



LAMBDA SCI-FI

DC Area Bisexual/Gay/Lesbian Science Fiction Association

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Last Meeting Highlights

By Loree-Cook Daniels

The highlight of this meeting surely was the book exchange. Nearly all the 20+ people who attended the meeting brought their favorite sf or fantasy book (or audio tape or even 3-book series) and participated in the blind exchange for someone else's favorite. Surprisingly, there were no duplicates, and hardly anyone received a book they'd already read. All sorts of books were exchanged, from classics like "Stranger in a Strange Land" to lesbian-separatist fantasy ("Daughters of a Coral Dawn") to cyberpunk favorites like "Neuromancer." I can hardly wait for February's meeting to find out what this cross-pollination of genres has produced!

We did conduct some business at this meeting. Peter was unanimously "elected" Co-Chair of Gaylaxicon '92, which LSF is co-sponsoring with Philadelphia's group. The conference will be held in Philadelphia since that city's closer to most of the Gaylactic

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Edward Scissorhands

Movie review by Chris F.

"Edward Scissorhands," a recent film by Tim Burton was very ... different. Set in the 50's, not really horror, nor a straight comedy. It's a hard film to describe. It made me laugh, but it also made me nervous. As a child I flunked cutting and pasting. As an adult I have made it a point to never have sharp instruments around the house. If a cutting tool is too sharp, I invariably cut myself. "Edward Scissorhands" was disturbing and kept me on edge. A collage of clippers and scissors which vaguely approximate hands. Scissorhands clicking like the castanets of a maniacal flamenco dancer.

Vincent Price, a lonely inventor, decides to build a boy. A latex kit we'd all be willing to invest \$29.95 in. Unfortunately, Vincent kicks off unceremoniously and leaves his

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Three Faces of Horror

By William Coble

Existing alongside of us like shadows on a lamp-lit London street at midnight, horror cloaks us from the rays of science and binds us to our primitive past when we cringed at the slightest sounds of the unknown. For 150 years, it has become our family, our friend, and our lover. With the rise of the short-story form and the novella, we have tasted its fruit over and over. We have grown greedier. We now find nourishment in the novel form. Yet, how do we recognize it, capture it, consume it? There are three major emphasis to Horror. Horror is the animal with three faces. We begin our examination by looking into the mirror.

One image stands before us. Yet, we notice something moving out of the corner of our eyes, something next to us, something with us. And we slowly realize that we are merely instruments whether active or passive of Another. Forces exist beyond us. Stories of ghosts, demons, possessions, hauntings, witchcraft, and the like typify this type of Horror. Some would call it the Christian guilt stories. Some examples of this type of Horror: The Exorcist, Rosemary's Baby, Christine, Pet Sematary, Hellraiser, The Crowd, The Autopsy, the Summer People, The Call of Cthulhu, The Whimper of Whipped Dogs.

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Gaylaxicon Update

by Peter Knapp

Tristan Alexander has been added to the guest lineup as "Special Guest". As he is receptive to the idea of being the Artist Guest of Honor (AGoH) for Gaylaxicon '92, it has been agreed the Hannah Shapero will be the AGoH for Gaylaxicon '91, and Tristan will hopefully assume that role next year.

Final negotiations with the hotel have been made. Rooms will be \$65 a night for 1 to 4 people. This is really a good deal

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Meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month at a private residence. The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held at 2:00 on Sunday February 10th at Jim's apartment, 1414 17th Street, N.W., #413. We hope to see everyone there! If your last name begins with the letters A-H, please bring non-sweet munchies (veges, chips, etc). If your last name begins with the letters I-P, please bring along sweet munchies. If your name begins with Q-Z, please bring along drinks (juices, diet/non-diet sodas).

Last Meeting Minutes - continued from page 1

Network clubs. Peter and Carl urged people to join them in working on this conference, and a few hardy souls volunteered. HOWEVER, THERE'S ALWAYS A NEED FOR MORE HANDS! (Not to mention other body parts...like brains for planning and mouth/ear combinations for phoning.) If you want to get active in the larger lesbian/gay fandom, this is a great way to go.

We also decided to get this newsletter out slightly earlier, and we roundly applauded all who have worked so hard to ensure that every one of our newsletters has come out on time. Way to go, team! We also found out that Peter is willing to send out reminders to everyone when their memberships lapse, which enables us to accept new memberships all year long. Thanks to Peter!

For a final bit of business, we talked about the next Gay Pride Day. We just posed the questions at this meeting, deciding that the answers should percolate until February, when decisions will be made. So think about the following, and come with your ideas:

- Do we want to be in the parade? If so, what kind of entry should we have? Who will put together the banner/float/etc.?
- Should we SELL things at the Festival? (It costs \$100 for the table if we do.) If so, what should we sell? Who knows how to get a good deal? Who will coordinate it?
- Who is willing to coordinate the table, including recruiting and scheduling "staff", reserving the spot, getting supplies, etc.?

Business completed, we began the free-for-all, which included the following:

LSF History

Carl shared his club scrapbook, complete with pictures and "historical documents." If you have something you'd like to contribute, let Carl know.

Star Trek (the Movie) #6

We were treated to lots of "insider speculation" about this. All the actors are under contract for two more movies, but it is not clear that they will actually DO two. SIX won't be ready by the 25th anniversary (September 8), but it should have lots of action, a strong villain (possibly drawn from an original episode), and character development. It will also take up from where FOUR left off, as everyone involved wants to pretend that FIVE was never made. Nimoy will NOT direct. As for what may be in the plot: Nimoy may fall for Lt. Sarek and Capt. Picard may attend their wedding. (We know, we know, this makes for lousy timeline continuity; we speculated about how this might be later explained.)

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Movie review - continued from page 1

work unfinished. Thus Edward Scissorhands was created. The story begins simply. An elderly grandmother struggles to answer a child's simple question, "what makes it snow?" The film's plot then develops as a classical fairy tale should with few surprises. Beast and beauty meet. Their fates are sealed. Johnny Depp plays the romantic beast with the horrible hands. Winona Ryder, the girl dressed in black from "Beetlejuice," plays the part of the suicide blonde (you know, "died by her own hand"). Winona is more striking in black, but she does an adequate job of portraying a teenager.

The film successfully spoofs suburbia, and has a lot of fun portraying the difficult job of an Avon Lady. The theme revolves around teenage love - impossible love that cannot be fulfilled. The bottom line is, I recommend seeing the film. It's worth the seven bucks, and it can only be fully savored on the big screen. In this case, it really is a matter of size

Horror - continued from page 1

As we focus our attention more intently. We notice a twitch. Soon we realize we ourselves are twitching. We look into ourselves. Aberrant human psychology is the mode of expression for this type of Horror. The unifying core is us, we are the monsters whether we are made such as Frankenstein or created such as Dracula or born such as Norman Bates. In this form of Horror, we are the intelligence behind the mask. The slice and dice movies like Halloween, Friday the 13th, Nightmare on Elm Street all have a human center.

We have been looking into the mirror for some time. Slowly our image leaves and we watch it go. We have glimpsed into a world where our natural laws do not exist. The reality that we are watching has its own reason for existing. Stories here confront us with ambiguities that in turn generate doubt in us. We are unsure of what is going on whether we have had a supernatural encounter or merely experiencing a psychological imbalance. The core of these stories use the language that Sartre describes as the fantastic. Many episodes of Outer Limits and the Twilight Zone used this mode of expression to challenge our perceptions and understanding of what we call reality. Which one of us hasn't recoiled in horror at the prize the winner of The Lottery receives.

These aren't distinct forms of Horror but varies degrees of the same body. They are not mutually exclusive. We have experienced light striking our face from different angles and casting shadows in different directions giving us an illusion, possibly, of having another face. After tasting the fruit of the first type of Horror, we realize this is the way of the world whether we believe the supernatural or not. The fruit of the second type of Horror brings forth those unarticulate human desires and impulses we strain to control for the sake of civilization. And the third fruit opens our eyes to a new perception of reality. Are these different fruits or just the same one in different stages of maturity? And what is this fruit, if it is a fruit? Why, it's the dates, of course.

Movie Mania Word-Search

by SCOTT ILES

Can you find the 64 sci-fi/fantasy/adventure movies contained in this word search? (Hints: the smallest title is 4 characters long, and the longest title is 29 characters.) Answers provided in the next newsletter. Happy hunting!

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Party Time!

by Chris F.

At the last meeting of Lambda Sci-Fi the group decided that we should get together and socialize a bit. The burden of organizing this little get together was shoved onto my weary shoulders. Thanks Norman G. and Peter K. ("Control Queens!"). Saturday, February 9th is the date of our fantastic excursion. I realize some of you will be attending the Star Trek convention earlier that day so, plan accordingly and conserve your energy for the Night Out. I figure we should all get together for a light dinner beforehand at "Trios" restaurant located at 1537 17th Street (near JR's) at 8:00pm (sharp!). At 9:30pm we will then round-up and head out to the "Lost and Found" over on 56 L St., SE (near Tracks). If you plan on joining us for the late dinner and did not sign up for the event at our last meeting, please let me know ahead of time. Otherwise we'll meet you on the dance floor of "Lost and Found." Chris F. (703) 255-1632.

Book Review: Transition

by Vonda N. McIntyre

Reviewed by Loree Cook-Daniels

All I can say is, Vonda named this book well. As faithful readers may remember from an earlier review, I was entranced by this book's predecessor, "Starfarers." Set in the not-too-distant future, "Starfarers" tells the story of a scientific space expedition that the government tries to recall so that it can be used for military purposes. The ship is staffed by a number of interesting characters, including a family partnership of three individuals, two men and a woman. Other innovations that McIntyre introduced in "Starfarers" include a race of people who are part sea mammals, and a "sensory artist" whose body is literally one giant recording device. I found the characters and plot rich, multi-dimensional, and intriguing.

So when I saw "Transition" in the bookstore, I got extremely excited. Now I could find out what happened to the *continued on page 4*

Trek Trivia II Answers

(Questions appeared in Jan '91 Newsletter)

by Peter Knapp

1. Man Trap - Startdate 1513
Turnabout Intruder - Stardate 5928
2. Lt. Cmdr NFN NMI Data ("No First Name, No Middle Initial") - This was shown on a computer screen once.
3. Bricklayer - Devil in the Dark
Escalator - Friday's Child
Engineer - Mirror, Mirror
Mechanic - The Doomsday Machine
Magician - The Deadly Years
Psychiatrist - The City on the Edge of Forever
Moon Shuttle Conductor - The Corbomite Maneuver

The last is paraphrased, since he said "What am I, a doctor or a moon shuttle conductor," but it fits the mold.

4. Patrick Stewart - \$100,000
LeVar Burton - \$100,000
5. 102.437 years old
6. 202 years old
7. The animated episode "Bem", by David Gerrold.
8. Trekkie: A groupie fan. Someone who wears Spock ears and thinks that makes them important. Asks questions like "what did you have for breakfast on the Tuesday when you shot scene 46a of episode 5?" The most die-hard fan, who lives, eats, and breathes Star Trek.

Trekker: A fan who is interested in the show and the idea of Star Trek, but doesn't let it interfere with his/her life. This is apparently being added to an upcoming edition of "Webster's".

trekker: (with a small "t") A person who travels vast distances.

Trekologist/Treknician: A fan who enjoys collecting data (and debating with others) on the technical aspect of Star Trek (warp technology, transporter technology, etc.). Enjoys collecting ST technical literature and trying to logically and rationally explain continuity errors in the show.

9. Riverside, Iowa
10. The bugs from "Conspiracy".

Correction: Last issue I credited Jim Campbell for the Trek Trivia I used. Jim "The Big Dweeb" Griffith was the original editor.

Book Review - continued from page 3

ship (unsurprisingly for a series, "Starfarers" ended with a cliff-hanger) and learn more about the characters in whom I had become so interested. I looked forward to hearing about Stephen Thomas's background and about how the partnership was formed. I wanted to know about the mysterious Merry. I wanted to see if -- and in what configuration -- the partnership would survive, and I wanted to know who the GAO auditor really was. In short, I was ready for the next episode of "Starfarers."

What I got was a place-holder. At first I thought that what was happening was that the author was spending plot time simply reminding the reader of what had happened in "Starfarers." I kept waiting for her to finish the catching-up and move on to "Transition"'s story. Unfortunately, I never felt that that happened. Oh, the crew did have an adventure, one mystery was solved, the alien contact team did get to use their skills, and one of the lesser characters was killed. And that about sums it up. I learned very little new about the characters, and had a hard time getting very interested in the plot. I closed the book with a "that was it?!" sigh.

Given this series' strong start, I still hold out hopes for it. But my recommendation is to put off getting "Transition" until at least the third installment of the series is out. Then you can read it as it must have been intended...as the narrative transition between one good story and the next.

Gaylaxicon Update - continued from page 1

as if you room with 3 friends, your charge will only be \$16.25 a night. (can you tell I want as many people to go as possible?)

The last progress report I received looked very promising. Planning for the various functions is well underway. Publicity has not been one of the con committee's strong points, but they've promised to do better. Any day I should get a stack of flyers. When I do, I'll include them with your newsletters.

Your humble treasurer has been formally elected co-chair of Gaylaxicon '92. Joining the con committee this month are Jaime and Brian K. We now have five Lambda Sci-Fiers on the committee (Carl and Noel previously joined.). I encourage other people to volunteer. Not only do we need people to help plan the convention but also to run the actual con. Have you ever wanted to play Robocop? Become a security guard! Like to DJ? Offer to run the dance. There are all kinds of things that you could do. Use your imagination.

As mentioned at the last meeting we need some legal help. To protect the two clubs from liability, we probably will be incorporating the con. If any one out there can provide us with hopefully free or low cost advise and/or help please contact me at 202/483-6369. Thanks.

Book Review: The Gift

by Scott Edelman

Reviewed by Carl Cipra

A gay vampire novel? Why not?! (Actually, this book is a vampire novel which features gay protagonists.)

This is Scott Edelman's first novel; but he's certainly not new to the genre. He's had numerous short stories and poems published in various professional and fan-zines. I've even seen one of his stories produced on the syndicated TV series "Tales of the Darkside." (It features the actor Jeff Conaway---of "Taxi" fame---as a hack horror/fantasy writer who's receiving some literary coaching from an unexpected source: a vampire!) I met Scott at the Gaylaxian party at PhilCon. After he described his decade-long quest to get his novel published, I decided to hunt it up in the dealers' room and give it a read.

Its the story of two young lovers and their fateful involvement with a centuries-old vampire. While traveling somewhere between New York City and Washington, D.C., Joey Amatio (a successful writer) and Peter Grandin (an artist of some note) happen upon the peaceful, little town of Allansville. On the outskirts of town is the quaint (but sinister) old mansion, Thorpe House, which the lovers decide to buy and transform into their "perfect hideaway from the world." And that's when things start going very wrong!

Allansville soon reveals itself to be a "small and spiteful town" full of stereotypical, thoroughly-dislikeable rednecks and narrow-minded "Christians" (so-called). Peter, meanwhile, is gradually falling under the spell of a mysterious, malign influence. When Peter finally resurrects the vampire Jeremy Thorpe (who had terrorized Allansville generations earlier), Joey finds he must make "a deal with the devil" to save his lover's life and soul. The increasingly violent persecution of the two lovers by the townspeople only serves to drive Joey and Peter deeper and deeper into the power of the vampire.

Some of the earlier parts of this novel remind me of vintage H.P. Lovecraft, especially the early descriptions of Thorpe House and the efforts of the lovers to research its sinister history. The townspeople of Allansville, however, cannot be mistaken for the Lovecraftian inhabitants of Dunwich or Arkham. The anti-gay hatred and bigotry of "Christian" Allansville is much too starkly "real" to be shrugged off as mere "fantasy" (even in the admittedly heavy-handed depiction the author gives here).

As the vampire theme develops, the novel tends to remind me more of Bram Stoker's (and Hollywood's) version of Dracula than of anything else. Jeremy Thorpe certainly isn't Anne Rice's Vampire LeStat. (Nor is he Barnabas Collins, for that matter.) Thorpe's method of resurrection and his shape-shifting abilities would fit right into a Christopher Lee "Dracula" movie. Perhaps this is why I find Scott's depiction of vampirism so jarring and why I don't readily accept it:

Jeremy Thorpe is very definitely a product of the "fantastic" school of vampires (as described in Bram Stoker's novel and depicted by Christopher Lee on the silver screen); whereas I seem to have become much more comfortable with the "rationalized" (?) vampirism of Anne Rice, Barbara Hambly, or "Dark Shadows." (To each his/her own taste, I suppose!)

The gay content of the story is handled well, however. The domestic scenes and interactions between the lovers seem to ring true most of the time. Although it's certainly not a pornographic book, the sexuality of the vampiric act can get really steamy (especially as seen through Joey's dreams and in Peter's paintings). Jeremy Thorpe is not, however, a gay vampire. He readily attacks prey of either sex. The age of his victims is not a problem for him either. For Thorpe, human blood is human blood, whether he gets it from an attractive young man like Peter or from a sickly old woman like Miss Miller, the town old maid. (In fact, when Thorpe turns Miss Miller into a vampire, she also inherits the vampiric ability to shape-shift and chooses to appear as a younger, more attractive version of herself.)

Scott Edelman seems to have a knack for drawing disturbing parallels between the "vampire cult" and Christianity---he presents vampiric existence as a darkly distorted version of the Christian mysteries. I can't say that I ever noticed this aspect so clearly in other vampire stories. Vampirism is shown as having its own "sacrament of blood;" and for vampires the path to "eternal life" is certainly through death! Scott's newly-made vampires even arise "on the third day" (i.e. night) after they have died as humans!

Finally, the personality of Peter Grandin and his reaction to vampirism provide some interesting comments about Western society (and, by extension, gay culture). Peter's "artistic sentiments" and fascination with death are character traits typically encountered in Gothic romances. (This is, in fact, one of the aspects of his character that causes him to be "drawn" to the entombed Thorpe.) Peter's overwhelming desire for eternal youth, however, seems to be uniquely characteristic of modern Western culture's preoccupation with "youth" and "good looks." (This same trait is often carried to even greater extremes by gay culture.) Peter's "need" for eternal youth (and Joey's jealousy of Thorpe's hold over Peter) strains Joey's devotion to the breaking point. Peter frequently states that he intends to pass this same "gift" along to Joey, so the two of them can live eternally together; but these claims seem to have a hollow ring to them. Thorpe's dark presence cannot be ignored.

Conflicting emotions, a plague of vampirism, and a rising tide of anti-gay violence . . . how will Joey Amatio (the narrator) deal with all this? I found the ending a bit of a surprise. Will you? Scott Edelman may not be Anne Rice or Bram Stoker; but I certainly found his first novel to be an enjoyable and diverting read. □

Book Review: Strange Matter

by Toby Johnson

Reviewed by Peter Knapp

A few weeks ago while I was lying in bed recovering from strep throat, I pulled Strange Matter, by Toby Johnson, off my stack of "to read" books. That was a mistake as I was supposed to be resting and didn't turn off the lights until 3:00am, after finishing the last page.

The story takes place in the post-AIDS world of 1996. The protagonist, Keven, has just graduated from Harvard and is interning at an architectural firm in San Francisco. He's beginning to come out, and is very wary of gay people he encounters.

Things get interesting when the "visitors" arrive in large saucer shaped ships, claiming they are good will ambassadors and come in peace. Keven is assigned to the team that is developing the Visitors embassy and is quite excited at the prospect of meeting a visitor. He soon befriends a Visitor named 'Bel and starts to suspect that the Visitors are not what they seem to be.

Does this sound a bit like the plot of V? A character in the book makes the same comparison. One of the reasons I enjoyed the book so much is because the author makes several references to the SF genre. As the plot thickens, our hero explains complex alien concepts to the US president using Star Trek terminology.

Another reason I enjoyed this book so much is because it has an inter-racial romance with a happy ending. Things get a little sappy in the last few chapters, but as a whole, I found the romance believable. I recommend the book highly.

LSF Booksearch

by Chuck Murphy

The first LSF search request was a success. The day after I got my newsletter in the mail, I got a call from Linton L. of Haymarket, VA. Three hours later, I received a copy of the book I have been seeking for the past 13 years (An ABC of Science Fiction: 26 Excursions Into the Fantastic, Ed. Tom Boardman, Jr.). I was really impressed.

This month's request is not so much about a piece of work as it is about a particular author. Our intrepid LSFer wants to know about Elizabeth Lynn, author of Dancers of Arum; Northern Girl; Sardonyx Net; and A Different Light. He wants to know what became of her and if anyone has any other books by her he could read.

If you have any information or a book I can pass along, please contact me at 6219 Capella Ave, Burke, VA 22015; 703/866-9112.. P.S. I am interested in establishing a LSF lending library. I thought it might also be nice to establish a reading, film-going (etc.) group with concentration on visiting PWA's and reading them books, bringing videos and perhaps performing skits. Please contact me if you find this idea simply fascinating.

Doctor Who Books

by Peter Knapp

The most recent addition to the Doctor Who book collection is Doctor Who 25 Glorious Years by Peter Haining. It is yet another of his coffee table picture books celebrating the popularity of the show.

Every few years Haining releases another coffee table book. While each one is different, they are also all very similar. The latest is no exception. I'm not trying to put down the book: I enjoyed it. I'm just a little jaded as I feel the same information gets recycled over and over again. But if you're a fanatic of the show, you probably would want to add this book to your collection.

On the novel front, only three more stories from the show are slated for publication this year. Battlefield, Curse of Fenric, and The Pescatons. (Fans of the show might not recognize this story. That is because it was never shown on TV. It was released as a record narrated by Tom Baker and Elizabeth Sladen.) Release dates are tentative.

That leaves seven stories from the show to be novelized. There are currently no plans to novelize them for various reasons: Douglas Adams wants too much money for his Pirate Planet, City of Death, and (lost story) Shada, Eric Saward has creative differences with Terry Nation (who co-owns the Daleks with the BBC) and therefore can't novelize his Resurrection of the Daleks, nor Revelation of the Daleks, and I don't what the problem with David Whitaker's Power of the Daleks or Evil of the Daleks is. At the risk of sounding morbid, we'll probably have to wait until Douglas Adams and Terry Nation die before their stories are novelized. (David Whitaker is dead.)

On a cheerier note, a series of original novels not based on television episodes is about to be launched. The first four, to be released this year, will pick up right after the last televised story "Survival". If they are successful, the original novel series will continue. Who knows, Doctor Who may live on forever in printed form.

Journal Review: Extrapolation

by Scott Roberts

When I decided to produce some sort of book review on Marion Zimmer Bradley's Heritage of Hastur, I thought that I would see what others might have said about her Darkover series. Heritage was published in 1975, so one might perceive that a 1970's perspective on the author and her works would be interesting, if not amusing. (No, I wasn't pursuing the taudry art of plagiarism!) At the Georgetown University Lauinger library, I entered the term "science fiction" on the online card catalog terminal. I spied one entry for periodicals called "Extrapolation." I had never heard of this periodical, so I decided to investigate. Down in the periodicals section, I checked the current issue display area and located the Winter 1990 (vol. 31, no. 4) issue. Hmmmm....published by Kent State University. Definitely has that *journal* look!

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Journal Review - continued from page 6

No photographs, no advertisements -- just text. Browsing through this issue, an article entitled "What God Doth the Wizard Pray to": Neo-Pagan Witchcraft and Fantasy Fiction" by Carroll L. Fry popped out at me. Why? Guess whose name was mentioned in the article - our author in question, Marion Zimmer Bradley. The article provided an excellent review of neo-paganism in fantasy works -- a good review for someone like me, who has never really read fantasy. The other articles in this issue of "Extrapolation" addressed a broad base of science fiction and fantasy topics. Let's face it -- some people consider science fiction/fantasy lower than romance novels! "Extrapolation" appears to successfully legitimize science fiction and fantasy literature. Whether or not one feels guilty about reading science fiction and fantasy, I would suspect that our Lambda Sci Fi members would enjoy tapping into this excellent resource. I suggest checking this periodical out at your local library. It's worth the effort.

For those bibliophiles out there, here's the LC card entry:

EXTRAPOLATION

Kent State University, Kent, Ohio

Quarterly, 1979- Journal of the MLA Seminar on Science Fiction. Also serving the Science Fiction Research Assoc. Subjects. Science Fiction -- History and Criticism -- Periodicals

Science Fiction -- Bibliography -- Periodicals
ISBN 0014-5483

P.S. I will bring copies of the neo-paganism article with me to the next meeting.

Last meeting minutes - continued from page 2

Star Trek: The Next Generation

ST:TNG timeline: Last new episodes will be made in Spring of 1994. After that: possibly a ST:TNG movie released by Christmas 1995.

Merchandise

Sylvia brought a number of merchandise catalogs, including several from Intergalactic Trading Company (P.O. Box 1516, Longwood, FL 32750/(407) 831-8344). Noel reported that he recently saw four ST:TNG figures in an antique store for \$100.

Movie soundtracks for Star Treks TWO and THREE are now available on CDs.

Book Recommendations

We didn't talk too much about books in this section of the meeting since we were all anxious to get to the book exchange. But two recommendations were given: Peter recommends the newchildren's book Daddy's Roommate (Allyson Publications) for its gay-positive theme, and Al recommended all of the Rice vampire books.

Miscellaneous

Coming out soon: Terminator II, a sequel to Never-Ending Story, a new Dr. Who book, and the home video version of Jim Henson's "Witches". T.V. recommendations: The Flash (which is finally remembering its comic book roots) and Black Adder.

Con Calendar

by Carl Cipra & Peter Knapp

- February 7-8, 1991 **STAR TREK CELEBRATION:** Hytt Regency Crystal City, 2799 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arlington, VA, Guest of Honor: James Doohan. Cost: \$15.00/day in advance, \$20.00/day at door Info: Call (516) SHOWMAN.
- March 29-31, 1991 **BALTICON 25:** Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD), room rate is \$74/night for up to four people; Guest of Honor: Nancy Kress; Artist Guest of Honor: Tom Canty; cost is \$25 until Feb. 18th (\$35 at the door) - checks payable to "Balticon 25" and send to: Balticon 25, P.O. Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203-0686. ("Enclosed return postage would be useful.")
- March 30, 1991 **DC TOY, COMIC BOOKS, & COLLECTIBLE SHOW & SALE:** Hytt Regency Crystal City, 2799 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arlington, VA, Cost: \$5.00 at door only. Info: Call (516) SHOWMAN.
- May 24 - 27, 1991 **DISCLAVE 1991:** Sheraton Greenbelt Hotel (New Carrollton, MD), room rate is \$82/night for up to four people; Guest of Honor: Lew Shiner; Artist Guest of Honor: Alicia Austin; cost is \$25 until Apr. 30th (\$30 at the door) - checks payable to "Disclave '91" and send to: John T. Sapienza, Jr. (Registrar), PO Box 677, Washington, D.C. 20044-0677.
- July 19-21, 1991 **GAYLAXICON '91:** Tewksbury, MA, Guest of Honor: Samuel R. Delany, Artist Guest of Honor: Hannah M.G. Shapero, Special Guest: Tristan Alexander. Cost: \$15.00 until February 1, \$20.00 until May 1, \$25.00 until June 30. - checks payable to "G.S.F.S." and send to: Gaylaxicon '91, PO Box 1052, Lowell, MA 01854

Be on the lookout for Graphics!

I'm looking for good Sci-fi graphics to include in future issues of the newsletter. If you have a scanner and can produce TIF files on disk, please get in touch with us. If you have any good pics (especially Star Trek) or any good libraries (non-copyrighted, of course) that can be used with Ventura Publisher, please submit them on disk to the PO box.

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). Please leave all articles on the SCI-FI conference of the BBS. If you have some other IBM PC word processor, please contact Al at (301) 384-6868 to see if we can use your format.

This newsletter was edited/produced by Al at GRYPHON Microproducts. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue (including Scott Iles -- who submitted a 43 x 29 WordSearch -- Scott, that was the biggest one I've ever seen!), thanks to Peter for printing it, and thanks to Norman and Peter for getting last month's newsletter collated and mailed.

Corrections: The first edition of the club directory has these errors: David Neveu's address is wrong (he moved) - please contact Peter Knapp if you want the new address; Michael Morley lives in NW DC, not NE DC; Mark Stevens' last name is really Stephens; Noel Welsh's last name is really Welch. Sorry guys!

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 Al 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 (301) 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. There is also a FREE dating service. To access it, select S for Survey System -- from the main menu, and Choose the Dating Survey.

Other Groups

BiWomen's & BiMen's Network

P.O. Box 2254
Washington, DC 20013-2254
(202) 828-3019

GAMMA (Gay Married Men), GAMMA Wives, Straight Partners, Gay Couples Group
Hotline (703) 548-3238