



LAMBDA SCI-FI

DC Area Bisexual/Gay/Lesbian Science Fiction Association

P.O. Box 10087 * Silver Spring, MD * 20914 * (301) 445-5650

Issue #13 - April '91

Meeting Minutes

by B. Kirby

The most important thing that happened at the meeting was that Loree Cook-Daniels was elected the First Speaker of Lambda Sci-Fi. Sorry Loree!!! Everyone sends BEST wishes to Marcelle. We missed you both!!!

The meeting got off to a slow start and went down hill from there. Dish was everywhere. We actually did get something done though.

Lots of paper flew around the room. Articles about Gates McFadden and life after Wesley, Jim Morrison and the Doors and something about pornography for women by women that just flew around the room. Several books were brought up for reading. Carl C. raved about "Out for Blood" by John Peyton Cooke. Also brought up was "The Adept" by Katherine Kurtz and Deborah Turner Harris.

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Cruise Director Log:

Stardate 2023.25

by Julie McCoy

Whew! What a month. I still can not believe we got so much done. There were two dance parties; two movie parties, and a coelation party, but the best event of all was the Purity Test after the last meeting. Where to begin???

continued on page 2

Doctor Who Book Review

by Peter Knapp

The Curse of Fenric, by Ian Briggs, is the latest in the collection of novelized television Doctor Who stories. This story, considered a classic by many (including me), has it all. The Doctor and his companion Ace arrive at a top secret British naval camp during World War II. On the surface the base seems to be set up to crack German coded messages using an ULTIMA cipher machine. But, as usual, appearances are deceiving. By the time the truth is revealed, the Doctor has encountered an insane British commander, a deranged mad scientist, an ancient Viking curse, a haunted church, Russian storm troopers, chemical weapons, vampires, and an omnipotent evil entity. There's even a not too subtle anti-war message thrown in for good measure.

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Proposal for a Pride

Day Project

by Carl Cipra

I've started working on a little project that I'd like to have ready in time for the upcoming Pride Day Festival. I thought it might be a good idea to have some sort of science fiction/fantasy booklist available as a handout at the table. It would function as a sort of catchy reminder about our club and be a service to the Community in general.

What I'm proposing is something like: "Lambda Sci-Fi Recommends: a Short List of Science Fiction and Fantasy Books Involving Alternative Sexuality." (Too long a title? I'm open for suggestions here!)

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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 April 14th 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 Mtg Minutes - cont'd from page 1

Several movies were brought up for consideration: The Hard Way, Cyrano de Bergerac and The Doors.

We talked about the different conventions coming up and who would like to attend. Of course the most attention was given to who was going to Gaylaxicon '91. We seem to have a very large group going up. Everyone hurry up and reserve those hotel rooms. We also talked about trying to set up booths at some of the local conventions to spark interest for the group. That's right new blood.

There was also the usual talk about Star Trek: The Next Generation. Everyone seemed to love the episode with Riker having alien SEX. Of course we had our usual Wesley discussion. (This past week's episode was wonderful. When Guinan grabbed a laser and said "That was setting ONE, anybody want to see setting TWO".) From there everything went downhill FAST. There was lots of great food and conversation. And of course there was DISH, DISH, DISH!!!

P.S.- The author would like to apologize for the incorrect Word Find. I am truly sorry for any headaches I may have caused. The secret answer was "Oh Wesley set a course for my quarters".

P.S.S.- We had a cameo appearance by Will C.

Pride Day Project - cont'd from page 1

To complete this project in time, I need lots of help from the other members of this club. Please help me compile a nice list of books to include on the handout. (Come on! I know y'all read this stuff!)

What I'm looking for is a short entry on any of your favorite books (or short stories, for that matter) that deal positively with some aspect of alternative sexuality: bisexual, feminist, gay, lesbian, transsexual, etc.

Here's an example of what I'd like:

"Scott, Melissa. Mighty Good Road. A lesbian couple operate a successful interplanetary salvage operation; but their latest assignment is tougher than usual---there seems to be sabotage and hijacking afoot."

See... that's not too hard! Please, please, please get your recommendations to me as soon as possible, so I can put them on my word processor and get the handout ready for Pride Day. Mail your recommendations to my home address. (It's listed in our club directory). Thanks!

Cruise Director Log - cont'd from page 1

Let's start with the movies. The memorable things about The Neverending Story II were John Wesley Shipp and the EVIL Queen's RED DRESS!!! Everyone seemed a little let down by this movie. We had six people at this event, and all pigged out at Armand's Pizza afterwards. The other movie met the needs of our HORROR members. But you really shouldn't ask me what the movie was about, as once the WARLOCK walked on screen I was lost until the end of the movie. He may have been gorgeous but I don't think French Kissing will be on my list of things to do with him. Everyone else seemed to think the movie was OK.

Well enough of that, on to the Good stuff. The DISH. Both dance parties were at the Lost and Found and each had about 12 to 15 people present. Fun was had by all, I hope. I know we danced til we dropped. The dish was flying all around the dance floor. Who wanted who, who had had who and who was not worth doing. Of course the party would not have been a success without the HAIR being there. Everyone was dressed for trash. Some were lucky but most were not. Thanks everybody for making it a night to remember.

Of course the second dance party was something of a disappointment. I think the reason for this may have been the cover charge and the absence of a Happy Hour. I am not to blame, I swear it. The theme for the night was the CIRCUS COMES TO TOWN. I thought the clowns could have been better. The decorations were alright. But the hit of the evening was the MUSIC. Reggie finally figured out what gays want to hear or someone hid his glasses and handed him the best music. Everyone danced til they couldn't move anymore.

Last month's coelation turned into a party. Six brave souls turned up at Michael's and whipped out the mailing in no time. William showed up just as we were finishing (for moral support) and just in time to view a video and to eat the munchies. YES CARL, HIS NOSE REALLY DID CRINKLE. And Noel, we asked a few bisexuals (in Philly) and they did not agree with you about technique or how one would "wiggle it, just a little bit".

Now for the good stuff. The Purity Test. You thought we wouldn't talk about it, but how could we pass it up. The noises that could be heard coming from Michael's apartment, well what can I say? Answers of "Yes," "No," or "I can't believe you did that, get out of here!" were heard. After the dust had settled and the scores were tallied the range was 12 to 86. Remember the higher the number the more virginal, the lower the number well you get the idea. Everyone had fun getting to know more about each other. By the way I know for a fact that BK lied all over that test.

Future events include an animation festival, a museum tour and maybe another B movie night??? Well until next month watch who you talk to because I might be there to share it with the group.

The Curse of Fenric: A Dr. Who Book Review - cont'd from page 1

Briggs, who also wrote the script, follows the televised story pretty faithfully. He does take the opportunity to expand on story elements and character development. For example, the book starts with a Viking map chronicling the voyage of the curse. Also many chapters deal with people touched by the curse who don't appear in the televised version of the story.

These embellishments added to my enjoyment of the book. I think you have to like the show to enjoy the book series, as they follow the show closely. For those who do enjoy the show, I think you will enjoy this book a lot. It is a well written adaption of a good Doctor Who adventure.

As a footnote, the following character exposition explaining the relationship of the commander and the scientist appears on page 62:

The cold mud of a ruby pitch. The shouts and calls of adolescent young men as they ran and chased. The expression Millington saw on Judson's face as Judson smiled across to one of the other players, a tall, blond boy with clear blue eyes and a strong body. The sharp, stabbing jealousy that surged through Millington. The black anger that filled him as he ran towards Judson. The hatred, as he drove his shoulder hard in Judson's back. The cracking sound - the awful cracking sound - as Judson's body bent backwards and his spine fractured. The expression in Judson's face, an expression from hell, as he lay paralysed in the mud.

*"I'm sorry," wept Millington. "I didn't mean ..."
Judson looked up from the hospital bed, and Millington saw the answer in Judson's black eyes. "You're mine now!," said the eyes. "Mine for ever."*

Gay lovers? You be the judge.

Con Calendar

by Carl, Peter, & Noel

- May 24 - 27, 1991 **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.
- July 5-7, 1991 **CastleCon 4:** Holiday Inn Crown Plaza, Crystal City, Va, cost is \$15 until April 1, \$20 until June 15, \$25 at door. Send money to FanTek, 1607 Thomas Road, Fort Washington, MD, 20744.
- July 19-21, 1991 **GAYLAXICON '91:** Tewksbury, 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
- October 4-6, 1991 **Rovacon 16:** Salem Civic Center, Roanoke, VA, cost is \$10 until April 15, \$12 until July 15, ... , \$20 at the door. Guests: Don Mathison (Land of Giants), Roger Zelany, Hal Clement, Spice Williams (Star Trek 5). Call 703/389-9400 after 5:00pm (no collect calls) for information.

Comic Book Review: "Star Trek"

by Sylvia

This is a world I would not have thought of exploring had I not been a part of this group (LSF). Comic books were put down years ago, not to be picked up since except for an occasional sneak peek at how Superman has changed over the years and an occasional sneak peek at Wonderwoman (the one in the comic books, although I did catch a quick glimpse of Linda Whats-Her-Name once in the audience of the Kennedy Center). What awakened the interest recently was a conversation at the end of January's LSF meeting about comic books. I didn't think much of it until my last trip to the library to exchange a couple more audio books. On a whim, I asked a librarian (or are they called Information Retrieval Specialists now?) whether comic books could be checked-out, and she said "yes, the same as books, tapes, CDs, and records"! Well, what harm could checking out some comic books do? It was a risk-free investment, and I'm glad I took it. I'm not sure I will get deeply into comics because I have not been impressed so far, but for occasional light reading it's kind of fun. Before I offend anyone of you who is seriously into comics, please remember that my reviews reflect my PERSONAL OPINION of the material I read or to which I listen. Someone else will just as soon find the same material great or awful, whichever the case may be.

As the title suggests, I checked-out some "STAR TREK" comics in no particular order. I just plucked the first ones I came to in the bin. Undisturbed, it took me 15 minutes per book to read each one from cover-to-cover, passing over the ads and letters (which seem to comprise a fifth of the comic book). All of the issues I had in hand seem to be written/drawn/whatever-you-call making a comic book by two or all three of the team of David, Sutton, and Villagran. I hope this means something to those of you who are "into" this. What little I know of the serious business of comic books I do know that who put the book together is important to the fan. I found the characters "poorly" drawn, not in technical terms of the art of drawing, but in terms of the characterization of familiar faces. The Klingons looked terrible; Kirk and Bones didn't look like Kirk and Bones (to me); Spock wasn't too bad, but then, the ears were easily-recognized as Spock so that helped a lot. So much for my general observations during my first experience. Now come my specific story summaries of individual issues. By the way...which title do I use for the issue: the one on the front cover or the one on the front page in the first box of the story? They're different in each issue! The ones I use below are on the front cover.

STAR TREK COMIC #54: "The Return of Finnegan"

Sequel to issue #48; continued in issue #55. Damn these soap operas! "Knots Landing" and "Dark Shadows" are enough!

A homicide attempt is made on Captain Kirk. A crew member named Bearclaw is accused and suspected by Kirk to be the perpetrator who has inflicted a knife wound upon Kirk. Federation policy dictates that the Security Legion is to investigate such incidents. A Security Legion detail just happens to be on the Omicron Ceti IV planet nearby investigating a "renegade" starship massacre of the planet. One of the bodies found on the planet is discovered to be that of an Enterprise crew member named Ensign Bloemker (a red-haired female human). At the end of the issue it appears no Deceased Crewman Report (Form #DC 2051) was filed for Ensign Bloemker -- a matter deemed unimportant by one of the investigators. But mysteriously, an Ensign Bloemker greets the shuttlecraft arrival of the Security Legion detail when it arrives on the Enterprise. Is she live or is she...?

Anyway, this Security Legion crew of two arriving on the Enterprise to investigate the homicide attempt on Kirk includes Sean Finnegan, a former Starfleet Academy upperclassman who terrorized Jim Kirk when he was a lowerclassman at the Academy. Kirk is none too pleased to see Finnegan, which adds to his already poor opinion of the competency of the Starfleet Security Legion to begin with. The issue ends with the reader wondering about the body of Bloemker on the planet and the question of who is this "person" who calls herself Ensign Bloemker on the Enterprise. PS: Finnegan and his partner do not know about the identity of the body on the planet. The discovery was made simultaneous to their shuttlecraft trip to the Enterprise.

STAR TREK COMIC #48: "Bachelor Party: The Stars In Secret Influence"

Can you believe it? what a coincidence to get the prequel to my first comic book. (These guys -- David, Sutton, & Villagran) draw the characters terribly!

The story starts out on the planet of Miraud (which is not explained, but I think is the Omicron Ceti IV planet mentioned in issue #54 above). A bored Klingon warrior is stationed at this Klingon science outpost. A renegade Reliant-class Federation starship exterminates the science outpost, unprovoked. The Enterprise, stationed nearby, receives the emergency signal of the attack.

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Comic Book Review - cont'd from page 4

Meanwhile on the Enterprise, Captain Kirk authorizes a bachelor party for a Klingon ensign named Konom who is about to marry Ensign Nancy Bryce. A security officer named Bearclaw is highly prejudiced towards Konom because Klingons killed his family. But he attends the party anyway to show good will.

Non-alcoholic punch was prepared for the party because of the varying effects the alcohol has on the various alien beings who are Federation crew members on the Enterprise. But Scotty sneaks some scotch into the punch and Chekov sneaks some vodka in, both unbeknownst to each other and to the rest of the revellers. The effects on almost everyone are most interesting. Kirk enters the party late and is really pissed at everyone's behavior under the influence. The issue ends with Kirk chewing everyone's ass out when the distress call from Miraud is received and Spock calls the Captain to a view screen to watch the message transmission.

STAR TREK COMIC #54: "Hell In A Handbasket: Haunted Honeymoon"

I'm confused! Does every issue lead-in to the next, or are there different storylines between issues? I thought there were different storylines until now. I'm seeing a pattern from one issue to the next, yet there is a sub-plot within each issue unto itself. But you don't get much of an idea of any one character without reading several issues. And where do they explain who Kirk, Spock, Chekov, Scotty, and any of the other "regulars" are (for the uninitiated)?

Captain's Log: Star Date 9000.0. Federation Ensigns Konom (a Klingon) and Nancy Bryce (a human American) are wed by Captain Kirk and go off to Konom's quarters for their honeymoon. Lt. Sulu (a human Russian) and Lt. M'ress (a Caitian -- cat-like race of people) who, when soured from the punch at the bachelor party (issue #48) had a fling, now talk in the elevator. M'ress wants to fool around ("after all, this isn't the 20th century anymore") and Sulu has a real problem with interspecies relationships.

Lt. Castille, a human-looking Mentite, is the character around which this issue revolves. He is an empath -- both a projecting as well as receiving empath. (Note: Lt. Troi in STNG is a receiving empath. A receiving empath receives from others; a transmitting empath can transmit images and thoughts to others.

Lt. Castille leaves the wedding festivities with a headache. Wierd things start happening all over the Enterprise from the Bridge to the other end. Everyone starts seeing illusions which are monsters from their own minds. The illusions become "real" and firepower starts flying as phasers are used by security and crew members to rid the ship of these "real-to-them" monsters. Castille's headaches worsen and he en-

ters into a trance. Scotty, the Chief Engineer, is a victim of a phaser blast set on stun to untangle him from a "monster's" grip. The engines have been shut down and there is just "a wee bit o'" auxilliary power for the bridge. Of course! The issue ends with one gigantic illusion on the bridge (even Spock sees it) involving crypt-like doors with an inscription above saying "ABANDON HOPE, ALL YE WHO ENTER HERE".

Book Review: Stranger in a Strange Land

by Carl Cipra

At our January book exchange, I received a copy of Heinlein's *Stranger in a Strange Land*. (Thank you, Norman!) It had been a long time since I'd read anything by Heinlein--and, somehow, I'd never gotten around to reading this one.

I was delighted to find that this book is definitely the type of "classic Heinlein" that I'd enjoyed for many years. It contains some of Heinlein's stock characters, his wry humor, and plenty of his no-nonsense, "neo-pessimist" philosophizing. Art, marriage, warfare, politicians, property-ownership, religion, and society in general--all subjects are grist for his mill; and Heinlein comments on them all it is expressed through the person of Jubal Harshaw, a rough-edged old curmudgeon who is really Heinlein's alter ego. On the whole, I enjoyed the book immensely.

I was, however, amazed at how dated the book is. This was a book that shocked and disturbed many readers when it first appeared in 1961. It relates the adventures of Valentine Michael Smith, a human child raised by non-human Martians, who returns to the planet of his racial (but not cultural) origins. It made quite an impression during the era of "free love" and the "Flower Children," and went to over thirty printings by 1968. Despite its "unorthodox" socio-political and religious stances, it's incredible just how many of the "blind spots," biases, and prejudices of the 1950's shine through.

The least disturbing (to me) of the "blind spots" in this book occur in the area of scientific achievement. I'll mention just a couple of items. Even though Heinlein literally begins the work with the words "Once upon a time," it is obvious that the story takes place somewhere in the near future. A human colony is flourishing on the Moon, World War III has come and gone, and the "Lyle Drive" allows spaceships to complete the Earth-to-Mars trip in 19 days. Despite this, however, Heinlein's description of the outdated animal houses in the San Francisco Zoo reflects no zoological progress since the late 1950's. Also, the book almost totally ignores computers-

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--a glaring anachronism, when you consider just how pervasive the personal computer is even our own era. I'm nit-picking, of course. Who could have foreseen every permutation of scientific achievement in the past three decades, be it Verne, Wells, Heinlein, Asimov, or whoever?

But it's the sociological (or socio-sexual) biases and prejudices in this work that I found particularly shocking. They clearly brand the book as a product of the 1950's, despite its reputation for being such a "forward-looking" and "iconoclastic" vision of the future. Especially evident are Heinlein's very 1950's-like attitudes toward women and homosexuality.

One of the main characters is Gillian ("Jill") Boardman. She's described as a "competent nurse" and, before the action starts, she's already the supervisor of the high-security floor at the Bethesda Medical Center. This certainly suggests that she's an intelligent, capable professional woman. Throughout the book, however, she tamely accepts being addressed as "honey", "baby", "sweetheart", etc. by men who are not even close friends. And then there's that blockbuster statement of hers! When she's performing as an "exotic dancer" and the hero questions her ability to defend herself against advances by the men in the crowd, she responds: "I was coping with wolves when you were still on Mars. Nine times out of ten, if a girl gets raped, it's partly her fault." (???) (Maybe you haven't come such a long way, baby!)

As far as homosexuality (both Gay and Lesbian) and bisexuality are concerned, Heinlein is clearly "anti."

--- Gay men are referred to as "poor in-betweeners" who "would never be offered water" (the Martian "sacrament").

--- Jill is relieved that she could discover no "Lesbian tendencies" in herself.

--- A description of two men exchanging the Kiss of Peace is quickly dismissed as "not a pansy gesture."

--- Valentine Michael Smith is talked into making his face "more masculine," in an effort to avoid having Gays make a pass at him.

--- "Male-femaleness [as opposed to homosexual relations] is the greatest gift we have . . ."

And this doesn't exhaust the list of homophobic references. Is it possible I'm over-reacting? Is it possible that these statements don't really reflect Heinlein's own feelings? I don't think so. I find it extremely significant that Heinlein (through his alter ego, Jubal Harshaw) never once criticizes or contradicts any of the homophobic statements made in his presence. For God's sake, Heinlein spends three pages of dialogue having Harshaw defend cannibalism against charges of being "against instinct" or "against human nature!"

It would seem that homosexuality, according to Heinlein, cannot likewise claim to be a natural part of the human experience!

It's time to climb down off my soapbox, however; and it's only fair that I pass along a piece of information told to me by Bob Himmelsbach (Philadelphia Gaylaxians) at a recent convention. He told me that Heinlein's homophobia disappeared later in his life, and he cited Heinlein's later novels as evidence. Since I've never read *Time Enough For Love* or any of Heinlein's later works, I'll just have to take Bob's word on this.

Let me close this review with a favorite quote from the book. Since it's Jubal Harshaw speaking, I can't help but shake my head in wonderment that Heinlein didn't listen to what he himself was saying:

"[T]he ethics of sex is a thorny problem. Each of us is forced to grope for a solution he can live with---in the face of a preposterous, unworkable, and evil code of so-called 'Morals.' Most of us know the code is wrong, almost everybody breaks it. [F]aced with a problem in sexual ethics new to you, you test it against that same Judeo-Christian code . . . so automatically your stomach does flip-flops . . . and you think that proves you're right and they're wrong. All your stomach can reflect is prejudice trained into you before you acquired reason." □

Point of Discussion

by Sylvia

I would like to pose a question to the LSF membership:

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A "CYBORG" AND AN "ANDROID"?

I got into this question with a non-LSF (but Star Trek fan) friend recently and our conclusion was this: a CYBORG was once human but has been converted to a mostly electronic and mechanical being (ie: the Terminator, and Robocop). An ANDROID never was human but is very much human-looking (ie: Data).

Do any of you have any more specifics to add to the comparison or discussion? Responses would be an interesting addition to the next LSF newsletter! □

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.

Thanks to Brian K., Carl, Michael, Noel, Norman, and Peter for collating last month's newsletter.

The Franklin Mint has come out with a 15" classic Star Trek USS Enterprise model. The model can be opened to reveal a detailed bridge and shuttle bay. The cost: \$295.

PBS will be airing a show called The Astronomers in April.

Four episodes of Space: 1999 have been released on videotape for \$14.95 a piece.

Upcoming movies: Highlander 2 premieres in May and The Addams Family, starring Angelica Huston and Raul Julia premiers in December.

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



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