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LAMBDA SCI-FI PARTY TO BE HELD AT DISCLAVE!

reported by Carl Cipra

Dateline: Vienna, VA - Next month!

The attendees at the March LSF meeting all agreed - it's party time at Disclave again this year! That's right, y'all! Lambda Sci-Fi has officially decided to host its annual room party at Disclave for gay/lesbian/bisexual/transsexual fans and their friends! Accordingly, I've sent in a reservation form to the Disclave Party Czar to reserve one of the poolside party rooms for us. The following members volunteered to help out with munchies, soft drinks, and hosting: Jim C., Michael C., Dave B., Joe R., and Norman G. (Thanks, guys! I'll be in touch with further details.)

Hey! The rest of you don't need to feel shy! Even if you're not planning on attending Disclave (although I can't imagine why *not*), feel free to drop by the party and chat and schmooze with your friends. (Or, who knows? You may even make some *new* friends!) Here are the details:

WHERE? - Sheraton Premier at Tysons Corner, 8661 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, VA (phone # 703-448-1234). The room will be in the name of Carl Cipra. The Disclave Party Czar is planning on all party rooms being poolside somewhere. (I also plan to scatter announcements around the con.)

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MARCH MEETING MINUTES



by Norman

Our March 13th meeting was opened by Carl, who announced that Lambda Sci-Fi is now 4 years old today. The first meeting was held at Loree and Marcelle's Takoma Park home 4 years ago. [Ed. note: The date of the first meeting was 3/14/90.] Carl then announced that the Gaylaxicon V Progress Report #2 was ready and that there would be a collating/ mailing party after the meeting. Joe then took the opportunity to discuss the con, so that all the newcomers knew what we were talking about.

Nominees for Lambda Literary Awards are out. The following titles are the five nominees for the combined gay/lesbian science-fiction/fantasy category:

Drawing Blood

by Poppy Brite

In the Garden of Dead Cars

by Sybil Claiborne

The Fifth Sacred Thing

by Starhawk

Burning Bright

by Melissa Scott

The Unfinished

by Jay Laws

Peter shared the club's junk mail with us: a free pass to Sugar Cane Palace (a strip joint as I recall) and an ad from Tapestry Press. Peter also thanked Scott and Dan for the wonderful and FIERCE new membership directory they designed.

Michael C. told us that Tanya Huff's *Blood Pact* has been nominated for an Agatha Award. Carl then shared the latest issue of *Cinefantastique* magazine with us. It included articles on the new Ed Woods bio-pic (starring Johnny Depp in the title role), *Wolf* (a werewolf movie starring Jack Nicholson), and *Babylon V*. Carl then took the opportunity to tell the newcomers about the club and to extort, er, graciously accept any contributions for the club newsletter.

Joe then told us that his is the voice behind Jack Nicholson's growl in *Wolf* - Go, Joe!!! Joe's response to being told that the newsletter trivia quizzes are too difficult was: "Read more; watch more!" In the upcoming play *Passion of Dracula*, Joe will be playing Prof. Van Helsing. (He'll notify us of dates, etc. so we can all trek out to the wilds of Virginia to see him in it.) In other movie news, there is a big-budget "Loch Ness monster" movie in the works - Ridley Scott has been approached to direct. (Joe auditioned for the part of the villain - break a leg, Joe). Also, there is a movie in the works based on Welsh and Irish myths and legends. There is a four-hour ghost film from China that is supposed to be *oo-faboo*. Leslie Nielsen has a cameo role in the upcoming remake of *Forbidden Planet*, and the "id monster" is being

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THE FIENDISH PLOT OF "CATCHY LINES FROM THE MOVIES" RIDES AGAIN!

(Can we get any *more*
complicated than that!?)

by Joseph Parra

It's time to examine the plotlines to various genre films again! Below is a list of 20 plotlines (and the studio that produced the film). All you have to do is guess the name of the movie each plot comes from. Now, don't expect anything as simple as: "A girl from Kansas suddenly finds herself in a magic land." That'd be *much* too easy! Best of luck!

1. A rocket scientist stumbles on an alien takeover conspiracy involving small "meteorites" that actually house alien entities. (Hammer)
2. The offspring of a famous vampire comes to the bayou country of Louisiana to spawn a whole new race of undead. (Universal)
3. In the Peruvian jungle, a mad scientist working on a cure for cancer discovers a process by which living things may be shrunk. (Paramount)
4. The gods grant an ordinary man the power to create anything he desires. (Written for the screen by H.G. Wells. United Artists)
5. At a Government installation, a group of doctors and scientists are sent into a man's bloodstream to save his life. (20th Century Fox)
6. An innocent man and a mad doctor escape from Devil's Island to exact revenge, utilizing the doctor's "shrink formula." (MGM)
7. A vampire's stake is removed during a World War II air raid; and the vampire returns to wreak havoc with the aid of a werewolf. (Columbia)
8. In this space opera, a spunky lad is pressed into service by an old knight to save a princess from the hands of evil-doers. (Fox)
9. A little girl who was born without a conscience kills anyone who wrongs her. (Warner Bros.)
10. A doctor and his girlfriend stumble on a conspiracy involving plants from another world. (original by Allied Artists, remake by United Artists)
11. A prehistoric slug is loosed in the Salton Sea during depth charge experiments, and it lays eggs. (United Artists)
12. A sixty-foot giant (believed to have been killed at Boulder Dam) is found alive and disfigured in Mexico. (American International)
13. A man strikes a deal with Satan in return for a good crop; and when he realizes what he's done, he enlists the aid of a lawyer. (RKO Pictures)
14. A detective from another world takes over a human form to capture an intergalactic gangster with the same power. (New Line)
15. At the end of the 19th Century, a famed vampire-hunter comes to China to help a family fight off an ancient sect of undead. (Hammer)
16. An "invention" lives in a creepy house at the top of a cul-de-sac and is lured down by a cosmetic saleslady. (20th Century Fox)
17. A teenager and her family are imperiled by a dead uncle (now re-animated) and his box that is capable of dimensional time displacement. (New World)
18. A woman becomes an obsessive fan of a disc jockey and proceeds to ruin his life. (Universal)
19. A group of really gross "kids" from another world help a somewhat lovestruck boy see the error of his ways over a shallow girl. (Atlantic)
20. A mad hunter causes ships to be wrecked, so that he can hunt the survivors. (RKO Pictures)

ANSWERS ON PAGE 3



GOthic AT THE ROOTS

by Michael Cornett

A shattered crucifix lies on a grisly painting of the devil, while above, a pair of eyes stares balefully out. Such is the cover of *The Monk*, offering a very good idea of what lies inside.

The Monk, written by Matthew Gregory Lewis, is a seminal work of horror fiction. What makes it of special interest here is: (a) it was written in 1796 (when the author was 19!) but is still highly readable; and (b) the author was quite scandalously and openly gay.

The novel follows the adventures of the pious monk Ambrosio down a path of corruption and doom, against the vivid backdrop of the Spanish Inquisition. Ambrosio, who is too proud for his own good, is surprised to find that another monk, Rosario, is in fact a woman named Matilda, who claims to have disguised herself and entered the monastery out of love for him. She proceeds to seduce him (successfully), and later reveals herself as a witch!

If this all seems too much, just wait. It gets even worse. Ambrosio denounces Agnes, a pregnant nun, who lays a curse on him. Of her fate we learn later, but an extensive flashback shows how her boyfriend attempted to elope with her, but instead mistakenly eloped with the ghostly Bleeding Nun. The nun's ghost stays with him, constantly haunting him, until it is exorcised by the legendary Wandering Jew. The innocent Agnes is put in a convent, where she conducts a clandestine affair, eventually getting pregnant.

Meanwhile, Ambrosio lusts for the virginal Antonia and proceeds through several plans to divest her of her virtue, even calling the aid of the Prince of Darkness! He murders her mother and eventually slips the poor girl a potion to feign death, thus putting her in his power. He rapes and murders her, alas, in front of witnesses and is brought before the Inquisition.

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GOTHIC AT THE ROOTS

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Poor pregnant Sister Agnes has been fed the same death-feigning potion and imprisoned by the corrupt abess. When discovered, a sympathetic sister denounces the abess, who is then torn apart by an angry mob, which then proceeds to burn down the abbey.

Ambrosio sells his soul to Satan in exchange for freedom, learns that Antonia was really his sister (no surprise there), thus adding matricide, sorocide, and incest to his crimes. He meets an *ooky* end.

As one can tell from the above narrative, *The Monk* is gleefully ghoulish and vigorously gruesome, incorporating almost every Gothic cliché of the time. I feel no guilt in telling the entire story here, as none of the plot turns come as any surprise to the reader. Lewis adds little bits of sardonic humor here and there, making it obvious that he did not take his narrative too seriously. The story does suffer a bit from a lack of focus, bounding between various storylines. All told, though, *The Monk* is an entertaining read, sometimes pretty bizarre, sometimes pretty campy. It is a worthy contribution to the field by a neglected figure.

ΛΨΦ

MEA CULPA! MEA CULPA!

by Carl (Ye Olde Editor) Cipra

Whoops! A major omission by Y' Humble Editor! In last month's "Ye Olde Editor's Corner" I dutifully thanked LSF's resident "Apple Wizard" Scott Seller for the *great* job he did on the new LSF membership directory. Unfortunately, I forgot that those thanks should *also* have gone to another LSF member, namely **Dan Hoffman**. The directory's new look is actually a product of the computer skills of Dan and Scott working *together!* My apologies, Dan, for this tardy accolade! (I can only hope that Apple Wizards don't turn erring editors into electronic toads!)

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MARCH MINUTES ----- continued from page 1

done by Disney (just as in the original) - casting includes Richard Gere and Cindy Crawford (that gerbil in the wedding dress) - Ridley Scott will produce, Jim Cameron will direct. The filming of *Star Trek VII* was temporarily shut down after a cat fight between Shatner and Nimoy. Joe says to avoid the movie *The Omegans*. (And when Joe tells you a sci-fi movie or horror movie is bad, it must be **REALLY** bad!)

There is a computer bulletin board called "The Old Curio Shop," which contains sci-fi games such as "The Ferengi Trading Game."

Carl asked whether the club would be hosting a room party at Disclave this year. The attendees were all in favor; and Carl secured some volunteers to help run it. [Ed. note: There's always room for more, though, so feel free to contact me about Disclave.]

Gaylaxicon V business: Peter is looking for volunteers to direct the T-shirt production, secure Metro maps for con attendees, and act as DJ for the Saturday night dance.

D.C. Pride Day is approaching, and it was unanimously decided that Carl **MUST** wear his red shorts again! Carl announced that he wants to update the "Lambda Sci-Fi Recommends" booklist before Pride Day; so be sure to get him information on any good new books.

The X-Files has apparently been renewed, with Lisa Bonnet cast as the new agent. At a recent convention, "Reinventing NASA" participants graded NASA; and NASA did not pass (or barely passed) in a number of categories. Also, literature on the Clementine and Capricorn One missions was passed around.

There is a book drive for gay-positive books to send to the Fairfax library. Carl donated four gay-positive science-fiction/fantasy/mystery books to SMYAL in the name of Lambda Sci-Fi.

Finally, Carl lighted the candles on the Lambda Sci-Fi birthday cake. (I got to blow out the candles!) Meeting adjourned.

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LSF DISCLAVE PARTY!

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WHEN? - Saturday night, May 28th - starting about 10 PM (whenever the first run-through of the Costume Competition is over), until about 2:00 AM.
HOW TO GET THERE?

By Car - Take the Washington Beltway (I-495) to Route 7 West in Virginia (Exit 10). Take Route 7 West for a few miles until you see the hotel on the left. Turn left at the last stoplight before the hotel (Westwood Center Drive). Immediately turn right onto the service road and proceed to the hotel. Complimentary parking is available in a covered garage or in open lots.

By Metro - Take the Orange Line to Dunn Loring Station. Call for the hotel courtesy van (448-1234).

See you there! ΛΨΦ

ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUIZ (from page 2)

1. *Quatermass 2*, or *Enemy from Space* (1957)
2. *Son of Dracula* (1943)
3. *Dr. Cyclops* (1939)
4. *The Man Who Could Work Miracles* (1937)
5. *Fantastic Voyage* (1966)
6. *The Devil Doll* (1936)
7. *The Return of the Vampire* (1943)
8. *Star Wars* (1977)
9. *The Bad Seed* (1956)
10. *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (1956, 1978)
11. *The Monster That Challenged the World* (1957)
12. *War of the Colossal Beast* (1958)
13. *All That Money Can Buy*, or *The Devil and Daniel Webster* (1941)
14. *The Hidden* (1987)
15. *Legend of the 7 Golden Vampires* (1974)
16. *Edward Scissorhands* (1990)
17. *Hellraiser* (1987)
18. *Play Misty for Me* (1972)
19. *Garbage Pail Kids* (1989)
20. *The Most Dangerous Game* (1932)

*** * 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 \$15, 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, April 10th, 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.



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: presently \$110 in U.S. funds (cost still going up). 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.

July 13-16, 1995 **NASFiC (North American Science Fiction Convention)/DRAGON*CON 1995**: Atlanta Civic Center & Atlanta Hilton and Towers (Atlanta, GA). Honored Guests: Orson Scott Card, George Alec Effinger, Bjo Trimble, Michael Whelan, Timothy Zahn. Cost: \$40 until 6/15/94, \$45 until 9/15/94. Make checks payable to "NASFiC'95" and send to: NASFiC/Dragon*Con '95, P.O. Box 47696, Atlanta, GA 30362-0696.

