



PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (202) 232-3141 - Issue #117 - December 1999

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



New Year's Eve, End of the Millenium, End of the World "Video Madness" Party



You heard it right, we're going to party like it's 1999! Oh, wait, it *is* 1999. Come join your fellow LSFers as we eat and make merry while the clock ticks down on the 20th Century. As with all of our "Video Madness" parties, simply bring food to share (main dish, side dish, dessert, etc.) and/or drink (non-alcoholic) to share *and* your favorite genre films. We'll vote on what to watch on 2 - 3 screens, and we'll all have a great time. The party will officially end at 11:00 PM so that a private party (to which everyone present is invited) can take place, with a champagne toast to the new year. We'll even keep the movies going... if the power doesn't shut down.

Peter and Rob will be your hosts for this extravaganza - with a big

36" TV and DVD player in their living room (videos and DVD's welcome). Doors will open at 3 PM for anyone wanting to come early; and videos will start by 5 PM. It's likely that board and card games will be available for additional entertainment; and Julian will be helping to prepare food for an awesome century-ending feast. So, come join us and party!!!

Peter and Rob live at 1425 "S" Street NW in Washington DC, about 3 blocks from the "U" Street Cardozo Metro stop (Green Line) and about 8 blocks from the Dupont Circle Metro stop (Red Line). If you'd like driving or walking-from-Metro directions (or additional information), please call them at 202-483-6369.

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REMINDER: Annual LSF Book Exchange Scheduled for January Meeting

That's right, gang, the Holiday Season is almost upon us again; and it's time for a short reminder about Lambda Sci-Fi's upcoming *tenth* (Y2K) annual book exchange, which will occur at the January 9th meeting! All LSF members are invited to participate in this "blind book exchange" - and visitors are invited to join in the fun, too!

Briefly, this will be an opportunity for participants to exchange copies of their favorite science-fiction, fantasy, or horror books/videos/etc. and, thus, get to know each other a little better. For those of you unfamiliar with the process, you won't be assigned to exchange books with any *particular* person - it's a "blind" exchange, where participants will get their pick from a pile of anonymous wrapped packages. **There will be full details on the exchange in the next (January) LSF newsletter.**

So, now you've had fair warning. Start looking around for a favorite genre book/video/etc. for the exchange - paperback, hardback, a whole series (if you're feeling particularly wealthy), videotape, etc. And don't forget to save some of that wrapping paper you'll be wading through when the Holidays roll around (Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanza, Yule, Saturnalia, whatever) so you can use it to wrap your exchange item!

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IMPORTANT NOTICE!!

Details about the December LSF Meeting



The November Lambda Sci-Fi meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 12th, 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.

There are a couple of significant things that will be happening at the meeting, so please don't be late!

Item #1 - Discussion Topics

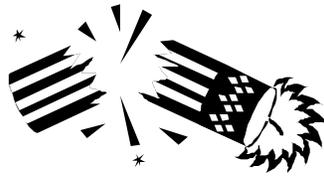
With Gaylaxicon 1999 behind us, LSF's tenth anniversary fast approaching, and the soon-to-be financial influx from the G'con '99 profits, Lambda Sci-Fi has decided that it's time to do a little self-inspection. Over the coming months, we're going to be looking at who we are, what we do, and how we do it, in the hopes that we'll be able to make sure to set a course that will carry us

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**The Firework-Maker's
Daughter**
by Philip Pullman
reviewed by Carl Cipra



Over the years, I've become a big fan of illustrated children's books, particularly those with fairytale or F&SF themes. Just recently, I picked up a copy of Philip Pullman's *The Firework-Maker's Daughter* (Arthur A. Levine Books, 1999; hd, \$15.95); and it fills the bill on all counts. It's imaginative and a delight to read - and the illustrations (color cover, b&w interiors) by S. Saelig Gallagher are truly a visual treat!

The story takes place "a thousand miles ago, in a country east of the jungle and south of the mountains" - it's a kind of non-specific little Asian monarchy in the middle of nowhere, with hints of Indochina and Turkey about it, and not so completely off the beaten track that it can't have visitors from Germany, Italy, and the United States. Here live Lalchand, the widowed firework-maker, and his young daughter Lila. Lila knows almost everything there is to know about making fireworks - both theory and practice - but her father has kept "the final secret of firework-making" from her. Why? Well, "of course" because young girls shouldn't become professional firework-makers; they should be working on getting a husband! Lila doesn't agree. She discovers that the way for an apprentice to become a master firework-maker is to be tested for the Three Gifts, then travel to the Grotto of Razvani the Fire-Fiend, in the heart of Mount Merapi, and exchange the Three Gifts for royal sulphur, the essential ingredient for making the finest fireworks. Fine! So off Lila goes on a quest in which she'll meet all kinds of fascinating beings - Hamlet the talking white elephant, the Goddess of the Emerald Lake, Rambashi and his pirates, Razvani the Fire-Fiend, and many more - as well as learn the true meaning of "the Three Gifts" and "royal sulphur". And, as you might have guessed, it's also a journey of self-discovery.

Pullman's writing style is witty and light and delightful, truly a joy to read. The story is a wondrous mix of comedy, slapstick, and fairytale. And Pullman has a flair for creating just the right name for his characters - such as the three visiting firework-makers: Dr. Puffenflasz, from Heidelberg; Signor Scorcini, from Naples; and Colonel Sam Sparkington, from Chicago. On the other hand, the story Pullman tells (as well as the lessons it teaches) is anything but simplistic. Added to this are Gallagher's beautiful, witty, and often amusing illustrations. All in all, a very satisfying book indeed.

By the way, this isn't the first Pullman story I've enjoyed: some months ago, I read his delightful *Count Karlstein* (which I also recommend). I still haven't read any of the novels Pullman is *most* famous for; but the LSF book discussion group will soon take care of that oversight. The subject of the Feb. 24th discussion will be *The Golden Compass*; and, if the quality of *The Firework-Maker's Daughter* and *Count Karlstein* are any indication of what Pullman's longer novels are like, then I'm really looking forward to *The Golden Compass*. ΛΨΦ

PURITANISM:

The haunting fear that
someone, somewhere,
may be happy.

-- H.L. Mencken --

excerpted from
The Vintage Mencken
(Vintage Books, 1955)



**Remembrance of
Gaylaxicon**
by Peter Knapp

I knew we were going to throw a good Gaylaxicon. I just wasn't sure we were going to throw a *great* one. In fact, we did. What really knocked my socks off was that things ran so smoothly. I was able to not only help *run* the convention, but also *attend* it. Wow!

Thursday started with a lot of running. A bunch of us spent over four hours assembling the program book and finishing the stuffing of the registration packets. Boy, were my fingers sore after that experience!

Friday began with a lot of attending. Three of our guests, Diane Duane, Peter Morwood, and Katie Waitman, were scheduled to speak at the Library of Congress. I had the honor of playing tour group leader as a small group, including the three speakers, headed to the Library via the Metro. Before the talk, our librarian host, Colleen Cahill-Stumbaugh, gave us a private tour of the Library. After the talk we ate a Hunan feast at a local restaurant. I then escorted Diane back to the hotel — she had to work on her forthcoming Star Trek Romulan books.

I had a blast socializing with the guests during our Library of Congress outing. At the two Gaylaxicons I previously ran, I barely had time to say hello to our guests. It was a nice change to not only meet guests, but also to get to know them.

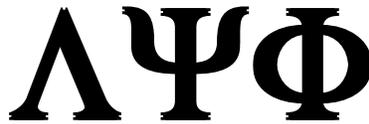
The rest of the weekend alternated between helping out where needed and kicking back and relaxing. I had a great time; and I think all involved did a great job putting on a great show. I wish the G2K ConComm the best of luck and look forward to an equally great experience in October 2000. ΛΨΦ



GAYLAXICON 2000
Get ready!
Here it comes!!

The Approved Minutes of the November LSF Meeting

by Rob



[AUTHOR'S NOTE: I'm running out of creativity regarding the meeting minutes. So be prepared for the possibility of really boring minutes hitting a newsletter near you soon.....]

With the long and arduous task of putting on Gaylaxicon: 1999 mostly behind us, we set about the task of moving on! After an introduction circle, our first order of business at the November business meeting was to make a decision about **whether Lambda Sci-Fi would be willing to host Gaylaxicon 2000**. Yes, indeed, a core group from the 1999 Con-Comm, headed by Jack Frost, stepped forward to keep the Gaylaxicon fires burning and had gotten the Network's approval and needed Lambda Sci-Fi to decide whether Gaylaxicon would happen. While there was much discussion on details and hotel contracts and the like, it was clear that we had all lost our minds, because we voted unanimously to host the convention. Jack and company are happily accepting volunteers to help with the convention - contact jackfrost@his.com.

In other business: after some heated and passionate debate and discussion on the LSF e-mail discussion list, we decided it was high time for the club to do some self-defining and examine options for the structure of the group. To that end, it was decided that we would **begin discussions at the December meeting** by talking about how to proceed with the process of defining our structure and by discussing the specific topic of defining "membership in Lambda Sci-Fi". It should be a great discussion, and it will begin promptly at 1:30PM at December's meeting.

In addition, we **planned a few events** - a movie outing for *Sleepy Hollow* (Saturday, Nov. 20) and a Room Party at DarkoverCon (Saturday, Nov. 27). Finally, Peter passed around the current draft information for those who have paid to be part of the Lambda Sci-Fi Directory, so they could check and edit

their entries. **The new Directory** will be distributed at December's meeting and by mail shortly after to those not in attendance.

With business out of the way, we settled in for the social portion of the meeting. A number of new people had come during the business discussions, so we started **the Social meeting** with another name circle.

Peter gave away a small poster from the Buffy comic book, while Dan regaled us with his review of *Pokemon, the First Movie* (not so bad, though the moral message was a bit heavy-handed). Dan also told us about his adventures-in-lasering, with show-and-tell of a burned-through plastic ID tag. Dan agreed not to use this new high-powered laser for dance decorations at Gaylaxicon 2000. Joe R. filled us in on his recent trip to the "1-800 Trekker Outlet" store, a highly-recommended shop for big media fans. Michael recommended two Baltimore museum exhibits - "Angels and Other Aliens" at the American Visionary Art Museum, and the Baltimore Dime Museum (a cool museum in general).

Speaking of media: Peter read a few excerpts from an interview with one of the Star Trek producers. A new series is in the works, likely appearing in January 2001; but no details are available yet. Also, the next Trek film is likely to happen, perhaps for Fall 2001. Again, no details are available yet. Michael frightened us with tales of a rumored "Willy Wonka" remake and a "King Tut" film (both with Michael Jackson, and both nixed from all appearances, thank the gods). He also filled us in on how Burkittsville, Maryland is starting to capitalize on its fame as the legendary home of the Blair Witch.

In **printed-page news**, James Morrow's latest, *The Eternal Footman*, has hit the shelves. In addition, the son of Anne McCaffrey has co-authored an encyclopedia of Pern which should be on shelves any day now, if not already. Recent newsletters from other Network

affiliates were passed around for perusal. And Denise filled us in on some comics news about two main male characters in a comic called *The Authority* coming out of the closet as lovers; apparently it's been all a-buzz in the comics industry. And in scary news: book-banning lives, as a small group of parents in South Carolina have been trying to get the children's books in the "Harry Potter" series banned because they contain magic. Instead, they suggested C. S. Lewis's "Chronicles of Narnia" as an alternative. (And where exactly does *that* series *lack* magic?)

Finally, we reminded everyone of **all of our upcoming events**: *Sleepy Hollow* outing (Nov. 20); DarkoverCon Room Party (Nov. 27); monthly book discussion (Dec. 2); December LSF meeting (Dec. 12); New Year's Eve Party (Dec. 31); and January LSF meeting & book exchange (Jan. 9).

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December LSF Meeting

continued from page 1

through the *next* ten years!

First on the agenda is to look at and discuss what it means to be a "member" of Lambda Sci-Fi: Who gets listed in the Membership Directory? Who gets newsletters? Who gets to vote? We'll be looking at these issues and concepts and hopefully coming up with some of the answers at the December meeting. In addition, we'll also be laying the groundwork for ongoing discussions about structure, bylaws, and more.

Item #2 - Scarves for Sale!

Carl's mother has done it again! With Winter fast approaching, she's knitted a whole new batch of those *fabulous* scarves (in an absolutely stunning range of colors!). Once again, Carl will be auctioning these scarves off at the meeting and donating the proceeds to the LSF coffers. So bring your money - bid high, bid often! Don't miss out on a chance to own one of these warm & lovely scarves!

As always, please bring some munchies or soft drinks, if you can. Hope to see you there!

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Two Film Reviews by Joseph Parra



Bats - Belfry!

Every now and then some Hollywood producer gets the idea that they can reinvent the nature-goes-amuck horror film. The latest incarnation is *Bats*, the first release for a new studio, Destination Films. *Bats* tells the familiar story of a mad scientist (working for the government, as they all seem to do these days, according to the movies!) who has genetically engineered the "flying fox" variety of bat to become a killing machine. They have been loosed over a small Texas town for reasons that are never really made clear, except for the looney doc saying "because I could" -- booga! booga! Lou Diamond Phillips plays the cigar-chomping sheriff of this one-horse community and tries to combat both the bats and Big Brother, as the government steps in before the bats can become a major epidemic. Dina Meyer (the tough-o momma from *Starship Troopers*) is the bat specialist called in by Uncle Sam to stop the renegade rodentia. Leon (that seems to be his whole name) plays the sidekick who always manages to have a wisecrack ready, whether needed or not. Bob Gunton is the mad doctor. All of these performers have been better than this guano-of-a-film showcases them. They uniformly stink, from the leads to the extras. The director, Louis Morneau, is a graduate of the Roger Corman stable of directors. Unfortunately, it wasn't the same stable that produced Francis Coppola or Jack Nicholson. Mr. Morneau previously helmed *Carnosaur 2*. His idea of directing a film seems to be to sit back and let what happens happen without having an idea of where he wants scenes to end up once he gets there. KNB EFX provided the entertaining sfx that range from cute-but-nasty big-bat puppets to well-done CGI. The script is from hunger, especially when trying to be smart-ass cute.

Nature horror films have always been with us since the silent early 1900's films of Georges Mellies. Killer

bats controlled by a mad scientist go back to Bela Lugosi in *The Devil Bat* (PRC, 1940) up through *Nightwing* (Columbia 1979) and *Chosen Survivors* (Columbia 1974). This latest opus offers nothing new, save the excellent sfx. What at first seems like a parody unfortunately reveals itself to be just another poorly-executed, hackneyed furball. This is a pity too, because with a little imagination, it could have been either a truly hilarious farce or a creepy tale of terror. Instead, all we get is a fly-by-night mouse trap. Enjoy the FX, otherwise, feh!!!



Rating: 1 out of a possible 4

House on Haunted Hill (Hell of a Party!)



Back in 1958, William Castle had a great idea. He put Vincent Price in the lead of a little B-movie effort that showcased his new gimmick of Emergo, a skeleton that floated over the audience during a particular sequence in the film. Emergo proved too expensive and/or annoying for most theatres, but the movie became one of the biggest money-makers of that year. The premise of the film was pretty simple: A millionaire invites five people to a haunted house and tells them that if they will spend the entire evening there until dawn, they will each get \$10,000. An evening of ghostly horrors and murders ensues; and, come the morning, there are a few survivors and a realization that they were part of a larger plan...

Allied Artists, the producers of the original, considered this film to be a jewel in its crown. Later, AA was bought out by Lorimar Productions, who in turn were bought by Warner Bros. WB noticed that rentals of the film and video sales were quite good and thought that it was time for a re-do. They contacted William Malone to direct the film. He had previously helmed *Crea-*

ture, Scared to Death, and a couple of *Tales from the Crypt* and *Perversions of Science* episodes for HBO. He is also the man who rebuilt Robby the Robot (of *Forbidden Planet* fame). Malone loved the original *HoHH* and had some ideas that he wanted to toy with. Geoffrey Rush was brought in to play the Vincent Price role. They then added Famke Janssen to the mix, as the lead character's wife (Carol Ohmart in the original). Chris Kattan (of *SNL* fame) plays the role originated by Elisha Cook; Peter Gallagher does the Alan Marshall role. Jeffrey Combs, veteran of many Charles Band horror movies (such as *Re-Animator* and *Doctor Mordred*), plays a role not in the original: a mad doctor.

The plot: In 1931, a mad doctor runs an asylum for the criminally insane (how novel!) and tries to perfect a method of curing which upsets the inmates. They then revolt in an extremely violent fashion, but the doc is ready for them and seals the asylum while setting it ablaze. It is now 1999 and fantastically-rich playboy Richard Price, who owns a chain of super amusement parks where fright is of the essence, decides to treat his miserable wife and five of their friends to a horrific party at the ruins of the asylum. It didn't burn down, as it was made of stone; and it is owned by one Watson Pritchett, who firmly believes that the structure is haunted by the spectres of the mad doctor and his staff, as well as some of the more bizarre patients. As the evening progresses, things take a definite turn for the worse. By the morning, what ensues will leave them all changed forever, in more ways than one...

I had great trepidations about viewing this film. I'm a big fan of the original and thought that it was a one-time event. The storyline did not seem to be one that would withstand the test of time in terms of updating and remaking. I was mistaken. This new version, while familiar, celebrates today and yesterday

(continued on page 5)

Spectrum Awards 2000

by Rob

Well, the 1999 Awards have been handed out; and now it's time for the Gaylactic Network Spectrum Awards to make the next great leap - by surviving for a second year of Awards. The 2000 Spectrum Awards will be handed out at either Gaylaxicon or Worldcon (depending on Gaylaxicon attendance numbers) in September or October 2000.

Nominations have just opened and nomination forms are available on the web (www.lambdasf.org/spectrum/) and will be handy at meetings and other LSF events. For 2000, we've added two new categories, bringing our total to six:

- Best Novel
- Best Short Fiction (new)
- Best Other Work
- Hall of Fame - Media (new)
- Hall of Fame
- People's Choice

Your nominations and interest are what make the Spectrum Awards work. So please think about taking part in this endeavour!

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Two Film Reviews

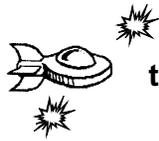
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with the zest and zeal of a runaway roller-coaster! Director Malone really studied his subject(s) well and guides them and us through this chamber of horrors in true old-fashioned-horror-film fashion. ILM did a large portion of the sfx, and they are superb. If Geoffrey Rush would grace our respective genres (horror, sci-fi, fantasy) with his masterful presence more often, we would be truly blessed. He does his work with the skill of Mr. Price and adds his own inimitable touch. The new plotlines seem a tad sketchy but are made sense of in the end. All in all, this a party you should definitely get invited to. Enjoy!!

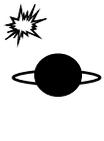


Rating: 3 out of a possible 4

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“Return with us now to those thrilling days of yesteryear...”
a book review by Carl Cipra



Golly gee-whiz, fellow Space Cadets, who'd'a thunk it?! *Another* “Star Trek” novel that I really enjoyed?! And it's a *Voyager* spin-off, too?! Well, not exactly... The book that's got me all bubbly-happy is a slim (and expensive - \$14.95) little trade paperback from Pocket Books entitled *Captain Proton: Defender of the Earth*. Yep, that's right, gang, it's a book based on the characters from *Voyager* crewman Tom Paris' retro, “Golden Age of Sci-Fi” holodeck adventures! And it's a hoot!

Paris' “Captain Proton” holodeck adventures are, of course, based on the sci-fi serials of the '40s and '50s. Similarly, this book has obviously been designed as an homage to the pulps of the same era. Everything about it is, in fact, set up to support the illusion that you're actually reading something from “those thrilling days of yesteryear.” The cover is a garish pulp-style cover, complete with heroic Captain Proton (who looks, of course, like *Voyager's* Tom Paris) blasting a huge bug-eyed monster that has in its clutches the buxom, provocatively-clad Constance Goodheart (who looks remarkably like Flash Gordon's Dale Arden). Then there's the table of contents, also designed to look like something right out of the pulps - it's even listed as “Vol. 9, No. 7 - Fall Issue”. As with the classic pulps, the contents are a mixed bag of stuff: one “full-length novel” (*Children of the Glass*); a serial “continued from last time” (“The Adventures of Captain Proton, Chapter 2: Death of the Patrol” - featuring the evil Dr. Chaotica); two “breathtaking short stories” (“Scream and Scream Again” and “The Forgotten and Lost Race”); and several “special features” (“The Planets of the Future: Mercury”, “The City of the Future: Seattle”, and “Letters to Captain Proton”, a letters column). Unlike many

of the pulps, there aren't any line illustrations inside; but the book does include quite a number of black-and-white photos taken from various “Captain Proton adventures” shown on *Star Trek: Voyager*.

Unfortunately, reading *Captain Proton* won't give you the feel of what it was like to read *all* the pulps - it'll only let you know what it would have been like to read only the *worst* of the pulps. The various “authors” included in “this issue” all demonstrate the level of writing skills (ridiculous plots, inane characters, bad science, hackneyed phrases, etc.) you could expect to find in one of the low-budget, grade-B pulp magazines - and, indeed, in many of the “big name” pulps, too! It's a darn good example of the type of mag that contributed to the death of the pulps. Actually, this book is completely the work of well-known “Star Trek” author Dean Wesley Smith; and he did a masterful job of recreation here, right down to the entries in the letters column. (I think I located only one anachronistic slip-up in the whole volume.)

All in all, I found reading this book to be an absolute joy. To my mind, this book (and Tom Paris' “Captain Proton” holodeck adventures) are practically the only good things to come out of the *Star Trek: Voyager* franchise. If you're looking for a trip down Memory Lane - complete with all its ruts and potholes - then I definitely recommend you go out and get a copy of *Captain Proton: Defender of the Earth*. (Omigosh! I just realized that I may *never* find out what happens in Chapter 3 of “The Adventures of Captain Proton”!! Will Captain Proton and his sidekick Buster Kincaid escape the deadly forces of the Giant Comet?! Will the evil Dr. Chaotica win after all?! ARGH!!)

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Remember: There'll be no meeting of the LSF book discussion group in December. The next book discussion will occur on Jan. 27th, when the topic will be *Maximum Light*, by Nancy Kress.

**** 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 \$20, 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 Sunday, December 12th, 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 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.

The Gaylactic Network has the following primary goals:

- to promote science-fiction, fantasy, horror and other related genres in all forms, with particular attention to materials of interest to gay males, lesbians, and bisexuals.
- to provide forums for gay males, lesbians, bisexuals and their friends to share their interest in science-fiction, fantasy, horror and other related genres.
- to promote the presence of gay male, lesbian and bisexual elements within science-fiction, fantasy, horror and other related genres and within fandom.
- to promote science-fiction, fantasy, horror and other related genres within the gay male, lesbian and bisexual communities.



Con Calendar

by Carl, Peter, Rob and James



April 21-23, 2000 **BALTICON 34**. Baltimore Omni Inner Harbor Hotel (Baltimore). GoH: Octavia Butler; Artist GoH: Wendy Pini; Editor GoH: Richard Pini. Membership: \$35 until 12/31/99; \$40 from 1/1 to 3/31/2000; \$45 at the door. Hotel rate: \$114/night + tax (sgl - quad). Make checks payable to "Baltimore Science Fiction Society" and send to: Balticon 34, PO Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203-0686. E-mail: bsfs@balticon.org Web: <http://www.balticon.org>

May 26-29, 2000 **COSTUMECON 18**. Sheraton Hartford (Hartford, Conn.). The 18th annual volunteer-run convention for costumers and all who love costumes. Membership \$70 thru 4/23/2000; \$80 thereafter & at the door. Make checks payable to "CostumeCon 18" and send to: CostumeCon 18, 11 Winter St., Amesbury, MA 01913-1515. For more information: e-mail: info@cc2000.org website: www.cc2000.org

June 30 - July 2, 2000 **ANTHROCON 2000**. Hilton Valley Forge Hotel (251 DeKalb Pike, King of Prussia, PA). The East Coast's largest Anthropomorphics Convention. For hotel reservations: 610-337-1200, or 800-TRY-VFPA. Membership: \$30 thru 2/1/00; \$35 thru 6/15/00. Make checks payable to "Anthrocon, Inc." and send to: Anthrocon, Inc., PO Box 270, Devault, PA 19432-0270.

Aug. 31 - Sept. 4, 2000 **CHICON 2000 (the 58th World Science Fiction Convention)**. Hyatt Regency & environs (Chicago). GoH: Ben Bova; Artist GoH: Bob Eggleton; Editor GoH: Jim Baen. Membership (as of 10/1/99): \$150 (& going up?). Make checks payable to "Chicon 2000" and send to: Chicon 2000, PO Box 642057, Chicago, IL 60664. E-mail: chi2000@chicon.org Website: www.chicon.org

Oct. 6-9, 2000 **GAYLAXICON 2000**. Arlington Hilton & Towers (Arlington, VA). GoH: Fiona Patton; Artist GoH: Nan Fredman. Membership: \$35 until 12/31/99; \$45 from 1/1 - 9/8/2000; \$55 at the door. Hotel rate: \$99/night (sgl/dbl), +\$20 for each addtl guest. Make checks payable to "Gaylaxicon 2000" and send to: Gaylaxicon 2000, PO Box 1862, Annandale, VA 22003-9862. Web: <http://www.lambdasf.org/g2k>