



PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (202) 232-3141 - Issue #72 - March 1996

IN MEMORIAM

LINTON LEE

10/26/61 - 2/5/96



The members of Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians sadly announce the passing of one of their own. Linton Lee was a long-time member of LSF. He was the former owner of the Cosmic Bookstore (in Manassas) and hosted several LSF video parties there. He was genuinely a sweet, friendly, lovable guy. We'll miss him.



Gaylaxicon VII Guests of Honor Announced!!

The Gaylaxicon VII con committee has announced that there will be two author Guests of Honor at the convention this year: Delia Sherman (*Through a Brazen Mirror* and *Porcelain Dove*) and Ellen Kushner (*Swordpoint* and *Thomas the Rhymer*)! All the more reason to make sure you don't miss out on Gaylaxicon this year! Join up now!

(See page 6 for details on the con.)

Erin Go "Video Madness"! Begorrah!

Party Alert!

Another LSF "Video Madness" Party is planned for Saturday, March 16th, at Jaime's place. Faith & begorrah, the theme will be "A Celebration of St. Patrick's Day" (which is actually the *next* day, Sunday, March 17th). One video screen will be dedicated to the *Leprechaun* movies - all four of 'em!!! ARGH!

When to Be There

The potluck dinner will start at 6:00 PM, with the videos to begin as soon as we get the "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 different "tracks" of programming shown on each of three screens throughout the house. (One screen will, however, be officially designated as "the *Leprechaun* movie theatre!")

As usual, the party will include our traditional potluck pig-out, so 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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Linton Williams Lee
Oct. 26, 1961 - Feb. 5, 1996
by Jim Williams

Linton was cute. In November, 1991, I came to a Lambda Sci-Fi meeting after not having been in quite a while. A friend of mine had told me there was another LSFer (whom I'll call "Mr. X") I ought to meet. Alas, my friend only told me that Mr. X was "a cute guy with a beard!" Eventually, "a cute guy with a beard" came in. Could this be Mr. X? But it wasn't - everyone called this guy Linton. At the break, I talked with Linton and was struck by his friendliness and his smile. Perhaps here was someone I should get to know better.

Linton liked brownies. The next month, the LSF meeting was held at Jaime's and was followed by a "Video Madness" Party. After the business part of the meeting we broke for food. Linton was there, cute as ever, and when I went over to talk to him, I found out he'd brought brownies. "He likes chocolate!" I thought. "Better and better!" When the videos started, I managed to contrive to have an empty space nearby. I only had to bite one or two people to keep it clear until Linton came looking for a place to sit. As we sat, I got the impression (perhaps my imagination) that he was pleased to be sitting with me. I had to leave early since I was in the Gay Men's Chorus and we had a performance that night. As I left, Linton followed me outside and asked if I'd like to go out with him sometime. I said yes.

Linton was honest. I think it was on our second date that I learned he was HIV+. It was a shock and caused me to face the disease in a way I hadn't had to before. But Linton was a prime example of a person "living with AIDS." It was impossible for me to look at this strong, handsome man

and see him as being in any way "sick." In the end, Linton's HIV status was of little significance in our relationship.

Linton owned a bookstore. Or it owned him - I was never very sure which. He was rightfully proud of what he accomplished by opening and running his very own business. I was constantly amazed at the work that went into the place. Since it occupied virtually all of his time, I usually ended up meeting him there if we wanted to get together. Every time I went, he had put up more shelves, rearranged a corner, added a table or bought more books. And it sure made a great place for a "Video Madness" Party, didn't it?!

Linton was funny. That's one of the things I liked best about him. Whenever we were together, I would end up laughing myself silly over something he said. Everything I know about wicked Gay humor I learned from him.

Linton was private. The public, friendly exterior that everyone saw hid a more private, protected person that you sometime had to dig for. He could be hard to understand, and often I wasn't sure I knew what he was trying to say. But he also had great insight into human character. I've known him to size up someone he'd just met and have them nailed within ten minutes.

Linton was the worst morning person I will ever know.

Linton liked travel. He and Ray were the perfect couple. As United Airlines employees, they could travel almost anywhere for next to nothing. And they went everywhere! Breakfast in London! Lunch in California! Dinner in Hawaii! Even as his health declined, Linton kept traveling. It was one of his greatest joys.

But most of all, Linton was a dear friend whom I loved very much; and I will miss him.

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**"Shortest Minutes
of the Year" (?)**

(for Feb. LSF Meeting)
by Rob G.

Once again, a large crowd showed up for the February meeting. With no snow left on the ground and no bad weather in sight, there was nothing to keep the hordes away.

We started on a somber note, as a number of members talked about the passing of longtime friend and past member of LSF Linton Lee. Linton passed away in early February after a battle with AIDS. LSFers Peter K., Jaime, Jim W., Scott R., and Joe P. attended the funeral services a few days before the Feb. LSF meeting, and they shared their comments on the services, while others talked about Linton's past activities with the club. Over the course of the meeting, Peter's photo album was passed around so newer members could see pictures of Linton; and a sympathy card was passed around and signed, to be sent to Linton's widowed partner, Ray.

Following that, a number of magazines and articles were passed around, including: *Outré*, *Science Fiction Chronicle*, *Space/Time Continuum*, *Gameshop News*, the Lambda Literary Award Nominations form, info on the Philadelphia-to-DC AIDS Ride, and the latest SMYAL newsletter.

We then moved on to Network news: Rob (that's me) did NOT get elected Publicist. However, there are still 2 open Board positions - Newsletter Coordinator and Representative for Gaylaxians International. Rob has offered his services to Mike Wadley for the position of GI Rep. (In the meantime, TAU:GUNY - the Albany Galaxians chapter - is handling the administrative end of things for GI.) Peter K. has contacted Mike Wadley to volunteer for the position of Worldcon Liaison - no news on the status of that yet. Because of rising mail & photocopy costs, the Board is considering some sort of alternative to the duties of the Newsletter Coordinator. No definitive ideas have come up for a vote yet; Philip will keep us posted.

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Parting with people is a sadness; a place is only a place.

--- Frank Herbert ---

excerpted from *Science Fictionisms*, compiled by William Rotsler
(Gibbs Smith, Publisher, 1995)

**Journals of the
Plague Years**
by Norman Spinrad
(Bantam, 1995)
reviewed by Carl Cipra

Norman Spinrad is one of my favorite authors; I've enjoyed every novel of his that I've read. The mere mention of some of the titles - *Bug Jack Baron*, *Child of Fortune*, *Deus X*, *The Iron Dream*, *Little Heroes*, *Russian Spring* - brings back memories of some really great reading experiences!

And now there's *Journals of the Plague Years*; and I can summarize my feelings about this one by saying: Wow! This is vintage Spinrad, writing at his controversial, visionary, "in your face" best! It's a science-fictional study of life in "The Plague Years," the era when AIDS has run rampant: a world of quarantined cities, HIV-status ID cards, safe-sex machines, Sex Police, and the outlawing of old-fashioned lovemaking (dubbed "meat-sex" in the novel). But what about a cure, you ask? Oh, there *was* one; a vaccine *was* developed. "But [in the words of the novel's Introduction] the organism mutated under this evolutionary pressure and a new strain swept the world. A new vaccine was developed, but the virus mutated again. Eventually, the succession of vaccines selected for mutability itself, and the Plague virus proliferated into dozens of strains."

Journals recounts the intertwined stories of four key individuals during those horrific years. John David is one of the thousands of infected members of the American Foreign Legion ("aka the Army of the Living Dead") - pumped up on the latest vaccines, palliatives, and drugs and sent to fight "an endless imperialistic war against the whole Third World" until the Legion's revolt during the Baja California campaign. Walter T. Bigelow is possibly the most powerful man in the United States, head of the far-reaching Federal Quarantine Agency and its enforcement arm, the Sex Police. He's also a Born Again Christian who has been fighting the



Devil and the Devil-spawned Plague (as well as his own homosexual urges) for decades. Dr. Richard Bruno is a brilliant scientist, a genetic synthesizer for a corporation which designs Plague vaccines - and now he's Got It (*i.e.* he's infected). He's just developed an absolute cure for the Plague (in *all* its mutations). Will he be Quarantined before he can save the world? Or will he be killed as a threat

to the multi-billion-dollar vaccine industry and the powerful FQA? And then there's Linda Lewin: infected at 18 by a lying boyfriend, she joins the California underground and becomes Our Lady of the Living Dead, the head of a new religion which seeks a cure to the Plague through carnal abandon. It's an incredible mix! In the introductory words of a historian from the future looking back on the events of the novel: "...what we must remember if we are to keep our perspective as we read these journals of the Plague Years is that the people who wrote them, indeed the entire population of what was then the United States of America, and most of the world, were, by our standards, all quite mad."

Spinrad always generates controversy with his works; and *Journals of the Plague Years* is no exception. The novel's new Afterword tells the tale. Spinrad wrote *Journals* in 1987 but was unable to find a publisher for it because "the subject was too frightening." When his editors found they couldn't dissuade him from writing it anyway, they warned him to at least keep the word AIDS out of it. Hence, "the Plague." A slightly shorter version of the story first saw publication in 1988 in *Full Spectrum*, a critically-acclaimed (but not widely-read) anthology of speculative fiction. It wasn't until September, 1995, that *Journals* became "viable in book form because the matters that it deals with have, alas, become more central to our lives than

ever they were in 1987....so central that denial is no longer a viable psychic option."

Spinrad is an incredible writer. This is an incredible book. It certainly made me re-think some of the issues and events of our own "Plague Years."

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"Shortest Minutes" (?)

continued from page 2

LSF's first World Wide Web site and e-mail address are up and running. It has seen little traffic so far; but we've asked a couple of central Web resource centers to list our site, and that could increase traffic. Everyone was encouraged to check out the site and send feedback to Rob (via the LSF e-mail address) for planning future changes and developments; and everyone is encouraged to plug our address to anyone they want, so we'll see higher usage. [Ed. note: WWW site & e-mail address are shown on page 6 of this newsletter.] An interesting tidbit from the world of cyberspace -- noted SF author C.J. Cherryh sent us a suggestion for the "LSF Recommends" booklist after she checked out our page. (She saw the notation Rob made on a bulletin board on America On-Line.)

We also discussed the 1996 Gay Pride Day festivities. We have already received the sign-up papers. We overwhelmingly decided to have our regular Pride Day booth and also agreed to hold a video party sometime during Pride Week, so that we could get a listing in the Pride Guide for our event. No date was set; and everyone is encouraged to plan on making a decision at the March LSF meeting. Everyone was also reminded about the upcoming "Video Madness" Party set for March 16th at Jaime's. And everyone got to see LSF's more-than-cool new envelopes (fresh from the printers).

There were some tidbits of industry news as well. The American *Godzilla* movie is "on" again. Remakes are in the works for *The Land*

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TWO VAMPIRIC REVIEWS BY MICHAEL CORNETT

The Dead Travel Fast

by Michael Cornett

Those Who Hunt By Night, by Barbara Hambly (1988), is set in the first decade of the twentieth century. It concerns the adventures of James Asher, former secret agent and now Oxford professor, who is hired by vampires to investigate the deaths of several of their kind in the London area. It seems that someone is killing vampires while they sleep and opening their coffins to daylight, leaving behind ashes and bones.

Hambly sets up a vigorous, fast-moving tale here, moving between the high-society enclaves of the vampire masters to the grimy cellars and catacombs of the vampire rabble. She sets up an interesting vampire culture, with each major city dominated by a vampire lord, who is ultimately a sort of undead gang boss and monitors the intrusions of any interloper. The causes of vampirism are left somewhat nebulous, leading to some interesting (and entertaining) debates on the exact origins of the bloodsucker syndrome. The atmosphere of a country heading inexorably toward WWI is well created, and the book's climax really packs a whallop.

The book's only major flaw is its characters. James Asher, his wife Lydia (a medical researcher), and Don Simon Ysidro (the major vampire character) are all well-thought-out, but they're nonetheless rather cold and flat and difficult to get involved with.

Hambly must have done some work on that problem in the years between *TWHBN* and its sequel, *Traveling with the Dead* (1995), because this time her characters have much more spark and seem much more warm and human (where appropriate).

In this new novel, Europe is even closer to war, and Asher, passing through a railroad station, spots a vampiric acquaintance heading for Paris in the company of one of the Kaiser's secret agents. Asher takes



They Drive By Night

by Michael Cornett



From Dusk Till Dawn (directed by Robert Rodriguez, from a script by Quentin Tarantino) is a movie that one will either love or hate. I doubt there'll be much of a gray area.

George Clooney and Quentin Tarantino star as the Gecko brothers,



off in pursuit, following the nefarious pair across Europe to Constantinople, with Lydia and Don Ysidro following close behind, picking up the clues that Asher leaves behind.

Traveling works well with the paranoia of the time; and its combination of supernatural terrors with spy-vs.-spy intrigue mixes very nicely. Hambly's descriptions of prewar Vienna and Constantinople are very evocative, showing an attention to detail that makes the fantastic plotline plausible.

Hambly's vampire nightworld isn't too far from Anne Rice's, but it stands on its own very well. Hambly's vampires are neither saintly immortal creatures who just happen to drink blood nor the "pure *Dracula*" evil kind of vampire; they are morally ambiguous creatures who operate outside of human society and mores. This blood-thirsty netherworld makes for entertaining reading and, combined with compelling stories, makes these two books worth seeking out. ΛΨΦ

bank robbers on the way to Mexico with their booty and a hostage. On the way, they encounter a doubting preacher (Harvey Keitel, in a marvelously understated performance) and his two kids, the elder of which is played by Juliette Lewis. (I forget who the other is.) The brothers Gecko take Keitel's family hostage and force them to drive to a remote bar in Mexico for their rendezvous.

This trip consumes the first half of the movie. It's pretty much a standard criminals-on-the-lam movie (with typical Tarantino touches) until they finally arrive at their destination, a charming little nightclub called "The Titty Twister."

In a rapid course of events, we find out that this certain bar/stripjoint is staffed by vampires, who swoop down on the patrons with enthusiastically gory glee. There are some great morphing effects, good use of surroundsound, and lots'a blood as Clooney & Co. battle for their lives - joined by blaxploitation star Fred Williamson and gore make-up man Tom Savini (playing a biker named Sex Machine).

Director Rodriguez (*El Mariachi*, *Desperado*, & the "Misbehavers" segment of *Four Rooms*) goes way over the top with the vampire scenes, to the point where the blood and gore are absolutely absurdist. Tarantino's script is ferociously funny; and the story moves in manic, surreal directions until the final revelation that is both hilarious and thought-provoking.

Tarantino's script is a homage to the Mexican vampire movies of the Sixties and, in Rodriguez's hands, becomes a fast, furious, funny, and visceral horror comedy. Personally, I loved *From Dusk Till Dawn*; but I can see how there is a lot here that would turn some people off. If you can handle *Re-Animator* (unrated version, mind you), you can handle this. Let the viewer beware! ΛΨΦ



**LSF Turns "6"
This Month!**
reported by Carl Cipra

Happy birthday, LSF! That's right, gang, Lambda Sci-Fi turns 6 years old this month! How about that? But what *happened* six years ago? I'm glad you asked. For those of you young'uns in the crowd, here's a quick summary of the events in LSF's formative first year.

10/5/89

Frank Hummel, Director of the Gaylactic Network, sends out a 2-page letter to DC-area fans regarding the formation of a Gaylaxian group there. The letter goes to Barrett, Carl, Loree & Marcelle, Peter K., and James W.

2/11/90

Loree & Marcelle send out an invitation to attend the "first meeting of what may turn out to be the DC-area chapter of the Gaylactic Network."

3/14/90

The first meeting is held at Loree & Marcelle's home in Takoma Park. In attendance are Barrett, Carl, Loree & Marcelle, Bruce G., Tom H., Peter K., Al W., and James W.

4/22/90

At the 2nd meeting, Al hands out the first issue of the club's newsletter, which he entitles "Lambda Sci-Fi." Everyone likes the sound of that so much that it becomes the official name of the club.

5/13/90

Jed Shumsky (Philadelphia Area Gaylaxians) is our guest at the 3rd meeting, as an official representative of the Gaylactic Network. LSF members formally vote to become a part of the Network as "Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians."

And those are the humble beginnings from which our present-day "semi-organized chaos" arose. Brings a tear to your eye, doesn't it? *Ad astra!*

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Classic Horror on Video
- Psychos and Lunatics -
by Joseph Parra



Balance - it's a wonderful thing. It helps you keep alert, sensible, on the ball. Being *unbalanced* - that's a dangerous thing. It keeps you weary, leary, off the mark, insensible. Balance is a necessary component of a rational mind. If, on the other hand, you are *unbalanced*, you're insane...

What follows is a list of videos about the "balance-impaired." I've labelled each video with my opinion of whether it's good (G) or bad (B). So, next time you're released (or next time you've escaped!), ramble on over to your local video store and scare up one (or more) of these little beauties. They're great! Really, they are! No, really! Really!! Ya ha ha ha ha!!!!

- Alias John Preston* (B)
- Before Dawn* (G)
- Bloody Birthday* (G/B)
- The Body Snatcher* (G)
- The Brighton Strangler* (G)
- Dead of Winter* (G)
- Die! Die! My Darling* (G)
- Guest in the House* (G)
- Halloween* (G)
- Halloween 2* (B)
- Halloween 3* (G)
- Halloween 4* (B/G)
- Halloween 5* (B)
- Hangover Square* (G)
- Homicidal* (G)
- Invisible Ghost* (So B it's G)
- Jack the Ripper*
(1959 - G, 1967 - G, 1980 - G)
- Lady in a Cage* (G)
- The List of Adrian Messenger* (G)
- The Lodger* (1926 - G, 1944 - G)
- Magic* (G)
- Mania* (G)

- The Maniac* (G/B)
- Man in the Attic* (G)
- Murder by Decree* (G)
- Night Must Fall* (1937 & 1964 - G)
- No Way to Treat A Lady* (G)
- Picture Mommy Dead* (B)
- Psycho* (Super G)
- Psycho 2* (G/B)
- Psycho 3* (B/G)
- Psycho 4* (G/B)
- Psychomania* (1964 & 1972 - B)
- The Psychopath* (G/B)
- Repulsion* (G)
- Scream of Fear* (G)
- The Shuttered Room* (G/B)
- Strait-Jacket* (G)
- A Study in Scarlet*
(sometimes called *Study in Terror*)
(1933 - G, 1965 - G)
- The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* (G)
- Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?* (G)
- Windows* (B)

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"Shortest Minutes" (?)

continued from page 3

Unknown and *Monster on the Campus*. Apparently Jeremy Irons will be producing and starring in a bio-pic about Boris Karloff. And it was revealed that TV's *Coach* (actor Craig T. Nelson) was the voice of the monster appearing toward the end of *Flesh Gordon*.

Some hot new book releases: *Magnificat* (the final "Galactic Milieu" novel) by Julian May got a "thumbs up" from Barrett and a "so far, so good" from Rob. Steven Brust's 7th "Vlad Taltos" novel, entitled *Orca*, is

out. *Two Crowns for America* by Katherine Kurtz (historical fantasy, mixing Freemasonry and the American Revolution) got "thumbs up" from Carl and Rob; and *Point of Hopes* by Melissa Scott & Lisa Barnett got a "wait for the paperback, unfortunately" from Carl and Rob.

With the meeting over, we all piled around some books brought for sale by Michael and Rob & Peter. By the time the feeding frenzy was done, we had raised almost \$20 for the club and put together a good-sized box of donations for SMYAL.

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*** * INFORMATION ABOUT LAMBDA SCI-FI: DC AREA GAYLAXIANS * ***

Lambda Sci-Fi is a Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror fan club for Gay people and their friends. Annual membership fees are \$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, March 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 is also on-line! Our e-mail address is: LAMBDA_SF@AOL.COM
And our Worldwide Web site is: <http://members.aol.com/lambdasf/home.html>

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, James C., & Tanya



March 22-24, 1996 **TECHNICON 13**: Best Western Red Lion Inn (900 Plantation Rd., Blacksburg, VA). Guests: L.E. Modesitt, Ruth Thompson, Jen Hartshorn (White Wolf Games). Cost: \$20 (?) for weekend. Hotel rooms: \$50 for a twin-bed room (rate expires 3/15/96). For more info, write to: Technicon 13, PO Box 256, Blacksburg, VA 24063-0256, or call (540) 951-7232, or e-mail: Technicon@vtcl.cc.vt.edu

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: \$40 at the door (check payable to "Balticon XXX"). For info, write to: Balticon XXX, PO Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203-0686. E-mail: bsfs@access.digex.net

May 24-27, 1996 **DISCLAVE '96**: Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill (DC). Guests of Honor: Michael Swanwick & Hannah M.G. Shapero. Cost: \$30, from 1/1/96 to 4/30/96; \$40 at the door. Make checks payable to "Disclave '96" and send to: Disclave '96 Registration, PO Box 368, Gaithersburg, MD 20884. Info by e-mail: disclave96@aol.com

July 5-7, 1996 **GAYLAXICON VII**: Burlington Marriot Hotel (Burlington, MA - about 10 mi. NW of Boston). Guests of Honor: Delia Sherman & Ellen Kushner. Cost: \$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: \$130 until 7/31/96 ("higher" at the door). 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. 5 - 9, 1998 **BUCCONEER (the 56th World Science Fiction Convention)**. Baltimore Convention Center & various Inner Harbor hotels (Baltimore, MD). Writer GoH: C.J. Cherryh; Artist GoH: Michael Whelan; Toastmaster: Charles Sheffield. Membership: \$98, from 1/1/96 to 9/30/96; and it keeps going up. Make checks payable to "Bucconeer" and send to: Baltimore Worldcon 1998, Inc., P.O. Box 1376, Baltimore, MD 21203. Internet: baltimore98@access.digex.net GENie: SFRT3, CAT 25, TOP 24