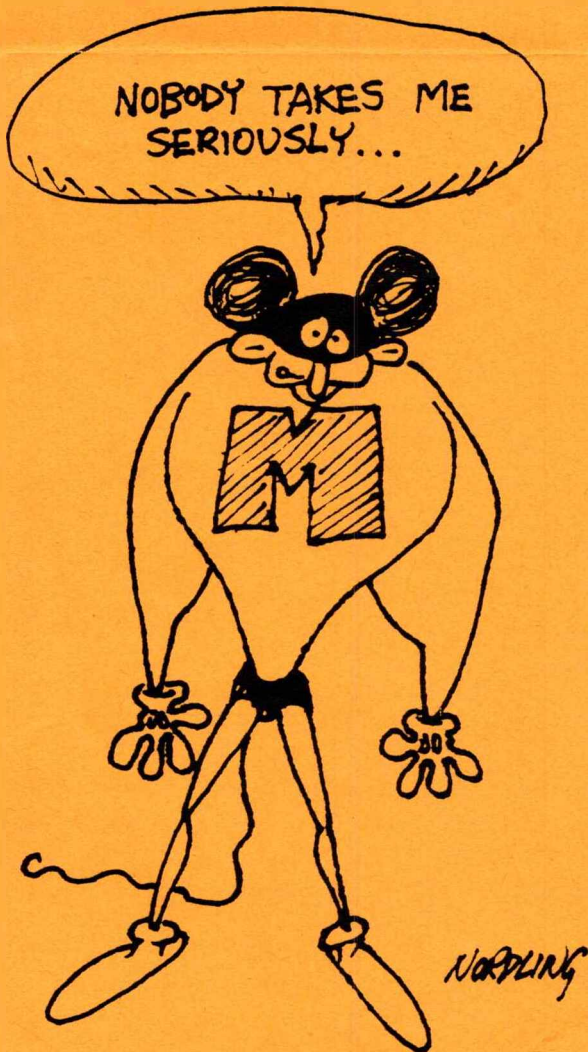
1984 AUGUST

WHOLE NUMBER 151

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1884 -- HUGO GERNSBACK -- 1984

Thursday, August 16, will be the centennial of the birth of Hugo Gernsback in Luxembourg. Gernsback emigrated to the United States in 1904; within two years, he was marketing a home radio set; after two more, he was publishing the first of his many magazines, *Modern Electrics*. It was there that he published the original version of his novel *Ralph 124C 41+* (released in book form in 1925). The magazine continued through 1929 under the names *Electrical Experimenter* and *Science and Invention*. The August 1923 issue of SAI was devoted to "scientific fiction". In April 1926, the first issue of *Amazing Stories* appeared and became an immediate commercial success. Gernsback lost control of the magazine and its spinoffs in 1929, but immediately turned around and started four more magazines, including what became in 1936 *Thrilling Wonder Stories*. Gernsback continued starting new publications: his last SF magazine, *Science Fiction Plus*, ran for seven issues in 1953. Another magazine, *Sexology*, was rather more successful. The Science Fiction Achievement Awards were nicknamed the "Hugos" in his honor. At the 1960 World Science Fiction Convention in Pittsburgh, he was awarded a special Hugo as "The Father of Magazine Science Fiction." Gernsback died in 1967. (based on the article in *The Science Fiction Encyclopedia* by Malcolm Edwards [Doubleday, 1979])



## THE LASFS 50 PROJECT

Speaking of anniversaries, LASFS has one of its own coming up: the 50th anniversary of the formation of the club. Besides the usual hoopla such an event will engender, Dan Deckert has been organizing a project to launch the next 50 years off on the right foot. He calls this the LASFS 50 Project, and it's been under heavy development for a couple of months. A brainstorming session held at the club meeting on June 21 yielded several areas for consideration, and committees are now forming to take care of them. Appointed thus far:

LASFS Meetings Program -- Rick Foss

Outside Events -- Marjorie (Turnham) Rosen

Public Service -- Marjii Ellers

Sign-up sheets for these committees are posted on the LASFS Bulletin Board next to the phone booth. Other committees which may be formed are: Fund-raising, Publicity, Internal Affairs, Miscellaneous.

[LASFS 50 cont.] The first progress report on LASFS 50 is also posted on the LASFS Bulletin Board. If you don't get by the clubhouse, send a SASE and your request to Dan Deckert, 4370 McLaughlin Ave., Los Angeles CA 90066. What's needed? We quote from the report:

Volunteers are the first requirement. We need people to head each of the committees. If you are interested, mention that interest to Robbie Cantor. We also need people to staff each committee. If you'd rather follow than lead, don't hesitate to step forward. There'll be a place for you.

Support is our next requirement. If you can't volunteer for some reason, at least give some encouragement to those who do have the time. If you feel you must criticize something a committee is doing, please try to make your criticism constructive. It's too easy to tear something down. With a little more work you might help build something beautiful.

Keep making suggestions....

On a related note, Galen Tripp is heading the committee planning the Golden Anniversary Dinner in October.

### COLLATORS!

The next issue of De Profundis will be collated Wednesday, September 5, at 8 p.m. in Freehafer Hall. Please let the editor (Gavin) know if you plan to attend in case of emergency postponement. As always, you are invited to contribute articles, reviews, and letters. Deadline for the next issue is Sunday, September 2.

### DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS AND UPDATES

Davidson, Loren: 10854 Hayvenhurst, Granada Hills CA 91344 (818) 366-5307  
 Gillen, Al: (213) 674-0318  
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 Lavender, Deedee & Roy: (213) 494-7453  
 Myers, Diane Lee: 1310 S. Barrington Ave. #6, Los Angeles CA 90025 (213) 477-9971  
 Post, Jonathon: 264-443, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, 4800 Oak Grove Drive, Pasadena CA 91103 (818) 354-6648  
 Reuben; Pamela, Kim, & Lori: COA not known  
 Simonson, Eric: (206) 696-2666  
 Sohus, John & Linda: (818) 281-5689  
 Tripp, Galen: 2235 N. Catalina St., Burbank CA 91504 (818) 845-0833  
 Walden, Bryce: 15807 S. Holcomb Blvd., Oregon City OR 97045 (503) 655-6189  
 Zeff, Joe: 6720 Day St., Tujunga CA 91042 (818) 352-2153

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board of Directors met Sunday, July 22, at the home of Cheryl Chapman. The meeting started shortly before 1 p.m. and was finished before 2 p.m. (when the guests and some misled Board members arrived). All pending membership applications were approved. If you put up \$5, you're in. Air conditioning for the clubhouse will not go in this summer, but we should be able to do in the fall or winter, at off-season prices. Danise Deckert, Protector of the Club Scrapbook, is arranging for a display stand in the clubhouse to allow it to be perused. The club library has been rented to a studio for \$500 for research purposes. The next meeting of the Board will be Sunday, September 30, at 2 p.m., in Freehafer Hall (subject to change without notice).

## WESTERCON FOLLOW-UP: WHAT THE FANS SAID

This year's Westercon, held over the weekend preceeding July 4, seemed to have made a very favorable impression overall. Comments ranged from "Best Westercon I've attended!" to "...This committee (not the hotel) was well prepared..." The few negative comments I heard were, suprisingly enough, from Portland area fans, and centered primarily around the reaction of the Hotel staff to a fire alarm incident which took place on Sunday night. I got the feeling that their primary concern was that out-of-area fans would be upset by this and consequently take home a bad opinion of Portland conventions and Portland fandom. I don't think they need worry.

Getting to the convention itself was a very impressive experience, at least for those of us who drove up. The scenery alone would have made the 18 hour trip worthwhile. Arriving at the Marriott was not an anti-climax. Both hotel and convention staff were pleasant and fairly well organized. We had the two bottom floors of the hotel entirely for convention functions and the hotel provided some niceties that were very much appreciated. Stations with glasses and ice water were spaced at convenient places around the floors and a 24 hr snack bar provided quite reasonable food (including sandwiches, chili, fresh fruit and ice cream) at quite reasonable prices. All hotel guests had usage of the hotel health club, and the hotel made the pool and jacuzzi area available for a convention party on Saturday night.

The convention staff itself was composed of local fans supplemented by others from the entire Western states area and a few Easterners as well. All in all the mix worked well. Registration was kept simple and there were few problems with record-keeping in that area. Programming, however, was anything but simple with multiple tracks of panels and readings, movies and two video channels all running sideby side and around in circles. Last minute schedule changes, particularly those involving the GOH, Harlan Ellison, did create a fair bit of confusion, despite daily schedule updates which the committee did actually put out daily. Many fans expressed frustration at having to try to choose among the many program items, but I heard no complaints of boredom. One of the program members observed that the convention was "...not over-programmed, but only under attended," which may very well have been the case. Actual attendance was considerably under membership, which probably caused some disparity between

plans and actualities.

I think that the biggest area of dissatisfaction with the convention as a whole centered around the Art Show and Dealers Room facilities. These were a very spacious but very crude exhibition hall which was usually a parking garage. Concrete slab floors, grungy grey walls and exposed ductwork set the mood, and dealers found their tables by referring to the parking slot numbers painted on the floors. It was a depressing setting for some fine artwork and displays to have to spend a weekend. Prospective art fans and customers alike found drafts and sore feet a major deterrant to maintaining their enthusiasm.

The by now famous Fire Alarm Incident, while taking up a lot of fannish time and attention, did not actually affect the convention to any great extent. Open room parties were cancelled for the last night, and moved into a central room on the function floor, but all other events continued as scheduled.

All in all I, and most of the fans I spoke with, found it a very enjoyable weekend. I'm looking forward to my next Portland convention.

#### PREVENT MIND DECAY - READ BOOKS

Thanks in a great part to the financial and moral support of LASFS members, Alice and Marty Massoglia opened A & M Book Cellars, a used book store in Canoga Park, on Tuesday July 17. The store, at 19801 Van Owen, is currently being run by Terry and Naomi Karney. Actually, the address is a lie - the store faces on a little side street off Van Owen. Find Marshall's, then follow around the buildings to the west and almost to the back of the lot and you'll find it. They buy, sell and trade used books (mostly paperbacks) at bargain prices. Stop in and browse. Friends are always welcome.

#### SHAGGY \_\_\_\_\_ STORIES

Since taking on the editors post for Shangri L'Affaires, Alice Massoglia has had numerous offers of ideas, assistance etc., all of which are appreciated. More are of course needed and welcomed, but first on the current need list is MATERIAL. A first return edition for early fall (maybe even in time for LACON II) is hoped for, but she cannot do it unless some of you author types out there submit something to be published. Find her or any of her family at the club or send manuscripts directly to her at 16339 Kinzie, Sepulveda.

## FANZINES

RECOMMENDED FANZINE OF THE MONTH by Harry J. N. Andruschak

*Space and Time* #66. Gordon Linzer, 138 W. 70th St. #4-B, New York NY 10023.  
Published twice a year; single issue \$4; subs 2/\$7, 4/\$13.

S&T is probably the longest lasting and best of the semi-prozines devoted to fantasy and SF short stories. A typical issue has 120 pages of stories, artwork, poetry, and news. I have no room to run an in-depth review, so I suggest that you try one copy to see if you like it. Many of the stories are of the type that are very good, but just not in a format acceptable to the big-paying prozines. At least, I don't remember a series of spy stories where the agent was a vampire.

--Andy

FANZINES RECEIVED as noted by Marjorie Rosen

INSTANT MESSAGE 361,362. Twice monthly publication of NESFA, Inc.

OSFIC NEWSLETTER 42 (jan/Feb). Ontario (Can.) Science Fiction Club. One very interesting story called "Exorcist III."

TNFF 44:3. The National Fantasy Fan Federation. Excellent illustrations.

TRANSMISSIONS 161. Nova Odysseus newsletter.

WILDER BOOKS Catalog 10. First editions and collector's items. Only for the independently wealthy.

FANZINES RECENTLY UNEARTH'ED (and missing from last month's listing)

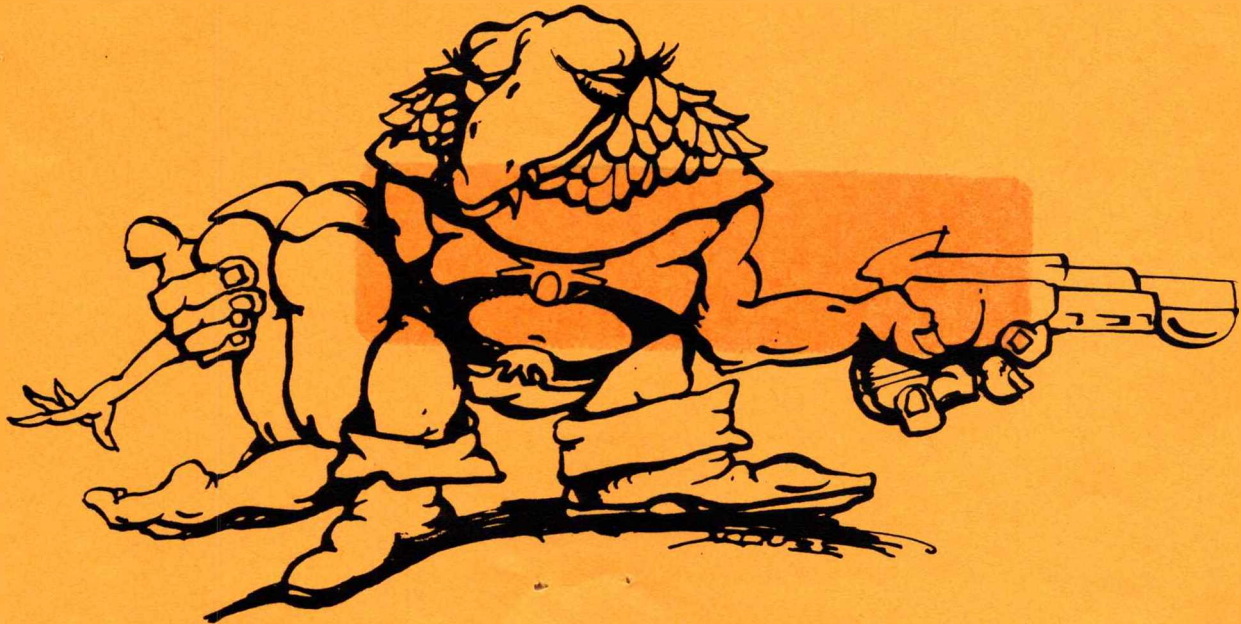
CUSFUSSING 41. Official Fanzine of the ~~Summer-Olympics~~ Barnard-Columbia Science Fiction Society. Book reviews, serial installment, Warner letter.

INSTANT MESSAGE 359. The May 6 edition of the NESFA newsletter.

RHETORICAL DEVICE 3 (April). Letterzine from Clifford R. Wind in Seattle WA.

TNFF 44:2 (April). Official Organ of the National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F). With TIGHTBEAM 131 (April), the letterzine and genzine of the N3F.

TRANSMISSIONS 158 (May). Nova Odysseus newsletter.



August 2 8 p.m. LASFS meeting #2451 in Freehafer Hall.  
 August 3 7 p.m. Friday Night at the Clubhouse: card games, D&D, computer stuff.  
 August 9 8 p.m. St. Jerry's meeting (LASFS #2452) in Freehafer Hall.  
 August 10 7 p.m. Clubhouse open to members & their guests.  
 August 10-12 weekend PIMACON. Santa Rita Hotel, 88 E. Broadway, Tucson AZ. GOH: Bjo Trimble. c/o P.Connors, Box 42036, Tucson AZ 85733.  
 August 10-13 weekend MYTHCON XV. Mills College, Oakland CA. GOH: Jane Yolen. \$20 + r&b or commuter fee. 6017 Avila, El Cerrito CA 94530.  
 August 11 7 p.m. REGENCY DANCING. Masonic Temple, 1557 S. Barrington, West LA. \$2 donation. New people welcome. Sue Haseltine (213) 828-0483.  
 August 12 9:30 a.m. LASFAPA #95 collation. Freehafer Hall.  
 August 12 2 p.m. LASFS Second Sunday. Free to active members.  
 August 15 7 p.m. Fandom Univ. Computer Club meets in Bldg 4SJ. Bob Null.  
 August 16 8 p.m. Gernsback centennial. LASFS #2453 in Freehafer Hall.  
 August 17 7 p.m. Friday night -- clubhouse open.  
 August 19 2 p.m. WRITER'S GROUP meets in Bldg 4SJ. Bring MSS. George Jumper.  
 August 22 all day  
 August 23 8 p.m. St. Fuzzy's meeting (LASFS #2454) in Freehafer Hall.  
 August 24 7 p.m. Friday night -- clubhouse open.  
 August 29 9 a.m. FAN DAY AT DISNEYLAND for L.A.con II members. \$9. Till 12 p.m.  
 August 30 through September 3 L.A.con II -- The 42nd World Science Fiction Convention. Anaheim Convention Center/Anaheim Hilton/Hilton at the Park. \$75/weekend, \$35/day (\$25 Monday).  
 LASFS meeting #2455 will be held at the hotel, Thursday, 7 p.m.  
 APA-L 1007 collation, Friday, 3 p.m., in the Fan Room.  
 THE CLUBHOUSE WILL NOT OPEN THURSDAY OR FRIDAY NIGHTS.  
 September 5 8 p.m. DE PROFUNDIS #152 collation. Freehafer Hall. COLLATORS!  
 September 6 8 p.m. St. Emil Luwish's meeting (LASFS #2456) in Freehafer Hall.  
 September 7 7 p.m. Clubhouse resumes Friday Night activity.  
 September 7-9 weekend COPPERCON 4. Sunburst Hotel, 4925 N. Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale AZ. GOH: Somtow Sucharitkul. FanGOH: Samuel E. Konkin III. \$16 to Sept. 6/\$20 at door. Box 11743, Phoenix AZ 85061.  
 September 8 2-5 p.m. HARRY HARRISON autograph party at A Change of Hobbit bookstore. 1853 Lincoln Blvd., Santa Monica CA 90404. (213) GREAT-SF.

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