



PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (202) 232-3141 - Issue #45 - Dec. 1993

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER LSF MEETING

by Norman

The November 7th meeting began with a (rare) moment of silence in memory of Vincent Price, River Phoenix, Federico Fellini, and Doris Duke. Carl then invited everyone (both LSFers and visitors) to introduce themselves and then pointed out the club flyers and Gaylaxicon V flyers.

Next, a picture of Tom Cruise (as "the Vampire Lestat") (continued on page 2)

IN MEMORIAM



VINCENT PRICE 1911 - 1993

ALERT! ALERT! ALERT! ALERT! ALERT! ALERT! DECEMBER MEETING CHANGED! "MOVIE MADNESS" PARTY ADDED!

reported by Carl Cipra

Alert! Alert! Alert! We did it again! We changed the date of the next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting! Instead of our usual "second Sunday" meeting, we voted to hold the December meeting on December 11th, the second Saturday! We did this so we could combine the monthly meeting with another "Video Madness" Party and still fit it into everyone's busy December calendar! (There is absolutely no truth to the rumor that we decided on this after Philip left just so we could drive him crazy!) Now for the details:

WHAT TO BRING

This will be one of our typical "Video Madness" parties, so bring along your favorite genre videos (science-fiction, fantasy, horror). The attendees will vote on which videos to watch; and there'll be different "tracks" of programming being shown on each of three screens throughout the house. As usual, the party will include our traditional pot-luck pig-out, so bring along something scrumptious to eat. We're not pre-assigning categories of what food to bring this time, so everyone should just bring something



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STOP! THINK!



WRITE!

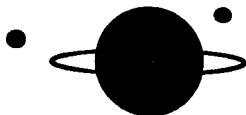
by William



Gaylaxicon V is just around the corner; and we (the con-comm) want your programming ideas! Let us know what types of panel discussions and/or other activities you want to be included in the schedule. Jot down your ideas (*and*, if you'd like to either moderate or participate in a particular panel, your availability during the convention) and send them to:

Gaylaxicon V
PO Box 656
Washington, DC 20044
Attn: William

Hurry! This "caravan to the stars" is pulling out of dry dock in the near future!



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

DECEMBER MEETING

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from one (or more) of the following "basic food groups": appetizers (veggies, chips, etc.); a main course (enough to serve at least 4-5 people); a dessert (enough to serve at least 4-5 people); non-alcoholic drinks (both diet and regular).

WHEN TO BE THERE

The meeting and the potluck will start at 6:00 PM, with the videos to begin as soon as we get the "business" out of the way. (The Gaylaxicon V committee meeting will start at 5:00 PM.)

HOW TO GET THERE

The party will be held at Jaime's home in Georgetown (one of our traditional sites). It's located at 1928 37th St., NW, several blocks west of Wisconsin Ave.

From the North: Going south on Wisconsin (from the direction of National Cathedral), you'll pass Mass. Ave. Just after Calvert St.,

37th St. splits off to the right from Wisconsin (as Wisconsin swerves to the left). In about a half mile, 37th St. passes through Whitehaven Park and intersects White Haven Parkway. Jaime's place is just beyond White Haven Parkway, on your right.

From the South: Going north on Wisconsin (from the direction of "M" St.), you'll need to take a left on some street to get to 37th St. If you turn left on Reservoir Rd. or on "R" St., you'll need to turn right on 37th St., and Jaime's place will be a ways on your left. If you go further up Wisconsin to White Haven Parkway (near the "social Safeway"), you'll turn left on White Haven Pkwy. and then left again on 37th St. Jaime's home will be on your right.

Parking: Your best bet for parking is either along White Haven Parkway or along "T" St.

ΛΨΦ

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER LSF MEETING

continued from page 1

was passed around. Tom had dyed his eyebrows and hair blonde to show how he will look as Lestat in the upcoming movie *Interview with the Vampire*. General consensus seemed to be that Cruise looked like the lovechild of Red Skelton and Nick Nolte. In this humble reporter's opinion, he looks pretty scary! Some even speculated that this very picture was found clutched in the hand of River Phoenix when he died. A

motion was made to include this picture in our club scrapbook, and the motion carried unanimously. [Ed. note: I don't think so!]

Joe informed us that he is auditioning for a part as a Romulan terrorist in *ST:DS9*! (Break a leg, Joe!) In the same *Trek* vein, Carl passed around a *TV Guide* article about basketball great James Worthy (of the LA Lakers), who appeared as a

really big (6-foot-9-inch) Klingon in a recent *ST:TNG* episode. Peter told us about a new book, *The Nit-Picker's Guide to Star Trek: TNG*, which points out all the plot inconsistencies, etc. in the series.

Michael C. shared a number of juicy bits with us: A remake of the movie *Forbidden Planet* is being made. The movie *Johnny Mnemonic* (starring

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THE RICE REPORT ---- a book review by Michael Cornett

Anne Rice's *The Witching Hour* had an ambiguous ending, which infuriated many readers. Fans all over screamed for a resolution to the story, although the author herself *meant* to leave *The Witching Hour* dangling. However, Rice soon became intrigued with the idea herself, and *Lasher* came to be born.

Lasher, for those with short memories, is the name of a spirit that each generation attaches itself to a member of the decadent Mayfair family; and that person is then regarded as the "witch." *The Witching Hour* depicts both the centuries-long struggle between Lasher and the Mayfairs and the extended investigation of the family by the organization known as the Talamasca. In the present time, Rowan Mayfair marries hunky Michael Curry but is constantly haunted by Lasher. At the end of the book, Lasher inhabits the body of Rowan's unborn child, so he can exist in the physical world. Growing to adulthood in a matter of minutes, Lasher tries to kill Michael and runs away, taking Rowan with him.

At the beginning of *Lasher*, we find that Rowan is pregnant again by Lasher and that the fetus has an intelligence of its own. It senses Lasher's presence and Rowan's distress at being Lasher's prisoner. Back in New Orleans, a confused Michael tries to piece together what has happened, while the Mayfair family

swirls around him. In a mesmerizing piece of writing, we are introduced to 13-year-old Mona Mayfair, the next witch, a precocious computer expert and budding seductress. (Shades of Rice's earlier *Belinda*!) We follow her as she walks through the old Mayfair house, using her psychic abilities to gather impressions from the walls, floors, and furniture of the house.

As the story proceeds, we find out more about the Mayfair family and more clues about Lasher's past. Rice is at her best when chronicling the Mayfairs: when elderly (and bisexual!) Evelyn Mayfair walks to Michael's house to tell Mona that her favorite aunt is dead, we walk with her, inside her, following her rambling train of thoughts. One memory merges into another as she passes one landmark after another, triggering memories of passionate affairs with both men and women; and the thoughts we read are very authentically those of a senior citizen.

The story goes on with Lasher rambling around, raping various Mayfair women in attempts to produce more progeny --- attempts that are fatal to the selected mothers-to-be. Meanwhile, Talamasca agent Aaron Lightner finds that he has run afoul of his superiors; and rogue agents with strange agendas show up. The whole thing ends up being a sort of Southern Gothic (*very* Gothic) take on *Oedipus Rex*.

I was eager to read *Lasher* (and sprang on it like a ravening fiend when it hit the stores); but I closed it with ambiguous feelings. By giving Lasher a rational origin, Rice seriously mars the mystery that surrounded him in the first place; and the story of Lasher's origin is, thus, a letdown. When the spirit of Julien Mayfair (the bisexual character from *The Witching Hour*) shows up and tells us his side of the story, it's interesting but also a bit of a letdown. Although the loose ends from *The Witching Hour* get tied up, just as many questions get raised that are left unanswered. Is there another book on the way? I hope not. (No offense, Anne, but your story is weak.) On the other hand, I'm not saying that Rice shouldn't have written *Lasher*: the prose is consistently good and at times reaches brilliance. Chapters Two and Eight are the best and most significant things Rice has ever written. Why she chose to give these gems such a lackluster setting is beyond my understanding.

ΛΨΦ

I must not fear. Fear is the mind-killer. Fear is the little-death that brings total obliteration. I will face my fear. I will permit it to pass over me and through me. And when it has gone past I will turn the inner eye to see its path. Where the fear has gone there will be nothing. Only I will remain.

- the Bene Gesserit
Litany Against Fear

(excerpted from *The Notebooks of Frank Herbert's Dune*, edited by Brian Herbert)

**ONE IN TEN
FORWARD**

reviewed by Wayne 1

One witch story, 2 cross-culture love stories, 3 vampyrs, 4 post-Apocalypse/changeling tales, 2 starship love notes, cyberspyced---all stuffed into 123 pages! A Most *Excellent* Read. I urge any Poetes, Artistes, or Scribblers to send in stuffe for their next (whenever) issue. (Bald Lesbian Joe, the Editor, would probably appreciate a penny or two towards the volunteer services, I imagine.) Send in submissions to:

Synergy Ganymede
P.O. Box 2737
Denver 90201

(Please note: the state of C-----o need not be mentioned in the address!)

[Editor's note: You can also order copies of this publication through the same address. Copies cost \$10 each, plus \$1.00 for shipping. Make checks payable to: Synergy Ganymede. When ordering, you must include a signed statement that you are 18 years of age or older.]

ΛΨΦ

We tend to become like the worst in those we oppose.

-Bene Gesserit Coda

What do you despise? By this are you truly known.

-from "Manual of Muad'Dib"
by Princess Irulan

(excerpted from *The Notebooks of Frank Herbert's Dune*, edited by Brian Herbert)

THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS

(What a Dream!)

a movie review by Joseph Parra

"'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the house, not a creature *wasn't* stirring..."---to paraphrase the old Christmas poem. It also lays out the basic plot structure of this marvelous Tim Burton/Henry Selick fully-animated feature from Disney's Touchstone Pictures.

Jack Scarrington, the Pumpkin King of Halloweentown, accidentally stumbles into Christmastown and is awed by the wonder and splendor of Santa and his magical, beautiful wonderland. You see, Jack is also jealous of the fact that although Halloween and Christmas are both officially one-day celebrations, people look forward to Christmas all year long. After careful consideration, Jack launches a plan to kidnap Santa and replace him--with Jack himself as "the scary old elf." Jack also contrives to have the denizens of Halloweentown make the toys that he will leave the children on Christmas Eve. In one of the funniest, sickest moments in stop-motion film history, all of the citizens of Halloweentown think this is a great idea---except one. She is Sally, the patchwork creation of Dr. Finkenstein who is very much in love with Jack. She also feels that if Jack goes through with his scheme, he will perpetrate a disaster. Jack doesn't quite agree and enlists the aid of three goblins who work for Mr. Oogey-Boogey

(The Boogey Man) to kidnap Santa and bring him back to Halloweentown. Jack isn't really a bad fellow; his heart (or whatever) is in the right place. Ah, but Mr. Oogey-Boogey has other plans....

This is the first "live puppet" animated feature to come out in years. The computer-directed animation is so smooth that one would *swear* these creatures were real. The Disney staff worked long and hard to achieve these effects; and the results are staggeringly beautiful. Tim Burton co-produced this film with composer Danny Elfman, who also provided the score and the singing voice for Jack. Together, they've come up with another winner along the lines of their earlier success, *Beetlejuice*. Chris Sarandon, the sexy vampire from *Fright Night*, is Jack's speaking voice. On an interesting trivia note, Ken Page (the Pearl Bailey-esque drag queen from *Torch Song Trilogy*) is the voice of the villainous Mr. Oogey-Boogey. The action is non-stop, and spooky and exhilarating at the same time---yet never frightening or overbearing. The "performances" are charming. Producers Burton and Elfman and director Henry Selick indeed have a wonderful trick that is also a treat; and it's a wonderful Christmas present you'll never want to exchange. Enjoy!

(Rating: 3½ out
of a possible 4)

ΛΨΦ

FOUR NEW COLLECTIONS

mini-reviews by Carl Cipra

Four fascinating, enjoyable collections of short stories hit the stands recently; and they seem to offer something for everyone.

Rivers of Time

by L. Sprague de Camp
(BAEN Books)

This one is for dinosaur freaks (like me) and fans of classic time travel stories. It's the collected adventures of Reginald Rivers (of Rivers and Aiyar, Time Safaris) as he chaperones wealthy big game hunters and dotty professors through prehistoric times, anywhen from the Devonian to the Pleistocene. These are mostly new stories; but the book includes De Camp's original 1956 classic, "A Gun for Dinosaur," which the author has "edited . . . to bring it into line with what I think I have learned in the last thirty-seven years." Fans of De Camp take note: the cover illustration includes a clever portrait of the author in the guise of the redoubtable Reggie Rivers.

Marion Zimmer Bradley's Darkover

by Marion Zimmer Bradley
(DAW Books)

For all of you fans of MZB's "Darkover" books who were less than satisfied with the Lackey/MZB collaboration, *Rediscovery*, here's a special treat. This collection is classic MZB

"Darkover" fare through and through. Unlike most of the "Darkover" anthologies on the market, the stories contained in this volume are all by MZB herself, including two entirely new stories never before in print.

There are four Free Amazon stories, among them "To Keep the Oath" (MZB's own favorite of the early Free Amazon stories).

There are five stories about Hilary Castamir, who was first mentioned in *The Forbidden Tower*. In case you don't remember, Hilary Castamir was trained at Arilinn Tower by Leonie Hastur but was unable to fulfill her destiny as a Keeper due to ill health. These stories follow Hilary's life after Arilinn, when she was sent home to become an unwilling player in the Comyn marriage game.

Next comes the almost-novel-length "Everything But Freedom." It continues the story of Lady Rohanna Ardais and the Free Amazons Kindra and Jaelle, whose earlier adventures are recounted in the novel *The Shattered Chain*.

Finally, there are my particular favorites: four stories about Dyan Ardais, the enigmatic and charismatic gay villain who appears in the novels *Bloody Sun*, *Sharra's Exile*, and *Heritage of Hastur*. These four stories provide some fascinating insights into Dyan's character.

*Daughters of Darkness:
Lesbian Vampire Stories*
edited by Pam Keeseey
(Cleis Press)

I picked up this trade-sized paperback at Lammas Bookstore when I went to listen to a reading by Jewelle Gomez. The big attraction for me was its inclusion of the famous 1871 classic, "Carmilla," by J. Sheridan Le Fanu. (If you haven't read it, this story contains some fascinating differences in the vampire mythos from what was later presented in Bram Stoker's 1897 novel, *Dracula*.)

Except for "Carmilla," the 10 stories in this collection are all by contemporary Lesbian authors. There's "Louisiana: 1850" by Jewelle Gomez, the origin story for Gilda. There's "Daughter of the Night" by Elaine Bergstrom, a story about the historical Elizabeth Bathory ("the Blood Countess"). Katherine V. Forrest's "O Captain, My Captain" is a fascinating science fiction vampire story set in an interstellar spaceship. And then there's Pat Califia's "The Vampire"---the leather/S&M crowd meets vampires! (It's a wild story; but it effectively raises the question: Just what *is* vampirism?) Note: Some of these stories get *very* explicit.

The editor winds up the book with a handy "filmography" of vampire films with lesbian themes or subject matter *and* a helpful bibliography on the subject of lesbian vampirism.

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FOUR NEW COLLECTIONS

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The Chronicles of Pern:

First Fall

by Anne McCaffrey

(Del Rey Books)

It's been a *very* long time (over 20 years!) since I read *Dragonflight*, Anne McCaffrey's first "Dragonriders of Pern" book. This latest collection of short stories was, in fact, issued in celebration of a quarter century in the life of that very popular series. *Chronicles* is the only hardback among the four I'm reviewing here. Normally, I would have waited until the paperback came out; but I bought it as a Christmas present for my nephew (a real

Pern aficionado) and I figured: "What the heck? He'll never know that I read it first!"

I found the stories in the collection very enjoyable; but I'm certain that longtime "Dragonrider" fans will find them even *more* fascinating---from a "historical" and/or mythopoetic standpoint. This book includes stories about the initial EEC survey (and naming) of Pern, the evacuation of the original settlements on the Southern Continent with the aid of intelligent talking dolphins, and the founding of such places as Ruatha Hold and Benden Weyr. The final story, "Rescue Run," is an interesting account of a previously-unknown facet of Pernese history: the rescue of some of the original colonists by a Federation warship some 49

Answers to Trivia Quiz

(from page 3)

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| 1. O | 11. A |
| 2. B | 12. C |
| 3. R | 13. K |
| 4. G | 14. T |
| 5. J | 15. D |
| 6. M | 16. N |
| 7. P | 17. S |
| 8. I | 18. L |
| 9. H | 19. F |
| 10. Q | 20. E |

years after Landing, before Pern was finally cut off from all Federation contact. As I said, this book will undoubtedly be a real treat for the fans of this series (my nephew among them).

ΛΨΦ

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER LSF MEETING

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Dolph Lundgren) is in production. A film version of *American Gladiators* is being made. (I'm sure Patrick Stewart is thrilled.) HBO is currently featuring a made-for-HBO movie entitled *Full Eclipse*; it's about werewolf police in L.A. and stars Mario Van Peebles. Stanley Kubrick is making a movie entitled *A.I.* (for "Artificial Intelligence"). Meanwhile, Tri-Star is finally making an American version of *Godzilla* (the monster attacking Texas!), and Toho Films is making a new monster movie featuring a "full scale" mechanical/robot monster. Michael also passed around a copy of *Morulin* magazine which includes an article about the gay writer of *Addams Family Values*.

In other news, it was reported that Tim Curry starred in a recent episode of *Tales from the Crypt*: a parody of the old traveling salesperson jokes, with Curry playing the roles of father, mother, and daughter. Word is also out that Tim Burton is making his "Ed Woods" movie under the auspices of Disney. [*Ed. note: What a combination!*]

We also had some "business" items to take care of: There will be a "Video Madness" Party on Dec. 11th at Jaime's lovely Georgetown home, and the December meeting will be moved to coincide with the party. (For details, see article starting on page 1 of this newsletter.) We also discussed having our annual "blind

book exchange" at the January meeting. (Details to follow in next month's newsletter.) Finally, we refused to accept Loree Cook-Daniels' request to step down as "First Speaker for Lambda Sci-Fi." To us, she will *always* be First Speaker. However, realizing that domestic duties will become increasingly demanding for her and that her duties as First Speaker must be carried on, the chapter elected Carl to the position of *Second Speaker*.

ΛΨΦ

If we cannot adjust our differences peacefully we are less than human.
- Mentat Precept

(excerpted from *The Notebooks of Frank Herbert's Dune*, edited by Brian Herbert)

*** * 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 generally held on the second Sunday of each month at a private residence. However, the next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held at 6:00 PM on Saturday, December 11th (the second Saturday), at Jaime I.'s home: 1928 37th St., NW (in Georgetown). This is a combined meeting and "Video Madness" Party, so please bring a contribution for the potluck supper. (For details, see the article on page 1 of this newsletter.) 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, and Jim C.



December 31, 1993 - January 2, 1994 **EVECON 11**: The Doubletree Hotel (Arlington, VA). A Science Fiction, Fantasy & Gaming Convention. Cost: \$25 until 12/11 (\$30 at the door). Make checks payable to "FanTek" and send to: FanTek, 1607 Thomas Rd., Ft. Washington, MD 20744.

March 4-6, 1994 **VULKON BALTIMORE**: Sheraton Baltimore North (Towson, MD). Guests: Siddig El Fadil ("Dr. Bashir" from *ST:DS9*), Michael O'Hare ("Cmdr. Sinclair" from *Babylon 5*). Cost: \$30 if postmarked by 2/4/94 (at the door: \$40 for 2-day tickets, \$25 for Sat., \$20 for Sun.). Make checks payable to "Devlin Associates" (& write "Balto" on the check) and send to: Vulkan, c/o Joe Motes, 12237 SW 50th St., Cooper City, Florida 33330.

April 1-3, 1994 **BALTICON 28**: Hyatt Regency at the Inner Harbor (Baltimore, MD). GoH: Mercedes Lackey; Artist GoH: Larry Dixon; Special Guest: Frederik Pohl. Membership: \$30 until 3/1/94 (\$40 at the door). Rooms: \$93 (sgl/dbl) and \$108 (tpl/quad). Make checks payable to "Balticon 28" and send to: Balticon 28, P.O. Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203-0686.

July 15-17, 1994 **GAYLAXICON V**: Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza (Rockville, MD, at Twinbrook Metro stop). Guest of Honor: Jewelle Gomez; Artist Guest of Honor: Tom Howell; Special Guest: Forrest J Ackerman. Cost is \$15 from 8/1/93 to 12/31/93; \$20 for 1/1/94 to 4/30/94; \$25 from 5/1/94 to 6/30/94; and \$30 after 6/30/94. Make checks payable to "Gaylaxicon V" and send to: Gaylaxicon V, PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044.

Sept. 1-5, 1994 **CONADIAN, the 52nd World Science Fiction Convention**. Winnipeg Convention Centre (Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada). GoH: Anne McCaffrey; Artist GoH: George Barr. Attending memberships: \$95 until 12/31/93 (cost will, of course, go up thereafter). Make checks payable to "ConAdian" and send to: CONADIAN, P.O. Box 7111, Fargo, ND 58109, Attn: Membership.

