



PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (301) 445-5650 - Issue #39 - June 1993

MAY MEETING MINUTES

by Norman

Carl called the May 9th meeting to order and then passed out Gaylaxicon V and Lambda Sci-Fi flyers. He also passed around the *Washington Post* article on gay organizations (in which Loree is quoted about the Gaylactic Network), two *TV Guide* articles (one on the new iguana-like alien in an upcoming *ST:TNG* and one on *The Tommyknockers*), and an ad for Philadelphia's Gay Pride day. The next order of business was information about the upcoming LSF party to be held at Disclave (May 28-31). [Ed. note: For details, see announcement on this page.] Volunteers were accepted to help out with various aspects of the party; and Carl also asked for roommates for the con to share the cost of the room Friday and/or Saturday night. The next order of business was Pride Day. Lambda Sci-Fi will have a table there!!! [Ed. note: Since the May meeting, Peter has received the necessary forms for reserving a table and has sent them in.] Finally, Carl read a quote from Melissa Scott's new book *Burning Bright*: a character in the book is wearing a gaming pin of some sort which is described as the "triangle

(continued on page 2)



LAMBDA SCI-FI TO HOST DISCLAVE PARTY!

*** ALERT! ***** ALERT! ***** ALERT! ***

Just in case you missed out on the announcement at the May LSF meeting, here's the news: **Lambda Sci-Fi will be hosting a room party at Disclave '93 for gay/lesbian/bisexual fans and their friends!** Don't miss out on all the fun! And now for the details:

WHERE: The Washington Dulles Airport Marriott (333 W. Service Rd., Chantilly, VA), in one of the cabana (party) rooms around the pool.

WHEN: Saturday night, May 29th, 9:00 PM until 2:00 AM.

WHAT TO BRING: munchies, edibles, snacks, cassette tapes (mu-

sic), your own wonderful self!

RESTRICTIONS: No smoking; no alcohol.

DIRECTIONS: From the District, take the Dulles Access Road, not the Toll Road, all the way to Dulles Airport. The hotel will be clearly visible on the right, across a pond. At the next intersection, turn right. The hotel is less than a quarter mile on the right.

PARKING: The hotel has approx. 300 complimentary parking spaces. After 5 PM on Friday, the parking spaces for the office buildings across the street are also unofficially available.

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In This Issue:

May Meeting Minutes	-----	1
Disclave Party Announcement	-----	1
Gaylactic Gossip	-----	2
Daughter of "Catchy Lines" (trivia quiz)	-----	3
For Serial Readers, & Alien Sex (book reviews)	-----	4
<i>Leprechaun</i> (video review)	-----	5
Miscellaneous	-----	5
1993 Hugo Award Nominees	-----	6
A Cyberpunk Reading List	-----	7
Ye Olde Editor's Corner	-----	7
Info about Lambda Sci-Fi & Con Calendar	-----	8

MAY MINUTES

continued from page 1

and galaxy of the Old Network.” Hooray!! We’re in print!!!!

From there, we did our usual buffet of topics:

Warren said he will be hosting a ST:TNG “How to Host a Mystery” party and that, if you’re interested, he will let you borrow the game. Scott S. gave a “snaps-up” to the movies *Dave* and *Dragon*; and he announced that an upcoming “Gap” ad will feature the “surprise” character from *The Crying Game*. (“Those legs, those thighs, what a surprise!”) Michael C. showed us the latest issue of the magazine *Scarlet Street*, with an article about the grade-B movie *The Alligator People* and interviews with the “voices” of Batman and Robin from the new *Batman* cartoons. (Group consensus: What a dynamic duo!)

Michael C. also told us about Tim Burton’s latest project/movie: *Ed Woods*, about the famous ‘50’s director of trashy horror and sci-fi (who would reputedly direct while wearing high heels and an angora sweater). Burton is courting de Niro to play Bela Lugosi and Johnny Dep to play Ed Woods. Michael then “outed” Steve Reeves. Joe informed us of pending remakes of classic horror movies: *The Lost World*, *The Creature from the Black Lagoon*, *The Beast from 20,000 Fathoms*, *Here Comes Mr. Jordan*, and an untitled film -- a comedy slant on *The Man Who Lived Before He Was Hung*. Joe then described the final episode of *Quantum Leap*: an apparent bartender Time Lord said that

GAYLACTIC GOSSIP

by Wayne III Wilkening

There was no Network business at the May meeting; but hold on to your seats---we have a lot for June! Before I preview Network business, I have a few tidbits: (1) Any members interested in holding a Network office should submit a statement of interest and qualifications to me for inclusion in the next GNAPA. (2) Kindred Spirits and Lo-Cal Gaylaxians have submitted bids for Gaylaxicon VI (1995). (3) Synergy Ganymede has reorganized and renamed itself Plain’s End Gaylaxians. (You can update last month’s list to include PEG and remove SG:FRG.)

Now for what we’ll be discussing and voting on during the June meeting:

On old business, Third Coast Gaylaxians is now eligible (and wishes) to be a full affiliate. TCG was recently made a provisional affiliate retroactive to December 1, 1992. Meanwhile, Krewe of Gaylaxia wishes to extend its provisional status for another 6 months.

the main character could have returned to his life anytime he wished, but that “he just doesn’t wish to return.” When I said that it sounded like a *Twin Peaks* episode to me, Joe replied: “No, it wasn’t THAT clear!” Joe then announced that there will be two new “networks” in the planning stages: a Crime Network and a Horror Network.

We then discussed the

The unexpected bombshell dropped in the latest GNAPA is Robert Gowan’s resignation as Speaker of the Network Board. Robert needs to be relieved of the Speaker’s duties, but wishes to remain Speaker in an advisory capacity. Robert would like to appoint Michael Wadley of Kindred Spirits to assume the duties of Speaker. This proposal would avoid the constitutional crisis of replacing the Speaker and should minimize impact on the Network. If LSF (and the rest of the Board) finds Robert’s proposal unacceptable, then Robert has already given us 30 days notice, and will resign immediately.

Well, that is certainly enough for one meeting. If you have any questions, PLEASE call me before the meeting. I refuse to allow stuffy Network business (or other pet projects) to clutter up our otherwise enjoyable meeting.



HBO movie *Daybreak*, a dark, dystopian post-AIDS world in which the “Positives” are being forcibly quarantined. It featured a gay couple kissing on screen, but otherwise it had watered down the gay issues. June 30th marks the release of *Bram Stoker’s Dracula* and *Toys* on videotape. From the depths of the Video Vault, a must-

(continued on page 3)

FOR SERIAL READERS

by Loree Cook-Daniels

Although it's hard for me to believe, I've heard that not all of us spend our lunch hours prowling around B. Dalton's looking for the latest release of our favorite series. In case any such people are LSFers, here are some recent ones you may have missed.

Blood Lines,

by Tanya Huff

Vicki Nelson and Henry Fitzroy are at it again, this time tracking a centuries-old mummy. Tanya keeps getting better, in part because her characters keep developing. If you enjoyed her earlier vampire books, this one's a "must-read."

Maze of Moonlight,

by Gael Baudino

Gael's one of my favorite authors, in part because she mixes fantasy with history. Loosely following *Strands of Starlight*, this novel is set in the Middle Ages, when elves are fading from the Earth. This book has its problems, though. I never quite bought the attraction between Christopher and Vanessa, for one thing. Perhaps more importantly, Baudino places homosexuality in a very homophobic society; and that can end up grating on a gay reader who knows she's reading a gay author.

Metaphase,

by Vonda McIntyre

Sometimes when a great book is serialized, a not-so-great series results. That's my assessment of McIntyre's "Starfarers" series. I loved *Starfarers*, yawned through *Transition*, and was disappointed by *Metaphase*. Maybe the trick to this one is to wait until the series is completed and then read them all at once. The way I've done it, my interest in the characters and their situation has slowly died, although this book does introduce a very interesting alien.

There are also some new series out, although these all fall into my "mindless trash" category. (Which isn't to say I don't read them! I just acknowledge that I read them for the same reason I used to read comic books as a kid

---purely because they're familiar entertainment.) Of course, everyone should know by now that there's a series of books on *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. If you haven't been reading them and are interested, get busy! You're already almost 30 books behind! (By the way, the latest hardback, *The Devil's Heart*, is particularly well-written.)

There are also three new series that may be of interest to LSFers. There are now two *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* books out (one is a written version of the TV series-opener); and there are also two *Quantum Leap* books. So far, there's only one *Alien Nation* novel; but more are on the way. So if you can't get enough of the shows (or their reruns), you can supplement your habit with the books. Happy reading!

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OH BOY! ALIEN SEX! LEMME AT IT!!! (HAS ANYONE GOT A RIGELLIAN TICKLER?)



ALIEN SEX

by Loree Cook-Daniels

If you're in the mood for some really alien sex, consider Octavia Butler's "Xenogenesis" series: *Dawn* (1987), *Adulthood Rites* (1988), and *Imago* (1989). All are published by Popular Library (Warner Books).

The Oankali stumble upon humans shortly after a nuclear holocaust makes humanity all but extinct. Placing the survivors in stasis, the Oankali spend centuries restoring the Earth, studying the humans, and planning how to interbreed with them. The Oankali have a biological imperative to "trade"---to create new species through genetic exchanges---and humans are the most fascinating potential trade partners they've ever come across.

The Oankali have three "genders": female, male, and ooloi. Ooloi mix the genes of their male and female partners, who are frequently siblings. Their matings are for life, involving biological markings that forever link them to each other and usually end in nearly simultaneous death. Once humans are added to the picture, matings involve five partners: female and male Oankali, female and male human, and ooloi.

But sex is a small part of the "Xenogenesis" series. Butler's work also explores the concepts of freedom and self-determination, memory, cancer, healing and "the inherent (and fatal) contradiction" of humans (*i.e.* great intelligence battling hierarchical imperatives). Her explanations of how the Oankali "grow" ships and houses are in themselves worth the read. All in all, Butler has created a fascinating exploration of what might happen should humans ever meet up with some really alien life.

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LEPRECHAUN
 (No Lucky Charms Here!)
 a videotape review by Joe Parra

As everyone knows, if you catch a leprechaun, he must give you his pot of gold . . . Everyone except the producers of this blarney, that is!

Roughly 11 years ago, a man went to Ireland, captured a leprechaun, and took its gold. The man then fled to his home in New Mexico, little knowing that the leprechaun hid in his luggage. This leprechaun is not some cute little sprite that sells you cereal, however. It's a nasty half-pint bent on murder and mayhem. It escapes from the luggage and murders the man's wife. The man finally backs the leprechaun into a crate with a four-leaf clover (which the little bugger fears like a vampire fears garlic) and traps it there. A decade goes by, and the little fella is still being held captive in the crate in the basement of the man's house . . . but the man himself is no longer there, having been carted off to the local looney bin for the murder of his wife! A new family buys the old house "as is" and sets out to repair it, with the aid of the local stud-puppy, his slightly-retarded helper, and the most obnoxious over-written-for-a-movie little brother that ever existed. While effecting the repairs, of course, they release the leprechaun; and it still wants its damn gold! The leprechaun then sets about murdering locals in order to regain its precious 100 pieces of gold and, thereby, all its full-strength powers. (Apparently, the little monster only has half its abilities, which are quite considerable!)

Try as they might to make the leprechaun horrifying, it just doesn't come off--even as black comedy. Warwick Davis (who played the loveable Willow,

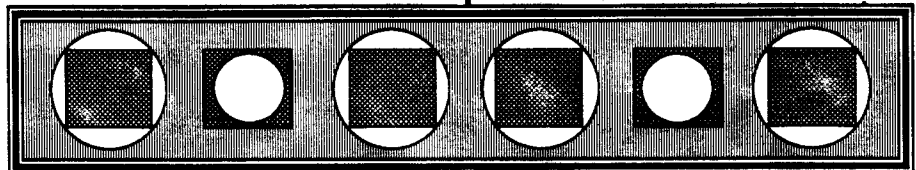
in the film of the same name) plays the leprechaun, courtesy of wonderful make-up by Craig Dearborn. He does a lovely job in the role; however you just can't make a leprechaun seem like an evil entity these days. The odds against such an undertaking are overwhelming. "Lucky Charms" cereal and classic films like *Darby O'Gill and the Little People*, *Finian's Rainbow*, *Luck of the Irish*, and *Top o' the Morning* all portray leprechauns as mischievous, not evil. It would take one hell of a story to convince us that the Little People are monsters---say a story from the pen of Arthur Machen, who wrote horror tales about the Little People back in the 1920s. And this film doesn't have "one hell of a story!"

The performances of the other actors in this film range from "insipid" to "rank amateur," with Mark Dobson being an outstanding example. He tries to make his character seem like Lennie from Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*; but instead he comes off like Curley from the Three Stooges, thanks to some really rotten text. There are some funny moments that work; but they are clearly thanks to Warwick Davis' ingenuity, not due to a clever inspiration from the script.

The worst part about this whole tale is that, at the outset of the tape, we are told that there will be a *Leprechaun 2*. Now that will be a horror movie!

Not much to enjoy here. Rating: 2 out of a possible 4. (And it only got that high a score because of Warwick Davis.)

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MISCELLANEOUS

by Carl Cipra

THE BEST

The feature article of 40th Anniversary Issue (April 17-23) of *TV Guide* was entitled "Celebrating the Best of Television's Last Four Decades." This article listed and briefly discussed "The Best of" several different categories. A couple of the items contained in this article are related to the F&SF genre.

Patrick Stewart was their choice for "Best Dramatic Actor of the '80s." Their reasons? "He gave his role unexpected humanity, gravity, and literate grace. His formidable screen presence raises others to his level." (Attoboy, Jean-Luc!) Unfortunately, Stewart wasn't named as "All-Time Best Dramatic Actor;" that distinction went to James Garner (?).

Happily, one whole category was devoted to "The Best Sci-Fi/Fantasy." Here's the breakdown:

---of the '50s: *The Twilight Zone*

---of the '60s: *Star Trek*

---of the '70s: *Mork & Mindy*
 (???!)

---of the '80s: *ST:TNG*

And the folks at *TV Guide* voted the honor of "All-Time Best Sci-Fi/Fantasy" to *Star Trek*. Here's how they explained their choice: "There's no denying the *Star Trek* juggernaut: Gene Roddenberry's interstellar western spawned a cartoon series, six movies, magazines, original novels and novelizations, comic books, fan clubs, conventions, and countless parodies." (Not to mention two spin-off TV series: *ST:TNG* and *ST:DS9*.)

(continued on page 6)



1993 HUGO AWARD NOMINEES

reported by Noel Welch



BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION

Aladdin (Walt Disney Pictures)
Alien 3 (20th Century Fox)
Batman Returns (Warner Brothers)
Bram Stoker's Dracula
 (Columbia Pictures)
 "The Inner Light"

(*Star Trek: The Next Generation*,
 Paramount Television)

JOHN W. CAMPBELL AWARD

(sponsored by Dell Magazines,
 for Best New Writer of 91-92)

Barbara Delaplace
 (2nd year of eligibility)
 Nicholas A. DiChario
 (2nd year of eligibility)
 Holly Lisle (1st year of eligibility)
 Laura Resnick (2nd year)
 Carrie Richerson (1st year)
 Michelle Sagara (2nd year)

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MISCELLANEOUS

continued from page 5

WILDER & WILDER

According to Lance Loud's "Out Loud" article in the April 20th issue of *The Advocate*, things are getting even wilder around the Addams Family household. And I quote: "Charles Busch---the massively talented drag artiste and author of *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom*---is about to make his silver screen debut." Busch will join the cast of the upcoming *Addams Family Values* as "Morticia's eccentric cousin, the Countess Aphasia du Barry." Busch is quoted as saying: "My character is the only one who really dresses outrageously..." and says that during his early costume tests he wore "just about every piece of costume jewelry in the Paramount vault." (I sense a fashion statement in the air.)

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BEST NOVELETTE

"True Faces" by Pat Cadigan
 "The Nutcracker Coup" by Janet Kagan
 (*Asimov's*, Dec 92)
 "In the Stone House"
 by Barry N. Malzberg
 (*Alternate Kennedys*)
 "Danny Goes to Mars" by Pamela Sargent
 (*Asimov's*, Oct 92)
 "Suppose They Gave a Peace . . ."
 by Susan Shwartz
 (*Alternate Kennedys*)

BEST SHORT STORY

"The Winterberry"
 by Nicholas A. DiChario
 (*Alternate Kennedys*)
 "The Mountain to Mohammed"
 by Nancy Kress (*Asimov's*, April 92)
 "The Lotus and the Spear"
 by Mike Resnick (*Asimov's*, Aug 92)
 "The Arbitrary Placement of Walls"
 by Martha Soukup (*Asimov's*, April 92)
 "Even the Queen" by Connie Willis
 (*Asimov's*, April 92)

BEST NON-FICTION BOOK

Enterprising Women: Television Fandom and the Creation of Popular Myth
 by Camille Bacon-Smith
 (Univ. of Penn. Press)
The Costumemaker's Art
 edited by Thom Boswell (Lark)
Virgil Finlay's Women of the Ages
 by Virgil Finlay (Underwood-Miller)
Monad Number Two
 edited by Damon Knight (Pulphouse)
Let's Hear It for the Deaf Man
 by Dave Langford (NESFA)
A Wealth of Fable: An Informal History of Science Fiction Fandom in the 1950s
 by Harry Warner, Jr. (SCIFI)

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Hugo Awards. The "Hugo" (named for pioneer SF editor Hugo Gernsback) has been given at Worldcons since 1953, to honor excellence in SF in all its forms and formats. This year, the Hugos will be presented in San Francisco at a ceremony during ConFrancisco, the 51st World Science Fiction Convention.

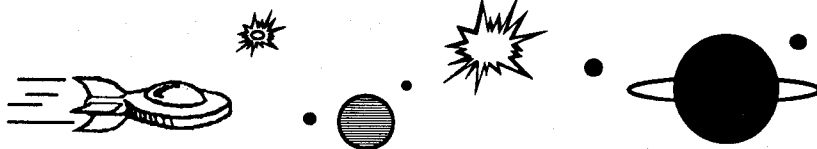
The following is a list of the nominees that were chosen by popular vote. In some categories, more than the normal five nominations appear, due to tie votes.

BEST NOVEL

China Mountain Zhang
 by Maureen F. McHugh (Tor)
Red Mars by Kim Stanley Robinson
 (Bantam Spectra)
Steel Beach by John Varley
 (Ace/Putnam)
A Fire Upon the Deep
 by Vernor Vinge (Tor)
Doomsday Book
 by Connie Willis (Bantam)

BEST NOVELLA

"Uh-Oh City" by Jonathan Carroll
 (*F&SF*, June 92)
 "The Territory" by Bradley Denton
 (*F&SF*, July 92)
 "Protection" by Maureen F. McHugh
 (*Asimov's*, April 92)
Stopping at Slowyear by Frederik Pohl
 (Axolotl/Pulphouse, Bantam)
 "Barnacle Bill the Spacer"
 by Lucius Shepard (*Asimov's*, July 92)



A CYBERPUNK READING LIST

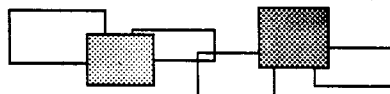
source: Bob Wilson (Kindred Spirits)
relayed by Carl Cipra

As I was reading through the Jan. '93 issue of *The Lavender Dragon* (the newsletter of Kindred Spirits, the St. Louis Gaylaxian affiliate), I ran across Bob Wilson's review of *Lethal Interface*, a cyberpunk novel by Mel Odom. This article includes a really nifty cyberpunk reading list, which Bob calls "An Anthology of CyberPunk." I'm not a die-hard cyberpunk fan myself (although I have read and enjoyed about a half-dozen of the titles on Bob's list); but I know there are a number of LSF members who really enjoy the genre. So I decided to reprint Bob's list in our newsletter. Thanks, Bob!

ΛΨΦ

An Anthology of CyberPunk (by Bob Wilson, Kindred Spirits)

<p>William Gibson <i>Neuromancer</i> <i>Mona Lisa Overdrive</i> <i>Count Zero</i> <i>Burning Chrome</i></p> <p>Peter R. Emshwiller <i>The Host</i></p> <p>Joe Clifford Faust <i>A Death of Honor</i> <i>The Company Man</i></p> <p>Mel Odom <i>Lethal Interface</i></p> <p>Mark Farren <i>Vickers</i> <i>Necrom</i></p> <p>John Brunner <i>Shockwave Rider</i> <i>Stand on Zanzibar</i></p> <p>Bruce Sterling <i>Islands in the Net</i> <i>The Artificial Kid</i> <i>Schismatrix</i> <i>Mirrorshades: The CyberPunk Anthology</i> <i>The Hacker Crackdown</i></p>	<p>George Alec Effinger <i>The Exile Kiss</i> <i>When Gravity Fails</i> <i>A Fire in the Sun</i></p> <p>John C. Betancourt <i>Johnny Zed</i></p> <p>Mike Linaker CADE Series: <i>Darksiders</i> <i>Firestreak</i></p> <p>Norman Spinrad <i>Little Heroes</i></p> <p>Walter Jon Williams <i>Handwired</i> <i>Voice in the Whirlwind</i> <i>Angel Silence</i></p> <p>Steven Barnes <i>Street Lethal</i> <i>Gorgon Child</i></p> <p>Rudy Rucker <i>Wetware</i> <i>Software</i></p> <p>Pat Cadigan <i>Mind Players</i></p> <p>Laura J. Mixon <i>Glass Houses</i></p> <p>S.N. Lewitt <i>CyberStealth</i> <i>Cybernetic Jungle</i></p>
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YE OLDE EDITOR'S CORNER

by Carl (Ye Olde Editor) Cipra

My heartfelt thanks, once again, to all of you who sent in all the articles for this newsletter. I'm overjoyed to admit that I even received *too much* for this issue! (Joe, your lengthy article on American International videotape releases will just have to wait until next month. Sorry.)

Also, great big hugs and thanks and stuff to Loree and Marcelle for letting me barge into their home on a Thursday night to get this issue put together on their PC. As always, you're life-savers!

ΛΨΦ

ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUIZ (from page 3)

1. *Deadly Friend* (Warner Bros., 1986)
2. *Forbidden Planet* (MGM, 1956)
3. *The Invisible Boy* (MGM, 1957)
4. *WarGames* (United Artists, 1983)
5. *2010* (MGM, 1981)
6. *Tobor the Great* (Republic, 1954)
7. *The Terminator* (Hemdale, 1984)
8. *The Colossus of New York* (Paramount, 1958)
9. *The Phantom Creeps* (Universal, 1939)
10. *Kronos* (Fox, 1957)
11. *Have Rocket, Will Travel* (Columbia, 1959 - featuring the Three Stooges)
12. *Aliens* (Fox, 1986)
13. *Frankenstein Meets the Space Monster* (Allied Artists, 1965)
14. *Star Wars* (Fox, 1977)
15. *Alien* (Fox, 1979)
16. *2001: A Space Odyssey* (MGM, 1968)
17. *The Day the Earth Stood Still* (Fox, 1951)
18. *Logan's Run* (MGM, 1971)
19. *Target Earth!* (Allied Artists, 1954)
20. *Colossus: The Forbin Project* (Universal, 1970)

*** * 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, June 13th**, 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.



Con Calendar

by Carl, Peter, Noel, and Joe



May 27-31, 1993 **DISCLAVE 1993**: Washington Dulles Airport Marriott (Dulles Airport, VA). Guests of Honor: Katherine Kurtz & Patricia Davis. Hotel rate is \$79/night (sgl. to quad). Membership is \$25 until 4/30/93 and \$30 at the door. Make checks payable to "Disclave '93" and send to: Disclave '93, PO Box 677, Washington, DC 20044-677.

May 28-30, 1993 **FAMOUS MONSTERS OF FILMLAND WORLD CONVENTION, 35TH ANNIVERSARY**: Hyatt Regency Crystal City (Arlington, VA). Advertised guests: Forrest J. Ackerman, Ray Bradbury, Ray Harryhausen, Roger Corman, Rick Baker, Robert Bloch, John Agar, Barbara Steele, "The Ackermuseum." Cost: \$80 (no tickets sold at door). Make checks payable to "Dynacomm" and send to: Dynacomm, Dept. FMCON'93, POB 915, Orange, NJ 07051.

August 20-22, 1993 **NECRONOMICON: THE CTHULHU MYTHOS CONVENTION**: Sheraton Tara Hotel & Resort at Ferncroft Village (near Salem, Mass.). Guest of Honor: Robert Bloch; Artist Guest of Honor: Gahan Wilson. Membership (attending) is \$30 until 5/31/93, and \$40 thereafter (membership limited). Hotel rates are \$80 per night (sgl. & dbl.), 3rd/4th person: \$15 additional per night. Make checks payable to "Necronomicon" and send to: Necronomicon, P.O. Box 1320, Back Bay Annex, Boston, MA 02117-1320. (This is a convention "celebrating H.P. Lovecraft and the Cthulhu Mythos in all its forms.")

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 until 9/30/92, \$95 for 10/1-12/31/92, \$110 for 1/1-3/31/93, and \$125 for 4/1-7/16/93. 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.