

PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (202) 232-3141 - Issue #175 - Oct. 2004
E-MAIL: info@lambdasf.org WEBSITE: <http://www.lambdasf.org/>


Farscape:
Peacekeeper Wars


LSF Party

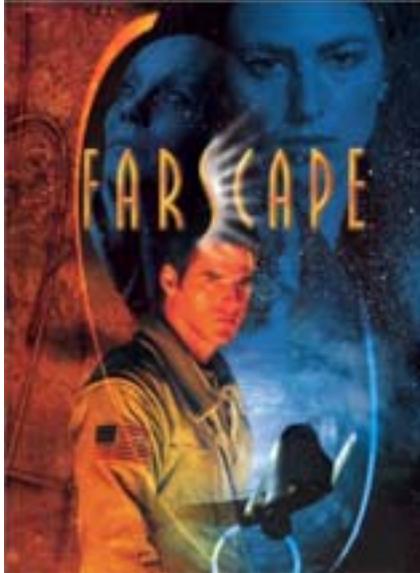
 announced by Peter

You are cordially invited to watch the Sci Fi Pictures original miniseries *Farscape: Peacekeeper Wars* in its entirety. Although the first part premieres the night before, the Sci-Fi Channel will be showing all 4 hours together on the second night (the night of the party). Here are the details:

- What:** *Farscape: Peacekeeper Wars* (4-hour miniseries).
- When:** Monday, October 18, 2004.
- Where:** The home of Rob and Peter - 1425 "S" Street, NW Washington, DC.
- Time:** 7:00 - 11:00 PM (doors open at 6:30 PM).
- What to Bring:** A snack and/or non-alcoholic drink to share.

Directions to Rob & Peter's Place
 Peter & Rob live at 1425 "S" Street, NW Washington, DC (near Dupont Circle, "U" St., and Logan Circle).

Closest Metro Stop: Take Metro to the "U" Street-Cardozo stop (Green Line). Exit Metro on the 13th Street side of station. When you come up the escalator, you'll be on "U" Street, facing 13th Street. There will be a Rite Aid drug store in front of you. Cross 13th Street toward the Rite Aid and follow "U" Street to 14th Street. (There's a McDonald's at 14th Street.) Cross 14th Street



toward the McDonald's and turn left in front of the McDonald's. Follow 14th Street for two full blocks. When you cross "T" Street, you'll pass a church that looks like a warehouse. Keep going. When you cross Swann Street (between "T" and "S" Streets), you'll pass a 24-

(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, at Peter & Rob's home: 1425 "S" St., NW -- for directions or more details, call 202-483-6369. The next meeting will be held on October 28th. Here's the schedule for the next few months:

- Oct. 28th** - *Blood Price* by Tanya Huff; moderator: Randy.
- Dec. 2nd** - *Lost* by Gregory Maguire; moderator: Michael M. (**NOTE: This is a combined Nov./Dec. meeting.**)
- Jan. 27th** - *Troll* by Johanna Sinisalo; moderator: Rob.

Λ Ψ Φ


Next LSF Meeting: Oct. 10th

***** Site Change! *** Site Change! *** Site Change! *****

Whoops! There's been a last-minute change of site for the upcoming October LSF meeting! Same date: Sunday, October 10th. But the meeting will instead be held at Rob & Peter's home: 1425 "S" Street, NW Washington, DC (near Dupont Circle, "U" St., and Logan Circle). For directions to the site, refer to the *Farscape: Peacekeepers War Party* announcement elsewhere on this page.

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!

Λ Ψ Φ Λ Ψ Φ Λ Ψ Φ Λ Ψ Φ Λ Ψ Φ Λ Ψ Φ Λ Ψ Φ Λ Ψ Φ Λ Ψ Φ

WHAT'S INSIDE? Minutes for the Sept. 11th LSF Meeting (pg. 2); *Strange Cargo* (book review - pg.3); *About Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians & Con Calendar* (pg. 4)

Farscape Party

continued from page 1



hour laundry. At "S" Street turn right. (If you cross "S" Street and pass a small used car lot, you've gone too far.) Next, you'll pass the Whitman-Walker Clinic and then an alley. We're the seventh row house after the alley: 1425 "S" Street, NW. If you get lost, give us a call at 202-483-6369.

Alternative Metro Stop: Take Metro to the Dupont Circle stop (Red Line). Exit the Metro on the "Q" Street side of the station; and, at the top of the escalator, turn right on "Q" Street. Follow "Q" Street, past a liquor store on your right and a Wrap Works sandwich shop on your left for 5 blocks. You'll pass the Raku Asian restaurant at 19th Street, a couple of large apartment buildings at 18th Street, New Hampshire Ave. (at a diagonal), a Trios Pizza restaurant at 17th Street, the Jewish Community Center at 16th Street, and row houses at 15th Street. Cross 15th Street and turn left. Travel two blocks on 15th Street to "S" Street. Cross "S" Street and turn right. We're two-thirds of the way down the street: 1425 "S" Street, NW. If you get lost, give us a call at 202-483-6369.

Driving Directions: 1425 "S" St., NW is in the 1400 block of "S" St. (which runs East-West), half-way between 14th and 15th Streets (which run North-South). 14th St. is a two-way street; and 15th St. is a one-way street heading North. "S" St. is a two-way street.

From the North: Take 16th St. (Exit 31 on the Beltway) or Connecticut Ave. (Exit 33 on the Beltway) heading South. Turn left onto "S" St. and go 1½ blocks (from 16th) or 6½ blocks (from Connecticut).

Minutes for the Sept. 11th LSF Meeting taken by Scott

This month's LSF meeting was held at the home of Julian. (Thanks for opening up your home, Julian!)

A number of LSF'ers attended the World Science Fiction Convention in Boston last weekend. Much fun was had by all, even if there was just one GLBT panel. <sigh> Carl was pleased to relate that Frank Robinson agreed to a guest at next year's GCon in Boston. (Wayne W. was please, too.) Frank has a new book out this year entitled *The Donor* (and it has GLBT content.) GCon 2005 Author Guest of Honor Lois McMaster Bujold's novel *The Palladin of Souls* won this year's Hugo Award for Best Novel at WorldCon. Rob reported on the winners of this year's Gaylactic Spectrum Awards, which were also announced at WorldCon. (Glad to see that Nalo Hopkinson's *The Salt Roads* won best novel.) The gay superhero, Surge of Power, attended WorldCon (as well as the film's producer-director); and this entertaining action film was shown as part of WorldCon activities. Gay-themed episodes *Star Trek: Hidden Frontier* were shown one evening at one of the GLBT parties.

The location of WorldCon 2007 was announced—Yokohama, Japan. Start

From the South: Take US Route 1 North in Virginia (via I-95/495, if that's convenient). When you get to Washington, Route 1 becomes 14th St. Follow 14th St. to "S" St., turn left onto "S" St. and go half a block to our house.

Parking: Street parking is generally available, though it is harder to find the later it gets. On weekends, there are no extra parking restrictions (*i.e.* only the usual laws regarding intersections, hydrants, alleys, etc. apply — safe distances are usually marked).

For more information, please call Peter and Rob at 202-483-6369, or send e-mail to:

PeterKnapp@wavelengthsonline.com
rgates@wavelengthsonline.com

Λ Ψ Φ

Λ Ψ Φ

saving your *quatloos* now in order to able to pay for the airfare.

Michael, LSF's #1 horror fan, provided his feedback on two horror conventions he recently attended — Horror Find in Baltimore and Monster Mania in the suburbs of Philadelphia. He met the owners of Goatman's Hollow, who kindly offered LSF member discounts. He also saw a teen horror slash film called *The Hazing*. Michael also reported that *Lobster Boy Review* (www.lobsterboy.net) — a burlesque show with some beefcake — will be performing on Halloween in Adams Morgan.

Fall TV Banter: Rob mentioned that he's enjoyed a couple of episodes of the new CG-animated series called *Father of the Pride* (by the makers of *Shrek*). Everyone who has seen the pilot for *Lost* (about a group of people whose plane crashes on an uncharted island) says that it is incredible. It seems likely to include some possible genre material, such as dinosaurs and some kind of alien/supernatural presence; and it's by the creators of *Alias*.

Jessie gave us a fascinating Dragon Con report. While WorldCon attracted 5,000 to 6,000 people this year, DragonCon attracted about 25,000 attendees. Can you imagine? Three actors from the canceled TV series *Firefly* were extremely popular at the con, including heartthrob Nathan Fillion. The actors who played Marcus and Londo from *Babylon 5* were also big hits. (Rob indicated that he is declining to attend

Λ Ψ Φ

*"Some cause happiness
wherever they go; others
whenever they go."*

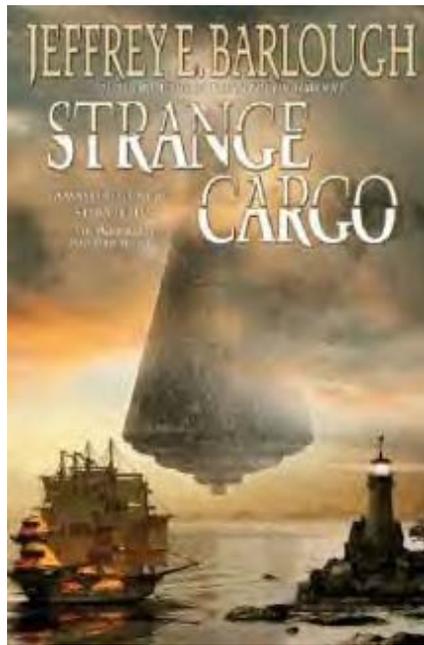


Strange Cargo
by Jeffrey E. Barlough
(Ace Books, 2004)
reviewed by Carl

[Introductory Note: I can hardly believe that I finally beat Colleen to a review of one of Barlough's books. I thought for sure my stint as a Spectrum judge would hold me up long enough for her to send in another one of her terrific reviews. As a reminder, Colleen reviewed Barlough's two earlier novels — *Dark Sleeper* (1998) and *The House in the High Wood* (2001) — in this newsletter; and all I was able to say was "ditto."]

What if Charles Dickens had written F&SF? What if Dickens had been influenced by such writers as Edgar Allen Poe, Jules Verne, and H.G. Wells? Well, Jeffrey Barlough's "Western Lights" novels can give you a pretty good idea of what type of F&SF Dickens might have produced. Take, for example, *Strange Cargo*, the third book in this fascinating series...

In Barlough's "Western Lights" universe, something *Happened* to our world sometime during the mid-Nineteenth Century. It's very clear that it is supposedly *our* world (languages, flora and fauna, references to England and France and Greece and Italy, etc.) — but the "the Sundering" occurred and everything changed! Exactly what happened hasn't been made exactly clear — possibly some sort of asteroid strike of near planet-buster proportions. As a result, though, the entire Old World (Europe, Asia, etc.) seems to have been obliterated; and, as far as the reader knows, all that's left is a very English sort of society huddling along a north-western coastline somewhere, presumably protected from the worst effects of the disaster by a range of high mountains immediately to the east. (I keep getting the distinct impression that the setting is along the Pacific coast of North America, between Alaska and California.) It's also a rather cold, wet, and dreary world now — just the right setting for a Dickensian/Gothic tale! (It also tends to support the idea of a post-cataclysmic Ice Age of some sort.) And, to make the setting complete, the forests,



moors, fens, and seas are filled with Pleistocene megafauna (such as mammoths and sabertooth tigers) — much more in evidence in this novel than in the previous two.

Sounds kind'a SF'y, doesn't it? "But where's the *Dickens*?" you ask. Well, in the "Western Lights" stories, Barlough has deftly written what some reviewers have called a "Victorian pastiche." The society depicted in his novels is very much Victorian/Dickensian in nature — technological level, societal conventions, manners, language, etc. And, speaking of language, Barlough has quite a knack for writing Victorian dialog — grammar, syntax, vocabulary, *and* dialects — an absolute delight! And listen to the names of some of the characters in *Strange Cargo*: Mr. Hake Jobberly (the lighthouse keeper's assistant in the village of Paignton Swidges); Mr. Arthur Liffey, Attorney (of the town of Cargo); Miss Aspasia Veal (a self-righteous, be-wigged old maid); Captain Jack Barnaby (owner and master of the good ship *Salty Sue*); Dr. Giddeus Pinches (rector of St. Mary-le-Quay); Mr. Malachi Threadneedle (former grocer, inveterate "tinkerer," and current master of the estate of Smithy Bank); and poor, haunted Miss Jane Wastefield (tragic heroine of the piece) — and on, and on, and on — all sounding like they've just stepped from the pages of a Charles Dickens novel!

Strange Cargo intertwines several distinct storylines that eventually connect (or collide) toward the end of the novel. In one, poor Miss Jane Wastefield is haunted by an ancient bronze mirror that she cannot get rid of — no matter how she disposes of it, it somehow returns to her possession. This mysterious artifact has caused the death of her widowed father; and its insidious siren call is bringing her ever more horrific and realistic nightmares. Perhaps one of her father's antiquarian contacts can help rid her of it? In another storyline, Mr. Fred Cargo, his irascible wife Susan, and the spinsterish Miss Aspasia Veal — and their loyal family attorney, Mr. Liffey — have set out on a journey in search of one Jerry Squailes. The mysterious Mr. Squailes has somehow been granted a sizeable bequest in the will of Fred's miserly grandfather; and Mrs. Cargo (for one) and Miss Veal (for another) have no intention of letting this "unknown interloper" receive a brass farthing! And, finally, there's Mr. Threadneedle, the kindly old master of Smithy Bank (inherited in his own right upon the decease of his loving wife, the former Mrs. Baxendale). His well-hidden "tinkering" out in the estate's coach house has led to a scientific discovery of truly stupendous proportions and is the source of all those sightings of mysterious flying objects up and down the coast.

As I said, each of these three storylines — each a delight in and of itself — all come together by the end of the novel. Along the way, the reader is treated to shadowy strangers, grasping lawyers, horrific demons with a taste for human flesh, star-crossed lovers, perilous sea voyages, powerful ancient gods, harrowing escapes, angry ghosts, improbable Victorian pseudo-science, ravening prehistoric beasts, uppity servants, shiftless ne'er-do-wells, and coincidences and serendipitous encounters sufficient to keep any fan of Charles Dickens happy. (The reader will also learn much more about the cause of "the Sundering" — not exactly *my* favorite part of the story.) All in all, a delightful read! To Mr. Jeffrey Barlough I say (in the style of Miss Aspasia Veal): "Thank yaw!"

Λ Ψ Φ

**** 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 the Sunday, **October 10th**, at Peter & Rob's home: 1425 "S" Street, NW Washington, DC (near Dupont Circle, "U" St., and Logan 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



Oct. 15-17, 2004 **CAPCLAVE '04**. Tyson's Corner Marriot (Vienna, VA). GoH: Nick Pollota; Artist GoH: Butch Honeck. Membership: \$37 until 5/31/04; \$45 after that and at the door. Make checks payable to "Capclave '04" and send to: Alexis Gilliland, 4030 8th St. South, Arlington, VA 22204.

Nov. 26-28, 2004 **DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL MEETING XXVII**. Holiday Inn Timonium (Timonium, MD). Guest of Honor: Tamora Pierce; Special Guest: Katherine Kurtz; Musical Guests: Clam Chowder. Membership: \$40 until 11/1; \$45 after that & at the door. Make checks payable to "Armida Council" and send to: Armida Council, PO Box 7203, Silver Spring, MD 20907. Contact: members@darkovercon.com or Jaelle@darkovercon.com or Jaelle@radix.net

December 10-12, 2004 **PHILCON 2004**. Marriott City Center Philadelphia (Phila., PA). Principal Speaker: Brian Aldiss; Artist GoH: Joe DeVito; Special Guests: Kevin J. Anderson & Rebecca Moesta, Tom Purdom. Membership: \$40 to 9/15/04. Make checks payable to "Philadelphia Science Fiction Society" and send to: Philcon 2004 Registration, PO Box 3, Oreland, PA 19075 Website: www.philcon.org Email: info@philcon.org

February 11-13, 2005 **FARPOINT 2005**. Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Special Guests include: Jeffrey Combs, Kathy Garver, Tony Amendta. Membership: \$50 for the full weekend (daily rates available). Make checks payable to "Farpoint Enterprises" and send to: Farpoint Enterprises, Inc., 11708 Troy Ct., Waldorf, MD 20601. (On-line registration is also available.) Website: www.farpointcon.com Email: trekcontact@comcast.net

July 1-4, 2005 **GAYLAXICON 2005**. Hyatt Regency Cambridge (Boston, MA). Guest of Honor: Lois McMaster Bujold; Fan GoH: *Star Trek: Hidden Frontier*. Membership: \$50 (more at the door!). 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.gaylaxians.org/gaylaxicon2005

Aug. 4-8, 2005 **INTERACTION (63rd World Science Fiction Convention)**. (Glasgow, Scotland, UK). Guests of Honor: Greg Pickersgill, Christopher Priest, Robert Sheckley, Jane Yolen. Membership: \$170 to 11/30/04 (will go up!). Make checks payable to "Interaction" and send to: Interaction, PO Box 58009, Louisville, KY 40268-0009 Website: www.interaction.worldon.org.uk Email: info@interaction.worldcon.org.uk

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: \$85 until 11/30/04 (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