

*De
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Ad
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DE PROFUNDIS 330



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De Profundis is the official newszine 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 NAS-FIC 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 evening or at his edress: martyhoohah@netzero.net. Until the new *De Profundis* regime settles in, deadlines are fluid.

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

Advertising rates: \$40 full page, \$25 half page, \$15 quarter page, \$10 business card. Discounts: 25% for 12/year, 15% for 6/year, 10% for 4/year. (Please patronize our advertizer(s), they help defray our costs.) The new editor hopes that we find some.

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Due to space limitations, priority is always given to content mandated by the LASFS by-laws.

This is Hoo Hah Publication No. 494

LASFS OFFICERS

Elected Procedural Officers

President: Cathy Beckstead. **Vice-President:** Merlin R. "Bob" Null. **Scribe:** Karl Lembke. **Treasurer:** Liz Mortensen. **Registrar:** Beckie Barber & Lynx (tag team).

Board of Directors

Chairman: Mike Stern (2000). **Vice-Chairman:** Bruce E. Pelz (2000). **Comptroller:** Mike Glycer (2002). **Secretary:** Mike Glycer (2002). **Other members:** Bill Ellern (2002), Joe Zeff (2002), Elayne Pelz (2002), J. Shaun Lyon (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.

Appointed Positions

De Profundis Editor: Marty Cantor. **Librarian:** Michael Mason. **Librarian Emeritus:** Leigh Strother Vien. **Assistant Librarians:** Greg Barrett, Lucy Stern, Alison Stern, & Tadao Tomomatsu. **Guest Librarian:** Charles Lee Jackson II. **LASFS Answer Guy:** Greg Barrett. **LASFS/APA-L Liaison:** Tim Merrigan. **Committee to Gouge Money from the LASFS:** 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 & Silent Auction Coordinator:** Tadao Tomomatsu. **Key Control:** Liz Mortensen, Bob Null. **Janitorial Services:** Greg Bilan, Mike Thorsen. **Special Photographic Collection:** Mike Donahue. **Webmaster - <lasfs.org>:** Mike Stern. **Webmonsters:** Heather Stern, Jim Dennis. **Children's Literature Committee:** Greg Barrett. **Computers & LASFS Archives:** Bob Null. **<lasfs.org>:** Mike Stern. **LASFS/SCIFI Liaison:** Allan Rothstein. **Lo-son 27 Hotel Liaison:** Christian McGuire.

Honorary Officers

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

LASFS

PROCEDURAL OFFICERS

As a result of the recent elections, here are the new, improved, and returning officers.

President: Cathy Beckstead

Vice President: Bob Null

Secretary: Karl Lembke

Registrar: Becky Barber & Lynx (tag team)

Treasurer: Liz Mortensen

The first four officers will serve for a term of six months, the Treasurer will serve for a full, very full, year.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The second Annual Gary Louie Memorial Mah-Jongg Tournament will be held the weekend of Saturday, Sept. 23 and Sunday, Sept. 24, 2000. Qualifying games will be held the previous weekend - Friday night, Sept. 15 through Sunday, Sept. 17. See Bruce Pelz (in person or at <bep@deltanet.com>) for rules and to sign up.

LASFS Recommended Reading List for Mature Children & Young Adults (an official publication of LASFS)

Copies of the latest version of this list may be obtained by sending a self addressed stamped 9x6 envelope w/55¢ postage to the address on pg. 8 of *DE PROF* or by e-mail request to info@lasfs.org. Ages approx. 11 - 18.

July 2000

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

KEY TO CALENDAR & OTHER IMPEDIMENTA

LADWVS = L.A. Dr. Who Viewing 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 Organization
 Work Party = General cleanup
 FWEMS = Fourth WeekEnd Movies
 FUCC = Fandom Universal Computer Club
 TIME MEDDLERS = Dr. Who Club

CALENDAR DETAILS

LADWVS - 7:30 pm
 FWEMS (23rd) - '60s S & SF films
 FWEMS (30th) - 2 Serials
 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 -

TIME MEDDLERS - 12:30 pm
 LOSCON MEETING - Noon
 CLJ Birthday Party - 2:00 pm

MEET . . .

*(Occasionally I will be able to corner a member who is a regular attendee and get them to write something about themselves. If that person is an officer of the club, this may take the form of writing about their job. The entry this time is from **Bill Ellern**, a member of our Board of Directors. If any regular attendee wants to write about some personal information, please get me a short piece of material. Remember, I may be ruthless in my editing, so do not write about Ruth.)*

Growing the LASFS - 2

by **William B. Ellern**

Let me thank my editor for three things. Adding the words "various things" when it should have been "why, and various other things", for missing the word "Poser" which should have been "Power", and

for tweaking NESFA, who just might start something that would take over us. There's nothing like an editor to make one humble...

These are notes from "The purpose Driven Church" by Rick Warren with my own comments and insights. Rev. Warren has apparently always been a believer in "If you do it, do it right!" In seminary, he consulted on church programs, evaluating what they were doing right, and wrong. He also did a study of the 100 largest churches in the world. One thing was apparent, they are almost all led by a Pastor who has been there for a long time. Changing leadership puts the individuals supporting a long term projects or courses of action at risk, because the new leadership may not agree with what they are doing. Members don't make that mistake again, and the new, temporary leadership doesn't get support on their long or often short term projects.

To help the leadership, and overcome this problem, it is necessary to determine the real purpose of an organization, and to set Goals. The purpose is the underlying reason for an organization's existence. It doesn't change, or only changes slowly. Next month I'll discuss purposes. Goals are things that everyone can understand and agree need to be done. Goals are results that everyone can get behind and help attain. Goals are the short-term objectives that make an organization grow. Disneyland has the goal to open at least one major attraction each year. It has a purpose to be the happiest place on earth. Both are easily understood. Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) has an obvious purpose, set obvious goals, and enjoyed explosive growth. In recent years, we've seen other organizations start with purposes and goals, and grow explosively. Usually, explosive growth can't be sustained. It occurs, an obvious goal is met (like a million man/woman march - anyone can go to Washington DC and walk), then the organization disappears. The next goals aren't so obvious or require another kind of work that the members don't know how to do. What we need to do is build a smart, flexible organization. One that has an expanding set of goals that the organization knows how to sustain.

In order to grow an organization must provide something to its members that they can't get elsewhere. For a church it's fellowship, discipleship, ministry, evangelism, and worship. (These can be frightening words, but not if you understand what they really mean and the how they are implemented. I'll explain

in a moment.) The members must feel that they are contributing to something important. The purpose and goals must be such that the leadership can ask for commitment. Asking for commitment attracts people. BUT - you have to ask for it, and members must be prepared before they can give it.

Now for those strange words above. Fellowship: that's being in the company of people you like, and like you. That's doing things together. Having fun together. Easy, LASFS does that all the time - or does it? It only happens if someone makes it happen (See Ministry below). What happens when there's a fee, and you don't have it? What happens when you're in trouble in your personal life? Can they help? Good questions. I don't have good answers. The organization needs to come up with them. We don't want to be fair weather friends.

Discipleship: This means learning about the different forms of fandom. Learning how to communicate. Learning about how you are expected to conduct yourself. Learning what LASFS's purpose and goals are. Learning ... (is the message getting over?). A lot of thought needs to go into this area. What should someone new to LASFS and fandom learn? Let's say they only go to movies and maybe read books. What else should they need to be shown?

Ministry: This is what you can do to help other members of the organization when they have problems. This takes your time, effort, and sometimes learning how to be most effective. Help members get to the organization's meetings. Organize and help with conventions. The most difficult problem a member will have is getting a new job. The second problem is getting a job they want to do. Publish De Prof and provide other communications. Help members when they're sick. There are other ministries, but those for the membership should come first. Only when our members are well, can they help others. Take a look at the front page of De Prof under "Appointed Positions" for other "ministries."

Evangelism: This is understanding enough about how the organization works, that you can go out and start your own. There are 100,000 people within five miles of LASFS. There are around 100 active LASFS members. Surely if LASFS has a purpose, there's room for another club in Northridge, which is 10 miles away. And 50 clubs in the 5 million people of Greater LA.

Worship: This is the scary one, which is why I

moved it to last. I may write a whole article on it. For now, we'll take a quick look. This is looking deep inside yourself and asking, "Do I understand what is being asked of me?" "Is this what I **want** to do?" "Can I do this?" and "Help me do this." The last item is when you look around very carefully, and patiently. Help shows up. You'll find it if your impatience, mouth, and/or ego doesn't get in the way. God has an agenda, and he even uses disbelievers and atheists to accomplish it. If what you are trying to do is appropriate, there will be a way.

*(to be continued next month)
(when Bill continues to correct the editor)*

CONDENSED CREAM OF MENACE (complete minutes can be read in APA-L)

Meeting #3273, May 4, 2000
Bob Null & Cathy Beckstead, presiding
Karl Lembke, secretarying

Meeting number 3273 was called to order at 20:12:04. The usual flurry of silly motions came and went, giving Cathy Beckstead enough time to make her appearance and claim the chair of power.

The Menace were read, corrected, and approved as "Trident true."

Mike Donahue announce that Jeff Walker had 40 tickets for a screening for *Battlefield Earth*. This is your chance to see if John Travolta has achieved the grade of "Operating Thespian."

Liz Mortensen has announced that we have a new Patron Saint: Gail Selinger has achieved sainthood in one swell foop.

Magic the Gathering: Tomorrow is the first Friday of the month. Bring your decks and prepare to deck Mike Stern.

Patron Saint Larry Niven: Stories were told of what a nice person he is. He was given three cheers and a stable ringworld.

Karl Lembke mentioned the Darwin Award, given to terrorists who were blown up by their own bomb, because they had converted back from Daylight Savings Time, and the bomb hadn't. He also mentioned the steps restaurants were taking to stand out from the crowd, a trend known as "discomfort food." Look for a Klingon restaurant opening near you!

Frank Waller made a motion to pummel Sundance. This was rejected as being indistinguishable from what happens every week.

A motion to vote an audience was made and carried at 21:31:52.

Meeting #3274, May 11, 2000
Cathy Beckstead, presiding
Karl Lembke, secretarying

Meeting number 3274 was called to order at 20:16:02. "Is this silly enough for a gavel?" asked Bob Null. Well, it may be silly enough for a gavel, but the question really is, "is it silly enough for LASFS?"

The Menace were read, corrected, and approved as "Does Christian Have an Idea?"

Patron Saint Bob Null was given three cheers and a key to the clubhouse.

Summer Holiday Party: CLJII announced that a good time was had by all, except possibly the wasps who declined to make an appearance.

Beckie announced that we had three guests, two of whom were lured in by the Festival of Books. Welcome Maunel Cabrera, Jacob Lee, and David Zeb Cook.

There was a motion to swashbuckle at 21:25:03.

Meeting #3275, May 18, 2000
Bob Null & Cathy Beckstead, presiding
Karl Lembke, secretarying

Meeting number 3275 was called to order at 20:11:20. The Menace were read, corrected, and approved as "Probably Something but not Battlefield Earth."

New Business: "*We the undersigned members of the LASFS move that during auctions during the meetings, that any time the bid goes over \$15, that all further bids may be in minimum 50¢ increments, so that the auction can end in a reasonable time.*" Signed by: Mike Glyer, Tadao Tomomatsu, Stacy Hallman, Bruce Pelz, Jerry Pournelle, Rebecca Barber, Ed Green, and Mike Stern. The motion carried: many/2/4.

Patron Saint: Tom Digby, LASFS's "Official Alien." Hare recalls him as always being very polite. He was the fan who came up with the Chocolate Covered Manhole Cover. Jerry Pournelle ran into Tom a while back, to find he was now sporting a large crystal in his nasal septum. When asked why he was wearing that, Tom replied, "Why does anyone wear jewelry? To make oneself look attractive!" Jerry forbore asking the next logical question: Attractive to WHOM???"

The Committee to Nauseate the LASFS, in the guise

of Jerry Pournelle, gave a review of going to see Battlefield Earth. Eylat Poliner reported that at a screening, she got free popcorn, free coke, a free movie, and \$1 parking, and still overpaid.

De Profundis: Marty Cantor announced that the deadline is right now. Also, his fanzine *No Award* is entered in every category for the Hugos.

Tonight's program: Tom Safer will show cartoons.

Announcements: Tom Safer announced that he and Roberta Pournelle will be involved in a concert in honor of the Virgin Mary. See him, or Jerry Pournelle for details.

A motion to Toon in, turn on, and drop something was passed at 21:19:37.

***Meeting 3276, May 25, 2000
Cathy Beckstead, presiding
Karl Lembke, secretarying***

The meeting was gavelled to order at 20:19:12. The Menace were read and approved as "Probably Something but Not Clear."

Patron Saint Dee Dee Lavender. She was originally a mystery fan, and her husband was the SF fan. She was a great hostess, a nice person, and gave the lub money. She died a while back. She was given three cheers, and ballet shoes.

Registrar: A virtual registrar announced Maria, a second-time visitor, and Billy-Bob.

Fred Patten reported on the following snippet of a conversation: "I think *Battlefield Earth* is the worst movie of the year." / "I'd agree, but I just saw the advance screening of *Heavy Metal 2000*."

Eylat has paid off her car. (Did it give her the negatives?) She has been sent a refund, a check for the princely sum of 20¢.

A motion to leave was passed at 21:19:41.

***Meeting 3277, June 1, 2000
Cathy Beckstead, presiding
Karl Lembke, secretarying***

The meeting was gavelled to order at 20:13:06. The Menace were read and approved as "Billy-Bob."

Special Presentation: Len Moffatt presented Tadao with a photo montage of HuLaLaCon. Photographs were taken by June, and the captions were provided by Len.

Patron Saint Ed Baker: He gave us money. He was

even nice to Matthew Tepper 30 years ago, and he's never forgotten. He was about as nice, quiet, and innocent as anyone could be, and was always trying to be helpful. He was shot in his car by a passing motorist in 1971. He was given three cheers, and this year they forgot to give him "and a sheet of bullet proof glass."

Nominations were entered for the office of President. Nominated were: Rebecca Barver, 4SJ Ackerman, Cathy Beckstead, Joe Zeff, and Sundance.

Registrar: Dodged the bullet this time; there were no guests. Craig Jones was introduced as having returned after a lapse of only 12 years. Death may not release you, but it takes morbid curiosity to bring you back.

Kris Bauer revealed that in 48 hours and 15 minutes, according to the Atomic Clock Surrogate, Valentina turns 18. The secretary declines to refer to it as her "roll-over date."

Someone reported on the radio news getting right, but not right enough. The dinosaurs, it was reported, were killed off by the big bang. At this point, Karl chimed in with a follower: The Northwest New Hour in Coquille, Oregon, ran stories about two phenomena: sickle-cell amoeba and the millennium diving reflex. Ted Baxter lives and is gainfully employed in Oregon!

Tadao went home and visited his parents last weekend. "You know you're Americanized when the family goes into the aquarium and in unison shouts, 'sushi!!!'"

A motion to dismiss passed at 21:33:52.

***BoD Meeting, March 12, 2000
Mike Stern, Chairman
Joe Zeff, Substitute Scribe***

Board Members Present: Mike Stern, Joe Zeff, Bill Ellern, Liz Mortensen, bob Null, Mike Thorsen. Absent: Bruce & Elayne Pelz, Mike Glyer, Shawn Lyon (Excused), Kim Brown. Others: Karl Lembke, Lucy and Alison Stern, Ann Morrell, Ed Green, Christian McGuire, Sheri Benoun, Cathy Beckstead, Tadao Tomomatsu, Marty Cantor, Sundance.

The meeting was called to order as soon as we had a quorum at 11:09 by my watch, 11:10 by Mike Stern's. There were no minutes to read.

We had seven applications for membership: Rosalinda Duran-McKellip, Andra Davis, Mike J. Nagle, Megan Dean Francis, Jack McKenty, Thomas Lock,

and Chandis Williamson. All were accepted by a vote of 6, 0, 0.

Treasurer's Report: We had one. There was money still in the Festival of Books fund for Greg to spend. The treasurer has decided to make the Video Restoration and Replacement Fund a separate fund that can't be used for anything else. \$8,301.96 was transferred to the Century Fund at the end of the quarter, making a total of \$27,036.27. There are 22 members for HuLaLa-Con and the latest donation list is posted. The bottom line is, we have money but can't spend it.

Archive: Nothing much, just the usual. Mike Stern will e-mail Chaz about the archive photos and the paperwork for loscon.org.

Club Machines: The base plate for one of the casters on the Gestetner is buckled. Bob isn't sure how it can be fixed. This makes the machine wobble a bit. It can be wedged, but we have to remember to wedge it wherever we take it. People are gradually learning new capacities of the machine, because it can do so many things. Considering that we've had it over three years, this is impressive. Some of the other machines are still functional but probably need maintenance, including lubrication. Much old mimeo-related junk as been discarded.

Computers: Cleanup has been done and extra junk has been removed. There was a discussion of networking, but nothing was decided, except to wait for LOSCON to buy the equipment.

AVI equipment: The idea of repairing the old projector has been abandoned. SCIFFI will buy a second projector to be used for their use only, but it will magically appear at conventions. The one they're buying for us will be semi-permanently mounted. When here, it will always be in the same place, but can be taken to conventions. After discussion, it was moved, seconded, and passed (with two abstentions) to tell SCIFFI not to bother paying the money to have the old unit returned. (The machine is obsolete, has less than half the power of new models, and will probably be unrepairable next time.)

Hall Reconstruction: The holes in the APA-L room need to be repaired before the Gestetner gets stuck in them. The problem is to find a day when this can be done without inconveniencing people using it. Probably doing it at night is best. The keys to the paper bin haven't been distributed yet because Bob isn't sure who should get them. Liz and Bob will decide between them on a case by case basis. The paper will be used for official publications only. There needs to be tracking of who uses the paper and how

much, so that we don't run out unexpectedly. Our neighbor is getting estimates of repaving. So far, we haven't been approached for contributions. The mailbox is here and the address has been corrected. The post hasn't been planted, but it's been prepared. Mike Thorsen will install it today. Bill Ellern went to Costco to check on the canopy. They received 150 units and sold out in three days. The one nearest us has them in stock. In either case, they take two people to set up. The current awning can be remounted and will outlast HuLaLa-Con. Mike Thorsen and Bill Ellern were appointed to recommend appropriate coverage.

Library: There's supposed to be a work part on April 27, but nobody knows what's going to be done other than cleanup for HuLaLa-Con.

Video Collection: Bob hasn't heard anything from CLJII, but there's been stuff gotten from Ed.

Kit's Lit: Greg has been working on a new version of the list and will have it out by the Festival of Books.

Librarian's List: No Report.

APA-L list: Karl has been doing work on it as have others. At the moment, he's listless.

E-mail List: Now that the lasfs.org server is working, more names will be verified and a second version, with corrections, will be out RSN.

Hall Decoration: Hangers for convention badges are being made. Ed Green asked if we were going to accept any badge of it we were going to edit. We decided to edit, with Ed Green as editor. One per person, with as little duplication of conventions as possible.

LASFS.ORG: The e-mail server is finally back up, over a month after the problem was reported. It seems that certain services were not being started at boot. The move to a new ISP is still in progress.

LOSCON the digit two and the digit seven: Let it be noted that Christian regrets the way he specified that the number be expressed. There will be a meeting on the 29th of April, at noon, even though it's inconvenient for many of the people. Budgets will be announced.

LOSCONS of the Future: No action has been taken other than getting information from other possible hotels. There is a web site now, <http://www.loscon.org>, with a discussion board accessible through the site.

LOSCON 28: No Chaz, no report.

HuLaLa-Con: 22 members, as of the end of last month. There are at least two more. Planning is on

schedule. Next year's will be at about the same time; the name is "Questionable."

Recycling: \$34, partially because Bob turned in plastics. (We get CRV for all plastic bottles, now.) We've also had nice sized contributions from members.

Plaques: Still no change because Cathy can't get answers from the right people.

Bylaws: No Glycer, no report. The Standing Rules, however, have been posted on the web site.

Convention Delegates: Baycon and Condor. Heather is going to Baycon and may be willing to be a delegate. LOSCON will be holding parties at both conventions; Christian will act as delegate to both, and Liz to Baycon. Cathy Beckstead will be a delegate to Leprecon.

Festival of Books: Greg Bilan is at Confurance. Liz reported that several boxes of tzatzkes have been donated.

Letter to Crashers: Not Mailed.

New Business: The Fraternity sent us a very nice letter, asking us to consider taking them back, at a fee of \$300/month in advance. It was decided (6, 0, 0) to turn them down because our schedule is still full.

Before adjourning, we made sure that none of the board members present had any difficulties with meeting on Mother's Day. We adjourned at 1:09 pm.

LETTER OF COMMENT

Jan Stinson: Tropicsf@aol.com

I found *De Prof* 328 very readable and even funnier than previous issues, and those were quite amusing. DP looks a little more "together" now, and I hope you'll be editing it for at least a wee while longer. Thanks for taking it over. (*Jan is the editor of the N3F zine Tightbeam - ed.*)

A LETTER TO THE LASFS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(The following letter was received by the LASFS Board of Directors and read at the June 11, 2000 meeting. The BoD is interested in any feedback from the members and this letter is printed with permission of the author.)

Ron Gordon
(LASFS Member)
1440 N. Maple St.

Burbank, CA 91505

This is a letter which I hope will be read at the June 11 or some subsequent Board meeting.

I recently started attending LASFS meetings again after joining some years ago. I find the meetings interesting (often) and silly (sometimes). I think an organization which can hold together so many people of such diverse ages, interests, and social skills is a great thing. I like the fact that everybody is welcomed and treated with respect; I wish I could say that about some of the other organizations I have belonged to. In the few meetings I have attended recently there have been several informative, rather informal, programs, one by Jerry Pournelle reviewing A.E. Van Vogt's life and idiosyncrasies, and a couple of other (technical) topics.

I gather from the money and effort that went into preparing the LASFS booth at the Times Book Fair that the club is looking to expand and maybe diversify membership, so I am writing some reactions of mine, and some suggestions, all off-the-cuff. I am not a long-term active member and I realise the idea may be unsuitable.

I would like to suggest that once a month, (more often if possible) there be a really solid presentation (I dislike the word "lecture") from one of the many excellent speakers available locally. Science fiction relates directly or peripherally to a lot of topics, as we all know, and I think there is a diversity of speakers available who could speak within LASFS' orbit of interest. Recently, at the L.A. Valley College Friday night planetarium series, I heard a speaker from JPL. His program (Mars and Beyond) was fascinating and I think he would be glad to speak to a larger and perhaps better-informed LASFS group. Also at Valley College I had a good speaker from the Astronomy Dept. of Santa Monica City College. I am thinking, in addition, of the Skeptics Society, the So. Calif. Federation of Scientists, the Futurist Society, the various local colleges, the local movie/TV industry, technical and industrial companies, and others. I should think there are a number of professionals of various fields who might be flattered to be asked to speak, relating their field to speculative fiction.

If these programs were announced a month ahead, and advertised in the Upcoming Events section of the Times and other places, I think you could bring in some visitors from the general public; and, thereby, possibly, some new LASFS members.

When there is a speaker, he or she should be given the best time and attention, holding the reviews, auc-

tions, etc. to a minimum on that night. I don't know the etiquette and protocol of getting speakers. Some might speak for free, some as part of their job., some might require honoraria at least to cover their gas and time. I don't know what club policy is in these matters, but to attract occasional exceptional speakers, who could draw in visitors from outside, I don't think the offer of a \$50 honorarium would be out of line. That would not even pay for the time, not to mention travel expense, of someone who is really busy and competent.

My main criticism of LASFS meetings now (if a criticism can be valid after my attending only a few meetings recently) is that you never know whether a Thursday meeting will offer something interesting (aside from the social aspects, which I realize is a major thing for many members) or merely some book and movie reviews, committee reports, with some clever or not-so-clever banter throughout the meeting. My guess is that potential new members, who would want to join the club for occasional interesting programs, would be bored or put off by having to attend each week as a shot in the dark.

Subject Two

At one of the first meetings I attended several months ago, someone authoritative stood up and said (not joking) "Whether you admit it or not, this is a club for social misfits." (This may not be an exact quote, but I believe it is an approximately accurate paraphrase of what I heard.) There is some truth to that, but I believe it is an exaggerated generalization, and perhaps it was meant that way. However, no one responded to refute that remark, so maybe it is accepted as an unspoken club truism. If so, I think the acceptance of that idea is a mistake, and psychologically detrimental to the club's growth.

I have to admit that the tone of the meetings is usually a little too worshipful of films and too fannish for my taste, and I often have the uncomfortable feeling of many people all trying hard to be clever. If that is what the membership wants, so be it, but I think that tone, if it never varies, might be a turnoff to potential new members who would want something less monochromatic.

Subject Three

I think there are some very smart people in the club, or at least people with specialized information, including (but not limited to) Messrs. Pournelle, Niven, etc. I, for one, would be interested in hearing brief five or ten-minute comments about news of the week, technical, political, social trends or whatever,

which have some relation to SF or the future, from members who could speak authoritatively. This is done now, of course, but it tends to be in the form of an off-the-cuff and hasty minute or so, rather than a more formalized few minutes. I would like this to be more "formal" only in the sense that the room goes quiet, the running around and cross banter is suspended, and the speaker is given the whole group's attention. (Those who would be bored by this could, of course, go outside for five minutes, as is done now.)

Subject Four

At the last meeting another member (and I apologize for not knowing a lot of names yet) anticipated me in making an announcement about the JPL open house this past weekend. I regret that this got little of the group's attention as it is a fascinating annual event. I wish it had occurred to me then to suggest a LASFS carpool from the clubhouse to JPL Saturday and/or Sunday. I know we have some members without access to cars and some others who might have liked to make it a group event. I won't go into the specifics of the many demonstrations, but I was at JPL most of Saturday and didn't get to half of them. There is a huge staff of volunteers, most of them JPL and Cal Tech employees, and I found that at each demonstration there was someone who could give answers to children and also answer on a technical level. This is a great children's event, and I would like to make several suggestions:

1. Next year, LASFS have a carpool for this open house.
2. I would like to see LASFS, as both a public service and a way to promote the club, make arrangements for 20 to 40 children (children who would otherwise be unable to get to the open house) to attend as guests of the club for the day. I think we could easily get them from local elementary schools, and make arrangements so that they are in groups of five to eight, each group under the care of a LASFS volunteer or two, and maybe a volunteer parent. This would not only introduce a lot of children to what JPL does, but to science in general; *and*, it should be good for an article about the club in the Times Valley section, or the Daily News. Obviously, there are a number of details to work out; but to people used to planning conventions, this should be a piece of cake. I think the club should transport the children from the clubhouse and/or several central Valley points, to and from JPL. This could be done by carpool or even a rented bus

(though that would run into some money). I assume that these children would be "underprivileged" or whatever the current word for that is, and so we should give them each several dollars for cold drinks to supplement the lunch they would bring.

FANZINES

*The production of fanzines is an old fannish tradition and De Profundis is a zine in that tradition. Many of the regularly attending club members may not be aware of the vast number of zines which have been produced in fandom's past. Many may not realise that not everybody has moved their written fanac to the web and that there are many fanzines still being produced. Here is a list of some of the zines which the club gets in trade. I want 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.*

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)

DEROGATORY REFERENCE: Arthur D. Hlavaty.

club zines:

TIGHTBEAM: National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F). **INSTANT MESSAGE:** New England Science Fiction Association. **SFSFS SHUTTLE:** South Florida SF Society. **WESTWIND:** Northwest SF Society. **EINBLATT!:** Minnesota Science Fiction Society (MinnStf). **LUNARIANS, INC:** New York Science Fiction Society. **PSFS News:** Philadelphia SF Society. **CONNOTATIONS:** Central Arizona Speculative Fiction Society. **DASFAX:** Denver Area SF Society. **NASFA SHUTTLE:** North Alabama SF Association.

NEW BOOKS

(This is a new section devoted to listing new books and other items received by the LASFS Library.)

Purchased by Librarian: The SFWA Grand Master, Vol. 2, edited by Frederik Pohl. *Orion Arm* by Julian May.

Donated by EOS: *Eater* by Gregory Benford. *Gambler's Star Book 3 (Invasions)* by Nancy Holder. *Anticents of Days* by Paul J. McAuley. *Mage Heart* by Jane Routley

Purchased by LASFS: *Perechance to Dream*, edited by Denise Little. *Storm Front* by Jim Dutcher. *Venus* by Ben Bova. *Darkness Descending* by Harry Turtle-dove.

Magazines received: *New York Review of Science Fiction* #141.

LASFS MAILING LABELS

Are a mess. An attempt is being made to bring order (or something) to them. If you notice anything amiss in your label code, please bring them to my attention and I will get them modified. In the meantime, research continues apace so that we can get them corrected. Fuzzy has been having some problems with the mailing label programme but hopes to get it properly working soon. All previous corrections sent to me have been taken care of, but the programme is being difficult and some corrections have been rejected by it. Have patience, please.

P = Patron Saint

F = Patron Friend

T = Trade

D = De Prof (meeting attended within 3 months)

Y = Yearly Dues paid

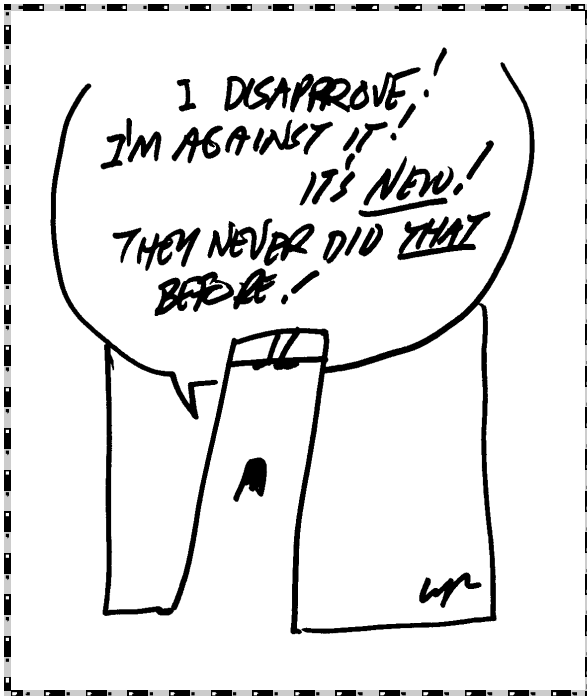
L = Lifetime Member

LV = Life VAMF (Voluntary Active Membership Fee)

LP = Lifetime/Patron Saint

LPF = Lifetime/Patron Friend





Illo by Rotsler



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c/o The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society
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North Hollywood, CA 91601
U.S.A.

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