



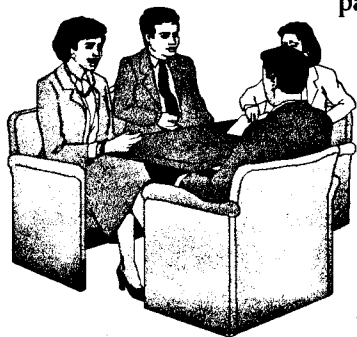
PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - 202/232-3141 - Issue #97 - April 1998

E-MAIL: LAMBDA SF@AOL.COM WEB SITE: <http://members.aol.com/lambdasf/home.html>

### Upcoming LSF Meeting

(Note: Date, Time, and Location Change)

The next LSF meeting will be held Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1998, at the home of Saje and William Blocker: 3125 Furman Lane Apt 301, Alexandria, VA 22306. The business meeting is at 4:00pm and will last until 5:00pm (at most). The meeting will immediately be followed by an LSF video madness party! (See Video Party article on this page for directions.)



Please bring some munchies, juice, or soft drinks to share if you can.

**NOTE:** We are having an extended business meeting because we have two issues to discuss: The Gaylactic Network Awards Committee proposal and the discussion about whether to buy a table at the 1998 Capital Pride Festival. ▼

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### March Chills Bring April Thrills – Not One, But Two Video Parties!

#### Party One at Saje and William's:

**When:** Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 4:00pm - ?

**Where:** 3125 Furman Lane Apt 301, Alexandria, VA 22306.

**Driving Directions:** Take Interstate 395 to Telegraph Road south exit. Get into left turn lane. On right side will be an Amoco gas station. Turn at second light into one of two right side lanes onto North King's Highway going south toward Route 1 and Fort Belvoir. Pass Huntington Metro on left, going through a couple lights. Stay to right passing Penn Daw Plaza/Shoppers Warehouse. Turn into second driveway of King's Garden Apartments. The street is called Furman. Proceed straight, then down a hill. Watch the building numbers on the left side. We are in a green bldg: 3125, top floor, apartment on left.

**Metro Directions:** Take the Yellow line to the end of line to Huntington. Ride the 103 Shuttle to King's Garden Apartments (or walk straight down King's Highway going south for about 15 minutes). Follow directions above, turning left at Furman Lane. If you are lost call the hosts at 703/751-5083.

Please bring chairs and pillows. I may be in need of an additional table, depending on the amount of food. I have a 2' x 2' card table. I would like some people to bring some Japanimation.

#### Party Two at Tyler's Place:

**When:** Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 1:00pm - ?

**Where:** 5621 Maxine Court, Alexandria, VA 22310.

**Driving Directions:** Take Interstate 395 and go to Springfield, VA. Exit onto Franconia Rd (going towards Springfield Mall). Go down Franconia about seven miles. You will pass Van Dorn Street, Rosehill Shopping Center and then on your left you will see Mark Twain Jr High. Go another quarter of a mile, and take the first left onto Clermont Street. Go all the way down. When the road turns, make a left and only 10 feet away is Maxine Court. Turn right onto Maxine Court and my house is at the end of the Cul de Sac – 5621 Maxine Court. You can't miss it.

**Metro Directions:** Take the Yellow line to Huntington. Rides to the party will be available at 12:30pm and 1:00pm. If you are lost you can call the house at 703/921-9260.

**What To Bring:** Videos (this is a video party) and an appetizer, a main course (enough to serve at least 4-5 people), dessert, and/or non-alcoholic drinks (juices, diet and regular soda, etc.). Hope to see you there! ▼



## The I Think I Need A Drink Now Minutes of The March LSF Meeting by Rob Gates



As always, we got rolling with business first – and business was big for this meeting. With over 25 people in attendance, and some pretty big issues, I wasn't convinced we'd \*ever\* finish.

Our first, and one of the longest I've seen during my LSF days, discussion revolved around clarifying and formalizing LSF's policy towards alcohol. Our previous "policy" had been based on the policy of the Network (which policy no longer exists), and different people thought it meant different things, as it was a policy that was very open to a range of interpretation. The issue had been raised by an invitation to hold an event at the Disclave Con Suite – where part of the Con Suite would be serving alcohol. We started the discussion by going around the room in a circle, giving everyone 2 minutes to say their personal piece about the issue before we started the more contentious interactive part of the discussion. Despite the strong feelings and the number of people involved, we managed to have a pretty well controlled discussion – good job all.

Some of the points raised during the discussion against the presence of alcohol included issues of liability, maintaining a safe place for fans under the age of 21, and not having to deal with people who are drunk and disorderly. Some of the points raised for allowing the presence of alcohol included issues of adults making free choices, being able to interact with the wider science fiction community where alcohol is allowed, and the financial issues involved with hotel contracts for any conventions we host. People countered and counter-counter many of the points raised – by

talking about the reality of us not having people under 21 in the group, by pointing out that drunk and disorderly are not tied hand and foot together, by suggesting that we as adults could choose to have an alcohol safe zone and that should be a choice recognized by other adults. In other words, there were some definite pros and cons. In addition, many people wondered whether the lack of alcohol had helped or hindered our membership numbers. In the end, a proposal was made that pretty much walked down the middle – **There will be no serving or pouring of alcohol at any LSF event. There will be no alcohol allowed at all at monthly meetings and Video Parties.** The policy would allow for us, in the larger community and at non-meeting/video party events to allow alcohol to be present, but not served – thus keeping us from having to play door guards at convention room parties, etcetera. This policy was voted on and passed (18 For - 2 Against - 4 Abstains) with a caveat to be revisited in the future with an especial eye towards how it affects our membership ranks.

With that lengthy discussion out of the way, we moved on to other business. Jack presented the latest Network news – namely that Planet Lambda (the LA Affiliate) was approved for full affiliate status by a 2-0-8 vote, and that Richard Mandrachio was approved as Listener for the Network by a 2-0-8 vote. In addition, he brought up the three newest issues for the Network – both the Publicist (immediately) and the Worldcon Liaison (October 1, 1998) are resigning and volunteers are urged to step forward; and the Awards Committee proposal has been presented and a vote has been requested for the next

GNAPA (May 1<sup>st</sup>). There were some potentially interested parties in the two vacancies, and the club decided to hold off on voting on the Awards Committee proposal until April – after everyone had a chance to read it. The Network Archivist, our own Uncle Joe, also reported that newsletters continue to come in from a number of affiliates.

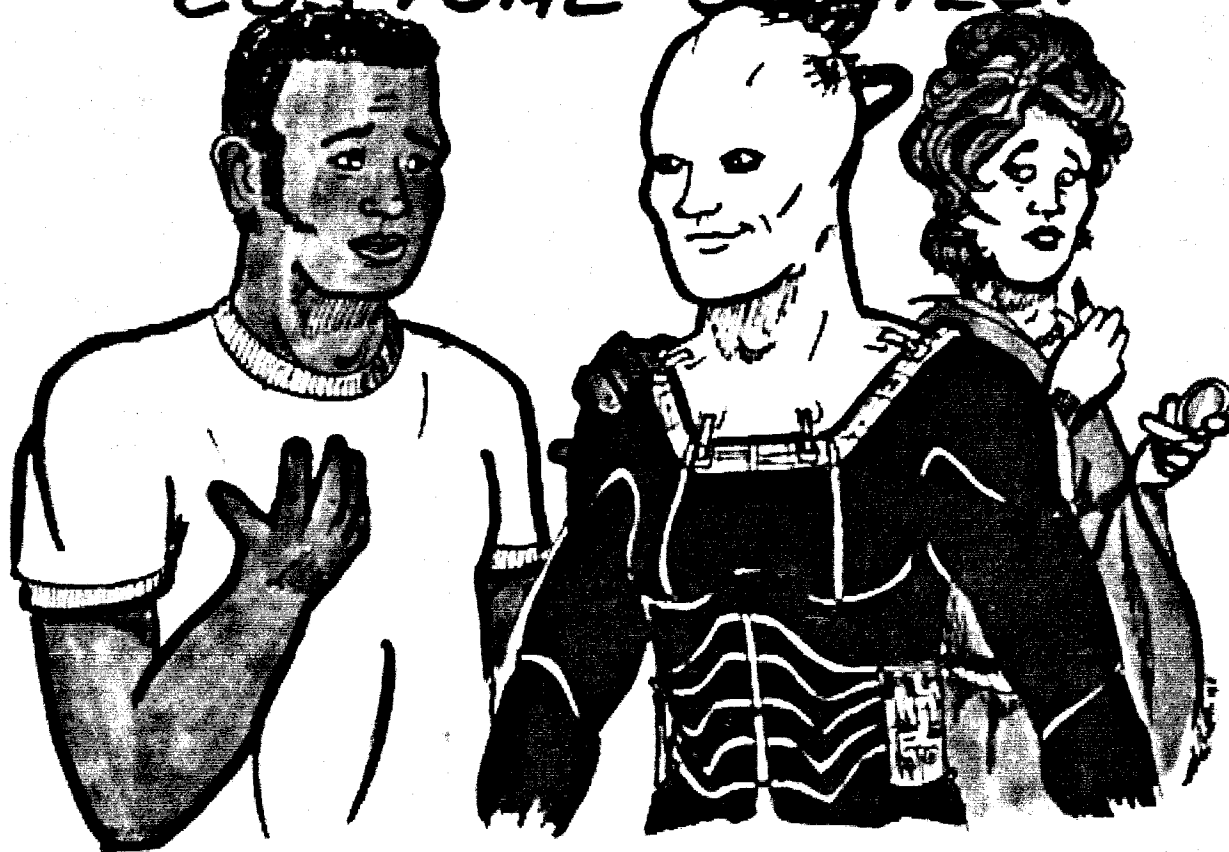
Before we could close the business portion of the meeting, the Treasurer (me) gave a quick report – we've got about \$1,000 in the bank right now with no outstanding bills. Also, we decided to table any discussion and vote about whether to have a table at this year's Pride Festival until April. Finally, we tabled a suggestion that we put together a one-sheet about "gay Baltimore" to hand out at Worldcon – anyone having any interest in putting this together, or with suggestions of what to put on it, should bring those to our next meeting or e-mail them to us at [LAMBDA\\_SF@AOL.COM](mailto:LAMBDA_SF@AOL.COM).

We also reviewed our schedule for our next meeting...and discovered that it was planned for a holiday Sunday and also against Balticon. Being the astute folks we are, we quickly determined that we should change that. Luckily, one of our newest members (Hi Saje!) offered to host a Meeting and Video Party on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> beginning at 4:00pm (see elsewhere for details). While we were on the topic of Video Parties, Tyler offered to host a Video Party in conjunction with a Gen-X Bears barbecue he was hosting on Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm (see elsewhere for details).

With business finally out of the way (and what a long business meeting it

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# QUEEN OF THE GALAXY COSTUME CONTEST



AREN'T YOU GOING A LITTLE FAR WITH THIS QUEEN THING STAN?

## *The Voice of the Mountain* by Michael Cornett

Sharyn McCrumb, usually known as a mystery writer, is best known in fannish circles as the author of *Bimbos of the Death Sun* and *Zombies of the Gene Pool*, two much-loved and much-hated satires of science-fiction fandom. But her new series, called the *Mountain Ballad Novels*, are worthy of a closer look by fans. In these books, McCrumb gives us a realistic view of southern Appalachia, with generous doses of magic and mystery that raise these novels to level of magical realism.

Unfortunately, the first book in the series, *If Ever I Return, Pretty Peggy-O*, would be of little interest to fans. A straightforward novel about death, murder, and the lingering effects of the Vietnam War, it was nominated for a Pulitzer but contains no fantastic material. It does serve as a good introduction to the series' setting, the town of Hamelin, Tennessee, and the neighboring hamlet of Dark Hollow, and to some series characters: Sheriff Spencer Arrowood, Deputy Joe LeDonne, and police dispatcher Martha Ayers, three

wonderfully drawn, almost painfully human characters.

The second book in the series, *The Hangman's Beautiful Daughter*, is vastly superior to its predecessor and overflowing with magic. On the first page we are introduced to Nora Bonesteel, the wise woman of the mountains. Nora has the Sight: although she has no phone, she always has a cake in the oven when neighbors arrive to tell her of a death in the area,

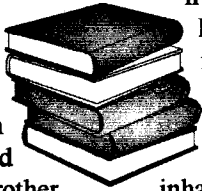
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## The Voice of the Mountain

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opening the door as they approach with a cup of fresh-brewed coffee for them.

Nora's sight has told her of a tragedy, as it happens. Teen-aged Mark and Maggie Underhill come home from high school play rehearsals to find their parents and younger brother shot to death by their older brother Josh, who then shot himself. It's a seemingly meaningless crime, as the sheriff tries to make sense of it. He calls in Laura Bruce,



the local minister's wife (her husband is away in the Persian Gulf), to tend to the living. But Laura has her own worries;

Laura is in her late thirties and pregnant for the first time, and her husband's absence isn't helping.

We meet more and more of the area's inhabitants. Two elderly men, childhood companions, face the fact that one is dying of cancer, and the severely polluted river running near the town is the likely culprit. Spencer faces his own mortality

when his musical idol, Naomi Judd, announces her retirement due to health reasons.

Things get weirder, though. Nora finds herself being forced to work on a "graveyard quilt", but also cannot finish it. Mark Underhill begins a search for money he knows his father hid before he died. Laura worries for her baby's health. A young mother dies in a trailer fire (a heartbreaking scene). And Maggie starts to receive

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## The I Think I Need A Drink Now Minutes of The March LSF Meeting

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was), we settled in for the more chaotic, but fun portion of the meeting. We started with a name circle – the fastest name circle I've seen at LSF yet, despite the number of people – and then on to the chaos...

Uncle Joe reported on his recent visit to Florida, which included a trip to Florida's RenFest and a trip to a Christian bookstore where he found a really great book (*Video Hound's Sci-Fi Experience*) at a really cheap price. He enjoyed his trip so much and had so many great auditions in fact, that he'll be moving down there in late 1999. To soften the sad blow, he also informed us that Tower Video's selection is growing and that they've got a great collection of widescreen editions and films from small production houses. He also filled us in on more home video news – keep your eyes on the bargain bins as lots of buyouts and mergers are causing stock sellouts. In addition, *Deep Rising* already has a video release date. In upcoming movie news – *The Mummy* has wrapped (hahahaha) with Timothy Dalton and Christopher Walken, the *Creature From the Black Lagoon* remake is starting, and the *Legend of King Kong* is about to start as well. Rob added a few tidbits from Science Fiction Chronicle's movie news...none

of it good (except for the news that Antonio Banderas looks to be starring in a production of Mary Doria Russell's *The Sparrow*). Someone also asked about rumors of a remake of *Fantasia*....it's not actually a remake, it's a new piece tentatively titled *Fantasia 2000*. Unfortunately, according to Uncle Joe, a lot of the animation is being farmed out and it may be just a video release.

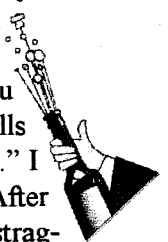
In other news...Jack heartily recommends the fantasy novel, *The Barbed Coil*, by J. V. Jones; rumours have it that Mike Resnick's *Santiago* is being made into a movie; author Jo Clayton passed away; the SF Channel \*is\* creating new episodes of *Sliders*; Arthur C. Clarke may not be knighted as previously planned as rumors of pedophilia have surfaced; an atmosphere rich X-Files Expo will be taking place in mid-May (16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>) in the DC area, watch for news on tickets; and speaking of atmosphere rich...enough ice/water has been found on the moon to support a small colony for 100 years.

Various articles were passed around, and a number of people mentioned that *Earth: Final Conflict* is actually not too bad. Finally, a dramatic reading was done from the first official

Star Trek Universe book to include (gasp!) openly lesbian characters. The book – *The Best and The Brightest*, by Susan Wright – revolves around a group of cadets. It's made absolutely clear that there is a relationship between two of the female cadets, even though there's no "sex".

Finally, we decided to attempt an LSF outing to see *Dark City* (we were later thwarted by the fact that the movie is disappearing fast and we couldn't find a place it was sure to be playing in time for planning an outing).

It was a long long meeting....and included a number of great quotes....my favorite coming during the alcohol discussion. We had discussed disorderly behavior and decided what we needed was a no rude policy to cover that. When asked about whether we should worry about people drinking from bottles to avoid pouring, someone responded "if you drink from the bottle, that falls under the category of rude." I guess you had to be there. After all of that hard work, the stragglers ended up going to dinner at the Dupont Italian Kitchen, where Uncle Joe (and Barrett) seemed to ignite the passions of our waiter... ▼



## The Voice of the Mountain

(continued from page 4)

phone calls from her brother Josh. The culmination of all this comes when the rains come, when floods wash away the grief, wash away the horror, and wash away the terrible secret that led Josh Underhill to kill half his family and himself.

*The Hangman's Beautiful Daughter* is a truly remarkable book, the only one of the series I can honestly say is Great. A startling, haunting, mesmerizing, and heartbreaking parable of life and death, it is a book that should be read by everyone, fan or not.

Next in the series is *She Walks These Hills*. It's the story of three people wandering the Appalachians as autumn approaches. The first is escaped convict Hiram "Harm" Sorley, a man in his sixties, brain-damaged from bad liquor and brawling. He doesn't remember a thing past 1967, not even the murder that landed him in jail. He escapes prison and rambles the mountains, forgetting he was in jail, only thinking of getting home to his young wife and baby daughter. Meanwhile, his remarried wife and grown daughter await his homecoming with mixed emotions.

Second is Jeremy Cobb, graduate student backpacking the mountains, trying to retrace the trail taken by Katie Wyler, captured by Shawnee and taken north to Ohio after they massacred her family in 1779. The following summer, she escaped them and made her way back home, but her journey had a tragic end. Jeremy is in trouble himself: an inexperienced woodsman, his pack weighs heavily on his shoulders and he seems headed for disaster.

The third person on the mountain is Katie Wyler herself, replaying her journey as she has every autumn for two hundred years. And when these three people meet, it's a climax not easily forgotten.

Nora Bonesteel returns, lending her presence at the Compleat Crone. (In a memorable scene, she recalls how, as a girl, she slipped from her time to a time in the distant past...a spooky and haunting pas-

sage.) There are other characters involved, too, who only add tinder to the fire that concludes the three peoples' journey. But their's more tragedy than villainy here. As one character says, "I think people can get caught between a rock and a hard place, and then there's no right answers without somebody getting hurt."

*The Hangman's Beautiful Daughter* is a wonderful musing on the magic of the journey, a sort of mountain version of the Odyssey. But we also see the fading rural beauty of the mountains, as more and more development encroaches, and the simple, dignified mountain folk are displaced by wealthy flatlanders building vacation homes.

This theme is developed even more in the latest book in the series, *The Rosewood Casket*. Elderly Randall Stargill is in a coma, slowly dying. Returning to Hamelin are his four sons (a car salesman, a career soldier, a budding country music star, and a penniless naturalist/historian) to honor their father's last request: that they build a casket for him from a cache of precious rosewood, stashed away in his barn for decades for just that purpose. But vultures are gathering, literally and figuratively, as a real estate developer puts in a bid on the Stargill farm while foreclosing on the neighboring farm. And one son is embarrassed by his wife's claims to communicate with her guardian angel: an angel that may or may not be all in her imagination.

Meanwhile, Nora Bonesteel, once engaged to Stargill, brings to Sheriff Arrowood a small box of bones, saying it must be buried with her former sweetheart, and refusing to tell any more. And people on the mountain hear a small voice crying out in the night, lost and in pain: a voice Nora says is only the wind.

Like all the others in the series, *The Hangman's Beautiful Daughter* is definitely tragic, as the loss of the small family farm in Appalachia is made painfully clear. McCrumb also brings into play the tales of

Daniel Boone, contrasting his myth with the sharp realities of the modern era.

McCrumb's Appalachian novels mean a lot to me personally. My father is from the same general area she writes about, an area of played-out coal mines and dying businesses and breathtaking beauty; where people are decent, honest, and hospitable, but also full of women who are one man away from welfare, and where desperately poor people will burn their houses down to get insurance money so they can leave town. I love and pity the mountains all at once; they're places of great natural beauty and peace, but they're also no place to be gay. But they're also greatly misunderstood. Too many people have been raised on *Deliverance* and "The Dukes of Hazzard", and register shock that I'm not some inbred freak when I tell them I'm from the mountains. But when I read these novels, I know those who read them are seeing the Appalachia that I know and love, warts and all. And as for now, I have to make a life for myself here, and be satisfied with the small doses of mountain magic I can get from time to time. ▼

### B5 Mall Experience

From The Official Babylon 5 Fan Club  
Web Site: <http://www.thestation.com/>

The Babylon 5 Experience is an 8-city mall tour featuring a traveling recreation of the actual set that engages visitors in exciting interactive experiences including: Live appearances of B5 cast members to sign autographs for fans; Face painting and tattoos; Costumes and props from the series; An exclusive clip of the 2nd original feature-length original movie, *Thirdspace* (premiering on TNT late '98) to be shown at the tour.

When: Saturday, 5/9/98

Where: White Flint Mall

Star Present: Stephen Furst ("Vir")

Cable Sponsor: Cable TV Montgomery

Radio Sponsor: DC101



Who wants to organize a LSF trip? ▼

**Editor's Corner**  
by Peter Knapp



While I've enjoyed my stint as guest editor for the last two issues, I'll be glad to return control of the horizontal - er newsletter - to Carl. Doing the newsletter is hard work!

Thanks this month go to Chris Browning, Michael Cornett, and Rob Gates for their contributions. Keep the articles and artwork coming folks! ▼

## 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.



## Convention Calendar

by Carl, James, Rob, and Peter



April 10-12, 1998 **BALTICON 32**. Baltimore Omni Inner Harbor Hotel (Baltimore, MD). GoH: Harry Turtledove; Artist GoH: Jody A. Lee; Science GoH: Dr. Yoji Kondo. Hotel room: \$104/night (up to four 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. For more information send e-mail to [bsfs@access.digex.net](mailto:bsfs@access.digex.net) or check out <http://www.balticon.org>

May 1-3, 1998 **DISCLAVE 1998**. (May Day, NOT Memorial Day) The Holiday Inn College Park in College Park, MD. (Rooms: \$75 flat + tax. Reservations need to be made by April 10, 1998. Call 301/345-6700 or 1/800/HOLIDAY, and mention group code "DIS".) Guest of Honor: Terry Bisson; Artist GOH: Nicholas Jainschigg; Special Guest: Gene Wolfe. Memberships: \$20 until December 31, then \$25 until March 30, and \$30 at the door. Make checks payable to "Disclave 1998", and mail them to this year's chairman: Joe Mayhew, 7-S Research Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1776. For more information send e-mail to [jtmayhew@worldnet.att.net](mailto:jtmayhew@worldnet.att.net) or check out <http://www.wsfa.org/DCLAVE98.htm>

July 3-5, 1998 **GAYLAXICON 8**. Troy Marriott in Troy, MI (\$75/night. Call 800/228-9290 for reservations, and make sure to mention Gaylaxicon 8.) Guest of Honor: Anne Harris; Artist Guests of Honor: Kurt Erichsen and Frank Gembeck, Jr. 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. For more information send e-mail to [Gaylaxicon8@aol.com](mailto:Gaylaxicon8@aol.com) or check out <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Heights/2355/glgon8b.htm>

July 10-12, 1998 **READERCON**. Westborough Marriott (Westborough, MA). GoHs: Bruce Sterling and Lisa Goldstein; Memorial GoH: Leigh Brackett. Membership: \$40 until 6/30/98. Make checks to "Readercon" and send to: Readercon, PO Box 381246, Cambridge, MA 02238-1246. For more information, check out <http://www.mit.edu/~zeno.readercon.html>

July 25-26, 1998 **NOVACON**. The West Park Hotel in Tysons Corner, VA. (Call 703/734-2800 for reservations and mention Novacon for the special \$69 rate The hotel sells out every year so call early.). Guests: Roxann Dawson (Torres of Voyager), Wil Wheaton (Wesley Crusher of TNG - 1st con in years), and a surprise guest. Tickets on sale at Ticket Master and also by calling Phone Charge at 202/432-SEAT. For more information send a SASE to: One Trek Mind Productions Inc., PO Box 1124, Ashburn, VA 20146, call 703/858-1716, e-mail to [onetrek@juno.com](mailto:onetrek@juno.com), or check out <http://members.aol.com/novacon97/>

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: \$130 from until 6/15/98, 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 [baltimore98@access.digex.net](mailto:baltimore98@access.digex.net) or check out <http://www.access.digex.net/~balt98>

October 8-11, 1999 **GAYLAXICON 1999: THE 10th GAYLAXICON**. Washington, DC. GoH: Diane Duane; Artist Goh: Nancy Janda. Membership \$40 until 8/8/98, \$50 from 8/9/89-8/1/99, \$60 at the door. No mail-in registrations after 8/1/99. 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](mailto:lambdasf@aol.com), or check out <http://members.aol.com/lamdbdasf/lssf/gcon1999.html>

