

DC Area Gaylaxians

PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (301) 445-5650 - Issue #17 - August 1991

July Meeting Notes

by Peter Knapp

Our first speaker unfortunately did not attend July's meeting. To make matters worse, no one took notes. Therefore, these notes are brief.

The meeting began with a discussion of final plans for Gaylaxicon '91. Chris F. graciously offered to transport the Gaylaxicon IV flyers to this year's con, as he was flying up. (Thanks Chris). Lee volunteered to host the bid party in his room, and Carl agreed to help. We took a head count and it seemed that half the club was going to the convention. [14 members, a spouse, and an associate of the club went. - ed.]

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Orgy In Tewksbury

by Michael M.

Where to start? It would be so much easier to use the Vulcan mind meld, but since I am not a Vulcan, I am left to the mundane use of a word processor, so bare with me. I do want to thank Peter and Norman for telling me we were leaving at 5:00am the night or two before our departure (Thanks guys!?!). Besides the ungodly hour, the trip up was not that bad -- Good company, good tunes, and tons of cute men on the highway. We did have one run-in with an evil truck driver who politely gave us the extension of his middle finger though.

This was my first con so I did not know what to expect entirely. To say the least, it was not as scary as I thought it would have been. I had a **fabulous** time. Some highlights included, but not limited to:

1. The hotel had a welcome sign which was nice. They also had "Chippendales" on the same sign -- I was hoping for the dancers, but it turns out that one of the conference rooms was called the Chippendales room -- I was bummed. Oh well, a suggestion for next year!

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August Meeting Notice

by Chris Faulkner

At our last meeting we decided to give poor Jim a break and have the monthly meeting somewhere else. Our next gathering will be held on August 11, 1991 at 1305 North Ode Street, Apt. #335 in my lovely, one-bedroom apartment near Rosslyn. As usual the meeting will start promptly at 2:00pm, and everyone is expected to chip in and bring some goodies. I have two cats, so allergy sufferers should take their pills. To help you find your way, I've included these directions:

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Yes Virginia, There Is A New Galactic Network!

by Carl Cipra

While most attendees at Gaylaxicon '91 were enjoying themselves at the Guest of Honor speech, I was slaving away with a number of other dedicated souls in an effort to hash out the new Charter for the Galactic Network! (Actually, the entire meeting was relatively enjoyable and hassle-free; and I've never been a great fan of Delany's anyway.) All the chapters in the Network were represented, although North Country Gaylaxians were only present by proxy; and there were even observers from the two non-Gaylaxian groups: Kindred Spirits (St. Louis) and Tleilaxu (Canada).

"And what were the results?" you ask.

Suffice it to say that the Galactic

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Heinlein Revisited

by Robert J. Summersgill

In a recent LSF article Robert A. Heinlein was chastised for his homophobic tirade in A Stranger in a Strange Land. Heinlein also chastised himself in a later story, The Number of the Beast by saying "It is amazing what some people will do for money." He atoned for the error of his ways in 1985 with The Cat Who Walks Through Walls.

The first half of Cat is character development of a new leading man (who is largely indistinguishable from any of his other leading men) and leading woman (where there is only slightly better discrimination). The two then manage to roam the multi-verse with all the significant and insignificant characters of all of his post-brain-ailment novels. To follow any of the second half of the novel, you are required to have previously read The Moon Is A Harsh Mistress, Expanded Universe, Time Enough for Love, The Number of the Beast, and no doubt others. Heinlein makes no effort to provide character development for any of the characters introduced in earlier novels.

The new leading man, Colonel Richard Colin Ames Campbell, is a one footed master of all tasks. Other Heinlein male leads have two feet. We are shown in the first half of the book that he is very heterosexual. Richard is enlightened by "the most offensively handsome young man I have ever laid eyes on ...", his doctor Galahad.

The text of Richard's awakening (from sleep with a body on each shoulder, and a cat on his chest) warrants repeating:

"After she turned me loose, kissed for keeps, I heard a voice from my

left: 'Don't I get a kiss too?'

Gretchen is a soprano; this voice was a tenor. I turned my head. Galahad.

I was in bed with my doctor. Well ... with both my doctors.

When I was a lad in Iowa, I was taught that, if I ever found myself in this or an analogous situation, the proper gambit was to run screaming for the hills to save my *honor* or its homologue for males. A girl could sacrifice her *honor* and most of them did. But, if she was reasonably discreet about it and eventually wound up married with nothing worse than a seven months child, her *honor* soon grew back and she was officially credited with having been a virgin bride, entitled to look with scorn on sinful women.

But a boy's *honor* was more delicate. If he lost it to another male (i.e. if they got caught at it), he might, if lucky, wind up in the State Department -- or, if unlucky, he would move to California. But Iowa had no place for him.

This flashed through my mind in an instant -- and was followed by a suppressed memory: a Boy Scout hike when I was a high school freshman, a pup tent shared with our assistant Scoutmaster. Just that once, in the dark of night and in silence broken only by a hoot owl -- A few weeks later that Scout leader went away to Harvard ... so of course it never happened.

O tempora, o'mores -- that was long ago and far away. Three years later I enlisted and eventually bucked for officer and made it ... and was always circumspect, as an officer who can't resist playing with his privates cannot maintain discipline. Not until the Walker Evans affair did I ever have any reason to worry about blackmail.

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Movie Review: Terminator 2: Judgement Day

by Michael M.

Wow! If you liked the first terminator, you will probably will like this one too. The plot seemed much more thought out than the first, and the special effects of Judgement Day blew the first Terminator out of the theater. One great scene is where they show a nuclear blast ripping through California -- very realistic.

They keep some the same humor from the original but expand into a human element - how does one teach a robot to be more human? One of the things I like about the terminator movies is that they really do capture the persona of a robot...unlike Data, who is an android in appearance with a human persona, you get a human appearance with more of a robot persona.

The movie is also thought provoking, even to us science fiction types. The whole concept of time travel, changing the future by changing the past -- will it work? Cybernetics, good robot versus robot, etc. Tons of neat stuff.

The heroin character's name is Sarah Connor (same as in the original terminator). In this movie she reminded me of a cross between Jaime Lee Curtis and Sigourney Weaver from Aliens -- Butch, smart, and at times feminine -- made me want to be a lesbian.

On the negative side, there is still a lot of violence but they play it off well with Arnold's robot mentality, and cute humor. At times the movies parallels Tom and Jerry cartoons -- cat chases mouse, mouse chases cat, and cat chases mouse, etc. All in all it is an enjoyable film. \$

LSF Search

by Randy Hagan and Chuck Murphy

[Both Randy and Chuck submitted searches this month. In the past, Chuck has done book searches. Of course the month Randy tries a video search, Chuck switches from books to video. Therefore this column is hereby open to any kind of search. Looking for something? Send or give your request to Randy or Chuck. - ed.]

The video potluck in late June showed the variety of videotaped programming Lambda Sci-Fi members have in their personal collections. But why wait until a video potluck to take advantage of the collections? As an experiment, this short column will list titles people are interested in tracking down to view. The titles will be listed, along with the name of the person looking for them. If you own a movie that's listed, give the person a call and see if there's a way to set up a loan or a viewing or whatever. For example:

- * The Hypnotic Eye (early 1960's)
 - * The Terminator (I've never seen it.)
 - * some Japanimation (I'm curious about it, but have never seen any.)
 - * Butt Boys in Outer Space (I know it's out there somewhere.)
- Randy 703/354-1516

If there's something you'd like to see (on videotape, people! Sheesh!), let me know at a meeting or give me a call at the above number (leave a message if you need to). It'll be in next issue.

Remember just how bad Star Trek: The Motion Picture was? Well, like all bad things, someone tried to make a new and improved version. The result was Star Wreck: The Commotion Picture, a completely redubbed version of ST:TMP, featuring great corny dialogue, general zaniness

and inside ST/Fandom jokes. ST:TCP made the rounds at conventions in the early 1980's and hasn't been heard from since. Surely someone out there has a bootlegged copy on video. If anyone knows where and how we can access a copy to keep or duplicate, we'd really appreciate it. Please contact Chuck at 703/866-9112. Thanks! ¢

Book Review: Out For Blood by John Peyton Cooke

by Joseph Parra

In this day and age of AIDS, cancer, and other horrible diseases, is it preferable to be immune by becoming a vampire? This is the question posed by John Peyton Cooke's novel Out For Blood, and a many faceted question it is. Young Chris Callaway is a Gay man dying from leukemia. One night he is visited by a woman who happens to be a vampire and, sympathetic to Chris' affliction, gives him the "gift" of immortality. Ah, but! Is it a gift?

The book tells us that as vampires are not necessarily evil, just different, they try to not kill their prey. Part of the price that is paid for immortality is loneliness, except for a plethora of one-night stands for reasons explained therein. Another is being hunted by vampire hunters, one of whom is more than he may seem. The analogies are obvious.

Cooke manages to skillfully blend his themes. He explores the torment of Chris' pangs of life, love, death, and fear of the unknown quite nicely. The book at times does tend toward melodrama, and once or twice lapses into self-parody, but all in all, it is nice to read a supernatural Gay love story that doesn't drip with sentiment or, er ... other things. ¢

RoVaCon 16 - A Preview

by Noel Welch

RoVaCon is an annual SF con held every October in Salem, Virginia (just outside of Roanoke).

This con will host the first national convention for the TV series LAND OF THE GIANTS. Don Matheson from the series will be in attendance during the con.

The 25th anniversary of Star Trek will be celebrated, and Spice Williams (Vixis in ST 5) will be on hand, in addition to many surprises to be announced.

Other guests include Hal Clement, the 1991 WorldCon G.O.H.; Julius Schwartz, editor of DC Comics; Rebecca Ore, author of Becoming Alien & Being Alien; and artist Tom Peters, whose work has appeared in numerous releases, from Game Designers Workshop to FASA.

A plethora of activities have been planned to fill the 48 hours of the con, which starts at 5pm Friday and runs till 5pm Sunday. Attendees can look for an Art Show, Workshop and Auction; Banquet; Costume Contest and Workshop; Dealers Room with approx. 100 tables; Drama Workshop; Film Festivals (SF & 007); Gaming; Japanimation; Model Making and Figure Painting Workshops and Contests; Movie Making Program; SF Jeopardy; Panels; Writers' Workshops and Specialties.

Advance admission rates are \$15 until Sept. 15, \$17 until Oct. 15, \$20 at the door. Childrens' admissions are half price. Lodgings for the event are provided by Arborgate Inn-Salem (703) 389-0280, with rooms between \$26.95 & \$33.95; and Motel 8 (703) 389-0297 at 1-4 persons \$35.88. ¢

Orgy In Tewksbury

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2. A lot of Lambda Sci-Fi members were there and that made it all that more enjoyable! I think we had the largest turn out of any group (bonus on us). [We were the largest non-local group there - ed.]

3. The panels were wonderful! Even after our showdown with "The Sub-missive One" (names have been changed to protect the innocent), Peter, Norman, and myself still had a pretty fun panel. Thanks for the support Cari, Kendall, Lee, Michael, and the rest of the Lambda Sci-Fi people who came. Brian S. is the only one who received extra credit.

4. Hannah Shapero (one of the artists) was fantastic. Several of us got portraits done by her.

5. The hitchhiker...nuff said.

6. The hotel staff was great! One waitress even had a button that said "Please don't feed or tease the straight people"--Loved it.

7. The breeders were fun too--especially when they protected their children in the elevators, or when they walked past the doorway real slow to just peak (stare) in.

8. The straight DJ--"hated it"! But in all honesty he did get better as the night grew. He decided to play the good songs during the Rocky Horror Picture Show--Lucky for me, I missed the sacrifice of the virgin because I was dancing.

9. The masquerade was neat....Peter was a boy toy from Star Trek: TNG, Norman was a Russian Count (he looked sharp), Jaime was a Russian peasant, Carl was a character from Ice Pirates (I think his red shorts covered more than his costume--Loved it), Brian S. went as a cyber punk, and Loree had her tiara on. I wish I had a costume after seeing everyone else's!

10. The pool area was shall we say, interesting (you had to watch for beach balls and pheromones) [I stayed out of

it this year - ed.].

11. I was not impressed with the shops/merchants though. Oh well, can't like everything.

12. Tons-o-people registered for next years con! (Thanks Peter and all). Overall, I think the con was fun, Gay, and a huge success. I wish it could have been one more day! Once there, I did not want it to end. It is amazing how quickly you meet people. I am already looking forward to next year's con (but don't tell Peter I haven't registered yet). [I already know! - ed.] I am also very happy that it is 7 hours closer next year. Hope to see you all there. May the schwartz be with you!
§

Heinlein Revisited

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I tightened my left arm a little. 'Certainly. But be careful; I seem to be inhabited.'

Galahad was careful; the kitten was not disturbed. It is possible that Galahad kisses as well as Minerva does. Not better. But just as well. Once I decided to enjoy the inevitable I did enjoy it. Tertius is not Iowa, Boondock is not Grinnell; there was no longer any reason to be manacled by the customs of a long-dead tribe.

'Thank you,' I said, 'and good morning.'

On the next page describing Galahad:

"Visualize Michelangelo's David (Galahad is fully that pretty) but equip this image with coupling gear three times as large as Michelangelo gave David; that describes Galahad.

I have never understood why Michelangelo--In view of his known bias--invariably short changed his male creations."

There are a couple of other minor snippets, but all are at worst benign. Heinlein makes it clear that all of his

beloved characters from all of his recent novels freely have sex with both males and females, though there is a bias for those of the opposite sex. There is even a transsexual, Libby Long, the mathematical genius coupled with Heinlein's greatest hero, Lazarus Long. There is a definite lack of transvestites, which follows from a definite lack of vestments.

Heinlein was clearly blind to his own biases in the fifties, but as the gay rights movement grew and showed his Iowa notions to be just as bigoted as those of racism or sexism, Heinlein made amends and wrote bisexuality into his reappearing characters.

Heinlein turned millions of people's minds to the future. A bright future. He inspired people to become scientists and pilots, to question authority and rely on themselves. He taught them that sex is good, and that sexuality should never be hated or feared. Heinlein made a dramatic reversal in his views. He should be credited with that, and honored by the Gay and Lesbian Community. §

Undead of the Cinema

Trivia Answers

by Noel Welch

[The questions appeared last month. - ed.]

1. Andy Warhol's Dracula
2. Blacula
3. The Vampire Lovers
4. My Best Friend Is A Vampire
5. Lifeforce
6. Vamp
7. The Lost Boys
8. Fright Night §



Con Calendar

by Carl, Peter, and Noel

September 1, 1991, **STAR TREK SILVER ANNIVERSARY TOUR**: Hyatt Regency Crystal City, 2799 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. Guest of Honor: William Shatner. Cost: \$17 in advance, \$20 at the door. Make checks payable to "Creation", and send to Creation, 145 Jericho Turnpike, Mineola, NY 11501. [Note: This is a "professional" con which is a very different breed from "fan" cons like Gaylaxicons and WorldCons. If you go, don't expect much. The last one I went to had two things: a dealer's room and an auditorium. -ed.]

August 29 - September 2, 1991 **CHICON V**, the 49th World Science Fiction Convention: Chicago, IL. Author Guest of Honor: Hal Clement; Artist Guest of Honor: Richard Powers. Cost is \$95; Room rate is \$70 sgl/dbl, \$90 triple, \$110 quad. Make checks payable to "Chicon V" and send to: Chicon V Registration, PO 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! - Carl]

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

November 15 - 17, 1991 **PHILCON '91**, the 55th Annual Philadelphia Science Fiction Conference: Adams Mark Hotel, Philadelphia, PA. Guest of Honor: David Brin; Artist Guest of Honor: Moebius (Jean Giraud). Cost is \$17 until September 15, more at the door. Send checks to Philcon '91, PO Box 8303, Philadelphia, PA 19101-8303.

November 29 - December 1, 1991 **DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL MEETING XIV**: Holiday Inn, Timonium, MD. Special Guests: Marion Zimmer Bradley (health permitting) and Katherine Kurtz. Cost is \$24 until November 1 and \$28 thereafter. Room rate is \$59/night for up to four people. Make 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. - Carl]

July ?? - ??, 1992 **Gaylaxicon IV**: Guest Quarters Hotel, Philadelphia, PA. Guest of Honor: TBA, Artist Guest of Honor: Tristan Alexander. Cost is \$15 until December 31, 1991. Prices will go up in 1992. Make checks payable to "Gaylaxicon IV" and send to Gaylaxicon IV, PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044. [Note: make your editor, who is also the co-chair of the con very happy by sending in your membership today! - ed.] ♢

Et Cetera

by Peter Knapp

For those who don't know, I'm the editor and publisher of this newsletter. I'd like to thank everyone who contributed to this newsletter. Their contributions are what makes this newsletter work. A special thanks also goes to Bruce who did a wonderful job proofreading.

Last month's newsletter was collated by the co-chairs of Gaylaxicon IV, Jed and myself. Thank you, my sweet! ♢

Classified Ads

Free Electronic Bulletin Board and Dating Service

Gryphon Microproducts has an electronic bulletin-board. To access it (you need a modem, of course), dial 301/384-7238. You can call in at 1200/2400 baud with settings of N,8,1. To get to the Bi/Gay/Lesbian conference, select J for Join Conferences from the main menu, and enter GLIB for the conference name. To access the dating service, select S, for Survey System, from the main menu.



Cosmic Book Store

Lambda Sci-Fi member Lee Linton is the proud owner and operator of the Washington areas newest specialty bookstore. Your patronage and encouragement are highly appreciated, so come pay him a visit. The store is located right next to I-66 behind the Ramada Inn. Call Lee at 703/330-8573 for information and directions. ♢

Yes Virginia, There Is A New Gaylactic Network!

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work now has a new Charter; and transitional officers are in charge until the new Charter takes effect on January 1, 1992. Robert Gowan (Great Lakes Gaylaxians) is the Transitional Director; he is in charge of the organization during the transition to the new Charter. Jed Shumsky (Philadelphia Area Gaylaxians) is the Election Supervisor; he will oversee the election and installation of the new Network Board.

As for the rest of what was decided, let me give you just a few of the highlights:

1. The Gaylactic Network will be run by the Network Board, which will be composed of the various Board Officers and one Representative from each Affiliate (chapter).

2. "Gaylaxians International" will be a separate Affiliate, with its own newsletter and Director.

3. Each Affiliate will pay over to the Network a yearly fee of \$5, plus \$1 per member. This money will be used to defray the costs of printing and distributing the Network's newsletter. The first payment will be due January 1, 1992.

(NOTE: Lambda Sci-Fi's proposal of a cap of \$50 per chapter was rejected by all the other representatives at the meeting. Jed explained that the proposed fees structure was based on the minimum funds necessary; and that LSF's proposed \$50 cap would be financially ruinous to the Network's communication efforts. I explained that I would still be able to approve the Charter without the cap, since LSF had presented the \$50 cap as a "suggestion"; but that I could not predict LSF's response to the decision.

Basically, it means that Lambda Sci-Fi will owe about \$65 per year.)

Here's what Lambda Sci-Fi needs to do now:

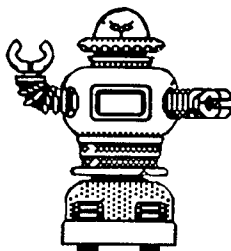
1. Decide on its response (if any) to the Network's fee structure (since the proposed \$50 cap was rejected).
2. Select a Representative to the new Board and advise the Transitional Director and Election Supervisor of his/her name by September 15, 1991.
3. If anyone wants to run for one of the Network Officer positions, he/she must send a letter to Jed Shumsky (the Election Supervisor) by 9/15/91 stating his/her interest in an office and qualifications for it.

The available Network Offices are:

- SPEAKER FOR THE BOARD - the presiding officer of the Network Board (sort of the "president").
- EDITOR of the Gaylactic Network newsletter.
- NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR - sort of a liaison between the editors of the various chapters' newsletters and the Gaylactic Network Newsletter editor.
- PUBLICIST - handles advertising and publicity for the Network.
- TREASURER.
- CORRESPONDENT - handles mail to/from the Network.
- POSTAL COORDINATOR - in charge of the Network's P.O. box (which is in Boston).

We'll undoubtedly be discussing all this at the August meeting. See you there!

¢



Book Review: High Weirdness by Mail by Reverend Ivan Stang (of the Church of the Sub-Genius) by Randy Hagan

Interested in learning the true secrets of the universe? Want to be ready when aliens land? How about making b*i*g b*u*c*k*s analyzing the handwriting of job applicants for the federal government? Of finding out who (or What) really runs our government?

High Weirdness by Mail gives readers these opportunities. It's a compilation/directory of people and organizations with very individual points of view (the cover describes them as "Mad Prophets, Crackpots, Kooks & True Visionaries." Each entry lists the name and address of whoever or whatever. Then, it describes he, she, them, or it in a style that the author confesses is rude.

After all, he points out in the introduction, he doesn't single out anyone in particular; he ridicules everyone. Besides, he's getting their names and addresses out there where contact can be made by like-thinking others. If they want puff pieces, let them write and sell their own books.

Divided into categories, Ivan Stang delves into such headings as "Weird Science," "UFO Contactees," "Health/Self-Improvement and Schemes/\$cams," "Groups You Love to Hate," and "Funny Clubs."

But, wait! There's more!!

When you get hold of this book, you also get chapters with names like "Comics" (not Comics Code Authority approved ones, either), "Great Badfilm
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**Book Review: The
Starcrusier Shenandoah
Books
by Roland Green
by Carl Cipra**

Squadron Alert, Division of the Spoils, and The Sum of Things are examples of that sub-genre of science-fiction known as "combat SF." In case you're unfamiliar with the term, "combat SF" is science-fiction that usually deals with futuristic, high-tech warfare, often at the person-to-person level. It doesn't exactly glorify warfare, since the horrors of high-tech warfare are often blatantly portrayed. "Combat SF" does, however, tend to glorify the actions of the individual within the context of the stupidities, uncertainties, and inhumanity of war. (If you can imagine the movies "The Longest Day" or "The Battle of the Bulge" or "Tora! Tora! Tora!" taking place on another planet or in outer space, then you've got a pretty good idea of what "combat SF" is like!)

Until now, the acknowledged masters of this type of science-fiction have been Jerry Pournelle (author of the "John Christian Falkenberg" stories) and David Drake (author of the "Hammer's Slammers" stories). Well, as far as I'm concerned, Pournelle and Drake should make room for Roland Green! The "Starcrusier Shenandoah" books contain some of the finest "combat SF" that I've ever read!

The context of the three novels is as follows: Human space in the 26th Century is divided between two contending political entities, the United Federation of Starworlds and the Freeworld States Alliance. The uneasy interstellar truce is threatened by political unrest on the planet Victoria, where both the Federation and the Alliance have colonies. In an effort to prevent a possible all-out war between

the two superpowers, the Federation admiralty re-activates the mile-long, 100-year-old battle cruiser "Shenandoah" and sends her and her crew to Victoria. The results are chronicled in three action-packed, fast-paced volumes. There's rebellion, space battles, spies, political intrigue, and scheming alien races. And through it all, there are the men and women of the various factions, all trying to make sense of (and survive!) the uncertain times they're living in. The author follows a number of characters (including some of the aliens) throughout all three books, letting the reader experience their personal triumphs, their failures, their intrigues, and their interpersonal relationships. In fact, I think that Green's deft handling of characters and characterization is what makes these three books superior to other works of "combat SF".

Gaylaxians should also find Green's handling of feminist and alternative sexuality themes of particular interest:

Women serve with distinction in all levels of the Federation, Alliance, and Victoria military structures, all the way from command to combat. The star of the show is, of course, Captain Rose Lidell, commanding officer of the Federation battle cruiser "Shenandoah." She's a trusted and capable officer, upon whose shoulders might rest the fate of interstellar civilization. (Don't worry, though! She's more than just "Captain Kirk in drag!") Another primary female character is Lieutenant (later, Acting Major) Candice Shores, who commands a combat unit during the fighting on Victoria. And let's not forget Admiral Marya Lopatine ("the Baba"), senior naval officer and commander of the opposing Alliance forces off Victoria!

Green also treats bisexuality and

homosexuality in a very positive light in these books. This fact distinguishes Green's "combat SF" from most other works in this sub-genre. Alternative sexuality is not even an issue for the military, either Alliance or Federation--it's treated matter-of-factly as just another aspect of life. Not all characters are depicted as being comfortable with homosexuality; but no one is shown as being offended (or even surprised) at it. Gays and lesbians can even find some very heroic and positive role models in the "Shenandoah" books. For the lesbians, there's Captain Madeleine Bloch, commanding officer of the Federation Ranger Team on Victoria. For gay men, there are the lovers Karl Pocher and Mahmoud Sa'id, respectively commander and first officer of the Federation ship "Leon Brautigam". (Shades of K/S!)

I highly recommend the "Starcrusier Shenandoah" trilogy. They're exciting, intriguing, and well-written! I really got hooked on some of the characters, and I think you will, too! I do offer the following caution to prospective readers, however: Combat is not pretty; and Roland Green does not shy away from depicting the dark side of war! ¢

Treasurer's Corner

by Peter Knapp

We had a busy month with four renewals (\$40) and six new memberships (\$60). We also earned 17¢ in interest and spent \$36.54 on postage. This leaves us with a balance of \$163.30.

Vicki Y. and John P. joined as a result of seeing our table at Pride Day. Wayne N. had lost his status as club groupie, as he gave us \$10. Andy R. joined at the last meeting. I'm not sure where Timothy L. heard about us, but I'm glad he joined. Welcome ¢

Book Review: High Weirdness by Mail

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Sleaze," (which are magazines that can sometimes take on the feeling of a trashy talk show featuring one-legged separatist transsexual truck drivers facing off against nudist lacto-ovo vegetarian white survivalists.)

What can I say? It's a fun read. The variety of thought (or lack - you decide) is always fascinating and sometimes scary.

A quick example of the style chosen almost at random: "Did you know you can 'tune' your body into health through colors, sounds, and odors? This company sells a COLOR, SOUND, AND FRAGRANCE KIT with 7 primal essences plus 2 sealing scents, 9 corresponding color plates, a beautiful quartz crystal and an audio cassette with corresponding musical notes. Right. Now put a pyramid on your car, wear your underwear on your head, and count backwards from 273 by threes. YOU HAVE ACHIEVED WHOLENESS."

Buy it or borrow it. It's great summertime reading and - who knows - you may discover the Secret of Life that works for you! ¢

Videothon

by Norman G.

Thanks to the planning and organizing of Jaime and "Julie McCoy" (and many others) a good time was had by all at the videothon soiree. We all out did ourselves on the food (especially Jaime and Brian K [aka: "Julie"]). There were three viewing stations as Peter, Brian K., and our host Jaime magnanimously donated their respective TV's and VCR's for the evening.

Carroll was our appointed moderator when we decided which of the vast selection of movies to show. The first two videos everyone wanted to see were the Star Trek Bloopers from the original series and Star Trek: The Pepsi Generation - a parody of ST:TNG. So much for our big opening...

The movies that we watched were a diverse group including: Lobster Man From Mars, Dark Star, King Rocketman, The Lathe of Heaven, and Elvira: Mistress of the Dark - always a camp favorite. As there was a large selection of movies we did not view, I am sure that Lambda Sci-Fi (aka: X40) will host another videothon again soon. ¢

July Meeting Notes

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The meeting then took a serious turn as Carl brought up the dreaded Gaylactic Network reorganization. We spent over an hour going over the proposal and discussing various points.

The biggest discussion dealt with the issue of dues. After much talk, we decided to propose a due structure of \$5.00 per club, plus \$1.00 per member with a cap of fifty dollars. This would allow smaller clubs the ability to pay their way, while preventing the larger clubs from being unduly burdened with high dues.

We elected Carl the club representative for the meeting and wished him luck.

The meeting then dissolved into its usual chaos. Topics of conversation varied greatly. The most memorable part for me was when Scott read the Pied Piper's coming out to the Flash. Yah, DC Comics!

All in all, a good meeting. ¢

August Meeting Notice

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By Metro (the preferable method):

- Hop off the metro at Rosslyn, go up the escalators and turn left out of the left set of turnstiles.
- Take a right out of the metro stop, and head up the hill to Wilson Blvd.
- Take a right on Wilson Blvd.
- Cross Ft. Myer Dr. and take a left immediately on the far side of Ft. Myer.
- Take a right on Fairfax Dr. (an access road to Rt. 50).
- Cross Rt. 50 (otherwise known as Arlington Blvd.) at the foot bridge.
- This dumps you onto Ft. Myer Dr. again! (weird, isn't it?)
- Hoof it a block up Ft. Myer Dr. and take the first right onto Ode St. Bldg. #1305 will be the second turn on the right. It takes about 15 min. to walk from the metro.

From Virginia:

If west of Rosslyn take either Rt. 66 or Rt. 50 in towards Washington.

- From Rt. 66 take the exit to Rosslyn/Key Bridge. This puts you on Rt. 29 (Lee Highway). Take a right onto Ft. Myer Dr., and go through the underpass beneath Wilson Blvd. Cross Rt. 50, and take an immediate right after the bridge onto Arlington Blvd. (another access road to Rt. 50 - yes, I know Rt. 50 is Arlington Blvd.! Don't Ask me to explain it!). Take the second left onto Ft. Myer Dr. (Go Figure!), and the first right onto Ode St.

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Gaylaxicon IV

A Science Fiction - Fantasy - Horror convention for Gay people and their friends.

17-19 July 1992



Philadelphia, PA

Guest Of Honor
To Be Announced

Artist Guest Of Honor
Tristan Alexander

Membership
Special Gaylaxicon '91 rate of
\$12.50. After Gaylaxicon '91,
memberships will go up to \$15.
Price will increase in 1992.

Costumes
Encouraged, but no weapons
please.

Features

panels
art show
dealer's row
masquerade
gaming room
video room
con suite
readings
filking

Location

Guest Quarters[®]

Suite Hotel

Philadelphia
International
Airport

Rooms

One or two people - \$89
Three people - \$94
Four people - \$104 per night.
Hotel reservation forms will be sent
upon con registration.

Minors

If you are under 18, your parent
or guardian must attend the con
with you.

Con Address Gaylaxicon IV • PO Box 656 • Washington, DC 20044

Lambda Sci-Fi is a Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror fan club for Gay people and their friends. Annual membership fees are \$10.00 for which you will receive this monthly newsletter and a membership directory. Newsletter submissions are always welcome.

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, August 11 at Chris' apartment: 1305 North Ode Street, Apt. #335, Arlington, VA. Please bring some munchies if you can. Hope to see everyone there!