

arts shorts

LOCAL POET WINS OREGON BOOK AWARD

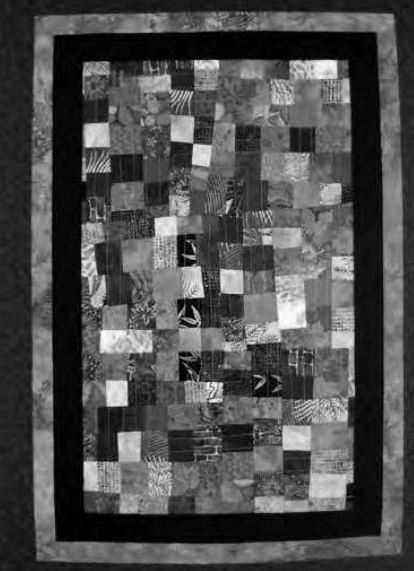
All's quiet on the eastern Eugene front as the UO slides into the end of finals week and weary GTFs, students and professors sling backpacks into vehicles that will ferry them away from it all for a few weeks before the murderous quarter schedule recommences in early January. But things might be buzzing for UO Creative Writing Associate Professor **Dorianne Laux**, whose *Facts About the Moon* won the 2006 Stafford/Hall Award for Poetry at the Oregon Book Awards on Dec. 1. Laux is no stranger to awards, with NEA fellowships and a Pushcart Prize under her belt, but this is her first Oregon Book Award. But the finalists rock too: OBA finalist and Corvallis writer Deborah Hopkinson says Barry Lopez, hosting the awards ceremony, explained that there aren't losers in literary awards because all of the finalists were honored as the best from a large number of books published this year.

Despite Lopez's statement, we're listing the winners: The H.L. Davis Award for Short Fiction went to Gina Ochsner for *People I Wanted to Be*; the Ken Kesey Award for the Novel went to Justin Tussing for *The Best People in the World*; the Frances Fuller Victor Award for Nonfiction went to Andrew Bernstein for *Modern Passings: Death Rites, Politics, and Social Change in Imperial Japan*; the Sarah Winnemucca Award for Creative Nonfiction went to George Aguilar, Sr., for *When the River Ran Wild! Indian Traditions on the Mid-Columbia and the Warm Springs Reservation*; the Eloise Jarvis McGraw Award for Children's Literature went to Diane Siebert for *Tour America*; the Leslie Bradshaw Award for Young Adult Literature went to Graham Salisbury for *Eyes of the Emperor*; the Angus L. Bowmer Award for Drama went to Richard Moeschl for *Arthur's Dreams*; and a bunch of people, including Ursula LeGuin, won special awards. We don't know why the award names are so long, but it must mean that the people winning the awards feel extra deserving. Congratulations to Literary Arts for selling out the awards ceremony and to all of the finalists and winners. — *Suzi Steffen*

THE FUTURE IS HERE

"For decades," says the back of the promotional DVD for the Writers of the Future contest, "the dreams of new writers and illustrators shattered against the reality of a publishing industry that couldn't afford to take chances." The contest, founded by L. Ron Hubbard in 1983, offers science fiction and fantasy writers a forum for potential publication; each year, winners have their short stories collected into an anthology published by Galaxy Press. Over the years, the total number of winners has piled up to more than 500 – and Eugene has more than our fair share: at least half a dozen, at last count. And to make it all the more interesting, these winners are all part of the same writing group, the Wordos, which has been meeting weekly for nearly 20 years. At 5:30 pm Saturday, Dec. 9, **Jay Lake** (who's actually a Portlander – with a 17-page bibliography), **Stephen Stanley**, **David Goldman**, **Nina Kiriki Hoffman**, **Leon West**, **Eric Witchey** and **Blake Hutchins**, all winners past, will read and sign at Tsunami Books. Go, listen and cheer on some of Eugene's finest. Perhaps a bottle of bubbly from neighboring Capella Market is in order? — *Molly Templeton*





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