



PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (202) 232-3141 - Issue #61 - April 1994

LAMMY NOMINEES FOR 1995 ANNOUNCED

reported by Carl Cipra

The finalists for the 7th Annual Lambda Literary Awards ("Lammys") were announced on March 1st.

Once again, there is only one combined F&SF category, "Lesbian and Gay SF/Fantasy." The finalists for this category are:

- Trouble and Her Friends*, by Melissa Scott (Tor Books)
- The Furies*, by Suzy McKee Charnas (Tor Books)
- Metal Angel*, by Nancy Springer (ROC Fantasy)
- Storm Warning*, by Mercedes Lackey (DAW Books)
- Warriors of Isis*, by Jean Stewart (Rising Tide)

Two of these novels have already been reviewed by LSF members: I reviewed *Trouble and Her Friends* in the first issue of *Wavelengths*; and Wayne #1 reviewed *Metal Angel* in the Jan. '95 issue of the LSF newsletter.

The Furies is a follow-up novel to *Walk to the End of the World* and *Motherlines*; it was reviewed in both issues of *Wavelengths*. *Storm Warning* begins a new trilogy in Lackey's "Herald-Mage" universe. *Warriors of Isis* is the third novel in a series, following *Return to Isis* and *Isis Rising*.

There are also a couple of interesting finalists in the "Gay Men's Mystery" category. One of them is entitled *Mad Man*, by Samuel Delaney.

Delaney is, of course, a well-known SF author and was the Guest of Honor at Gaylaxicon '91. (Has anyone read this book? If so, how about writing a review on it?) Another noteworthy finalist in this category is *The Alienist*, by Caleb Carr. I've read this one - it's about a serial killer of young male hustlers in turn-of-the-century New York City, when "Teddy" Roosevelt was Police Commissioner and modern crime-fighting techniques had not yet been fully developed.

Award recipients will be announced on June 2nd, at a banquet during the upcoming American Booksellers Assn. Convention in Chicago. That means you've got a couple of months to read through the F&SF finalists and see if *your* choice agrees with that of the official judges.

ΛΨΦ

ERROR! ERROR! ERROR! by Ye Olde Editor

Whoops! I don't know *what* I was thinking when I wrote the front-page article to last month's newsletter! Under the subheading "LSF Turns 5 Years Old" I erroneously reported that the first LSF meeting was held on March 14, 1990, "in Al W's home out in Silver Spring." As soon as she received her copy of that issue, First Speaker Loree called me with a friendly reminder that the first meeting was actually held *in her and Marcelle's living room in Takoma Park!* I should have known better, of course. After all,

Loree *was* responsible for getting us together; and I *was* at the meeting! (I *should* have remembered! My only possible excuse is a brief attack of senility.)

Thanks, Loree, for getting me to clear up that error. *Mea culpa*. It's nice to know, however, that *somebody* is reading the newsletter - even if it's only to catch me making mistakes!

ΛΨΦ



MINUTES OF THE MARCH 12TH MEETING

by Carl Cipra

This was *not* one of the more heavily-attended meetings; there were only about 15 people in attendance. (I guess most everyone was out by the fountain in DuPont Circle enjoying that unseasonably wonderful weather - except for Peter and Rob, *who were in Florida!*)

The meeting began with introductions all 'round, followed by the usual host of "show and tell" on the

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WHAT'S INSIDE?

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"THE GENERAL,"
A Five-Book Series by
S.M. Stirling & David Drake
reviewed by Dave Bongard

I must first confess to having a significant weakness for military science fiction. I have read a good deal of it over the last 15 to 20 years, ranging from H. Beam Piper's classic *Lord Kalvan of Otherwhen* to Stirling's "Draka" novels (*The Stone Dogs*, *Marching Through Georgia*, and *Under the Yoke*); and I think I can spot the dreadful stuff (of which there seems a never-ending supply) and recommend the worthwhile. Stirling and Drake have at last completed the fifth and final novel of their fine "General" series. These are all available in paperback (from Baen Books) and are entitled, in chronological order: *The Forge*, *The Hammer*, *The Anvil*, *The Steel*, and now *The Sword* (this last bearing the official publication date of March, 1995).

The series is set over a stretch of five years on a world called Bellevue, a former colony of Earth, which has been cut off from the homeworld for some 1100 or 1200 years, since interstellar civilization collapsed amid a series of messy civil wars. The surviving society on Bellevue is rather primitive; and much of the planet has sunk back to the general level of Dark Ages Europe. The more advanced regions, known as the Civil Government (the good guys, more or less) and the Colony (Sunni Muslims), both have mid-to-late 19th Century technology, with railroads, breechloading repeating rifles, rifled cannon, heliographs, basic electricity, steamships and ironclads, and so forth. They also have a few fragments of advanced technology, all of it reduced to the level of superstitious religious reverence. "Computer" is a term largely synonymous with "angel;" and the chief religious official of the "Church of the Spirit of Man in the Stars" is officially designated "the Arch-Sysop." That Church is not to be confused with the Military Government barbarians, who follow the "heretical"

Church of the Spirit of Man of This Earth. The various Churches also provide chlorine powder (properly blessed, of course) to soldiers for water purification, along with similarly prepared sterile bandages and antiseptics for wound treatment.

It is also worth noting at this point that Bellevue has a notably different ecology from Earth's; and the dominant native land animals are quasi-dinosaurs, including the pesky sickle-foot (essentially a velociraptor, or *Deinonychus*). There are oxen, sheep, and goats, but no horses; mounted troops ride giant dogs, bred for the purpose and weighing something like a half-ton each. Dog-cavalry takes a little getting used to; but it works well as a story concept, and the whole idea gets to be quite a hoot after it becomes familiar.

All this is background for the adventures of Raj Whitehall, a 25-year-old officer in the mounted troops of the Civil Government when *The Forge* opens. He and a friend are exploring the catacombs and abandoned tunnels beneath the Civil Government's capital and stumble upon a dormant but still functional military command-and-control computer called Center (artificially intelligent and with some of its sensor network intact). At first, Center keeps Raj's friend as a hostage (apparently) for Raj's cooperation and good behavior. At any rate, through the combination of Raj's own considerable military ability with Center's wise if sometimes annoying counsel, Raj goes on to make quite a name for himself. This is all according to Center's plan (only partly revealed to Raj) to re-establish advanced civilization on Bellevue. In *The Forge*, Raj fights against the Colony; in the next three books he is out west dealing with the Military Government barbarians; and in *The Sword*, he's back facing the Colony again.

What makes these novels better than most of their sub-genre is the authors' talent for characterization. Raj himself is a trifle cardboard-hero-like (tall, strong, and intelligent). His subordinate officers (known collectively as "the Companions"), however, are a splendid bunch. Among these are the

urbane and talented Gerrin Staenbridge, who initially resents Raj for usurping his prospective command but becomes one of Raj's closest friends and associates. There is also Staenbridge's devastatingly-handsome "companion" Barton Foley. Although only 16 years old in *The Forge*, Foley becomes a very capable officer and something of a classical scholar by *The Anvil*. The relationship between Foley and Staenbridge is particularly well done. By the later books, Foley repeatedly demonstrates a dashing young officer's disdain for death; and his exploits drive Staenbridge nearly to distraction wondering what death-defying exploit he'll indulge in next. Other significant characters include: Raj's wife Suzette, a noblewoman of unusual intelligence and common sense, and truly gifted at political intrigue; Antin M'Lewis, a former bandit and sheep-thief, who becomes commander of an irregular scout platoon known as "the Forty Thieves;" and my favorite, Jorg Meynez, who is allergic to dogs and consequently compelled to serve in the less prestigious infantry.

The barbarians are often interesting, too (for barbarians, that is). The Squadrones and the Brigaderos, for example, are the main branches of the MilGov ruffians. The Squadrones' warcry is "Gittem!," while the Brigaderos favor "Upyarz!," which seems rather better. There is a good deal of mutated English and Spanish scattered throughout the books in the form of names, slogans, expressions, and so forth.

The other major pleasure of reading these books is in spotting the historical allusions, which come in many forms and deal with many periods. The relationship between Governor Barholm Clarrett and Raj, for instance, closely parallels that of the Emperor Justinian and his exceptionally able general Belisarius (complete with a "Theodora," Barholm's wife Anne). Most of the battles also parallel, at least in part, historical engagements on Earth; and Raj's "Companions" clearly

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THE SCIENCE FICTION BOOK

(A Required Primer)

reviewed by Joseph Parra

For years, I've wondered why it is that so many other genres have what amount to primers, to introduce potentially interested parties to the necessary ABCs of said genres, while F&SF didn't. Apparently there *is* one, and I just didn't know about it. A couple of years ago, at the late, lamented Cosmic Book Shop, I came across *The Science Fiction Book*, picked it up for \$2, packed it away, subsequently moved, and completely forgot all about it. A few weeks ago, I found a box I hadn't unpacked; and (lo and behold) there this treasure was. While this book may seem too basic to some hardened cynics or too even-keeled to others more open-minded, *The Science Fiction Book* is an excellent beginner's reference guide to all areas of science fiction - literary, theatrical, artistic, semi-factual, or simply biographical.

Franz Rottensteiner is the compiler and commentator on this tour through the history of science fiction. A well-informed tour guide, he takes us through the years of the formation of what we now know of as science fiction. Oddly, though, the journey is *not* chronological. After a lengthy stream-of-consciousness introduction, Rottensteiner takes us to H.G. Wells, who (he feels) set the style and "blueprint" for science fiction. One especially interesting footnote to this chapter is a speech of Wells, where he dismisses any comparison between his stories and those of his contemporary, Jules Verne, in that Verne's stories are (in Wells' words) "anticipatory inventions" while Wells' own are those that "do not pretend to deal with possible things."

Next the book looks at all the possibilities of flight - real, imagined, and somewhere in between. Then, off to the world of the ever-popular "mad scientist," via Dr. Frankenstein, Dr. Jekyll, and Dr. Moreau - with very interesting insights into these slightly de-

THE LETTER-WRITING CAMPAIGN REVISITED

reported by Wayne & Carl Cipra

Wayne #1 shared an interesting piece of information at the March meeting. He brought in a copy of a postcard being disseminated by the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD). It addresses the "gays in *Star Trek*" issue. Here's what it says:

mented geniuses and the influence of the Prometheus theme on this sub-genre. From there, the book goes on to analyze such themes as Martian invasions, Cyrano de Bergerac, Hugo Gernsback (father of "scientifiction"), Tsiolkovsky (father of Russian rocketry), Edgar Rice Burroughs, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, A.E. Merritt, robots, Isaac Asimov, Robert Heinlein, Ray Bradbury, Hannes Bok, "new wave," SF on TV, hard SF, other countries, Stanislaw Lem, the Nebula and Hugo Awards, and even fandom itself.

What is most interesting here is that throughout his dissertations and descriptions, Rottensteiner never rambles, never condescends, and (best of all) never bores. His strange jump-all-over-the-place style does take a bit of getting used to; but after a while a certain logic develops. The realization suddenly comes that the author has been guiding his readers through the familiar before taking them on to what is, for the novice, unfamiliar and perhaps even uncharted territories. The purpose of this seemingly peculiar method of "teaching" is clear: as with all primers, one must whet the appetite with the familiar in order to attract the attention of the student toward further exploration (which the book suggests by way of a detailed bibliography). Indeed, both students and teachers (ha, ha) will find *The Science Fiction Book* not only "required" reading, but interesting reading as well. Enjoy!

Rating:
4 out of 4

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Dear Mr. Berman, Mr. Pillar, and Ms. Taylor,

I am writing to urge to include openly gay, lesbian and bisexual characters in the latest *Star Trek* series, *Voyager*. *Star Trek's* creator, Gene Roddenberry, made it very clear before his death that he intended for gay characters in the programs, in a 24th century universe where sexism, racism, and homophobia are not tolerated. To date, this wish has not been fulfilled, and with yet another new program, I hope you are able to finally be more inclusive and "boldly go" where no *Star Trek* has ever gone. I look forward to seeing a more inclusive cast of characters on your program, which has the opportunity to combat homophobia on a grand scale if it chooses to do so.

Sincerely,

* * *

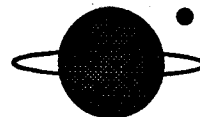
All you have to do is sign and stamp this pre-addressed postcard. It's addressed to:

Mr. Rick Berman
Mr. Mike Pillar
Ms. Jeri Taylor
Producers, *Voyager*
5555 Melrose Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90038

For further information on this postcard, contact the National Capital Area Chapter of GLAAD: 2001 "O" St., NW, Washington, DC 20036; phone #(202)429-9500.

(Actually, with the information in this article, you can even send *your own* letter or postcard.)

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MARCH 12TH MINUTES

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latest magazines, newsworthy articles, TV shows, and upcoming movies.

NETWORK BUSINESS

Wayne III then passed along some of the latest news from the Network Board. Noel will apparently be stepping down from his various positions (coordinator of Gaylaxians International, Network Publicist, and Network Correspondent). Several comments were made on what an excellent job Noel has been doing (for example, the Network advertisement in the latest Progress Report for the 1996 Worldcon in Anaheim, Calif.). When the vacancies are officially announced, anyone interested in filling any of those posts should contact the new LSF Network Rep for details. Wayne also announced that a Network Charter amendment has been passed with the following provisions: elections for Network positions will *not* occur at Gaylaxicon this year (which is being held earlier than usual); elections will instead be conducted afterwards (July) via the GNAPA (the official correspondence vehicle of the Network Board).

NEW NETWORK REP ELECTED

Wayne III then officially stepped down as LSF's Representative to the Board of the Gaylactic Network. Philip Wright was ~~railroaded into~~ elected by acclamation as Wayne's successor. (After the meeting, Wayne and Philip privately enacted the official LSF "Passing All the Stuff" Ceremony.)

AUCTION APPROVED

The attendees approved Rodney Elin's suggestion for a fundraising "Quarter Auction" to be held after the May 14th meeting. For full details on the auction, refer to the front-page article on the March newsletter. Basically, donated items (books, artwork, collectibles, etc.) will be auctioned off, with proceeds to go to the club's coffers. (Full details on the auction will be repeated on the front page of the April newsletter.) Barrett (our publicist) will add an annotation regarding the auction to our regular ads in *The Washington Blade*.

TEMPORARY AGENCY

by Rachel Pollack

(St. Martin's Press, 1994)

reviewed by Wayne

America has gone through a Spiritual Revolution in this interesting tale of the century ahead. Churches and Religions, as we know them, have been replaced with the Sacred Physics. Bright Beings, Malignant Ones, and Benign Ones help, hinder, or otherwise rub elbows with ordinary mortals in everyday living. The Government is full of places like the Spiritual Development Agency (or SDA), sort of an FDA for registering, regulating, and monitoring manifestations from the Other Side. Animal masks are worn as

LSF PARTY AT DISCLAVE?

The question was raised as to whether the club wants to host a party at Disclave (May 27 - 30). Disclave is being held right Downtown at the Renaissance Hotel Techworld; and Carl said he didn't intend to rent a room (@ \$99!) if the club didn't have any real interest in hosting a party this year. No decision was made.

1995 D.C. PRIDE DAY

Apparently, the 1995 D.C. Pride Day celebration is going to be held in Freedom Plaza (you know, between "the Shops" and the District Building, where all the cute straight kids usually ride around on their skateboards). That being the case, we'll *definitely* need to provide careful consideration to both "logistics" and "shade" (*i.e.* how to get all our stuff down there and how to keep from dying of heat prostration and 5th-degree sunburn during the day).

OTHER STUFF

The attendees celebrated LSF's fifth birthday with a fluffy pink birthday cake decorated with "Z-bots." (Wayne III was elected to blow out the candles. Look for the picture some day in the club's scrapbook.)

As a final treat, a short promo video on the upcoming *Batman Forever* was shown. It featured the new "Robin," to be portrayed by oh-so-cute actor Chris O'Donnell.

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normally as spectacles; drum ceremonies are held seasonally in Central Park; and rituals are enacted for the onset of life's various stages. The world is an extraordinary yet commonplace mix of 20th Century norms, Native American and African shamanistics, *The National Enquirer*, and even bits of *The X-Files*.

At 14 years of age, innocent Ellen Pierson and her 24-year-old cousin Paul become embroiled in the web of an apparently unregistered demon, who runs the temp agency down the hall from Paul's office. Shrugged off by the SDA for no good reason, Ellen and her reluctant family call in Alison Birkett, Ellen's idol and a renowned lawyer specializing in demonic possession. That's when it's discovered that the demon is working *for* the SDA and that the Government itself is infested. After much haggling and soul-searching, the Piersons agree to be exhaustively depossessed and looked after (and at) for life. Unfortunately, Paul (too deeply hooked) is trapped into an elevator and drawn into the Other Side. Ellen, bereft of all faith (including faith in Alison), attempts to get on with her life.

While Part 1 of the novel is funny - juxtaposing the New Wave Revolutionary world and our present one (and reading a bit like *Ghostbusters*) - Part 2 is much darker. Both parts are written in Ellen's first-person narrative; but the lost innocence is clearly discernible in Part 2. Her grown-up world, barely rebuilt after Paul's transubstantiation into the "Guardian of Elevators" is being broken apart. Part 2 sees the lesbian Ellen and Alison (in between, re-discovering each other) team up (*and steam up*) to dig out the why's, wherefore's, and to's of the demon's return, puzzlingly reconstituted as a Bright Being.

Temporary Agency is well put together, witty, and nicely bizarre. However, I have a small problem with accepting the demon/Bright One bringing about a "sexual awakening" in a society as sexually-genderly-corporeally aware as the delightful characters peopling this novel clearly are. So, make it a rating of 3 out of 5, instead of 4 out of 5.

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STAR TREK: VOYAGER
An Editorial by Peter Knapp



The first seven episodes of *Star Trek: Voyager* have now aired. Of the three offspring from the original *Star Trek*, I found this first batch of episodes more polished than the first seven episodes from the other two shows: *Star Trek: The Next Generation* and *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*. The characters in *ST:V* are more developed, the acting is less wooden, and the look and feel of the show have been firmly established. I do have two concerns about *Voyager*, though.

First, I think they're recycling many plots from previous incarnations of the *ST* shows. I'm not the only one who's noticed this - a recent issue of *Time* had a small article listing the first four or five *ST:V* episodes, with references to episodes with similar plots from previous *ST* series.

Of the first batch of *ST:V* episodes, only the sixth episode ("Eye of the Needle" - the wormhole with a Romulan on the other side) seemed to have an original plot. The following episode ("Ex Post Facto") went right back to the recycling bin. *Voyager's* writers re-used the *ST:TNG* plot from "A Matter of Perspective," where an alien race puts Riker on trial for murdering someone and the audience is shown each character's interpretation of the murder. This time (in "Ex Post Facto"), the alien race convicts Paris (the "Riker wanna-be" - just add beard and belly) of the crime; and we similarly get to see it replayed from different points of view.

I've heard the comment made that *ST:V* has constraints (time, money, previously-established ideas, etc.) that keep it from being original. As Carl has pointed out, however, that's no excuse. (His library is full of books with similar science-fictions settings, but with many, many *different* stories.) Also, after *ST:TNG* got tired, they still occasionally produced a few original gems - "Darmok" and "Inner Light," to name a couple. Maybe my expectations are

too high. I just hope that the next batch of new *ST:V* stories is a bit more original.

My second concern is about the character development on *Star Trek: Voyager*. So far, the most interesting part of the show (due in part to "recycled" story plots) has been the character development. Every week we've learned a bit more about the characters. We've also seen how they react to each other in different situations. (Note: Neelix should *not* be jealous of Paris; Kes spends all her time with the *doctor!*)

But I'm concerned that the crew will turn into "one big happy family" by the end of the season. That's exactly what happened in *ST:DS9*. During the first season of *ST:DS9*, it was great watching Kira and Sisko react to similar situations from different perspectives. To mention an over-used word, there was "conflict" in the interactions between the different members of *DS9*. However, that conflict has pretty much disappeared by now. The crew of *DS9* is "one big happy family" now.

Star Trek: Voyager promised to have similar "conflict," by joining a Federation crew and a Maquis crew together. Except for the second *ST:V* episode ("Parallax"), where Captain Janeway had to choose between Torres and a Federation engineer to fill the Chief Engineer spot, I haven't seen any real conflict. I hope the writers will remember that while the Maquis and Federation crews are "united" with a common goal, they shouldn't react to situations in the same way.

In spite of my concerns, I enjoy *Star Trek: Voyager* a lot. I do hope the stories become more original and the characters don't become "best buddies."

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**MORE VOICES
HEARD FROM**
reported by Carl Cipra

Here's an old controversy (for us, at least); but it's appearing in a more mainstream context! While perusing the "Letters" column of the Feb. 4-10 issue of *TV Guide*, I ran across the following:

* * *

As a devoted fan of both *Star Trek: The Next Generation* and *Deep Space Nine*, I was looking forward to the new *Voyager* show. However, I am getting a little tired of hearing how wonderful it is that the shows are representing the diversities in our culture. A black Vulcan is no big deal. Blacks have been represented (rightfully so) since the original series. My question to the creators is: Why do I see more gay men and women in any given season of *Roseanne* (set in the here and now) than I've ever seen during the entire run of all the *Star Trek* shows combined?

Benjamin Dahlbeck
Marietta, Ga.

* * *

Hmmm - now where have we heard *this* before? Are you listening, Paramount?

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"THE GENERAL"

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echo those of Alexander the Great. There are also several extended "in-jokes," such as the legend of the rivalry between "Big Blue" and "Apple" before "the Fall" (with Big Blue filling the Lucifer role).

All in all, these five books are grand fun. I'm sorry to see the last of them out in print, because it ends the series. The conclusion of *The Sword* really precludes anything significant in terms of a sequel - which may be just as well. It's probably better to "leave 'em wanting more." Regardless, anybody who has a taste for history or for military adventure will be certain to enjoy this series.

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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 \$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. The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held at 2:00 PM on Sunday, April 9th, 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 Jim C.



March 31-April 2, 1995 **TECHNICON 12**: Virginia Tech Campus (Blacksburg, VA). Guests: Melissa Scott, Don Sakers, Tom Atkinson, Christie Golden, Mike Allen, Dave & Sue McCoy. Cost: \$20 at door.

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: \$40 at the door.

May 19-21, 1995 **GAYLAXICON VI**: Radisson Hotel Niagara Falls (Niagara Falls, NY). Guest of Honor: Don Sakers; Artist GoH: Heather Bruton. Membership: \$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.

May 27-30, 1995 **DISCLAVE '95**: Renaissance Hotel Techworld (999 9th St., Washington, DC). Guest of Honor: Charles Sheffield; Artist GoH: Bob Eggleton; Special Guest: David Bischoff. Membership: \$30 until 4/30/95, \$40 at the door. Make checks payable to "Disclave '95" and send to: Disclave '95 Registration, PO Box 368, Gaithersburg, MD 20884.

July 7-9, 1995 **SHORE LEAVE 17**: Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Guests: Garrett ("Ensign Harry Kim") Wang; Dwight ("Barclay") Schultz; A.C. Crispin, Jacqueline Lichtenberg. For information on cost of membership, etc., call the Information Line at (410) 821-5563; membership ltd. to 1500. Address: Shore Leave 17, P.O. Box 6809, Towson, MD 21285-6809.

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: \$55 until 6/15/95 (\$60 at the door). 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.

July 29/30, 1995 **NOVACON III (The Westpark Hotel, Tysons Corner, VA)**. Guests: Marina ("Troi") Sirtis, Andrew ("Garak") Robinson. Membership: \$35 for entire weekend (\$65 for reserved seating); daily rates available at door. Make checks payable to "One Trek Mind Productions, Inc." and send to: One Trek Mind Productions, Inc., P.O. Box 3363, Merrifield, VA 22116 (You *must* enclose SASE to receive confirmation.). Novacon Hotline: (703) 280-5373.

Nov. 17-19, 1995 **PHILCON '95**: Adam's Mark Hotel (Philadelphia, PA). Principal Speaker: (to be announced); Guest Artist: Bob Eggleton; Special Guest: Connie Willis. Cost: \$25. Make check payable to "PSFS" and send to: Philcon '95, P.O. Box 8303, Philadelphia, PA 19101; Chairperson: Oz Fontecchio (ph. # 215-342-1672; Internet: kunga@netaxs.com).