



PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (202) 232-3141 - Issue #50 - May 1994

ΛΨΦ TO HOLD PARTY 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, though! 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

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GAYLAXICON V NEEDS YOU!

by Peter Knapp, Chair (& Registration)



With only two and a half months to go before the con, I'm happy to report that over two-thirds of the LSF membership have paid for membership in Gaylaxicon V. I hope the rest of you will follow suit.

With the con so close, it's time to start hitting the club for volunteers from within the ranks. At Gaylaxicon IV we were severely understaffed, especially Friday afternoon and early evening as we tried to set up. Let's show the Network that our membership strongly supports this con by volunteering to spend some time helping out.

We need helpers for the following activities: setting up; running operations, registration, and security; keeping the panels and film show running smoothly; driving to pick up and return our Guests of Honor to/from the airport; participating as panelists (including moderators); and helping to take down the con on Sunday afternoon.

If you volunteer as a helper for four or more hours, you will receive one of the "limited edition" Gaylaxicon IV T-shirts as a thank-you gift. And, as Jaime put it: "You'll also have the eternal gratitude of the con committee." So, volunteer early and volunteer often! Thank you, thank you, thank you...

ΛΨΦ

APRIL MEETING

MINUTES

ΛΨΦ by Norman ΛΨΦ

The April 10th meeting opened with a word of welcome from Carl, our Second Speaker. He then shared various snippets of information from the "Sci-Fi/Fantasy" pages of recent issues of *TV Guide* with us. Genre-related news: A made-for-TV movie entitled *Lifeforce*, starring Donald Sutherland, is coming to the Sci-Fi Channel. Stephen King's *The Stand* is coming to commercial TV May 8-12, with an all-star cast (including Rob Lowe). Non-genre-related news: Aaron Spelling discussed the possibility that a hypothetical 25th "reunion" of the cast of *Beverly Hills 90210* could feature Jason and Luke getting married. Peter then shared his list of the Ferengi Rules of Acquisition with us (see article on page 3).

Carl made an impassioned plea for more submissions to the newsletter, reminding us that the March issue only had 4 pages of material.

Peter then shared copies of an Aussie fan-zine containing an article on gay fandom. The editor is on InterNet and has said he'd be willing to include articles from us. Also, the dish from Peter is that the second-to-the-last episode of *ST:TNG* will feature Ensign Ro Laren and be directed by Patrick Stewart. On a recent episode of *Time Trax*, the actor who plays "Q"

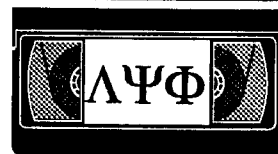
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WHAT'S INSIDE?

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OF VAMPIRES STANDING, LAST MACHETES, CHICKEN DINOSAURS, AND OTHER NEEDFUL THINGS

video reviews by Joe Parra



I was looking for a good film to review in the cinema, but, unfortunately, there weren't any in our beloved genres just now. Sooo . . . I went to the video store to catch up on some flicks I missed during their theatrical runs. As usual with life, so go the movies - some things are worth doing, some things are better left alone, some things are worth doing . . .



Roger Corman decided to make the definitive Dracula movie - *Dracula Rising*. Oddly enough, this was the same time that Francis Coppola decided to make his *Bram Stoker's Dracula*. What a coincidence! In Corman's flick, Christopher Atkins must go on record as the *shortest* Dracula ever. He actually portrays the *son* of Drac in this jumbled mess about unrequited love. Location filming in Europe helps a little, but the plotline looks as though it was written as they went along. A female interior decorator/painting-restorer meets Junior in L.A. and is suddenly offered an incredible restoration job by Junior's buddy vampire, who is vaguely (practically *vaporously*) gay. We then learn through a series of repetitious events that she and Junior initially met when Junior was with a monastery in the 1500s! The story breaks many taboos, and Atkins looks embarrassed and bored most of the time - just like the audience. Rating for *Dracula Rising* - 1½ out of 4.

In *Jason Goes to Hell*, we are "promised" that this will be the *last* Jason Voorhees monster movie. The reason the movie isn't called "Friday



the 13th, Part Ump-teen" (or whatever) is that the F/13 title(s) is owned by Paramount, and *this* installment is from New Line Cinema. Original F/13 producer Sean Cunningham produced this film as well; apparently he owns the rights to everything else dealing with Jason and company. This installment is a bit more credible than all 7 (or 8, or 200, or whatever) of its predecessors. Here we are given an explanation of Jason's longevity by way of a legend which establishes him as some sort of demon. His heart, which is three times larger than normal and filled with black demon juice(!), is examined by a pathologist after Jason is blown apart by a huge SWAT team. The heart possesses the pathologist, who is then Jason incarnate. This possession goes on through several cast members, for Jason needs to be reborn. The only way this can be accomplished is through another family member. This cat-and-mouse game goes on for 91 minutes; and of course there is gore galore for fans of such things - and a somewhat different story than one would expect from this type of material. Rating for *Jason Goes to Hell* - 2 out of 4.

There was once an excellent Oscar-winning tale about dinosaurs cloned from DNA samples - *Jurassic Park*. There was also a film made about the same time by Roger Corman's company, New Horizons, called *Carnosaur*, about dinosaurs cloned from mutated chicken embryos. Yes, you read it right - *chicken* dinosaurs! I have seen rip-



off films galore, but this one takes the cake. It appears to have had a budget of about \$1.50 (tax included). To say this movie sucks dead dino eggs doesn't quite sum it up enough. Diane Ladd does her best Vincent Price impression as the mad scientist who runs away with Government grant money and infects people with a virus from infected chickens so they can birth dino eggs. Er, yeah . . . As far as the dinos go, there is one raptor type and one T-rex - that's it. And they are both weirdly-executed puppets and rear-projected blah models. This is one of those movies that even if there is nothing else at the video store - *don't rent this!!* Rating for *Carnosaur* - 0 out of 4. [Ed. note: See, Joe, we weren't kidding when we warned you about this turkey - oops, I mean chicken - of a movie!]



Last but not least, *Needful Things*. If you have read Stephen King's novel about the Devil coming to do business with Castle Rock, Maine (supposedly his last novel to do so, by the way), perhaps it seemed to you as it did to me - more screenplay than novel. As a screenplay, it's not bad - it sticks close to the novel. While there are few surprises, the familiarity is well played. Max Von Sydow is marvelous as Satan, doing a wonderful Bela Lugosi impression. Ed Harris does a credible job as the town sheriff who goes from "Doubting Thomas" to the most devout believer of all. Other marvelous

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VIDEO REVIEWS

continued from page 2

players helping with the sometimes-abstruse "hipbone-connected-to-the-thighbone" story are Amanda Plummer, J.T. Walsh, and W. Morgan Sheppard. All in all, a decent B-movie with an A-budget. Rating for *Needful Things* - 3 out of 4.

* * *

When I gathered this mixed bag of movies, I also thought about renting *Demolition Man*, *Cyborg 2*, and *Abraxas, Soldier of the Future*. The store was running the trailers for these films - and the trailers were boring!!! As you can see, with 3 of the 4 films reviewed, video was the best way (and possibly the *only* way) to view them - you could fast-forward or, better yet, turn them off! As for the 4th (*Needful Things*) - enjoy!!

ΛΨΦ

To know a thing well, know its limits. Only when pushed beyond its tolerance will its true nature be seen.

--- the Amtal Rule

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

FERENGI ADDENDUM

by Carl Cipra

And, speaking of the Ferengi Rules of Acquisition, Star Trek fans recently received some "canonical" clarification on this very subject, during "The Maquis, Part 1" (the *ST:DS9* episode which aired 4/26 on Channel 20 in D.C.). While having dinner with the would-be Vulcan gun-runner, Quark explained Rule of Acquisition #214: "Never begin a business negotiation on an empty stomach." He then went on to provide her (and us) with a little background explanation: "Every Ferengi business transaction is governed by 285 Rules of Acquisition, to ensure a fair and honest deal for all parties concerned - well, most of them anyway." Thanks for the clarification, Quark.

ΛΨΦ

THE FERENGI RULES OF ACQUISITION

(updated 12/10/93)

as relayed to us off the InterNet by Peter Knapp

1. Once you have their money, never give it back.
2. You can't cheat an honest customer, but it never hurts to try.
3. You can always buy back a lost reputation.
4. Sex and profit are the two things that never last long enough.
5. If you can't break a contract, bend it.
6. Never let family stand in the way of opportunity.
7. Always keep your ears open.
8. Keep count of your change.
9. Instinct plus opportunity equals profit.
10. A dead customer can't buy as much as a live one.
11. Latinum isn't the only thing that shines.
12. Anything worth selling is worth selling twice.
13. Anything worth doing is worth doing for money.
14. Anything stolen is pure profit.
15. Acting stupid is often smart.
16. A deal is a deal.
17. A bargain usually isn't.
18. Beware of relatives bearing gifts.
19. Don't lie too soon after a promotion.
20. When the customer is sweating, turn up the heat.
21. Never place friendship before profit.
22. Wise men can hear profit in the wind.
23. Never take the last coin, but be sure to get all the rest.
25. Fear makes a good business partner.
30. Talk is cheap; synthelol costs money.
31. Never make fun of a Ferengi's mother.
32. Be careful what you sell. It may do exactly what the customer expects.
33. It never hurts to suck up to the boss.
41. Money talks, but having lots of it gets more attention.
43. Caressing an ear is often more forceful than pointing a weapon.
48. The bigger the smile, the sharper the knife.
57. Good customers are as rare as latinum--treasure them.
58. Friendship is seldom cheap.
59. Free advice is seldom cheap.
60. Never use credit where your words will do.
61. Never buy what can be stolen.
62. The riskier the road, the higher the profit.
70. Get the money first, then let the buyer worry about collecting the merchandise.
76. Every once in a while, declare peace. It confuses the hell out of your enemies.
101. Never do something you can make someone do for you.
103. Sleep can interfere with opportunity.
109. Buy, sell, or get out of the way.
123. A friend is only a friend until you sell him something. Then he is a customer.
139. Wives serve; brothers inherit.
172. If you can sell it, don't hesitate to steal it.

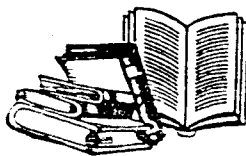
This list included the following note at the bottom:

Thanks to the guys and gals at CompuServe (including Martin Higgins, Marshall L. Moseley, Jeremy Nichols, Greg Coody, Richard H. Brown, M.J. Vasko, Dan Bass and others) for reporting and/or creating these words of Ferengi wisdom. Material copyrighted to the original authors, and its inclusion here is not meant to be a violation of copyright laws.

ΛΨΦ

H.P. LOVECRAFT IN CONTEXT

two mini-book reviews
by Carl Cipra



I've been a fan of the works of H.P. Lovecraft for quite a few years now; and, I hope to tell you, it's not often that something new about HPL comes along. But, all of a sudden, I recently discovered not one, but *two* new books that deal with the thoughts and works of Cthulhu's creator!

Each of these two books contains over a dozen classic works of horror fiction, although each book only features *one* work by Lovecraft himself -- yet both books go a long way, through their carefully-selected contents, toward illuminating the mind of H.P. Lovecraft and the horrific mythos he wrote about.

H.P. Lovecraft's Book of Horror

edited by

Stephen Jones & Dave Carson
(Barnes and Noble, 1993)

I stumbled across this one on a discount table at a nearby B. Dalton bookstore for \$5.98; and I've since learned that you can order it directly from Barnes & Noble for \$7.98. I'd have willingly paid triple that figure for this particular book.

This volume begins with Lovecraft's masterful 1939 essay "Supernatural Horror in Literature," which has probably been read and enjoyed by every Lovecraft aficionado. In this essay, Lovecraft traces the history of the genre from its ancient roots, through the early "Gothics," and on to the works of his American, British, and European contemporaries - citing, as he goes along, the works he feels are the finest examples of horror literature. OK, not a bad start; but, as I said, if you're a Lovecraft fan, you've probably already read it.

Ah, but now comes the really good part! What follows are 21 of the "masterpiece" stories Lovecraft mentions in his essay! Wow! What a find!

The editors have done an immeasurable service for Lovecraft fans---and, indeed, for fans of supernatural horror in general! Here's a chance to not only read what Lovecraft had to say, but then to actually read some of the stories he considered the finest in the genre!

And what a selection! You'd have to dig long and deep through "many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore" to find some of these stories! There's "The Signalman" by Charles Dickens, "The Body Snatcher" by Robert Louis Stevenson, "The Damned Thing" by Ambrose Bierce, "The Double Shadow" by Clark Ashton Smith, "Count Magnus" by M.R. James, and many more. What a feast---albeit a macabre one!

The Hastur Cycle

selected and introduced by
Robert M. Price
(Chaosium Books, 1993)

I found this one in my favorite gaming store, The Game Parlor (out near Dulles Airport) for \$9.95. An odd place to find a Lovecraft volume? Not really - you see, Chaosium is the company that produces all the "Call of Cthulhu" role-playing games.

This book looks at Lovecraft and his works from a rather different -- some might say "sacrilegious" -- angle. Instead of viewing all works of supernatural literature as reflecting (if not *stemming from*) Lovecraft the Master or viewing HPL's works as the "definitive version," this collection of stories attempts to show Lovecraft's mythos in its historical context, *as only a part of a larger, older tradition*. To quote the introductory essay: "We are seeing Lovecraft's "The Whisperer in Darkness" as one link in a chain beginning with [Ambrose] Bierce and Arthur Machen and continuing on through Derleth, James Blish, Lin Carter, Karl

Edward Wagner, and other contemporary writers." In other words, The Hastur Cycle is a work of "literary genealogy," tracing the lineage of Unspeakable Hastur, the King in Yellow, the Lake at Hali, Yuggoth, and the city of Carcosa through 13 (!?) tales. These stories are chronologically arranged, from Ambrose Bierce's "Haïta the Shepherd" and "An Inhabitant of Carcosa," through Lovecraft's "The Whisperer in Darkness," and on to Lin Carter's "Tatters of the King."

What the reader ends up with is a mythology that is distinct from, yet overlaps the well-known "Cthulhu Mythos" (a term coined by August Derleth to describe the more familiar Lovecraftian myth-pattern). As with *H.P. Lovecraft's Book of Horror*, the reader is also treated to some of the classics of supernatural horror, many of them extremely rare or previously out-of-print.

ΛΨΦ

THAT IS THE BEGINNING
OF KNOWLEDGE---
THE DISCOVERY
OF SOMETHING
WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND.

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LETO ATREIDES II

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

PARTY AT DISCLAVE

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announcements around the con.)

WHEN? - Saturday night, May 28th - starting after the first run-through of the Costume Competition is over (probably about 10 PM) 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

APRIL MINUTES

continued from page 1

on *ST:TNG* played a character named "Ryker"---the mind boggles.

Carl passed around information on *WAVELENGTHS*, an upcoming first-class review-zine to be produced by Melissa Scott, Lisa Barnett, Don Sakers, and Tom Atkinson (see article below). He also reported that Marion Zimmer Bradley's new historical fantasy, *The Forest House*, has just come out in hardback; it's set in England during Roman occupation and supposedly provides some background to *The Mists of Avalon*. Michael C. told us about a couple of H.P. Lovecraft-related books being issued through Chaosium: *The Hastur Cycle* and *Robert Bloch's Mysteries of the Worm*. Scott shared his large-format 1977 *Sci-Fi Ideas and Dreams*, a book of sci-fi re-

lated art, etc. He also informed us that the latest issue of the *Northstar* comicbook (about a gay superhero) includes his "special friends," too. Joe R. shared his newsletter from the Air and Space Museum.

In other news, Malcolm McDowell has reportedly been cast on the upcoming *Star Trek: Voyager* series. Carl is looking for more information for an updated edition of the "Lambda Sci-Fi Recommends" booklist, which he wants to hand out at Pride Day. Word from Loree is that Starhawk's new book, *The Fifth Sacred Thing*, is a novel about a feminist utopia that does NOT pit women against men.

Finally, Philip W. is talking about hosting the next "Video Madness" Party on June 4th, the Saturday of Pride Day weekend - we'll discuss this at the May meeting.

ΛΨΦ

WAVELENGTHS

* * * *

info passed along by Carl Cipra

At the April 10th meeting, I passed around a packet of information on what sounds like a really great new 'zine that will be premiering in July. It's called *WAVELENGTHS*; and it's coming from a very talented set of people: Melissa Scott, Lisa Barnett, Don Sakers, and Tom Atkinson. (If you haven't heard of any of them, then you've probably been hiding under a rock for quite some time now, not reading - and you probably haven't been attending any Gaylaxicons either. They're all on our guest list for Gaylaxicon V this year, so drop by and say "Hi!")

According to their "press kit," *WAVELENGTHS* is intended to be a review organ that will: address the most common question presented to writers of queer-themed science fiction and fantasy by new readers ("How do we *find* gay-themed sf/fantasy from the mainstream presses if they won't put it on the cover?); AND help make the sf/fantasy published by the small presses more accessible to the sf/fantasy readership. In their reviews, the editors say they intend to hold both

groups (mainstream and small press) to standards of craft and to standards of the genre; they want to find the good queer sf/fantasy that is out there and make it more easily accessible to its readership.

The editors plan to review as many books as possible; for those books they can't review, they plan at the very least to provide a listing of books of possible interest to their readership. A major purpose of *WAVELENGTHS* will be to maintain a list of what's out there, both from the mainstream and from the small presses. It will deal with all types of science fiction and fantasy, from high fantasy to cyberpunk and beyond; and the editors intend to be inclusive in those definitions. They say they'll be as likely to review a Tiptree nominee as a Lammy nominee. They intend to set and maintain a professional tone in the reviews - not necessarily academic, but not fannish or flip. Reviewers will be encouraged to look for the big issues in the book.

WAVELENGTHS is planned as a quarterly publication, beginning in July, 1994. For those who are con-

cerned about confidentiality, the editors say they'll keep their mailing list and subscription records strictly private; and *WAVELENGTHS* will be mailed in plain envelopes.

Subscriptions are: \$13.00 (U.S.) for four issues, beginning July 1994. Make checks payable to "WAVELENGTHS" and send to:

WAVELENGTHS
CoastLine SF Writers' Group
P.O. Box 6554
Portsmouth, NH 03802-6554

ΛΨΦ

The highest function
of ecology
is the understanding
of consequences.

Planetologist
Pardot Kynes

(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 \$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, May 8th, 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.



May 27-30, 1994 **DISCLAVE '94**: Sheraton Premier at Tysons Corner (Vienna, VA). Guests of Honor: Lois McMaster Bujold, Steven Vincent Johnson. Membership: \$30 until 4/30/94; \$40 at the door. Make checks payable to "Disclave '94" and send to: Disclave '94, c/o John Sapienza, PO Box 677, Washington, DC 20044-0677. **And don't forget the Lambda Sci-Fi party on Saturday night!**

July 8-10, 1994 **SHORE LEAVE 16**: Marriott Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Guests: Tony ("Cmdr. K'Urn") Todd, Terry ("Dax") Farrell. Membership: \$40 (mail registration closes 5/31/94). Make checks payable to "Shore Leave" and send to: Shore Leave, PO Box 6809, Towson, MD 21285-6809 (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 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.

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.

