



Lambda Sci-Fi

DC Area Gaylaxians

PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044
(202) 232-3141 - Issue # 291 - June 2014

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LSF Pre-Pride Gaming & Parade-Viewing Party Saturday, June 7th



Come celebrate DC Pride Day at a Pre-Pride Gaming and Parade-Viewing Party with LSF!

What: A gaming party – with a break to watch the Pride Parade. There's plenty of room for gaming, so please bring your favorite table games (cards, board, etc.).

When: June 7th (Sat.); 2:00 PM – ?? **We'll start the party with a brief LSF meeting with an important Gaylaxicon 2015 vote by LSF members (see article on page 2).** Then let the games begin!!! (**Note:** We'll take a break to walk down the street and watch the Pride Parade as a group – and for everyone to get dinner on their own.)

What to bring: Bring your favorite table game (or two). Also, please bring munchies and/or soft drinks.

Where: Home of Peter and Rob, 1425 "S" St, NW, Wash., DC.

Directions (with Metro and parking advice) at: <http://lambdascifi.org/club/PeterRob.html>

For more info: Please contact Peter & Rob at: PeterPKnapp@gmail.com or call them at 202-483-6369.

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LSF Table at Capital Pride Festival Sunday, June 8th

For the 24th year in a row, LSF will host a booth at the DC Pride Festival to promote LSF and queer fandom. Come join us and help to spread the word about Lambda Sci-Fi and LGBT-themed F&SF!

Feel free to drop by the LSF booth sometime during the day. As in previous years, we didn't see the need to establish specific schedules for staffing the booth; we've always had lots of LSFers (both long-timers and newbies) show up and stick around. Rob and Peter will be there about 10:00 AM for set-up; and they cheerfully invite anyone else who'd like to help out.

Time: 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Where: Pennsylvania Ave., somewhere between 4th and 7th Streets NW, Washington, DC

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What's Inside?

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LSF Post-Pride Video Party Saturday, June 21st



Keep celebrating DC Pride at the Post-Pride Video/Potluck Party with the LSF folks!

What: A sci-fi/fantasy/horror video and potluck party. We will watch the movies that receive the most votes.

When: June 21st (Sat.), 3:00 PM - ??

Where: Julian's home, 2462 Tunlaw Rd. NW, Washington, DC

What to bring: Bring sci-fi, fantasy, and/or horror DVDs to watch and snacks, dinner food, and/or non-alcoholic drinks to share.

Directions at:

<http://lambdascifi.org/club/Julian.html>

For more info: Please contact Peter at:

PeterPKnapp@gmail.com

or call him at 202-483-6369.

On the day of the party, call Julian at 202-306-1497. ΛΨΦ



**Bent-Con Proposal
to Be Voted on at
June 7th LSF Meeting**
from Peter



As you may know, it is becoming increasingly difficult for a Gaylactic Network affiliate to host a Gaylaxicon, primarily due to the challenges and financial hurdles involved in hotel contracting. This may be even more true in DC, where LSF has hosted four Gaylaxicons in the past.

Over the last two years, the Gaylaxians in Boston have tried unsuccessfully to host Gaylaxicon and have been unable to do so due to an inability to find a financially viable hotel contract. Thankfully the organizers of Outlanticon in Atlanta have graciously hosted Gaylaxicon for the last two years. This model of hosting Gaylaxicon in affiliation with another convention has allowed Gaylaxicon to continue for the past two years.

Currently, 2015 does not have a Gaylaxicon host, as the Boston group continues to be unable to find a financially workable hotel.

Bent-Con (<http://bent-con.org/>) has expressed an interest in hosting the 2015 Gaylaxicon in conjunction with their convention. As the Gaylactic Network charter stipulates that Gaylaxicon must be hosted by a Gaylactic Network affiliate, the proposal has been made to have have Lambda Sci-Fi host Gaylaxicon 2015 at Bent-Con.

Three LSF leaders are willing to explore the possibility of Bent-Con hosting Gaylaxicon 2015, with a primary caveat that there be no financial outlay or risk to LSF: Peter Knapp (Membership Coordinator), Rob Gates (Treasurer), and Carl Cipra (Newsletter Editor).

Therefore I will raise the following proposal at the Saturday, June 7th LSF meeting:

**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 usually 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 book discussion will be held on June 26th.

Here are the details for this month's book discussion:

June 26 – *Ascension*, by Jacqueline Koyanagi (moderator: Claire). $\Lambda\Psi\Phi$



LSF proposes to explore serving as the official Gaylactic network host club for Gaylaxicon 2015 at Bent-Con in Burbank, CA in early November 2015. Carl Cipra, Peter Knapp, and Rob Gates will work with the organizers of Bent-Con to insure that there is no financial outlay by or risk to LSF. Additional support from the LSF community will be requested on an as-needed basis.

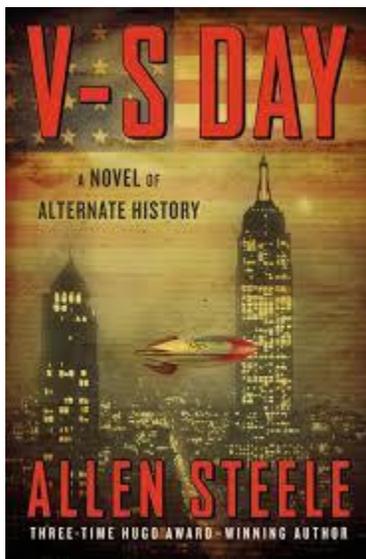
Please come to the June 7th LSF meeting to vote on this proposal. Alternatively, you can send your vote to me by June 6 at: PeterPKnapp@gmail.com

Thanks!

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V-S Day
 by Allen Steele
 (Ace Books, 2014)
 reviewed by Carl



What if the Space Race had begun in 1941-1943, rather than several decades later? Imagine, if you will, that it was a desperate competition between the United States and Nazi Germany, rather than between the US and the USSR. That's the premise for Allen Steele's newest novel, *V-S Day: A Novel of Alternate History*.

No, I'm not talking about something like *Iron Sky*, that 2012 over-the-top "Nazis in space" film we watched at a recent LSF "Movie Madness" Party. Steele has, instead, written a fascinating – and, at times, exciting – story about what might have happened if the Nazis had abandoned the V-2 program in favor of spending its resources to develop *Silbervogel* ("silver bird"), a manned orbital rocket capable of attacking the United States. It *could* have happened, you know.

Here's what happened in *our* timeline: During WWII, Werner von Braun was the technical director of Nazi Germany's ballistic missile program at Peenemünde. They built the A-4 rocket, which became the first vehicle to reach outer space during its test program in 1942-1943. By 1943, Germany began mass-producing the A-4 (re-designated as the V-2), a supersonic ballistic missile with a

range of 200 miles that was used to bomb southern England and parts of Allied-liberated Western Europe until 1945. At war's end, American, British, and Soviet intelligence teams raced to capture Germany's rocket engineers, the actual rockets, and the designs on which those rockets were based. Operation Paperclip resulted in Von Braun and most of his engineering team (and a number of complete V-2 rockets) coming over to the U.S., where they became the basis for the American missile and space exploration programs.



But here's Allen Steele's alternate history: Hitler's well-documented infatuation with "miracle weapons" (high-tech weapons that would turn the war in Germany's favor) is joined with some fortuitous politicking by Von Braun and like-minded rocket-enthusiasts in the German military. This leads to full-scale funding for plans to attack the United States with unstoppable manned intercontinental rockets. When British and American spy networks find out about the secret Nazi rocket program, a team of American rocket scientists – under the leadership of Robert Goddard – is quickly assembled to "catch up with the Nazis" and counter the Nazi threat.

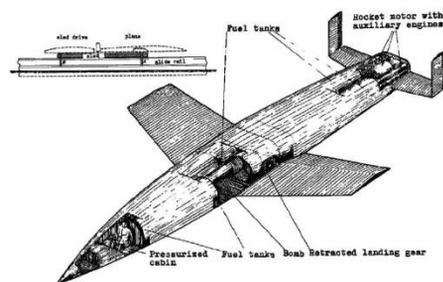
As the deadly competition progresses, *V-S Day* offers a fascinating contrast between the two teams of rocket scientists. In Germany, Von Braun and his associates must endure constant interference from Göring, Himmler, and Goebbels, as that power-hungry triumvirate compete for dominance within the Nazi hierarchy while threatening the scientists in order to "encourage" quicker results. Von Braun is also having doubts about the exclusive military application of rocketry and is increasingly disturbed by glimpses of the slave labor used to build the infrastructure of the *Silbervogel* launch site.

Meanwhile, in the U.S., Goddard and his team are handicapped by the paranoid security concerns of the Army and the FBI. Progress is hampered by strict "compartmentalization", as well as by the geographic separation of the theoretical lab in Massachusetts from the secret manufacturing sites and the actual assembly-and-testing facilities in New Mexico. Delay, delay, delay – while spies report that the Nazis are getting closer and closer to launching *Silbervogel*. And Goddard's health is precarious. Before the War, he'd moved to the Southwest to counter the effects of his tuberculosis. Now, with his return to New England, Goddard's condition is once again deteriorating.

But matters are even worse than anyone suspects. The Nazis have identified Goddard as the indispensable center of the U.S. rocket program; and a team of assassins has been sent to the U.S. to locate and kill him. Will the U.S. get a rocket built in time to successfully counter the Nazi threat? As I said, *V-S Day* really gets exciting from time to time. It's "alternate history" at its best.

Coincidentally, just as I was finishing up *V-S Day*, I ran across Issue 8 of the British magazine *All About History*. It features an article entitled "Hitler's Astronauts – the rise and fall of the Nazi rocket programme that threatened to terrorise the world". The article includes a discussion of the A-10 rocket (including pictures of the plans), which was being developed beginning in 1940 under the codename Project Amerika. The article is a great counterpoint to Steele's novel.

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Carrot and Stick

by Maxton Young-Jones
for Peter Knapp



Part Three of Three

Characters

TUMBLES: A Rabbit. Often Irate.

An artist.

PEEP: A Rabbit. Often scared.

Occasionally Satan.

HOPSY: A Rabbit. Often

Fabulous. Twitter-famous.

DORA: A Rabbit. Newcomer.

A two story rabbit cage in a library that is also used as a home office.

HOPSY: Taz once said something to that effect. I told him he was full of shit.

DORA: Who dat bitch be?

HOPSY: Nevermind.

DORA: He de other Rabbit I be smellin'?

HOPSY: Dora, drop it.

DORA: He dead, ain't he?

(Pause.)

HOPSY: I think you should go now.

DORA: What he die of?

HOPSY: Go.

DORA: He mean a lot to you, din't he?

(Pause.)

PEEP (from below): Um...There are some things we don't talk about. Dora. Who we were before we got here, what we had to do before we were doped, and the death we've faced. You're like us, I expect you've seen some, um, death and some, um...well, you know. Please do the Rabbit thing for once and run from it.

DORA: Dis a private conversation 'tween me and Hoppity, here.

HOPSY: Hopsy.

DORA: Hoppity. Private. Convo. Ya'heard?

TUMBLES: Of course I've 'heard'! For Frith's sake, look at your ears! They're not just for decoration!

DORA: Is dat why you hate me?

TUMBLES: Because of your ears?

DORA: No. Because I ain't Taz.

HOPSY: Dora, I've been kind but please...

DORA: Boy, I get it. Taz was yo' lover. You was on de downlow cause you didn't want Tumbles to find out you was tryin' out beein' all 'human gay' cause he a bigot and a punk-ass virgin.

HOPSY (surprised): How did you...?

DORA: Bitch, you ain't so smart. None of you is. No, I ain't Taz. And no, I ain't never gonna be. But you know what I am?

PEEP: Loud?

DORA (ignoring him): A badass, mofo. Dat's who I am. Dat's what I want. But you know what else? I love ya'll. I'm YO badass mofo.

TUMBLES: Please.

DORA: Even you, Haterade. Even you. You know why?

TUMBLES: Love us? You've only been here for a few months!

DORA: Yeah. But you mah family. You mah only family. 'Nuff said

(Pause.)

PEEP: I'm...I'm not so good with families. I'm still getting used to this one. Before I got here...lots of bad things happened. I think that's why I'm always try to bring down the establishment. I know our Dads love us, but when Taz died it was like being outside again. And outside you had to be tough especially if you wanted to being down the system. I'm not so good at tough, so I just change my name to seem like it.

It's not working is it?

TUMBLES: No.

HOPSY (to DORA): Last week he was Sauron.

DORA: 'S'aigh't Peep-pop. Mama Dora loves you. You safe wit me.

PEEP: Thank you.

DORA: As for you, Tumbles. Why you so inse-curr?

TUMBLES: Are you kidding? You're loud, rude, obnoxious, forward. AND YOU RUINED MY SHITPILE!

DORA: Uh...

HOPSY: He makes 'artwork'. Kind of like excrement Feng-Sui.

DORA: Hm. 'zat all? You wan' me to put it back?

TUMBLES (off guard): For a start.

DORA: Well I guess I owe you an apology. Don't nobody say I ain't da bigguh woman.

TUMBLES (smirking): Don't let Hopsy hear you.

HOPSY: I never said I was the bigger woman. Just the bigger Queen. Well now that that's all taken care of, dear, why don't we all just take a nice nap and I can update Twitter before Peter comes back.

DORA: I ain't done wit you yet. Get yo' tail back here.

HOPSY: How about, no.

DORA: How 'bout yes. GIT.
(HOPSY gits.)

DORA: How come you ain't told 'em about Taz?

HOPSY: None of your business.

DORA: How come? You got two gay dads. Ain't no one gonna judge you.

HOPSY: Please, Dora, I appreciate what you're trying to do but there are limits.

DORA: Fine. You write on dat machine, yeah? Dat box?

HOPSY: The computer. Yes. I'm Twitter famous.

DORA: The hell?

PEEP: I think Hopsy means that she talks to a lot of strangers through the computer and they pretend to care about her because she's funny.

DORA: She? You's a doe, like me? Right on, sistah, cuz I was smellin' all kinds of sausage up in my grill and I was not about dat life, n'ameen?

HOPSY: ...what?

DORA: You Trans. S'great.

HOPSY: I don't know. I'm still figuring things out. It may just be an affectation.

DORA: Dat why you not tell 'bout Taz? You worried that Tumbles try to be all thug witchu?

HOPSY: No. Even if he Tumbles will bitch about something very loudly and very often, but he comes around eventually.

TUMBLES: Why does everyone pick on me?

DORA: But you told de Twitter-box, bout Taz. Dintchu?

(Pause.)

HOPSY: Yes.

(continued on page 5)

**Minutes of the
May LSF Meeting
taken by Scott**



Business

Peter & Rob will be hosting an LSF gaming party and parade viewing on Saturday, June 7th. On Sunday, June 8th, LSF will have a booth at the Pride Festival.

Peter reported that the Gay-lactic Network Board has asked if LSF would “partner” with Bent-con to co-host Gaylaxicon in Burbank CA in November 2015. Peter, Rob, and Carl would be the primary liaisons between the Bent-Con con-comm and the Network. If LSF agrees, the nature of the Bent-Con/LSF/Network relationship needs to be worked out by September, so that the 2015 date can be advertised, etc. Peter proposed that LSF hold a vote at the June LSF meeting on whether it would like to engage in this activity. Carl said that the hotel room rate is \$145/night at this November’s Bent-Con. [Ed. note: See article on page 2.]

Social

Lots of discussion about this year’s AwesomeCon held at the Washington Convention Center. Everyone had fun! Rob liked the Sean Astin panel. The first masquerade was too crowded to get in. It was noted that AwesomeCon charged a separate admission for the geek speed dating event. Rob liked meeting the character artist for the TV series *Archer*.

Peter passed around flyers he picked up at AwesomeCon for some upcoming gaming and music concerts in the metropolitan area, like BitGen

Gamerfest. The not-yet-existing Museum of Science Fiction had a table at the con. Peter also distributed the current issue of *Parsec*, the newsletter of the Pittsburgh sci-fi group.

CapClave is slated for October 10-12, 2014. An organization called www.dc17.org is sponsoring a bid for the 75th WorldCon for August 2017 at the Marriott Ward-man Park Hotel in DC. WorldCon in DC in 2017 would be competing against Montreal, Japan, and Helsinki.

Rob visited Geppi’s Entertainment Museum in Baltimore, next to Camden Yards. Comic books & pop culture! Highly recommended.

Movies – *The Amazing Spiderman 2* has received a couple of *underwhelming* reviews. A new movie version of *Annie* movie will apparently premiere in December. Peter has scheduled a movie outing in two weeks to see *X-Men: Days of Future Past*. *Guardians of the Galaxy* looks hilarious. *Godzilla* and *Maleficent* look captivating.

The HBO series *Leftovers* (about 2% of the Earth’s population disappearing) starts in June. Peter described Showtime’s *Penny Dreadful*, set in Victorian England with a crossover between the mundane & the supernatural. It contains nudity and gory body parts!

Attendees reminisced about the Sid and Marty Krofft TV shows. We watched a “pilot” on YouTube for a potential remake of *ElectraWoman and DynaGirl*. (ElectraWoman as an alcoholic living in a trailer park?) Peter described FX’s vampire horror TV series *The Strain*, created by Guillermo del Toro and Chuck Hogan.

Rob reminded about the upcoming LSF book discussion (May 22): *The Drowning Girl* by Caitlín Kiernan. **ΛΨΦ**

Carrot and Stick
continued from page 4



DORA: Cuz you got yo’ heart broken.

HOPSY: Yes, dammit. I got mopey and ran to the internet. It was so stupid. Thank god, I don’t have a LiveJournal.

PEEP: Don’t belittle your feelings like that.

TUMBLES: Hate to say it, but Peep’s right. We would have listened. We lost Taz, too.

HOPSY (small): But I loved him.

DORA: Just because he gone don’t mean he gonna stop.

HOPSY: Is this what you do? Get in the middle of everyone’s personal problems because you think you can just fix people like a broken treadmill? Huh!? Is that it!?

DORA: I jus’ tell it like it is.

HOPSY: Well here’s how it is: you shouldn’t prod just because you’re right. ESPECIALLY because you’re right.

DORA: I understand.

HOPSY: Do you?

(Pause.)

DORA: I understand.

HOPSY: Good. You’re a bitch.

DORA: Sorry.

HOPSY: I forgive you. Welcome to the family. Come over and snuggle.

(At first DORA is uncomprehending. Then she moves over to snuggle with HOPSY, who is smiling. PEEP and TUMBLES join them. It is adorable.)

(Endplay.) **ΛΨΦ**



Pride may be allowed to this or that degree, else a man cannot keep up his dignity. In gluttony there must be eating, in drunkenness there must be drinking; ‘tis not the eating, nor ‘tis not the drinking that is to be blamed, but the excess. So in pride. --- John Selden: *TableTalk*, 1689

quoted in *A Dictionary of Quotations on Historical Principles from Ancient & Modern Sources*, Selected and edited by H.L. Mencken (Alfred A. Knopf, 2001)

*** * 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 copy of 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. But the next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on **Saturday, June 7th, at Peter and Rob's home, 1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC.**, along with the Pre-Pride Gaming Party & Parade Viewing. There will be a short LSF meeting at 2:00 PM; and then the games begin!! For more details, see the article on page 1. 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 & James



August 1-3, 2014 **SHORE LEAVE 36**. Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Guests: "Will be announced as soon as they are confirmed." Membership: \$80 for the weekend (daily rates available). Send membership (with SASE) and check payable to "Shore Leave" to: Shore Leave 36, PO Box 6809, Towson, MD 21285-6809.

Website (for info and "the quickest updates"): www.shore-leave.com E-mail: information@shore-leave.com

October 10-12, 2014 **CAPCLAVE 2014: CIRQUE DE LA CAPCLAVE**. Hilton Washington DC/North Gaithersburg (Gaithersburg, MD). Guests of Honor: Paolo Bacigalupi, Holly Black, Genevieve Valentine. Membership: \$50 June-July; \$55 Aug. – Sept.; \$60 at the door.

Website: www.capclave.org For more info: info@capclave.org

November 6-9, 2014 **WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION 2014**: 1914-2014 – Three Centennials. Hyatt Regency Crystal City (Arlington, VA). Guests: Les Edwards (aka Edward Miller), Guy Gavriel Kay, Stuart David Schiff, Laid Finlay (daughter of Virgil Finlay), Jane Yolen. Attending membership: \$200. On-line and mail-in membership forms available on the website.

Website: <http://worldfantasy2014.org/> For more info: info@worldfantasy2014.org

November 28-30, 2014 **CHESSIECON 2014**. Crowne Plaza Baltimore North (Timonium, MD). Author GoH: Tamora Pierce. Music GoH: Tom Smith. Art GoH: Theresa Mather. Special Guest: Katherine Kurtz. Membership: \$55 until Nov. 14; \$60 at the door. Payment via Paypal; or print membership form from website (checks payable to "Thanksgiving Science Fiction Society") and send to: TSFS, Inc., PO Box 83032, Gaithersburg, MD 20883-3032

Website: <http://chessiecon.org> For more info: info@chessiecon.org

June 19-21, 2015 **CAPITOL CON DC 2015**. "A new science fiction/fantasy convention for the Washington DC area." Washington Court Hotel on Capitol Hill (Washington DC). Media GoH: Doug Jones ("Abe Sapien" in *Hellboy* and *Hellboy 2*). Author GoH: Sherrilyn Kenyon. Artist GoH: Ruth Sanderson. More info as it becomes available.



**GAYLAXICON
2015 ?
[stay tuned...]**