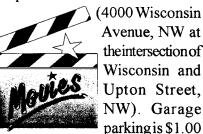
PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - 202/232-3141 - Issue #90 - September 1997

E-MAIL: LAMBDASF@AOL.COM WEB SITE: http://members.aoi.com/lambdasf/home.html

Event Horizon Movie Field Trip

A group is forming to go see the movie *Event Horizon* on Sunday, August 24th at the first afternoon matinee (1:45pm show likely) at the Cineplex Odeon Wisconsin Avenue



with a validated parking ticket. The closest Metro stop is Tenley Town-AU on the Red Line, ten minutes north of the theater. The general plan will be to meet, tickets in hand in front of the theater at 1:15pm. For more information, please contact Rob Gates (Klaatu01@aol.com or 202/483-6369) who is coordinating. [Editor's Note: I saw Event Horizon this weekend. Hated it...]

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An Inspector Calls in The Wilds of Virginia

Lambda Sci-Fi is organizing a field trip to see our very own Uncle Joe in An Inspector Calls at the Wayside Theatre in Middletown, VA. We've chosen the 8:00pm show on Saturday, September 6th. Anyone interested in going is responsible for ordering their own transportation - however, we generally try to assist in

transportation coordination.

Anyone who plans to go should contact Rob Gates (at

Klaatu01@aol.com or 202/483-6369) and let him know. Rob will attempt to link drivers with people needing to be driven. (Please keep in mind that Rob will be out of town attending Worldcon from August 28th to September 3rd). The drive is about 1½ to 2 hours each way. (Take Route 66 West, to Route 81 North. On Route 81 North, take the first exit, then follow the signs to the Wayside Theater.) To order tickets, contact the Wayside Theatre directly at 1/800/951-1776 or

540/869-1776. ▼

ConComm Meeting To Be Held

The next meeting of the Gaylaxicon 1999 ConComm will be held on Sunday, September 7, 1997 at 6:00pm at Jack and Kendall's house in Alexandria, Virginia. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend and help us continue planning for this huge endeavor. There are still a number of critical positions we need to fill on the Committee and we'll need everyone's help to pull this convention off. At the September meeting we'll be discussing guests and going over the status of our finances, our hotel search, our guest of honor search and our registration numbers. Please please please come and help! For directions or more information, contact Jack Frost at 703/212-2083. ▼

Upcoming Lambda Sci-Fi Meeting

The next LSF meeting will be held Sunday, September 14th 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!

The Lots Happening Minutes of the August Meeting by Rob Gates

As you'll see in separate articles in this is-

sue, a lot of events were planned for the coming months during our August meeting! If we keep planning events at this pace, we'll run out of days in the week to do things....

During the business section of the meeting we discussed the recent facelift to the web site, and people were again encouraged to participate in making it a cool place to visit. Folks were updated on the status of plans for Gaylaxicon 1999 - and we discussed the issue of hotels and location. Finally, one final reminder about events at Worldcon in San Antonio was made (room party for 2 nights, some good panels). We also need to start getting more involved with next year's Worldcon in Baltimore.

Then it was on to the less strenuous stuff......after a quick round of introductions the mayhem began. Dramatic readings of a writeup

on the newest Barbie - Borg Barbie, and a snippet of Dr. Seuss's writings on Babylon 5 were

well received. Information was passed around regarding the Star Trek Experience theme attraction soon to open in Las Vegas, and about Jurassicon a science fact/fiction con about dinosaurs next year (Oh Carl....). For would be writers in the group, a reminder about Gayteways (our upcoming 'zine) was made so that anyone interested in submitting stories or art can let us know within the next few weeks. In addition, information about the upcoming issue of Blue Mesa Review on Love and Sex in the 21st Century - and about a Star Trek amateur short story contest (with some hefty publishing and prize opportunities) was passed around. For

those who missed the Star Trek contest information, contact Rob at (Klaatu01@aol.com) to be forwarded the details.

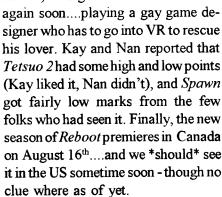
Michael passed around the latest Scarlet Street with great stories on the homoeroticism of Batman & Robin, and on Flash Gordon and Flesh Gordon. He also passed around the upcoming schedule for the Washington Psychotronic Film Society. Uncle Joe regaled us with information about upcoming video releases (a bunch of Hammer films in wide screen from high quality prints lead the pack) and about news from Hollywood (Alf movie being made, a possible Muppet Journey to the Center of the Earth, the Avengers (with Uma Thurman, Ralph Fiennes, and Sean Connery as the baddie), and Godzilla (no fire breathing, more of a Tyrannosaurus)). Rob also passed around some recent e-mail from the LSF e-mail box...including a letter from a writer of erotic sflooking for anyone inter-

ested in reading his work and a letter from Elisabeth DeVos about her upcoming first novel from Roc - The Seraphim Rising - which should be of interest to gay sf fans.

Finally, Peter passed around a small photo album of prints from Gaylaxicon and from our July meeting.

Some recent media news was discussed, including the departure of Ivanova from Babylon 5 and the departure of Kes from Star Trek Voyager. Kes will apparently be replaced by a Borg "7 of 9" who will shortly be unassimilated and turned into a human and who won't be all too happy about it. Sliders looks like it will survive by moving to the Sci Fi Channel, following in the footsteps of MST3K (which doubled its ratings after moving) fans hope. It also seems

we may see Christopher Lambert (*Highlander*) in a genre film



In event plans we planned a day to see Event Horizon as a group (Sunday, August 24th at the early matinee at the Cineplex Odeon Wisconsin Avenue Theater); a date to field trip to see Uncle Joe in An Inspector Calls at the Wayside Theatre (Saturday, September 6th for the 8:00pm show); our next Gaylaxicon ConComm meeting (Sunday, September 7th at 6:00pm at Jack and Kendall's - everyone welcome because we need your help!); and our next meeting (Sunday, September 14th). In addition, we're hoping to plan video parties and more in the near future! [See LSF Calendar on page 6 for dates Julian is willing to host upcoming Video Parties. - Editor]

Finally, we closed the meeting by watching Gillian Anderson's recently released techno-music video. It seems she recently narrated a series on The Discovery Channel for which a band she decided she liked did some music. They got together and released a single and video of a song that could best be described as techno-rap.

Watching the video we certainly saw a side of Gillian we don't see very often on the X-Files...

The Treasure of Atlantis a book review by Rob Gates

Different people collect different things-Star Trek figures, comic books, videos, trading cards, you name it. Although I've been known to collect a number of these things, my real passion is for books. Old books, new books, good books, bad books - you name it, and I've got them in abundance. I'm hard pressed to pass a bookstore, new or used, without going in; and harder pressed to keep from buying something while there. My obsession has resulted in my discovery of a number of bombs, but also in a number of real gems. The Treasure of Atlantis is one of the gems.

The Treasure of Atlantis was originally published in 1916 in a single issue of All Around Magazine and was republished in 1970 by Centaur Press as part of their "Time-Lost" Series of books. The "Time-Lost" series was a valiant attempt to preserve and spread some of the best swash-buckling high adventure and heroic action stories from the early 20th century adventure magazines. These magazines were one of the spawning grounds of such grand masters as Edgar Rice Burroughs, Robert E. Howard and H. Rider Haggard among others.

The Treasure of Atlantis by J. Allan Dunn has all the trappings of the classic mysterious adventure tale - wealthy adventurers, mysterious artifacts, remakings of history, scheming jealous queens, love, old gods and rituals, danger, and destruction. All packed within a little over one hundred pages. With today's market appeal of stories encompassing thousands of pages - such succintness was refreshing.

It begins with the arrival of an orchid hunter and friend to the home of Stanley Morse - wealthy, carefree adventurer. The orchid hunter tells a gripping tale of his discovery of what may be a mysterious, hidden city, Dor, of castaways from ancient Crete - and backs his tale up by producing a golden vase of unquestionable Cretan origin. Alas, after recanting his tale about his vision of the City in the Sky and a briefly glimpsed stone stairway - Murdoch the orchid hunter dies, asking Morse to unravel the mystery of the vase and the city of Dor. An adventure for which Stanley Morse is only too ready! After discussion with a local museum curator friend, he is joined by Gordon Laidlaw a historian, archaeologist and adventurer who theorizes that "the lost country of Atlantis, or its remains, is to be found somewhere on the American continent, where it was left after a mighty cataclysm split the earth into the continents of Africa and America and formed the Atlantic Ocean." This theory has made him somewhat of a laughing stock in academic circles, and he is eager to travel with Morse to prove his theory.

The two men follow Murdoch's maps, meet with tribesmen with legends of the mysterious city, and eventually find their way to the plateau from which Murdoch first glimpsed the City in the Sky and the stairway. They and we are tantalized by a vision of the city in the sky in the mists from a river as the sun sets - letting they and we know that indeed the mystery shall soon be unraveled. As the two men and their two native companions prepare to cross the swollen and mighty river (which includes a whirlpool), they witness a remarkable scene as the rockface opposite them opens and men come out bearing a bound and gagged man. The men are unique looking natives, but the bound man is "distinctly a Greek". Our heroes rush their plan to cross to the other side in order to rescue the man-after protecting him from the vultures who come to feed on his living flesh. The man they rescue turns out to be Kiron, the King of New Atlantis, who has been betrayed by his cousin Rana, the Queen of New Atlantis. And Ru, the high priest of Minos.

The two Americans are taken into the fabled city of Dor by Kiron, and thrust into the middle of the political scheming of Rana and Ru. They are welcomed into the city, feasted and eventually invited to take part in a ritual making them nobles of New Atlantis. Rana uses her ethereal beauty and charms to lure Morse into her

web of schemes, only to find him difficult to conquer. Indeed, Morse's strength of will is only matched by his strength of body as he defeats a local boxing champion to win the hearts of the people. But as the schemes of Ru and Rana slowly begin to take shape, trouble is brewing. The volcano which looms over New Atlantis has been becoming more active,

and the waters of the lake have been heating up. After an attempted murder during the ritual marking them as nobles, Morse is rescued by the beautiful Leona, the virgin High Priestess of Pasiphae, the Moon Goddess. With a beauty surpassing that of Rana, and her strong personality, she quickly wins the heart of Morse. But his love could not be requited, for she is forsworn to the Goddess...or could it? Tragedy at the Festival of Pasiphae gives Morse an opportunity to repay the life debt when he rescues Leona from drowning in the lake, and before she is taken away he sees confirmation in her eyes that indeed she loves him too.

Everything comes to a head over the course of the next 24 hours - Morse sneaks to the island of the priestesses and confronts Leona; they are caught embracing by Ru's men; and the couple are faced with certain doom as a way to appease the gods who seem to be growing angrier with the clouds growing from the volcano and the lake temperature rising quickly. But with the help of Kiron, his own love (a priestess herself) and Tele the ancient astrologer, the heroes win the day, save themselves and their loves and escape the doom that befalls New Atlantis.

There was nothing new in this wonderful adventure - the settings, the characters, the plot have all been seen countless times before. But Dunn has managed to weave together an entirely entertaining story. He even adds a few twists - making the women Leona and Lycida as heroic as the men as they fight alongside their lovers in the final escape from the mobs of New Atlantis.

(continued on next page)

"Relaxicon" '97 - Don't Worry; Be Happy a report by Joe Parra

Family reunions are a love/ necessity in our lives. We are so happy to see kin/friends that we may only see once a year or less than that. We are so sorry to see people that we thought would have had the decency to walk in front of a speeding tractor-trailer truck. This year's Gaylaxicon was a family reunion, luckily with more emphasis on the happy rather than the sorry. It was advertised as a "relaxicon." I was unfamiliar with this term so I inquired and was advised by my dear friends Carl Cipra and Rob Gates that it was a "no-frills" gathering of fen. This definition was true here in name only; the key here being self motivation. In other words, get up off your ass and do something!!

On Thursday, July 3, my friend Kendall B. and I set out on our trek to the northern territory known as Massachusetts. We left about 9:00am and drove up I-95 for

— The Treasure of Atlantis —

(conitued from previous page)

And of course, the book is filled with homoerotic undertones. There are countless references to the manly physiques of both Morse and Laidlaw - the men are almost always stripped down to minimal clothing and much time is spent describing the hard muscled bodies of their native guides and others while women are described simply by saying they were remarkably beautiful. Upon seeing the vision of the city in the mists, "Morse and Laidlaw turned in common impulse and clasped hands"....and as they prepare for the difficult raft ride across the river. Morse suggests "We'd better strip, Laidlaw" who obliges by peeling his "sweat-glued shirt from his massive chest". Language like this could easily be found in the erotic gay stories of today.

All in all, The Treasure of Atlantis was a wonderful book from start to finish. It left me wanting to see more, and reminded me just why it is that I love to scour used bookstores and purchase obscure books. Its a practice I'll definitely continue because this was certainly The Treasure of the Bookstore! ▼

what seemed like 3 years. (It's a good thing that Kendall is an excellent driving companion and he drove all the way there and back!) We arrived at the Burlington Marriott at about 7:00pm, checked in and promptly met other early arrivers from other clubs across the galaxy for din-din. It was off to the con suite after that to start the weekend with greeting wonderful people like our own "Pixar-Pixie" Jim Williams; the ever-loving Canadian Mafia of Colin, Drew, Arthur, Colleen, et al; the marvelous Robert "Bunny" Gowan-king (queen?) of Gaylaxicon 8; con suite-ee Keith Rodwell; the ever-adorable and verrry sexy Jim Mummert; the leading Michael Wadley; and many others - and horrid people who shall go unmentioned (see me privately!). After some socializing and picking up our con materials, we retired fairly early, wearing our little nostril stretchers as we both snore. (OK, OK, I roar!!!)

Friday, the Happy ID4!
cious leicious leicover to the gaming room!

fast, I went over to the gaming room! Normally, I don't go near those places as they usually seem to attract individuals who forget they are playing a game, not waging a war. Well, lo and behold, I had a great time! I learned a new game - Robo Rally-and made a new friend. Kendall and I went malling after the game and I bought 2 'new' movies (naturally). We then went to the WB store where Kendall purchased items for his other half, Jack, and I got a Marvin the Martian & K9 button. (I never could resist those sneakers!) Later that evening happened what will come to be known as the Curse of Gaylactic Jeopardy or Joe Parra Finds Out How Much About Imagi-movies Folks DON'T Know! Let me take this time to apologize for the over-abundance of film related categories, but as I told the powers that be when asked to put the game together, this was likely to be the case. Oh well! To those who enjoyed themselves, thank you. To the rest - next time. Many thanks to Bob Peterson of GSFS for supplying the video prizes and to Carl 'Vanna' Cipra, Peter 'Tapeman' Knapp, and 'Eagle Eyes'

Kendall and Robfortheir assistance. After the debacle, most of us were either viewing fireworks or Mars photos from the con suite. It was a long day and I wished to retire early—but the Canadians had a room party and after a few vodkas and some good dishing, it was suddenly 2:00am and I had to be up at 7:30am—we were having a Gaylactic Network board meeting at 9:00am!

Saturday, July 5 opened with a bang. After that I went to the board meeting. I won't dwell on the events [See last month's article. - Editor except to say that everything was smooth as silk and yours truly was reelected archivist. Next, I was off to the video room as Jim Williams was showing The Celluloid Closet, Vito Russo's excellent documentary on homosexuality in the movies, and I led a little discussion group in the video room for a little while. Michael Cornett and I went to see Men In Black that afternoon and thoroughly enjoyed it, especially finding that my voiceover was intact. The evening festivities brought more fun as I gamed (!) some more, had a lovely dinner, and went to the dance. After completely relaxing Bill the Cat's throat - no, not that way - with an accupressure massage, dancing with Drew, Bunny, etc., it was up to the con suite for rousing conversation (heh-heh) and cutthroat Dilbert Corporate Takeover -simillar to The Great Dalmuti, I'm told. At 2:00am, it was bedtime.

The con ended Sunday, July 6 in the AM with the Dish the Con traditional bitchand-bullshit session. Some conventioneers were complaining that they didn't know what a relaxicon was and that there could have been more programming and more organized field trips and if-you-lovedme-you'd-wipe-my-butt pissing & moaning to beat the band. Some good suggestions were made re Gaylxiconon 8 in '98 and our baby in '99 and were duly noted. Then it was au revoir to the Gaylactic Family Reunion and off to a lovely and lively ride home. As Godzilla says. GRAAHROOH, which means "Stand back, Motown! We're coming in '98!" and I for one can't wait!!!▼

Contact a movie/book review by Jeff Finlay

Those of you that know me pretty well may be surprised that I am writing a review of this movie, and the book it was based upon. I am mostly into fantasy, not science fiction, and usually do not enjoy hard sci-fi movies. I much prefer stories about magical objects, mysterious quests, and human faith and failings. That is exactly what Contact is about, with a technological backdrop.

Ellie Arroway is obsessed with radio communication. From her first ham radio, she tried to contact people from further and further away. Her father nurtured and encouraged this interest in his daughter, teaching her the necessary patience to sit with a pair of earphones listening to static for hours on end. An advanced student, Ellie grew up to get a doctorate in astronomy, making a revolutionary design change to radio telescopes. However, her obsession with contacting extraterrestrial life forms made her the object of ridicule from other scientists and even her mentor. Finding private funding from a mysterious source, Ellie went on to become the head of the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI).

Being a scientist, and having lost her father at an early age, Ellie is extremely grounded in reality with no room for the "self-delusions" of religion. Given this mindset, it is very strange that she falls in love with a former priest, a man whose faith is extremely important to him. Actually, part of their attraction is their opposing views on this ground, and the numerous "debates" that ensue.

Then, all hell breaks loose as Ellie and her scientific team receive the message...

I first fell in love with this book 12 years ago, and have read it at least four times since. It is a marvelous work dealing with quantifiable proof that we are

able proof not alone in and how it that we are the universe, might affect

humans as individuals and as a world-wide entity. It also deals a lot with personal faith, and Ellie's discovery that she too can have an experience that others may have to accept with little or no proof.

This screen adaptation is very true to the book, and the story comes across very well on the big screen. I do not say that lightly, because I usually hate movies based on books that I have read before. There are very few large changes made in the movie, and overall I believe they were good decisions.

First off, in the book there was a whole international team of people sent off in "The Machine," not just Ellie as the movie depicts. In my opinion, this change actually enhanced the story by increasing the pressure placed on Ellie to denounce her faith. In the book, she was able to eventually receive some strength from the other members of the team. In the movie, she did not have that luxury, making it harder for her to stick to her guns at the end, and in my opinion, making her a stronger character. Another major change is the political environment from the book to the movie. The book was written during the Cold War, and as such included a lot more political intrigue and debate between the United States and Russia. Neither country could get the whole alien message without cooperation from the other, due to the length of the message and the rotation of the Earth.

So a good deal of the book dealt with the politics of cooperating within a hostile environment with what both countries thought might be a description of a weapon. There was also a large world-wide debate as to the team makeup to travel in the machine. Trying to carry this story-line over into today's environment would have been a little bit ludicrous, although I do think the movie could have contained more political strife than it did.

The last major change is the ending, basically the last five minutes of the movie. I will not go into what specifically the difference is, so as not to ruin the book or the movie for anybody, but I will say that the original ending would not have come off very well on screen. It would have been very anti-climatic. It also would have made the movie a little too esoteric, since it deals with the possibility that science may lead us to God through the very fundamental physical laws of the universe.

All in all, I highly recommend both the movie Contact, and the book it was based upon. Both come across well in their own medium, and are very entertaining and thought-provoking. I am sure Carl Sagan would be proud of this movie.

Rating: 3½ out of 4 universes. ▼

Editor's Corner by Peter Knapp



As promised last month, the graphics have returned! What do you think?

Thanks this month to the usual suspects, Joe Parra and Rob Gates. An extra special thanks to Jeff Finlay who wrote a wondreful review of Contact. I encourage others to follow Jeff's example. Send me articles! ▼

LSF Calendar

08/24 - Event Horizon Movie Outing

09/06 - An Inspector Calls Field Trip

09/07 - Gaylaxicon 1999 ConComm Meeting

09/14 - LSF Monthly Meeting

09/20 - Maryland Renaissance Outing?

09/27 - Video Party at Julian's

10/12 - LSF Monthly Meeting

11/01 - Video Party at Julian's



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.

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, James, Rob, Scott, and Peter



August 23-24, 1997 **DARK SHADOWS FESTIVAL**. New York Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York City, NY (1535 Broadway at Times Square Between 45th and 46th Streets - 212/398-1900). Guests of Honor: David Selby (Quentin), Lara Parker (Angelique), John Karlen (Willie), and many others. Memberships: \$25 for two people for all three days and \$15 for two people daily. Registration at the door. The New York Marriott Marquis is sold out of sleeping rooms, but the Edison Hotel, across the street from the Marriott has special reduced rates. Call 1/800/637-7070 or 202/840-500 for reservations. You must mention the *Dark Shadows* Corporate rate.

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 them to POBox 7203, Silver Spring, MD 20907.

November 14-16, 1997 **PHILCON**. Adams Mark Hotel in Philadelphia, PA (800-444-ADAM or 215/581-5000). Guests of Honor: Dan Simmons, Alan Clark, Lisa Mason, Gardner Dozois, and Clam Chowder. Memberships: \$32 until 9/15/97, \$35 from 9/16/97-10/20/97. After that, and at the door they will be \$40. Make checks payable to Philcon and send them to Philcon Registration, POBox 8303, Philadelphia, PA 19101-8303.

For more information send e-mail to philcon@netaxs.com or check out http://www.netaxs.com/%7Ephilcon/

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 e-mail 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 e-mail to baltimore 98@access.digex.net or check out http://www.access.digex.net/~balt 98

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 e-mail to lambdasf@aol.com, or check out http://members.aol.com/lamdbdasf/home.html

