



LAMBDA SCI-FI

DC Area Bisexual/Gay/Lesbian Science Fiction Association

P.O. Box 10087 * Silver Spring, MD 20914 * (301) 445-5650 Issue #7 - Oct '90

LAST MEETING MINUTES

by Loree Cook-Daniels

Who says everyone leaves D.C. in the summer? Continuing the "trend" begun in August, Lambda Sci Fi's September meeting was packed -- another 23 die-hard fans showed up at Jim's on Sunday, September 9th for our typical in-person free-for-all.

Since there was no "official" business, the meeting had even less structure than usual. Yet, for those who can tolerate agenda-less meetings, our September get-together was as informative as ever, with a number of topics offered and discussed. Below are some of the highlights:

GLIB. Since it seems like lots of sf fans are also computer nuts (or vice versa), David N. is negotiating with the Sysop (System Operator) of the local Gay and Lesbian Information Bureau computer bulletin board to set up a special section for Lambda Sci Fi. *(continued on page 4)*

GAYLAXICON '90

by Carl Cipra

First of all, let me get this off my chest: WOW! GAYLAXICON WAS GREAT! LET'S DO IT AGAIN! CAN WE? CAN WE? PRETTY PLEASE! OK, now that that's out of the way . . .

Seriously, Gaylaxicon '90 was wonderful! It was a little difficult to get to; but, believe me, it was well worth the trip. (Three Lambda Sci-Fi members made it up there to Tewksbury, Mass.: Jaime, Peter, and I.) The attending membership was about 150 or so, which is small by the standards of the kind of science fiction conventions I'm used to attending. On the other hand, that level of membership made it all sort of comfy-cozy or warm-and-fuzzy or however you want to describe it. There was time to actually meet and talk with people and authors and artists and such. That was quite an experience for me!

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Movie Review

Hard Ware

Review by Al W.

I knew something was up the first three minutes of the movie -- I didn't recognize the production company, the director, the producer, or any of the actors. Then, in the next fifteen minutes, as the camera focused on piles of garbage in a trash dump (albeit, high-tech looking piles of garbage), I figured "OK, maybe they've spent their budget on special effects that we'll see later in the picture." Then, the actors opened their mouths. More garbage. What had I gotten myself into? But I persevered -- I just know it has to get better -- maybe it's just a little slow starting. It did have a futuristic setting and there was supposedly a robot-gone-mad, maybe it would improve. Even had sex scenes and I already heard about 20 different words for male body parts -- *(continued on page 5)*

Trek Talk

TOP TEN LIST -- From the Home Office in Peoria, Illinois....

The top 10 reasons why the Borg kidnapped Captain Picard:

10. Minor screw up while trying to do the Federation a favor by abducting Wesley Crusher.
9. Required a test subject for their Ultra-Secret hair growth formula.
8. Admiral Chekov wasn't available
7. Part of the Borg Agenda for sweeping the Emmy Awards
6. Afraid he might give up before showing neat special effects.
5. Still upset about not getting role in "LIFEFORCE"
4. Earl Gray! Earl Gray!
3. They wanted to make him "Chairman of the Borg."
2. They had a bad case of the munchies..

<DRUM ROLL PLEASE>

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TREK TALK -- cont'd from page 1

AND THE NUMBER ONE REASON THE BORG
KIDNAPPED CAPTAIN PICARD:

Because Gene wanted it that way.

----- Many thanks to FLEA: Land of OZ bbs....

Trek Trivia Test -- If you get all the answers
correct you win...well, nothing, but try anyway.

EPISODE: "By any other name". What's wrong
with it?

From what part of the Excelsior did Scotty
remove an important component to disable the
ship?

In the episode "The Ensigns of Command", the
shuttlecraft that Data used to go down to the
planet to warn the inhabitants of the coming
Sheliak was called the _____.

What does Code 710 mean???

What was the term used by midshipmen at
Starfleet Academy to refer to an obsolete or
useless piece of equipment?

Who Played the funeral dirge at Spock's funeral
and what instrument and song was it?

What do you call a controlled implosion of the
sudden mixing of matter and anti-matter within a
starship's engines?

What does the Prime Directive SPECIFICALLY
prohibit?

Name the device which is the basis for every
important piece of high-tech federation
equipment.

Warp factor 2 is how many times faster than
Warp 1

Why did Decker countermand Kirk's phaser
order while they were in the wormhole (anti-
matter imbalance)?

Name the only episode in which 4 starships are
shown flying in tight battle formation.

What was the name of the scientist that invented
the Warp Drive?

HOTEL VULCAN?

by Noel Welch

Yes Spock, there really is a Vulcan Hotel. A
place where the weary (space) traveler can find
a night's lodging, and the staff have -- you
guessed it -- pointed ears!

Now, if you find that fascinating, you will
undoubtedly be surprised to learn that this hotel
is actually on Earth. In fact, it's in a town named
Vulcan, Canada (a region that doesn't share its
namesake's reputation for warm weather).

Of course, this may not seem like much to the
average Trekkie, but there's more! Plans are
evidently underway to erect a monument of the
Starship Enterprise on the outskirts of town
sometime next year. Also in the works is an
attempt to stage a Star Trek convention in town
during the summer.

It goes without saying that this is an obvious
attempt by the locals to bolster their economy,
as a number of town merchants have even been
decked out in full Star Fleet uniforms to add to
the atmosphere (pun intended).

So, when planning next summer's vacation, why
not skip the usual trip to the beach and instead
trek north to Vulcan? Maybe they'll even open a
fast-food chain, call it Spock in a Box, and serve
Vulcan burgers to go!

NEXT MEETING NOTICE

Meetings are held on the second
Sunday of each month at a private
residence. The October meeting will be
at our regular time -- 2:00 p.m. on
October 14th -- at Jim's apartment again,
1414 17th St., N.W., #413 We hope to
see everyone there!

Gaylaxacon '90 - cont'd from page 1

Let me give you an example. Ever heard of Hal Clement? (You know: Mission of Gravity and all those other hundreds of things he's written.) I missed out on his reading session; but I attended his slide-show/discussion of the Voyager fly-by of Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. (Suffice it to say that he's absolutely brilliant!) Afterwards, I talked with him briefly and had him pose for a pretty nifty portrait photograph (if I do say so myself). Do you think anyone's going to get a chance like that next year in Chicago when he's the Guest of Honor at Worldcon? Yeah, sure, bet me!

And then there were Melissa Scott and Lisa Barnett. (If you haven't read anything by these two, then you've really missed out! Run, don't walk, to the nearest bookstore and get something of theirs. Science fiction or fantasy, they're great in both genres!) And then there was Ellen Kushner. (My personal favorite---what can I say, she's a doll! "Yeah, but is she a good writer?" you ask. Go out and read Swordspoint and I think you'll have the answer!) And then there was Hannah Shapero. (Her Artist Guest of Honor slideshow was really something! She and Jaime became fast friends; and you should see the really great portrait that Jaime commissioned from Hannah!) And then there was . . . but I'm sure you get the picture by now! I was very pleased to have the opportunity to learn that all of them are "nice folks!" (Believe me, you don't often get that chance at conventions.)

The programming was just about right. There wasn't so much that you were forced to miss one great panel discussion or reading in order to catch another. And the topics were great! Here's some examples: "Are Gay Villians Politically Incorrect?"; "Feminist F&SF"; "The Vampire as Homosexual"; "Gay Themes in Comics"; "Why Women Like to See Men Make It" (a very popular panel discussion, I might add); "Alien Sexuality"; and so on.

There was a video room on Friday evening, all Saturday, and Sunday morning; and it featured some really interesting fantasy and science fiction films. Some examples: "Star Trek II: The

Wrath of Khan"; "I've Heard the Mermaids Singing"; "The Bride of Frankenstein" (the Elsa Lanchester version); "Beauty and the Beast" (the incredible Jean Cocteau version); "The Trouble with Tribbles"; and "Love Bites" (billed as "a silly and campy gay vampire film," this was not one of my favorites).

Other amenities? Well, the hotel was quite nice, as was the staff. Yes, it was kind of out of the way; but if you really wanted to, you could get to Boston for the night life. (I didn't have time for that; and the convention was just too wonderful to leave.) The indoor pool stayed open all night (and was apparently the scene of some less-than-decorous behavior that I somehow missed). The in-house restaurant was quite good, especially Saturday night's Italian buffet. (It's a shame, though, that the absolutely hottest-looking waiter gave the absolutely worst service!) There was also a McDonald's within walking distance if you absolutely had to have your french-fries fix (like I did).

And perhaps best of all---the Gaylaxians themselves! I find it hard to explain just how wonderful it felt to be attending a convention by, for, and about US! I had a feeling of some sort of cosmic right-ness! It was great meeting men and women from all the various other chapters, including a couple of guys from California and a whole slew of terrific Canadians from a group calling itself "Tleilaxu." It's an experience not to be missed!

Fortunately, you don't have to miss out! It looks like there'll be a third Gaylaxicon next year---same hotel, over the Bastille Day (July 14th) weekend. Katheryn Ianuzzo, a fan from the Tri-State area, took the initiative; and before you knew it, Gaylaxians from a number of different chapters (yours truly included) were volunteering to help run various aspects of it. It appears that this time it'll be a truly cooperative effort by most or all of the Gaylaxian organizations. (Don't worry, though, there's plenty more to do. So if you want to volunteer, get in touch with me.) I've even heard a rumor that they've already started taking memberships!

Take a wild guess where I'll be on Bastille Day in 1991! Will I see you there?

Last Mtg Minutes - cont'd from page 1

We'll note here when that happens. In the meantime, if you want to check out GLIB, the number is (703) 578-GLIB (that's for your computer to call, not you, as you'll only be "answered" by a high-pitched screech.)

The Flash. Jim graciously offered to host a LSF "party" at his house on Sept 20 to watch the premier episode of this superhero series.

Star Trek: TNG. Also building on the idea that it's more fun to watch these things in groups, Peter graciously offered his apartment for a LSF "first episode of the new season" party on September 29th. Also, for the latest on ST (both new and old) gossip: Because his "this world" counterpart wants to go to college, Wesley will finally leave for the Academy after the eighth episode. Geordi will miss some episodes because his this world counterpart has to undergo a gall bladder operation. Guinan will be back this year, and rumor has it that her "special powers" will be better explained. Lt. Yar may also be back in some form or another, although probably not as a regular character. Two other rumors involve possible story-lines: it will be explained that the Romulans have been busy the last 75 years fighting the Borg (will they come to the rescue of our gallant friends?), and Luxana (sp?) Troi may be taking up with the Q. Now isn't that a pair?!?! More trivia: Star Trek 6 (the movie) is scheduled to be released on the program's 25th anniversary, September 8, 1991. Interestingly enough, given that deadline, they haven't even chosen a script yet from the 3 under consideration. Also, Al reported that he read the book *Star Trek: The Lost Years* and found it "good airport reading." Warning, though: This book covers only about 9 months of the "lost" five years. Will there be *The Lost Years I-IV?!?* Finally, from the "must have it" category: The Franklin Mint has available a *Star Trek* (first generation) chess set. Only \$960 without shipping and handling. The Mint also offers three ST ships (set with "semi-precious stones") for only \$195 each.

Quickie movie reviews. Both "*Lensman*" (currently showing at 5:45p.m. at the Biograph) and Jim Henson's "*The Witches*" were given good reviews by LSF members.

Film fest! We've finally set a date for a video film fest! Jamie has offered her house for a film fest/meeting at our regular time on December 9th. Her address is 1928 37th St., N.W., if you want to mark it on your calendar to make sure you don't schedule anything else then. As usual, our current plans are to wing it: bring your videos with you, and we'll probably just decide then which ones we'll see and in what order.

Fanzines. Peter brought several fan magazines to show. Many of these are available at the newsstand on the corner of Connecticut Avenue and S, and/or at the newsstand in the Shops at National Place.

Dr. Who/Marvel Comics, Ltd.
13/15 Arundel St.
London WC2R 3DX.
No information on subscriptions; cover price \$3.95.

Cinefastique
7240 W. Roosevelt Road
Forest Park, IL 60130
(708) 366-5566
Issued five times a year. Subscriptions: \$18 for 4 issues; \$34 for 8 issues. September 1990 edition dedicated to ST:TNG, including capsules of every single episode for all 3 years.

StarLog: The Science Fiction Universe
Starlog Communications International, Inc.
475 Park Avenue South, 8th Floor
New York, NY 10016
No subscription information; \$3.95 cover price.

Timetraveler
Dr. Who Fan Club (D.C.)
P.O. Box 11216
Alexandria, VA
22312. No cost information.

Comics. Some comics were also passed around, including "*Dune Patrol*," "*Sandman*," and "*Shade*." There is a large comic book store (unfortunately, I didn't note the name) at the Burke Center Parkway shopping center at 123 and Ox Road. We're still trying to entice someone into writing some articles on comic books and comic book stores (hint, hint!).

(continued on page 5)

Last Mtg Minutes - *cont'd from page 4*

Dr. Who. Not an LSF meeting goes by that we don't talk about both ST:TNG and Dr. Who. Unfortunately for you Dr. Who fans, this reporter doesn't know enough to follow the discussions and accurately report them. So we definitely need some people to write Dr. Who stories for this newsletter! (That was MORE than just a hint, folks!) I did understand that changes may be in the works for both producers and actors, and that the last episode for Season 26 was changed so that it could be a "final" episode if necessary. Originally, this episode was to end with Dr. Who bringing Master back to Earth and explaining this feat with the comment, "Some of us have evolved into more than a Time Lord." Will this idea be further explored? Stay tuned....

THX. If you don't know what that stands for, you're out of touch with the cutting edge of movie-sound technology. Developed by LucasFilms as the next movie-theatre breakthrough, this new technology is supposed to make regular movies sound better and will make specially-prepared movies (like the one Lucas is working on now) a whole new experience. The KB Cinema on Wisconsin Avenue already has the system. Also working on theatre sound enhancements are Sony and Dolby.

Lost books. If you are desperately searching for out-of-print books, consider talking to the people at Yesterday's Books on Wisconsin Avenue. For just \$3. they'll advertise what you're looking for in 30-40 publications.

Quickie book reviews. One LSFer recently read George Nader's CHROME. Judgement: another "light read." Has lots of plot twists and was "enjoyable." Another couple LSFers reported reading the new Black Trillian and also pronounced that book "enjoyable." Does anyone out there have one they want to rave about? (Write about it!)

Renaissance faires. Under the "fantasy" part of our umbrella comes Renaissance Faires. Thumbnail critiques were made of the ones in our area, and the consensus seemed to be that the one in Pennsylvania is better, but that Maryland's may be improving.

Games and Next Meeting. A number of LSFers adjourned to Peter's after the meeting to play, among other things, Cosmic Encounters and Cosmic Wimp-Out. This reporter hopes someone who was able to attend lets us know what these games are like! We also had a request to have a group book discussion at our October meeting. Anyone who is interested in this sort of thing is urged to read our first selection, Jack Vance's *Lyonness* (I may have misspelled this). Dubbed a "witty fantasy" by the person who suggested the book, it should be a good introduction for those of us who aren't too familiar with the fantasy genre. You don't have to read the book to come to our October 14th meeting --which will be at Jim's again, 1414 17th St., N.W., #413 -- but it would be nice if a number of us did, so we could get a good discussion going.

See you then!

Movie Review - *cont'd from page 1*

Maybe it'll get better... Ah, finally, the robot! And a heroine who blows up the robot -- without any help from her boyfriend! Wow, now this has some potential... But what's this? The robot throws her out the window. She crashes through to the apartment below -- lying motionless, eyes half-open, glass all around. Well, that didn't last long. Cut to next scene. How did her eyes get closed? Suddenly, she opens her eyes! She jumps up, picks up a baseball bat, and runs upstairs yelling her boyfriend is up there and she has to save him! OK, now it's time to split -- I can't take any more. As I walk down the aisle, I hear people in the audience groaning (evidently, characters in the movie are getting squashed -- now I know where they spent their budget...) and as I leave the theatre, I hear other people saying "This sucks -- lets leave."

Well, I'm sorry to say, that sums up the movie. Don't waste your money -- not even when it comes out on video.

ODDS AND ENDS

Note: To submit movie/book reviews for our newsletter, please mail your story on 5 1/4" IBM-PC formatted floppy disk (preferably in WordPerfect 5.0 or 5.1 format). You can also download your story onto our BBS (see Electronic Bulletin Board under Services). If you have some other IBM PC word processor, please contact AI at 384-6868 to see if we can use your format. Please specify how you want your by-line to read (i.e., do you want your full name credited, or do you prefer first name, last initial?)

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Services



Computer Support Available

Computer specialist with 20 years of experience (both Mainframe and Micro) is looking for consulting work. I can speak techno-babble with the best of them, but prefer dealing with clients in English. If your computers seem to be devices of torture, rather than useful tools, give me a call. I can help your company turn things around, and get the computers working for you -- solving problems, rather than creating them. I can program in SAS, dBASE, C, Basic, and several other languages and am a clear and patient instructor. Contact AI at GRYPHON Microproducts. (301) 384-6868.



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Gryphon Microproducts has an electronic bulletin-board. To access it (you need a modem, of course), dial **384-7238**. You can call in at 1200/2400 baud with settings of N,8,1. To get to the Bi/Gay/Lesbian conference, select **J** for Join Conferences -- from the main menu, and enter GLIB for the conference name. You may also choose SCI-FI for the Science Fiction Conference. There is also a FREE dating service. To access it, select **S** for Survey System -- from the main menu, and Choose the Dating Survey.



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