



# DE PROFUNDIS

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## LASFS Officers

**President** - Cathy Beckstead  
**Vice** - Merlin R.(Bob) Null  
**Registrar** - Rebecca Torrell and Shaun Lyon  
**Scribe** - Mike Glycer  
**Treasurer** - Liz Mortensen  
**LOSCON 25 Chair** - Kim Marks Brown  
**LOSCON 26 Chair** - Liz Mortensen  
**LOSCON 27 Chair** - Vote is March 18th  
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**De Profundis Editor** - Scott Beckstead  
**Committee to Gouge Money from the LASFS** - Bruce Pelz, Ed Green  
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**Hall Decoration & Silent Auction Coordinator** - TBA  
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## The LASFS Board

(Expiration of term)

**Chairman** - Christian McGuire(1999),  
**Comptroller** - Mike Glycer(1999),  
Michael Mason(1999), Vacant (1999),  
Bruce Pelz(2000), **Secretary** - Mike Stern(2000), Mike Donahue(2000), Bob Null(2000), Liz Mortensen(2001), Mike Thorsen(2001), Kim Marks Brown(2001), **Special Advisor** Charles Lee Jackson II, **Advisors** Forrest J. Ackerman, Walt Daugherty, Len & June Moffat, and Fred Patten.

## Board Appointed Officers

**Audio-Visual Collection** - Charles Lee Jackson, II, **Assistant Video Curator** - Alison Stern, **Children's Literature Committee** - Greg Barrett, **Computers & LASFS Archives** - Bob Null, **<lasfs.org>** - Mike Stern, **LASFS/SCIFI Liaison** - Allan Rothstein, **Librarian** - Mike Mason, **Librarian Emeritus** - Leigh Strother Vien, **Assistant Librarians** - Greg Barrett, Lucy Stern, Alison Stern, & Tadao Tomomotsu, **Special Guest Librarian** - Charles Lee Jackson II  
**Loscon 25 & 26 Hotel Liaison** - Christian McGuire



## Colophon

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tried to slice the Gordian knot by moving to adjourn.

**Special Order of Business:** Gary Louie announced that Scattle conrunner Richard Wright passed away. Charlie notified us that celebrity Iron Eyes Cody also died — he may have been best known as the Indian standing alongside the messy freeway with the tear in his eye (in a public service ad). (No one ever asked how he avoided rusting.) His many other roles included sf and fantasy. The members observed a moment of silence.

**Minutes:** Glycer delivered Karl Lembke's minutes with unusual sympathy and warmth because Karl had made him read the text before the meeting. Mike Stern wanted them approved as Nullified. Joe Zeff said that considering the "99" references, they should be Barbara Feldon'd. President Beckstead told everyone, "Shut up!" and was applauded.

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## Calendar:

The calendar section will return in De Profundis 322. There is a meeting every Thursday at the clubhouse. Most Fridays are Open House, both start at 8:00pm, Board meetings are the second Sunday of the month.

## Menace of the LASFS:

**MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES SCIENCE FANTASY SOCIETY, INC.**

*Meeting 3204, January 7, 1999.* President: Cathy Beckstead. Secretary: Mike Glycer, the Once and Future Secretary.

Tonight was the inaugural meeting of Cathy Beckstead, President for Life or until June 30, whichever comes first. She immediately confronted a debate about the correct meeting number. Rob Cole

**Patron Saint:** Dan Alderson was tonight's Patron Saint. Dan was remembered for such things as his trajectory monitor program which is still in use by JPL. Dan was also treasurer of the 1984 Loscon. The members gave three cheers and a "Weep, wail!"

**Committee Reports:** Mike Stern said last week's Magic Tournament was not won by anybody because it had been postponed til tomorrow. (And as we've heard, tomorrow never comes.)

Charlie Jackson told us he saw 286 movies last year, 200 of them new. Chris Bauer won the pot. Then Charlie began hyping this year's contest, which will cost 25 cents a month and provide no remuneration except Building Fund

credit.

Charlie also announced this month's FWEMS, featuring *Bell, Book and Candle* and *Vertigo* back to back.

Tim Merrigan said, "Partly due to circumstances beyond my control, there will be no January *De Profundis*."

Mike Stern alerted everyone this Sunday is the Board meeting, saying people could come see how the club is run. Charlie topped that, "If you really want to see how it's run, come by my place Friday night."

Greg Barrett announced the Library's book amnesty continues until the third Thursday of January. He also said the Children's Recommended Reading List is available.

Charlie brought out Carmine the Haggis and Becky Torroll to collect donations for the Fake Fund. Said Charlie, "We ask you to put money into the fund without knowing why. Later this year you'll find out what it's for." Glyer asked, "Will you be sending us a postcard from Rio de Janiero?"

Registrar Becky Torroll had no guests to introduce. Glenn Glazer chirped, "We've been disguested!"

**Timebound Announcements:** The editor of *The Annals of Improbable Research* is coming to speak at UCLA, announced Glazer.

Mike Thorsen announced a Final Friday gathering shrouded in euphuistic mist. He invited anyone to bring temporal displacement data tapes which they

would like to use to help us zero in on a particular temporal location.

Bruce Pelz said it's time to put out the new membership directory, and waved the dusty update sheets that have been hanging in the front building for who knows how long. He warned this is your last chance to make a correction.

Treasurer Liz Mortensen reminded people to pay annual dues. Glyer demonstrated how to make an installment payment on annual dues — which requires telling Liz that's what the payment is for, giving her at least \$4 a payment and \$14 a month, and paying off the whole \$70 by the second week in March.

Allison Hershey announced that Bruce Sterling would probably be on Hour 25 the next night, and gave details. Someone was astonished to hear that the program starts at 11 p.m. — although that's been its schedule for years. Oh, and another news flash — Judge Crater is missing.

Nola Frame-Gray said Michael Jackson is back on the air at KRLA. Greg Barrett announced 21st Century Comics' annual clearance sale. Charlie Jackson hawked copies of his fanzine, boasting that it included articles based on his term papers for school, where he finally broke the 3.5 GPA barrier. (Most of you have only broken the 3.2 barrier.)

**Auction:** During tonight's auction it was determined by democratic process that the Euro was worth \$5.

**Fannish Committee Reports:** Joe Zeff was indignant that an Earthlink customer,

told a certain service had to be arranged with the person's cable tv provider, then asked whether Joe could take her zipcode and tell her who her cable tv service was. Mike Stern found a Stupid Crook Report in Ann Landers' column. Two guys in Michigan held up a convenience store. They returned 10 minutes later to ask for a bag to carry their loot in — interrupting a nice conversation the clerk was having with the cops who responded to his 911 call.

Ed Green declared the National Guard is non-Y2K compliant and proud of it. They are considering a test call-up of the guard in case there really is a Y2K meltdown. How will they call up the troops? On the phone. (If it works.)

Tom Safer heard about another stupid crook who skirted a police black-and-white on his way in to a store where he pulled out his gun, fired in the air, and yelled "This is a holdup!" Surprisingly, his DNA was not instantaneously removed from the gene pool.

Mike Stern had been reading about faraway supernovas, and new evidence that the universe is expanding faster today than it was before. The Big Bang theory is no longer a satisfactory explanation of events, except at Tommy's. Jerry Pournelle followed with a comment that there is minor evidence that faster-than-light travel would be possible. Check his web page.

Bob Null says the DVD revolution is under way — he saw twice as much shelf space devoted to that format as to tapes. Speaking of revolting, Matthew Tepper said 1998 was the first year since 1967 that he acquired no LP's for his collec-

tion. And speaking of dates, Frank Waller announced he was going on his first date in 6-1/2 years.

**Miscellaneous:** Charlie started to explain the new details of his contest when Jerry Pournelle's boredom meter went into the red and the meeting melted down. Stay tuned for Charlie's next attempt.

### **MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES SCIENCE FANTASY SOCIETY, INC.**

*Meeting 3205, January 14, 1999.*

President: Cathy Beckstead. Secretary: Mike Glyer, the Once and Future Secretary.

It was a dark and stormy night. But wait! "No, it's not stormy!" insisted Dale Hales. And then the video ended and somebody turned on the light. Revisionists now insist — it was a dry and well-lit night at the LASFS when President Cathy Beckstead called for order.

But even revisionists cannot bring order out of this chaos. Rob Cole moved to adjourn. Joe Zeff moved to table the motion until last night. And so on.

**Special Order of Business:** There was a special order of business. And how is it that something which occurs every week retains any quality that makes it "special?" Answer that, revisionists!

Matthew Tepper informed us about the passing of Betty Lou Gersten, voice of Cruella DeVille in the original *101 Dalmatians*. He also said Naomi Mitchesen died at the age of 101. It would have been perfect if only she had played Macbeth — out, out, darned spots!

**Timebound Announcements:** There was neither old nor new business — a perfect score for President Beckstead.

Charlie Jackson 2 said the theme for this month's FWEMS is "Jim and Kim" (movies featuring Jimmy Stewart and Kim Novak).

Mike Stern confessed that last week's Magic Tournament couldn't be fixed — Lucy drove off with his Magic cards.

Bret Achorn assured us that Cinema Anime would have more of the same and also something different.

Greg Barrett told members to get their overdue library books in quick — the last grains of sand were about to run out of the hourglass — the amnesty would end when he ran for the bus at 10 p.m.

Tadao Tomamatsu announced the membership rates for Ooo-La-La-Con. Rob Cole wanted to know if the banquet was worth it. Cathy said Scott was cooking, which settled the answer favorably in the minds of most members.

Mike Stern revealed the new officers of the LASFS Board of Directors — Chairman Christian McGuire, Vice-Chairman Bruce Pelz, Comptroller Mike Glyer, Secretary Mike Stern.

Co-Registrar Shaun Lyons introduced guest Lucille Gibson.

**Auction:** Ed Green was away for the night. Casting about for an auctioneer, Tadao volunteered, saying, "In case of emergency, break glass. If label on bottom says Sony...." And he went to

work selling our junk — like a copy of Harvard Graphics 2.0, a version so old someone claimed it was used to make stained glass.

**Patron Saint:** Three cheers were administered to Patron Saint Bruce Pelz.

**More Announcements:** Francis Hamit will be running his Learning Tree class about how to make a living as a free-lance writer. Matthew Tepper said Harlan Ellison would be on the Late Late Show with Tom Snyder. Rick Foss told us where we could hear a performance by the Sons of Anacreon. Charlie Jackson 2 was taking annual subscriptions for *Amazing Adventures*.

Eylat Poliner got laid off her job — er, they terminated her position. What does that mean — that she had to give up her cubicle next to Dilbert's?

Cathy Beckstead officially announced that the February Board of Directors meeting will be on the first Sunday of the month. That way it won't conflict with Gallifrey or ConDor. That way, some of the directors will actually attend it. She also said that the club wants donations of 8-foot movie screens. And in March, get your useless crap together so the club can sell it and make money. Bring it the Friday before the Second Sunday in March. (Only!)

Mike Stern reminded that Loscon bids for 2000 will be accepted at the February Board meeting.

**Fannish Committee Reports:** Doug Crepeau of the Y2K Cassandra Committee let us know that Furbys are *machina non grata* at the National Security

Agency because they tend to repeat what they hear. He reported that the GPS satellite system is having some problems — though at the moment they mainly consist of the refusal of a lot of manufacturers of GPS-dependent equipment to submit reports to the government about whether they are Y2K compliant.

Francis Hamit just finished his eighth article on Y2K. His opinion was that unless the entire government is composed of people who like to get stuck on escalators, the problem may not be all that bad. Someone whose problem is all that bad is the fool who tipped strippers at Oxnard's Spearmint Rhino with fake \$100 bills. These girls handle more currency than treasury agents and could immediately tell by the feel of the paper that the bills weren't genuine. (Something like "It's crackers to slip a stripper the dropsy in snide.")

Joe Zeff bragged that he made a customer "pull a Castora" when he told her he was reading her instructions from copies tattooed on the inside of his eyelids. Matthew Tepper told Joe, "There's a laser method of removing those...."

Rick Foss told about a KLM commuter jet pilot told to circle the tower longer than he liked. The pilot knew radio communications in the tower were on an open channel everyone could hear. So he started singing the Flintstones theme and kept repeating it until they let him land. His performance was a critical failure — he was immediately jailed and fired from KLM.

Don Wenner had heard about a burglar who fell asleep at the home he was

robbing and woke up in handcuffs. Charlie Jackson 2 said Target is running a commercial where a pseudo-Jacques Cousteau character really does pronounce it "Tar-Jhay." Fred Patten wondered if anyone has ever told Target their trademark is the same as the insignia of the Peruvian Air Force.

Mike Donahue announced a moneymaking project that would let LASFSians do what they do best — sit and watch tv. Trash tv shows pay for audiences. Mike is getting the details.

Mike Stern said, "I hear Judge Judy is going to try the President." Allan Rothstein was unimpressed: "Everybody's tried the President."

**Reviews:** Hare Hobbs thought Marion Zimmer Bradley's "last novel" had too many loose ends for there not to be another one.

**Miscellaneous:** Mark Poliner said had a new job. Charlie Jackson 2 erupted, "You stole your wife's job? You bastard!" No, Mark is working at Card Services International.

Karl Lembke said the Children's Recommended Reading List now is on the LASFS web site.

Mike Thorsen asked if anyone had announced temporal tapes. Glycer said it had been in the minutes from last week, but unless he mentioned it tonight it wouldn't be mentioned when the minutes were read next week.

This set the tone for Mike Stern to move to make it yesterday so that Rob Cole's motion, tabled by Joe Zeff at the start of

the meeting, could be taken from the table. Matthew Tepper worried that we would wind up adjourning tonight's meeting before we'd convened it.

There were no further minutes because I wasn't here yet.

### **MINUTES OF THE LASFS: Meeting 3206 — January 21, 1999**

President: Cathy Beckstead. Secretary: Mike Glycer

Cathy Beckstead's attempt to start things with an unassuming greeting of "Good evening" was lost in the uninterrupted racket and din. She forcefully demanded, "Sit down and let's start a meeting!" That got results — they love it when she bosses them around! Rob Cole was so flustered he moved to adjourn before Cathy even rapped the gavel to start the meeting. But he recovered quickly. She rapped, and he answered, "Nevermore", er, "Move to adjourn...."

**MINUTES:** The minutes sparked numerous corrections. Brian Gitt noted that the minutes said something about Matthew Tepper running for a bus, and asked if Matthew was elected. This jest led to the secretary's realization that all the quotes he had attributed in shorthand to "MT" had been made by Mike Thorsen, not Matthew Tepper. The minutes were accepted as Gallifreyan.

**AGENDA:** Members cheered there still being no Old or New Business. Cathy said, "I'm on a roll!" That means we will have to address her as "Kaiser Beckstead" until somebody submits some business.

**PATRON SAINT:** Cathy announced that Jeff Siegel was tonight's Patron Saint, and looked around for someone to give a brief description of Jeff's saintliness. Instead, Glycer blurted out, "When we were on our anniversary trip to San Luis Obispo two weeks ago I ran into Jeff while crossing the street! He said he was there to visit his father in the hospital." Brian Gitt immediately wondered, "So Jeff's now in the hospital, too? (You said you ran into him....)" Glycer asked Cathy, "When are the bus elections? I'd like to nominate Brian to run for one."

**TIMEBLIND ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Charlie Jackson, on behalf of The Committee That Has Forgotten Its Name, revealed that tonight's program was — no program. But next week would be Japanimation. No sooner was that said than Fred Patten asked to show next week's program tonight because (1) the Moffatts were here, and (2) next week Fred wouldn't be. Everyone agreed this was a fine plan.

Speaking of video, Charlie Jackson 2 reminded everyone about the LASFS Video Library. Members may borrow a limit of three titles or four tapes, for up to two weeks. He mentioned all the available genres. Brian Gitt demanded, "How did science fiction get in there?" Charlie admitted with distaste, "Members donate it." Tadao Tomamatsu publicized OoLaLaCon. He read its guest list and announced the membership rate.

Registrar Becky Torroll found tonight's shy guest — Alan Narup — sitting in front of the fire exit, ready for a quick escape. Cathy promised, "We don't bite much." Frank Waller confirmed, "We

don't bite unless you ask us." At the end of the meeting, Frank was still waiting to be asked.

**AUCTION:** Notable among tonight's auction items was a piece of junkmail sent to the LASFS Library. There was a question printed on the outside of the envelope: "God's Holy Spirit said, 'Someone connected with this address needs help.' Is this you?"

**TIMELESS ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Joe Zeff had learned that Frank Gasperik experienced unknown nerve damage that is preventing him from ever playing the guitar again.

Treasurer Liz Mortensen announced that the LASFS donor list is posted.

Mike Thorsen invited people to come watch data tapes played on the TRITE machine — Temporal Retrieval of Information and Temporal Entertainment.

This inspired George Mulligan to debunk that show about getting the newspaper ahead of time — "It's no big deal. Go to the newsstand Saturday night and there's the Sunday paper."

Fred Patten displayed the new issue of *YARF!* Then he told about visiting a furry convention in the Bay Area last week. While there, he learned that last November's Silicon only drew 300 people, was a disaster in every sense of the word, and that there won't be one in 1999.

Tim Merrigan announced that the *De Profundis* deadline was tonight. Liz Mortensen asked people to join Loscon

whatever-number-hers-is. Besides, her theme is "It's the End of the World" so they don't have to count after this. The next committee meeting would be January 31.

#### **FANNISH COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Francis Hamit had a Stupid Crook Report from right here in North Hollywood. There's a burglar who likes to lounge around his victim's homes, and rearrange their furniture. He's called "The Interior Decorator" burglar.

George Mulligan told us about the Darwin Award nominations for people whose deaths self-evidently improve the gene pool. First on the list were the guys who decided the place to light off their fireworks was on top of a 100,000 gallon gasoline storage container. Running second were two guys who played catch with a live rattlesnake — one player is still alive. But Dale Hales predicted that guy would make the finals again.

**REVIEWS:** Francis Hamit had seen a remarkable "double bill" — *Elizabeth*, followed by *Shakespeare in Love*. The actor Geoffrey Rush plays Walsingham in one and Henslowe in the other and you don't know it's the same guy. Francis praised *Shakespeare in Love* as one of the best movies he's seen about staging a play. Sandy Cohen echoed his praise for *Shakespeare*, except, sad to say, Gwyneth Paltrow looks better as Romeo than as Juliet.

Mike Stern said he wanted to review "One of the most enjoyable experiences I've had in my life." He destroyed a package of the OS/2 operating system that he bought in last week's auction.



Mike said he enjoyed it so much that he wanted to do it again. Glycer said, "Then you should have made a backup copy."

Fred Patten had good things to say about Christopher Rowley's novel, *Dragon Ultimate*, whose fantasy universe is neatly summed up as — Roman military tactics with fighting wyverns.

Christian McGuire said that because it's a new year, 1999, members should rush to make their maximum one cent per year donations to the Atomic Clock Fund.

For reasons shrouded in mystery, we ended upon a vote of all those in favor of Number Two-ing the meeting. Hm, how did Buchman vote?

Menace of the LASFS  
Meeting # ????  
January 28, 1999  
Cathy Becksted presiding  
**Karl Lembke scribbling**

Trapped in a desolate wasteland, supplies and ammunition running out, the enemy closing in, all seemed lost. Suddenly, over the rise, a cloud of dust! As it draws nearer, we can see horses, and riders. The cavalry has come to our rescue, bearing the wayward meeting number! Now we can start the meeting! (What? You thought the cavalry was your friend???)

Meeting number 3207 of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society was gavelled into order at 8:12:31 by President Cathy Beckstead.

The usual motion was made and died for want of a second.

### **Special Orders of Business:**

Except for one dead motion, there were no special orders of business to announce.

**Menace:** There were also no Menace from the previous week, a fact which provoked a mixed reaction.

**Old Business:** There was no old business.

**Patron Saint:** Saint Rick Sneary was one of the club's "primo" treasurers and served LASFS in other offices as well. He was well known in fandom all over the world. And, oh yes. He gave the club money. He achieved sainthood posthumously, having bequeathed some money into Len Moffatt's safekeeping. For this noble deed, he was honored with "Three Cheers and a Trip to Los Vegas."

**Gnu Business:** There was no gnu business.

(I guess it's true. This club does **no** business.)

### **Appointed Committees:**

**De Prof:** **Bob Null** reported that **Tim Merrigan** had stepped down as De Profundis editor, due to other encroaching commitments. **Scott Beckstead** has volunteered to edit the magazine. His offer was gleefully accepted, placing him in charge of the smaller and more frequently occurring LASFS organ. People with any submissions should see him. There followed a discussion about who is to submit to whom. This discussion was mercifully brief.

**Tim Merrigan** was given a round of

applause for his service to the club.

**Club Computers:** **Bob Null** reports that Matthew Tepper has donated a computer, which will replace the Hell Scoring Computer. This computer in turn will be donated to Valley College.

**OO La La Con:** **Tadao Tomomatsu** states that the con announcement was soon to be linked up on the LASFS website. Join before the price goes up!

**Programs:** **CLJII** stated that this week's program had occurred the previous week. Next week's program will be the LASFS Salon. This week's stand-in program will be an episode of "reading rainbow".

**APA-L:** Nola Frame-Gray announced that in the absence of both Tim Merrigan and Fred Patten, she was going to need the assistance of someone checked out on club machinery to produce APA-L. (Addition a week later: Nola thanked CLJII for jumping to assist.)

**Video/Movies:** This Sunday, FWEMS, features "Jim and Kim", a double-feature starring Jim Stewart and Kim Novak. The following weekend, Cineina Anime will, for a refreshing change of pace, show ..... ANIME!

**Registrar:** Shaun Lyon announced that there were no guests to be found. Perhaps, it was conjectured, because it was Shaun's week to be registrar, and he's not as cute as Beckie.

**Committee to Gouge the LASFS:**  
Raised some green.

**Announcements:**

**Susan Gibson** spoke for two minutes about Hour 25. And then another two minutes. And another, and another, and another.... To make a long story short: KPFK's pointy-haired boss has given notice, and **may** be replaced by a boss with a lick of sense. This means Hour 25 may regain the use of its second hour. (Is that Hour 26?)

To make another long story short: Ms. Gibson now handles donations of pledge premiums, and is giving advance notice of the fact that there will be no more calling in the following week and getting the premium. Premiums are available only during the hour they're being offered. Also, she asked the club's opinion as to whether "advance copies" of books would be acceptable premiums. (The answer was "yes".) The Gallifrey con broadcast will be tape-delayed.

**Bruce Pelz:** Bruce is resurrecting the birthday calendar. Submit any missing birth data to Bruce. (I guess we're back to submitting again.) The calendar may be webified.

**Registrar:** Filling in for the registrar tag team, Pat announced that Shaun's departure had encouraged three guests to emerge from the woodwork.

**Marisca Burger**, from Haarlem, the Netherlands, is a reader, and an other. **S. Hart**, also from the Netherlands, is a reader. **Mike Ellis**, from far off Van Nuys (the hinterlands?), is a reader, a student, an other (gamer), and a fan of "aliens and all that stuff".

**Doug Crepeau:** Champing at the bit after waiting so long to report, posted two websites, one for Mike Jittlov <[www.wizworld.com](http://www.wizworld.com)> and one for general humor <[infowar.com/hunter](http://infowar.com/hunter)>.

**Mike Stern:** Announced that the Board of Director's meeting would be a week early this month. Anyone planning to submit a LosCon bid is advised to remember this fact, as this month's meeting is the deadline.

**Sundance:** Reports that Prodigy "Classic" is closing down, because it's not Y2K compliant.

**Christian:** There will be a convention in Van Nuys in the near future having something to do with Time Lords. Anyone curious may look it up at <[www.gallifreyone.com](http://www.gallifreyone.com)>

#### **Faanish committee reports:**

**Doug Crepeau:** For once, not a Y2K Cassandra Report. There will be a commercial during the Super Bowl game which features the voice of HAL. It is alleged to be a commercial for Apple Computers. On the day of the Pope's visit to Southern California, the winning Pick 3 Lotto numbers were 6, 6 and 6. He also posted his proof that Barney was the antichrist. (Jerry Falwell says the antichrist is a Jewish male. Funny, Barney doesn't look Jewish.) McDonalds, soon to pass the 99 billion burger mark, is having trouble with signs that are not 100GB (one hundred gigaburger) compliant.

**Joe Zeff:** While assisting people with their setup in Windows 95, encountered some people who were very unclear on the distinction between hardware and software. One person thought a CD would have hardware on it, and another, told he needed to add new memory, asked if that was like a disk or something.

**Jerry Pournelle:** Announced that Windows 2000 was running late, and would probably be out in 1901.

**Mike Stern:** Mentioned a yoyo called the Millenium 2000. It was guaranteed to go down, but would come right back up. (Are we sure that's not an intern?)

**Frank Waller:** Vanilla Ice will be playing at the House of Blues.

**Tadao Tomomatsu:** Look for Tadao in an upcoming broadcast of Diagnosis Murder. He can't say whether he's the killer, but there are some missing people who probably can.

**Ed Green:** Mentioned that the army had come up with an environmentally safe bullet with a low lead content. It was, of course, being referred to as a "green bullet". (That's G-R-E-E-N.) It's nice to know the army's getting the lead out.

#### **Reviews:**

**Hare Hobbs:** managed to read two books since his last review (probably during the "Hour 25" announcement). He had nice things to say about David Gerrold's "Starhunt", and about Stanley Weinbaum's "New Atom".

**Doug Crepeau:** Reviewed Timothy Zahn's "Conquerors" series. On the whole a pretty good read, with only a couple of fatal flaws.

**Stan Friesen:** had some questions about Star Trek IX. 1: Which side was the "insurrection"? 2: How did Ryker know where life support was? ("NO SPOILERS!" shouted the crowd.)

## Miscellaneous:

**George Mulligan:** The US has scored an important victory. For years, the Swiss Army Knife has been the pocket tool of record. Now, the Leatherman has overtaken it, and is being copied by the Swiss. Now we know who has the better tool.

And, with a better tool available, we now adjourn and repair to the program.

## MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES SCIENCE FANTASY SOCIETY, INC.

*Meeting 3208, February 4, 1999.*

President: Cathy Beckstead. Secretary: Mike Glycer, the Once and Future Secretary.

The meeting began with another demonstration of parliamentary procedure of the kind that makes you wish Guy Fawkes had been successful after all.

President Cathy Beckstead shouted, "Sit down!" Among the members who did not obey was Scratch Galloway, for whom Cathy made an exception saying: "You can stand anywhere you want." Scratch showed his appreciation by promptly moving to adjourn. Then Joe Zeff moved to defenestrate the motion. Mike Stern observed, "There's no place to go but up from here," a pure case of excessive optimism as Cathy said, "Just to keep you all excited I'll bang my gavel again."

**Regular Order of Business:** Since nobody really remembers how meetings used to begin before we started having a Special Order of Business every week, tonight also began with a "Special Order of Business" defined as Christian McGuire's announcement that Robbie

Cantor was here from England to help throw Gallifrey. Christian said of our former treasurer, "Just in case you missed her, walk up to her and she'll say, 'Give me two dollars.'"

Christian also announced that Selina Phanara was in St. Joseph's Hospital recovering from pneumonia. Rebecca Torroll said Selina appreciated the visitors she had today. A number was announced where LASFSians could call Selina at the hospital — and a moment later Brad Achorn got the attention of the meeting, held up his cell phone and had us wish Selina "Get well!" in unison.

Grasping after a genuine Special Order of Business, Karl Lembke announced that just before Groundhog Day official revealed that Canada's own star groundhog, Weyerton Willie, had died two days earlier. Therefore, Karl reasoned, he did not see his own shadow and six more weeks of funerals would follow. Karl's newspaper clipping included a photo of the groundhog displayed in a coffin. But Matthew Tepper blew the whistle — this groundhog was an impostor, a taxidermist's specimen borrowed for the occasion, because Willie actually died months ago. What a scandal.

**Minutes:** Also DOA were two sets of minutes, Glycer's of January 21 and Karl Lembke's of January 28. Hearing Lembke's reference to Scott Beckstead's introduction as the new *De Profundis* editor, Charlie Jackson 2 nearly brought the meeting to an abrupt end by insisting that Scott would be bringing us the "smaller but more frequently occurring organ of the LASFS."

Jerry Pournelle thought we should

approve the reading as “two minutes worth.” Before that could happen many members jumped in with corrections. Mike Stern doubted that the January 28 minutes ought to refer to the date of the next board meeting as “this month’s Board meeting.” Charlie Jackson 2 complimented Lembke for properly selecting the vernacular “champing” rather than “chomping” as so many misuse it. Matthew Tepper said Glycer did the best Brian Gitt impression he ever heard: “Please don’t do it again.” And Fred Patten said that while it is widely believed there will be no Silicon in 1999, that is not definite as implied in the minutes.

**Regular Business Without Order:**

Christian McGuire reminded all that Sunday is the LASFS Board meeting, where Loscon bids for 2000 will be accepted.

**Patron Saint:** Cathy led three cheers for tonight’s Patron Saint, Mike Luwish.

**New Business:** As a kind of second cousin to a pun made in Glycer’s minutes, Christian McGuire moved “That the President of LASFS officially be called Kaiser Beckstead.” “Hoch! Hoch!” agreed Jerry Pournelle. The perspicacious Tepper said, “Since the President of LASFS is patently female, change that to Kaizerina.” Christian McGuire called the question and the motion failed, a blessed relief to everyone.

**Committee Reports:** Charlie Jackson 2 invited everyone to save their reviews and comments for tonight’s LASFS Literary Salon. Then as the movie contest committee he announced (1) that Tom Safer had won in January and (2)

due to a small but vocal complaint (well, Jerry’s not *that* small) he was abandoning the contest. He suggested those who want the club to make money give donations directly to Liz Mortensen.

Mike Stern announced the monthly Magic Tournament. Bret Achorn said Cinema Anime would break tradition by also showing a movie. Tim Merrigan announced that he has resigned as *De Profundis* editor, to be succeeded by Scott Beckstead. Tadao Tomamatsu announced OoLaLaCon.

Liz Mortensen explained that she was sending letters acknowledging everyone’s contributions to LASFS in 1998 for tax purposes. She also reminded people to pay annual dues. Scratch responded with his own logic: “If you pay by the week, the club makes more money!”

Registrar Becky Torroll introduced guests Kit Russell and Jean Marie Walker.

**Announcements:** Greg Barrett had dropped a LASFS business card into a fishbowl at Borders where they were having a drawing for gift certificates — and LASFS won a \$10 certificate. He urged people to do the same whenever they see one of these drawings, because the club can either use the item won, or convert it to cash by putting into the auction.

Fred Patten announced that the Republic of Macedonia is hosting a World Cartoon Gallery in May and is holding a contest. The winning cartoons will be those that best exemplify the theme:

Each subject that repels You as human and author, but makes you laugh at

The grand prize winner gets a golden plaque and 2000 DEM. How much is that in zlotys? Rasbutnycks? Egobucks signed by Ed Green?

Scratch made sure we knew that the Workmans' daughter was here selling Girl Scout Cookies. For dollars, not Macedonian's IOU's.

**Fannish Committee Reports:** Referring to a news report, Matthew Tepper said, "I think the wisest words ever uttered in the halls of Congress are, 'God almighty, take the vote and get it over with!'" Apparently those words exceeded Congress' maximum wisdom limitation, for the speaker was promptly arrested by Capitol Police. Or maybe it had something to do with the fact that this wisdom was shouted by a spectator in the Senate gallery.

Matthew had also read in an article that England's songbirds are forgetting how to sing. Traffic noise is preventing them from learning their mating songs. Matthew's solution — remedial singing classes for birds — would give work to members of the Royal Opera, currently shut down for budgetary reasons. Sort of like killing two birds with one stone. Sorry.

Mike Stern told us someone in Michigan had been arrested and convicted for swearing. But nobody knew what you could say in Michigan that was so offensive it would get you jailed. Maybe something like, "Go, Buckeyes!"

Frank Waller twirled his plastic baffle

and announced that George Carlin is on HBO this weekend.

A motion to adjourn interrupted the next thing Frank was about to say. So Joe Zeff moved to amend the adjournment motion into a motion to listen to what Frank Waller had to say. But after hearing what we'd missed, Glycer ungratefully moved to revoke Zeff's amendment. Sadder but wiser, we adjourned.

## Editorial

I must apologize for the brevity and lack of true information this month. Trying to step into Tim's shoes is not easy and I have had to do this issue under a very tight deadline. Excuses aside February is the busiest month of my year and it has been a wild ride. Anything missing that you feel needs to be in De Prof please tell me either by e-mail or in person. I will try to shoe horn all the requested data into each issue but I make no promises.



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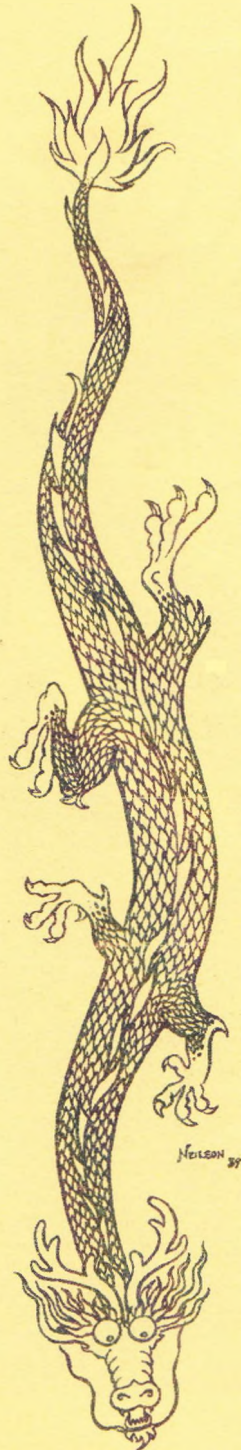
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## Announcements

The election to confirm the **Loscon 27 Bid** will be held on March 18th.

The Yard sale will be held on the second Sunday of March. Items for the sale to be dropped off the Friday before.

Elections for the **LASFS Board of Directors** will be held on March 18th.



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