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Upcoming Lambda Sci-Fi Meeting

The next LSF meeting will be held Sunday, August 10th at the home of James Crutchfield: 1414 17th Street, NW Apartment 413 (near Dupont Circle). The business meeting is at 1:30pm; the social meeting is at 2:00pm. Please bring some munchies or soft drinks if you can. Hope to see you there! ▼

Field Trip to *An Inspector Calls* to be Planned by Peter Knapp



LSF's very own thespian, Joe Parra will be appearing in *An Inspector Calls* at the Wayside Theater in scenic Virginia. The show runs from August 27 through September 13. Traditionally, LSF field trips to see Joe perform occur on Saturdays. There are three Saturdays during the play's run: August 30, September 6, and September 13. At the August LSF meeting I will be polling the club to see who wants to go to the play and which weekend will work out the best. If you're interested in attending, come to the August meeting and help plan the field trip. ▼

Network Board Meeting Highlights

by Rob

The Gaylactic Network was quite productive at its annual Network Board meeting held at Gaylaxicon Lite '97 in Boston.

First, the Los Angeles group, Planet Lambda, was granted Provisional Affiliate status. If all goes well, they'll be a full Network Affiliate in 6 months or so! Congrats to them - many of whom are GI members or alums.

The issue of Network sponsored awards has been re-opened and a committee is forming to put together a proposal for the Board. If anyone wishes to participate on the Committee, please contact Rob Gates via email at Klaatu01@aol.com ASAP. Committee work will start in early August and we hope to be done late in the year. Volunteers *must* have regular (daily) access to email to participate.

There *will* be a Gay Fandom suite with parties on Thursday and Friday of Worldcon in San Antonio. Gay positive

programming ideas are also being suggested and there will hopefully be some gay programming at the convention. Anyone going should look for us!

The Network's most momentous decision may have been the decision to move the Board's paper and mail based discussion and voting tool (the GNAPA) into the electronic age. As January 1, 1998, communications amongst the Board and voting will be done via email instead of via postal mail. The Network is expected to increase communication speed and decrease costs with this change.

Finally, elections for the Network Officer positions were held (2 year terms). The results: Speaker ("President") - Carl Cipra from LSF; Treasurer - Keith Rodwell from GSFS; GNAPA Editor - Peter Knapp from LSF; Postal Coordinator - Denice Thornhill from GSFS; Publicist - Joe Leonard from TAU; Corespondent - Brian Frank from TAU; and Archivist - Joe Parra from LSF. ▼

LSF Web Site Gets A Facelift

by Rob

In case you've been under a rock for the last 6 months - the Lambda Sci-Fi web site got off with a bang but had stagnated as a million other things ate away at my time. Although we had a steady stream of visitors (about 10-20 a day on our main page, more on our recommended book list), the site changes needed to bring people back weren't happening.

Well, with a burst of energy and a chunk of time, I've finally given the site a complete overhaul. There's a whole new look with easier to read pages, and better organized subsections. A lot of areas are pend-

ing lists of links and information that will be added based on suggestions from YOU! Also, a number of people have stepped forward to volunteer some time to keeping things up to date, so hopefully the health of the web site will no longer rely on just my available time.

Please take a look, and let us know what you think - and send along your suggestions for links for any area of the site! The home page can be found at:

<http://members.aol.com/lambdasf/home.html>

Enjoy! ▼

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The Packed-Like-Sardines Minutes of the July LSF Meeting by Rob

The July LSF meeting took us all by storm....in the middle of the summer when meeting attendance is usually lowest we had a remarkable 35 people in attendance. James' apartment was certainly put to the test as a combination of old faces crawling out of the woodwork, and new faces visiting us for the first time kept us on our toes!

The first order of business was business - with a report from Gaylaxicon Lite in Boston and the annual Network Board meeting. Everyone was excited to hear about the shift to electronic format for the GNAPA, and Carl and Peter were congratulated for being elected Speaker and GNAPA Editor respectively. Flyers for both Gaylaxicon 8 (Detroit - 1998) and Gaylaxicon 1999 (Washington - 1999) were passed around. It was reported that over 30 people have already pre-registered for 1999. Rob reported on the pending proposal regarding the dissolution of Gaylaxians International and the club voted to support the proposal. Finally, we discussed whether to contact MW's editor regarding his interest in doing a story on us - the club enthusiastically said yes and Michael agreed to contact him.

Rob talked briefly about the webpage (see the announcement about the redesign elsewhere in this issue!) and garnered some volunteers for helping to maintain information and keep it exciting. Rob also reported that Gayteways was moving along and that he and Michael would be happy to receive additional material - particularly fantasy stories, any poetry and any artwork. Finally, the issue of Network given awards has resurfaced and is being spearheaded by Rob. Anyone interested in being on the new Awards Committee is encouraged to talk to Rob.

Following the run down on business items, we took a breather for introductions before moving into the social portion of the meeting. Pictures from Pride Day were passed around (Thanks Nikol!). In addition, recent comics, G-Fan and Cinefantastique mags and more were passed around for perusal and some were

put up for grabs. A number of people reported on movie previews they had recently seen while taking in the summer blockbusters - including previews for *Event Horizon*, *Kull* and *Lost in Space*. *The Lost In Space* preview seems to indicate that the movie is being done sans camp, and the previews looked quite good. Two new amusement park sites of interest are opening up in the next few years as well - the Star Trek Experience in Las Vegas and Islands of Adventure at Universal Studios Florida. In talking about amusement parks someone suggested a possible field trip for the group - an evening at Dave & Buster's in Rockville.

The fabulous new Encyclopedia of Fantasy was passed around by Carl. It was done by the multiple award winning team that did the Encyclopedia of Science Fiction and looks fabulous. There's also some talk of a possible Horror volume in the future. Rob also passed around a copy of the latest Progress Report from Bucconeer (Worldcon 1998 in Baltimore) in which Lambda Sci-Fi was given a one paragraph write-up in an article about local genre groups. A humorous news report was read by Rob regarding a government coverup by the Martian government regarding reported UFO sightings on Mars.

Finally, Dan gave a long and fascinating talk on "Furry Fandom". He filled us in on what it was, what it encompassed, the sorts of things they do, and passed around a lot of very nice artwork (some of which was quite.....explicit). You can look forward to a writeup on Furry Fandom from Dan sometime soon. Suffice it to say he seemed to win a few converts and the Network will likely try to build a stronger relationship with the significant gay portion of Furry Fandom.

Combine all of those people, with all of these happenings and you can *almost* imagine what the meeting was like. However, you'd need to also include a special 30th birthday celebration for Kendall to really get the picture. Here's hoping that we can keep the crowds coming! ▼

Batman & Robin - Wham! Boffo! a film review by Joseph Parra

All is not well in Gotham City. There is a terrible new villain on the scene - Mr. Freeze. This incredible monster's body temperature is zero degrees Fahrenheit. In order to maintain this bizarre condition, he must contain his body in a specially-designed suit that makes him look like some futuristic version of a medieval black knight. The suit requires diamonds to function, not unlike a laser. To secure said jewels, Mr. Freeze and his bilious cohorts rob them from the very wealthy residents of Gotham. Batman and Robin encounter this dastardly foe (and company) and have quite a difficult time with him and his arsenal of ice-related weaponry.

Meanwhile, in another part of the world, environmentally-concerned scientist Dr. Venus is trying to produce a hybrid between plant and animal, so that fauna/flora can defend itself against voracious mankind. Ah, but her fellow scientist (even madder than she), has opted to find a formula to turn 98-pound simple serial killers into fantastic Frankenstein-like monsters; he plans to sell this recipe (and a prototype creature, known as Bane) to the foreign government that bids highest. While Dr. Venus may not be wrapped too tightly, she is not evil. This presents a problem, so her colleague does her in with a bunch of chemicals... Not a good idea, for Dr. Venus soon resurrects herself and is now the very hybrid she wishes to create. Chlorophyl has replaced her blood; and, worst of all, her kiss is deadly - filled with venom from the mambas used in her "creation." After thanking the evil doctor in her own inimitable fashion, she and her new "pet" set out for Gotham City. To make a long story short, she has fallen in love - no, not with handsome, wealthy Bruce Wayne or studly Dick Grayson, but with the strange Mr. Freeze.

Ah, the world is a funny place. The antagonists meet and become allies; but alas, poor Poison Ivy (as Dr. Venus is now called) can never become the plant of Mr. Freeze's frozen dreams - for there is a wife involved. It seems that the Missus suffers from some incurable malady that her hus-

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The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner
or Michael Digs Up Another Old One
a book review by Michael Cornett

The bell in the village struck midnight. The belfry of the old church on the hill did not ring. It had been silent for many years, too dilapidated to be used.

The rusted gate to the churchyard shrieked and protested as the cloaked figure opened it and passed through. He moved silently through the tombstones, not needing a light. He knew where he was going.

An angel rose before him, her face marred by dark streaks. One arm pointed to heaven: the other was missing. Winged skulls and gentle lambs peered up from the low stones. A mausoleum, the name over the door obscured by the years, stood desolately, its gate swinging in the wind.

He paused at a tombstone beneath a dead tree that creaked and groaned in the wind. After a quick glance at the name, he

produced a shovel and began to dig. It took him a while to dig down to his goal. Occasionally he would pause and listen. Was that a moan? The rattle of a chain? Were voices whispering in the wind? He paid them no heed.

His shovel struck wood. He quickly cleared the dirt off the lid of the coffin, and pried it open. His eyes glistened. He reached down and snatched the dusty book from the hands of the moldering skeleton that clutched it to its breast.

The coffin was closed again, and dirt began to rain on its lid. Soon the man was patting down the dirt. Someone might notice, but nobody would question.

An owl hooted as the man returned to his home. Soon, he was at his desk, slowly opening the pages, examining their contents. What did his efforts net him this time?

The title is a mouthful: *The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner*. The author has an unfortunate name: James Hogg. Its age is considerable: published in 1824, 173 years ago. But it is a shuddery supernatural tale, and an extraordinary depiction of human evil.

The setting is 18th century Scotland. It is a tale of two brothers (or half-brothers, maybe) George Colwan, brought up by his free-wheeling, good-hearted but boozy father and his mistress, the Robert Wringhim, raised by his pious, repressive mother (Mrs. Colwan) and the strict Calvinist minister (who may be his father). They know of each other but have never met, until as young men they meet by accident in Edinburgh. Robert begins to immediately stalk and harass George. George, seeking peace, climbs to a mountaintop, only to see a vision of his brother against the clouds....and narrowly

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Batman & Robin - Wham! Boffo!

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band was hoping to cure when a lab accident caused the both of them to enter into a cryogenic state: hers catatonic, his horribly awake and forever altered into his new, nightmarish form.

Batman and Robin haven't been sleeping all this time. Home life is becoming stressful. Master Grayson feels that "The Bat" does not have enough confidence in "The Bird" to make decisions in the heat of battle. To complicate matters, Poison Ivy has *schpritzed* them both with a pheromone invention that also causes jealousy, particularly on the part of the young, unwitting Master Grayson. To add to this pile, Alfred's niece, Barbara, has come for an extended stay. This wouldn't be a problem; but Barbara has a habit of going out at night (unbeknownst to the household) on one of Dick's precious motorcycles. There is yet another difficulty - Alfred is dying. After a disastrous trap disables the boys, Barbara (with the help

of her uncle via computer) dons the wings and is now (ta! da!) Batgirl!!

So, to summarize: Mr. Freeze is loved by Poison Ivy, who is loved by Dick/Robin, who is cared for by Bruce/Batman, who is watched over the by admirable Alfred, who is adored by his acrobatic niece Barbara/Batgirl; and they are all involved in the looting or defending of Gotham City. Whew!!!

Joel Schumacher helmed this latest opus of the Caped Crusader and company; and he did quite a nice job, giving weight where needed and levity to counter-balance. Special effects by John Dykstra (of *Star Wars* fame) are fabulous - with Mr. Freeze's frost-ray gun a stand-out. Performances are marvelously melodramatic, in true comic book form. George Clooney was born for this portrayal of Batman/Bruce Wayne. Chris O'Donnell once again scores as Robin/Dick - as does Alicia Silverstone as Barbara/Batgirl -

and, of course, Michael Gough is that best of menservants, Alfred Pennyworth. It is, however, the villains' show. Arnold Schwarzenegger is wonderfully tongue-in-cheek as Mr. Freeze, stepping ably into the shoes formerly filled by George Sanders, Eli Wallach, and Otto Preminger (all TV Mr. Freezes). Uma Thurman is utterly delightful as Poison Ivy, adding a dimension of humor that the character did not have in the comics. Jeep Swenson and John Glover (as Bane and his creator) also add nicely to this stew. Warner Brothers' largest franchise is in good hands; and Gotham City's future is certainly assured for now.

Did you know that Mr. Freeze was originally called "Mr. Zero" in the comics? The name change was a good idea from the TV series. This is especially true in this film - because there is no "zero" in this production. Enjoy!!

Rating: 3½ out of a possible 4. ▼

One Young *Canis Lupus* and Three Real Dogs

video reviews by Joseph Parra

Werewolves may be temporarily off the big screen; but these beasts are prowling once again in four recent video releases: *The Werewolf of Fever Swamp*, *Huntress*, *Bad Moon*, and *Werewolf*. Unfortunately, only *Fever Swamp* shows some originality - the others show banality. Coincidentally, *Fever Swamp* is the only affordable one (\$9.95 - \$14.95 price range) of the four!

The Werewolf of Fever Swamp is part of R.L. Stine's "Goosebumps" series - a series of chillers aimed at young audiences, both in book and television formats. In *Fever Swamp*, a young man of 13 and his family move into a depressing, eerie, and foreboding swamp, so that the boy's father can carry on his research (which is based upon releasing into the swamp deer brought up in captivity). The boy investigates the swamp and comes across another boy his own age, one who lives in the swamp with his parents and quickly befriends our young hero. The city boy also encounters a dangerous old hermit who is rumored to be... a werewolf! After a few misadventures, including a murder

or two, the monster's identity is revealed - but at a terrible (if not slightly predictable) price. *The Werewolf of Fever Swamp* is atmospheric, scary, and (at only 43 minutes) guaranteed to give you "Goosebumps!"

Huntress essentially takes the plot of the classic *The Wolf Man*, transposes the story to modern times, and replaces a "he" with a "she." Like the old Buster Crabbe T-shirt commercial used to say, this is where the similarity ends. A young woman goes to her ancestral home after a death in the family. She suffers the curse of the werewolf in the usual fashion - however, someone forgot to buy enough good make-up, so she is scantily clad and scantily furred and scantily fanged... You get the picture. On second thought, NO! Change that! Don't get the picture!

Bad Moon couldn't have been better named if it tried. I had high hopes for this bow-wow, what with: (1) all the hype and interesting photos in *Fangoria*; (2) this being the first werewolf film from Warner

Brothers; and, most of all, (3) the sight of Michael Paré nude as the wolfman in question! Oh well, the best laid plans, etc. The make-up is fantastic, but that's about it. The story tells us of a naturalist who is gorily turned into a beastie while unearthing some South American Indian digs. He visits his sister and nephew, hoping to come to grips with his predicament; however, the longer the curse is on him, the less and less rational he becomes - until only evil remains. Thwarting the werewolf at every turn is the family dog, Thor. The doggie senses that Uncle is something more than human; and the two engage in contests of will. This premise (which proved interesting in *Thor*, the novel from which this screenplay is penned) becomes boring interludes dividing time between Paré's bouts of lycanthropy. Do yourself a favor if you rent this howler and fast forward to the end for the only transformation scene and for Paré's naked body. At least then you'll be barking and baying at the parts that were meant to be so treated.

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The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner

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escapes being pushed off the mountain by Robert. Shortly after that, George is killed in a suspicious duel, and George's father, the laird of Dalcastle, dies shortly after, leaving Robert heir to the considerable estate.

This first part of the book reads much like a murder mystery, with Robert's apparent madness, suspicious deaths, and the revelation that Robert, with another man, murdered his brother. When the authorities descend on Dalcastle, though, they find the mother dead and Robert gone.

The next part is where the spooky stuff really starts. Consisting of Robert's own memoirs, it tells of how his Calvinist upbringing led him to believe completely in predestination. The minister (his father?) convinces him that he is one of the Elect, chosen to be saved no matter what. Robert meets a mysterious young man named

Gil-Martin, who is able to change his appearance at will. The two become fast friends, and Gil-Martin convinces Robert that since he is fated to be saved, he can sin as much as he wants.

Robert starts on a career of lying, cheating, and the murder of a kindly preacher, all the while believing that it is the will of God. Supernatural happenings abound, as Gil-Martin shape shifts and causes all manner of things to come about. Gil-Martin is patently Satan himself, and Robert has become his willing tool. Robert's descent from piety to infamy is an exceptionally harrowing journey.

Justified Sinner works on many levels: as a supernatural tale, as a parable warning against self-righteousness, and as a satire of Calvinism. Gil-Martin is one of literature's most enduring portraits of the Prince of Darkness. Robert's ravings

about his own holiness and his determination to remove certain people "from God's sight" eerily prefigures the modern serial-killer. Robert's memoirs, if read alone, could be seen as the work of a diseased mind, but Hogg's narrative is firmly on the side of the supernatural.

James Hogg, a shepherd who was illiterate until the age of 21, was a popular writer in Scotland and England in the early 19th century. His firm background in the folklore and fairy tales of his native Scotland are evident here, and in his other works, which are full of supernatural menace. His wry sense of humor helps to counterbalance the grimness of his tale, and sometimes to emphasize the irony of Robert's situation. Forgotten until the last few decades, James Hogg is an author who deserves another look, and *Justified Sinner* is just the place to start. ▼

The Stone Prince by Fiona Patton

a review from Rob

My first thought when I saw Fiona Patton's *The Stone Prince* on the shelves was: I wonder if her Canadian colleague Tanya Huff is jealous that Fi's book hit the shelves first (before Tanya's latest, *Blood Debt*)? I won't know the answer to that question until I see them at some future event; but I'm sure that if the answer is "yes," it's also mixed in with a lot of pride - because this first novel is a good one. It left me wanting to see more from the hand of Tanya's friend.

Fi has created a world reminiscent of the historic British Isles, with a healthy dose of magic and mysticism thrown in for good measure. Many other authors have worked with fictional realms like this one, but Fi has done them one better by making gender a non-issue. For, in Fi's world, titles and honors and duties are bestowed by right of birth and victory, regardless of gender. There are male and female Dukes and Barons and Princes and Knights, all fighting and marrying and killing and dying side by side, without a moment's pause. It seems the only place gender is important is in procreation (for the creation of heirs).

Another twist that Fi has thrown in - and one which has very interesting implications socially - is the Guild of Companions. The Guild raises and trains its students to become consorts and companions to the royal personages of the Kingdom - creating a combination of spy/bodyguard/lover/diplomat in its best and brightest. The one lynch-pin of the Guild is that love is something that can be created in customers, not something one should fall prey to if one controls oneself. The Guild is both powerless and vastly powerful, for its members answer ultimately to only the Guild - and the secrets one learns between the sheets can be quite valuable.

With these elements established, Fi takes us on a tour of the life of Demnor, Heir to the throne of Branion. We watch as Demnor's mother, Melesandra, tries to hone Demnor into a cold and powerful successor. We see his struggle to under-

stand what it means to rule. We see him learn the value of loyalty, the price of betrayal, and the power of love. All this is set against a backdrop of rebellion, as the Heathlands rise again to try and pull themselves out from under the thumb of Branion (which has ruled the Heathlands for over 500 years). The highlands folks of the Heathlands prove a real test to the strength of both Demnor's heart and soul, with his lover Kelahnus' life - and, indeed, all of Branion's and Heathlands' lives - hanging in the balance. The final outcome of the battle is both unexpected and refreshing - but I won't spoil it by telling you what I mean.

The Stone Prince is a fun read; and Fi shows real promise, even though there are some areas where she has room to grow. Many of her background characters, particularly the Heathlands folk, are sketchily drawn; and we're given no real reason for why life away from Branion's rule would be better than life *with* Branion rule. The social order seems mostly well thought out, though we see very little beyond the halls of power. Fi also sets up many tensions and potential power struggles only to resolve them hastily and without real reason, if at all. Finally, there are many places where the descriptions of clothing and rooms could have easily been slimmed down - nothing that tighter editing can't solve.

For all of its little faults, though, *The Stone Prince* is well worth the price; and it kept me entertained - which is, after all, more important than impressing my evil twin brother, the Critic. I look forward to more from Fiona Patton, particularly picking up on some of the loose threads or legends of the Flame from this, her first novel.

Now, regardless of the answer to the question I raised in the first paragraph, the real question is: when will we see the first Tanya Huff/Fiona Patton co-authored book? Looking at Fi's and Tanya's strengths, I'd have to say that such a collaboration would have a lot going for it!

Werewolf Video Reviews

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With *Werewolf*, I've saved the worst for last. Those of you out there who are familiar with me know that I have probably seen more horror films than any ten individuals. You probably also know that I collect said films, "especially the beautifully bad" (as a former colleague of mine used to say). That being established, believe me when I tell you that I wouldn't buy this bomb on a bet! The plot (or what passes for one) involves a werewolf's skeleton unearthed in some obscure Mexican village; and the teeth of the skull still have the power to transfer the bestial ways. Don't ask me to elaborate beyond that, because that task is nigh onto impossible! There are several werewolves in this mish-mash, each crummier than the last. The film appears to have been filmed over the span of a few years, as people's hair lengths change from scene to scene. Richard Lynch is the only familiar name in this travesty, which was edited with spit and scotch tape. The make-up is so laughably lousy that the mangiest fuzziest flick that anyone can find will look eons better than this dreck. Bury this bone!

I hate ranking on werewolf films because, along with vampire movies, they are my favorite type of horror story. If this is to be the quality of endeavor, however, I'll take vanilla! Enjoy the first film (*The Werewolf of Fever Swamp*) and the end of the third (*Bad Moon*); as for the rest, inflict them on an enemy! Argh!

Ratings: *The Werewolf of Fever Swamp* = 2½ out of 4; *Huntress* = 1 out of 4; *Bad Moon* = 1½ out of 4; *Werewolf* = -4 out of 4!!! ▼

Editor's Corner
by Peter Knapp



As Carl is prepping for his great adventure (think Lawrence of Arabia), I will be editing the LSF newsletter for the next several months. Please send me contributions, either to the PO Box or by e-mail to PKnapp01@aol.com. Thanks this month to Joe Parra, Michael Cornett, and Rob for their articles, Carl Cipra for typing, and Cecilia and Rob for proofreading. Next month: The return of graphics! ▼

*** * 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, August 10th, at the home of James Crutchfield's: 1414 17th Street, NW, Apartment 413 (near Dupont Circle) - 1:30pm for business meeting; 2:00pm 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



August 10 - August 12, 1997 **FARPOINT 97**. Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn, Hunt Valley, MD. Guests of Honor: Jonathan Frakes (Star Trek: TNG) and Mira Furlan (Babylon 5). Membership: adult 3 day - \$45, child membership - \$15. Daily memberships Saturday, \$30; Sunday, \$25. Friday-only memberships are not sold, but you are welcome to come Friday only at no charge. Major guests only speak on Saturday and Sunday. Make checks payable to "Farpoint, Inc." and send to Farpoint, Inc. 6099 Hunt Club Road, Elkridge, MD 21227 along with two 2 SASE. No mail-in registrations after September 1, 1997.

For more information call 410/579-1257 or check out <http://www.erols.com.sfcon>

August 28 - September 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: Full membership: \$150 at the door. Daily memberships: Thursday, \$30; Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, \$50; Monday, \$30.

For more information call (512) 435-7446, send e-mail to lsc2@io.com, or check out <http://www.io.com/~lsc2/>

November 28 - 30, 1997 **DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL MEETING XX**. The Holiday Inn, Timonium in Timonium, MD. Guests of Honor: Jeanne and Spider Robinson. Special Guest: Marion Zimmer Bradley (health permitting). Memberships: \$30 until November 1, 1997. After that, and at the door they will be \$35. Make checks payable to "Armida Council" and send to PO Box 7203, Silver Spring, MD 20907.

July 3 - 5, 1998 **GAYLAXICON 8**. Novi, MI. Guests TBA. Membership: \$25. Make checks payable to "Gaylaxicon 8" and send to Great Lake Gaylaxians, 1106 E Fifth Street, Royal Oak, MI 48067.

For more information call 313/535-9132 or send email to glgaylaxan@aol.com

August 5-9, 1998 **BUCCONEER (the 56th World Science Fiction Convention)**. Baltimore Convention Center & surrounding hotels. Guests of Honor: C.J. Cherryh, Stanley Schmidt, Michael Whelan. Attending membership: \$110 until September 30, 1997, \$130 from October 1, 1997 - June 15, 1998, and higher at the door. Make checks payable to "Bucconeer" and send to: Bucconeer, PO Box 314, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701.

For more information send email baltimore98@access.digex.net
or check out <http://www.access.digex.net/~balt98>

October 8 - 11, 1999 **GAYLAXICON 1999: THE 10TH GAYLAXICON**. Washington, DC. Guests TBA. Membership \$40 until July 5, 1997, \$50 until September 1, 1999, \$60 at the door. No mail-in registrations after September 1, 1999. Make checks payable to "Gaylaxicon 1999" and send to Gaylaxicon 1999, c/o Lambda Sci-Fi, PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044.

For more information call 202/232-3141, send email to lambdasf@aol.com,
or check out <http://members.aol.com/lamdbdasf/home.html>