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**GLAAD Nominations Announced**  
 [info passed along by Kendall;  
 as posted in *The Pulse*]



The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) has announced the nominees for its 14th Annual GLAAD Media Awards. The GLAAD Media Awards recognize and honor the media for their presentation of fair, accurate, and inclusive representations of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community and the issues that affect our lives.

The nominations in the Outstanding Comic Book category are as follows:

*The Authority* (Wildstorm/DC Comics)  
*Green Lantern* (DC Comics)  
*Murder Mysteries* (Dark Horse Comics)  
*Strangers in Paradise* (Abstract Studio)  
*X-Statix* (Marvel Comics)

“Diverse media images continue to display the broad spectrum of our lives and stories, and this year’s Media Awards nominees testify once again to the culture-changing power of those images,” said Joan M. Garry, GLAAD’s executive director.

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**Minutes for the January 12th LSF Meeting**

..... taken by Scott .....

The meeting began with a short business discussion. There was no Treasurer report. (Where are the Psi Cops?) There was some discussion about LSF having a table at DC YouthPride on Saturday, April 12, 2003. It was decided not to. It was also noted that no information has arrived yet regarding Capital Pride, which is scheduled to be held this year on Sunday, June 8, 2003.

**Next LSF Meeting  
 - Feb. 9th -**

The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held at James Crutchfield’s apartment (1414 17th St., NW, #413) on Sunday, February 9th. 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!

Peter once again promoted the new LSF polo shirts that come in three colors – red, white and blue. Finally, Rob reminded us that the collected LSF newsletters on CD-rom are still available for sale.

To start off the social portion of the meeting, it was noted that Second Story Books is holding a 20%-off sale. Then Rob passed around various fliers for

(continued on page 2)

**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 LBGT community), we invite you to join the LSF Book Discussion Group. Each month, we conduct 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. The next meeting will be held on February 27th (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 couple of months:

- **February 27th** - *Sea Dragon Heir*, by Storm Constantine; moderator: Greg M.
- **March 27th** - *From the Dust Returned*, by Ray Bradbury; moderator: Carl.

[Ed. note: The other day, when I was in the Olsson’s just off Dupont Circle, I noticed that they were selling hardback copies of *From the Dust Returned* on one of the remainder tables, for about \$8. So, if you really want one, there’s still a chance for you to buy a copy of the hardback with the nifty wraparound Charles Addams painting on the dust jacket!]



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**WHAT'S INSIDE?**

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## Minutes

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upcoming conventions. Rob also advised that neither Gaylaxicon 2003 or 2004 have not as yet announced their hotels, guests of honor, etc.

Carl reported that Robert Picardo (of *Voyager* fame) and Patrick Kilpatrick (character actor from various movies) both appeared at the recent Philcon. (Carl passed around an autographed picture of Kilpatrick.)

It was announced that registration prices for this Labor Day's WorldCon in Toronto – TorCon – will be going up as of January 15, 2003. Rob cheerfully reported that TorCon appears to be planning for quite a number of panels with GLBT content.

Barrett passed around the latest issue of a South African 'zine called *Probe*.

Michael C. said that he recently listened to an "X Minus One" radio program, in which they read Fred Pohl's 1954 story "The Tunnel Under the World," that was eerily reminiscent of *The Thirteenth Floor* and *The Matrix*.

Many meeting attendees dished the current *Star Trek: Nemesis* movie; and many attendees expressed eagerness for seeing the upcoming *X-Men #2* movie.

Rob reminded everyone of the upcoming LSF book discussion group selections: Don Sakers' *Dance for the Ivory Madonna* (January); Storm Constantine's *Sea Dragon Heir* (February); and Ray Bradbury's *From the Dust Returned* (March). He also reminded everyone that the Spectrum Awards is looking for nominations.

After all this disjointed chat, it was time for the annual Lambda Sci Fi blind book exchange! In case you're interested, here's who gave what to whom:

— Mike M. received *The House of the Scorpion*, by Nancy Farmer, from Carl  
— Peter received *Stranger in a Strange Land*, by Robert Heinlein, from Dan H.  
— Barrett received *American Gods*, by Neil Gaiman, from someone, but I didn't write down the name because I was eating a slice of cheesecake.

— Randy received the *Wonderful World of Oz* from – can you guess? – Mike P.  
— John received *Ruled Britannia*, by Harry Turtledove (which Carl has raved

## *The Speed of Dark* by Elizabeth Moon

(Ballantine Books, 2003)

<http://www.sff.net/people>

Elizabeth.Moon/

a review by Colleen R. Cahill

Many of the novels of Elizabeth Moon are military genre works, both in fantasy and science fiction. But she writes about more than swords and tactics, as her Hugo-nominated book *Remnant Population* shows, with its story on an alien society at risk. In her most recent work, *The Speed of Dark*, from Ballantine Books, she explores the world of autism. Writing mainly through the eyes of an autistic person, Moon gives this work an insider's view of a complex condition.

In the near future, genetic defects can be removed at birth or during infancy. No longer are there any autistic children, but there is still a generation of people who are too old for these treatments. Lou Arrendale is one of these: a high-functioning autistic adult. Because of various treatments, he can hold a steady job, live on his own, drive a car and enjoy many friendships. But he is always aware that he is different. He has learned to interact with others and he tries very hard to make people feel comfortable around him. Unlike many with autism, Lou regularly socializes with what he calls "normals", those without autism, through a fencing club. Because he is unsure how his counselor or coworkers would react to his hobby, he keeps this a secret, just as he keeps his romantic interest in Marjory, a member of the fencing club, to himself. Doing and saying the right thing is hard work for

on and on about), from Scott

— Rob received *Freedom & Necessity*, by Steven Brust & Emma Bull, and *Queer Fear*, edited by Michael Rowe, from John  
— Julian received *Beyond the Walls of Terra*, by Philip Jose Farmer, and *Dwellers in the Mirage*, by A.E. Merritt, from Mike C.

— Chris B. received *Minority Report* (the movie, not the book) from Mike M.

— Joe received two videos, *Motel Hell* and *Deranged*, from Randy

— Mike P. received *Colony Fleet*, by



Lou, but he manages and has established several solid friendships both among other autistics and those who are not.

Life becomes more complex for Lou after a new manager arrives who feels that the various supports for autistic staff are too expensive. While he can't just fire Lou or his coworkers, he does discover a new, experimental surgery that could reverse autism in adults. He begins to pressure them to take the treatment or lose their jobs. This is not a simple choice for Lou: if he was no longer autistic, who would he be? Would he still see the patterns and colors of the world or would he lose the wonder for whirling pinwheels and the complex arrangements of classical music. And would he still love Marjory? If so, would she find him attractive, now that he could meet her on even ground?

*The Speed of Dark* has been compared to *Flowers for Algernon*; and it touches on some of the same themes of how disabilities shape our view of ourselves and others. Because Lou is the main voice of the book, *The Speed of Dark* gives us a deep look at the inside of one autistic man, his view of society and reality. I found Lou the most human character in the book: he struggles to be the best person he can and often succeeds beyond his own estimation. Moon has crafted her experiences as a mother of an autistic son into a sensitive and insightful novel. I recommend you pick up a copy of this work and read it today.

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Susan R. Matthews, from James

— James received *Strange Attractors*, by Jeffrey A. Carver, from Joe

— Jim W. received *The Mote in God's Eye*, by Larry Niven & Jerry Pournelle, from Barrett

— Mike C. received *The Gods Themselves*, by Isaac Asimov, from Jim W.

Remember — avoid the evil influence of Uranus!

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## Peter's Annual Genre Movie Review

by Peter Knapp

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2002 was an interesting year for science fiction, fantasy, and horror movies. As in past years, many of this year's films were sequels. Some were good; some were fair; and unfortunately, some were just bad. What follows is my biased opinion of the fifteen genre movies I saw, with my ratings in parentheses.

Of the fifteen genre movies I saw this year, only one was neither a sequel nor based on another work. Not surprisingly, it was also my favorite movie of the year: *Lilo & Stitch* (A+). I wonder if I enjoyed the film in part because I had no reference to go by. Regardless of the film's roots, Disney did an excellent job of telling a story about a young troubled girl who befriends a killer alien on the run. Not a likely pair for a buddy film, but Disney pulled it off masterfully.



My next four favorite movies were all adapted from either comics or books: *Spider-Man* (A+), *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* (A), *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* (A), and *Minority Report* (A-). The first three were excellent adaptations of their source material and successfully translated the printed and illustrated word into an engaging, enjoyable, cinematic experience. After the horrible live action 1998 *Spiderman* TV series, I only hoped that Sam Raimi could make a better adaptation. He delivered in spades, staying true to the source material. Both the *Harry Potter* and *Lord of the Rings* sequels also kept true to their source material. (I must admit, though, to only getting as far as finishing *The Two Towers* in my reading of *LotR* before giving up; I generally don't like quest fantasy.) They also continued the excellent storytelling and visual wonder that made their respective first chapters

such hits. I haven't read Philip K. Dick's *Minority Report* (though I want to now), so I don't know how faithful Stephen Spielberg was to the source material. He made a great movie though. As with *Blade Runner*, *Minority Report* envisions a future that is both glamorous and gritty -- a future that one does not



have to suspend disbelief too much to believe in. I found the movie engrossing and just a tad disturbing. I'm not often disturbed by a movie; and in a twisted sort of way, that enhanced my enjoyment of the movie.

The next six movies all rate a 'B': *The Powerpuff Girls Movie* (B+), *Die Another Day* (B), *Spy Kids 2: Island of Lost Dreams* (B), *Scooby-Doo* (B), *Austin Powers 3: Goldmember* (B-), and *Star Wars: Episode II - Attack of the Clones* (B-). (Note: At the end of *Attack of the Clones*, Rob told me, "At least it didn't suck.") None of them were bad. And I enjoyed all of them to a certain degree. All of these movies were sequels or continuations of well-established franchises. Sitting down to watch these movies, I hoped for and got the warm fuzzy feeling of visiting old friends and catching up with their latest exploits. None of these movies strayed far from their established universes. There's nothing wrong with playing it safe, but that also means they don't stand out from the crowd. On a side note, *Scooby-Doo* was the first live action attempt at showing the Scooby universe. I think the producers did a fine job making the transition to a live-action world.

The final four movies on my list were my big disappointments of the year: *Men in Black II* (C+), *Star Trek: Nemesis* (C+), *Queen of the Damned* (C), and *The Time Machine* (C-). *Men in Black II* rested on its predecessor's laurels. I



didn't find anything particularly inventive about it. *Nemesis* broke the *Star Trek* movie trend by being a bad even-numbered *Trek* film. The franchise's

controllers, Rick Berman and Brannon Braga, have stopped creating anything entertaining; they just churn out product. Boo hoo.

I think my expectations for *Queen of the Damned* were too high. I really liked its predecessor, *Interview with a Vampire*, and looked forward to a continuation of the saga. But with different people in front of and behind the cameras, *Queen of the Damned* was a very different beast than *Interview with a Vampire*.



Yes, I know I'm being inconsistent here. On the one hand I condemned *Nemesis* for being too much like its predecessors; on the other hand, I didn't care for *Queen of the Damned* for being so different from the first movie. There's a fine line between staying familiar and departing from the familiar. *Spy Kids 2* is a good example. The sequel expanded on the original, while retaining the charm and innocence of the first. *Nemesis* sank in a pond of stagnant water. *Queen of the Damned* went over a waterfall.

It's interesting that my least and most favorite genre films of the year had similarities. Both were not sequels, so I didn't have previous installments to compare them to. I knew very little about both of them. (Granted, I've seen the George Pal version of *The Time Machine*, but I did know that the new version was going to be very different from the original.) I didn't have any real expectations going into either one; but one amazed me; the other left me cold.

While I plan to nominate my top five favorite movies for the Hugo, I expect *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* will easily win the 2002 Hugo, just as the first installment of the saga won the 2001 Hugo. Also, there are nine genre movies I did not get a chance to see this year: *Clockstoppers*, *Dragonfly*, *Eight-Legged Freaks*, *Reign of Fire*, *The Scorpion King*, *Signs*, *Solaris*, *Stuart Little 2*, and *Treasure Planet*. Who knows, maybe I'll revise my ballot when I catch these movies on video or cable.

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## New Gay Icon?



“SpongeBob [is] the biggest children’s phenomenon to capture the imagination of gay men since the purple Teletubby named Tinky Winky started carrying a purse.”

– quotation from reporter Sally Beatty, on the gay fans of Nickelodeon cartoon character *SpongeBob SquarePants*, in the *Wall Street Journal*, October 8, 2002 (from “rants & raves”, *The Advocate*, November 26, 2002)

[Ed. note: I just don’t understand this at all!! What’s the attraction?]

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**You are never  
completely worthless.  
You can always  
set a bad example.**

— Dr. Robert Payne —  
(statistician & leadership expert)

## Gay Caballero by Dareh Gregorian [from NYPOST.com] December 9, 2002 EXCLUSIVE

He may be the fastest gun in the West, but one longtime Marvel Comics character is no straight shooter.

The Rawhide Kid, who made his comics debut in the 1950s, will soon be blasting his way out of the closet and be revealed as a gay gunslinger.

The outing occurs in the new series “Rawhide Kid: Slap Leather,” which comes out in February. Marvel, which is also the home of Spider-Man and the Incredible Hulk, describes it as “Go West meets the Old West.”

“This is going to be the first gay Western,” said the company’s editor-in-chief, Joe Quesada.

Created in 1957 in an attempt to capitalize off of the old TV show *Rawhide*, the Kid “was always shown as a shy-around-girls kind of guy,” Quesada said. “Now you know why.”

The Marvel honcho said the Kid won’t make any pronouncements about his sexual orientation but promised readers will “know it from the moment you see him.”

“It’s a classic Western, like *Shane*, but with a gay twist,” said writer Ron Zimmerman. While the story has “a comedic slant,” Zimmerman said he hopes the 21st-century kid is “an empowering character that the gay community would be able to embrace.”

One tipoff about his orientation comes in the first issue, when he’s asked about the Lone Ranger.

“I just want to meet him. I think that mask and powder-blue outfit are fantastic,” he says. “I can certainly see why that Indian follows him around.”

Asked about Wild Bill Hickock, he says, “Very nice man. Big - ahem - I mean bigger than life.”

The hero dresses in black leather, white gloves and a white cowboy hat made of imported Canadian beaver, which he tells one of the bad guys “probably costs more than your horse.”



Rawhide Kid -- The Original

Speculation that the Kid would be coming out has been a hot topic on several comedy-oriented Web sites, with some longtime fans upset about the new direction for the formerly thought-to-be hetero hero.

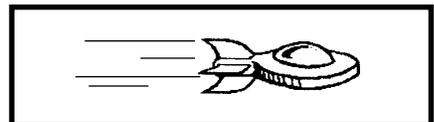
Quesada said the revelation is just a way of pumping new life into the character. The new spin can also give new enjoyment to people who read his old adventures, he said.

“The old Rawhide Kid comics portrayed him as a very immature young man who never really had a meaningful relationship,” he said.

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Rawhide Kid -- New Version



## Green Lantern Survey

info passed along by Kendall

[Ed. Note: I've had this sitting in my files for a few months already. I hope it's still valid.]



I read this on the "queercomix" mailing list. It's a survey that two profs set up. Don't be confused, BTW — if you do the survey, you're taken back to the survey page again. If you scroll down, you'll see a green "thank you! submission recorded successfully."

•••••

I want to call your attention to an online survey about the hate crime story line in Green Lantern issues 154 & 155. The survey may be found at [http://www2.oakland.edu/com/green\\_survey.cfm](http://www2.oakland.edu/com/green_survey.cfm) We would really like to get reader response to this story line. Do you think you may be able to forward the message on to those you know who read the Green Lantern? Would you consider posting it on your website?

---Valerie

Issues 154 (September 2002) and 155 (October 2002) of the Green Lantern comic book feature a story line in which the 17 year old character, Terry Berg, is the victim of anti-gay violence. Terry and his boyfriend, David, leave a dance club and engage in a kiss. Three men witness the public display of affection and chase after Terry and David. David escapes, but the men catch Terry and beat him brutally. Terry suffers from a skull fracture, a broken arm, two broken legs, four broken ribs and a collapsed lung. He is on a respirator and is in a coma and he also is in danger of losing an eye. The Green Lantern seeks out the three perpetrators of the crime and he beats them all equally as brutally. The Green Lantern is so distraught by what has happened to Terry that he decides to leave the earth.

Valerie Palmer-Mehta, Ph.D.

## A Cartoon by Chris Browning



and Kellie Hay, Ph.D. of the Department of Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan are conducting a research study to assess reader reaction to this story line. The results of the study will be printed in one or more research articles and the articles will be made available to the writer of Green Lantern, Judd Winnick. By participating in the survey, you are giving your consent to have your anonymous answers used in the aforementioned research. Participants' names are not required to do the survey and nothing identifying any participant will be used in any article.

Your participation is completely voluntary and you have a right to refuse to participate with no penalty or loss of benefits. You may discontinue participation at any time without penalty. While the researchers are writing the articles, the survey responses will be kept in a locked drawer in a locked office to ensure confidentiality. The surveys will be destroyed once the articles have been published. Your participation in this

research ends once you have completed this survey. There are no foreseeable risks or discomforts to filling out the survey. For answers to pertinent questions regarding this survey or if you have questions regarding research related injury, you may contact Valerie Palmer-Mehta or Kellie Hay at 248-370-4122. For questions regarding the rights of human subjects in research, you may contact Dr. Christine Hansen, Chair, Oakland University Institutional Review Board, 248-370-3223.

Directions: Please answer the following questions to the best of your abilities. We are interested in your thoughts and perceptions, so please feel free to explain your opinion in the level of detail that feels comfortable to you.

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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, February 9th**, 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, Mike C., Peter, and Rob



Feb. 14-16, 2002 **KATSUCON NINE**. Hyatt Regency Crystal City (Arlington, VA). Anime, gaming, cosplay, dealers, panels, guests. Membership: no pre-registrations after 12/31; "at door" prices only.

E-mail: [katsucon@katsucon.org](mailto:katsucon@katsucon.org)

Website: [www.katsucon.com](http://www.katsucon.com)

May 23-26, 2003 **BALTICON 37**. Wyndham Baltimore Inner Harbor Hotel (Baltimore, MD). GoH: Sharon Lee & Steve Miller; featured artists: Sheila & Omar Rayyan. Membership: \$40 to 2/28/2003; \$45, 3/1 - 4/30; \$50 at the door. Make checks payable to "Balticon 37" and send to: Balticon 37, PO Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203-0686.

E-mail: [balticoninfo@balticon.org](mailto:balticoninfo@balticon.org)

Website: [www.balticon.org](http://www.balticon.org)

July 11-13, 2003 **SHORE LEAVE 25**. Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Guests include: John Rhys Davies (*LoTR's* Gimli, *Indiana Jones's* Sallah); Marina Sirtis (*ST:TNG's* Deanna Troi); Andrea Thompson (*B5's* Talia Winters); Marc Singer (*Beastmaster*). Membership: \$50 until 6/31/03 (higher at the door). Make checks payable to "Shore Leave" and send (with 2 SASE's) to: Shore Leave 25, PO Box 6809, Towson, MD 21285-6809.

E-mail: [information@shore-leave.com](mailto:information@shore-leave.com)

Website: [www.shore-leave.com](http://www.shore-leave.com)

Aug. 28 - Sept. 1, 2003 **TORCON 3 (The 61st World Science Fiction Convention)**. Metro Toronto Convention Centre & surrounding hotels (Toronto, Ontario, Canada). Guests of Honor: George R.R. Martin (author), Frank Kelly Freas (artist), Mike Slyer (fan), Spider Robinson (Toastmaster). Membership: \$185 US for attending adults (valid as of 1/16/2003 -- will go up!). Make checks payable to "Torcon 3" and send to: Torcon 3, PO Box 3, Station A, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5W 1A2.

E-mail: [info@torcon3.on.ca](mailto:info@torcon3.on.ca)

Website: [www.torcon3.on.ca](http://www.torcon3.on.ca)

Sept 19-21, 2003 **CAPCLAVE 2003**. Hotel: to be named later (DC Metro area). Guest of Honor: William Tenn. Membership: \$30 thru 8/1/2003; \$35 thru 9/5/03; \$40 at the door. Make checks payable to "Capclave" and send to: Capclave 2003 Registration, c/o Cathy Green, 3003 Van Ness St. NW, Apt. W527, Washington, DC 20008.

E-mail: [info@capclave.org](mailto:info@capclave.org)

Website: [www.capclave.org](http://www.capclave.org)

Sept. 2-6, 2004 **NOREASCON 4 (The 62nd World Science Fiction Convention)**. Hynes Convention Center & surrounding hotels (Boston, Mass.). Pro GoHs: Terry Pratchett & William Tenn. Attending membership: until 2/28/03, \$140 for attending adults (will go up!) Membership form on-line; registration also available on-line. Make checks payable to "Noreascon 4" and send to: Noreascon Four/MCFI, PO Box 1010, Framingham, MA 01701-1010.

For general questions: [info@mcfi.org](mailto:info@mcfi.org)

Website: [www.noreascon.org](http://www.noreascon.org)

