



LAMBDA SCI-FI



DC Area Gaylaxians

PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (202) 232-3141 - Issue #122 - May 2000

E-MAIL: info@lambdasf.org WEBSITE: http://www.lambdasf.org/

Barrett Brick to Receive Award at GLAA Banquet

[Ed. Note: Heartiest congratulations to one of LSF's founding members!!!]

The Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, DC will hold its 29th Anniversary Reception on Thursday, April 27, from 7:00 to 10:00 PM, at the Doyle Washington Hotel, 1500 New Hampshire Ave NW, on Dupont Circle. The reception, which includes an open bar and a light dinner, features a special salute to Dr. Franklin E. Kameny for his 75th Birthday, as well as the presentation of GLAA's annual Distinguished Service Awards. This year's recipients are: Jeffrey Berman (Public Defender Service), Steve Block (ACLU/National Capital Area), Barrett L. Brick, Food and Friends, Dr. Patricia Hawkins (Associate Director, Whitman-Walker Clinic), and Jessica Xavier.

... BARRETT L. BRICK is being thanked not only for his four years of service as GLAA's Treasurer but also for the leadership he has provided in a host of local, national, and international endeavors serving our community...

GLAA, an all-volunteer, non-partisan, non-profit political organization, was founded in 1971 to advance the equal rights of gay men and lesbians in Washington, DC. GLAA is the nation's oldest continuously active gay and lesbian civil rights organization.

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Report & Proposal from the Organization Discussion Group

reported by Rob

The LSF Organization Discussion Group has been continuing its work, gathering every month prior to the regular LSF meeting. Everyone is encouraged and welcome to join in, although those attending are asked to bring something to share as brunch food for these meetings. (The meetings start at 11AM on the same Sunday as the monthly LSF meeting and are held at Peter & Rob's: 1425 S Street NW.)

At the April gathering, we completed work on a proposal regarding voting procedures; and this proposal was presented to the club that afternoon. It will be voted on at the May LSF Meeting. The proposal is as follows:

Propositions must be announced at the meeting prior to the vote and announced through all official communication methods in the intervening period. Propositions must be voted on without alteration.

For a vote to be valid, a minimum of 10 members or 25% of the membership, whichever is fewer, must cast votes on the issue. A simple majority of the votes cast must be cast by members in attendance at the meeting where the vote is taken. Absentee

(continued on page 3)

Marcelle Cook-Daniels

Marcelle Y. Cook-Daniels, age 40, lost his lifelong battle with depression on April 21, 2000. A native of Washington, D.C., where he lived until his 1996 move to Vallejo, California, Marcelle was a computer programmer/analyst who had worked for the IRS, the Mary-

(continued on page 3)

Next LSF Meeting: May 14th

The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on Sunday, May 14th, at James Crutchfield's apartment: 1414 17th St., NW, Apt. 413 (near Dupont Circle) - 1:30 PM for business meeting; 2:00 PM for social meeting. Please bring some munchies or soft drinks if you can. See you there!

WHAT'S INSIDE? The Yada Yada Minutes of the April LSF Meeting (pg. 2); "What's with the LSF Book Discussion Group?" (pg. 3); Quick Treasurer's Report (pg. 3); *Gods and Monsters* (video review - pg. 4); *Frequency* (movie review - pg. 5); A Cartoon by Chris Browning (pg. 5); Ye Olde Editor's Corner (pg. 5); About Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians & Con Calendar (pg. 6)

The Yada Yada Minutes of the April LSF Meeting by Rob

Once again our stalwart crew gathered for our regular monthly shenanigans. We began with business and quickly worked through **issues related to various Pride Day celebrations and Marches**. Our official plans, approved by the masses, include Pride Day tables at Youth Pride (April 15th), Black Pride (May 28th) and DC Pride (June 11th). In addition, Gaylaxicon 2000 has garnered a table (that LSF will be sharing) at the Millennium March (April 29th and 30th). Jack is coordinating efforts for Youth Pride; Barrett is coordinating efforts for Black Pride; Carl is coordinating efforts for DC Pride; and Nan & Kay are coordinating efforts for the March. In addition to our tables, we'll also be having a Millennium March weekend **Video Party at Peter & Rob's on Saturday, April 29th**; a DC Pride weekend **Video Party at Julian's on June 10th** and a post-Pride **barbeque and game night at Nan & Kay's on June 17th**. Various people are gathering things like flyers, bookmarks, promotional pencils, reading lists, and the like for distribution at the tables and events.

Kendall, Nan, and Kay briefly updated people on **Gaylaxicon 2000** and encouraged everyone to sign up early and often. Barrett filled us in on his initial contact with the organizers of the annual **Gay and Lesbian Filmfest** about the possibility of LSF sponsoring a genre movie at the fest. No word on costs yet, but members of the club were definitely interested in hearing more.

We then spent some time discussing **two "comprehensive" proposals to reform the Gaylactic Network**. Kay clearly outlined the proposals and reviewed each item, with pros and cons. While both proposals were voted down, the club gave Kay a good feel for what areas the club thought needed more work, what parts had seemed worth revisiting, etc. Kay will be calling together **a small committee to draft another proposal** for reform based on the club's thoughts.

Finally, Rob reported on that day's progress at the **Organizational Discussion Group**. A proposal was formally made (to be voted on at the May meeting), the text of which can be found in a separate article. There was some discussion about the proposal, particularly about the concept that a proposal must be formalized one meeting in advance of the vote and that the vote must be taken on the proposal as is. The drafters of the proposal emphasized that this does not change the fact that discussion can (and probably will) occur, but simply that the proposal must be voted on "as is". Such discussion may cause any proposal to fail and be replaced by a *different* proposal, which would be voted on at the next meeting. **This proposal about voting will be voted on at the May LSF meeting.**

Remarkable as it seems, that was all for the business portion of the meeting. Then we moved on to the fun stuff.



In **TV news**, the new series *Exposure* has premiered on the Sci-Fi Channel and shows some promise. Some of the shorts shown in the first episode were good; some weren't. George Lucas' original version of *THX-1138* is supposedly planned for a future episode. Also, the Discovery Channel will shortly be showing the remarkably successful *Walking With Dinosaurs*, a digitally-created but theoretically accurate portrayal of the time of the dinosaurs. They'll also be showing a "making of" special and releasing it on DVD.

Numerous magazines and such were passed around, including the latest *Scarlet Street*, a *Time* magazine issue on "the future", a PC gaming magazine, a few toy magazines, newsletters from our Great Lakes counterparts, and a few anime magazines. Michael and Stephen reported on the previous day's trip to Baltimore for museum visits and a

viewing of *Fantasia 2000*. They loved the American Dime Museum, which is filled with all sorts of bizarrities. They feel *Fantasia 2000* is a mixed bag, with some spectacular stuff and some not-so-great stuff. They also suggested that the individual responsible for thinking that the original "Sorcerer's Apprentice" sequence would look good on a giant Imax screen should be drawn and quartered.

Kay reported on a soon-to-be-appearing interactive Yoda, built on Furby-related technology. Apparently the Yoda will be able to speak Furbish (the Furby language) and communicate with Furbies. The obvious question was posed: can it train Furbies to become Jedi?

A lot of nifty anime is on its way to DVD, including *Cowboy Bebop* and *Blue Submarine Six*. Stephen reported that in 2001 a huge multiplayer online game will be launched, set in the *Star Wars* universe. He also mentioned new glasses that can 3D-ify flat images. Carl also passed around a recent article from *Smithsonian* magazine which talks about the idea of re-thinking the concept of thinking robots, based on the concept of smaller linked "brains" rather than one big one. (It seems that a group of smaller linked brains learns faster than a single unit.)

Rob begged, pleaded and wept for people to submit **Spectrum Award Nominations**. Nominations can be made online at <http://www.lambdasf.org/spectrum>. Rob will continue to have forms available throughout the coming weeks at all of LSF events.

Finally, Carl auctioned off two more scarves made by his mother and a couple of other odds-and-ends before the locusts descended on a box of books and videos that he had brought to sell. And a good time was had by all. **ΛΨΦ**

BE THE WIND CHIME,
LET THE BREEZE BLOW
THROUGH YOU.
TURN THE STORMS INTO SONG.

excerpted from *In a Japanese Garden*
by Charmaine Aserappa
(Council Oak Books, 2000)

Report & Proposal

continued from page 1

ballots are allowed. Absentee ballots must be cast by giving a vote on paper (e-mail is acceptable) to the person running the meeting prior to when the vote is taken. Absentee ballots must include the member's full name, information identifying the proposition, and the member's vote. A good faith effort will be made to gather absentee ballots.

A proposition passes if a simple majority votes in favor.

LSF has previously voted that only members may vote on "business" issues (financial, organizational, busi-

ness, Network); so please remember that the proposal presently under consideration only applies to issues falling into those categories.

Also, this proposal was specifically developed *not* to eliminate discussion on proposals. Discussion can happen both before a proposal is formalized and at the meeting at which the vote is to occur. This proposal simply says that once a proposal is formalized, it cannot be changed before it is voted upon. It can certainly be discussed, voted down, and then replaced with an alternative proposal.

In May, the Organizational Discussion Group will continue discussing the topic of Officers.

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Marcelle Cook-Daniels

continued from page 1

land-National Capitol Park and Planning Commission, and, most recently, Norcal Mutual Insurance Company of San Francisco. At the time of his death, he was actively working toward his M.S. degree in Computer Science at Golden Gate University. A quiet but very dedicated and principled activist, he was known for his work in raising awareness of transgender and Lesbian/Gay issues and for his efforts to promote and support his family values of love, commitment, honesty, openness, and public service. His education and advocacy work included presentations at the 1999 Creating Change conference, the 1998 "Butch-FTM: Building Coalitions Through Dialogue" event, at several True Spirit Conferences, and at numerous other educational and advocacy events. Interviews and/or photographs of him appear in the *Love Makes A Family* book and tour, Dawn Atkin's book *Looking Queer: Body Image and Identity in Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgender Communities*, and *In The Family* magazine. He was an active supporter of COLAGE (Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere) and provided substantial material and vol-

unteer support to the Transgender Aging Network, four True Spirit conferences, and The American Boyz.

Marcelle was at heart a family man. He was a devoted son to his mother Marcella Daniels; a passionate supporter of his lifepartner of 17 years, Loree Cook-Daniels; and an outstanding father to his 6-year-old son Kai Cook-Daniels, who calls him, "The Best Lego-Maker in the World." He is also survived by many beloved friends and colleagues.

The family suggests that those who wish to honor Marcelle's memory through monetary contributions consider sending them to:

The Marcelle Y. Cook-Daniels
Memorial Fund
Children of Lesbians and Gays
Everywhere (COLAGE)
3543 18th St., #17
San Francisco, CA 94110

(Checks should be made out to COLAGE and accompanied by a note or notation the donation should be earmarked for the Marcelle Y. Cook-Daniels Memorial Fund.)

"What's up with the LSF Book Discussion Group?"



If you're interested in lively discussions of F&SF books, with an emphasis on elements of interest to our les/bi/gay/transgendered community, then drop in on one of LSF's monthly book discussions. Each month, for over a year now, we've been conducting fascinating round-table discussions of works by significant F&SF authors. Attendees also decide on the books and discussion facilitators for upcoming sessions.

The LSF Book Discussion Group usually meets on the 4th Thursday of every month, starting at 7:00 PM. The next meeting will be held on May 25th, at a place to be announced. *Please check the LSF website for complete details:* (www.lambdasf.org)

Here are the books to be discussed at the next two meetings:

--- **Thurs., May 25** - *Grass*, by Sherri Tepper; and "Time Gypsy", by Ellen Klages (in the anthology *Bending the Landscape: Science Fiction*); facilitator: Scott R.

--- **Thurs., June 22** - *Trader*, by Charles deLint; facilitator: Helgi

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Quick Treasurer's Report

by Rob

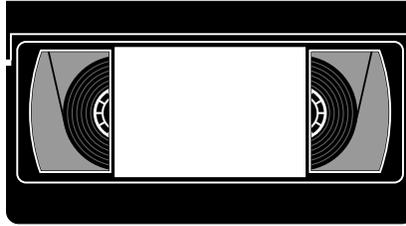
It seems that our increase in dues (and a plethora of auctions and book/video sales) has ended LSF's continual decline in funds. In fact, LSF seems to be doing remarkably well financially at the current time. With all of the bills that have come through the door being paid (including costs for all three of our Pride tables) and all income to date being accounted for, the LSF bank account currently has a balance of \$1,237.03. A couple of upcoming expenditures will take a little bite out of that (our next round of postage purchasing and copying the booklist will eat up about \$200); but even with that expense, we're quite healthy money-wise!

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Gods and Monsters

("To a new world of...")

a video review by Joseph Parra



This is one of those films I've been meaning to review for quite some time but never seemed to get around to. I'm so glad that time has finally presented itself. Based on Christopher Bram's book *Father of Frankenstein*, which mixes fact with fiction (or, at the very least, with innuendo), this marvelous film tells the story of James Whale in the last year of his life. This is done as Whale reflects upon the important events in his life as they relate to his debilitating stroke (and its after-effects) and his infatuation with his hunky young gardener.

To those of you who do not know of Mr. Whale, allow me to introduce you. He is the director of such classic Universal Studios motion pictures as *Frankenstein*, *The Old Dark House*, *The Invisible Man*, and *The Bride of Frankenstein* - seminal genre fare, to say the least. He was also one of the first Hollywood directors (in the 1930s) to be very open about his homosexuality. He lived with his lover, famed MGM producer David L. Lewis, for many years before breaking things off with him due to many factors; but relevant here is the "fact" that Lewis would never openly acknowledge their relationship. Whale became *persona non grata* in Hollywood due to a flop that he helmed initially at Universal called *The Road Back* (a sequel to the war film classic, *All Quiet on the Western Front*). This film was being produced at a very difficult time at Universal, as they were in the middle of changing regimes at the front office. It was decided that the film could be produced more cheaply than its predecessor. Whale balked and said he didn't do B movies, which led to his dismissal from the studio; and a hack director took his place. The result was a tedious mess. Unfortunately, Whale was blamed for it; so it became very difficult for him to get work at other studios on a regular basis - he was deemed unbankable and was way too flamboyant for the straight-boy world of Los Angeles in the

1930s. Hah! That's typical Hollywood - you're only as good as the last thing you've done - or, in this case, that Whale *didn't* do. A slight aside here: had the film gone ahead as Whale was planning, Universal would surely have had the Oscar-winning film of 1937. (Before *Frankenstein*, Whale had made his bones by filming a show that he directed in London's West End about the horrors of World War I, entitled *Journey's End* - which would have made a good title for a book about him!) Whale made a few films after his dismissal, such as *Man in the Iron Mask* for United Artists; but most of these (which included a couple of non-horror films for Universal as an independent director) do not have the same panache as his earlier works. Another aside for you musical queens out there: he also directed the definitive version of *Show Boat* for Universal in 1936!

Now that I've given you a token history lesson, you have the basics to understand the profound bitterness and disappointment that this man feels as we open the story in *Gods and Monsters*. Whale meets Boone, his new gorgeous gardener, one day and asks if he may sketch him. Yes, there is a dirty-old-man-slyness going on here; however, it is also legitimate, in that Whale was quite an accomplished artist, with several of his works appearing in the homes of the studio heads who would not bring him in to do a film. (But I digress...) The young man is a confused mass of pent-up energy and is quite unsure of what to make of his older admirer. Whale, in the meantime, is "recovering" from a stroke which is causing neural shutdowns and missed synapses -- in short, he is slowly dying. Whale and Boone strike up an uneasy friendship, which causes Whale to recall his own youth and a young man he fell in

love with during his campaigning (in this instance, fighting) during WWI. After a while, poor Whale is unable to distinguish reality from his dream world. As you can imagine, this makes for a very difficult time and eventually causes his possibly untimely end. I say "possibly" because it truly seemed the poor darling had nowhere else to go but to Death's waiting arms.

This incredible film is a *tour de force* for practically everyone involved. The openly-gay actor and movie star, Sir Ian McKellan, stars as Whale. Although McKellan has always excelled at every role he has ever played, he tops them all with his insightful portrayal of this tormented genius. He even affects mannerisms and nuances long attributed to Jimmy Whale (as he preferred to be called by his friends) and meshes and blends them with an intellectual approach. This could easily have turned into a maudlin masquerade; but it never does, thanks to his remarkable understanding of Whale. McKellan was nominated for the Oscar for his work -- he should have won. (Another aside: I cannot help but wonder if the good-old-boy network was at work once more.) Beautiful Brendan Fraser not only shows off his utterly, ravenously gorgeous nude body, but also his equally-endowed psyche and soul with his portrayal of Clayton Boone, the gardener. In what could have simply turned into a snot-nosed-sounding board of a role, Fraser finds the simple humanity of this man, who in his own way is as tortured as Whale. (In real life, the gardener was said to have been a little shit who used Whale. But who really knows?) Lynn Redgrave turns in the performance of a lifetime; and, given the incredible body of her work, that's saying something. She portrays Whale's devoted housekeeper, who stays with him lovingly through thick and thin. Carter Burwell has written a lovely score that sometimes intertwines Franz Waxman's lovely *Bride of Frankenstein* score to great effect. Our own Clive Barker produced the film lavishly for BBC Films, Lion's Gate Films, Regent Entertainment, and

(continued on page 5)

Gods and Monsters

continued from page 4

Universal (who is to be commended for taking it on the chin, as it were) and got the very best his money could buy. Last (but really first) is the screenwriter/director Bill Condon, who shaped this already intriguing tale into an incredible masterpiece that is clearly a labor of love.

James Whale was without a doubt one of the great film directors to emerge from the studio system of the 1930s. His vision and insight influenced the movies, in particular the fantastic cinema, to this very day. I could not help but think that, after viewing this, he would give that famous wry British smile of his and say "well done!" Ernest Thesiger, a marvelous character actor and crony of Whale's (AND also very open about his gayness AND the portrayer of the scene-stealing Dr. Praetorius in *Bride of Frankenstein*) -- here well-portrayed in a marvelous cameo by acclaimed Australian gay actor Arthur Dignam -- said it best: "To a new world of *Gods and Monsters!!!*" Here-here!! ENJOY!!

Rating: 5 out of a possible 4
(Yes, you read that right!!) ΛΨΦ



Frequency

a movie review
by Peter Knapp

I recently saw a preview of *Frequency*, courtesy of the National Space Society. I was pleasantly surprised by the quality of the story, writing, and acting in this cerebral time travel/time paradox movie.

The movie starts with a bang as firefighter Frank Sullivan (played by Dennis Quaid) rescues two trapped utility workers from an explosive accident. Not only is Frank a great firefighter, but he's also a loving husband and father and a ham radio operator.

The action soon switches to 30 years in the future. Frank's grown son, John Sullivan (played by Jim Caviezel), is a cop whose personal life is in the dumps. Through a freak alignment of sunspot activity and the Aurora Borealis, Frank's ham radio acts as a conduit between the past and present. Father and son begin talking with each other; and John warns his father how to avoid getting killed in the fire. Frank takes his son's advice and avoids dying from asphyxiation.

Unfortunately, by not dying in the fire, the timeline is changed; and John's mother dies in John's past but his father's future. Father and son spend the rest of the movie trying to unravel the time paradox they have unintentionally created by preventing Frank's death.

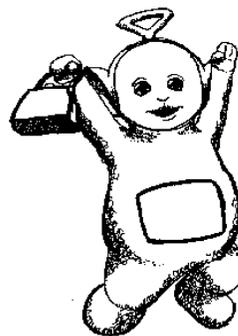
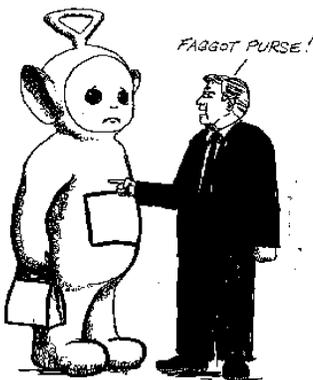
Time travel and its associated paradoxes are very hard to effectively create. *Frequency* successfully uses both constructs to tell a compelling, well-crafted story. I enjoyed thinking about what I was watching as I tried to guess how the heroes were going to change the timelines so that mother, father, and son would live happily ever after.

Because *Frequency* doesn't rely on glitzy special effects and loads of action and because it challenges the viewer to solve the time paradox puzzle, I doubt the movie will last very long in theaters. It will probably not appeal to people with short attention spans. So if you want to see *Frequency* at the movie theater, catch it in its first few weeks of play. (It opens 4/29/2000.)

I highly recommend *Frequency*. It's the best genre movie I've seen in 2000! ΛΨΦ

A Cartoon by Chris Browning

one day in Teletubbie Land
jerry falwell condemned tinkly winky...



you go tinkly winkly!

Ye Olde Editor's Corner

Just a quick little note... Did anyone out there figure out that Rob's book review in last month's newsletter (*The Zero Spring*) was a complete phoney!? April Fool!!! But that sure sounded like one heckuva book, didn't it? After I'd finished inputting the review, I told Rob: "Good grief! Fake or no fake, I want to read that book!" So, OK, folks, somebody out there get busy and write it! (I'll just bet you could win a Spectrum Award for it!!)



**** INFORMATION ABOUT LAMBDA SCI-FI: DC AREA GAYLAXIANS ****

Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians (LSF) is an organization for gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgendered (GLBT) people, and their friends who are interested in science fiction, fantasy, horror and related genres in all forms (SF/F/H). LSF's primary goals are to have fun, to provide a community, and to:

- promote SF/F/H, with particular attention to materials of interest to GLBT people and their friends;
- provide forums for GLBT people and their friends to share their interest in SF/F/H;
- promote the presence of GLBT elements within SF/F/H and within fandom; and
- promote SF/F/H within the GLBT community.

Annual membership fees are \$20, 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 Sunday, April 9th, at James Crutchfield's apartment: 1414 17th St., NW, Apt. 413 (near DuPont Circle) - 1:30 PM for business meeting; 2:00 PM for social meeting. 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, Rob and James



May 26-29, 2000 **COSTUMECON 18**. Sheraton Hartford (Hartford, Conn.). The 18th annual volunteer-run convention for costumers and all who love costumes. Membership: \$80 after 4/23/2000 & at the door. Make checks payable to "CostumeCon 18" and send to: CostumeCon 18, 11 Winter St., Amesbury, MA 01913-1515. For more information:

e-mail: info@cc2000.org

website: www.cc2000.org

July 28-30, 2000 **CLASSIC FILMFEST 2000**. Hyatt Crystal City (Arlington, VA). "We're still Monster Rally -- just better!!!" Guests: Samuel Arkoff, Roger Corman, Janet Leigh, and many more. VIP Membership: \$60. Make checks payable to "Midnight Marquee Press" and send to: Midnight Marquee Press, 9721 Britinay Ln., Baltimore, MD 21234.

For information: www.Midmar.com or call (410) 665-1198

June 30 - July 2, 2000 **ANTHROCON 2000**. Hilton Valley Forge Hotel (251 DeKalb Pike, King of Prussia, PA). The East Coast's largest Anthropomorphics Convention. For hotel reservations: 610-337-1200, or 800-TRY-VFPA. Membership: \$35 until 6/15/00. Make checks payable to "Anthrocon, Inc." and send to: Anthrocon, Inc., PO Box 270, Devault, PA 19432-0270.

Aug. 31 - Sept. 4, 2000 **CHICON 2000 (the 58th World Science Fiction Convention)**. Hyatt Regency & environs (Chicago). GoH: Ben Bova; Artist GoH: Bob Eggleton; Editor GoH: Jim Baen. Membership (as of 10/1/99): \$150 (& going up?). Make checks payable to "Chicon 2000" and send to: Chicon 2000, PO Box 642057, Chicago, IL 60664.

E-mail: chi2000@chicon.org Web site: www.chicon.org

Oct. 6-9, 2000 **GAYLAXICON 2000**. Arlington Hilton & Towers (Arlington, VA). GoH: Fiona Patton; Artist GoH: Nan Fredman. Membership: \$45 until 9/8/2000; \$55 at the door. Hotel rate: \$99/night (sgl/dbl), +\$20 for each add'l guest. Make checks payable to "Gaylaxicon 2000" and send to: Gaylaxicon 2000, PO Box 1862, Annandale, VA 22003-9862. Web: <http://www.lambdasf.org/g2k>

