



LAMBDA SCI-FI



DC Area Gaylaxians

PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (202) 232-3141 - Issue #66 - Sept. 1995

Sept. 10th LSF Meeting
to Feature "Field Trip" Discussions
as reported by Your Fearless Feeder



King's Dominion

This is a recent one that Philip called about the other day. He and Jeff are suggesting a little joy-ride down to the King's Dominion amusement park for a day of fun & frolic on Sunday, Sept. 17th.

So, there you have it, gang! Choose one; choose all! Go out and have a ball! (Ghod, don'cha love it when I wax poetic?) We'll be discussing these "field trips" (and possibly some others) at the Sept. 10th meeting. Don't miss out. See ya'll there!



Time to Elect a New Speaker by Carl Cipra

As I stated at the August meeting, it is my intention to step down as Speaker of Lambda Sci-Fi in the near future. I've certainly enjoyed being Speaker for the last couple of years (and I hope I've done a good job!); but I feel there are so many hard-working, capable people in this chapter, that no member should hold more than one job at a time. (I'd like to stay on as newsletter editor.) I also think we need to hold *annual* elections for the position of Speaker, to avoid the possibility of any "power-hungry tyrant" monopolizing the position for years on end. (That's pretty funny, isn't it, Loree?) Let's see if we can get all this settled at the September 10th meeting!



A Day at the Museums

A couple of members have been talking about a visit to the National Gallery of Caricature & Cartoon Art. The permanent exhibit in this fairly new museum includes works by such historical greats as Thomas Nast, Walt Disney, and Rube Goldberg. They are also currently running a special exhibit entitled "Clarity Begins at Home," which features original works by area cartoonists such as Pat Oliphant, Jeff MacNelly, and Herblock. The Gallery (located at 1317 F St., NW) is open Saturdays 11 AM - 4 PM (closed Sundays).

Of course, a visit to this little museum will hardly fill a day; so several suggestions have been made about side-trips to various other Smithsonian buildings. For example, there's the special "Ocean Planet" exhibit at the National Museum of Natural History; this exhibit "examines the causes and consequences of environmental threats to the world's oceans" and "combines computer animation, dioramas, videos, artifacts, specimens and a resource room." Then, of course, there's always that *special* little display just down the Mall that Wayne #1 reviewed in a previous issue of our newsletter: "Flight Time Barbie: Dolls from the Popular Collection of the National Air & Space Museum." Etc.

Besides LSF's usual recurring illness, "Video Madness," it seems that some of our members are also experiencing twinges of "wanderlust." There've been lots of suggestions recently for various club "field trips," and it looks like we'll be discussing some of them at the upcoming September 10th meeting. Here are some of the "extracurricular activities" that have been brought up:

Maryland Renaissance Festival

Small LSF contingents have gotten together for the last few years to do a little "time travelling" to the Court of King Henry VIII (conveniently located in Crownsville, MD, within the DC-Baltimore-Annapolis Triangle). The Festival features "crafts by over 130 skilled artisans from all over the country; over 30 kinds of delectable food; more than 200 exciting acts & entertainers, and 4 Jousts daily!" It's always been a lot of fun. (Last year's scurrilous 20-minute production of *Henry the Vee* was a hoot!) Some of us (Wayne #1 comes instantly to mind) have even gone in costume. The Festival is open for 9 weekends (plus Labor Day Monday): Aug. 26/27, Sept. 2/3/4, 9/10, 16/17, 23/24, Sept. 30/Oct. 1, Oct. 7/8, 14/15, 21/22. Admission is \$12.95 for an adult. In the past, we've made arrangements for rides, etc.

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Frankly, My Dear, I Don't Give a Damn!

a tidbit passed along by Mike Cornett

[Ed. Note: If you've attended any LSF meetings over the last year or so, then I'm sure you've at least heard about *Scarlet Street*, the *Magazine of Mystery and Horror*. It's quite a good magazine. Mike Cornett has regularly regaled us with juicy tidbits from each new issue; and he's often cited the "suspicious" prevalence of gay-themed articles or "trés gay" commentary to be found in this magazine. At the August LSF meeting, Mike passed along an interesting bit of correspondence printed in the letters column ("Scarlet Letters") of the most recent issue of *Scarlet Street* (#19, Summer '95 issue). I, for one, was fascinated and delighted with this exchange between one of the magazine's readers and *Scarlet Street*'s editorial staff - so much so that I decided to reprint it here in our newsletter. As Joe would say: Enjoy!]

As a longtime enthusiast of Hollywood's Golden Age, particularly in regard to horror and sci-fi films, I'm beginning to feel an annoyed ambivalence toward *Scarlet Street*. Why? Two reasons.

One: the inexplicable gay-themed articles that continually find their way into this periodical. This is supposedly "the magazine of mystery and horror," not "the magazine of gay mystery and horror." Why does the subject keep popping up? I, for one, have no interest in it. It is not why I buy the book. *Tales of the City*? Is it mystery or horror? What a waste of valuable print space.

If the editorial staff has an agenda, fine. But *Scarlet Street* should be up front about it, so readers know what they are getting into and can make a more informed purchasing choice. Frankly, implying that Ygor and the Monster and Holmes and Watson are that way is both insulting to the artists who originally created such classic characters as well as being irresponsibly delusional.

Two: the continually (with the odd exception) derisive, condescend-

ing, and negative manner in which the classic films are discussed. I was under the impression that *Scarlet Street* was here to appreciate the great old films and thus introduce them to a new generation of fans. However, if one takes Michael Brunas' article on *It! The Terror From Beyond Space* (SS #17) as a typical example, *Scarlet Street* is going about it in a very odd manner.

Though Mr. Brunas ends his article with praise for *It!*, anyone who has read his preceding paragraphs is at a loss to understand how he could say such a thing. After all, according to Brunas, *It!* has no plot (though it takes four long paragraphs to describe the plot of this plotless film), barely developed characters (what about Marshall Thompson's obvious anguish over what happened on Mars, or the Thompson/Smith/Spalding triangle that develops), and cheap sets (why didn't they hire Industrial Light and Magic). It's also racist (servile token ethnics who will die in the film because of their race) and sexist (the women clean up and make coffee--oh, the degradation).

Running these films through some 1995 PC gauntlet is both incredibly unfair and more than a little intolerant. In 1958, how were they supposed to know what the political trends would be 30 years hence? Come on, Mr. Brunas! Come on, *Scarlet Street*! The way *It!* was handled is *de rigueur* for this periodical and is just plain wrong. It results in an attitude of scorn and contempt by current generations toward these great films. Consequently, few will wish to take the time to see them, and those that do will probably view them through the PC tunnel vision that you have created and dismiss them as racist, sexist dinosaurs to be quickly forgotten.

You are making ours the last generation who will love and promote these wonderful films of the imagination. You are condemning these films to oblivion and leaving for future generations Freddy, Jason, and the rest of the refuse of this decade. Bradbury's Department of Moral Climates and

Orwell's Big Brother would be well pleased. I, on the other hand, am angered and saddened. While it's probably political, I can't begin to understand your motives. You profess to love these films and have made them your life, as it were. Yet you act to destroy them? Why? Why? Why?

James J.J. Janis
Malverne, NY

Richard Valley replies: There was certainly an element of mystery (not to mention an homage to Hitchcock's *Vertigo*) in the plot of *Tales of the City*. I chose to feature *Tales* in *Scarlet Street* knowing that the sequel, *More Tales of the City* (which is really the first story's conclusion), contained a large chunk of mystery and horror. Little did I suspect that cowardice on the part of PBS would rob viewers of further installments.

As to the rest of your first objection--well, everything is political, isn't it? Lighting a cigarette is political, and if I say I'm strongly opposed to smoking--which I am--then I open myself up to accusations of pushing a personal agenda. Unlike Mr. Gingrich and his Contract on America, *Scarlet Street* has no agenda--but we do have certain policies. We do not ignore the fact that many of the artists we cover, from James Whale in the '30s to Clive Barker in the '90s, were (or are) gay. We do not agree that speculation over a fictional character's sexuality is "insulting" to the creator of that character. *Scarlet Street* has a sizeable gay readership and a staff composed of both straight and gay writers (all of whom, I assure you, are responsibly delusional). We'll continue to run occasional "gay-themed articles" in our pages, as well as "straight-themed articles"--though, for some reason, nobody's complained about the latter.

One last point: Michael Brunas' remarks about the sexism in *It! The Terror* are hardly the result of his running the film through "a 1995 PC gauntlet," since Ann Doran, one of *It!*'s stars, voiced the same objections while making the picture in 1958--and continued to voice them in the interview that ran with Mike's article.

ΛΨΦ

White Wolf Accepting Submissions for New Gay/Lesbian Anthologies

reported by Rob

According to the latest *Science Fiction Chronicle*, White Wolf Publishing will be releasing "Bending the Landscape," a series (at least 3 volumes) of new short story anthologies centering around lesbian and/or gay themes and characters. All stories must be set in a time/place/milieu outside our conventional reality. Stephen Pagel (of White Wolf) and Nicola Griffith (Lammy-winning author of *Ammonite* and *Slow River*) will be the editors; and the first three volumes will be one each of Fantasy, Horror, and SF stories. The first volume will be released early in 1997 in hardcover. This means it will have to be turned in during the beginning of 1996.

The anthology is accepting submissions. Any stories submitted

should indicate which volume you would like it considered for. The editors will, of course, make the final decisions. You can send a SASE for guidelines to:

Bending the Landscape
c/o Stephen Pagel
White Wolf Publishing
780 Park North Blvd. #100
Clarkson, GA 30021

For all you aspiring writers out there, this is the chance of a lifetime. Payment will be 8¢ per word on acceptance against a pro-rata share of royalties. Good luck!



Editorial Addendum

The June/July 1995 issue of *Science Fiction Chronicle* also listed the following notification:

LESBIAN SHORT FICTION, 6507 Franrivers Ave., West Hills, CA 91307. Editor: Jinx Beers. Current needs: Short SF, fantasy, horror, all genres, with a significant lesbian content, up to 10,000 words, though less preferred. Does *not* have to be written by a lesbian. Send SASE for guidelines. Payment rates: 1¢ a word plus 2 copies, upon publication for 1st NA serial rights. Reporting time: 6 weeks.

For those of you who don't know her, Jinx is the agent for (and significant other of) well-known fantasy artist Alicia Austin. It looks like she's *also* giving "all you aspiring writers out there . . . the chance of a lifetime" (to quote Rob).

ΛΨΦ

Report on the Aug. 5th "Video Madness" Party

by Carl Cipra

August 5th had to have been one of the hottest, muggiest days of the year; but that didn't stop us from experiencing yet another outbreak of that dreaded disease, "Video Madness." About 30-something people showed up for the party - members of Lambda Sci-Fi, members of the BiCentrist Alliance, and various "unassociated" fun-lovers who'd read about the party in *The Blade*. There were scads and oodles of various tasty foods for attendees to feast on; and, the way everyone "consumed mass quantities," you'd think the party was composed of refugees from Remulak. (That's in France, you know.) Jaime's over-worked air-conditioning units struggled valiantly to stave off heat-prostration; but the only room that *really* seemed to be cool and comfortable was the upstairs den.

"But what about the *films*?" you ask. Well, the party pretty much divided up into three "theme tracks" of videos. On the back patio was the

"Salute to Nippon" track, featuring *Godzilla vs. Mothra* (untranslated, no subtitles!) and *Monster City* (an incredible *animé* feature). The living room served as "The Big Screen," with the largest crowd to watch the (apparently) most popular features: two episodes from Showtime's new *Outer Limits* series ("The New Breed" and "Caught in the Act") and *Big Trouble in Little China* (Oooh! Kurt Russell and Dennis Dun!). Then there was the upstairs den, *a.k.a.* "Schlock Theatre." This room contained a small but devoted audience that howled its way through *Plan 9 from Outer Space* (well, you know!) and *The Crawling Eye* (a 1950s "classic").



"Ohmigosh! What are they showing now?!"



All in all, everyone had a great time; and it was nice meeting all the folks from the BiCentrist Alliance. (They're still interested in having that dance party at Tracks, gang!) In the meantime, be on the look-out for another outbreak of "Video Madness." You can never really be sure when it'll strike next. (And I don't think you can get shots for it!)

ΛΨΦ

GUARANTEE: If you fail to save the Universe, and it is subsequently destroyed, you may claim back the full purchase price of this book at any surviving stockist on presentation of receipt. Failure to save a parallel and/or anti-matter universe are not grounds for reimbursement.

excerpted from
How to Be a Superhero
by Mark Leigh & Mike Lepine
(NBM Publishing, 1992)

August Minutes (Going Once, Twice, Sold!) reported by Rob

Our meeting started innocently enough at about 2:10 PM, after much bickering and nattering about which theatre was farther from various points on the map. Adam ("the unpaid member") started it all by suggesting a post-meeting trip to the movies to see *Waterworld*. (Imagine twenty stereotypical gay men trying to make plans and agree on something - you'll get the idea of where it went from there.) A hearty round of "Quiet down, children!" was barely enough to stem the tide of disaster.

But with tremendous patience (and a few unsubtle hints), the meeting got under way. The first order of business was a **Treasurer's Report**. I reported that, after causing some alarm that my loud voice might cause the bank to lose customers, I was able to convince a small local bank to give LSF a Totally Free checking account. Lambda Sci-Fi now has an account of its very own; and all checks (dues, etc.) once again should be made payable to "Lambda Sci-Fi." Our balance prior to today's auction (see below) was about \$500. (Side note: I visited the bank this morning; and they recognized me and chatted with me by name. I kind of like that!) All previously-received membership checks and such have been deposited as of now.

We moved from that momentous news to a few tidbits from and about *TV Guide*. After their recent barrage of SF-oriented articles and covers, a few readers have been crying "Enough!" ("Too bad," I say.) In other magazine news, everyone's favorite mystery and horror magazine, *Scarlet Street*, came up against a homophobic reader in its letters column complaining about the pro-gay bias. *Scarlet Street's* response was basically "Get over it; we're here for everyone and if you can't take it, too bad!" Mike Cornett has already sent them a letter of support. Let's hear it for *Scarlet Street*! [Ed. note: For com-

plete details, see article on page 2 of this newsletter.]

In upcoming media news, *Science Fiction Chronicle* reported a number of things about upcoming movies like: the team-up of Jason and Freddy in a horror flick; *An American Werewolf in Paris*; *The Crow II*; and *Highlander IV*. A number of other big- and small-budget projects are in the works across the industry, including *ALF: The All-New Movie* at ABC. Some people are excited about that last one - go figure! [Ed. note: Hey! Watch it!] Other folks passed along movie news from *Scarlet Street* and from the latest G-fan (Godzilla fandom) magazines as well. (Godzilla will *not* do Dallas, but Tokyo's gonna bite it in the "last" Godzilla film.)

Philip gave us the latest **Network Rep report** and let us know that a certain Network official (who shall remain nameless in this newsletter, but you know who he is) seems to have various personal biases when it comes to LSF proposals. Nevertheless, Philip is getting support for LSF's proposals to re-tool the Network Charter. [Ed. note: I've deleted a little of this part of the minutes. I'm sure you understand why, Rob.] In other Network news, the Awards committee is moving ahead with its proposals (albeit slowly, as one of the committee members has denounced e-mail as a method of communicating about the issues . . . sigh!). I'll keep y'all posted as work on this issue continues.

Carl then brought up two issues for consideration. The first was a poll to find out if LSF wanted to host a room party on Saturday night at **DarkoverCon**. (The con occurs on the weekend after Thanksgiving, and 6-8 LSF members have indicated they'll be attending.) A fairly positive result was attained; so watch for details. (And, by the way, LSFers who aren't yet planning to attend DarkoverCon should go. It's a great fun con!)

The second topic was the **issue of LSF Speaker**. Carl reported that he's been handling the job since Loree (the *first* Speaker) became unable to attend meetings regularly, and

that he wanted some idea of whether we'd like to try setting a standard term of office for the position of Speaker (with elections and everything). A few ideas were tossed around; and it seems that the consensus is that maybe we should vote yearly at the time of LSF's anniversary (July). Carl also asked us whether we'd like to vote in an interim Speaker for the period ending next July. **We'll try to make a decision on elections, etc. at the September meeting.**

Two more items were left on our agenda at that point. The first was an announcement in *Science Fiction Chronicle* about an **upcoming lesbian/gay short story anthology series** coming from White Wolf, which is accepting submissions. (For more details, see article on page 3 of this issue.)

Our last order of business was **another auction**. Carl, James, Philip & Jeff, and I all donated items which were auctioned off and raised another \$90 for LSF! The highlights were: some videos, artwork, and computer games. The "lowlight" was Philip's bag of many books. (Many of the book-hogs in the club dove at it; but the crowd dispersed upon discovering some Jackie Collins novels hidden in the bag's depths. Even with a minimum bid of 50¢ it wouldn't sell until a paperback Cordwainer Smith book was added to it.) All in all, another successful auction. Thanks, folks!

ΛΨΦ

Beating the living crap out of supervillains can be rewarding work in itself, but never forget that being a superhero is just plain, good old-fashioned fun as well! After all, in what other profession can you run around in a cape, jump off buildings, swing on flagpoles or run down Main Street screaming "Show yourself, Invisible Lashlord!" and not get dragged away by the police on suspicion of a major drugs violation?

excerpted from
How to Be a Superhero
by Mark Leigh & Mike Lepine
(NBM Publishing, 1992)

The Rice Report:
Devil Take the Hindmost
 by Michael Cornett

In her first novel, *Interview with the Vampire*, Anne Rice presented us with a bleak picture: there is no God, no Devil; and human suffering and agony is meaningless. In her latest novel, *Memnoch the Devil*, the world view has changed. There is a Devil; there is a God; there are angels, Heaven, and Hell. And the picture is bleaker than ever.

The novel opens with our old pal, Lestat, stalking a drug kingpin, intent on feeding on his blood. But someone, some Thing, is stalking Lestat. A strange presence haunts his every step; barely audible voices comment on his actions; and an odd, bland-looking man appears and disappears.

After a rush of activity, including drinking blood, encountering his victim's ghost, prowling through a warehouse of stolen religious relics, and falling in love with a beautiful televangelist, Lestat discovers his stalker. It is the fallen angel Memnoch, the Devil himself, seeking a new recruit for a lieutenant for his struggle against God.

Thus begins a harrowing, hallucinatory voyage through time and reality. Lestat ascends to Heaven, descends to Hell, hears the story of the Creation and the development of mankind, and witnesses the fall of Memnoch. Lestat confronts Jesus *en route* to his Crucifixion, witnesses the Crusades, and fears for the future of the human race.

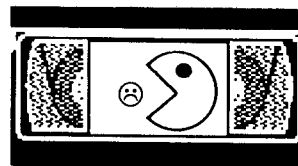
To reveal too much would be unthinkable. Let us say that Memnoch, the Devil, is not evil. On the other hand, God is not entirely good Himself. And that is very scary.

Memnoch the Devil disembowels Christian theology, giving us a good hard look at our relationship with God, and what God's views toward us may be. The book is highly opposed to violence and blood sacrifice, and questions whether mankind really has to suffer to achieve enlightenment.

Classic Sci-Fi on Video

- "Giant Creatures" -

by Joseph Parra



BIG ideas require BIG creatures to knock down BIG cities and to make BIG armies drop BIG bombs so that BIG bucks can be made from the BIG movie on the BIG screen. Okay, so many classic "big" beasts (other than dinosaurs, which were covered in a previous article) were BIG bombs; but many were *big* pictures in their own right.

Here's a list of "big" films that are available for viewing on home video. As in previous articles in this series, I've annotated each title with my opinion of whether it's good (G) or bad (B). Keep this list handy when you go to the video store looking for something to keep you busy on that BIG night in front of the LITTLE screen!

- | | |
|---|--|
| <i>The Amazing Colossal Man</i> (G/B) | <i>King Kong</i> , 1976 (B) |
| <i>Attack of the Crab Monsters</i>
(G, because it's wonderfully B) | <i>The Magic Sword</i> (G/B) |
| <i>Attack of the 50-Foot Woman</i>
(G, because it's wonderfully B) | <i>Mighty Joe Young</i> (G) |
| <i>The Beginning of the End</i> (very B) | <i>The Monolith Monsters</i> (G/B) |
| <i>The Black Scorpion</i> (G) | <i>Monster from Green Hell</i> (G/B) |
| <i>The Blob</i> , 1958 (G) | <i>Mysterious Island</i> (G) |
| <i>The Blob</i> , 1988 (G) | <i>Prophecy</i> (B) |
| <i>Captain Sinbad</i> (B/G) | <i>The Quatermass Experiment</i> (G) |
| <i>Clash of the Titans</i> (G) | <i>Quatermass 2</i>
(a.k.a. <i>Enemy from Space</i>) (G) |
| <i>Cosmic Monsters</i> (G) | <i>The 7th Voyage of Sinbad</i> (G) |
| <i>The Crawling Eye</i> (G) | <i>Sinbad and the Eye of the Tiger</i> (G) |
| <i>The Cyclops</i> (G) | <i>Tarantula!</i> (G) |
| <i>The Deadly Mantis</i> (G) | <i>Them!</i> (G) |
| <i>Earth vs. the Spider</i> (B/G) | <i>The 30-Foot Bride of Candy Rock</i> (G/B) |
| <i>The Empire of the Ants</i> (B) | <i>Tremors</i> (G) |
| <i>The Food of the Gods</i> (B) | <i>20 Million Miles to Earth</i> (G) |
| <i>The Giant Claw</i> (B!) | <i>Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea</i> (G) |
| <i>The Giant Leeches</i> (B) | <i>War of the Colossal Beast</i> (G/B) |
| <i>Golden Voyage of Sinbad</i> (G) | <i>Willow</i> (G) |
| <i>Honey, I Blew Up the Kid</i> (G) |and many others |
| <i>Jason and the Argonauts</i> (G) | too BIG to mention!!! |

ΛΨΦ

Next month: "Itty-Bitties"

ΛΨΦ

Anne Rice's last few novels have been disappointing, with the dullness of *Body Thief* and the ill-judged *Lasher* and *Taltos*, but this time she has a winner. *Memnoch* is one of her most thought-provoking works to date, and displays genuine imagination and creative force. Also, it is the last Lestat novel. Lestat, sinister in *Interview*, the driving force in *The Vampire Lestat* and *The Queen of the Damned*, had turned into a tiresome dinner guest in *Body*

Thief. While at times he seems almost unnecessary to the narrative of *Memnoch*, he does play an active and plausible role; and it's nice to see him going out with a bang. When he says at the end of the book, "Let me pass from fiction into legend," we believe him. Let us hope that the narrative verve she has rediscovered in *Memnoch* will carry over into Rice's future works.

ΛΨΦ

*** * 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, September 10th, 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.



Oct. 6-8, 1995 **FARPOINT '95** (Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn, Hunt Valley, MD). Guests: Robert Picardo ("the Doctor" from *ST:T*), The Boogie Knights. Membership: \$35 (all 3 days), \$22 (Sat. only), \$18 (Sun. only) - ltd. to 1500 per day. Make checks payable to "Farpoint, Inc." and send to: Farpoint, Inc., 7859 Marioak Dr., Elkridge, MD 21227.

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).

Nov. 24-26, 1995 **DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL MEETING XVIII**: Holiday Inn Timonium (Timonium, MD). GoH: TBA; Special Guests: Marion Zimmer Bradley, Katherine Kurtz. Hotel: \$62/nite (up to 4 per room). Cost: \$25 until 11/1/95 (\$30 at door). Make check payable to "Armida Council" and send to: Armida Council, PO Box 7203, Silver Spring, MD 20907. A very les/bi/gay-friendly convention; often described as "a mini-Gaylaxicon *within* a con."

April 5-7, 1996 **BALTICON XXX**: Omni International Hotel (Baltimore, MD). GoH: Robert Jordan; Art GoH: Lubov; "Fang" GoH: Marty Gear. Cost: \$30 until 12/31/95; \$35 from 1/1 - 2/28/96; \$40 at the door. Make check payable to "Balticon XXX" and send to: Balticon XXX, PO Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203-0686. E-mail: bsfs@access.digex.net

July 5-7, 1996 **GAYLAXICON VII**: Burlington Marriot Hotel (Burlington, MA - about 10 mi. NW of Boston). Guests of Honor: "To be Announced." Cost: \$20 from 7/1 to 12/31/95; \$25 from 1/1/96 to 4/30/96; \$30 from 5/1/96 to 6/15/96; \$35 at the door. Make check payable to "Gaylaxicon VII" and send to: Gaylaxicon VII, P.O. Box 176, Somerville, MA 02143.

Aug. 29 - Sept. 1, 1996 **L.A.CON III (the 54th World Science Fiction Convention)**. Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim Hilton & Towers, and Anaheim Marriott (Anaheim, CA). Writer GoH: James White; Media GoH: Roger Corman; Toastmaster: Connie Willis. Cost: \$110 from 7/1/95 - 12/31/95; "more" after 1/1/96. Make check payable to "L.A.Con III" and send to: L.A. Con III, c/o SCIFI, P.O. Box 8442, Van Nuys, CA 91409. Email infobot: lacon3-info@netcom.com

Aug. 28 - Sept. 1, 1997 **LONESTARCON 2 (the 55th World Science Fiction Convention)**. Both Marriott Riverwalk Hotels & San Antonio Convention Center (San Antonio, TX). Honored Guests: Algis Budrys & Michael Moorcock; Honored Artist Guest: Don Maitz. Cost: \$80 until 8/15/95; \$95 as of 8/16/95; "more" as time goes on. Make check payable to "LoneStarCon 2" and send to: LoneStarCon 2, P.O. Box 27277, Austin, TX 78755. For further info, call (512) 453-7446.