



LAMBDA SCI-FI



DC Area Gaylaxians

PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (202) 232-3141 - Issue #56 - Nov. 1994

ANOTHER "VIDEO MADNESS" PARTY SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 12TH!!!



LAMMAS TO OPEN 2ND STORE IN BALTIMORE!

reported by Carl Cipra

You say you couldn't make it to the party at Philip and Jeff's on October 22nd and you've just *gotta* get your "video madness" fix? Or maybe you *did* attend but that just wasn't *enough* to satisfy your "video madness" craving? *Well, have we got a deal for you!!!* During the October LSF meeting, Jaime telephoned in to announce that he'd been on a cleaning binge and thought it was high time for him to host another "Video Madness" Party. So, OK, the fix is in! Your prayers are answered!

Jaime will be hosting a combination monthly LSF meeting and "Video Madness" Party at his home in Georgetown on **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH** (the Saturday of Veteran's Day weekend). (In other words, the *regular* "2nd Sunday" LSF meeting has been re-scheduled to coincide with this video-extravaganza-and-pig-out!)

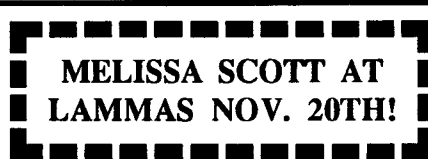
WHEN TO BE THERE

The Lambda Sci-Fi meeting and the potluck dinner will start at 6:00 PM, with the videos to begin as soon as we get the "business" out of the way. So, try to get there a little before 6:00 PM, especially if there's any last-minute fixin' you need to do on your potluck contribution.

WHAT TO BRING

This will be one of our typical "Video Madness" parties, so bring along your favorite genre videos (science-fiction, fantasy, horror). The attendees will vote on which videos to watch; and there'll be different "tracks" of programming shown on each of three screens throughout the house. As usual, the party will include our traditional pot-luck pig-out, so bring along something scrumptious to eat. We're not pre-assigning categories of

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Melissa Scott, one of our favorite science-fiction authors (and a longtime friend from numerous Gaylaxicons) will make a personal appearance at Lammas Women's Bookstore on Nov. 20th (Sunday) at 4 PM. (This is the weekend before her appearance as a guest author at the Darkover Convention.) Melissa will be reading from her latest novel, *Trouble and Her Friends*. Don't miss out on this opportunity! (Lammas is located at 1426 21st St., NW, at "P" and 21st, near Dupont Circle.)

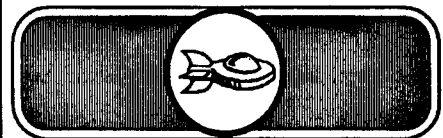
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That's right, gang, in a couple of months there'll be a Lammas Women's Bookstore in Baltimore, too! Recently, LSFer Jane Troxell and her partner Rose found out that the 21-year-old "31st Street Bookstore" in Baltimore was closing; and they jumped at the business opportunity this presented.

Lammas Baltimore is scheduled to open December 1st. The store is located in the Mt. Vernon area of downtown Baltimore (the Baltimore "gay ghetto" equivalent of DC's Dupont Circle), at 1001 Cathedral, across the street from "The Hippo" (a well-known gay bar). It's a bigger space than Lammas in D.C.; so they'll have plenty of room to stock the wide selection of books shoppers have come to expect at Lammas - including, Jane says, a wide selection of science-fiction, fantasy, horror, and mystery books.

The membership of Lambda Sci-Fi wishes Jane and Rose all the best on this new venture! May the Force be with you! Live long and prosper! (And all that sci-fi jazz!)

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WHAT'S INSIDE?

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MINUTES OF THE OCT. 9TH MEETING

reported by Philip Wright

Second Speaker Carl C. began the meeting with a round of names, so that we'd all have some idea with whom we were speaking. Then he continued with a series of announcements. He passed around a couple of versions of Deb Price's article on Gaylaxicon V and Forry Ackerman, followed by his usual show-and-tell series of science fiction articles and magazines. One of these magazines, *Sci-Fi Universe*, we discovered, is produced by Larry Flint (of *Penthouse* fame) and is typically misogynistic - despite being moderately interesting. Carl also passed around the latest copy of the collected Gaylactic Network newsletters (as received by Wayne III). Then Carl talked about how impressed he was with *Paleoworld*, a new series about prehistoric life on The Learning Channel.

While passing around a clipping from *TV Guide's* "Sci-Fi" section, the group discussed the competition for "new alien creation" being sponsored by the producers of *Star Trek: Deep Space 9*. Philip W. suggested that LSF members pool their talents and submit a creation together.

Philip then reminded everyone about the LSF "Video Madness" Party scheduled for October 22nd at his/Jeff's place in Silver Spring (places to park, theme, other related information).

Then Peter K. took the floor to present various pieces of mail that had been sent to the club recently, including: an announcement of a play at Freedom Stage; a review form for last year's Pride Day; and a letter from Perry Brass, offering to give a reading of his works at one of our monthly meetings. (We declined this kind of offer.) Peter also presented various magazines with articles of interest (as passed to him by Randy H.).

Michael C. passed around an interesting Anne Rice article from the *New York Times*, which spurred dis-

cussion on the upcoming release of the *Interview with the Vampire* movie. Michael also announced the upcoming release of the *Witches Encyclopedia*, which will provide a compilation of information contained in Anne Rice's "Witches" novels (*The Witching Hour*, *Lasher*, and *Taltos*).

Wayne III then presented his report on doings in the Gaylactic Network. The Denver chapter has decided to leave the Network at the present time. After this sad announcement, he presented a review of articles about Gaylaxicon V.

About this time, the subject of the *Ed Wood* movie came up. Rob G. had just seen it the night before; and Rodney S. had gone to a special screening, where he had received a commemorative T-shirt and a poster of the event. Both Rob and Rodney really liked the film; and Rob mentioned that you should "stay for the credits" when you go see it. Rodney offered the poster he received to anyone who wanted to go to his place and retrieve it.

Then the floor was opened up to anyone who had news. Barrett B. spoke about the current Gay Film Festival. Wayne #1 told everyone to watch for the infamous "Darth Vader" commercial for Energizer batteries. Peter gave his monthly report on toys (primarily *Star Trek* figures). It was also announced that the manufacturers were repackaging *Star Wars* toys in anticipation of the upcoming continuation of the "saga." (Note: It was learned that Kenneth Branaugh will *not* be playing the young Obi Wan Kenobi. Too bad.)

The conversation suddenly turned to new sci-fi shows on TV, including *Space Precinct*, the new season of *Star Trek: Deep Space 9*, the upcoming season premiere of *Babylon 5*, and *Star Trek: Voyager*. Carl passed around the recent *TV Guide* with the cover

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LAMBDA SCI-FI SPOTLIGHT: An Insightful Look at One (?) of Our Members

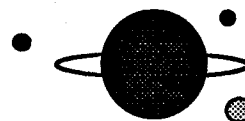
by Philip Wright

It was suggested that, before I do another Spotlight on just *one* of our members, I should give sort of an overview of the "movers and shakers" in the club. OK, the following is a list of those people in Lambda Sci-Fi who have assumed or been granted responsibilities or positions (or reputations) in the club. If you "move and shake" and are not on this list, it is due to holes in my memory, not due to any lack of appreciation on my part.

First Speaker - Loree C.-D.
Second Speaker - Carl C.
Treasurer (outgoing) - Peter K.
Treasurer (incoming) - Rob G.
Newsletter Editor - Carl C.
Network Representative -
Wayne (III) W.
Keeper of Membership Roster -
Peter K.
Keepers of Mystic Mailbox Keys -
Peter K., Carl C., Michael C.
Corresponding Secretary - Philip W.
Recording Secretary (de facto) -
Norman G.
Official Graphics Artists -
Scott S., Dan H.
Official Host - Jim C.
Comptroller of Cinematography -
Joe P.
Comic Book Consultants -
Scott R., Will C.
Unofficial Club Counselor - Jaime I.

So, at the next meeting, if you need to know who's in charge of what or who to go to about a particular something-or-other, you now have some idea of who to see - be it regarding graphics, treasury business, the newsletter, the Network, whatever.

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THE NETWORK? WHY?

by Rob Gates & Wayne (III) Wilkening



Members of LSF have recently been asking this question. With Gaylaxicon V over, it seems like a good time to explore what the Network means to us, as a club and as individuals.

For those of you who don't know, Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians is currently a member of a larger organization called The Gaylactic Network, Incorporated. The Network is a not-for-profit corporation made up of chapters all over the United States, as well as a new chapter in Winnipeg, Canada. Each chapter has a representative on the Network Board. These Representatives, along with seven officer positions, work together to run the Network.

The Network's purpose is to promote science fiction in the gay/lesbian/bisexual community and to promote positive gay/lesbian/bisexual elements in the general science fiction community. What the Network does to accomplish these goals varies from year to year as new clubs and members become active. The Network also promotes Gaylaxicon and the creation of local clubs to provide forums to share mutual interests.

Over the past year and a half, the Network Board has had a very inward focus, trying to stabilize the running of the Network. The major project of incorporation is mostly complete. Other current projects include: organizing the Officers to work effectively; working to refine the Network-Chapter relationship; and beginning to raise funds. Unfortunately, this has meant that the Network Board has had little time or energy to do anything else.

Currently, the Network is primarily funded by local chapters. Each year, each local chapter pays Network dues of \$1 per club member, plus a \$5 chapter fee. The Network also generates funds through other sources, such as Gaylaxicon, from which it receives a 40% share of excess funds. Finding

sources of funding for Network projects has been (and continues to be) a major roadblock to many things the Network would like to accomplish.

Now that the Network's ship is pretty much in order, what do we gain from being members? Well, first there are the benefits of being part of a not-for-profit corporation. The Gaylactic Network, Incorporated, is the entity that is *legally* responsible for Gaylaxicon, chapter meetings, and any official Network or chapter functions. This incorporated status provides an umbrella to protect individual members and chapters from legal liability.

But there's another side to what the Network has to offer; and that is as an organizing "political" force. A few years ago, the Network participated in and helped organize a letter-writing campaign to Paramount Studios to get some "gay positive" storylines or characters on *Star Trek*. We could debate how effective that campaign was, but there is no doubt that our voices were heard. Many feel that this is what the Network should be about, and that it has been lacking in such efforts for a couple of years. But whose fault is it? If you ask the Network Board (all volunteers) if they could do more, they would answer: "No, not without volunteers and funding."

Perhaps the answer is not to idly criticize the Network, but to take an active part in making the Network a useful tool. There are many ways the Network could be more useful. For instance, it is said from time to time that there is no gay science fiction fanzine; yet there are undoubtedly people all across the country, in local chapters and "at large," who would contribute and read one if it existed. But how could an individual from, say, Washington find all the people needed to work on a project like this, or advertise to a potential base of readers? Through the Network, of course. Or perhaps someone would like to see a letter-writing cam-

DARK WATERS,
by Blaise Bulot
(Crocker Sack Books)
reviewed by Wayne #1

What happens when a young, decadent Louisiana aristocrat meets the favorite son of New Orleans' Voodoo Queen? Answer: lots of sex (including the rape of the rich guy's sister by the boyfriend), misery (mostly self-inflicted), jealousy (of course), murder (of the Voodoo Queen and the aristo), and dark magics by all concerned (alive *or* dead).

Suffice it to say that this isn't a book one should read before: (1) going to New Orleans; (2) on a dark and stormy night; or (3) just after you've broken up with your significant other (or, come to think of it, when you've just met a *potential* significant other).

But it's well-written and well worth reading if you come across it -- especially if you're into Edgar Allan Poe.

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paign to the creators of *Babylon 5*, encouraging a recurring gay character. How could this become a national campaign? You guessed it, through the Network's help.

But there are a couple of things the Network needs in order to make anything like this happen. First, the Network needs to be constructively pushed! The Network Board can't come up with *all* the ideas and then do all the work. Individual members need to come up with ideas and offer to do the work, or to organize the project. If LSF wants to start a letter-writing campaign through the Network, we have to be willing to work. Secondly, the Network needs to be willing and able to help. Once an idea is brought to the Network, they need to spread the word and help people get together. With the internal workings stabilized, it seems that they are ready now to do just that. The mechanisms are in place; we just need to use them. Now that the Network is more organized, it's time for us *all* to put it to work.

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OCT. 9TH MINUTES

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story about Kate Mulgrew as the captain of the *Voyager*. Several new films have been released, or were due to be released, on videotape, among them *Jurassic Park* and *Nightmare Before Christmas*. In addition, *Heinlein's Puppet Masters* and *Stargate* are due for release in the theaters soon; and both of them look good.

On the book front: Rob shared the news that Maureen McHugh's new book, *Half the Day Is Night*, is now out in hardback (although, as yet, difficult to find). It promises to be a good follow-up on her previous success, *China Mountain Zhang*; Rob and Peter heard her read excerpts at WorldCon last year. Carl reported that *Anno Dracula*, the "ultimate Victorian Gothic novel," is now out in paperback. Michael C. shared his experiences with an anthology of unusual Victorian stories, *Decadent Victorian Writings*.

The most exciting piece of news came from Wayne #1. Amongst his usual article clippings, he encountered a short piece on the recent discovery of a previously unknown work by Jules Verne. This work, set in the "future" (1965, to be exact), told its original audience (in the 1860s) of a future world with many of the inventions that have now come to exist, such as the FAX machine.

Carl led a short discussion on LSF's recent trip to the Maryland Renaissance Festival, where a good time was had by all. Although the turkey drumsticks seem to have been a bit too salty, the "Shakespeare Scum" presentation of *Henry the Vee* ("That's Henry the *Fifth!*" "No it's not; it says V right here!") was terrific!

We also discussed the LSF trip to the Wayside Theatre out in Middletown, VA, to see Joe P. as Dr. Van Helsing in *The Passion of Dracula*. Everyone agreed that Joe was the best thing about the performance. And although Norman and Wayne #1 laughed throughout the performance [Ed. note: It was pretty campy!] - gaining the attention of all those lovely, middle class, country yokels - we all survived the trip to the "provinces."



PALEOWORLD ON TLC

reported by Carl Cipra



Are you a dino-freak like me?*

If you are, then have I got some good news for you! There's a new half-hour documentary series on The Learning Channel (TLC) that's all about prehistoric life. The series is called *Paleoworld*. OK, so it's not *exclusively* about dinosaurs; but we dino-freaks typically have a high tolerance for *other* forms of prehistoric life, too.

The first three episodes have been quite good: "Flight of the Pterosaurs," "Back to the Seas" (the evolution of whales), and "Carnosaurs." Each episode has been well-rounded, albeit brief, dealing with various sides of the issues relating to a particular form of prehistoric life. For example, the episode about pterosaurs contained a fascinating discussion of the controversy regarding how those creatures got around, both in the air and on the ground; and the one about carnivorous dinosaurs got into a discussion of the mechanics of carnosaur movement and predation. A particular strength of this series is its reliance on current research in the field of paleontology. How "current"? "Back to the Seas" showed that most of the breakthrough research on the evolution of whales has occurred within the last 4 to 5 years. I was fascinated to learn just how solid

the chain of fossil evidence has become in such a short time (after decades of being "stalled") - even to the point of having fairly well established *where* the wolf-like creatures that would become whales probably first ventured back into the sea. (It was in the fish-rich, shallow waters of the Tethys Sea, between India and the Asian mainland, in case you're interested.) The series also includes really great visuals - from computer-animation to old movie clips to "dinomation," and lots of filming at actual "dig-sites" and in behind-the-scenes research rooms in various museums.

Not bad for a half-hour show (minus commercials, about 23 minutes). In fact, the shortness of each episode is probably the greatest drawback to this series. The lackluster narration by Ben Gazzara comes in a close second, though. (Who picked him to narrate anyway? He's certainly no Richard Attenborough!)

Check out *Paleoworld*. It's on The Learning Channel (Channel 53 on District Cablevision), with each episode airing Sundays at 9 PM and Midnight, and again Wednesdays at 8 PM and 11 PM. I think it's well worth the time. (Besides, even if you *don't* like it, you've only blown a half hour!)

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*How can you tell if you're a dino-freak? Well, if you got all misty (like I did) when Sam Neill's character got his first glimpse of live dinosaurs in *Jurassic Park*, then you're definitely a dino-freak!

After a brief explanation of the battle of words between Tom Clancy and William F. Buckley, we learned (thanks to Michael C.) that there would probably be no more "Jack Ryan" films (*Hunt for Red October*, etc.), due to Clancy's opposition to Harrison Ford being cast as Jack Ryan in *Clear and Present Danger*. (Go figure!)

Jaime, who could not attend this meeting, called in and offered his

place for a November "Video Madness" Party. This was discussed, but it remained unconfirmed as of the close of the meeting. [Ed. note: Surprise! See article starting on page 1 of this newsletter.]

Then we all watched a videotape of the latest episode of *The Tick*, a campy, funny new Saturday morning cartoon series. The meeting ended with a raucous roomful of laughter at this new superhero!

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**“VIDEO MADNESS”
PARTY**

continued from page 1

what food to bring, so everyone should just bring something from one (or more) of the following “basic food groups”: appetizers (veggies, chips, etc.); a main course (enough to serve at least 4-5 people); dessert (of course!) non-alcoholic drinks (both diet and regular).

HOW TO GET THERE

The party will be held at Jaime’s home in Georgetown (site of numerous “Video Madness” parties in the past). It’s located at 1928 37th St., NW, several blocks west of Wisconsin Ave.

From the North: Going south on Wisconsin (from the direction of National Cathedral), you’ll pass Mass. Ave. Just after Calvert St., 37th St. splits off to the right from Wisconsin (as Wisconsin swerves to the left). In about a half mile, 37th St. passes through Whitehaven Park and intersects White Haven Parkway. Jaime’s place is just beyond White Haven Parkway, on your right.

From the South: Going north on Wisconsin (from the direction of “M” St.), you’ll need to take a left on some street to get to 37th St. If you turn left on Reservoir Rd. or on “R” St., you’ll need to turn right on 37th St., and Jaime’s place will be a ways on your left. If you go further up Wisconsin to White Haven Parkway (near the “social Safeway”), you’ll turn left on White Haven Pkwy. and then left again on 37th St. Jaime’s home will be on your right.

Where to Park: Your best bet for parking is either along White Haven Parkway or along “T” St.

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GAYLAXICON VI
 FUN! FROLIC! FANS!
 (NIAGARA FALLS, TOO!)
May 19 - 21, 1995
 Don't miss it!!!
 (for details, see Con Calendar
 on page 6 of this newsletter)

**MURDER BY THE CLOCK
(Hourly Fun)**

a video review by Joseph Parra



One of the best pieces of luck I had at Gaylaxicon V was to have Troll Video as one of the dealers there. (Thanks, Philip!) I lucked upon a copy of a “lost” film, the 1931 Paramount film *Murder by the Clock*. Let me share my good fortune with you...

The wealthy Endicott family has several problems: (1) a matriarch with a morbid fear of death and a rigormortis-like grip on the family purse strings; (2) a psychotic idiot of a direct heir; (3) a nephew who is as weak as his wife is strong and evil and manipulative; and (4) a crypt which includes a “fear horn,” in case someone is buried alive.

With all these classic elements of a haunted house whodunit, what’s missing? A murder!! Nasty old Mrs. Endicott gets hers; but who is responsible? Phillip, the idiot psycho? The nephew? The shrewish wife? Perhaps the governess of the addled Phillip? A ghost?...

Finding the answer is not half as much fun as watching this wonderfully hoary old chestnut, with its archaic acting styles and bizarre camera angles and antique direction by Edward Sloman. Irving Pichel plays Phillip, the moron with a murderous bent. Mr. Pichel is best known as *Dracula’s Daughter’s* aid-de-camp, Sandor, as well as an action film director during the 1940s. Lilyan Tashman marvelously overplays the evil wife, who uses every man she comes across like a dishrag. There are other marvelous performances as well - so many, in fact, that this is a camp lover’s delight! If you have the good fortune to come across this gem, don’t look at it for plot content, let alone construction. (There is none to speak of; and what there is becomes glaringly obvious after five minutes!) What is so awesome here is that in 1931 this was regarded as an “A”-grade chiller; but by today’s standards it’s hilariously dated. William

“Stage” Boyd (who took that odd “middle” name so as not to be confused with William Boyd, who was Hopalong Cassidy) portrays the cop who brings this plot together. He can often be spotted smirking at the dialogue he spouts. There is also a science-fiction element here: the existence of a drug which can restore *partial* life(?!).

Murder by the Clock runs about 65 minutes, during which you will be confused, entertained, and stupified. You cannot help but ENJOY!!

Rating: 3 out of 4
(For all the wrong reasons!)

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Please consider yourself, now and henceforth, and no matter what anyone else ever asks of you, free to do any damned thing you want that doesn't hurt someone else unnecessarily.

— Lady Sally McGee

.....

So isn't it a pity, when we common people chatter of those mysteries to which I have referred, that we use for such a delicate and complicated matter such a very short and ordinary word.

— Anonymous

(both excerpts from
Off the Wall at Callahan's,
by Spider Robinson)

*** * 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 \$15, for which you will receive this monthly newsletter and a membership directory. Newsletter submissions are always welcome.

Meetings are generally held on the second Sunday of each month at a private residence. However, the next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held at 6:00 PM on Saturday, November 12th (the 2nd Saturday), at Jaime I.'s home: 1928 37th St., NW (in Georgetown). This is a combined meeting and "Video Madness" Party, so please bring a contribution for the potluck supper. (For details, see article on page 1 of this newsletter.) 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 Jim C.



November 18-20, 1994 **PHILCON '94**: The Adam's Mark Hotel (Philadelphia). Principal Speaker: Larry Niven, Artist GoH: Jim Burns. Cost: \$30 until 11/4/94. Make checks payable to "Philcon '94" and send to: Philcon '94, PO Box 8303, Philadelphia, PA 19101.

November 25-27, 1994 **DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL MEETING XVII**: Holiday Inn, Timonium (Timonium, MD). Guests of Honor: Debra Doyle & James MacDonald; Special Guests: Marion Zimmer Bradley (health permitting) & Katherine Kurtz; Artist GoH: Rikk Jacobs. Cost: \$30. Hotel rooms: \$61/night (up to 4 people in room). For membership, make checks payable to "Armida Council" and send to: Armida Council, PO Box 7203, Silver Spring, MD 20907. (This is a very "gay/lesbian/bi-friendly" con.)

April 14-16, 1995 **BALTICON 29**: Radisson Lord Baltimore Hotel & Omni Hotel (Baltimore, MD). Guest of Honor: James P. Hogan; Artist GoH: David Cherry; Special Guest: Hal Clement. Cost: \$30, until 12/31/94; \$35 until 3/15/95. For membership, make checks payable to "Balticon 29" and send to: Balticon 29, PO Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203-0686.

May 19-21, 1995 **GAYLAXICON VI**: Radisson Hotel Niagara Falls (Niagara Falls, NY). Guest of Honor: Don Sakers; Artist GoH: Heather Bruton. Membership: \$20 until 12/31/94, then \$25 until 5/1/95 (\$30 at the door). Make checks payable to "Gaylaxicon VI" and send to: Gaylaxicon VI, P.O. Box 160225, St. Louis, MO 63116-8225.

July 13-16, 1995 **NASFiC (North American Science Fiction Convention)/DRAGON*CON 1995**: Atlanta Civic Center & Atlanta Hilton and Towers (Atlanta, GA). Honored Guests: Orson Scott Card, George Alec Effinger, Bjo Trimble, Michael Whelan, Timothy Zahn. Cost: \$45 until 9/15/94 (cost will go up after that). Make checks payable to "NASFiC'95" and send to: NASFiC/Dragon*Con '95, P.O. Box 47696, Atlanta, GA 30362-0696. For additional information, call the 24-hour Atlanta Convention Info Line at (404) 925-2813.

Aug. 29 - Sept. 2, 1996 **L.A.con III, the 54th World Science Fiction Convention**: Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim Hilton and Towers, & Anaheim Marriott (Anaheim, CA). Writer Guest of Honor: James White; Media Guest of Honor: Roger Corman. Cost: \$90, from 8/16/94 to 6/30/95; "More" after 7/1/95. Make checks payable to "L.A.con III" and send to: L.A.con III, c/o SCIFI, PO Box 8442, Van Nuys, CA 91409.

