



# LAMBDA SCI-FI



DC Area Gaylaxians

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## Discombobulated Minutes of the June LSF Meeting

by Rob

After the earth-shattering disaster with the May minutes, I (your Noble Scribbler of Minutes) took matters back in hand. Of course, it being a combination meeting-and-"Video Madness" Party, there wasn't much "meeting" to the meeting!

The first order of business was to finalize plans for the next day's big event - DC's Pride Day... er, Freedom Festival. Carl, Rob, Tim, and Mike all offered to show up early for set-up and many others offered to come by and hang out during the day. Carl, ever dutiful and giving, showed up late to the meeting because he had gone to buy the newly-necessary booth item: a special type of fire extinguisher (I still say that someone from the city heard something about "Flaming Queens" and *that's* when they made the rule about the fire extinguishers.) Tim provided us with flyers about LSF and upcoming events, while James brought stickers to put on the back of all the bookmarks we'd be handing out.

We discussed the possibility of a soon-after-Pride Day event, and James offered to host a "Video Madness" Party on June 21st. He also offered to produce a flyer for the booth about the event - and there was general enthusiasm about the whole idea!

Various newsletters, magazines, and stuff-from-the-net were passed

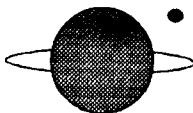
around - including some hilarious *Star Trek* spoofs written around the question "How many crew members of *Enterprise/Voyager/DS9*/etc. does it take to screw in a lightbulb?" Other items of interest were: an ad for "Billy, the Gay Action Figure" (anatomically accurate); newsletters from other Gaylaxian chapters; a *Star Wars* preview from *Entertainment Weekly*; and an issue of the "Dilbert Newsletter" that included some stuff on *Babylon 5*.

Joe let us all know that the "Famous Monsters" US Postage Stamps will be coming out in October (just in time for Halloween, of course). In addition, he filled us in on a whole bunch of upcoming video releases over the next few months.

Finally, it was announced (by \*me\*) that the Lammy winners had been announced and that Clive Barker's *Sacramento* had been awarded this year's Lammy in the Science Fiction/Fantasy category. Congrats to Clive!!

It was a short meeting, with much general silliness and nattering - and, as the whole idea of doing business lost steam, we shuffled off toward the "Video Madness" side of things. A good meeting was had by all - including a few new faces we hope to see around again!

ΛΨΦ



## Lammas Has Moved!

from Y' Roving Reporter

If you recently decided to visit Lammas Women's Books & More and headed westbound on "P" Street from Dupont Circle, then you discovered that it isn't there any more! Surprise! Lammas has moved!

Yep, Lammas is now located in spiffy new quarters over on 17th Street, near the intersection of 17th & Q. The address is 1607 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009. It's in the same building as "Trumpets," directly above "s/p/alon". Their phone number is (202) 775-8218; and you can fax in orders to (202) 775-0588.

I dropped in for a visit the other day and found the new digs bright, airy, friendly, and roomy. It contains the same fine selection of women's, lesbian, and feminist wares (books, audio & video-tapes, jewelry, etc.), but displayed more effectively. Drop by and see if you don't agree.

ΛΨΦ

The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on Sunday, July 13th, 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!

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## A Whiz-Bang Day at Pride by Rob

The rains were predicted, the organizers and their silly rules and administrivia had us all annoyed, our location seemed to be awful - but we were determined to make the best of it!

Our intrepid set-up crew (Carl, Michael, Rob, and Tim) began arriving about 8:45 AM. We successfully found our booth, which was down a side street, next to the Leather Rack and a short distance from the groan-inducingly-bad music of Z-104's big stage area. That sinking feeling of disaster tried to sneak up on us; but we figured we'd make the most of it. We set out flyers and membership forms and bookmarks and newsletters and photo albums and everything else we could think of. We even, for the first time, put out a sign-up sheet (e-mail only) for sending out event announcements. (Eventually, sometime later in the afternoon - when James finally came by - we even had a flyer about our upcoming "Video Madness"/ Post-Pride Day Party.) We stocked up on Pop Tarts and Diet Dr. Pepper and even bought (but didn't drink!) a bottle of Orbitz soda. (It looks real cool, with little globs in suspension in the soda, but apparently tastes awful). Before the crowds came, we all took a look around at the various booths and then settled back in *our* booth as the rest of the L.S.F. crew started showing up.

As always, it was a day to see old faces (Wayne & Brent, Norman, Michael M., Brian S. and more) and new faces (3 pages of sign-ups on the e-mail list) and to just have a generally good time. I couldn't possibly remember everyone who stopped by, even if I tried, so I'll just say we had a constant crowd of people both behind and in front of the table. A special thanks goes to a few of our newer faces, who helped us immensely by making sure we didn't look like an all-boys group. (Thanks Lee, Nan, and Kay!)

Some of the day's highlights included: the joy we brought to so many faces with our Xena bookmarks ("Omigosh, you have XENA! Can I take one!!?"), the mysterious visitor to the table who commented that Carl wasn't

## Reports on "Video Madness" Parties!

by Rob & Carl

### FROM ROB

Yes, indeed, "better late than never" is my motto - so here's a report on the March "Video Madness" Party!

For a change of pace, we were trying out a new venue - the abode shared by James and Tyler on Capitol Hill. The event was billed as a crossover event with the local Gen-X Bears group,

wearing his famous "red shorts" (and Carl thought \*we\* were the only ones who noticed!), the number of women who signed up on our e-mail list (hope to see some of them at events soon); a visit by the editor of *MW Magazine* (DC's \*other\* local gay newspaper), who wants to do a story on us (!); visits by a few potential vendors for Gaylaxicon 1999; comments on the stuffed purple alien face I had brought along and hung up next to the banner; and the inflated blimp hanging from the booth next to us (when it wasn't swooping at passersby) that looked like an old-fashioned sci-fi rocket ship.

By the end of the day, my voice was scratchy, I had gone through 100 oz. (3 liters) of Diet Dr. Pepper, and I'd had a whirlwind day. The rains never showed, the location turned out to be very successful after all. Z-104 packed up early and didn't do too much damage, and L.S.F. had had a fabulously successful day! An announcement has already gone out to all those e-mail names about our June 21st "Video Madness" Party, and, though the responses we've gotten back have been from folks who can't make it, they've all very much wanted to remain on the announcement list and have thanked us for taking their interest seriously!

There's already talk of how to improve the booth next year...

[An editorial note from Carl: To the "mysterious stranger" - Bruce Majors - who commented so favorably on my red shorts, I'm *still* waiting for you to set your terms for letting me watch the *Babylon 5* episode I missed!]



and there was indeed representation from both L.S.F. and the Gen-X Bears.

The crowd was smaller than usual; but we nonetheless had a fabulous time. James had a laserdisc player handy, and a few of the movies chosen for viewing were on laserdisc. We ended up getting dinner at Popeye's Fried Chicken, because everybody had brought either desserts or snacks! Our movie choices were as varied as usual - including recent flicks (*The Craft*, *Tank Girl*, and *From Dusk Till Dawn*) and old flicks (*Mystery of the Wax Museum*) and even *older* flicks (a couple of weird Westerns brought by Mike). James and Tyler were gracious co-hosts; and everyone enjoyed themselves.

### FROM CARL

And here's what happened at the pre-Pride Day "Video Madness" Party, held on Saturday night before Pride Day at Julian's home in Georgetown. There were 25 attendees, tons of food, and 42 films to choose from. Here's what attendees voted to watch (plus changes)

"Upstairs" the schedule was for: *Frighteners*, *Knight Riders* ("Isn't that What's-his-name?") "Yes, that's Ed Harris"), and *Cast a Deadly Spell* (which ended up being shown in the living room). For the "Patio" the schedule was: *Dark Myth III* (animé), *The Mask of Fu Manchu* (starring Boris Karloff), and *Highlander* (which wasn't shown after all; they watched *Creature from the Haunted Sea* instead). Scheduled for the "Main Room" was: *Solaris* (Russian sci-fi film, which was turned off after about 30 minutes; they watched the original *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* instead), *Love Bites* (soft, stupid gay porno), they then added *Terminator* to fill time and brought *Cast a Deadly Spell* from Upstairs to show here instead.

Just another typical, wonderful, enjoyable L.S.F. "Video Madness" Party!

ΛΨΦ

ΛΨΦ



**Blood Debt, by Tanya Huff**  
 (DAW Books, 1997)  
 reviewed by Carl Cipra

Have you been longing for your latest Tanya Huff "fix"? Well, the wait is over - Tanya's latest novel, *Blood Debt*, is out on the stands! It's the fifth (possibly final?) entry in the "Victory Nelson, Otherworldly Investigator" series. It chronicles the further supernatural detective adventures of Victoria "Victory" Nelson (ex-Toronto cop, ex-mortal) and Henry Fitzroy (bastard son of King Henry VIII, romance novelist, vampire). As a reminder, Vicki and Henry's previous adventures are chronicled in four novels (*Blood Price, Blood Trail, Blood Lines, Blood Pact* - all published by DAW Books) and one short story ("This Town Ain't Big Enough," in *Vampire Detectives* - DAW Books).

It's been a year or so (I think) since circumstances forced Henry to make Vicki into one of the undead (as related in the final chapters of *Blood Pact*); and Henry has already taught Vicki what she needs to know to survive as a vampire. And, "as everyone knows," vampires are highly territorial; so the one-time lovers have had to separate. Henry and his current mortal lover, Tony, now live in Vancouver, while Vicki and her longtime (mortal) boyfriend, Detective-Sergeant Michael Celluci, have remained in Toronto.

One twilight, Henry awakens to discover he's being haunted by ghosts. Said spectres are apparently demanding that Henry avenge their deaths - but they're unable to actually communicate their desires. The kicker is that Henry can only ask one "yes/no" question per night - and every negative answer causes the death of some nearby innocent human! A tough case to crack! So Henry calls in the pro, Vicki Nelson, undead private investigator. (She's previously dealt with demons, werewolves, mummies, zombies, and other vampires - so why not ghosts?) Vicki and Michael manage to make it all the way across Canada (a strange sort of vampiric Odyssey); and their investigation seems to indicate that some type of

illegal "organ-legging" operation is going on, where young people are murdered as unwilling organ-donors to benefit wealthy clients - hence, the ghosts haunting Henry.

But solving the case is not the only conflict that needs to be resolved. Throughout the action, the two vampires' proximity to each other makes them grate on each others' undead nerves like some sort of psychic sandpaper, goading them into bouts of mindless, deadly competition. Why? Opinions differ (and I paraphrase): Henry - "It's always been this way with vampires; it's instinctual and will never change!" vs. Vicki - "Bullshit! We're intelligent adults! We should be able to get over it!" With all the vampiric in-fighting, can Vicki and Henry solve the case and end the murders (both criminal and ghostly) before too many more innocent humans die?

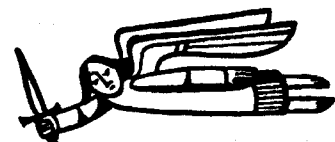
As with all of Tanya Huff's other "Victory Nelson" novels, *Blood Debt* is well-written and action-packed. The villains are so suitably vile that you'll be rooting for them to "get what's coming to 'em." The criminal activities that drive the plot are an interesting variation on Victorian "body-snatcher" stories - coupled with a touch of the "mad scientist" story (*à la* Dr. Frankenstein); and the frustrated, murderous ghosts add an interesting dimension to the story - as well as acting as the motivation for getting Vicki and Henry back together.

In *Blood Debt*, the emotional tension of Vicki-and-Henry-as-lovers (as developed in the previous "Blood" novels) has been replaced with the instinctual tension between Vicki-and-Henry-as-vampires. As a reader, I'm not sure I find this new type of tension as "attractive" as what it replaced; I don't know if it'll sustain interest as well. This "new arrangement" also prettymuch negates the tension of the Henry-Vicki-Michael lovers' triangle, since Michael is well aware of the "territorial vampire" tradition that should keep Vicki and

Henry from ever becoming lovers again. There is, however, some fascinating soul-searching on the part of both Tony and Michael, as the mortal lovers of two vampires, on the ultimate and disturbing fate of any mortal-undead relationship. And, with Vicki "out of the running," Ms. Huff is able to provide readers with a clearer view of Henry's relationship with Tony - a view that varies between endearing and poignant.

As a side note, at the same time as I was reading *Blood Debt*, I was also reading another vampire novel - *The Night Stalker*, by Jeff Rice (Pocket Books, 1973). *The Night Stalker* is the novel upon which Richard Matheson based his screenplay for the made-for-TV movie of the same name (thus, also the source of the *Kolchak: Night Stalker* TV series); and it provided an interesting contrast to *Blood Debt*. Both stories deal with vampires in a modern North American urban setting, but there the similarity ends. The vampire in *The Night Stalker* is the "traditional" murderous predator (in the tradition of Count Dracula, that is). Tanya Huff's Henry Fitzroy, on the other hand, is definitely an example of the more "modern" benevolent-protector type of vampire that you tend to find nowadays (such as Chelsea Quinn Yarbro's Saint-Germain and Jewelle Gomez's Gilda). Both types of vampire stories are satisfying, each in its own way. I guess it just depends on what type of vampire story you're "thirsting" after!

ΛΨΦ



**Ye Editor's Corner**

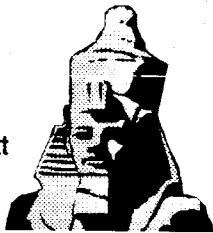
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Just a quick note to y'all to let you know that Peter is going to assume the honorable mantle of Ye Olde Editor for the next several months. Be thou advised, therefore, that all submissions should be sent directly to him either at his home address (as listed in the membership directory) or via e-mail at:

**Peter\_Knapp@ita.doc.gov**

## The Ayesha Chronicles

by Michael Cornett



The title "She-Who-Must-Be-Obeyed" has been applied to such people as Mrs. Rumpole, Margaret Thatcher, and this reviewer himself; but it has its origins in a character created in 1886 by British author H. Rider Haggard. It was his third novel (after bestsellers *King Solomon's Mines* and *Allan Quartermaine*); and it spawned a sequel, two prequels, and countless film versions. The novel was *She*, a fantasy-adventure set in Africa that has become a literary classic.

A summary of the events in *She* would sound hopelessly clichéd by now, but this was the novel that *defined* those clichés. The novel's narrator, academic Horace Holly, presents his adopted son Leo Vincey with a legacy left by Leo's true father, which was to be presented when Leo reached the age of twenty-five. The legacy is an ancient Greek document telling of a strange city and an evil woman who murdered Leo's ancestor (a priest of Isis named Kallikrates) when he would not return her love. The author of the document (an Egyptian woman named Amenartas) begs her son to avenge his father. Each descendant of Kallikrates has passed this document on to his son; but no one has found the city and avenged the millenia-old murder.

Holly, Leo, and their servant Job set off for Africa and, after numerous perils, arrive at the crater of an extinct volcano housing the city of Kor, capital of a long-dead civilization - now inhabited by the barbaric Amahagger tribe and ruled by a mysterious woman known as "She-Who-Must-Be-Obeyed". Her real name is Ayesha. Ayesha is the same woman who murdered Kallikrates and has waited two thousand years for him to return to her. And when she sees Leo, an exact double for Kallikrates, she knows he has come back.

Ayesha is a very scary woman. Intensely wise, brilliant, and blindingly beautiful, she possesses enormous psy-

chic ability: she creates images through telepathy, turns a woman's hair white with a touch, kills with a gesture, and briefly reanimates the mummy of Kallikrates. She takes the three explorers with her to the caves beneath Kor, where burns the Flame of Immortality which enabled her to live for two millenia to see Kallikrates again. Almost everyone knows what happens next; but if you don't, I'm not going to tell you. Suffice it to say that four go down into the caves and two come back up.

After 110 years, *She* is still very readable. Holly is a great narrator, never talking down to the reader and respectful to the natives he meets. Ayesha herself stands as one of the great all-time characters: imperious, powerful, almost megalomaniacal, but with glimmers of humanity. *She's* main weakness is Ayesha's passion for Leo, portrayed in the book as a vapid, stupid young man caught up in events he doesn't even begin to comprehend. Readers over the years have felt that Holly would have been a better match for her; and this reviewer has always agreed.

There have been many film versions of *She*, the most notable being a deliriously campy version from 1935, with Helen Gahagan, Randolph Scott, and Nigel Bruce. Another version was made in 1965, with Ursula Andress, John Richardson, Peter Cushing, and Christopher Lee. An oddball sequel, *The Vengeance of She*, was made in 1967, scripted by "Modesty Blaise" creator Peter O'Donnell and featuring John Richardson (again) as Leo Vincey and newcomer Olinka Berova (of meager talent and ample endowment) as a girl who may be Ayesha reborn.

In 1904, Haggard published his first follow-up to the enormously popular *She* - this was *Ayesha: The Return of She*. Led by a series of dreams and visions, Leo and Holly trek to central Asia, spending twenty years traveling in the steppes and mountains, until finally arriving at the mysterious valley of Kaloon. The valley is inhabited by descendants of a troupe of Greeks who followed Alexander the Great to India and then got lost; and it is ruled by the Khania Atene, the reincarnation of Amenartas

(remember her?). The people of Kaloon are in conflict with the priests of Isis who inhabit an underground temple in an active volcano and are ruled over by the mysterious veiled woman Hesea. Atene conceives a violent passion for Leo; but once they meet Hesea (who is Ayesha reborn), all hell breaks loose.

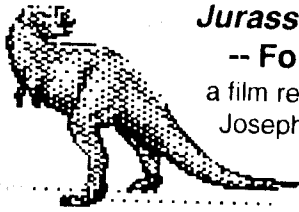
*Ayesha* is somewhat weaker than the original novel, but still interesting. The Asian setting is different from Haggard's usual Africa; and it influences the narrative significantly. It's also much more mystical than its predecessor, with much ruminating on reincarnation, spirit-vs.-flesh, etc., etc. The character Ayesha is still morally ambiguous - loves Leo (vapid as ever); cares about the poor in the valley; but, at the same time, plots world conquest, with Leo as her king. Things end tragically; and an end is put to the story here.

In 1921, Haggard wrote the first of two prequels to the saga and had Ayesha meet his other popular character, Allan Quartermaine. *She and Allan* takes place years before the events in *She*, when Allan (on a quest put on him by an African witch doctor) stumbles into a struggle between Ayesha (and the tribes loyal to her) and a tribe led by the rebel Rezu, who has also bathed in the Fire of Immortality (but only partially). Allan is recruited by Ayesha to be her general, leading her troops in a rousing battle against the enemy.

*She and Allan* is a weak entry in the series - a whole new theology is presented for the inhabitants of Kor; there's lots of unnecessary comic relief; and the last few chapters get mired in a morass of mystical mumbo-jumbo that taxes even the most determined reader. The most interesting part is learning more about Ayesha's background and exactly why she's pining away for the vapid "himbo" Kallikrates. (It's all a curse put on her by Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love.)

Finally, the last entry in the series was published in 1922. It was *Wisdom's Daughter: The Life and Love Story of She-Who-Must-Be-Obeyed*. It's Ayesha's autobiography; and by now only the most determined fan could read

(continued on page 5)



**The Lost World:  
Jurassic Park  
-- Found!**  
a film review by  
Joseph Parra

In 1992, the most successful box office film of all time opened to fantastic reviews. Critics worldwide hailed Steven Spielberg's production of Michael Crichton's harrowing, yet exhilarating novel *Jurassic Park* as one of those rare films which is instantaneously labelled a classic. When Universal Pictures announced that Spielberg was going to film a sequel, everyone smiled politely, saying that even Steven the Wunderkind couldn't possibly repeat his success. Well, oddly enough, he has. Not to say that this film is as enigmatic as the original film - or as charismatic, for that matter - but it doesn't try to be. To say that the screenplay follows the novel almost verbatim is redundant, since, as anyone who has read the novel can tell you, the novel itself was to all intents and purposes a screenplay!

The film opens with Ian Malcolm (Jeff Goldblum), the mathema-

tician from the first adventure, being asked by his old chum, John Hammond (Sir Richard Attenborough), the originator of "Jurassic Park", to go to Isla Sorna, a *second* island full of monsters. It seems a vacationing family stumbled upon this "paradise" and was promptly attacked by some of the local fauna. To entice Ian to put his life on the line again, Hammond has hired Ian's girlfriend (Julianne Moore) as a naturalist to study the beasts in an unhampered environment. In fact, she's already there! They no sooner reunite on the island (amid a herd of stegosaurs) when the island is "invaded" by a second party sent out by the irate stockholders of the defunct "Jurassic Park." This group is led by Hammond's evil nephew (Arliss Howard) and a great white hunter (Pete Postlethwaite) right out of Hemingway or Melville, who's out to bag a buck T-Rex. As can be expected, there is a rather nasty Tyrannosaurus Rex attack, the difference here being that it involves both parents and a youngster. There are also some pesky meat-eating dinosaurs no bigger than a chihuahua that travel in packs...

As with *Jurassic Park*, to go into too much detail here on plot would spoil

the movie. Suffice it to say that Stan Winston and the effects crew at ILM and other six studios have outdone themselves - even surpassing the original, if you can imagine such a thing! The film also pays homage to a great many dino-flicks of the past, especially the 1925 version of Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Lost World*, *King Kong* (1933), *The Beast from 20,000 Fathoms* (1953), and, most of all, *Gorgo* (1964). Performances are uniformly fine, with Postlethwaite's being a standout. The one negative comment on this film concerns the plotline, which wears pretty thin at times. Considering that the main reasons for viewing films like *The Lost World: Jurassic Park* are the monsters and special effects, this isn't a bad trade-off. Steven Spielberg wisely knew where to concentrate his main efforts and has, of course, paved the way for the *next* sequel.

If you're like me, one of those people who always wished that dinosaurs could still exist today, don't miss this jewel. Oh! One last homage included in this film (and it's fleeting, so watch for it): *Godzilla!!* Enjoy!!!

Rating: 3 1/2 out of a possible 4

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**The Ayesha Chronicles**  
continued from page 4

it. Ayesha is best viewed from a distance; close up, she's a bore. Vain, egomaniacal, and arrogant, Ayesha desperately needs to get over herself. She claims that her mother died after giving birth to her so she would not give birth to a child less beautiful. Ayesha rambles around ancient Arabia, Egypt (where she becomes a priestess of Isis), and Sidon (where she single-handedly topples an empire); and she always expects to be worshipped and adored. At least Haggard consistently maintains her personality. *Wisdom's Daughter* is actually a well-written book about a character that is extremely tiresome.

My advice to the casual reader is to read *She* and stop there. Die-hard Haggard fans may enjoy reading all four, if they can get their hands on them.

ΛΨΦ

**Error! Error! Error!**

admitted by Carl Cipra

Whoops! I've made - how you say? - *le boo-boo!* In last month's newsletter, I reported that I, Sir Joe Parra would be featured in two murder mysteries "at the Wayside Theatre, 'way out there in Virginnie" this season. Not *quite* accurate!

Yes, it is true that he'll appear in two murder mysteries this season, as follows:

Aug. 27 - Sept. 13 - *An Inspector Calls*, by J.B. Priestley - the famous murder mystery about a murder/suicide which may *not* be one after all!

Oct. 15 - Nov. 2 - *Sleuth!*, by Anthony Schaeffer - the ultimate "whodunnit", when a famed mystery writer discovers his wife's infidelity and confronts her young lover. (Joe plays the mystery writer, the character portrayed by Sir Lawrence Olivier on the silver screen.)

...but it is *not* true that both productions will be at the Wayside Theatre - only *one* of them will be there. Whereas the Aug./Sept. production of *An Inspector Calls* will indeed take place at the same-old Wayside Theatre (Middletown, VA), the Oct./Nov. production of *Sleuth!* will in fact take place at a *different* venue: the Cumberland Theatre, 101-103 No. Johnson St., Cumberland, MD (somewhere out beyond Gaithersburg).

So - we'll undoubtedly still be discussing two possible theatre trips, but they'll just be in different directions. *Mea culpa* (but corrected in plenty of time - no harm done).

ΛΨΦ



**\* \* 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, July 13th, 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



July 11 - 13, 1997 **SHORE LEAVE 19** (a Fan-Run Trek Convention). Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Confirmed guests: Ethan ("Neelix") Phillips, Peter David. Adult membership: \$45 until 5/31/97 ("higher cost" at the door). Make checks payable to "Shore Leave" and send (with 2 SASFs) to Shore Leave 19, P.O. Box 6809, Towson, MD 21285-6809. For updated info, visit their WWW page: <http://members.aol.com/ShoreLeave>  
E-mail: [ShoreLeave@aol.com](mailto:ShoreLeave@aol.com) Info line: (410) 821-5563

July 26 - 27, 1997 **NOVACON 7**. Tysons Westpark Hotel (Tysons Corners, VA). Guests: Jason ("Marcus Cole") Carter, Gates ("Dr. Crusher") McFadden; Dave McConnell (*Starlog* editor). General admission: \$20/day or \$35/weekend; reserved admission: \$35/day or \$65/weekend - order through Ticketmaster, or send to: Novacon 97, PO Box 3363, Merrifield, VA 22116. For info, call (703) 280-5373.  
E-mail: [Novacon@juno.com](mailto:Novacon@juno.com) Web page: <http://members.aol.com/Novacon97/>

Aug. 28 - Sept. 1, 1997 **LONESTARCON 2 (the 55th World Science Fiction Convention)**. San Antonio Convention Center & surrounding hotels (San Antonio, TX). Honored Guests: Algis Budrys, Michael Moorcock, Don Maitz. Attending membership: \$135 until 7/31/97. Make checks payable to "LoneStarCon2" and send to: LoneStarCon2, PO Box 27277, Austin, TX 78755-2277.  
E-mail: [lsc2@io.com](mailto:lsc2@io.com) voicemail: (512) 435-7446

November 14 - 16, 1997 **PHILCON '97**. The Adam's Mark Hotel (Philadelphia, PA). Principal Speaker: Dan Simmons; Guest Artist: Alan M. Clark; Special Guest: Gardner Dozois. Membership rates: \$32 until 9/10/97; \$35 from 9/10 to 10/20/97; \$40 thereafter. Con address: Philcon 1997, P.O. Box 8303, 30th St. Stn., Philadelphia, PA 19101. PSI-S Hotline: (215) 957-4004.  
Web page: <http://www.netaxs.com/~philcon>

Nov. 28 - 30, 1997 **DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL XX**. Holiday Inn Select - Baltimore North (Timonium, MD). Guests of Honor: Spider & Jeanne Robinson; Special Guests: Marion Zimmer Bradley (health permitting) and the musical group Clam Chowder (a one-time-only reunion). Hotel rooms: \$70/night (up to 4 in a room). Cost: \$30; will go up in November. (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!).

Aug. 5-9, 1998 **BUCONEER (the 56th World Science Fiction Convention)**. Baltimore Convention Center & surrounding hotels. Guests of Honor: C.J. Cherryh, Stanley Schmidt, Michael Whelan. Attending membership: \$110 thru 9/30/97 (and it goes up after that). Make checks payable to "Bueconeer" and send to: Bueconeer, Post Office Box 314, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701.  
E-Mail: [baltimore98@access.digex.net](mailto:baltimore98@access.digex.net) Web page: <http://www.access.digex.net/~balt98>

