



PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (301) 445-5650 - Issue #14 - June 1991

May Meeting Notes

by Loree Cook-Daniels,
First Speaker

I don't know whether it was the Spring weather or what, but after we skipped through our "business" at the May meeting, we broke for food and never reconvened. Instead, some of us enjoyed the sun in Mark's backyard, others packed the kitchen to eat homemade petits fours and other goodies courtesy of Jamie and Norman, and the rest of us gathered in small groups all over the house and yard for impromptu discussions. So this month's "notes" are short.

Gaylaxicon IV

Some of the most exciting business had to do with Gaylaxicon IV. Peter and *continued on page 6*

Where No Gay Person Has Gone Before

by Norman G.

Since October of 1986, the director of the Gaylactic Network, Franklin Hummel, has been writing to Gene Roddenberry (creator of Star Trek: The Next Generation - ST:TNG) to ask for an openly Gay permanent character on the series. Our club member, J. DeSort, has also been writing to Gene Roddenberry and to Paramount Studios, and to author David Gerrold ("The Trouble with Tribbles") requesting a permanent openly Gay character on the series. (Kudos to you Frank and J.!!!) While, as yet, there has not been an openly Gay character to appear on ST:TNG, the plea for one has not fallen on deaf ears. David Gerrold has written a *continued on page 4*

Video Madness II

by Peter Knapp

It's official! Jaime will once again be playing host to a video/pot luck party. Here are the specifics -> Date: Saturday, July 6, 1991, Time: - 4:00pm - ?, Location: Jaime's House, What To Bring: Videos and Food.

As we'll be partying through dinnertime, please don't all bring chips. Salads, main courses, drink, and the like are encouraged. Use your imagination! The same holds true for videos. Bring something campy or bring something hard core (SF that is not SEX!). We'll have two TV/VCR's set up like last time and will vote on what movies to watch.

To find out where Jaime lives refer to issue #9 of the newsletter (December 1990). If you threw out your issue (shame on you) or never got one, give me a call at 202/483-6369 for directions. Hope to see you there! λ

New Gay/Lesbian Fandom Organizations

by Carl Cipra

It seems that this has been the month for finding out about new gay/lesbian fan organizations.

We recently received a letter from Frank Hummel, Director of the Gaylactic Network, announcing the formation of the newest Gaylaxian organization. It's called the "Krewe of *continued on page 3*

In This Issue:

May Meeting Notes.....	1
Where No Gay Person Has Gone Before.....	1
Video Madness II.....	1
New Gay/Lesbian Fandom Organizations.....	1
Chicon V: The 49th World Science Fiction.....	2
Treasurer's Corner.....	2
Vincent Price Trivia.....	2
Book Review: <u>Only Begotten Daughter</u>	3
Spaced Out.....	4
Book Review: <u>Vendetta</u>	4
Classified Ads.....	4
Con Calendar.....	5
Et Cetera.....	5
Horror Movie Title Trivia: The Answers.....	5
Movie Review: FX-2.....	6

Chicon V: The 49th World Science Fiction Convention

by Carl Cipra

You probably already know a little about Worldcon (the World Science Fiction Convention)---such as it's "the big one," the biggest of the SF conventions, the one where the Hugo Awards for all the best authors of science fiction (and their works) are given out. You also probably know something about Worldcon's latest incarnation, Chicon V---such as it's being held in Chicago this year over the Labor Day weekend. (If you need more information about memberships, etc., then check out the calendar section of this newsletter.)

However, there are some things about Chicon V that you might not know about! For instance, did you know that there are going to be "alternative sexuality" programs and panels at Chicon V? Well, there are! Thanks to the efforts of members of the Gaylactic Network, and the kind cooperation of the Chicon Programming Chairperson, there will be seven hours of mini-programming set aside for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and feminist material. (This is similar to the "gay-track programming" which was successfully presented at the Worldcon in Boston two years ago.)

The Chicon V special interest panels will include:

- Bisexuality in Science Fiction & Fantasy
- History of Gay Men/Lesbians in Science Fiction
- Screaming Queens: Gay Male/Lesbian/Bisexual Characters & Themes in Horror
- Faerie Tales: Gay Men/Lesbian Characters & Themes in Fantasy
- Author's Spotlight Featuring the Works of Marion Zimmer Bradley

- Pair Bonding Characters: Emotionally & Sexually

Sounds fascinating, doesn't it?! And, as if that's not enough, there will probably be members from all the Gaylaxian chapters in attendance, as well as members of Tleilaxu (the Canadian group) and Kindred Spirits (the St. Louis-based group). All this and a fun-filled weekend at the biggest annual convention devoted to science fiction & fantasy! How can you pass it up?

So don't just sit there! Make plans to attend Chicon V and participate in the special "alternative sexuality" programs! Support the continuing effort of such people as Frank Hummel, Bob McCrea, and Rodger Gonder to make our presence felt in mainstream Fandom! (And don't wait around for me to get back and tell you what a wonderful time you missed!) See you there! λ

Treasurer's Corner

by Peter Knapp

70 must be our lucky number. We took in \$70 (and 13 cents) for a second month in a row. Five people renewed, two joined, and we earned the above mentioned 13 cents in interest. We also spent \$46.24 on stamps and for a table at Pride Day. Our balance rests at \$62.19.

The latest additions to the fold are Steve G. and Rob S. Steve has shown up to the last few meetings and provided the inspiration for our next video madness. I met Rob at last month's meeting, when he asked me for a membership application. The next day his check was waiting in the PO Box. I wish everyone was as eager to sign up. Please welcome both of them to the club! (Ask me for their addresses and/or phone numbers.) λ

Vincent Price Trivia

by Noel Welch

This is a tribute to the brilliant (if underrated) actor who appeared in countless horror movies.

Below are general descriptions of only a few Vincent Price Movies. Your mission (etc., etc.) is to determine the title of each movie.

1. Carol Ohmart co-stars as Price's wife who plans his murder during a party attended by five guests who just survive ghostly apparitions, a suicide, a visit from a witch, and other strange happenings in order to earn \$50,000.
2. "Help me! Help me!" This plea was left out of the excellent but gory 1986 remake of a 1958 classic.
3. André de Toth directed Vincent in this 3-D movie. He plays an evil genius who "immortalizes" his victims.
4. Creative revenge is the theme of this movie. Using the ten plagues of the Old Testament as his inspiration Vincent eliminates victims one by one with bees, boils, bats, and so on. Gruesome but ingenious to the end.
5. Vincent had a cameo in this recent movie that starred a former Jump Streater.
6. It would almost seem that Edgar Allen Poe wrote some of his stories for Vincent. In 1960 Roger Corman directed him in this Poe story of a family curse which causes him to bury his sister alive.
7. Remember the Beach movies with Frankie Avalon? Well believe it or not Vincent made one with him.
8. Vincent narrated this filmette by "the gloved one". λ

**Book Review: Only Begotten Daughter
by James Morrow**
by Randy Hagan

This book is a romp through the life of the half-sister of Jesus Christ, Julie Katz of Atlantic City, New Jersey. It focuses on her attempts to live her own life, while being forced to deal with the modern religious nihilists that abound today. (Most people call the religious right-wing but, for a variety of reasons, it seems more fitting to describe them as I just did.)

Born due to an occurrence of inverse parthenogenesis (a sperm acting like a fertilized egg, but entirely on its own), Julie struggles with being divine. As a child, her father warns her against using her powers, saying that they are watching for her to show herself so they can kill her.

They is Billy Milk and his Revelationist Church, a group attempting to manipulate events in order to bring about the Apocalypse. During Billy's first appearance in the book, it's mentioned that he has lost an eye, wearing a patch over the cavity. Before the scene is over, he's described as the person "with the hole in his head." Morrow is not at all kind about this kind of extremist. It's about time someone wasn't.

The pleasant, intelligent read covers 40 years, following Julie through her years of growing up, her time as a supermarket tabloid advice columnist, her sabbatical in hell, and her confrontation with the Believers' Republic of New Jersey, a theocratic dictatorship that may be more plausible than those of The Handmaid's Tale and On Wings of Song. It's a place where children (Girls only, of course!) play with Pro-Life Talking Embryo dolls and are

read books like Ralph and Amy Visit Heaven and Ralph and Amy Learn About Catholics.

The subtext is a look at religious nihilism versus other worldviews. In trying to come to terms with her divinity, Julie (and the book) touch upon issues that are currently facing communities of faith that are gay-and-lesbian-supportive. For example, since she was the result of inverse parthenogenesis, Julie has no physical mother. But since she already has a father, God must be her mother, and is referred to as the (not a) Goddess. Yes, Morrow introduces inclusive images (a current hot topic in groups like MCC and Dignity) to science fiction!

The characters have depth, over-organized religion gets its nose deservedly tweaked, and the writing is at something more than a 9th grade basic level. And I haven't even mentioned the lesbian woman who is the mother (thanks to her turkey baster) of Julie's best friend!

For once, the dust cover notes are accurate. The ones on Only Begotten Daughter sum it up as "a novel that has something to amuse, stimulate, and intrigue everyone. It is imaginative, skewed, compassionate, horrifying -- and funny as hell."

I wish I'd said that. λ

New Gay/Lesbian Fandom Organizations

continued from page 1

Gaylaxia" and is based in New Orleans. It covers Louisiana and the southwestern Mississippi area; and its newsletter is called *Gaylactic Picayune*. The word "krewe" (pronounced like "crew") was originally used for an organization whose purpose is to help

celebrate Mardi Gras in New Orleans; but the term has come to be used for many other clubs in the area. To contact this new Gaylaxian organization, write to:

Krewe of Gaylaxia
P.O. Box 71921
New Orleans, LA 70172

At about the same time, we also received a copy of the first (Jan., 1991) issue of *The Lavender Dragon*, the newsletter of the Kindred Spirits Science Fiction/Fantasy Club. This club (a non-Gaylaxian organization) is based in St. Louis, Missouri. If their first newsletter is any indication, members of Kindred Spirits appear to be a lively group! At one of their parties, they featured a drink called the "Pink Triangle." It's "made from various clear liquors and club soda, and made pink by Sharkleberry Kool-Aid." (If you want the exact contents and proportions, I suppose you'd better contact Kindred Spirits. However, it just might be a club secret.) To contact Kindred Spirits, write to:

Kindred Spirits
P.O. Box 160225
St. Louis, MO 63116

On behalf of the members of Lambda Sci-Fi: D.C. Area Gaylaxians, let me take this opportunity to welcome our new brothers and sisters in both Kindred Spirits and Krewe of Gaylaxia to the world of organized gay fandom! We look forward to seeing you folks at Gaylaxicon '91 and Chicon this year! Don't be strangers, y'hear? λ



SPACED OUT

(This article appeared in the 5/21/91 Issue of *The Advocate*)

Michael Collins used to be an astronaut. Now he's just a space cadet. In his new book, Mission to Mars (Grove Press, \$22.50), Collins, who circled the moon while Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on it, suggests that gays have no place in space.

"I think enough interpersonal problems will develop among a totally heterosexual crew," Collins writes. "Introducing an element of homosexuality could only serve to make matters worse. I guess the same principle applies to lesbians."

If Collins did more reading than writing, he might have a different opinion, says Ralph Smith, a member of the Gaylaxian Science Fiction Society, a gay and lesbian science fiction and fantasy club with over 1,000 members.

"The man is behind the times," says Smith, who believes gay and lesbian characters in science fiction "are everywhere. They're almost more everywhere than we are." Smith believes sci-fi authors have more freedom to create a world different from our own "sexually uptight society."

Gaylaxians are holding their annual convention in Tewksbury, MA, over the weekend of July 19-21. But don't expect to find Collins there.

For more information write to Gaylaxicon '91 at PO Box 1052, Lowell, MA 01853. λ

Book Review: Vendetta by David Frost

by Lee Little

This is the latest attempt of the giant novel concept in The Next Generation series. In previous giant novels, such as *Metamorphosis*, the larger size was to allow a more detailed and involved story development. The basic plot of Vendetta is quite interesting. It links the past mystery of the planet eater from the original Star Trek series with the current problem of the Borg. Also intertwined in this plot is the ever present moral lesson. In this case it is the danger of the obsession brought about by anger and revenge. This, in itself, is enough to build a sufficient story to fill the giant novel. However, the author did not choose to stop there. In addition to the main plot, there are at least four other sub-plots to further illustrate the dangers of obsession. As a result, I found the main story line to be under developed and lacking in many areas. Please do not let this stop you from reading the novel, as many parts are quite interesting. However, the distraction of the multiple sub-plots does make it difficult for the story to capture your attention for very long. λ

Classified Ads

For sale: Franklin Mint Star Trek Ships - Enterprise, Romulan Bird of Prey, Klingon Battle Cruiser. Solid Pewter with gold trim. Originally \$200 each. Asking \$150 each or best offer for entire set. Noel Welch: 301/766-8523.

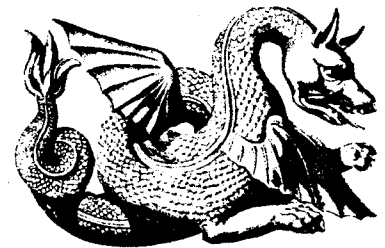
Driver to Gaylaxicon needed: The owner of the bookstore Tales From The White Hart (3360 Greenmount Ave, Baltimore) is looking for someone to drive him and his van to Gaylaxicon '91. His number is 301/889-0099. Call him for details. λ

Where No Gay Person Has Gone Before

continued from page 1

script for ST:TNG with an openly gay man as the protagonist. This script entitled "Blood and Fire" also happens to be an AIDS allegory. So at least the idea of "Alternative Sexuality" (gasp) has been bounced around. This taken with the content of this season's "The Host" episode tells this writer that there is hope of seeing an openly Gay character on ST:TNG!!!!

"What can I do?" you may wonder... Frank is asking all Gaylaxians to write to Gene Roddenberry and to Brandon Tartikoff, Chairperson of the Board of Paramount Pictures to request an openly Gay permanent character on ST:TNG. At our next meeting, we will set aside a time to discuss this issue in more detail and to write letters for those of us who wish to do so. Also included in the newsletter is a form letter you may send to Mr. Roddenberry and to Mr. Tartikoff if you do not wish to write your own letter. It has come to my attention that two Gaylaxian chapters have written letters of praise to Paramount for the positive portrayal of love between two persons shown in "The Host" episode. In my opinion, a positive response to "The Host" and a request for a Gay character could go far to help us get "our" character. λ



Con Calendar

by Carl, Peter, and Noel

July 5 - 7, 1991 **CASTLECON 4**: Holiday Inn Crown Plaza, Crystal City, VA; cost is \$15 until April 1, \$20 until June 15, \$25 at the door. Send money to: Fan Tek, 1607 Thomas Road, Fort Washington, MD 20744.

July 12 - 14, 1991 **SHORE LEAVE XIII**: Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD); room rate is \$72/night; Guests of Honor: George Takei ("Sulu"), Michael Dorn ("Worf"), Michael Okuda (Scenic Art Supervisor/Tech Consultant, ST:TNG); cost is \$30 until May 30th (\$35 thereafter) - checks payable to "Shore Leave" and send to: Shore Leave, PO Box 6809, Towson, MD 21285-6809. (NOTE: This is a convention devoted exclusively to Star Trek and ST:TNG.)

July 19 - 21, 1991 **GAYLAXICON '91**: Tewksbury, MA; Guest of Honor: Samuel R. Delany; Artist Guest of Honor: Hannah Shapero; Special Artist Guest: Tristan Alexander. Cost: \$15 until Feb. 1st, \$20 until May 1st, \$25 until June 30th; checks payable to "G.S.F.S." and send to: Gaylaxicon '91, PO Box 1052, Lowell, MA 01853.

August 29 - September 2, 1991 **CHICON V**, the 49th World Science Fiction Convention (Chicago, IL); room rate is \$70 sgl./dbl., \$90 triple, \$110 quad; Author Guest of Honor: Hal Clement; Artist Guest of Honor: Richard Powers; cost is \$95 - checks payable to "Chicon V" and send to: Chicon V Registration, P.O. Box 218121, Upper Arlington, OH 43221-8121. (NOTE: This is the BIG ONE! It even features 7 hours of gay programming! Don't miss it!)

October 4 - 6, 1991 **ROVACON 16**: Salem Civic Center, Roanoke, VA; cost is \$10 until Apr. 15th, \$12 until July 15th, \$20 at the door; Guests: Don Mathison ("Land of the Giants"), Roger Zelazny, Hal Clement, Spice Williams (muscular Klingon woman from "Star Trek V"). Call 703/389-9400 after 5:00 PM (no collect calls) for information.

November 29 - December 1, 1991 **DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL MEETING XIV**: Holiday Inn, Timonium (Timonium, MD); room rate is \$59/night for up to four people; Special Guests: Marion Zimmer Bradley (health permitting) and Katherine Kurtz; cost is \$24 until Nov. 1st (\$28 thereafter) - checks payable to "Armida Council" and send to: Armida Council, PO Box 7203, Silver Spring, MD 20907. (NOTE: This convention typically has very high gay/lesbian participation; and all the straights are friendly.) λ

Et Cetera

by Peter Knapp

This issue was created by many talented people who deserve our thanks. Jim G. of the Philadelphia Area Gaylaxians provided the inspiration for the newly redesigned masthead. Paul M. one of the sweetest men I know in Boston, created building blocks for me. I actually put them together and came up with a hopefully catchy masthead.

You'll notice this newsletter now uses proportional type of the Helvetica and Times Roman persuasions. Steve G. graciously installed the soft fonts on Bruce's computer and taught us how to

use it. Bruce provided precise proofreading. Norman and I put the newsletter together, making things up as we went along.

Many people contributed articles to this issue - so many that I got away with only writing three articles (Keep it up!). Finally Carl came over at the eleventh hour and helped me collate, stuff, and mail last month's issue. Thank you all!! λ

Horror Movie Title Trivia: The Answers

by Noel Welch

These are the answers to last month's movie title trivia:

- 1) "Nosferatu"
- 2) "Them!"
- 3) "Tarantula"
- 4) "The Tingler"
- 5) "The Exorcist"
- 6) "The Little Shop Of Horrors"
- 7) "Creature From The Black Lagoon"
- 8) "Jaws"
- 9) "Frankenstein"
- 10) "The Shining"
- 11) "King Kong"
- 12) "I Was A Teenage Werewolf"
- 13) "Willard", "Ben" λ

May Meeting Notes

continued from page 1

Lee checked out the hotels in Philadelphia and chose the Guest Quarters Suite hotel by the airport. Instead of single rooms, Guest Quarters provide a living room and small coffee bar in addition to the bedroom and bath. This hotel is set up around a huge open atrium, has 250 rooms, and contains a restaurant and bar. Lee described it as "elegant." He also reported that his sleuthing revealed that we should be welcomed by the staff -- one server told him about half the staff is gay. Other amenities: indoor pool with jacuzzi, nearby outdoor pool, a weight room, saunas, and jogging track. Currently the offered rate is \$89/night for up to 2 people (\$15 more for each additional person), including continental breakfast. Lee will see if he can get the rate any lower. Dates are: July 17, 18, and 19, 1992.

One idea proffered at the meeting was to show home movies at Gaylaxicon '92. The Committee will consider it.

Other Convention News

Carl reported that he has located a room for us to use for a party at Disclave on Saturday, May 25th. He also passed around a program from last year's Disclave and a book on Disclave 91's guest artist Alicia Austin's work. Also passed around was a flyer on ChiCon.

New Gaylaxian Group

Frank Hummel of The Gaylaxian Network called Carl to report that the

Network has a new member, a club in New Orleans called the "Krewe of Gaylaxia." Welcome, friends!

Other News

SMYAL (Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League) asked us to participate in their June 9th bikeathon, and a sign-up sheet was passed around.

Also passed around were numerous copies of the history of the controversy over the lack of lesbian/gay characters on Star Trek, and several copies of a form letter that LSFers are asked to sign and send in to Paramount. We will have a table at Pride Day (some organized soul sent in our application and check), and volunteers to staff the table are requested (although I don't know: I think we got all our new members last year because Carl spent the day behind the table in his skimpy shorts). Speaking of Carl (and who doesn't?), he's still looking for entries for his annotated listing of books LSFers recommend.

Lastly, I did catch one snippet of news: Spielberg has agreed to produce Jurassic Park, on a budget of \$70 million and with a tentative release date of 1993.

That's all for this month, folks! λ



Movie Review: FX-2

by Noel Welch

Sometimes luck is with me as it was on May 6 when I tuned in to B104 and heard they were giving away free tickets to the Baltimore premier of FX-2. Putting my fast fingers to work, I managed to secure a pair of tickets for the Tuesday showing of this much anticipated movie.

To familiarize you with the first movie, it's about a movie special effects man (Bryon Brown) who is hired to stage a phony "hit" with a mafia man as the target, only to discover he's been double-crossed.

In FX-2 Bryon Brown's character is coaxed out of retirement to help catch a slasher who has been killing models. In the process he stumbles upon evidence of police corruption with mafia underpinnings. Brown turns for help from Brian Dennehy, who plays a gumshoe (he was a cop in FX), and a clown named Blueie (because of his hair).

With out going into further detail which would spoil the movie, I'll simply say that on the whole FX-2 was enjoyable, despite several holes in the script. My companion and I felt some scenes with important clues were edited out, which made other scenes a bit confusing. λ

Meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month at a private residence. The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held at 2:00pm on Sunday, June 9 at Jim's apartment: 1414 17th Street, NW #413. Please bring some munchies if you can. Hope to see everyone there!