



LAMBDA SCI-FI



DC Area Gaylaxians

PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (202) 232-3141 - Issue #95 - Feb. 1998
E-MAIL: LAMBDA_SF@AOL.COM WEBSITE: <http://members.aol.com/lambdasf/home.html>

Gaylaxicon 1999 ConComm Meeting Set for Jan. 31st

The next meeting of the Gaylaxicon 1999 Con Committee will be held on Saturday, January 31st, at 6:00 PM, at the home of the convention treasurer, Jeff. The meeting will focus on budgets, guests, and our first promotional mailing. In addition, we'll be going over the status of all other convention areas. Finally, all attendees will be helping to fold/stuff/stamp a 600+ mailing to previous Gaylaxicon attendees! Food will be provided, although attendees are welcome to bring along something to share.

The Committee meeting is open to everyone; and we look forward to everyone's involvement in planning for the convention! For more information or directions, contact Rob (by e-mail at Klaatu01@aol.com - or by phone at 202-483-6369) or Jack (by e-mail at jackfrost@his.com - or by phone at 703-212-2083).

ΛΨΦ



"Video Madness" Strikes New Site!! (announcement for LSF "Video Madness" Party)



When:

Sunday, Feb. 1, 1998, 2:00 PM to whenever.

Where:

Home of Wayne (4) Killion, 9207 Hickory Tree Court, Burke, VA 22015, home ph# 703/912-4912, work ph# 703/696-3185, e-mail at:

killionw@mcnair-emh2.army.mil

What to bring:

Yourself, your movies, and food (same as any other "Video Madness" party). RSVP, so Wayne knows how much more furniture to acquire!

Driving directions:

Take I-95 South to the Old Keene Mill Road exit. Head West down Old Keene Mill Road for quite a while. You'll pass Rolling Road. Keep going until you

come to the Rolling Valley Shopping Center. Make a right turn at Shiplett, the street immediately following the shopping center. Go down Shiplett and turn right at Draco, the first street that doesn't go into the shopping center. Go down Draco and take the first right, which is Birch Leaf. Go down Birch Leaf and take the first right onto Hickory Tree. Wayne's house is on the left as you come in.

Metro directions:

Take the Blue Line to the end of the line at Franconia-Springfield. Exit the station at street level and go the the "Kiss & Ride" area. Pick-ups have been arranged for 2:00 PM and 2:30 PM. (If you miss a ride, take the bus or call Wayne and beg for a ride!)

Bus directions:

At the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station, catch the Fairfax Connector, Rte. 110, labelled "Rolling Valley." Take the bus to the end of the line (about 7 miles) and get off at the Rolling Valley Shopping Center. Follow "Driving directions" above to Wayne's place from the shopping center. (The bus costs 25¢. Call Fairfax Connector at 703/339-1608 for the bus schedule.)

Hope to see you all there!

ΛΨΦ



BITSLAG. The useless rubble one must plow through on the Net to get to any useful information.

HOURLASS MODE. Waiting in limbo for some expected action to take place. Refers to the hourglass icon used in "Microslot" Windows. "I was held up at the post office because the clerk was stuck in hourglass mode."

MEATSPACE. The physical world, as opposed to the virtual world. Also referred to as one's "carbon community."

UNDER MOUSE ARREST. Getting busted for violating an online service's rules of conduct.

from *Jargon Watch: A Pocket Dictionary for the Jitterati*, as "overheard" by Gareth Branwyn (Hardwired, 1997), a collection of slang terms compiled from the "Jargon Watch" column in *Wired Magazine*

WHAT'S INSIDE?

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**The Rushed Minutes of
the Jan. LSF Meeting**
by Rob Gates

As you can see, I'm starting to really stretch for titles for the club minutes. Maybe it's time to think about a standard title...

Anyway, we started with our usual round of "important" business. Joe gave us an update on his duties as Archivist for both LSF and the Gaylactic Network. He's had some trouble getting regular newsletters from some of the other groups, but has been collecting as much information as he can. We were also reminded that Carl has now officially taken over the reins of the Network (as Speaker).

In LSF business, Rob brought up the idea of polling our e-mail list of subscribers for suggestions on activities and ideas to get them involved in the group. A few suggestions were made, but people generally thought it would be a good idea.

After getting the burden of business out of the way, we moved on to bigger and better things - like fun. A round of introductions was done before the chaos ensued. Items from the LSF P.O. Box were passed around, along with a number of media, toy, and gaming catalogs and magazines. Rob pointed out that he and Michael (LSF's illustrious Speaker) had been immortalized by Melissa Scott in her new book on writing SF, *Conceiving the Heavens*. (She titled a section/chapter with their names in reference to a writing exercise they started last year.)

On the video front, Joe filled us in on some upcoming releases, including: *Starship Troopers*, *The Mad Magician*, *Flesh and Fantasy*, *Space Master X7*, and many, many more. In addition, new biographies on the old horror greats are being produced by Midnight Marquee books. Not to be outdone(?), Phantasma Books is releasing *Sleaze Creatures*, and Full Moon Productions is releasing movie tie-in toys from the "Puppetmaster" movies.

On the TV front, Kay filled everyone in on the latest, including the premiere of *Babylon 5* on TNT, and the

upcoming premieres of *American Gothic* (including 4 previously unbroadcast episodes) and *Space: Above and Beyond* on the Sci-Fi Channel. One of the first mid-season replacement shows to premiere will be *Prey* (1/15/98). Finally, the series finale to *The Visitor* is to be aired soon.

Copies of the latest update of the "LSF Recommends" booklist were passed around; and everyone was reminded that we're always looking for new additions from LSF members. (Send recommendations to Carl or Rob.) In addition, Joe is just about ready to pass along the first-ever "LSF Recommends" movielist! Rob gave a quick update on *Gayteways*. (Phase one is done; now we actually need to put it together.) Peter showed up late, but managed to poll people again for their Worldcon/Baltimore plans, to get an idea of who would be going and who might be willing to sit on panels. (Many people were in both categories.)

We then quickly voted on two Network issues - whether Planet Lambda (the Southern Calif. group) should be voted in as a full affiliate of the Gaylactic Network (we voted YES!); and whether Carl's nominee for "Listener for the Network" (sort of vice-pres.), Richard Mandrachio (from the San Francisco group), should be approved (we voted YES!).

With all that chaos out of the way, we settled in to deciding on dates for upcoming events. Movie outings are tentatively planned for both *Dark City* and *Deep Rising* (pending release dates and details - watch the e-mail list for details). In addition, a potential outing to a presentation of some special items from "Disney's vault" is being discussed. (See article on page 4 of this newsletter.)

The one item we definitely did schedule was LSF's trip to the *Star Wars* exhibit at the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum. Our trip will be on Saturday, Feb. 28th, at 1:00 PM. Interested people are expected to get their own tickets. (We recommend going through Ticketron - tickets are free, but you'll pay a \$2.50 service charge per ticket.) We'll meet at the museum and

enter together in the 1:00 PM entrance group. (They let people enter in waves at specific times, so be sure to get tickets for the correct time.) Following the tour of the exhibit, a dinner trip is likely.

And that would have been all for another month of meeting mayhem, except we still had the Annual LSF Book Exchange to deal with. We took a brief but chaotic break to work out the details for the exchange and then settled in for some fun. A complete list of who brought what follows. (That way, you'll know what some LSFers consider to be "favorites.")

Kendall - *Dragonlover's Guide to Pern*
 Craig - *Lions of Al-Rassan*
 Peter - *Best Destiny* (ST novel)
 Rodney - *Midshipman's Hope & Mindbridge*
 Barrett - *The Merro Tree*
 Niko - *The Watchtower*
 Julian - a collection of several C.J. Cherryh books
 Kay - a sampling of Cyber-novels
 Joe R. - William Shatner's memoirs (2 vols.)
 Tyler - the collected "Wraeththu" novels
 Wayne IV - a pictorial history of *Star Trek*
 Joe P. - *Jaws* (video)
 Randy - *Dark Design*
 Jennifer - *Copper Crown*
 Jack - an episode of *The Flash & Jason and the Argonauts* (videos)
 Scott R. - *Chaos Comes Again & Einstein's Bridge*
 Robert - *Timescape*
 Tim - 3 horror anthologies
 Rob - *The Sparrow*
 Nan - 2 novels from the "Anita Blake, Vampire Hunter" series
 Thom - *Jack of Kinrowan*
 Fred - *Live Robots*
 Carl - *Burning Bright*
 Ken - *Ackermananthology*
 Michael - a collection of ghost stories
 James C. - *I, Strahd*

So ends another year, with a slew of books exchanging hands.

ΛΨΦ

I Saw Two Ships

by Michael Cornett

I recently read two books by two fantasy greats, written decades apart but remarkably similar in their plots and themes.

The first is A. Merritt's *The Ship of Ishtar* (1924). Scholar John Kenton receives a block of stone in the mail from an archaeological dig in Babylon. Cracking it open, he finds a perfectly carved replica of a ship, complete with tiny figures. Faster than you can say "fantasy plot #54," Kenton is swept away through time and space and finds himself on the deck of that very ship, plowing through an ancient sea.

It's an interesting ship. It seems that years before a priestess of Ishtar and a priest of Nergal had begun a forbidden love affair. Cursed by their respective deities, they were placed on a specially-built ship, cursed to roam the seas for all eternity. Although the original two are now dead, the curse is still in effect. Dominating the ship now are Klaneth, evil priest of Nergal, and Sharane, haughty priestess of Ishtar. Kenton is caught in the middle, with both members of the clergy urging him to kill the other.

Eventually, Kenton winds up being thrown in the galley with other slaves, and the rowing workout he receives transforms him from a wimpy aesthete to a hunky athlete. He is also occasionally thrown back into his own time. At one point, he ogles himself in the mirror, checking out his new body (one can almost hear "Macho Man" playing in the background). Kenton winds up taking over the ship, aided by an enslaved Norseman, flings Klaneth to the waves, and takes haughty Sharane for his own. In this scene, he utters one of the most ridiculously sexist, misogynistic lines outside of a "Gor" novel. "I - give myself - to you!" she moans; to which he replies, "You give nothing!!! I take!"

In fact, Kenton's new body gives him a new attitude: he becomes insufferably arrogant and overbearing. Upon his takeover of the ship, he re-

wards the slaves who aided him by enslaving them all over again. When Sharane is kidnapped by Klaneth (who miraculously lives) and taken to a temple to be sacrificed, Kenton and his compadres set off to rescue her... and it's Kenton's arrogance that gets them captured and ruins the whole plan. But all ends happily, in a sense, although Kenton never does get over himself. It rankles me to see arrogance rewarded.

The Ship of Ishtar is a fairly decent book of its type, well-steeped in Babylonian mythology, but with characters that it's hard to care about sometimes. The plot twists and turns almost constantly, which does a lot to hold a reader's interest.

The other book is Henry Kuttner's *The Mask of Circe* (1948); it parallels *The Ship of Ishtar* in many ways. Jay Seward is called to the shore one night, where he boards a spectral ship that bears him away to another dimension. It seems that Seward is the reincarnation of Jason (of "Argonaut" fame); and the sorceress Circe is calling him back to help in a war of the gods.

But this isn't the typical war that you might find in modern fantasy. It's dark versus light, yes; but this time around the light is evil and darkness is good. It seems that all the Greek gods are dead, save for Hecate and Apollo (who killed them all, trying to be supreme). The gods are really extra-dimensional alien beings of highly-advanced technology; and objects like the Golden Fleece and the title's mask are scientific, not magical. Circe herself is long dead, but her personality has been programmed into the mask, a sort of supercomputer (advanced thinking for this book's time).

The Mask of Circe is half the length of Merritt's work; but it's far more entertaining and enthralling. Its inversion of the usual stereotypes is intriguing; and its ruminations about man and his gods is fascinating without interfering with the brisk action. The characters are very sympathetic; we care about them greatly. (After Merritt, this is a lovely change.)

I heartily recommend *The Mask of Circe* without reservation, and

less heartily *The Ship of Ishtar*. High adventure and fantastic settings are all well and good; but character is what really makes a story tick, as *The Mask of Circe* clearly proves.

ΛΨΦ

Ye Olde Editor's Corner

Just a couple of quick notes from Ye Olde Editor before I head off for another "Arabian adventure" (which, of course, the Saudis rescheduled *after* I'd already made all the travel arrangements - AARGH!).

First, in the area of etymological inquiries (*say what?*), there's the question of "conniptions." At the January meeting, we somehow got onto the discussion of the term "conniption" - what it means, how to use it, etc. - with no final answers. Since then, my obsessive-compulsive nature has been in overdrive trying to solve that little conundrum. I finally found the answer in *Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary*. Very unhelpfully, that tome cites the word's origin as "origin unknown;" but it dates its first English use to 1833. As a definition, it gives: "a fit of rage, hysteria, or alarm." Thus, my assertion stands that the phrase "having a conniption fit" is a needless redundancy. Peter's response: "It's for emphasis." Hmmm....

And now on to business. As during my previous "Arabian absence," Peter Knapp will once again take the helm as Ye Not-So-Olde Editor. So, if you've got submissions for the next two LSF newsletters (March & April, 1988), send them to Peter. You've got several choices for transmission:

- (1) via e-mail to:
pknapp01@aol.com
- (2) to his home address (per the listing in the LSF directory)
- (3) in care of the LSF P.O. Box (see masthead on front page)

I know Peter is looking forward to receiving lots of nifty articles, etc. (And so is Rob, so that Peter doesn't have to rely on *him* to write 'em all!)

Salaam, y'all!

ΛΨΦ

Say It Ain't So, Al

excerpted from
"Stop Us If You've Heard
This One Before..."
by the editors
of *Training Magazine*
(*Training Magazine*, Sept. 1997)

The Claim: We actually use only 10 percent of our brain.

The Ugly Truth: Albert Einstein was a brainy guy... And wasn't it Einstein who said that we use only 10 percent of our brain? Well, actually, no. Alice Calaprice, editor of *The Quotable Einstein* and *The Collected Papers of Albert Einstein*, says she's never come across that quote--nor any other statement, for that matter, that would suggest Einstein believed a large portion of our brain goes unused. "I suppose he could have said it to his neighbor over the fence," says Calaprice. "Not *everything* he said is documented."

None of which deters the occasional calls and letters from people wanting to know from where Einstein pulled that magical 10 percent number. About a year ago, Calaprice received an e-mail query on this topic from Kevin Sauve, a professor of physiology and neuroscience at New York University's School of Medicine. At the time, Sauve was headlong into a quest to find the source of this enduring maxim. "It's fascinating how this idea has seized the imagination," he says. "Maybe it speaks to our hopefulness: We *can* be better than we are. Maybe it speaks to our sense of guilt: We *should* be better than we are."

Sauve badgered psychologists, psychology historians, the editor of *Psychology Today*--everyone who should know where this idea could possibly have come from. After several weeks of chasing dead ends, he dropped the project and returned to his real job. When not playing scientific folklorist, Sauve works in a brain-imaging lab at NYU.

The persistence of this myth is all the more amazing, notes Sauve, when you consider that not one shred of scientific evidence supports the no-

tion of unused brain matter. And scientists are generating piles of evidence these days. A process called MEG (magnetal encephalograph) detects neural magnetic fields to within millimeters and to within one one-thousandth of a second. Another brain-mapping technique called functional MRI paints detailed pictures of brain activity based on blood flow.

But regardless of which mapping tool one uses, the emergent picture is that of a very active brain. Depending on what a person is doing--reading, talking, smelling the coffee, or falling in love--certain areas of the brain show heightened activity, but even while specific areas are aroused, the entire brain purrs in a sort of global background buzz. "It appears the entire cortex hums at about 40 cycles a second," says Sauve.

Another recent discovery that would seem to discredit the premise that the brain contains a vast, virgin frontier is that the brain operates on Nature's use-it-or-lose-it principle. If a person loses a finger, the area of the brain that responded to sensory signals from that finger will be taken over by other fingers. When people lose their sight, visual areas of the brain get recruited for nonvisual activities, such as deciphering the tactile signals sent by fingers touching braille. "When you observe the brain activity of sightless people, it looks exactly like they're reading, but they're reading with their fingers," explains Sauve.

Marian Diamond, a neurologist at the University of California at Berkeley, also harbors more than a passing interest in the connection between Einstein and the myth of the unused brain. In 1985 she published a paper based on research she conducted on Einstein's own brain (which was removed following the scientist's death in 1955 and spent the next 40 years in the possession of a Kansas pathologist named Thomas Harvey... but that's another story).

There's no evidence from Einstein's brain or anyone else's to suggest that large portions of gray matter go unused, concurs Diamond. "I suppose the idea persists," she says,

"because the brain can do so many things. We tend to think we can never fully exploit it, and perhaps we can't. But only 10 percent? I doubt if we'll ever track down the source of that idea." **T**

Walt Disney's Unseen Animation: Rare Treasures from the Vault

Sat., March 14 (3:00-5:30 PM)

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No matter how familiar the classic animated works of Walt Disney may seem, a wealth of unseen magic has lain silent in Disney's own vault--until now!

In its only Washington-area presentation, this program features newly-restored footage from Disney classics - with deleted scenes, live-action tests, trailers, little-known animation gems, and pencil tests - spanning the years 1930-1950. Some haven't been seen since their first release a half-century ago; some were never completed; others were never intended to be seen by the public.

This afternoon of Disney treasures is introduced by Disney's chief archivist, Scott MacQueen, who found and preserved them. Highlights include: a deleted scene from *Snow White* (deemed too scary for youngsters); an original trailer from *Bambi*; the legendary unreleased "Clair de Lune" segment from *Fantasia*; and a glimpse of *Destino*, the unrealized collaboration between Disney and Salvador Dali. The afternoon also offers a comparison between the pencil test and the final animation for *Pluto's Final Judgment Day*, and sing-along fun with *Minnie's Yoo Hoo*.

Site: Baird Auditorium, Smithsonian Natural History Museum

General admission: \$13 (\$7 for full-time students with IDs).

Contact: phone (202)357-3030 (9 AM to 5 PM, M-F)

Tickets can be purchased in person at ticket windows in the Resident Associates offices at the S. Dillon Ripley Center, 1100 Jefferson Dr., SW (10 AM - 5 PM, M-F).

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Tomorrow Never Dies

(Thank Goodness!!)

a film review by Joseph Parra

Isn't it interesting how life imitates art - or, in this case, *vice versa*? In the latest opus in the 35-year-old franchise of Mr. James Bond & Co., this is what happens (more or less). Pierce Brosnan returns for his second outing as 007 in *Tomorrow Never Dies*, the 18th film in the United Artists series. He is good company, so to speak. (After all, what is James Bond to do if he does not have dastardly foes and villains to thwart?)

Elliot Carver is, to put it mildly, a media baron. The difficulty is that he wants to be a media king! He owns several major newspapers around the world, several television stations (as well as a major motion picture studio), AND a satellite dish in space with the ability to control more than just cable and dish reception. Mr. Carver - or "Ellie," as he prefers his friends to call him (hmmm...) - wishes to have broadcast rights from inside China. The Chinese Marxists, however, do not wish the megalomaniacal Mr. C to have said rights. Ellie is not a man who takes denial very well; as he puts it: "I don't play well with others." What is a power-mad mogul to do? Why, start a war between two superpowers, naturally! He sends his incredibly hunky blond Deutschlander stud-muffin out with a crew of cutthroats to steal a supposedly unknown British stealth ship near Chinese territorial waters and to annihilate the crew. The reason is simple: the Chinese will be blamed, the West and Russia will all react, and Ellie then has the makings of wonderful television news coverage *à la* the Gulf War on CNN (once again, hmmm...). The Brits, they are a clever race. They smell a rat; and, rather than poison the whole house, they decide to send in a cat -- Bond, James Bond. All is not to be simple as pie, however. Complicating matters is the fact that Ellie is married to an old girlfriend of Bond's, who wishes to help James thwart her mad husband's dream of world conquest by means of event programming. Ellie is

not, as I said, one who can take any bad news well - and, er, what is that quote from the Bible: "If thine eye offend thee..."? The Chinese haven't been sitting back, either. Though they have maintained that there is a lack of communications (to say the least), they too have sent in a mole to clear out the tunnel. Ellie sees that the stakes must be raised. After all, ratings sweeps are coming up, and it would be nice to be the negotiator of peace between nations and win the Nobel Prize, an Emmy, and a Cable Ace Award!!! What is the world to do? Can two lone secret agents stop the might of broadcast power and psychopathic adrenalin? What's worse, even if they can, will Ellie Carver still garner top ratings???

Director Roger Spottiswoode and screenwriter Bruce Feirstein have fashioned a wonderfully lively rock'em-sock'em, in-your-face screenplay without pandering to the mentality of idiots. They have very carefully fashioned an entirely plausible tale of media manipulation gone insane and then thwarted by that man-among-men, 007. Elliot Carver is clearly an amalgam of Rupert Murdoch, Ted Turner, and the late Robert Maxwell - with a more-than-passing resemblance to one of modern history's first media monsters, William Randolph Hurst. Ellie is played to perfection by the marvelous Jonathan Pryce, whom terror genre fans will remember as "Mr. Dark" in the wonderful film adaptation of Ray Bradbury's *Something Wicked This Way Comes*. He is one of those rare individuals to whom villainy (acting-wise) is an artform. Götz Otto is the sexy, psycho henchman, who is as perfect physically as he is deficient psychologically; he conveys incredible charm while managing to repulse at the same time. Teri Hatcher is Paris, Bond's former and Ellie's current. To be kind, let's just say the film could have proceeded nicely without her - and I'm not just referring to the character she portrays. All the stories about her being difficult certainly give cause to wonder: is all that bitching over corrected problems in the filming merely an effort to hide a personal inadequacy? (This is often

the case in the acting profession. Was this the case here?) James' unexpected ally, Chinese agent Wai Lin, is played by Michelle Yeoh, star of many Hong Kong kung fu films. She is much fun and can clearly kick ass. She is a very talented actress, as well as being quite a martial arts persona, with a lovely sense of humor *à la* Jackie Chan. Judi Densch is back as the redoubtable "M" and is, of course, excellent. (I don't think Ms. Densch is capable of giving a bad performance.) Desmond Llewellyn is back for his 16th (or is it 17th?) go-round as "Q" and is as wonderfully tongue-in-cheek as ever. But what is a James Bond film without a wonderful JB? Never fear, Brosnan's here! Pierce Brosnan once again proves that he is indeed the worthy successor to the Bond title. From his appreciation of things finite to his appreciation of things infinite (as well as bashing baddies), Brosnan once again wins, as he did in *Goldeneye* - proving that through him there is still life in the JB franchise. Oh! I almost forgot a marvelous cameo by that excellent character actor, Vincent Schiavelli, as a top-flight assassin to whom Otto is more than a protégé...

Producing movies that have been previously handled by another person for better than 30 years is an arduous task. Michael Wilson more than ably steps into the late Cubby Broccoli's shoes. He has hired the very best and so achieves a wonderful movie.

So! Do yourself a favor and drink down this dry martini. After all, it's shaken, not stirred... Enjoy!!!

RATING: 3½ OUT OF A POSSIBLE 4

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....the American Dialect Society recently honored "alpha geek" as one of the most original new terms of 1996. It means "the most computer-knowledgeable person in a workplace." (The term derives from "alpha male," meaning "the dominant male in a pack of dogs or wolves.")

excerpted from "The Accidental Trainer," by Michael Blumfield
(*Training Magazine*, October 1997)

*** * 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, February 8th, 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



Feb. 7-8, 1998 **SPACEDOCK '98 CONVENTION**. Best Western Venice Inn (on Rte. 40 in Hagerstown, MD). Guests: Philip Anglim ("Vedek Bareil" of *ST:DS9*), Jim Byrnes ("Joe Dawson" of *Highlander: The Series*). Hotel rooms: \$50/sgl, \$55/dbl, \$60/tpl, \$65/quad. Membership: \$60 for entire weekend (\$35 for one day), \$15 more for "reserved seating" (ltd. to 600 memberships). Make checks payable to "Spacedock '98" and send to: Spacedock '98, 119 S. Camden Ave., Fruitland, MD 21826-1323. For more info, call: (410) 548-1137.

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: \$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: \$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: \$25 until March 30, 1998; \$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: \$35. 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 **BUCONEER (the 56th World Science Fiction Convention)**. Baltimore Convention Center & surrounding hotels. Guests of Honor: C.J. Cherryh, Stanley Schmidt, Michael Whelan. Attending 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 20044. For more information, call 202/232-3141. Send e-mail to: lambdasf@aol.com Also check out: <http://members.aol.com/lambdasf/home.html>