



# LAMBDA SCI-FI



DC Area Gaylaxians

PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (202) 232-3141 - Issue #164 - Nov. 2003

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

## LSF Madness Video Party -- Saturday, Nov. 1st --

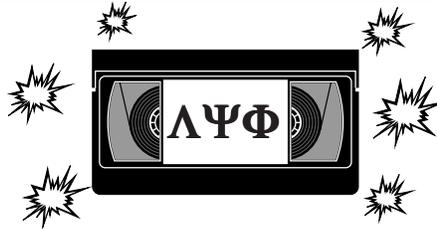
Date: Saturday, November 1, 2003  
Time: 4:00pm - ??

Location: At Julian's place — 2462 Tunlaw Road, NW (Georgetown)

**What to Bring:** As with all of the LSF "Video Madness" parties, attendees should bring food to share (main dish, side dish, dessert, etc.) and/or drinks (non-alcoholic) to share and (of course) their favorite genre films. Attendees will vote on what to watch on a couple of screens.

**Metrorail/Bus Directions:** Take the Pennsylvania Avenue Line, Buses 30, 32, 34, 35, and 36. These buses stop at the following Metro stations: Friendship Heights, Tenleytown/AU, Foggy Bottom/GWU, Farragut West, Archives/Naval Memorial, Eastern Market, Potomac Avenue, Naylor Road, and Southern Avenue. Get off at the Calvert Street stop (just before the Russian Embassy if you're on a north-bound bus; just after the Russian Embassy if you're traveling on a south-bound bus). Travel west on Calvert. Cross 37th Street. Walk one block, and turn left at Tunlaw Road. Julian's house is the third house from the corner.

For the bus schedule, call Metro information at 202-637-7000 or visit their website at www.wmata.com. You'll need Adobe Acrobat Reader (a



free download at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)) to access the bus schedules.

**Driving Directions:** If you are driving from the North, drive south on Wisconsin Avenue (from the direction of National Cathedral). Turn right on Calvert Street. Cross 37th Street; then left at Tunlaw Road. Julian's house is the third house from the corner.

If you are driving from the South, drive north on Wisconsin (from the LSF Madness Video Party direction of M Street). Turn left on Calvert Street. Cross 37th Street; then left at Tunlaw Road. Julian's house is the third house from the corner.

**For more information** call 202-306-1497 on the day of the party, or 202-483-6369 prior to the day of the party.

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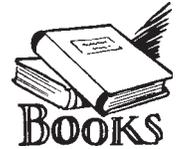
## Next LSF Meeting - Nov. 9th -

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

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## 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. However, the *next* meeting will be held on December 4th (a special combined November-December session).

While Peter & Rob's house is undergoing renovations, the LSF Book Discussion Group will meet at a new venue: Brian & Sean's condo: 1300 13th St. NW #108 (Solo Piazza Building, on the corner of 13th & "N" Streets). For directions or more details, call 202-968-8737).

Here's the schedule for the next couple of months:

- **Dec. 4th** (NOTE: special *combined* Nov.-Dec. discussion) - *Fat White Vampire Blues* by Andrew Fox; moderator: Keith.
- **Jan. 22nd** - *Spin State* by Chris Moriarty; moderator: Rob.
- **Feb. 26th** - *Women Writing Science Fiction as Men*, edited by Mike Resnick; moderator: Carl.

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**WHAT'S INSIDE?** Minutes for the October LSF Meeting (pg. 2); Announcing the Formation of the Gaylactic Film Festival Committee (pg. 2); Report on the Czech Horror and Fantasy Fest at AFI (pg. 3); The Sidewise Awards (pg. 3); *The Steerswoman's Road* (book review - pg. 4); In Praise of Dover Thrift Editions (book reviews - pg. 4); About Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians & Con Calendar (pg. 6)

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## Minutes for the October LSF Meeting

taken by Scott

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There was a **vote on the proposal** made at the last LSF meeting regarding setting up a Pay Pal account for LSF. The proposal passed. (This included four absentee ballots in support of the proposal.)

Once again, LSF is a community partner at this year's **Reel Affirmations film festival**. This year's movie is non-genre and is called *Leo*. Hopefully, this film will be a marked improvement over last year's *Don't Ask, Don't Tell*. Speaker Michael C. will speak just before *Leo* is shown. Also, LSF favorite author Keith Hartman will have a short film -- called *G.A.D.A.R.* -- included in the festival (shown on Tuesday, Oct. 21st at 9:00PM).

Carl passed around an *Advocate* article about GLBT content in anime and a print-out from a steampunk website entitled "The Difference Dictionary" ([www.sff.net/people/gunn/dd](http://www.sff.net/people/gunn/dd)).

Barrett passed around *Cyber Cozen*, a newsletter from an Israeli SF group, and *Probe*, a newsletter from a South Africa SF group.

Michael passed around a copy of *Rue Morgue* a Canadian horror magazine. Rob passed around the Gaylaxicon 2004 progress report #1.

**Book news:** Carl dragged an incredibly thick hardback book by Neil Stephenson entitled *Quicksilver*. Stephenson's previous novel was *Cryptonomicon*; and *Quicksilver*, although it's historical fiction, contains characters who are ancestors of some of the characters in *Cryptonomicon*. (Sorry, *Quicksilver* has received some bad reviews.)

Rob reminded everyone about the upcoming LSF book club discussions: *Queer Fear II* anthology (October); *Fat White Vampire Blues* (November/December); and *Spin State* (January, 2004).

**Movie outings** - *Lord of the Rings I, II and III* in December. Look forward to e-mails with details.

Michael C. reported that *Die*

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*Mommy Die* is opening on Halloween. He also mentioned that Mattel has a Harry Potter-inspired "Secret Spells Barbie" doll.

Previews of *Scary Movie III* look entertaining.

**TV News:** Carl provided mixed ratings for Cartoon Network's *Duck Dodgers*. There was much discussion about HBO's strange *Carnivale* series, centering upon good vs. evil during the Great Depression. *Myth Busters*, a series that attempts to debunk myths (like getting electrocuted when urinating on the third rail of a train track) was discussed. The new season of *Angel* appears to be lighter than last season. Peter has improved hopes for UPN's *Enterprise* and loves *Jake 2.0!*

Televisionwithoutpity.com recently played up a scene on *Smallville* between Clark Kent and Lex Luthor in which Lex is helping tie Clark's tie -- and Lex's face is very, very close to Clark's face.

WB just got the rights to *Lost in Space* -- but it will *not* include the Dr. Smith character.

*Bubba Hotep*, a strange movie out there somewhere -- Bruce Campbell plays a senior citizen who thinks that he is Elvis. A mummy battle! (Look for more details via e-mail.)

There was some lively chat about Showtime's *Dead Like Me*, a show about Grim Reapers who help people move on to the Other World, especially those who die violently. Rather quirky.

At [watcherscouncil.com](http://watcherscouncil.com), avid *Buffy* fans have continued to write a new series.

Michael reported on his Goatman's Hollow outing -- lots of fun!

And it was decided to have another famous **LSF video party** on Saturday, November 1, 2003 at the home of Julian! (For details, see article on page 1 of this newsletter.)

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## Announcing the Formation of the Galactic Film Festival Committee

by Wayne Wilkening



The Gaylaxians Science Fiction Society (GSFS), a member of the Galactic Network, is proud to announce the creation of the Galactic Film Festival. This festival will focus on and reinforce the core purposes of GSFS and the Galactic Network by providing a forum for the exhibition and discussion of works in the Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror and related genres with significant positive GLBT content. The committee with formed with the vision of providing the awards annually with an initial target for the first awards to coincide with Worldcon 2004 held in Boston over Labor Day weekend.

This is an open call to all interested parties regardless of experience or location to become members of the committee that will structure, plan, and carry out all aspects of the Galactic Film Festival. If you want to help form and be a part of this new and exciting endeavor, join the yahoo working group exclusively for the festival committee. You can join the group at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/galacticfilmfest/join>

We're looking for people with all levels of skills with the only requirement being a commitment to contribute. If you have web, publicity, organization, previous festival, marketing, production, envelope stuffing or even just "gopher" skills, the Galactic Film Festival has a place for you. It's not even necessary to be in the Boston area.

So check your calendar. You KNOW you want more genre works with GLBT content. Help encourage, promote and recognize the works that exist!

Please responsibly forward this on to interested groups and individuals.

The Gaylaxians Science Fiction Society is a Boston-based registered 501 (c) 3 nonprofit corporation



**Report on the Czech  
Horror and Fantasy Fest  
at AFI  
by Mike C.**

Last month, I spent almost every night for a week at the American Film Institute in Silver Spring, seeing the films in AFI's Czech Horror & Fantasy series. Some were so-so; some were noteworthy. Thought I'd give y'all a quick rundown:

...*And the Fifth Horseman Is Fear* (1964) - Quasi-Orwellian fable of a Jewish doctor trying to treat a wounded resistance worker in Nazi-occupied Prague. OK, but its genre connections are tenuous and it's pretty downbeat.

*Valerie and Her Week of Wonders* (1970) - Trippy, surreal look at a girl's sexual awakening, with a boyfriend who might be her brother, a father who might be a vampire, a grandmother who might be her cousin... hard to tell what's going on half the time. Pretty, but a little too much youth-culture trippiness ultimately dates it.

*Who Would Kill Jessie?* (1966) - Funny slapstick comedy about a mousy engineer who dreams about a comic-strip heroine. When his domineering wife injects him with a drug to suppress his dreams, they instead come to life. Now they have a Bardot-esque blonde, a gun-slinging cowboy, and a musclebound villain running around Prague... and talking in word balloons! Cute ideas, fun execution, and the muscleman was definite eye candy.

*The Ear* (1970) - More of a suspense thriller, really, but still darned good. A government official and his wife argue at home after a boozy function, wondering if someone broke in, and worrying about which rooms are bugged. ("The Ear" of the title is the government's omnipresent bugs.) Very anti-communist, it was suppressed for twenty years. One of the better movies of the series.

*The Cremator* (1968) - A death-obsessed operator of a crematorium is dancing on the edge of madness... but as he's slowly seduced by the ideas of the Nazi party, he goes completely insane. Slow-building but ultimately devastating character study that also is a searing

**The Sidewise  
Awards**  
info passed along  
by Carl



The 2002 Sidewise Awards for Alternate History were presented at TorCon, the 61st World Science Fiction Convention, on Sunday, Aug. 31, 2003.

The Sidewise Awards for Alternate History were conceived in late 1995 to honor the best Alternate History publications of the year. The award takes its name from Murray Leinster's 1934 short story "Sidewise In Time", in which a strange storm causes portions of Earth to swap places with their analogs from other timelines. Two awards are given each year. The Short-Form Award is presented for the best work of less than 60,000 words. (This includes short stories, novelettes and novellas, and poems.) The Long-Form Award is presented for the best work longer than 60,000 words. (This category includes individual novels and longer works. If a book is part of a series, it must be able to stand on its own to be considered. If it is part of a serial novel -- a series in which the storyline is continuous and no volume can stand on its own -- the complete serial novel will be considered at such time as the final volume is published.)

indictment of the insanity of the Nazi party. My favorite film of the series.

*Invisible* (1988) - Gothic melodrama in a big country house, with an ambitious newcomer, a resentful poor cousin, a flighty heiress, a senile auntie, and an incestuous uncle who's convinced he's invisible. Well-made but ultimately little more than what it presents.

*Morgiana* (1971) - More gothic melodrama, this time between two sisters, one good and one not so good, and throwing in romance, poison, murder, and a cat. OK stuff, sometimes inadvertently funny because of many over-the-top costumes and hairstyles. Based on a story by Alexander Grin, the Russian Poe.

"Jan Svankmajer Shorts": I'm fascinated with Svankmajer's work,

This year's winners are:  
2002 Best Short-Form Alternate History - "Empire" by William Sanders (*Alternate Generals II*, ed. Harry Turtledove, Baen Books)

Other Short-Form Finalists - "We Come Not to Praise Washington" by Charles Coleman Finlay (*The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction*, Aug); "The Invisible Empire" by John Kessel (*Conjunctions: 39, The New Wave Fabulists*, ed. Peter Straub, Bard College); "With Caesar in the Underworld" by Robert Silverberg (*Asimov's Science Fiction*, Oct/Nov); "The Last Ride of German Freddie" by Walter Jon Williams (*Worlds that Weren't*, ed. Laura Anne Gilman, NAL/Roc)

2002 Best Long-Form Alternate History - TIE! - *The Severed Wing*, by Martin J. Gidron (Livingston Press) AND *Ruled Britannia* by Harry Turtledove (NAL/Roc)

Other Long-Form Finalists - *The Year of the Hangman* by Gary Blackwood (Dutton Books); *The Separation* by Christopher Priest (Scribner's UK); *The Peshawar Lancers* by S.M. Stirling (NAL/Roc)

For more information about the Sidewise Awards and the alternate history genre, check out "Uchronia, the Alternate History List" at the following website: [www.uchronia.com](http://www.uchronia.com)

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having seen two of his feature films, *Faust* and *Alice*, several times (including previous LSF video parties). The shorts shown here were entertaining, for the most part. *The Castle of Otranto* (1977) is based on the Walpole novel, and animates Victorian illustrations to tell the story. *The Fall of the House of Usher* (1980) is moody and weird and not totally satisfying. *The Pit, the Pendulum and Hope* (1983) gives a darker version of the Poe tale, with the camera giving us only the narrator's point of view. *Down to the Cellar* (1983) is vintage Svankmajer, as a girl goes to the basement to fetch some potatoes and encounters weird people, feral shoes, and a giant cat. Witty and creepy; it's a great evocation of a child's fear of the dark.

"Czech Mate", two films from

(continued on page 4)

**The Steers-  
woman's Road**  
by Rosemary  
Kirstein  
reviewed by  
Colleen R. Cahill



What if I told you of a book about a woman searching for magical blue jewels in a feudal land, fighting off dragons and wizards with the help of her trusty barbarian friend? You would call it a fantasy, right? And that is how Rosemary Kirstein's *The Steerswoman's Road* seems to start. But appearances can be deceiving, and soon you realize this is a science fiction story in fantasy clothing.

Rowan is a steerswoman — she travels through the In Lands and Outskirts seeking knowledge and will answer any question... as long as you are willing to answer any from her. She keeps a detailed notebook, recording flora and fauna, culture and custom, with just about any data that seems useful. She and her fellow steerswomen and steersmen send their logs back to a central archive, where the information is gathered, cataloged and shared with all — all who are not under ban, such as the wizards, who have refused to share their learning with anyone (just the opposite of the Steerswomen).

It is the way Rowan looks at the world that tells me the book is science fiction. In just a half dozen pages, she displays the skills of a trained observer, an analyst, and a researcher. This is a person after detailed, logical knowledge, building a hypothesis on reports and hard evidence. Through the story, Rowan runs into wizard "magic", which the reader will eventually recognize as technology — such as the eastern and western guidestars, that never move in the sky, or a wizard's magically guarded box that shocks anyone who tampers with it. What Kirstein has done is not make Rowan a genius who can see it all. Rather, Rowan gathers pieces of the puzzle and sometimes follows the red herring. Only after careful study, with many notes and tests, does she reach a conclusion; but not always the one we reach.

Rowan is believable because she doesn't figure out technology at one, two, or even three exposures. Her search for the blue gems brings her to the attention of the wizards, especially one wizard who decides that the world would be a better place with one less steerswoman. While there is a hierarchy to the wizards, they are often at war with each other; and Rowan has to learn who can be trusted (at least at some level) and with what information.

One distraction I felt with the book was the complete altruism of the steerswomen. As Rowan states: "Whatever doesn't affect our work, doesn't matter." This means they seem immune to the temptations of power, the battles of ego, and the desire for personal gain. Unlike the research community of today, the Steerswomen don't bicker, fight, or backstab. This is not a fatal flaw to this intriguing story, but I do wish some of them would show a bit more self-interest.

*The Steerswoman's Road* is actually *two* novels originally published between 1989 and 1992. This is science fiction; don't let the background mislead you. It also includes some good fight scenes and an interesting alien world. As for what those magic blue gems are... well, I did not figure it out until the end of the first book. Why not see if you can do better?

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**Czech Fest at AFI**  
continued from page 3

director Jiri Barta: *The Pied Piper* (1986) retells the classic fairy tale with wooden puppets, and gives a darker ending. *The Last Theft* (1987) tells about a jewel thief breaking into a crypt and finding it full of vampires. Visually interesting, if not too enthralling. Filmed in b/w, it's full of bizarre hand-tinting.

It was certainly an interesting series, if nothing else. *The Cremator* was genuinely exceptional, *The Ear* was definitely up there, and it's always fun to watch Svankmajer's work. Even the not-so-hot ones were agreeable time-wasters. It's a shame that most of these will never come to video here in the U.S., as most of them deserve a wider audience.

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**In Praise of Dover  
Thrift Editions**  
by Carl Cipra

There's a source — an *inexpensive* source — for rare and/or little-known classic genre works — a source that you might not have thought about: Dover Thrift Editions. Yep, Dover Thrift Editions — those thin little booklets that cost less than \$2.00 apiece (some only \$1.00 or \$1.50). Maybe you find this hard to believe? Well, let me tell you about a few Dover Thrift Editions genre works I've purchased.



***Dr. Faustus*, by Christopher Marlowe**  
(\$1.50)

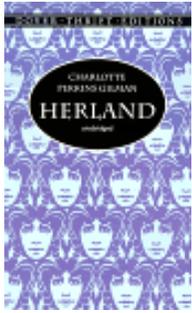
This play is, of course, based on the classic German tale of the learned doctor who sells his soul to the Devil in exchange for knowledge and power. *Dr. Faustus* has always been one of my favorite plays. It's a marvelous piece of tragic drama, written in blank verse. One of its most famous passages is spoken by Faustus as he conjures the spirit of Helen of Troy: "Was this the face that launch'd a thousand ships, / And burnt the topless towers of Ilium?" The author, Christopher Marlowe (1564-1593), was one of Elizabethan England's greatest playwrights — and reputedly "one of the boys".

(continued on page 5)



## Dover Thrift Editions

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### **Herland, by Charlotte Perkins Gilman (\$1.50)**

When we first assembled the “Lambda Sci-Fi Recommends” reading list, Loree (our first Speaker) made sure we included this work. Well, it took me a number of years, but I finally got around to reading it. Charlotte Perkins Gilman (1860-1935) was a feminist, free-thinker, and social critic. She had rather radical ideas about women’s role in the patriarchal society in which she lived; and she firmly believed in women’s potential to create a healthier and happier way of living if they were free from male domination. *Herland* (1915) was Gilman’s expression of her views, presented as an action-adventure story. It was originally serialized in *The Forerunner*, a monthly magazine edited and entirely written by Gilman herself (from 1909 to 1916). It’s very well-written – in fact, I found it a much easier and more enjoyable read than Doyle’s “Professor Challenger” stories or than almost any work by Verne. And it’s way better than Edward Bellamy’s more-widely-known utopian novel *Looking Backward* (1881)! *Herland* tells how three male explorers stumble across an all-female society isolated on a remote, virtually inaccessible plateau somewhere in South America. Gilman seems to have great fun demolishing the male-oriented pretensions of the three men – each representing a different attitude of men toward women (Alpha Male, Romanticizer, and “sensitive/liberal” man) – while providing the reader with an exposition of Herland’s logical, humane, pacific society. She even provides clear explanations of how the inhabitants of this isolated plateau have developed a self-sufficient civilization that doesn’t over-tax the limited available resources. Surprisingly, the turn-of-the-century Gilman even foreshadows such “feminist” SF works as Nicola Griffith’s *Ammonite*, in that the all-female population of Herland reproduce asexually, by

parthenogenesis. (Thanks for the heads-up on this incredible work, Loree!)

### **Tales of Conjure and the Color Line: 10 Stories, by Charles Waddell Chesnutt (\$2.00)**

I became interested in the works of Charles Waddell Chesnutt after reading “The Goophered Grapevine” – anthologized in *Dark Matter: A Century of Speculative Fiction from the African Diaspora*, one of the selections for the LSF book discussion group. Chesnutt (1858-1932) was a pioneer in writing fiction which gave a voice to the African-American experience, and he has been called the “father of the African American short story.” Each of the “Conjure Tales” included in this collection demonstrates Chesnutt’s ability to write accurate vernacular dialog and to portray black folklore, myths, and superstitions from the post-Civil War South. Chesnutt himself was the son of “free mulattoes”; and although his one-sixteenth “Negro blood” would have allowed him to pass for white, he chose to identify with his African-American heritage. I found that “The Goophered Grapevine” was much the best of the “Conjure Tales” included here (it was also Chesnutt’s first real literary success, 1887). I actually much prefer his “Tales of the Color Line”, all of which realistically (and sometimes tragically) portray the values, manners, and social problems of mixed-blood middle-class men and women.



C.W. Chesnutt

– the source, in fact, of the word “robot” – and Karel Capek (1890-1938) is one of the best-known literary figures from the former Czechoslovakia. (*Let’s hear it for the home-boy!*) *R.U.R.* was written in 1920; and, as with many of the early modern works of science fiction, the dialog is rather stilted and the characterizations swing between melodramatic and cardboard – it’s primarily a work of *ideas* rather than literary merit. If you read it carefully, I think you’ll agree that Capek touches on most (if not all) of the tropes and themes we’re used to seeing in later “robot literature” – including the “seminal” works of Asimov! In fact, there were passages in *R.U.R.* that even reminded me of scenes from the film *Blade Runner!*

These aren’t, by any means, the only genre works available as Dover Thrift Classics. Other available titles include: *Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions*, by Edwin A. Abbott; *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*, by Lewis Carroll; *A Christmas Carol*, by Charles Dickens; *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, by Robert Louis Stevenson; *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, by Oscar Wilde; *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, by William Shakespeare; *Utopia*, by Sir Thomas More.

Ah, but where to find them? In many bookstores, Dover Thrift Classics are mixed in with all the other genre works in the “Science Fiction/Fantasy” shelves – or buried somewhere in the “Drama” or “Fiction/Literature” sections, as appropriate. Olssen’s Bookstores, however, make them fairly easy to locate – the Dupont Circle and Courthouse stores, for example, each have a separate bookstand just for Dover Thrift Classics. Or you can check them out on-line (along with all the *other* cool things Dover has to offer) at:

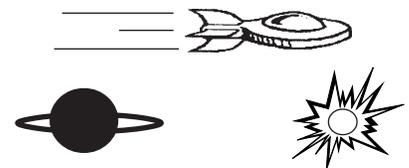
[www.doverpublications.com](http://www.doverpublications.com)

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### **R.U.R., by Karel Capek (\$1.50)**

OK, so how could I *not* read this one? *R.U.R.* (which stands for “Rossum’s Universal Robots”) is one of the seminal works of fantastic literature



**\*\* 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 \$10, for which you will receive an e-mailed this monthly newsletter and a membership directory. (Hard copies of the newsletter cost an additional \$15 per year.) 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 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, Peter, and Rob



Nov. 21-23, 2003 **CAPCLAVE 2003**. Hilton Silver Spring (Silver Spring, MD). Guest of Honor: William Tenn. Membership: \$35 thru 11/1/03; \$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)

Nov. 28-30, 2003 **DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL MEETING XXVI**. Holiday Inn, Timonium (Timonium, MD). Guest of Honor: Diana Paxson; Artist Guest of Honor: Desiree Kern; Special Guest: Katherine Kurtz. *Avery* GLBT-friendly con. Membership: \$40 until 11/1/2003; \$45 after that and at the door. Make checks payable to "Armida Council" and send to: Armida Council, PO Box 7203, Silver Spring, MD 20907. (If you wish membership confirmation, enclose a stamped, self-addressed *postcard*.) For further information: [members@darkovercon.com](mailto:members@darkovercon.com) -or- [jaille@darkovercon.com](mailto:jaille@darkovercon.com) -or- at the PO box address

Dec. 12-14, 2003 **PHILCON 2003**. Marriott City Center (Philadelphia). *Avery* GLBT-friendly convention! Guest of Honor: Jack McDevitt; Artist Guests of Honor: Greg & Tim Hildebrandt; Special Guests: Peter David & Harry Harrison. Membership: \$40 until 5/31/2003 (will go up). Go to website to download pdf of registration form.

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

April 8 - 11, 2004 **GAYLAXICON 2004 - SANDIEGO**. The annual national GLBT science-fiction/fantasy/horror/comics/gaming convention. Red Lion Hanalei Hotel (San Diego, CA). Author Guest of Honor: David Gerrold; Artist Guest of Honor: Joe Phillips. Membership: \$45 until 12/21/2003; then \$50 until 2/29/2004; and \$60 at the door. Make checks payable to "Gaylaxicon 2004 - San Diego" and send to: Gaylaxicon 2004 - San Diego, 1010 University Ave., PMB #946, San Diego, CA, 92103-3395. Membership forms available on-line. Information at: [www.gaylaxicon.org/2004](http://www.gaylaxicon.org/2004) E-mail: [Gaylaxicon2004@aol.com](mailto:Gaylaxicon2004@aol.com)

May 28-31, 2004 **BALTICON 38**. Wyndham Baltimore Inner Harbor (Baltimore). Guest of Honor: Lois McMaster Bujold; Artist Guest of Honor: David Seeley; 2003 Compton Crook Award Winner: Patricia Bray. Membership: \$37 thru 12/15/2003; \$42 from 12/16/2003 to 2/28/2004; \$47 from 3/1 thru 4/30/2004; \$52 thereafter & at the door. Make checks payable to "Balticon 38" and send to: Balticon 38, PO Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203-0686

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

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