
GALACTIC JIVE TALES #164: The Menace of the Lasfs: Mike Glycer

#2202: October 25, 1979

At 23 minutes past the bitching hour, Bruce Pelz warned fans in the meeting room, "Okay, folks, it's later than you think." The meeting began with the reading of the minutes. So deficient were the minutes that three members of the audience had corrections to offer. Said Sylvia, "All your commas were in the wrong place." Said George Jumper, "I said 100,000 units of penicillin would be needed by Cantor, not 10,000," to cure Marty of whatever scourge had been referred to at the prior week's meeting. Then David Friedman frowned, "Once again Glycer omitted to mention that Dave Fox had no funny jokes last week."

Registrar Marjii Ellers announced guests J. Christopher, W. Adams, P. Cook, C. Shiffman, N. Allen, T. Vincent and K. Hedberg. Then President Deckert read the treasurer's report, including the datum that 109 fans had attended last week.

Business tonight began with consideration of an amendment to the club's bylaws. Read Deckert: "Move to amend Article II, Section 3 of the Bylaws by adding: SUBSECTION B: 'Any member 6 meetings or more in arrears in dues shall be notified by the Treasurer of this fact. His or her membership shall then be reviewed by a committee composed of the Chairman of the Board, the President of the Society and the Treasurer of the Society. Upon their majority recommendation, the Society may (at a regular or special meeting) terminate the membership by majority.' The present Subsection B shall be renumbered Subsection C."

Barry Gold immediately introduced an amendment, seconded by Marty Massoglia, to substitute 4/5 for majority vote. Dave Fox observed that the amendment seemed to him designed to make expulsion for delinquency in dues almost impossible. Milt Stevens said that the amendment was in essence a no vote on the motion. Alan Frisbie said the club should make it as easy as possible to dispose of deadbeats. He knew of no organization that allowed members to keep their membership for any length of time after they failed to pay dues. Dave Klaus' opinion was that Lasfs was still suffering from the "LACon money problem" and might consider its image before passing the main motion. During discussion Gold accepted an alteration of his amendment to a 2/3 vote. Doug Crepeau asked, "Why not dispose of the amendment and buy Elayne a set of antique thumbscrews?" The amendment failed by a vote of 18 aye, 25 nay, and 1 Klaus abstaining.

Craig Miller asked, "Can't we recommend that people not walk to opposite sides of the room during the voting?" It made the vote seem like one of those high school class pictures where you ran from one end to be photographed again on the other.

Gold submitted a further amendment, the effect of which was to bar application of the new bylaw to any delinquencies existing before its passing. Explained Massoglia, they didn't want any deadbeats left over from the 60s qualifying for instant expulsion. Replied Elayne, "There is no such old moldy member -- all deadbeats are current..." The worst case at present owed \$3.75. No cases would immediately quali-

ify if the main motion passed. Bruce Pelz moved to substitute a motion of operation in place of the bylaws amendment, reading "That no one shall come under this bylaws amendment who is not two meetings further in arrears" from date of passage. A special order of business was voted to allow passage of this operational motion. Then the main motion was considered. It passed 34 aye 8 nay.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS: Craig Miller moved to reconsider the motion passed the previous week to appropriate \$50 for a December 8 party and charge a dollar a head at the door. Pelz pointed out, "You can't move to reconsider a motion if you didn't vote for it..." This problem was solved as Milt Stevens made the same motion.. It passed. Miller and Stevens each pledged \$10 if the at-the-door charge was dropped. At this crucial point in the discussion Dan Deckert turned the chair over to Bruce and went for a beer. Glycer asked the chair to restate why a dollar charge had been initiated. Said Pelz, "It was because the same people kept donating the money to run these parties over and over. But in this case they have already volunteered -- Far be it from me to be a sadist and not beat a masochist when asked." A motion passed to drop the \$1 charge.

Dave Klaus now moved a Standing Rule #21, "Lack of dues will," a reference to Standing Rule #0: "Death will not release you /from your Lasfs membership/" Pelz moved to substitute, "Lack of money is not death." Klaus accepted the amendment. Glycer then gave a dramatic reading of the Standing Rules of the Lasfs. Thereafter Klaus' motion carried. The meeting concluded with an auction.

#2203 - November 1, 1979

Bruce Pelz handed the meeting to order at 8:21, with a large wooden fickle finger of fate. The minutes were approved as quibbled at - the quibble consisting of Frank Gasperik requiring the secretary to record that he had applied his keds to Klaus' epiglottis in reply to the latter fan's reference to the "LACon money problem." David Friedman made an obligatory correction about Fox not having told a funny joke the previous week: "I want to get it into the minutes for the next 200 meetings."

Marjii announced guests C. Coughlin, M. Null, L. Pine and J. Vargo. Pelz reviewed the treasurer's report. 106 attendees had been on hand last week, no deadbeats -- they must have paid their dues so they could vote against the deadbeat expulsion amendment.

Milt Stevens urged any Loscon members intending to take a hotel room to make their reservations pronto. Low advance reservations were making his position as hotel liaison rather weak. Also on behalf of Loscon, Charlie Jackson 2 solicited loot for the film program -- and received the usual response, coins banging off the wall behind his head. This reminded Elayne that annual dues are now payable.

Bruce Pelz suggested running a wire to Building 4sJ and set up a speaker to relay voting announcements from the meeting room.

As New Business Pelz opened discussion of methods for nominating and electing members of the Board of Directors. His new suggestion

was to nominate a single list of all candidates and have voters rank them in their preferred order. Then the ballots would be subjected to an automatic runoff to fill each successive position. The various ramifications of this system were discussed. And discussed. And discussed.

Other business brought up by the chair: preparing for the Xmas party and Gift Exchange. In his capacity as Social Secretary of the Lasfs Pelz recommended Friday the 21st. He delayed the final decision to allow additional consideration.

Announcements began with circulation of a directory update sheet. Greg Chalfin offered to demonstrate and sell his working mimeo. Tom Digby revealed plans to create an sf club in Hollywood and central LA to meet on some other night than Thursday. He described it as in the tradition of Valsfa or Sfalb.

Chet made a motion to name the pumpkin which Sylvia had set on the dais and lit. It was a white pumpkin carved in a jack-o-lantern face. Glycer urged the name of Elric, for an albino pumpkin. This was finalized as the name Elric was graven on the pumpkin's forehead with a magic marker. (Talk about sorcery in everyday life...)

The meetin was replaced by a profitable auction, and ended around 9:45.

4. And now for something completely the same

Now we return to the thrilling zines of yesteryear... In our last episode, we had Bruce Arthurs quoting Mike Glycer to Mike Glycer. Now, for an electric turnabout, Mike Glycer will quote Bruce Arthurs to Bruce Arthurs. Attencion por favor...

As Patrick is fully aware, the reason that AZAPA was introduced into court was because Greg Brown, when discussing the fake persona he had created, implied that he had been earning money under that name. If he had been earning money while at the same time telling Hilde that he could not make his child support payments, then I felt that that information definitely deserved to be brought into court and checked. I owe no one, even Greg Brown, any apologies for using that information in court.

The only apology I owe anyone is that one I have already given...in AZAPA #25: I had meant to unbind the mailings and present the Greg Brown apazines separately but this was forgotten in the last minute rush of preparing for court.

-- B. D. Arthurs, letter dated 6/2/77
published in TWEEN 29: 6/77

You tell a direct lie when you state that Greg Brown was hailed into court for nonpayment of child support after Hilde had moved in with me. (The paperwork in the case was begun in January of 1977, the court appearance was in May, and Hilde moved into my apartment in June.)

-- B. D. Arthurs, Fapazine 8/1979

Bruce, these are mutually exclusive statements. As you know, my criticism of your action in the instance described above never had anything to do with its occurring before Hilde moved in with you, after Hilde moved in with you, or even in the car from one place to the other. It suffices for me that the action was brought about in large measure by your work. Are you now shifting all the responsibility to Hilde? Do you pompously brag of your full responsibility for the action in one letter, and then weasel out of it now that the heat is on? Frankly I don't care which of your statements is the lie, but I do take exception to being myself called a liar for believing something you wrote. (And to think that should happen to me, somebody who should know better than anyone else how unreliable your statements are.) I would further point out, since it seems to have you in such a lather, that I never said Hilde moved out on Greg. Fortunately, every detail of your private life is not known to me. The extent of my knowledge comes from reading Fapa, where I knew you and Hilde now lived together, and from Lasfapa, where Greg Brown has periodically discussed the personal effects of the matter. The purity of your motives in your private arrangements has never been at issue nor of interest, only the objective effect of your actions considered in the light of your rabid attacks on a situation which stemmed to a perceptible degree from your actions. Lastly, you state "You have absolutely no idea how my mind works." Try as I might, I have been unable to locate any past statement of mine wherein I claimed it did work.

THE MAULING COMMENTS

VICTORIA VAYNE: With that National Enquirer cover I thought this was a Vardebob edition of Sandworm come from beyond the grave. // Just remember, Mike makes right... (Bill makes will? Don makes gone?) // Hm, why don't we do something radical and leave the waitlist the way it is? (Mob rule did anybody say?) I would be just as happy as you are to have Langford and such members of Fapa, But to my disappointment I've found that being a good fanwriter doesn't necessarily mean somebody's going to do more than minac, or survive the first year's page requirement. The waitlist at least weeds out the ones who have no staying power at all. // Why, Victoria, you mean that people who have 40 RMS watts and Dolby in their car stereos expect to be using them while the car is in motion? That is, while driving. Doubtless the car will be in motion, but the engine won't be on... // Twiltone is the ultimate secret, But here I am preaching to the converted. Some years ago fibretint (one of the dozen generic names) stopped distribution in this area of the country. I missed it at the time, but now I at last understand what a hell of a lot more work it forced me into. . I have launched a scheme to get a hundred reams of the precious paper from a Southern Connection. If so, goodbye slipsheeting, goodbye setoff! I think that, more than anything else, would enable me to step up the frequency of my genzine, because I could maintain the quality of its appearance at an adequate level without undertaking a burden of slipsheeting. // "The 'power' of a newzine to shape opinions and influence people is minimal, I think." I think I'd lean towards the opposite side of the issue. Newzines have a substantial capability for influencing opinion. And their power is in providing the readers with adequate information, and hence greater motivation, to act in the areas that affect their lives. I think it would be useful to separate as concepts the power of a newzine and the power of its editor. Broadly, the power (to influence fans) of a newzine is bounded by fans' alternative sources of information. Fans have a general idea of what is happening (and those in a given area know its news in detail). A newzine that ignores important things, or consistently makes errors, or editorializes excessively, will be found out and dealt with through the grapevine. Provided a newzine meets its readers' basic needs within those boundaries, it has credibility. It is because of this credibility that the more subtle things a newzine or its editor does have influence beyond the mere reporting of information. I'm sure some academic someplace has set this down in a journalism text far better than I can do it off the top of my head, but I'd list the following as examples.

(1) Filtration. I could legitimately quote in full without comment letters I've received from half a dozen fans, each damning a single aspect of Seacon. The net effect would be to convince nonattendees that Seacon was a disaster. But I know better than that, from reading other sources, and from knowing that some of these fans have never had a good word to say about any worldcon. So I preface or buffer their reports with summations of favorable reports. (2) Redundancy. A newzine could confine itself to topical stories. But following up, resumming information, providing fresh perspective, can make news out of otherwise minor events. And it is the decision

of the editor which stories receive such treatment. This subtle, repetitive treatment of certain stories can elevate a yawn-inducing report of another pregnant Atlanta femmefan to an amusing anecdote. Or take Doug Wright (please). Three years ago this guy was known to no one in or out of LA. Since then the only really topical thing he's done is sue a bunch of local conrunners, and that suit was dropped before long. But the minor, bizarre things he does provide an opportunity to issue what I consider an important warning: these turkeys exist, they can screw your convention, and they don't go away just because you ignore them. Cons are big business now, and the carrion eaters know it. We may have the most blatant case here in LA -- which means you had better pay close attention to such characters in your neck of the woods who may be smarter and have more business acumen, but essentially the same monopolistic aim.

(3) Editorialization. The way opinion is dealt with in a newzine format often determines how it is accepted by the audience. In F770 I offer this example. I prefer to run opinion as LoCs. Other newzines may solicit comment from a con chairman and run it as a news article. Assume the words are the same. I assert that in article form, those words are more likely to be perceived by the reader as authoratative than if merely pubbed as an LoC. Since most con chairman make self-serving statements, I regard that as a valuable distinction.

Another aspect of editorialization: it is possible for an editor to confuse personal views with their functions as a reporter. It did not surprise me when Linda Bushyager got involved in controversy as a result of running long editorials of criticism about conventions. She was perfectly entitled to her opinion. But it is not a desire of fandom, so far as I know, to have its newzine editors correct, moralize and render judgement. Personalities are intimately involved in events of fandom, and the same set of facts can be oppositely perceived (if the fans ever agree on the facts in the first place.) So the sort of "editorializing" you are most likely to see from me in my zine is like my treatment of the Scandinavian bid. My personal opinion is that the competence of their committee is suspect, that their tactics are a disgrace, and anyway I'm supporting Australia. But I will publish as much factual info about their bid as I can lay my hands on; same for Baltimore. I had to satisfy my personal view by reviving a '78 conreport from two Danish fans that the con Scandinavian bidders call their biggest success lost big bucks. Possibly no one will care; after all, Ken Keller lost money at a comic convention once, and still won MAC... On a smaller plane, I never have F770 endorse any cons or fan fund candidates -- anybody who would choose to vote only because of my endorsement probably shouldn't be voting in the first place. On the other hand, if there is a strong factual basis for picking one side, F770 has hopefully already covered the story. // The bottom line is, the power of newzines to affect fandom comes from the information they provide to the actual decision-makers. If newzines don't really have any arbitrary power to dictate events, they still have substantial influence (especially with fans who don't live in major fan centers and have fewer alternative sources of information.)

// Speaking of Mensans. In LA once a year there is a road rally called The Game, where the clues are anagrams, cryptic map references, etc. The other night several Lasfs teams entered. They say that a Mensa team entered, but when it got a look at the first clue, said, "This is too hard" and split. (Maybe their intelligence lay i knowing their limitations?)