

De Profundis

Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society

DECEMBER 1992

ISSUE 248

MEETING PROGRAMMING FOR DECEMBER

03 Board of Directors Elections-3
seats up for grabs

Presidential Nominations

Loscon Review

10 Procedural Elections

17 Larry Niven talks about
Beowulf Schafer

24 Fruitcake meeting

31 Forrest J. Ackerman as The
Saint will give a talk

OTHER MEETINGS

13 2nd SUNDAY OPEN HOUSE

16 FANDOM UNIVERSAL

COMPUTER CLUB

20 TIME MEDDLERS 10am

LASFS WINTER HOLIDAY PARTY

tentatively scheduled for
Decembr 25th at Noon

LASFS GIFT EXCHANGE

DECEMBER 18th

Begin 7pm

Exchange at 8:30

AUTOGRAPH PARTIES

DANGEROUS VISIONS

986-6963

Mercedes Lackey will be at DV on
Dec 26.

SCENE OF THE CRIME

981-2583

A AND M BOOK CELLARS

716-6259

*The club needs a few items
replaced. If you have them to
spare pls contribute:*

Full set of screwdrivers

Pliers

Drill

Electric screwdriver

Hand saw

Hack saw and blades

Screws/nuts/bolts/nails



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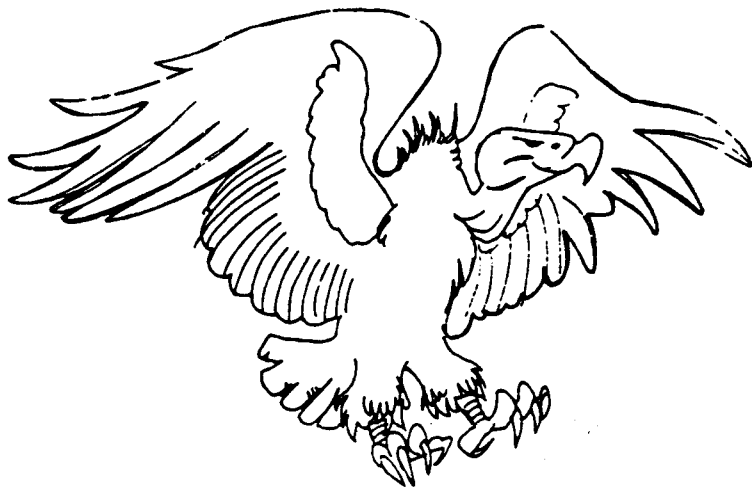
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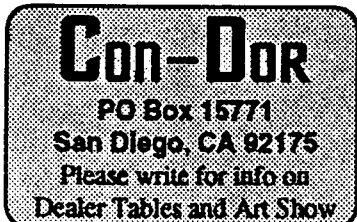
J. Michael Straczynski

(Creative Force Behind *Babylon 5*)

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AN OPEN LETTER FOR THE LASFS, INC
FELLOW LASFS MEMBERS,

Last month, I published an open letter on the subject of the publishing schedule of *De Profundis*. The issue is that the largest reoccurring expense that the club has is the publication and mailing of *De Prof!* With all the current and planned club house renovations and the fact that the current economic down turn continues, and the future does not look like we will see an improvement, we need to consider how we could save money rather than spend it. As I stated last time, we are not experiencing any financial problems. If anything, this discussion may help to avoid problems.

You might recall I published a 'Straw Poll', which was run through *De Prof* as well as APA-L (And a tip of the hat to Tim Merrigan for taking the initiative to do that), and I promised to give the results. Well, here we are. I'll repeat the questions, show the total numbers, as well as the break down of the individual numbers I will also give you my 'spin' on it. I will also share some of the comments that were made on the forms. No names will be used.

As stated before, this is just a 'straw poll', and the results aren't binding, but the Board of Directors will be given a copy of this whole mess.

A total of 17 responses were returned. If a question was NOT answered, it was given a value of 0. All responses for each question were totaled up, and divided by 17. Final scores were rounded up/down.

Please indicate your response to the following questions -
1=Strongly Agree 2=Agree 3=No Opinion 4=Disagree 5=Strongly Disagree

De Profundis should continue to be published monthly, regardless of the cost to the club.

OVERALL SCORE: 45 points / 2.6 = Agree, but leaning towards No Opinion

BREAK DOWN: 1) 4 2) 4 3) 1 4) 5 5) 2 0) 1 Total 17

'SPIN': People either really agreed with this idea, or they found it 'slightly' distasteful. The numbers averaged out.

COMMENTS: None

De Profundis should be published every other month, in order to save on postage costs.

OVERALL SCORE: 40 points / 2.3 = Agree

BREAK DOWN: 1) 5 2) 4 3) 3 4) 2 5) 2 0) 1 Total 17

'SPIN': Most people wouldn't be horrified if *De Prof* went bi-monthly.

COMMENTS: 'See Question #1! (Which was publish regardless of cost)

De Profundis should be continue to be published monthly, IF the club can get a 'Bulk Rate' or other reduced rate from the Post Office.

OVERALL SCORE: 35 points / 2.0 = Agree

BREAK DOWN: 1) 5 2) 4 3) 2 4) 3 5) 1 0) 2 Total 17

'SPIN': They seemed to like it.

COMMENTS: 'It would be nice!' / 'Good Idea!'

De Profundis should be published quarterly to save postage costs, but publish all the minutes from the meetings during that quarter.

OVERALL SCORE: 55 points / 3.2 = *No Opinion*

BREAK DOWN: 1) 5 2) 4 3) 2 4) 3 5) 1 0) 2 Total 17

'SPIN': The numbers don't really match the comments.

COMMENTS: 'Are you crazy?' / 'See question #1 (Which was published at any cost)

The mailing list for *De Profundis* should be 'weeded' out of those people who don't want to get it.

OVERALL SCORE: 28 points / 1.6 = *Strongly Agree leaning to Agree*

BREAK DOWN: 1) 7 2) 7 3) 1 4) 1 5) 0 0) 1 Total 17

'SPIN': The most popular idea put forward. The only real concern was who would do the culling, and how they would determine who to cull.

COMMENTS: 'Only if the people doing the pruning make damn sure that the people they prune really don't want to get...'

De Profundis should not be published again until the current plans for remodeling the club house are finished.

OVERALL SCORE: 71 points / 4.2 = *Disagree*

BREAK DOWN: 1) 0 2) 0 3) 1 4) 2 5) 12 0) 2 Total 17

'SPIN': If anyone wishes to get lynched, try stopping *De Prof!*

COMMENTS: 'De Prof should take priority over remodeling the clubhouse if it comes to a choice of one or the other.'

There was a surprising number of other comments, but none that dealt directly with the issues at hand. To everyone who took the time to respond, my thanks! To those who didn't, you'll get the results you voted for.

Thanks,



Ed Green

WANTED:

**One Microwave Oven
for use by LASFS,
preferably for free.**

***Our old one died the
final death.***

MENACE OF THE LASFS, MEETING #2877, 1 OCTOBER 1992
By Matthew B. Tepper, Mini-Scribe

We began sort of early for a change. I mean, it was only ten minutes past the magic hour when President Ssg Edward L. Green called us to order, and ten minutes and one-half second past the magic hour when Rob Cole moved to table. (Not adjourn?) Anyway, we had a special order of business, so Ed got to that right away. It seems that the storage shed had been broken into over the weekend, sometime before 2145 Sunday. Contents stolen included two cash registers and two toolkits. A police report has been filed, and Ed said he'd be willing to listen to anything any of us might know about it. Needless to say, this engendered a bit of discussion. For example, Rick Foss wanted to know if there was an inventory of serial numbers of club property. Charles Lee Jackson II agreed that this was a useful idea, and Ed said the Emergency Preparedness Committee was working on it.

Since there wasn't much we could do about the robbery, we turned to something that would give the membership a chance for eager participation - the reading of the Menace. Ed Green was tickled by the idea of the Russians using their former nuke missiles to deliver food instead, proclaiming, "Your order in 30 megatons or less, or it's free." The whole mess got approved as "whatever." Lynn Maners, curious about the Mini-Scribe's odd habit of crooking two fingers in the air to designate a quotation mark, claimed it was the club's athletic mascot: "The University of LASFS Fainting Goats." Just you wait, Lynn. One of these days, I'll start using Victor Borge's Phonetic Punctuation!

Ed tried to read a Treasurers' report, but sputtered to a halt when he saw that it acknowledged no guests from the previous week and had the meeting number off by two. And for a wonder, we got to honor Patron Saint Harry J.N. Andruschak with three cheers "and a working ditto" personally, since Andy was not merely alive but also in the room at the time. CL claimed the Mini-Scribe's "quote" gesture was actually a "ditto" as a greeting to Andy. Well, maybe so, but only in spirit.

Upcoming programs, sez our Fearless Leader, include a Salute to Bob McKimson. Tonight, CL would present "The Shadow Returns," with a genuinely interesting mystery that might cloud our minds; the cartoon, courtesy of Fred Patien, would be one of the "Ren & Stimpy" shorts that had been suppressed by Nickelodeon.

Registrar Marjii Ellers said Will and Yvonne Morton of Downey were joining. She also bade us welcome ~~help-me~~ Rhonda Krafchin of Los Angeles, who actually heard about us through Rick Foss' writings in the *LA Reader*. Hooray! It worked!

Old Business: Drew Sanders and Matthew B. Tepper disclaimed any new news on the suggested fund to bring Reed Waller and Kate Worley to Locon. New Business: Ed read out an elegant proposal from Fang Van Took to start up a computer bulletin board system (BBS) to be administered jointly by LASFS and SCIFI. Discussion was to be deferred to the following week, so if you're hearing this being read, there's still time to escape.

Timebound Announcements: Ed proclaimed that your humble Mini-Scribe had recently observed his 39th birthday. Well! Emperor Jackson still had copies of *CLJII Presents* for sale. Joe Zeff had his own genzine, *ROTBA #1*, also for sale. J. Shaun Lyons said the first episode of "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine" would have an appearance by Garth Brooks. I think Brooks' hat must be the model for the Starbase. President Green said the folding chairs could now be had for \$2 each. That's right, for the price of a vote under Tammany Hall, you can have part of LASFS history!

Appointive Committee Reports: CL tried on a new hat, that of the Host with the Most for the "Official Sci-Fic Club Hallowe'en Party and Combined Shows," in conjunction with the 26th anniversary of the *CLJII* Entertainment Empire. It also turned out to be the birthday of Dan Alderson and, as we immediately learned from Lucy Stern, of Lucy Stern as well. Bring junk ... food, that is. At Charlie's request, the club voted to spend \$25 for the party, and the Emperor thereupon said he'd be matching that with \$75 of his own. There was some discussion of a theme, CL saying that his favorite was "Come as another LASFSian," but this didn't seem to have gone over famously in the past. June Moffatt suggested, "Fill in your own theme," where fellow attendees get to guess your idea of the theme from what they perceive your costume to be, I suppose. There would, concluded Charlie, be a prize for the "swellest costume." Not the swellest *head*, I note, and it's a good thing because just *think* of the competition!

Galen A. Tripp was persuaded to proclaim that the latest issue of *De Profundis* was available at the back of the room. As Movie Committee, CL reminded us of the upcoming "Film Program for the Locon 19 That Never Was," including a gem of a film called "The Right Stuff," about the early days of our country's manned space program. Treasurer Southern Half (by origin) Elayne Pelz said there would be a major work-and-pretty-up-the-clubhouse party on 1 November beginning at 10:00 a.m. Be there or be rhomboid!

Faanish Committee Reports: Francis Hamit said that nobody had been called for jury duty in Hartford CT because a computer database indicated that they were all dead. He also mentioned a legal brief with a sentence exceeding 300 words. Lastly, he had this quote from Kirk Douglas: "First, Dan Quayle attacks Murphy Brown as if a television character were a real person. Then, of course, Murphy Brown attacked Dan Quayle as if he were a real person." Not bad for a guy who showed off his butt in "Saturn 3"! He also confirmed reports that a playground in Palos Verdes had a wedding and a soccer game scheduled for the same day and time. He was there, and can attest that the soccer game stopped for a while so the wedding could take place. And the ball's in play! Joe Zeff told of a woman who was hit in the face by a grape tossed off an overpass. Richard Costas had a newspaper clipping from someone suggesting that we tell listening aliens that Elvis Presley is dead. Lynn Maners, eyeing a copy of *Paris Match* on display at the front table, thought the Duchesa of York's "financial adviser" looked suspiciously like Ed Green. CL cited Wally George's claim that injured trucker Reginald Denny provoked his attackers.

Reviews: Lynn Maners had a raftload, to be polite. This included *Car Warriors* by David Drake, who is reduced to doing novelizations of Steve Jackson games. Ed interjected, "How about a gas cap for a Yugo? Sounds fair to me!" Lynn also liked Joan D. Vinge's *Heaven Chronicles*, a book of vaguely-connected short stories. Lucy Stern called the new "Last of the Mohicans" a must-see, though it was noted that it doesn't really follow the book. Francis Hamit recommended David Hackworth's *About Face*, about a soldier's life in Viet Nam. Greg Bilan liked "Innocent Blood," but hated "Mr. Baseball." Leigh Strother-Vien said Diana Wynne Jones' *A Sudden Wild Magic* had "a great conga-line scene." Ed took issue with a couple of the aforementioned reviews, saying Ret. Col. Hackworth had an ax to grind, and saying that "Innocent Blood" was pretty bad, apart from the nudity of Anne Parillaud. He also said the new Fox series "Whoops!" was pretty silly, a sort of post-nuclear-holocaust version of "Gilligan's Island." CL reminded us that "Gilligan's Island" was itself sort of a rip-off of an RKO film, the title of which he couldn't remember. Bernie Zuber said he liked "Buffy, the Vampire Slayer." Of course, he might be thought to have an affinity for stories about dead people who return to life.

Miscellaneous: Francis had been to the Third Virtual Reality Conference, and said it was now a real industry. As you might imagine, his book needs major revisions to be brought up-to-date. CL advised attendees of the Horror Hall of Fame Awards to not dress too casually or too weird, or wear predominantly white clothing, the better to tape the audience. And before he could admonish them to wear clean underwear too, we adjourned at 2109.

And the moral is: A bird in the hand is ... kind of messy!

MENACE OF THE LASFS, MEETING #2878, 8 OCTOBER 1992
By Matthew B. Tepper, Mini-Scribe

"I have some good news, and some bad news," said President Ssg Edward L. Green. "The good news is it's Thursday, the bad news is it's time for LASFS." So saying, he banged the gavel at 2009 and nearly woke up some of us. Menace of the previous week were read, with a counterpoint supplied by Lynn Maners, who went "Mehhhhhh!" every time the Mini-Scribe hooked his fingers in the air to designate a quotation mark. This, and the usual peanut gallery remarks, got Ed so mad he banged the bejessus out of a plastic bug. The Menace having been approved as "Mehhhhhh!"ed, we were spared from a Treasurers' report, as Ed found it difficult to believe that we had had no guests. Patron Saint Beverly Kanter was saluted with three cheers "and a heart of gold."

Registrar Marjii Ellers really *did* have some guests for us this week, too: Damon Hermann of Van Nuys, Lou Wilson of Chico, and Andrea F. Wilson of Redondo Beach. Hey, treasurers! By my count, that's three, but if you get some other number, please let me know, okay?

Old Business: It was revealed that the burglary of the shed had resulted in some other items gone missing, such as some microphones and a box of cables. This had also been reported to the local constabulary. Ed read Fang's lengthy proposal with the intent of setting up an exploratory committee to investigate feasibility of a computer bulletin board system to be administered jointly by LASFS and SCIFL. Ed was amazed at the lack of controversy over such a harmless issue, though Mike Glycer wanted to know if the computers would emit smoke, and Kate Halleron said something about haggis. Doug Crepeau had a real question: How many members had computers with modems, and so might be able to access the BBS? Many hands went up. A show of hands for the motion showed bunches for, none against, and three abstaining, courteously. What a concept!

Timebound Announcements: Jonny Duffy said Paul Grimshaw would be opening up a new comic store next week, and LASFS members could get in for a special advance sale. Carol Ann Cranston said there was a Tribute to Roger Corman at the Directors Guild of America. Frank Waller had flyers for Star Flight Headquarters, a trekkenalia store at the Del Amo Fashion Center in Torrance. Sanford J. Cohen said the latest *Playboy* had "20 Questions" with Patrick Stewart, who gave justifications for getting rid of all of his co-stars. Sandra Bullock said there was an airshow this weekend at Point Mugu, featuring the Blue Angels and their Canadian counterparts, the Snowbirds. Eh?

Greg Bilan said James Doohan, as "Scotty," would be in the next episode of "Star Trek: TNG." Carol Ann said George Mulligan was now living under her roof. Charles Lee Jackson II said he'd have *Amazing Adventures #3* next week. Mike Korp said he'd be hosting an "Interplanetary" tournament. J. Shaun Lyons said Douglas Adams had yet another book out in his "Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy" series, *Mostly Harmless*. I wonder if Adams will give up the series with book #42?

Appointive Committee Reports: Ed noted the death of character actor Denholm Elliott, who had appeared in all three Indiana Jones pictures. He then read a reminder from George Mulligan that Loscon next month would once again be host to "The Great Loscon Toy Roundup": Bring a store-new children's toy without gift wrapping to Loscon, and get a limited-edition badge designed by Frank Kelly Freas. And your humble Mini-Scribe was compelled to read a flyer for something called the Golden Duck Awards for the best author and illustrator of children's science fiction books. Ed reminded us that the folding chairs now were available for only \$1. Do I detect a trend?

CL said the times of the LASFS Halloween Party would be 3:00 p.m. to midnight on the day itself, but he needed a co-host to take over for a bit in the middle. Rick Foss noted that the Loscon "Funniest Home Video" contest had received only three entries, and bumped the deadline to 1 November. So all of you fans dust off your videocameras and submit something, okay?

Faanish Committee Reports: Tom Safer quoted an unnamed female senatorial candidate as saying that the people should elect a senator with breasts, as they have experience electing boobies. Well, *that* sounds like tit for tat! Hare Hobbs told of a report that pigs are even better than dogs for sniffing out explosives or drugs, giving Sag Green something to look forward to in a future assignment. Greg Bilan said Time Zone at the Sherman Oaks Galleria rents out Virtual Reality. Joe Zeff's outfit had gotten a request from someone in Nigeria looking for local dealers to be their representative. Also, in a database of placenames, he slipped in references to Khorlia, Trantor, Diaspar and Cicely. Wolf Foss said some film producers wanted to shoot a scene of a diesel truck crashing into a medieval castle, and managed to find both in Romania. His twin brother Rick wondered if the diesel truck would be driven by a Pakistani cab driver. So which one of these guys is the *evil* twin?

Undaunted, Wolf read several items from "News of the Weird," including one about a Japanese rancher who puts beepers on his cows and rustles them up with his portable phone. Ed Green muttered, "I'm sorry, the heifer you are trying to reach has been disconnected." Lynn Maners replied, "Hey, Slim, fax me a bull!" Rick countered with a report that a coup in Sierra Leone hadn't been planned, but just happened when a lot of top military types showed up to complain about being paid late; the government saw them and skedaddled. The new leaders hadn't planned to take over, and didn't know how to run the country, so they put suggestion boxes up. One idea that was implemented was to compel all government officials to do daily calisthenics. Hey, talk about cutting down the fat in government! Mae Englert volunteered to do the calisthenics, and Matthew Tepper volunteered to watch her. CL arched an eyebrow and inquired, "From what angle, Matthew?"

Reviews: Ed Green had something surrealistic to review: A publication for the US Forces Command (the subject of which is how the Soviet forces fight) containing an article by several Russian officers. Larry Niven noted, "The Russians will sell us the rope to hang them with." Lynn Maners had the expected weird stuff, including *Aliens: Earth Hive* by Steve Perry, novelized from his own video game. He also had a special issue of *Ninja High School* devoted to teaching teens about sexually transmitted diseases. Ed Green wanted it for his unit, but Jackson sagely cautioned, "The purpose is to keep your unit clean." Mike Stern said there had been a fair LASFS contingent at the Horror Awards, which were essentially taped backwards. He and Carol Ann told a horror story about the taping at great length. Hal O'Brien recommended "Tubular Bells II," saying that Mike Oldfield's adolescent angst has been replaced by joy. CL said channel 56 was showing interesting selections of late-night movies, including westerns and old British mysteries, though some are badly cut. Fang Van Took said "The Last of the Mohicans" was particularly enjoyable on a theater with a big screen and a powerful sound system.

Miscellaneous: Elizabeth Kubler-Ross Klein-Lebbink had a house for rent in Manhattan Beach. Lynn read "The Republican Psalm," a recessionary take on the Old Twenty-Third, which had Dr. Jerry Pournelle speculating that we might wind up with a president who didn't inhale. Dr. P. also noted that Russell Means, the American Indian activist who appears in "Mohicans," used to tag along with him to LASFS meetings years ago. CL said that Sally Baker has returned to teevee as "Hobo Kelly," after a stretch as an activist on Irish issues. Ed Green reminded us all of the 1 November work party, and brought the meeting to a shivering halt at 2117.

And the moral is: It would be nice if *one* of the candidates were to rent out breeding pairs of cotton-eating insects, so that we could have business as usual and vote for ... the lessor of two weevils.

MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES SCIENCE FANTASY SOCIETY, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS. 11 October 1992.
Chairman: Dan Deckert. Substitute Secretary: Matthew B. Tepper

ATTENDANCE: (Board) Dan Deckert, Robbie Cantor, Leigh Strother-Vien, Fang Van Took, Charles Lee Jackson II, Gary Louie, Merlin R. Null, Drew Sanders. (Absent: Mike Glycer, excused since con related; Bruce E. Pelz, Elayne Pelz, not excused.) (Others) Matthew B. Tepper, Greg Bilan, Joe Zeff, Francis Hamit, Galen A. Tripp, Edward L. Green, Mike Donahue, "Scratch" Galloway, Christian McGuire, Nola Frame-Gray, Louis Elver Warren Gray.

Called to order 11:17 a.m. Due to the absence again of Mr. Glycer, the Procedural equivalent served as substitute. Minutes of the previous month's meeting were read, and a couple of tiny emendations were made which have been incorporated into the final version already published in *De Profundis*.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Our total assets were down to \$25,677.81. Breakdown may be supplied by the Treasurers.

NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS: A single application had been submitted by Patrick Fahey. Since no serious motion for separate consideration was raised, this application was accepted by voice vote without opposition.

CONVENTION DELEGATES: Kathy Sanders was named delegate for Philcon, and Gary Louie and Drew Sanders were named delegates for SMOFcon. Since SMOFcon falls on the second weekend of December, and might conflict with the regularly-scheduled LASFS Board of Directors meeting, we'll have to keep track of how many Board members decide it would be worth their while to attend that con.

CLUBHOUSE MAINTENANCE/CONSTRUCTION: Robbie Cantor said there was a new door on the shed, replacing the one damaged in the break-in. Null said there was also a new wall on the shed for the same reason. Items lost included two electronic cash registers, many tools, microphones, and cords. Fortunately some tools remained, and many club members have tools of their own, so we're not without resources. The identity of the culprit was still not known, though Deckert's brilliant deductive mind came to the conclusion that a burglar did it. Further comments were deferred.

Mike Donahue, attired in a CIA t-shirt, said we were more or less on budget. He was planning to work on the Library ceiling that very day. Lights and electrical are installed, and a shelving plan is being worked on. Did the Board wish him to cover the windows? Strother-Vien said she

wanted them covered, and nobody disagreed. Galloway suggested the windows be covered with plywood both inside and out. Jackson suggested the remaining window (the old front room, now the Library stacks) be made to look in on a depressed and unattractive area; Strother-Vien said she wanted at least a "decent curtain." Donahue suggested bolting the shelves to the floor, cutting the carpet around them. Jackson and one of his many sisters will take care of the carpeting around the bathroom. Strother-Vien wanted to replace the shelves eventually. Louie suggested moving the booksale shelves into the Library. Green felt it urgent that a final decision be made on the shelving, and a finish date be chosen. Jackson pointed out that completion dates don't always work. Null posited that we were losing money by not having the Library open, so we should finish the task as soon as we could. Strother-Vien felt we could get it open soon by putting the old shelves back in more or less the same arrangement. Van Took said it would be better to spend the money now for new shelves than later. Deckert felt a sequential replacement was the most practical approach. Strother-Vien estimated that building new shelves would delay the Library re-opening by a month. Null suggested using the stacks room as a holding area for the sequential replacements.

As for further effects of the club face-lift, Louie said we would toss the freebie table, move the hall corkboards, and otherwise refurbish the hallway. Null said the cost of a crashbar was more than anticipated, about \$135, and Louie wondered if we should reconsider the plan of converting the front door to Emergency Exit only. Deckert felt Glyer should be in on the decision. A cricket began chirping loudly, and was the cause of some comment.

LIBRARY: Strother-Vien said she would be announcing an amnesty on fines for overdue books, in hopes of getting them returned. She also said that Assistant Librarian Greg Barrett had resigned, as his work schedule leaves him uncertain as to when he will be able to attend meetings.

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE COMMITTEE: Tripp said he had received four requests recently. He said he would like to have the library computer back up soon so that he can update the list. Said list was on the D: drive of Bookie Monster, which hadn't been backed up before the computer was moved. Jackson felt we could set the computer up in the Library again relatively soon.

EXECUTIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE: Deckert said there had been scheduled conflicts again, but he wasn't going to bother with an apology this time. Robbie Cantor hovered over Green with some wide tape to cover his mouth with. Robbie would be in Canada for several days before the end of the month, so that might throw a further monkey wrench into scheduling a meeting.

Green said he had received eleven responses to his straw poll of club members as to what we might be able to do with *De Profundis* to cut expenses. The results thus far suggested that people were willing to accept a culled mailing list and lowered mailing rates. He also said a few people wondered if the editorship would change. Jackson suggested forcing people to make a positive effort in order to continue to receive *De Profundis*, such as having to send back a postcard.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE: Green said there was a deadline of 1 November to get that filing cabinet here. He will collect home and work addresses and phone numbers. Whoever runs this committee is only an advisor to the club.

DE PROFUNDIS: Tripp said he would be resigning effective 1 January 1993. Deckert thanked him for his valiant service. Tripp said he wanted to suggest to Jeni Burr that she also resign. There was some lively discussion, until Deckert said this matter would be more properly discussed by the club at large.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: There had been no meeting of the BBS Committee. Robbie Cantor said that Loscon needed replacements for the stolen items, particularly the two electronic cash registers. She moved that the LASFS should replace these, and be authorized to spend up to \$350. Zeff wondered if we could rent cash registers rather than buy them, but somebody said this was not cost-effective, at 10% of the cost per day. There was some discussion of the usefulness of the registers, and it was also suggested that they be stored in some other location. The motion to buy new registers passed by voice vote, with only Drew Sanders opposed. Null noted that the tub o' power cords was missing, not from having been stolen, but from having been used for rewiring. Should the club replace them, at a cost of about \$100, or Loscon? Cantor said that Loscon should do it, and the interest on the Loscon bank account alone would pay for the cords. It is, after all, only fair, since the club is picking up the tab for the cash regis-

ters. Deckert asked Null to see what he could do, and it was moved that the club pick up the expense if it overruns \$100. This was approved by voice vote without objection.

GRAFFITTI VANDAL: Tripp said it has all been cleaned up. Null said that Ken Porter and Allan Rothstein have inspected the marks to see if they could trace it to gang activity. Sanders said he has recruited some people to be watchful in order to step up security on Friday nights, when the vandalism seems to occur. There was discussion of appropriate punishment for the miscreant.

PARKING SPACES: One of our parking space lines had been tampered with, to wit, the leftmost line delineating parking space "Alderson" had been blacked out and a new line painted in, in such a fashion as to make the space too narrow for practical use. Worse yet, the tampering had been done entirely within the borders of LASFS property. Some people suggested that someone from the comic book store *might* have something to do with it. The line would be repainted, dead up against the legal property line. If the vandalism is repeated, Cantor said she would want to post notices that unauthorized vehicles would be subject to towing. This possibility could be made known to the dentist who leases out the building containing the comic book store.

MISCELLANEOUS: Tripp said he would also be resigning as Lord High Janitor, also as of 1 January 1993.

NEXT MEETING: Scheduled for 8 November 1992, 11:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

MENACE OF THE LASFS, MEETING #2879, 15 OCTOBER 1992
By Matthew B. Tepper, Mimi-Scribe

"I have some bad news, and some worse news," said President Ssg Edward L. Green. "The bad news is it's time for LASFS; the worse news is I'm up front." So saying, he banged the gavel at 2010, and proceeded to punish the peanut gallery by ordering the reading of the Menace. These were heckled, groaned at, and sometimes "Mehhhhhh!"ed at, until they were finally approved as diddled. We had no Treasurers' report, but we can assume they were a lot busier counting the club's money than either guests or meeting numbers. And Patron Saint Randy Greiner was honored with three cheers "and a hand-tooled, custom-designed, nuclear-powered, money-keeping wallet." Well, that would be a first for LASFS!

Registrar Marjii Eilers said Laura Brodian Freas and Frank Kelly-Freas were on the premises, but we had no actual non-member-type guests. Maybe they had decided not to show up in order to prove the Treasurers right.

New Business: A motion to re-open discussion of the haggis ban was read at length, and tabled for even longer, namely the highly traditional 99 years. "Ghod knows," moaned Ssg Green, "we need to bring haggis up more often." I was under the impression that haggis brings itself up, but no matter.

Timebound Announcements: As expected, Charles Lee Jackson II had *Amazing Adventures* #3 available; buy it and get some real funoid stuff. Joyce Jumper said she was looking for programmers to work with her on System 3X, whatever that is. Dick Senseman announced the next Live the Dream meeting. George Mulligan relieved our terrors by re-donning his shirt, and then said that he still had available those whatchamacallits that you can put on a doohickey to turn it into a thingamabob. Rick Foss said the latest *LA Reader* had his review of a book by John Barnes.

Appointive Committee Reports: Chairman of the Bored Dan Deckert said the LASFS Board had met the previous Sunday and discussed lots of things. He particularly noted that Galen A. Tripp had then announced his resignation, as of 1 January 1993, from the positions of Lord High Janitor and Co-Editor of *De Profundis*. Applicants for the Lord High Janitor job should apply to President Green. Just form a line here on the left, please.

CL, as Halloween Committee, reminded us that there would be a club party on the ghost 'n' goblin holiday, which would also celebrate the 26th anniversary of his Entertainment Empire. He suggested that people augment the club's party supplies with goodies of their own. And after you survived that, Galen noted the work party was still on for 1 November. Come one, come all, 10:00 a.m. 'til question mark, and submit to the gentle persuasion of Elayne Pelz to put our clubhouse in order. Christian McQuire said Loscon 19 would be in fewer buildings than certain other recent Loscons. Give your money to the mean-looking redhead at the back

of the room. You mean we have a choice? Dan Deckert noted that Locon 20 had acceptances from Guests of Honor Roger Zelazny (famed author) and Paul Turner (founder of the LASFS Building Fund).

Faanish Committee Reports: Francis Hamit had a bunch of these, from the man with the 41.5' circumference ball of string to the ban on launching rubber bands at the Pacific Stock Exchange. Joe Zeff had seen a come-on: "Make \$1,000 a day as an expert witness." Mike Stern told of a suite of "Star Trek" screen savers for Windows. Evan Sayer said some kids were arrested for splattering a car with paint: they were nabbed by the trail of paint that marked their way home. And some stupid cops in Brisbane, Australia wanted to get some shuteye and chained a captured miscreant to the steering wheel, whereupon he absconded with their beers, their car, and probably everything else that wasn't bolted down. CL said the "Tonight" show had observed Columbus Day #500 with the appearance of Charlie Hill, an Aboriginal American comedian invited on the show by the Italian-American host Jay Leno. Doug Crepeau reported on Ford's estimate of \$3,993 to repaint a Bronco; I guess Quality is Job One! He then went on at interminable length through his earthquake survival kit, causing Prez Ed to start hoping for the Big One so that Doug would get the point. Nola Frame-Gray said she'd found a Japanese mini-mall, Galen said the shed's new door is blue, and Ed said that Faanish Committee Reports were closed. Whew!

Reviews: Uh-oh! Lynn Maners touted *What Might Have Been, Volume 4: Alternate Americas*, ed. Benford and Greenberg. He also said "Under Siege" is truly the first techno-thriller that's also a comedy. I still think Steven Seagal is Fred MacMurray's evil twin. (Someone pointed out the following week that both Gene Siskel & Roger Ebert gave the film "thumbs up," a rare occurrence but not something I would normally take the trouble to note in these minutes.) Kate Halleron said Megan Lynn Holmes' *Alien Earth* was very good, noted we could get an extra dose of Patrick Stewart Monday nights by watching the PBS series "Space Age," and recommended the director's cut of "Blade Runner." Hare Hobbs characterized the interview of Sinéad O'Connor in *Rolling Stone* as "an unimaginative fantasy." Isn't the proper term for that "man-fi"?

Return to the Valley of Appointive Committee Reports: Librarian Leigh Strother-Vien said the Library has a new ceiling; next week, some books will be (wait for it) back on the shelves! To help get the expanded Library off to a fresh start, but mostly to get some books back, she declared an amnesty on overdue books, running until her 39th birthday on 3 December.

Miscellaneous: Carol Ann Cranston liked an old movie that she'd seen, the original "Death Takes a Holiday" with Frederic March. Fred Patten reminded Ed that the evening's program was to be some Japanimation, which relieved Ed, who thought he'd have to make us talk to one another. And with the Emperor Jackson noting that the actual 26th anniversary of his Entertainment Empire had been Tuesday, we stood adjourned at 2111.

And the moral is: Saddam Hussein still has a mustache; do you?

MENACE OF THE LASFS, MEETING #2890, 22 OCTOBER 1992 By Matthew B. Tepper, Mini-Scribe

2010: The time the gavel makes contact with the table. Or so it was in the hands of President Sag Edward L. Green as he called to order another convocation of the surreal, the absurd, and the just plain loony. He proved to be one of those particularly sadistic sergeants, and called for the immediate reading of Minutes of the previous week. The members never knew what hit them, but then, do they ever? A few stood up and had their say with emendations until the Menace stood approved as corrected.

Patron Saint Lee Jacobs was saluted with three cheers and ... well, none of us could come up with something *really* appropriate, but maybe next year. Ed said the program this evening would be Vlad Dozorsky talking about stuff; the following week would be the Financial Discussion.

Registrar Marjii Ellers had found a handful of guests, namely, Joan Johnson of Long Beach, Emma Wills of Buena Park, Charles (Chuck) Ruddy of Moorpark, Erich Wood of Burbank, and Alexander Korzhenevski of Moscow, Russia, who may not have been our first Russian guest, but was the first in a while.

Old Business: Your humble Mini-Scribe read a letter from Isaac Asimov's widow, Janet Jeppson, thanking the LASFS for our letter of condolence. There was no New Business, though Prez Ed wanted to move the haggis matter from the table to under the table. I think if he just lets nature take

its course, the haggis will wind up where it's *supposed* to wind up! (Points to bathroom.)

Timebound Announcements of General Interest to the Club: Greg Bilan alerted us to the Chuck Jones documentary running at the Mann in Westwood. Charles Lee Jackson II could get some people entry into an advance showing of "Bram Stoker's Dracula," but only if they were 17-22 year-old males. Physically, not just mentally, sorry! He also had an invite from Disney to the club for a group screening of "Aladdin," cost and evening to be set up later. Rick Foss had printed up bumper stickers: "No Censorship - No Exceptions." Stasia Spade said the Pagan Coffeehouse was setting up shop at Emerson Unitarian. Francis Hamit said the Cyber-art seminar will be in Pasadena later in the month. Beatlefest will be at the Marriott also later in the month, announced Frank Waller, or perhaps an incredible simulation. There was some slight discussion as to the significance of this last. Lynn Maners sagely noted, "A man's reach must exceed his grasp." "Yes," observed Green, "but nobody said it had to be downwards."

Since he already had retaken the floor, Ed informed us that Elayne Peiz has done research on gulags to prepare for her office as guiding light of the 1 November LASFS Clubhouse Work Party. In a perfect world, Lynn would have had no comment; but in *this* one, he said he thought a gulag was a Hungarian stew. Well, I'll take *that* with a grain of paprika!

Committee Reports: Librarian Leigh Strother-Vien said the shelves had been moved inside again; we didn't have any books back on the shelves yet, but that would happen soon, like at a special, earlier work party to put down the linoleum. *Bad linoleum, bad linoleum!* Christian McGuire and J. Shaun Lyons touted the upcoming Locon 19 at the LAX Marriott, featuring guests Barbara Hambly, Mike Glycer, Don Maitz, David Hartwell, and a moonrock. The origin and etiology of this last, inanimate object (the moonrock, not Glycer) excited much discussion. Sag Green summed up the con in advance: "Three days of incredible bliss looking at a rock." Galen Tripp sounded a familiar note as he remarked that *De Profundis* was available at the back of the room. He wanted people to pick up their (label-less) copies so as to save the club money for labels and postage. He also gave us another reminder of the Major Work Party. Charlie wanted there to be some minors there as well. Yes, Prime Minister!

CL went on to say that the coming weekend's movies would hew to a theme of discovery: "Christopher Columbus," with Frederic March, "How the West Was Won," and "The Right Stuff." And in response to Nola Frame-Gray's complaints, the LASFS Halloween Party would indeed feature a teevee showing movies so loud you can't have any conversation -- only kidding, Nola! The special attraction would be the Spanish-language version of "Dracula" filmed concurrently with the famous Lugosi picture, with the same sets but a different cast and crew. Mike Glycer muttered, "I never drink agua."

Ed read from Mike Donahue's breakdown of the tasks, some large and some small, that needed to be accomplished at the Work Party. Mike also had some other lists of tasks, apparently, but I got confused and forgot to mention every single one. Jack Harness wanted to nominate Donahue for the Help-5 society; this was seconded and tabled for lots and lots of years. Alex Pournelle donated \$50 toward the building of new library shelves, and this was followed by further contributions of \$51 from Marjii Ellers, \$10 from Ed Green, and probably more from other members.

Faanish Committee Reports: At President Green's request, the Emperor Jackson adapted Rotsler's Rules to this category: Short is better than long, funny is better than not-funny, short and funny is best. (No wonder we re-elected Ed Green!) Francis Hamit told of a bank robber who was nabbed waiting for the bus; the guy would have gotten away if the bus had been on time. Joe Zeff made note of a drive-in condom shop in Newhall. Lynn Maners said, "that gives new meaning to laying rubber out of the driveway." Fred Patten told of the great ceremony as the Country Store in Gravel Switch KY finally put in an outhouse after 142 years. Greg Bilan said a woman taking hormone pills had excited her pet rotweiler. Ed Green read an "October surprise" speculation about how the space shuttle will discover evidence of an alien invasion, *à la Foofofall*. Rick Foss countered with a tabloid article claiming that five members of the US Senate were aliens. For the record, they are: Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), Nancy Kassebaum (R-Kan), Alan Simpson (R-Wyo), John Glenn (D-Ohio) and Sam Nunn (D-Geo). Also for the record, Sen. Nunn has since admitted it is true, naming his home planet as: Krypton!

Reviews: Lynn Maners again. Sigh. Ellis Weiner's novelization of *Howard the Duck*, good. J.M. Egan's *Desert Eden*, really dumb. *The Tom Clancy Companion*, ed. Martin H. Greenberg, excellent concordance

and lit-crit, including essays by Clancy himself. Rick Foss said Ian McDonald's *The Broken Land* was a stinal extrapolation of today's Belfast, with beautiful writing but an incoherent plot, causing Green to speculate, "Dhalgren all over again," though the superiority of Delany's book as a throwing weapon was not slighted. Kate Halleron: Didn't like Madeline L'Engle's *Certain Women*, didn't like Douglas Adams' *Mostly Harmless*, mostly, really liked Nick Bantock's *Griffin and Sabine* and *Sabine's Notebook*. Joe Zeff liked *The Enchanter Reborn*, a continuation of the Harold Shea stories, written by L. Sprague de Camp, Christopher Stasheff and others. Ed observed the 30th anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis by reviewing *Eyeball to Eyeball* by Dino A. Brugion, very interesting with some newly-available information that suggests we were a lot closer to nuclear confrontation than we might ever have suspected. Lynn tried to shrug it off: "Well, we would only have lost Miami," but Matthew Tepper observed, "We have now!" CL liked *Murder for Halloween*, an anthology of many interesting mysteries and horror stories by an unspecified editor.

Miscellaneous: The Mini-Scribe read an announcement of the publication of an "erotic romance" novel, *Dream Cruise*, by Gwyneth James, aka the LASFS' own Gail Selinger, who will have pre-publication copies available for sale. CL noted the discovery of water ice on the poles of Mercury. Rick Foss liked a seafood restaurant at Vanowen and Hazeltine called Gee, I Can't Believe It's Fish. And with that Neptunian observation, we came to a dead stop at 2117.

And the moral is: If you're in a hospital where Pediatrics is right next to Pathology, just remember that posterity is just around the corner!

MENACE OF THE LASFS, MEETING #2881, 29 OCTOBER 1992 By Matthew B. Tepper, Mini-Scribe

Okay, listen up. We had bad news, good news, and bad news again. The bad news was that some Korean sect had proclaimed the end of the world. The good news was that it didn't happen. The bad news was that we still have to have a LASFS meeting. So saying, President Sag Edward L. Green dropped the gavel at 2012 to bring us to a wretched semblance of order. Menace of the previous week were read with untimely dispatch, mauled by the wild-eyed mob, and finally approved as "Mehhhhhh!" ed. Again.

Ed made a grand production out of the auction of the three front parking spaces, as all the while Elyst Eleasari either tossed peanuts at him or retrieved the said goobers. Patron Saint Bill Warren was recognized with three cheers and a three-book deal. We'll have to keep watching the skies for those cheers, I guess. Running down the upcoming programs, Ed said tonight would be the much-loved Financial Discussion, while future weeks would hold such things as the world premiere of "Shadow of the Dragon," a slate of cartoons, and LASFS Board of Directors nominations between now and Turkey Day. Charles Lee Jackson II took the floor briefly to note that the Directors are selected, at large, to represent the business and administrative interests of the club as a group, so please take this election seriously. "If the club is important to you, the actions of the Board are important." My journalism instructor told me always to use a quote if I could get one, so there it is. Registrar Marjii Ellers had found no guests; maybe the Treasurers had given them concrete overshoes so that the count of zero would be right for a change. There was, give thanks to whatever, no Old Business.

Timebound Announcements of General Interest to the Club started off with reminders of the Work Party on 1 November. Carol Ann Cranston announced a matinee of the Walt Disney "Sleeping Beauty" and a "Dracula" film festival. Fred Patten announced Animafest 1992 (an animation cel sale) in Beverly Hills, as well as a tribute to Walter Lantz. Appointive Committee Reports consisted of CL noting Saturday's Halloween Party. He also said the next serial, after the end of "Secret Code," would be "Gang Busters."

Old Business: Well, here was that Financial Discussion. Ed Green, acting like Ross Perot with an ear job but without fancy charts, led off with the results of his straw poll on publication of *De Profundis*. The consensus was that members feel we should still publish our newsletter, preferably monthly or bi-monthly, get Bulk Rate if possible, and prune the mailing list of those who don't want and/or need to receive it. Galen Tripp asked if Ed had gotten an opinion from the other *De Profundis* co-editor; Ed said no. In answer to Marjii's question as to how much the newsletter costs per person, Galen estimated 60¢ and Elayne estimated 75¢. Several people suggested we make subscriptions available, and Sanford J. Cohen asserted that people who have paid lifetime dues should continue to receive *De*

Prof for the rest of their lives, as mandated in the By-Laws. Various suggestions were made as to how to cull the uninterested, but none seemed to have a clear preference among those present. Mike Glycer finally asked if there were other expenses we could look into cutting, and was told there were, but this was the main one.

Elizabeth O'Brien suggested raising dues just enough to cover costs. Joanne Dow wanted to know just what the other expenses were. Elayne said they were utilities, De Prof, maintenance and supplies. Ma O'Brien pointed out that we don't assess anything from the people who show up Friday night only. Elayne said the Treasurers did not want to deal with that, and there were no volunteers for the task. Jackson said the hardest part would be in getting somebody to do it. Joyce Sperling wanted to know if the Vice President could collect those errant dues. Ed said that the Veep's job was indeed to be in charge, open and close the place, and stock supplies, but that he did not feel it was fair to expand the job. Drew Sanders pointed out that he was planning not to stand for re-election in any case. Rob Cole said that the simple solution was to raise the dues, and Mike Stern cautioned that we should investigate the amount which would work.

Cohen wanted to know if our rentals covered our costs. Elayne said they probably did, but that we'd be raising our rates pretty soon anyway, as the clubhouse is quite cheap as far as rentals go. Elyst suggested a donation jar, and Rick Foss concurred. Mike Thorsen thought a vending machine might do some good, to retrieve some of the money that percolates across the street to the liquor store on Thursday nights. CL said Mike Donahue had already suggested this, and it was under consideration.

Tom Digby wondered if attendance was down because of our recent construction. Ed said that was indeed a factor, and a few specific instances were cited by others. Cohen said we should plan for future increased costs. Mike Glycer noted that he knows of two clubs that have cut back their clubzines. And barring a few clarifications, agreements, and other remarks, that was pretty much it. The Board of Directors will doubtless get to work soon.

Faanish Committee Reports: Beth O'B. had received from a lawyer a subpoena requiring documents be produced before the time of the request. Said Ed, "I've made several suggestions to lawyers that were legally impossible." Not to mention physically, I'm sure. Wolf Foss said that Russian president Boris Yeltsin was trying to suppress some extremist groups in his country which want to go back to the bad old days, including spreading Russian influence to every place where Russian feet have trod. Say, didn't we have some guy here from Moscow the previous week? Joe Zeff said a Fort Lauderdale FL exhibit of 14,000 cigarette butts had gotten tossed by the cleaning crew. Doug Crepeau had some item about a bronze bust of N.S. Khrushchev that looks as though it has a silly smile. Rick Foss told of a computer program which, unhelpfully, still had some screens left untranslated from the original German. CL cited a television program called "The Best of LA" which had a bad sense of local geography. Joanne Dow could only guess that they're using the new *Thomas Bros. Guide*.

Reviews: Christian McGuire said Francis Ford Coppola's "Bram Stoker's Dracula" is not the horror movie you might think it is, but a gothic romance. Upon prodding, he revealed that it has a decidedly non-zero Buchman rating, including Winona Ryder. That ought to be proof enough that she's, er, healthy. Glycer mused, "Everybody gets steak sandwich at the end," and Joanne amended that to, "Steak tartare." Lynn Maners enjoyed Harry Turtledove's *The Guns of the South*, in which white supremacists from South Africa run automatic weapons back in time to the Confederacy; it's an excellent read, but the cover painting got the weapon wrong. He also thought it was pitiful that Mark Hamill was reduced to hawking "Star Wars" merchandise on a TV shopping channel. Charlie Jackson said the last "ST:TNG" wasn't as bad as it could have been, but the upcoming installment looked to be worse, as it has Picard and others turned into children. Get this: Without Wesley Crusher around, the captain has to save his own ship! Joyce Sperling said "Candyman" has its moments, but is otherwise a pretty ordinary slasher film.

Miscellaneous: Ed said the folding chairs were down to \$1 the each, after which they would magically turn into donations for his Guard unit. CL said that Tom Safer had his two Loacon 19 memberships for sale. Dr. Jerry Pournelle noted that the weather had turned to a drizzle. And with that damp fool observation, we adjourned at 21:28.

And the moral is: Why is Bill Clinton like a gay opera fan? Because they both like to blow some tenor every now and then.



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De Prof

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