



PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (301) 445-5650 - Issue #25 - April 1992

### MARCH MEETING MINUTES

by Noel Welch  
(with additional notes  
by Peter and Carl)

Once again, another meeting was dissolved in laughter---this time as Sylvia issued a loud "thank you" from the bathroom for finding the seat down for a change! (Brian, that was an intense shade of red!)

On a more serious note, a good forty minutes were spent discussing the proposal from GSFS (Boston) to relinquish ownership of "Gaylaxicon" with the provision that they be allowed to run the '93 con if they wish. Without boring you with the tedious details (as I did during the discussion), a final vote was taken---with the vote heavily in favor of GSFS's proposal.

Also brought up for discussion was a mailing list being made available to the Network by Frank Hummel. After a brief discussion, the members decided to let the Network officers determine what should be done with the list, since many of the names on it are at least three years old.

Continuing with Network  
(continued on page 6)

### LSF FIELD TRIP TO "STAR TREK" EXHIBIT AT SMITHSONIAN AIR & SPACE MUSEUM

by Carl Cipra

As announced at the March meeting, we've planned a field trip to the Smithsonian's Air & Space Museum to go see "Star Trek: The Exhibition" (in honor of 25 years of Trek). The exhibit is located upstairs, at the east end of the museum (the end nearest the McDonald's). It looks as though everyone agrees that Saturday, April 25th, is the day for it; and 2:00 PM seems like a pretty good time. OK, now for the hard part:

To view the exhibit, you need a pass, which specifies what time you can enter. The passes are free and they're handed out at a booth in the museum's central hall. As you might guess, they disappear quickly. (On any given day, especially weekends, all the

passes for that day are usually gone before Noon!) They start handing out tickets at 9:45 AM (15 minutes before the museum opens). Since they won't let anyone pick up more than four passes at a time, some of us need to arrange a little pre-field trip get-together to pick up tickets for the whole group. At present, I've got a list of 20 names, which means I'll need four volunteers to help me get the passes (4 x 5 = 20). These volunteers must meet me at the front entrance of the Air & Space Museum no later than 9:45 AM on Saturday, April 25th. Peter and I figure that the big rush will be to get the passes with the earliest times, so we should have little or no problem

(continued on page 6)

#### In This Issue:

March Meeting Minutes	1
"Trek" Field Trip to Air & Space Museum	1
<i>Blood Price</i> and <i>Blood Trail</i> (Book Reviews)	2
"The Outcast" (Review of ST:TNG Episode)	3
Facts and Figures	5
Information about Lambda Sci-Fi	6
Editor's Corner	7
Con Calendar	8

## BLOOD PRICE AND BLOOD TRAIL, TWO NOVELS BY TANYA HUFF

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a double book review by Carl Cipra

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Vampires, demons, and werewolves are loose on the streets of Toronto! I wonder if the members of Tleilaxu ("the Canadians") know about this? I suspect that they do, since they're all so chummy with Tanya Huff, Guest of Honor at the upcoming Gaylaxicon. It is these fantastical creatures (the vampires and such, not the Tleilaxu) which form part of the *dramatis personae* of two of Ms. Huff's newest books: *Blood Price* and *Blood Trail*.



These novels chronicle the adventures of ex-cop Victoria ("Vicki"/"Victory") Nelson. When her steadily-worsening vision problems (night-blindness and failing peripheral vision) forced her to resign from the Toronto Police Department's homicide detail, Vicki refused to settle for a cozy desk job somewhere. Now she's running her own moderately successful one-woman private investigation agency. Since she's not above hitting up her old buddies in the Toronto P.D. from time to time for the information she needs to solve cases, she often comes into

contact with her ex-partner from Homicide (and off-and-on lover), Mike Cellucci. Vicki and Mike definitely have a love/hate relationship going; and the often-abrasive interplay between them certainly lends a lot of charm to both novels. (Shades of Maddie and David from "Moonlighting"!)

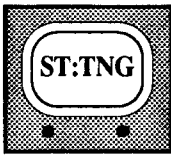
In *Blood Price*, Vicki literally stumbles onto the scene of a grisly supernatural murder in the Toronto subway. It turns out to be only one in a sequence of nocturnal killings that has scattered bloodless, shattered corpses about the city streets. Rumor has it there might be vampires stalking the nighttime streets of Toronto; and the city starts to get panicky. Meanwhile, Vicki is hired to investigate one of the murders and, to her surprise, finds out that a vampire really is involved in the case. His name is Henry Fitzroy, he's handsome and charming, he makes a comfortable "living" writing romance novels, and he's the illegitimate son of King Henry VIII of England! Henry also claims that he's innocent of the murders and that he wants to help Vicki track down the real killers---a demon and the human who summoned it---before some amateur vampire-hunter stumbles across his secret identity! Thus, an unlikely partnership/friendship is born between a night-blind private investigator and a 500-

something-year-old Tudor vampire. As the case unfolds, Vicki learns that the stakes (oops!) are even higher than she suspected: if they fail to stop the demon and its master in time, all Hell literally will break loose!



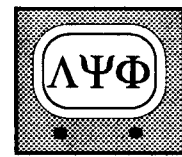
The action in *Blood Trail* takes place some four months after the exciting conclusion of *Blood Price*, when Henry Fitzroy asks Vicki to help him solve another case. It seems that an unknown sniper is killing members of the Heerkens family. They're friends of Henry's, a pleasant but eccentric family who live on a farm 'way out in the country north of London, Ontario---and they just happen to be werewolves! Henry wants Vicki to help him track down the killer without notifying the authorities or exposing his friends to unwanted public scrutiny. Can Vicki find the killer? And if she does, should she let the Heerkens family

(continued on page 7)



# IMPRESSIONS OF "THE OUTCAST"

by divers LSF hands



[**Editorial preface:** Just in case you hadn't heard, they've finally aired the ST:TNG episode we've been wondering about for some time now: "The Outcast". Last Saturday night (3/21), several of us had gathered at Noel & Wayne's to work on some Gaylaxicon stuff; so we decided to watch (or, in some cases, re-watch) the episode on Channel 20. Then, pushy newsletter editor that I am, I masterfully persuaded everyone to write down a few lines of their impressions. (Peter says I used threats of physical force. I categorically deny these charges!) So, here are their unrehearsed impressions. . . . P.S. Peter says I should warn you that you might want to hold off on reading this article until after you've seen the episode, 'cause we might be giving away some of the surprises.]

### from Peter Knapp:

Finally, a gay episode of Star Trek! As with most episodes of TNG, I enjoyed the show until the last five minutes. But I'm getting ahead of myself. As we all know, a letter-writing campaign has been trying to get a gay character on the show for some time. This episode seems to be an answer to that campaign---with a twist.

As opposed to encountering a homosexual alien race, the Enterprise crew meets the J'naii, an androgynous race with only one sex. By their standards, humans are the repulsive ones, having two sexes. But Riker, looking for the guest-alien-with-a-bump-on-its-head to sleep with, senses that Sorin is not what "it" seems to be. In a conversation that many gay people could have given, Sorin confides to Riker that "it" is really a "she" and that she has had to live a closeted life. She also admits that she is attracted to Riker. He, of course, finds her attractive; and they start a hot, passionate romance. When the J'naii find out what is going on, they react negatively. Sorin's speech in her own

defense at her trial could also have been given by many gay people. Up to this point, the episode is very supportive of people with different sexual orientations. Even Worf, who at first expresses distaste for the J'naii, supports his First Officer's decision to rescue Sorin from "psychotactic conditioning." Picard warns Riker that he will be violating the Prime Directive if he tries to rescue Sorin; but he doesn't try to stop Riker's attempt. Unfortunately, when the rescue attempt is made, Riker discovers to his horror that Sorin has been "cured."

The first time I saw this episode, I was disgusted by the ending. I wondered what message the show was giving us. Can we be "cured"? Are we really "ill," even if we think we're OK? Is homosexuality something that can be "cured"? On seeing the show a second time (a half hour ago, when Carl twisted my arm to write this), I don't think the producers are sending us an anti-gay message. Even though Sorin has been "cured," it's obvious to the viewers that she has been brain-washed. The crew of the Enter-

prise doesn't agree with what is being done; they feel there is nothing wrong with Sorin's difference and that her society is in the wrong; but their hands are tied by the Prime Directive. The Prime Directive says that the Enterprise crew cannot interfere. Riker ultimately realizes that while what was done is wrong, he can't change it. The fact that the Enterprise crew felt that J'naii society was in the wrong, that is clearly a pro-gay message!

### from Noel Welch:

Has Paramount bowed to pressure from both the gay community and the religious right? Yes and No---since there were no direct references to "homos", the storyline could be construed as supportive of the gay lifestyle. Unfortunately, by portraying the J'naii as an androgynous race, this also seemed to hamper their emotional responses. Sorin's impassioned plea for tolerance and compassion from their society fell flat, due to very wooden acting. Yes, this episode did, on first viewing, seem to be a larger step forward than

(continued on page 4)

## IMPRESSIONS OF "THE OUTCAST"

(continued from page 3)

the episode entitled "The Host". However, having Riker fall in love for the umpteenth time, while the subject of homosexuality is dealt with in a backhanded way, leaves me disappointed that a show whose predecessor set new standards is wimping out on the important issue of gay rights.

### from Wayne Nicklas:

Well, ST:TNG finally did it. I enjoyed the episode and think it gave people (straight people, that is) an idea of what it would feel like if roles were reversed. I also think it was better than just having two gals or guys in the background holding hands---rather, it dealt with the issue of alternate sexuality in a typical Star Trek sort of way.

### from Joe Parra:

"The Outcast" was an interesting allegory to our everyday problems with hetero-society. The performances were interesting; but, considering that the J'naii were supposed to be androgynous, I think their characterizations were overly "female." (I'm not counting Sorin, of course, since she's supposed to be female.) My big bone of contention, however, was that the writers wrote themselves into a corner and took an Orwellian "1984" way out of it. I applaud the attempt, however.

### from Carl Cipra:

So, ST:TNG finally broached The Big Subject! But leave it to Paramount to handle things in their own way! At the OktoberTrek panel discussion last year (title: "In the Spirit of IDIC"), one of the audience said that Paramount would probably handle the topic of homosexuality in the old tried-and-true method it had for dealing with any "hot" issue: by using an alien race. Let's give that unnamed man a hand, 'cause he certainly called it right! How many times has Paramount used Vulcans, Pakleds, Andorians, and Ghod-knows-what-other alien races to illuminate the human condition? (Face it: we are, after all, more likely to actually think about our own problems if they're talked about as being someone else's problems!)

Unfortunately, we forgot another ploy that has been used when Star Trek decides to address a "really hot" issue---indirection. Let's look at how Paramount handled the only other "really hot" issue that's even close to homosexuality when it comes to causing "the Silent Majority's" hackles to rise: racial prejudice. The original Star Trek handled that one twice---and both times by indirection. First, there was that episode with the two literally black-and-white/half-and-half races, where Frank Gorshin's race was the "master" race

because they were black on the *right* side but the "inferior" race was black on the other/wrong side (or whatever). No one on the Enterprise (and probably only a few of the TV audience) even noticed the difference until Gorshin's character pointed it out! I remember people saying afterward how "ridiculous" those aliens were---and hopefully some of those same people began to think about the ridiculousness of their own prejudices regarding people with different skin color. (And does anyone remember when Dr. Seuss first published his story about "the Sneetches" to illustrate the same point?) But even that episode pales in comparison with that first interracial kiss. Yes, Kirk kissed Uhura and uptight America gasped! But, after all, it wasn't their "fault"; the Platonians forced them to do it! Regardless, the ice was broken!

And now we have "The Outcast." Once again, an alien race (the J'naii) are the vehicle and indirection is the ploy. Imagine that---an obviously gay-oriented episode that NEVER mentioned the "G-word"! And if you think it wasn't gay-oriented, then play back Sorin's speeches in the shuttlecraft and in the courtroom and think about if you've heard them somewhere before---like in some gay publication! (I have to admit, though, that Sorin's courtroom speech sounded a lot like Shylock's "If

(continued on page 5)

# IMPRESSIONS OF "THE OUTCAST"

(continued from page 4)

you prick us, do we not bleed" speech from *The Merchant of Venice*.) And "Middle America" will once again think how "ridiculous" those aliens are for persecuting a straight woman just because she's different "from everyone else"---and hopefully some of those same people will begin thinking about the ridiculousness of their own prejudices regarding people with different sexual orientation.

"The Outcast" didn't have a happy ending, of course. I think that hammered the lesson home all the more; and I would have considered a successful "Riker-to-the-rescue" ending to have been a cop-out, much as I was hoping for it.

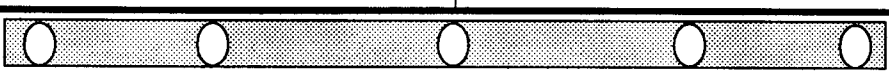
Does "The Outcast" fulfill the wishes of the "gay character on ST:TNG" letter-writing campaign? No, obviously not. I think we all still want to see some sign of a specifically gay-positive character on the Enterprise (even perpherally). Should the letter-writing campaign continue? Yes, for the same reason. Did this episode handle the issue of alternative sexuality well? I think so; but I know there's going to be a lot of debate on this point. Whatever the "final" decision on it, I think "The Outcast" is definitely another step in the right direction by Paramount---certainly further in the right direction than "The Host." The biggest beef will probably be that Paramount handled the issue in its own way,

not in someone else's (like ours)---but, then, they always have handled things their own way!

[**Editorial postscript:** I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Peter, Noel, Wayne, and Joe for agreeing to write short spur-of-the-moment commentaries on "The Outcast" for this issue of the newsletter. I obviously had the opportunity to "polish up"

my comments a bit, and they didn't. Thanks, guys! You're all "aces" with me! If anyone else out there want to put their feelings about "The Outscast" into print, have I got a deal for you! Just write something up and send it in to me; and I promise it'll go into the next newsletter. That's part of what this newsletter is for!]

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## FACTS AND FIGURES

by Carl Cipra



Another shining star has been added to the Gaylactic Network! Third Coast Gaylaxians (Chicago) has been officially approved as the newest Affiliate! Welcome aboard, gang! That brings the count up to eleven! (And stand by, folks, 'cause there're more waiting in the wings!)

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The latest Network Newsletter (Feb., 1992) states that the known membership of the Gaylactic Network stands at 320 (per the annual dues checks sent in to the Network). Here's the breakdown by chapter:

**Capital District** (upstate New York) - 35  
**Greater Gotham** (NYC & surrounds) - 35  
**Great Lakes** (Michigan) - 30  
**GSFS** (Boston & surrounds) - 30

**International** - 85  
**Kindred Spirits** (St. Louis) - 13  
**Lambda Sci-Fi** (That's us!) - 52  
**North Country** (Minnesota) - 5  
**PhAG** (Philadelphia) - 35

The figures for Third Coast/Chicago (too new) and Krewe of Gaylaxia/New Orleans (reorganizing) were not yet available; but that means the actual figure is somewhat in excess of 320. As someone once said: "Live long and prosper!"

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As of this writing, there are 170 registered members of Gaylaxicon IV. This figure includes 25 guests. They come from 22 of the United States, the District of Columbia, and three other countries (Canada, France, Great Britain).

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## MARCH MINUTES

(continued from page 1)

business, a proposal was made by members of the Boston group to form a Special Interest Group for the purpose of preparing affiliate club members to be panelists and speakers at conventions. Although no vote was taken, the general consensus was that it would be impractical.

On a lighter note, a club field trip is planned for late April to The Smithsonian Air & Space Museum to see "Star Trek: The Exhibition." Carl (not present at the meeting) will be organizing the field trip; and Sylvia has once again volunteered to let us use her phone message machine to post a recorded message with details. A sign-up sheet was passed around for interested members. [Ed. note: For details, see field trip article beginning on page 1 of this newsletter.]

[Peter says: "Joe Parra impressed us all by answering a really obscure movia trivia question that had us all stumped!"] [Ed. note: It was

apparently so obscure that Peter couldn't remember who asked it or what it was about---all he could remember was how impressed everybody was!]

[Final Ed. note: Either the club has changed and y'all weren't quite as chatty as usual, OR Noel is just a "man of few words" when it comes to taking minutes! These have got to be the shortest minutes I've seen in a long time. Loree, you haven't been making all that stuff up, have you?]

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## "TREK" FIELD TRIP

(continued from page 1)

picking up passes for 2:00 PM. "But what'll we do between 10 AM and 2 PM?" you ask. Well, with the entire Mall and the various Smithsonian museums spread out around us, I think we can find something to pass the time! There's the "Information Age" exhibit at American History; there are the nifty prehistoric life exhibits at Natural

History; and (Ghod knows) there are probably one or two other exhibits in Air & Space that could hold our attention for a time. In fact, we don't have to restrict the 9:45 AM meeting time to just four volunteers---the more the merrier! If you want to show up early, then come join in! We'll just wander around the museums together and make a day of it! (In fact, if we have enough Smithsonian members show up, we can even go have an all-you-can-eat buffet lunch in the Associates Dining Room in the Natural History Museum!)

We'll talk about this some more at the April meeting and do some fine-tuning on the details. If you haven't already signed up at the March meeting and you want to join in on this field trip, please contact me by phone or show up at the April 12th club meeting. If you can't get ahold of me and you can't attend the club meeting, then just show up at the Air & Space Museum at 9:45 AM on April 25th. See you there!

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## \*\* 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 \$10, 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 2:00 PM on **Sunday, April 12th**, at Jim C.'s apartment: 1414 17th St., NW, Apt. 413 (near Dupont Circle). Please bring some munchies or soft drinks if you can. Hope to see you there!

Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians is an affiliate of the Gaylactic Network, an international organization for gay people and their friends who are interested in science-fiction and fantasy.

## BLOOD PRICE AND BLOOD TRAIL, TWO NOVELS BY TANYA HUFF

(continued from page 2)

wreak its own unique form of frontier justice? Meanwhile, Vicki's jealous ex-partner, Mike Cellucci, is convinced that the mysterious Henry Fitzroy is more than just a reclusive novelist---probably involved in organized crime!---and he's dead set on showing Vicki what a shady character Fitzroy is! Will his investigation reveal just who---and what---Henry really is? Or will his interference simply result in more deaths on the Heerkens farm?

Ms. Huff has written a couple of really great books here---solid characterization, good dialogue, action, excitement, and a touch of sensuality to pique your interest!

Vicki Nelson is certainly the answer to a feminist's prayers. No shy, retiring, screamer out of some Grade-B horror flick here! She's an intelligent, independent, and self-identified woman, with just enough hang-ups to make her believable and with a touchy competitive streak that she'll occasionally own up to. As I said before, watching her square off with Mike Cellucci from time to time is an absolute joy. And then there's her mother---I guess we all have crosses to bear; and I'm certain Vicki's loving/exasperating relationship with her mother will ring true for many people! You've obviously guessed that her failing eyesight is integral to the action from time to time (after all, vampire plus demon plus werewolves equals nighttime!); and the author handles it well: it causes Vicki problems and she's savvy enough to realize it, but she's also pig-headed enough to try and beat it.

I definitely like the way

Ms. Huff portrays the "fantasy" elements in these novels. Henry Fitzroy is a member of that more "humane" and "personable" race of vampires that we seem to be seeing more of lately, similar in nature to Anne Rice's *LeStat* and Chelsea Quinn Yarbro's *Comte de St. Germain*. Henry is a being who has passed beyond his "human state" into another phase of his existence; but he has retained his "humanity" (if you will). He has emotions, hopes, needs---he's more than just a supernatural blood-sucking monster in the tradition of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. (Ms. Huff has created a most convincing demon to fill that particular role!) Various aspects of Henry's character are also revealed through the effective use of flashbacks---illustrative vignettes culled from his five centuries of vampiric existence. In the second book, *Blood Trail*, Ms. Huff presents her own truly unique twist on the subject of lycanthropy. Her werewolves (or, to be more accurate, the *wer*) are not simply humans that can turn into wolves (or large dog/wolf-like creatures)---they're *neither* humans *nor* wolves, but a totally separate race that partakes of *both* races. And wait until you read just how different home life among the *wer* can be! (Think about having a rambunctious little brother who can turn into a playful wolf cub at will!)

Ms. Huff blends scenarios of alternate sexuality throughout both novels---but only as background, never as a major plot concern. Vicki Nelson would seem to be a completely heterosexual female; and her ex-partner Mike Cellucci fits the stereotype of the macho Italian-American het male to

a "T." Henry Fitzroy, on the other hand, would seem to be bisexual in nature. He's primarily interested in Vicki Nelson, to be sure; but he's also "set up house" with Vicki's street informant, Tony, a 19-year-old former hustler. And there's that absolutely delightful scene in *Blood Price* where Henry is successfully "cruised" by a gay man during a nighttime stakeout! It's not until *Blood Trail*, however, that Ms. Huff includes a lesbian character: Bertie Reid, an older lesbian whose "partner" of 32 years had died just a few years before Vicki meets her. It's a touching portrayal.

I highly recommend both these well-written and exciting books. If you're looking for an entertaining read, then here are two books that'll give it to you! And I was delighted to see that there's more to come in this series. According to the March issue of the PhAG newsletter, *Blood Lines* will be out in January and *Blood Pact* will appear "thereafter." Thanks, Tanya; and keep 'em comin'!

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### EDITOR'S CORNER

by Carl Cipra

Once again, it really is a only a corner that's left for a couple of personal comments! (And to think that I told Noel I was afraid we wouldn't have enough to fill this issue!)

You know, I really missed everybody last month when a last-minute business trip kept me away from the LSF meeting! I'm looking forward to seeing y'all on April 12th! I find that I need my monthly LSF fix!



## Con Calendar

by Carl, Peter, and Noel



April 10-12, 1992 **TECHNICON 9**: Donaldson Brown Center (Blacksburg, VA). Guest of Honor: Tom Deitz. Pre-registration cost is \$21 (\$23 at the door, \$13 day-pass). Room rate is \$46 (sgl), \$54 (dbl). For more information (and send checks to): Technicon 9, c/o VTSFFC, PO Box 256, Blacksburg, VA 24063-0256

April 17-19, 1992 **BALTICON 26**: Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Guests: Donald Kingsbury, Christopher Rowley, David R. Palmer, Shiela Finch, Thomas T. Thomas, Christopher Hinz, Elizabeth Moon, Josepha Sherman, Michael F. Flynn (the past nine Compton Crook Award winners for the "best new novelist of the year"); Featured Artist: Guy Frechette. Cost is \$27.50 until March 15, 1992. Make checks payable to "Balticon 26" and send to: BSFS, Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203. Hotel rooms cost \$74 per nite for up to four people in a room.

May 23-25, 1992 **DISCLAVE 1992**: Washington Hilton, 1919 Conn. Ave. NW (*New Site!*). Guests of Honor: Pat Cadigan and Tom Kidd. Special Guest: Hal Clement. Cost is \$25 until April 30th (\$30 at the door). Rooms are \$85/night (sgl to quad). To register, make checks payable to "Disclave '92" and send to: Dan Hoey, Registration, Box 677, Washington, DC 20044-0677. (Ed. - That's just a few boxes down the row from our PO box!)

July 17-19, 1992 **GAYLAXICON IV**: Guest Quarters Hotel (Philadelphia, PA). Guest of Honor: Tanya Huff; Artist Guest of Honor: Tristan Alexander. Cost is \$20 through April 30, 1992, \$25 through June 30, 1992, \$30 at the door. Make checks payable to "Gaylaxicon IV" and send to: Gaylaxicon IV, PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044.

August 14-16, 1992 **TREKCON '92**: Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza (Rockville, MD). A Trek/fantasy/sci-fi/media con. Guests: James Doohan ("Scotty"), John deLancie ("Q"), William Campbell ("Trelane"), Robin Curtis ("Saavik"), Marc Okrand (Klingon linguist). Cost: \$32 for weekend pass, \$16 for day pass. Make checks payable to "TrekCon '92" and send to: TrekCon '92, PO Box 211, Burtonville, MD 20866

September 3-7, 1992 **MAGICON**, the 50th World Science Fiction Convention: Orange County Convention and Civic Center and Peabody, Clarion, and Quality Inn Plaza Hotels (Orlando, FL). Guests of Honor: Jack Vance and Vincent DiFate. Cost (attending) is \$95 until March 31, 1992 and \$110 until July 15, 1992. Make checks payable to "MagiCon" and send to: MagiCon, PO Box 621992, Orlando, FL 32862-1992.

September 24-27, 1992 **FIRST DISNEYANA CONVENTION**: Walt Disney World Resort. The first convention to be either sponsored or held by the Walt Disney Co. A special package is being offered that includes four-day/three-night accommodations, a one-day/one-park passport, one night's admission to Pleasure Island, and a special look at Disney animation. For more information, write: Disneyana Convention, P>O> Box 10000, Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830-1000; or call (407)580-7232.

November 13-15, 1992 **PHILCON '92**: The Adam's Mark Hotel (Philadelphia, PA). Principal Speaker: Greg Bear, Guest Artist: Boris Vallejo. Cost is \$20.

September 2-6, 1993 **CONFRANCISCO**, the 51st World Science Fiction Convention: Moscone Convention Center (San Francisco, CA). Guest of Honor: Larry Niven; Artist Guest of Honor: Alicia Austin. Cost (attending) is \$85 after December 31, 1991; and cost will rise appreciably at later dates. Hotels will be announced in upcoming progress reports. Make checks payable to "ConFrancisco" and send to: ConFrancisco Registration, 712 Bancroft Road, Ste. 1993, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.