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E-MAIL: info@lambdasf.org WEBSITE: <http://www.lambdasf.org/>

IN MEMORIAM



**DOUGLAS ADAMS
1952 - 2001**

Douglas Adams passed away on May 11, in Santa Barbara, CA, after a heart attack, aged 49. There's undoubtedly a new star somewhere in the firmament.

Adams is, of course, best known as the author of the wildly-popular "Hitchhiker's Guide" series of stories, which began life as a BBC radio series in 1978, was turned into a book (1979), sold 14 million copies, then became a whole series of books and later a TV series.

Adams began his career as a writer and script editor at the BBC and even worked as an editor (1978-1980) on *Doctor Who*. He also authored a second SF series: *Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency* (1987) and *The Long Dark Tea-Time of the Soul* (1988). [42!!]

PRE-Pride "Potluck & Video Madness" Party (and monthly LSF meeting!)

Once again, Julian has graciously agreed to host a pre-Pride "Potluck & Video Madness" Party at his Georgetown home on the weekend of DC Pride Day. This'll give us all a chance to party and prepare for the rigors of the LSF table on Pride Day. In addition, because Pride Day takes place on our usual meeting day, we'll hold our June LSF meeting just prior to the Video Party. So, on Saturday, June 10th, plan on getting together with all the rest of us who've been infected with the "video madness bug" over the years!

Here are the details on how to join in on the fun:

When?

Saturday, June 10th (4:00 PM - LSF meeting; 5:00 PM to ? - potluck/video party, with the videos probably beginning about 6:00 PM).

What to Bring?

Bring along your favorite genre

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June 9th LSF Meeting

The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on **SATURDAY, June 9th**. It is being held in conjunction with LSF's PRE-Pride Day "Potluck & Video Madness" Party. The meeting will begin at 4:00 PM; and party will begin at 5:00 PM. (For details, see article beginning on this page.) See you there!

✧ LSF's Post-Pride ✧ ✧ "Video Madness" Party ✧ ✧

LSF'ers Peter and Rob have graciously offered to host LSF's traditional Post-Pride "Video Madness" Party on Saturday, June 16th. Doors will open at 2:00PM for general schmoozing and nattering, and the video selection process will begin around 4:00PM. We'll be running two screens, with a third room for gabbing and/or gaming. There's no particular theme to the "Madness" this time around, so bring a few of your favorite f/sf/h genre works on video or DVD, along with food or drink (non-alcoholic) to share in the pot luck, and perhaps a game for the gaming room.

Peter and Rob live at 1425 "S" Street in Northwest Washington DC, a short walk from both the Green and Red lines on the Metro. Directions from the Metro are included below. Residential on-street parking can sometimes be found nearby, but there are no guarantees of that - take public transportation to be safe and conservation minded. Their home *is* air-conditioned (yay!), so there's no need to worry about the heat!

If you have any questions about the party, please contact Peter and Rob by email at:

peterknapp@wavelengthsonline.com
or by phone at (202) 483-6369.

Closest Metro Stop: Take Metro to the U Street-Cardozo stop (Green Line). Exit Metro on the 13th Street side

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WHAT'S INSIDE?

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PRE-Pride Party

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videos (science fiction, fantasy, horror). Attendees will vote on which videos will be shown at the party. (There'll be different "tracks" of programming in two different parts of the house.)

The party will, of course, include a potluck meal, 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 (both diet & regular).
How to Get There?

The party will be held at Julian's home in Georgetown. It's located at 1928 37th St., NW, several blocks west of Wisconsin Ave.

By Metrorail/Metrobus: Take the Metrorail Red line to Dupont Circle. Exit at "Q" St. exit. Board the D2 bus at the bus stop at Connecticut and "Q" (right by the "Q" St. exit). You can also board the D2 bus at the first bus shelter on "P" St. west of Dupont Circle (in front of the old public restrooms - now a police substation) or the second bus shelter on "P" St. (across the street from Oasis Deli and Pan Asian Restaurant). The bus will drop you off on 17th St., across from Julian's house. For the bus schedule, call Metro information at (202) 637-7000 or visit their website (www.wmata.com). You'll need Adobe Acrobat Reader (a free download) to look at the bus schedules.

Driving, 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, 17th St. passes through Whitehaven Park and intersects White Haven Parkway. Julian's place is just beyond White Haven Parkway, on your right.

Driving, 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

STAR WARS: ART OF THE STARFIGHTER



There's a new exhibition running at the Arts & Industries Building, Smithsonian Museum, that you just might find interesting. It's called "Star Wars: Art of the Starfighter" and it runs until June 24th. On view is the full-scale, 34-foot, yellow-and-chrome Naboo starfighter model used in the making of *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace*, along with text, images, audio-visual components, and an interactive kiosk that details the creative process of filmmaking and the evolution of the starfighter in the *Star Wars* saga.

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Few artists thrive
in solitude,
and nothing is
more stimulating
than the conflict
of minds with
similar interests.

-- Arthur C. Clarke --

excerpted from *Science Fictionisms*,
compiled by William Rotsler
(Gibbs-Smith, 1995)

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.

See you there!

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LSF's Post-Pride "Video Madness" Party

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of station. When you come up the escalator, you'll be on U Street, facing 13th Street. There will be a Rite Aid drug store in front of you. Cross 13th Street toward the Rite Aid. Follow U Street to 14th Street. There will be a McDonald's at 14th Street. Cross 14th Street toward the McDonald's. Turn left in front of the McDonald's. Follow 14th Street for two full blocks. When you cross T Street, you'll pass a church which looks like a warehouse. When you cross Swann Street (which is between T and S Streets), you'll pass a 24-hour laundry. At S Street hang a right. (If you cross S Street and pass a small used car lot, you've gone too far.) You'll pass the Whitman Walker Clinic and then an alley. We're the seventh row house after the alley: 1425 S Street, NW. If you get lost, give us a call at (202) 483-6369.

Alternative Metro Stop: Take Metro to the Dupont Circle stop (Red Line). Exit the Metro on the Q Street side of the station. At the top of the escalator, hang a right on Q Street. Follow Q Street and pass a liquor store on your right and a Wrap Works sandwich shop on your left. Travel five blocks, passing the Raku Asian restaurant at 19th Street, a couple of large apartment buildings at 18th Street (you'll also cross New Hampshire at a diagonal), a Trios Pizza restaurant at 17th Street, the Jewish Community Center at 16th Street, and row houses at 15th Street. Cross 15th Street and hang a left. Travel two blocks on 15th Street to S Street. Cross S Street and hang a right. We're of the way down the Street at 1425 S Street, NW. If you get lost, give us a call at (202) 483-6369.

Driving Information: If you're at Dupont Circle, take Q Street (coincidentally the north exit of the Dupont Circle stop on the Red Line) east, hang a left on 15th Street, and then hang a right on S Street. We're mid-block on the north side of the street. *Please note the following:* 14th Street is a two-way street. S Street is a two-way street. 15th Street is a one-way street going north. Call us at (202) 483-6369 if you get lost.

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Dark Sleeper
by Jeffrey E. Barlough
(Ace Books, 2000)

a review by Colleen R. Cahill



There is something wonderful about a nineteenth century British novel, whether it be Charles Dickens' interestingly named characters, Jane Austin's stories of society and love, or Arthur Conan Doyle's great detective Sherlock Holmes. These have a warm familiarity for us, with fog-filled streets, proper manners, and unique beings that populate these worlds with heroism, intelligence and quirkiness. And such is the world of Jeffrey E. Barlough's *Dark Sleeper*. Set in the town of Salthead, it is very reminiscent of mid-nineteenth century England with the feel of Bath or Cambridge. Salthead has the prerequisite fog, cozy inns, and singular characters, plus at the opening of the book, a new addition: a dead sailor who dances for his estranged sweetheart and accosts those out at night to "Do something with your life" while handing them his head. This macabre touch fits well in the story and prepares the reader for later introductions, including mastodons that pull carriages and man-eating saber-cats that make travel very dangerous.

It is quite a few pages into the book before Barlough explains that 150 years before the setting of the story, there was a "sundering" caused by a comet hitting the planet and resulting in Europe being covered in ice. Salthead, which is "a continent and an ocean" away from England (or somewhere on the western edge of North America), has ceased to see ships from anywhere but the few cities in that region. Most hold this is the only place that humans are alive on Earth. This new ice age gives the work a feel of alternate history and I suspect later books in this series will give us more details on what actually happened.

There are many plot lines woven through the book which at first seem unrelated. The dancing sailor's return to Salthead puts Miss Nina Jacks, his former sweetheart, in a nervous state. Her more lively sister Mona seeks the help of metaphysics Professor Titus Vespasianus Tiggs and physician Dr.

Daniel Dampe. Their investigation eventually leads to two mysterious young men who recently arrived in town. Meanwhile, dark events begin to happen: saber-cats are seen closer to the town; a ship is lost at sea with all hands, but then sails into the harbor and refuses to sink even with a large hole in its hull; the dead return and walk among the living. Eventually all this points back to an Etruscan demon who was summoned by one of young men, but it is now causing havoc because the golden tablets that control the demon were stolen by the local miser, Josiah Tusk.

There are more than two dozen named characters that populate this story, but the large cast does not crowd the book, as each is well-developed and individualistic. The wonderful names Barlough uses aid in keeping the characters straight and add to the feeling of nineteenth century literature. One of the more interesting is Mr. Richard Scribbler, a law clerk who refuses to speak due to a great tragedy in his life. With his wild hair, pantomime gestures and sad eyes, he is both clownish and noble.

Barlough has taken many characters and plots to create a colorful and fascinating book. This work is the start of the "Western Lights" series; and the second title, *The House in the High Wood*, is scheduled to be out this August. Both these books are set in the same world but will have a different set of characters. Dr. Barlough is a former English major who changed his studies to biology and became a veterinarian with a Ph.D. in Virology. He is also an armchair historian and has edited small press publications on English writing, as well as having an interest in archeology, paleontology and the ancient civilizations. All these have added elements to his writing, making an exotic blend.

While it is difficult to capture the whole of *Dark Sleeper* in a review, it is not difficult for me to highly recommend this work. Any fans of good writing, whether nineteenth century

British works or more modern works, will enjoy this first of hopefully many novels.

[Ye Olde Editor's Note: Believe it or not, I too was writing a review of *Dark Sleeper* – but Colleen beat me to the punch! I first read about this book in a review (*Asimov's*, April 2001) in which Peter Heck describes it as "a debut novel that combines a Dickensian voice with material that might have come out in the glory days of *Weird Tales*." With a write-up like that, I was hooked! As I read *Dark Sleeper*, I was intrigued by its quirky mix of science fiction and fantasy elements, as well as its delightful "Dickensian voice." But, as I say, Colleen beat me to the punch with *her* review; and I guess all I can say now is: "Ditto!" Oh, and I'm also looking forward to Barlough's forthcoming *The House in the High Wood*. OK, Colleen, the race is on!]

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The LSF Book Discussion Group



If you're interested in lively discussions of F&SF books (with an emphasis on elements of interest to the LBGT community), we invite you to join the LSF Book Discussion Group. Each month, for over a year now, we've been conducting fascinating round-table discussions of works by significant F&SF authors.

The LSF Book Discussion Group generally meets on the 4th Thursday of every month, starting at 7:00 PM. The next meeting will be held on June 28th, at Peter & Rob's house, 1425 "S" St., NW. (For directions or more details, call 202-483-6369.)

Here's the Discussion Group's schedule for the next several months:

--- **Thurs., June 28** - *Tigana*, by Guy Gavriel Kay; facilitator: Bart.

--- **Thurs., July 26** - *Brain Plague*, by Joan Slonczewski; facilitator: Peter.

--- **Thurs., Aug. 23** - *The Mists of Avalon*, by Marion Zimmer Bradley; facilitator: Rob.

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Spectrum Award Nominees Announced

The Gaylactic Network, science fiction fandom's premiere organization for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people, is pleased to announce the finalists for the 2001 Gaylactic Network Spectrum Awards. The Gaylactic Network Spectrum Awards are juried and were created to honor works in science fiction, fantasy and horror that deal positively with gay characters, themes and issues.

Regular awards will be presented in two categories for works originally released in 2000: Best Novel and Best Other Work. To honor works released prior to the creation of the award, a special Hall of Fame Award will be given for works released prior to 1998 in any format. Finally, a special People's Choice Award will be given to the single work receiving the most nominations. The finalists are:

Best Novel

- *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*, by Michael Chabon (Random House)
- *The Chosen*, by Ricardo Pinto (Tor)
- *A Face Without A Heart*, by Rick Reed (Design Image Group)
- *The Jazz*, by Melissa Scott (Tor)
- *Jumping Off The Planet*, by David Gerrold (Tor)
- *Kirith Kirin*, by Jim Grimsley (Meisha Merlin)
- *Teranesia*, by Greg Egan (Harper/Avon/EOS)

Best Other Work

- *The Authority: Under New Management* (comic book) (DC Comics)
- *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* (television series) (WB / Fox / Joss Whedon)
- *A Distant Soil*, by Colleen Doran (comic book) (Image Comics)
- "Oracle", by Greg Egan (short story) (*Asimov's* - July 2000)
- *Queer Fear*, edited by Michael Rowe (anthology) (Arsenal Pulp Press)

Hall of Fame

- The "Blood" Series, by Tanya Huff (DAW)
- The "Darkover" Series, by Marion Zimmer Bradley (DAW)



- *Imperial Earth*, by Arthur C. Clarke (Orion)
- *The Left Hand of Darkness*, by Ursula K LeGuin (Ace)
- *The Sparrow* and *Children of God*, by Mary Doria Russell (Fawcett)
- The "Weetzie Bat" Series (collected as *Dangerous Angels*), by Francesca Lia Block (Harpercollins)

The 2001 Gaylactic Network Spectrum Awards will be presented at the World Science Fiction Convention in Philadelphia from Aug. 30 - Sept. 3.

For more information about the Gaylactic Network Spectrum Awards including a complete listing of all nominated works, you can visit the website at:

<http://www.lambdasf.org/spectrum/>
or send email to:
spectrum@lambdasf.org

Information on the World Science Fiction Convention in Philadelphia can be found at:

<http://www.milphil.org/>

Finally, for more information about the Gaylactic Network, visit:

<http://www.gaylactic-network.org/>
or
speaker@gaylactic-network.org



Addresses are listed below.:

Gaylactic Network Spectrum Awards
c/o Lambda Sci-Fi
P.O. Box 656
Washington, DC 20044

The Gaylactic Network
P.O. Box 127
Brookline, MA 02146

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Minutes of the May 13th LSF Meeting

by Scott



At the beginning of the Business Meeting, Carl advised everyone that Nan and Kay would not be present at today's meeting and that Nan had asked Carl to lead the business meeting.

Michael C. revisited the secret ballot issue. He suggested that a secret ballot could be used upon request. Carl suggested that there should be a proposal and vote regarding this revised concept. (More on this at a future meeting.) On a related topic, Rob recommended that the names of absentee ballot submitters be read aloud to ensure that the absentee ballot voters are indeed members.

Rob reported that the current LSF bank balance is \$3077.88.

Carl/Rob advised that the June 2001 LSF newsletter would be distributed in both paper and electronic format, depending upon requests from individual members.

In Worldcon news, Carl also reported that Jed Shumsky is arranging for a Gaylaxian suite at Millennium PhilCon. Rob said that the main push for Worldcon programming, including GLBT programming, is now aggressively underway. He indicated that the details about the Spectrum Awards presenta-

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Shrek
preview report
by Rob Gates

Well, Peter and I and a friend of ours went to see *Shrek* last night at a free advance screening we had gotten tickets for. I'm a big fantasy fan - Peter typically dislikes traditional fantasy - so I had higher hopes for the film than Peter.

The basic premise is that *Shrek* takes place in a prototypical fantasy/fairy tale world - but that all the cliches get turned on their heads. The hero is an ogre....and take it from there. The film is from Dreamworks and is reportedly a head-on smackdown on the whole "Disney" thing.

And the verdict: Run, don't walk, to see this movie. First off, the film is hilarious. I haven't done this much sustained laughing at a film since *South Park: Bigger, Longer, Uncut*. Some of the sight gags are brilliant; there are belly laughs galore in just watching the scenery and the background material. Much like *Fargo*, there's a dialogue issue that will keep you giggling every time one character's name is spoken. There are funny homages to everything from *Gladiator* to *The Matrix* to *The Princess Bride* to *A Christmas Carol* to you name it. And for sheer lunacy, you'll wish you could watch the gingerbread man scene over and over again.

The jabs at Disney are flagrant and sharp - nailing both the Disney factor in films and in the creation of places like Disney World. (Now don't get me wrong, I happen to like many things Disney, but some of these jabs are well deserved.) The film has a few surprises along the way and some great voice acting by Cameron Diaz, Mike Myers (very understated) and John Lithgow. It also has a standout performance - Eddie Murphy as the donkey - which for sheer "steal the film" oomph is pretty impressive. The story is sweet, yet still manages to not be overly smarmy, and there's a nice message of being able to look at people for who they are, not what they appear to be. Great fare for children and adults alike. The animation is a mixed bag - some good

Minutes of the May 13th LSF Meeting
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tion at Worldcon were still up in the air. It was also noted that the latest progress report was now out.

There were no proposals to vote on and no proposals submitted at this meeting.

The traditional name circle included two first-timers. Great to see new faces!

Then, in a rather disorganized fashion, various attendees shared the following:

Peter reported that Randy H. mentioned some new comic books on Planet of the Apes, Zorro and Pearl Harbor. He also mentioned that Douglas Adams, author of the *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, recently died.

Green Lantern #137 was passed around - a gay character came out!

Scott Bakula fans celebrate! The new Star Trek series, starring Scott Bakula, will begin this Fall, perhaps on UPN.

"Section 31" Star Trek books, due out in late May or early June 2001, will feature Ensign Hawk, who (you may recall from the recent Star Trek movie) was assimilated by the Borg. Ensign Hawk will be revealed to be gay.

There will be a sequel to *Tron* called *Tron 2.0*. Some attendees are underwhelmed.

Rumors of a *Dune Messiah* mini-series have been circulating.

Part of the Sci Fi Channel's original programming will include *Firestarter*.

2002 may bring Ursula K. LeGuin's *The Lathe of Heaven* to A&E!

There is/might be a new *Babylon 5* series, featuring the "Legend of the Rangers".

It was reported that the *Jurassic Park III* movie is not based upon a Michael Crichton book. Now you know.

Carl passed about a Cthulu-based board game, *The Hills Rise Wild*.

Gobs and gobs of discussion on the *Mummy Returns* movie! Some loved it, some panned it.

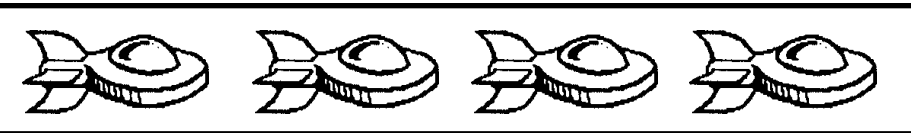
Rob announced the upcoming topics/books for the LSF book discussion group. He also announced his first published work.

The final episode of *Voyager* - a two-hour episode beginning at 8:00 PM -- will be aired on Wednesday, May 23, 2001. Peter and Rob have volunteered their home for an LSF event. Pizza at 7:00 PM. They've asked for a \$5 donation if you're joining in on the pizza-fest..

It was announced that the June LSF meeting will not occur on Sunday, June 10th, because of Capital Pride. Instead, the meeting will be held on Saturday, June 9, in conjunction with a pre-Pride video party. There will also be a post-Pride video party on Saturday, June 16. ("No Mexican wrestling movies, please!") See elsewhere in this newsletter for details.

Unfortunately, Carl won't be attending this year's Pride festival. He thoughtfully handed over some supplies, like bookmarks, table covers, old newsletters to distribute and the historic LSF banner! (But he won't be leaving his red shorts!)

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stuff, some fairly primitive stuff - but the technical merits of the animation never detracted from the story nor do they astound so much that I was pulled out of the story.

Having seen this one for free, I wouldn't hesitate to pay full evening ticket prices to see it again! Λ Ψ Φ

An anthropologist should
never make premises
he can't keep.

--- Spider Robinson ---

excerpted from *Science Fictionisms*,
compiled by William Rotsler
(Gibbs-Smith, 1995)

****INFORMATION ABOUT LAMBDA SCI-FI: DC AREA GAYLAXIANS****

Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians (LSF) is an organization for gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgendered (GLBT) people, and their friends who are interested in science fiction, fantasy, horror and related genres in all forms (SF/F/H). LSF's primary goals are to have fun, to provide a community, and to:

- promote SF/F/H, with particular attention to materials of interest to GLBT people and their friends;
- provide forums for GLBT people and their friends to share their interest in SF/F/H;
- promote the presence of GLBT elements within SF/F/H and within fandom; and
- promote SF/F/H within the GLBT community.

Annual membership fees are \$20, for which you will receive this monthly newsletter and a membership directory. Newsletter submissions are always welcome.

Meetings are *usually* held on the second Sunday of each month at a private residence. However, the next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on **Saturday, June 9th**, at Julian's Georgetown home: 1928 37th St., NW. It will be held in conjunction with the LSF PRE-Pride Potluck/Video party - 4:00 PM for the meeting; 5:00 PM for the party. (For details, see the article beginning on page 1 of this newsletter.) 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, Rob, Mike and Kendall



July 6-8, 2001 **FANEX 15 (Classic Filmfest)**. Hunt Valley Inn (Baltimore, MD). GoHs: Barbara Shelley & Blake Edwards. Membership: \$40. Make checks payable to "Midnight Marquee" and send to: Midnight Marquee Press, Inc., 9721 Britnay Ln., Baltimore, MD 21234.

Aug. 24-26, 2001 **THE BALTIMORE WEEKEND OF TERROR**. BWI Airport Marriott (Baltimore). GoHs: Bruce Campbell. Horror convention sponsored by Horrorfind.com and Frightvision, in association with the magazines *Scarlet Street*, *Rue Morgue*, and *Haunted Attraction*. Membership: \$20, until 4/1/2001. Make checks payable to "Horrorfind.com" and send to: Horrorfind.com, 9722 Groffs Mill Dr., PMB 109, Owings Mills, MD 21117.

Aug. 30 - Sept. 3, 2001 **THE MILLENNIUM PHILCON (The 59th World Science Fiction Convention)**. The Pennsylvania Convention Ctr. & Philadelphia Marriott Hotel. GoH: Greg Bear; Artist GoH: Stephen Youll. Attending membership: \$160 (at present; will go UP!). Make checks payable to "The Millennium Philcon" and send to: Millennium Philcon, PO Box 310, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006-0310.
website: www.milphil.org

Sept. 28-30, 2001 **CAPCLAVE 2001**. Sheraton College Park (Beltsville, MD). "A new convention for the new millennium." GoH: Gardner Dozois. Membership: \$25 until 4/1/01; \$30 after that. Make checks payable to "Capclave 2001" and send to: Capclave Registration, c/o Alexis Gilliland, 4030 8th St., Arlington, VA 22204

Nov. 23-25, 2001 **DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL MEETING XXIV**. Holiday Inn, Timonium (Timonium, MD). GoH: Joanne Bertin; Special Guest: Katherine Kurtz; Artist GoH: L.W. Perkins. Membership: \$35 until 11/1/2001; \$40 after that. Make checks payable to "Armida Council" and send to: Armida Council, PO Box 7203, Silver Spring, MD 20907. *A very* GLBT-friendly convention!

