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E-MAIL: LAMBDA\_SF@AOL.COM WEBSITE: <http://members.aol.com/lambdasf/home.html>

### Schedule of Upcoming LSF Events

MAY 12 (SUNDAY) - regular LSF monthly meeting at Jim's apartment near DuPont Circle ("business" session starting at 1:30 PM; "social" session starting at 2:00 PM).

JUNE 8 (SATURDAY) - revised date of June LSF meeting, combined with "Video Madness" Party, at Philip-and-Jeff's home in Silver Spring, starting at 5:00 PM. (More details in next month's newsletter.)

JUNE 9 (SUNDAY) - LSF table at DC Pride Day Festival. (For more details, attend the May and June business meetings.)

JUNE 29 (SATURDAY) - revised date of the "July" LSF meeting, combined with "Video Madness" Party, at Jaime's home in Georgetown, starting at 2:00 PM. (More details in next month's newsletter.)

JULY 5 - 7 (FRIDAY - SUNDAY) - Gaylaxicon VII, in Boston. Don't miss it!!! (For details, see "Con Calendar" on last page of this newsletter.)

AUGUST 11 (SUNDAY) - regular LSF monthly meeting at Jim's apartment near DuPont Circle ("business" session starting at 1:30 PM; "social" session starting at 2:00 PM).

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### The "First Family" of LSF Has Moved!

reported by Carl Cipra

"First Speaker" Loree and "First Spouse" Marcelle and "First Baby" Kai (as well as their various feline and canine lodgers) have taken a transcontinental powder! That's right, gang - the Cook-Daniels Clan have pulled up stakes and headed for a more clement (as well as more lucrative) clime - Vallejo, CA (near San Francisco), to be precise!

Loree & Marcelle (LSF's Founders) have been talking about "moving to the Bay Area" for years; but it pretty much seemed like wishful thinking. A few weeks ago, however, everything suddenly seemed to click into place - both of them got job offers they just *couldn't* pass up! In a flurry of activity, they flew one weekend to California and made all the necessary arrangements (housing, bank accounts, day care for Kai, etc.) - then dashed home to wrap up everything here. And, one week later (May 5th), *fait accompli!*

Just before they left, Loree said: "We wish LSF all the best; we'll keep in touch by whatever technological means we can!"

*Hasta la vista*, Loree & Marcelle & Kai! You're really nice people; and we'll all miss you! (Of course, it'll be that much more of a big treat when we *do* get to see you again - at cons or wherever!)

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### Special Announcements for May LSF Meeting

by Rob

Here are two important announcements regarding May's Lambda Sci-Fi meeting!!!!

The first is that we're going to start the meeting at 1:30 PM (instead of the usual 2:00 PM) in order to handle JUST business (Network business, Pride Day details, etc.). We've had a lot of business to work through lately; and we thought that starting the "business meeting" at 1:30 PM - and the "social meeting" at 2:00 PM - would give those who wish to avoid the "business" end of things a chance to do so without having to miss out on the socializing.

The second announcement is that a major order of business at the May "business" meeting will be to discuss the concept of LSF hosting Gaylaxicon in 1999. Gaylaxicon takes a lot of hard work from a lot of people; so if you're interested in helping out, either attend the business meeting at 1:30 PM or let Rob (that's me!) know. We'll be looking for people willing to take on con-committee-level responsibilities, as well as those who want to help out at some "lesser" level of commitment. We won't be able to host a Gaylaxicon without a con-committee though, so give it some thought and let us know.

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### WHAT'S INSIDE?

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**Spring/Sprang/Sprung  
Minutes for the April  
LSF Meeting**  
by Rob

With the temperature finally rising and the cherry blossoms a-blossoming, we settled down for our monthly meeting with the vigor of spring-time coursing through our veins! Good thing, too, for we had an overflowing pile of business to discuss.

First order of business was to stake out our meeting schedule for the next few months. Due to the pending Pride Week celebrations, the timing of Gaylaxicon, and the vacation plans of many of the officer corps, we came up with the following plan: Our May meeting will be on the normal 2nd Sunday of the month (May 12th). Our June meeting will be combined with a "Video Madness" Party and will be held on Saturday, June 8th (the day before the Pride Festival), at 5 PM at Philip-and-Jeff's home. Our "July" meeting will be moved all the way up to Saturday, JUNE 29th, at 2 PM at Jaime's home - and it will *also* be combined with a "Video Madness" Party (to accomodate any newcomers we might get from Pride Day). By the time August rolls around, we'll be back to our regular "2nd Sunday" schedule!

P.S. We also decided not to host a room party this year at Disclave (held on Memorial Day weekend), although LSF attendees at the con will make sure to disseminate flyers advertising our upcoming schedule of events.

Tim M., who is coordinating the creation of our banner and D.C. Pride Day booth stuff, gave us an estimate of how much he thought materials would cost (about \$40). By the time the dust settled, he had *more* than that in his hands. Club members apparently voted their approval with their wallets! (Author's note: I've seen some of the stuff already, and it looks fabulous! Kudos to Tim, Michael, and Peter!) Tim also volunteered to print up the "upcoming events" flyer to hand out at Disclave and the Pride Day table. Thanks, Tim!

Our fearless Network rep

### Where's Joe?

an investigative report by Carl Cipra  
(with help from Philip Wright)

Looks like we'll be missing Joe from time to time again this year. The 1996 Season at The Wayside Theatre (Middletown, VA) is getting underway; and Joe's going to be a very busy thespian again! I guess that means some of his loyal LSF fans will be trekking on out to Middletown again (every now and then) to watch him "tread the boards." Here's the schedule of what Joe will be up to:

*Little Shop of Horrors* (the musical), May 23 - June 15: Joe plays the irascible "Mr. Mushnik." (Looks like plant food to me!)

*Ten Little Indians*, Sept. 12 - Oct. 5: In Agatha Christie's murder mystery about ten people trapped on an island (and being killed off one by one), Joe plays "Blore, the English cop."

*Dr. Jekyll and Miss Hyde* (a mystery/comedy), Oct. 10 - Nov. 3: No, you twits! Joe does *not* star in *either* of the title roles. He plays "Utterson" (Dr. Jekyll's friend, the narrator of the Stevenson novel).

(Philip) was unable to attend the meeting; but he passed along some Network business through Peter. First, **Progress Report #3 for Gaylaxicon VII** has been sent out. It includes some updated news on guests, current registration numbers, and some hotel info which was good news (*up to 4 people in a room* at the low con rates). We voted to approve a number of **Network Board appointments**: Carl as "Listener" (kind of like the Board's vice-president); Brian Frank of TAU:GUNY as Network Correspondent; myself (Rob) as Coordinator for Gaylaxians International; and Dennis Cecil (GLG) and our own Peter K. as Worldcon liaisons. We next discussed the suggestion that the position of Network Newsletter Coordinator be replaced by an "archivist" position (for which Frank Hummel has been suggested as



Can you find Joe in this picture?

*A Christmas Carol*, Dec. 3 - 29: I was *really* disappointed to hear that Joe wouldn't be portraying "Tiny Tim" this year! (Possibly because he wouldn't shave the mustache?) Instead, Joe will again appear as "Mr. Fezziwig."

I was *also* disappointed to hear that Joe would not be appearing in two other Wayside productions: *Always Patsy Cline*, and *Charley's Aunt*. (Joe, Joe, Joe...the possibilities are mind-boggling!)

At upcoming LSF meetings, we'll undoubtedly be discussing dates for "field trips" out to Middletown to see Joe in action. Stay tuned...

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a possible nominee). We all seemed to like the idea of "archivist" and of finding alternate methods for sharing chapter-related information and newsletters (particularly electronically); but we also wanted to see what the other chapters had to say on this issue before giving any final votes on either the "archivist" concept or on the suggested candidate. We also voted to approve the **sending of letters to the producers of *ST:DS9*, *Babylon 5*, and *Alien Nation*** - thanking them for their "gay-positive" storylines over the past year. (Members were adamant, however, that the letters must clearly indicate that the Network isn't making demands but is simply showing appreciation and that no "politically hot" words be used. For example, the letters should use the phrase "alternative sexuality-  
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**Help Keep *Babylon 5*  
on the Air**  
by Peter Knapp

A few months ago, I wrote an article encouraging LSFers to write a Texas affiliate and ask them to keep showing *Babylon 5*. I got a lot of flack for that - not because I was suggesting we in support *Babylon 5*, but because the affiliate station wasn't local.

After a bit of WWW searching, I found detailed local affiliate information. If you'd like to write to WDCA (and I recommend it) the address is:

Michael Schroeder  
Director of Programming  
& Operations, WDCA-20  
5202 River Road  
Bethesda, MD 20816

(301) 986-WDCA (voice)  
(301) 654-3517 (fax)

You can carbon-copy your letter to both of the following at Warner Brothers (producers of *Babylon 5*):

Mr. Dick Robertson, President  
Warner Bros. Domestic Television  
4000 Warner Blvd.  
Triangle Bldg., 4th floor  
Burbank, CA 91522

Ms. Barbara Brogliatti  
Senior Vice-President  
World Wide Television Publicity  
4000 Warner Blvd.  
Bldg. 137, Room #105  
Burbank, CA 91522

Letters should be brief, courteous, and positive (of course). Personal letters are better than form letters. Happy writing!

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**April Minutes**

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themed" instead of the more problematic, less widely accepted "queer-themed.") We also discussed several things we wanted to see included on the Board's agenda for discussion

**Dr. Who Is Back!**  
by Peter Knapp

"There are worlds out there where the sky is burning. The sea's asleep, and the rivers dream; people made of smoke, and cities made of song. Somewhere there's danger. Somewhere there's injustice, and somewhere else the tea's getting cold! Come on, Ace, we've got work to do!" So spoke Sylvester McCoy, the seventh incarnation of the Doctor, on December 6, 1989. These words concluded the final episode of "Survival," the last televised *Doctor Who* story.

After over six years of waiting, countless rumors, and false starts, *Doctor Who* is finally back! On Tuesday, May 14, 1996, at 8:00 PM, the Fox Network will broadcast the first (of many, hopefully) *Doctor Who* made-for-TV movie.

British actor Paul McGann will star as the eighth incarnation of the Doctor. His screen credits are varied, though he is mostly unknown in this country. (For those with good memories, McGann played Girard in Disney's *Three Musketeers* and Golic in *Alien<sup>3</sup>*.) He will be joined by American actress Daphne Ashbrook, who plays Dr. Grace Holloway. Fans of *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* may remember her as Dr. Bashir's low-gravity love interest, Melora, in the episode bearing her name. The two will team up to fight the Master, played by American actor Eric Roberts. Roberts is an Oscar and Golden Globe nominee, most noted for his role in *Runaway Train*. As an added bonus, Sylvester McCoy will reprise his role as the seventh Doctor. At first he was reticent about returning for what amounts to a cameo; but he committed to the movie in deference to the fans of

the show. McCoy did not want fans to feel gyped by the absence of a proper "regeneration" scene.

The project is being jointly financed by BBC Worldwide and Universal Television. While Universal is making the movie, the BBC has retained creative input in the project. The producer, Philip Segal, personally purchased the rights for *Doctor Who* in 1993, for a five-year period. Segal, a British producer working for Amblin Entertainment in the United States, helped create shows like *seaQuest DSV* (which he admits to being disappointed with) and *Earth 2*.

\*\*\*SPOILER ALERT\*\*\*

While Carl may not believe this, I actually don't know many plot details. For those that are interested, here is what I do know. The Doctor's TARDIS is attacked, and he crashlands in San Francisco the evening of December 30, 1999. Wounded in the crash, the Doctor (Sylvester McCoy) is taken to a local hospital and put under the care of Dr. Grace Holloway. Because she does not know the Doctor is an extraterrestrial, her ministrations don't have the desired results. Meanwhile, the Master's stolen body is wearing out. (The body is humanoid and therefore not as durable as a Time Lord's body.) To save his own life, the Master steals another body and threatens to destroy the Earth. (Has he ever tried to *save* a world?) Of course, the newly-regenerated Doctor and the Master cross paths. Compared to all of time and space, Earth is a very small place.

So, tell your friends, save the date, and watch the latest incarnation of the longest-running science fiction show.

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at Gaylaxicon VII, including: a conclusion to the "charter revision" issues we brought up; discussion and finalization of the "awards" concept; ideas, plans, and/or encouragement to facilitate completion of Network business through wider use of electronic communications; and a resolution of the

"archivist" issue. We also decided that LSF wants to take a pro-active role in encouraging the Network and other chapters to use electronic communication tools by offering a panel/demo of the things that LSF and other chapters have done with the Web, e-mail, etc.

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**Shadow Man**  
by Melissa Scott  
(Tor Books)  
reviewed by Carl Cipra

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Melissa Scott has done it again! Just when you think she just *couldn't* come up with anything as good as (or better than) her previous works, she does! *Shadow Man*, her latest novel, is a well-written, exciting, entertaining work of science fiction; and it explores issues that are *very* relevant to the "queer" community as well. (No wonder it was nominated for a Lammy this year!)

In the far future, widespread use of the drug Hyperlumin-A has allowed humans to survive the rigors of FTL travel. Unfortunately, Hyperlumin-A is also highly mutagenic; and its use has caused some major changes in the human condition. Over time, the Concord Worlds have generally come to recognize five distinct human genders (man, fem, herm, mem, and woman - depending upon the mixture of chromosomes and genitalia an individual possesses), as well as nine sexual preferences (bi, demi, di, gay, hemi, omni, straight, tri, and uni - depending upon which gender[s] an individual prefers to have sex with).

But none of this applies on the non-Concord planet Hara, at least as far as the prevailing socio-political authorities there are concerned. Hara is a former "lost world;" and, with renewed contact with the larger interstellar civilization, Haran society is entering a phase of increasing instability, caught between its own hard-liner traditions and the realities of life. The same general mix of genders exists on Hara as in the Concord Worlds; but Hara's Traditionalist power structure only officially recognizes and sanctions heterosexuality and the male/female dichotomy - anything else is *wrangwys* (literally, "wrong-ways"). Modernists (those people open to Concord ideas and influences) are increasingly challenging Traditionalist values. Social turmoil, in turn, has engendered *political* turmoil. Temelathe Stane (Speaker

of the ruling Watch Council, the "Most Important Man") wants to interpose a more centralized Haran government between Hara and the offworld pharmaceutical companies that provide Hara with its primary income. Temelathe is slowly but surely gathering the reigns of power into his very capable, very autocratic hands, attempting to parlay his official position - as well as the vast influence and wealth of his clan - into virtual one-man rule.

Warreven Stiller, the protagonist of the novel, is firmly entangled within all the conflicting pressures unsettling his society and his world. Every aspect of his life guarantees it. An attorney by trade, Warreven often defends those individuals who have violated Haran society's sexual or business strictures; and thus he finds himself aligned with the Modernists in fighting those legal restrictions from which Temelathe Stane and others like him reap a large income from bribes. He is, moreover, the scion of (and a trade negotiator for) the wealthy Stiller clan, traditional business/political competitors of the powerful Stane clan. On a more personal level, Warreven once turned down an offer of marriage from Tendlathe Stane (Temelathe's son, a childhood friend) because the terms of the marriage would have required Warreven to give up his legal identity as a "male" and become Tendlathe's *wife*. Odd as it sounds, this requirement makes perfect sense within the context of Haran society - for Warreven is a "herm" (hermaphrodite), forced by law to accept designation as *either* "male" *or* "female." Warreven was unwilling to accept the socio-political disadvantages of a female in Haran society; and now he is finding it increasingly difficult to accept the legal fiction of his "male" identity. As the battle lines are drawn, Warreven discovers that the question of his personal identity is an integral part of his overall desire for social and political equity on Hara - and that his decisions and actions have increasingly put his very *life* at risk!

The relevance of *Shadow Man* to *our* lives and times should be readily apparent to any lesbian, gay, bisexual,

or transgendered person - indeed, to *anyone* whose gender identity or preference(s) in sexual partners does not adhere to "the *straight* and narrow" path. *Shadow Man* is not, however, a "coming out" story - it's more of a "personal awakening" story, a call for social recognition and equitable treatment. After all, Warreven has never especially "hidden" his gender from other people so much as he has complied with the male/female social strictures of Haran society. (Warreven has always been conscious of his gender, and his *physical* characteristics make it fairly obvious that he's a herm.) The changes in Warreven's life do not hinge on any need to "reveal" himself to the world as a herm; it is that he comes more and more to realize the need for *recognition* - social, legal, undeniable - for what and who he truly is and, on that basis, for equitable treatment as a human being. By the end of the novel, he is no longer content to be classified as a mere "shadow" (an imperfect version) of a "true man," no longer content to live a circumspect social life relegated to the "shadows" of Haran society.

It is Melissa's imaginative, masterful use of personal pronouns that helps to illustrate these changes in Warreven's attitudes. For each of the "intermediate" genders, Melissa has devised a set of personal pronouns that are based upon and correspond to the use of "he/him/his" for males and "she/her/hers" for females. The use of these "intermediate" personal pronouns allows the reader to effectively follow Warreven's changing self-image. Suffice it to say that the terms Melissa has devised allow her to achieve degrees of subtlety, accuracy, and *sympathy* beyond the reach of such crude alternatives as the politically-correct "he/she" or the impersonal - and inaccurate - "it." (However, I certainly could have wished for a pronunciation guide somewhere.)

On a broader scale, *Shadow Man* symbolically chronicles the ups and downs of the Gay Rights Movement in the United States during the last

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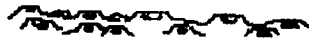
## Shadow Man

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half century or so. Hara is very much like pre-Stonewall America in its socio-sexual attitudes and its treatment of those who do not fit the "normal" male/female model: an unofficial, unspoken tolerance of "the different ones" as long as they "mind their manners" and don't become too "obvious;" police harassment of the outspoken; raids on bars; "unexplained" cases of arson; "queer-bashing;" statements that the *wrangwys* should "make up their minds," etc. And Tendlathe's later advice to Warreven to "pass for a man" has very clear resonances with the present-day "don't ask/don't tell" policies of the U.S. military. The spectre of AIDS is also present (an inescapable preoccupation of the modern gay experience), although the "dozens of HIVs that circulated among the planets" have little or no direct impact on the book's plot or characters.

I found one aspect of *Shadow Man* particularly disturbing - its message that confrontation is necessary before any real socio-political reform (including such issues as gay rights) can occur. It's not the message *per se* that disturbs me, however, so much as the realization of the demonstrated, historical *truth* of this message. And reading *Shadow Man* helped to bring this into perspective for me. Hara is a world in socio-political ferment; and the time-honored Haran strategies of dramatic presentation, dialogue, cooperation, and peaceful evolution aren't working - particularly as regards the plight of the *wrangwys*. Legal challenges to gender restrictions are sidetracked or subverted in the courts; political alliances fail to achieve desired reforms when gender issues are shunted aside in favor of other goals "more central" to Modernist aims; even legal *rana* dance assemblies are closed down by police, and the ghost *ranas* are subverted into a force for anti-*wrangwys* violence. As a result comes Warreven's begrudging realization that confrontation, not compromise, is the only way. The implications for *our*

world are clear. The events in *Shadow Man* made me re-examine the course of the Gay Rights Movement in the U.S. - it likewise appears that confrontation was a necessary adjunct of the progress that has been achieved here. One need only compare the decades before and after the Stonewall riots to see this. I'm fairly certain that this information will come as no surprise to members of groups like ACT UP and Queer Nation and that they'll probably applaud this confrontational "compromise-won't-work" stance - and I'm chagrined to say that I now understand their position and see a certain amount of truth in what they say.



### April Minutes

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Rob (that's me) presented further details (including fund-raising ideas, content guidelines, and production expectations) on the proposal to produce an "LSF-zine." The attendees gave the "go-ahead" on putting together a calendar for the 'zine's future.

Two other social topics were also brought up: The first was a suggestion to plan at least one purely SOCIAL event per month for the club (attending a genre film, going to a genre museum exhibit, video parties, picnics, etc.). The general feeling was that this is a good idea. Watch for some plans to start happening soon! The 2nd topic involved a suggestion that LSF consider bidding to host Gaylaxicon in 1999. Because of the length of today's meeting, we decided to table discussion of this topic until the May meeting; but everyone was asked to give the idea some thought. If there's enough interest expressed at the May meeting, we may move forward with a formal bid to the Network Board this year.

Phew! With all that business out of the way, we barely had time for any genre dirt-swapping. But we *did* manage to chat about some stuff! The latest "Wallace & Gromit" claymation film will be part of an animation festival

At first, I was also bothered by the book's ending - it wasn't all solved and tied up in a pretty pink bow. But then I realized that there could not be any easy, pat solutions to the problems facing the *wrangwys* on Hara - just as there have been no easy, pat solutions here in our world - and Melissa wisely avoids spoiling the story by suggesting that there are. In the final analysis, *Shadow Man* effectively fulfills the traditional role of science fiction: to make the reader examine our own world more carefully; and Melissa Scott does it the way that all *good* science fiction writers do: by means of a well-written, well-crafted, entertaining story.

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at the Biograph Theatre (April 19 - May 2). Steve Gellman (who did a filk performance at last year's Gaylaxicon) has just produced - and will be marketing - a "gay" superhero team comic book called *Enchanters*; some postcards and a 4-page promo were passed around. Lots of other magazines and comics were passed around, too. Joe P. got a letter printed (and carefully edited to erase gender) in the Fox Video Club's magazine. *James and the Giant Peach* just opened. The New "Dr. Who" made-for-TV movie premieres on Fox on Tuesday, May 14th. "Ahhhhhhnold!" (Schwarzenegger, that is) looks to be cast as the new Mr. Freeze for *Batman 4*. *Mothra*, *Gamera*, and *Ultraman* will be the subjects of three new monster flicks in Japan this year. *ST: Voyager's* season finale will feature appearances by cast members from the "classic" *ST* series!

And then it was over, with heavy sighs of accomplishment!

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"Education never ends, Watson.  
It is a series of lessons  
with the greatest for the last."

--- Sherlock Holmes ---  
(*The Adventure of the Red Circle*)

**\* \* 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 on Sunday, May 12th, at James Crutchfield's apartment: 1414 17th St., NW, Apt. 413 (near Dupont Circle) - 1:30 PM for business meeting; 2:00 PM for social meeting. 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 James



May 24-27, 1996 **DISCLAVE '96**: Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill (DC). Guests of Honor: Michael Swanwick & Hannah M.G. Shapero. Cost: \$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](mailto: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: \$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.

July 12-14, 1996 **SHORE LEAVE 18**. Marriott Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Guests: Richard Biggs (BS's "Dr. Franklin") & ReneAuberjonois (DS9's "Odo"). Cost: \$45 until 5/31/96 (higher thereafter). Make check payable to "Shore Leave" and send (with 2 SASE's) to: Shore Leave 18, P.O. Box 6809, Towson, MD 21285-6809.

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](mailto:lacon3-info@netcom.com)

Oct. 4-6, 1996 **FARPOINT 96**. Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Guests: Tim ("Mr. Tuvok") Russ & Michael ("Kang") Ansara. Cost: \$40 for weekend (1-day memberships available). Make check payable to "Farpoint, Inc." and send to: Farpoint, Inc., 6099 Hunt Club Road, Elkridge, MD 21227.  
Web Page at URL - <http://members.aol.com/farpoin105>

Nov. 22-24, 1996 **PHILCON 1996 (The 60th Anniversary)**. Adam's Mark Hotel (Philadelphia, PA). Principal Speaker: Fred Pohl; Guest Artist: Tom Kidd. Cost: \$30 until 8/15/96; \$35 from 8/16 - 10/15/96; \$40 thereafter. Make check payable to "Philcon '96" and send to: Philcon '96, P.O. Box 8303, Philadelphia, PA 19101.  
E-Mail: [philcon@netaxs.com](mailto:philcon@netaxs.com) World Wide Web: <http://www.netaxs.com/~philcon>

Nov. 29 - Dec. 1, 1996 **DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL**. Holiday Inn (Timonium, MD). Guest of Honor: "to be announced"; Special Guest: Marion Zimmer Bradley (health permitting). Hotel rooms: \$62/night (up to 4 in a room). Cost: \$25 until 11/1/96; \$30 after that. (Membership limited to 600.) Make check payable to "Armida Council" and send to: Armida Council, PO Box 7203, Silver Spring, MD 20907. (This is a very lesbian/gay/bisexual-friendly con!)