



LAMBDA SCI-FI



DC Area Gaylaxians

PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (202) 232-3141 - Issue #68 - Nov. 1995

Nov. Meeting Moved!!
* * *
IMPORTANT INFORMATION!!
READ ALL ABOUT IT!!

Whoops! We've had to do a little last-minute re-shuffling on the site for the Nov. 12th club meeting! Upon re-checking his calendar, James C. discovered he wouldn't be able to host the meeting that weekend; and, after some frantic phone calls, Philip & Jeff graciously consented to host the meeting in their new palatial estate over in Silver Spring. (If you're not one of the crew who helped them move in, you're in for a treat! It's impressive!) Here are the details:

When: Nov. 12th (Sunday), 2 PM (as regularly scheduled).

Where: 312 Highview Ave., Silver Spring, (301)495-7765

How to Get There:

DRIVING: Take Colesville Rd. east from Georgia Ave. (downtown Silver Spring); turn right on Franklin; take 3rd right onto Highview Ave.

METRO: Take the Red Line to Silver Spring Station. We'll plan two "shuttle runs" from the Metro station to the meeting (1:45 PM & 2:15 PM). All you have to do is wait at the "kiss & ride" area of the parking lot, and we'll pick you up and take you to the meeting. If you'd rather walk (or if you miss our "shuttles"), you can always walk to the meeting. It's about a 20-min. walk from the Metro station. Just follow directions re: "Driving" shown above.

ΛΨΦ

☼☼☼ LSF to Host Party at DarkoverCon ☼☼☼

It's coming up on that time of year again when several members of Lambda Sci-Fi make their pilgrimage to Darkover! No, no the *planet* - the *convention*! Yes, Darkover Grand Council Meeting XVIII will be held the weekend after Thanksgiving (Nov. 24-26), at the Holiday Inn Timonium (in Timonium, MD - just north of Baltimore).

It's a fun con and a "must" for fans of the "Darkover" books of Marion Zimmer Bradley and the "Deryni" books of Katherine Kurtz (both of whom are scheduled as guests). But it's also a *very* les/bi/gay-friendly convention. With guest authors like Melissa Scott, Lisa Barnett, and Don Sakers, it's easy to see how it's been called "a mini-Gaylaxicon within a con."

Quite a few LSF members will be in attendance at the con; so we've decided to sponsor a Gaylaxians room party on Saturday night (11/25). It'll be held in Carl's room; and we'll post notices with the room number around the con, too. Time: approx. 8 PM to 1 AM. Please bring munchies or finger-food; we'll provide soft drinks. See you there!

How to Get There: Interstate 95 North to Interstate 695 (Baltimore Beltway) toward Towson (East). Exit at #24 (north of Baltimore) onto Interstate 83 North (sign indicates to York, PA). Take first exit (#16A, Timonium Road). Turn right at the first light, and then turn right at the fourth driveway. (SEE MAP BELOW)



ΛΨΦ

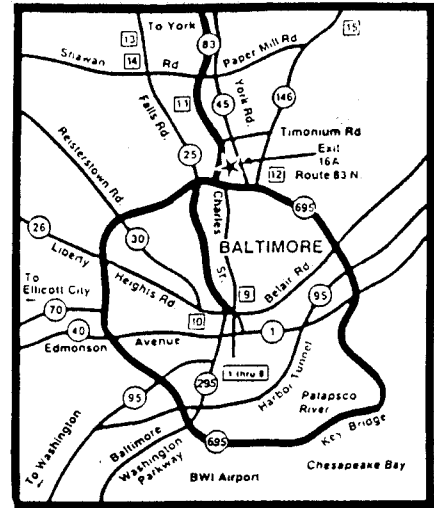
LSFer Moves to Calif.!!

Well, there goes the U.S. Space Program! Our very own Jim W. recently saddled up his horse and rode off into the sunset! So much for the Hubble Space Telescope and the journey "where no one has gone before." Jim is headed for his "dream job" in the Bay Area - working with computer animation, of course!

Jim has accepted a position with Pixar, located in Pt. Richmond, CA. Good luck, Jim! Keep in touch!

(NOTE: The Nov. '95 issue of *Cinefantastique* contains several articles on Pixar's upcoming full-length computer-animated movie, *Toy Story*.)

ΛΨΦ



WHAT'S INSIDE?

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Villages of the Damned

a comparison by Joseph Parra



In the late 1950s, author John Wyndham wrote several marvelous, now classic science fiction novels - among them *Day of the Triffids* and *The Midwich Cuckoos*. Both these novels were made into films in the early 1960s: *Day of the Triffids* by Allied Artists in 1962; and *Village of the Damned* (née *The Midwich Cuckoos*) by MGM in 1960. And, earlier this year, *The Midwich Cuckoos* was filmed yet again as *Village of the Damned*, this time by Universal Studios.

The 1960 version of *Village of the Damned* stuck very closely to John Wyndham's original tale. Everyone in the English village of Midwich suddenly falls asleep for a couple of hours one afternoon. During this incredibly long nap, all the women in the village of child-bearing age are impregnated by an invisible force from another world. These poor unfortunate souls give birth all on the same day and hour to beautiful blond babies - beautiful blond babies from Hell, that is! These terrible tykes possess deadly powers of mental persuasion - persuasion to the point of murder. They are also mentally mature beyond all (or any) human comprehension. They can be stopped, however. While their mental acumen is, of course, astounding - especially when the children concentrate together - they can be blocked for a time if the victim is able to visualize a strong mental image of some kind, such as (in the film) a brick wall. George Sanders plays the father of the leader of the children; and gradually the children come to rely on Sanders to teach them all about humankind. The armed forces of Great Britain are unable to stop the little monsters; and the children take lives at whim. What's to do? Think: brick wall - brick wall - brickwallbrickwall... thus, George Sanders thinks as he brings a bomb into the schoolhouse to destroy the evil progeny and, ultimately, sacrifices himself.

Well, the kids got time off for good behavior - three years, to be precise. Then, in 1963, MGM decided to take them out of storage and produce a sequel, *Children of the Damned*. This time, Wyndham's basic idea of soulless progeny attempting a worldwide coup is moved to London, where a group of children have come together from all over the globe. This time, however, the children are not the "blondies" of the original film; they're all sorts of children from all the races of the Earth. Also unlike the original, they are not the result of seeding from outer space: a sampling of tissue from one of the kids reveals "they are the cells of man advanced a million years." They also have a new purpose. They are no longer interested in conquering the world, so long as they are not prevented from banding together. When their ultimate purpose is finally revealed (they assembled so they could all be destroyed at once, because they were born too soon), the whole film becomes terribly anti-climactic.

Now (1995) comes a combination of Universal Studios and John Carpenter, renowned horror-meister (*Halloween*, *The Fog*, etc.). Carpenter takes several liberties with John Wyndham's book - some important, some not. Midwich is now in California, not England. Christopher Reeve is now the dedicated schoolmaster for the 1990s. The babies are once again all blonder-than-blond and intent on world domination. The American military, however, has abandoned any idea of destroying the kids in favor of trying to understand and (eventually) subjugate them. Ha, ha, ha! These tykes have no compunctions about taking their parents (and anyone else's) lives if they get in the way. There are "shock" [Ed. note: i.e. "bloody," "gory," "graphic"] moments naturally - after all, this is a John Carpenter film.

In updating the story and in taking liberties as he did, Carpenter has fashioned a different movie, partially in content and definitely in style. This film has a certain charm of its own, though it does not (upon second viewing) hold up nearly as well as the classic 1960 version. Sometimes subtlety makes an incredible difference. In the 1960 version, director Wolf Rilla points our attention to details in a subtle fashion; in 1995, Carpenter grabs our heads and turns them for us. The children in the 1960 version are cold, clinical, and analytical - their evil is subtle, sly, never overt (unless someone directs an attack right at them). The children in the 1995 film are clearly, openly evil from the outset. One interesting change in the Carpenter film is that there are 10 children - five matched boy/girl pairs (though only 4 girls are successfully born); and, though the children clearly are of one mind, there is a dissenter in the group (the unmatched boy). Carpenter has wisely realized that if he makes the children so blatantly evil, he has to provide an "out."

Comparing the 1960 and 1995 film versions is not as simple as which is better or which sticks more closely to the original novel. It almost boils down to the old (and possibly never settled) argument in fantastic films: Is it better to leave more to the imagination or to purposely direct an audience's attention to particular details? See both films yourself and decide. One thing, however, is still the same in both movies - beware the eyes that paralyze!!!

ΛΨΦ

"Life is full
of little
surprises."

-- Pandora

excerpted from
Myth Directions
by Robert Asprin



**Good News for
Dinophiles!!**
reported by Carl Cipra



Hey, are you a "dinophile" like me?* If so, then it looks like we've struck the motherlode! There've been all sorts of neat "dino-stuff" coming out lately. Here's a short review of some of the highlights:

The Lost World
by Michael Crichton
(Knopf, \$25.95)

One of the biggest news items is the release of this much-heralded sequel to Crichton's *Jurassic Park*. (In fact, this is the first "sequel" that Crichton has ever written!)

The story is set six years after the disaster at Hammond's "dino-theme park" on Isla Nublar, off the coast of Costa Rica. Hammond is dead and his company, International Genetic Technologies (InGen) has gone bankrupt. Strange little creatures have been showing up in the jungles of Costa Rica; and, despite a concerted effort to cover up anything having to do with InGen, rumors have leaked out. Richard Levine, a brilliant, wealthy, quirky paleontologist has heard rumors of the sightings in Costa Rica, so he finances an expedition to look for what he believes to be a "lost world" where prehistoric creatures must still survive. Among those he talks into accompanying him is the mathematician Dr. Ian Malcolm. Malcolm is an international authority on the application of chaos theory to evolution and, incidentally, one of the survivors of the *Jurassic Park* debacle. Also making a return appearance (and running a rival expedition) is Lewis Dodgson, the ruthless industrial spy who tried to arrange for the theft of dinosaur embryos in *Jurassic Park* - he still wants to get his hands on InGen's bio-engineered marvels, and this time he's willing to kill to get them. Everyone ends up on Isla Sorna, where they learn "Hammond's dirty little secret ... the dark side of his park." Oh, boy!

*i.e. Do you like stuff about dinosaurs and other prehistoric creatures?

More dinosaurs, *different* dinosaurs - any everyone's best-laid plans go very, very awry. In fact, they're all hard-pressed to keep from becoming snacks for some ravening carnosaur or other! (And not everyone succeeds!)

The action in the story is supplemented by plenty of fascinating discussions regarding chaos theory (aka "complexity theory"), theories about mass extinctions, and theories about dinosaur behavior - as well as explanations of why much of what you previously thought was true about *Jurassic Park* couldn't possibly have been! As always, Crichton has researched the latest scientific speculations and "cutting edge" theories for use in his newest novel. *The Lost World* is exciting reading at times; but, on the whole, I don't think it's as exciting as *Jurassic Park*. (There's already speculation about a second movie, though!)

Raptor Red
by Dr. Robert T. Bakker
(Bantam, \$21.95)

And, speaking of "the latest scientific speculations" being used in the service of telling a story, renowned paleontologist Bob Bakker has also put out a dino-novel. By no means a shy and retiring researcher, Bakker has been the center of controversy in scientific circles for years now. In a 1986 non-fiction work, *The Dinosaur Heresies*, Bakker presented the public with his revolutionary picture of dinosaurs as dynamic, hot-blooded, active, social animals. Many of his theories have not yet gained whole-hearted acceptance. It is, in fact, Bakker to whom some of the Smithsonian paleontologists are referring when they say: "Never trust a man in a straw hat!"

In *Raptor Red*, Bakker has cloaked his theories in fictional (unreferenced, unfootnoted) format. The novel tells the tale of life in Early Cretaceous times (some 120 million years ago) in what is now western North America. "Raptor Red," the

title character, is a female Utahraptor (one of those deadly man-sized predators so strikingly featured in *Jurassic Park*); and the novel follows her adventures and those of her immediate family (tribe?). Each chapter heading (and the endpapers) are illustrated by Bakker's well-done line drawings, just in case you're in any doubt as to what type of animals are being talked about.

This book is an enjoyable way to get exposure to the latest in "dino-theories," controversial as they often are. The unsettling nature of these theories is perhaps best symbolized by Steve Youll's beautiful full-color frontispiece of several Utahraptors wandering about a snowy, evergreen-filled valley. I think Bakker may have strayed a bit over the "anthropomorphic line" in his portrayals of Raptor Red and her companions (their "thoughts," "emotions," etc.) - but that's a problem faced by all novelists who feature non-human protagonists. (Try reading Jack London's *The Call of the Wild* and you'll see what I mean.) When you've read *Raptor Red*, you can always go grab a copy of Bakker's *Dinosaur Heresies* and read up on the bases for his theories and speculations.

Paleoworld, the 2nd Season
(The Learning Channel)

That's right; they're back - a whole new set of episodes of this fascinating little made-for-cable series. The first few episodes they've shown so far this season have retained all the great qualities of the first season (see my review in the Nov. '94 issue of this newsletter). This season even started off with a two-parter about fossil hunting in northern Africa and featured a set of young (and, I think, very gay-looking) paleontologists. And they've got a new narrator - Nick Shatzki. (He's a bit of an improvement over last season's lackluster narrations by Ben Gazzara.) Each half-hour episode now airs four times weekly - at 8 PM and at 11 PM on both Saturday and Sunday nights - on The Learning Channel (Channel 53 on District Cablevision). Tune in.

(continued on page 4)



Dinophiles

cont'd from page 3



Dinopix

by Teruhisa Tajima

(Chronicle Books, \$18.95)

This book was originally published in Japan in 1994. It consists of 45 photographs of replicas of dinosaurs (and other prehistoric creatures) set against modern landscapes and cityscapes. The minimalist text is certainly nothing to write home about, but some of the photos are really great. I'm especially fond of some of the juxtapositions of dinosaurs and modern city scenes - for example: "Brachiosaurus on Route 15" (huge sauropods crossing a highway in the face of uncoming traffic) and "Camarasaurus by Lake Ontario" (casually walking along a fishing pier). In all, a lightweight work, but pretty.

Dinotopia: The World Beneath

written & illustrated

by James Gurney

(Turner Publishing, \$29.95)

The work of James Gurney is well known to devotees of fantasy/fantastic art. His magnificent paintings have been drawing huge, admiring crowds at convention art shows for years. (In fact, he won "Best of Show" at Noreascon III, the 1989 Worldcon in Boston.)

In 1992, Gurney chose a number of his canvasses, wrote a loose frame-story to tie them together, created a few new scenes - and produced the Hugo Award-winning *Dinotopia: A Land Apart from Time*. The book is supposed to be based on the "recently discovered notebooks" of Arthur Denison, who in 1862 was shipwrecked with his son on a "lost world" somewhere in the Pacific Ocean. It is Denison's lavishly-illustrated narration of his discovery of, and initial contacts with, the island's wondrous, exotic human-dinosaur civilization.

The World Beneath, Gurney's newest work, chronicles the further adventures (in 1867) of the Denisons, as they explore the remains of a long-lost Atlantis-like civilization beneath the island of Dinotopia and among the savage tribes of carnosaurs in Rainy Basin. Once again, Gurney has produced a magnificently beautiful and entertaining work. It's like some wondrous amalgam of Doyle, Haggard, and Burroughs - with *incredible* illustrations! It's got a hefty price tag attached, but I found it well worth the price. (And some folks over on the Mall found it noteworthy enough to feature it as the cover story for the Sept. '95 issue of *Smithsonian*.)

ΛΨΦ

Brief Notes on the Oct. "Video Madness" Party

by Rob (briefly)

Two TVs and four VCRs do not an even set make, but we charged forth anyway. The number of movies to choose from was a little smaller than usual; but the variety was, as always, tremendous. After the confused flurry of voting had finished, we ended up with the following:

DOWNSTAIRS: *My Science Project*, *Ed Wood*, *Manster*.

UPSTAIRS: *The Horrible (?) Dr. Phibes*, *Bedknobs and Broomsticks*, *W.E.I.R.D. World*.

Yes, it's true! Philip finally got *My Science Project* voted through - and in a big way as our highest vote-getter of the evening. (Now if he could only convince us to watch *My Bloody Valentine* unlikely.)

[Ed. note: As usual, the attendees really had a good time - and more food than we knew what to do with, even though no one was exactly "shy" around the buffet tables. Thanks, Jaime, for hosting another successful "Video Madness" bash - and for all those tasty treats you whipped up in the kitchen, too!]

ΛΨΦ

Non-Sequential Minutes of the Oct. LSF Meeting

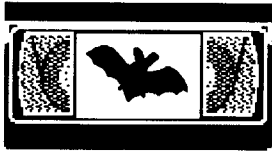
by obR

.....
Crichton's *Lost World* is OK, with some interesting stuff and some average writing. *Psychotronic Video Magazine* was passed around - a slightly odd, very gay-friendly, weird movie magazine. We all introduced ourselves. It was reported that Gaylaxicon VI lost significant amounts of money; but that these losses were largely offset by very large donations. The Network's Awards Committee is working towards completion of a proposal (Network awards for literature, media, etc.). If you register by 12/31/95, membership for "Blatimore [sic] in '98"

Worldcon is only \$80; it's set for the first full weekend in August '98. Various catalogues were passed around. There may be a Gaylaxicon in 1997 after all - possibly in Chicago - maybe hosted by Third Coast Gaylaxians, possibly with the help of Great Lakes Gaylaxians, and maybe including Kindred Spirits (St. Louis). (Talk about "what if..?") The LSF field trip to the Cartoon Art Gallery was fun, as was the LSF field trip to the Maryland Renaissance Festival. At the RenFest - hilarious Shakespeare Scum performances, cool masks, good dancers, and nice sausages. LSF's proposed amendment to the Network Charter is still causing ripples; and the version of the charter which is currently being put together has gotten rid of the offending

passage. Someone woke me up to take more minutes. Philip tried to talk various LSF members into volunteering to assume certain positions for the Network Board. Order was called to start the meeting. Various Network Board positions need filling: GNAPA Editor, Newsletter Coordinator, Publicist, Correspondent, and (depending on whether International can act in time) a rep for International. The latest issue of *FilmFax* includes an article on Anthony Perkins, including mention of his predilections. The SF Channel is doing "Hammer Week" and showing many cool movies and shows starting right now and continuing through the next few months. There was much TV Talk about show premieres, good and bad.

(continued on page 5)



Classic Horror on Video
- "Vampires" -
 by Joseph Parra

"There are more things in heaven and Earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophies." (Shakespeare, *Hamlet*) "More stars than there are in heaven!" (MGM) No, I'm not sure what one quote has to do with the other; but they sounded good together! Another two things that always sounded good together (to me) are "the supernatural" and "the psychotic." Many age-old legends and tales and loonies have mixed well together with movie stars, regardless of the movie studio involved. In the previous series, I examined various "Clas-

sic Sci-Fi" films available on videotape. Now it's time to look at good (and bad) "Classic Horror" videos available for home viewing.

I'll start off this series with the undoubted "Prince of Darkness," Dracula himself - and all his other vampiric relatives! As with the "Classic Sci-Fi" series, I'll be labeling each film with my opinion of whether it's a good (G) film or a bad (B) film. Feel free to take this list along with you when you next visit your favorite video store. (And "fangs" for all your support!)

- Legend of the 7 Golden Vampires* (B/G)
- Let's Scare Jessica to Death* (B)
- The Lost Boys* (G)
- Love at First Bite* (G)
- Lust for a Vampire* (B)
- Mark of the Vampire* (G)
- Near Dark* (G)
- The Night Stalker* (G)
- Nocturna* (B)
- Nosferatu* (G)
- Nosferatu, the Vampyre* (G)
- The *Nostradamus* series of vampire films (G)
- Not of This Earth* (1957 - G/B; 1987 - B/G)
- Old Mother Riley Meets the Vampire* (aka: *My Son, the Vampire* - G/B)
- Orgy of the Vampires* (B/G)
- Queen (Planet) of Blood* (G/B)
- Return of Count Yorga* (G)
- The Return of Dracula* (G)
- Return of the Vampire* (G)
- Return to Salem's Lot* (B/G)
- Salem's Lot* (B/G)
- Satanic Rites of Dracula* (G)
- Scars of Dracula* (G/B)
- Scream, Blacula, Scream* (B/G)
- Son of Dracula* (G)
- Spooks Run Wild* (B)
- Taste the Blood of Dracula* (G)
- Uncle Was a Vampire* (G/B)
- The Vampire* (Mexican; G)
- The Vampire Bat* (G/B)
- Vampire Circus* (B)
- The Vampire Lovers* (G)
- The Vampire's Coffin* (G/B)
- The Velvet Vampire* (B)

....and many, many others to sink your teeth into!

- Abbott & Costello Meet Frankenstein* (G)
- Alabama's Ghost* (Extremely B)
- Black Sabbath* (G)
- Black Sunday* (Very G)
- Blacula* (G, oddly enough)
- Blood and Roses* (G)
- Blood of Dracula* (B/G)
- Brides of Dracula* (G)
- Buffy, the Vampire Slayer* (B/G)
- Condemned to Live* (G - very rare)
- Count Dracula* (G)
- Count Yorga, Vampire* (G)
- Dead Men Walk* (G/B)
- The Devil Bat* (G/B)
- Devil Bat's Daughter* (B)
- Dracula* (1931 - Super G)
- Dracula* (1931, in Spanish - Mucho G)
- Dracula* (1951, aka *Horror of Dracula* - Super G)

- Dracula* (1973 - G)
- Dracula* (1980, BBC production - Very G)
- Dracula* (1979 - G/B)
- Dracula* (1992 - G)
- Dracula, A.D. 1972* (G)
- Dracula Has Risen from the Grave* (G)
- Dracula, Prince of Darkness* (G)
- Dracula's Daughter* (G)
- Dracula vs. Frankenstein* (B)
- Dr. Terror's House of Horrors* (G)
- The Fearless Vampire Killers* (G)
- Fright Night* (#1 - G; #2 - B/G)
- Gallery of Horrors* (B)
- House of Dark Shadows* (B)
- House of Dracula* (G)
- House of Frankenstein* (G)
- The Hunger* (G/B)
- Isle of the Dead* (G)
- Kiss of the Vampire* (G)

Next Month: "Transformations"

ΛΨΦ

Oct. Minutes - - - cont'd from page 4 - - -

Some interest was garnered from a few members for Network involvement. Videos were chosen; food was devoured. (Or was that: "Food was chosen; videos were devoured"? Oh, well...) My notebook is now empty, so I can't take minutes anymore.

[Ed. note: We've really got to reconsider who we get to take minutes at the meeting! This stuff is getting seriously WEIRD!]

ΛΨΦ

"Bibbity...bobbity..."

— S. Strange, M.D.

excerpted from
Myth-Nomers and Im-Pervections
 by Robert Asprin

*** * 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, November 12th, at Philip-and-Jeff's new home: 312 Highview Ave., Silver Spring, MD (about 20 min. walk east of Silver Spring Metro Station). 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.



Nov. 17-19, 1995 **PHILCON '95**: Adam's Mark Hotel (Philadelphia, PA). Principal Speaker: Jack Williamson; Guest Artist: Bob Eggleton; Special Guest: Connie Willis. Cost: \$30 until Nov. 3 (\$35 at the door). Make check payable to "PSFS" and send to: Philcon '95, P.O. Box 8303, Philadelphia, PA 19101; Chairperson: Oz Fontecchio; PSFS Hotline: 215-342-1672; Internet: kunga@netaxs.com

Nov. 24-26, 1995 **DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL MEETING XVIII**: Holiday Inn Timonium (Timonium, MD). GoH: Julia Ecklar; Special Guests: Marion Zimmer Bradley, Katherine Kurtz. Hotel: \$62/nite (up to 4 per room). Cost: \$25 until 11/1/95 (\$30 at door). Make check payable to "Armida Council" and send to: Armida Council, PO Box 7203, Silver Spring, MD 20907. A *very les/bi/gay-friendly* convention; often described as "a mini-Gaylaxicon *within* a con."

March 30-31, 1996 **NOVACON IV**: Westpark Hotel (Tysons Corner, VA). Guests: Robert ("the Doctor") Picardo, Grace Lee ("Yeoman Rand") Whitney. Cost: \$35 for the weekend (or \$20 for Sat. & \$20 for Sun.); \$5/day additional is purchased at the 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. For additional info, call (703) 280-5373.

April 5-7, 1996 **BALTICON XXX**: Omni International Hotel (Baltimore, MD). GoH: Robert Jordan; Art GoH: Lubov; "Fang" GoH: Marty Gear. Cost: \$30 until 12/31/95; \$35 from 1/1 - 2/28/96; \$40 at the door. Make check payable to "Balticon XXX" and send to: Balticon XXX, PO Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203-0686. E-mail: bsfs@access.digex.net

July 5-7, 1996 **GAYLAXICON VII**: Burlington Marriot Hotel (Burlington, MA - about 10 mi. NW of Boston). Guests of Honor: "To be Announced." Cost: \$20 until 12/31/95; \$25 from 1/1/96 to 4/30/96; \$30 from 5/1/96 to 6/15/96; \$35 at the door. Make check payable to "Gaylaxicon VII" and send to: Gaylaxicon VII, P.O. Box 176, Somerville, MA 02143.

Aug. 29 - Sept. 1, 1996 **L.A.CON III (the 54th World Science Fiction Convention)**. Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim Hilton & Towers, and Anaheim Marriott (Anaheim, CA). Writer GoH: James White; Media GoH: Roger Corman; Toastmaster: Connie Willis. Cost: \$110 until 12/31/95; "more" after 1/1/96. Make check payable to "L.A.Con III" and send to: L.A. Con III, c/o SCIFI, P.O. Box 8442, Van Nuys, CA 91409. Email infobot: lacon3-info@netcom.com

Aug. 28 - Sept. 1, 1997 **LONESTARCON 2 (the 55th World Science Fiction Convention)**. Both Marriott Riverwalk Hotels & San Antonio Convention Center (San Antonio, TX). Honored Guests: Algis Budrys & Michael Moorcock; Honored Artist Guest: Don Maitz. Cost: \$95 as of 8/16/95; "more" as time goes on. Make check payable to "LoneStarCon 2" and send to: LoneStarCon 2, P.O. Box 27277, Austin, TX 78755. For further info, call (512) 453-7446.