

De
Profundis
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DE PROFUNDIS 339



colophon

De Profundis 339— March, 2001. Editor: **Marty Cantor**. Production Assistants: **Bob Null** and **Phil Castora**. Mailing List: **Liz Mortensen**. Mailing Labels: **Fuzzy Pink Niven**.

De Profundis is the official newsletter of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society (11513 Burbank Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91601, USA). Our telephone number is: (818) 760-9234. Our web site is: www.lasfs.org. *De Profundis* is available to active LASFS members, Patron Friends of the LASFS, voluntary active LASFS members, and in exchange for other fanzines. VAMs are available for \$10 per year, payable to LASFS, Inc.

Westercon is a service mark of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, Incorporated (LASFS, Inc.), Worldcon and NASFIC are service marks of the World Science Fiction Society (WSFS).

We want any news of interest to LASFS members (no poetry or fiction). Send items to the LASFS address *c/o De Profundis* or leave them in the *De Profundis* mailbox at the clubhouse. The editor, Marty Cantor, can be reached at the clubhouse on Thursday evenings or at his address: louishoohah@netzero.net. Deadlines are a bit fluid, but mid-month Thursdays are probably it.

Address corrections should be given or sent to the LASFS Treasurer at the clubhouse.

Due to the press of other material there is currently no space available in *De Profundis* for advertising. I will always try to find room to announce upcoming events of interest

Due to space limitations, priority is always given to content mandated in the LASFS by-laws and by any applicable traditions. Also, after that stuff, by what the editor wants to do.

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This is Hoo Hah Publication No. 566.

LASFS OFFICERS

Elected Procedural Officers

President: Cathy Beckstead. **Vice-President:** Merlin R. "Bob" Null. **Scribe:** Mike Glycer. **Treasurer:** Liz Mortensen. **Registrar:** Christian McGuire & Lynx (tag team).

Board of Directors

Chairman: Bill Ellern (2002). **Vice-Chairman:** Karl Lembke (2003). **Comptroller:** Mike Glycer (2002). **Secretary:** Mike Glycer (2002). **Other members:** Michael Mason (2003), Merlin R. "Bob" Null (2003), Mike Stern (2003), Joe Zeff (2002), Elayne Pelz (2002), 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.

Appointed Positions

De Profundis Editor: Marty Cantor. **Librarian:** Michael Mason. **Librarian Emeritus:** Leigh Strother Vien. **Assistant Librarians:** Greg Barrett, Lucy Stern, Alison Stern, Joyce Sperling, Lynn Baden, Eric Stokien, Rosalinda Duran-M^cKillip & Tadao Tomomatsu. **Special Guest Librarian:** Charles Lee Jackson II. **LASFS Answer Guy:** Greg Barrett. **LASFS/APA-L Liaison:** Tim Merrigan. **Committee to Gouge Money from the LASFS:** Dale Hales, Bruce Pelz, Ed Green, Tadao Tomomatsu. **Eulogist, Public Relations, Records, Shangri L'Affaires Editor, Video Coordinator, Programming Committee, party Rabbi, & Tontine Committee** (take a deep breath here): Charles Lee Jackson II. **Assistant Video Curator:** Alison Stern. **Hall Decoration:** Tadao Tomomatsu. **Silent Auction Coordinators:** Tadao Tomomatsu and Ed Green. **Key Control:** Liz Mortensen, Bob Null. **Janitorial Services:** Greg Bilan, Mike Thorsen. **Special Photographic Collection:** Mike Donahue. **Webmaster** - <lasfs.org>: Karl Lembke. **Sysadmin:** Chaz Baden. **Children's Literature Committee:** Greg Barrett. **Computers & LASFS Archives:** Bob Null, Eylat Poliner. **Charity Coordinator:** Liz Mortensen. **Book Reading Club:** Diana Dougherty.

Honorary Officers

Sergeant-at-Arms: Roy Tackett. **Windmill-at-Arms:** Kees van Toorn. **Samurai-at-Arms:** Takumi Shibano. **Librarian-at-Arms:** Heather Stern.

"What Is There To Watch On A Sunday Afternoon?"

The Avengers	Classic Star Trek
Stargate SG-1	The Muppet Show
The Champions	Total Recall 2070
Blake's 7	The Outer Limits
Farscape	The Secret Adventures of Jules Verne
Sherlock Holmes	The X-Files
The Prisoner	

.....Movies, Movies, Movies, & More Movies.....

T*R*I*P*E

Temporal Retrieval of Informational Programming
& Entertainment 1st Sunday, Noon to ??

The editor thanks Robbie Bourget, who flew from England to help put together *De Profundis* #338.

April 2001

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 LALACON	2 LADWVS	3	4	5 LASFS MEETING	6 Gaming	7 ESTROGEN ZONE
8 BOD - 2nd Sunday	9	10	11	12 LASFS MEETING	13 Gaming	14 Cinema Anime
15 TIME MEDDLERS	16	17	18 FUCC	19 LASFS MEETING	20 Gaming	21 CFO
22 FWEMS	23	24	25	26 LASFS MEETING	27 Gaming	28 WORK PARTY
29 LOSCON 28 - NOON	30	31 Archie Mercer Day				

KEY TO CALENDAR & OTHER IMPEDIMENTA

LADWVS = L.A. Dr. Who Viewing Society
 ESTROGEN ZONE = Ladies Auxiliary Sewing and Fallout Society
 TRIPE = Temporal Retrieval of Information Programming and Entertainment.
 BOD = Board of Directors
 2nd Sunday = Board and other gaming
 Cinema Anime = Japanimation
 CFO = Cartoon Fantasy Organisation
 Work Party = Varies with what needs doing
 FWEMS = Fourth Sunday Movies - 2 pm
 FUCC = Fandom Universal Computer Club
 TIME MEDDLERS = Dr. Who club

CALENDAR DETAILS

LADWVS - 6:30 pm
 TRIPE - Noon until whenever
 BOD - 11:00 am, games start at 2:00 pm
 Cinema Anime - 1:00 pm until it ends
 CFO - 1 pm to 8 pm
 Work Party - 10:30 am
 FUCC - Evening
 TIME MEDDLERS - 10:30 am
 ESTROGEN ZONE - 2:00 pm
 FWEMS - Hammer Frankenstein films

The Gary Louie Book Collection is now in our library!!!

THURSDAY PROGRAMME ITEMS

APRIL 5 - Animation
 APRIL 12 - Writing in the Lensman Universe - Bill Ellem
 APRIL 19 - Not available at this printing
 APRIL 26 - James Bond retrospective

FANZINES By Ted White

Fanzines are a basic part of science fiction fandom, having been in existence as long as fandom itself – the past 70 years. Fanzines are a reflection of many fans' interest in the printed word and amateur publishing. The publication you are reading this in is a fanzine, but a specialized one. A variety of other fanzines are also available – many of them by request – and this column will cover some of them each issue.

All fanzines are published as a hobby and lose money. Their editors appreciate money to defray their expenses and sometimes list single-copy or subscription prices, but they appreciate even more your written response – a Letter of Comment, or LoC. Feedback – better known in fandom as “egoboo” – is what fanzine publishing is all about.

Check out the fanzines below and broaden your participation in fandom.

FILE 770 (Mike Glyer, 705 Valley View Ave., Monrovia CA 91016; e-mail to Mglyer@compuserve.com; available for news, artwork, arranged

trades or subscription -- \$8 for 5 issues, \$15 for 10 issues, mailed first class in North America)

File 770 is a long-standing "newszine" which has been coming out for close to twenty years and has achieved 137 issues. Unlike the current *Locus* or *Science Fiction Chronicle* (semi-prozines -- published for profit), *F770* is devoted to news about fandom. That means you won't find interviews with the latest science fiction authors, nor advertisements for their books. In fact, there are no ads at all. Like most fanzines, *F770* is not a moneymaking endeavor. What you will find is news about conventions and fans and the events which effect fans.

In #137's 36 pages (crammed with triple-columned text) there's news of a natural gas catastrophe in Hutchinson, Kansas (which hit a local fan hard); a home invasion robbery of fans in Chattanooga, Tennessee; the "house arrest" of the founder of Dragon*Con on child-molestation charges; the bankruptcy of Ray Ferry -- who lost a lawsuit to Forry Ackerman to the applause of many fans; news that rumors of Poul Anderson's death were untrue; reports on upcoming fanzine conventions Ditto and Corflu; the latest idiocy from Fandom.com's Fandom Inc.; news of several fan funds (TAFF, DUFF, CUFF); this year's winner of the Rotsler Award for fan artists; ...and 13 more news items, including "Medical Updates" on various well-known fans, and "Short Waves" which includes a dozen brief news bites. In addition, there is an obituary section (fandom's older members are leaving us far too frequently), a long (11 pages) report on the Chicago Worldcon (plus another more personal two-page report by Elspeth Kovar), a four-page report on the final Rivercon, a page of "Conventional Reportage" (news of various upcoming conventions) and five pages of letters. Plus the occasional cartoon or photo. This is *the* fanzine to get to learn more about what's currently going on in fandom.

(I would like to point out that any zines for which the club trades can be picked up from the De Prof mailbox and can be read at your leisure. For those of you who want to explore the universe of fanzines, I shall be most happy to make recommendations of available zines in addition to those reviewed by Ted. I would also like to point out that Mike Glyer is at most meetings and you can ask him about FILE 770 there.- ed.)

zines received in trade

(All zines are available to read and are in the *De Profundis* mailbox and can be taken out for a week)

club zines: EINBLATT! March 2001 (MinnStf). PSFS News, March 2001 (PSFS). UNDERTAKINGS PR2 (World Horror Con). NASFA SHUTTLE V.21, No. 2 (NASFA). PULSAR 268 (PorSFisS). ConNotations v. 11, issue 1 (CASFS). WESTWIND 255 (NWSFS).

other zines: CHALLENGER sub-micron (Guy H. Lillian III). INSTANT MESSAGE #681 (NESFA).

(Bill Ellern continues his second series of articles.)

A Search of the Purpose of LASFS - 2

By William B. Ellern

In my previous article, I said LASFS provides "a pathway to maturity" and described the emotional environment of the highly intelligent, and what they found at LASFS. This article is about what other things the highly intelligent, but immature, do. They have been so hurt by the

normal people around them that they hide away from the real world and other people who might hurt them emotionally, again. I am going to describe some of these ways of hiding, and then you can look around the club and perhaps understand what people are doing. There are many ways to hide. In order of availability, there are books, magazines, comics, movies, television, and computer games. Isn't it interesting that each involves "media". Each has a time when it became inexpensive enough to swamp the market. You can almost predict the method of hiding by a person's age. Each has its advantages. Someone else can discuss the media's economic cycle vs. its impact on fandom. I'm only interested in its impact on immature fans.

- First, there were books. Books are portable. You can hide in plain sight. Tune out the world. Once they were expensive. Paperbacks changed that.
- There were magazines. They were periodic, and had more new material. In the 1920s SF/Fantasy magazines appeared, followed by comics. They gave an excuse for hiding out. To keep up. "Have you read the latest (fill in the magazine name)?"
- In the 1930s: movies. You could hide out in a dark theater. People couldn't even see you. They were dream factories. Expensive, and little SF/F then.
- 1950s: Television (video equivalent of a magazine). SF/F was weekly and not repeatable. Tapes and cassettes changed that for both movies and TV.
- 1970s: Computer games. Play with a computer. Dumb. But friendly. (Both are.) In 2000+: they will become a dream world you can participate in. you can hide by living in a different world! It's coming!
- All of these are better than using drugs, which is a nasty game bringing death to its players.

Now there are enough dreams, in each form of media, to hide in for the rest of your life. Arguments on the kind of media to emphasize at Cons are really a discussion of the way individuals hide. The more outspoken a person is about a particular media shows how they hide, and how desperately they need to. It shows where much of their love and attention is spent. As people get older, they develop habits, and don't want to break those habits. They substitute those habits for intelligent thought, because they are comfortable, like a drug.

It is discouraging to me to meet people who are so caught up in their "habit," that they're no longer willing to explore the world outside books, mags, comics, cartoons, movies, TV, or games. Once they're in that dream world, they don't want to come out, even if the building is burning around them. It is like a drug! The very thing that they found deficient in others as a child, with a sense of wonder and willingness to explore the world, they have lost. They clutch that security blanket ever so much tighter.

Please look at yourself and make a personal assessment. I know that's like asking a drunk if he's an alcoholic. How much time do you spend hiding from the world? But I've spent enough time irritating pigs. (This is a reference to the punch line of a Heinlein joke. I warned you that you were in fast company.)

So, with this background, lets take a look at LASFS and its activities. They have a library of books and many magazines that they lend out to members. (Bruce Pelz sells books to members for a 20% discount.) They not only lend out movies, but they show them almost every weekend.

This includes movies selected by members, by female members, cartoons, regular anime, current anime, and Dr. Who TV shows. They have a gamer's night every week, and have a number of members who just sit with the computers repeatedly playing games.

On the face of it, LASFS appears to be contributing to the delinquency of these dreamers, but are they? Certainly, that is the facade. We are offering a veritable pharmacy of drugs to a bunch of addicts. Will it hurt them? No more than they are currently hurting themselves.

Are we helping them? Not obviously, not intentionally, and not deliberately, as we should be. If we knew what we were doing, the help could be all the more effective.

How do we help them? I'm not going to just tell you in this article. I will try to make that clear later in this series. After all, there is nothing wrong with any of us. Just ask us.

As a young man, and as a young fan, I spent a lot of time and money trying to help people. It can't be done. To help another, the other has to want help. That desire must come from inside, not outside. You can only mark a road over which people, who want to come out of hiding, can pass. Without direction, those who find the desire may become lost. Each person must travel that pathway to maturity by himself or herself. We can only point the way and encourage them stay on it. Nothing more.

CONDENSED CREAM OF MENACE

(complete minutes can be read in APA-L and are filed in the archives)

Meeting #3312, February 1, 2001
Cathy Beckstead, presiding
Mike Glycer, the Once & Future Scribe

While we were waiting for the microphone to be fixed so we could start the meeting, Ed Green tripped over a chair. Now we need to have that chair destroyed - it's tasted human flesh. Cathy said, "It wouldn't be LASFS if it didn't take 20 minutes to make the microphone work." She decided to go ahead and start, but said, "The meeting can't be called to order until Matthew Tepper shuts up." Charlie Jackson 2 predicted, "In that case, the meeting will be postponed indefinitely."

Special Orders of Business: Tonight there was a very special order of business. Science fiction great Gordon Dickson had passed away. Charlie defined Dickson's greatness in terms that "His work is so well done, even I read it." Ed Green recalled that Dickson had been L.A.con II's guest of honor, and Matthew Tepper told about the writer's relationship with the Minneapolis fan community. Another writer, Rick Shelley, had also died recently after suffering a massive heart attack at Chattacon in mid-January. Charlie called us to observe a full minute of silence.

Minutes: Glycer read what had happened at last week's meeting, prompting members to wish there'd been several more minutes of silence. Charlie Jackson 2 added that the "Hardly Boys" is what people called Leo Gorcey and Huntz Hall in the 1950s. Hare Hobbs moved that the minutes be accepted as "hardly there." Matthew Tepper called them, "Close enough for government work." Ed Green thought the minutes should have an X in front. Jerry Pournelle, et al, ultimately moved that the minutes be accepted as hardly there and close enough for government work with an X in front.

Piano: Mr. Woodbury reported on the cost of getting the piano in working order. He'd been quoted \$200 if all that was required to get the keys unstuck and so forth was proper lubrication. If other mechanical work was needed, the estimate was \$500. Cathy wondered if the repairman would come out and tell us which was the case. Jerry Pournelle objected to the delay, and asked us to decide whether we would spend as much as \$500 if that's what was needed to fix the piano, otherwise there was no point in waiting for more information. He said he would like the club to keep the piano, but move it to the corner of the room.

Ed Green suggested some other things he would sooner see the club spend \$500 on, like fixing the roof so it doesn't leak. Someone pointed out that to decide whether to even keep the piano, before getting involved in repairs. To move things along, Jerry moved that we accept the piano and appropriate \$500 to repair it. Marty Cantor thought there was too much stuff in the meeting room and that piano repairs would be a waste of money. Jerry said he didn't disagree, we should either fix it or get it out of here. Liz Mortensen wondered when the piano would be played - she didn't want it adding to the noise during Friday night gaming. Ed Green said the club is not a dumping ground - a "gift" that is going to cost us \$500 to fix is a white elephant. Nobody asked us if they could leave it, it just kind of showed up. He said we should take a stand and reject it. Joe Zeff agreed with Liz that it would increase noise during club functions. Mike Stern helpfully added, "I vote we get a radio tower." Ed Green said, "I vote you sit on it." (There was formerly a radio antenna on the roof of the meeting room, which we unloaded on a willing sucker.)

There was suddenly a private cabal around the President, and when she came up for air she announced that the donor of the piano no longer planned to take it back if it was rejected. By a show of hands, the members voted to accept the piano and appropriate \$500 to repair it - 19 aye, 18 nay, 5 abstentions. Larry Niven demanded, "Let's recount the vote until we get the result we want!"

Registrar: Lynx, our newly licensed driver, said there were no guests. Jerry explained, "They took one look at you and ran out onto the freeway!"

Patron Saint: Tonight's Patron Saint, Mike Luwish, was recalled by Glycer as a member in the '70s who moved to Japan to teach English. He is the son of Emil, also a Patron Saint. Three cheers were administered.

Fannish committee reports: Jerry Pournelle's contribution under the heading of Surrealism in Everyday Life was a newspaper report that in Massachusetts you can only sell *sushi* if it's been cooked. You cannot serve raw fish in the state of Massachusetts. This was Cathy Beckstead's cue to add, "Now we know if you like *sushi* in Massachusetts, in Boston you can get scrod."

And with that inspiration, everyone voted to adjourn except Jerry Pournelle. His chad was left hanging.

Meeting #3313, February 8, 2001
Cathy Beckstead, presiding
Mike Glycer, the Once & Future Scribe

While Bob Null tried to make the microphone work again, we filled the idle moment with a "who's the tallest?" contest. Janice Olson, Beckie Barber, and Chris Marble competed at the front of the room. And the contest was won by - Tadao Tomomatsu, standing on the president's

chair. Cathy Beckstead didn't need it because she hadn't arrived - no reason to hurry, after all, the microphone won't be working whenever she gets here. Charlie thought we'd soon be wearing buttons saying, "I like Mike." Glycer thought that was better than "I make Mike work." And since the mike still wasn't working, Bob Null compensated by assembling the mother of all Tinkertoy gavels. It had three heads with plastic feather vanes. A Fokker tri-plane of gavels. It was so distracting that when Cathy tried to start things, she convened a meeting of the "Los Angeles Science Fantatasy Society."

Minutes: Glycer was saved from having to shout the entire minutes because the microphone came on-line before he was finished. Charlie responded to a threat quoted in the minutes about breaking up the piano, commenting that we would wind up with more pieces of it than there were pieces of the True Gross in Europe. This musical clue inspired Mike Stern to move that we approve the minutes as, "On key." Tadao said that would be right if you put a "Y" in front of it. Glycer said it shouldn't be "yon key," at LASFS it should be "donkey." Joe Zeff scored with his motion to accept "the Silence of the Minutes."

Patron Saint: Tonight there were two saints, Mike Glycer and Frank Waller. Cathy teed off on Glycer: "Not only can you say stuff about him and embarrass him, he has to write it down." (*But only I can make his words immoral, er, immortal. - ed.*) Ed Green said that among his other fannish traits, Glycer has the most Hugo nominations. Marty Cantor insisted it was Langford. It's actually Glycer, but since Langford wins every year, Charlie rapidly deduced that Glycer had also lost the most Hugos. Cathy said, "I don't think we should call him the Susan Lucci of the LASFS." Mike Stern said that if Glycer left any of this abuse out of the minutes, *De Profundis* editor Marty Cantor could put it back in. (*Would I put abuse of Glycer into De Prof? You damn betcha I would. - ed.*) Ed Green said he's the only fan in LA who's won enough Hugos to be picky about which one's the ugliest. When Jerry Pournelle said he had something to say, the whole room went, "Uh, oh!" But what Jerry actually said, "There are about 10 people I have respect for as critics in sf, and Mr. Glycer's one of them." Three cheers were given for Patron Saint Glycer. (*Did I really slip up here and put in something nice about Mike? Shame. - ed.*) "And a piece of the true piano!" added Charlie.

Cathy said, "The next saint has been called many things." Ed Green said, "Frank has a very wicked sense of humor sometimes and gets in a zinger - we should give him credit for it." Cathy, referring to Frank's Charles Chips business, added, "He's a good guy to have in fandom because he has food." Phil Castora said it best: "I've been a member of this lunatic asylum for 39 years. I've seen a lot of people come and go - some of them I would like to see go - Frank's one of the nicest guys I know." Frank was so moved he walked over, opened his wallet, and handed Castora a bill. Meanwhile, we gave Frank three cheers.

Registrar: Lynx was either exceptionally efficient or exceptionally slow tonight: he found three guests, and two had already joined the club by the time he introduced them. They were part of tonight's program, whom Casey Bernay called the creative geniuses behind the Cyberscifi network.

Announcements: Francis Hamit read in the newsletter of the Association of Former Intelligence Officers that the powers that be are discussing the formation of a Space Force. He invited people to join the organization to get the newsletter. Cathy Beckstead asked how you can join if you're not a former intelligence officer? Mike Stern explained,

"We're LASFS members - all of us are formerly intelligent."

Cathy looked at the clock, mindful of the program for tonight. Phil Castora thought that was a cue and moved to adjourn, but Cathy was pushing her luck and asked, "Anything else?" Frank Waller cooperatively announced, "I have nothing further to say." Cathy said, "It's his saint's night, it's okay." And Ed Hooper told him, "You look fabulous." But Charlie Jackson 2 chose this moment to send up a trial balloon, asking, "Would the club like to spend \$300 on a complete set of *Blondie* movies?" Mike Stern wondered, "What about a complete set of *Debbie* movies?" With Ed, Charlie, and Mike all needing to be subdued, it was fortunate Cathy had a three-pronged gavel. She pounded it on the table and the meeting adjourned adjourned adjourned.

Meeting #3314, February 15, 2001
Cathy Beckstead, presiding
Mike Glycer, the Once and Future Scribe

Tonight's Bob Null designer gavel featured a pair of yellow plastic claw feet and three spinning wheels - another Baba Yaga gavel. President Cathy Beckstead brandished it at the members to start the meeting, shaking it 'til the wheels fell off. Karl Lembke declared, "You're just too much woman for it!"

Minutes: Glycer read the minutes. Francis Hamit made sure we understood that the Association of Former Intelligence Officers was open to those who did not serve but would like to have. Charlie Jackson 2 suggested changing the word used to describe what Frank Waller handed Phil Castora from bill to banknote. Glycer pretended to earnestly scribble down the change. Ed Green moved to accept the minutes as "all Fokkered up." (Fans wondered why, did he have his head up his Ace of Aces?)

Committee Reports: On behalf of the biggest and best committee of them all, LOSCON 27 co-chair Christian McGuire said they have semi-officially closed the books and have turned \$10,287 over to the treasurer. He reminded us, "It's not about the money." Cathy Beckstead understood: "It's about having fund!"

Patron Saint: People lined up to get ballots in anticipation of voting on LOSCON bids. We filled the time remembering tonight's Patron Saint, Craig Miller. Cathy said, "He's out of town, so we can really talk about him." Christian McGuire delivered the first devastating exposé, saying, "I've only known Craig for 15 years. When I walked into the club he was chairman, one of the people who introduced me to the joys of hotel liaison." (I don't think there's a statute of limitations on that,

Lafa
(Los Angeles Filkers Anonymous)
Saturday, April 14, 2001
Lafa Filksing
Filk: 7 pm to ???
The House of Perpetual Commotion
Hosts: John & Mary Creasey
3754 W. 170th Street
Torrance, CA
(310) 329-6772
Pre-Filk Dinner: 5 pm
GOLDEN CAMEL MONGOLIAN BAR-B-Q
21006 Hawthorne Blvd.
Torrance, CA
(Call to reserve—3 days before, please!)
Directions: Thomas Guide, LA County page 733, grid E-7
Lafa info: Barry & Lee Gold:

Christian, it's not too late to press charges.) Ed Green asked us, "Remember every fan's dream to make money out of this activity? Craig was one of the first fans to actually do it." Craig was employed by Lucasfilm in the '70s to run the *Star Wars Fan Club*. Len Moffatt remembered when Craig was 16, and the LASFS was still looking for places to meet. (He kept finding the club every time we moved.) And don't forget, Craig co-chaired L.A.con II. Bringing us to the present, Ed Green noted that Craig was an exec on a tv cartoon series based on the art of Real Musgrave, and is working as executive producer to bring *Elfquest* to the screen. Allan Rothstein barked, "All that's true, but what has he done for us lately?" The obvious answer: left town on a Thursday. We gave three cheers in appreciation.

Tadao Tomomatsu advertised Fala7con, promising it would span the entire temperature spectrum with its chili cook-off and Time Meddler Ice Cream Social. Ed Green moved that the LASFS nuclear submarine be placed in drydock. This failed for lack of a second. And a submarine.

Since we were ready to consider LOSCON bids, Cathy said, "The front building should probably come forward." I believe the Shakespearean translation is, "Then Birnam Wood to Dunsinane come."

LOSCON BIDS: Three prospective chairs - Greg Bilan, Mike Stern and Tadao Tomomatsu - presented their bids to the club, then took questions. Mike Stern said he wasn't nervous because he was speaking to us, but because he is quitting cigarettes. Of course, with LASFS you still get just as much tar, but not until the end of the con, and then it comes with a suit of feathers. Ed Green led off with the question, "Why should we trust you with LASFS' money?" The chairs essentially laid that off on their treasurers, then Ed insisted they actually answer the question. Christian McGuire asked how they would confront committee members who do not fulfill their jobs. Mike Stern believed he could talk people back onto the right path. Greg Bilan would try to work out the problem before firing someone. Tadao passed out his resumé, and pointed to responsible positions he's held in the entertainment field. Lynx asked how to pull more people into the evening event - an implied comment on attendance for the Lux Radio Theater. Greg Bilan pointed out there are some people who want to get some sleep. Tadao insisted sleep is for wimps, don't try to limit the fun factor. Indefatigable money-gouger Ed Green managed to get a pretty good bid for the right to select what color of yellow ballot we were using to vote. Robbie Bourget, visiting for Gallifrey, brought ballots to the president and secretary. Betty Knight borrowed a pen from Tadao - not preprogrammed to write his name. The treasurer told us there were 89 ballots out. Counting was video recorded by Lynx, the Living Tripod. The final count was: Tadao Tomomatsu, 70; Mike Stern, 11; Greg Bilan, 6; dead ballot, 1.

Despite attempts to adjourn, Greg Bilan was able to work in an announcement about the Festival of Books. He'd received the table assignment, and it will be in a "high-concentration area." By then, the fans who hadn't already voted with their feet cast a unanimous voice to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting 3315, February 22, 2001

Cathy Beckstead, presiding

Mike Glycer, the Once and Future Scribe

Was this a LASFS meeting, or an episode of *Mr. Wizard*? As Cathy Beckstead experimentally verified the amplifier settings needed to make the microphone work she dictated them to secretary Glycer to record for posterity. One button should be set to Speaker 1&2. Another button

should be set to VCR tape monitor 1. Another button, "Pre Out Main In - Integrate," should be un-depressed. I haven't heard dialog this good since the last question-in-the-form-of-an-answer piece of pseudoscientific gibberish Commander Riker asked Data, and Data's invariable answer, "It is possible, Commander." Having noticed none of this before the meeting began, Phil Castora declared, "The mike is working at the start of the meeting! The end of the world is near!" One thing is certain: even with a microphone, the end of the world will not be audible above the clamor at the snack table. Someone had donated a large serving of strawberries. Because none made their way to the President, she pretended to roll a set of ball bearings in her fist and threatened to launch an investigation.

Minutes: Glycer read the minutes. Craig Miller added to the info in the minutes about his Patron Saint's day that for awhile he had to operate under the pseudonym Miss C.C. Miller or else the club would have lost its reservation on the Overland Park meeting room. Charlie Jackson 2 moved that the minutes be accepted as "girls just want to have fun." Joe Zeff trumped in with a motion that they be approved as "quickly scribbled down."

Committee Reports: Glycer displayed a new NESFA Press Book, *Quartet* by George R.R. Martin, that the publisher donated to the LASFS Library in memory of Gary Louie.

Patron Saint: Tonight's Patron Saint was Maureen Garrett. Someone recalled that she took over the reins of the Star Wars Fan Club from Craig Miller. The ever-observant Matthew Tepper said she was much better looking than Craig by a factor of infinity. Marty Cantor explained, "Shut up!" because he believed Matthew had interrupted someone else. If so, Tepper interrupted so effectively that the other person's comments never made it into my notes. Jerry Pournelle added that when Lucasfilm went north, she went with it. We gave three cheers in appreciation.

Sage Break: Jerry Pournelle, fresh from a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, gave us an extended report.

Jerry attended the Nanotech Seminar. Not the Mork from Ork kind of "Nano nano," he insisted. They're things that are 10^{-6} size. Real little gizmos that will have some long-range technological impact - but not yet. Eric Drexler's book *Engines of Creation* gave the public a vision of nanotechnology. One of the challenges of making these tiny little machines is providing a power source. They're finding that if you work very hard you can reinvent the bacteria. In other words, you can probably genetically engineer something more easily than making the same-sized machine.

Where nanotech is coming into its own is in computer technology. Since the '60s, computing power has doubled every 18 months - Moore's Law. Modern computer chip technology is based on microlithography - printing chips on a substrate. They're about to the edge of what you can do. There are maybe five or six more years of iterations under Moore's Law using that technology. Nanotech can take it farther - molecules can be tailored to be in a tube or straight lines. You could wind up with 7-atom-wide transistors, with a separation distance of two or three atoms' width. Jerry said years ago he showed LASFS the first picture of an atom ever seen - now they're developing tools to manipulate something that size. You can crowd together "a hell of a lot of transistors." In fact, "Molecules want to be switches," changing states depending upon power, and that's our memory. Jerry said it's easier to make than you think, but the result tends to look like massively parallel computer systems, which tend to be immune to programming. You have to

develop programs that go in and look at what you've got. Jerry promised that "insanely large instruction words" will become a new term in computing.

Nanotechnology won't be the key to curing cancer, or at least that's more likely to be done by genetically engineered bacteria. But in the field of computers, it will lead to 50 more years of Moore's Law. Jerry recalled that his first computer was capable of 1 megahertz, and his current home computer is capable of 1 *gigahertz*. Computers will be capable of complexity levels in the range of the human brain in the future. Not there yet, but we know how to get there. Hewlett Packard showed some "junk molecules" which look like very good yields - and they won't show you the good stuff because they don't want to reveal what it does.

Someone prompted Jerry to speak about the SETI data analysis experiment. A group has organized people to use spare computer time to process packets of coded signals. The result is the biggest computer on earth. Robust, in the sense that blowing up one place that has them won't affect the speed of processing. Rick Schaeffer asked if SETI has to guard against people returning false information. Jerry said that the error correcting technology for that problem is known. Matthew Tepper said that Google indexes the web using the same brute computing power of numerous PCs.

Jerry reported that the session discussing biological warfare, noted that we've had 50 years in which people could do it but nobody has done it. He mentioned a couple of prominent terrorist attempts and an accident in Russia. Francis Hamit agreed. "The problem with that kind of weapon is that it can come back and bite you." Jerry said there is lots of evidence it could work, and we are getting better computer simulations of these things. He observed that a limit on the spread of disease is illustrated by the fact that there is no known case of a secondary infection known from a vaccination. But we don't have the investment in prevention that we should have.

Jerry shared some thoughts about a legal problem stemming from the human genome project. At AAAS a legislator talked to a packed house on a bill opposing genetic discrimination that had been introduced by Senator Kennedy. It says that no insurance company can use genetic information to discriminate against anyone for getting insurance or employment. Jerry shared a story about a woman who determined that from her genetic heritage she has a predisposition for breast cancer, with a 50% chance of getting it. She wanted a radical mastectomy as a prophylactic measure. The insurance company not only refused to pay for such surgery, they cancelled her coverage.

On the other hand, suppose somebody wants to start an insurance pool for people who have really good genes—low risk for everything. Should that be illegal? Jerry pointed out that the USAA formerly accepted only commissioned officers, at rates 1/3 the usual. They were in effect using the government's machinery to select people who are a better risk. Should that be illegal? The problem is that insurance *is* discrimination.

On another topic, Jerry now thinks global warming is really happening, thus surprising himself. Ice cores show 12,000 year cycles, with a hot peak in between. It gets hot, then it gets cold fast. Belgian scientists showed that in the last ice age Britain and Belgium went from deciduous forest to conifers to ice within 20 years - glaciers moving at walking speed. "We are running a fairly interesting uncontrolled experiment," said Jerry, who is beginning to wonder about burning all this fossil fuel. "We are now outside anything they can find in the parameters of ice cores for the past thousands of years."

Announcements: Charlie Jackson 2 said he was happy to have gotten black paper notebooks and contrasting ink pens. He hawked copies of the new *Amazing Adventures*. He told about a site called Freecar.com where you supposedly can get a free car to drive for two years if you're willing to drive a car covered with advertising. (Unlike NASCAR, you don't have to drive it at 180 mph to get paid.)

And we adjourned almost that fast.

LASFS Board of Directors
Meeting of January 10, 2001
Mike Stern, William Ellern, Chairmen
Mike Glyer, Secretary

ATTENDANCE: Mike Stern, Mike Glyer, Elayne Pelz, William Ellern, Joe Zeff, Karl Lembke, Michael Mason, Bob Null, Mike Thorsen; (Absent: Liz Mortensen, Kim Marks Brown. Glyer held proxies from Mortensen and Brown.) Others: M. Cantor, A. Morrell, J. Sperling, S. Benoun, T. Tomomatsu, S. Campagna, G. Bilan, B. Hales, G. Barrett, E. Hooper, B. Pelz.

MINUTES: Glyer's minutes were approved with corrections and amendments.

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS: The following directors were elected as officers of the Board: William Ellern, Chair; Karl Lembke, Vice-Chair; Mike Glyer, Secretary; Mike Glyer, Comptroller.

TREASURER'S REPORT: No treasurer's report had been provided. Bob Null let us look at the plastic box full of cash from the refrigerator, though.

Chair William Ellern said he was forming working groups. The "Financial Group" would be headed by the Treasurer. The group would encompass the Committee to Gouge Money Out of the LASFS, headed by Tadao Tomomatsu. There would be a "Membership Group" headed by Registrars Lynx and Christian McGuire. Glyer questioned the concept of the Board supervising these procedural positions which report directly to the club. Joe Zeff thought an alternative would be for the Board to ask them whether they wanted to consult with the Board about anything.

NEW MEMBERS: Applications were received from Tad Daley, Valerie Milewski, and Dave Huffman. They were accepted as members by voice vote, unopposed.

FACILITIES: Bob Null said there was a leak in the roof of the computer room. He planned to go up and check the roof today. Ellern asked him to report on that if it can't be easily fixed.

Null said that the paving planned next door didn't happen because of the contractor, but he thinks the neighbor still plans to do it.

Null also said the pipes under the front building are rusted, dripping, and sweating. (*Sort of like some of the members-ed.*) The contractor had suggested re-doing the entire building. Bob noted this would have nothing to do with the water line that goes to the back building. Ellern said Scratch had told him he had moved about half of the trash from under the front building. The Board had already approved the job and appropriated the funds. Elayne urged Null to call the plumber immediately and have the work done.

Ellern said he wanted to mention keys and key policy. He felt there was a large number of keys and he wasn't sure who has what. Null explained

that he and Liz Mortensen are the Key Committee, and only they have access to the key cabinet. Liz has a list of who has keys and of what type. Null explained the access levels. Ellem said he'd brought this up because he had been told there was no secure place on the premises for certain Westercon I documents. Liz said she believes that there is no place secure *enough* at LASFS for the referenced document. Ellem wondered if we want a safe deposit box. He also wondered if Scratch wanted a respirator when he's working under the building. Tony Benoun said he might have something. Ellem asked Mike Thorsen to follow up.

COMMUNICATIONS GROUP: Ellem asked Glycer to report. He said the minutes were hunky dory. The club directory is going to get done. Mike Stern asked about a PR person.

Ellem asked Marty Cantor about the Gestetner. Cantor said everything has been taken care of. The necessary part was obtained for around \$293, plus 1-1/2 hours of labor. Marty had looked into the cost of a service contract, and had been quoted one at \$1092. Because of the marketing arrangements of Ricoh, the company that has succeeded the business of repairing these machines, Marty believed it would be cheaper *not* to get a service contract, but to get parts and labor as needed.

Marty had also ordered a new cart for the mimeo, at a cost of \$150 plus tax. Hales asked about keeping and reinforcing the old one for taking to cons, so the new one isn't damaged by that usage. Null thought it was another mathom we don't have room to store.

Michael Mason, seconded by Karl Lembke, moved not to get a service contract. The motion passed by voice vote, with Stern abstaining.

Marty reported on *De Profundis*.

Ellem noted that the phones and answering machine are handled by Charlie Jackson 2. LASFS.org is handled by Chaz Boston Baden. Neither was present. Ellem told Glycer to contact Chaz about the complaint that the e-addresses for the Board need updating. Karl Lembke said he had access to the web page to fix that, and would do so.

STEWARDSHIP GROUP: Ellem said the Stewardship Group would include donation policy, the Patron Saint list, and bios.

Dale Hales had purchased a DVD player and DVDs for the club; however, Charlie had raised a problem in accepting it because he would have to account for the donation as an expenditure of his budget in order to give Hales building Fund Credit.

Ellem announced his intention to invent positions - Press Gang (labor) and Magic Chefs (and make sure we have what they need and don't assume 'they always do it'.)

Bruce Pelz wanted LASFS to give one of Rotsler's Hugos to the traveling Worldcon exhibit. He said if the Board didn't feel it could give that permission, he would go get it from the club. Elayne Pelz, seconded by Michael Mason, moved to donate the Hugo to the Worldcon exhibit. The motion passed by a show of hands and proxies, unopposed.

MEMBER SERVICES: Ellem said this included the Library. Michael Mason reported there would need to be a major work party to go through the stacks, decide what we can get out, what to keep, and re-organize the stacks. Mason had received a donated tape backup system from Ed Hooper. Ellem asked when the book inventory was going to be done. Mason said after the stacks area is redone. Ellem asked if the catalog would be available on a floppy. Hooper and Mason thought the data files would be too large for that, but the information could be made available

through a web page. That was part of the concept of having some books stored offsite. Ellem asked about the status of special collections and autographed books. Mason and Elayne explained that the LASFS library is a circulating library, autographed books are not held back. However, Mason exercises discretion in what books are loaned to members who have not been around long enough to have a track record. Mason also explained that a unique item received as a donation might actually be exchanged at a bookstore for credit or sold in the auction, since the library only needs a reading copy to circulate.

Ellem wanted members to be encouraged to donate their duplicate tapes to the club when they upgrade to DVD. Ellem asked the archivists to come up with want lists, and asked Cantor to publish them in *De Profundis*.

MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES GROUP: Ellem said this was a group headed by the President, the various computer club, gaming, anime, movie etc. groups, and liaison with Time Meddlers.

SPECIAL EVENTS GROUP: LOSCON: No report. Ellem noted that LOSCON bids should be presented next month.

FaLa7Con: Tadao said he still needed to plan a cleanup-setup day before the event. Michael Mason said the program is being worked on.

Other: Bob Null said the club had received an HP560C color printer. Mike Thorsen announced, "You can see the floor of the computer room." He had set up shelving and put things on it.

Greg Bilan said the Festival of Books table needs 500 flyers from the club. He wants to hold author signings. Ellem asked if he needed money. The money is already in the budget. Stern said they probably planned to hand out the various club recommended reading lists, and would need to have copies made. Apparently, at last year's Festival of Books table, people had been solicited for an expression of interest in the club. Cantor demanded those people's addresses in order to carry out the plan of sending them a sample copy of *De Profundis*. Mason said the list was handed over to a LOSCON chair.

OTHER: The Board tabled the vote on the Function Movement Motion because the text had not been returned. Mason reported that when the motion was presented at the club, the concept had been brought up of limiting the number of times per year the user clubs can meet here - perhaps to 10 times a year. As it is, we have only one free Saturday on the entire 2001 schedule - even before Chaz schedules LOSCON meetings. Which means there can not be any one-shot events. Stern gave as an example, we would not have a place in the schedule to hold something like a Rotsler Memorial if the need arose. [*Well, we could always forbid the members to die - ed.*]

Suze Campagna asked the Board to send its communications to Time Meddlers to a member of the council - her, or Diana Dougherty.

The meeting adjourned.

NEW BOOKS

(*This is a section devoted to listing new books and other items received by the LASFS Library. Our extensive library is not just for collecting and looking at that wonderful collection of books on shelves. Members may take them out and read them. Here are some of the newest additions.*)

Donated by Forry Ackerman:

Lord of Tranerica, The Crimson Capsule, The Day the World Stopped, The Moon People, Next Door to the Sun, all by Stanton A.

Coblentz.

Donated by Ed Hooper:

By Blood Betrayed by Blaine Lee Pardoe & Mel Odom.

Donated by Anonymous:

The Third Boby by Sam Dann. **Lammas Night** ed. by Josepha Sherman. **The Quest of Kadji** by Lin Carter.

Donated by NESFA:

Quartet by George R.R. Martin

Purchased by Library:

Return to the Whorl by Gene Wolfe. **Baby is Three** by Theodore Sturgeon. **St. Patrick's Gargoyle** by Katherine Kurtz. **Sentry Peak** by Harry Turtledove. **A Saucer of Loneliness** by Theodore Sturgeon. **Power of Persuasion** by Elizabeth Massie. **Child of the Hunt** by Christopher Golden & Nancy Holder. **Paleo** by Yvonne Navarro. **The Collected Stories of Arthur C. Clarke**. **Inside the Prisoner** by Ian Rakoff.

Donated by Gary Louie:

The Med Series by Murray Leinster. **The Gate of Worlds** by Robert Silverberg. **High Crystal** by Martin Caidin. **Pilot Error** by Jay Barbree. **The Ragged World** by Judith Moffett. **Trojan Orbit** by Mack Reynolds & Dean Ing. **Life During War** by Lucius Shepard. **The Hutt Gambit** by A.C. Crispin. **Blakes 7: Afterlife** by Tony Atwood. **The Shadow of Sorcery** by Andrew J. Offutt. **Silent Running** by Harlan Thompson. **Heart's Blood** by Jane Yolen. **Purgatory** by Mike Resnick. **Astropilots** by Laura J. Mixon. **Challenges** by Ben Bova. **Scapescope** by John E. Stith. **Infinity Hold** by Barry B. Longyear. **Steam Bird** by Hilbert Schenck. **Sparrowhawk** by Thomas A. Easton. **The Nimrod Hunt** by Charles Sheffield. **Yesterday's Pawn** by W.T. Quick. **Honor Among Enemies** by David Weber. **Survival!** by Gordon R. Dickson. **Crashlander** by Larry Niven. **Dancing Bears** by Fred Saberhagen. **The Other End of Time** by Frederik Pohl. **Timediver's Dawn** by L.E. Modesitt, Jr. **Red Limit Freeway** by John DeChancie. **Lando Calrissian and the Starcave of ThonBoka** by L. Neil Smith. **Master of Middle-Earth** by Paul H. Kocher. **Once There was a Giant** by Keith Laumer. **Retief: Envoy to New Worlds** by Keith Laumer. **Retief and the Pangalactic Pageant of Pulchritude** by Keith Laumer. **Retief: Ambassador to Space** by Keith Laumer. **Experiment in Terra** by Glen A. Larsen & Nicholas Yermakov. **Galactica Discovers Earth** by Glen A. Larsen & Michael Resnick. **The Goddess of Ganymede** by Michael D. Resnick.

Space Mail volume II edited by Isaac Asimov, Martin Harry Greenberg, & Charles G. Waugh. **The Twelve Frights of Christmas** edited by Isaac Asimov, Charles G. Waugh, & Martin Harry Greenberg. **Red Jack** edited by Martin H. Greenberg, Charles G. Waugh, & Frank D. McSherry, Jr. **Demons!** edited by Jack Dann & Gardner Dozois. **Bestiary!** edited by Jack Dann & Gardner Dozois. **Counter Attack** edited by David Drake & Bill Fawcett. **Newer York** edited by Lawrence Watt-Evans. **Tales of Riverworld** edited by Philip Jose Farmer.

Tor Double #9: The Ugly Little Boy by Isaac Asimov/**The Widget, The Wadget, & Boff** by Theodore Sturgeon. **Tor Double Novel #6: Enemy Mine** by Barry B. Longyear/**Another Orphan** by John Kessel. **Tor Double Novel #3: Born With the Dead** by Robert Silverberg/**The**

Saliva Tree by Brian W. Aldiss.

Machines That Kill edited by Fred Saberhagen & Martin Harry Greenberg. **Time Machines** edited by Charles Waugh & Martin H. Greenberg. **Uncollected Stars** edited by Piers Anthony. **Dogtales!** edited by Jack Dann & Gardner Dozois. **Tarot Tales** edited by Rachel Pollack & Caitlin Matthews. **The Future I** edited by Isaac Asimov, Martin Harry Greenberg, & Joseph D. Olander. **Stories of the Supernatural** edited by Betty M. Owen.

Unpopular Planet by Evelyn Smith. **Dushau** by Jacqueline Lichtenberg. **Lecherous Limericks** by Isaac Asimov. **Plasm** by Charles Platt. **The Gods Laughed** by Poul Anderson. **Frontera** by Lewis Shiner. **The Omicron Invasion** by E.E. "Doc" Smith. **Eclipsing Binaries** by E.E. "Doc" Smith. **The Invisible Man** by Michael Jahn. **Tek Money** by William Shatner. **Sam Gunn, Unlimited** by Ben Bova. **The Quallsford Inheritance** by Lloyd Biggle, Jr. **Singularities** by W.T. Quick. **Poltergeist II: The Other Side** by James Kahn. **The Stalk** by Janet & Chris Morris. **Picnic on Nearside** by John Varley. **High Steel** by Jack C. Haldeman II & Jack Dann. **Banquets of the Black Widowers** by Isaac Asimov. **Goldeneye** by John Gardner. **Dead Brass Shadows** by Glen Cook. **Operation Terror** by Murray Leinster. **World's Fair 1992** by Robert Silverberg. **Out of Their Minds** by Clifford D. Simak. **Alien Island** by T.L. Sherred. **The Magic Cottage** by James Herbert. **Dead-Eye Dick** by Kurt Vonnegut. **The Floating Zombie** by D.F. Jones. **Last Call** by Tim Powers. **The Green Futures of Tycho** by William Sleator. **Blooded on Arachne** by Michael Bishop. **Flatlander** by Larry Niven. **The Instrumentality of Mankind** by Cordwainer Smith. **The Wonderful Ice Cream Suit** by Ray Bradbury. **The Wild Ones** by A. Bertram Chandler. **Demon 4** by David Mace. **Warlord!** by Janet Morris. **Chrestomathy** by Keith Laumer. **Damien Omen II** by Joseph Howard. **The Last Days of the Edge of the World** by Brian Stableford. **Bill, The Galactic Hero on the Planet of Zombie Vampires** by Harry Harrison. **The Children's Hour** by Jerry Pournelle & S.M. Sterling. **Indistinguishable From Magic** by Robert L. Forward. **The Mantle of Kendis-Dai** by Margaret Weis & Tracy Hickman. **Time Station: London** by David Evans. **The Best Mysteries of Isaac Asimov** by Isaac Asimov. **Galaxy's End** by Richard A. Lupoff. **The Devil's Day** by James Blish. **Realtime Interrupt** by James P. Hogan. **All Geared Up** by Seth McEvoy. **The Living Legend** by Glen A. Larsen & Nicholas Yermakov. **Memoirs of an Invisible Man** by H.F. Saint. **Under Old Earth and Other Explorations** by Cordwainer Smith. **Man O'War** by William Shatner. **Prophet** by Mike Resnick. **Dinosaur Tales** by Ray Bradbury. **Terror at Play** by Seth McEvoy. **A Bug in the System** by Seth McEvoy. **The Book of John Brunner** by John Brunner.

(Er, ah, would somebody like to donate a few million square feet of shelved storage space to the library? - ed.)

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Ray Capella would like it to be known that, after 26 years in Alhambra, he has moved to Upland. His new address:

Ray Capella
904 N. 3rd Ave.
Upland, CA 91786

LOS ANGELES TIMES
"FESTIVAL OF BOOKS"

April 28 & 29, 2001

The LASFS will be at Booth #440

Stop by and say "Hi!"
and pick up a few gifts.

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