PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (202) 232-3141 - Issue #170 - May 2004

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







What? LSF Pre-Pride Video/ Gaming Party.

When? June 12, 2004 -3:00pm to midnight (doors open at 3 PM).

Where? The home of Peter and Rob - 1425 "S" Street NW. Washington, DC

In honor of the 2004 Capital Pride Day celebrations, LSF will be hosting another one of its not-to-bemissed Pre-Pride Video/Gaming Parties. Bring your favorite science fiction/ fantasy/horror movies (DVD or VHS format), board/card/social games, and munchies, finger food, and non-alcoholic beverages to share. As usual, attendees will vote on which movies to watch in two different rooms. Space for board/card/social games will also be provided. At 6:00 PM, we'll take a break to go see the Capital Pride Parade and then either go out to dinner or order takeout. Movies and gaming start up again after dinner, lasting until ???

Closest Metro Stop: Take Metro to the "U" Street/Cardozo stop (Green



Gaylaxicon 2005 **Update**

from Wayne Wilkening

Now that everyone is back from San Diego – or sad that they didn't go – here's an update on what the crew in Boston is preparing for you for next year's Gavlaxicon.

We're proud to announce that Lois McMaster Bujold has agreed to be our Guest of Honor. Lois is an awardwinning author with (to date) 4 Hugos, 2 Nebulas, and 2 Locus Awards. Her current novel. Paladin of Souls, is nominated for this year's Best Novel Hugo. LSF members and those who read preferentially off the LSF Recommends list will know her of her novel Ethan of Athos.



Lois McMaster **Bjold**

photo credit: David Dyer-**Bennet**

Gaylaxicon 2005 will be held July 1-4,2005 at the Hyatt Regency Cambridge. The hotel is located right on the Charles River and offers a great view of Boston and the 4th of July fireworks display. Hotel information is available at:

www.hyattregencycambridge.com

We're planning a great convention, with all the traditional Gaylaxicon trimmings-including the Chocolate Symposium and Gaylactic Jeopardy. We're also going to continue some of the new traditions from Gaylaxicon 2004 San Diego, including a drive-in movie night and organizing activities before and after the convention.

So, plan to join us next year. Come a few days early and stay a few days afterwards. The room rate is \$104. There's lots to see and do in Boston around the 4th of July. But hurry, and sign up now! The membership rate for Gaylaxicon 2005 is presently \$40 - but this only lasts until the end of June! For more information, go to:

www.gaylaxicon.org/2005

We'll save you a front row seat for the fireworks display! ΛΨΦ

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 Rite Aid. Follow "U" Street to 14th Street. (There will be a McDonald's at 14th Street.) Cross 14th

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Next LSF Meeting: May 9th

The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held at James Crutchfield's apartment (1414 17th St., NW, #413) on Sunday, May 9th. 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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LSF Meeting Minutes - April 18, 2004 -

taken by Scott

Business Meeting

Per e-mails sent out to the membership, a series of motions were brought up for a vote. (A quorum was achieved through members present and proxy votes.) The motion to have an emergency vote at this meeting was carried. The motion for LSF to have a table at the upcoming Pride Day Festival (Sunday, June 14, 2004) passed. There was discussion whether LSF should just have a table at Pride, as in prior years, or whether LSF should have a table and be able to sell goods (which only costs \$30 more). The motion passed for LSF to pay the higher fee and be able to sell goods (Gaylaxicon shirts, LSF shirts, memberships, etc.).

Deacon McCubbin (ofLambda Rising bookstore) has approached LSF about changing the link at the LSF website from Amazon.com to the Independent Booksellers Consortium affiliate program. Rob advised that Amazon.com discounts hardback books a little bit more; and it was also noted that Booksellers does not sell DVD's (which some LSF members like to purchase online). Rob noted that the LSF bylaws would need to changed to reflect such a change-over, since they explicitly reference Amazon.com. It was suggested that the reference be updated to be more generic. Rob offered to craft a proposal for the next (May) meeting.

Social Meeting

The social meeting began with a traditional name circle, since there were new people in attendance.

And onto the Capital Pride Festival slated for Sunday, June 13, 2004, at Freedom Plaza. Following LSF tradition, we will host both a pre-Pride video party and a post-Pride video party. The pre-Pride party will be held on Saturday, June 12, at the recently-renovated home of Peter and Rob. Thepost-Pride video party (Saturday, June 19, 2004) will probably be held at Julian's home in Glover Park.

Various members volunteered to

An LSF First! LSF at the Opera!!

from Mike C.

And now, for something completely different... Join some LSFer's as we go to the opera!

The Maryland Opera Studio will be putting on a full production of Offenbach's immortal opera *Tales of Hoffman* (*Les Contes d'Hoffman*), at the Clarice Smith Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Maryland. *Tales of Hoffman* is based on three stories by the 19th century fantasy author E.T.A. Hoffmann, and involves such genre content as robots, ghosts, and a woman who steals souls.

WHEN: Saturday, May 1st, 2004, 7:30pm (far in advance, I know, but it's good to get tickets early).

WHERE: Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, University Blvd and Stadium Drive, College Park, MD. (A shuttle runs from the College Park Metro station.)



HOW MUCH: Tickets are \$20 each (a bargain for the opera!), and can be ordered by calling 301-405-ARTS or by visiting the center's box office in person.

The opera will be sung in French, with English surtitles. The Clarice Smith Center is casual, so you can leave your tuxedos and tiaras at home.

More info can be had at: http://www.claricesmithcenter.umd.edu If you're going to go, please let me know by emailing me at:

Stenbock@aol.com

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bring items for display and distribution at the Pride Day table (back issues of LSF newsletters, bookmarks, membership forms, the LSF Recommends booklist, calendar of upcoming LSF events, etc.).

Michael C. told us about a recent LSF movie outing to the AFI Theatre (Silver Spring, MD) to see the original *Pink Panther* movie. He also mentioned that AFI will be showing the original *Godzilla* movie (*sans* Raymond Burr).

LSFers who attended the recent *Hellboy* movie outing commented that the movie was enjoyable and heavily Lovecraftian-influenced.

Carl commented on his recent visit to Las Vegas where he visited "The *Star Trek* Experience." He enjoyed the Klingon ride more than the Borg ride.

Movie News: Reviews for *The Punisher* movie (based on the Marvel Comics character) have been unfavorable. But it was also noted that the star of the movie spends much of his time barechested (or wearing a torn shirt).

Gaylaxicon 2004 Feedback: Itwas reported that most attendees at the Gaylaxicon 2004 in San Diego enjoyed themselves. Rob commented that he felt the conprogramming was somewhat weak. The Saturday night video feature included the *Superfag* movie, a gay-themed episode of the *Hidden Universe* (a fan-created *Star Trek* series), previews/out-takes of the *Surge of Power* movie, and an adult (X-rated) version of *Pokeman* created by Gaylaxion Artist Guest of Honor Joe Phillips.

Next year's Gaylaxicon is scheduled for the Independence Day holiday weekend in Boston, with guest author Lois McMaster Bujold. A bid has been submitted to hold the 2006 Gaylaxicon in Toronto (within a week of the Toronto Gay Pride festival).

TV News: The four-hour *Farscape* miniseries will shown during the fourth quarter of 2004 on the Sci Fi Channel. Michael C. reported that the third

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LSF Pre-Pride Video/Gaming Party

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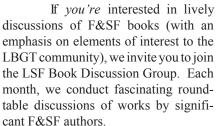
Street toward the McDonald's. Turn left in front of the McDonald's and follow 14th Street for two full blocks. When you cross "T" Street, you'll pass a church that looks like a warehouse. When you cross Swann Street (which is between "T" and "S" Streets), you'll pass a 24-hour laundry. At "S" Street, turn right. (If you cross "S" Street and pass a small used car lot, *you've gone too far.*) You'll pass the Whitman Walker Clinic and then an alley. We're the seventh row house after the alley: 1425 "S" Street NW. (It's red.) If you get lost, give us a call at 202-483-6369.

Alternate Metro Stop: Take Metro to the Dupont Circle stop (Red Line). Exit the Metro on the "Q" Street side of the station. At the top of the escalator, turn right on "Q" Street. As you walk along "Q" Street, you'll pass a liquor store on your right and a Wrap Works Sandwich Shop on your left. You'll continue along "Q" Street for five blocks, passing the Raku Asian Restaurant at 19th Street, a couple of large apartment buildings at 18th Street (crossing 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, turn left, and walk 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. (It's a red row house.) If you get lost, give us a call at 202-483-6369.

Driving Directions: 1425 "S" Street NW is in the 1400 block of "S" Street (which runs East-West), halfway between 14th and 15th Streets (which both run North-South). 14th St. is a two-way street; 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 drive 1½ blocks (from 16th St.) or 6½ blocks (from Connecticut Ave.).
- From the South: Take US Route 1 North

The LSF Book Discussion Group



The LSF Book Discussion Group generally meets on the 4th Thursday of every month, starting at 7:00 PM. The next meeting will be held on May 20th.

REMINDER: Now that renovations at Rob & Peter's house have been completed (Hooray!), the LSF Book Discussion Group is once again being held there: **1425** "S" St., NW -for directions or more details, call 202-483-6369).

Here's the schedule for the next couple of months:

May 20th (NOTE: date change to 3rd Thursday, due to Memorial Day Weekend) - Perdido Street Station by China Mieville; moderator: Michael M.

June 24th - *Fire Logic* by Laurie Marks; moderator: Rob.

July 22nd - *Cyteen* by C.J. Cherryh; moderator: TBA. ΑΨΦ

in Virginia (via I-95/495, if that's convenient). When you reach Washington DC, Route 1 becomes 14th St. Follow 14th St. to "S" St., turn left onto "S" St., and go along "S" St. for half a block.

Parking: Street parking is generally available, though it is harder to find the later it gets. On weekends, there are no extra parking restrictions — other than the usual laws regarding intersections, hydrants, alleys, etc. (Safe distances are usually marked on the pavement.)

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

PeterKnapp@wavelengthsonline.com or Rob at: rgates@wavelengthsonline

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LSF Meeting Minutes

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incarnation of Dan Curtis' *Dark Shadows* will be filmed in Hollywood. Believe it or not, *Star Trek: Enterprise* has been renewed for a half-season. (No one mentioned *Buffy* at all this meeting! Amazing.)

Book News: Tanya Huff's newest book, *Smoke and Shadows*, has been released. (Its main character is the former street urchin/protégé of Henry Fitzroy.) *Earth Logic*, the sequel to Laurie J. Marks's *Fire Logic* is now out.

Hugo nominations have been announced; and the winners of the Nebula Awards have been announced.

LSF Book Discussion Group: Here are the upcoming books to be discussed: *Solitaire*, by Kelley Eskridge (April); *Perdido Street Station*, by China Miéville (May); *Fire Logic*, by Laurie Marks (June); and *Cyteen*, by C.J. Cherryh (July).

Upcoming LSF Outings: Michael C. reminded everyone about the May 1, 2004 outing to see the genre-related opera Tales of Hoffman at the University of Maryland. There will probably be an outing to see the $Van\ Helsing$ movie. (Look for an announcement via the LSF announcement or general discussions e-mail lists.) $\Lambda\Psi\Phi$



Doctor Who: The New Adventures: Damaged Goods by Russell T Davies a book review by Peter Knapp

I'm a big fan of the British science fiction TV series *Doctor Who*. I have avidly collected and read the novelizations of the broadcast stories. When original novels began to appear on bookstore shelves, I collected them and read several before concluding I didn't care for these original stories. Recently I found out that Russell T. Davies, creator of *Queer as Folk* (the original British version) and producer of the new *Doctor Who* series (currently in pre-production), wrote an original adventure with gay content in it. I was intrigued.

A quick primer for those not familiar with the show: *Doctor Who* is about a mysterious humanoid alien on the run from his people in a stolen time-and-space machine. He almost always travels with a companion or two and does everything possible to defeat evil wherever he finds it. The show originally aired on the BBC in the United Kingdom from 1963 to 1989, with one made-fortelevision movie in 1996.

Damaged Goods features the seventh Doctor (eight actors have played the role on TV) and two companions (Chris and Roz) original to the book series. They all arrive at a London housing project in 1987, where unspeakable evil has literally risen from the grave. The local drug dealer, who has recently committed suicide by selfimmolation, rises from his grave and steals the body of a john who has just stabbed his trick, an older closeted widower from the project named Harold. Harold escapes with his life but won't tell anyone what has happened or that he needs medical attention. His verv openly-gay flatmate, David, knows something's wrong but can't get Harold to talk.

Harold is not the only one with secrets. It turns out that most of the residents of the project have seen and/or done things that they don't want to talk about. This hinders the Doctor's efforts



to uncover the truth about what is happening and how to put an end to it.

Whenever I read a TV tie-in, I try to think about how well the book fits into the source material and how well the book stands on its own. I think *Damaged Goods* succeeds on both levels. For *Doctor Who* fans, the author does a very good job of capturing the personality of the seventh Doctor. There are many references to both the TV series and the original novels that are integral to the story. At the same time, the tale can read as an independent book. Because this story is a horrific story, an appreciation for the horror genre is recommended.

In some TV tie-ins, a character's homosexuality doesn't tie into the story and often feels forced. In Damaged Goods, Russell Davies successfully weaves Harold's and David's sexuality into the story. Harold's closeted nature fits right in with the behavior of his neighbors, who all harbor secrets. When the Doctor asks his companion Chris to get some tainted cocaine that the resurrected drug dealer has been selling, Chris asks David to take him clubbing. David is happy to oblige, as he has a big crush on Chris. To David's dismay, he finds out that Chris is straight, but he convinces Chris that it's important to try things at least once.

While reading Damaged Goods, I realized why I don't care for the original Doctor Who novelizations that I've read. While the show almost always takes place from the point of view of the Doctor and his companions, the point of view in the original novels (including this one) centers around the "guest cast." I had trouble developing any empathy for characters introduced in

Jules Verne Society
Conference
Library of Congress
(Washington, DC)
May 13 - 15, 2004
info from David-Glenn Anderson
passed along by Charles Butler



The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, What If ... the Science Fiction and Fantasy Forum of the Library of Congress Professional Association, and the North American Jules Verne Society are pleased to announce that the next conference of the Society will be held at the Library of Congress on May 13-15, 2004.

The conference will be open to the public, Library staff, and members of the North American Jules Verne Society.

A special feature of the conference will be the opportunity to see the Library's Verne collection in its Rare Book Division, the largest such collection in North America. Proposals for presentations and papers to be delivered at the conference on Verne, and/or on related international literary and cultural issues, are encouraged.

For further information, contact Brian Taves, 110 D Street S.E. #515, Washington, DC 20003-1815 (e-mail at: btav@loc.gov). **ΛΨΦ**

this story who would most likely not appear in a later book and would most likely end up dead by the end of the tale.

I think *Damaged Goods* is a decent read. Fans of both *Doctor Who* and horror stories might enjoy this book. For *Doctor Who* fans longing for gay content, this book successfully incorporates sexuality into the mostly asexual world of *Doctor Who*. I can't wait to see what the author does for the pending TV series revival. **ΛΨΦ**

Comic Book: The Movie (the unmaking of a major motion picture) a review by Rodney Elin



Background

In real life Mark Hamill is a big comic book and cartoon fan. In 2002, Hamill arranged for some of his voice actor colleagues to participate with him in a movie. Comic Book: The Movie is filmed as a "fake documentary" in the tradition of This Is Spinal Tap (1984) or A Mighty Wind (2003). Hamill directed the movie and stars as Donald Swann, a nerdy high school history teacher and comic fan from Wisconsin who is hired as a technical advisor to a major motion picture that is being made about Commander Courage, a World War II Golden Age comic book hero. To deflect attention away from him as Luke Skywalker, Hamill grew a beard to play the part of Don Swann in the movie.

Hamill also arranged with the staff of Comic-Con International to host a panel in 2002 called "Mark Hamill Wants You in His Movie." What he did not announce was that the panel was used as a backdrop to film the finale of his movie, which was filmed almost entirely at the 2002 Comic-Con.

The Movie

Comic Book: The Movie stars Hamill and fellow voice actor colleagues Billy West (Fry, Futurama) as Leo Matuzik (the grandson of Jack Whitney, creator of Commander Courage) and Jess Harnell (Wakko, Anamaniacs) as Ricky (the cameraman that the studio provided to film Don Swann going to the con and accepting the Legend Award on behalf of Jack Whitney). Hamill also treats us to

over 30 cameos and brief interviews with comic book and actor legends, including Sid Caesar, Matt Groening, Stan Lee, Ray Harryhausen, and even Hugh Hefner.

The movie itself was necessarily filmed on location at the Comic-Con 2002 and shot entirely on digital video, giving the movie an amateurish, documentary feel. Hamill uses his co-stars to great effect, showing the gradual transformation in Matuzik over the course of filming the documentary – from sheet metal worker to Hollywood mogul – as well as the downfall and eventual corruption of Roger Rose (Brian Pinhead, *The Tick*), a VP for production of the movie-within-the-movie.

The entire cast obviously had a great time filming the movie and playing to the camera for Hamill, with the actors pontificating on the legacy of the fictional hero Commander Courage.

While the movie itself does have a defined plot (Don Swann traveling to San Diego to accept an award on behalf of Jack Whitney and the studio announcing the major motion picture of Commander Courage), the "star" of this film is the Comic-Con itself and the hundreds of characters who attend the con, many in costume. Hamill is a long-time attendee and devotee of the San Diego Comic-Con; and he manages to capture much of the energy and atmosphere of the con itself in his film.

If you are a comic book fan, or even just a fan of cartoon and voice over actors, you will enjoy this movie.

Rating: 3/5.

Special Features

This DVD comes as a two disc set and is loaded with interesting, engaging extras. The first disc contains the film itself, along with commentary by Mark Hamill, Billy West, and Jess Harnell, who all produced the film (along with Roger Rose). It also contains an art gallery of the drawings on which much of the comic artwork in the movie was based, as well as a set of seven

extended deleted scenes that did not fit in the flow of the movie but were too good to be discarded entirely. It also contains a guide to the more than thirty



cameos that appear in the movie. The second disc contains additional extended interviews from the movie and almost 90 minutes of the original panel that Mark Hamill hosted in 2002, featuring 10 different voice actor colleagues of Hamill, including Rob Paulsen and Maurice LeMarche (Pinky and the Brain) and much of the Q&A session from the con. This was the session that Mark Hamill hosted in order to film the finale for his movie. Hamill and his costars had to take about 45 minutes to get into costume to film the finale; and the 10 cartoon voice actors kept the crowd entertained with an extended Q&A session. Unfortunately, some of the better spontaneous parts of this session (such as Rob Paulsen singing "The Nations of the World" as Wakko Warner and Maurice LeMarche's impression of a drunk, belligerent Orson Welles) could not be included because of rights issues.

The deleted scenes, the voice actor Q&A session, and the guide to the cameos make the DVD worth the price alone.

There are two moments of note for actor fans who have direct access on their DVD player. During the movie – at 46 minutes and 3 seconds - there is a very brief shot of Billy West standing in front of a large poster of Fry from Futurama. (West actually voices Fry on the series.) And at 53 minutes and 55 seconds, Mark Hamill (as Don Swann) asks if he and his group can sit down and join three guys sitting at a table and are turned away. The three guys are David Prowse, Peter Mayhew, and Jeremy Bulloch - who played Darth Vader, Chewbacca, and Boba Fett in the Star Wars movies.

Rating for Special Features: 5/5

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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, **May 9th**, at James Crutchfield's home: 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 28-31, 2004**BALTICON 38**. Wyndham Baltimore Inner Harbor (Baltimore). Guest of Honor: Lois McMaster Bujold; Artist Guest of Honor: David Seeley; 2003 Compton Crook Award Winner: Patricia Bray. Membership: \$42 until 2/28/04; \$47 thru 4/30/04; \$52 thereafter & at the door. Make checks payable to "Balticon 38" and send to: Balticon 38, PO Box 686, Baltimore, MD21203-0686

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

July 9-11, 2004 **SHORE LEAVE 26**. Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Guest include: Cirroc ("Jake Sisko") Lofton, Thom ("Hawk") Christopher, Brian ("Lt. Klag") Thompson. Membership: \$50 (higher at the door). Make checks payable to "Shore Leave" (and enclosed 2 SASE's) and send to: Shore Leave 26, PO Box 6809, Towson, MD 21285-6809 Email: information@shore-leave.com

Website: www.shore-leave.com

Sept. 2-6, 2004 **NOREASCON 4 (62nd World Science Fiction Convention).** Hynes Convention Center, Sheraton Marriott Hotel, Mariott Hotel Copley Place (Boston, MA). Pro Guests of Honor: Terry Pratchett, William Tenn. Membership: \$180 thru 7/1/04 (will go UP!). Make checks payable to "Noreascon 4" and send to: Noreascon 4, PO Box 1010, Framingham, MA 01701 Website: www.noreascon.org Info: info@noreascon.org

December 10-12, 2004 PHILCON 2004. Marriott City Center Philadelphia (Phila., PA). Principal Speaker: Brian Aldiss; Artist GoH: TBA; Special Guests: Kevin J. Anderson & Rebecca Moesta, Tom Purdom. Membership: \$40 "until at least 3/31/04." 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



July 1-4, 2005 **GAYLAXICON 2005**. Hyatt Regency Cambridge (Boston, MA). Guest of Honor: Lois McMaster Bujold. Membership: currently \$40 (will go up!). 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.gaylaxicon.org

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: \$75 until 4/30/04 (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

