



LAMBDA SCI-FI



DC Area Gaylaxians

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

Gaylaxicon 2005 Update

from Wayne Wilkening,
Gaylaxicon 2005 Chair



Hotel: We have signed a contract with a hotel. Gaylaxicon 2005 will be held at the Hyatt Regency Cambridge. We have a contracted hotel rate of \$104 from June 30-July 4th. We also have the convention rate for 3 days before and after the official hotel dates, so anyone who wants to make Boston a vacation destination should be taken care of at the convention rates.

The hotel is a very nice hotel when compared to previous Gaylaxicons. It has all the standard features, more function space than we should need, and is located right on the Charles River. One of the big selling points in my book is that it's got a wonderful 14th-floor function room with huge windows looking right towards the 4th of July fireworks. You can expect us to program that room all evening for a grand "dead dog/fireworks" party on the 4th of July.

For more info on the hotel, you can see it at: www.cambridge.hyatt.com

Guests: Now that we have a firm date and location, GoH invitations will begin. The concomm has reviewed a list and we've begun the invitations.

Publicity/Web: For the first quarter we have had flyers at 6 conventions across the country. We'll continue to do at least that many each

quarter, with an emphasis on areas where there are already Affiliates and we can get volunteers to distribute them.

The website has been fairly static since the last update. There are some issues with getting a response to the updates requested by Kevin, our

web admin. If we can't get a more timely and responsive set of updates from the Network, we'll move the G'con 2005 site to another location we control and just put in a jump page on the Network's site.

Registrations/Memberships: We've added 2 new members since our last update bringing us to 17. Now that we have definite dates and GoH offers in process, we expect that memberships will pick up.

Finances: Now that we have a hotel, we're going through the process of revising our budgets. We also expect

(continued on page 3)

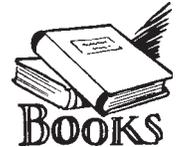
Next LSF Meeting - September 14th -

The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held at James Crutchfield's apartment (1414 17th St., NW, #413) on Sunday, September 14th. 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!

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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, we conduct fascinating roundtable 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 September 25th.

While Peter & Rob's house is undergoing renovations, the LSF Book Discussion Group will meet at a new venue: Brian & Sean's condo: 1300 13th St. NW #108 (Solo Piazza Building, on the corner of 13th & "N" Streets). For directions or more details, call 202-968-8737).

Here's the schedule for the next couple of months:

- **Sept. 25th** (back to regular 4th Thurs.) - *Swordspoint*, by Ellen Kushner; moderator: Mike P.

- **Oct. 23rd** - *Queer Fear II*, anthology edited by Michael Rowe; moderator: Rob.

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WHAT'S INSIDE?

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Minutes for the August LSF Meeting taken by Scott

Business Meeting

The proposal Rob made at the July 2003 LSF meeting was voted on:

Proposal: "I propose that LSF donate \$100 toward the running of the GLBT Fandom Suite at the Toronto Worldcon which begins in August. Any donated funds left over from running the Suite will be donated toward the running of the GLBT Fandom Suite at the Boston Worldcon next year."

This proposal was unanimously passed, including a number of absentee ballots.

Social Meeting

Did you attend the "Laura Croft" movie outing? If you didn't, then you saved yourself a few bucks, because (by all reports) the *Tomb Raider's* plot felt like playing a video game – one scene choppily moving on to the next scene with little transition.

Terminator 3 appears to be a remake of *T2* — nothing special about it. But it was noted that at the beginning of the movie, the Arnold Schwarzenegger character needed some clothing to fit his massive (and naked) body. So where does he go to get some clothes that fit upon entering the current time stream? A gay leather bar, of course.

Rob commented that despite the 3D glasses and 3D effects, Peter didn't care for *Spy Kids III*.

Jim W. reported on Shore Leave, a local media convention. *ST:TNG* actress Martina Sirtis said that the director of the *ST:Nemesis* movie didn't really know *Star Trek* at all. Prior directors at least took the effort to watch the *Star Trek* TV shows to orient themselves to the *Star Trek* universe. Also, Martina Sirtis' accent is really a low-brow British accent and not the accent that Counselor Troi uses on the show.

In the world of cartoons – Jim W. likes the new *Justice League* cartoon show (on Cartoon Network), while no one seemed to especially like the new *Spider-Man* cartoon (on MTV). Carl commented on the awkward transition

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from 'regular' to 'cartoony' characters in the new *Teen Titans* series (on Cartoon Network).

Jim W. reported that Pixar's next film will be the superhero-based *Incredibles*. We've all seen and hooted over the previews, yes? It'll be directed by the same person who did *Iron Giant*.

It was noted that *Finding Nemo* is the highest money-making animated film of all time.

While nattering about the new movie by the *Ice Age* people (to be called *Robots*, due out in 2005), we decided to do a traditional name circle, since there were some first-time attendees (who we hope to see again soon!).

The World Fantasy Convention will held in D.C. this November 2003 at the Capitol Hill Hilton on New Jersey Avenue NW. Unlike WorldCon, this con is mostly literary, with a smaller dealer's room and no costuming. (But what about filking?)

Mike C. reported on the upcoming AFI movie schedule – it includes the original *Dracula*, *Frankenstein*, *King Kong*, *Alien* and *Hunchback of Notre Dame*.

Rob passed around fliers for assorted cons – Darkover, TorCon, Gaylaxicon 2004 and 2005 and more. Rob also passed a review copy received in the mail — a book called *Bone Walk*, a medieval thriller by Kevin Howe.

Rob reminded everyone about the upcoming LSF book discussions: August – *Hominids* by Robert Sawyer; September – *Swordspoint* by Ellen Kushner; October – *Queer Fear II*, an anthology edited by Michael Rowe. For more info on the book discussion group, see the article on page 1 of this newsletter, or go to the LSF website:

www.lambdasf.org

Mike C. attended the Fanex con up in Baltimore. He attended a panel on the impact of WWI on horror movies.

It was noted that the third *Lord of the Rings* movie may run four hours long. (Hope that there's an intermission!)

More groans about the Sci Fi Channel's *Mad, Mad House* reality TV

show, about a household of stereotypical weird people who try to convert "mundanes." (Do I have a headache?)

There was some discussion about *Ginger Snaps*, a werewolf movie in which werewolves are a symbol of puberty and lycanthropy as a social disease. (Perhaps a candidate for a future LSF video party?)

Finally, our kind host James offered up a bookcase full of genre hardbacks and paperbacks for sale — with proceeds donated to LSF. (Thanks, James!)

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2002 Nebula Awards info passed along by Rob Gates



The 2002 Nebula Awards were given out on Saturday, April 19, at the Radisson Plaza - Warwick Hotel in Philadelphia, at the annual banquet given by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America.

Best Novel: *American Gods*, by Neil Gaiman (Morrow & Co.)

Best Novella: "Bronte's Egg", by Richard Chwedyk (*F&SF*)

Best Novelette: "Hell Is the Absence of God", by Ted Chiang (*Starlight 3*, Tor)

Best Short Story: "Creature", by Carol Emshwiller (*F&SF*)

Best Script: *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*, by Frances Walsh, Philippa Boyens, and Peter Jackson

Ursula K. Le Guin received SFWA's Grandmaster Award; and Katherine MacLean received SFWA's Author Emeritus Award.

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Gaylaxicon 2005 Update

continued from page 1

to raise membership rates in September after Worldcon. So if you don't already have your membership – get it before the price goes up!

Gaylaxicon 2005 has also applied for a grant from Arisia. The grant is targeted for funding additional GoH expenses, with the hope to bring in larger named guests to the convention. We should hear something in 3-4 months.

Concomm: The Consuite will be run by Keith Rodwell. Keith was the first elected President of GSFS, as well as the Hotel Liaison for two Gaylaxicons and “Con Suitee” for yet two more Gaylaxicons. In addition to activities at Gaylaxicons, Keith has hosted or co-hosted Gay Fandom parties at regional cons and one Worldcon. Lastly, he served on the MagiCon Worldcon concomm in the programming committee – specializing on Gay and Lesbian programming.

I also have tentative volunteers for both sponsorships and the dealers room. I expect the thumb screws to have made things official before the end of August.

Convention policies: We've been tackling a few convention policy items that I thought I'd pass along. We've developed a policy that no alcohol will be served by the convention or be allowed at open parties. A hotel provided cash bar will be acceptable at the appropriate convention events with the hotel taking the liability, preparation and cash handling aspects. The convention will not bar convention guests from having private parties in their own room at which they are free to serve alcohol.

We also made a policy on minors attending the convention. We decided that unaccompanied minors (ages 12-17) will be permitted at the convention and will pay an adult membership fee. They will be issued highly distinctive badges. Children under 12 will not be permitted unless accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times. The concomm will revisit the idea of making some aspects of the convention “adult only” but with the

Terminator 3 – First Impressions – by Peter Knapp



I saw a preview of *Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines* last night [July 1st]. While the movie was not bad, I was disappointed. It was not worth the \$9.50 I paid to watch it.

As this movie is the third installment of the franchise, the movie assumes the audience knows the back story. The producers don't take any risks and give the audience more of the same: bad terminator (though this time female) tries to kill future leader of mankind; good terminator tries to save him. Arnold Schwarzenegger plays the exact same role he played in the last movie. It worked before, so why not do it again?

While Nick Stahl (replacing Edward Furlong) as John Connor and Claire Danes as Kate Brewster (replacing the Linda Hamilton as bad-assed Sarah Connor) do a fine job, neither brings the intensity and determination to their roles that their predecessors did. I think Linda Hamilton carried the first two *Terminator* movies, and her absence in this movie hurt it a lot.

As with many of the current summer thrill rides, there are plenty of dazzling effects to keep you stimulated. None of it is very imaginative though. (I was more impressed by the big car chase sequence in *Matrix Reloaded* than the big car chase in *T3*.)

I rate this movie “C” for being well put together and coherent – but also for rehashing the last movie and not coming up with any really new material.

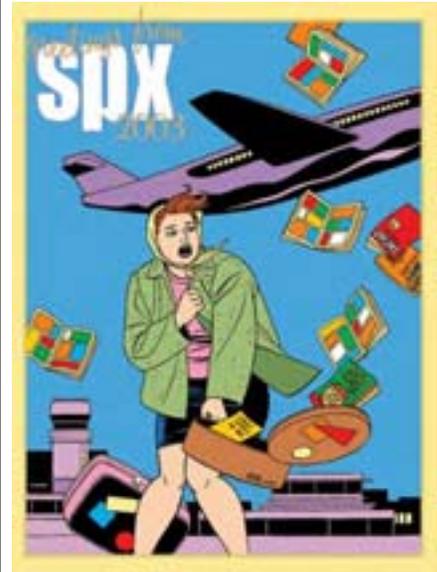
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desire to be explicit with all attendees before the convention on the types of programming available and thus make it open to everyone.

What's next: More of the same really. We'll be redoing our flyers soon with the hotel and GoH info once finalized. We've also got a number of interesting ideas to bring in new types of people and activities to Gaylaxicon that

Small Press Expo

from Greg McElhatton



For the comic book lovers on the list, I keep meaning to mention (and forgetting) that the latest edition of the annual anthology put together by the Small Press Expo (SPX) is now out in stores. This year's book, *SPX 2003*, has an overall theme of travel, although people use just about every genre imaginable to use the theme (science-fiction, comedy, biography, historical...)

Anyway, I co-edited this year's book, so I'm a bit biased, but if you see it in your local store (complete with a gorgeous cover by *Love & Rockets* legend Jaime Hernandez) I think you should definitely take a flip-through. (There's even at least one gay creator in the book, although for all I know there are more. I forgot to quiz the contributors. :))

[Ed. Note: The Small Press Expo will be held this month, Sept. 5-7, at the Holiday Inn Select in Bethesda, MD. Daily membership is available for \$8 per day – \$15 for the entire weekend, Friday through Sunday. For more information, go to their website: www.spxpo.com]

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we'll be pursuing. Our next concomm meeting will be held at the hotel, to allow the rest of the concomm to get a look at the facility. Next status report, I should be reporting our GoH selections.



In the Service of Samurai **by Gloria Oliver**

(Zumaya Publications, 2002)
<http://home.swbell.net/gioliver/gloria.html>
a review by Colleen R. Cahill

Ghost stories are not as popular as in years past; but, just as vampire epics have exploded in the last few decades, there are signs that spooky tales are being revived and, like their vampire cousins, showing new life. Gloria Oliver's *In the Service of Samurai* combines specters with Asian influences for a haunting adventure tale.

Toshi is an indentured apprentice to a map maker. This unusual career is what gets him in trouble, as his skills cause him to be kidnapped by a masked warrior. It is quickly evident that the samurai, Lord Asaka, is actually a skeleton who forces Toshi onto his ship manned completely by an undead crew. The ghost ship's crew has been sailing for years, trying to reach an island and complete their quest so they can rest in peace. Toshi's task is make sure the cursed ship stops traveling in circles and finds the island. It is an unique trip, as the ship must submerge during the day to protect the Lord and crew from sunlight, which would destroy them. But Toshi is not friendless: Miko, a beautiful but dead geisha, helps him adjust to his new life and explains why the crew is striving so hard to achieve their goal. Her influence changes Toshi's view of Lord Asaka from dread to admiration, although he still finds the Lord distant and stern.

The trip is not without danger, as there is a traitor in the crew who caused the ship to sink. An undead assassin threatens Toshi's life, as, without the boy, the quest cannot continue. Just being on the ship endangers Toshi, as it leeches his life away if he sleeps while it is submerged. To combat these dangers, Toshi is given sword training for protection from the ninja and only sleeps on the deck of the ship at night. Once the ship reaches the island and the long-hunted-for item is found, Toshi discovers he is being pressed into service again, as only a living person can retrieve the required piece: an iron tea kettle. This proves no



easy task, as spirits guard the kettle and Toshi must pay a price to gain the prize.

In the Service of Samurai is a ghost story, but also an adventure tale, a romance, and a coming-of-age story. The pieces fit together well because the author shows us characters with many sides. Lord Asaka is a driven man who does his duty, but he also shows tender love for Miko. Toshi displays great loyalty to those he cares about and also shows strong belief in duty, but resents not being able to make his own decisions. Positioned between these two, Miko is a caring woman of grace and intelligence who also never forgets she comes from a humble background, not a noble birth. The story includes plenty of action; and the plain iron tea kettle is the key to the mysterious disappearance of a great Lord.

Gloria Oliver has created a work of atmosphere, adventure, and fun. I recommend you start your quest for a copy of *In the Service of Samurai* today.

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Dinosaurs in Pittsburgh! info passed along by Carl



Dino-Gold

Chicago had its "Cows on Parade" in 1999; and Washington, DC had its "Party Animals" (donkeys and elephants) in 2002. Now it's Pittsburgh's turn – but *they've* gone "prehistoric" with their "DinoMite Days". This summer, the parks, plazas, and streets of Pittsburgh have featured a display of over 100 dinosaur replicas decorated by national and regional artists. When the citywide display concludes in September, the statues will be auctioned off, with proceeds going to local charitable organizations and to fund renovation of the Dinosaur Hall in Pittsburgh's Carnegie Museum of natural History. To learn more about the event, visit their website: dinomitedays.org

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Convention Addendum

(not enough room on page 6)

Sept. 2-6, 2004 **NOREASCON 4 (The 62nd World Science Fiction Convention)**. Hynes Convention Center & surrounding hotels (Boston, Mass.). Pro GoHs: Terry Pratchett & William Tenn. Attending membership: until 2/28/03, \$140 for attending adults (will go up!) Membership form on-line; registration also available on-line. Make checks pay-

able to "Noreascon 4" and send to: Noreascon Four/MCFI, PO Box 1010, Framingham, MA 01701-1010.

For general questions: info@mcfi.org

Website: www.noreascon.org



Three Books Reviewed

by Wayne Wilkening

Sorcerers of the Nightwing
by Geoffrey Huntington

Time to clear a few book reviews off my plate...

Sorcerers of the Nightwing is by GSFS-Lurker Geoffrey Huntington. In this, the first installment of the "Ravenscliff Series" we're introduced to Devon March and discover there really were monsters in the closet after all and they come from hell holes.

Devon's adventures begin after being sent to live in Ravenscliff as the ward of Mrs. Crandall. Ravenscliff is widely known by the local townsfolk as being haunted, with the residents of Ravenscliff being suspected of witchcraft, devilry, or worse. Devon befriends Mrs. Crandall's daughter, Cecily, and has a rocky relationship with Cecily's younger cousin, Alexander.

As the plot thickens, it appears that something is reaching out to the residents of Ravenscliff from a hell hole and trying to ensnare them. Devon desperately tries to discover his past and a way to stop the terror. As this is a series, some things are resolved and other you'll simply need to keep reading to find resolutions.

Targeted at the "young adult" reader, *Sorcerers of the Nightwing* is a quick read. There is brief GLBT content when Devon befriends Marcus, the only "out" boy at school. Pick up *Sorcerers of the Nightwing* for a light read or as a great gift to the younger reader who wants something with more meat than "Harry Potter" but isn't quite ready for Steven King.

There is some good back-story and information on the series at:
www.ravenscliff.com

Demon Witch
by Geoffrey Huntington

Geoffrey Huntington's "Ravenscliff Series" continues with Book II – *Demon Witch*. The book opens in A.D. 1522 as a mob burns a witch at the stake. You might guess that this event has some bearing on the book's plot, and you'd be correct.



Mrs. Crandall's brother (Alexander's father) returns from one of his frequent safaris with a different type of trophy, his new fiancé the beautiful Morgana. After settling in at Ravenscliff, the supernatural beasties once again begin to beset Devon, trying to convince him to open a hell hole to set more of the demon horde free. Devon is faced with the possibility that some of his terrifying visions will come true; but it's not clear if action or inaction will seal the fate of his friends.

Devon continues his quest to learn more about his past, his parents, and what it means to be a member of the Order of the Nightwing, while trying to discover why the demons are back now and how they can be stopped this time. He gets help from his school friends; and the openly-gay Marcus gets a bigger role in this installment of the series.

Demon Witch, like the first installment of the series, is targeted at "young adult" readers and should be a quick read. The story moves along; but it's not as surprising or original as *Sorcerers of the Nightwing*. It also suffers a bit by moving forward but not resolving some of the deeper mysteries of Devon and the Nightwing, while introducing new ones around all of Devon's friends — especially Marcus. It is still a fine book and it looks to have laid a lot of groundwork for the third installment.

I'm looking forward to the third book to see all the questions answered.

Demon Witch will be published July 1, 2003. (Geoffrey, any hint when the third installment will be published?)

Trysts
by Steve Berman

Honestly, I don't remember if I've reviewed this for the GSFS list or

not, so I'll do it now (again?).

Trysts: A Tri-kaidecollection of Queer and Weird Stories by Steve Berman contains 13 fantastic and hor-rific short stories revolving around GLBT issues and relationships.

There is no single thread throughout all of the stories other than that the characters all seem to be looking for something - adventure, sexual fulfillment, the return of a loved-one's affection, or closure on the past.

Steve's stories are crisp and well-told. In many of the stories, I found myself wondering if there was a kernel of experience behind the stories. I suspect Steve has a pixie on his shoulder relaying true stories that Steve translated into *Trysts*. Some of the stories were wrapped up a bit too quickly, leaving me to ponder what must have come next. This may be part of the reason why the stories in *Trysts* have stayed with me, as I keep inventing new endings...

The last four stories all take place in "Fallen" areas, where it seems the laws of physics are being upset by the introduction of magic and the fantastic. These stories do a good job at building a sense of place for the story to be told, adding depth to them when read together.

I met the author, Steve Berman, at the GSFS room party at Arisia this January, where he read a few pieces and sold a number of books. I quickly read through the collection of 13 short stories and have been dwelling on many of them ever since. I highly recommend you pick up a copy of *Trysts*.

Steve is working on a variety of projects. *Trysts* was nominated in 2002 for two Gaylactic Spectrum Awards. Information can be found at:

www.steveberman.com

Steve also lurks on the GSFS list.

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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 \$10, for which you will receive an e-mailed this monthly newsletter and a membership directory. (Hard copies of the newsletter cost an additional \$15 per year.) 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, September 14th**, at James Crutchfield's home: 1414 17th St., NW, #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, and Rob



Oct. 30 - Nov. 2, 2003 **THE 29TH ANNUAL WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION**. Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill (Washington, DC). Author GoHs: Brian Lumley & Jack Williamson; Artist GoH: Allen Koszowski. Membership: \$120 until 7/31/03. Make checks payable to "World Fantasy Convention 2003" and send to: WFC 2003 Registration c/o Jerry Crutcher, PO Box 1096, Rockville, MD 20849-1096. Website: www.worldfantasy2003.org

Nov. 21-23, 2003 **CAPCLAVE 2003**. Hilton Silver Spring (Silver Spring, MD). Guest of Honor: William Tenn. Membership: \$30 thru 9/15/2003; \$35 thru 11/1/03; \$40 at the door. Make checks payable to "Capclave" and send to: Capclave 2003 Registration, c/o Cathy Green, 3003 Van Ness St. NW, Apt. W527, Washington, DC 20008. E-mail: info@capclave.org Website: www.capclave.org

Nov. 28-30, 2003 **DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL MEETING XXVI**. Holiday Inn, Timonium (Timonium, MD). Guest of Honor: Diana Paxson; Artist Guest of Honor: Desiree Kern; Special Guest: Katherine Kurtz. Membership: \$40 until 11/1/2003; \$45 after that and at the door. Make checks payable to "Armida Council" and send to: Armida Council, PO Box 7203, Silver Spring, MD 20907. (If you wish membership confirmation, enclose a stamped, self-addressed *postcard*.) For further information: members@darkovercon.com -or- jaille@darkovercon.com -or- at the PO box address

Dec. 12-14, 2003 **PHILCON 2003**. Marriott City Center (Philadelphia). A very GLBT-friendly convention! Guest of Honor: Jack McDevitt; Artist Guests of Honor: Greg & Tim Hildebrandt; Special Guests: Peter David & Harry Harrison. Membership: \$40 until 5/31/2003 (will go up). Go to website to download pdf of registration form. Website: www.philcon.org

April 8 - 11, 2004 **GAYLAXICON 2004 - SAN DIEGO**. The annual national GLBT science-fiction/fantasy/horror/comics/gaming convention. Red Lion Hanalei Hotel (San Diego, CA). Author Guest of Honor: David Gerrold; Artist Guest of Honor: Joe Phillips. Membership: \$40 until 7/31/2003; then \$45 until 12/21/2003; then \$50 until 2/29/2004; and \$60 at the door. Make checks payable to "Gaylaxicon 2004 - San Diego" and send to: Gaylaxicon 2004 - San Diego, 1010 University Ave., PMB #946, San Diego, CA, 92103-3395. Membership forms available on-line.

Information at: www.gaylaxicon.org/2004

E-mail: Gaylaxicon2004@aol.com

July 1-4, 2005 **GAYLAXICON 2005**. Hyatt Regency Cambridge (Boston, MA). Introductory membership rate: \$35. Make checks payable to "Gaylaxicon 2005" and send to: Gaylaxicon 2005, PO Box 1059, Boston, MA 02103. (More information as it becomes available.) Website: www.gaylaxicon.org