



DE PROFUNDIS

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Issue 325

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September 1999

Club Calendar:

FWEMS, September 26th
The first half of a movie about the life of Jessie James and more.

Friday October 22, 1999
LASFS Retirement Banquet
Special Guests: Bjo Trimble and David Gerold,
Toastmaster: CLJ II
\$30 dollars per person at the Odyssey Restaurant, Granada Hills. Choice of Boneless Breast of Chicken or Sirloin Steak,
Vegetarian dish: Pasta Primavera

NEXT LAFA FILKSING

October 30, 1999
Scarboro Lair
HOST: Bob "Blars" Larson
3384 Scarboro St.
Los Angeles, CA 90065
(323) 222-5459

FOR LAFA INFORMATION:

Contact Lee & Barry Gold, (310) 306-7456

To get emailed LAFA announcements, email Barry at bgold@west.sun.com

LASFS Officers

President - Cathy Beckstead
Vice - Merlin R.(Bob) Null
Registrar - Rebecca Torrell
Scribe - Karl Lembke
Treasurer - Liz Mortensen
LOSCON 26 Chair - Liz Mortensen
LOSCON 27 Chair - Shaun Lyon and Christian McGuire
Appointed Procedural Officers
LASFS/APA-L Liason - Tim Merrigan
De Profundis Editor - Scott Beckstead
Committee to Gouge Money from the LASFS - Bruce Pelz, Ed Green, Tadao Tomomatsu
Euologist, Public Relations, Records, Shangri L'Affaires Editor, Video Coordinataor, Programming Committee, party Rabbi, & Tontine Committee - Charles Lee Jackson II
Hall Decoration & Silent Auction Coordinator - Tadao Tomomatsu
Key Control - Liz Mortensen, Bob Null
Janitorial Services - Greg Bilan & Mike Thorsen
Philatypus & Chair Chair - Mathew B. Tepper
Special Photographic Collection - Mike Donahue
Honorary Officers
Seargent at Arms - Roy Tackett
Windmill at Arms - Kees Van Toorn
Samurai at Arms - Takumi Shibano
Librarian at Arms - Heather Stern

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
Moffatt, 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 Librar-
ians** - Greg Barrett, Lucy Stern, Alison
Stern, & Tadao Tomomotsu, **Special
Guest Librarian** - Charles Lee Jackson
II
Loscon 25 & 26 Hotel Liaison -
Christian McGuire

Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting

13 June, 1999

Chairman: Christian McGuire

Secretary: Mike Stern

Present:

Christian McGuire, Mike Glycer, Bob

Null, Liz Mortensen, Mike Thorsen,
Mike Donahue, Bruce Pelz, Elayne
Pelz, Michael Mason, Kim Brown

Absent: None

Not all here: Mike Stern

Present (others):

Joe Zeff, Karl Lembke, Greg Bilan,
Greg Bilan, Greg Barrett, Cathy
Beckstead, Joyce Sperling, Arlene
Satin, Suze Campagna, Fred Patten,
Charles Lee Jackson II, Others and
sundry.

The meeting was called to order at
11:00

Note: The secretary was not able to
remain after 12:00, due to a work
commitment. Karl Lembke is hereby
thanked for stepping in and taking
over the chore of note taking. Errors
in the interpretation of his notes are
Mike Stern's.

Board of Directors meeting

TREASURER'S REPORT

\$10,000 was turned over to the
Century fund.

The midyear budget was
presented to the board. It was
approved on voice vote.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

There were no membership applica-
tions.

OLD BUSINESS DE PROFUNDIS No
editor, no report.

SIGNS

Bruce Pelz will look into pricing
and will acquire signs, unless déjà vu
failure strikes again.

ARCHIVE COMMITTEE

Pelz (Probably Bruce, but I
didn't take the notes, and Karl only
supplied the last name) suggested
establishment of alternate archives
(Loscon, LaLaCon) in addition to the
LASFS archives. A \$50 amount was
voted on to implement the archives
(For Notebooks, etc). The motion was
passed on voice vote.

CLUB MACHINES COMPUTERS

Bob still needs to shovel through the stuff. Linux was updated to Red Hat 6.0.

AV EQUIPMENT

Mike Donahue is still persuing fixing the black set of speakers.. Charles Lee Jackson II and Mike Donahue went over the receipts to see if the video projector is still covered under warranty, and discovered that the period is, indeed, over. They are working to conserve the life of the projector.

HALL RECONSTRUCTION MAILBOX

Deja vu. Mike Donahue is still looking for a proper mailbox.

DOOR TO BACK BUILDING

Deja vu. The door still needs repair.

HALL DECORATION

A new display case has been purchased.

LIBRARY

Bookie's software has been updated. After a few harrowing experiences (not detailed in Karl's notes), the new software is up and running. The library machine is now designated as Bookie Junior, proving once more that the board's imagination knows no bounds. Michael Mason is catching up on processing, now that he can.

VIDEO COLLECTION

Bob and CL acquired a couple of new titles, but have been waiting to see what the budget is. They will go ahead and acquire some public domain stuff. Some Funes? And blank tapes have been donated by Fred Patten.

P.A.SYSTEM

Amitron and Electronic City were checked to locate a P.A. amplifier that is able to reach the front building speakers. Mike Thorsen discovered that Amitron had moved,

and that E.C. listed amplifiers in the price range of \$100-300. Mike Thorsen will pursue this.

RECOMMENDED LISTS

Children's Literature List

There were two programs on the Children's list after regular meetings of the club. Due to lack of interest in the programs, it has been decided to grade the books for girth instead of age, providing a truly fannish measure.

Librarian's Literature list

No progress

Viewing List

CL mentioned that the recommended viewing list seems to have disappeared. However, CL is able to replace the one that disappeared with one of his own devising. The list will include titles and explanations.

LASFS.ORG

A question came up about mailing lists for the LASFS. Do they exist? Some ideas are being stolen from Enigma. A motion to pursue creation of mailing lists was passed on voice vote. The secretary has contacted the webmaster and has been informed that two mailing lists have existed since early 1998: lasfs-l and loscon-l. lasfs-l is a general discussion mailing list and loscon-l is for general discussion about Loscon. Enigma's ideas are safe... the webmaster has not heard of that site.

LOSCON XXVI

Liz said that during the past month, she visited Baycon added 22 members. She thanked Ed Green, Greg Bilan, the Becksteads...

LOSCON 27 (or is it XXVII?)

The number question has still not been decided at this time LOSCONS OF THE FUTURE Christian McGuire is working with the Burbank Hilton on contracts for 2001 through 2003. There is a minor disturbance in the force... Hilton now has a "Universal Con-

tract"; it won't be a rubber-stamped LASFS contract.

Hula-la-con

(bring on the poi and roast piglet!).

RECYCLING

\$19.88 was collected in the prior month, due to a change to non-CRV containers.

PLAQUES No report.

BYLAWS

The previous report is a final unless Ed Green presents his information next month.

CONVENTION DELEGATES

None

LASFS Public Relations

The first meeting of July will be a "photo shoot" meeting, so that photographs of the LASFS in action can be obtained for the new display.

LASFS MEMBERSHIP DATA BASE

Data Czar Bruce added two fields to the database: "Joined" and "Birthday". He has sample printout, and is awaiting the data from Shaun.

LASFS Retirement Banquet

No change. Still scheduled for October.

Re-keying

There was a motion to re-key completely, serialize the keys and use an ABC scheme. Passed on voice vote. Rekeying is scheduled for 30 June.

New business

Star Wars Phantom Menace

CL attempted to give out free books with LASFS bookmarks at lines waiting to see "Phantom Menace".

Time Meddlers

Suze Campagna and Arlene Silk asked for the clubhouse to be used on the third Sunday of each month for an event called "Time Meddlers Meeting" This event is to be open to all LASFS members. The use of the clubhouse was granted for this event by voice vote.

CFO

Fred Patten asked for the clubhouse to be used on the third Saturday of each month for an event called "Cartoon Fandom Organization" This event is to be open to all LASFS members and the general public. Assurances were made that no illegal tape duplication would take place. Discussion included questions of film content and suitability for LASFS members who happen to be minors. The use of the clubhouse was granted for this event by voice vote.

FWEMS

CL asked for the last Sunday in each month and the Fourth Sunday for those months when the last Sunday is not the Fourth Sunday. This was more in the nature of a clarification, so no vote was needed.

Lankershim Arts Festival

Greg Barrett will look into what it takes to get a booth into this annual event. It's right around the corner from the clubhouse, so maybe there will be more significance to participation.

Service Pins

A motion was made to have pins with years of service in the LASFS available for sale to members. Various numbers were batted around - 25 and 50, perhaps 10, 25 & 50. Passed on voice vote with Elayne opposed. CL will look into this.

The meeting adjourned at 13:33:30. The next meeting will be on 11 July 1999.

Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, Inc. Board of Directors

Meeting

11 July, 1999

Chairman: Christian McGuire

Secretary: Mike Stern

Present:

Christian McGuire, Mike Glycer, Bob Null, Liz Mortensen, Mike Thorsen, Mike Donahue, Michael Mason, Kim Brown

Absent:

Bruce Pelz, Elayne Pelz (Kim Brown Proxies for both)

Not all here:

Mike Stern

Present (others):

Joe Zeff, Joyce Sperling, Arlene Satin, Others and sundry.

The meeting was called to order at 11:12

Karl Lembke was thanked for providing notes for the June meeting.

Board of Directors meeting

Due to the lack of hardcopy of the minutes, the minutes were "approved in abstentia," and the members of the board were forced to remember what needed to be brought up without that aid to memory. Things that were forgotten to be brought up are noted with: Forgotten: no report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bottom line: \$33,951.51

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Membership applications were received from June Jordan, Peggy Rork, Amber Jenkins, Darcy Golden, and Steve Fox. All were approved for membership unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS DE PROFUNDIS

No report.

SIGNS

No report.

ARCHIVE

COMMITTEE

Forgotten: no report.

CLUB MACHINES

COMPUTERS

Nothing to report.

AV EQUIPMENT

The blue line problem with the video projector fixed itself in a totally mysterious fashion. Actually, it's no surprise to the secretary who realizes that it's the RED line that's coming into North Hollywood.

HALL

RECONSTRUCTION MAILBOX

Mike Donahue admitted that he wasn't able to get to it and he thought that he would not be able to get to it in the near future and asked to be removed from the Task. Michael Mason agreed to look for a replacement mailbox.

DOOR TO BACK BUILDING

Forgotten: no report.

PLUMBING

Kirk the Plumber rooted out the rear drain, replaced the rear trap, and both flapper valves in the toilets for \$93 out of the maintenance

budget.

AWNINGS

Mike Thorsen said that the awning was disintegrating, and wanted to replace the decaying ropes with plastic-coated wire rope. His estimate was \$175-200 for the materials. A motion was made to provide up to \$250 toward the Awning repair. It passed 9-0-1.

GARDENING

Gardening was done. Sherri Benoun was thanked by the board.

LIBRARY

There have been two successful work parties since the last board meeting. Leigh Strother-Bien was thanked for her help on the second one, which Librarian Michael Mason could not attend due to having to (ugh) work for (yay) money. Bookie is now working the way it should.

VIDEO

COLLECTION

Forgotten: no report.

P.A.SYSTEM

Mike Thorsen quoted Electronic City Prices for 2 P.A. systems and one Interface:

Low end P.A.	166.45
High end P.A.	344.00
Interface	196.00

Various alternatives were discussed, including using a separate microphone with an existing solid state amplifier and sending town criers to the front building with announcements. Bob Null said that we should re-wire and try setting up the solid state amp to connect to the front building. A motion was made that Bob re-wire to the front and use existing equipment, and if that effort failed, to Authorize \$350 for a new

amplifier. Motion passed 6-0-4

RECOMMENDED LISTS

Children's Literature List

No report.

Librarian's Literature list

Recommended list version 0.2 is complete. It will be made available to LASFS members for comments, additions and input. Version 1 will debut at Conucopia. It will be available to convention members for comments, additions and input.

Viewing List

No report. CL did show up, but after the meeting was over.

LASFS.ORG

Forgotten: no report.

LOSCON XXVI

Liz said that during the past month, she visited Agamemcon and added 7 members. She thanked Greg Bilan, Joyce Sperling and Tadao Tomomatsu. Westercon gained 10 memberships. Thanked were Bruce & Elayne Pelz, Brett & Stacy, Fuzzy Niven, Cricket Fox, and Christian McGuire.

LOSCON

TWENTYSEVEN

The Chair has settled on script (twenty-seven) instead of roman (XXVII) or arabic (27).

LOSCONS OF THE FUTURE

No report

Hula-la-con

Forgotten: no report.

RECYCLING

\$23.50 was collected in the prior month, including \$3.00 in plastic from Greg Bilan.

PLAQUES

Forgotten: no report.

BYLAWS

Ed Green presented his information: He had the "Emergency Powers" amendment and the "Order of New Business" amendment. Mike Glycer said that he already had included the latter, but had been missing the former. Mike Glycer will update the bylaws once again, and provide electronic copies to the secretary, the webmaster, and a copy to be kept in Bookie Monster.

CONVENTION

DELEGATES

Forgotten: no report.

LASFS Public Relations

Forgotten: no report.

LASFS

MEMBERSHIP

DATA BASE

Forgotten: no report.

LASFS Retirement

Banquet

Forgotten: no report.

Re-keying

Rekeying was completed at a cost of \$298.30. One additional lock was found at the small shed. These locks make it impossible to open the shed from the inside without tearing

it down. Let it be noted that no one should be locked into the shed, since the outside will be inaccessible from the inside (barring teleportation devices).

The new keys are distinctive and serialized. Liz and Bob will distribute the new keys and keep the list of keyholders.

new business CHECKS

Dale Hales had a complaint. He would like to have us deposit checks in a timely fashion. Bob Null and Michael Mason offered to help Liz Mortensen with check deposits. Kim Marks Brown also volunteered to make deposits for the treasurer when she has finished making them up and they are ready for deposit.

The meeting adjourned at 11:58. The next meeting will be on 8 August 1999.

Selected Menace

Menace of the LASFS

Meeting # 3233

7/29/1999

VP Bob Null and President

Cathy Beckstead presiding

Secretary Karl Lembke recording

Being fresh out of the usual ado, the meeting was called to order at

20:14:16.

Special Order of Business: This week, fandom has lost a shining jewel with the death of Marjii Ellers. She was active in fandom, in costuming, in conventions, and indeed, just about everything. She was also Fan Guest of Honor at numerous conventions, and had been selected as a speaker at the LASFS anniversary

banquet scheduled later this year. Next week's program is being changed to "Memories of Marjii". She was honored with a minute of silence. And then, since all good things must come to an end, the silence was broken by the reading of the Menace from last week. These were corrected, and approved as "tranquilized". Tonight's Patron Saint is Ed Green, spelled G-R-E-E-N. He is noted for conducting great auctions and presiding over entertaining meetings, for being a superb sidekick, swashbuckler and liason, and for giving the club money. (No, you can't have a refund!) He was given three cheers. (And a nickell!!!)

There was some New Business on this occasion. It was moved that a pygmy chimp named Panbanisha, and an orangutan named Chantek be admitted as members of the club. These two primates have been taught to communicate using electronic keyboards or sign language, with a vocabulary that exceeds that of some notable LASFS members.

They also qualify by dint of spending large amounts of time in front of computers. (In that case, my keyboard deserves a membership!)

After some discussion, it was moved, seconded and passed that the item be placed high in a banana tree in lieu of on a table, until such time as LASFS has been able to contact the club's official primate observer and determine whether these primates would even want to be members of the club.

Committee Reports

Work Parties: CLJII mentioned that there would be a video collection work party this coming Saturday at 14:00. Remember, if you don't show up, you can't work. (Hey, wait a minute...)

Program: Next week's LASFS Salon will have a theme —

Memories of Marjii.

Web Site: Mike Stern pleaded with members to check out the new, improved website at < Check out the new color logo.

Announcements:

Someone announced that tonight was the Tadao Tomomatsu episode of "Diagnosis Murder".

Fred Patten revealed that "Previews" magazine had an ad for a Cthulhu plushie, \$14.95. Can a Necronomicon "Pokemon" series be far behind? Brett Achorn mentioned that Iron Giant would be having his footprints placed at Mann's Chinese theater this weekend. Of course, if it's to scale, there may not be a theater left after that.

Greg Bilan announced that the Fantasticon, held at the Airport Hilton, would be in memory of DeForest Kelly. Frank Waller stated that his doctor had some results from his tests. He'd be giving them to him Monday at 9:00 AM. Have a nice weekend. CLJII mentioned that he was extensively quoted in the Los Angeles Times magazine, on Hollywood future history. This article is linked to from the LASFS website.

Liz announced that the tow truck had now brought her to LASFS, so people could now pay their dues. Leigh Strother-Vien pointed out an article on Forrey Ackerman in this week's New Times L.A. <

Christian McGuire announced that rooms at the Anaheim Marriott have sold out. A block of rooms has been reserved at the nearby Quality Inn. Leigh put in a request that a link to NASFIC be added to the LASFS web site. So efficient is the webmaster, that before the echoes of her request had died away, there was just such a link under "Upcoming Events". Mike Stern (FIX!!!) announced the Magic tournament next week. Mark Poliner announced that

as of July 4th, he was the proud uncle of Juliana Erica. Ed Green announced that he would need help unloading a carload of donations after the meeting. He also pointed out that donations had to be cleared with himself or Tadao. Anything just dropped off at the table would not be credited to whoever dropped it off.

This announcement proved a nice lead-in to the auction, which was briefly interrupted by the arrival of the Parking Signs. The Gary Louie parking space was bought by Christian McGuire for a hefty sum. Christian has stated that he will not park in that space, but will hold it open for Gary.

Registrar: We have a family attending; Shirley, Robert and Linda Goldstein. They have a wealth of interests among them.

Fannish Committee Reports

Joe Zeff mentioned a "gosh-wow" site, hosted on the world's smallest webserver — a 486-based computer the size of a matchbox. He also mentioned a snafu that occurred at work: It seems that tech support people are supposed to log in at the start of their shift. When they take a call, the system shows them busy. Then they go to an "after call" work mode, during which they clean up any hanging details on the call. One fellow went home after his last call of the day without remembering to turn off the "after call" mode and log out. This was noticed some 920 minutes later.

Mike Stern pointed out the "Only in LA" column which featured packets of gum, "10¢ each, or 10 for \$1.25". The store owner had put up the sign as a joke, but was amazed at how many people would buy 10 packets to get the "bargain" price. Doug Crepeau mentioned that when a kid buys 10 packets, the guy refunds the extra 25¢; adults should

be able to do their own math. Jerry Pournelle cited an example of a title of a children's book you'll never see: "Strangers Have the Best Candy."

Bill Eller mentioned that he snagged some \$250 in books at the Gary Louie sale. He found one item of historical interest which he's donating to LASFS. Hare Hobbs stated that it was frustrating to watch a collection like this scatter to the four winds. This led to a discussion of how such a collection might be preserved. This led to a lengthy discussion at the end of which it was decided that the question should go before the board.

Mark Polliner pointed out that the library was very limited in space; and mentioned that one club in Philadelphia had donated collections of dead members to the library in the member's name. Sandy suggested we should resign ourselves to the fact that we can't save everything, and realize that at least now some otherwise unavailable classics would now wind up in the hands of new readers. It was moved, seconded and passed that the subject be tabled.

Reviews

Eylat Polliner stated that "Inspector Gadget" was lots of fun. As long as you don't expect a plot or good acting, you'll enjoy the film a lot. Stan Friesen mostly agreed. He thought the Gadgetmobile went too far. Others thought it was perfectly appropriate that Gadget's car be smarter than he was. Hare's only disappointment with Return to the Center of the Earth was the lack of a plot. And why, given that this set of explorers had a set of journals to work from, and knew what was down there, did they bring no weapons? Frank Waller reviewed Clever Business Placement when he noted that at Nordhoff and Woodley, there was a child care center located right next to

an ammunition shop. Sandy reviewed "The Haunting" and didn't like it. He believes the special effects people know how to do morphing. Now why don't they save it for when there's a good reason for it? "Dick", on the other hand, is a very funny alternate history yarn, with devastating caricatures of the Watergate principles. Glenn reviewed "Blair Witch" as having no special effects, and being extremely scary. Mike Thorsen enjoyed Inspector Gadget, and found it fairly true to the cartoon episodes. He also enjoyed "Muppets from Space" (No, not "Farscape") which was a send-up of every space movie made. CLJII saw "Wrongfully Accused" and spotted numerous references in the film.

Misc.

CLJII, looking for a "sense of the club" (that's easy, we have none!) asked if the club would be interested in scheduling a picnic at a spot just beyond the Santa Susana pass which used to be a film location. There was lots of interest. Hare announced that he was offering the red and blue sodas he had bought in auction to anyone who wanted them. He wanted to keep only the green one. Frank Waller announced an upcoming car show, "the blessing of the cars", at Verdugo Park in Glendale. Mike Thorsen announced that TRIPE would be conducting temporal retrieval experiments this Sunday. The hour growing late, a flurry of motions was introduced which resulted in the meeting being adjourned at 21:34:52.

Menace of the LASFS
August 5, 1999
Cathy Beckstead presiding
Karl Lembke secretarying

"Let's start this, okay?" asked

President Cathy Beckstead.

"Why not?" was the reply.

Before a flood of reasons why not could drench the procedural officers, LASFS Meeting #3234 was gavelled into order at 20:16:00.

A motion to call to disorder was entered by the Department of Redundancy Department.

Since no one of note had died this past week, there were no Special Orders of Business.

The Menace were read, corrected, and approved as "dismembered".

CLJII, LASFS's designated "speaker to speaker to chimps", has not yet contacted LASFS's designated "speaker to chimps", although he's champing at the bit to do so.

Tonight's Patron Saint is Sean Cleary, a fellow who used to live in Wichita, and who gave the club money. He was honored with three cheers and "The falls, if he lives in Texas".

There was no New Business.

Committee Reports

Programs

Magic Mike Stern announced the (fix!) Magic tournament this Friday. Come, bring cards, join the crowd of people trouncing him soundly.

Work Party CLJII stated that the work party last weekend went quite well. More people showed up than there was work for, so some people did work straightening out the library, too. There will be another work party on September 25. Also, extra video tapes are being sold off at

the price of \$1 the each.

FWEMSThere will be no FWEMS this month because the equipment will be in another city that day. So will most of the prospective viewers.

Cinema Anime Brett Achorn announced DVD Day on the second Saturday of the month.

LASFS Website Mike Stern asked that people who had viewed the new format for the website remember that fact during the reviews section.

Registrar

There were four guests: Richard Flickstien, Rachel Walters, Rod O'Reilly, and Steve Janas from the Sci-Fi channel. Janas passed out flyers trolling for people who had had strange experiences. Steve, if we see any strange people, we'll be sure to let them know about your project.

We then had an Auction

Announcements

Francis Hamit announced a conference on computer graphics at the Convention Center.

Beckie Torrell mentioned ComiCon this weekend in San Diego, three weekends from some obscure little convention down in Anaheim. Bill Ellern handed over the book he had bought at the Gary Louie book sale: a copy of Norstrilia, autographed by numerous people at a convention.

Darcy announced a turtle racing event next Thursday, for those who can tear themselves away from this exciting meeting.

Greg Bilan announced that

Jean-Claude Van Damme and the fellow who played R2D2 would be appearing at the Shrine auditorium to plug a new movie.

Hare stated that he had bought more comix by JMS: The "Rising Star" series.

Fannish Committee Reports

Mike Stern mentioned an article in the L.A. Times "off kilter" section on how to calm a militant tarantula. Sticking it in the freezer worked better than sending in a SWAT team.

Joe Zeff reported on a practical joke his section had played at work. All the Tier 2 tech support people came in wearing formal attire one day, and then a day or two later, everyone came in wearing the loudest clothing possible. No explanations were given. ("What tie?" asked Mark Polliner.) Late Friday, a tech transferred a call to Joe. On inspection, it turned out the caller was using a Macintosh; Joe works on PCs only. He pointed this out to the tech. "It's a Mac?" he responded, "No wonder I was baffled!"

Matthew Tepper announced that the European Space Agency is sending a probe to Mars, to hard-land there and gather data. It will bear a Union Jack, which, by 2002, may be only the "Cross of St. George". (Hard-land is the space agency term for "crash", for the jargon impaired.)

Ed Green, closing out his career with the military on September 2, attended a briefing about stuff that is Not To Be Talked About, and Places Not To Be Visited. First on the list was, no unapproved visits to the Soviet Union for the next ten years.

Asked about this item, the fellow administering the briefing said, "we've been on a cost saving kick for a while."

Brett Achorn announced that the company he's working for is planning to launch a live-action movie on WWII. Pearl Harbor, and the Pacific Campaign. Okay, Tadao, after me: "Tora, tora, tora!"

Chaz Baden reminded us that Hell freezes over at LosCon this year. Guesting at the event will be the Enigma Players, whom JMS has stated are definitely going to Hell.

Someone brought up the op-ed piece in the Los Angeles Times about the combined NSA / British Government operation which was running a supercomputer grid that could intercept pretty much everything. It seems the computers look for certain trigger words.

Jerry Pournelle stated that he makes a point of putting each of the trigger words on each page of his website. (Some time ago, Thom Digby mentioned the notion of a "Shoot the President" brand camera.)

Reviews

Jerry Pournelle reviewed Starswarm. He read off reviews that were undoubtedly well worth the money spent. He asked the club to buy lots of copies and get him onto the bestseller lists. He also reviewed the digital Tarzan in Burbank. It was quite good, if you happen to be ten, and not bad if you're not. Another plus: no trailers! They're not out yet in digital format. He pointed out that a nice feature of digital format is that it reduces or eliminates the lag time between a movie taking off in popu-

larity and copies being distributed to theaters. They can be carried there on disk, or possibly beamed in by satellite. This is something he predicted last year in an article in Intellectual Capital magazine, so he's taking the opportunity to tell all those who disagreed with him, "neener neener". Hare called Starswarm a fast read.

Tim Merrigan reviewed the LASFS website. He liked it.

Sandy reviewed "Deep Blue Sea", this month's "eats people" movie. "go rent Jaws", he said. (At this point the Secretary notes that Deep Blue Sea has what must be one of the lamest bits of dialogue in a movie: "We increased their brain mass,

and as a side-effect they got smarter." Maybe if they'd tried it on themselves first, they'd have foreseen that side-effect.)

CLJII reviewed "Masterminds" with the Bowry Boys. Glenn Strange stars as a subhuman monster implanted with the personality of one of the Boys. He does a very good job of acting out the facial expressions and body language of the person whose personality he's supposed to have had implanted.

Darcy reviewed "Blair Witch". If you're prone to motion sickness, she said, bring a blindfold.

Brett called "Blair Witch" the creepiest movie ever. It's much like the campfire story you can't get to sleep after hearing. "Iron Giant", on the other hand, is the story of a malevolent robot from space who corrupts a small boy and leads a revolt against the benevolent

McCarthy era.

Mike Stern also reviewed a review of "Iron Giant". The reviewer liked it.

Frank Waller stated that the "Blessing of the Cars", while not a sci-fi event, certainly qualified as fantasy. (Um, Frank? It's not that kind of fantasy...)

Miscellaneous

Tadao mentioned that: 1) he has a friend who needs crash space at LosCon. 2) he needs spare Conucopia tickets, if anyone has any to sell. 3) There is no number 3.

CLJII asked if there were any letters commenting on the article in the LA Times magazine. The response was that it was too soon to expect any.

And so, before the letters of comment on the meeting had time to arrive, we moved to railroad Rob Cole at 21:24:17.



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Colophon

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From The Editor

After a considerable hiatus, I have returned to the computer to continue my editorship of De Profundis. I apologize for the Gap but I have been extremely busy with life (an unexpected move...read major life disruption), Conucopia and preparations for my first "Burning Man" festival. Now that all of these events have played themselves out I believe that I am ready to resume publication. I thank you all for your extreme indulgence and hope that I can continue to deliver De

Profundis on time in the future. I have a lot of catching up to do and some menace may be missing but don't despair, drop me a note if there is a date you really want to read and I'll find it. For now I'm going to expand this column to include a bit of fluff about the events that have taken place in the last two months. First my move: The landlords decided to sell the house we had been leasing for the last eight years. After scrambling to try to get finances together we decided to move rather than buy the house. Chaos ensued, Nuff said there, Conucopia: I had the pleasure to participate in a presentation on Friday night of the Con. It went extremely well after a slight delay getting everything set up properly. The audience seemed to love it and Dr. Pournelle got a good belly laugh out of it. I also worked in the Art show. This was also a great pleasure as it was very nicely organized and the show was well put on. All of the Art show people were very nice and we had a good time. Burning Man: Incredible, that's the only way to describe it. An art/performance event extraordinaire. Combined with the fact that you are trying to survive in a hostile environment. Quite challenging.

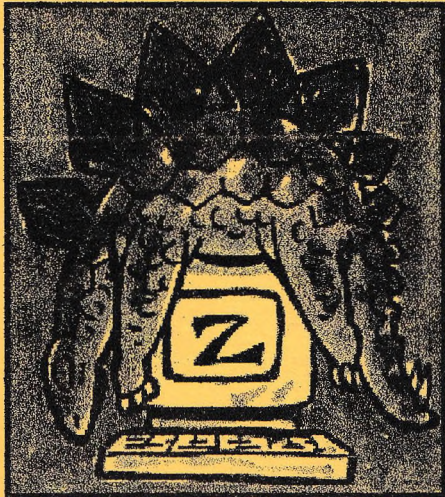
Poets' Corner

This month's poets' corner entry is by a classic english poet. I felt that this poem embodied the wonder that is associated with Science Fiction and Fantasy.

Written at Midnight

If Day reveals such wonders by her Light,
What by her Darkness cannot Night reveal?
For at her bidding, when She mounts her throne
The Heavens unfold, and from the depths of Space
Sun beyond Sun, as when called forth they came,
Each with the worlds that round him rolled rejoicing,
Sun beyond Sun in numbers numberless
Shine with a radiance that is all their own!

Samuel Rogers



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