



PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (301) 445-5650 - Issue #41 - August 1993

JULY MEETING MINUTES

cryptically annotated by Joe Parra transcribed (sort of) by Carl Cipra



Loree, our First Speaker, opened the meeting and quickly passed the buck to Peter. [Ed. note: What follows is my "best guess," after a little research, of what happened at the meeting. To be fair, the flow of discussion at this meeting got pretty "free form" (read: "chaotic"); and I asked Joe to give me the minutes right away, so I could start putting this issue together. So he gave 'em to me---untranslated! Sigh! Be careful what you ask for . . . sometimes you get it!]

Peter showed us a couple of ST:TNG "Cmdr. Ryker action figures." He related that Playmates has released a second line of figures, now including "Dr. Crusher," "Wesley Crusher," and "Guinan." He also announced that the five surviving Doctors will be starring in a 90+ minute television drama in honor of the 30th anniversary of the Dr. Who series. The show will be released on British TV (and on video) in November. (No word yet on American release.)

Carl reported on the TV Guide article "The All-Time Best TV: Readers' Edition" (a response

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???? WHO'S BACK!?! ???? by Peter Knapp

Four years ago, the last new Doctor Who episode, "Survival," aired on the British airwaves. Since then, Doctor Who has lived on in the form of reruns, "New Adventures" novels, Doctor Who Magazine, various fanzines, and even a radio special. But, come November of 1993, the 30th anniversary of the show, we'll be treated to a 90-minute television special.

According to Doctor Who Magazine issue #202, BBC Enterprises (the merchandising branch) and the BBC TV Drama Department are co-producing the special, which has the working title "The Dark Dimension." The director is Graeme Harper, who directed the classics "The Caves of Androzani" and "Revelation of the Daleks;" and the script has been penned by Adrian Rigelsford, who wrote the

book Doctor Who---The Monsters and co-wrote (with David Banks) the Cybermen book.

All five surviving Doctors (Jon Pertwee, Tom Baker, Peter Davison, Colin Baker, and Sylvester McCoy) have been asked to appear in the special and have expressed interest in appearing. Sophie Aldred and Nicholas Courtney are also involved, reprising their rôles (British spelling) as "Ace" and "the Brigadier." Vintage villains are also rumored to be making an appearance.

Doctor Who Magazine has promised to keep its readers updated on the production. As I know there are plenty of Whovians in Lambda Sci-Fi (Yes, Carl, it's true, it's true!), I'll make sure to pass on any information as I get it.

ΛΨΦ

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INVASION OF THE "CATCHY LINES FROM THE MOVIES"



or, "Stop the motion!"

by Joe Parra



Hi, folks! Feeling lethargic? Well, get *animated*---because this edition of "Lines" is dedicated to the wonderful world of "jittery" monsters. Yes, we're going to look at movies with beasts brought to life by "stop-motion" or "claymation" or (the new one) "go-motion." The rules are the same as always: just guess the name of the movie the quote comes from (extra points for naming the studio and year made). All right now, get started; but don't get "framed" (single or double?). Good luck!

1. "It's in the Colosseum! Get the bazooka squad!"
2. "Do you like him, Highness? His name is Cormoran."
3. "We are the Selenites. Is this your craft?"
4. "You are millions of miles above the Earth in an interstellar vehicle."
5. "There she is . . . Uranus, the mystery planet."
6. "First, you must rid me of the Harpies . . ."
7. "He's my pet? No, you don't understand! He's my *friend*. We live here on my land. You're trespassing!"
8. "Put those cameras down! He thinks you're hurting her!"
9. "It wasn't the blizzard, nor was it the bomb. It was a dinosaur!"
10. "Haven't you noticed the park ranger's name? Asmodeus---the Devil!"
11. "You see, I'm sort of responsible for your old man being killed."
12. "Oh great god, Nesuahyrrah! Destroy the Earthman!"
13. "There is a demon that comes from the swamps, señor . . ."
14. "Any reports of whales or . . . sea serpents?"
15. "The griffin versus the centaur---the eternal battle between good and evil."
16. "They are the demons the valley. If you take that one [indicating small creature] you will be cursed."
17. "Then I was in a valley where two great mastodons were engaged in a tremendous battle!" (a silent classic)
18. "We then cooked the giant crab and ate it." (voice-over narration)
19. "Give him the coin to pass the great river to Hades."
20. "I've had a cat scan. I know it's a queen inside me!"

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But if these people of the future are better than we are, they will, perhaps, look back at us with feelings of pity and tenderness for struggling souls who once divined a little of what the future would bring.

---- George Sand, *Intimate Journal* (1834)

JULY MEETING MINUTES

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to *their own* April 17th list of "bests"). In the category "Best Sci-Fi/Fantasy Show," the *TV Guide* readers agreed that *Star Trek* is #1 (28% of respondees chose it). The next five on their list are: *The Twilight Zone* (24%); *The Six Million Dollar Man* (16%); *ST:TNG* (9%); *Mork & Mindy* (9%); and *Dr. Who* (3%). Interestingly, *Dr. Who* hadn't appeared on *TV Guide*'s own list at all. They also agreed that Patrick Stewart is one of the top ten dramatic actors (4th, in fact). In case people didn't know, Carl also announced that WDCa (Channel 20) is now showing "classic *Trek*" weeknights at 5:00 PM. He also passed around the 2nd volume of the Lambda Sci-Fi photo album, which starts with Gaylaxicon IV and is complete up until Pride Day of this year.

Finally, Carl reported several items of interest from the latest issue of *Science Fiction Chronicle*: Melissa Scott has sold a *ST:DS9* novel to Pocket Books. Nancy Holder (Gaylactic Network member/"friend") has sold *Witch Light* (co-authored with Melanie Tem) to Dell Abyss. Long-time "controversial fan" Walter Breen died on April 30th of liver cancer (aged 63/65---"accounts differ"). Walter was the ex-husband of Marion Zimmer Bradley and author of *The Darkover Concordance*; he was also (according to Carl) a well-known, frequent attendee of gay room parties at West Coast SF conventions.

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LSF & BOOKSTORES

reported by Carl Cipra

Recently, Lambda Sci-Fi members have been involved in the buying and selling of bookstores. Here's the information:

LAMMAS

LSFer Jane Troxell and her lover Rose are now two of the four owners of Lammas, the lesbian/women's bookstore near Dupont Circle. (Actually, this is kinda old news, since they became co-owners back on April 1st.) Under Jane's guidance, they've been expanding the store's science fiction/fantasy and mystery sections. (It looks like they've got a good selection, comparable to the related sections at Lambda Rising.) Jane says they're very open-minded to suggestions for new books, ideas, etc. She also says that Lammas will be 20 years old on August 2nd.

In case you haven't visited the store, Lammas is located at 1426 21st St., just off "P" St., a block or so from the Dupont Circle Metro station. Store hours are 10 AM to 10 PM (Mon. thru Sat.) and 11 AM to 8 PM on Sundays. So, why not drop by for a browse?

COSMIC BOOKSTORE

LSFer Linton Lee has sold his Cosmic Bookstore. The sale of the store (located out in Manassas, VA) was effected sometime in July. I'm sure lots of Lambda Sci-Fi members have many fond memories of the place---it was the scene



GAYLACTIC GOSSIP

by Wayne III Wilkening



The latest issue of the GNAPA is full of interesting tidbits. The Network Board accepted Robert Gowan's resignation as the Speaker of the Board. Although there are no constitutional provisions for replacing the Speaker, Michael Wadley from Kindred Spirits was "appointed" Speaker by vote of the Affiliates. Michael has also declared himself a candidate for the next two-year term of Speaker. I'll read his statement at the next meeting.

Michael wishes to make some changes. He has asked that an Affiliate "buddy system" be adopted to allow forming and struggling Affiliates to draw on the resources and expertise of more-established chapters. Michael has asked that LSF take Krewe of Gaylaxia (New Orleans) as our "buddy chapter."

Michael Roeder, the rep

for Plain's End (Denver) Gaylaxians (not to be confused with the *new* Network Goddess), would like to update and expand the "How to Form a Gaylaxian Affiliate" handbook. If anyone is interested in lending a hand, drop me a note or see me after the August meeting.

And, speaking of the August meeting, that's when I'll need to know anything and everything you would like discussed at the Board meeting to be held at ConFrancisco. I'll still be very happy to deliver any statements of qualifications for Board Officers that you might want to submit; and I'm especially interested to hear some positive and constructive suggestions on projects the Network can become involved in for the future. So, bring all your good ideas to the August meeting. See you there!

ΛΨΦ

of a number of our "Video Madness" parties. In fact, after Jaime's home in Georgetown, the Cosmic Bookstore was sort of the "second home" for LSF's video parties. It looks like the end of an era! (Now you'll have to look in the LSF photo albums to see what you missed!) ΛΨΦ

Of all tyrannies, a tyranny exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive. It may be better to live under robber barons than under omnipotent moral busybodies. The robber baron's cruelty may sometimes sleep, his cupidity may at some point be satiated; but those who torment us for our own good will torment us without end, for they do so with the approval of their own conscience.

--- C.S. Lewis

BURNING BRIGHT

reviewed by Carl Cipra

Well, Melissa Scott has done it again! Just when you think her books can't get any better . . . *they do!* The first of her three most recent books, *Mighty Good Road*, is wonderful! Next comes *Dreamships*, which is even better! (By the way, *Dreamships* is now out in paperback.) And now there's *Burning Bright*, which tops the previous two! As always, Melissa offers the readers of her latest book a fascinating study of human and alien societies, highlighted this time by an intriguing mix of virtual reality and role-playing games.

The action all takes place on the planet Burning Bright, a non-aligned mercantile planet located spatially and politically between two interstellar polities, the human Republic and the alien Hsaioi-An. Burning Bright is a sort of free-port planet, serving as a trade nexus between the two larger empires. The planet is roughly analogous to Renaissance Venice, poised precariously between Western Christendom and the Ottoman Turks---Burning Bright even has canals, an intrigue-ridden merchant aristocracy, and Carnival! The reader never finds out too much about the Republic; but the Hsaian empire comes across like some sort of Sino-Japanese substitute for the Turks.

But Burning Bright is *more* than just a center for trade---it's also the center of virtual-reality-gaming for all of human civilization! VR-gaming clubs and organi-

zations can be found throughout human space; but all the best clubs and all the best players ("the great notables") live and work on Burning Bright. Burning Bright is the Mecca for all talented gamers and "wanna-be's." Thus, when spacepilot Quinn Lioe, an up-and-coming young game designer, gets shore leave on Burning Bright, she heads straight for one of the most famous VR-gaming clubs, determined to play the Game at its finest. But Quinn finds herself caught up in an even more deadly game than she expected.

Quinn's gaming ambitions bring her into contact with people who are all, to one extent or another, involved in planetary and interstellar political intrigue. There's Damian Chrestil, a wealthy merchant/aristocrat who is intriguing with factions within the Hsaian empire for trade opportunities, while jockeying for power in Burning Bright's ruling councils. Damian's sometime-mistress, Cella Minter, is an accomplished Gamer and intriguer; but you can never be quite sure whose side she's on. Then there's Chauvelin, a human born within the Hsaian empire, owned by and eventually adopted into one of its noble families, now serving as Hsaian ambassador to Burning Bright---his entire life is a deadly political balancing act. Perhaps the most fascinating person Quinn meets, however, is Illario Ransome (*aka* "Ambidexter"): a high-strung, world-renowned art-

ist in computer-generated images; a *very* accomplished and not overly-ethical "netwalker;" one of the Game's legendary "great notables"---*and* the key to all Quinn's troubles. These are the major players in a game of political intrigue that Quinn never expected to play; and in *this* game, when you're killed, you're really DEAD!

As in her previous book, *Dreamships*, Melissa once again provides her readers with some marvelous impressions of virtual reality, both the mechanics and the "inside feel" thereof. A couple of passages provide particularly vivid evocations of virtual reality, both of them through the eyes of the character Illario Ransome: manipulating computer datastreams to create artistic "images"; and "walking" through the computer networks at Carnival time. Her descriptions of the mechanics of generating a virtual reality Game session should prove fascinating to anyone who "referees" role-playing games; and on a number of occasions, Melissa even carries you "inside" one of Quinn's Game sessions. I found it fascinating to watch the variations unfold as the same scenario is re-played, with different players taking on the various character-roles.

Continuing a trend begun in her earlier works, Melissa openly and effortlessly deals with various aspects of alternate sexuality in this novel. Most of the major characters in *Burning Bright* seem to be bisexual in orientation, choosing bed-mates regardless of their sex. (Again, the parallels to

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BURNING BRIGHT

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Renaissance Venetian society are unmistakable.) Even though only a couple of the characters struck me as exclusively homosexual in orientation, Melissa has included a number of same-sex encounters in the narrative.

Melissa has also included some fascinating commentary about artistic and literary endeavors. Interspersed amidst the action, both Quinn Lioe and Illario Ransome find time to raise some fascinating questions about the role of the artist/writer and the relative "significance" or "importance" of different artistic/literary creations. I couldn't help but wonder at the source for the controversy I sensed about whether an artist/writer is "wasting" time and effort when developing something as "ephemeral" as a role-playing game.

All in all, I think Melissa Scott has provided us with yet another well-written and enjoyable novel. I highly recommend *Burning Bright* to anyone who wants a really good read! I can hardly wait to see what her *next* novel will be like!

P.S. Members of the Gaylactic Network should be especially pleased with the fact that Melissa has cleverly inserted a reference to our organization in the novel. (At one point, Quinn Lioe notices that someone is wearing a particular Game pin, "the triangle-and-galaxy of the Old Network.") Thanks, Melissa, for putting us in print!

ΛΨΦ

I'M STILL A TEENAGE COLOSSAL MAN WHO CONQUERED THE WORLD!

A (continued) Affectionate Look
at American-International
in the 1950's (on tape)
by Joe Parra



[Ed. note: In last month's newsletter, Joe began his (unexpectedly serialized) review of the "classic" genre films of American-International Pictures (AIP) which are now being reissued on videotape through Columbia Tri-Star Home Video. Thus far, he had reviewed *I Was a Teenage Werewolf*, *I Was a Teenage Frankenstein*, and *Blood of Dracula*. We now rejoin Joe's review, "without further commercial interruption."]

The Amazing Colossal Man (1957) is probably (after *Teenage Werewolf* and *Frankenstein*), the most well-known title from the '50's AIP canon. It tells the story of an army colonel who gets caught in an atomic blast and isn't killed. He instead grows to a height of over 60 feet and terrorizes Las Vegas. (No, he doesn't lose at roulette---the Army has him on a base near there, trying to cure him.) Rear projection and little props give us the illusion of size; but one thing always gets me about this tragic guy: the explosion burned off all his body hair, including the hair on his head; but he still has eyebrows! I wonder if he still has hair down by

War of the Colossal Beast (1958) is the sequel to *The Amazing Colossal Man*. At the end of

the first movie, the Colossal Man was shot off Boulder Dam by bazooka fire. From the way the makeup looks in this movie, though, he apparently took a direct hit in the face but didn't die. Now, his sister wants the Army to take charge of him to cure him of being colossal. (But what about that face?!) This movie is pretty standard "monster-on-the-loose" fare; but, once again, the tape triumphs by giving us the original color ending. The color ending helps to clear up the end of this film, which was something of a puzzle when seen in black-and-white.

It Conquered the World (1956) was one of Roger Corman's brain-children. Corman helped put AIP on the map with the amazing quickness of his productions---this one was scripted, built, cast, and shot in two weeks! It also boasts one of the most famous (or infamous, as the case might be) monsters in film history---The Cucumber Monster!!! Peter Graves, Beverly Garland, and Lee Van Cleef fight the evil veggie from Venus in this wonderfully grim outing. This tape also includes the complete trailer for the feature, which has not been seen in its entirety for years.

Earth Vs. the Spider (1958) was AIP's answer to Universal's

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I'M STILL A TEENAGE COLOSSAL MAN WHO CONQUERED THE WORLD!

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Tarantula. Two teens encounter an arachnid of gargantuan proportions in a cave outside their small California town. What makes this film stand out from a lot of the other "big bug" movies of the Fifties is that (possibly) it was intended as a parody! No one is saying "yea" or "nay;" but watch this one. There isn't one moment which is played completely straight, including the monster's cry (which sounds like a bad imitation of a giant monster noise).

Voodoo Woman (1956) was one of AIP's favorite quickies. Using the suit from *The She-Creature*, a skull mask, and a cheap blond floozie wig, this film tells the tale of a mad scientist who uses voodoo and secret chemicals to transform bad-girl (and actress) Marla English into the title creature for purposes of revenge on the scientific community (naturally). A very young and hunky Mike Connors (later to be the star of *Mannix*) is the hero of this one. Don't try to watch this one for plot--just enjoy the bad acting of the leads. It's another possible satire of the genre.

How to Make a Monster (1958) was a definite satire and is clearly penned as such. The plot? A sort of "teenage werewolf meets teenage Frankenstein" movie is being made at AIP; but a new regime is at the helm and wants to end monster movies at the studio. They also want to fire the studio's top make-up man, who was responsible for the monster make-ups. Oh yeah!? The make-up man hypnotizes the two actors playing the monsters into believing they're really monsters and sends them out to kill the execs. There are some funny in-jokes for fans of AIP and an excruciatingly bad musical number. A must-see!!

Invasion of the Saucer-Men (1957) was a deliberate send-up of "invasion" films of the Fifties. These adorable(?) yet ugly monsters land on Earth to take over, of course. The aliens have small needles that come out of their fingers and inject humans with something really horrible: alcohol!!! They are thwarted by a bunch of teenagers who find that bright light is the aliens' nemesis. (Hey, *Grem-lins!* HmMMM...)

Cat Girl (1957) is the only real loser in this group, in that it has no special charm about it whatsoever. A sort of "blah" version of *Cat People*, it tells the story of a woman (said to be around 20 years old---hah! in which life?!) who has the power to project her thoughts into a killer leopard. As you watch this film, you realize that the producers, Anglo-Amalgamated (AIP's English cousins), understood they had a bomb on their hands and re-wrote as they went along.

These are but a few of the titles being released . . . and more are coming, such as *Day the World Ended*, *The She Creature*, and *Ghost of Dragstrip Hollow*. There are others that have already gone "public domain," all of which are available from Scream Gems or Sinister Cinema: *Attack of the Giant Leeches*, *Night of the Blood Beast*, *The Brain Eaters*, *The Screaming Skull*, and *Terror from the Year 5000*. The most wonderful thing about these flicks on tape, however, is that they only cost \$9.95!!! (Sinister Cinema titles range from \$12.95 to \$16.95.) For a measly ten bucks, go buy a piece of Hollywood!!!

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EDITOR'S CORNER

by Carl Cipra

Hey, gang, ConFrancisco is coming up next month; and I know a whole bunch'a LSF members are going!! So consider writing up your experiences for the October issue of the newsletter!! Hint, hint, hint!

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GAYLAXICON V

IS A LITTLE LESS THAN
A YEAR AWAY!!!

DO YOU HAVE
YOUR MEMBERSHIP YET?

DON'T MISS OUT
ON ALL THE FUN!!

(For details, see back page
of this newsletter.)

JULY MEETING MINUTES

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The discussion turned to all the upcoming conventions in the area. Peter specifically mentioned the "CreationCon" (professional Star Trek convention) to be held in the DC area on September 4th, with Patrick Stewart as the Guest of Honor. Carl countered with the fan-run "Farpoint '93" Star Trek convention to be held in Hunt Valley, MD, which will feature George Takei and John deLancie.

Synergy Ganymede (the Denver Gaylaxians) will be publishing (July 31st) *One in Ten Forward*, a trade paperback of lesbian/gay science fiction and fantasy. The project was first advertised in the Gaylaxicon IV program book. Copies are \$10 (plus \$1 for shipping); and orders should be sent to: Synergy Ganymede, P.O. Box 2737, Denver, CO 80201.

A publishing company sent the Network three novels by Holly Lisle (one of this year's nominees for the John Campbell Award for "best new author"); and the books were duly passed along to us at LSF to read. Various members volunteered to read these books. [Ed. note: And hopefully to review them! Hint, hint, hint...] Tony ("a new guy") reported that the new Piers Anthony/Mercedes Lackey collaboration, *If I Pay Thee Not in Gold*, sucks. Michael C. reported that cyberpunk author William Gibson will be giving a reading and signing autographs at the Olsson's Books at Metro Center on August 28th. Michael also

"outed" author Harlan Ellison by reporting the "dark secret" that Ellison had written an episode for the old TV series *The Flying Nun*!!

Wayne #1 brought in a whole folder-full of newsclippings to look through, including an Adidas ad featuring a naked Canadian soccer team and an ad for *Star Trek* stoneware that's now available at Hecht's. (Peter pointed out that his *Star Trek* dinnerware is bone china!) Philip W. reported that *Hocus Pocus*, the new Disney fantasy film, is "cute" but that you shouldn't spend too much to go see it. Joe reported that Blockbusters is selling *lots* of "previously-viewed" videos at \$4.88 each.

And then came a number of "theatre" announcements: Loree announced she was selling tickets to the July 27th benefit performance of *Bells Are Ringing* by the Little Theatre of Alexandria (proceeds to go to the Children's Creative Response to Conflict). Philip announced that excerpts from his musical *Courting the Muse* will be performed August 5th, 6th, and 7th at the Source Summer Festival. Finally, Joe announced that he will be appearing July thru September at the Wayside Theatre (Middleton, VA) in productions of *The Diviners* and *Arms and the Man*.

Al asked about the likelihood of another "Video Madness" party in the near future. After discussion, he said he could possibly host one at his home (Silver Spring) sometime around September. (Look for further developments on this item...)

And, finally, BUSINESS: Philip W. has volunteered to take

over responsibility for the dealers' room at Gaylaxicon V; and anyone with information or questions on dealers at the con should contact him (see membership directory). There are still positions available for "publicity" and "printing liaison" for the con. Anyone with ideas or suggestions for programming at Gaylaxicon V should start talking with Peter and/or Carl. Peter closed with a "friendly reminder" for people to send in their checks for renewals of LSF membership and/or Gaylaxicon V membership.

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ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUIZ (from page 2)

1. *20 Million Miles to Earth* (Columbia, 1957)
2. *Jack, the Giant Killer* (United Artists, 1961)
3. *First Men in the Moon* (Columbia, 1964)
4. *Earth Vs. the Flying Saucers* (Columbia, 1956)
5. *Journey to the 7th Planet* (American International, 1962)
6. *Jason and the Argonauts* (Columbia, 1963)
7. *Mighty Joe Young* (RKO, 1949)
8. *King Kong* (RKO, 1933)
9. *The Beast from 20,000 Fathoms* (Warner Bros., 1953)
10. *Equinox* (titled *The Beast* on home video) (Tonylyn, 1970)
11. *Son of Kong* (RKO, 1933)
12. *Flesh Gordon* (Graffiti/Mammoth, 1969)
13. *The Beast of Hollow Mountain* (United Artists, 1956)
14. *It Came from Beneath the Sea* (Columbia, 1955)
15. *Golden Voyage of Sinbad* (Columbia, 1973)
16. *The Valley of Gwangi* (Warner Bros., 1969)
17. *Ghost of Slumber Mountain* (Bioscope, 1918)
18. *Mysterious Island* (Columbia, 1961)
19. *Clash of the Titans* (MGM, 1982)
20. *Alien 3* (Fox, 1992)

*** * 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, August 8th**, 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.



Con Calendar

by Carl, Peter, and Joe



August 20-22, 1993 **NECRONOMICON: THE CTHULHU MYTHOS CONVENTION**: Sheraton Tara Hotel & Resort at Ferncroft Village (near Salem, Mass.). Guest of Honor: Robert Bloch; Artist Guest of Honor: Gahan Wilson. Membership (attending) is \$40 after 5/31/93 (membership limited). Hotel rates are \$80 per night (sgl. & dbl.), 3rd/4th person: \$15 additional per night. Make checks payable to "Necronomicon" and send to: Necronomicon, P.O. Box 1320, Back Bay Annex, Boston, MA 02117-1320. (This is a convention "celebrating H.P. Lovecraft and the Cthulhu Mythos in all its forms.")

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 until 9/30/92, \$95 for 10/1-12/31/92, \$110 for 1/1-3/31/93, and \$125 for 4/1-7/16/93. 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.

November 12-14, 1993 **PHILCON '93**, the 57th Annual Phila. Science Fiction Conference: The Adam's Mark Hotel (Philadelphia). Principal Speaker: Fred Saberhagen; Guest Artist: David Cherry; Special Guests: Emma Bull, Ian Watson. Cost: \$25 until 9/15, then \$30; \$35 at the door. Make checks payable to "Philcon '93" and send to: Philcon '93 Registration, P.O. Box 8303, Philadelphia, PA 19101.

November 26-28, 1993 **DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL MEETING XVI**: Holiday Inn, Timonium (Timonium, MD; just north of Baltimore). Guest of Honor: Elizabeth Moon; Special Guests: Marion Zimmer Bradley & Katherine Kurtz. Cost: \$25 until 11/1; after that (and at the door) \$30. Room rate: \$62/night plus tax (sgl. thru quad). Make checks payable to "Armida Council" and send to: Armida Council, PO Box 7203, Silver Spring, MD 20907. (A very lesbian/bi/gay-friendly convention!)

July 15-17, 1994 **GAYLAXICON V**: Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza (Rockville, MD, at Twinbrook Metro stop). Guest of Honor: Jewelle Gomez; Artist Guest of Honor: Tom Howell; Special Guest: Forrest J Ackerman. Cost is \$15 from 8/1/93 to 12/31/93; \$20 for 1/1/94 to 4/30/94; \$25 from 5/1/94 to 6/30/94; and \$30 after 6/30/94. Make checks payable to "Gaylaxicon V" and send to: Gaylaxicon V, PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044.