



LAMBDA SCI-FI



DC Area Gaylaxians

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***** 2nd Warning!! *****
"Political Madness" Coming to Lambda Sci-Fi!!
(LSF to Host Video/Gaming Party on Nov. 2nd)

Whether it's the machinations of the evil Empire in *The Empire Strikes Back* or the echoing of anti-Communist fear propoganda in *The Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, science fiction, horror, and fantasy films are loaded with political themes. So, in honor of Election Day, LSF will adapt its "Video Madness" Party idea just a little and have a *theme*-inspired night of videos, food, and fun.

On Saturday afternoon/evening, November 2nd (starting at 3 PM), Jeff and Philip will host a combination "Video Madness and Political Game" Party and monthly LSF meeting at their new house in Silver Spring. (NOTE: No "2nd Sunday" meeting in November!)

As usual, attendees will choose the videos to be shown from among those brought to the party - *but* this time the films chosen must adhere to the theme of "Politics." This category includes videos that anyone can justify as having a real political theme, such as *When Worlds Collide* or *Time Cop*. So, leave your "Frankenstein" videos at home, and don't even think about bringing any of the "Freddy" films! Political genre films are what this party is all about.

Jeff and Philip will have two screens available for the videos - *plus*,

at this event they will have the upstairs of their house set up for games. *Junta*, *Diplomacy*, *Risk* - any games that have a political tilt to them will be voted on, just like the videos; and anyone is free to play them upstairs.

As usual, this is a potluck event. Jeff and Philip will provide the main dish. Everyone with last names beginning with A-H should bring salads and side dishes; those with last names beginning with I-P should bring something sweet; those with last names beginning with Q-Z should bring non-alcoholic drinks (diet, regular).

See you there for fun, games, videos, and a good time!

When to Be There

The Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will start at 3:00 PM and the potluck dinner and video/gaming party will start at 4:00 PM. So, try to get there a little before 3:00 PM, especially if there's any last-minute fixin' you need to do on your potluck contribution.

What to Bring

This won't exactly be one of our typical "Video Madness" parties:

- (1) Bring along your favorite genre videos (science-fiction, fantasy, horror) - but, remember, they should have a "political" theme to them. (If necessary, be prepared to explain the connection.)

(continued on page 2)

A Scum-Filled Day at the Maryland Renaissance Festival



by Rob

With downpours threatening for days beforehand and heavy rains less than 12 hours before departure time, a hardy band of LSF adventurers had second thoughts about their visit to the Maryland Renaissance Festival. But, with the assurances of numerous weather forecasters, they decided to stick to the planned trip - and what a great choice it was they made!

The morning of the road trip was only slightly overcast and brisk, with the sun quickly burning away the clouds that had dropped heavy rains the day before. A group of nine LSFers and friends - Carl, Peter, Michael, Tim, Barrett, Randy, Dan B. and Wyn (I apologize for the spelling, if it's wrong) - met a half hour before the gates opened and chatted amiably while watching the strange people around them. It was entertaining not being the weirdos for once! We waited patiently through the over-acted, under-written, and too quiet opening mini-play and then headed through the gates for a day of merriment and fun.

Our day of fun included much shopping (jewelry, pottery, and leatherwork were faves), feasting (phallic-sausages and beef-on-sticks,

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**"Political Madness"
on Nov. 2nd**
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(2) As usual, the party will include a traditional pot-luck pig-out; but this time there are pre-assigned categories (based on your last name) of what food to bring (A-H, salads & side dishes; I-P, sweets; Q-Z, drinks).

(3) Bring along any political-themed games you'd like to play. Attendees will vote on which games they'd like to play.

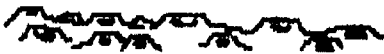
How to Get There

The party will be held at Philip-and-Jeff's new home in Silver Spring, MD. It's located at 320 Highview Place - a little over a mile east of "downtown Silver Spring," just south of the intersection of Colesville Rd. and Franklin (and "just two doors down from" their previous Silver Spring home).

Driving: Take Colesville Rd. east from Georgia Ave. ("downtown Silver Spring"). Turn right on Franklin. Take the 3rd right onto Highview Ave. The first cul-de-sac on the right is Highview Place. The house is the brick one with the picket fence in front. (You should park on Highview Ave., because the cul-de-sac is always full of cars.)

Metro: Take the Red Line to the Silver Spring Metro Station. We'll plan a couple of "shuttle runs" from the Metro station to the party (2:30 PM and 2:45 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 party. (Look for a maroon 1995 Ford Escort station wagon.) If you'd rather walk from the station (or if you miss either of the "shuttles"), it'll take about 30 minutes to walk there. (Just follow the directions re: "Driving" above.)

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**The Rice Report:
The Servant of a Boneless Story**
by Michael Cornett



The Servant of the Bones has one very scary element in it. And I mean *really* scary - scarier than anything else Ann Rice has ever written. The scary thing is this: Anne Rice has found religion.

It's hard to say exactly *what* religion - it's some sort of Gothic version of Catholicism and Judaism mashed together with sprinklings of other philosophies. While she expounded on her world-view in *Memnoch the Devil*, she still told a compelling story in that novel. However, while *The Servant of the Bones* adds more definition to her philosophy, it's rather limp.

Structurally, *Servant* is similar to *Interview with the Vampire*, being that the story is told to a Jewish history professor, trapped in a cabin by a snowstorm and sweating through a fever, by a mysterious Azriel, the "servant" of the title.

We hear Azriel's tale of growing up a Hebrew in Babylon, of befriending the god Marduk, of being murdered as part of an ancient spell to create a servitor spirit. We hear about his education and experiences with various sorcerors that he encounters, until he shows up in modern Manhattan in time to do battle with the leader of a cult called "The Temple of the Mind of God." This man, it seems, wants to release poison gas and take over the world. Rice talks a lot about how spirits function and what powers they have; but a lot of this was covered in *The Witching Hour*.

All throughout, we hear stuff about God, about souls rejoining the flame of the divine, of how we are on

this world to love and learn and be kind to one another. Rice incorporates recent news events into the novel - the Oklahoma City bombing, the gas attacks on the Tokyo subway, other cult activities, and even the Balkan war and the Simpson trial. Rice has noble motives. Azriel is taught to be kind and to observe a Hebrew exhortation: *Altashheth* (meaning: "Do Not Destroy").

Which is exactly the problem. Azriel is so damned good, so freaking nice, that he has become Rice's blandest hero. He lacks Lestat's compelling amorality - or the moral ambiguity of the Mayfair witches. Unlike her other books, Rice's *Servant* takes a firm moral stand. A noble motive, but it doesn't make for a good story.

Not to say it's all bad. Azriel's relationship with Marduk (and the presence of the other Babylonian gods) is intriguing. Rice's portrait of ancient Babylon and of ancient personalities (like Nabonidus, Belshazzar, and Cyrus) are good and well-researched. And her story occasionally reaches dreamlike states; but all too often, it falls with a thud to the floor. There is very little mystery about what happens in *Servant*. Nearly everything is explained. The aura of the unexplained that made some of her earlier books so unsettling is completely absent here.

The Servant of the Bones is a disappointment. Rice retreads too much material from *The Witching Hour*; and her narrative verve has fallen victim to moralistic preaching. Dump the didactic, Anne, and give us a good, meaty story. Stop moralizing and have some fun.

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NEWSFLASH:

Claudia Christian [Cmdr. Ivanova on *Babylon 5*] made quite an impression at Trek Expo '96 in July. As anyone who has ever seen Claudia in person knows, she is absolutely gorgeous,

and seemed absolutely at home on stage. She introduced herself as "the only female Russian Jewish bisexual Commander in space" and commented on the coincidence of having Terry

Farrel [Dax on *Star Trek: Deep Space 9*] sharing the stage, since her character was pretty confused, too.

(excerpted from *SF Lovers Digest*)



News from the West Coast

relayed by Carl Cipra

A week or so ago, I talked with "T.A." and with Richard Mandrachio, both of whom live in San Francisco. They both reported that there's finally a nascent gay science fiction club in "The City by the Bay"! As you may remember from discussions in previous LSF meetings, Richard has been trying to get a group going out there for some time now. Well, the gay programming at the recent Worldcon in Anaheim has apparently sparked renewed interest in having a local gay F&SF club. (For example, "T.A." found out about Gaylaxians at the Worldcon panel on "Gay Fandom;" and I gave him Richard's address/phone number as a contact point.)

At any rate, it looks like it's starting to "click." The group's first meeting was held on Thursday, Sept. 26th at Richard's home. Richard reported that about 7 or 8 people (including 2 women) showed up for the meeting - among them LSF's own Jim W., who (as you may remember) now lives out there. The meeting went on for 3-4 hours, with some people sticking around to socialize and schmooze for even longer. The group has decided to try holding at least 2 functions each month - a general monthly meeting and some sort of social event. (One upcoming event they discussed is a trip to see a performance of the Gay Men's Chorus. Jim W. strikes again!) Richard and Jeremy are already working on a logo and letterhead for the group, which they're tentatively planning on calling

"Golden Gate Gaylaxians." (I made sure they knew to get in contact with the Speaker and the Gaylactic Network Board about arranging for application to the Network, information on "how to form an Affiliate," etc.).

By all reports, the first meeting was a big success; and a second meeting is set for Oct. 13th (the same date as LSF's monthly meeting).

So, let's all wish 'em good luck, gang! With this group forming in San Francisco and rumors of renewed activity in Southern California, maybe the Network will actually become *bi-coastal!*

ADDENDUM: Richard called again on the evening of Oct. 13th, after their 2nd meeting (once again held at his home), to report that everything was still moving along just dandy. About a half-dozen people showed up for meeting #2. Jim W. sang LSF's praises once again. (Thanks, Jim!) And a special, unexpected guest was genre author Frank Robinson, author of, among many other works, *The Glass Inferno* (source for the film *Towering Inferno*) and *The Dark Beyond the Stars* (a Lammy nominee). Frank passed out autographed copies of *The Dark Beyond the Stars*, became a member of the club, and offered his home as an alternate site for future meetings. Richard also reported that they'll be contacting the Network before sending out any advertising that might include the name "Gaylaxians" in it.

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Very Short Oct. Minutes

by Carl "the Butcher" Cipra

Not a lot of space (and I take *real* sketchy minutes), so here's the "bare bones" of the Oct. LSF meeting.

Nice day - Quilt in town - about a dozen or so showed up, including 3 or 4 "first-timers."

Peter talked about revising the LSF membership form. Tim talked about putting together some sort of LSF brochure to hand out at Pride Day (volunteered Rob, *in absentia*, to write text).

Attendees voted to adopt LSF

"household"/"spousal" membership fee (2nd member, same address, \$5/year, no separate newsletter). Attendees voted in favor of following Gaylaxicons: Boston (rumored) in 1997; Michigan's in 1998; LSF's Gaylaxicon in 1999. (To advise Network as soon as GNAPA comes out.)

Rob showed up late - reported that deadline for submissions to *Gayteways* (LSF's 'zine) presently set at 10/31.

Socializing galore - lots'a talk on all kinds'a stuff!

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Renaissance Festival

continued from page 1

apple dumplings with ice cream, and *more*), and general merriment. There were quite a number of people stranger than we normally are (one of whom inspired a memorable quote: "Those things CAN'T be real!"); and we spent a lot of time quietly dissing the faux accents, language, and costumes. Some folks took in the "Mud Extravaganza" (a dirtier show you'll never see!), while others listened to the lovely music of Maggie Sansone on the hammered dulcimer.

The highlight of the day, however, was undoubtedly the multiple performances of the "Shakespeare Scum" performers. In addition to a repeat of last year's much-lauded "Macbeth in Twenty Minutes or Less" (which took 19.5 minutes that day), the Scum performed two new instant favorites. "Tag Team Romeo and Juliet" was a cross between a tag team professional wrestling match and a *Reader's Digest* condensed version of the tragic love story. We all thought the hunky male lead should have been allowed to play Juliet when he volunteered; but we had to settle for him and his cohort sharing the Romeo role. The final Scum production of the day was the strangest of them all: "Leave It to Hamlet." (Yup, you've probably guessed the influences that led to *that* one.) The audience roared in laughter as Hamlet's little friend bounced in with a chorus of "Hello, Mr. Denmark; hello, Mrs. Denmark!" to Hamlet's parental units. With Hamlet's Mom constantly coming onstage with a fresh batch of cookies, the never-ending references to "our wacky next door neighbor Polonius," and a Scum performer who just couldn't stop laughing, the audience was left in stitches. Shakespeare Scum just seems to get better and better every year.

All in all, a hilarious day at the Festival for our hardy LSF adventurers!!!!

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Lesbian Short Fiction

a review by Carl Cipra

One of the pleasures of attending Worldcon in Anaheim this year was that it gave me a chance to meet up with all those West Coast friends whom I haven't seen in a long time. It was while I was in the dealers' room schmoozing with a couple of long-time acquaintances - artist Alicia Austin and her life partner/manager Jinx Beers - that I discovered that the premiere issue of *Lesbian Short Fiction* had been published.

A request for submissions for this publication had been advertised in the June/July '95 issue of *Science Fiction Chronicle*; and I duly reported on that fact in the Sept. '95 issue of this newsletter. That being the case, I decided to pick up a copy and see how it all turned out. I figured I might enjoy some of the stories and that I might be able to provide some sort of polite response on the rest - but that's just not the way things turned out. You see, only some of the stories are *merely* "good" - others are *very* good! (This despite the fact that, as an exclusively gay male reader, I'm afraid some of the lesbian erotica stories are lost on me.)

Lesbian Short Fiction is projected as a quarterly publication. Jinx Beers is the editor, with Katherine V. Forrest as an advisor. (And it features cover and interior line-drawing illustrations by Alicia Austin.) It will anthologize short fiction *about* lesbians - not necessarily just short fiction *by* lesbians. The "genre" of the fiction is totally open - the first issue, for instance, includes mystery, gothic, romance, fantasy, humor, erotica, and vignettes of lesbian life.

Issue #1 contains 21 pieces of short fiction, from first-time authors as well as from authors who have already had stories and/or novels published. Only four of these stories are from the F&SF genre: "Sister Wolf" (a tale of magical reality by Lisa Marie Neff); "A Victorian Ending" (a vampire tale by Shirley Williamson); "The Lore of the Ages" (high fantasy about a girl and a dragon, by genre artist George



Barr); and "Salt" (a fascinating Biblical fantasy based on the Genesis 19 story of Lot's wife, by Donna Allegra). Jinx says she's got more F&SF slated for upcoming issues.

I think the most powerful stories in this issue, however, are the vignettes of contemporary lesbian life. Four of them come immediately to mind: "Talking to Dorothy" (by Joan M. Drury) is a poignant story about losing a life partner. "Film Fatale" is a new short murder mystery featuring Elizabeth Pincus' lesbian San Francisco private eye, Nell Fury. (I've already been over to Lammas to hunt up the four previous "Nell Fury" novels.) Margot Addison's "Talking to My Angel" effectively highlights the frustrations of military "closets." "Sy" (by Lee Lynch) is a thought-provoking tale about how internalized societal pressures have kept an older woman in the closet until the moment of her death. These four stories alone make this issue a "must read."

As I said earlier, *Lesbian Short Fiction* is projected as a quarterly publication; and Jinx says the 2nd and 3rd issues are already in production. The cover price for an issue is \$9.95 (I know that Lammas has copies of Issue #1); and you can subscribe for 4 issues for \$36. To subscribe, make checks payable to "Jinx Beers, Editor" and send them to:

LSF
6507 Franrivers Ave.
West Hills, CA 91307

(Jinx says they're also interested in getting feedback from readers.)

I highly recommend *Lesbian Short Fiction*; and I look forward to reading future issues. Besides, as a member of Lambda Sci-Fi, how can I *not* love a publication that features the letters "LSF" prominently on the cover?

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Southern Trees Can Bear Strange Fruit

by Wayne 1



"Like two strange fruit, they were swinging from that tree. Both on the one branch of that big ol' poplar a couple miles outsid'a town. Hands queerly tied together so's they did that last jig together. And nobody cut 'em down afore noon. Couple of Sheriff's Deputies it finally was. The towns wouldn't decide who got to pluck 'em. Real overripe by then, of course.

"Nobody knew they was soldiers, though. They was reported AWOL the next morning, but not till they car was pulled outta the river, Tuesday, was it found out. I remember a Deputy sayin' as they uniforms was in just one kit bag, all bundled together-like. State Police said that might'a saved 'em, if'n they'd been wearin' 'em. 'Cepting what they could'a seen, of course.

"But they'd been down to the capital, on a long pass, seein' some colored band or other, I heard, that last evenin'. Didn't wanna flash they greenness, I 'spect, so they changed into civvies. Should'a changed back, though, for that trip back to base.

"One a' they friends said the white one - a handsome pitcher in the paper, I saw - d'got a room in the shady part a' town for the two nights before. Had a party the Friday, but no-one saw 'em Satiday.

"Ya know, they still not shor if'n some other bodies went into the fire. A local boy come up missin'. Though no-one said nothin' till he no-showed to his Thursday job over t' the Misses Glencarlyn. And another white boy, who'd been heard to say he was gonna see 'em Satiday, turned up AWOL that Monday, too.

"They all should'a know'd the Klan was runnin' that night. Was signs all over the place the week 'fore, they must'a seen 'em on the way to the capital. But it was the only road back to the base, I s'pose, and they passes would'a run out 'bout midnight.

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Southern Trees

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"It was 'round midnight, they reckon, the Klan actually strung 'em up. And right about here. Yeah, right there, that big ol' dead poplar, all by itself; and from that dead branch half-way up. 'Course it was longer back then; came down in a big storm just 'bout a week later.

"But those boys met a worse curfew, and not all the passes from Heaven nor Hell could'a gotten 'em through it.

"Course, that was a long time ago. Folks 'round here is a lot kinder, nowadays, 'least in the daytime.

"You can let me off at this next crossing, 'fore the bridge. That's where the Klan drove the car in the river. My home's thataway, nowadays, not too far up the left road.

"Thanks for the lift, soldier. It's sure a moist day, ain't it? Good travellin' to ya."

I stopped at the crossroads, and my thoughts strayed for a moment. The sight of the bridge ahead caused my mind's eye to fill with the probable scene - torches, raucous shouting and laughing, the hoods removed by men no longer worried about recognition. But I didn't hear the back door open. I turned, and felt the icy passing by of Reality as I saw nothing at all, no-one to whom I'd been listening for the last half hour or so. Just the dust-caked sign, barely managing to read "Buckinham County Coloured Cemetary." Of course it pointed in the intended direction of my vanished passenger.

I made record time back to base. And never again have I picked up a hitchhiker, no matter how hunky.

(NOTE: This wrote itself as I listened to the words of the mournful - and chilling - song "Southern Trees Bear a Strange Fruit," and remembered that "guilt by association" can be just as deadly.)

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[Ed. note: This is only the 2nd time we've featured a piece of fiction in the LSF newsletter. Thanks, Wayne!]

Bela Lugosi on Video

by Joseph Parra



"Good evening!" Never were two words more frightening as when they were the introduction to that 500-year-old Transylvanian nobleman and vampire, Count Dracula - who would forever be identified with his most famous portrayer. But the same actor also portrayed the maddest scientist of them all in countless films and the dangerous psycho/sociopath in many others. Rivalled (in a friendly fashion, that is) only by Karloff, he was/is the unmistakable "Prince of Darkness": BELA LUGOSI!

Here's a list of Mr. Lugosi's films that are currently available on videotape. So, if you're looking to complete your *terror-ific* video collection - or if you're just wandering around the video store looking for a film with a little more *bite* to it - feel free to use this list for reference.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <i>Abbott & Costello Meet Frankenstein</i>
(Universal, 1948) | <i>The Midnight Girl</i> (FBO, 1925) |
| <i>The Ape Man</i> (Monogram, 1943) | <i>Murder by TeleVision</i>
(Imperial-Cameo, 1935) |
| <i>Bela Lugosi Meets a Brooklyn Gorilla</i>
(Relart, 1952) | <i>Murders in the Rue Morgue</i>
(Universal, 1932) |
| <i>Best Man Wins</i> (Columbia, 1935) | <i>Mysterious Mr. Wong</i>
(Monogram, 1935) |
| <i>The Black Camel</i> (Fox, 1931) | <i>Mystery of the Marie Celeste</i>
(Hammer, 1935) |
| <i>The Black Cat</i> (Universal, 1934 & 1941) | <i>Night Monster</i> (Universal, 1942) |
| <i>Black Dragons</i> (Monogram, 1942) | <i>Night of Terror</i> (Columbia, 1933) |
| <i>Black Friday</i> (Universal, 1940) | <i>Old Mother Riley Meets the Vampire</i>
(Relart, 1951) |
| <i>The Black Sleep</i> (United Artists, 1956) | <i>One Body Too Many</i> (Paramount, 1944) |
| <i>The Body Snatcher</i> (RKO, 1945) | <i>The Phantom Creeps</i> (Universal, 1939) |
| <i>Bowery At Midnight</i> (Monogram, 1942) | <i>Plan 9 from Outer Space</i> (DCA, 1956) |
| <i>Bride of the Monster</i> (DCA, 1955) | <i>The Raven</i> (Universal, 1935) |
| <i>Chandu the Magician</i> (Fox, 1932) | <i>Return of Chandu</i> (Principal, 1934) |
| <i>The Corpse Vanishes</i>
(Monogram, 1942) | <i>Return of the Ape Man</i>
(Monogram, 1944) |
| <i>The Devil Bat</i> (PRC, 1940) | <i>Return of the Vampire</i> (Columbia, 1943) |
| <i>Dracula</i> (Universal, 1931) | <i>Scared to Death</i> (Screen Guild, 1947) |
| <i>Frankenstein Meets the Wolfman</i>
(Universal, 1943) | <i>Son of Frankenstein</i> (Universal, 1939) |
| <i>Genius at Work</i> (RKO, 1946) | <i>SOS Coast Guard</i> (Republic, 1937) |
| <i>Ghost of Frankenstein</i> (Universal, 1942) | <i>Spooks Run Wild</i> (Monogram, 1941) |
| <i>Ghosts on the Loose</i> (Monogram, 1943) | <i>The Whispering Shadow</i>
(Republic, 1933) |
| <i>Glen or Glenda</i> (DCA, 1953) | <i>White Zombie</i> (United Artists, 1932) |
| <i>The Gorilla</i> (Fox, 1939) | <i>The Wolf Man</i> (Universal, 1941) |
| <i>The Human Monster</i>
(Argyle/Monogram, 1939) | <i>You'll Find Out</i> (RKO, 1940) |
| <i>International House</i> (Paramount, 1933) | <i>Zombies on Broadway</i> (RKO, 1945) |
| <i>The Invisible Ghost</i> (Monogram, 1941) | |
| <i>The Invisible Ray</i> (Universal, 1936) | |
| <i>Island of Lost Souls</i> (Paramount, 1932) | |
| <i>Mark of the Vampire</i> (MGM, 1935) | |

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"Even the worst science fiction is better... than the best conventional fiction. The future is a better key to the present than the past."

--- J.G. Ballard

from *Fictions of Every Kind* (1971)

*** * 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. This month, however, a combination meeting, potluck supper, & video/gaming party will be held on **Saturday, Nov. 2nd**, at Philip & Jeff's home: 320 Highview Place, Silver Spring, MD - 3:00 PM for business meeting; 4:00 PM for the potluck supper & video/gaming party. (See article beginning on page 1 of this newsletter for details.) 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



Nov. 8-10, 1996 **SCI-CON 18**. Holiday Inn Executive Center (Virginia Beach, VA). Guests of Honor: Larry Elmore, Charles Sheffield, Melissa Benson. Cost: \$30 at the door. Make check payable to "Sci-Con" and send to: Sci-Con, P.O. Box 9434, Hampton, VA 23670. For info: call (804) 865-1407, or...
E-mail: scicon@earthlink.net Web page: www.earthlink.net/~scicon

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

Nov. 29 - Dec. 1, 1996 **DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL XIX**. Holiday Inn Select - Baltimore North (Timonium, MD). Guest of Honor: Diana Paxson; 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. (A very lesbian/gay/bisexual-friendly con!)

March 28-30, 1997 **BALTICON 31**. Baltimore Omni Inner Harbor Hotel. Guest of Honor: Glen Cook; Artist Guests of Honor: Frank Kelly Freas & Laura Brodian Freas. For hotel reservations, call Baltimore Omni Inner Harbor Hotel (1-410-752-1100). Membership cost \$35 until 12/31/96; \$35 from 1/1/97 until 2/28/97; "\$\$ more" at the door. Make checks payable to "Balticon 31" and send to: Balticon 31, PO Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203.

May 23-26, 1997 **DISCLAVE 1997**. Hyatt Regency Washington (on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Ave., NW). Guest of Honor: Patricia Anthony; Artist Guest of Honor: Lissane Lake. Cost: \$25 until 12/31/96; \$30 from 1/1/97 until 4/30/97; \$40 at the door. Make checks payable to "Disclave '97" and send to: Disclave '97 Registration, 9617 Verdict Dr., Vienna, VA 22180. On-line information at: michaelnel@aol.com

May 23-26, 1997 **COSTUME CON 15**. Lord Baltimore Hotel (Baltimore, MD). "Costume lovers rejoice! Four fun-filled days devoted to the art of costume!" Membership: \$50 until 12/1/96 ("will increase" after that). Make checks payable to "Costume Con Fifteen" and send to: CXXV, c/o Rule, 5400 White Mane, Columbia, MD 21045.
For more information, e-mail at: CXXV@aol.com

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