



PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (301) 445-5650 - Issue #27 - June 1992

MAY MEETING MINUTES by Norman

Our May 10th meeting was well-attended. We opened with Network Business---to get it over with! We started by voting to admit two applicants as Affiliates of the Gaylactic Network: Baltimore's Mid-Atlantic Gaylactic Entities (MAGE) and Denver's Synergy Ganymede: Front Range Gaylaxians. Yay!!! We also voted once again in favor of having the Network assume responsibility for the letter-writing campaign to get a REAL Gay/Lesbian character included on "Star Trek: The Next Generation." We also passed around a copy of a letter that Frank Hummel has sent to *The Advocate*, expressing his disappointment with "The Outcast." (Frank's letter was a follow-up to *The Advocate's* cartoon lampooning that episode.)

The next order of business was the upcoming conventions. We discussed plans for a Gaylaxian party at Disclave (Washington Hilton, April 22-24). Carl volunteered to rent a room that we can use for the party. As for Gaylaxicon IV,

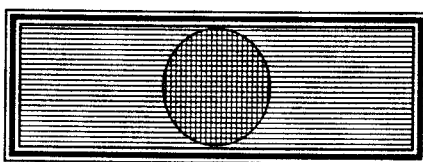
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PRIDE DAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED by Peter Knapp

Once again, Lambda Sci-Fi is going to have a table at Pride Day. At the June meeting, we're going to pass around a sign-up sheet for volunteers to "person" the table. If you can't make it to the meeting but would like to help out, please contact either Carl or me. We'll sign you up.

By the way, Pride Day has been moved back to Father's Day, June 21st. (Does that mean you're going to bring your kids, Al?)

ΛΨΦ



"MOVIE MADNESS" GRADE-B HORROR MOVIE FEST ON JUNE 6TH



Event Announcement
by Noel Welch

Yes, boggies and ghouls, it's time once again for another (in)famous Lambda Sci-Fi Movie Madness & Pig-out! And, as the title of this article states, this time we'll be screening some of the best/worst Grade-B horror flicks at our disposal!

As most LSF members are aware, these gatherings are

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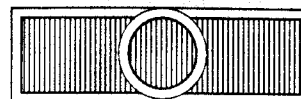
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THE LAST WIZARD BY TANYA HUFF

(or "Sad Dungeons and Dead Dragons U")

reviewed by Joseph Parra



In *The Last Wizard*, Tanya Huff's sequel to *Child of the Grove*, we return to the life and times of the final wizard, Crystal. Crystal, you may remember, is the good wizard who defeated Kraydak, the bad wizard, in the previous epoch. We now join her some twelve years later (she's 29 years old now); and, although extremely independent, Crystal is far from happy. She has come to discover that she is a multi-faceted being. (Could her name have anything to do with that? Hmmm . . .) Now, granted, we all hopefully find that we are multi-faceted; but we're mortals! For poor Crystal, this means being type of a supernatural Sybil. [Ed. note: The split-personality type, as opposed to Sibyl, the ancient Greek oracle.] Her personalities are actual entities--seven of them--and they are goddesses. It seems that Crystal is the embodiment of these celestial ladies, who now want out! To complicate matters further, Crystal meets up with two brothers who are off on a quest to a long-dead wizard's castle in the wintry North. As it happens, Crystal has a need to go there for some reason which she cannot fathom. The three of them are joined by Sokoji, a giant (one of the Elder races). We have no idea of Sokoji's age; but she remembers things most ancient and can see Lord Death (as can Crystal). You

may remember that Crystal and Lord Death are buddies from *Child of the Grove*.

Doan, the Falstaff-type dwarf, also returns in this saga and is as cantankerous as ever. We also meet the *wer*. The *wer* are a race created by wizards and are, as the name implies, werewolves and werecats. The *wer* naturally despise the wizards who played them a cruel trick. (Remember, the wizards also made the dragons which in time destroyed them.) There are so many adventures in this book that to go into them all here would be both impossible and not nice. After all, if you know what's going to happen at every turn, why read the book?!

And this is a book worth reading. It sneaks up on you! At first, I found myself going back to the first book to check on various characters; but then I simply let the folks fall where they may. Also, there weren't as many answers as one would have hoped for; but perhaps this is Ms. Huff's way of telling us that what is past is just that--it's time to move on.

This is not to say that there are not faults with the tale. A major fault was introducing a mystery for a major character and then neither describing the mystery nor resolving it. Once again, Ms. Huff has characters talking like they were raised on "Dead End Kid" movies; and this time they curse! All things

considered, however, these faults are not nearly enough to dissuade anyone from reading this energetic, well-woven fantasy. As I stated in my review of *Child of the Grove*, these types of tales are not my normal cup of tea; but every now and then coffee is nice, too! Well, Ms. Huff, it was a delightful second cup. Thanks!

[Ed. note: This is Joe's second review of a Tanya Huff book. Previously, Joe reviewed *Child of the Grove* for the March, 1992, issue of this newsletter. (Thanks again, Joe!) Well, gang, that about wraps up our reviews of the published novels of Tanya Huff, Guest of Honor at the upcoming Gaylaxicon IV. I say "just about" for a couple of reasons. First, I've got no qualms about publishing differing opinions of any of these books (or comments on comments, or whatever); so if you want to put your two cents in, go for it! Second, she just might have another novel ready to hit the stands. We can only hope.]

ΛΨΦ



In the April 1992 issue of the Lambda Sci-Fi Newsletter, Carl Cipra compared the presentation of homosexuality in *Star Trek: The Next Generation* in the episode "The Outcast" with the manner in which the original *Star Trek* dealt with racial prejudice in "Let That Be Your Last Battlefield" and "Plato's Stepchildren." (The former episode presented two literally half-black and half-white alien races; the latter episode gave United States television its first inter-racial kiss.) Carl stated that "The Outcast" followed in the footsteps of the original *Star Trek* by dealing with homosexuality indirectly, as it had dealt with racial prejudice indirectly in these two episodes.

I think Carl's argument, in fact, points out the very thing which makes "The Outcast" so very disappointing, and even insulting, to many gay people.

Let us suppose that, in its dealing with racial bigotry, "Let That Be Your Last Battlefield" had been presented exactly as it had been---except that it had taken place on a Starship *Enterprise* where everyone was white. That is, there were no crewmembers who were Black, or Asian, or any race other than Caucasian. The hypocrisy of this would have been brutally obvious; it would have completely undermined anything positive or meaningful about the episode's theme, because *Star Trek* would clearly have not been "practicing

what it preached."

This is exactly what did happen in "The Outcast." Not a gay character was shown, nor was it even mentioned that not all humans are heterosexual. Yet this was relevant to the theme of "The Outcast;" and there were many times in the episode where it would have been appropriate and logical to mention this; but it never was.

Such comments as "In the past we humans did such-and-such, but we grew up" are a typical part of *Star Trek* dialogue. The racial prejudices of humanity's past were mentioned in "Let That Be Your Last Battlefield," yet in "The Outcast" even the word "homosexuality" is never spoken.

The original *Star Trek* did not need a "Let That Be Your Last Battlefield" to make a statement against racism. Every episode, from the first one to the last, where we saw Scotty and Sulu and Uhura together, told us this. Now, over 25 years later, we have *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. Again, we see an inter-racial crew; again we see men and women working together as equals. Again, we see only heterosexual characters and relationships.

I disagree with Carl's statement that "The Outcast" handled the issue of alternative sexuality well; because, at its heart, "The Outcast" is hypocritical. The original *Star Trek* had the courage to give us a

crew without racial and gender prejudice. It had courage.

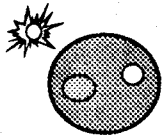
"The Outcast" was not courage. It was timidity. It was a retreat from where others had gone before.

Disappointing though it was, *Star Trek: The Next Generation* has made a statement against prejudice and bigotry because of sexual orientation. Now it is time for *Star Trek* to live by its principles and end its hypocrisy by including openly-gay characters.

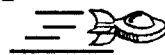
I am extremely glad Carl does agree that *Trek* should still show "a specifically gay-positive character." This is what Gene Roddenberry, *Star Trek's* creator, wanted. In the summer of 1991, Mr. Roddenberry said to the gay newsmagazine *The Advocate*: "In the fifth season of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, viewers will see more of ship-board life in some episodes, which will, among other things, include gay crewmembers in day-to-day circumstances."

In October 1991, Gene Roddenberry died. "The Outcast" is not what Mr. Roddenberry promised us. It is now the responsibility of Executive Producers, Rick Berman and Michael Piller, and the chairman of Paramount Pictures, Brandon Tartikoff, to honor Mr. Roddenberry's promise and his vision by including positive, openly-gay characters in *Star Trek: The Next Generation*.

ΛΨΦ



RIDES & ROOMMATES SOUGHT FOR GAYLAXICON IV



a public service announcement by Peter Knapp

At the May meeting we passed around a sign-up sheet for people interested in sharing a ride to/from Gaylaxicon and/or a room at the hotel. Below is the list. If you are looking for a ride and/or roommate, contact the people on the list. We'll probably be passing around another list at next month's meeting and publishing it in the July newsletter. I don't suggest that you wait until then, though--- the July newsletter will be sent out just before the con, and you'd be cutting it very close!

<u>Car Pool</u>	<u>Have Car?</u>	<u>Roommates</u>
William C.	Y	William C. (maybe)
Norman G.	N	Al W.
Bruce W.	N	James C. (maybe)
Brian H.	Y	
Al W.	Y (mini-van)	

ΛΨΦ



THE "VACATIONS AND GETAWAYS" MOVIE/TV TRIVIA QUIZ



by Randy H.

1. What is the name of the place where Tommy's mum met her second husband?
2. What is the name of the island resort where boys can make asses of themselves?
3. On what island did King Kong live?
4. Where does Mothra live?
5. In what theme park did a robot gunslinger go berserk?
6. What were the three original sections of the theme park in Ques. #5?
7. Where are cloned dinosaurs the main attraction?
8. Where did the first *Enterprise* crew take "Shore Leave"?
9. Where did Harrison Ford's character "get away to" at the end of "Blade Runner"?
10. What is the location of the cantina featured in "Star Wars: A New Hope"?
11. Where does Superman "get away from it all"?
12. How did Arthur Dent and Ford Prefect get away from Earth before it was destroyed?
13. Name the movie in which a faithful vampire tracked down Dracula's last living descendants on vacation in Yosemite National Park?
14. What did Oz the First keep "against the advent of a quick getaway"?
15. Where can you go to visit mermaids, pirates, Indians, and lost boys all at once?

ΛΨΦ

(answers on page 6)

MAY MINUTES

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Peter reported that there were (as of this meeting) 209 members and that Progress Report #3 would be out within a few weeks. A discussion ensued regarding the con T-shirt: should we order 100% cotton or a 50/50 blend? Also, the T-shirt company recommended an order of 288 shirts, for the best price. [Ed. note: Peter says we're only ordering 144, and they'll be 50/50 blend to avoid serious shrinkage damage to the design.]

The next order of business was our usual free-for-all of topics and show-and-tell time, including:

- an issue of *Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*.
- issue #9 of *Wizard* (a comic book).
- a newspaper article on the latest "Big Bang" research discoveries.
- a newspaper article on the decline in the value of Marvel Comics stock prices.
- various articles with updated information about "Batman Returns," "Aliens 3," and Patrick Stewart.
- the latest exhibits at Mariposa Gallery and Worlds of Wonder.

Peter discussed Star Trek gossip from the "CreationCon" people and the fact that the USA Channel has bought the Sci-Fi Channel. He also mentioned "Forever Knight," a vampire private detective TV show from Canada (not yet showing locally). Joe let us know that Ted

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MAY MINUTES

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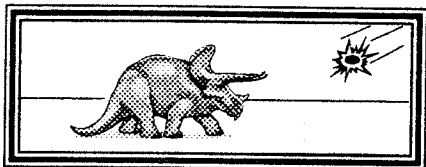
Turner has plans for a Cartoon Network coming in October. Also, a very noteworthy issue of *The Comet* (a comic book) was passed around---noteworthy because it was drawn with the **UTMOST** technical virtuosity by a member of one of our sister (or is it brother?) Network Affiliates: John D.! (And might I say that he makes a **FLAW-LESS** cinematographer!) [Ed. note: He drew himself into one of the panels as a cameraman.]

At one point, the meeting dissolved into laughter when we were discussing the "Jonny Quest" cartoon show . . . Carl had asked: "And who **DIDN'T** have a crush on Race Bannon?" Marcel **PROMPTLY** raised her hand!

Noel volunteered to host the next "Video Madness" party at his and Wayne's home, with the theme of "B-Movie Horror Night." [Ed. note: See details in column starting on page 1 of this issue.]

Lee ("Don't let the last name fool you.") Little graciously offered to host next month's regular LSF meeting on June 14th, with the added possibility of a group movie outing to see "Aliens 3." [Ed. note: For details and directions for the June 14th meeting, see page 7 of this issue.]

ΛΨΦ



LAMBDA SCI-FI: THE SEARCH FOR ICE CREAM

[or: "A Visit to the Star Trek Exhibit"] by Norman

Star Date 920425 (I think) -- and a glorious day it was! Seventeen Gaylaxians (including Ken N. and Dan G. from MAGE) got together for a field trip to see the Star Trek exhibit at The Smithsonian's Air & Space Museum. The exhibit's curators designed the exhibit around the framework of showing Star Trek (the original series) as a reflection of the social climate of the times. The exhibits were grouped by "social" topics (such as "The Cold War," "The Arms Race," and "Sexuality"), with memorabilia being shown from episodes that related to those topics. For example, Klingon uniforms and disruptors were shown under the heading "The Cold War," along with a description of Cold War politics during the time the original episodes were aired. In this reporter's opinion, the curators should be praised for doing a very good job! And now for the **DISH!**

As soon as this reporter and Joe P. entered the exhibit, we made a bee-line for the large costume display. Well, needless to say, we were going off (and laughing) over the Sixties polyester *a la* Grace Kelly from "Rear Window" (Joe's favorite) and the Dolman of Ellas's sexy pseudo-S&M numbers (my favorite). Suddenly, a man with a press pass and pad of paper came over to us and asked to interview us . . . Well! He told

us that he was from the University of Delaware's newspaper and began to ask us questions like: where are we from; what are our favorite episodes from the original series; and do we like the new series? Joe and I told him that we're visiting the exhibit with a group, and then we called Peter over. The reporter also interviewed Peter, who told him that we're from Lambda Sci-Fi, a gay science-fiction fan club. The reporter wrote all of this down in earnest and promised to send Joe a copy of the article. (Maybe we can reprint the article when it arrives.) For me, this set the tone of the outing. I was really surprised that out of all the other tourists there, Joe and I were the ones he chose to interview.

From there, we all went over to have our pictures taken on the transporter, in front of life-sized cut-outs of Kirk, "Bones," and Spock. While waiting our turn, Joe saw a strip of tape on the floor marked "Stand Here for Pictures." Joe then stood on the tape and said: "I guess the pictures won't come out unless someone stands here!" Then the woman who was having her picture taken at the time started criticizing the man taking her picture, saying: "And YOU have a master's degree!" Needless to say, we were quite "festive" during our photo shoot. I'm sure there will be pictures in

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**BALTICON 26:
A SHORT REVIEW**
by Carl Cipra

Peter and I each drove up to Hunt Valley, MD, and shared a room for Balticon (April 17-19). As is usual for Balticons, we had a great time!

I was actually interested in quite a number of the panel presentations this year. My two favorites were both in their "Science Programming" track: "Single Stage to Orbit: A Space Ship for the People" (presented by one of the SSTO development team) and "Biology of Dinosaurs" (presented by several Smithsonian paleontologists). Balticon also featured quite a nice little video program this year, including a couple of my favorites--"Waxwork" and "Earth Girls Are Easy." I was also delighted by their better-than-expected dealers' room, packed with lots of interesting booksellers. I ended up buying about a dozen unusual "small press" hardbacks (many on fannish themes).

This Balticon was also special for another reason: it featured the official premiere of MAGE (Mid-Atlantic Gaylactic Entities), the nascent Gaylaxian Affiliate for the Baltimore area. MAGE threw its first official Gaylaxian party Saturday night. About half-a-dozen LSF members drove up for the night to help our MAGE hosts (Mark C. and Ken N.) throw a successful, enjoyable bash. It was also really great having the ever-lovely Jed S. motor down from Philly to join in the party and to finalize some Network business with the MAGE folks. (And I know Peter was pleased to have Jed there, too!)

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LAMBDA SCI-FI: THE SEARCH FOR ICE CREAM

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the club scrapbook! Then we went over to another part of the exhibit to have our pictures taken in Captain Kirk's chair. We were really having a good time sitting in each other's laps in the Captain's chair---so much of a good time that a museum guard came over and stood rather menacingly near us! (It was at this point that I noticed that Loree and Marcelle were nowhere NEAR any of us!) Next, there was a mini-theater showing a video of interviews with various ST cast members, with each actor giving his or her perspective on the "Star Trek phenomenon." After watching some of the video, we all hung around for a while longer, going back to look at favorite props and costumes from favorite episodes.

Eventually, we reached a

group consensus that it was time to go out for ice cream---but the trouble was that we did not know where to go! Hence, the title of this article! (What did you expect---Harlan Ellison? D.C. Fontana, maybe?) We ended up going *en masse* to The Old Post Office Pavilion and sitting out in the balmy sunshine with our goodies! (And I MUST mention the sight of the "dish-water blonde" standing outside the museum with family in tow. Some of us decided that this sight was worth the whole trip!)

I'm sorry that I cannot remember more about the exhibition itself; but since I am not able to remember the names of all the episodes, I feel that I can not do the exhibit justice. So, if you have not gone to see the Star Trek exhibit at the Smithsonian, GO SEE IT!

ΛΨΦ

ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUIZ (from page 4)

1. Bernie's Holiday Camp. (From the movie "Tommy"---which was, after all, a fantasy!)
2. Pleasure Island. (Pinocchio went there.)
3. Skull Island.
4. Monster Island. (Godzilla lives there, too.)
5. Delos. (From the movie "Westworld"---"Where nothing can go wrong!" Yul Brynner played the robot.)
6. Westworld, Romanworld, and Medievalworld. (Later, a fourth section was created for the film's sequel, "Futureworld.")
7. Jurassic Park. (We cheated---this movie, based on Michael Crichton's novel, isn't supposed to be out until late this summer.)
8. "An uninhabited planet in the Omicron Delta Region."
9. Deckard (and Rachael) went "north" (from Los Angeles, presumably to the Pacific Northwest).
10. Mos Eisley, on the planet Tatooine.
11. The Fortress of Solitude.
12. By stowing away on a passing Vagon cruiser. (From "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy.")
13. "Dracula's Dog".
14. A hot-air balloon from the State Fair in Omaha. (From "The Wizard of Oz.")
15. Neverland. (From "Peter Pan" and "Hook.")

ΛΨΦ

MOVIE MADNESS

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normally held at Jaime's digs in Georgetown; but Wayne and I have graciously agreed to give him a break and to hold this one at our place in Greenbelt on Saturday, June 6th. Festivities will begin at 1:00 PM. All attendees are encouraged to bring whatever foodstuffs they like for the grand potluck pig-out, along with any trashy horror movies they own.

Our address is 168 Westway, Apt. 202, Greenbelt, MD and can be reached by the following route:

Take I-295 northbound from the District. (In MD it becomes the Baltimore/Wash-

ington Parkway.) After driving for an eternity, you will reach the exit for I-95 (the Beltway). Go past that exit to the next exit (approx. 100 yards), which is Greenbelt Road. Stay to the right as you come around on the exit ramp, and you will actually be on Greenbelt Road crossing above I-295. Then go past the traffic light, and take the first right turn you come to. (NOTE: In between the intersection and the right turn, you will see the Armoury on the right hand side. If you don't see it, then you're lost. Find a pay phone and call Wayne for better directions!)

Once you've made the turn near the Armoury, you'll see the sign for University Square Apartments. Turn left

into the complex. (Be careful not to go into the retirement home next door.) Follow that road to the stop sign; the cross street is Westway, the street we live on. Building 168 is to the left of the intersection; but there is available parking all along Westway. (NOTE: Some parking is also available in visitor spaces behind our building and near the pool; but be advised that improperly-parked cars are towed away from the general lots in the late evening. In fact, three cars were towed away while I typed this!)

If you need more details or have any questions, call me (Noel) or Wayne. Our correct phone # is: (301) 513-5078.

ΛΨΦ

* * * DIRECTIONS TO THE JUNE MEETING * * *

BY METRO: Take the Red Metro Line to the Cleveland Park stop. At street level, you'll be on Connecticut Avenue. Take Conn. Ave. north to the corner of Conn. and Porter Street. (There are a "711" store and a Chevron gas station on opposite sides of Conn. at the intersection.) Look for the Jewish Temple (Adas Israel) to your right (to the East), facing you. To the left of the Temple is Quebec Street. Walk along Quebec Street to get behind the Temple---the apartment building on your right is the one you want, 2800 Quebec St., NW. When you enter the building, you're in the 5th floor lobby level. Take the elevators or stairs down one floor to the 4th floor to get to Lee's apartment (#419). If you get lost or need additional help, Lee's number is 364-1316.

BY AUTO: Find your way to the Connecticut Ave./Porter St. intersection in Northwest D.C. (near the Uptown Theatre). Then follow the directions above. There's parking along Quebec Street. There's also parking along Porter Street; but then you'll have to walk around the block to the Quebec Street entrance of the building.

* * 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, June 14th**, at Lee L.'s apartment: 2800 Quebec St., NW, Apt. 419 (near Cleveland Park Metro station and the intersection of Conn. & Porter, behind Temple Adas Israel). 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.



Con Calendar

by Carl, Peter, and Noel



July 3-5, 1992 **CASTLECON 5**: Ramada Renaissance Hotel (Herndon, VA - near Dulles Airport). This con is run by the same folks who run EveCon. Hotel rooms are \$75/night (one bed) and \$85/night (two beds). Pre-registration: \$15 until May 2nd, then \$20 until June 20th (\$25 at the door). Make checks payable to "FanTek" and send to: FanTek, 1607 Thomas Rd., Ft. Washington, MD 20744.

July 10-12, 1992 **SHORE LEAVE 14**: Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Guests: Majel ("Lwaxana Troi") and Mark ("Sarek") Lenard. Cost: \$30 until June 15th, and \$40 thereafter. Hotel rooms are \$72/night. Make checks payable to "Shore Leave 14" and send to: Shore Leave 14, P.O. Box 6809, Towson, MD 21285-6809.

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 thru Sept. 15, then \$25 thru Nov. 1, and \$30 after that. Make checks payable to "Philcon '92" and send to: Philcon '92, PO Box 8303, Philadelphia, PA 19101.

November 27-29, 1992 **DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL MEETING XIV**: Holiday Inn, Timonium (Timonium, MD). Special Guests: Marion Zimmer Bradley (health permitting) and Katherine Kurtz; Artist GoH: Rillan MacDhai. Other Guests: Lisa Barnett, Julia Ecklar, Jacqueline Lichtenberg, Diana Paxson, Don Sakers, Melissa Scott, Hannah Shapero. Room rates are \$59/night (up to 4 people). Registration: \$28. Make checks payable to "Armida Council" and send to: Armida Council, P.O. Bxo 7203, Silver Spring, MD 20907.

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.