



Lambda Sci-fi

DC Area Gaylaxians

(202) 232-3141 – Issue # 411 – June 2024

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LSF Gaming Party and Capital Pride Parade Viewing – June 8th announcement from Rob



That's right... you read it correctly... our next LSF Gaming Party is almost here! LSF Gaming Parties are an opportunity to share your favorite board/card type games or to just come and play games you know and love or learn new ones. We have plenty of space so multiple games will be underway at any given time. We'll start at 1:30pm and run through to 11pm or so.

Please Note: This event will replace our normal Second Sunday Social. There will be no Second Sunday Social on Sunday June 9th. (It's Pride Festival Day... go forth and be queer!).



Peter and Rob live less than a block from the Capital Pride Parade route - and we'll plan to take a break to watch the parade as a group. For those who don't want to view the parade or want to only view it briefly, we'll plan for a way for those who do not want to spend any significant time at the parade to be able to remain at the house during the parade viewing break.

Because of road closures we will NOT be ordering pizza for dinner, but you can forage for food at many nearby restaurants and stores. There are a lot of food choices in the Midcity (14th and U) Corridor.

What: LSF Tabletop Gaming & Pride Parade Viewing Party

When: Saturday, June 8th - 1:30 pm until around 11 pm - doors open 1:00 pm

Where: Peter and Rob's Home - 1425 "S" Street NW in DC

What to Bring: Bring your favorite table game (or two or three or...). Also, please bring food/snacks and/or non-alcoholic beverage to share. Please feel free to bring friends along as well - the more gamers the merrier!

Dinner: There are many nearby options.

Questions: Contact Peter at: peter@lambdascifi.org

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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 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 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. The next book discussion will be held on June 27th.

Here are the details for the next several; discussions:

June 27 – *Floating Hotel*, by Grace Curtis (moderator: Rob).

July 25 – *The City We Became*, by N K Jemisin (moderator: Zena).

Aug. 22 – *Die*, Vol. 1 & 2 (graphic novel), by Kieron Gillen *et al* (mod: Dan).

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***** June 8, 2024 Gaming Party *****

The next LSF meeting will be a gaming party held on **Saturday, June 8th**. The party will be held at Peter and Rob's home, **1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC**. See article above. (*There will be NO meeting on Sunday, June 9th.*)



What's Inside?

Page 2: Minutes of the May LSF Meeting; Romans Played RPGs?

Page 3: Alien Presence in Covington KY; Roger Corman (obituary).

Page 4: Info About LSF: DC Area Gaylaxians; Con Calendar; Queen Cleopatra's Fleet Led by a Romulan?

Minutes of the May LSF Meeting

taken by Scott

TV News

Rob described the weirdness of the current season of *Doctor Who* – he enjoys the fantasy leaning of showrunner Russell T. Davies; the most recent episode had a non-subtle abortion theme. Peter and Rob are enjoying the 9-episode *X-Men 97* (sequel to the *X-Men* animated series from the 1990s) – the animation is fashioned in the style of the 1990s – there is a new *X-Men* character created specifically for the animated series called Morph. Rob loves the Netflix series *Deadboy Detectives*, which is located in the *Sandman* universe (rather than the *Doom Patrol* universe), with witches, cat kings and Death & Despair. Jim reminisced about stop-motion animation *Moral Orel* which ran from 2005 to 2008 – he described it as *Davey and Goliath* meets *South Park*. Jim mentioned Shout Gallery, which has made a widescreen blu-ray of the classic *Colossus: The Forbin Project*:

(<https://shoutfactory.com/>)

Andy is bravely watching the entire *Red Dwarf* series. Wess reported that the animated series *Star Wars: Bad Batch* has completed.

Movie News

Jim watched both versions of the original David Lynch *Dune* (the two-hour version and the three-hour version) – he said that neither version succeeded in correctly presenting the original book version. Rob claimed that he liked the SyFy Channel’s version of *Dune*.

Other News

Carl and Jim will be moderating panels at Balticon over the Memorial Day weekend; Jim will be moderating a panel about Godzilla. Rob delighted at the Dungeons-and-Dragons-themed *Twenty-Sided Tavern* play that he and Peter recently saw in New York. There will be no LSF meeting on the 2nd Sunday of June – instead, LSF will gather the day before on Saturday (June 8) for a gaming party and for Pride Day parade watching along 14th Street.

Upcoming LSF book discussions: *Spinning Silver* by Naomi Novik (May); *Floating Hotel* by Grace Curtis (June); *The City We Became* by N.K. Jemisin (July); *Die, Volumes 1 & 2* (covering issues 1-10 of the graphic novel) by Kieron Gillen and Stephanie Hans (Aug.).

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Romans Played RPGs?

a question from Carl

Last June in eastern England, amateur archaeologists unearthed a strange object among the bones, teeth, and pottery shards in an ancient Roman refuse pit. It’s a cast-bronze object: hollow in the middle, flat along all twelve faces, and about the size of a human fist. Each of its 12 pentagon-shaped faces is pierced by a hole (each of different sizes), and each of its 20 corners features a spherical knob. The object has been identified as a “Roman dodecahedron,” and it’s estimated that it was put into the pit some time between 43 A.D. and 410 A.D.

Since 1739, about 130 of these objects have been found across what were northern and western provinces of the Roman Empire (modern day Britain, France, and Germany – all north of the Alps). They range in size from 2 inches across to over 4 inches across. There are no known written descriptions of them in ancient texts; and there are no known ancient pictorial references of them. And nobody really knows what they are.

On the other hand, I’m betting all you gamers out there couldn’t help but think of the 12-sided dice used in *Dungeons and Dragons* and other role-playing games. On the *other* other hand, Lorena Hitchins (an archaeologist specializing in Roman dodecahedrons) doubts that they could have been used as dice: the different-sized holes on each face make the objects unbalanced, and the knobs impede their ability to roll.

Ah well...

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HAVE A HAPPY PRIDE MONTH!





Alien Presence in Covington KY passed along by Carl

I was teaching in Covington KY recently; and I had a free weekend to wander around the town (as well as cross the Roebling Bridge into Cincinnati OH). I'd noticed an interesting notation on the Covington map provided by the hotel: "Clive the Alien." Say what? What on Earth could it be? "Clive the Alien" appeared to be only 4 or 5 blocks from the hotel, so I decided to give it a look.

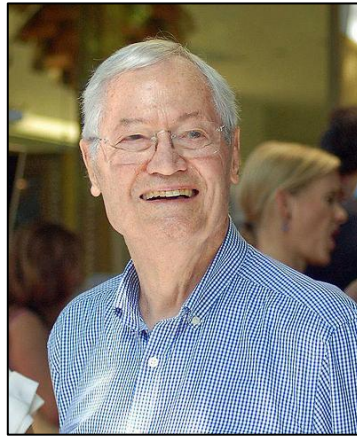
Turns out that Clive the Alien is a 30-foot-tall "little green man" art installation attached to the Midtown Parking Garage at Fifth and Scott Streets. Clive wields a huge magnifying glass and appears to be examining passing pedestrians.



The sculpture is made of fiberglass and Styrofoam, and was created by Marc Phelps, owner of AlloyFX (a local digital design and art studio). As I later found out, Clive was created as part of Covington's Quality of Place grant program, which seeks to "creatively enhance the physical appearance of the city's business districts" via public art.

I think it's cool.

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Roger Corman
1926 - 2024

[from Peter] RIP Roger Corman (April 5, 1926 – May 9, 2024), an amazing film director, producer, and actor who directed, wrote, produced, and distributed hundreds of films. He helped people like James Cameron (*Piranha*) and Jack Nicholson (*The Little Shop of Horrors*) break into the film industry. Corman also produced the infamous unreleased *Fantastic Four* movie, supposedly made to keep the rights to the franchise. My favorite Roger Corman movie is probably *Death Race 2000*, a 1975 science fiction/black comedy/action/horror film produced by Roger Corman, directed by Paul Bartel, starring David Carradine, and featuring Sylvester Stallone. It's cheesy, gory, sexy, and a lot of fun! I have vivid memories of watching this movie when I was a tween with my best friend Michael, and the two of us laughing at all the creative ways people were being killed. The Wikipedia article about him goes on and on, in a good way:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roger_Corman

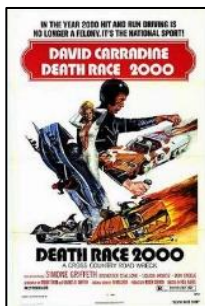
[from Wikipedia] In 1964, Corman became the youngest film-maker to

have a retrospective at the Cinéma-thèque Française, as well as in the British Film Institute and the Museum of Modern Art. He was the co-founder of New World Pictures, the founder of New Concorde, and was a longtime member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. In 2009, he was awarded an Academy Honorary Award "for his rich engendering of films and filmmakers."

He mentored and gave a start to many young film directors such as Francis Ford Coppola, Ron Howard, Martin Scorsese, Jonathan Demme, Peter Bogdanovich, Joe Dante, John Sayles, and James Cameron, and was highly influential in the New Hollywood filmmaking movement of the 1960s and 1970s. He also helped to launch the careers of actors like Peter Fonda, Jack Nicholson, Dennis Hopper, Bruce Dern, Diane Ladd, and William Shatner.

In the early 1960s, American International Pictures gained kudos by combining Roger Corman, Vincent Price, and the stories of Edgar Allan Poe into a series of horror films, with scripts by Richard Matheson, Charles Beaumont, Ray Russell, R. Wright Campbell, and Robert Towne.

[from Carl] My favorite Corman productions are from this "Poe" series, particularly *Tales of Terror* (1962), *The Raven* (1963), and *The Haunted Palace* (1963, based on Lovecraft's "The Case of Charles Dexter Ward"). Another of my favorites is a non-F&SF film: *The St. Valentine's Day Massacre* (1967), directed by Corman and starring Jason Robards and George Segal.



**** INFORMATION ABOUT LAMBDA SCI-FI: DC AREA GAYLAXIANS ****

Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians (LSF) is an organization for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and trans-gendered (LGBT) 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.

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 event will be held a gaming party on Saturday, June 8th, at Peter and Rob's home, 1425 "S" Street NW, Washington, DC. We hope to see you there. (*There will be NO meeting on Sunday, June 9th.*)

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

Aug. 1-4, 2024 **PULPFEST 2024**. "Celebrating Mystery, Adventure, Science Fiction, and More." DoubleTree by Hilton Pittsburgh-Cranberry (Mars PA, 19 miles north of Pittsburgh). Weekend (\$40 if you stay at the DoubleTree, \$50 if you stay elsewhere) and single-day memberships available.

Website: www.PulpFest.com On-line membership via: <https://pulpfest.com/plpfest-paypal/>

Aug. 2-4, 2024 **OTAKON 2024**. "To celebrate Asian pop culture, (anime, manga, music, movies, video games, etc.) and its fandom." Walter E. Washington Convention Center (Washington DC). Weekend membership: \$85 (daily rates also available). On-line registration. Website: www.otakon.com

Sept. 27-29, 2024 **CAPCLAVE 2024**. Rockville Hilton (Rockville MD). Guests of Honor: Sheree Renee Thomas; Matt Diniman. Membership: \$60 from June to July 2024; \$65 from Aug to Sept 2024; \$70 at the door.

Website: www.capclave.org Info: info@capclave.org

Oct. 11-13, 2024 **CONFABULOUS 2024**. Crowne Plaza Suites MSP Airport/Mall of America, previously Crowne Plaze AiRE (Bloomington MN). A fan-fun LGBTQ+ convention with a relaxed feel (gaming & discussion panels). Full Membership: \$60. Website: <https://confabulous.org>



**Queen Cleopatra's Fleet
Led by a Romulan?**
a question from Carl

I was recently watching one of my favorite non-genre films – *Cleopatra* (1963), starring Elizabeth Taylor – and I suddenly noticed something rather curious. I couldn't help but think that the Egyptian queen's admiral looks remarkably like a Romulan! Do you find that hard to believe? Well, look at the pictures to the left and decide for yourself. The top picture is Ramos, the commander of Cleopatra's fleet – and the bottom picture is a scene from an episode of *Star Trek: The Next Generation* featuring several Romulan officers.

What do you think? **ΛΨΦ**

HAPPY PRIDE DAY!

