



LAMBDA SCI-FI



DC Area Gaylaxians

PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (202) 232-3141 - Issue #184 - July 2005

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

July 1- 4, 2005
Boston, Mass.

On your mark...
Get set...
Go -- to Gaylaxicon!!!



For more details, see
Con Calendar on page 6



Convention Hotel
Hyatt Regency Cambridge

See you there!!!



Doctor Who Season 27
(2005 Series Relaunch)
Video Parties
announced by Peter Knapp



The new series of *Doctor Who* is being broadcast in the UK, Australia, and Canada, but not the US. Why? Who knows? Until the BBC cuts a deal with an American distributor, you can watch the first season of the new series at my and Rob's place. Here are the details:

What: *Doctor Who* Video Parties - with optional viewing of new episodes of *Battlestar Galactica*. (See schedule below.)

Dates: Four Friday Nights: July 15, July 22, July 29, and August 5.

Time: Doors open at 6:30 PM and the shows starts at 7:00 PM. End times will vary, depending on how many episodes are shown.

Where: The home of Peter and Rob: 1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC, in the 14th and "U" neighborhood, near Dupont Circle and Logan Circle. Closest Metro Stops: "U" Street/African-American Civil War Memorial/Cardozo (Green Line) or Dupont Circle (Red Line).

What To Bring: Some snacks and non-alcoholic drink to share. \$5 if you want to order pizza.

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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, 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 July 28th. Here's the schedule for the next couple of meetings:

July 28th - *Blood and Fire* by David Gerrold; moderator: Krista (*not* Carl).

Aug. 25th - *Gotham Central: Half a Life* (a graphic novel); moderator: Greg.

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**Next LSF Meeting:
Sunday, July 10th**

The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held at James Crutchfield's apartment (1414 17th St., NW, #413) on Sunday, July 10th. 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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Doctor Who Video Parties

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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.* the usual laws regarding intersections, hydrants, alleys, etc. apply – safe distances are usually marked).

Schedule:

Friday, July 15:

- 7:00 PM - 7:45 PM - #1 - “Rose”
- 8:00 PM - 8:45 PM - #2 - “The End of the World”
- 9:00 PM - 9:45 PM - #3 - “The Unquiet Dead”
- 10:00 PM - 11:00 PM - *Battlestar Galactica* #14 - “Scattered” (Season Premiere)

Friday, July 22:

- 7:00 PM - 7:45 PM - #4 - “Aliens of London” (Part 1)
- 8:00 PM - 8:45 PM - #5 - “World War Three” (Part 2)
- 9:00 PM - 9:45 PM - #6 - “Dalek”
- 10:00 PM - 11:00 PM - *Battlestar Galactica* #15 - “Valley of Darkness”

Friday, July 29:

- 7:00 PM - 7:45 PM - #7 - “The Long Game”
- 8:00 PM - 8:45 PM - #8 - “Father’s Day”
- 9:00 PM - 9:45 PM - #9 - “The Empty Child” (Part 1)
- 10:00 PM - 11:00 PM - *Battlestar Galactica* (if it’s a new one)

Friday, August 5:

- 7:00 PM - 7:45 PM - #10 - “The Doctor Dances” (Part 2)
- 7:45 PM - 8:30 PM - #11 - “Boom Town!”
- 8:30 PM - 9:15 PM - #12 - “Bad Wolf” (Part 1)
- 9:15 PM - 10:00 PM - #13 - “The Parting of the Ways” (Part 2)
- 10:00 PM - 11:00 PM - *Battlestar Galactica* (if it’s a new one)

For more information or directions, please call Peter and Rob at:

202-483-6369

or e-mail Peter at:

PeterKnapp@wavelengthsonline.com

Directions can be found at:

[http://www.lambdasf.org/lsf/club/
PeterRob.html](http://www.lambdasf.org/lsf/club/PeterRob.html)

Doctor Who Is Back!

by Peter Knapp



Unless you’ve been living in a cave, you’ve probably heard that *Doctor Who* is back. For the uninitiated, I’ll give a brief recap of the show’s history.

Doctor Who began broadcasting in the UK on November 23, 1963. Two school teachers, Barbara and Ian, concerned about the behavior of one of their students, Susan, follow her to a junkyard, where she disappears. An old man enters the yard and the teachers demand that he open a police call box that they think he has locked Susan in.

The old man refuses, but the doors open mysteriously, and Barbara and Ian barge into the box and find Susan in a large control room. Susan explains that the old man is her grandfather, the Doctor, and that they are in a time machine called the TARDIS (Time And Relative Dimension In Space). Against the teachers’ wishes, they are whisked away on a journey to the Stone Age and encounter cave men searching for the secret to fire. So begins the first of many adventures in time and space.

Seven actors have played the role of the Doctor, and many actors have played his companions. Over the course of many adventures, viewers slowly learned that the Doctor hailed from the planet Gallifrey and that Gallifreans could regenerate twelve times. This allowed the producers to recast the actor playing the Doctor while keeping the continuity of the show’s main character. After 26 years, the BBC canceled the show. In 1996 a joint US/UK two-hour pilot was made with an eighth actor playing the title role. While the movie did well in the UK, it tanked in the US; and that was the end of televised *Doctor Who*, until now.

Russell T. Davies, the creator of the original *Queer As Folk*, is executive-producing a new *Doctor Who* series, with Christopher Eccleston playing The Doctor and Billie Piper playing his companion, Rose Tyler. The first season consists of thirteen episodes, seven of

which have already been broadcast in the UK.

The first episode opens with Rose’s alarm clock going off. She begins a typical day in her mundane existence by rushing off to a job as a sales clerk at a clothing store, having lunch with her boyfriend, and looking forward to going home at closing time. She goes to the basement at closing time to deliver a package to the building electrician. Instead of finding him, mannequins come to life and attack her. At the last moment, someone grabs her hand and tells her to run. Within minutes, she learns that her attackers are made out of plastic, her savior is named the Doctor, and he is about to blow up the store to stop the animated mannequins. By the end of the 45-minute episode, Rose helps the Doctor defeat his old nemesis, the Autons (who were introduced in the first story of the third Doctor), learns that the Doctor is not human, and agrees to join him on his travels through time and space.

The settings for the next six episodes have varied from a space platform orbiting Earth at roughly Year Five Billion, 19th century London, present day London, a secret bunker in Utah in 2012, and a satellite orbiting Earth in Year 200,000. Villains have included humans, non-corporeal aliens, big bug-eyed monsters with sharp teeth and claws, and even a lone Dalek (the most popular villain in the history of the show).

In the previous series, stories ranged from one to twelve half-hour episodes, with most stories lasting four episodes (or two hours). Because the new stories only last from one to two 45-minute-long episodes, the producers have had to pick up the pace of the storytelling.

Cramming action and exposition into a 45-minute story can be tricky. I think some of the earlier episodes have

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Doctor Who Is Back!

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suffered by running out of time and resolving rather quickly. As a lot of time is spent developing the Doctor's and Rose's characters, many of the supporting cast end up being two-dimensional. Technobabble is kept to a minimum, but sometimes the audience is left wondering what just happened. On a positive note, there are a lot fewer scenes of the heroes running down corridors in one direction and then running down identical corridors in the opposite direction. Also, the special effects have improved dramatically since the old days of the show.

Good drama relies more on well-thought-out interpersonal relationships and conflict derived from character differences. While a good story is just as important, with lifeless characters the best story comes off as flat. Both Christopher Eccleston and Billie Piper do a superb job of fleshing out great characterizations written by Russell T. Davies (who wrote half of the scripts), Mark Gatiss (of the writing/performing team behind the award-winning comedy series *The League of Gentlemen*), Steven Moffat (creator of comedy series *Coupling*), Paul Cornell (an acclaimed author of non-televised *Doctor Who* material), and Rob Shearman (a critically-acclaimed and award-winning playwright, and author of non-televised *Doctor Who* material). Unlike some previous companions, who blithely followed the Doctor's orders, Rose has a mind of her own and is not afraid to speak her mind if she thinks the Doctor is being unreasonable.

One problem that most long-running series suffer from is a universe of characters and situations that can slowly limit and choke what kind of stories can be told. (That's a big part of what I think happened with *Star Trek: Enterprise*.) While the new *Doctor Who* has so far remained faithful to its own mythology, it's not trying to cram forty-two years of history into the new shows. By the end of the first episode, Rose knows the Doctor is an alien but not much else. She's been slowly learning more about the Doctor's past, but thankfully no episode has required the



Christopher Eccleston

viewer to know anything about the previous series to enjoy it. Only two aliens from the Doctor's past have surfaced, the Autons and the Daleks. In both cases, the Doctor has explained enough to Rose so that she (and the audience) has a bit of perspective; but he hasn't given her a history lesson.

In a surprise turn of events, the day the BBC announced that the show had been renewed for a second season, they announced that Christopher Eccleston would not be returning for the second season. A few weeks later, it was confirmed that David Tennant will play the role of the tenth Doctor in this year's Christmas special, as well as in next year's thirteen-episode second season. Billie Piper has been signed for the Christmas special and the second season.

I've been a fan of the show since the mid-seventies, when I began watching the show from the beginning of Tom Baker's long-running gig as the



David Tennant

fourth Doctor. I've seen most of the older episodes that still exist; and I can safely say that Russell T. Davies has created a new version of the show that is faithful to the original and at the same time modernized for a 21st century preteen audience. I can also say I really enjoy the show.

It's first and foremost a kid's show, and adults watching the show need to remember that. It's also very British. If you didn't care for the original show, I don't think you'll like the new show. But I do think most fans of the "classic" show will enjoy the new show. It's unfortunate that the show is not airing in the U.S. as yet. To watch the show, you must ask British or Canadian friends to tape the episodes for you – otherwise you must surf the web in your best pirate regalia.

Note: For a great source of *Doctor Who* information, visit:

<http://gallifreyone.com>

I used the website for background material in writing this overview.

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Sidewise Awards for Alternate History



Sidewise Awards Finalists

info passed along by Carl

The judges for the Sidewise Awards for Alternate History are pleased to announce the short list of finalists for the 2004 Sidewise Awards. Winners will be announced at Interaction, the 63rd World Science Fiction Convention, in Glasgow the weekend of Aug. 4-8, 2005.

The Sidewise Awards for Alternate History were conceived in late 1995 to honor the best "genre" publications of the year, and the first awards were announced in summer 1996. 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.

Finalist for Best Long-Form

Alternate History: Roth, Philip. *The Plot Against America* (Houghton Mifflin)

Finalists for Best Short-Form

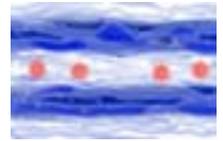
Alternate History:

- L. Timmel Duchamp. "The Heloise Archive" in *Love's Body, Dancing in Time* (Aqueduct Press)
- Warren Ellis, Chris Weston, and Laura DuPuy Martin. *Ministry of Space* (Image Comics, 2001/2004; reprinted 2005)
- Sean Klein. "Five Guys Named Moe" (posted on-line at *SciFiction*, Feb. 23, 2004)
- John McDaid. "The Ashbazu Effect" (in *ReVisions*, eds. Czerneda and Szpindel; DAW Books)
- Chris Roberson. "Red Hands, Black Hands" (in *Asimov's*, December 2004)
- Lois Tilton. "The Gladiator's War: A Dialogue" (in *Asimov's*, June 2004)

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Nebula Award Winners for 2005

info passed along
by Kendall



Let's hear it for Gaylaxicon 2005's Author Guest of Honor, Lois McMaster Bujold! Her novel *Paladin of Souls* (Eos) won the Nebula for **Best Novel**. Other winners include:

Novella: "The Green Leopard Plague" by Walter Jon Williams (*Asimov's*, Oct/Nov 2003).

Novellette: "Basement Magic" by Ellen Klages (*F&SF*, May 2003).

Short Story: "Coming to Terms" by Eileen Gunn (*Stable Strategies and Others*, Sept. 2004).

Script: *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* by Fran Walsh, Philippa Boyens & Peter Jackson (New Line Cinema; based on the novel by J. R. R. Tolkien).

The Nebula Awards are administered, voted and presented by the Science Fiction Writers of America (SFWA) to acknowledge excellence in science fiction writing.

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Frank ('The Riddler') Gorshin

1934 - 2005

info passed along by Peter

Actor Frank Gorshin, the impressionist with 100 faces, best known for his Emmy-nominated role as The Riddler on the old *Batman* television series, died on May 17, 2005 at the age of 72.

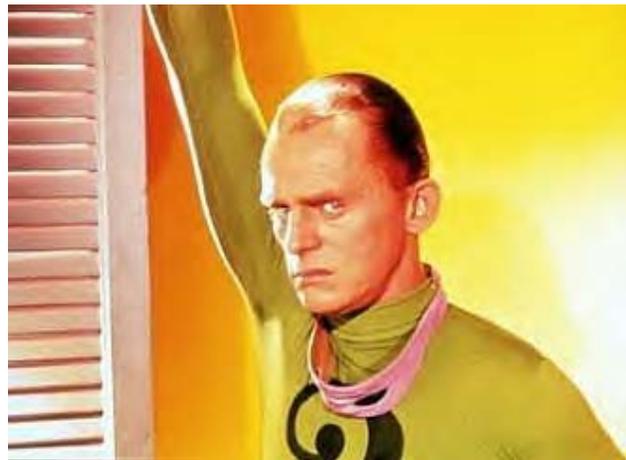
Gorshin's wife of 48 years, Christina, was at his side when he died Tuesday at Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center. "He put up a valiant fight with lung cancer, emphysema and pneumonia," Mrs Gorshin said in a statement.

Despite dozens of television and movie credits, Gorshin will be forever remembered for his role as The Riddler, Adam West's villainous foil in the question-mark-pocked green suit and bowler hat on *Batman* from 1966-69.

"It really was a catalyst for me," Gorshin recalled in a 2002 Associated Press interview. "I was nobody. I had done some guest shots here and there. But after I did that, I became a headliner in Vegas, so I can't put it down."

West said the death of his longtime friend was a big loss. "Frank will be missed," West said in a statement. "He was a friend and fascinating character."

Gorshin earned another Emmy nomination for a guest shot on *Star Trek*



(as Bele of Cheron, in the episode "Let That Be Your Last Battlefield").

Gorshin's final performance was this year on the CBS-TV series *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*.



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Sleazoid Express

a book review by Dr. Hellfire

When people talk about gay filmmakers, you generally hear them talking about people like James Whale, Pedro Almodovar, George Cukor, Jean Cocteau, or Gus van Sant. Some might bring up folks like Murnau, Pasolini, or Fassbinder; and they might give grudging acknowledgement to Gregg Araki, John Waters, or Paul Bartel. But there's a whole class of filmmakers who are largely forgotten or ignored today.

The book *Sleazoid Express*, by Bill Landis and Michelle Clifford, in part tells the story of some minor figures in cinema that would be of great interest to GLBT film fans. The book is mainly an overview of the exploitation films that played in the grindhouses of New York's Times Square, the people who made them, and the times and circumstances that gave birth to them.

In its discussion of the theaters in Times Square, the book notes that in the 1970s the owner of a number of adult theaters was Chelly Wilson, an open lesbian who also ran a porno film distributing company. Dubbing her theaters classic names like the Venus, the Eros, and the Adonis, she did everything from softcore nudie-cuties to hardcore all-male s/m. Chelly's Cameo Theater was a pioneer of exploitation, showing films like *White Slaves of Chinatown* that few others were willing to touch, films that later became cult classics.

Another chapter tells us about the Ameros, John and Lem, two gay movie-obsessed brothers from a Connecticut fishing village who came to New York and teamed up with husband-and-wife filmmakers Mike and Roberta Findlay. In the 60s, they were pioneers of the "roughie" genre, films that featured abundant nudity and plenty of sexualized violence. Some of their films, like *Body of a Female* and *The Touch of Her Flesh*, remain cult items to this day; and while some object to the content, the Ameros never took it seriously at all, considering the films to be campy jokes. Hard-X porn edged them out of the



market, and the Findlays made a few horror films before separating. Roberta went on to make a name as a director of hard-X porn, and Mike died in a helicopter crash in 1977. AIDS claimed Lem Amero in 1989, but John Amero is still around and kicking and still producing low-budget and independent films.

Chapter Three gives us the story of one very juicy character, director Andy Milligan. Gay (but married for a while), Milligan's first film was the underground hit *Vapors* (1962), a drama set in a gay bathhouse that's actually well-regarded today. What Milligan is best remembered for are his ultra-cheap horror films like *Torture Dungeon*, *The Ghastly Ones*, *Bloodthirsty Butchers*, and the memorably-titled *The Rats Are Coming! The Werewolves Are Here!* His films are often inept, clumsily made, and incoherent; but a cult audience eats them up today, mostly to laugh. Milligan was known for being able to crank out a finished film in two months; what people found out when they saw them was that while it might be finished, it wasn't necessarily good. Still, most of his films had some sort of gay content, like a swishy rich queen in *The Ghastly Ones*. From what one can read in this book, Milligan was a fascinating character and was himself the subject of a recent full-length biography, *The Ghastly One*.

Chapter Four gives us "gender-twist" films, beginning with Ed Wood's look at transvestism, *Glen or Glenda* (1953). Then there are two films from 1967, *I Was a Man* (a drama about a hermaphrodite) and *The She Man* (a noir-ish film about a blackmailing drag queen). Later filmmakers tackled the hot topic of the transgendered in films like 1970's *The Christine Jorgensen Story* or Doris Wishman's 1978 crapola classic *Let Me Die a Woman*.

The rest of the book delves into other film genres that flourished in Times Square: race-hate films, blood-

and-gore horror, mondo movies, and shockumentaries, Euroslaze, celebrity crime, women-in-prison, blaxploitation, and kung-fu. Even the infamous *Ilsa, She Wolf of the SS* and its sequels rate a chapter of their own.

The book is full of zesty commentary about the movies, their audiences, and the theaters they were shown in, and is plainly nostalgic for the old sleazy New York, while recognizing that it was not a safe place. *Sleazoid Express* is good reading for those with a taste for fringe cinema and for those wanting to find out about some of the more marginal figures in gay cinematic history. **Λ Ψ Φ**

Firefly Lights up Sci Fi Summer

info passed along by Kay



LOS ANGELES (Hollywood Reporter) - Sci Fi Channel has acquired *Firefly*, the short-lived Fox series from *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* creator Joss Whedon. Fourteen episodes, including three that never aired, will begin airing on the cable channel in July. The show transplanted the Wild West to a galaxy 500 years in the future. The acquisition is timed to capitalize on the upcoming Universal Pictures release *Serenity*, which is based on *Firefly*. **Λ Ψ Φ**

Arthur C. Clarke Award Winner Announced

info passed along by Kendall
courtesy of SF Site:
[http://www.sfsite.com/columns/
news01.htm](http://www.sfsite.com/columns/news01.htm)

The 2005 Arthur C. Clarke Award was presented to China Miéville for the novel *Iron Council* on May 11. This year's prize included a cheque for £2005. The Clarke Award is presented each year to a science fiction novel that received its first British publication during the previous calendar year.

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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, **July 10th**, 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



July 1-4, 2005 **GAYLAXICON 2005**. Hyatt Regency Cambridge (Boston, MA). Guest of Honor: Lois McMaster Bujold; Artist GoH: Phil Jimenez; 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: currently \$195 (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: \$110 until 8/1/05 (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

Sept. 17-18, 2005 **BALTIMORE COMIC-CON**. Baltimore Conv. Center (Baltimore, MD). Guests include: Frank Cho, Howard Chaykin, Mike Kaluta. For info, call: 410-526-7410 or visit: www.comicon.com/baltimore

Oct. 14-16, 2005 **CAPCLAVE 2005**. Hilton Silver Spring (Silver Spring, MD). GOHs: Howard Waldrop, Patrick Nielsen Hayden. Membership: \$40 from 7/1 thru 9/30; \$45 at the door. Make checks payable to "Capclave" and send to: Capclave 2005, 7113 Wayne Drive, Annandale, VA 22003-1734. Website: www.capclave.org Info: info@capclave.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: currently \$150 ("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