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Issue #12 - March '91

# February Meeting Notes

by Loree Cook-Daniels

The business section of our meeting was short and sweet. We made one decision about Gay Pride Day -- we're not going to march (so that everyone can watch instead!) -- and we put off another decision. After Brian gets us some price quotes, we'll decide in March whether or not to sell T-shirts at the Festival. Pending slogan:

"Not in front of the Klingons, Jim!"

We also discussed the possibility of selling drinks or buttons, and will decide about that, too, in March.

Al said he's looking for some LSFers willing to be part of an 8-minute video he's doing for cable T.V. He's also looking for ideas on how to present the group. Taping may be in June; call Al to volunteer your body or mind.

Peter, Chris, and Carl have decided to donate their room at Balticon (March 29-31st) for a party, but they'd like help with food and other party preparations. Some volunteers stepped forward at the meeting, but others are needed.

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# Party Time! by Peter Knapp

Have you always wondered if you were a virtuous saint or a randy slut? Well you now have the opportunity to find out. After the regular March meeting you are hereby officially invited to The Unisex, Omnisexual Purity Test Party. What is a purity test, you ask? Good question.

The purity test is a series of 500 questions designed to determine your purity. Noel Welch will act as the test administrator and read yes/no questions (that start out tame and get progressively worse {or better, depending on your viewpoint}) out loud for everybody else to answer.

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# The Year In Review

By Peter Knapp

This month marks the twelfth issue of the Lambda Sci-Fi newsletter and also marks the end of our first year as a club.

When I think back to our beginnings I'm amazed at how much we've done since then. For one thing, our membership has grown from nine brave souls, who got together last March and tried to figure out what the heck we were going to do, to a current mixed membership of 48 bisexuals, gay men, lesbians, and transsexuals.

About 20-25 of us meet on a monthly basis to socialize, trade science fiction and fantasy gossip, and pig out all the wonderful food that people bring to the meetings. In addition, many of us get together for special events. We've been to movies, Photon games, and video afternoons. We've gone dancing, watched Star Trek: THG, and gorged ourselves on a Mexican fiesta. We've even exchanged favorite books. But most of all we've had fun!

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# February Meeting Notes Party Time! Doctor Who In A Nutshell The Year In Review In Search Of Sci-Fi Author Word Search Audio Book Review The Night on the Town Con Calendar Movie Mania Word-Search Services . Other Groups

Inside this issue:

# Doctor Who In A Nutshell

by Noel Welch

It has come to the attention of the Whovians within our group that the popular BBC series Doctor Who might require some explanation to those who are not familiar with the show and find it incomprehensible. I will therefor endeavor to bring the uninitiated up to speed.

This unique program originated as a children's science fiction show with a light dose of history thrown in for good measure. However, since its debut in November, 1963 the series has gone through many changes. Some have been better than others.

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Meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month at a private residence. The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held at 2:00 on Sunday March 10th at Jim's apartment, 1414 17th Street, N.W., #413. We hope to see everyone there! If your last name begins with the letters A-H, please bring non-sweet munchies (veges, chips, etc). If your last name begins with the letters I-P, please bring along sweet munchies. If your name begins with Q-Z, please bring along drinks (juices, diet/non-diet sodas).

#### Last Meeting Minutes - continued from page 1

More than a dozen LSFers are planning on attending Gaylaxicon this summer; we sent around a sign-up sheet (copies of which will be available in March) to help arrange the sharing of rooms and rides. Peter volunteered to help coordinate transportation from Boston to Tewkesbury. We also passed around a flyer about a role-playing game -- Love Boat III -- that will be going on at the con. A couple of the more experienced LSFers explained what these kinds of con/role-playing games are like.

From there, we slid into our usual...

#### PICKS, PANS, and ANNOUNCEMENTS

- "Dark Water" is a five-part animated mini-series premiering Feb 25 Mar1. This may be the start of a regular series.
- Storm Constatine's latest book -- 3rd in the current series -- is available at Olsson's.
- "Warlock" was panned -- poor special effects and no plot.
- "Never-Ending Story II" has just been released.
- "Awakenings," though not SF, was recommended.
- "Meet the Applegates" was pronounced "fun."
- "The Grifters" was good.
- The book "Treason" was recommended.
- Discount tickets for the March 30th Toy & Collectibles conference (see last issue) are available.
- Nicholas Meyer, who did "Time After Time" and "Star Trek II" will be writing and directing "Star Trek VI."
- Jim recommended that people read the book version of Star Trek V as it fills in a lot of the gaps left in the movie.
- A Computer Gaming Interest Group of Pink Triangle Computer Network has formed. For information, call Kay at (301) 942-3121.
- Passed around: Cinefex magazine. Subscription information: P.O. Box 20027, Riverside, CA, 92516; 4 issues for \$17; 8 issues for \$28; and 12 issues for \$40.
- Also passed around: the latest issue of the magazine ST:TNG. The cover story is "The Women of Star Trek." Unfortunately for the women in the group, there were no posters in this issue! Nevertheless, it can be bought -- if you act fast -- from the NewsRoom on Connecticut Avenue.

For those of you who have been receiving this newsletter in envelopes with a hologram stamp, Sylvia shared a cute idea: cut them out and glue them on magnets. One warning, though: don't put them near heat!

Finally, we discussed possibly having a post-meeting party in March to take and discuss the 500-question "Purity Quiz." Stay tuned as to whether this dare gets taken up and by whom!

#### Doctor Who - continued from page 1

The original storyline involved an absent-minded old man and his granddaughter Susan who traveled through space and time. Their destinations were always in doubt as the Doctor never managed complete control over his time/space machine, called the TARDIS (Time And Relative Dimensions In Space).

In their first adventure, the Doctor and Susan were joined by two companions, Susan's teachers. They were added to the lineup to serve two purposes. First, they got into danger which required rescue by the Doctor. Second, they helped explain the plot line by asking countless questions. The four of them had many adventures in time and space, righting wrongs were ever they went.

After three years of Saturday afternoon adventures, the ill health of William Hartnell, who played the lead, caused the BBC to add an unusual plot twist to the storyline. Since the Doctor was an alien, they felt the viewers would not strongly object to the "nine lives concept" better known as regeneration. Thus by replacing the lead actor (for reasons of health, boredom, contract disputes, etc...), the show could continue as long as the viewing public stayed interested.

During the 27 years that Doctor Who has been produced by the BBC, a total of seven actors have appeared in the role, and many different companions have joined his various selves. Each actor has interpreted the character of the Doctor in his own way. Over time the show has changed style. What was once merely a children's show has evolved through the influence of a regular change of actors, writers, and producers into a rather campy romp through space and time.

Presently the Doctor Who series is on hiatus; it's future is uncertain. Officials within the BBC are still deciding whether to produce the show in house of farm it out to an independent production company. Unfortunately the sets have already been dismantled, and the actors are working on other projects. If the show returns, it may be difficult to pick up were it left off. Hopefully we won't have to wait much longer for the Doctor to return to fight the Daleks and save the universe.

#### In Search Of

By Sylvia H.

I am in search of (and would like to purchase) an audio compact disc titled "WARP DRIVE". The disc contains classical music from science fiction movies, including:

The themes from: "Star Trek: The Next Generation",
"Battlestar Galactica", "Superman, the Movie", "Star
Wars", "Alien".
Blue Danube (from "2001")

Gayne Ballet (from "2001") Sprach Zarathrustra

The Menagerie (from the original "Star Trek")

## Sci-Fi Author Word Search

by Brian Kirby

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robert HEINLEN zenna HENDERSON frank HERBERT iames HOGAN evan INNES robert JORDAN nancy KRESS katherine KURTZ mercedes LACKEY c. s. LEWIS iulian MAY anne MCCAFFREY ian MCDONALD patricia MCKILLIP daniel keys MORAN larry NIVEN iody lynn NYE frederick POHL jerry POURNELLE fred SABERHAGEN robert SILVERBERG ioan SLONCZEWSKI christopher STASHEFF iohn VARLEY iules VERNE joan VINGE lawrenceWATT-EVANS patricia WREDE robert ZELANZY

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After you have found all the words, write down all unused letters. Do this left to right, top to bottom. Then remove every fourth letter. Now reverse the remaining letters and you will find something we have all been waiting to hear. Hope you have fun with it

#### Party Time - continued from page 1

At the end of the test, a score is calculated using a complicated algorithm and people's purity are revealed. The person with lowest score is the one most likely to be taken advantage of and the person with the highest score will most likely be giggled at for the rest of his/her life.

Michael Morley will be our host. You can find his address in your copy of the handy dandy Membership Directory, or you can call the club number and ask for it.

Please note that this party is in no way officially affiliated with Lambda Sci-Fi or the Gaylaxians; we're just inviting Lambda Sci-Fi members to it. Be forewarned that alcohol may be served (we have to loosen up people's inhibitions to admit to their sexual antics somehow). Also be forewarned that this party is meant to be taken with a grain of salt. While we may find out raunchy details of various people sex lives, no one will be acting them out at the party. My job will be to make sure that things don't get out hand. Purity tests are a lot of fun, but are not for easily the offended. (Bring your smelling salts Norman!) I encourage everyone who wants to risk their reputation to come.

By the way, my reputation has already been ruined thanks to Carl for questioning me, about my whereabouts at Gaylaxicon, at a meeting serveral months back. Last time I took the test I scored about a 50%. I dare you, Carl, to prove that you are more virtuous than me!

### Year in Review - continued from page 1

I hope that our second year proves even more successful. As always you are encouraged to suggest events for the club to do, (of course you run the risk of being volunteered to organize the event, but that's life) and contribute articles to the newsletter. This club is intended to be enjoyed by everyone and I hope it is meeting your expectations. Please let us know what we can do to show you a good time!

P.S. In today's inflationary times, I'm proud to announce that our membership rates will not be going up. Many of you will be sent renewal forms in the next few months. I hope that you'll willingly hand over a mere ten bucks for twelve spiffy newsletters and a membership directory or two. I know we like taking your money.

#### Audio Book Review

by Sylvia H.

"Science Fiction Favorites of Issac Asimov" Listening Library, Inc., One Park Av. Old Greenwich, Ct. 06870 ISBN #0-8072-2928-8

An endeavor reasonably new to me is listening to books on audio tape. I tried this for the first time about three months ago while commuting to and from work and it was great! It helps supplement listening to WKYS/FM at maximum volume and giving obscene gestures to fellow drivers. I've discovered an entire new world at the PG County Library in audio books for loan, and have re-discovered books that I've read over the years. I have also been able to "read" books new to me that I have not had time to read or that are too boring in print to read. My interests span a wide range of topics in print, but I have not been able to "get into" much science fiction reading. I like sci-fi better on film and on the tube. I have now discovered another medium for enjoying science fiction ... the audio cassette. I will try to review one audio book each newsletter for you (but don't hold me to this)!

This review is of a six-cassette volume of readings of selected works of Issac Asimov. The readings are done by Issac himself. I have so far listened to several tapes read verbally by the authors themselves of the the books in print. Some, like Stephen King reading "The Gunslinger", have enhanced their books by their own readings. Others, like Issac Asimov, detract from their works by reading aloud and are far better writers than narrators.

One item in Mr. Asimov's favor is that he adds a bit of anticdote before and after each short story he reads telling what brought about the writing of a story and the results of introducing a story to the public. It is interesting to listen to the "futuristic" nature of these stories (he wrote many of them in the 50's and 60's) and, knowing the technology that exists in the 90's, to hear the references to supercomputers with relays and tubes. It is also interesting to hear references that are on-target with today's world and with things we watch on TV (like a human-like "robot" who sounds an awful lot like Data in STNG, or a futuristic hand-held pocket calculator that can link to a larger computer). He tends to explore a great deal the world as it might exist being totally dependent on these things we easily manipulate and sometimes fear today called computers. When listening to the stories, I constantly had to remind myself that these stories were written as far back as forty years ago.

I will attempt to give a short blurb (that's technical language for "write some stuff") on each of the short stories that are a part of this audio book.

TAPE 1, SIDE 01: "I Just Make Them Up, See; Someday" In 1991 we can pop a CD, cassette, or videotape into its respective player and have stories told or shown to us that have been created by others. But we are still capable of creating our own. We are still capable of reading our own books. This story explores a world in which we have lost that capability and are totally dependent on personal household machinery to do our imaginary thinking and reading for us.

TAPE 1, SIDE 02: "The Feeling of Power"

The world has forgotten how to perform arithmetic! We are so dependent on calculators that the discovery of a man who can perform arithmetic functions in his head and with the ancient art of pencil-and-paper is a treasure to be cherished. But is it too much for him to deal with?

TAPE 2, SIDE 03: "Satisfaction Guaranteed"

Just picture having a FINE-looking young android who can cook, clean house, redecorate, and do (anything?) to guarantee your satisfaction! Or can (s)he?

TAPE 2, SIDE 04: "Living Space"

This is an interesting approach to the world's problem of over-population. Once we have exceeded this planet and this galaxy's capabilities, what else is there?

TAPE 3, SIDE 05: "The Last Question"

When we have asked every question there is to be asked and the computer to end all computers has answered all the questions it can possibly answer, then will it finally answer the ultimate "what is the meaning of life" and "can it be re-created once destroyed" questions?

TAPE 3, SIDE 06: "Jokester"

A story of what happens when a good scientist worries that he will run out of jokes and start repeating himself.

TAPE 4, SIDE 07-SIDE 8: "The Immortal Bard"; "Spell My Name With an 'S'"

Mr. Asimov's name is constantly spelled incorrectly (with a "Z"). He implores people to spell his name with an "S". Someone challenged him to write a story titled the above, and he did. It's a study in how a simple name change can influence a person's entire life path.

TAPE 5, SIDE 09 - T 6, S 12: "The Ugly Little Boy"

A nurse is conned into caring for a Neanderthal boy who has been time-plucked from the Stone Age era as part of a huge research project. This explores some interesting concepts about time travel not typically expressed in popular movies and books.

Check out your local library for this audio book if you are interested in science fiction of a technological nature. Try audio books in general, especially if you spend two hours a day commuting as I do and need to break the boredom of the drive. You may discover a whole new world just as I have!

## The Night on the Town

by Michael Morley

What happened on that cold and weary night of February 9th, in the year of 1991? It started out as a cold and wet night, with lightning streaking across the sky. Slowly our group merged down into the pits of Trio's restaurant soaking from head to toe with the dank waters that spewed from the sky above. Tension was high and evil stares darted from one person to another. Conversation started out slowly until slanderous remarks arced between members of our group, much like that exchanged between the Klingons and the Ferengie.

Soon someone snapped and a phaser was drawn. One could hear a lone shriek of surprise, followed by the clumping of pumps as everyone prepared for what lay ahead. In a matter of seconds, laser light filled the tiny diner. When the smoke cleared only two queens were left standing. Brian, known and feared as the controller of the "black hole" sneered at the other figure. Chris, who's mind was being manipulated by the two evil control queens (Norman and Peter), gripped his light saber and clenched his teeth trying to make sense out of all that had just happened. Brian snapped at Chris, "you planned this from the beginning, but I am going to finish it."

Before Chris could speak a glowing orb of light appeared above them. As it descended toward the floor it grew in size. An image of a woman appeared before them. She spoke, "I am Glenda, the good witch of the South." Brian fired a warning shot that blew her off the float, Chris tried to shout duck but it got stuck in his throat. She hit the ground and did a flip, it was really acrobatic... With this sudden horror Chris was able to break free of the spell cast on him by the two evil control queens. He raced toward Brian with his large saber swinging fiercely.

Brian was mesmerized at Chris' approach, he knew the end was near. Surprisingly, Glenda propped herself up, brushed off her wand and aimed it at Brian. Brian screamed (and boy did he scream) in anguish as he slowly disappeared, though it was in a different manner than the all familiar transporter. As Chris reached the space where Brian once stood, his saber sliced through the air with a slight hum. Chris cried in despair. He turned to Glenda and yelled, "What did you do to him?" Glenda answered, "Nothing much really. I sent him back to the eighteenth century where he will meet his fate at the hands of Barnabus Collins. There he will..."

"Enough, already," Chris interrupted her. "Tsk, tsk. Not much gratitude for someone who is here to help you," Glenda responded. She then told Chris to tap the heels of his combat boots and repeat there is no group like Lambda Sci-Phi three times. As Chris tapped away everything became a blur...... Chris' mind snapped back to reality. Coming out of his daze, he soon realized he was in a room with several familiar faces. He saw Loree, Carl, Norman and all his friends from Lambda Sci-Phi.

Even Brian was there. Chris then announced to the group that he had a wonderful idea, "let's get together some Saturday and go out to dinner and dancing as a group"....it was all a dream, or was it? Now that I have you attention I'll tell you things as they really happened.

This is a brief review of the happenings on February 9th, where, thanks to Chris' planning, our group spent a night on the town. It all began at Trio's Restaurant, where the service is shall we say, always memorable. We gathered several tables together and dominated the smoking section of the dinner--the only area that could hold our "merry" group of 14 plus. Chit chat went wild ranging from weekly reviews, to deep discussions of schizophrenia. Science fiction and fantasy were also big areas of discussion (imagine that) and if memory serves me correctly some dishing was exchanged too. The talks seemed to be in twos, separated on each half of our large table. Those toward the center played conversation tennis with both sides.

Food wise things were o.k. (it was Trio's) but some of the highlights included: Chris found bones in his barbecue chicken, Jammie liked her scallops, chicken seemed to be a popular dish and the milk shakes were wonderful.

After consuming our meals, we broke up into smaller groups for the trek over to Lost and Found (L and F). Luckily we made it in time to beat cover--at least the car I was in did. L and F's was nicely decorated in their Mardi-Gras theme--Yellow (or gold if you want to be picky), purple, and green balloons and streamers were everywhere. What made the night though was the music. We danced the night away, in groups, couples and individually. Norman and Jammie smoked up the dance floor (someone even paid homage to Norman {control queen #1} on the dance floor), along with Brian (both of them), Carl, Peter, and everyone else. I think I can safely say that everyone had a wonderful time. By the end of the night most of us were pretty exhausted, which showed during our last meeting. We all decided it would be better in the future to plan our next event on a different weekend than the one that coincides with our monthly meeting. Some of us need more time to recover. We must have wore out Carl, since he failed to show up the next day. Overall, I think the whole night was a big success and a lot of fun. Hopefully we will have more to come! Thank you Chris for planning it.

#### Movie Mania Word-Search

by SCOTT ILES

Can you find the 64 sci-fi/fantasy/adventure movies contained in this word search? (Hints: the smallest title is 4 characters long, and the longest title is 29 characters.) Answers provided in the next newsletter. Happy hunting!

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	В	F	I	H	I	V	P	E	Y	E	Α	Α	N	R	M	I	S	S	L	M	N	s	Α	N	D	W	0	R	M	0	I	0	U	s	N	
	Y	T	T	L	0	L	S	М	E	X	$\mathbf{z}$	P	s	s	D	L	R	0	W	E	H	T	F	0	R	Α	W	L	T	0	N	R	M	Т	E	
	s	U	P	E	R	М	A	N	E	s	I	T	Т	R	Α	T	s	I	E	G	R	E	Т	L	0	P	N	G	E	R	N	E	W	R	W	
	s	0	R	G	L	D	1	s	S	Т	W	N	0	R	T	E	E	K	F	A	N	T	A	S	T	I	С	V	0	Y	A	G	E	I	0	
	U	т	N	E	Ε	W	0	С	I	V	E	I	R	Ε	N	I	H	С	Α	M	Ε	М	I	T	E	H	Т	L	I	Z	Α	T	Т	A	I	
	0	N	s	N	T	0	0	В	0	L	Н	0	M	D	L	Y	G	0	F	A	H	R	E	N	H	E	I	Т	4	5	1	W	S	L	H	
	E	R	E	D	N	0	2	M	Α	N	T	Н	R	Α	s	G	W	H	E	N	W	0	R	L	D	s	С	0	L	L	I	D	E	0	N	
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#### Con Calendar

by Carl Cipra & Peter Knapp

March 29-31, 1991

BALTICON 25: Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD), room rate is \$74/night for up to four people; Guest of Honor: Nancy Kress; Artist Guest of Honor: Tom Canty; cost is \$25 until Feb. 18th (\$35 at the door) - checks payable to "Balticon 25" and send to: Balticon 25, P.O. Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203-0686. ("Enclosed return postage would be useful.")

DC TOY, COMIC BOOKS, & COLLECTIBLE SHOW & SALE: Hytt Regency Crystal City, 2799 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arlington, VA, Cost: \$5.00 at door only. Info: Call (516) SHOWMAN.

DISCLAVE 1991: Sheraton Greenbelt Hotel (New Carrollton, MD), room rate is \$82/night for up to four people; Guest of Honor: Lew Shiner; Artist Guest of Honor: Alicia Austin; cost is \$25 until Apr. 30th (\$30 at the door) - checks payable to "Disclave '91" and send to: John T. Sapienza, Jr. (Registrar), PO Box 677, Washington, D.C. 20044-0677.

GAYLAXICON '91: Tewksburry, MA, Guest of Honor: Samuel R. Delany, Artist Guest of Honor: Hannah M.G. Shapero, Special Guest: Tristan Alexander. Cost: \$15.00 until February 1, \$20.00 until May 1, \$25.00 until June 30. - checks payable to "G.S.F.S." and send to: Gaylaxicon '91, PO Box 1052, Lowell, MA 01854

March 30, 1991

May 24 - 27, 1991

July 19-21, 1991

# Be on the lookout for Graphics!

I'm looking for good Sci-fi graphics to include in future issues of the newsletter. If you have a scanner and can produce TIF files on disk, please get in touch with us. If you have any good pics (especially Star Trek) or any good libraries (non-copyrighted, of course) that can be used with Ventura Publisher, please submit them on disk to the PO box.

#### **ODDS AND ENDS**

Note: To submit movie/book reviews for our newsletter, please mail your story on 5 1/4" IBM-PC formatted floppy disk (preferably in WordPerfect 5.0 or 5.1 format). You can also download your story onto our BBS (see Electronic Bulletin Board under Services). Please leave all articles on the SCI-FI conference of the BBS. If you have some other IBM PC word processor, please contact Al at (301) 384-6868 to see if we can use your format. If you don't have access to a computer, please give your typed (and edited) article to Peter at one of the meetings. Please check the spelling and grammar before submitting any articles. We can always use Book, Audio-tape, TV Show, and Theatre reviews. Any original works (less than two pages please!) are also welcome.

This newsletter was edited/produced by Al at GRYPHON Microproducts. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue, thanks to Peter for printing it, and thanks to Norman and Peter for getting it collated and mailed.

Corrections: If you tried to do Scott Isles' Movie Mania Word-Search last month, you may have noticed that we set it up for N-dimensional space. I have remapped it into two dimensions for those of you who live in three dimensions...

#### Services

Computer Support Available

Computer specialist with 20 years of experience (both Mainframe and Micro) is looking for consulting work. I can speak techno-babble with the best of them, but prefer dealing with clients in English. If your computers seem to be devices of torture, rather than useful tools, give me a call. I can help your company turn things around, and get the computers working for you -- solving problems, rather than creating them. I can program in SAS, dBASE, C, Basic, and several other languages and am a clear and patient instructor. Contact Al at GRYPHON Microproducts. (301) 384-6868.

Electronic Bulletin Board/Free Dating Service.

Gryphon Microproducts has an electronic bulletin-board. To access it (you need a modem, of course), dial (301) 384-7238. You can call in at 1200/2400 baud with settings of N,8,1. To get to the Bi/Gay/Lesbian conference, select J for Join Conferences -- from the main menu, and enter GLIB for the conference name. There is also a FREE dating service. To access it, select S for Survey System -- from the main menu, and Choose the Dating Survey.

# Other Groups

BiWomen's & BiMen's Network P.O. Box 2254 Washington, DC 20013-2254 (202) 828-3019

GAMMA (Gay Married Men), GAMMA Wives, Straight Partners, Gay Couples Group Hotline (703) 548-3238