



PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 – 202/232-3141 – Issue #101 – August 1998

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### Upcoming LSF Meeting by Peter Knapp

The next LSF meeting will be held Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at the home of James Crutchfield: 1414 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW Apartment 413 (near Dupont Circle). The business meeting is at 1:30pm; the social meeting is at 2:00pm. Please bring some munchies or soft drinks to share if you can. Hope to see you there! ▼

### Worldcon Gay Fandom Suite Open To All

Come join us at the Gay Fandom Suite each evening of Bucconeer. (See Worldcon Events for Gay Fandom article.) Remember, you don't need to be a member of the convention to party! ▼



FOR GODZILLA AND KING KONG  
IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

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### Gaylaxicon ConComm Meeting by Rob Gates

The next meeting of the Gaylaxicon: 1999 Convention Committee will be held on Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup> beginning at 1:30pm at the home of Jack and Kendall. We'll be discussing our recent hotel contract signing, promotion plans for Worldcon, and budgets and timelines for all areas. This may be a long meeting as we'll be trying to put together our blueprint for the next 12 months. Everyone, whether they've previously volunteered for a role on the committee or not, is welcome to join us and lend a hand. Volunteers are still needed!

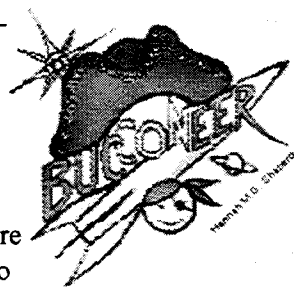
Jack and Kendall's home is in Alexandria, VA near the Van Dom Metro Station. Please call them directly at 703/567-8530 for directions. ▼

### Worldcon Gay Fandom Suite Donations Wanted by Rob Gates

As you've probably heard, Lambda Sci-Fi is helping to throw a four night long party at Worldcon. Peter, our erstwhile substitute editor, is running the Gay Fandom Suite. That's right, every night of the World Science Fiction Convention you'll be able to take some time out of your schedule to revel with other gay fans. But a party like this doesn't happen by itself, it requires money and supplies. Donations have been requested from everyone in the Network – and now that

### Worldcon Events for Gay Fandom by Rob Gates

With the World Science Fiction Convention just a short hop away in Baltimore this year, Lambda Sci-Fi and the Gaylactic Network have been hard at work making sure that there'll be plenty of things to do of interest to gay fandom. The Worldcon, called Bucconeer this year, will be taking place in Baltimore's Inner Harbor area and Convention Center from August 5<sup>th</sup> through August 9<sup>th</sup>. Many LSF'ers will be volunteering their time in various capacities at the convention, and we encourage anyone attending to think about becoming a volunteer.



So what will there be for gay fans to do? How about attending panels.....no fewer than 5 panels specifically mention gays and lesbians in their titles and there are others that will have topics of particular interest to our community. In fact, there'll even be Lambda Sci-Fi members serving on a few of them! Bucconeer's complete pre

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call goes out to Lambda Sci-Fi as well. If you can't donate money, we also have the opportunity to donate supplies (either party food or paper goods). So, please bring your **non-perishable** food, supplies and/or money donations to the Lambda Sci-Fi meeting on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. ▼

## Gaylaxicon 8 as viewed by Carl Cipra

Imagine a casual, happy family reunion – well, a really *big* family reunion, one with about 65 relatives present and quite a few absent. That's pretty much how Gaylaxicon 8 felt to me. It was really nice seeing many old friends again after about a year's absence – as well as meeting some friendly new faces. It's a shame that *more* people weren't there to share the fun. I believe the total pre-paid membership was about 80; and, factoring in no-shows and a few at-the-door memberships, total attendance was about 65. Lambda Sci-Fi definitely was a major presence at the con – about one in six attendees were LSFers. The roll call of LSF attendees: Keith, Peter & Rob, Wayne & Brent, Eric, Jim W., Julian, Jack & Kendall, and me.

Our hosts, the folks at Great Lakes Gaylaxians, worked hard to put together a friendly little con for all the attendees. The most common design motif for the con was the "little green alien face," which seemed to be everywhere you looked – as party lights in the con suite, on the various party favors they handed out, in the decorations at the dances, etc. Gaylaxicon 8 featured three days of discussion panels (none of which I attended), a video program, *two* dances and *two* late-night pool parties, a chocolate symposium, a small art show and huckster room, a Saturday night pizza party,

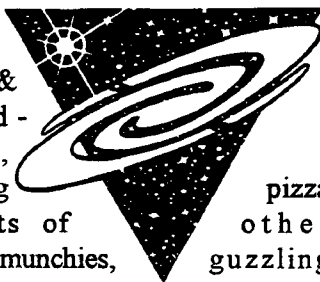
and the all-new "Fannish Feud" game (instead of "Gaylactic Jeopardy"). If I do say so myself, the LSF team made quite a good showing during the "Feud" and only missed out winning by a very small percentage.

The con suite (aka "the Flamingo Lounge") was a *big* success. It's where I (and most other attendees) seemed to spend the most time – playing card-games & board-games, eating pizza and lots of other yummy munchies, guzzling down soft drinks, and generally schmoozing. One of the attached bedrooms served as the video room; and I often dropped in to catch a favorite. Their program included such videos as *Jason and the Argonauts*, *Star Trek – the Pepsi Generation*, *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, *Destroy All Monsters*, *Mutant on the Bounty*, *Kizuna* (animé about gays and gangsters), *Rockets* (a documentary), *MST3K: The Movie*, *Earth vs. the Flying Saucers*, and *French and Saunders At the Movies* (and many, many more).

The friendly, cooperative atmosphere even seemed to extend into the Saturday morning Gaylactic Network Board

meeting. Only four chapters had reps present at the meeting (Great Lakes, Planet Lambda, GSFS [Boston], and LSF); and only a very few officers were present (Speaker, Postal Coordinator, WorldCon Liaison, Gaylaxicon: 1999 Co-chairs, Awards Committee Chair, "Keeper of the Charter"). Nevertheless, everyone there showed great interest in the Network's well-being and demonstrated a common desire to work out solutions to the challenges currently facing the Network. I look forward to good things coming out of this meeting. (Note: There will *definitely* be a follow-up Network meeting this coming August, in the gay fandom suite at WorldCon in Baltimore.)

Kudos to con chair Bob Pesavento and all the wonderful gang at Great Lakes Gaylaxians (and everyone else who helped out) for keeping the Gaylaxicon tradition going and for giving us all another chance to get together and celebrate with our gay fandom family! We at Lambda Sci-Fi look forward to having you all come down to "play in our yard" next year and celebrate *Gaylaxicon 1999: the 10<sup>th</sup> Gaylaxicon!* (You can even help us figure out how come "the 10<sup>th</sup> Gaylaxicon" follows directly after "Gaylaxicon 8." Hmmm....maybe we'll run a contest.) ▼



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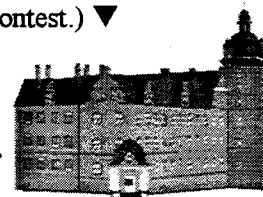
### A Visit to the Musee Jules Verne by Barrett Brick

In June, while spending two weeks in France for the World Cup, my travels took me to Nantes, a beautiful city on the Loire River toward the Atlantic coast. Nantes is the city in which Jules Verne was born in 1828 and is the site of the Musee Jules Verne (Jules Verne Museum). This museum receives only

passing mention in most tour guides but is really a small gem.

The museum is located at 3, rue de L-Hermitage, which is on a rise overlooking the Loire and the city harbor. The museum is an eleven-room, three-story house dating from the Nine-

teenth Century, and it houses a remarkable collection. The first room is a recreation of Verne's sitting room in Amiens, including Verne's own furniture. From there, one proceeds through rooms filled with displays of first editions of Verne's novels, translations



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Eventually I managed to get myself settled and remember to take notes. Chaos had already reigned for quite some time, and doubtless I missed some pearls of wisdom before I started taking minutes. But here they are in all their glory...

The first item on the plate was a Network update from our Network Representative, Jack. He reported on the business meeting held at Gaylaxicon in Michigan. Results of voting on a number of issues handled at that meeting are still pending because we don't know whether enough voting affiliates cast votes, but it does appear that Nan from LSF is the new Publicist for the Network, that the San Francisco group is now a Full Affiliate, and that some simple changes to the Charter have been made. A lot of discussion was held at the Board meeting regarding the recent decline of activity from some clubs, and ways to get the Network more active. Jack brought forward a proposal that the number of votes needed for an action

## Strange Minutes: July, 1998

by Rob Gates

to be official be lowered to either 1/3 of active affiliates or some set number. Lambda Sci-Fi voted that we will not support this proposal, instead suggesting that more effort be expended on trying to clean out deadwood and get chapters active and voting again. A second issue brought to LSF for voting was that of eliminating the waiting period before a club's request to join the Network results in granting of Provisional Affiliate status. If this proposal passes, a club requesting admittance would automatically be granted Provisional status immediately - thus making the process of getting involved with the Network easier. Lambda Sci-Fi voted to cast a vote in favor of this proposal. Finally, there is a proposal that if a chapter does not cast a vote on an issue within two GNAPA's, their vote automatically becomes an abstention. LSF voted in favor of this proposal. Jack and others in attendance at the Network meeting reported that in general, the Network is in the process of straightening itself out with the involvement of a core of active clubs. Over time, it's hoped

that the problems we've seen develop over the last few years can finally be resolved.

Peter, the Network's Liaison to Worldcon, also reported on the fact that there will be a Gay Fandom Party Suite running all four nights of Worldcon. He's soliciting donations to cover the cost of the suite. We voted to donate \$100 as a club to the Suite. We also voted to donate any profits from t-shirts sold before Worldcon to the Suite. Individuals interested in donating money are encouraged to talk to Peter ASAP. Additional updates and discussion about Worldcon events will be occurring at the August meeting. **Because of the timing of Worldcon, LSF also voted to move our August meeting to August 2.**

With all that heavy business settled, we moved on to easier (?) things. Rob gave an update on plans for Gaylaxicon: 1999, including the set-

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## A Visit to the Musee Jules Verne

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of the novels into a multitude of languages, a recreation of the interior of the rocket in *From the Earth to the Moon*, various art and other objects inspired by Verne and his writings, a globe used by Verne to plot the voyages of his characters, photos of Verne and his family, letters from Verne, broadsides from Verne's publisher advertising Verne's books, a recreation of Verne's childhood bedroom from his home in Nantes, and models of Verne's own boat and his characters' boats (and other voyaging mechanisms). The collection also includes posters advertising films and plays based upon Verne's novels,

many models and games, and an electronic board that allows the visitor to press buttons to trace the travels of Verne's characters in his many novels. From many of the rooms, windows open onto views of the Loire and its boats, providing a marvelous backdrop to the house and its collection.

The city council of Nantes created the Musee Jules Verne, which opened on February 9, 1978, the sesquicentennial of the author's birth. The museum is open from 10:00am until Noon and again from 2:00pm until 5:00pm. It's closed Tuesdays, Sunday mornings,

and holidays. Two blocks from the museum is Nantes' planetarium, which has a nice collection of meteorites, as well as a small garden with a contemporary sundial and structures demonstrating various astronomical concepts. I also found the museum to be a pleasant tram ride and walk along the riverside from Le Ferry, a gay bar and restaurant which serves a friendly and mixed crowd of women and men. Now, if only Team USA had won that night, my visit would have been perfect! But, World Cup or no, Nantes and the Musee Jules Verne are definitely worth a visit. ▼

## Strange Minutes: July, 1998

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tling of a hotel contract with the Arlington Hilton & Towers, our current registration status, our push for sponsorships, and a call for our next ConComm meeting (see details elsewhere). Peter reported that an update to the Membership Directory is almost done and passed around a listing of updates to people whose information had changed. He expects to have the update in time for the August meeting. Bethany offered up her home for a September Video Party, which we scheduled for September 19<sup>th</sup> (look for details in the September issue of the newsletter). Peter passed around various catalogs and materials received in the PO Box. Finally, Rob reported that LSF's e-mail list is in the midst of conversion to a listserv allowing interactive mail between participants.

On the genre front, various news items and tidbits were flung about including...info about the replacement for Jadzia Dax on DS9 which will be a new Dax; a reminder about the upcoming B5 movie on July 19<sup>th</sup>; Spiderman's upcoming overhaul in the comics; a report on Kevin Smith (Clerks) being tagged to pen a Daredevil movie; an update on "missing episodes" of Prey, Timecop, and Earth: Final Conflict being shown; a

newsflash on Michelle Yeo being cast in the 4<sup>th</sup> Indiana Jones movie (despite Harrison Ford not yet being signed on); and an update on the next Bond film which will begin filming in January and which may have Christopher Lee back as Scaramanga. *Small Soldiers* was violent, unoriginal and uneven according to those who've seen it. Various magazines and catalogs were passed around as well.

On the film front, Uncle Joe reported that a 2<sup>nd</sup> Godzilla film is in the works which will basically be *Godzilla vs. King Kong*, though Kong will have a different name. A sequel to *An American Werewolf in Paris* is being planned, as is a remake of *Tron*. A remake of *The Mummy* (the Karloff version) is already in filming, and the trailer for *Mighty Joe Young* looks pretty good. Look for (listen for) Joe's voiced sound effects in a straight to video sequel to *Deep Rising* as well.

Joe also reported on a continuing avalanche of new/old video releases, many in letterbox editions. Anchor Bay is releasing a number of Hammer classics - Universal is releasing a number of 50's and 60's classics in \$9.95 letterbox editions - Fox, Paramount and Columbia are following suit, though not at the \$9.95 price.

In other genre news, B5 episodes and the original movie are now appearing on video - a Dilbert cartoon will be appearing on TV starting in January - a series called *Killer App* created by Robert Altman and Gary Trudeau centered on a high tech Silicon Valley startup is also coming. The Sci-Fi Channel has acquired rights to 3 Showtime series, *Stargate*, *Poltergeist* and *Outer Limits*. Finally, an *Addams Family* TV movie and possibly a new series are in the works. On the movie front, *Jurassic Park 3* is scheduled for Summer 2000 release, and *A Bug's Life* is scheduled for Thanksgiving release with a possible Mall Tour.

With everything out of the way, we headed back into a few final business items. Rob reported on responses to our interest survey about a book discussion group. It seems like a promising idea, and Niko offered to assist in keeping the ball rolling on getting it started. Nan then presented the final designs for the new LSF t-shirts. After much discussion about the design and the lack of it being identifiably gay, we voted to keep it as is. Rob offered to take orders and handle the administration so we could have the t-shirts in time for Worldcon. Finally, we celebrated Kendall's birthday with a cake and ice cream. Phew! ▼



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### Celluloid Tidbits

various reviews by Joseph Parra

Lately, I've seen a wide compendium of theatrical, TV, and videotape releases. Big surprise, huh?! It would be nigh onto impossible to write individual articles about all of them, so allow me to capsulize my recent viewings.

*Species 2* shows us (at great length) that the Federal armed forces didn't learn much from *Species*. Cells from Sil (the monster from the first film)

have been cloned to create a new monster which the powers-that-be hope will be more "civilized" than her predecessor. They give her an improved environment and extremely limited exposure to the opposite sex. (You may recall that when the previous incarnation of Sil had such exposure, her hormones were aroused and it "brought out the beast" in her.) The problem in this film is that a manned spaceflight to Mars has run across

spores which have infected two out of the three astronauts and begun a transmutation process in them - making them similar to the Sil clone (named "Eve" - oh, brother!). To make a long-winded story short, if Eve mates with one of the new hybrids, she'll produce many offspring. A long and bloody road ensues, with people being humped to death by these insatiable beings. Throw judgment out the win-

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## Celluloid Tidbits

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dow - the creative crew clearly did! This species is suffering from an inevitable disease: "sequel-itis." Rating: 2 out of a possible 4.

Peter Benchley's *Creature* (a 2-part adaptation of his novel *White Shark*) surfaced on ABC on May 17/18. A Caribbean island is being menaced by a great white shark - sort of. It's actually a monstrous hybrid - great white shark, human, and a smidgen of crocodile, with more than rudimentary intelligence - bred by the U.S. Navy for jungle warfare during the Vietnam era. But it escaped. The big question is: what did it do for the last 28 years before it got antsy and started offing people? Marine biologist Craig T. Nelson discovers that the creature can mate with a female great white shark and produce nasty babies. In summary, what might have made an interesting 2-hour B-movie became a laborious, sometimes unintentionally funny, grade-C epic. The monster was designed by famed creature creator Stan Winston; he did an excellent job. If only he could have created the rest of the film. Oh, well... Rating: 2

(solely because of the unique monster) out of a possible 4.

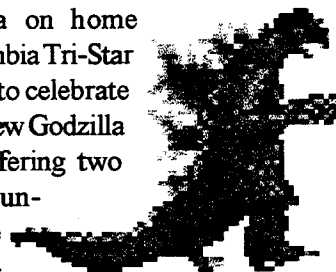


liminary schedule is available on their web site, but you can expect to see a special listing of "gay interest" panels on LSF's web site, and available at the Gay Fandom Suite starting on August 5<sup>th</sup>. Did I say Gay Fandom Suite? Indeed I did! There will be an open party/hospitality suite for gay fandom every night of the convention beginning at 8:00pm. The hospitality suite will be in the Baltimore Hilton and Towers hotel, and the room number will be posted on the convention's

*Gargantua* aired on Fox (who also produced it) on May 19. It's a 1990s version of a 1950s staple - the giant monster movie. In it, a new species of overgrown salamander has been discovered in the ocean off the coast of Maui by a lonely boy, who befriends a baby (quite cute and adorable) of the species. Continually bigger versions of the beast appear, with predictably destructive results. Digital beasts and well-articulated puppets are, of course, the main asset of this TV terror. The monsters are kept minimally frightening, so as to be child-accessible. Not a bad TV movie, if not taken too seriously. Rating: 2½ out of 4.

In the world of home video, everything is fair game. Scimitar Entertainment has released, in both SP and EP versions, several Godzilla movies which had been previously available from Paramount Video only in EP versions. *Godzilla*, *Godzilla vs. Mothra*, *Godzilla vs. Monster Zero*, *Godzilla's Revenge*, and *Terror of Mechagodzilla* are now digitally remastered for your viewing pleasure; and some of them (in SP only) are available in letterboxed editions! I have two of these (*Godzilla vs.*

*Mothra* and *Monster Zero*), which are wonderfully enhanced by the widescreen experience. Speaking of Godzilla on home video, Columbia Tri-Star has decided to celebrate Tri-Star's new Godzilla flock by offering two previously-unavailable Godzilla adventures - *Godzilla vs. King Ghidora* and *Godzilla vs. Mothra* (1990). Unfortunately, they're only in EP. Oh well, it's better than zip, I suppose. Videotape ratings: All the Godzilla movies (except *Godzilla's Revenge*): 3 out of a possible 4; *Revenge*: 1 out of 4.



Columbia Tri-Star has released on tape (at popular prices) widescreen editions of some of their sci-fi goodies: *Close Encounters of the 3rd Kind*, *Anaconda*, and *The 5th Element*. I recently got mine at a Target store for \$13.95 each, along with Universal's *Lost World: Jurassic Park* in widescreen for \$9.99! (Target has stores in Leesburg, VA and Rockville, MD.) ▼



## Worldcon Events for Gay Fandom

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party board. Parties and panels not your cup of tea? There'll be numerous professional writers and artists on hand to meet and talk to, including many of our Gaylaxicon favorites. For those more business minded people - you can take advantage of an opportunity to sit through a Gaylactic Network Business Meeting on Friday evening beginning at 6:00pm (Ed. note: in the Gay Fandom Suite at the Baltimore Hilton and Towers).

All of this on top of the general activities that make up a Worldcon - pan-

els, media presentations, award ceremonies, masquerades and costumes, dealers room, art shows, filking, free books, readings, autographs, great parties, and the biggest concentration of fans one could hope for. There are fascinating and friendly people to meet and an endless supply of things to do and see. I've been to 5 Worldcons and I've never run out of things to do. If you do plan to attend, be prepared for a wild ride....make sure to eat regular meals now and then....and definitely get yourself into bed for at least a few hours of sleep every night! ▼

Editor's Corner  
by Peter Knapp



Somehow Carl suckered me into being the guest editor once again. I'll have to think of something reciprocal for him to do, like move my stuff to the house Rob and I bought!

Thanks this month go to: Barrett Brick, Carl Cipra, Chris Browning, Joe Parra, and Rob Gates. ▼

## 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.

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.



## Convention and Retreat Calendar

by Carl, James, Kendall, and Peter



August 5-9, 1998 **BUCONEER (the 56th World Science Fiction Convention)**. Baltimore Convention Center & surrounding hotels (Baltimore, MD). GoHs: C.J. Cherryh, Stanley Schmidt and Michael Whelan. Attending membership: \$165 at the door (One day memberships: Wednesday \$50, Thursday \$50, Friday \$65, Saturday 65, Sunday \$20).

E-mail: [bucconeer@bucconeer.worldcon.org](mailto:bucconeer@bucconeer.worldcon.org)

Website: <http://bucconeer.worldcon.org>

September 11-13, 1998 **LIVING OUTSIDE THE BOX (BiNet-USA's Mid-Atlantic Region Fourth Annual Retreat)**. Claggett Retreat Center (Buckeystown, MD). Registration: \$90 for dormitory lodging and \$115 for cottage lodging. Registration fee includes all workshops and activities, lodging, and meals. Contact the registrar, Kendall Bullen at 517 North Ripley Street, Alexandria, VA 22304-2713, 703/212-2083 for more information.

E-mail: [kendall@his.com](mailto:kendall@his.com)

Website: <http://www2.ari.net/binet>

November 6-8, 1998 **SCI-CON 20**. Holiday Inn Executive Center (Virginia Beach, VA). GoH: Will Shetterly; Special GoH: Emma Bull; Artist GoH: Coleen Doran. Hotel rooms: \$66/night (single or double) - for reservations (deadline 10/17/98) call 757-499-4400 or 1-800-HOLIDAY (Ask for Sci-Con rate). Membership: \$30 from 5/1/98 - 10/31/98, \$35 at the door. Make checks payable to "Sci-Con 20" and send to: Sci-Con 20, P.O. Box 9434, Hampton, VA 23670.

E-mail: [ghnat@aol.com](mailto:ghnat@aol.com) or [tgray@norfolk.infi.net](mailto:tgray@norfolk.infi.net)

Website: <http://www.scicon.org>

November 13-15, 1998 **PHILCON 98**. Adam's Mark Hotel (Philadelphia, PA). GoHs: Tom Savini and Walter John Williams. For info, contact: Philcon 98, PO Box 8303, 30th Street Station., Philadelphia, PA 19101.

E-mail: [mail@philcon.org](mailto:mail@philcon.org)

Website: <http://www.philcon.org>

November 27-29, 1998 **DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL MEETING XXI**. Holiday Inn Select, Baltimore North (Timonium, MD). GoH: Adrienne Martine-Barnes; Special Guests: Marion Zimmer Bradley (health permitting) and Katherine Kurtz. Hotel rooms: \$73/night (up to 4 in a room). Membership: \$30 until 11/1/98 (\$35 afterwards and at the door). Make checks payable to "Armida Council" and send to: Armida Council, PO Box 7203, Silver Spring, MD 20907.

(This is a very les/bi/gay/trans-friendly convention. It's been called a "mini-Gaylaxicon" within another con.)

August 26-29, 1999 **CONUCOPIA: NASFiC 1999** (since WorldCon is in Australia). Anaheim Marriott (Anaheim, CA). GoH: Jerry Pournelle; Editor GoH: Ellen Datlow. Membership: \$85 until 12/31/98, \$100 after 12/31/98. Make checks payable to "SCIFI" or "Conucopia" and send to: Conucopia, c/o SCIFI, PO Box 8442, Van Nuys, CA 91409.

E-mail: [99.nasfic.org](mailto:99.nasfic.org)

Website: <http://www.99.nasfic.org>

October 8-11, 1999 **GAYLAXICON: 1999 - THE 10th GAYLAXICON**. Arlington Hilton & Towers (Arlington, VA). Guest of Honor: Diane Duane; Artist GoH: Nancy Janda. Hotel Rooms: \$99/night (single or double). Membership: \$40 until August 9, 1998, then \$50 through August 1, 1999, \$60 at the door. (No mail-in registrations after September 1, 1999.) Make checks payable to "Gaylaxicon: 1999" and send to: Gaylaxicon: 1999, c/o Lambda Sci-Fi, PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044. For more information, call 202/232-3141.

E-mail: [lambdasf@aol.com](mailto:lambdasf@aol.com)

Website: <http://members.aol.com/lambdasf/home.html>