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



Randy Hagan
1955 - 2002

It is with great sadness that I report that long-time LSFer Randy Hagan lost his battle with cancer last night [June 24th]. I've had the pleasure of knowing Randy for eleven years. Through good times and bad he has been a loyal friend, and I will truly miss him. --- Peter Knapp

July 14th LSF Meeting

The next LambdaSci-Fi meeting will be held at James Crutchfield's apartment (1414 17th St., NW, #413) on Sunday, July 14th. 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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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 roundtable 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. The next meeting will be July 25 (at Peter & Rob's house, 1425 "S" St., NW -- for directions or more details, call 202-483-6369).

Here's the schedule for the next few months:

- **July 25th** - *American Gods*, by Neil Gaiman; moderator: Mike P.
- **August 22nd** - *Heritage of Hastur*, by Marion Zimmer Bradley; moderator: Rob.
- **Sept. 26th** - *Neuromancer*, by William Gibson; moderator: Carl.

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Galactic Network News

New Charter, new Board members, new Officers. The revised Network Charter (primarily the work of Wayne Wilkening, Chair for the Charter Committee) came into effect earlier this year, and the Network has just recently completed those actions necessary to fulfill the Charter's transitional provisions. For the first time, a slate of Officers and Board members have been elected by the votes of individual Network members (rather than via club Representatives); and this election came off pretty much without a hitch, again primarily due to the advice and guidance of Wayne Wilkening (chairing the Elections Committee).

Now that the transitional provisions of the revised Network Charter have been completed, the new team of Officers and Board Members will be working on such issues as Network membership benefits, membership drives, GLBT and F&SF community outreach, and prospective Gaylaxicon bids. *If you're interested in helping out with any of these important tasks, please feel free to contact any of the individuals mentioned in this article; your input, advice, and efforts will be appreciated! The more people involved in the Network's operations, the better we'll*

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Hugo Award Nominees

The Hugo Awards (aka Science Fiction Achievement Awards) were named for Hugo Gernsback, "Father of Magazine Science Fiction." They are sponsored by the World Science Fiction Society (WSFS). Eligible works are nominated and then voted by WSFS members (basically, the membership of the World Science Fiction Convention). This year's Hugo Finalists List has been announced; and the winners will be announced later this year at ConJose (this year's Worldcon). Here's the list of nominees:

Best Novel

The Curse of Chalion

by Lois McMaster Bujold
(HarperCollins)

American Gods

by Neil Gaiman (Morrow)

Perdido Street Station

by China Miéville (Del Rey)

Cosmonaut Keep

by Ken MacLeod ((Tor)

Passage

by Connie Willis (Bantam)

The Chronoliths

by Robert Charles Wilson (Tor)

Best Novella

"May Be Some Time"

by Brenda W. Clough
(Analog 4/01)

"The Diamond Pit"

by Jack Dann (*F&SF* 6/01)

"The Chief Designer"

by Andy Duncan
(*Asimov's* 6/01)

"Stealing Alabama"

by Allen Steele (*Asimov's* 1/01)

"Fast Times at Fairmont High"

by Vernor Vinge
(*The Collected Stories of Vernor Vinge*, Tor)

Best Novelette

"Hell Is the Absence of God"

by Ted Chiang
(*Starlight 3*, Tor)

"Undone"

by James Patrick Kelly
(*Asimov's* 6/01)

"The Days Between,"

by Allen Steele (*Asimov's* 3/01)

"Lobsters"

by Charles Stross
(*Asimov's* 6/01)

"The Return of Spring"

by Shane Tourtellotte
(*Analog* 11/01)

Best Short Story

"The Ghost Pit"

by Stephen Baxter
(*Asimov's* 7/01)

"Spaceships"

by Michael A. Burstein
(*Analog* 6/01)

"The Bones of the Earth"

by Ursula K. Le Guin
(*Tales from Earth-sea*, Harcourt)

"Old MacDonald Had a Farm"

by Mike Resnick
(*Asimov's* 9/01)

"The Dog Said Bow-Wow"

by Michael Swanwick
(*Asimov's* 10-11/01)

Best Related Book

The Art of Richard Powers

by Jane Frank (Paper Tiger)

Meditations on Middle-Earth

by Karen Haber, ed. (St. Martin's Press/A Byron Preiss Book)

The Art of Chesley Bonestell

by Ron Miller & Frederick C. Durant III (Paper Tiger)

I Have This Nifty Idea...Now What Do I Do With It?

by Mike Resnick
(Wildside Press)

J.R.R. Tolkien: Author of the Century

by Tom Shippey
(Houghton Mifflin)

Being Gardner Dozois

by Michael Swanwick
(Old Earth Books)

Best Dramatic Presentation

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (1492 Pictures/Heyday Films/Warner Bros.) Dir.: Chris Columbus.

The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (New Line Cinema/The Saul Zaentz Co./WingNut Films) Dir.: Peter Jackson..

Monsters, Inc. (Pixar Animation Studios/Disney) Dir.: Pete Docter.



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Buffy the Vampire Slayer, "Once More, With Feeling" (Fox Television Studios/Mutant Enemy, Inc.) Dir.: Joss Whedon.

Shrek (DreamWorks SKG/Pacific Data Images). Dir.: Andrew Adamson and Vicky Jenson.

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Used Books On-Line

by Rodney Elin

[Ed. Note: Rodney originally posted this article to the LSF website; and he kindly consented to have it reprinted in the LSF newsletter.]

At last night's discussion of *Dark Matter*, Carl brought a fantastic selection of books to support and back up his many discussion points. A couple of times, Carl reached into his "bag of tricks" and pulled out a paperback, saying that he hadn't been able to find his copy and that he had to go to a used book store to buy another copy. I wanted to say that although I enjoy browsing and perusing used book stores, it has been several years since I have actually had to go to a book store to buy a specific book. I do most of my book shopping on-line.

There are several good on-line databases that are maintained by large independent used booksellers. Most of them allow you to purchase your used book on-line, too. For example, I just bought a used copy of *Neuromancer* by William Gibson (which is our September selection for the LSF Book Discussion Group) for 75 cents plus \$2.45 shipping.

There are several good used book sites on-line, including:

www.bookfinder.com

[Bookfinder.com](http://www.bookfinder.com) searches through about 10 different on-line databases for the title you're looking for and reports back their availability and price. And they always include a link back to the bookseller's site. The databases [Bookfinder.com](http://www.bookfinder.com) searches include Advanced Book Exchange (ABE - the largest online database of used books),



www.half.com Daniel, Interloc, and Alibris. It also searches through the database of Half.com's used books. Bookfinder.com reports back its results in order of increasing price, making it easy to select your book.

www.half.com

Another very good database of used books, this site reports back the book's price *and* price with shipping. Half.com is also owned by ebay, and the booksellers on Half.com use an ebay-based feedback system. (Right now, you can still find copies of *Neuromancer* for seventy five cents on Half.com.)

www.bibliofind.com

www.abebooks.com

ABE recently improved and sped up their on-line book ordering system. When you buy from ABE, you're sending the request to the bookseller who listed that book; but it is all handled over secure web connections.

I hope this is helpful to everyone else who is always hunting for old, lost, or forgotten books.

[Ed. Note: In response to Rodney's e-mail, Rob responded with the following: "For my money, the absolute best is www.abebooks.com." He also suggested www.addall.com as another site that does price comparisons of online book databases.]

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Hugo Award Nominees

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Best Professional Editor

Ellen Datlow (*SCIFICTION* and anthologies)

Gardner Dozois (*Asimov's*)

Patrick Nielsen Hayden (Tor Books; "Starlight" anthology series)

Stanley Schmidt (*Analog*)

Gordon Van Gelder (*F&SF*)

Best Professional Artist

Jim Burns

Bob Eggleton

Frank Kelly Freas

Donato Giancola

Michael Whelan

Best Semiprozine

Absolute Magnitude

edited by Warren Lapine

Interzone

edited by David Pringle

Locus

edited by Charles N. Brown

The New York Review of Science Fiction

edited by Kathryn Cramer,

David Hartwell & Kevin J.

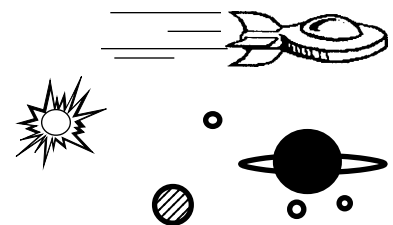
Maroney

Speculations

edited by Susan Fry,

published by Kent Brewster

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Gaylactic Network News

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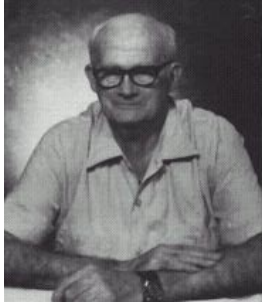
be able to fulfill the Network's goals of service to the GLBT fan community!

The new Officers, responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Network, are: Peter Knapp (Speaker/CEO), Jed Shumsky (Treasurer), and Kendall Bullen (Secretary). Peter has reappointed Richard Mandrachio as



Listener (sort of "deputy Speaker"). The Members of the Network Board, responsible for voting on matters of Network policy, are: Jack Frost, Vince Lijewski, and Carl Cipra. The only glitch in the recent transition occurred when the fourth Board Member, Kay Cornwell,

resigned shortly after the elections were completed. (Per the provisions of the new Network Charter, the other three Board Members will shortly be appointing a replacement to serve during the remainder of the vacated Board position's term.)



R.A. Lafferty
1914 - 2002

R.A. Lafferty may not be widely-known among F&SF readers nowadays; but John Clute (*Encyclopedia of Science Fiction*) has called him “a writer whose originality and whose value to the sf/fantasy world have never been questioned.” Lafferty didn’t begin writing until he was in his 40’s; and he is primarily known for writing shorter fiction. In 1973 he won the Hugo for his short story “Eurema’s Dam”; and his works were regularly included in the prestigious *Orbit* anthologies. Much of Lafferty’s work has been anthologized over the years, two notable collections of Lafferty stories being *Nine Hundred Grandmothers* (coll. 1970) and *Lafferty in Orbit* (coll. 1991).



**Learn the true topography:
the monstrous and
wonderful archetypes
are not inside you,
not inside
your consciousness;
you are inside them,
trapped and howling
to get out.**

– R.A. Lafferty –

(excerpted from *Science Fictionisms*,
compiled by William Rotsler,
Gibbs-Smith Publisher, 1995)



Damon Knight
1922 - 2002

Damon Knight became involved in fandom at an early age; and he has left his mark in numerous areas of the F&SF field. By 1941, he was a member of a famous early group of fans, the Futurians. (His 1977 non-fiction work *The Futurians* is a candid history of both the group itself and of the early era of fandom.) Knight’s reputation as a writer rests primarily on his short stories from the 1950’s -- most notably “To Serve Man” (1950), which later became a memorable *Twilight Zone* episode. Knight is perhaps best-known for his work as an F&SF editor or reviewer. In 1966, he began his renowned career as creator/editor of *Orbit*, the longest-running -- and probably the most influential -- series of original F&SF anthologies. (Stories which appeared in the *Orbit* anthologies pretty much dominated the Nebula Awards for many years.) As a reviewer, Knight insisted on the relevance of literary standards to SF; and in 1956 he won a Hugo Award for *In Search of Wonder*, a collection of his early reviews. Knight was also largely responsible for founding the Science Fiction Writers of America and served as its first president (1965-1967). He is survived by his third wife, writer Kate Wilhelm.

**Always do right.
This will gratify some people
and astonish the rest.**

– attributed to Mark Twain –

(excerpted from *The Wit and Wisdom of
Mark Twain*, edited by Aaron John Loeb,
Barnes & Noble, 1996)



George Alec Effinger
1947 - 2002

George Alec Effinger entered SF writing via the 1970 Clarion SF Writers Workshop. His 1988 novelette “Schrödinger’s Kitten” won both the Hugo and Nebula Awards for that category. He is probably best known, however, for the three novels in his so-called “Marid Audran sequence”: *When Gravity Fails* (1987), *A Fire in the Sun* (1989), and *The Exile Kiss* (1991). These fascinating cyberpunk novels depict the technological and electronic complexities of the 21st-century Middle East. (The picture above is, in fact, a publicity still from when these novels first came out.) For much of the last period of his life, Effinger suffered from very bad health, apparently made worse by mis-diagnosed and mis-managed health care.



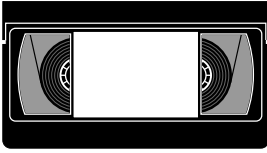
**Agitators are a set of interfering,
meddling people, who come
down to some perfectly contented
class of the community and sow
the seeds of discontent amongst
them. That is the reason why
agitators are so absolutely necessary.**

Oscar Wilde
The Soul of Man Under Socialism

(excerpted from
The Wit of Oscar Wilde,
edited by Sean McCann,
Dorset Press, 1969)

LSF Pre- and Post-Pride Video Parties

a quick review by Peter Knapp



I had a good time at both of this year's Pride-themed video parties. On June 7th, the Friday before the Pride parade and festival (a first for a video party), a small group descended on Rodney's place in Silver Spring to celebrate Pre-Pride. After getting through security (another first for a video party, I believe), I finally got to see Rodney's place, which is quite nice. A small group of us wandered over to the Giant to get supplies and the always-elusive ice. Having to suffer the long lines at the Soviet Safeway in DC, I figured the Silver Spring Giant would be a breeze. Hah! The "burbs" are just as bad.

Back at the party, several more people showed up; and we commenced to eat and pick videos. Michael, the Red Queen, MC'd the video selection process. The crowds seem to get tougher each party, but we finally chose *The Others*, *Time after Time*, some war time cartoons, and a dreadful dubbed Eastern European girls' reform school/werewolf movie. Because the party began in the evening (Friday being a work day for most people), it was pretty late after the two sets of movies ended and the party wound down. After helping Rodney clean up, we headed home. I'd say the Friday night experiment worked, as plenty of people showed up and enjoyed themselves.

A week later (June 15th) Rob and I hosted the post-Pride party on a more traditional Saturday. I got a little confused about the start time and showed up an hour late. Call me a blond. The usual crowd showed up, along with a special guest appearance by Tyler, who'd once been banned from bringing videos to parties after he brought *La Cage aux Zombies*. (He's been forgiven.) Dan and Michael wrestled over the movie-selection process. Selected movies included: *Flesh Gordon*, a Godzilla movie, an anime movie, and

The Pickup Artist by Terry Bisson

(TOR, 2002)

a review by Colleen R. Cahill

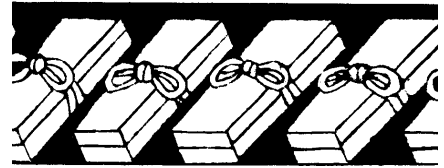
All of us have clutter in our lives, things that get in the way. Rarely do we purge the excess, probably because we don't want to throw the baby out with the bath water. But in Terry Bisson's work, *The Pickup Artist*, a clean-up of the world of art throws out the baby, the bath water, AND the wash tub.

In the mid-21st century, a movement arises denouncing the overwhelming art and literature created throughout human history. The cry is that current artists are stifled by the mountainous crush of previous work: the museums and libraries have no more room. A reactionary group known as the Alexandrians (named after the fire, not the library) begin to destroy various works of art. When eventually people are caught in the blasts, a chain of events lead the government to step in. They set up the Bureau of Arts and Entertainment. If an artist, author, or performer is selected by a lottery, their works are scanned and archived, then all copies are removed from public access.

All this leads to the main character, Hank Shapiro, who is a Pickup Artist; he is a government employee who retrieves copies of books, videos, records and other media from the public, reimbursing the owners with money. Shapiro lives a quiet life until he picks up a Hank Williams album. This triggers memories of his father, who abandoned Shapiro and his mother years ago.

who-knows-what-else. (I can't remember.)

One thing that struck me about the party was that, while movies were voted on and shown, many people ended up not watching movies but socializing. (Tyler entertained us with stories of his experimentation with being polyamorous - ask him about it some time.) In the early days of video parties, we seemed to schedule them early, choose six hours of entertainment, chit-chat while getting our food, and then settle in and actually watch six hours of



Shapiro begins a clandestine attempt to find a record player, while also dealing with the grief of discovering his beloved dog has cancer. Between meetings in smoky bars (where renegade art lovers listen to old songs and watch *Gilligan's Island*) and trying to rescue his dog from the animal hospital that is going to put the pet to sleep, Shapiro treads a path that becomes more and more surreal.

Other reviews of this book compare it to Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*; and there are certainly elements in common. But Bisson's work is not as grim; and at times I feel he is tweaking our noses. The first item Shapiro picks up is Walter Miller's *A Canticle for Leibowitz*; and all the materials that are pulled are of similar fame. It is hard to take this work too seriously when a leading force behind one group of Alexandrians is a fabulously wealthy techno-nerd known as "Mr. Bill." But even with his tongue-in-cheek attitude, Bisson does send a real message on the nature of art and what limits should be placed on its availability. The term censorship is not used in the book, but that is what the book is about. The fact that there are groups that really advocate an approach like Bisson describes makes this book that much more poignant.

Bisson has packed a lot of story in this 240-page book, and I recommend you pickup a copy of *The Pickup Artist* as soon as possible.

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movies. While the parties have always been social, the ones in the past have been movie-watching-events. These days, people seem to spend more time socializing and less time glued to the TV. I personally prefer that, as I have many of the movies shown at video parties and those I don't I can always borrow. I find the parties are a great way to meet new people who have never been to an LSF event before. Hopefully we don't scare them away.

I hope to see you at the next video party.

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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 \$20, for which you will receive this monthly newsletter and a membership directory. 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 **Sunday, July 14th**, 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, Mike C., Peter, and Rob



July 12-14, 2002 **ANTHROCON 2002**. Adams Mark Hotel (Philadelphia). Guests of Honor: Lisanne Norman, Heather Bruton. Hotel rooms: \$99/night + tax (sgl/dbl/tpl/quad). Membership: \$45 at the door. Make checks payable to "Anthrocon" and send to: Anthrocon, Inc., PO Box 270, Devault, PA 19432-0270. website: <http://www.anthrocon.org>

July 12-14, 2002 **SHORELEAVE 24**. Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Guests include: James ("Spike") Marsters, Richard ("Dr. Franklin") Biggs, John ("Dr. Phlox") Billingsley, Peter David. Membership: \$60 at the door; daily rates available. Make checks payable to "Shore Leave" and send to: Shore Leave 24, PO Box 6809, Towson, MD 21285-6809 website: <http://www.shore-leave.com>

August 2-4, 2002 **DIVERSICON 10**. Hotel TBA (Minneapolis, MN). Guests of Honor: Steven Barnes & Tananarive Due. Membership: \$30, until 7/4/02; \$45 at the door. Make checks payable to: "Diversicon" and send to: Diversicon, PO Box 8036, Lake Street Stn., Minneapolis, MN 55408. "A gathering of fans, writers, and artists who recognize and appreciate diversity in speculative fiction and media, in the fan community, and in the world around us."
For more information on Diversicon: www.sfminnesota.com

August 16-18, 2002 **FANEX 16**. Days Hotel Timonium (Baltimore, MD). Guests include: Yvonne Monlaur, Ted Bohus, Fred Olen Ray, Tom Weaver, others. Membership: \$30 for the weekend; \$10 per day at the door. Make checks payable to "Midnight Marquee Press" and send to: Midnight Marquee, 9721 Britinay Ln., Baltimore, MD 21234 Website: www.midmar.com

August 23-25, 2002 **HORRORFIND WEEKEND**. BWI Airport Marriott (Baltimore, MD). Guests include: *Evil Dead* reunion (with Bruce Campbell, Ellen Sandweiss, Betsy Baker, Sarah York, and Tom Sullivan), Tom Savini, Douglas Clegg, Mason Winfield. Membership: \$25 until 6/1/02; \$30 after 6/1/02, \$20 per day at the door. Make checks payable to "Horrorfind" and mail to: Horrorfind.com LLC, 9722 Groffs Mill Dr, PMB 109, Owings Mills, MD 21117.
Website: www.horrorfindweekend.com

Aug. 29 - Sept. 2, 2002 **CONJOSE (The 60th World Science Fiction Convention)**. McEnery Convention Center & surrounding hotels (San Jose, CA). Author GoH: Vernor Vinge; Artist GoH: David Cherry; Fan GoH: John & Bjo Trimble. Attending membership: \$180 until 7/31 (will go UP!). Make checks payable to "ConJose" and send to: ConJose, PO Box 61363, Sunnyvale, CA 94088-1363 (or: reg@conjose.org). Website: www.conjose.org

October 18-20, 2002 **CAPCLAVE 2002**. Hilton Silver Spring (Silver Spring, MD). GoH: Stanley Schmidt; Artist GoH: Alexis Gilliland. Membership: \$30 until 9/3; \$35 from 9/4 - 10/12; \$40 at the door. Make checks payable to "Capclave 2002" and send to: Capclave 2002 Registration, 7113 Wayne Dr., Annandale, VA 22003-1734.
For more information: info@capclave.org Website: <http://capclave.org>