



LAMBDA SCI-FI



DC Area Gaylaxians

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Two LSF "Field Trips" Planned for October



Sunday, October 18th Maryland Renaissance Festival

Our first October "field trip" will be a journey through time and space to Merrie Olde England in the reign of King Henry VIII. But you won't need a Wayback Machine, a TARDIS, or a *ST: Voyager*-type space-time anomaly to get there. All you'll need is some kind of 20th-century vehicular transport to get you out to the Maryland Renaissance Festival (Crownsville, MD). After a two-year hiatus, a number of us LSF "RenFest junkies" have set the date of Saturday, Oct. 18th, for our visit. As in previous years, we'll all meet (ticket in hand) somewhere in the mob out in front of main gate by 10 AM (in time for the opening cannonshot).

The Maryland Renaissance Festival - "a celebration of life in 16th-century England" - is located in Crownsville, MD. To get there, take Rte. 50 East (John Hanson Hwy) toward Annapolis and exit onto Rte.

3 North. Then drive 2 miles and turn right onto Rte. 450 East (the 2nd signal). Take Rte. 450 East for 6 miles to Crownsville Rd. and turn left - it's only 1/2 mile to the festival parking lot (on your right). Admission to the Festival costs \$13.95 per adult; and you can purchase tickets at the gate. For more information, check out their Website at www.rennfest.com.



This is definitely an all-day affair for most of us, with jousts, eating, people-watching, shopping and attending one (or, probably, more) performances by that inimitable troop of forsoothly thespians, "Shakespeare Scum"! Prithee, be thou likewise festive and hie thee to the Maryland Renaissance Festival with us!

Saturday, October 24th *Mousetrap* at the Wayside Theatre



Our second October "field trip" will be to "the Land of Mystery." To be more specific (and less mysterious), we've planned a trip to the Wayside Theatre (in Middletown, VA) to see our very own Joe Parra perform in Agatha Christie's delightful mystery, *Mousetrap*. The play is running Oct. 1-25; and a bunch of us LSFers have decided to go to the 8 PM performance on Saturday, Oct. 24th. Afterwards (as usual), there'll be a late-night, post-performance get-together (munchies, conversation, etc.) at Joe's (soon-to-be-former) residence in Winchester, VA.

The Wayside Theatre is located on Main St. in Middletown, VA. It takes a little over 2 hours to drive out there from DC, so plan accordingly. Take Rte. 66 West to Rte. 81 North. On Rte. 81 North, take the first exit, then follow the signs to the theatre. Order your tickets ASAP, because the theatre fills quickly. To reserve/purchase tickets, call (800) 951-1776 (cost: \$23).

Remember: this will probably be our last chance to see Joe "in action" on stage - he's "Florida-bound" in the near future. So, this is one LSF field trip you won't want to miss!

**OCTOBER
LAMBDA SCI-FI MEETING**
* * * *

The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on **Sunday, Oct. 11th**, at James Crutchfield's apartment: 1414 17th St., NW, Apt. 413 (near Dupont Circle) - 1:30 PM for business meeting; 2:00 PM for social meeting. Please bring munchies or soft drinks if you can. Hope to see you there!



WHAT'S INSIDE? The "We're Having a Heatwave" Minutes of the Sept. LSF Meeting (pg. 2); Report on the Sept. 19th "Video Madness" Party (pg. 2); *The Avengers: An Extraordinary Crime* (movie review - pg. 3); *Psychic Ghosts - At a Theatre Near You* (pg. 4); *San Diego Lightfoot Sue & Other Stories* (book review - pg. 4); **F&SF on TV: The New Fall Season** (pg. 5); *I Was a Teenage Fairy* (book review - pg. 5); **Information about Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians and Con Calendar** (pg. 6)

The "We're Having a Heatwave" Minutes of the September LSF Meeting

by Rob

The LSF faithful gathered to sweat through our September meeting during a late summer heatwave. Remarkably, tempers seemed pleasantly calm. Maybe it was because we didn't have any big issues to discuss.

Anyway, as seems to be the case of late, there was little to discuss during the business portion of our meeting. Rob gave an update and plug for Gaylaxicon 1999 (pitched toward a number of new faces and a *Washington Blade* correspondant who was in attendance). In addition, Rob gave a quick Treasurer's report. LSF seems to have spent significantly more than was taken in this year, and the club's bank account stands at around \$600.

Following that, we moved onto the main portion of the meeting. A quick (and sillier than usual) name circle was done. Peter passed around stuff from the PO box, a flyer about the latest "stamps of the decades" ballot from the U.S. PO, and a new Star Trek figure he'd bought. Jen followed up by passing around the second "installment" of *Bending the Landscape*. The theme for this latest anthology of gay and lesbian genre stories is "science fiction." (The previous volume was *Bending the Landscape: Fantasy*.) A number of con flyers and goodies (including bookmarks advertising Diane Duane's new novel) were passed around as well. Uncle Joe regaled us with the latest home video release information - it seems that the recent onslaught of old genre flicks coming to video (many in letterbox) is continuing. Kay also filled us in on the upcoming episodes and premieres of genre TV fare.

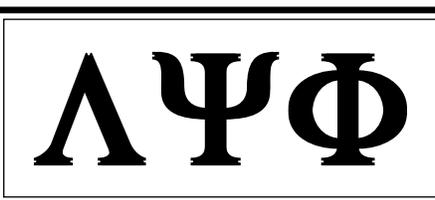
Dan passed around pictures and gave a report on his adventures at Albany Anthrocon (a "furry" or anthropomorphics convention). Jen also filled us in on her recent con-going adventures at Dragoncon. While there, she had the opportunity to hang with some of the stars from *B5* and had some interesting stories to tell! No to be outdone, a number

Report on the Sept. 19th "Video Madness" Party

by Carl Cipra

Chalk up another successful LSF "Video Madness" Party! And big thanks to Bethany (and roomies) for hosting the party at her/their Takoma Park residence! I gestimate there were about 25 or so attendees at this Sept. 19th event - including a half-dozen or so first-timers and even the one-and-only Al W. (an LSF blast-from-the-past)! It was pretty tight quarters, but we all had a good time. Oh, and lest I forget, it seemed like there was (as usual) a ton of food that we all did our best to consume!

As in all previous LSF video parties, the viewing choices quite an "eclectic" mix. (Actually, the word "weird" comes to mind as being a more accurate description!) *Little Shop of Horrors* (the musical version) was playing in the living room while everyone was filtering in from the Metro station and elsewhere; and voting for the evening's videos was held



of attendees from Worldcon chimed in with their reports on Worldcon - including the fact that Worldcon netted LSF five new members! Michael, Carl, Rob, and Peter also encouraged people to check out the Psychic Ghost Theatre in Wheaton, MD, for a lively night of entertainment.

Plans were made for two upcoming LSF outings. The first one will be a trip to the Maryland Renaissance Festival on Sunday, Oct. 18th. The 2nd will be a trip to see Uncle Joe (in perhaps his final performance within driving distance) in *Mousetrap* at the Wayside Theatre (Middletown, VA) on Saturday, Oct. 24th.

Finally, Uncle Joe told us some of his recent audition adventures, and Rob unveiled *Gayteways* for those members of the crowd who hadn't already seen it.

before people were turned loose on the potluck buffet. (We're no dummies!) Here's what the attendees voted for:

In the front room:

Queen of Outer Space: Ah, yes, Zsa Zsa rides again! How could we resist the opportunity to once again hear her deliver that deathless line: "I hate dot queen!"

Faust: This is a Czech film - dubbed into English - which presents a surreal, contemporary take on the Faust legend (dialogue courtesy of Marlowe, Goethe, and Gounod).

Superpup (really bad!) & *Superboy* ("Cute cheeks!"): These two unsold TV pilots from the late 1950s attempted to capitalize on the popularity of the old *Superman* series. The video included screentests for *Superboy* roles and a series of cereal commercials featuring George Reeves.

In the back room:

The Day the Earth Stood Still: A classic; 'nuff said.

Red Planet Mars: Radio broadcasts from Christ on Mars? Oddly enough, this little gem "predicted" the breakup of the Soviet Union.

Dangermouse: Although it was voted to show this collection of British cartoons, I don't believe anyone actually watched them. (Everyone was in the other room watching *Superpup* and *Superboy*.)

As I said, all in all another successful LSF "Video Madness" Party. Be on the look-out for the next one! Who knows when (or where) "Video Madness" will strike next?!

Λ Ψ Φ

Of course life is bizarre.
The more bizarre it gets,
the more interesting it is.
The only way to approach it
is to make yourself some
popcorn and enjoy the show.

--- David Gerrold ---

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

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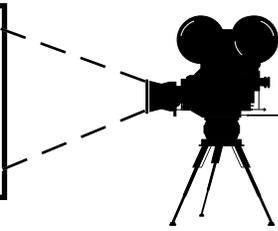
The Avengers
An Extraordinary Crime
by Michael Cornett

The Avengers, the much-anticipated film version of the classic TV series, is a somewhat enjoyable but ultimately annoying misfire.

First, some background: *The Avengers* started out in Great Britain in 1963 as a rather off-beat crime drame, pairing Dr. David Keel (portrayed by Ian Hendry) with a shady secret agent named John Steed (portrayed by Patrick Macnee). Hendry left the show after one season; and in 1964 Steed teamed up with Cathy Gale (portrayed by Honor Blackman), a widowed anthropologist who knew judo and wore black leather a lot. Blackman left, after 2 seasons, to star in *Goldfinger*; and she was replaced by Emma Peel (portrayed by Diana Rigg), a wealthy widow who knew karate and dabbled in just about everything. With Rigg's arrival, the show also became more outré, with Steed and Peel battling robots, shrinking rays, and man-eating plants from outer space. This was 1966, the first year that *The Avengers* was shown in the U.S., where it was an immediate hit. Emma Peel became a feminist icon on both sides of the Atlantic. But Rigg left the show after two seasons, to star in another "007" movie, *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*. In 1968, Mrs. Peel was replaced by Tara King, a trainee agent (portrayed by Linda Thorson). But the show's ratings fell, due to the departure of the extremely popular Rigg and their placement in the evening TV line-up, opposite *Laugh-In*; and 1968 was the show's sixth and final season. In the 1970's, *The New Avengers* was on for a single season; but it just wasn't the same, despite the efforts of the stars: Patrick Macnee, Gareth Hunt, and Joanna Lumley (who was later to become one of the stars of *Absolutely Fabulous*).

It might be said that I'm being unfair in comparing the movie to the original TV show; but the movie goes to great lengths to duplicate the look and feel of the original show, so they beg for comparison.

Let's start with the casting. Uma Thurman fits the role of Mrs. Peel physically and does a mostly OK job; but at



times she's entirely too twitchy and nervous for a role that calls for cucumber-coolness. Ralph Fiennes isn't exactly convincing as an action hero; but the real flaws with his characterization of Steed seem to come from the script. Steed, as originally conceived for TV, was a charming, underhanded sneak who used every dirty trick in the book to defeat his opponents. The movie's Steed is a stiff, by-the-book, straight-arrow agent - and, as a result, is a little boring. Sean Connery is obviously having a ball as Sir August de Wynter, the mad meteorologist plotting world domination through weather control. Comedian Eddie Izzard is wasted in the nearly-silent role of de Wynter's henchman. As "Mother," Steed's superior (a character from the 1968 season), Ronnie Barker is barely memorable and can't match the zest Patrick Newell brought to the original. Fiona Shaw is menacing as "Father," another of Steed's superiors (a character from a single TV episode, 1968's "Stay Tuned"). The best character is Alice, an elderly agent who mixes the traditional little-old-lady with a fiery willpower and determination, played with panache by Eileen Atkins. Atkins also has the movie's best line: "He's going to make it so cold we'll all have to go to hell just to warm up."

The plot is basically an extension of the 1966 TV episode "A Surfeit of H₂O," with one scene (Thurman/Peel trying to escape from Sir August's Escheresque house) lifted from another classic episode, "The House That Jack Built." Sir August uses a duplicate "Mrs. Peel" to destroy England's weather control project, then sets out to bring the British Government - and then the rest of the world - under his domination. Sounds simple enough; but, due to much post-production editing, things get confused. The scenes of the fake Mrs. Peel destroying the weather project were shown in preview screenings and used in trailers and commercials, but they were cut from the

final version, so that we only see a few scenes in retrospect. The editing is pretty savage; sometimes scenes end almost before they really get started, and often the viewer is left scratching his/her head over some plot point that must have been lost on the cutting room floor.

And just who is this "evil Mrs. Peel"? There's an off-hand reference to cloning, but she behaves more like an android.

What makes this "misfire" so annoying is that there are glimmers of what the movie *could* have been. There are a few very well-done scenes between Steed and Peel, some plot elements worthy of the old series (including a meeting of villains all dressed up as teddy bears), some pretty cool special effects, the impish and scene-stealing Alice, Uma Thurman doing her own stunts (!) and wearing some cool outfits, and some striking and memorable visuals (especially when Steed and Peel walk across the Thames in plastic bubbles).

The verdict? A misfire, but still fairly enjoyable at a matinee price. Rumor has it that plans for a sequel have been scrapped, so this may be your only chance.

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By the [1990s], the popular taste in American drama will demand much the same material that served to delight our grandparents half a century ago.

In other words,
Shakespeare will be on top.

-- Octavius Cohen (Arts Critic) --

excerpted from
Will Man Fly? - And Other Strange & Wonderful Predictions from the 1890s,
compiled by Dave Walter
(American and World Geographic, 1993)

- Psychic Ghosts -
At a Theatre
Near You
by Michael Cornett



There's something new to interest DC-area genre fans: the superb show at the newly-opened Psychic Ghost Theatre. It's located in a former fortune-teller's shop above a magic store in Wheaton, MD, just half a block from the Wheaton Metro Station; and it offers a rare chance to see magic close-up in an intimate setting, performed by your affable hosts, husband-and-wife magicians Barry Taylor and Susan Kang.

The show, entitled "Visitations," is in three parts. Part One is a standard magic act, featuring levitation, mind-reading, and a pigeon that's turned into confetti. Part Two is when it gets really interesting... A Victorian-style "spirit cabinet" (actually, a framework with curtains on four sides) is displayed; and Susan is tied to a chair in it by two members of the audience. (On the night we went, Carl and I got to tie her up.) Susan then goes into a trance, and the curtain in front is closed. Almost immediately, aluminum pie plates come flying out over the top and tambourines rattle. Next, a volunteer from the audience (me, this time) sits blindfolded in the cabinet with Susan and, after the curtain is quickly reopened, is revealed to have a bucket on his head. Later, a dinner jacket is thrown into the cabinet over the top of the closed curtains, which are opened seconds later to reveal Susan sitting there - still tied up - and wearing the dinner jacket.

Impressed yet? The best is yet to come.

The last part of the show is a mock seance, conducted by Susan. The audience gets to see the "Egyptian Miracle of Resurrection" (a stone scarab is placed in a jar, an incantation is said, and a live beetle crawls out), a ouija board moving on its own, and the coming of a malevolent spirit. During this last phase, doors and drawers slam open and shut, blood runs down a mirror, and then the room is plunged into total darkness - and a clammy hand takes yours!!! Then there's the evil doll...

but I can't reveal everything. Suffice it to say that it's a very scary, harrowing experience. We were screaming and laughing just as if we were on a roller coaster - which, in a sense, we were.

While many magicians are slick, proprietors Barry and Susan are not. They're quite skilled at conjuring, but they always maintain an easy rapport with the audience. While some magicians are very

impersonal, Barry and Susan are like your entertaining neighbors who have invited you over for drinks and a fun evening. The theatre itself is small, holding only 18 people per show; this allows the audience to connect with each other and chat and have fun, enhancing the experience. Another "plus" - free snacks and soft drinks, refreshing in an age where most establishments nickel-and-dime you to death for this sort of thing.

Tickets for the Psychic Ghost Theatre are a little steep (\$40 per person) but worth every penny. The theatre is located at 11234-A Georgia Avenue, in Wheaton. Shows are on Friday and Saturday evenings, beginning at 8:00 PM, and Sunday evenings, beginning at 5:30 PM. The Theatre's phone number is (301) 946-2882; and you can check out their Web site at www.psychicghosttheatre.com. Check them out, take a date, and have fun!!

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The only completely
consistent people
are dead.

-- Aldous Huxley --

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

**San Diego Lightfoot Sue
& Other Stories**
by Tom Reamy
reviewed by Rob Gates

It is often true that the brightest stars burn out and disappear too quickly; and such was certainly the case with Tom Reamy. After reading his one novel, *Blind Voices*, and this single collection of stories, I can only wonder how far he might have gone. If these stories are any indication, he might have been a superstar.

The stories in *San Diego Lightfoot Sue* all have a touch of the terrifying to them, yet at the same time seem tremendously positive and beautiful. Like few other writers, Reamy seemed to have found the fine line and the connection between what chills us and what we love. Emotion is a powerful character in these stories. They're filled with simple down-home people - simple on the outside, that is. From a precocious young girl who holds a town in fear, to the man who loves his twin brother so much he'll do anything for him - every story within is a package within a package. Is it a horrific tale about domination and power; or is it a beautiful tale about courage? Perhaps it's neither. Maybe it's about how we confront the curveballs life throws at us; or maybe it's about how we learn to curve with them.

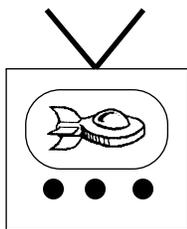
Reamy is masterful at evoking mood. With the language of the characters and the titillation of all our senses, we're drawn into his place, his time. Often that time and place is a familiar one - whether it be a small town or the heart of a city, we've all been there. And he doesn't hesitate to utilize gay characters and situations - from a loving drag queen who rescues a young man simply because it's the right thing to do, to a gritty policeman who becomes obsessed with an eerily-beautiful young man seen repeatedly at death scenes. The people in Reamy's stories have heart and soul, regardless of sexuality.

Reamy's books are hard to find; but a little bit of searching the used book stores will certainly pay off with this one. Rating: 9 out of 10.

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**F&SF on TV:
The New Fall
Season**

passed along by
PeterKnapp



Note: As of Sept. 27th, most of the following start dates have been confirmed.

- Welcome to Paradox*
(Sci-Fi Channel)- Aug. 17
- Stargate SG-1* (season 1, syndicated)
- week of Sept. 14
- Crow: Stairway to Heaven* (syndicated)
- week of Sept. 21
- Highlander: Raven* (syndicated)
- week of Sept. 21
- Honey I Shrank the Kids* (syndicated)
- week of Sept. 21
- Outer Limits* (season 4, syndicated)
- week of Sept. 21
- Poltergeist: The Legacy*
(season 3, syndicated)
- week of Sept. 21
- 3rd Rock from the Sun* - Sept. 23
- Early Edition* - Sept. 26
- Star Trek: DS9* - Sept. 26
(sat. feed, week of Sept. 28)
- Hercules* - week of Sept. 28
- Xena* - week of Sept. 28
- Mortal Kombat: Konquest* (syndicated)
- week of Sept. 28
- Buffy the Vampire Slayer* - Sept. 29
- Millenium* - Oct. 2
- Earth: Final Conflict* - week of Oct. 5
- Nightman* - week of Oct. 5
- Mercy Point* (UPN) - Oct. 6
- Seven Days* (2-hr. movie, UPN)
- Oct. 7
- Charmed* - Oct. 7
- Way Out There* (wkly SF movie, UPN)
- Oct. 8
- Brats of the Lost Nebula* (Kids WB)
- Oct. 10
- Star Trek: Voyager* - Oct. 14
- The Pretender* - Oct. 17
- The Profiler* - Oct. 17
- Brimstone* - Oct. 27
- Babylon 5* (season 5 resumes) - Oct. 28
- X-Files* (held back due to World Series)
- Nov. 8
- Babylon 5: River of Souls*
(TV movie, TNT)- Nov. 8
- Batman Beyond* (Kids WB) - Nov. 14
- Invasion Earth* (mini-series,
Sci-Fi Channel) - Dec. 6-8
- Babylon 5: A Call to Arms* (TV movie,

***I Was a Teenage Fairy*
by Francesca Lia Block
reviewed by Carl Cipra**



If you're like me, you constantly scan the bookcracks looking for new works by certain favorite authors. Francesca Lia Block is one of the authors I'm always looking for; and it's certainly been a "dry spell" lately. The only "new" book of hers that's hit the stands recently has been *Dangerous Angels*, a tradepaper compilation of all the "Weetzie Bat" stories - all of which I'd already read. (Good stuff - look for 'em on the "Lambda Sci-Fi Recommends" booklist!) Then, just the other day, as I was wandering around Lambda Rising, my patience (persistence?) was rewarded. There sat a brand new Block book, *I Was a Teenage Fairy*!

I Was a Teenage Fairy recounts the extraordinary (and frequently dysfunctional) experiences of a young L.A. Valley girl, Barbie (named after the famous Mattel doll) Marks (shortened from Markowitz by her mother). Barbie is pretty much ignored by her father (Dr. Markowitz) and pushed around by her mother (Mrs. Marks, a former Miss San Fernando Valley - now a faded, frustrated, middle-aged woman). And Barbie has no real friends - except for Mab, who isn't all that "real." In fact, Mab is a grasshopper-sized little being with bright red hair, greenish-white skin, gossamer wings, very pointy little teeth, and lots of attitude. (She's not fond of labels, however, *sodon't* call her a pixie, brownie, fairy, or whatever - just call her Mab.) The storyline centers around two particular periods in Barbie's young life.

As a pre-teen, Barbie is relentlessly pushed into the "glamorous world of modeling" by Mrs. Marks, who is attempting to relive her own former glories through her daughter: photo-shoots, make-overs, ballet classes, etc. Mab, of course, continually puts her two cents in and tries to influence Barbie otherwise - but passive resistance seems to be Barbie's only response. Everything eventually comes to a head when Barbie is a "successful" teenaged model, particularly after she meets Todd Range (a young actor with a "leanly muscled babe-of-life body") and Griffin (a beautiful, androgynous young model) and flies off to Manhattan for a photo-shoot.

The tone of *I Was a Teenage Fairy* is not as "Goth/Punk" as that in Block's "Weetzie Bat" stories, but it has much the same quirky, fantastical, shadowy outlook as those earlier works. It's "young adult novel" - but that doesn't mean that non-Gen-Xers like me can't enjoy it, too. And the "young adult" label doesn't mean that readers can expect Block to shy away from "weighty issues" either - child exploitation and child molestation are two major themes running throughout the book. As she did in the "Weetzie Bat" stories, Block also deals very positively and sympathetically with issues of alternative sexuality in *Teenage Fairy*. (Griffin is a young man who is troubled by his emerging gay identity - but he's never portrayed as "wrong" or "sick" and there are happy endings all 'round at the end.) Frankly, I wish I'd been able to read books like this when I was a youngster.

I Was a Teenage Fairy is definitely another "keeper." The only problem I've got now is that, having read it, I'm stuck waiting around for Francesca Lia Block's *next* novel to hit the stands!



- TNT)- Jan. 3, 1999
- Babylon 5 Crusade* (TNT) - Jan. 5, 1999
- Witchblade* (TNT) - Jan., 1999
- MST 3000* (season 10, 13 episodes)
- Jan./Feb. 1999
- Outer Limits* (season 5, Showtime)
- Jan./Feb. 1999
- Poltergeist: The Legacy* (season 4,
Sci-Fi Channel) - Jan., 1999
- The Sentinel* (UPN) - mid-season
- Hollyweird* - mid-season (if at all)

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

Lambda Sci-Fi is a Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror fan club for Gay people and their friends. Annual membership fees are \$15, for which you will receive this monthly newsletter and a membership directory. Newsletter submissions are always welcome.

Meetings are generally held on the second Sunday of each month at a private residence. The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on Sunday, Oct. 11th, at James Crutchfield's apartment: 1414 17th St., NW, Apt. 413 (near Dupont Circle) - 1:30PM 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 James



October 2-4, 1998**ZONCON 98**. Best Western Hotel & Conf. Ctr. (Baltimore, MD). Guests: Hudson Leick (*Xena's* "Callisto") & Mira Furlan (*B5's* "Delenn"). Hotel rates: \$85/night (sgl-quad); must make res. by 9/1/98 (800-633-9511). Membership: \$50 for weekend, without "Mingle" banquet; \$85 *with* banquet (daily rates available). Make checks payable to "ZonCon" and send to: Zoncon, PO Box 1549, Ellicott City, MD 21043. E-mail: zoncon@usa.net

November 6-8, 1998**SCI-CON 20**. Holiday Inn Executive Center (Virginia Beach, VA). Guests: Will Shetterly (GoH) & Emma Bull (Special GoH), Coleen Doran (Artist GoH). Hotel rooms: \$66/night (sgl. or dbl.) - for reservations (deadline 10/17/98) call 757-499-4400 or 1-800-HOLIDAY (*Ask for Sci-Con rate*). Membership: \$30 until 10/31/98, \$35 at the door. Make checks payable to "Sci-Con 20" and send to: Sci-Con 20, P.O. Box 9434, Hampton, VA 23670. E-mail: ghnat@aol.com -or- tgray@norfolk.infi.net Website: <http://www.scicon.org>

November 13-15, 1998**PHILCON 98**. Adam's Mark Hotel (Philadelphia). Special Guests: Tom Savini, Walter Jon Williams. Membership: \$35 until 10/24/98; \$40 thereafter (none after 11/3/98). Make checks payable to "Philadelphia Science Fiction Society" and send: Philcon 98 Registration, PO Box 8303, 30th Street Stn., Philadelphia, PA 19101 E-mail: mail@philcon.org Website: <http://www.philcon.org>

November 13-15, 1998**FARPOINT 98**. Omni Inner Harbor (Baltimore, MD). Guests: Robert ("Gowron") O-Reilly, Stephen ("Vir Cotto") Furst, Richard ("Apollo" from *Battlestar Galactica*). Membership: \$45 for all 3 days (\$30 for Sat. only, \$25 for Sun. only). Make checks payable to "Farpoint, Inc." and send (with 2 SASE's) to: Farpoint, Inc., 6099 Hunt Club Rd., Elkridge, MD 21075.

For info, call: (410) 579-1257

Web Page: URL <http://www.bcpl.net/~wilsonr>

November 27-29, 1998**DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL MEETING XXI**. Holiday Inn Select, Baltimore North (Timonium, MD). GoH: Adrienne Martine-Barnes; Special Guests: Marion Zimmer Bradley (health permitting) and Katherine Kurtz. Hotel rooms: \$73/night (up to 4 in a room). Membership: \$30 until 11/1/98 (\$35 afterwards and at the door). Make checks payable to "Armida Council" and send to: Armida Council, PO Box 7203, Silver Spring, MD 20907. (This is a *very* les/bi/gay/trans-friendly convention. It's been called a "mini-Gaylaxicon" within another con.)

April 2-4, 1999**BALTICON 33**. Baltimore Omni Inner Harbor Hotel (Baltimore, MD). GoH: David Weber; Artist GoH: Jennifer Weyland. Hotel rates: \$109 (sgl - quad); call hotel for res. (410-752-1100). Membership: \$35 until 12/31/98, \$40 until 3/13/99, \$45 at the door. Make checks payable to "Balticon 33" and send to: Balticon 33, P.O. Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203 E-mail: bsfs@balticon.org Website: <http://www.balticon.org>

October 8-11, 1999**GAYLAXICON 1999: THE 10TH GAYLAXICON**. Washington, DC. Guest of Honor: Diane Duane; Artist GoH: Nancy Janda. Membership: \$50 through Aug. 1, 1999; \$60 at the door. (No mail-in registrations after Sept. 1, 1999.) Make checks payable to "Gaylaxicon 1999" and send to: Gaylaxicon 1999, c/o Lambda Sci-Fi, PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044. For more information, call 202/232-3141.

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