



PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (301) 445-5650 - Issue #16 - July 1991

### June Meeting Notes

taken by David N.  
transcribed by Norman G.

Lambda Sci-Fi, Star Date: 90691

Madame First Speaker (and consort) were not present at our June meeting, so Carl was ad hoc Vice-First Speaker-ex officio. The "business" of the meeting was as follows:

#### Pride Day

Our stalwart treasurer and organizer, Peter was seeking volunteers to operate the table during the day. The table location (same as last year) and preparations for enduring the "heat" were discussed as well as finding a "Blade Runner" (i.e. someone to seek  
*continued on page 3*

### Pride Day Festivities

by Peter Knapp

Mother Nature decided to throw us a curve this year by raining on our parade. Well actually, she rained before our parade, while our intrepid LSFer's Carl and Noel and the club groupie Wayne set up our pride day booth. The dreary weather didn't stop our heroes, but it did freeze Carl's legs off.

When I got there at about 11:30am, everything was under control. The booth was set up, our fliers were spread out (under the umbrella) and the sign was in place. Soon, the rain let up, and the festivities began.

I wandered over to P Street at about  
*continued on page 6*

### Disclave 1991

by Carl Cipra

If you didn't come to Disclave this year, then you missed another great convention! It was held at the Sheraton Greenbelt Hotel in nearby New Carrollton, over the Memorial Day weekend (May 24th through 27th).

The only Lambda Sci-Fi members that I recall seeing at the convention itself  
*continued on 4*

### Video Madness II (Second Notice)

by Peter Knapp

It's official! Jaime will once again be playing host to a video/pot luck party. Heres are the specifics - Date: Saturday, July 6, 1991 - Time: 4:00pm -> ? - Location: Jaime's House - What To Bring: Videos and Food.

As we'll be partying through dinnertime, please don't all bring chips. Salads, main courses, drink, and the like are encouraged. Use you imagination! The same holds true for videos. Bring something campy or bring something hard core (SF that is not SEX!). We'll have two TV/VCR's set up like last time and will vote on what movies to watch.

To find out where Jaime lives refer to issue #9 of the newsletter (December 1990). If you threw out your issue (shame on you) or never got one, give me a call at 202/483-6369 for directions. Hope to see you there! ♣

### In This Issue:

June Meeting Notes.....	1
Pride Day Festivities.....	1
Disclave 1991.....	1
Video Madness II (Second Notice).....	1
Undead of the Cinema Trivia.....	2
Treasurer's Corner.....	2
Gaylaxicon IV Update.....	2
Movie Review: <u>The Rocketeer</u> .....	3
Classified Ads.....	4
Vincent Price Trivia Answers.....	4
Con Calendar.....	5
Et Cetera.....	5
Delany Revisited.....	6

## Undead of the Cinema Trivia

by Noel Welch

The Vampire has been a popular theme on the silver screen, going all the way back to the 1922 German classic *Nosferatu*. So popular are movies about blood suckers, Hollywood has struggled to come up with new twists on the subject.

With that in mind I have put together a list of interesting Vampire movies. A general description of each is given below, requiring you to guess their titles. Those you've seen will probably be easy to guess, while the ones you don't know may pique your curiosity enough to seek them out.

1. The screen's first X-rated movie about the Lord of the Undead was produced by the artist who immortalized a soup can.
2. Hollywood scored a surprise hit when Shakespearian actor William Marshall played the role of Prince Manuwalde, a character doomed to a living hell because he refused to be intimidated by the bigoted Count Dracula.
3. Sheriden LeFanu's 1871 Gothic novel, *Carmilla*, was the basis for a movie made by Hammer Film's dealing with lesbian vampires. This rather erotic film includes a few seminude seduction scenes.
4. Rene Auberjonois (Clayton from the Benson television series) played the part of a vampire mentor to Robert Sean Leonard, a high school kid transformed into a vampire in the 1988 comedy.
5. Patrick Stewart (*ST:TNG*) appeared in a bizarre but fascinating movie based on Colin Wilson's novel Space Vampires. This movie has some

interesting nude scenes and lots of special effects.

6. Would you believe Grace Jones as a vampire? Her performance in the sort of tongue (fang?) in cheek movie is as forgettable as the movie itself, despite a few amusing scenes.
7. California's gang problem took an odd twist when Kiefer Sutherland played the part of a teen vampire in the 1987 movie aimed at juvenile audiences.
8. What do you do when a man you suspect of being a vampire starts hitting up on your single mother?  
Answer: enlist the aid of a TV horror movie host/retired vampire killer, played to the hilt by Roddy McDowall. This excellent 1987 movie featured handsome Chris Sarandon from The Princess Bride as the cunning vampire next door. =

## Treasurer's Corner

by Peter Knapp

We took in less money this month but luckily didn't spend as much. Three people renewed (\$30), 2 people joined (\$20), one person contributed to the club (\$10), and we earned 16 cents of interest. Stamps cost us \$26, which leaves us with a balance of \$79.67.

After the formal part of last month's meeting ended, Brian H. wandered over to chit chat. I asked him if he had a newsletter, and he responded that he had an old one, which he picked up at Pride Day last year. I gave him a current issue along with a membership form and the next thing I knew he gave me back the filled out form and \$10.

Bob S. hails from my deep dark past (actually I know him from my Young Adult days). I've run into him on the

bus a few times on days when I've had freshly printed issues in hand. I guess he liked what he saw.

Please extend a welcome to both of them, and until we publish the new directory (probably in August) you can get their addresses and phone numbers from me. =

## Gaylaxicon IV Update

by Peter Knapp

Late on night, in the deepest darkest suburbs, the conspirators were hard at work. Their mission: come up with a mug design.

After much debate, and a few glasses of wine, Carl, Noel, Mark, Wayne, and myself came up with the final design for the Gaylaxicon IV fund raising mug. It's been ordered and will be available soon. For only \$7.50 you'll have the opportunity to own a limited edition collectors item (You can drink from it too!). Start saving your pennies today.

Speaking of money, we've set preliminary membership rates for Gaylaxicon IV. As an incentive to buy your membership early, we're offering a special Gaylaxicon '91 rate of \$12.50. So you can get *a mug and a membership for twenty bucks*. After Gaylaxicon '91, memberships will go up to \$15 and will most likely increase in price as next year's con approaches.

As a reward for hosting Gaylaxicon IV, all members of Lambda Sci-Fi and PHiladelphia Area Gaylaxians can buy memberships at the special rate, not just those who are attending this year's con.

The special rate is good only until July 21, 1991. Send a check to the club address today! =

## Movie Review: The Rocketeer

by Peter Knapp

Let me start off by saying that I enjoyed this movie a lot. Walking into the theater knowing that I was about to see a Disney film helped set my disposition to enjoy the movie. I strongly believe that a lot of your enjoyment stems from your expectations.

With that in mind, I wasn't surprised that the movie followed several Disney characterizations and plots. For starters there was a hero who was handsome, clean cut, and not the brightest person when it came to romance (Bill Cambell of ST:TNG and Dynasty fame). There was also a heroine who was pretty and prone to getting into trouble (Jennifer Connelly).

And of course there was a villain who kidnaped the heroine and fought the hero. This particular villain was played wickedly by Timothy Dalton (the current James Bond). He was after an experimental, jet pack that had fallen into the heros hands. The majority of the movie dealt with trying to get it back.

This movie had its share of problems. Situations were borrowed from other movies such as Dick Tracy and the Indiana Jones movies. For instance the assassin looked like he walked off the Dick Tracy set. Also, two major scenes take place in a nightclub and on a German blimp. Indiana Jones found himself in similar situations.

Many of the characters are two dimensional. I guess that's to be expected, as this was an action movie based on a graphic novel, and not on a great work of literature.

But what drove me crazy was the insensitive, sexist way the hero treated the heroine. If I were her, I would have kneed him in the groin, told him to get lost, and danced the night away with the villain.

The movie did have many good elements. The music was by James Horner (of Star Trek II, III, and VI, Aliens, Willow, etc.), the effects were by ILM, and the overall look and feel of the movie was very Disney. Also, Alan Arkin did a wonderful job of playing the mentor.

As Bob said to me on his way out of the theater, "This movie was very het." It was. It was a very clean, lighthearted, Disney romp that didn't get too complicated or high brow. I thought it was fun. ☺

### June Meeting Notes

*continued from page 1*

an interview with The Washington Blade newspaper). Peter made copies of our membership form, last month's newsletter, and the Star Trek write-in campaign letters (see **Letter Writing Campaign** section) to pass out at the booth.

### Gaylaxicon '91 and Gaylaxicon IV

The next hot topics of conversation were the *cons*. Please contact Peter if you need a ride to Tewksbury, or if you need to be picked up...at the airport or train station that is (grin). He will be organizing car pools and shuttle service. (Hmm...shouldn't Julie McCoy be here somewhere?) Invitations to Ursula K. Le Guin to be our guest speaker and to Tristan Alexander to be our guest artist at Gaylaxicon IV were sent out. We also discussed fund raising ideas for the \$500 deposit required for Gaylaxicon IV. Thanks to the research of Noel,

the ideas of selling mugs with disappearing ink, regular mugs, T-shirts, patches and buttons were discussed. For the record, Noel tossed out an idea to sell Frisbees. We settled on selling regular mugs with the Gaylactic Network logo and the names of the current Gaylactic Network chapters on it. There is good news and bad news about the two cons. Bad news: Ursula turned down our invitation to be guest speaker. Good news: "Love Boat" has been canceled for Gaylaxicon '91. So...any ideas for guest speaker, anyone?

### Letter Writing Campaign

Norman gave a synopsis on the current standing of the letter writing campaign to Gene Rodenberry and Paramount Pictures for a Gay character on Star Trek: The Next Generation. Basically, there is a script for an episode with a homo-positive theme, but it has been shelved by Paramount. We then discussed the feasibility of an openly Gay permanent character on ST:TNG, and we agreed that "The Host" episode was a good first step. ALL members are encouraged to write a personal letter to Paramount Pictures for a Gay character and/or episode with a Gay character.

### Odds and Ends

A Discussion of our opinions as to what the Gaylactic Network should be, and a Science Fiction "BBS" or bulletin board on GLIB ensued. But! The best news of all (ALWAYS save the best for last) is: it is now official our cruise director, "Julie McCoy" has returned from shore leave. Look for these activities: Air and Space Museum tour of sci-fi art exhibit, roller skating, and a dance party!!!! ☺

## Disclave 1991

continued from page 1

were Loree, Marcelle, and Jim C. Bob Himmelsbach (PHiladelphia Area Gaylaxians) and Eric Browning (Gaylactic Network member) were also down from Pennsylvania for the weekend.

The consensus of opinion seems to have been that the dealer's room was an experience not to be missed. Besides all the hordes of tempting/intriguing booksellers ("So many books . . . so little money!"), there was also a wider variety of other dealers than I've seen in previous years (jewelry, art, comics, role-playing games, etc.).

I didn't attend any of the panels or author readings this year; but Loree, Marcelle, and Jim said they enjoyed the ones they sat in on. None of the program activities seemed to pique my interest; and I seem to have done most of my socializing in the dealer's room or the artshow. It was very nice running into Alicia Austin (the Artist Guest of Honor) and her lover Jinx again after all these years---and, of course, while nattering away with Jinx about old times, I just couldn't resist forking over a small bankroll for a few pieces of Alicia's artwork.

I also (almost literally) stumbled into Lew Shiner (Author Guest of Honor) in the dealer's room while I was purchasing a copy of his Hugo-nominated book Frontera. He offered to autograph it for me; and we chatted for awhile. I found him to be a very good-looking and pleasant man. Jim C., who attended one of Lew's panel discussions, also found Mr. Shiner to be a very intelligent, well-spoken, and (Need I add?) good-looking man.

The Disclave artshow was one of the

best I've seen in a while, possibly due to the inspiration of the Artist Guest of Honor, Alicia Austin. Tristan Alexander (Artist Guest of Honor for Gaylaxicon IV) had a number of very nice pieces on display, as did Tom Howell. (If you haven't seen Tom's etched glass or woodwork yet, then you really should some day!)

The gay fandom party that we hosted turned out to be one of the highlights of the convention. Once again, we received pre-party comments from straights on how "the Gaylaxians always seem to throw the best parties." The guest list included such luminaries as: artists Tom Howell, Nancy Janda, and Tristan Alexander (and their respective lovers); and Scott Edelman (author of the Lammy Award-nominated vampire novel The Gift).

Despite some snags and problems during the planning stages, this party came off without a hitch; and everyone seemed to really enjoy themselves. If anyone starved to death during the party, it's his/her own fault! (Typically, Lambda Sci-Fi made sure there was a ton of food around!) During the early stages of the party, the entire roomful of people was mesmerized by the movie "Aliens" (which was showing on TV that night); but the general socializing went into high gear after that. In fact, everyone was having such a great time that the "nine-to-midnight" party was still going strong when 1:30am rolled around! My personal thanks to LSF members Norman, Michael, Loree, Marcelle, Jaime, Noel, and Jim C. for helping to make this such a successful party! So, if you missed out on Disclave (and the party) this year, don't miss out on all the fun next year! Make plans to attend Disclave 1992! ♪

## Classified Ads

### New Book Store

The members of Lambda Sci-Fi are cordially invited to visit the Washington areas newest specialty bookstore, Cosmic Bookstore. Opening late July in Manassas, the store is owned and operated by Lambda Sci-Fi member Linton Lee. Your patronage and encouragement are highly appreciated, so come by and take advantage of special pre-opening prices and bring those extra science fiction, history or classic titles for trade or donation. The store is located right next to I-66 behind the Ramada Inn or call 703/330-8573 for directions.

### 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. To access the dating service, select S, for Survey System, from the main menu. ♪

### Vincent Price Trivia Answers

by Noel Welsh

(The questions were published last month - ed.)

1. *House on Haunted Hill*
2. *The Fly*
3. *House of Wax 3-D*
4. *Abominable Dr. Phibes*
5. *Edward Scissorhands*
6. *House of Usher*
7. *Dr. Goldfoot and the Incredible Bikini Machine*
8. *Michael Jackson's Thriller* ♪

## Con Calendar

by Carl, Peter, and Noel

July 5 - 7, 1991 **CASTLECON 4**: Holiday Inn Crown Plaza, Crystal City, VA; cost is \$25 at the door. Hosted by: Fan Tek, 1607 Thomas Road, Fort Washington, MD 20744.

July 12 - 14, 1991 **SHORE LEAVE XIII**: Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD); room rate is \$72/night; Guests of Honor: George Takei (Sulu), Michael Dorn (Worf), Michael Okuda (Scenic Art Supervisor/Tech Consultant, ST:TNG); cost is \$35 - checks payable to "Shore Leave" and send to: Shore Leave, PO Box 6809, Towson, MD 21285-6809. (NOTE: This is a convention devoted exclusively to Star Trek and ST:TNG.)

July 19 - 21, 1991 **GAYLAXICON '91**: Tewksbury, MA; Guest of Honor: Samuel R. Delany; Artist Guest of Honor: Hannah Shapero; Special Artist Guest: Tristan Alexander. Cost: \$25 until June 30th, ? after June 30; checks payable to "G.S.F.S." and send to: Gaylaxicon '91, PO Box 1052, Lowell, MA 01853.

August 29 - September 2, 1991 **CHICON V**, the 49th World Science Fiction Convention (Chicago, IL); room rate is \$70 sgl./dbl., \$90 triple, \$110 quad; Author Guest of Honor: Hal Clement; Artist Guest of Honor: Richard Powers; cost is \$95 - checks payable to "Chicon V" and send to: Chicon V Registration, P.O. Box 218121, Upper Arlington, OH 43221-8121. (NOTE: This is the BIG ONE! It even features 7 hours of gay programming! Don't miss it!)

October 4 - 6, 1991 **ROVACON 16**: Salem Civic Center, Roanoke, VA; cost is \$12 until July 15th, \$20 at the door; Guests: Don Mathison (Land of the Giants), Roger Zelazny, Hal Clement, Spice Williams (the muscular Klingon woman from Star Trek V). Call 703/389-9400 after 5:00 PM (no collect calls) for information.

November 29 - December 1, 1991 **DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL MEETING XIV**: Holiday Inn, Timonium (Timonium, MD); room rate is \$59/night for up to four people; Special Guests: Marion Zimmer Bradley (health permitting) and Katherine Kurtz; cost is \$24 until Nov. 1st (\$28 thereafter) - checks payable to "Armida Council" and send to: Armida Council, PO Box 7203, Silver Spring, MD 20907. (NOTE: This convention typically has very high gay/lesbian participation; and all the straights are friendly.) =

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### Et Cetera

by Peter Knapp

Let me start this month's thank you's in reverse. We had quite a party last month collating the June newsletter. Carl, Kendal, Noel, Norman, Steve G., and myself sorted and stapled newsletters for the mailing and for pride day, while Michael graciously licked all the stamps onto the envelopes. We then stuffed various combinations of newsletters, Star Trek form letters and several renewal notices into envelopes. Nobody seemed to understand my stuffing instructions, but got them right anyway. Through out all this craziness Wayne offered moral support. I

thought I had invited too many people but apparently I didn't as it took about an hour and a half to get it all done. Thank you!

A special thanks goes to Steve G. for retyping the Star Trek letter to Brandon Tartikoff (the original only said 'Chairman of the Board').

I'd like to thank everyone who contributed to this newsletter. Norman and I once again played with Bruce's computer and somehow got everything to look right. To think they pay people to do this !!! Thank's also to Bruce for his picky proofreading.

A few people in the past have indicated interest in helping out with the newsletter. At times I have forgotten who had expressed interest. If you want to help out with a collation or in some other way, and I seem to be ignoring you, I'm not. I've probably forgotten and need to be reminded. Please don't be shy; let me know.

Speaking of goofing, did anyone notice that both the May and June newsletters are numbered 14? Would you believe a rift in space that allowed two versions of the same newsletter to exist at the same time? No? What about a mass hallucination we're all experiencing? Maybe I just goofed. Silly me. =

## Pride Day Festivities

*continued from page 1*

12:30pm with Mark just in time to see the parade come down from the circle. It imitated the Energizer bunny and just kept going and going.

Unfortunately, I had to get back to the fair grounds before the parade finished as it was my turn to stand behind the table. I shouldn't have bothered.

It seemed that half the club was hovering over the table, chatting away and trying to attract people to stop by. Loree and Marcelle had a secret weapon in the form of an absolutely adorable puppy. Too bad they kept her under the table most of the time. We could have doubled our numbers by having the puppy sit on the table and look cute. Maybe next year.

People were also drawn to our table because we were next to the nudist table. Our neighbors had lots of glossy photos of club activities, which created a bottle neck at their table. The crowd many times was forced to stop at our table while waiting to see the photos. With a captive audience, people like Lee had a field day handing out materials.

About mid-afternoon, Chris F. and I decided to wade through the crowd and check out other booths. Condoms were in abundance as usual, but what struck me as a new trend was all the helium balloons people were handing out. I was given so many, that I had to turn some down for fear of flying away.

By the time I made it back to the table all the newsletters had been handed out, along with the Star Trek letter writing campaign form letters.

Thankfully, Carl had made enough club flyers/membership forms so we were able to give interested people info on the club. Time will tell how many new members we'll get from this event, but I'm optimistic, as a lot of people were excited when they figured out who we were.

I'd like to thank all our formal volunteers: Brian K., Carl, Jim C., Lee, Randy, Loree, Marcelle, Michael M., Noel, Randy, and Sylvia, and our unofficial volunteers who were too numerous to name. You all did a wonderful job! ♪

### Delany Revisited

by Peter Knapp

About three years ago when I was looking for good science fiction with Gay themes, a friend recommended Samuel R. Delany's Stars In My Pocket Like Grains Of Sand. I didn't care for it at all.

As Delany is going to be the guest of honor at this year's Gaylaxicon, I thought it only fair to give him another try. I picked up Babel-17 at the Vassar Booksale, and am currently plowing through it. I'm glad I took the time to give him another try.

Unlike Stars In My Pocket Like Grains Of Sand, Babel-17 has caught my imagination. The federation is in the grips of an intergalactic war with the

invaders. Recently, the invaders have succeeded in sabotaging very secure federation installations. A female version of Buckaroo Banzai is called to the scene and soon discovers that the sabotage is accomplished using a language.

Delany explores the power and complexity of something we take for granted: communication. He explores not only how language can be used as a weapon, but also how people define themselves and others by the words they use. I found his explorations fascinating.

At times his writing gets very baroque. His work is definitely not an easy read such as a Doctor Who novel, but I'm finding that it is definitely worth the struggle.

Yesterday, I received the tentative program schedule for Gaylaxicon '91. I was surprised to discover that Delany will be on many panels. A few examples are "Can Gay Men Be Feminists?", "Language and Sexuality" (surprise, surprise), and "Safe Sex if SF: A Writer's Obligation?".

I've never met Delany, but am now looking forward to attending panels he's on and his guest of honor speech. I think this year's con committee scored a coup in securing Delany's appearance.

I'm also looking forward to reading other of his works such as Dhalgren, which changed Brian S.'s life. ♪

Lambda Sci-Fi is a Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror fan club for Gay people and their friends. Annual membership fees are \$10.00 for which you will receive this monthly newsletter and a membership directory. Newsletter submissions are always welcome.

Meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month at a private residence. The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held at 2:00pm on Sunday, July 14 at Jim's apartment: 1414 17th Street, NW #413. Please bring some munchies if you can. Hope to see everyone there!