



Lambda Sci-Fi

DC Area Gaylaxians

(202) 232-3141 - Issue # 303 – June 2015

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LSF Pre-Pride Gaming Party and Capital Pride Parade-Viewing Saturday, June 13th info provided by Peter

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

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

We’ll start the party with a brief LSF meeting, including an important Gaylaxicon 2015 vote by LSF members.

When: June 13th (Saturday); 2:00 PM – ?? There’ll be a short LSF meeting at 2:00 PM; and then let the games begin!!!



(Note: We’ll take a break to walk down the street and watch the 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” Street NW, Washington, DC 20009. Their home is in the 14th and “U” (MidCity) neighborhood near Dupont Circle and Logan Circle.

Directions (with Metro and parking advice) at: [Directions to Peter and Rob’s Place Place](#)

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LSF Table at Capital Pride Festival Sunday, June 14th



For the 25th 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, Peter, and Carl 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



<<<<< June 2015 LSF Meeting >>>>>

A short LSF meeting will be held on **Saturday, June 13th**, just before the start of the gaming party (see above). For details on the party and the meeting, see the above article about the “Pre-Pride Gaming Party”.

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What’s Inside?

Page 2: (T + L) x 2 = ? (book reviews); Minutes of the May LSF Meeting.

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I can just hear you now: “Good grief! Now we’ve got to use algebra to read the newsletter!” No, no, don’t worry. That’s just a clever (I hope) way to introduce this article. In this case, “T” stands for “Tarzan”, “L” stands for “Joe R. Lansdale”, and the “x 2” means that there are two book reviews. In other words, I’m reviewing two Tarzan-related books written by one of my favorite authors: Joe R. Lansdale (“hissself”). “And what’s the answer to the equation?” you ask. “Well,” says I, “(T + L) x 2 = reading enjoyment!” (Stop groaning!)



**U.S.
Postage
Stamp
featuring
ERB and
Tarzan**

Tarzan: The Lost Adventure
by Edgar Rice Burroughs &
Joe R. Lansdale
(Del Rey/Ballantine, 1997)

This first book was kind of a sensation in the world of ERB Fandom. The last two Tarzan books written by Burroughs were printed posthumously in 1964 and 1965. Then another unfinished and untitled Tarzan typescript was discovered in ERB’s safe. After all kinds of discussions and squabbling (in fact, 30 years later), a judging panel selected by the Burroughs family gave the task of turning this 83-page type-script into a completed novel to Joe R. Lansdale (of Weird Western and horror fame, including *Bubba Ho-Tep*) Dark Horse Comics first published *Tarzan: The Lost Adventure* as a four-part graphic novel in 1995. It was a resounding success; and Dark Horse then rushed it out as a hardcover novel. In 1997, Del Rey/Ballantine issued

Minutes of the May LSF Meeting

taken by Dan
(our guest minute-taker)

The meeting started with Rob providing a background of the state of the Hugo awards, explaining the “Sad Puppies”, “Rabid Puppies”, and “Social Justice Warriors”, along with notes about how the Worldcon rules system and constitution allows for eventual change. A general history of Worldcon commenced.

In a case of synchronicity, Carl noted that he is reading *Before Tomorrowland* (Disney Press – tie-in to the upcoming film *Tomorrowland*). It contains some degree of focus around the first World Science Fiction Convention and the 1939 World’s Fair. Carl noted some unfortunate anachronisms: someone saying “Welcome to Worldcon!” (which wasn’t 1939 terminology); and Amelia Earhart being introduced as “Ms. Earhart” (although “Ms.” wasn’t an accepted word in 1939 either).

Generalized discussion followed: a name circle; discourse about a board game based on the *Archer* TV series; Mother’s Day; an interrogation of a newcomer by the Speaker; and details about the upcoming pre-Pride (June 13th).

A movie outing was suggested for June 27th to see *Jurassic World*, with Gallery Place and the Uptown as possible venues. During a

it as a 250-page mass market paperback – which is the edition I’ve read.

Tarzan has returned to Africa, hoping to never return to civilization. (Jane is home in England – nothing is said of this beyond the fact that it simply is the way things are.) He encounters a lost anthropological expedition seeking evidence of “the Great Apes” who raised Tarzan and the fabulous lost city of Ur. (No, not “Ur of the Chaldees” in Mesopotamia – it’s *another* Ur.) There are storms, attacks by wild animals and wilder natives, dastardly deserters from the Foreign Legion, and an undying god-monster from the center of the Earth – in other words, complications galore

follow-on discussion of the previous movies, James revealed (to his eternal shame) that he preferred *Jurassic Park III* (“The Cashing In On the Franchise”) over *The Lost World* – thus revealing himself to be a heathen. (I merely report what I observe.)

Other movies discussed: *Ex Machina* (general consensus: worth seeing); *Mad Max: Fury Road* (lacked generalized support; seen as more of a niche interest; *Avengers: Age of Ultron* (several enjoyed the greater character development afforded to Hawkeye). The discussion of *Age of Ultron* spawned talk of other upcoming and existing Marvel Studios properties, such as the upcoming *Inhumans* movie and their current inclusion in the TV series *Marvel’s Agents of Shield*.

Twas at this point that Jared and Collette from the group DC17 came in as special guests. “DC17” is an organization with the goal of having Washington, DC host the 2017 Worldcon, which would be the 75th Worldcon. (The last time DC hosted Worldcon was in 1974.) Jared and Collette provided some history of Worldcon, an explanation of the site selection process, and how LSF could help improve DC’s chances of hosting. DC17 will be hosting panels and/or attending several upcoming cons to drum up support (including AwesomeCon and Balticon). In answer to a question, Jared and Collette stated that hosting NASFiC was not on their radar; their entire focus is on Worldcon. **ΛΨΦ**

ensue. It’s “typical” Pulp Era fare, with all the virtues and faults thereof.

There are a couple of interesting features, though. First off: this is the first time I’ve ever heard anyone describe Tarzan’s “Great Apes” as NOT being “apes” at all; they’re described as “considerably more hominid than gorilla. Closer to Australopithecus.” Interesting touch; I assume it’s attributable to Lansdale. Second off: each chapter contains a line drawing by one of the fabulous artists who illustrated the original Dark Horse publication: Gary Gianni, Michael Kaluta, Charles Vess, and Thomas Yeates. *Very nice!*

(continued on page 3)

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 25, 2015.

Here are the details for the next couple of book discussions:

June 25 – *City of Stairs*, by Robert Jackson Bennett (moderator: Claire).

July 23 – *Ms. Marvel – No Normal* (graphic novel) (moderator: Rob).

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A New Word

info passed along by Peter

My friend Daniel coined this new word:

Fantitled

Members of fandom who consider that their professed love of something entitles them to claim privilege above and beyond anyone else.

(for example)

"I can't believe all these *fantitled* people whining that they should get a guaranteed pass to the *Doctor Who* convention just because they liked it before it was cool!"

(from Urban Dictionary)

<http://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Fantitled>



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got fandom?

Tarzan Reviews

continued from page 2

Great literature? Not by any stretch of the imagination. But Lansdale does a remarkable job of recreating the style of "the early Burroughs" – in other words: Pulp Era fiction. The odds are pretty good you won't enjoy it unless you're a big-time ERB fan.



Tarzan,
as
depicted
by
George
Barr

The Ape Man's Brother
by Joe R. Lansdale
(Subterranean Press, 2014)

This novella is Joe Lansdale through and through: wryly witty, irreverent, imaginative. It's a rather different version of the Tarzan legend as only Lansdale could write it. Oh, and by the way, the name "Tarzan" never appears in the story – he's always "The Big Guy".

The story is an old-age remembrance by The Big Guy's ape-brother – it's "the real lowdown", what actually happened. ("I want to say right here and now, the one who wrote the most about him, claimed he was my man's main biographer, had no business telling the story in the first place. He wasn't there.") It's the story of The Big Guy's origin and early life in the jungle, his meeting with "The Woman" and her scientist father Dr. Rice, their journey to – and misadventures in – civilization, and their eventual return to The Big Guy's jungle home. Lansdale has made several fascinating changes to the Burroughs original:

First off, Burroughs told how "Great Apes" found and raised the baby Tarzan. However, as with Philip Jose Farmer before him, Lansdale presents the "Great Apes" as "more accur-

ately somewhere closer to an Australopithecus with a larger brain" – "neither ape nor modern man, nor actually Australopithecus, but a humanoid off-shoot". This leads to some interesting complications when The Big Guy and the narrator ("the ape man's brother") eventually end up in New York City: "what happened between the lady and myself was not technically bestiality, no matter what the tabloids say."

Secondly, unlike Tarzan, The Big Guy has never been anywhere near Africa. His parents' airplane actually crashed on an unknown island in the North Atlantic, where prehistoric animals continue to survive in the subtropical climate within a gigantic crater. If you're a big Burroughs fan, then this probably sounds familiar. Yes, Lansdale has cleverly combined the Tarzan story with Burroughs's "Caspak" novels (*The Land that Time Forgot* and *The People That Time Forgot*).

Finally, I was quite surprised to find that Lansdale has also blended "alternate history" elements into the story. In The Big Guy's world, it seems that some sort of world war ended rather differently: "I learned that at one time there had been a war, and one side of this huge country we were going to had been taken over by the Japanese, but in time they united. Still, the West Coast was called Japanese-America, the East, European-America." Oh, and the zeppelin dock atop the Empire State Building actually functions as such in *their* New York City.

The Ape Man's Brother is written in a modern, colloquial style – typical Lansdale – not the stilted Pulp Era style that Lansdale used in *Tarzan: The Lost Adventure*. All in all, I think this novella is a hoot-and-a-half – *i.e.* I really enjoyed it. It's one more example of why I'm such a big Lansdale fan.

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Tarzan,
by
Frank
Frazetta

* * 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. However, the next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held in conjunction with the LSF Pre-Pride Gaming Party on **Saturday, June 13th, at Peter and Rob's home, 1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC.** (See article on page 1 for details.) 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



June 19-21, 2015 **CAPITAL 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: Leanne Hannah. Weekend membership: \$50 until June 18; \$55 at the door (daily rates available). On-line registration thru the convention website.

Website: <http://www.capitalcon.org/>

Oct. 9-11 **CAPCLAVE 2015**. Hilton Washington DC North/Gaithersburg (Gaithersburg MD). Guests include: Gordon Van Gelder (Editor, *F&SF Magazine*); Alastair Reynolds (*Revelation Space*). Membership: \$55 until July 31st; \$60 until Sept. 30th; \$65 at the door. On-line registration thru the convention website.

Website: www.capclave.org

Nov. 6-8, 2015 **BENT-CON/GAYLAXICON 2015**. Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel and Convention Center (Burbank, CA). Membership: \$60 weekend rate. More info as it becomes available.

Website: <http://bent-con.org/>

See Progress Report # 1 at the following web address:

<http://www.lambdascifi.org/club/Bentcon-Gaylaxicon-2015-PR1.pdf>



Gaylaxicon



Nov. (date TBA) **PHILCON 2015**. "Philcon 2015 information will be coming soon! In the meantime, please e-mail any questions to info2015@philcon.org "

Nov. 27-29, 2015 **CHESSIECON 2015** ("Where Traditions Evolve"). Radisson North Baltimore Hotel (Timonium, MD). Author GoH: Seanan McGuire; Artist GoH: Ursula Vernon; Music GoH: Heather Dale; Special Guest: Tamora Pierce. Membership: \$55 until Nov. 15; \$60 at the door. On-line membership available (using PayPal), or print out the membership form and mail it and a check payable to "Thanksgiving Science Fiction Society" to: TSFS, Inc., PO Box 83032, Gaithersburg, MD 20883-2032.

Website: <http://chessiecon.org>

Info at: info@chessiecon.org

