



LAMBDA SCI-FI



DC Area Gaylaxians

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Saturday Afternoon at the Movies (Aug. 5th Fundraiser for Gaylaxicon 2000)

Think back to 1999. Remember when LSF ran some nifty fund-raiser video events out in Gaithersburg at The Game Edge? Well, they were so successful that we've decided to do another one - this time as a fund-raiser for Gaylaxicon 2000. What a deal! You'll be able to have some fun AND, at the same time, help raise funds for this year's Gaylaxicon!

As a reminder, The Game Edge is a videogame store containing an "intimate 20-seat, large-screen theater" which they rent out to local clubs. (Yes, the folks at The Game Edge have got all the legal angles covered.) Their theater has even got honest-to-goodness comfy theater-style seats with drink-holders! [Ed. note: It's a *great* place to sit back, relax, and enjoy a Saturday afternoon!]

Here are the details:

When: Saturday, August 5th (2 - 6 PM).

Theme: "Enter the Barbarians!" We'll be showing: *The Whole Wide World* (a feature film on the life and tragic death of Robert E. Howard, Conan's creator - starring Vincent D'Onofrio); *Conan the Barbarian* (yes, the one with AH-nold!); and some cyberpunk clips.

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LSF Animé Club ***** "Anime 101 & Food" (July 15th)



After experiencing the hottest comics genre movie of the summer (an outing to the Regal Cinema-plex just across Rockville Pike to see the new *X-Men* movie) come and enjoy an introduction to Japanese animé (cartoons). We will show episodes from some of the hottest series running (such as *Eatman*, *Trigun*, *Serial Experiments Lain*) and one feature film. We'll be covering a wide range of genres - space opera, western, cyberpunk, mecha, comedy, horror and more. We will also talk about one of the biggest animé conventions on the East Coast - Otakon - and hopefully convince some of you to join us in August in Baltimore for this fun convention.

Come enjoy food and fun with us. If this proves to be a popular event, the LSF Animé Team would like to hold this event quarterly, concentrating on viewing animé series or feature-length movies. Check it out -- animé is not your father's *Speed Racer* anymore.

When?

Sat July 15 5pm - 11pm

Where?

Nan & Kay's house
Rockville, MD
Red Line Metro Accessible
(4 blocks from metro)

Next LSF Meeting: July 9th

The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on Sunday, July 9th, at James Crutchfield's apartment: 1414 17th St., NW (near Dupont Circle) - 1:30 PM for business meeting.

During the business meeting, we will vote on the proposal brought before LSF at the June meeting. **The Golden Gate Gaylaxians (San Francisco) have officially requested to be reinstated in the Gaylactic Network as a Full Affiliate.** If you wish to vote on this issue, please be present at the meeting or make sure your absentee ballot has been sent in. (A "yes" vote would mean that you are in favor of GGG returning to Full Affiliate status; and a "no" vote would mean that you are not in favor.)

The social meeting will begin at 2:00 PM. Please bring some munchies or soft drinks if you can.

See you there!

How to get there?

Call 301-762-7704
for directions/information

What to bring?

Bring your own "grillable" (*i.e.* something to throw on the barbeque grill -- meat, fish, or veggie) and a small side dish for 3 - 4 people. We will provide the drinks.

(PS: We have Air Conditioning!!)

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WHAT'S INSIDE?

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The Sweaty Minutes of the June LSF Meeting

by Rob

In temperatures approximating those found on the surface of the Sun, a group of brave souls gathered for the monthly LSF meeting prior to our Pre-Pride Video Party at Julian's home. As always, we began with business.

The first order of business was to consider **the proposal on Projects and Committees**, as developed and presented by the LSF Organizational Discussion Group. The proposal (as outlined in a separate article in this newsletter) passed unanimously, with enough votes to become official! Next up was Network business. We began by voting on **three Network issues** that had been proposed at the May meeting. We reviewed the fact that the proposals we were voting on in two of these cases differed from the proposals made in the GNAPA, but agreed that the versions we were voting on were the ones we wanted. All votes were unanimous and had enough votes to be official. So - we passed a proposal regarding changes to the Network Mission Statement; we passed a proposal changing a reference to "a Network newsletter" to a more general reference to "producing and distributing information"; and we passed a change to the Charter that would eliminate the need for Board Approval for Officers when forming Committees to accomplish the goals of their office. (For those interested in the exact language of the LSF Proposals that were passed, please see the June 2000 Newsletter.) Our next piece of business was to officially review the **request from the San Francisco group to once again become a Full Affiliate of the Network**. A proposal was developed and this proposal will be voted on at our July meeting - please be there or send in your absentee ballot prior to the meeting if you wish to vote. (It's a "yes" or "no" vote).

The proposal reads: LSF approves the Golden Gate Gaylaxians' request for a return to Full Affiliate status in the Gaylactic Network.

Finally, as our last piece of business we took a **straw poll on the**

Network Reorganization Framework put together by LSF's Network Reorg Committee. It was understood that this was a simple poll to determine if the direction and ideas that the Committee had put together were ones that LSF would support when the details are worked out with other clubs. We briefly reviewed the proposal (see the special insert from June's newsletter) and took a quick non-binding poll. Those in attendance approved the ideas and sent the Committee back to work with the rest of the Network to see what changes we could make happen.

Following business, we settled down for the social portion of the meeting. A few magazines and other doodads were passed around, including some animé things and some other Affiliate newsletters. Rob announced that the **winner of the Lambda Literary Award in the SF/Fantasy category** was *Minions of the Moon* by Richard Bowes. He also announced the **finalists for the Gaylactic Network Spectrum Awards** (see separate article) for 2000. Finally, two special events are being planned for July - both on July 15th. The first will be a **movie outing to see the new X-Men movie** at an early afternoon show, hopefully at the Regal Cinema in Rockville. (Please watch the LSF website and the e-mail lists, on July 13th or 14th, for details.) Later that afternoon there'll be a kick-ass **intro-to-animé fest** at Nan & Kay's place in Rockville, just across Rockville Pike from the Regal Cinema. (Please see separate article in this newsletter for details on the animé fest!)

With all this business, all this social stuff, and the heat, we decided enough was enough and settled back for a laid-back **Video Party and Feast**. We devoured much food (including some remarkable Hawaiian-themed dishes made by Julian, our host) and watched a few movies and spent much time socializing on the porch enjoying the light breeze.

And one moment not to be missed was the utterance of the Quote of the Day in reference to Kevin Costner and an episode of full rear nudity on film: "It was a stunt butt!" **ΛΨΦ**

Spectrum Award Finalists Announced

The Gaylactic Network proudly announces the finalists for the 2000 Spectrum Awards. The Spectrum Awards were created to honor works in science fiction, fantasy and horror that deal positively with gay characters, themes and issues. Winners will be announced and awards presented at Gaylaxicon 2000 (October 6-9, Arlington, VA). For more information about the Awards, visit the Spectrum Awards website at:

<http://www.lambdasf.org/spectrum/>

Finalists for this year are:

Best Novel

The Annunciate, by Severna Park
The Granite Shield, by Fiona Patton
The Gumshoe, The Witch & The Virtual Corpse, by Keith Hartman
The Quartered Sea, by Tanya Huff
Traitor's Moon, by Lynn Flewelling
The Wild Swans, by Peg Kerr

Best Short Fiction

"Chanoyu", by Esther Friesner
"Dapple", by Eleanor Arnason
"The Thorn Boy", by Storm Constantine

Best Other Work

Being John Malkovich (film)
South Park: Bigger, Longer, Uncut (film)
Supergirl #39 - "On Ice" (comic book)

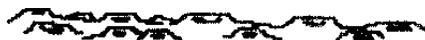
Hall of Fame - Media

Quantum Leap - "Running for Honor" (TV)
The Rocky Horror Picture Show (film)
Star Trek: DS9 - "Rejoined" (TV)

Hall of Fame

How Are The Mighty Fallen, by Thomas Burnett Swann
Slow River, by Nicola Griffith
Swordspoint, by Ellen Kushner (Tor)
"Tale of the Five" Series, by Diane Duane (specific title: *The Door Into Fire*)
"The World Well Lost", by Theodore Sturgeon (short story)

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Desmond
 by Ulysses G. Dietz
 -- "Delicious!" --
 (Alyson Publications, \$13.95)
 a review by Joseph Parra



At first, the prospect of yet another in the seemingly endless run of gay vampire novels seemed like something to avoid -- like an Anita Bryant concert. I am so very pleased to report that this tale is a definite level above its peers. This book is Mr. Dietz's first; and if this is any indication of his talents, I certainly hope it isn't the last, especially in gay fantastic literature.

Desmond Beckwith is a definite upscale New Yorker. He owns a fabulous house that he maintains on the Bowery, of all places. He is the CEO of a vast international investment empire. He is "out" to all of his really good friends and associates. There is something that he *is* extremely closeted about, however — he is a 250-year-old vampire. He is also a rather desperately lonely man who fears coupling for more than one night with anyone he might bring home for fun and dinner. Desmond almost never kills and is not the sort of desperate and cruel monster depicted in literature. He takes just what he needs and tries to make sure he never visits the same man twice — that is, until he meets Tony Chapman. Tony is an unemployed museum curator who is in rather desperate shape himself, having recently lost his apartment and resorting to living in what amounts to a "step-above-welfare hotel". They meet in a bar as Tony ineptly tries to hustle Desmond, who will have none of it. From this bleak and negative beginning, a beautiful romance forms. But is it one that will, to turn a phrase, stand the test of time? You see, Desmond was very desperately in love with a man he grew up with. Desmond must search through his own damned soul and relive his hellish tormented past, to take new meaning in what has gone before so that he may freely welcome the present. He must search his past, going from his childhood in Georgian England and revolutionary France and his "education" from a skilled surgeon in the

now. But will he let himself fall in love with this intriguing young man? Is there something about Tony that is perhaps all at once magnetic and yet repulsive? So many questions, so many sunrises...

Dietz acknowledges, in his writing, debts owed to Anne Rice, Sheridan LeFanu, and, of course, Bram Stoker. His writing is very often reminiscent of the aforementioned authors but never derivative. He also manages to deftly avoid the "gay gothic romance curse" (as I call it) by only being maudlin a couple of times, rather than relying on sadness as a constant, dull underlying theme. This in itself is no mean feat and is to be highly commended. He also, for a first-time published novelist, has a remarkable insight of character. He gives us sketches of these people, rather than photographs, allowing us to fill in the blanks with what we wish, within the framework given. His narrative is only occasionally verbose, and this is only when he gives us a mini-murder mystery to solve (one that does not require Sherlock Holmes). Bravo, Ulysses G. Dietz, bravo! Will we see more of Desmond Beckwith & Co.? Only time will tell. After all, with vampires, time is eternal...

If gay vampires are your cup of blood, this is right up your vein. If you do not normally care for gay vampire stories, try this one — it has bite!!! ENJOY!!!!

Rating: 3½ out of a possible 4

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Balkans. Ah, but what of the future? He must find peace with what has gone before and what is coming to pass

**Saturday Afternoon
 at the Movies**

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Cost: \$10. For that paltry sum, you'll get (besides the movies) a soft drink (Coke, Pepsi, Root Beer, diet or regular), M&M's (plain or peanut), and popcorn. (Heck! You've probably spent more than that on one book or on one trip to the movies!)

Where: The "NEW" Game Edge. Yes, they've moved since we were there last. They're still in Gaithersburg - just not in the same place. The Game Edge is now located at 122 Market Street, Gaithersburg (ph # 301-527-0090). The new location (like the old one) is *not* Metro-accessible. The nearest Metro station is Shady Grove; but, if you're planning on getting there by Metro, you'll definitely need to arrange for someone to pick you up at the station and ferry you over to the store.

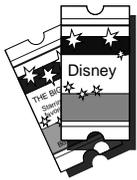
Directions (driving):

- North on I-270. Take Exit 9 (West), which is Rte. 370 (Sam Eig Highway).
- Sam Eig Highway dead-ends at Great Seneca (Rte. 119). Turn RIGHT.
- Go 4 blocks on Great Seneca (look for a house under construction); and turn LEFT on Kentlands Blvd.
- Go 2 blocks on Kentlands; and make a "3/4-left turn" off the traffic circle, onto Market Street.
- The Game Edge is located at 122 Market St. If you can't find street parking, there are public lots just a block up, on either side of the street.

Come join us! Relax in a luxurious, civilized fashion, while the Barbarians entertain us -- and pat yourself on the back for helping to support Gaylaxicon 2000!

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I have learned this at least by my experiment:
 that if one advances confidently in the direction
 of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life
 which he has imagined, he will meet with
 a success unexpected in common hours.
 -- Henry David Thoreau --



Fantasia 2000
a film review
by Peter Knapp

[Ed. note: Somewhere along the line, I misplaced this article. Fortunately, when *Fantasia 2000* now being released “to a theater near you,” Peter’s article is quite timely!]

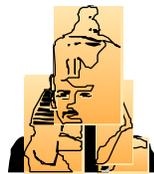
When I read the negative advance press for *Fantasia 2000*, I was concerned. Luckily, I needn’t have worried. A few weeks ago, while in Indianapolis on a business trip, I had the pleasure of seeing *Fantasia 2000* at an IMAX theater.

For those unfamiliar with the *Fantasia* films, in them Disney sets short animated stories to Classical music. *Fantasia 2000*, the second in the series, is a collection of seven new stories, with a piece from the original *Fantasia* thrown in for good measure. Each story is introduced by a celebrity actor who is obviously a fan of Disney animation and Classical music.

In general, I think one of Disney’s strengths is its animation. While watching *Fantasia 2000*, I was mesmerized by some of the imagery and music. Several of the stories touched my heart; some saddened me; and a few tickled my funny bone. Without using words, the animation and music successfully tell the stories.

Critics have complained that Disney abridges some of the music used in *Fantasia 2000*. As with books, movie producers will adapt music for a visual medium and, therefore, change the source material to work within the constraints of a movie. If one wants to hear a piece of music the way it was written, I would suggest going to a concert or buying a CD.

Critics have also complained that the story from the original *Fantasia*, “The Sorcerer’s Apprentice”, doesn’t fit with the newer animation of the other stories. I disagree. While the animation in “Apprentice” certainly looks dated (especially compared to the newer computer-assisted animation), I enjoyed the nostalgia of seeing a classic piece of



**LSF at DC's
Black Gay
& Lesbian
Pride Festival**
by Barrett Brick

Lambda Sci-Fi had a very successful day at DC’s Black Gay and Lesbian Pride Festival on Sunday, May 29. Our booth attracted a good amount of interest from people attending the festival, which was held for the first time at the DC Convention Center.

Once again, our bookmarks proved to be an attractive and desired giveaway, as did the Gaylaxicon 2000 pencils we made available. Many people were intrigued by the selection of books we had on display: Octavia Butler’s *Wild Seed*; Samuel Delany’s *Dhalgren*; and *Future Earths: Under African Skies*, a short story collection edited by Mike Resnick and Gardner Dozois. This was just a small sample of titles written or edited by African-American authors. These books and a larger list of African-American genre authors sparked many good discussions, as well as numerous sign-ups for Lambda Sci-Fi’s and Gaylaxicon 2000’s e-mail lists.

Speaking of e-mail lists, Scott found out about a group called SciFiNoir, described as “a community of people of color with a deep appreciation for any and all things science fiction,” founded in December of last year. We made information on them available as well. SciFiNoir can be found at: www.egroups.com/group/SciFiNoir

Thanks to all who helped make this such a successful day, including Carl, Denise, James, Jim, Julian, Kevin, Scott, and Wayne at the booth, and Kay, Nan, and Rob for advance preparations.

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story-telling. The movie would be pretty boring if each piece of animation looked exactly the same.

As with the original *Fantasia*, Disney has successfully combined wonderful animation with great Classical music. I highly recommend *Fantasia 2000*, whether on the big or the not-so-big screen.

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**LSF Organizational
Discussion Group Report**

First, the Organizational Discussion Group did not meet in June. Our next meeting will be held on July 9th (the date of our July club meeting), beginning at 11AM, at Rob and Peter’s home (1425 “S” Street, NW). At that meeting, we’ll begin looking at the topic of “Officers”.

In May, the group had completed its discussions of “project and committee procedures” and made a proposal to the club for a vote. The vote took place at the June meeting, and the proposal passed. So, the following is now part of LSF’s official set of rules:

Projects and Committees

Committees or Projects that the club chooses to pursue to accomplish club business (*as defined in the voting and membership sections, club business includes decisions regarding funds, structure, business or Network matters*) via vote function under the following rules. (*Please note: the word committee in the following rules refers to committees of any size, project teams, et cetera.*)

- The goals and authority of the committee are defined by the club as part of the approval vote for a committee to be formed.
- The committee chair is decided upon by the club at time of approval - but may be changed by the committee or the club at a later date.
- The committee chair must be a current member of LSF.
- Funds may only be approved by the club, either at initial committee approval or upon future requests.
- If an advance of funds is required, it can be approved as part of the initial proposal or at a later date by club vote.
- Any person receiving an advance of funds must be a current LSF member.
- Any advance must be covered by receipts turned in to the Treasurer, or the person who received the advance must pay back the difference to the club.

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Furry

by Blackfeather Tanfur

If you have recently attended any conventions in the area, you might have seen some “furries”, or you might even have attended a “furry party”. Well, what is furry, you ask? The answer will depend (like the answer to any non-trivial question) on who does the answering. I am a furry (or “fur”); and I would like to share some of my experiences in the furry community with you.

I quite enjoy being a fur (or furry). To me, it is about many things. It’s about a close kinship with the rest of the animal world, not just humans. It is about a type of deep respect for all life. It is also about the relationship one has with oneself and with other furries. For other furs, none of the above options necessarily applies. It is a very personal experience; and your experience will be different from mine.

Furries are very friendly people. They are quite welcoming to those of us who call ourselves “family”. Whether or not there are more gay people in furry fandom than in the general fannish community, I can’t say; but the gay people in furry fandom tend to be very “out”. And, while not absolutely absent, homophobia is generally looked down upon in the furry community. All are welcome in furry, be they gay or straight.

The term “furry” can also be interpreted in a slightly different way. A furry is also a type of creature, a blend of human and animal. Such a being is also called “anthropomorphic” (meaning “human-shaped”). So, you will often see the term “anthropomorphics” in close proximity to “furry”.



Art is a very important to furries. It is more important, in my own estimation, than it is in Science Fiction fandom. In fact, at meets (gatherings) or conventions, furries will often take around a guest sketch-book for others to draw in. Making costumes (or “fursuits”) is also a favorite pastime for many furries. In fact, at any large furry gathering, you will often see several furs in a fursuit (also called a “zoot”).

Often an individual fur will have a special relationship with a particular animal type. For example, my own affinity is with two animal types: raven and coyote. The fur who really introduced me to Furry is a Dragon. (This shows that furry fandom also very much includes the feathery and scaly.) For some, the relationship with a particular animal type might be spiritual (as in my case); for others it is just an interest. Some consider it a lifestyle; whereas for others it is a hobby.

This can all seem a bit

overwhelming at first. But, if it sounds intriguing, do give it a try. I can’t promise you will love it; but if you do, it can be like finding home (as it was for me).

Next month, I will review several furry comics that might be of especial interest to GLBT fen.

How to find out more: There are a very large number of websites on all matters furry. I have a few to suggest as a starting point. There are also several usenet news groups (even a special hierarchy for furry). Or you can enter “furry” in your browser and see what pops up! Furthermore, there are several furry web rings. I am a member of the Fur Pride ring. (In this case, “Pride” is for GLBT furries, not furs who are proud to be furs.) Here are a couple of general sources:

<http://captainpackrat.dynip.com/>

<http://www.furcen.org/fgc/>

For furry art, there are:

<http://www.side7.com/>

(also has animé)

<http://www.yerf.com/>

(“clean” furry art)

<http://www.furnation.com/>

(a large number of hosted artists, and other resources)

For information on upcoming furry conventions, there are:

<http://www.mephitfurmeet.org/>

(Memphis, Sept 1-4)

<http://www.furfest.org>

(Chicago, Nov 17-19)

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Organizational Discussion

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- Receipts are required for all funds paid out by the club.
- The committee can spend approved funds without additional club approval.
- The committee must make a report to the club at meetings when called upon.
- Progress reports shall be included in the meeting minutes.
- It is recommended that initial proposals, budgets, and progress reports be made available in writing (preferably in electronic form) to the person handling the minutes.

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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, for over a year now, we’ve been conducting fascinating round-table 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 held on July 25th, at Peter & Rob’s house, 1425 “S” St., NW. (For directions or more details, call 202-483-6369.)

Here’s the Discussion Group’s schedule for the next few months:

--- **Thurs., July 25** - *Trader*, by Charles deLint; and the short story “The Silent Passion”, by Kathleen O’Malley (in the anthology *Bending the Landscape: Science Fiction*); facilitator: Helgi

--- **Thurs., Aug. 24** - *Far Beyond the Stars*, by Steve Barnes (a *ST:DS9* novel); facilitator: Peter.

— **Thurs., Sept. 25** - *Lions of Al-Rassan*, by Guy Gavriel Kay (a “historical-fantasy”); facilitator: Mike P.

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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 9th, at James C rutchfield'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.



Con Calendar

by Carl, Peter, Rob, Mike, and Helgi



July 7-9, 2000 **SHORE LEAVE 22**. Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Guests: Claudia ("Cmdr. Ivanova") Christian; Denise ("Lt. Yar") Crosby, Mark ("Major West," TV's *Lost in Space*); and many more. Membership: (at the door only) "higher than \$45".

July 28-30, 2000 **CLASSIC FILMFEST 2000**. Hyatt Crystal City (Arlington, VA). "We're still Monster Rally -- just better!!!" Guests: Samuel Arkoff, Roger Corman, Janet Leigh, and many more. VIP Membership: \$60. Make checks payable to "Midnight Marquee Press" and send to: Midnight Marquee Press, 9721 Britinay Ln., Baltimore, MD 21234.

For information: www.Midmar.com or call (410) 665-1198

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.

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 until 7/15/2000; \$195 after that. Make checks payable to "Chicon 2000" and send to: Chicon 2000, PO Box 642057, Chicago, IL 60664.

E-mail: chi2000@chicon.org Web site: www.chicon.org

Oct. 6-9, 2000 **GAYLAXICON 2000**. Arlington Hilton & Towers (Arlington, VA). GoH: Fiona Patton; Artist GoH: Nan Fredman. Membership: \$45 until 9/8/2000; \$55 at the door. Hotel rate: \$99/night (sgl/dbl), +\$20 for each addt'l 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>

