



PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (202) 232-3141 - Issue #62 - May 1995

"Video Madness" Party Set for May 13th



Yipee!! It's official! There's going to be another "Video Madness" Party in May!

Jaime has once again magnanimously consented to host another one of LSF's famous (*infamous?*) "Video Madness" parties at his home in Georgetown on **Saturday, May 13th** (the day before the regular "2nd Sunday in May" LSF meeting, and one week before Gaylaxicon VI). As always, it'll be a combination potluck dinner/video-watching party.

When to Be There

The potluck dinner will start at **6:00 PM**, with the videos to begin as soon as we get the "deciding-what-to-watch business" out of the way. So, try to get there a little before 6:00 PM, especially if there's any last-minute fixin' you need to do on your potluck contribution.

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 three different "tracks" of programming, one shown on each of three screens throughout the house. Also as usual,

(continued on page 2)



Rep's Report by Philip Wright

As the new representative for Lambda Sci-Fi to the Gaylactic Network, the first thing I would like to do is get some direct and specific feedback from the members of LSF regarding what this group would like from the Network. With Gaylaxicon VI less than a month away, I would like to have instructions from the group telling me what to present at the annual Network Board meeting to be held there. I would like to play a more decisive role as to what and how the Network can work for LSF and how LSF might work for and with the Network. LSF's relationship with the Network has, in the past, suffered from a general apathy among LSF's membership; and to correct this I would like to take a more assertive role in making LSF a

"mover and shaker" within the context of the parent organization.

At the upcoming May LSF meeting, I will be asking for specific ideas, motions, and questions to put forward to the Network Board. Over the past few months, there have been several questions about LSF's relationship with the Gaylactic Network. The annual Board meeting at Gaylaxicon VI will be an opportunity to present LSF's concerns and questions and to obtain answers (providing that there *are* answers).

If you have questions or concerns but will be unable to attend the May LSF meeting, feel free to contact me at home. I will be accepting input and information up until the day before the May meeting (which is May 14th). I can be reached at home by phone - (301) 495-7765 - or through E-mail at: Baren@GLIB.ORG

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Auction Scheduled for May 14th Meeting

Just a reminder: we'll be having a fund-raising auction at the May 14th LSF meeting, as soon as the usual business is finished up. (In case you've forgotten the "where & when" of the meeting, refer to the top section of page 6 of this newsletter.)

The purpose of the auction is to raise funds for the LSF treasury. All members are encouraged to donate genre-related items (books, artwork, comics, toys, games, collectibles, etc.) to be auctioned off. (Reminder from Jim: Successful bidders must "haul off" their purchases when

it's all over; and any items *not* auctioned off must be "hailed off" by the people who donated them in the first place.)

All donated items will be auctioned off in a voice auction by Rodney. (Don't forget to advise him if there's a "minimum bid" that you'd like to see for any of your donated items.) All bids will be in increments of 25 cents.

All money is to be paid over to the the LSF Treasurer (Rob) at the conclusion of the auction. So, don't forget this final piece of advice from the Treasurer: "Bid often; bid high!"

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WHAT'S INSIDE?

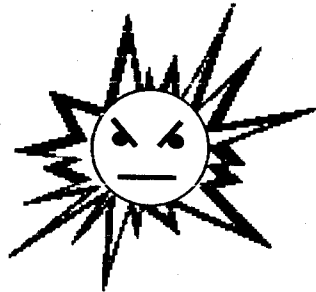
Proud Helios (book review - pg. 2); *Delores Claiborne* (film review - pg. 3); *The Parable of the Sower* (book review - pg. 3); *Minutes of the April LSF Meeting* (pg. 4); *What Are They Trying to Tell Us?* (pg. 4); *Classic Sci-Fi on Video - "Outer Space"* (pg. 5); *Ye Olde Editor's Corner* (pg. 5); *Information about Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians* (pg. 6); *Con Calendar* (pg. 6)

Proud Helios, by Melissa Scott
(Pleasant Surprises!)
by Rob

I'll admit it - I'm a book snob. I go to conventions, and I bemoan the industry for publishing 100 *Star Trek* books and very little quality material. I hate going into the bookstore and having to find the one shelf of "real" books among the shelves of *Star Trek/Star Wars/Doctor Who*/whatever novelizations. But, occasionally, even a book snob wants to read a little of the so-called "fluff." And so, after hearing a few tidbits from Melissa Scott about her *ST:DS9* novel, entitled *Proud Helios*, I figured: why not try it? I'm glad I did. Maybe it's just because Melissa is a great writer, or maybe I've been too hard on this "fluff stuff," but by the end of this book, I was actually eager for more!

The basic story line is simple. A cloaked ship has been attacking ships on both sides of the border with Cardassia, in the vicinity of the wormhole. Cmdr. Sisko is given the mission to find this pirate ship and bring its crew to justice. But nothing that involves Cardassians can be simple; and so Sisko must find a way to balance the safety of Deep Space 9, the desire to bring the pirates to justice, and the demands of the Cardassians (who want to capture the pirates themselves). Into this story, Melissa weaves the mainstay characters of *ST:DS9*. Odo works to find information about the pirate ship and to track down a spy who's made it onto DS9. Quark walks his usual fine line between making a profit and doing the right thing. Bashir begs for adventure and seems to gain a little respect for his "cool under pressure." Kira is brash, and O'Brien is opinionated but does what he has to. And when all the action comes to a head, Sisko manages to keep everything under control. The characters speak and act in the manner we expect.

As you also might expect, there are trials and tribulations for the heroes to overcome along the way. Kira and O'Brien are captured by the pirates, only to discover that the reason the pirates are in the vicinity of DS9 is to get spare parts to repair their ship, the *Helios*. The ship has



sustained a lot of damage in its recent forays against the Cardassians; and its chief engineer and O'Brien are forced to work together to keep *Helios* from falling apart while its captain tries to find a way out of being caught between a rock (DS9) and a hard place (the coming Cardassian warships).

What you'll also find in *Proud Helios* are some things you might *not* be expecting. Melissa has managed to find ways, both subtle and not, to place some of "our own kind" onboard DS9. One of O'Brien's male assistants (a character appearing in a number of scenes throughout the book) shares living quarters with his male partner. If that's too subtle for you, there's a blatant exchange between Garak (the Cardassian tailor/spy) and Dr. Bashir. No one could mistake the interest Garak displays for Bashir, with lines like "I'm sure you're more than capable, Julian - much more."

What I found most surprising in this story, however, was not that Melissa had snuck some "gay" content into the book; it's that in the end, the Federation doesn't solve all of its problems and come out on top. Although Sisko succeeds in rescuing his crew members and keeps the pirates out of the hands of the Cardassians, the *Helios* itself makes a successful break for freedom through the wormhole. Thus, due to the actions of the Federation officers, the pirates responsible for so much death go free.

All in all, *Proud Helios* is a good read - a tight story, with consistent characters, a little fun, and a surprisingly ambiguous ending. Brava, Melissa! I might even pick up another *Star Trek* novelization one of these days!

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"Video Madness" Party

continued from page 1

bring along something scrumptious to eat. We're not pre-assigning categories of what food to bring, so everyone should just bring something 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); dessert (of course!) non-alcoholic drinks (both diet and regular).

How to Get There

The party will be held at Jaime's home in Georgetown (site of numerous "Video Madness" parties in the past). 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.

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

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By the way, most art displayed at science fiction conventions is far better than what I've seen in major metropolitan art museums, although I agree with Sharyn McCrumb that some SF art show prizes probably should include an hour of free therapy.

--- G. Harry Stein
(excerpted from
"The Alternate View,"
Analog May 1995)

Delores Claiborne

(Horror with the Worst Kind of Monster)

by Philip Wright



Stephen King, the master of horror, has a new movie in theaters, *Delores Claiborne*. Unlike most of his other works, the horror of this story does not depend on manipulative supernatural creatures or tormented telekinetics. In this story, the monster is the most horrible and frightening of all: an abusive spouse/parent.

King departs from his usual tales of terror to deal with a mysterious death in (yes, this has *not* changed) a Maine town. Delores Claiborne has been accused of murdering the woman she's cared for during the past twenty years. Everyone thinks that she is guilty - particularly the same police inspector who investigated the *mysterious* death of Delores' husband sixteen years before. The policeman needs no help to believe she is guilty. "People tend to have accidents around [Delores]," the inspector says, as he doggedly tries to convict Delores for this new murder.

Delores and her daughter must come to grips with the murder of Delores' husband. Yes, it was murder. Through well-crafted and cleverly-honed flashbacks, we piece together Delores' life with her husband and daughter up to the time of his pre-meditated death. We see relentless physical and mental abuse heaped on Delores by this drunken monster. The scenes of violence (especially the scene where he beats Delores with a piece of firewood) are particularly vivid evocations of the anxiety and fear that comes with spousal abuse. I found myself reacting similarly to the manner in which I react with more traditional horror films.

King (and the film-maker) deftly build the tension to a fever pitch. The husband steals all the money Delores has been saving for her daughter's education - and then Delores realizes that he has been sexually abusing their daughter. Delores gets her husband drunk (an easy task) and makes a point of accusing him of child abuse, so that he chases her through the fields around their house. She lures him to an abandoned well covered up by the underbrush and lets liquor and the law

The Parable of the Sower, by Octavia Butler

reviewed by Marcelle Cook-Daniels

I'm not one who usually gives unsolicited book reviews; so, that said, I am going against my usual policy to call your attention to a very worthwhile diversion in print.

The future presented in Octavia Butler's *The Parable of the Sower* is all too plausible. Her world is populated by people who have lost their empathy for each other and, in doing so, have lost their humanity.

The story is set in the California of 2024 and focuses on the deterioration of this country -- the beginning of which is already being felt (the LA riots, Waco, Oklahoma City, etc.). The gulf between "the Haves" and "the Have-nots" is almost unbridgeable (a situation that is becoming much more likely due to some policies proposed by our new Republican-run Congress); and human life is no longer important. There is very little holding in place the literal and figurative wall between the middle class and the homeless class.

Not everyone has given in to the desperation of this time and place. The heroine, Lauren Olamina, suffers from

hyper-empathy syndrome, the legacy of her drug-addicted mother. When Lauren's enclave is destroyed by pyromania-addicted gangs, she sets off on a pilgrimage to set up a colony founded on the gospel "God Is Change." Her religion is based on the principles of self-reliance and community responsibility.

The book presents many atrocities in a matter-of-fact way. This is precisely why it packs such an emotional wallop. (Is this a commentary on our desensitization?) Butler doesn't try to beat the reader over the head with her apocalyptic message (as was done in the recent, overly-preachy *ST:DS9* episode "Past Tense"); her reality creeps up on you slowly. I found myself on more than one occasion wondering whether it was wise for me to go outside unarmed.

I don't think I'm giving away too much to say don't expect any happy endings and "walks into the sunset" at the end of this book. It is clear that the end is only the beginning.

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of gravity do the rest. The rapid pace of the action makes this murderous scene mimic the repetitive blows of the physical abuse we have seen Delores suffer up to this point.

Most striking is the scene of the murder. It occurs during a total solar eclipse, which serves as a metaphor for the darkness of Delores' life while with this bastard and her renewal after his "death." It also adds just the right Kingesque quality to the scene, to make what might otherwise seem mundane ("just another case" of revenge for spousal abuse) into the sublime realm of mysterious dramatic irony that so many of King's novels contain. What is the focus of pleasure for so many others (the eclipse) becomes a moment of horror for Delores and her husband, like people from a less enlightened age.

Delores Claiborne is beautifully filmed, with a perfect contrast between the grim Maine winter in the present and the

bright and happy memories of the tumultuous past. Kathy Bates demonstrates her magnificent talents by playing both the hardened, homely, older Delores *and* the young, attractive, naive (up to the point of the killing of her husband) Delores. The two sides of her performance show why she deserved the Oscar for *Misery*. As the memories occur, we see layer upon layer of Delores' life peeled away, along with her cynical, abrasive nature. Delores is, in reality, a wonderful person who actually cares very deeply for the woman she is accused of murdering. (Theirs was a special relationship.)

This is not the typical Stephen King; but sometimes the scariest horrors are not the ones from aliens or mystical beasts - sometimes the scariest horrors are the ones from human nature.

OVERALL GRADE: A+

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Minutes of the April LSF Meeting

by Rob

The meeting started late. The meeting had fewer minutes than usual. The meeting ended early. Some things happened in the middle.

It was announced that Gaylaxicon VII (1996) has been scheduled - July 5-7, 1996, in the Boston area, the weekend before Readercon (which is also in Boston).

Philip W., our new Network rep, has requested that we "put words in his mouth" (provide him with input for the upcoming Network meeting at Gaylaxicon VI). [Ed. Note: See article on page 1 of this newsletter.]

Philip also said that Jaime needs a good excuse to clean up his house, so we should help out by scheduling another "Video Madness" Party there. Then Jaime walked in and informed us that his house is *already* clean - so we've scheduled another "Video Madness" Party at Jaime's place on May 13th. [Ed. Note: See article starting on page 1 of this newsletter.] Carl says he'll inform the Baltimore Gaylaxians (MAGE) when he sees them at Balticon.

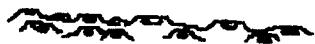
Jaime brought a cake; it was a green with lots of frosting. It looked like a dragon until we all ate it.

Reminder: there will be an auction of books, artwork, etc. at the May 14th meeting. Rodney won't be able to sleep then because he'll be the auctioneer. Everyone should donate genre-related items for the auction. The auction will raise money so that I can go to the Bahamas - oops! I mean it'll raise money for the LSF treasury. [Ed. Note: See article on page 1 of this newsletter.]

Joe R. reported on his recent trip to Los Angeles. He visited Forry Ackerman's home/museum there. It was great; we saw pictures.

I shouldn't take minutes anymore. They're hard to understand. [Ed. Note: Tell me about it! You should have seen these minutes before I worked on 'em!]

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What Are They Trying to Tell Us?

a question raised by Carl Cipra

As you know, there's been a lot of controversy over the years about getting Paramount to include a gay or lesbian character into one of their *Star Trek* series. But what if there already *is* one? I think it's possible that Paramount *has* already included a gay character, but that the "signals" have been so subtle that most people (including us) have missed 'em. I think a good case can be made that there's a gay character appearing on a semi-regular basis in *Star Trek: Deep Space 9*. "Who?" you ask. Why, "plain, simple Garak," the Cardassian tailor/spy, of course. Let me explain...

I have to admit that I was *very* doubtful about this idea when I first heard it some years ago. It was, in fact, during *DS9*'s first season that Jed Shumsky brought this to my attention. It started with "Past Prologue," in which the enigmatic Garak was first introduced to the TV audience - and all the warning bells apparently went off for Jed. He specifically cited the restaurant scene in that episode, where it appeared that Garak was trying to "hit on" the young, naive Dr. Julian Bashir.

"Don't be silly," I responded to Jed (or words to that effect). "Garak is obviously a Cardassian spy; and he's just trying to cozy up to that twit Bashir so he can pump him for information."

"Ah," said Jed, "but what about all those pink triangles on the wall behind Garak during that scene?"

"Pink triangles? Really?" So I reran the videotape; and, son of a gun, there they were! The *whole wall* behind Garak was covered with little pink triangles! I hadn't noticed *them* before! I also haven't noticed this particular "wall treatment" in any *other* context. Is this some kind of subtle, almost *obscure*, cue to any "family" in the audience as to just who-and-what Garak is?

And Garak *is*, after all, ostensibly "a clothier," for Ghod's sake! Perhaps the title "dress-maker" would be more appropriate? (Imagine this scene: "Oh, Julian, let me measure your inseam. Oops! I'm sorry, I hope that didn't hurt!") Be-

sides, Garak has certainly made enough bitchy remarks from time to time about what people are wearing!

"But," someone might object, "Garak is really a *spy*, isn't he?" So what? It's not as if there haven't been gay spys in the past! One need only look to the famous Burgess/Mclean spy case in Britain for an example (as dramatized in the film *Another Country*.)

And leave it to Paramount to "disguise" an issue by having it symbolized in an alien race. How many times over the decades have they used an alien species to illuminate some aspect of the human condition that's "too hot to handle"?

Hmmmm... Jed certainly gave me some food for thought; but eventually I forgot all about this issue... until *this* season of *ST:DS9*, that is. The recent episode "Distant Voices" brought it up all over again for me.

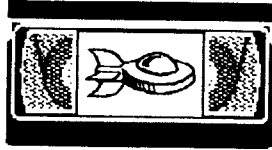
"Distant Voices" is one of those (in my opinion) abysmally forgettable "it all happens inside someone's mind" episodes. In this case, it all happens inside *Bashir's* mind (such as it is); and in one particular scene, the rapidly-aging Bashir imagines he is confronted by Garak in a room full of balloons and colored lights - *all in rainbow patterns!* Sure, the episode starts out with Julian Bashir worrying about his birthday - hence the balloon imagery - but why balloon *rainbows* in this scene? Why not just red-and-green balloons? Why not just blue-and-white balloons? Why *rainbows*? Is this another subtle/obscure (or, come to think of it, *not so* subtle/obscure) visual cue from the folks at Paramount?

What *are* they trying to tell us about Garak the Cardassian? We're constantly being reminded that there's more to this "simple tailor" than meets the eye. How *much* more?

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Classic Sci-Fi on Video
- "Outer Space" -
 by Joseph Parra



People often ask me, "Hey, Joe, what's on home video?" Or they ask, "Is *such-and-such* available on videotape?" Very often, I am able to lead them to a source or two who can supply what they need, or even to simply answer their questions. What I shall try to do in this series of articles is to list what "classic" science fiction films (good or bad) are commercially available on videotapes. This installment is entitled "**Outer Space**."

I've listed them alphabetically, with the annotation "G" (good) or "B" (bad). Take this list with you when you go shopping; you can even add to this list yourself! Enjoy!



- | | |
|--|---|
| <i>The Abyss</i> (G) | <i>Lost in Space</i> (TV series, selected episodes - G/B) |
| <i>Alien</i> (G) | <i>Marooned</i> (G/B) |
| <i>Alien Nation</i> (G) | <i>Mars Needs Women</i> (B) |
| <i>Aliens</i> (G) | <i>The Mysterians</i> (G) |
| <i>The Angry Red Planet</i> (G/B) | <i>Night of the Blood Beast</i> (B) |
| <i>The Astounding She-Monster</i> (B) | <i>The Outer Limits</i> (TV series - super G) |
| <i>Battle Beyond the Stars</i> (G) | <i>Planet of the Apes</i> (whole series available - some G, some B) |
| <i>The Blob</i> (G/B) | <i>Plan 9 from Outer Space</i> (Argh!) |
| <i>The Brain Eaters</i> (B) | <i>Queen of Outer Space</i> (G - What?! Joking!) |
| <i>The Brain from Planet Arous</i> (very B) | <i>Red Planet Mars</i> (G/B) |
| <i>Buck Rogers</i> (serial - G) | <i>Return of the Jedi</i> (G) |
| <i>Capricorn One</i> (G) | <i>Rocketship X-M</i> (G) |
| <i>Cat-Women of the Moon</i> (very B) | <i>Space Patrol</i> (TV series, B/G) |
| <i>Close Encounters of the Third Kind</i> (G) | <i>Star Wars</i> (G) |
| <i>Conquest of Space</i> (G) | <i>Target Earth</i> (G/B) |
| <i>The Day the Earth Stood Still</i> (G) | <i>The Thing</i> (G) |
| <i>Destination Moon</i> (G) | <i>This Island Earth</i> (G) |
| <i>Dime</i> (G/B) | <i>Tom Corbett, Space Cadet</i> (TV series - B) |
| <i>Earth vs. the Flying Saucers</i> (G) | <i>Total Recall</i> (G) |
| <i>The Empire Strikes Back</i> (G) | <i>The 27th Day</i> (G) |
| <i>E.T.</i> (G) | <i>The Twilight Zone</i> (TV series, selected shows - super G) |
| <i>Flash Gordon</i> (serials & TV - G/B) | <i>U.F.O.</i> (B) |
| <i>Forbidden Planet</i> (G) | <i>The Uncanny Stranger</i> (G) |
| <i>The Hidden</i> (G) | <i>V</i> (TV series, selected episodes - G) |
| <i>Man into Space</i> (TV, G) | <i>The War of the Worlds</i> (G) |
| <i>The Man Who Fell to Earth</i> (G) | <i>When Worlds Collide</i> (G) |
| <i>I Married a Monster from Outer Space</i> (G) | <i>World Without End</i> (G) |
| <i>The Martian Chronicles</i> (made-for-TV - G) | <i>Zombies of the Stratosphere</i> (serial - B), also available in feature version as <i>Satan's Satellites</i> |
| <i>The Invaders</i> (TV series, 10 episodes - G) | <i>2001: A Space Odyssey</i> (G) |
| <i>Invaders from Mars</i> (G/B) | <i>2010</i> (G) |
| <i>Invasion of the Body Snatchers</i> (G) | |
| <i>It Came from Outer Space</i> (G) | |
| <i>It Conquered the World</i> (B) | |
| <i>It! The Terror from Beyond Space</i> (G) | |
| <i>Journey to the Far Side of the Sun</i> (G/B) | |
| <i>Killers from Space</i> (B) | |
| <i>Kronos</i> (G/B) | |
| <i>The Last Starfighter</i> (G) | |

[Next installment: "Time Travel"]



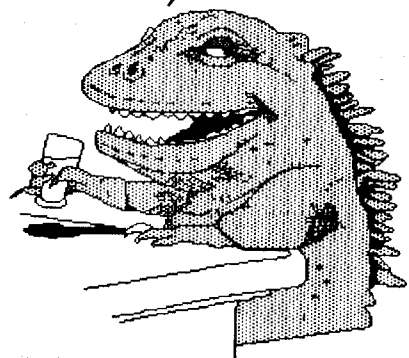
Ye Olde Editor's Corner
 by Carl "Ye Olde Editor" Cipra

A great big LSF "no prize" to our esteemed Treasurer, Rob, who was apparently the *only* one who noticed something rather odd about last month's newsletter. (At least he's the only one who *mentioned* it to me!) To wit: last month's newsletter was dated "April, 1994."

Well, er, um ... I *meant* to do that - yeah, that's it, I *meant* to do that! It was an April Fool's joke! (And if you believe that one, I've got some swampland on Mars I like to sell you!)



So the guy says to me, he says - What's the difference between an amusement park on Venus and a sewage treatment plant on Earth. And I say - I don't know. What's the difference? And the guy says to me - The Venusian amusement park charges admission!!!.....So I ate 'im! Gimme another drink, bar-keep!



**** 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 14th, at Jim C.'s apartment: 1414 17th St., NW, Apt. 413 (near Dupont Circle). Please bring some munchies or soft drinks if you can. There will be a fund-raising auction immediately after the business meeting. 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 19-21, 1995 **GAYLAXICON VI**: Radisson Hotel Niagara Falls (Niagara Falls, NY). Guest of Honor: Don Sakers; Artist GoH: Heather Bruton. Membership: \$30 at the door. Gaylaxicon VI, P.O. Box 160225, St. Louis, MO 63116-8225.

May 27-30, 1995 **DISCLAVE '95**: Renaissance Hotel Techworld (999 9th St., Washington, DC). Guest of Honor: Charles Sheffield; Artist GoH: Bob Eggleton; Special Guest: David Bischoff. Membership: \$40 at the door. Make checks payable to "Disclave '95" and send to: Disclave '95 Registration, PO Box 368, Gaithersburg, MD 20884.

July 7-9, 1995 **SHORE LEAVE 17**: Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Guests: Garrett ("Ensign Harry Kim") Wang, Dwight ("Barclay") Schultz; A.C. Crispin, Jacqueline Lichtenberg. For information on cost of membership, etc., call the Information Line at (410) 821-5563; membership ltd. to 1500. Address: Shore Leave 17, P.O. Box 6809, Towson, MD 21285-6809.

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: \$55 until 6/15/95 (\$60 at the door). Make checks payable to "NASFiC'95" and send to: NASFiC/ Dragon*Con'95, P.O. Box 47696, Atlanta, GA 30362-0696. For additional information, call the 24-hour Atlanta Convention Info Line at (404) 925-2813.

July 29/30, 1995 **NOVACON III** (The Westpark Hotel, Tysons Corner, VA). Guests: Marina ("Troi") Sirtis, Andrew ("Garak") Robinson. Membership: \$35 for entire weekend (\$65 for reserved seating); daily rates available at door. Make checks payable to "One Trek Mind Productions, Inc." and send to: One Trek Mind Productions, Inc., P.O. Box 3363, Merrifield, VA 22116 (You *must* enclose SASE to receive confirmation.). Novacon Hotline: (703) 280-5373.

Nov. 17-19, 1995 **PHILCON '95**: Adam's Mark Hotel (Philadelphia, PA). Principal Speaker: (to be announced); Guest Artist: Bob Eggleton; Special Guest: Connie Willis. Cost: \$25. Make check payable to "PSFS" and send to: Philcon '95, P.O. Box 8303, Philadelphia, PA 19101; Chairperson: Oz Fontecchio (ph. # 215-342-1672; Internet: kunga@netaxs.com).

