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I claim this birthday cake in the name of Mars!!!



Happy 15th Birthday, LSF!!!

US Right Attacks SpongeBob Video

info passed along by Kendall (from an article in the online BBC News, World Edition)

US conservative groups are up in arms over a music video featuring children's TV heroes, including the cheerful cartoon character SpongeBob SquarePants. Focus on the Family and other groups say the video – a remake of the Sister Sledge hit "We Are Family" – is a vehicle for pro-gay propaganda.

The video's makers plan to mail it to US schools in the spring to promote tolerance and diversity. The video also features children's favourites like Bob the Builder and characters from *Sesame Street* and *The Muppet Show*.

James Dobson, founder of right-wing Christian group Focus on the Family, singled out SpongeBob at a black-tie dinner in Washington in the run-up to President Bush's inauguration, the *New York Times* said. SpongeBob (Nickelodeon) is seen as an icon for adult gay men in the US,



apparently because he regularly holds hands with his sidekick Patrick. SpongeBob's creators deny that he is gay.

SpongeBob is, of course, not the first such character to cause controversy. Back in 1999, conservatives claimed handbag-carrying Teletubby Tinky Winky (an import from the UK) was a bad role-model.

Nile Rodgers, who wrote the song, is the founder of the We Are Family Foundation (WAFF), which

(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 LGBT 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 March 24th. Here's the schedule for the next couple of meetings:

- March 24th** - *Frankstein* by Mary Shelley (*Yes, the classic!*); moderator: Scott.
- April 28th** - *The Salt Roads* by Nalo Hopkinson; moderator: Krista.

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- Next LSF Meeting - March 13th

The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held at James Crutchfield's apartment (1414 17th St., NW, #413) on Sunday, March 13th. 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

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WHAT'S INSIDE? 32nd Annual Annie Award Winners (pg. 2); Shortlists for 2004 British Science Fiction Assn. Awards Announced (pg. 3); Short List for Arthur C. Clarke Award Announced (pg. 3); Minutes for the February LSF Meeting (pg. 4); The Adventures of ConBoy (a cartoon by Chris Browning - pg. 4); Jack L. Chalker (obituary - pg. 5); About Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians & Con Calendar (pg. 6)

32nd Annual Annie Award Winners

info passed along by Kendall



On January 30th, Disney/Pixar's *The Incredibles* soared to victory for Best Animated Feature, as well as taking the nine other categories it where it received nominations — including three personal achievements trophies to Brad Bird for Writing, Directing, and Voice Acting. The Nickelodeon series, *SpongeBob Squarepants*, won as the Best Animated Television Production. [Ed. Note: It beat out both *Star Wars: Clone Wars* (Cartoon Network Studios) and *The Batman* (Warner Bros. Animation). Go figure.]

Comic book legend Stan Lee was especially pleased to hand out the Best Animated Feature award to *The Incredibles*, which features superheroes. *The Incredibles* predictably bested the other nominees in that category: *Ghost in the Shell 2: Innocence* (Go Fish Pictures, DreamWorks Animation), *Shrek 2* (DreamWorks), and *The SpongeBob Squarepants Movie* (Peanut Worm Productions, Paramount Pictures). *The Incredibles* also won for Character Design in an Animated Feature Production (Tony Fucile), Animated Effects (Martin Nguyen), Character Animation (Angus MacLane), Music in an Animated Feature Production (Michael Giacchino), Production Design in an Animated Feature Production (Lou Romano), and Storyboarding in an

Animated Feature Production (Kevin O'Brien). Brad Bird (as the voice of Edna Mode) won for Voice Acting in an Animated Feature Production — one of the other nominees for that award was Samuel L. Jackson, the voice of Lucius Best/Frozone.

Hilarious emcee for the evening, Tom Kenny (the voice of SpongeBob), was especially delighted to see his series win the award for Best Animated Television Production after the recent flack from a "Focus on the Family" spokesperson calling the yellow sponge who lives under the sea a gay character. Kenny pointed out that this is a ridiculous accusation — and an incredible display of intolerance — when one considers that SpongeBob is a fictional character and a little kid — plus the fact that sponges are asexual and therefore have no sexual orientation.

Besides its shared wins with Pixar, Disney had other big victories, including *Lorenzo* for Best Animated Short Subject and *The Lion King 1½* for Best Entertainment Home Production. Some of the other awards given were: Best Animated Television Commercial United Airlines Interview - Acme Filmworks Best Animated Television Production *SpongeBob SquarePants* - Nickelodeon

Character Design in an Animated Television Production

Patrick Matè - *Father of the Pride*
Directing in an Animated Television Production

Shaun Cashman & Phil Cummings - *The Grim Adventures of Billy & Mandy* "Attack of the Clowns"

Music in an Animated Television Production

Robert J. Kral - *Duck Dodgers*
Production Design in an Animated Television Production

Richard Daskas, - *Samurai Jack* "Season of Death"

Storyboarding in an Animated Television Production

Wendy Grieb - Disney's *Dave the Barbarian* "The Maddening Sprite of the Stump"

Voice Acting in an Animated Television Production

Brittany Murphy - Voice of Luane Platter - *King of the Hill* "Girl, You'll Be A Giant Soon"

Writing in an Animated Television Production

Etan Cohen - *King of the Hill* "Ceci N'est Pas Une"

For complete listing of all award categories, nominees, and winners, go to their website: <http://annieawards.com/32ndannieawardwinners.htm>

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SpongeBob Video

continued from page 1

released the new video. He says the video is intended to help teach children the values of co-operation and unity. "We believe that this is the essential first step to loving thy neighbor," he said. "And the fun and exciting format makes it a lesson that's easy for children to learn."

But conservatives see the video as a cunning attempt to promote homosexuality. They point to the fact that WAFF is linked to a pledge being promoted by some liberal groups which

includes a recognition of tolerance of sexual identity. "We see the video as an insidious means by which the organization is manipulating and potentially brainwashing kids," Paul Batura, a spokesman for Focus on the Family, told the *New York Times*.

WAFF spokesman Mark Barondeso told the newspaper that anyone who thought the video promoted homosexuality "needs to visit their doctor and get their medication increased."

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**Razors pain you;
Rivers are damp;
Acids stain you;
And drugs cause cramp.
Guns aren't lawful;
Nooses give;
Gas smells awful;
You might as well live.**

-- Dorothy Parker --
(Résumé, 1927)





**Shortlists for
2004 British Science Fiction Association
Awards Announced**
info passed along by Kendall

The BSFA Awards are presented annually by the British Science Fiction Association, based on a vote of BSFA members and – in recent years – members of the British national science fiction convention (Eastercon).

The shortlists for the 2004 awards were announced on January 23rd, compiled from nominations submitted by BSFA members. The awards will be presented on March 26th at Eastercon (Hinckley, Leicestershire, UK). As usual, attending members of the 2005 Eastercon as well as BSFA members will be eligible to vote.

The shortlists for the 2004 BSFA Awards are as follows:

Best Novel

- Century Rain* by Alastair Reynolds (Gollancz SF)
- Forty Signs of Rain* by Kim Stanley Robinson (HarperCollins)
- Jonathan Strange and Mr Norrell* by Susanna Clarke (Bloomsbury)
- Newton's Wake* by Ken MacLeod (Orbit)

River of Gods by Ian McDonald (Simon and Schuster)

Stamping Butterflies by Jon Courtenay Grimwood (Gollancz SF)

(There are six novels on the shortlist this year because there was a tie in the number of nominations received.)

Best Short Fiction

“Delhi” by Vandana Singh (*So Long Been Dreaming: Postcolonial Visions of the Future*, ed. by Nalo Hopkinson and Uppinder Mehan)

“Mayflower II” by Stephen Baxter (PS Publishing)

“Point of No Return” by Jon Courtenay Grimwood (*New Scientist*, Christmas/New Year)

“The Faery Handbag” by Kelly Link (*The Faery Reel: Tales from the Twilight Realm*, ed. by Ellen Datlow & Terri Windling)

“The Wolf-Man of Alcatraz” by Howard Waldrop (*Scifiiction*, 22 September)

Best Artwork

“Iguana” – photo by Sebastiao Salgado



Stephan Martinière's cover for *Newton's Wake* by Ken MacLeod (Tor US)



“Iguana” photo by Sebastiao Salgado

“The Millau Bridge” – photo by Eric Cabanis/AFP/Getty

Cover for *Newton's Wake* by Ken MacLeod (Tor US) – Stephan Martinière

Cover for *The Algebraist* by Iain M Banks (original photo credited to NASA!)

Cover for *The Year of Our War* by Steph Swainston – Edward Miller

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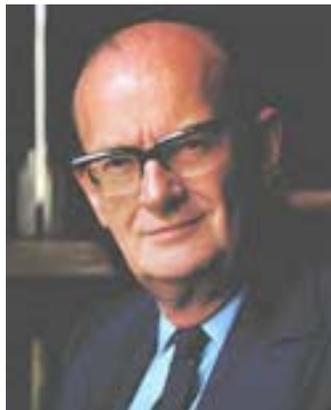
**Short List for
Arthur C. Clarke Award
Announced**

info passed along by Kendall

The Arthur C. Clarke Award is given annually for the best British science fiction novel from the previous year. It has been conferred every year since 1987. It is a juried award, with jury members (writers, critics, academics, scientists, and fans) drawn from the Award's supporting organizations: the British Science Fiction Association, the Science Fiction Foundation, and the Science Museum.

Previous winners include: *The Separation* by Christopher Priest (2003); *Perdido Street Station* by China Miéville (2001); and *The Sparrow* by Mary Doria Russell (1998).

The short list for 2005 has been announced. The winner will be announced in May.



The Short List

Ian McDonald, *River of Gods* (Simon & Schuster)

China Miéville, *Iron Council* (Macmillan)

David Mitchell, *Cloud Atlas* (Sceptre)

Richard Morgan, *Market Forces* (Gollancz)

Audrey Niffenegger, *The Time Traveller's Wife* (Cape)

Neal Stephenson, *The System of the World* (Heinemann)

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**Every once in a while,
declare peace.
It confuses the hell
out of your enemies!**

-- 76th Ferengi Rule of Acquisition --
(cited in the DS9 episode
"The Homecoming")



Minutes for the February
LSF Meeting
taken by Rob Gates

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Light turnout. Only business was an FYI about the **Capital Pride** celebration in June. Looks like Pride costs are the same as 2004: \$165 for information only, \$195 if we want to sell things. One idea is to sell books (used), in addition to T-shirts and CDs. Give it some thought; we'll discuss at the March meeting.



On to lighter fare. A little nattering about **Gaylaxicon 2005**, which is now only months away. They may have an announcement about Artist GoH shortly and will hopefully soon be listing additional guests. Watch their website:

www.gaylaxians.org

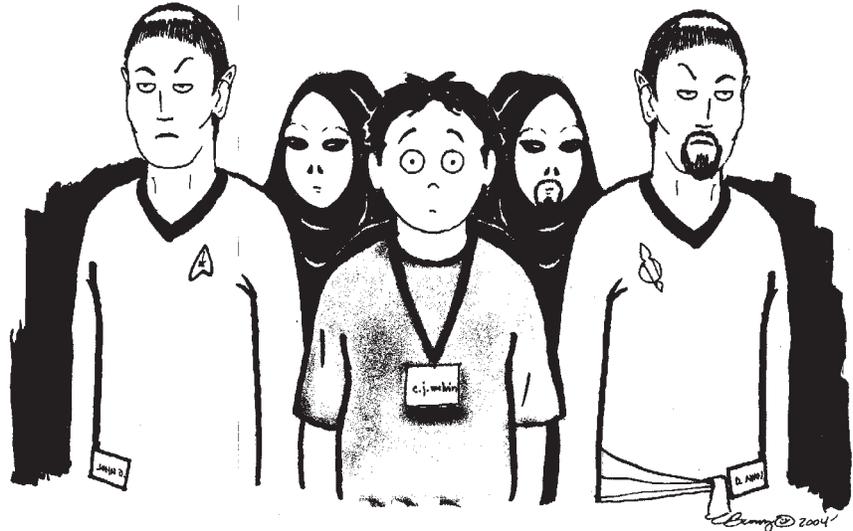
On the movie side, we discussed the Oscars briefly and pondered whether a streak of conservatism hampered the film *Kinsey* from garnering nominations. No blockbusters this year, and no easy picks (except for Best Actor, which seems a lock for Jamie Foxx). We all bemoaned the fact that what may have been *the* best film of the year - *The Incredibles* - was left out of the Best Picture race.

On current films, *Boogeyman* was surprisingly unslasher-like, according to people who saw it – but it was still disappointing. Various trailers are also popping up: the very *Clockwork Orange*-like new *Willy Wonka*, *The Fantastic Four*, *Hitchhiker's Guide*. We also learned that they apparently made a sequel to *Trekkies*. [Ed. note: Yep – *Trekkies 2*. Saw it on either HBO or Showtime.]

TV news was plentiful. *Battlestar Galactica* has been doing very well

the adventures of
conboy
naive conventioneer

a cartoon by
Chris Browning



for every force in the Universe... there is an opposite.

in the ratings, and is getting critical raves. Folks at the meeting who'd seen it agreed with the raves. It's maintained dramatic tension amongst the cast and has not taken the easy way out of moral dilemmas. It's already been renewed for a second season. Other genre shows are also doing well. *Carnivale* (on HBO) is rolling quickly through Season 2 at a much faster story-pace than Season 1. *Lost* continues to shine as one of the most original new dramas in a while, with mysteries aplenty. Two new shows got very different responses: *Medium* has gotten relatively positive reviews, while *Point Pleasant* was roundly panned by the folks who saw it. The new Fox animated series, *American Dad*, which is premiering in May, got mixed reviews all by itself. While it had moments of amusement in its special preview episode, many questioned whether it would have the ability to be funny for the longer haul. Of course, the big TV news was the official announcement of the end of *Star Trek: Enterprise*. It appears the cash cow has stopped lactating.

In book and publishing news, a group of genre authors (some with the help of their kids, some with the help of

computer analytics, and all with the obvious help of a healthy shot of whatever booze tickles your fancy) got together and perpetrated a sting operation on one of the larger "vanity presses masquerading as legitimate publishers," PublishAmerica. Each author wrote a chapter; none shared their work with each other; names, events, etc. changed from chapter to chapter; a couple of chapters were written by authors and their kids; and one chapter was written by a computer. The chapters were placed in the order received, with one chapter intentionally missing, and other grand problems. The completed "manuscript" was submitted to PublishAmerica by the author, "Travis Tea". Thus was *Atlanta Nights* born. PublishAmerica, which claims that only 30% of the works submitted are accepted for publication, offered a contract and then revoked the offer *AFTER* the sting/hoax was broken in publishing circles. One of the most amusing sidebars to the story is that more copies of *Atlanta Nights* have been sold (as a fundraiser for SFWA's Emergency Medical Fund) than are copies of most PublishAmerica novels.

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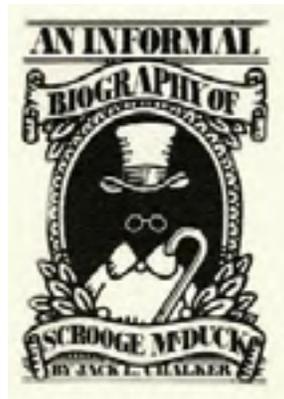
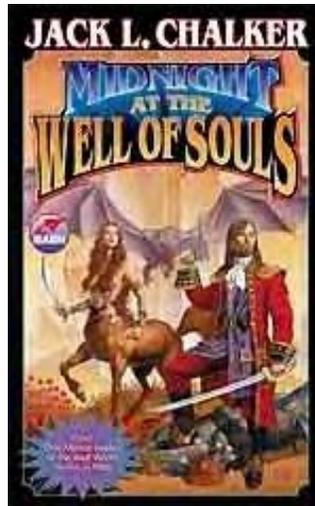


Jack L. Chalker
1944- 2005

On February 14th, F&SF author Jack Chalker died of kidney failure – in the city of his birth, Baltimore.

Chalker was the author of more than 60 science fiction and fantasy novels. His 1977 novel *Midnight at the Well of Souls* (about a walking, talking plant with brains in its feet) sold hundreds of thousands of copies. His career began in his early teens with a literary magazine, *Mirage*, that he produced on an electric mimeograph machine and assembled with friends. *Mirage* earned the 14-year-old Chalker his first nomination for the Hugo Award. Over the years, he worked as a professional typesetter, a sound engineer for outdoor rock concerts, an audio and computer reviewer, a free-lance editor, a publisher, a book packager, an Air National Guard information director, a new and used book dealer, and a history teacher. He was the founder – and eventually sole owner – of The Mirage Press, Ltd. (an F&SF small press).

Chalker had been living off his F&SF writing since 1978 – for which he received numerous awards, including the Daedalus Award (1983), the Gold Medal of the West Coast Review of Books (1984), the Skylark Award (1985), the Hamilton-Brackett Memorial Award (1979). He was also nominated twice for the John W. Campbell Award and four times for the Hugo.



**One of Chalker's
Less Well-known Works
(Mirage Press, 1974)**

In fannish circles, he wrote for and edited several fanzines. He was also a regular attendee of a number of East Coast F&SF conventions, as well as Worldcons and World Fantasy Conventions.

Two LSF members had the following to say about Chalker: Said Rob Gates: “He may not have been a great and earth-shattering writer, but he was a *good* writer, and a true fan of the genre. He’s been a major presence on the East Coast fan circles for many many years – supportive of cons, clubs, and fandom in general.” Said Kendall: “I haven’t read his recent stuff, but remember very fondly his first ‘Well World’ series, *Lords of the Diamond*, and a couple of other odds & ends.”

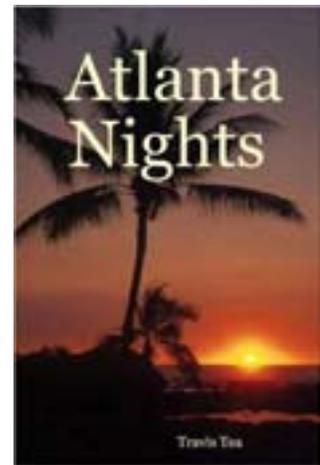
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February LSF Minutes

continued from page 4

Buzz about the sting and Publish-America’s acceptance-then-rejection of the manuscript have been making the news rounds. These guys need to talk to the Daily Show. You can download a copy of the book electronically for free - or buy a printed copy - or just learn more about the sting - on the official Travis Tea website:

www.sfga.org/members/travistea/



In other “news” news, the Baltimore Science Fiction Society (BSFS) was granted validation of their tax-exempt status, based on their services providing literary, artistic, or educational value to the community. An earlier ruling by a Maryland official had sought to strip them of their status (which is important for them to be able to maintain their clubhouse); but this judge overruled that. See, we *are* important!

Finally, there was **the usual chatter** – buzz about Marcia Cross (*Desperate Housewives*) being questioned by Barbara Walters about her sexuality; a heads-up from Michael about a “yellow peril meets red menace” pulp novel called *The Slayer of Souls* by Robert Chambers (available as a free e-book online); thumbs-up on two recent genre-related events, the annual Poe’s birthday celebration and a recent comic book show in DC; and various handouts and pass-arounds from the mailbox.

Then... like *Enterprise*... it ended.

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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 the Sunday, **March 13th**, at James Crutchfield's apartment: 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



May 27 - 30, 2005 **BALTICON 39**. Wyndham Baltimore Inner Harbor Hotel (Baltimore, MD). GoHs: Steven Barnes & Tananarive Due; Artist GoH: Bob Eggleton; Special Guest: E.E. Knight (2004 Compton Crook Award Author). Membership: \$48 from 3/1 until 4/30; \$55 after that & at the door: Make checks payable to "Baltimore Science Fiction Society" and send to: Balticon, PO Box 686, Baltimore MD 21203-0686

Website: www.balticon.org E-mail: balticoninfo@balticon.org

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: \$195 from 12/1/04 (will go up!). Make checks payable to "Interaction" and send to: Interaction, PO Box 58009, Louisville, KY 40268-0009

Website: www.interaction.worldcon.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

Nov. 25-27, 2005 **DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL MEETING XXVIII**. Holiday Inn, Timonium (Timonium, MD). Guest of Honor: C.S. Friedman; Artist GoH: TBA; Special Guest: Katherine Kurtz; Musical GoH: Clam Chowder. Membership: \$40 until 11/1/2005 (after that & at the door: \$45). Make checks payable to "Armida Council" and send to: Armida Council, PO Box 7203, Silver Spring, MD 20907 Website: www.darkovercon.com

Aug. 23-27, 2006 **L.A. CON IV (64th World Science Fiction Convention)**. (Los Angeles, CA). Author GoH: Connie Willis; Artist GoH: James Gurney; Special Guest: Frankie Thomas (*Tom Corbett, Space Cadet*). Membership: \$150 thru 12/31/2004 ("will go up after that"). Make checks payable to "L.A. Con IV" and send to: L.A. Con IV, c/o S.C.I.F.I., Inc., PO Box 8442, Van Nuys, CA 91409 Website: www.laconiv.com For more info: info@laconiv.org

