



LAMBDA SCI-FI



DC Area Gaylaxians

PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (202) 232-3141 - Issue #166 - Jan. 2004

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Book Exchange at Jan. 11th LSF Meeting

As promised in last month's newsletter, here's a short reminder about Lambda Sci-Fi's *fourteenth* annual book exchange, which will occur at the upcoming Jan. 11th meeting! All LSF members — and visitors, guests, attendees, etc. — are invited to participate in this "blind book exchange."

In case you've never participated in one of these before (or in case you've forgotten), here's how it works:

(1) Go out and purchase a copy of your "favorite" science fiction, fantasy, or horror book. (Over the years, LSF has expanded the concept of "book" to include comics, videotapes, "books on tape," etc. If you want - or if you're feeling particularly wealthy - you can even make it several favorite books or whatever.)

(2) Insert a piece of paper (or a bookmark) with your name on it. (That's

so whoever eventually ends up with the item will know who it's from and will get to know a little more about you — at least to know what one of your "favorites" is.)

(3) Wrap up the exchange item, but don't put any identifying marks or anything on the wrapped package to say who it's from. (That's to make sure it's a "blind" exchange - i.e. no one is supposed to know who it's from at first. And, by the way, all of that leftover Holiday wrapping paper should come in handy here!)

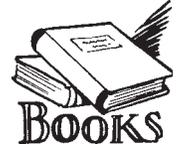
(4) At the meeting, add your wrapped exchange item to the pile with all the others; and you'll be assigned a number. (Only one exchange item - i.e. one package - per person, please!)

(5) When your number is called, you pick one of the packages from the pile. (And when you open it up, you'll find out who it's from.) See how easy?

I can hardly wait to see what shows up *this* year!

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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. The next meeting will be held on January 22nd.

NOTE: Now that renovations at Rob & Peter's house have been completed (Hooray!), the LSF Book Discussion Group will once again be held there: 1425 "S" St., NW -- for directions or more details, call 202-483-6369).

Here's the schedule for the next few months:

- Jan. 22nd - *Spin State* by Chris Moriarty; moderator: Rob.

- Feb. 26th - *Women Writing Science Fiction as Men*, edited by Mike Resnick; moderator: Carl.

- March 25th - *Across the Nightingale Floor* by Lian Hearn; moderator: TBA.

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Minutes for the December 14th LSF Meeting from Scott

There was no quorum present at the meeting; and **no business was discussed.**

The social portion of the meeting opened with "movie chat." The reviews of *Haunted Mansion* are unfavorable so far. The Cat in the Hat has been incredibly merchandised. The *Looney Tunes: Back in Action* movie

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Next LSF Meeting - Jan. 11th -

The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held at James Crutchfield's apartment (1414 17th St., NW, #413) on Sunday, January 11th. The business meeting will begin at 1:30 PM; and the social meeting will begin at 2:00 PM. *And, don't forget, this meeting will feature the annual LSF book exchange!! Join the fun!*

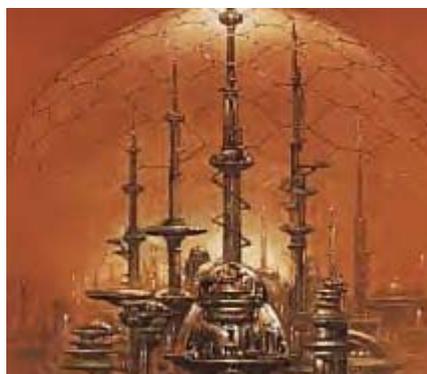
Please bring some munchies or soft drinks, if you can. See you there!

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WHAT'S INSIDE?

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Other Cities
 by Benjamin Rosenbaum
 (Small Beer Press, 2003)
 www.benjaminrosenbaum.com
 a review by Colleen R. Cahill



At science fiction conventions, I always try to go to as many author readings as possible. I find it fascinating to see the work through the creator's eyes. Recently I was introduced to the work of Benjamin Rosenbaum, when he read several selections from his chapbook *Other Cities*. Not only did I gain insight into his work, but I heard some touching, interesting, funny, unique, weird, and well-written short stories that made me go out and immediately buy the book.

Other Cities is made up of fourteen stories, some no more than a page in length. Rosenbaum describes these as "stories without characters." as each is about a different city. While this is true on one level, the stories are also about the people in the cities. Some of these show striking contrasts, such as in "The White City," where two princesses are direct opposites. Phenrum is "luscious as a grape," while her sister Buromi is the "ascetic, penitent, friendless" one. Both want to make life better for their people and do so, but from their own viewpoints. As with many of Rosenbaum's stories, there is a twist to the tale and a tweak that makes the reader think. He combines this with intriguing language, as in "Bellur" a city whose principal products are "tensor equations; scarlet parrots" and "censorship." Although the stories are not long, Rosenbaum's lyric style draws the reader in quickly and sets an atmosphere that is sometimes uplifting, sometimes haunting, and sometimes amusing. The stories

A CARTOON BY CHRIS BROWNING

“We have to go back and stop a man named Rick Berman from destroying our franchise! Millions of fans are at stake!!!”

can be science fiction, as in "Amea Amaau," a place where the population is constantly on the move, so no one ever spends more than a day in that city. Or a fantasy tone might be stronger, as in "Ahavah," a utopian city for hoboes that no one seems able to place on a map. There are even touches of Lovecraftian horror, as in "The Cities of Myrkhyr," which literally grows from the plains, but holds a dark seed. Many of the stories are too complex to compartmentalize and have wonderful bits of humor, as in the short short "Maxis." How would you feel if that computer simulation city that you let Godzilla roam through was actually populated by real people? It is the reaction of the citizens to "alien intelligence that rules them" that makes this story so interesting and fun.

Many of these stories originally appeared in the weekly web-based magazine *Strange Horizons*. If you have seen them, you will want to get the additional tales in this chapbook. If not, I enthusiastically urge you to get a copy and enjoy the exciting and odd metropolises in *Other Cities*.

LSF Minutes
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has not been well-promoted. *Lord of the Rings: Return of the King* is sure to win the 90-minute category in the Hugo Awards.

Peter passed around a flyer for **Storm Constantine's new book** *Enchantments of Flesh and Spirit and The Bewitchments of Love and Hate*.

Barrett mentioned that **Antonio's story** "Way of Empty Hands" is included in the erotic anthology *Quickies II*.

Regarding the recent LSF book discussion of *Fat White Vampire Blues* – no one seems to have liked the book very much.

It was noted that the wife of Ray Bradbury recently passed away.

Rob reminded everyone that the **annual LSF blind book exchange** will occur at the January 2004 meeting. Rob briefly explained how the book exchange works. [Ed. Note: See details on front page of this newsletter.]

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World Fantasy Awards
 information from
SWFA Online Update
 (No. 175, 11/4/2003),
 an electronic publication of the
Science Fiction and Fantasy
Writers of America,
 passed along by
 Peta Joy Sosnowski

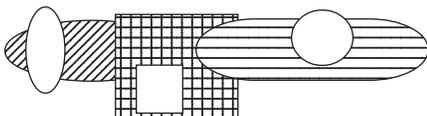


The 2003 World Fantasy Awards were announced November 2nd, 2003, at the 29th Annual World Fantasy Convention at the Hyatt Regency Washington in Washington, DC. Winners were:

- LIFE ACHIEVEMENT: Donald M. Grant, Lloyd Alexander
 BEST NOVEL (tie): *The Facts of Life* by Graham Joyce (Gollancz); *Ombria in Shadow* by Patricia A. McKillip (Ace)
 BEST NOVELLA: "The Library" by Zoran Zivkovic (*Leviathan 3*)
 BEST SHORT STORY: "Creation" by Jeffrey Ford (*F&SF*, May 2002)
 BEST ANTHOLOGY (tie): *The Green Man: Tales From the Mythic Forest*, Ellen Datlow & Terri Windling, eds. (Viking); *Leviathan Three*, Forrest Aguirre & Jeff VanderMeer, eds. (Ministry of Whimsy Press)
 BEST COLLECTION: *The Fantasy Writer's Assistant and Other Stories*, Jeffrey Ford (Golden Gryphon Press)
 BEST ARTIST: Tom Kidd
 SPECIAL AWARD, PROFESSIONAL: Gordon Van Gelder, for *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*
 SPECIAL AWARD, NON-PROFESSIONAL: Jason Williams, Jeremy Lassen, & Benjamin Cossel, for Night Shade Books

Judges for the awards were Justin Ackroyd, Les Edwards, Laura Anne Gilman, Lawrence Watt-Evans, and Jane Yolen.

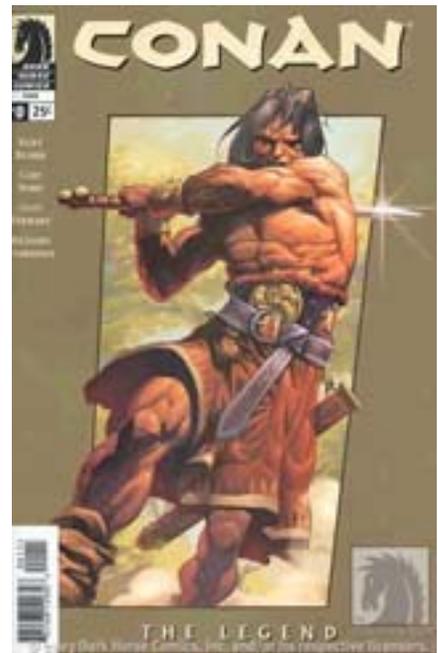
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Conan Rides Again!
 reported by Carl

I've been a big fan of the works of Robert E. Howard for a very long time now. If you are, too, then you'll probably be as pleased as I was to learn about the upcoming Dark Horse Comics series about REH's most famous creation, the mighty Conan of Cimmeria.

"Issue # 0" – *Conan the Legend* – is on the stands now – for a remarkably inexpensive 25¢. It features a 16-page prelude story to introduce the Conan legend to a (possibly new) audience. The "frame story" purports to take place during some period long after the fall of the Hyborian Age (when Conan lived), when an Eastern empire of some sort appears to dominate the world. A bored young prince leads an expedition into the barbarous lands of the west and discovers the ruins of a once-great kingdom (Aquilonia, the kingdom ruled by Conan toward the end of his life). When the prince's old and crafty *wazir* translates some of the runic inscriptions they find scattered about among the ruins, the prince (and the reader) come to learn about Conan and the Hyborian Age – "between the years when the oceans drank Atlantis and the gleaming cities, and the years of the rise of the sons of Aryas." (I'm sure the writer, Kurt Busiek, derived this ingenious method of introducing the series from Howard's 1938 essay "The Hyborian Age," which describes the rise of the Hyborian kingdoms – such as Aquilonia – and their eventual destruction at the hands of both Pictish barbarians from the Northern forests and Hyrkanian armies out of the Eastern deserts and steppes.)



The artwork is splendid. The artist, Cary Nord, has illustrated the story in a beautiful, evocative, and unique style. (He's not just another Frazetta wannabe!) Besides the intro story, *Conan the Legend* includes several pages of fascinating sketches by Nord.

Conan of Cimmeria first appeared just over seventy years ago in the classic pulp magazine *Weird Tales*; and now it looks like Dark Horse Comics will be bringing a new "face" to Howard's mighty barbarian hero. I, for one, look forward to this new series, which is slated to begin in 2004. Check out *Conan the Legend* ("Issue # 0"), or take a look at the following websites:

www.darkhorse.com

www.conan.com

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Next came "TV chat." The new *Battlestar Galactica* series has decent production values, but is nothing special. The Cylons are more humanoid than in the original version of the show. Some old-time fans are upset that the character of Starbuck is now female. Rob commented that the best genre TV shows this year have been on HBO. It has been reported that the number of new *Enterprise* episodes will be reduced from 26 to 24 next season. *Farscape* fans are eager to know if the show will end up on the Sci-Fi Channel or elsewhere. Michael commented that the complete *Firefly* series (on DVD) are hard to find. Try searching at:

www.dvdpricesearchonline.com or www.deepdiscountdvd.com

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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 \$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, January 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



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: \$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

E-mail: 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: \$42 until 2/28/04; \$47 from 3/1 thru 4/30/04; \$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

E-mail: balticoninfo@balticon.org

October 22-24, 2004 **VEGA CON**. Jackie Gaughan's Plaza Hotel and Casino (Las Vegas, NV). Guest include: Steven Brust and Kathg Mar. Membership: \$25 until 2/29/04; \$30 from 3/1/04 to 6/30/04; \$35 from 7/1/03 to 10/1/04; \$45 at the door. Make checks payable to "VSFA" and send to: VSFA, 2800 Las Vegas Blvd. So., Suite 11, Las Vegas, NV 89109.

Email: VegasSFAssociation@yahoo.com

Website: www.vegacon.com

July 1-4, 2005 **GAYLAXICON 2005**. Hyatt Regency Cambridge (Boston, MA). Membership: currently \$40 (will go up!). Make checks payable to "Gaylaxicon 2005" and send to: Gaylaxicon 2005, PO Box 1059, Boston, MA 02103. (More information as it becomes available.)

Website: www.gaylaxicon.org

Sept. 3-6, 2005 **CASCADIA CON (NASFiC 2005)**. SeaTac Airport Hilton (Seattle, WA). Author GoH: Fred Saberhagen; Artist GoH: Liz Danforth; Editor GoH: Toni Weisskopf. Membership: \$75 until 4/30/04 (will go up after that). Make checks payable to "Seattle NASFiC" and send to: Seattle NASFiC, Box 1066, Seattle, WA 98111. URL: www.CascadiaCon.org

Aug. 23-27, 2006 **L.A. CON IV (64th World Science Fiction Convention)**. Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim Hilton, Anaheim Marriott (Anaheim, CA). Author Guest of Honor: Connie Willis; Artist Guest of Honor: James Gurney; Fan Guest of Honor: Howard DeVore; Special Guest: Frankie Thomas ("Tom Corbett, Space Cadet"). Membership: \$125 thru 12/31/2003 (will go UP after that!). Make checks payable to "L.A. CON IV" and send to: L.A. CON IV, PO Box 8442, Van Nuys, CA 91409-8442

Website: WWW.LACONIV.ORG

Info: INFO@LACONIV.ORG

