



LAMBDA SCI-FI



DC Area Gaylaxians

PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (202) 232-3141 - Issue #134 - May 2001

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

ATTENTION!! ATTENTION!!

Site Change for May 13th LSF Meeting

The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on Sunday, May 13th. **Due to an unexpected conflict, however, the meeting site has been changed from James' place to Rob & Peter's house, 1425 "S" St., NW.** (It's a 5-minute walk from the U St./African-American Civil War Memorial/Cardozo Metro station (Green Line) and a 15-minute walk from the Dupont Circle Metro station (Red Line).

The business meeting will begin at 1:30 PM; and the social meeting will begin at 2:00 PM. Please bring some munchies or soft drinks if you can. See you there!



Voyager Finale Party

from Peter



Date:

Wednesday, May 23rd

Where:

1425 "S" Street, NW, Washington, DC

Dinner: 6:00pm

Finale: 8:00pm

Come celebrate or mourn the final episode of *Star Trek: Voyager*. For those that want to have dinner before the show, arrive at 6:00pm with \$5. We'll pool our money and order pizza and soda. Please, no moochers. The two-hour series finale starts promptly at 8:00pm.

I hope to see you there! For further information, contact Peter Knapp at:

PeterKnapp@wavelengthsonline.com

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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 May 24th, 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 several months:

- **Thurs., May 24** - *The Wild Boys*, by William S. Burroughs; facilitator: Tim.
- **Thurs., June 28** - *Tigana*, by Guy Gavriel Kay; facilitator: Bart.
- **Thurs., July 26** - *Brain Plague*, by Joan Slonczewski; facilitator: Peter.
- **Thurs., Aug. 23** - *The Mists of Avalon*, by Marion Zimmer Bradley; facilitator: Rob.

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STAR WARS: ART OF THE STARFIGHTER



There's a new exhibition running at the Arts & Industries Building, Smithsonian Museum, that you just might find interesting. It's called "Star Wars: Art of the Starfighter" and it runs until June 24th. On view is the full-scale, 34-foot, yellow-and-chrome Naboo starfighter model used in the making of *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace*, along with text, images, audio-visual components, and an interactive kiosk that details the creative process of film-making and the evolution of the starfighter in the *Star Wars* saga.

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Love at First Byte?

relayed by Carl Cipra

[I excerpted this from an article in the Feb. 2001 issue of *Training & Development Magazine* (“Extreme Romance 2001” by Haidee E. Allerton).]

At least 30,000 busy working Japanese men are dating women they’ve never seen, according to a report in *Wired News* by Michelle Delio. A mobile-phone matchmaking service, Love By Mail, lets men choose a girlfriend from a list, including a bartender, a flight attendant, an office worker, and a teacher. Once a man makes his selection, they start dating via email on the man’s Web-enabled cell phone. And just like in face-to-face life, virtual dating has its rules.

Men who move too fast or not fast enough get angry emails in response. Men who talk about sports or plead having to work too often soon get no response. Men who hit just the right romantic note are rewarded by romantic emails in kind and their sweetie’s “most intimate secrets.”

There’s just one fly in the tofu: The women are preprogrammed computer scripts. That’s right; they don’t exist.

Does that bother the men? Apparently not. Says one, “I dated Yumi for awhile, and I have to confess I became very attached to her. It was sometimes hard to remember that she wasn’t real. She would yell at me and ignore me the exact same way as all of my other girlfriends have. Finally I decided to stop the relationship. It was too draining.”

Another Love By Mail user says the experience is almost like having a mistress. “You have the happiness of a secret woman, a hidden relationship, with none of the fear that your wife will find out and be angry. My grandfather had the geisha, my father had the bar hostesses, and I have Love By Mail.”

I-mode, the company that provides Love By Mail, also offers a service called “kind advice” about love, which promises guidance on everything from

April LSF Meeting Minutes

taken by Scott (revised by Carl)

Four proposals were voted on at the Business Meeting, as follows:

(1) to spend \$140 for a table at DC Pride - passed. (DC Pride Day will be celebrated Sunday, June 10th.)

(2) to spend \$150 for a table at DC Black Pride - did not pass.

(3) to spend \$60 for a half-table at DC Youth Pride - did not pass.

(4) to require “secret ballot” for business votes - did not pass.

Then came the Social Meeting:

There will be a “**Video Madness**” Party at Kurt Donaldson’s Capitol Hill home on Saturday, April 21st, beginning at 4:00 PM. The theme will be “overlooked gems.” The next meeting of the **LSF book discussion group** will be Thursday, April 26th, and the subject will be John Grimsley’s *Kirith Kirin*. The *Mummy Returns* movie will premiere Friday, May 4th; Rob suggested an **LSF outing** to see a Saturday afternoon matinee. The *Star Trek: Voyager* series finale occurs on Wednesday, May 23rd, at 8:00 PM. Peter and Rob will open up their home for an **LSF get-together** for this event, with pizza beforehand at 7:00 PM. Peter and Rob will also open up their home for a **post-DC Pride video party** on Saturday, June 16th; doors will open at 3:00 PM.

Michael C. passed around a humorous book by Patrick Huyghe entitled *The Field Guide to Extraterrestrials*. Rob passed around two gay fandom newsletters – from Planet Lambda in southern California and from TAU in Albany. *Bending the Landscape: Horror* (edited by Stephe Pagel and Nicola Griffith) is now out and available at Lambda Rising. (Rob has a quote on the back book jacket.) Sigourney Weaver

what to wear on a date to how to act in a restaurant. You can also check predictions for the success of a relationship based on the other person’s horoscope and blood type. There are also i-mode advice services for people who are having trouble at work and who don’t know what to do after work.

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will star in and produce *Alien V*, to be released in 2004. A new *Star Trek* series (from UPN?) ostensibly will be set in the near future. *Oblongs*, a new animated TV series has been well-received. Michael passed around his “Captain Action” action figures (based upon the TV series).

Two visitors from Boston announced that the next Arisia science-fiction convention will be held at the Boston Park Hotel January 18–20, 2002. Tristan Alexander will be the Artist Guest of Honor, and Katherine Kurtz will be the author guest of honor. For more info, check out: www.arisia.org

Kay is working on helping an informal GLBT sci-fi group in Atlanta join the Gaylactic Network. She has also been in contact with a possible future group in Denver -- and perhaps one in Melbourne, Australia, too!

The TV series *Dark Angel* may not survive. TNT will run a new series based on *Witchblade*. J. Michael Straczynski is planning a *Babylon 5* movie for the Sci Fi Channel which will deal with the Rangers. *Reboot* is now available on DVD and VHS. There’s a possibility of a remake of the *Lathe of Heaven*. *Farscape*’s first novelization is to be released soon. Due out in October 2001 is *Monsters Incorporated* by Pixar, featuring a hairy blue monster voiced by John Goodman. *Vanity Fair* recently ran a furry fandom article. Wayne B. advised us about upcoming genre films at the National Gallery of Art, including *Nosferatu*. Rob recommended that people attending the upcoming Labor Day weekend Worldcon in Philadelphia make their hotel reservations soon. Rob will have available at the next LSF meeting the list of Spectrum Awards finalists.

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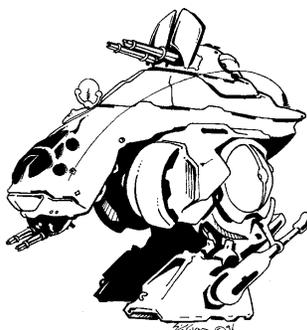
Life isn’t easy. But then, if it was, everybody would be doing it.

--- Harlan Ellison ---

[excerpted from *Science Fictionisms*, edited by William Rotsler]

**Old Guard:
A Bolos Anthology**

Created by Keith Laumer,
Edited by Bill Fawcett
(Riverdale, NY: Baen, 2001)
a review by Colleen R. Cahill



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In the military, the older soldiers and officers can be an asset untouched, as younger, stronger men rise in service. Untouched, that is, until a crisis shows their value in experience and cunning. That is the theme of the four stories in *Old Guard: A Bolos Anthology*. These stories of self-aware robotic tanks were first penned by Keith Laumer and are continued in book 5 of the “Bolos” series. The central theme of this volume is old soldiers, both human and Bolo, who show their “metal”.

In the earlier books, humans and Bolos have been fighting an alien race called Melconians. Little attention is paid to a sleepy sector that holds the planet Delas until a sudden attack by lizardlike aliens called Kezdai. Fortunately for the Delassians, two Bolos and their commander were sent to the planet when some unusual signals were detected in the system. Thus opens the first story, “Incursion”, written by Mark Thies, which not only describes the military strategy of Col. Toman Ishida but includes interactions with his grown children, focusing on the problems he has with his son. Ishida is a 55-year veteran who is at the end of his career; his quick thinking and previous military experience pose a real challenge to the invading aliens.

After the first conquest fails, the Kezdai send a second force to take over the planet, partly because they need its resources and partly due to the complex politics of the race. This still does not capture much of the attention of humans not living in the Delas sector. In John Mina’s “Rook’s Gambit”, when newly-graduated military cadet Lt. Sean Petrik is sent there with his still-classified Mark XXXVI Bolo, he has to ask where the planet is located. He and his Bolo, who is unnamed at this stage, are under the command of General Haywood Cho, a 97-year-old veteran who is a battle hero

but left the Military Academy under a cloud and retired to Delas. Once on the planet, Petrik is put off by Cho’s lack of military polish: the old General is sloppy, confusing, and spends more time cheating at chess with the Bolo than preparing for the enemy invasion. In the battle that follows, the General proves he is wiler than his earlier behaviors leads one to believe and even his quirky chess games have a purpose.

In the third story, “The Sky is Falling” by J. Steven York and Dean Wesley Smith, the Kezdai have gained ground in the war on Delas. A green regiment of Bolos arrives under the command of Major Boris Veck. Veck sees Bolos as machines and treats his as a tool, ignoring any advice and reprimanding any initiatives taken by his Bolo. In contrast is his subordinate and childhood friend, Lieutenant David Orren, who establishes a rapport with his Bolo and together they form a team. Due to an illness, Orren arrives later to Delas than the rest of the regiment and his transport ship is inadvertently shot down by Veck. The old guard in this story is Brigadier General Kiel, who recognizes Veck’s strategic brilliance but also sees the Major’s inability to work with his Bolo, tries to enlighten Veck on what Bolos are and how to use them.

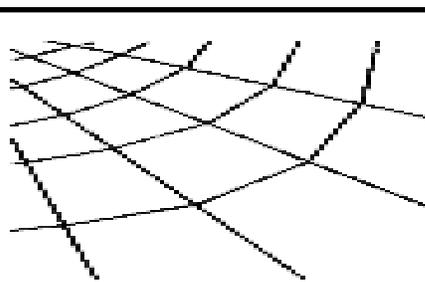
The last story, “Brothers” by William H. Keith, Jr., is my favorite in the anthology. The Kezdai attack the planet Izra’il and, due to the incompetence of the human commander, they land on the planet unopposed. As the aliens begin to decimate the population, two Mark XXIV Bolos are sent out to attack the ground troops. Unlike the earlier stories, these Bolos do not have human riders,

but receive their orders from a central command. Instead of fighting, the Colonel in charge uses the Bolos to delay the enemy while he attempts to evacuate the planet. When finally allowed to fight, the Bolos react quickly and show they are not obsolete, exceeding the expectations of their human controller. The destruction of one of the Bolos leads to an emotional climax that demonstrates that Bolos have kinship with each other as well as with their human commanders.

The merit of these stories is their interactions between the different characters: human to human, human to Bolo, and Bolo to Bolo. The setting of battles and war heightens the emotionally quality of the relationships. Friendship, honor, betrayal, bravery, sacrifice, cowardice and love are all portrayed. Nor are the aliens just a faceless enemy; two of the stories have an alien viewpoint as part of the plot and demonstrate the Kezdai motivation, politics, and culture.

If you have never read any of the other Bolo books, this title can be read without confusion and will wet your appetite for other books. If you have read them, this is a good continuation of the saga and worth checking out.

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**Cobwebs in the attic,
More webs in the hall.
Cobwebs on the stairway,
Clinging to the wall.
Cobwebs in the dungeon,
Stretched from arch to arch.
What a lot of websites
For spiders on the march.**

from *Mumbo Jumbo: The Creepy ABC*
by Michael Roberts
(Callaway, NY - 2000)

**Electronica Sci-Fi
(Dance CD)**
by Kay Cornwell



When one thinks of Science Fiction music our first thoughts usually turn to theme songs from TV shows which have become imbedded in our brain cells due to weekly viewing. With the advent of the VCR, movies take their place alongside our favorite TV shows and of course, with the rather recent trend of merchandising, every movie that hits the screens offers a soundtrack.

Pondering music for SF TV and movies we usually find rich orchestration conveying the vastness of space, the horror lurking around the corner, massive destruction from an alien war, etc. The most successful themes convey the *feelings* behind their show. We get an inkling of what is to come, be it comedy, horror or awe.

Today you can acquire SF theme music for your listening pleasure. I'm sure most of you have seen the commercials for the Star Trek theme CDs, the music of Irwin Allen's SF shows, great SF movie themes, etc. As mentioned, the more current SF music usually consists of soundtracks released alongside movies. We find these soundtracks are usually made of tunes from currently popular bands that really seem to have little to do with the film: the main theme and perhaps a love theme.

So what is the modern cyberpunk/SF/primitive to do - where do we find *danceable* SF music? Listening to Capt. Kirk "sing" *Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds* can bring on a seizure, but I'm

thinking more along the lines of controlled movement. Why can't we revel, move our bodies to music from the genre we love?

Well, I'm glad to say you can with a CD released by Hypnotic - a trance, techno, rave music label. Their title *Sci-Fi Café* brings us "Electronic Invasions of Your Favorite Sci-fi Classics". Chill out to the trance version of *Dune (Prophecy Theme)* from The Electric Sky Church, the hip-hop of *Independence Day* from LCD, a funky retro-guitar, breakbeat version of *Lost In Space* by Pressurehed. Loop Guru does their sampling thing with the original *Star Trek* theme, alongside a new take on the *X-Files Theme* from Le aetherstrip (not as good as the dance version released DJ Dado.)

Cyphonix Palacios trips with *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, while Astralasia takes *Doctor Who* for a spin that will have your hands in the air and Kinder Atom helps us *Escape From New York*. Remember the show *In Search Of?* Cathexis doesn't have far to go to modernize this already pop-synthesized theme; they add the techno drum and bass lines, pump the beat up and bring visions of Leonard Nimoy and the heads of Easter Island. The CD ends with the Space Ship Eyes rendition of *Liquid Sky* - I don't remember the theme, but I was enraptured by the movie once (now available on DVD).

There are a few disappointments. *Ode to Rollerblade* from Download is experimental electronic noise - you can't dance to it. It would stop the dance floor cold. Also, one of my fave bands, Information Society's *Star Trek (Doomsday Theme)* took too long to give me what I know I wanted to hear. I believe the theme buried here comes from the episode where that large worm-like thing is going to swallow the Enterprise. Actually, it probably played through a few episodes. They redeem themselves when they finally get to the recognizable portion, but alas you can't really dance to it.

DJ'ing your next SF party or Con, here's a CD for your collection. While you wouldn't want to try and get a whole party out of the selections on this

Nebula Winners Announced
relayed by Rob Gates



At a ceremony last night (April 28th) in LA, the Nebula winners were announced. These are the SF awards given out by and voted on by the professional writers in the genre.

Novel

Greg Bear, *Darwin's Radio*
(Ballantine Del Rey)

Novella

Linda Nagata, "Goddesses"
(*Sci Fiction/Scifi.com*)

Novelette

Walter Jon Williams, "Daddy's World"
(*SF Age*, May99)

Short Story

Terry Bisson, "macs"
(*F&SF*, Oct/Nov99)

Script

David Howard & Robert Gordon,
Galaxy Quest
(Dream Works SKG)

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CD, you can drop various tunes into the mix to get the fans sweating to their SF favorites.

Available at www.cdnow.com or Tower Records, the CD has been released twice - under two names. Look for:

Sci-Fi Cafe

Release Date: August 26, 1997

Label: HYPNOTIC

Or

Electronica Sci-Fi

Date: May 26, 1998

Label: ALPHA WAVE

Or look for it in the Electronica/Techno/Trance section of your favorite record store.

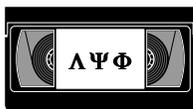
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I don't try to predict the future;
I try to prevent it.
--- Ray Bradbury ---

[excerpted from *Science Fictionisms*,
edited by William Rotsler]

Video Party Fun!

by Rob



For those unfamiliar with LSF's "Video Madness" Parties -- and those who simply missed our latest -- I thought I'd briefly write up the evening's festivities.

This was our first time at a new location, in Capitol Hill at the home of recent new member, Kurt. Kurt's lovely home made for a fine locale, with a big screen on the main floor for DVD's or Videos and a smaller screen upstairs for Videos. With about 15 people attending, both screens saw use throughout the night. As usual, the food was plentiful, though there were no earth-shattering new delicacies this time, merely a collection of old favorites. Everyone gorged themselves on pizza and snarfed up many desserts, including ice cream sundaes -- with "Easter Peeps" as a special sundae topping.

Voting for films went quickly, though the crowd was more discerning than usual in their voting. Kurt had promoted the party with a theme of "Hidden Gems," and attendees did not disappoint with their contributions to the pile. We ended up doing a string of three DVD's on the main screen and three videos on the upstairs screen. Our choices for the night were:

Main Screen -- *Nosferatu*; *Logan's Run*; *Godzilla 2000*.

Upstairs -- MST3K Short Films Collection #3; *Frankenstein Created Woman*; *Doc Savage: The Man of Bronze*.

Usually, it's pretty easy for me to choose which film to watch at a Video party, but the choices were tougher this time. In the end, I sprawled myself on the couch and watched the big screen from start to finish. I had recently seen the wonderful film *Shadow of the Vampire* and seeing Murnau's film *Nosferatu* (the filming of which was the subject of *Shadow of the Vampire*) was a real treat. *Logan's Run* was an old favorite, and I couldn't resist, especially with the prospect of snarky comments from the

Judgment of Tears: Anno Dracula 1959

by Kim Newman

a short review by Carl Cipra

He's *sbaaaaaack!* Yep, this is Kim Newman's *third* novel about Bram Stoker's famous vampire-king, continuing the story begun in *Anno Dracula*.

The story opens 40-some years after Dracula's previous attempt to conquer England at the head of the Kaiser's armies during WWI (as chronicled in *The Bloody Red Baron*). The mysteriously reclusive Count has been "living" in exile just outside Rome, in the Palazzo Otranto. It's rumored, however, that he's plotting yet another attempt at world conquest; and the first step in his plan would seem to be his upcoming marriage (on Halloween, no less) to Asa Vajda, a Moldavian vampire-princess. The lovely elder vampire, Geneviève Dieudonné, is once again on hand to keep an eye on the Count, accompanied



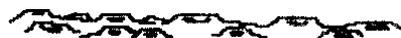
this time by Commander Haimish Bond, a new-born vampire and a member of the British Secret Service. Their mission: find out what Dracula is up to -- and stop him! Meanwhile, as undead and still-living notables gather from all over the world for the impending nup-

tials, a masked-and-costumed figure -- the Crimson Executioner -- is running around Rome destroying as many vampire elders as he can get his hands on. And the body-count is rising fast. Who's behind it all?

As in the previous two novels, Newman has assembled quite a cast of characters, with cameo appearances comprising a virtual "Who's Who" of the living (both real and fictional) and the undead from the late 1950s. Here are just a few of them: pop-singer Cliff Richard, Frankenstein's monster *and* the Golem (as "Jaws"-type enemy agents), Clark Kent, Fritz Lang, Mr. Herbert West (of Miskatonic University), Orson Welles, Ernest Hemingway, the Addams Family -- even the Maltese Falcon itself! As in all Newman's novels, the historical, literary, and film references come hot and heavy in *Judgment of Tears* -- you've really got to be on your toes to catch them all. Frankly, it's a good thing I held off reading this novel until now. Had I read it when it first came out back in 1998, I'd never have recognized the fact that "Tom" (a minor character who appears here and there throughout the story) is actually the one-and-only Tom Ripley -- as in *The Talented Mr. Ripley*. (I'm sure I still probably missed *some* references. Joe undoubtedly would get them all!)

Judgment of Tears a hoot! If you've read Newman's previous two Dracula novels, then I'm sure you know what I'm talking about. And, if you can get your hands on a copy of it, I'm sure you'll get a kick out of *Judgment of Tears*, too!

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assembled masses a bonus. Let's just say Farrah Fawcett-Majors did not go unscathed. Finally, *Godzilla 2000* was a must. No one seemed to be able to resist watching a poorly-dubbed Japanese monster flick, and this one gave the goods. The monsters and effects were marvelous, and the dubbed dialogue was hilarious. A couple of lines in particular got raucous hoots from the crowd, including one character exclaiming: "Great Caesar's Ghost!" and another telling a female reporter to "quit yer bitchin'!" My personal favorite was a comment by a military commander who said some new super missiles would go through Godzilla like "crap through a goose." The crowd for the last film was large, as over time many of those watching *Doc Savage* gave up and came to see *Godzilla*.

All in all, another spectacular evening of fun and frolic for LSF. Hopefully Kurt will have enjoyed himself so much that he'll offer to do it again!

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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, May 13th**, at Peter & Rob's home: 1425 "S" St., NW (about midway between the Dupont Circle & U St./Cardozo Metro Stns.) - 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 Kendall



May 25-28, 2001 **BALTICON 35**. Wyndham Baltimore (formerly Omni) Inner Harbor Hotel (Baltimore, MD). GoH: Hal Clement; Artist GoH: Helen "Hala" Fleischer. Membership: \$40 until 4/30; \$45 at the door. Make checks payable to "Balticon 35" and send to: Balticon 35 Registration, PO Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203-0686. e-mail: bsfs@balticon.org website: <http://www.balticon.org>

July 6-8, 2001 **FANEX 15 (Classic Filmfest)**. Hunt Valley Inn (Baltimore, MD). GoHs: Barbara Shelley & Blake Edwards. Membership: \$40. Make checks payable to "Midnight Marquee" and send to: Midnight Marquee Press, Inc., 9721 Britnay Ln., Baltimore, MD 21234.

Aug. 24-26, 2001 **THE BALTIMORE WEEKEND OF TERROR**. BWI Airport Marriott (Baltimore). GoHs: Bruce Campbell. Horror convention sponsored by Horrorfind.com and Frightvision, in association with the magazines *Scarlet Street*, *Rue Morgue*, and *Haunted Attraction*. Membership: \$20, until 4/1/2001. Make checks payable to "Horrorfind.com" and send to: Horrorfind.com, 9722 Groffs Mill Dr., PMB 109, Owings Mills, MD 21117.

Aug. 30 - Sept. 3, 2001 **THE MILLENNIUM PHILCON (The 59th World Science Fiction Convention)**. The Pennsylvania Convention Ctr. & Philadelphia Marriott Hotel. GoH: Greg Bear; Artist GoH: Stephen Youll. Attending membership: \$160 (at present; will go UP!). Make checks payable to "The Millennium Philcon" and send to: Millennium Philcon, PO Box 310, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006-0310. website: www.milphil.org

Sept. 28-30, 2001 **CAPCLAVE 2001**. Sheraton College Park (Beltsville, MD). "A new convention for the new millennium." GoH: Gardner Dozois. Membership: \$25 until 4/1/01; \$30 after that. Make checks payable to "Capclave 2001" and send to: Capclave Registration, c/o Alexis Gilliland, 4030 8th St., Arlington, VA 22204

