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Book Exchange at Jan. 11th LSF Meeting



As promised in last month's newsletter, here's a short reminder about Lambda Sci-Fi's *eighth* annual book exchange, which will occur at the upcoming Jan. 11th meeting! All LSF members - and visitors, guests, attendees, etc. - are invited to participate in this "blind book exchange."

In case you've never participated in one of these before (or in case you've forgotten), here's how it works:

(1) Go out and purchase a copy of your "favorite" science fiction, fantasy, or horror book. (Over the years, LSF has expanded the concept of "book" to include comics, videotapes, "books on tape," etc. If you want - or if you're feeling particularly wealthy - you can even make it *several* favorite books or whatever.)

(2) Insert a piece of paper (or a bookmark) with your name on it. (That's so whoever eventually ends up with the item will know who it's from - and will get to know a little more about

you, at least to know what one of your "favorites" is.)

(3) Wrap up the exchange item, but don't put any identifying marks or anything on the wrapped package to say who it's from. (That's what makes it a "blind" exchange - *i.e.* no one is supposed to know who it's from at first. And, by the way, all of that leftover Holiday wrapping paper should come in handy here!)

(4) At the meeting, add your wrapped exchange item to the pile with all the others; and you'll be assigned a number. (Only one exchange item - *i.e.* one package - per person, please!)

(5) When your number is called, you pick one of the packages from the pile. (And when you open it up, you'll find out who it's from.) See how easy?

I can hardly wait to see what shows up in the exchange *this* year!

ΛΨΦ



Guests of Honor for Gaylaxicon 1999



Announced!



by Rob Gates

Rob and Jack, Co-Chairs of the 1999 Gaylaxicon here in Washington, are very excited to announce that our invitees for both Guest of Honor and Artist Guest of Honor have accepted.

Our Guest of Honor will be Diane Duane, author of over 20 novels - including *Star Trek* novels, the young adult series "So You Want To Be A Wizard?", and the "Tale of the Five" series. Ms. Duane was one of the first mainstream writers to use prominent gay and lesbian characters; she opened doors for many of today's crop of gay-positive authors.

Our Artist Guest of Honor will be Nancy "Nanjan" Janda. Nancy is a regular at many of the mid-Atlantic area's conventions and has won numerous fans with both her "flat" art (drawings, etc.) and her glass and amber work.

A spectacular time will be had by all at Gaylaxicon 1999, the 10th Gaylaxicon!!! Don't miss out! [Ed. note: For more details on Gaylaxicon 1999, turn to the "Con Calendar" on the back page of this newsletter, or check out our websites.]

GAYLAXICON 1999



THE TENTH GAYLAXICON!

"Video Madness" Party Scheduled for New Year's Eve



[Ed. Note: Please read this article carefully. There have been a couple of clarifications since this party was first advertised in last month's newsletter!]

It's time to celebrate the New Year LSF-style - with friends, food (lots of it!), and a great big dose of "Video

Madness!" That's right, gang, you can "ring out the old year" with those favorite "Golden Oldies" (the films, that is) and "ring in the new year" with some *new* "favorites" (both films and friends)!

WHEN TO BE THERE

The potluck dinner will start at 6:00 PM, with the videos to begin as

(continued on page 5)

WHAT'S INSIDE?

Whence Cometh "Warp"? (pg. 2); *Alternate Tyrants* (book review - pg. 2); January LSF Meeting (pg. 2); "Cyberpunk" or *Cyberhype*? (pg. 3); Letterbox: A Really Big Show! (pg. 4); The Short-Lived Minutes of the Dec. LSF Meeting (pg. 5); Information about Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians (pg. 6); Con Calendar (pg. 6)

Whence Cometh "Warp"?

by Carl Cipra



Robert F. asked me an interesting question during the LSF outing to see *Starship Troopers*. The mob was having dinner at Pizzeria Uno after the film and chortling over some of the film's scientific "holes," including its depiction of the Arachnids sending asteroids halfway across the galaxy to strike Earth. (It would take a *really* long time for an asteroid to make that trip at relativistic [sub-light-speed] velocities!) It was during this discussion that Robert posed his questions about the origins of the term "warp": Where/when did it originate? Was it devised specifically for *Star Trek*? Well, I certainly didn't know off the top of my head, so I decided to look it up. When I got home, out came my copy of *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction* (the massive, Hugo-winning 1993 edition), wherein I located the answer under the entry "SPACE WARP."

According to the *Encyclopedia*, the term "space warp" may have first been used by John W. Campbell, Jr., in his *Islands of Space*. This story appeared in *Amazing Stories Quarterly* (1931) - later published in book form in 1957. He based the term on the conceptual possibility that if space (or spacetime) could be "folded" or "warped," then two otherwise widely-separated points on it would become adjacent (like folding over a handkerchief) and a vehicle could (in some fashion) move between them more quickly/easily. This concept has, of course, become a clichéd staple of science fiction and has spawned a number of related concepts - hyperspace, ftl (faster-than-light) drive, wormholes, etc. These concepts allow SF authors to get around relativistic light-speed limitations and to "speed up the action" in their galaxy-spanning space operas. *Star Trek's* "warp drive" is just another variant, where "warp factor" is used as a measure of ftl velocity.

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Alternate Tyrants --- a quickie review by Carl Cipra

I'm a real fan of well-written alternate history stories; and one of my favorite authors, Mike Resnick, has been editing a series of pretty nifty alternate history anthologies over the past few years. The latest in this series is *Alternate Tyrants*, a collection of short fiction about "despots that never were." The cast of candidates is, to say the least, fascinating: Winston Churchill, Al Capone, Pope John XXIII, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada, Nelson Mandela, Alexander Haig - even Buddy Holly! As with many anthologies, some of the stories are really good and some are just so-so. I'd like to briefly discuss three of them - because of the stories *and* because of their authors.

Alternate Tyrants includes one reprint from *Alternate Presidents*: "The Lincoln Train" by Maureen McHugh. (What if Lincoln had survived the assassination attempt and it was decided that vengeance against "unreconstructed" Southerners - forced deportation, etc. - was the best policy?) This is one of the really good ones - witness the fact that it won the 1996 Hugo for "Best Short Story." McHugh's name should ring a bell for other reasons: her first novel, *China Mountain Zhang*, was a 1993 nominee for both the Hugo and the Nebula Awards, and it's proudly included on the "LSF Recommends" booklist because of its positive portrayal of a gay main character.

The story entitled "Causes" deals with American terrorists in "present day" San Francisco fighting a guerilla war against the Empire of France. (Its premise is that Napoleon won the naval Battle of the Nile - hence, he never had to sell off the Louisiana Territory in order to raise funds for his war against Britain. The result: the U.S.A. stops at the Mississippi and France rules the rest of North America.) The author of this story is Frank M. Robinson, a long-time San Francisco resident. His SF novel, *The Dark Beyond the Stars*, won a Lammy for 1991; he's also affiliated with the Golden Gate Gaylaxians.

The final story I'd like to comment on is "A Stable Relationship" by Lawrence Schimel. "Puck" Schimel (which is how editor Resnick refers to him) has a habit of twisting themes to suit his own devious purposes. The "tyrant" in this story is none other than Resnick himself! (It seems that Schimel has married Resnick's daughter and is being none-too-subtly "guided" by his father-in-law and co-author/editor into writing lucrative SF novels rather than being allowed to follow his poetic Muse...) Twisted, you say? For more of Schimel's "sly" take on F&SF themes, try *The Drag Queen of Elfland and Other Stories*, a collection of his short stories. (My review of *Drag Queen* appeared in the October issue of the LSF newsletter.)

ΛΨΦ

January LSF Meeting

The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on Sunday, Jan. 11th, 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. Also, don't forget about the annual LSF Book Exchange. (See article in this issue for details.)

Hope to see you there! ΛΨΦ

There are only two things in the universe that violate the law of conservation of energy: one is the Road Runner, the other is the Coyote. You can't do it, and neither can I.

--- Diane Duane ---

(excerpted from
Science Fictionisms,
compiled by Wm. Rotsler;
Gibbs Smith, Publisher, 1995)

"Cyberpunk" or Cyberhype?

[Ed. note: At the December LSF meeting, Wayne #1 passed around a number of articles culled from the various newspaper science columns. He really seemed jazzed about one in particular, which he brought to my attention for inclusion in the newsletter: "Neurology: Computer Chips for the Brain." Julian, on the other hand, had already discussed the article with Wayne and felt that Wayne might be reading too much into it - and even felt moved to write an explanatory "calm down" article in response to it. OK, I decided to print *both* sides of the discussion. Read on...]

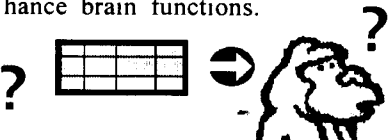
Neurology: Computer Chips for the Brain by Rick Weiss from *The Washington Post* (10/27/97)

If you've ever wished for a memory upgrade in your head like the ones you can buy for your computer, you'll be happy to hear researchers have made a computer chip that interfaces directly with brain cells.

Scientists say similar so-called neurochips could someday be used to wire small cameras directly to brain cells, helping blind people see. More immediately, the research may shed light on how neurons communicate and how memories are made.

Researchers at the California Institute of Technology created the silicon chips with standard integrated circuit techniques. The chips are pitted with 16 depressions, each about half the diameter of a human hair; each depression is attached to a tiny electrode that feeds into a computer. The researchers filled each well with nerve-nourishing substances, then placed individual neurons from embryonic rat brains into each well and allowed them to grow.

The neurons grew extensions over the walls separating the wells and made connections with each other as they would in a developing brain, the team reported yesterday in New Orleans at the Society for Neuroscience's annual meeting. The built-in electrodes detect individual firings between nerve cells, which resemble the electrical pathways that etch memories in the brain, and the computer is analyzing factors that affect neuronal communication. Eventually, the researchers said, the chips could be used to enhance brain functions.



Looks Like Science Fiction Headline Hype by Julian

The process they describe is really a pretty neat miniaturization of a decades-old method of studying individual nerve cells, but calling it "a computer chip for the brain" is a bit too much. Researchers used to get giant nerve cells (*really* big - easy to see and work on) out of sea creatures, stick electrodes in (or on), and study how electrical impulses travel in the nerve (a wave of ion exchange - "polarization/repolarization") and how an impulse is transferred to the next nerve by chemical packet "transmitters" (serotonin, adrenalin, acetylcholine, dopamine, etc.) sent across the separating space, thus disturbing specific places (receptors) on the next nerve and initiating a process ending in the same wave of polarization on the next cell. (More complexity is added by some messengers and receptors, making it harder for the electrical process to start.) For the more technically-minded, it is a multi-determined analog process, and the balance (or final product) determines what happens: "go" or "no go."

In humans, without carving out a nerve cell, we can measure the result of a group of final impulses in the contraction of muscle cells in "electromyography," but this is a very gross process. (If you've had it done, you remember the "ouches.")

In electroencephalography (EEG - a lot of wires to pick-ups/electrodes pasted on the head), we start to look at the central nervous system (CNS); but this a *very* gross process: an extremely sensitive pick-up (so sensitive that it runs off large batteries - the smallest fluctuations in wall current would overwhelm the faint signals), but what is measured is the sum of induced currents from *all* the electrical

currents in reach of the electrode, the closest weighting more.

Things get more refined when we open up the "black box" of the skull in necessary surgery and use very fine electrode "probes" to set off nerves in a very small region and produce a sensation the patient can report - or a motor nerve contraction we can see.

Watching people walk and talk is like looking up at the heavens; the EEG is like using a telescope on Earth; and the intrasurgical probe is perhaps like the Hubble.

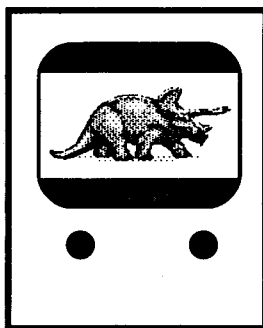
When we look in a microscope at the actual nerve cells ("dendrites") and their thin, long branches ("axons") in the brain, we see an incredible tangle; and one nerve is acted on by many others, both to set it off and to hold back that process; and every nerve acts on many others in the same ways. This is really the forest for the trees.

What the Cal Tech researchers have done in this report is to make a flat surface with imbedded circuits with pick-ups, electrodes built in and a path to carry currents out one end to a pick-up or interface "plug" to go to the process to get a read-out. Then they put some little dips ("wells") in the other end, put in a solution that helps nerves grow, picked out single nerves from embryo rats (full-grown nerves don't grow much, or at all), and put one in each well. The nerves grew up out of the wells and formed links to each other (to dendrites, etc.); thus the built-in electrodes pick up the electrical currents when they occur, spontaneously or provoked.

You might say they're at the level of Penemunde [Ed. note: the Nazi rocket base, during WWII] with a V-2 - but there's still a long way to go out into the Universe. This *isn't* a "computer chip for the brain." "Daddies" and "Moddies" and "Cyberpunks" are still *not* among us.

ΛΨΦ

**Letterbox:
A Really Big Show!**
an explanation by Joseph Parra



"I hate those black bars above and below the picture!" "I'm being cheated; they're cutting out half the picture on my TV!" The list of complaints goes on and on; but when the smoke clears, one thing is surely evident: one either loves letterboxing or hates it.

For those of you who do not have the slightest idea what I'm talking about, "letterbox" is the term commonly applied to the video presentation of widescreen format films in a version that allows them to be seen on a TV screen in their original widescreen manner. This is accomplished by shrinking the picture just enough so that the entire film is viewable. By that, I do not mean the *length* (i.e. running time) of the film, I mean the *width* (i.e. from left side to right side). The reason for this is that our TV screens are not designed to accomodate any ratios that are not, in essence, square.

For many years now (and still currently available), "pan & scan" versions of wide-screen movies have frequently been the only versions of some films available to the home video collecting market. These are earmarked by what appear to be bizarre camera angles bouncing all over the place in a scene in a way that seems totally out of context for what is clearly meant to be viewed in a somewhat still manner. Let me give you a prime example: In the classic thriller from 1958, *The Fly*, David Hedison extolls the virtues of his matter transport machine to his wife, Patricia Owens, very clearly in what is called a "one-shot" (face-to-face simple conversation, centerscreen action). When viewed in the "pan & scan" version, the camera seems to bounce from face to face in what is, clear and away, *not* an intended cinematic touch by the cinematographer.

Another clue to "pan & scan" is that the film image seems somewhat grainy - especially true with films shot in a CinemaScope (or similar) process

- more than with Panavision, because the screen is even wider. What results is the TV or video camera adapting the film via a filtering process which, due to size limitations, is unable to present the entire frame, which is outsized. The results for the true cinephile are quite disturbing.

When videotape collecting and videodisc collecting became a worldwide phenomenon, it became apparent to the industry that there was a demand from true cinephiles for the as-intended theatrical presentation of widescreen films. What the wise men and women at Sony did was to reverse the process devised when the main way to collect films was in Super 8mm or 16mm: this process was the development of an anamorphic lens applied to the projector to show widescreen films. Sony reasoned that the anamorphic lens enhanced or amplified the picture for a home movie screen (hence also for a television picture), which is the opposite of forward projection. They would need to "shrink" the image in order to present it completely. This process had been toyed with earlier for Universal, when they presented their Panavision-lensed films on TV (utilizing it strictly to view the entire credits of a production). Sony and other labs perfected it for home video after Sony's success for Universal. The process was tried out with the then fledgling videodisc format - the reason being that, if it flopped, it wasn't as large a financial loss.

The result: dozens of movie collectors either running to the disc or (for those of us who preferred videotape) asking friends with discs and VCRs to record them onto tape for us. The tape market sat up and smiled. The

first genre film to be offered on tape *only* in "letterbox" format was Steven Spielberg's *Innerspace* - Spielberg insisted that the sides of his images were as integral to the scene as the middle. Warner Bros. Home Video complied with his wishes; and the tape sold like hotcakes. This was just a few years ago; and now, in 1997, we are finally seeing the studios get on the bandwagon - as well as Anchor Bay/Video Treasures, a major independent distributor.

On disc, there isn't much of anything one *cannot* get in the letterbox edition. In fact, most times, these are the only way they are obtainable. On tape, however, the process has been slower to take hold; thus, since the tape market is both a gourmet and a gourmand appellation, one must be observant and circumspect about purchasing our widescreen lovelies. (That is: *Read the box carefully to make sure it says "widescreen" or "letterboxed edition" on the face or the spine or wherever.*) Anchor Bay/Video Treasures, in particular, release only widescreen versions of widescreen films that had previously been unavailable - for example, several Hammer films from the mid-1960s, such as *Dracula - Prince of Darkness*, *Rasputin the Mad Monk*, *The Reptile*, *The Plague of the Zombies*, and *Quatermass and the Pit*. Their success (achieved in a very short time) has prompted the industry to move ahead and release "lbox" (letterbox) editions of other seminal genre fare.

So, the next time you are at Suncoast (or whatever other favorite movie-purchasing palace you frequent), take a small chance on a big picture. Otherwise, you don't know what you's missing!!! $\Lambda\Psi\Phi$

**Moral indignation is
jealousy with a halo.**

--- H.G. Wells

(excerpted from *Science Fictionisms*,
compiled by Wm. Rotsler;
Gibbs Smith, Publisher, 1995)

Even with all the holiday bustle and shuffle, a decent-sized crowd gathered for our regular monthly meeting. The only item of business was a **clarification of plans for the New Year's Eve "Video Madness" Party** at Julian's. The party will begin at 6:00 PM - rather than 4:00 PM, as previously reported. The party will run until 11:30 PM, to be immediately followed by a "private party" at Julian's to which all attendees are invited. (It's silly, but necessary.)

With business out of the way, we moved on to the social meeting. Introductions were made, and Rob announced the great news about the **Guest of Honor for Gaylaxicon 1999** - Diane Duane. Various folks reported on the LSF "Magical Mystery Tour" - a trip to Klendathu to face the "bug sphincter of death" (our trip to see *Starship Troopers*) - and on our training session and first mission as "Ripley's Raiders" (the *Aliens* weekend - seeing #1 and #2 at Nan & Kay's on Saturday, and going to see *Alien Resurrection* on Sunday). Much fun was had by all - and everyone is looking

forward to more events like these!

Rob reported that **Lambda Literary Award nominations** are open until mid-January, and he encouraged people to nominate any good genre books (from 1997) with positive gay themes/characters. Tim passed around a number of toy and *animé* catalogs. Kay reported on upcoming premieres on the **SF Channel**: *Earth 2*, *Space: Above and Beyond*, *American Gothic*. Peter and Rob also reported on the schedule for the upcoming premiere of *Babylon 5* on TNT. In addition, a number of folks pitched in comments on some **upcoming genre big screen flicks**: *The Postman* ("Dryworld"), *Scream 2*, *Titanic*, *American Werewolf in Paris*, *Tomorrow Never Dies* (the latest "007"), and *Dark City* (likely the next stop on the LSF "Magical Mystery Tour"). We also had a report on a bunch of **recent books and re-issues**: *Ingathering* (from NESFA Press, the complete Zenna Henderson collection of "People" stories), Laurell K. Hamilton's "Anita Blake, Vampire Hunter" books, *The Merro Tree* by Katie Waitman, *St. Leibowitz and the*

Wild Horse Woman (the LONG-awaited sequel to *A Canticle for Leibowitz*), and *Starship Troopers* (which was more like the movie than many have said, according to Peter). Kay also let us know that *WIRED* magazine's book imprint is starting to reissue some hard-to-find **classic cyber SF books** - good news! Finally, Peter and Michael reported on some legal battles surrounding *Deep Space Nine*'s "James Bond" spoof ("Our Man Bashir") and the "James Bond" franchise respectively.

Before we closed up shop for the day, we went over **plans for the January meeting**, which will include the annual LSF book exchange. Everyone was reminded how the book exchange would work and was asked to come prepared to choose a date for the LSF field trip to the Smithsonian *Star Wars* Exhibit (sometime in March, 1998). That was it... everyone shuffled off pretty quickly; but not before we garnered a new member who joined because (and this is really what she said) we "smelled better" than the gamers over at Dream Wizards!

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"Video Madness" Party

continued from page 1

soon as possible after that. Try to get there about 5:00 PM if there's any last-minute fixin' you need to do on your potluck contribution. (NOTE: The party will *officially* end at 11:30 PM, followed immediately by a "non-LSF" party - to which Julian has invited everyone - and we'll welcome in the New Year with some "traditional cheer.")

WHAT TO BRING

As with previous Lambda Sci-Fi "Video Madness" parties, bring along your favorite genre videos (science-fiction, fantasy, horror). Everyone will vote on which videos to watch; and there'll be different "tracks" of programming shown on each of three screens throughout the house.

This party will, of course, include the traditional pot-luck pig-out, so bring along something scrumptious to



eat. We're not pre-assigning categories of what food to bring, so everyone should just bring something from one (or more) of the following "basic food groups": appetizers (veggies, chips, etc.); a main course (enough to serve at least 4-5 people); dessert (of course!); non-alcoholic drinks (diet & regular).

HOW TO GET THERE

The party will be held at Julian's home in Georgetown (site of numerous LSF "Video Madness" parties in the past). It's located at 1928 37th St., NW, several blocks west of Wisconsin Ave.

From the North: Going south on Wisconsin (from the direction of National Cathedral), you'll pass Mass. Ave. Just after Calvert St., 37th St. splits off to the right from Wisconsin (as Wisconsin swerves to the left). In about

a half mile, 37th St. passes through Whitehaven Park and intersects White Haven Parkway. Julian's place is just beyond White Haven Parkway, on your right.

From the South: Going north on Wisconsin (from the direction of "M" St.), you'll need to take a left on some street to get to 37th St. If you turn left on Reservoir Rd. or on "R" St., you'll need to turn right on 37th St., and Julian's place will be a ways on your left. If you go further up Wisconsin to White Haven Parkway (near the "social Safeway"), you'll turn left on White Haven Pkwy. and then left again on 37th St. Julian's home will be on your right.

Where to Park: Your best bet for parking is either along White Haven Parkway or along "T" St.

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*** * 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, January 11th, 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



Jan. 2-4, 1998 **EVECON 15**. Holiday Inn Holidome & Conference Ctr. (Frederick, MD - Exit 31A on I-270). A confention for gaming and general fan-ac. Hotel rooms: \$85/one bed & \$95/two beds. Membership: \$25 until 12/13, and then \$30 at the door. Make checks payable to "FanTek" and send to: FanTek, 1607 Thomas Rd., Friendly, MD 20744. E-mail: bruce@Afantek.org Web: www.fantek.org

Feb. 27 - March 1, 1998 **KATSUCON 4**, The Washington Area Anime and Manga Convention. Radisson Plaza Hotel at Mark Center (Alexandria, VA). Guests include: Haruka Takachiho (*Crusher Joe*, *Dirty Pair*) & Colleen Doran (*A Distant Soil*). Hotel rooms: \$98/nite (up to 4 per room). Membership: \$30 until 1/20/98, then \$40 until 2/13/98 or at the door (one-day membership at the door: \$25). Make checks payable to "Katsu, Inc." and send to: Katsu, Inc., PO Box 8151, Reston, VA 20195-2051. <http://www.io.com/~katsucon> katsucon@io.com

April 10-12, 1998 **BALTICON 32**. Baltimore Omni Inner Harbor Hotel (Baltimore, MD). Guest of Honor: Harry Turtledove; Artist GoH: Jody A. Lee; Science GoH: Dr. Yoji Kondo. Hotel rooms: \$104/night (up to 4 in a room). Membership: \$35 until 12/31/97, then \$40 until 3/14/98, and \$45 at the door. Make checks payable to "Balticon 32" and send to: Balticon 32 Registration, PO Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203-0686. E-mail: bsfs@access.digex.net Web: <http://www.balticon.org>

May 1-3, 1998 **DISCLAVE 1998**. Holiday Inn, College Park (College Park, MD). GoH: Terry Bisson; Special Guest: Gene Wolfe; Artist GoH: Nicholas Jainschigg. Hotel rooms: \$75 flat (res. by 4/10/98). Membership: \$20 until 12/31, then \$25 until 3/30/98; \$30 at the door. Make checks payable to "Disclave 1998" and send to: Disclave 1998, c/o Joe Mayhew, 7-S Research Rd., Greenbelt, MD 20770-1776.

July 3-5, 1998 **GAYLAXICON 8**. Troy Marriott Hotel (Troy, Michigan). Guest of Honor: Anne Harris; Artist Guests of Honor: Kurt Erichsen, Frank Gembeck, Jr. Hotel rooms: \$75/night (call 800/228-9290 for reservations & *make sure to mention Gaylaxicon 8!*). Membership: \$25 through the end of 1997; \$35 thereafter. Make checks payable to "Gaylaxicon 8" and send to: Gaylaxicon 8, PO Box 700392, Plymouth, MI 48170. E-mail: Gaylaxicon 8@aol.com

Aug. 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. Attneding membership: \$130 thru 6/15/98 (higher at the door). Make checks payable to "Bucconeer" and send to: Bucconeer, Post Office Box 314, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701. E-Mail: baltimore98@access.digex.net Web page: <http://www.access.digex.net/~balt98>

October 8-11, 1999 **GAYLAXICON 1999: THE 10TH GAYLAXICON**. Washington, DC. Guest of Honor: Diane Duane; Artist GoH: Nancy Janda. Membership: \$40 until July 5, 1998, then \$50 until Sept. 1, 1999, \$60 at the door. (No mail-in registrations after Sept. 1, 1999.) Make checks payable to "Gaylaxicon 1999" and send to: Gaylaxicon 1999, c/o Lambda Sci-Fi, PO Box 656, Washington, DC 10044. For more information, call 202/232-3141. Send e-mail to: lambdasf@aol.com Also check out: <http://members.aol.com/lambdasf/home.html>