



LAMBDA SCI-FI

DC Area Bisexual/Gay/Lesbian Science Fiction Association

P.O. Box 10087 * Silver Spring, MD 20914 * (301) 445-5650 Issue #9 - December '90

LAST MEETING MINUTES

by Carl Cipra

Once again, about 20 or so members of Lambda Sci-Fi showed up for our free-for-all meeting/discussion group/gab fest.

Carl C. handed out brief information sheets and volunteer forms for Gaylaxicon '91. There was also some discussion about LSF members going to EveCon (pre-New Year's Eve weekend in Crystal City, VA) as a group. (This topic will be talked up more at the next monthly meeting.)

The members were reminded that next month's meeting will be our "video-madness" meeting at Jaime's home in Georgetown, and that everyone should bring a favorite videotape to enjoy.

There was a very brief discussion of yesterday's new episode of "Star Trek: the Next Generation" (a continuation of Whorf's Klingon adventures). We didn't go into too much depth, since many members had not yet seen it and we didn't want to spoil it for anyone. There of course followed a discussion of the various other ST:TNG episodes that this one built upon.

Questions were raised as to whether the "Science Fiction Channel" would be included in the local cable-TV services; but no one seemed to have an answer.

As per usual, the discussion wandered around various topics, including: Anne Rice's latest novel Witching Hour, the movie "Jacob's Ladder" ("All is not as it seems!"), the latest "Superboy" episode (a two-parter dealing with alternate universes), the films "Child's Play" and its sequel, and the version of "Rocky Horror Picture Show" presently being staged at the "Woolly Mammoth." (A list was passed around to sign up for going as a group to see it.)

Ursula LeGuin's Lathe of Heaven received a number of strong recommendations as a "must-read."

Jim C. passed around a couple of articles about Star Trek, one from Time magazine and the other from the Washington Times. (The latter was not complementary about "Star Trek: the Next Generation.")

After officially adjourning, the discussions on various subjects continued hot and heavy for some time; and a feeding frenzy was incited by Norman's "Apple-Dapple Cake."

PHILCON '90

by Chris Faulkner

PHILCON '90 was a great sci-fi/fantasy convention. Speaking as a virgin (bear with me on this one) conventioneer, it was an unbelievable phenomenon of escapism. Reality stopped at the entrance to the Adam's Mark hotel in Philadelphia on Nov. 16th. I felt achingly vacant on the 18th when we trooped out of the hotel and trundled across the street to the TGI Friday. If it hadn't been for the mandatory Thanksgiving meal with the family I would have indulged in additional fandom decadence at the Darkover convention in Timonium on Nov. 23rd. After a taste of my first convention, I've decided I want more.

Carl Cipra, Jamie J., and myself were the only members from Lambda Sci-Fi to attend PHILCON '90. We headed out on Friday around noon, the sun was shining, the traffic was light, and the conversation stimulating. After gorging on Jamie's picnic fixings we all felt the need to abuse the Nautilus equipment in the hotel's gym. So we did, and it was good. For the most part we fasted during the convention and limited ourselves to one solid meal a day.

Philcon '90 - cont'd

The guest of honor, Fritz Leiber, was regal and hard to engage in animated conversation, but he did have one autographing session and his fans were placated. One interesting tidbit of information, Mr. Leiber identifies most strongly with his character Fahfrd. Among the other sci-fi/fantasy stars in attendance we saw the artist Kelly Freas and authors Michael Bishop, Nancy Springer and Ellen Kushner.

Ellen really caught my attention, so hang on while I explain why you should be on the look out for this woman's work. She's very dynamic and witty, and works as a D.J. in her other job. You get the picture? Anyways, we attended a couple of her readings. In her first session she borrowed a guitar and sang a couple of folk ballads she used in her most recent book, Thomas the Rhymer. Her voice and music were spell binding. If you're interested in folk ballads, which I never had been either 'til I heard Ellen, get in touch with me and I'll give you a suggested listening list. I treed Ellen at a party and made her cough up the names of some traditional folk ballads which had inspired her. Another book by Ms. Kushner that was highly recommended to me is *Swordpoint*. Apparently, the protagonists are gay and the plot revolves around sword science of a pseudo medieval France.

Most of what's happened up to this point transpired on Friday. I felt jaded by Saturday, but undaunted, we pressed on to even more exciting events. We met with the members of PHAG (our sister gaylaxian organization in Philly), ate pizza and watched "Star Trek the Next Generation." PHAG members threw a party later on and invited us to attend. In the pre-party hours we went to the costume contest, Jamie attended an editor's panel on how to get work accepted, and Carl and I O.D.'ed on films. We saw "The Wizard of Speed and Time," and "Something Wicked this Way Comes." The party was a smash, even without alcohol, and I met alot of nice folks. Well, I really don't want to go on for days about my first convention (it's always so dreary when people insist upon recounting every detail of their first experience), but it was truly cosmic. I was honored to be blooded at PHILCON '90. About 2000 fans attended the convention. Carl, the guru of fandom, says it's even more fun with a smaller group. Gaylaxicon '91 is expected to be more intimate with only 200 fans. Memberships to Gaylaxicon '91 are on sale for \$15.00 until 12/31/90. Please send your money to I strongly recommend attending a convention if reality has got you down. Don't get me wrong, there were some negative aspects like waiting for elevators for days, over crowded "good" sessions, sensory and wallet overload in the dealer's room and the occasional long line. See you at Gaylaxicon, I'll be the grey ranger with the iron sword.

DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL '90

A Report by Carl Cipra

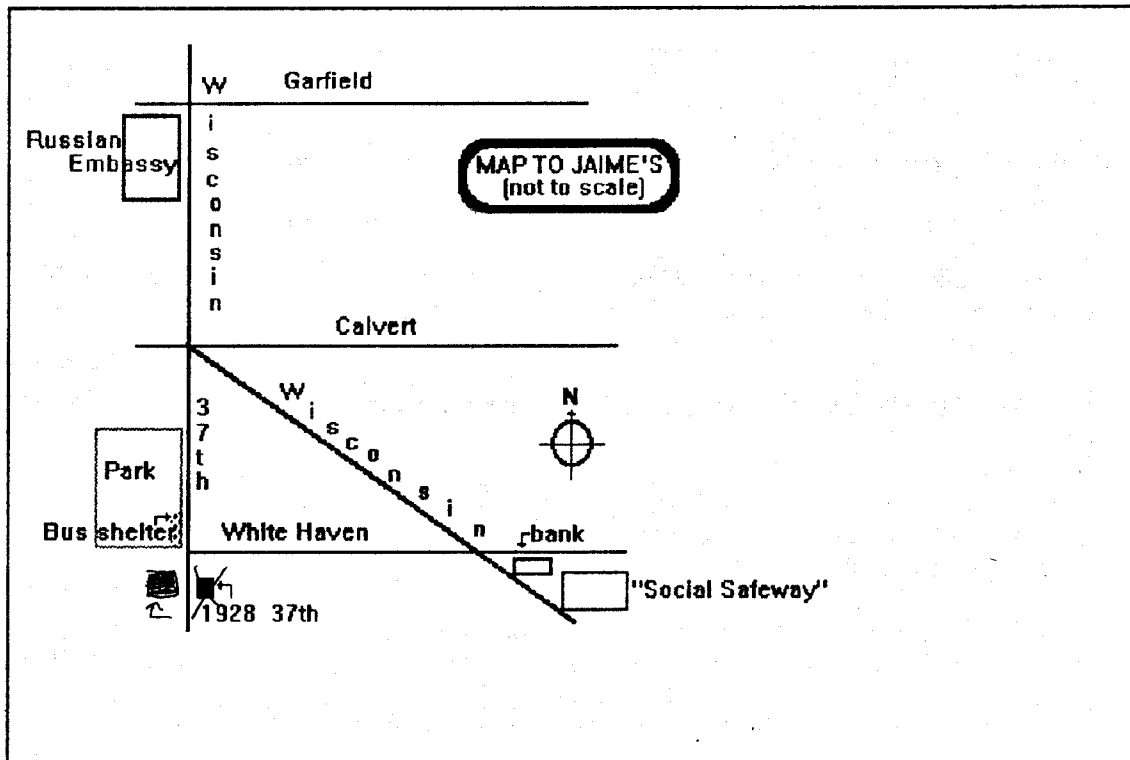
Still replete with turkey and all the trimmings, I drove out to Timonium, Maryland, over the Thanksgiving Weekend to attend the Darkover Grand Council for 1990. This convention, in case you haven't heard of it, has its origins among the fans of the "Darkover" books by Marion Zimmer Bradley; and it tends to include such other fantasy themes as Katherine Kurtz's "Deryni" books, Jacqueline Lichtenberg's "Gen-Sime" books, and filk-singing. The attendance this year must have been 500 or so; and we pretty much had the Timonium Holiday Inn to ourselves most of the weekend.

"Alternative sexuality" was very much in evidence throughout the weekend, fostered no doubt by the same-sex relationships which appear throughout Marion Zimmer Bradley's works (Free Amazons, Renunciates, Regis/Danilo stories, etc.). Even though official attendance by the various Gaylaxians chapters was very low, the ambiance was definitely one of gay men, lesbians, bi-sexuals, and friendly straights---a very pleasant mix. It was also somewhat like an "old home weekend," with lots of familiar faces I'd last seen at Gaylaxicon '90: authors Melissa Scott and Lisa Barnett (*Armor of Light* and "The Carmen Miranda Gambit") as the co-Guests of Honor; the artist Hannah Shapero; Susanah Sturgis; and many more. Also in attendance were Marion Zimmer Bradley herself, Katherine Kurtz, Don Sakers (author and editor for *Carmen Miranda's Ghost is Haunting Space Station Three*); and Amanda Allen (author of one of the creepier ghost stories in *Carmen Miranda*).

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.



Electronic Bulletin Board/Free Dating Service.

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.

DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL '90 - cont'd

For me, one of the highlights of the weekend was being asked to serve as moderator for the discussion panel "Being a Gay SF/Fantasy Author," a panel composed of Melissa Scott, Lisa Barnett, and Don Sakers. Attendance for this discussion was fairly high; and the hour just seemed to fly by. (This is a discussion that should probably be repeated at a Gaylaxicon.)

All in all, I really had a blast at Darkover Grand Council '90. I heartily recommend this convention to all fantasy fans and hope to see more Lambda Sci-Fi members and other Gaylaxians in attendance at next year's Grand Council.

NEXT MEETING NOTICE

Meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month at a private residence. The December Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on December 9th at the home of Jaime Innes. Jaime's address and telephone number are:

1928 37th St., NW, Washington, DC (in Georgetown, west of Wisconsin and just south of White Haven) (202) 342-0292

Remember, this is our "video-madness" meeting; and all members are encouraged to bring along favorite SF/fantasy videos to share and enjoy! The attendees will decide on which videos are shown and in what order.

Jaime will be providing a Southwestern-theme buffet for everyone (Nachos, tacos, etc.)! Other members are encouraged to bring drinks, salads, or a monetary contribution to help defray the costs.

This looks like it should be a great meeting! Y'all come! See map on next page...

Many thanks to the people who contributed to this issue: Carl Cipra, Chris Faulkner, Peter Knapp, and Noel Welsh, for contributing articles; Al at GRYPHON Microproducts for publishing pages 1-4; Peter for publishing pages 5-6 and printing the whole thing; and Carl, Norman, and Peter for collating, stapling, folding, stuffing, and sealing the newsletter in those nifty envelopes with the holographic stamps.

STAR TREK WORD SEARCH
by Noel Welsh

* KAHN *

* TRIBBLES *

* WARP * SPOCK *

* KIRK * AMOK TIME *

* GORN * MIRI * PHASER *

* UHURA * PHOTON * GALILEO *

* CHAPEL * SULU * TPAU * SCOTT *

* TPRING * ARENA * VULCAN * EMPIRE *

* FEDERATION * MCCOY * KLINGON * SPACE *

* ENTERPRISE * ROMULAN * BABEL * ANDORIAN *

MUDD #
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Gaylaxicon '91 and '92 Update
by Peter Knapp

Gaylaxicon '91 will be held on Bastille Day Weekend, July 14, 1991 at the Holiday Inn in Tewksbury, MA. This is the place that Gaylaxicon '90 was held, and as Carl can attest (see his review in

the October '90 issue of Lambda Sci-Fi) the hotel is an ideal place to have a con.

The guest of honor next year is none other than Samuel Delany. Hannah Shapero will be the Artist Guest of Honor (AGOH), and Tom Canty has also been invited as AGOH though he has not committed yet.

A few additions from this year's con are a dealers room, a masquerade, and an art show. I find this quite exciting, as this will be only the third Gaylaxicon, and already it's starting to resemble the larger, well-established cons.

Gaylaxicon '92 will be held a little closer to home. A decision has not been made yet, but it will probably be held either in Philadelphia, here in Washington, or somewhere between the two cities.

A con committee has yet to be established but likely candidates are yours truly, Carl, and Jed Shumsky (President of the PHAGS {Philadelphia Area Gaylaxians}), among others. If any of you have a burning drive (or even a mild desire) to help run a Gaylaxicon, please let me know and I be glad to draft - no, I mean sign - you up!

Both conventions promise to be a lot of fun and I highly recommend them in advance.

Doctor Who Update

by Peter Knapp

The good news is that the BBC is still committed to bringing Doctor Who to our screens. The bad news is that they still won't tell us when. "Paul Fox, BBC's Managing Director of Network Television, ... commented that the programme was 'dead' as far as the BBC making it was concerned. However, the BBC are continuing to consider a variety of independent bids to produce the series." (Doctor Who Magazine, No. 167, page 5.)

If an independent company produces the show, a new Doctor and companion will probably be chosen. I find the prospect rather unfortunate, because I think that the McCoy/Aldred combination worked very well together. We'll just have to wait and see.

In other Whovian news, the new SF Cable Channel (that will be started up in early 1991) has secured rights to broadcast the complete Hartnell and Troughton stories and is working on rights to show other Doctors. This deal is non-exclusive. PBS stations still have the rights to show Doctor Who through 1992. After that, no one knows the fate of the show on PBS.