



PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (301) 445-5650 - Issue #23 - February 1992

JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

by Loree Cook-Daniels

Between the gift book exchange and my running off early for a Redskins game, there isn't a whole lot for me to report about this meeting. However, there was some news and gossip:

UPCOMING EVENTS:

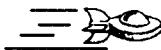
---Star Trek: On February 29th, the Smithsonian is sponsoring a number of Star Trek-related events. For further information, call the Resident Associates office at (202) 357-3030. [Ed. note: See special article elsewhere on this page.]

---NAMES Quilt: Will be in D.C. October 9-11. This may be an international event, with quilts coming from other countries. Many visitors will need housing, so volunteer host/esse/s are needed.

---DISCLAVE: Will be at the Washington Hilton (on Conn. Ave. above Dupont Circle) on May 23-25.

---Sequels: Planning and/or work has already begun on "Addams Family II" and "Aliens III."

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SPECIAL EVENT NOTICE: STAR TREK AT THE SMITHSONIAN!



The Smithsonian's National Air & Space Museum will be offering a major "Star Trek" exhibition as part of the celebration of ST's 25th anniversary. This exhibit (says the *Washington Post*) "examines the historical, political, social and cultural issues surrounding the show..." It will feature the original navigational and helm console from the Enterprise bridge, numerous props, still photographs taken from running footage of the original series, copies of original scripts, and about two dozen costumes (including Star Fleet, Klingon, and Romulan uniforms). There will also be a mini-theater with footage of past episodes and a documentary on the series.

The exhibit opens in the museum's "Flight and the Arts" Gallery on Feb. 28th and will run through Labor Day. That certainly gives us plenty of time to organize some sort of field trip to see it. (All someone has to do is remember to bring it up at the Feb. 9th meeting!)

* * *

On Feb. 29th, the Smithsonian Resident Associates and the Air & Space Museum are also sponsoring a day-long symposium entitled "Star Trek: A Universe of Fact and Fancy." The symposium will be held in the National Museum of Natural History (on Constitution Ave.)

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The Fire's Stone is an entertaining novel by Tanya Huff. It really is quite good; and I recommend that everyone read it before Gaylaxicon this year. This book proudly bears the "Tammie Faye and Rufus (Chris' cats) Seal of Approval." An excellent indicator of product quality in my house has always been cat response. If I like an item a lot, or if it's expensive, or if something is particularly nice, my demonic cats destroy it. Yes, *The Fire's Stone* was clawed to bits; but I have retained the tattered copy for anyone who wants to try to piece it together. I plan on bringing it to the next meeting, so don't hesitate to ask for it.

The Fire's Stone is an adventure story. It tells the tale of a regal love triangle in which dashing prince Darvish, Aaron the suffering clan heir, and Chandra the fiercely independent princess join forces to save the threatened kingdom of Ischia. An evil, power-hungry, and unscrupulous mage manages to steal the magical stone which was constructed to keep the destructive volcano of Ischia dormant. Unless the stone is retrieved and restored to its proper place, the volcano will erupt and destroy the capital city. Unlike most modern day royalty, however, the three protagonists have their own professions in addition to their inherited titles. Darvish (Dar) is

a rough and rugged swordsman; Aaron is an exquisitely beautiful and talented thief; and Chandra is a serious-minded master of the magical arts. The party is formed and sets off to retrieve the stone and save Ischia.

Sounds like your typical, fantastical, save-the-world adventure novel, right? Yes, it does, but let's skip to the dish. Dar has the serious hots for Aaron; but Prince Dar has a history of falling into and out of indiscriminant lust. Aaron is Dar's soul-linked prisoner, a blatant homophobe, and a queen for days. Aaron had turned to thievery to tempt the fates and perhaps destroy himself. I think Aaron must be Southern---he seems to reminisce a lot about obeying his father and adhering to religious teachings. Anyways, Dar is an alcoholic and is considered the royal joke around the castle. His father decides to marry Dar off to get him out of the castle; and the lucky bride-to-be is Chandra. Chandra is the only child to the ruler (a be-reaved widower) of an island kingdom. Chandra has led an isolated life with her father and is not pleased at the prospect of obtaining a husband.

Chandra must choose: she is to become either one of the greatest wizards in the world or the land ruler and Dar's bride. She prefers the path of magical power, but does not want to abandon the land rule to her

simple cousin. Before committing to Dar, however, she must know more about him. She ships off to Ischia in disguise to meet the prince. In the meantime, the stone is stolen, Dar is quested by his father to retrieve it, and Aaron is obligated to assist Dar. While she is in Ischia, Chandra meets Dar and Aaron and decides she must help retrieve the stone, since powerful wizardry was effected to steal the stone in the first place. Chandra enjoys the company of Dar and Aaron and develops good relationships with the two; but she doesn't seem to be romantically interested in Dar.

I really do not want to reveal more than this about the plot line. The story focuses on the development of relationships between the characters, while skillfully and subtly developing the plot. It was a little frustrating that Aaron and Dar had so much trouble communicating with one another; but I believe this is insightful and reflective of the trials of gay love. The agony of forbidden, first love certainly keeps you anticipating when and if they will ever find happiness in each other's company. I sincerely hope that Ms. Huff is preparing a sequel to this story of the "three musketeers."

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S.T. AT SMITHSONIAN

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and will include "lectures and video clips." It's kind'a pricey, though---\$50 for Resident Associates, \$65 for nonmembers, and \$40 for full-time students. For information, call (202) 357-3030.

* * *

Starting back on Jan. 10th, they've also been running a free ST "retrospective" film/lecture program in the Air & Space Museum's Langley Theater. It features some of ST's classic TV episodes, movies and lectures. Programming in this series is shown on Friday nights, starting at 8 PM. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. As of this writing, here's what's happening:

Jan. 31 - "ST III: The Search for Spock"

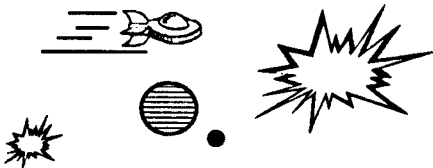
Feb. 7 - "ST IV: The Voyage Home"

Feb. 14 - "ST V: The Final Frontier"

Feb. 21 - Mary Henderson (curator) reviews the exhibit's development. "Mirror, Mirror" follows her lecture.

Feb. 28 - Double feature: "Shore Leave" and "The Trouble With Tribbles"

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JANUARY MINUTES

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GAYLAXIAN NEWS:

---Carl brought newsletters from several chapters. Tleilaxu (the non-Gaylaxian Canadian group, which does not have its own newsletter) sent us a 24-page "Queers in Space" insert that it prepared for its local gay community paper. Quite impressive!

---Carl also reported that the New Orleans group, Krewe of Gaylaxia, is back in business. Hooray!! For information on their new address and telephone contact number, see either Carl or Peter. Welcome back, Krewe!

---Still no word on whether the London gay sci-fi club has applied for membership into the Gaylactic Network.

GAYLAXICON:

---Our illustrious Gaylaxicon IV organizers put together a very nice 4-page Progress Report #1 that has been sent to all Gaylaxicon members. Additional information discussed at the meeting: For an additional \$25/hour for the lifeguard, we can postpone the pool closing from its normal 11 p.m. until 1 a.m. We need to fill 100 rooms in order to meet our agreement with the hotel. Although we're nowhere near that, Gaylaxicon '91 filled all its rooms at the very last minute; and our organizers are not yet freaked about the possibility of not having enough registrants. We've even had a membership

request mailed from Finland!

STAR TREK:

---Rumor is that there will be a "Star Trek VII," but possibly without dear old Cap'n Kirk. Seems there's a bit of a mutiny brewing among the cast/crew....

---Channel 45 is moving ST:TNG to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesdays. This is the channel where you can see the first showing locally of any new shows.

---There should be four new episodes of ST:TNG in February.

MISCELLANEOUS:

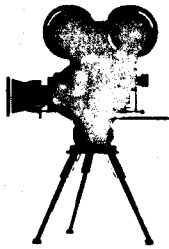
---Among the things passed around at the meeting was a *Peoria Star* interview of Philip Jose Farmer.

---USA (TV network), which is partially owned by Paramount, and the Science Fiction channel are reportedly negotiating a potential collaboration so that the channel can finally get on the air.

---Maryland Public Television is currently surveying "Whovians" (Dr. Who fans) to determine which "Dr. Who" episodes people want to see re-aired.

---The EveCon party was less than a smashing success, according to those who were there. [Ed. note: See article elsewhere in this issue.] Part of the problem seemed to be that the Con was less gay-friendly this year a

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FOUR MOVIE REVIEWS

by Peter Knapp and Jed Shumsky
---shamelessly filched (with kind permission)
from the PhAG Newsletter
and shamelessly edited (without same)
by Carl Cipra



THE ADDAMS FAMILY

Thin on plot, thick on characterization and atmosphere, this film cleverly captures the eerie feel of the original cartoons. The movie begins with a famous scene right out of the cartoons, in which the Addams family is about to express their appreciation for a group of Christmas carollers with a vat of boiling oil poured from the rooftop.

Angelica Huston and Raul Julia as Morticia and Gomez are clearly having the campiest time of their lives as they trade witty repartee about their kinky love life. Christina Ricci is a huge hit as Wednesday, the child sociopath, and will clearly grow up to be the next Winona Ryder. Christopher

Lloyd does a so-so job as Uncle Fester; but he definitely captures the strangeness of the part. And don't forget Carol Struckyen (Mr. Hom from ST:TNG) as Lurch. Thing, the living hand, is **amazing** and is able to escape its box through the wonders of special effects. (It is **very** expressive for a detached body part!) Speaking of which, *Cousin It* makes an appearance as well.

While the alleged plot deals with the question of the true identity of Uncle Fester, it takes a back seat to the general hilarity of watching the Addams family interact with each other and with the rest of the world.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Disney does an excellent job of adapting this classic fairy tale. The animation is flawless, the music is excellent, the cute characters aren't too annoying, and the basic plot elements are preserved rather than whitewashed. Disney had teams of animators assigned to each character, to create a consistently detailed image. Some of the backgrounds were computer-generated, and some were shot with the multi-plane camera for excellent 3-D effects. Enough attention was paid to the animated characterizations that it would be no surprise to see this film nominated for Best Picture in the Academy Awards.

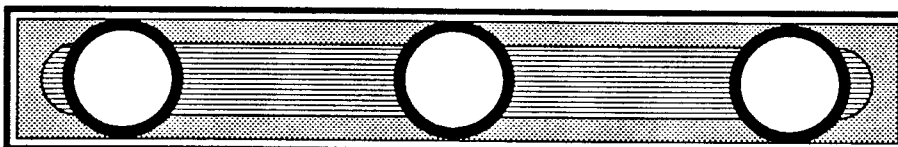
HOOK

Only Robin Williams could have played the part of a grown-up Peter Pan rediscovering his lost boyhood. Dustin Hoffman and Bob Hoskins are fantastic as Captain Hook and his henchman Mr. Smee, out to get revenge on the missing Peter by kidnapping his children. Julia Roberts plays Tinkerbell; and we're not sure whether it's the scripting or her acting, but the part falls flat. Look for some amusing cameos by David Crosby, Phil Collins, and Glenn Close (as a transvestite pirate). Maggie Smith

does a superb job as Wendy in her grandmotherly years. The script cleverly weaves elements of the book and play into the movie, to create an appropriately modern interpretation. Robin Williams begins the film as an obsessive corporate raider who is inseparable from his portable phone and quite distant from his family. But a quick trip to Never-Never Land gradually shows him the error of his ways; and he becomes Super-Dad by the end. Definitely a Spielberg feel-good film.

STAR TREK VI: THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY

This movie is a fond farewell (we hope!) to the original cast/crew of the Starship Enterprise. It features a thinly-disguised Cold War parallel of the Klingon Empire initiating peace talks with the Federation in the face of an environmental disaster. This one definitely has the feel of the **old** Trek but doesn't do quite enough to make the transition to the **new** Trek. All of our old favorites make appearances and provide some quite amusing dialogue. There is some interesting plotting and counter-plotting by the characters to keep the film moving in the face of character vignettes. Don't be deterred by the previous fiasco---this is a **must-see** for fans!





A REPORT ON THE 1991 DARKOVER CONVENTION

by Carl Cipra



I realize that this report is kind'a late; but last month's issue of the newsletter was already loaded "to the max." At any rate, here goes:

Darkover Grand Council XIV was held on the weekend following Thanksgiving (Nov. 27-30) at the Holiday Inn in Timonium, Maryland. [Ed. Note: The "Darkover" name is derived from the fantasy/sci-fi novels of Marion Zimmer Bradley. The convention itself centers around, although not exclusively, Bradley's "Darkover" books, Katherine Kurtz's "Deryni" books, and Anne McCaffrey's "Pern/Dragonrider" books.] As always, this convention had a real "family" feel to it, what with the high gay/lesbian/bisexual participation---and the fact that everyone else seemed to fall into the "friendly" category! Also as in previous years, the con featured excellent dealers' rooms, a nice art show, lots'a interesting panels, an "OK" masquerade, a Regency Ball on Saturday afternoon (Regency dress encouraged), and tons of filk-singing (including the poolside "Hallelujah Chorus" sing-along in the Atrium on Saturday night). Guests included Joan Vinge (Guest of Honor), Robin Wood (Artist Guest of Honor), Lisa Barnett, Marion Zimmer Bradley, Julia Ecklar, Nancy Janda, Katherine Kurtz, Myfanwy, Diana Paxson, Don Sakers, Hannah Shapero, and Melissa Scott.

It was a real treat meeting and listening to Julia Ecklar for the first time. (In case you haven't read any of her works, she's had five or six stories published in *Analog*--including an upcoming cover story!--and wrote the ST novel

Kobayashi Maru.) She's witty, intelligent, and quite a talker---I could have listened to her for hours! If you get a chance, definitely sit in on any panel she's on. I'm told she's quite a filk-singer, too; but I'm afraid I didn't get a chance to hear her.

I did get a chance to be part of the programming, however! Wow, was I jazzed! On Friday afternoon, I led a discussion group on "Alternate Lifestyles in SF & Fantasy," with about a dozen people participating. (I also took the opportunity to hand out Lambda Sci-Fi's "Recommended Reading" list.) That evening, I moderated a panel on "Names and Naming Practices in SF & Fantasy," which featured authors Katherine Kurtz and Melissa Scott and two practicing heralds from the Society for Creative Anachronism. On Saturday, I moderated two fascinating panels. The first was "Strong Women Characters in SF & Fantasy" (Lisa Barnett, Julia Ecklar, Katherine Kurtz, Melissa Scott). This discussion alone was worth the price of admission! If this topic hasn't been included in a Gaylaxicon program already, then it really should be! The second panel was "I Am Not My Characters" (Julia Ecklar, Katherine Kurtz, Diana Paxson, Melissa Scott, Joan Vinge). This was a great topic for "getting inside the authors' heads."

Author Lisa Barnett sponsored a couple of activities at the con which were of particular interest to the Gay and Lesbian

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Community. (As an indication of just how "friendly" this con is, both activities were featured in the official con Program Booklet.) First, Lisa sponsored "The Ribbon Project" at the con. This project is a grass-roots effort based in New York City which advocates the wearing of a red ribbon to show your commitment to the fight against AIDS and as a symbol of hope. Lisa passed out small red ribbons (about 6" long), which were folded at the top to form an inverted "V" shape and worn throughout the con (generally, attached to con badges).

Secondly, along with fellow author Don Sakers, Lisa hosted a "Day Without Art" panel, which included darkening the room and holding a silent vigil. [Ed. Note: The "Day Without Art" movement was conceived as a response from within the arts, theatrical, design, and literary communities to the devastating toll of AIDS on those communities. As a show of support, various participating organizations close their doors, darken their stages, or shroud works of art on "World AIDS Day" (Dec. 1st, as designated by the World Health Organization) and offer programming created specifically to address the issues surrounding AIDS.]

In all, I had a very enjoyable weekend. It often felt like I was participating in a "mini-Gaylaxicon" being held within the context of a larger convention. I highly recommend attending next year's Darkover XV to all gay/lesbian/bisexual fen!

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and that the maturity level at the con was not quite as high as last year. (Are those observations redundant?)

---There was some talk about having speakers at our meetings, but it seemed to me that no decision was made about this.

---Noel's company has graciously agreed to run off our newsletter at no cost! Thanks, Noel!

---John Dennis, a friend of LSF, is going to be the featured artist for "The Comet," a D.C. comic book, in April.

BOOK SWAP & NEW PLANS:

---The book swap was fun--- although I can't really talk much about it because I almost literally grabbed my book and ran.

---The next meeting will be Feb. 9th, at Jim C.'s place (the usual

place.)

---As I was running out the door, we decided to hold another "video madness" event at Linton Lee's bookshop on February 15th (Sat.). Details elsewhere in this newsletter.

P.S. The Redskins, with their good luck charms (Loree and Marcelle) present, won by 41 to 10!

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EDITOR'S CORNER

by Carl Cipra

Just in case you hadn't noticed (or even if you had), there's been a *slight* change in the numbering of this issue. You were probably expecting this to be Issue #22---but it's labelled as Issue #23 on the first page! Surprise! It seems that we had two Issues #20 (Nov. and Dec., 1991); so I've had to do a little judicious re-numbering of this issue to make things

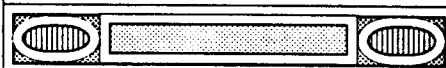
come out right. (I'm such a Virgo!)

This issue contains the first of a series of book reviews featuring the works of Tanya Huff, Guest of Honor at the upcoming Gaylaxicon IV. We'd originally planned to have this issue be a sort of "Guest of Honor" issue, with **several** reviews of Tanya's books; but there was just too much other stuff to talk about. So, this month we're featuring a Tanya Huff book review by Chris

Faulkner; and next month, it's my turn, with a double review.

You know, Tanya's probably written enough for us to feature reviews of her books from now until Gaylaxicon IV! So get out there and read one of her books! (I think Chris and I agree that you'll enjoy reading it!) . . . And then send in a little write-up to Your Humble Editor! (Hint! Hint!)

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**** INFORMATION ABOUT LAMBDA SCI-FI: DC AREA GAYLAXIANS ****

Lambda Sci-Fi is a Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror fan club for Gay people and their friends. Annual membership fees are \$10, 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 2:00 PM on **Sunday, Feb. 9th**, at Jim C.'s apartment: 1414 17th St., NW, Apt. 413 (near Dupont Circle). Please bring some munchies or soft drinks if you can. Hope to see you there!

Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians is an affiliate of the Gaylactic Network, an international organization for gay people and their friends who are interested in science-fiction and fantasy.

By now, I am sure that most everyone has heard the rumors concerning the ST:TNG spin-off: "Star Trek: Deep Space 9." For those who may not have heard, allow me to encapsulate it: The premise is that the Federation takes over an alien deep-space station; and the episodes will revolve around the daily lives of its crewmembers.

The station leader will be an unmarried man with a 12-year-old child. And this is where the rumors get interesting! He is described as a take-charge,

action-oriented individual (read: "Kirk")---to be played by **Rick Springfield!!!** It would seem that the title "Deep Space" is actually what's between the ears of the person who made this casting suggestion!

Anyway, the show is set to premiere next year.

As for ST:TNG, this show was only supposed to have a seven-year run; and it will undoubtedly be used to bolster the ratings of the new show in the usual ways. **HOWEVER**, rumor has it that some of the TV

stations to which Paramount has been trying to sell "DS9" don't currently show ST:TNG and would likely run the new program in competition **against** those stations in their market area that now air ST:TNG.

Paramount should see the folly in allowing this type of negative programming and make every effort to see that "DS9" airs immediately **after** ST:TNG for best results. (After all, ST:TNG did get off to a rocky start itself!)

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COME ONE, COME ALL, TO ANOTHER LAMBDA SCI-FI "VIDEO MADNESS" NIGHT!!!

WHERE:

"The Cosmic Bookstore"
(Owner: Linton Lee)
10953 Lute Court, Manassas, VA 22110
Located in Sudeley Corners Center
(behind the Ramada Inn),
"approx. 40 minutes outside the District."

WHEN:

Saturday, February 15th
(the weekend **after** Feb. LSF meeting)
Plan on arriving around 5 PM. Linton will be closing the doors to the public at 6 PM.

FEATURING:

Three screens showing favorite sci-fi and fantasy videos!
A pot-luck dinner!
A 10% discount to all LSF members on all books, etc. being sold in the store!
(Linton says he'll also accept trade-ins!)

WHAT TO BRING:

Your favorite sci-fi and/or fantasy videos.
Food for the pot-luck dinner.
(Linton will provide drinks and salad.)

HOW TO GET THERE:

Take your favorite route to I-66 to Prince William Co., VA. Take Exit 47 towards Manassas. You're now on Sudeley Road (Rte. 234); stay in the right lane. At the first light, turn right onto Ballsford Road. Take another right at New Market (the first road you come to). Keep going---all the way back, into the parking lot, until you come up against the fence along I-66.

The shop is just to your left.

RIDE-SHARING & INFO:

Carpools arranged at the Feb. 9th meeting.
If you can't attend and want to arrange a ride with someone (or for further info), call the store: (703) 330-8573.



Con Calendar

by Carl, Peter, and Noel



March 13-15, 1992 **DEMICON 3**: Holiday Inn Chesapeake House (Aberdeen, MD). This is a convention "designed for people who are into role-playing games and wargames." Cost is \$16 until February 15, 1992 and \$20 at the door. Room rate is \$69 for one occupant and \$10 more for each additional occupant. Make checks payable to "Harford Adventure Society" and send to: Harford Adventure Society, c/o The Strategic Castle, 114 N. Toll Gate Road, Bel Air, MD 21014.

April 10-12, 1992 **TECHNICON 9**: Donaldson Brown Center (Blacksburg, VA). Guest of Honor: Tom Deitz. Pre-registration cost is \$21 (\$23 at the door, \$13 day-pass). Room rate is \$46 (sgl), \$54 (dbl). For more information (and send checks to): Technicon 9, c/o VTSFFC, PO Box 256, Blacksburg, VA 24063-0256

April 17-19, 1992 **BALTICON 26**: Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Guests: Donald Kingsbury, Christopher Rowley, David R. Palmer, Shiela Finch, Thomas T. Thomas, Christopher Hinz, Elizabeth Moon, Josepha Sherman, Michael F. Flynn (the past nine Compton Crook Award winners for the "best new novelist of the year"); Featured Artist: Guy Frechette. Cost is \$27.50 until March 15, 1992. Make checks payable to "Balticon 26" and send to: BSFS, Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203. Hotel rooms cost \$74 per nite for up to four people in a room.

May 23-25, 1992 **DISCLAVE 1992**: Washington Hilton, 1919 Conn. Ave. NW (*New Site!*). Guests of Honor: Pat Cadigan and Tom Kidd. Special Guest: Hal Clement. Cost is \$25 until April 30th (\$30 at the door). Rooms are \$85/night (sgl to quad). To register, make checks payable to "Disclave '92" and send to: Dan Hoey, Registration, Box 677, Washington, DC 20044-0677. (Ed. - That's just a few boxes down the row from our PO box!)

July 17-19, 1992 **GAYLAXICON IV**: Guest Quarters Hotel (Philadelphia, PA). Guest of Honor: Tanya Huff; Artist Guest of Honor: Tristan Alexander. Cost is \$20 through April 30, 1992, \$25 through June 30, 1992, \$30 at the door. Make checks payable to "Gaylaxicon IV" and send to: Gaylaxicon IV, PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044.

September 3-7, 1992 **MAGICON**, the 50th World Science Fiction Convention: Orange County Convention and Civic Center and Peabody, Clarion, and Quality Inn Plaza Hotels (Orlando, FL). Guests of Honor: Jack Vance and Vincent DiFate. Cost (attending) is \$95 until March 31, 1992 and \$110 until July 15, 1992. Make checks payable to "MagiCon" and send to: MagiCon, PO Box 621992, Orlando, FL 32862-1992.

November 13-15, 1992 **PHILCON '92**: The Adam's Mark Hotel (Philadelphia, PA). Principal Speaker: Greg Bear, Guest Artist: Boris Vallejo. Cost is \$20.

September 2-6, 1993 **CONFRANCISCO**, the 51st World Science Fiction Convention: Moscone Convention Center (San Francisco, CA). Guest of Honor: Larry Niven; Artist Guest of Honor: Alicia Austin. Cost (attending) is \$85 after December 31, 1991; and cost will rise appreciably at later dates. Hotels will be announced in upcoming progress reports. Make checks payable to "ConFrancisco" and send to: ConFrancisco Registration, 712 Bancroft Road, Ste. 1993, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.