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### JAN. 9TH MEETING TO FEATURE 4TH ANNUAL BOOK EXCHANGE!

reported by Carl Cipra

Here it comes again, gang! The upcoming January 9th LSF meeting is going to feature the **fourth** annual LSF Book Exchange! All LSF members (and visitors, too) are invited to participate in this "blind book exchange." But wait---I hear a voice raised in question...

"Excuse me, kind sir," the voice asks, "but I've never attended one of these book exchanges before. Just how does it work? How do I participate?" I'm glad you asked. It's really quite simple.

**Step One:** Go out and purchase a copy of a "favorite" science-fiction, fantasy, or horror book. It can be either new or used, your choice. If the book is part of a series, then pick the "best" one from the series. (Or, if you're feeling particularly wealthy, give the whole series!) I suppose your contribution could even be a hardback; but I suggest that you stick to paperbacks. We've even had "books on tape" show up at previous exchanges. And, as of the December meeting, we've agreed that videotapes can be used, too.

**Step Two:** Insert a piece of paper (or a bookmark) with your name on it. This is an important step. That way, whoever gets the book (or videotape or whatever) in the exchange will know whose "favorite" it is; and the giver and the receiver will get to know each other a little better.

**Step Three:** Wrap up the ex-

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### ••••• RED ALERT! RED ALERT! •••••

### Budget Discussions Slated for Jan. 9th Meeting

by Peter Knapp, Treasurer



I have good news and bad news. At the end of 1993, we had \$360 in the club account. Unfortunately, if we continue to earn (and spend) money in the same way that we did last year, we will run out of money by the end of the year. We *must* discuss our options at the upcoming January 9th meeting and come up with a solution.

Here are the facts and figures:

#### LSF 1993 Balance Sheet

Income		Expenses	
54 Memberships:	540	Newsletters:	585
Donations:	22	Postage:	230
Interest:	<u>9</u>	Network Dues:	71
Regular Income:	571	Pride Day Table:	25
Beginning Balance:	142	PO Box Rental:	<u>10</u>
G'Con IV Profit:	<u>568</u>		
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>1281</b>	<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>921</b>

Ending Balance: 360

In other words, for 1993 we spent \$350 more than we took in: \$921 in total expenses versus \$571 in *regular* income. (This, of course, ignores the *non-recurring* income we got as our share of the profits from Gaylaxicon IV. Face it, we should not automatically rely on income from Gaylaxicon V this year to balance our budget.)

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## MINUTES OF THE DEC. 11TH MEETING

reported by Carl Cipra

It was a dark and chilly night, but about 25 people showed up for the Saturday night meeting at Jaime's Georgetown home. It was really a *wild* meeting, too, for a couple of reasons. First of all, our own First Speaker Loree was present, so we all talked her into opening the meeting! Hooray! Second, this was a combined monthly meeting *and* "Video Madness" Party! That means that everyone was impatient to get the meeting over with so we could get on with the festivities! (In fact, the only thing that seemed to keep the meeting going was the fact that we had to wait for some of the food for the potluck to be finished/warmed up/etc. before we could eat.)

Copies of Tristan Alexander's new erotic picturebook, *Manmagic*, and Julie Evans' fanzine, *My Name AINT Mary Sue*, were passed around for everyone to gawk at.

Peter went through the junkmail we've been receiving at the LSF PO box. It included an ad from Hecht's for some *ST:DS9* dinnerware! Upon seeing it, Joe said: "Oh, that's *horrid!*" Peter reported that Norman was horrified by it, too. Peter also passed around membership forms for both Lambda Sci-Fi and Gaylaxicon V.

It was officially decided that the annual LSF book exchange would be held at the Jan. 9th meeting. (See article on page 1 of this issue for details.) It was also agreed that members could substitute videotapes for books, if they so chose.

Jim C. passed around *more* pictures from the *National Inquirer* of Tom Cruise made up for his role as Lestat in the movie version of *Interview with the Vampire*. Joe's comment was: "That's as bad as the *ST:DS9* china!"

Joe then gave us the latest movie and video scoops: Most of Universal's genre movies are now out on video; *Jurassic Park* will be out in June, 1994, probably for \$19.95. Rob-

## GAYLACTIC GOSSIP

by Wayne III Wilkening



Topping the gossip column: **The Gaylactic Network has been incorporated!** Quoting Michael Wadley, Speaker for the Network: "I am pleased to announce that on the 15th day of December, 1993, the Gaylactic Network became the Gaylactic Network, Inc. A certificate of incorporation of a 'not for profit' corporation was issued by the Secretary of State of the State of Missouri."

At the Network Board meeting held at Worldcon in San Francisco, it was decided to pursue incorporation to protect the Network's claim to the triangle-and-galaxy logo and to protect the various Network chapters from liability. For instance, incorporation of the Network transfers a large part of the legal risk of the Gaylaxicon V to the Network corporate entity and away

ert DeNiro will be portraying Bela Lugosi in the bio-movie *The Man Who Was Dracula*. Joe Pesce will be starring in a Peter Lorre bio-movie. Warner Bros. will soon be selling videos of the genre "B-movies" from Allied Artists and Hammer Films.

Randy passed around an article from today's (12/11/93) *Washington Post*. At first glance it appears to be a promo about HBO's remake of *Attack of the 50-foot Woman*; but it's actually an exposé about straight men who are "crush freaks" (with a fetish about being stepped on) or "giantess-ophiles" (with a fetish about "big" women). There was also a second article about John Ellis, president of Very Big Motion Picture of America Corp., who is making cheapy sci-fi flicks out of his home in Arlington.

Finally, Bob S. reported that Charles Busch's *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom* (now on stage at a Church St. theater) was too campy and would have been better if it had been played "dead pan."

from individual LSF members. We don't yet know how the Network is going to pay back Michael for covering the cost of incorporation, or what sort of procedure will be required of each chapter to maintain the tax-exempt status.

As for chapter gossip: Yes, Third Coast Gaylaxians (the Milwaukee/Chicago group) is doing fine. However, Krewe of Gaylaxia (New Orleans) never did get their collective act together and will be officially pronounced dead in the January GNAPA. That issue of the GNAPA is also expected to have committee reports and more information on incorporation news. So until next time, that's the gossip!



It was then announced that the feeding frenzy could begin! And what a feast it was, too! *Everyone* brought all kinds of delicious goodies; and Jaime and Norman must have spent hours in the kitchen making Brazilian treats, etc.! Once the worst of the hunger pangs had been assuaged, the discussions began about what videos we'd watch. There were only two venues for this "Movie Madness" Party rather than the usual three, because it was much too cold out on the patio. The winners were:

**Upstairs:** *Lensman* and *Starblazers* (both animé features) and *Full Eclipse* (the made-for-HBO movie about werewolves in LAPD).

**Downstairs:** *Spaceship* (an oh-so-campy sci-fi flick featuring Cindy Williams), *Tobor the Great* (a '50's classic), and Disney's animated *Aladdin*.

As per usual, a *great* time was had by all! Bloated and glassy-eyed, the last of the die-hard partyers helped Jaime clean up sometime in the early hours of Sunday morning.

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## THE MONSTER SHOW

(Come one, come all!)

a book review by Joseph Parra



Have you ever wondered where 20th century horror got its humble beginnings and how it slithered its way to modern relevance? Well, even if you haven't, David J. Skal's incredibly informative book tells all, both in documentary form and in tabloid fashion. Although the main emphasis is on movies, Skal also discusses literature, art, photography, theatre, and deep psychosis.

The book's structure is somewhat odd. In his introduction, Skal doesn't introduce his subject matter subtly; he begins with the avant-garde photographs of Diane Arbus, a famous "new wave" photo-journalist contemporary of Andy Warhol's who was fascinated with human oddities and abnormalities. While both stark and frightening in his descriptions of why Arbus was so morbid and photographed subjects in the manner she did, Skal also sets the stage for his history of horror in terms of the social mores (and decay) of each decade. What follows in each chapter teaches both fact and supposition. Though opinionated in the presentations, each chapter is nonetheless fascinating and educating. For example, though most of us know that *Dracula* was a play adapted from Stoker's novel, were you aware that *Frankenstein* was a play as well, adapted loosely from Shelley's novel? OR that Universal's 1931 *Dracula* was adapted from a 1927 stage hit by John Balderstone and Hamilton Deane? AND so was the *Frankenstein* movie, which was adapted from Peggy Webbing's 1930 play? How about the fact that *The Wolf Man* was popular in the 1940's due to the association of Nazis with wolves? And did you realize that Charles Addams' delightfully ghoulish family was the perfect nuclear family for the 1950's?

While some of this information is not new territory, each narrative includes some hitherto seldom-seen

## WINNERS OF THE 1993 HUGO AWARDS AND CHESLEY AWARDS

reported by Carl Cipra

The October issue of the newsletter included a series of articles about LSF experiences at ConFrancisco (Worldcon, 1993). What *wasn't* reported in that issue was info about the winners of the Hugo and Chesley Awards that were announced at ConFrancisco. So, without further ado, here's the scoop.

First, the **Hugo Awards**, voted by members of ConFrancisco:

### Best Novel (tie)

*A Fire Upon the Deep*

by Vernor Vinge (Tor)

*Doomsday Book*

by Connie Willis (Bantam)

### Best Novella

"Barnacle Bill the Spacer"

by Lucius Shepard

(*Asimov's*, 7/92)

### Best Novelette

"The Nutcracker Coup"

by Janet Kagan

(*Asimov's*, 12/92)

### Best Short Story

"Even the Queen"

by Connie Willis

(*Asimov's*, 4/92)

### John W. Campbell Award

for Best New Writer 1991-92

Laura Resnick

### Best Professional Editor

Gardner Dozois

### Best Dramatic Presentation

"The Inner Light" (*ST:TNG*)

### Best Semiprozine

*Science Fiction Chronicle*

### Best Original Artwork

*Dinotopa*

by James Gurney (Turner)

### Best Non-Fiction Book

*A Wealth of Fable: An Informal*

*History of Science Fiction*

*Fandom in the 1950's*

by Harry Warner, Jr. (SCIFI)

### Best Professional Artist

Don Maitz

### Best Fanzine

*Mimosa*

### Best Fan Writer

Dave Langford

### Best Fan Artist

Peggy Ranson

And now for the **Chesley Awards**, voted by members of the Association of SF and Fantasy Artists:

### Best Magazine Cover

Michael Whelan,

for *Asimov's* 11/92

### Best Interior Illustration

Alan M. Clark,

for "Poles Apart"

(*Analog*, mid-Dec. '92)

### Best Cover Illustration, Hardback

Don Maitz,

for *Magician*

(Foundation/Doubleday)

### Best Cover Illustration, Paperback

David Cherry,

for *Sword and Sorceress IX*

(DAW)

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fact or rumor that makes such a review of familiar materials quite interesting. In his "Leonard Maltin meets Kenneth Anger" style of writing, Skal gets his points across. Whether or not we agree with his is moot, for he presents his cases well. Skal's previous book, *Hollywood Gothic* (the story behind the filming of the 1931 *Dracula*), is similar

in its approach and is also required reading for devotees. One refreshing point about *The Monster Show* is this: although it is judgmental, it is *not* necessarily cynical. An open mind keeps this chronicle from becoming *The Mon-*

*strous Show*. Enjoy!

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## MY NAME AIN'T MARY SUE!

reported by Carl Cipra

A couple of months ago, Julie Evans started showing up at the LSF meetings; since then, she's gotten involved with the Gaylaxicon V committee. Among her other projects, Julie is also the editor of an interesting-sounding fanzine called *My Name AIN'T Mary Sue!* I thought you would like to hear about it.

Julie's *MNAMS* "Manifesto" describes the fanzine as "an amateur, not-for-profit publication created solely for enjoyment of science fiction and fantasy forms. We do not intend to infringe on any holders of copyright on any story, show, or character mentioned in these pages." Just in case you're wondering what the heck the title of the fanzine means, Julie also provides the following definition: "The term [Mary Sue] originated in the early days of *Star Trek* fandom to describe a pristine female character who comes aboard the ship, saves the day, and falls in love with the regular character of her, presumably female, creator's fantasies." Over the course of 25 years, the term "has stretched beyond *Trek* fandom, and can now be applied (and usually is) to ANY original female character who plays any somewhat major role in any fan-written story in any fandom." (You can read scholarly discussions of this literary form in such books as Camille Bacon-Smith's *Enterprising Women* and Henry Jenkins' *Textual Poachers*.) Julie also explained to me that although the term "Mary Sue" originally had a definite sexist slant, it has come to include *male* characters, as well.

"Show me a completely smooth operation and I'll show you someone who's covering mistakes. Real boats rock."

--- Reverend Mother Superior  
Darwi Odrade

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

Julie reports that they're also working on a special gay/lesbian issue of *My Name AIN'T Mary Sue!* She cautions, however, that it *won't* be a "slash" project. (You know: Kirk/Spock, Starsky/Hutch, Blake/Avon stories.) It will contain stories featuring gay and lesbian "Mary Sue's." Julie also says: "We're looking for the same kind of innovative and thought-provoking characters and plot-lines that are the standard for every issue of *MNAMS*." At present, the deadline for this special gay/lesbian issue is "open."

If you're interested in submitting stories to *MNAMS*, Julie has this to say: "Do any of you have stories that you've worked hard on, but feared submitting because you didn't want them labeled or taken less-than-seriously? Then congratulations—you're exactly what we have in mind!"

Issue #1 of *My Name AIN'T Mary Sue!* sells for \$5. Issue #2 will cost \$15. You can also purchase a copy of the complete *MNAMS* "Manifesto" (which includes submission guidelines) for \$2. (Make checks payable to "ITK Press.")

If you're interested in purchasing copies of *MNAMS* or submitting stories, here's the contact address:

ITK Press  
c/o Julie Evans  
2112 Randolph Road #102  
Silver Spring, MD 20902-1313

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## "DOLLENIUM 2000" AT LAMMAS

reported by Carl Cipra

As I was browsing through the 12/28/93 issue of *The Advocate*, I ran across a little article entitled "This toy 'r' us." It's all about "Dollenium 2000," a futuristic dollhouse "created for a lesbian couple" by designers Leigh Bailey and Doug Michels. And guess what? It's now making its big debut at Lammas, the DuPont Circle women's bookstore part-owned by LSFer Jane Troxell. Well, I certainly couldn't pass that up; so I wandered over for a lunch-time viewing.

"Dollenium 2000" is really quite something to see. It's a free-standing, fully-furnished, plastic-and-glitz structure, about three feet tall. It's not quite "chez Jetson;" but I'm sure George, Jane *et al* wouldn't feel too out of place in it. Through its clear-plastic walls you can see homeowners Camille and Susan, their children Heather and Neo, some dolphins, and "a slew of lesbian friends sporting designer fashions for a festive and futuristic New Year's Eve party." (Somehow, I get the impression you *won't* see this sort of thing on *Star Trek!*) In the entrance hallway to Lammas, there's a poster that explains it all in more detail.

Is your curiosity piqued? Then take a little jaunt over to Lammas yourself. "Dollenium 2000" will be on display until February 3rd. (In case you've forgotten, Lammas is located downstairs at the corner of 21st and P Streets, near the DuPont Circle Metro station.)

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## YE OLDE EDITOR'S CORNER

by Carl (Ye Olde Editor) Cipra

Does this issue look a little different to you? It should—I'm experimenting. After recent budget discussions with Peter and Wayne III, I decided to see if I could save the club a little money and still retain the overall quality of the newsletter. I talked things over with Andrew (who has done this sort of thing professionally); and he felt that I could reduce the size of the font I use without sacrificing legibility. This would cut back the *size* of the newsletter (from 8 pages to 6) without cutting back on the amount of *material* included. So, I'm trying it. I'd really appreciate your feedback.

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## MAN'S BEST FRIEND (Nice doggie!)

a movie review  
by Joseph Parra



Max is one of the most beautiful pooches ever to grace the silver screen and, without a doubt, one of the smartest, too (genetic engineering aside). Max is, in fact, both the hero and the villain of New Line Cinema's new film, *Man's Best Friend*, a cautionary tale about animal testing of products gone mad. While this film isn't a top blue-ribbon winner, it's a far cry from last place at the dog show. Max's human co-stars are Ally Sheedy (of *The Breakfast Club*) and Lance Henriksen (of *Aliens*, *Near Dark*, and the latest version of *The Pit and the Pendulum*).

Max, though technically a doggie, has been created through selective genetics at Emax 3000, an animal-testing facility run by mad scientist Dr. Jarret (Henriksen). Ally Sheedy plays a TV reporter looking for her first big break with a hot news story. She finds it when a scientist working for Dr. Jarret wants to spill the beans about all the product-testing and a secret project. Sheedy and her camerawoman sneak into the Emax 3000 facility and find all sorts of torturish devices hooked up to various animals, many of which are on the endangered species list. They also come across Max, an extremely large and lovable pooch with a definite mean streak. In fact, the "streak" is downright psychotic if Max doesn't get his fix of stabilizing drugs, as Max demonstrates on several occasions. Another unfortunate trait Max has is jealousy. This is one beastie to which the phrase "green-eyed monster" certainly applies. When the reporters break in and out of Emax 3000, Max goes home with Sheedy; and Max proceeds to let Sheedy's moron boyfriend know in no uncertain terms just who is "top dog." Besides having this "one-owner" fixation, Max also insists on having his own way on just about any subject. For example, when Max chases a cat up a

tree, the tree proves to be no obstacle ---Max simply extends his claws and climbs up after poor kitty.

This movie is a good horror story, even a "Beauty and the Beast" fable; but it's not without its faults. Though Max is super-intelligent, the humans around him are remarkably stupid (save for Sheedy and Henriksen). The film even includes two of the dumbest Bronx-accented cops ever seen, which is not so remarkable except that the story takes place in California! Sheedy's boyfriend is such a jerk that one cheers for Max. These problems aside, *Man's Best Friend* is a nicely-constructed sci-fi/horror tale that doesn't get overly preachy with its "animal rights" agenda. Sheedy and Henriksen are very convincing; and even when Max is doing something evil, he's just adorable and the best animal actor since Lassie. Kevin Yagher, the man who designed Freddy Kruger, handles the special effects, which are good. All in all, *Man's Best Friend* is no mutt. If you enjoy "B-style" horror movies, this one is a purebred. Enjoy!!

(Rating: 2½ out of 4)

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## BOOK EXCHANGE

continued from page 1

change item. (It's just past the Holidays, so you should easily be able to get your hands on some sort of wrapping paper.) *But don't put any identifying marks or anything on the wrapped package to say who is't from.* (This is the "blind" part of the exchange.)

**Step Four:** At the meeting, add your wrapped exchange item to the pile with all the others; and you'll be assigned a number.

**Step Five:** The assigned numbers will be drawn one at a time. When your number is called, you get to pick one of the packages from the pile.

And there you have it: a "blind book exchange." See how easy? (Afterwards, I suppose you can even do some unofficial swapping around if you've already read the book you chose.)

Everyone seems to have enjoyed the previous book exchanges. I, for one, look forward to seeing what the LSF "favorite books" are this year. See you at the Jan. 9th meeting!

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## BUDGET DISCUSSION

continued from page 1

How did we get into this predicament? *More* facts and figures:

### Cost Per Member

.51 per newsletter
+ .29 postage
.80
x 13 newsletters/directory
10.40
1.00 network dues
+ .60 envelopes, labels, etc.
12.00

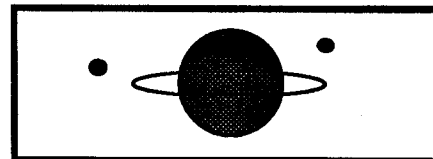
So, we spend about \$12 annually on each member, but we only charge \$10 a year in dues. In addition we incur such other expenses as printing "freebie" newsletters (distributed at Lambda Rising, Lammas, and to newcomers at meetings) and renting a table at Pride Day.

To stop losing money we need to decrease spending and/or increase revenue by \$350. Here are some of the options:

- (1) increase membership dues (a \$5 increase would earn \$270);
- (2) stop distributing newsletters thru the bookstores (saving \$86);
- (3) change the format of the newsletter (going bimonthly would save \$244; reducing the page count to 6 would save \$86; reducing the page count to 4 would save \$200);
- (4) some combination of the above.

So, come to the January meeting and bring your ideas! Let's solve this problem!

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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 generally 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, January 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.



## Con Calendar

by Carl, Peter, and Jim C.



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 8-10, 1994 **SHORE LEAVE 16**: Marriott Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Guest: (so far) Tony ("Commander K'urn") Todd. Membership: \$40 (mail registration closes 5/31/94). Make checks payable to "Shore Leave" and send to: Shore Leave, PO Box 6809, Towson, MD 21285 (include 2 SASE's).

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 \$20 from 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: Gaylaxi-con V, PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044.

July 30-31, 1994 **NOVACON**: The Tysons Westpark Hotel (Tysons Corner, VA). Guests: Colm ("Chief O'Brien") Meaney, Walter ("Chekov") Koenig. Cost: \$35 (general admission) or \$55 (reserved seating) for the weekend (daily rates also available). Make checks payable to "One Trek Mind Productions, Inc." and send to: One Trek Mind Productions, Inc., PO Box 3363, Merrifield, VA 22116.

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.

November 18-20, 1994 **PHILCON '94**: The Adam's Mark Hotel (Philadelphia). Principal Speaker: Larry Niven, Artist GoH: Jim Burns. Cost: \$25 until 12/31/93 (will go up some time after that). Make checks payable to "Philcon '94" and send to: Philcon '94, PO Box 8303, Philadelphia, PA 19101.

