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**Lambda Sci-Fi Welcomes
 OutWorlders:
 Atlanta Area Gaylaxians**



**as the Newest Affiliate of
 the Gaylactic Network!!!!**




**Gay Fandom
 Suite &
 Spectrum
 Awards
 at Millenium
 Philcon**

Jed Shumsky, the Network's Worldcon Liaison, is working to bring GLBT programming and hopefully other Gaylaxicon-type events to Worldcon this year.

The Network will host a Gay Fandom Suite for 3 days at the Philadelphia Marriot, next to the Pennsylvania Convention Center (exact room number as yet to be determined). Word has it that Jed is planning on theme nights, but what they'll be is still a secret. We definitely know that GLBT fans will be able to meet, greet, and party with members from many of the Network's affiliate clubs.

The Gaylactic Network Spectrum Awards will be given in a ceremony at Worldcon; and a reception will be held in the Gay Fandom Suite that same evening.

Nan Fredman, the Network Publicist, is working with Jed to develop a flyer that will list all panels and events of GLBT interest at Worldcon. This flyer will also be available in the Gay Fandom Suite.



IN MEMORIAM



**POUL ANDERSON
 1926 - 2001**

Fandom mourns the loss of yet another of the F&SF Great Ones. Poul Anderson died early Tuesday morning (8/31, just after midnight) of complications arising from prostate cancer.

His first story ("Tomorrow's Children", with FN Waldrop) was published in *Astounding Science Fiction* in 1947, when he was 20 years old; and in a writing career of over 50 years, his works earned him 4 Nebula Awards, 7 Hugos, 3 Prometheus Awards, a Mythopoeic Award, a British Fantasy Award, a Skylark Award, and a Gandalf. His most recent published work is featured in the current (October 2001) issue of *Analog* ("Pele" – a kzinti story).

August 11th LSF Meeting

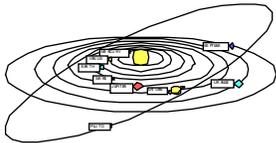
The next LambdaSci-Fi meeting will be held at James Crutchfield's apartment (1414 17th St., NW, #413) on Sunday, August 11th. The business meeting will begin at 1:30 PM; and the social meeting will begin at 2:00 PM. Please bring some munchies or soft drinks, if you can. See you there!

And, remember, we've got important business scheduled for this meeting. There are four (count 'em, 4) proposals to vote on (for text, see **Minutes** on page 3 of this newsletter). And we'll be accepting nominations for the post of LSF Speaker, to fill the remainder of Nan's term (again, see **Minutes** for details).

WHAT'S INSIDE?

The Spheres of Heaven (book review - pg. 2); *The Adventures of ConBoy, Naive Conventioneer* (a cartoon by Chris Browning - pg. 2); **LSF Minutes - Sunday, July 8, 2001** (pg. 3); **The LSF Book Discussion Group** (pg. 3); *Bending the Landscape: Horror* (book review - pg. 4); **The Saturn Awards** (pg. 5); **About Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians** (pg. 6); **Con Calendar** (pg. 6)

The Spheres of Heaven
 by Charles Sheffield
 (Baen, 2001)
 a review by Colleen R. Cahill



Stories of humans quarantined by superior alien races are not new to science fiction. More than one novel has confined us to a limited amount of space so our deficiencies do not contaminate the rest of the universe. Charles Sheffield's newest work, *The Spheres of Heaven*, explores this theme with a mix of science and surprises. Three advanced alien races, who abhor killing intelligent life (even in self defense), find humans too violent. But even humans prove useful when a unique situation arises.

After twenty years, mankind gets a new chance to explore beyond the solar system due to the discovery of an interstellar Link in an uninhabitable section of the galaxy. It's recent appearance is a mystery, and it becomes more mysterious when two alien ships with their crews disappear there without a trace. The aliens decide to send a third ship, just to be sure that the last two did not disappear due to accidents. This time, however, a human crew will be sent, one that can handle the stress of possible hostile peoples. To tempt the humans on this potential suicide mission, the aliens agree to raise the quarantine on space travel... IF the person of their choice agrees to go.

The aliens realize that they cannot send just anyone, as they must send a human they trust to follow their rules. They demand Chan Dalton, whose dealings with the aliens have earned their respect; they refuse to talk to any other human. Chan knows that Earth authorities secretly sent a third ship to the Link and that it has also vanished. Still, the one-time space explorer (and now second-in-command of Earth's largest slum) realizes he has a better chance of survival on this mission than facing the corporate powers on Earth, who surely will kill him if he does not

the adventures of
Conboy
 naive conventioneer

[Ed. note: It's my pleasure to present the first installment of a great new series of cartoons by Chris Browning.]

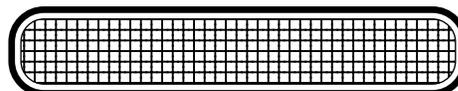
agree to go. He asks for ten days to gather his own crew of six specialists, specialists with interesting skills: a con-man, magician, poet and language expert, weapons master, someone who talks to animals, and gadgeteer. This list makes me think more of a fantasy adventure than a science fiction novel. To top off the crew, Chan is saddled with a alienating general and a skinny blonde scientist, both appointed by Earth and both of whom disapprove of Chan and his crew.

While Chan is searching and recruiting, we discover that the previous human ship is intact, with the crew alive and confused. They find themselves on a bewildering planet, where they Linked directly underwater. Link technology makes it impossible to appear in an area where matter exists and this is the first of several mysteries that face the crew. As this section unfolds, it is quickly revealed that the three-person crew is not the crack team the Earth authorities

thought they were sending, but instead consists of a rich man of no real talent, his beautiful slave, and one untrained but knowledgeable crewman. The latter, Bony Rombelle, has to deal with the fact that he is in a space ship that is underwater, a state it was never designed for, and that the water is denser than that on Earth. As he explores the new world, more scientific oddities arise.

Sheffield has written a work that is intriguing and paradoxical, with a mix of science, politics, and humor. He is successful in melding them in a imaginative and exciting way. The interactions between humans and aliens is believable, and the way Chan and others deal with the "no violence" rule adds spice to the story. The inventiveness of the characters, the interesting science, and the feeling of fun make this a rewarding book to read.

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LSF Minutes
Sunday, July 8, 2001
from Scott



LSF Treasurer Rob reported that we have approximately \$3000 in the bank account at this time.

Carl offered two proposals:

LSF donates at least \$20 toward the purchase of the full-page ad for the Network in the Worldcon 2001 Program book.

(Note: The advertisement will cost \$175.)

LSF votes to accept the request of the Atlanta OutWorlders to join the Gaylactic Network as a new Affiliate. (This vote is conditional upon official acceptance by the Atlanta OutWorlders to the conditions outlined to them by the Network Speaker.)

Carl advised that the OutWorlders have 107 members on its Email announce list and 74 on its listserv. He then clarified that the Atlanta OutWorlders needed to meet five criteria in order to be accepted into the Network — one of which is a group name. He added that the OutWorlders recently staffed a table for three days at the Atlanta Pride Festival, at which they sold Meisha Merlin books. Rather impressive group so far! As Network Speaker, Carl also asked that a “straw poll” vote be taken to get a sense of the club’s feelings on this issue; and the response indicated that there would probably be no opposition to this proposal.

Carl then read the text from the resignation letter from current LSF Speaker Nan F. With the Speaker position now open, Carl advised that he would announce the opening via the LSF announce list and in the next LSF monthly newsletter. Nominations taken during the business meeting included Carl C. and Michael C. In addition, Carl was voted as temporary Speaker until next month. Candidates for the open Speaker position may supply written “candidate statements” if they choose.

Jack F, coordinator of Gaylaxicon 2000 held last October, provided a Budget Variance Analysis (BVA) report as of 07/07/2001. Expenses exceeded income by \$1025.57. The reasons for the shortage were:

1. The hotel room block was not made, so G2K needed to pay the hotel \$2000.
2. T-shirt sales were less than anticipated.
3. The con program guide cost more than was budgeted.
4. There were fewer con attendee walk-ins than at the prior year’s con.

The remaining 15 volunteer T-shirts and the 89 black-and-white T-shirts will be turned over to LSF. Jack remarked that there were several donated items from Planet Out, etc.

Jack admitted that G2K 1999 benefitted from a two-page story in the *Washington Blade* prior to the con. Jack also clarified that the G2K con-com members paid their own con registration fees and their parking charges. Jim Williams, who ran the G2K video room, agreed to reimburse the con the \$100 by which his video room expenses exceeded their budget. This brought the con shortage from \$1025.57 to \$925.57. Treasurer Rob G. asked Jack if the Network could assume some of the shortage costs before approaching LSF. Jack advised that many G2K con-com members have eaten many of the costs already.

Jack submitted the following proposal:

I propose that LSF donate \$925.57 to G2K, less any donations received from this point on. In return for this donation, G2K will turn over all T-shirts, promotional items, Farscape caps and disposable cups & utensils left over from the con suite.

Rob presented the following background and proposal:

Background: LSF has been an active and successful club for over 11 years. With all of our recent major activities, I’ve been thinking that sometimes we lose track of our history. But that history is still a part of us and I realized that we could do something to honor that history. Nine people attended the first meeting of LSF, but of those nine people, one was driving force behind the founding of the

**The LSF Book
Discussion Group**



**NOTE: August Meeting
Cancelled & *Mists of Avalon*
Discussion Rescheduled**

If you’re interested in lively discussions of F&SF books (with an emphasis on elements of interest to the LBGT community), we invite you to join the LSF Book Discussion Group. Each month, for over a year now, we’ve been conducting fascinating round-table discussions of works by significant F&SF authors.

The LSF Book Discussion Group generally meets on the 4th Thursday of every month, starting at 7:00 PM. ***Due to unforeseen circumstances, the next meeting will not meet again until Sept. 27th*** (at Peter & Rob’s house, 1425 “S” St., NW -- for directions or more details, call 202-483-6369).

Here’s the Discussion Group’s schedule for the next several months:

— **Thurs., Sept. 27** - *The Mists of Avalon*, by Marion Zimmer Bradley; facilitator: Rob. (***This is the rescheduled August discussion.***)

— **Thurs., Oct. 25** - “The Dunwich Horror”, by H.P. Lovecraft; facilitator: Mike M. (**Note:** This story should be easy to find in any one of a number of paperback anthologies of Lovecraft stories. *And now it’s rescheduled closer to Halloween!!!*)

---**Nov./Dec. (date TBA)** - *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*, by Michael Chabon; facilitator: Mike P. (**Note:** This Pulitzer Prize-winning book should be out in trade paperback format in the near future.)

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club — our first Speaker, Loree Cook-Daniels.

Proposal: ***In honor of her efforts to found the club and in recognition of over 11 years of success for the group she founded, I propose that Lambda Sci-Fi grant a lifetime membership to Loree Cook-Daniels.***

(continued on page 5)

***Bending the Landscape:
Horror***
edited by Nicola Griffith &
Stephen Pagel
(Overlook Press, 2001)
reviewed by Carl Cipra



As with any worthwhile project, it's taken time to complete the *Bending the Landscape* series of anthologies. In fact, it's taken about four years -- and a lot of hard work, I'm quite sure. *BtL: Fantasy* was issued in March of 1997; *BtL: Science Fiction* came out in August of 1998; and, finally, completing the trilogy, there's *BtL: Horror* (March, 2001). And if you've read any of them, then I'm pretty sure you agree it's been worth the wait.

My general impression of *Bending the Landscape: Horror* is somewhat mixed. Yes, I found almost every one of the 18 stories in this book to be an enjoyable read -- some of them an *exceptionally good* read! -- but, on the whole, I can't help feeling that *BtL: Horror* is somewhat of a "thematic mixed bag". Oh, sure, there have been some quibbles about the inclusion of certain stories in the previous two volumes. ("Well, gee, *that* story is actually science fiction! What's it doing in a *fantasy* anthology?") But I personally found the "disconnect" to be much more obvious and frequent in *BtL: Horror* than in either *Science Fiction* or *Fantasy*. In its Introduction, the editors even admit that *BtL: Horror* was a hard one to put together: "It is possible to point in a rough direction [with F&SF]... This is not the case with Horror, which is a genre defined less by what goes into the fiction than by what the reader gets out of it. If a reader doesn't feel horror when reading, then it's not horror fiction." (They also say: "Not all the stories in this volume are surreal, or supernatural... Some of the stories end on a horrific note... but some end with triumph...") OK, so maybe that explains the problem I'm having: many of the stories in this book just don't fit *my* definition of "horror". Despite this, I found almost every story enjoyable, even many of the ones I myself wouldn't

classify as "horror". While writing this review, however, it suddenly dawned on me that I *would* expect to see many of these stories included in a more "liberated" and less "heterosexually-oriented" version of something like *The Twilight Zone*. (You know, maybe *BtL: Horror* and *The Twilight Zone* are prime candidates for the label "speculative fiction" -- which Harlan Ellison has been advocating, over the years, as a more appropriate term for the F&SF genre.)

Bending the Landscape: Horror contains 18 stories, all original to this anthology; and, as I said, I consider some of them to be real gems! Here are a few of my favorites:

"Coyote Love" (by Kraig Blackwelder) is a viscerally disturbing depiction of just how far someone might go to deny his homosexual impulses. This is one of those stories that doesn't necessarily fit my definition of "horror story" -- but I *really* find it disturbing! I wouldn't exactly call it a candidate for *The Twilight Zone* either -- it's more like a *Tales from the Crypt* story!

"The Lost Homeland" (by Cynthia Ward) is another viscerally disturbing story. This one relates the very disturbing (and "disturbed") chain of events which ensue as a consequence of a lesbian trying to save her friend from spousal abuse.

"Triangle" (by Ellen Klages) is a very *Twilight Zone*-esque time-paradox story that combines a modern gay couple having "relationship difficulties" with the persecution of gays in Nazi Germany.

"Kindred" (by Alexis Glynn Latner) is perhaps my favorite story in the book; it's also what I'd class as a "genuine" horror story. It's a tale of healing magic and the supernatural. The protagonist is a quiet gay man with a

modicum of paranormal ability. He has moved to rural Central Georgia and finds he must combat the influences of a spirit of long-dead evil that is intent on continuing its reign of terror on his neighbors and friends.

"If I Could See Lazarus Rising" (by Kathleen O'Malley) is another particular favorite of mine. Personally, I'd classify this one as "SF" rather than "Horror" -- a post-apocalyptic story. In it, a lesbian has survived some kind of worldwide epidemic and decides to spend the last, lonely years of her life nurturing a breeding population of whooping cranes back from the edge of extinction. But, as she discovers, she's not the only survivor.

"Waltz of the Epileptic Penguins" (by Keith Hartman) -- this is the poignant tale of a telepathic therapist who takes the ultimate risk and makes the ultimate sacrifice to help a patient.

"Passing" (by Mark W. Tiedemann) is a cautionary story about the lengths to which a man goes to suppress his homosexual urges and survive as a policeman in a right-wing religious, dystopian USA. I find that this story contains echoes of themes in Orwell's *1984* and in the film *THX 1138*.

Whether or not I classify all the stories in this book as "horror", I definitely say that *Bending the Landscape: Horror* is a fine addition to this anthology series. After four years of hard work, the editors have brought this project to a satisfying conclusion. Or can we expect to get further helpings of GLBT-themed SF/F/H? Will this series be continued? (*Bending the Landscape Again?*) I hope so. I'm certainly ready to plunk down *my* money to purchase more quality stories like these!

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I have yet to see any problem, however complicated, which, when you looked at it in the right way, did not become still more complicated.

Poul Anderson

July Minutes

continued from page 3

When the social portion of the meeting began, Carl initiated a name circle. Rob supplied a summary of the June 2001 Pride Festival. He advised that approximately 75 people signed up for the LSF e-mail list. He also mentioned both the post-Pride and pre-Pride video parties. The biggest video hit at the post-Pride party was *Pyscho Beach Party!*

The *A.I.* movie: Rob remarked that the *A.I.* movie outing was well attended — 17+ people! Coming out in the next several weeks: *Final Fantasy*, *Jurassic Park III*, *Planet of the Apes*. Everyone loved the extended trailer for the “Harry Potter” movie slated for a November 2001 release.

A movie outing for *Planet of the Apes* is scheduled for Sunday, July 29, 2001. An e-mail announcement with details will be forthcoming.

The LSF Book Discussion Club: Rob announced that the selected July book is Joan Slonczewski's *Brain Plague*, the August book is Marion Zimmer Bradley's *Mists of Avalon*, and the September book/story is “The Dunwich Horror”. [Ed. note: See article on page 3 for details on changed dates.] The book club meets the 4th Thursday of every month.

Rob distributed the following laundry list of stuff: newsletters from the Australian group, the Albany group, and a Pittsburgh group (not a GLBT organization), and posters and miscellanea from Balticon.

Balticon report: Rob related a story about serving on a panel at Balticon on censorship, sitting next to John Norman, who provided an interesting perspective on why he has not been published in a number of years. Rob also gave his first professional reading from *Bubbas of the Apocalypse* in front of a vast audience of six people. And Rob ran into the promoter from the “Worldcon 2004 in Charlotte” group. Rob asked a set of questions regarding GLBT programming — and the responses were favorable. Rob sent an e-mail to the chair of the “Worldcon 2004 in Boston” group with the same set of questions regarding GLBT programming.



The cover of the August 2001 issue of *Science Fiction Chronicle* mentions the Spectrum Awards. Great!

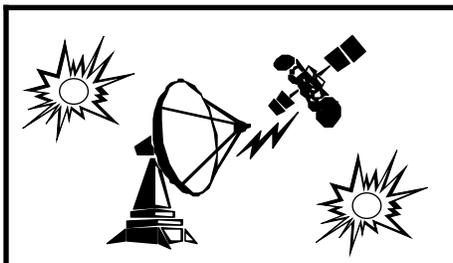
Jim Williams will be attending ShoreLeave. He will try to obtain information on the newest Star Trek TV series, *Enterprise*.

The group that organized Disclave is now putting on a smaller con this year, called CapClave, which will be held in College Park September 28 - 30, 2001. The maximum number of attendees has been set to 300 people, so it was suggested that you send in your registration form ASAP if you wish to attend.

Movie news: The group that gave us *Chicken Run* announced that *Tortoise and Hare* has been pushed back six months. An *Indiana Jones IV* movie is still being rumored. A sequel to *Shrek* is under discussion. A movie called *Signs* about crop circles is being worked on. The Sci Fi Channel is developing a futuristic version of *A Tale of Two Cities* — but instead of two different cities, it will be two different planets. Michael M. commented that *Atlantis* is a great mindless summer movie.

Peter and Rob mentioned that they are presently reading Hugo Award nominees on their PDA's. Keith Hartman, author of *The Gumshoe*, *the Witch and the Virtual Corpse*, has finished his *Gumshoe Gorilla* book, which should be out in the next few months. Rob reported that the confirmed list of program participants at Worldcon is now posted online at the Worldcon website. Next week's *TV Guide* will have a pull-put picture of a nude Captain Janeway — er, no, just the new *Enterprise*. The Sci Fi Channel will have a new series called *Chronicle*.

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The Saturn Awards

dug out by Carl



Last month's newsletter featured a lengthy article about various F&SF awards, among them the nominations for the Saturn Awards. However, it's been like pulling teeth trying to find out who actually *won* the Saturn Awards this year!

The Saturn Awards are presented annually by the Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror Films, recognizing the best science fiction, fantasy, and horror films. The 27th Annual Saturn Awards were presented on June 12th. Some of this year's winners were:

- Best Science Fiction Film: *X-Men*
- Best Fantasy Film: *Frequency*
- Best Horror Film: *Final Destination*
- Best Action/Adventure/Thriller Film:
Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon
- Best Genre Film Actor: Hugh Jackman
(*X-Men*)
- Best Genre Film Actress: Tea Leoni (*The Family Man*)
- Best Director: Bryan Singer (*X-Men*)
- Special Achievement Award:
the creative team behind *Shadow of the Vampire*
- Best Music: James Horner (*How the Grinch Stole Christmas*)
- Best Costume Design: Louise Mingenbach (*X-Men*)
- Best Make-Up: Rick Baker (*How the Grinch Stole Christmas*)
- Best Genre Network Series: *Buffy The Vampire Slayer*
- Best Genre Cable/Syndicated Series:
Farscape
- Best Single Genre TV Presentation:
Fail Safe
- Best Genre TV Actor: Robert Patrick (*The X-Files*)
- Best Genre TV Actress: Jessica Alba
(*Dark Angel*)
- Best Supporting Genre TV Actress: Jeri Ryan (*Star Trek: Voyager*)
- Best Supporting Genre TV Actor: James Marsters (*Buffy the Vampire Slayer*)
- Best Video Release: *Princess Mononoke*

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****INFORMATION ABOUT LAMBDA SCI-FI: DC AREA GAYLAXIANS****

Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians (LSF) is an organization for gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgendered (GLBT) people, and their friends who are interested in science fiction, fantasy, horror and related genres in all forms (SF/F/H). LSF's primary goals are to have fun, to provide a community, and to:

- promote SF/F/H, with particular attention to materials of interest to GLBT people and their friends;
- provide forums for GLBT people and their friends to share their interest in SF/F/H;
- promote the presence of GLBT elements within SF/F/H and within fandom; and
- promote SF/F/H within the GLBT community.

Annual membership fees are \$20, for which you will receive this monthly newsletter and a membership directory. Newsletter submissions are always welcome.

Meetings are usually held on the second Sunday of each month at a private residence. The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on **Sunday, August 11th**, at James Crutchfield's home: 1414 17th St., NW, #413 (near DuPont Circle) - 1:30 PM for business meeting; 2:00 PM for social meeting. Please bring some munchies or soft drinks, if you can. Hope to see you there!

Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians is an affiliate of **the Gaylactic Network**, an international organization for gay people and their friends who are interested in science-fiction and fantasy.



Con Calendar

by Carl, Peter, Rob, Mike and Kendall



Aug. 24-26, 2001 **THE BALTIMORE WEEKEND OF TERROR**. BWI Airport Marriott (Baltimore). GoHs: Bruce Campbell. Horror convention sponsored by Horrorfind.com and Frightvision, in association with the magazines *Scarlet Street*, *Rue Morgue*, and *Haunted Attraction*. Membership: \$25 for entire weekend; \$15 per day. Make checks payable to "Horrorfind.com" and send to: Horrorfind.com, 9722 Groffs Mill Dr., PMB 109, Owings Mills, MD 21117.

Aug. 30 - Sept. 3, 2001 **THE MILLENNIUM PHILCON (The 59th World Science Fiction Convention)**. The Pennsylvania Convention Ctr. & Philadelphia Marriott Hotel. GoH: Greg Bear; Artist GoH: Stephen Youll. Attending membership: \$170 (at present; will go UP!). Make checks payable to "The Millennium Philcon" and send to: Millennium Philcon, PO Box 310, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006-0310.
website: www.milphil.org

Sept. 28-30, 2001 **CAPCLAVE 2001**. Sheraton College Park (Beltsville, MD). "A new convention for the new millennium." Celebrating: "The Short Story in SF". GoH: Gardner Dozois. Membership: \$30. Make checks payable to "Capclave 2001" and send to: Capclave Registration, c/o Alexis Gilliland, 4030 8th St., Arlington, VA 22204

Nov. 23-25, 2001 **DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL MEETING XXIV**. Holiday Inn, Timonium (Timonium, MD). GoH: Joanne Bertin; Special Guest: Katherine Kurtz; Artist GoH: L.W. Perkins. Membership: \$35 until 11/1/2001; \$40 after that. Make checks payable to "Armida Council" and send to: Armida Council, PO Box 7203, Silver Spring, MD 20907. *A very GLBT-friendly convention!*

