



# LAMBDA SCI-FI



DC Area Gaylaxians

PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (202) 232-3141 - Issue #140 - Nov. 2001

E-MAIL: info@lambdasf.org WEBSITE: http://www.lambdasf.org/

## The LSF Book Discussion Group



If you're interested in lively discussions of F&SF books (with an emphasis on elements of interest to the LBG community), we invite you to join the LSF Book Discussion Group. Each month, we conduct fascinating roundtable discussions of works by significant F&SF authors.

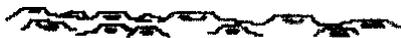
The LSF Book Discussion Group generally meets on the 4th Thursday of every month, starting at 7:00 PM. The next meeting will be Dec. 6 (at Peter & Rob's house, 1425 "S" St., NW -- for directions or more details, call 202-483-6369).

Here's the schedule for the next several months:

---**Dec. 6th (combined Nov./Dec. date)** - *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*, by Michael Chabon; facilitator: Mike P. (**Note:** This Pulitzer Prize-winning book is now available in trade paperback format.)

— **Jan. 25th** - *Gumshoe Gorilla*, by Keith Hartman; facilitator: TBD. (This is a follow-up novel to Keith's previous novel, *The Gumshoe, the Witch, and the Virtual Corpse*.)

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## Minutes of the Oct. 14th LSF Meeting taken by Scott



Treasurer Rob Gates reported that the current balance in the LSF bank account is \$2040.90. He also advised that LSF owns various goods, such as G2K T-shirts and *Farscape* caps from the Gaylaxicon 200 convention (amounts as yet unspecified, awaiting figures from Jack Frost).

Rob reported that LSF now has the option of switching LSF's booklist website affiliation from www.amazon.com to www.booksense.com (which represents independent booksellers). Rob suggested that LSF members check out www.booksense.com; and, if we want, someone can make a proposal for LSF to transfer its affiliation from amazon.com to booksense.com.

Carl asked if LSF wanted to sponsor a room party at the Darkover convention being held over Thanksgiving weekend in Maryland. Carl advised that he will be attending the con and would be MC'ing the costume show. There was no vocal interest.

Secretary Scott passed along a T-shirt status update from Jack Frost (Chair for Gaylaxicon 2001). Jack reported that he had approximately 80 G2K T-shirts, 15 volunteer T-shirts, and less than 15 Gaylaxicon 1999 T-shirts

## Nov. 11th LSF Meeting

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

See you there!

**Remember:** If you're interested in running for one of the LSF officer positions, you must announce your candidacy at the November meeting. (Elections will be held in December; terms of service begin in January, 2002.)

available for sale. Jack stated that the T-shirts originally sold for \$20 and that perhaps LSF might consider selling them for less than \$20. Any proceeds from the sale of the T-shirts would go towards reimbursing LSF for its donation toward the liquidation of the G2K debt. Rob stated that he would like exact figures of the number of each type of T-shirt before considering offering the T-shirts for sale at a discount.

Rob reminded the meeting attendees that LSF officer nominations should be submitted at the next LSF meeting (Nov. 11th), with elections following at the Dec. 11th LSF business meeting.

As the social portion of the meeting began, it was reported that LSF

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## WHAT'S INSIDE?

A Cartoon by Chris Browning (pg. 2); *The Dreaded Mama-saurus* (pg. 2); *Enterprise* (TV review - pg. 3); *Trysts* (book review - pg. 3); *War for the Oaks* (book review - pg. 4); *Smallville* (TV review - pg. 4); *About Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians and Con Calendar* (pg. 6)

## Minutes

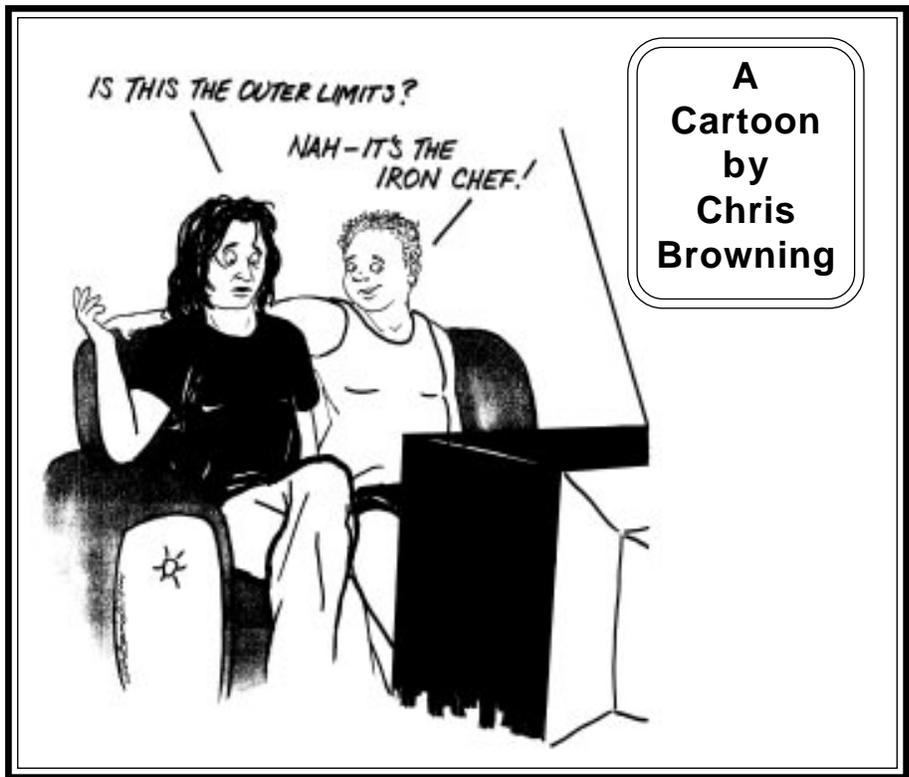
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member and actor Joe Parra is acting in a play (a musical version of *Miracle on 34th Street*) in Florida.

**Movie outings:** Rob indicated that he still had some free promo tickets for the Oct 15th (Monday) screening of the movie *K-Pax* at the Mazza Gallery cinema (Friendship Heights Metro station). He might also have some tickets for Oct. 25th (Thurs.), the night before the movie opens. In addition, Michael C. hopes that there can still be an LSF movie outing to see *From Hell* on Oct. 21st (Sunday). Moreover, Michael proffered an idea for a Halloween movie outing to see *13 Ghosts*, *Monsters Inc.* or *Elvira's Haunted Hills*. And let's not forget the *Harry Potter* movie in November and *Lord of the Rings* in December!

**Book News:** Carl provided information of the following new books: *Kissing the Witch* (which has lesbian content); Francesca Lia Block's *Echo*, Nancy Springer's *I Am Morgan le Fay*, and Ray Bradbury's *From the Dust Returned* (an all-new Bradbury tale of a strange family living in a house, featuring a Charles Addams cover). Rob carried on about Steve Berman's *Trysts*, a good dark fantasy with some GLBT content. (The author, who lives in New Jersey, has expressed interest in coming to an LSF event to provide a reading.) And a fantasy novel, *Game of Groans*, came recommended by Rob. Clive Barker's new book, *Coldheart Canyon*, looks interesting. Other recommended titles: Candace Jane Dorsey's *Paradigm of Earth*, Lynn Flewelling's *Bone Doll's Twin*, and David Gerrold's *Bouncing Off the Moon*. Rob reported that Don Saker's *Leaves of October* will be available in electronic format (on CD-ROM).

**TV News:** Trip (a male character) gets pregnant on this week's *Enterprise* episode. The premiere of *Smallville*, the life of Clark Kent in Smallville before he became Superman, begins this Tuesday night. Ursula K. LeGuin's *Earthsea* series as well as the *Left Hand of Darkness* will be coming on the SciFi channel. A new *Justice League*



A  
Cartoon  
by  
Chris  
Browning

of America cartoon series begins next month. Carl raved about the *Samurai Jack* series. Carl asked if there was a following for the WB series, *Mutant X*. It was also noted that *Buffy's* first season is now in syndication.

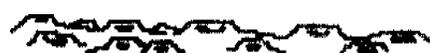
**Movie News:** The remake of the *War of the Worlds* will be situated in 1889 rather than in current times, apparently in light of the 09/11/2001 terrorist attacks. A live-action *Batman* movie has been scrapped.

**Upcoming LSF Book Discussion Group activities:** Rob reminded us that H.P. Lovecraft's "The Dunwich Horror" will be the discussion item for the Oct. 25th (Thurs.) meeting. The book to be discussed at the combined November/December meeting will be *The Amazing Adventures of Cavalier and Clay*; and the book for the Jan. 2002 meeting is Keith Hartman's *Gumshoe Gorilla*.

**End note:** Check out the following site, dedicated to commercials with GLBT content:

[www.comercialcloset.com](http://www.comercialcloset.com)

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## The Dreaded Mama-saurus

excerpted from  
*Womansword: What Japanese Words  
Say About Women*, by Kittredge Cherry  
(Kodansha International, 1987)

While the social critics were exchanging high-flown words, modern kids invented one simple term for all bad mothers. They called them *mamagon*, meaning a mama who is as scary as a dinosaur. English speakers can borrow the dinosaur suffix to create "mama-saurus." Likewise, Japanese can invent words based on their monster suffixes: *-ra*, as in that famous cross between a whale (*kujira*) and a gorilla (*gorira*), *Godzilla* (*Gojira*); and *-gon*, as in the lesser known gobbler of money (*kane*), *Kanegon*. The ending is said to derive from the English word dragon. Adults don't use *mamagon*, but they know it, and they have been known to tease back with words such as "baby-saurus" (*bebiigon* or *bibiira*). *Papagon* is also possible, though less common. Like most of the slang young people sling around, the gon words have gone out of style now that adults have caught on to them.

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**Enterprise**  
a.k.a. "Franchise"  
an "Unca Joe review"  
by J. Parra

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I knew that Paramount would find some way of keeping the *Star Trek* fantasy alive. Hell, they would have been crazy not to, as it rakes in millions of dollars in revenue for them annually.

*Enterprise* takes place in the future, yes; however, that future is 100 years prior to the first incarnation of *Trek* with Kirk & Spock & Co. Scott Bakula and his crew helm the newly-created Enterprise, which his character's father had "invented." The crew is a group of dedicated, if perhaps just a wee bit inept, space travelers. According to the tale, Vulcans have been an uneasy ally of the Earth, having been one of the few planets to establish contact with poor backward us. Here, that ever-slightly-"we're smarter than you" smugness that is a Vulcan trademark is really more of a "boy, you Earthlings are stupid" bluntness. We are introduced to the Klingon race, as

cantankerous as ever, as well as some of the other faces (types, anyway) that we've come to associate with *Trek* over the years. We are also introduced to the Suliban, a race of zealot psychopaths at war with the Klingon Empire, that are able to make themselves invisible. The plot for this pilot episode revolves around taking a Klingon warrior back to his home planet after he has crashed on Earth. Of course, there are trials and tribulations along the way that provide introductions to the cast of characters, most of whom, quite frankly, were rather stock and one-dimensional.

Granted, this sort of science-fiction relies heavily upon tried-and-true formulas, so that the viewer feels at home with the program. However, the formula needs some innovation and pep along the way. The first hour of the telecast provided just that, but I truly thought that the primary group of writers got fired and replaced by the unit from Hack 101 for the second half. Plenty of action, mind you, but the situations had been seen umpteen times before, along with

trite dialogue that had been (fairly) skillfully avoided in the first half. The special effects were top-notch, as one would expect from this franchise. The producers (the same group that helmed the previous incarnations of the original) need to be aware that, just maybe, the audience would like a few surprises along with their standard fare. Their idea of this so far is a somewhat gratuitous sex-scene between the Vulcan science officer and the Earthling lieutenant commander of the ship, which came off more like a scene from a "Beach Party" movie. An infusion of fresh blood (like maybe an introduction of a gay character (which I'm told by an insider is, finally, a distinct possibility -- I'll believe it when I see it) could do a world of wonders here. The performances, on the whole, were engaging, with actors giving it their all; but some gave it more than all — too much. But that could be pilot episode enthusiasm, so I won't point fingers here just now...

Now, let me be clear here, I didn't hate this at all! In fact, considering how much I despised the other shows in this franchise, I can honestly say that I would watch it again to see if they grow. If they do not, then I will say that it has remained true and trite. If they do, however, veer from the ordinary and mundane, I will be the first to say, "THESE are the voyages of the starship *Enterprise*...!"

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Be the bridge.  
Reach in peace  
toward the other side.

excerpted from  
*Japanese Garden*, by Charmaine Aserappa  
(Council Oak Books, 1999)

**Trysts:**  
**A Triskaidecollection**  
**of Queer and Weird Stories**  
**By Steve Berman**  
(Lethe Press, \$13)  
reviewed by Rob

So Halloween has come and gone. Candy is on sale at the stores, decorations are on clearance, and costumes are packed away until next year. But you've still got the itch to read something dark and creepy. What's a body to do? It seems to be hard to find truly scary stories these days, tales that send little jolts down the spine. Our expectations have changed regarding fear; and, Halloween ghosts and goblins aside, there's just not much out there to sate our need for dark fantasy and horror.



Thankfully, help is here in the form of a marvelous collection of short fiction by new author Steve Berman. Steve's first book, *Trysts*, is a haunting collection of stories imbued with both the dark temperament of the goth culture and the eerie otherness of old fairy tales. In Berman's world, everything has the power to take on life, anything can become the incarnation of our deepest desires or darkest fears. From plaster statues to Ouija boards, from paper dolls to old clothing, nothing is without potential. Berman subtitled the collection *A Triskaidecollection of Queer and Weird Stories* and has produced 13 stories to fit that description aptly.

*Trysts* includes stories of awakening desire and dreams fulfilled, as well as tales of innocence corrupted and dark passions sated. Some tales barely dance on the edge of the supernatural while others revel in it. Throughout, Berman infuses each story with enough atmosphere to grab even the most jaded of readers.

While each tale in *Trysts* is well worth reading, a number of stories stand out. "Stormed and Taken in Prague" is a goth dream, complete with pounding music, club excess, violent sexuality, and

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## Trysts

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a growing desire to be consumed by this dark underworld. What makes the story most intriguing is the way it melds the sensibilities of such horror luminaries as H.P. Lovecraft with the goth atmosphere. "Vespers" is a wonderfully creepy story of how one young fraternity brother juxtaposes the world of an old monastic brotherhood with his own life, while "Left Alone" plays an emotionally rich melancholy chord on loss and regret, as a man deals with the death of his lover. Berman even plays with familiar fictional characters in "Finn's Night", where we see one of the lesser-known adventures of Huck Finn.

*Trysts* also includes four stories tied together by a common setting. In these four stories of "The Fallen", Berman describes a near future where part of a city has ended its connection with reality as we know it and has become a place of extraordinary magic and change. Quarantined off to protect those who live in the normal world, this city becomes home to the misfits, the strange, the seekers, the unwanted - all of whom begin to discover their own inner natures and talents. These four tales, the last four in the book, leave one anxious for more, wondering how this place came to be and how this odd assortment of humans and semi-humans will find their way to peace, love and contentment. Strange in a way that those familiar with Jonathan Carroll will appreciate, Berman's "Fallen" tales simply \*are\*, with no apologies and no excuses.

All in all, *Trysts* is a marvelous collection and a surprisingly adept debut for Berman. Goths, fans of the horror and dark fantasy genres, and those seeking a little something to spice up an autumn evening will all certainly get their money's worth here!

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## War for the Oaks

by Emma Bull

(TOR Books, 2001)

a review by Colleen R. Cahill



When thinking of magical places, Avalon or Oz jump to my mind. Certainly Minneapolis is nowhere on the list. But Emma Bull has made this city a place of light and dark in *War for the Oaks*. With a blend of music and magic, humor and conflict, Bull has written an urban fantasy that puts the Fair Folk and rock musicians together in a way that surprises and delights.

Eddi McCandry, rock band guitarist, is having a bad day: the band is breaking up and her love life is going down the tubes. And to top it all off, she is being stalked by a strange, dark man. Or is that a large, dark dog? Eddi soon learns that these are one in the same, and that she has gained a *phouka* body-guard. The Phouka can be a man or a dog, but in either form he is a thorn in Eddi's side. His purpose is to keep her safe so she can be the human emissary for the Seelie Court, who are at war with their rivals, the Unseelie Court. Without her on the battlefield, the Fair Folk would fight but not die, as both sides are immortal without her presence. The fact that Eddi is unwilling to participate does not matter to the either side; she has been chosen and will serve from May Day until the end of Summer. Unless, of course, the Unseelie Court kill her first.

Now Eddi has to form a band and find places to play while not being knocked off by some dark elf. She is also caught up in the class system and politics of the Seelie Court. While initially resistant to being a part of the fairy war, Eddi does learn a great deal about their society and becomes involved with various members, including a brownie and an elven knight. As Eddi gets to know

## Smallville

Superman as Savior-Figure

a commentary by Carl Cipra

Did you manage to catch the premiere of *Smallville* on the WB Channel? Not bad. It included some interesting variations on the Superman legend. The aspect that I'm commenting on here is the development of the image of Superman as a "sci-fi Savior-Figure." It's something that has only gradually been a-building over the course of decades; but it definitely reached its fruition the other night on *Smallville*. (Hang on now. It's gonna take me a while to fill in the background; but I

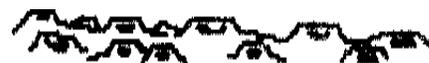
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the Phouka, she realizes that his choice of her was not random, that he has an agenda above the purpose of being able to kill Unseelie Court warriors. The Phouka selected her to shake up things at the staid Seelie Court and change the way the Court sees its purpose.

What makes this book a treasure is the interaction between the characters and their growth throughout the book. The interplay between Eddi and the Phouka is highly amusing, but the relationship changes as both learn from each other. It is not a glib novel, as the war scenes are not softened, nor is the commitment Eddi and her band members make to their music. The contrasts and similarities between these two emotional, creative groups makes this a fascinating work..

The book was originally published in 1987 and Bull used groups like Boiled in Lead and Men without Hats for her musical inspiration. While this dates the work, it also gives it a feeling of reality. TOR's reissue includes a new introduction from the author in which she explains some of the background for the book. This is one of my favorite titles, and I re-read about once a year. If you have never read this book, I give it the highest recommendation. If you have read this and your old copy is wearing out, as mine was, here is your chance to get a replacement.

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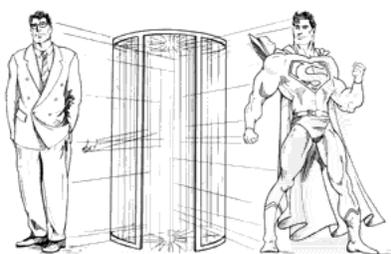
## Smallville

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promise I'll get back to *Smallville* in a bit.)

When Siegel & Shuster first created the Man of Steel back in the 1930s, his "origin story" was a fairly simple variation on the "foundling prince" myth -- similar to the stories of Moses or Oedipus. In such myths, the young child-hero is abandoned by his true parents, is then raised by humble foster parents, and eventually learns his true nature and rises to his rightful station. Superman's "origin story" also contains elements of the Hercules story, in which the son of Zeus is raised by mortal parents and eventually becomes a mighty hero -- and, I might add, eventually ascends to his rightful place in Olympus after a rather grisly death. (I commented on the Superman/Hercules connection when I reviewed Disney's *Hercules* -- issue #92, Nov. 1997.) However, the only connection I've ever been able to make between Siegel & Shuster's Superman and the Christian Savior -- and it's, admittedly, a tenuous one at best -- is based on his Kryptonian name: Kal-El (son of Jor-El). "El" is, after all, Hebrew for "God" (as in: Nathaniel, "Gift of God"; Ariel, "Lion of God"; etc.)

The next step in Superman's closer identification as a Christ-like figure (again, as far as I can tell), came in the 1950s with the advent of *The Adventures of Superman*, the TV series starring George Reeves as the Man of Steel. It comes right up front, during the opening credits. You remember, it's the part that starts with: "Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane!" A couple of lines later, the announcer describes Superman as a "strange visitor from another planet who came to Earth with powers and abilities far beyond those of mortal men" [my emphasis]. "Mortal" -- as opposed to "im-mortal"? OK, so it's not much; but I don't remember anyone else (especially Siegel & Shuster) ever implying that Superman is so god-like that he'll never die. (By the way, this is also when "and the American way" got added to the list of things Superman "fights a never-ending battle for" -- *i.e.* "Truth and Justice". Thank you, Joe



McCarthy and friends.)

Fast forward to *Superman*, the 1978 movie starring Christopher Reeve in the title role. Here it's Alexander and Ilya Salkind (the producers) who are tightening up the identification of Superman as a Christ-like figure. To me, Marlon Brando comes across as a pretty solid Jehovah-analog while he's giving those holographic instructions to his only begotten son during the initial trip to Earth. Young Kal-El is no longer *just* escaping the destruction of Krypton; now he's being tasked by his father to use his incredible powers to protect and champion the poor little Earthlings! (Siegel & Shuster seem to have missed telling us about this particular facet of baby Kal-El's rocket-ride.)

Skipping over the short-term *Superboy* TV series (1998-1991) and the more recent *Lois & Clark*, we come to WB's *Smallville*. (See? I told you I'd get there.) The producers/writers have pretty much pulled out all the stops this time. Superman-as-secular-Christ? How could we miss it? Viewers got to see young Clark Kent *crucified!* Instead of a placard bearing the inscription "INRI," Clark's oh-so-sexy bod is painted with a big red "S". (Nice touch -- "S" for Smallville -- or "scarecrow"? -- instead of Siegel & Shuster's simple "S" for Superman or the Salkinds' idea for the "S-like" Kryptonian symbol that Jor-El always wore.)\* And, instead of a painful Crown of Thorns (mocking Christ's status as "king"), high school jock Whitney Fordman hangs a deadly kryptonite necklace around Clark's neck (mocking Clark's status as Lana Lang's "boy-friend"). About the only part missing is "dying for our sins" -- but that would

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\*On the other hand, the "S" could also stand for Shepard -- as in Matthew -- and the implications for that particular scene become all too horrifying.

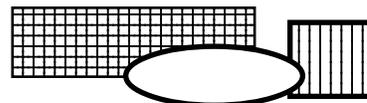
pretty much have ended the TV series right there; and, as I say, Superman is a *secular* Savior. (I guess sci-fi fans will just have to rely on *The Crow* or *Buffy* to "rise again" and save them.)

Oh, and let's not forget the "heavenly portents" announcing Superman's arrival here on Earth -- you've got to admit that a blazing meteor shower is a pretty flashy substitute for the Star of Bethlehem. (The meteor shower is actually a pretty nifty idea; it allows the series to make a lot of previously-unrealized connections and to tie up a lot of loose ends in the Superman myth.) All we need is for those 3 wise nerds from *X-Files* to show up and investigate! (Please, no.)

I can hardly wait to see how this series is going to develop the mythos, particularly the whole Lex Luthor/Clark Kent connection. ("Get thee behind me, Lex Luthor!") And get your mind out of the gutter -- I didn't mean *that!* I also can hardly wait to see what the Christian Right does when the self-appointed Guardians of Truth make these connections and start screaming. (Frankly, I'm surprised they haven't already. Maybe they're too busy watching re-runs of *Little House on the Prairie* on Pax-TV and haven't gotten around to watching the WB Network.) Sorry, Tinky-Winky, but you Tele-Tubbies are small potatoes now.

A final comment -- this one more salacious than philosophical. *Smallville* has definitely maintained my high expectations for "eye candy." Face it, the Superman story (when translated for TV or film) has always been a sure-fire venue for ogling prime examples of male pulchritude. OK, so Kirk Alyn (from the 1948 serial) and George Reeves never did a thing for me; but you've got to admit that John Haymes Newton & Gerard Christopher (successive stars of the 1998-1991 *Superboy* series), Christopher Reeve, and Dean Cain are all "lookers." And with Tom Welling, *Smallville* features possibly the most stunning Superman yet.

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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, November 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, and Rob



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!

Feb. 15-17, 2002 **KATSUCON 8: THE CLASSICS**. Marriott Waterfront Hotel (Baltimore, MD). Guests include: Mark Rogers. Membership: \$45 11/1/01 to 12/31/01; \$50 at the door (sgl-day rates available). Make checks payable to "Katsucon Entertainment, Inc." and send to: Katsucon Entertainment, Inc., Attn: Pre-registration Dept., PO Box 222691, Chantilly, VA 20153-2691. Anime, cosplay, gaming convention. website: [www.katsucon.org](http://www.katsucon.org)

April 5-7, 2002 **JERSEYDEVILCON 2**. Sheraton Edison Hotel, Raritan Center (Edison, NJ). Fantasy GoH: Terry Pratchett. Membership: \$30 (9/1 - 11/30/01); \$35 (12/1/01 - 3/7/02); \$40 thereafter & at door. Make checks payable to "JerseyDevilCon" and send to: JerseyDevilCon, PO Box 403, Metuchen, NJ 08840. website: <http://JerseyDevilCon.hypermart.net/Homepage.html>

May 24-27, 2002 **BALTICON 36**. Wyndham Inner Harbor Hotel (Baltimore, MD). Author GoH: Mark Rogers; Artist GoHs: Phil & Kaja Foglio; Filk GoH: The Boogie Knights. Hotel rooms: \$119/night + tax (sgl/dbl/tpl/quad). Membership: \$35 until 2002 ("more at the door"). Make checks payable to "Balticon 36" and send to: Balticon 36, PO Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203-0686. website: <http://www.balticon.org>

July 12-14, 2002 **SHORE LEAVE 24**. Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Guests: TBA. Memberships available as of 10/1/2001 and at table at Capclave 2001. website: <http://www.shore-leave.com>

August 2-4, 2002 **DIVERSICON 10**. Hotel TBA (Minneapolis, MN). Guests of Honor: Steven Barnes & Tananarive Due. Membership: \$25 thru 12/31/01; \$30, 1/1 - 7/4/02; \$45 at the door. Make checks payable to "Diversicon" and send to: Diversicon, PO Box 8036, Lake Street Stn., Minneapolis, MN 55408. "A gathering of fans, writers, and artists who recognize and appreciate diversity in speculative fiction and media, in the fan community, and in the world around us." For more information on Diversicon: [www.sfmnnesota.com](http://www.sfmnnesota.com)

Aug. 29 - Sept. 2, 2002 **CONJOSE (The 60th World Science Fiction Convention)**. McEnery Convention Center & surrounding hotels (San Jose, CA). Author GoH: Vernor Vinge; Artist GoH: David Cherry; Fan GoH: John & Bjo Trimble. Attending membership: \$160 (7/11 - 12/31/2001; will go UP!). Make checks payable to "ConJose" and send to: ConJose, PO Box 61363, Sunnyvale, CA 94088-1363 (or: [reg@conjose.org](mailto:reg@conjose.org)). website: [www.conjose.org](http://www.conjose.org)