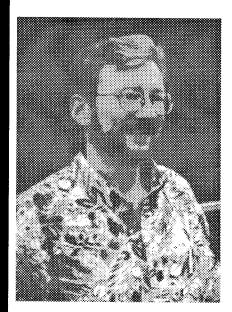
PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (202) 232-3141 - Issue #86 - May 1997 E-MAIL: LAMBDASF@AOL.COM WEBSITE: http://members.aol.com/lambdasf/home.html

IN MEMORIAM



PHILIP WRIGHT 1954 - 1997

The members of Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians sadly announce the passing of one of their long-time friends and fellow members. Philip Wright. He will be missed.

Remembering Philip

by Peter Knapp & Rob

FROM PETER KNAPP:

At Philip's memorial service, I noticed that they spelled his name with two "l's" on the cake. His sister told me that his birth certificate has two "l's" on it but somewhere along the way he dropped one of the "I's". I wasn't too surprised by this, as Philip always had a way of wanting things just so. If something wasn't to his liking, it was wrong.

Throughout our friendship, Philip was never hesitant to tell me his opinion and tell me when he felt mine was wrong. Hiding behind that stubbornness, though, was a willingness to listen and a willingness to accept. I never felt like he was blowing me off when he told me I was wrong. This may seem like a dichotomy - and it is. This quality was one of Philip's strongest, and it helped make him such a special person.

His perseverence and determination proved invaluable to me when I was chairing Gaylaxicon V. As the dealers' room rep, he pulled together the largest (and best) dealers' room of any Gaylaxicon to date. He successfully negotiated with difficult dealers who wanted exceptions to the rules; and he did it all without burdening me with the details. He

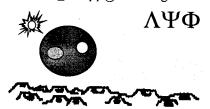
(continued on page 2)

LSF Membership **Directory Supplement** to be Published

by Peter Knapp

By popular request, I will be publishing a supplement to the 8th edition of the Lambda Sci-Fi Membership Directory. I will include changes and additions to the membership database since January of this year. If you have any additions or changes you would like me to include in your entry, please get those changes to me in writing by May 31, 1997. You can send in your changes to the LSF P.O. Box or you can e-mail changes to:

Peter_Knapp@ita.doc.gov



The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on Sunday, May 11th, 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!

WHAT'S INSIDE?

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Remembering Philip

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was a joy to work with and a consummate professional.

He was also a good friend. I think a real friend stays with you not only in the good times but also in the bad times. Philip was definitely a real friend. When I sank into a major depression during the planning of Gaylaxicon V, Philip was always there to support me. He spent countless hours helping me by just being there for me when I needed a shoulder to cry on or a sympathetic ear to listen to me. When I became depressed before Gaylaxicon VI, I strongly contemplated not going; but Philip's persistent encouragement helped me to decide to go in spite of the depression. Going to the convention was the right decision, and I'm glad Philip helped me make it.

I miss Philip terribly, and I'm glad that we were an important part of each other's lives for five years. He was one of the most special people I've had the pleasure of calling a friend.

FROM ROB:

I sit in my office, lunch getting cold, phone ringing off the hook, lines at my door of people needing help. I'm turning 30 in less than a wek, and I wonder what I can say about remembering someone who's

gone. I've been remarkably lucky that in this day and age, in this community, this is the first time I've lost someone I called a friend.

Philip was many different things to many different people. From the eager volunteer for Lambda Sci-Fi to the vocal rabble-rouser to the Network, from the knowledgeable writer who always knew something about a subject to the opinionated know-it-all who knew everything about every subject. If you knew Philip, you had an opinion about him - sometimes several opinions. Most of the time, you both loved him and wanted to bonk him over the head. He was never someone you could shrug your shoulders noncommittally about. Regardless of how you felt, though, Philip was someone who cared. He cared about life and about living. He gave everything he had to make a difference in the lives of those around him.

For me, Philip was all of these things and more. When I first moved to Washington, after two years of a long-distance relationship, I came with nothing but half a moving van of stuff and a hope of making things work out in DC; I had left my job, my friends, and my life behind in Boston. After two long days on the road, I arrived with Peter to find Philip waiting to help us unload the truck. Over the next two months, I spent a lot of time with Philip, commiserating about job-searching, running errands, watching bad movies. More than anyone

besides Peter, Philip made me feel at home here in Washington. No matter how many times we butted heads (and we did), no matter how often we argued (we did that, too), no matter how much I wanted to throttle him (and I even did that), I never forgot how much he did to make me feel comfortable here.

Philip was like the older brother I wished I had. We fought often, about the stupidest little things, but he was always there for me. He had a zeal for life like few people I know. Despite the bad things he'd seen, the troubles he had gone through, and indeed despite his illness, he still had nothing but a smile in his heart for the world around him. The last night I saw him, we laughed and joked about work, about the Network, about everything. It was his way of saying that no matter what happens, the world is a wonderful place - so enjoy it. He did enjoy it; and though it's difficult at times like this, I can't do anything less than try to do the same.

There's no way that Philip will ever truly be gone. I can't forget his cheerful demeanor, his strange sense of humor, his love of bad movies, or his cantankerous ways. He helped make DC my home, he was a confidant and a friend, and he made a difference in my life. So, as I sit here in my office, at a job that Philip told me about when I lost my previous one, I'll remember Philip the best way I know how - with a smile.

Upcoming LSF Events

MAY 24TH (SAT.)

LSF will once again host a "room party" at Disclave, the DC science-fiction convention. Disclave is back (after several years) at its "home" site, the Ramada Inn New Carrollton (8500 Annapolis Rd., New Carrollton, MD - ph. # 301-459-6700). The party will run from 8:30 PM to Midnight. The designated party rooms are all located around the pool; and flyers for the party will be posted in the hotel. (You don't need to be a member/attendee of the con to attend the parties.) Please bring

munchies and/or soft drinks. (Ice would be nice, too!) Directions: Get to the Washington Beltway (the I-95/eastern side); take Exit #20B; the Ramada New Carrollton will be at the bottom of the exit ramp on the right.

JUNE 7TH (SAT.)

LSF will begin its DC Pride Weekend celebrations with a combination monthly LSF meeting and "Video Madness" Party. The meeting/party will be held at Julian's (fka Jaime's) home in Georgetown. The LSF meet-

ing will begin at 3:00 PM, and the potluck supper and videos will begin at 5:00 PM. Look for more details in the June LSF newsletter. (NOTE: LSF will NOT hold the usual "2nd Sunday" meeting in June.)

JUNE 8TH (SUN.)

LSF will once again have its own table at DC Pride Day festivities. Members are encouraged to drop by and help out during the day. More details and final planning at the May 11th LSF meeting.

Night Bites: Vampire Stories by Women Victoria Brownworth, editor (Seal Press, 1996) reviewed by Carl Cipra

Night Bites: Vampire Stories by Women is one of this year's Lambda Literary Award finalists. It's a great little collection of "tales of blood and lust" that explore "a feminine and feminist perspective on the genre - the vampire myth as viewed through the female gaze." Surprisingly, however, it's not included among the works in the Science Fiction/Fantasy category - it's a finalist in the Anthologies/Fiction category. Go figure! Unfortunately, I have a feeling that including Night Bites in this category might result in it not receiving all the consideration it deserves. And that's a shame because, believe me, the 16 stories included in it are all hum-dingers!

Which story is my favorite? I don't think I can narrow it down to that level; this anthology contains some of the most entertaining vampire fiction I've read in quite a while! Meredith Suzanne Baird has written a moody little piece about "the Old Ones" in modern Romania ("They Have No Faces"). On the other hand, Judith Katz's "Anita, Polish Vampire, Holds Forth at the Jewish Cafe of the Dead" is a wry, witty picaresque romp. Two of the stories are well-written vampirevs.-cops stories: "Unexpurgated Notes from a Homicide Case File" by Judith Redding, and "Backlash" by Nikki Baker. Linda Wright's "The Last Train" could make DC residents think twice about those late-night Metro rides. "The Vampire's Baby", by Joanne Dahme would have made a fine addition to the Kolchak: Night Stalker series; and both Jan Carr's "Apologia" and Lisa Williamson's "Best of Friends" could easily have graced an episode of Night Gallery. "Refugio", by Teri de la Peña, extols the vampireas-protector; while Diane DeKelb-Rittenhouse's "To Die For" depicts the vampire-as-predator. If you enjoyed Waiting to Exhale, then try Victoria Brownworth's "Twelfth Night". Both Susanna Sturgis ("Sustenance") and



The Hollowing by Robert Holdstock (1993) a mini-review by Scott Roberts



At the January 1997 LSF meeting book exhange, I selected a hardback book contributed by Tim called The Hollowing. Tim eagerly described it as fantasy - a genre which I generally detest. However, I decided to give the book the old college try. If I could endure the first twenty pages without encountering unicorns, magicians with crystals, warrior princesses, and other characters who don't have to worry about their next mortgage payments, then I vowed to complete it. The author, Robert Holdstock, succeeded in hooking me (without much pain) into reading his book about Ryhope Wood.

Executive Summary: Ryhope Wood is a forest unlike any other forest, where creatures of myth and the subconscious mind -- called *mythagos* - reign supreme. The book's title, *The Hollowing*, describes a sort of wormhole on the scale of a human (or a ship, such as the Argo of Jason-and-the-Argonauts fame). A hollowing can take one to any place and time. Some hollowing pathways can take one to the

same place and time again and again, while other hollowings pathways are unrepeatable. A young British lad named Alex vanishes into Ryhope Wood. His father, Richard, spends most of the book searching for his lost son, befriending other humans who delight in playing in mythago land. Richard's human friends are out for adventure, while Richard initially just wishes to locate his son Alex, who has aged only a few weeks to Richard's several years.

Robert Holdstock has written a number of other books that center upon Ryhope Wood, but one doesn't need to have read his other books to enjoy *The Hollowing*. Mr. Holdstock won a fantasy award for one of his books (don't ask me which one). I recommend this fantasy (there, I said it) to fans who like a good balance between "reality" and myth-based fantasy.

Is Richard successful at reuniting with his son Alex? I'm not going to spoil the ending... $\Lambda\Psi\Phi$

There is no such thing as the supernatural; there are only things we don't understand yet. ---- Kathleen Sky

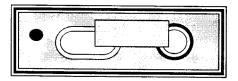
excerpted from Science Fictionisms, compiled by William Rotsler (Gibbs Smith, 1995)

Joyce Wagner ("Bad Company") offer up fascinating variations on the theme of "vampirism". And both Toni Brown ("Immunity") and Mabel Maney ("Almost the Color of Summer Sky") tell stories of vampiric parents although from very different viewpoints. And then there's Ruthann Robson's "Women's Music" - definitely a new twist on "the music of the night!" Heck, even the Introduction (by Vistoria Brownworth and Judith Redding) was fascinating!

Considering that this book is a Lammy finalist, I was surprised to note that only a few of these stories include themes or content that are specifically lesbian - most of the stories either don't deal with "sexuality" per se, or the

sexuality is rather hetero. However, there's certainly no way you can fault the *quality* of the writing involved in any of them.

Seal Press has been "publishing iconoclastic works by women" for twenty years; but Night Bites is its "first foray into the horror genre ... yet another risk the press has taken in an effort to make the diversity of women's writing available..." Congrats, Seal Press, you've struck gold (or should I say "blood"?) first time out!





Anaconda
(That's a wrap!)
film review
by Joesph Parra

Brazil!! (+pumpum-pum-pum-pumpum-pa-pum+) The land of Carmen Miranda, Rio

de Janiero, the mighty Amazon River, and... the anaconda!! Anacondas are - like the giant squids and octopi - known to attain giant lengths of anywhere from 20 feet to at least 40-50 feet! A true monster, in every sense of the word, an anaconda not only can become huge, but its desire to kill can surpass its hunger; anacondas have been known to regurgitate one prey in order to kill and feed on another. Scientists exploring the Amazon basin have reported attacks by giant anacondas and have had to pour several large caliber bullets into the heads of these monsters to kill them.

Columbia Pictures, realizing that this was untapped "creature feature" fodder par excellence, announced this film for production about two years ago through CL Cinema Line Films, a production company. Everyone thought that this was a poor idea, that the age of giant monster movies was long past. Well, what the hell did they know?!! This is a highly-enjoyable throwback to the great B-movies of the 1950s. With excellent special effects from Steve Johnson's XFX and Edge Innovations (both responsible for animatronic monster snakes) and Sony Picture Image Works (computergraphic beasties), wonderful tongueplaced-firmly-in-cheek (without poking fun) direction a la the 1950s by Luis Llosa, this springtime chiller is bound to please on the ever-lovin' B-movie level.

A naturalist/herpetologist hires a first-time feature-length director to helm his new documentary on a lost tribe living on the upper reaches of the Amazon. Along for the ride are his cameraman, a street-savvy LA hipster, two gaffers (read "go-fers"), a pompous English windbag who will narrate this extravaganza, and a shifty boat captain who will lead them all to the lost tribe. Along the way, they encounter

an adventurer/priest who, in return for the group saving his life, will show them the tribe's whereabouts. The scientist is happy to hear this, until the man starts relating tales of the tribe that the scientist knows to be the habits of a different tribe along the Amazon. Through a course of harrowing events, the scientist is immobilized for the remainder of the trek; and the adventurer reveals his true nature: he hunts snakes and captures them alive for zoos and/or private collectors. He takes over the expedition at gunpoint and leads them to a section of the river dammed up - to keep something in... or out. They are all promptly attacked by a 25-foot anaconda that does what anacondas do best... But the worst is yet to come...

Performances are a keynote here, with everyone having the feel of the melodramatic style of the fun flicks of yesteryear and without ever casting a jaundiced eye in their direction. Eric Stolz (Mask, Pulp Fiction) plays the scientist with all the conviction that Richard Carlson or John Agar had in their heyday. Jennifer Lopez (currently starring as Selena) expertly conveys the Julie Adams/Mara Corday/Faith Domergue/Beverly Garland school of heroine, with a Sigourney Weaver sensibility mixed in for good measure. Ice Cube (the other "Ice" rap star) entertains as the cinematographer. Jonathan Hyde is hilariously prissy as the English chap who would rather be anywhere else but here. The best performance, however, is by Jon Voight as the snakehunter. He does an incredible over-thetop performance as the villain of the piece by doing a Jack Palance-by-wayof-Marlon Brando impression that is simply marvelous.

I don't know anyone who could honestly say they didn't enjoy the giant beast flicks of yesterday. How wonderful that someone thought we might like a slice of nostalgia dished up with the tech of the 1990s. Don't let this film slither past you! Enjoy!



Rating: 3 out of a possible 4

National Air and Space Museum Announces 1997 "Star Wars" Exhibition

[excerpted from a press release from the National Air & Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution]

In 1997, filmmaker George Lucas created a motion picture trilogy that celebrated the epic battle between good and evil. The Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum will commemorate the 20th anniversary of the "Star Wars" trilogy with an exhibition that will explore the enduring popularity of spacefaring pilots "a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away...."

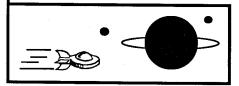
"Star Wars: The Magic of Myth" will open in late 1997 in the museum's "Flight and the Arts" gallery. The exhibition will include more than 250 original props, models, costumes, characters and artwork used to create the three films in the "Star Wars" trilogy. Bantam books will publish a richly-illustrated exhibition companion book, by curator Mary Henderson, which explores in greater detail the mythological, historical, and cultural themes of the exhibition.

A small showcase, currently on display near the entrance to the "Flight and the Arts" gallery, offers a sneak preview of the upcoming exhibition and includes three original characters (C-3PO, R2-D2, an Imperial stormtrooper) and several paintings.

The Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum is located at Sixth Street and Independence Ave., SW. It's open daily from 10 AM to 5:30 PM; admission is free.

[Ed. note: Sounds like something we should plan a field trip for, doesn't it?]

ΛΨΦ



(FINAL NOTE: Associated Press recently reported that the militia had to be called out in a village on the Amazon to shoot a 120-foot anaconda that was attacking the whole village. Shades of Carl Kolchak, the Night Stalker!) $\Lambda\Psi\Phi$

The Sad Minutes of the April 1997 Meeting by Rob

Our meeting started on a somber note with a report, for those who hadn't heard, about the passing of Philip Wright. Everyone in attendance was saddened and mellowed by the news.

But, in the spirit of life going on, we moved forward on a number of business items. The first was a discussion of the letter to be sent to the Washington Freedom Festival organizers. The letter, it was decided, should be polite but firm about our discomfort at the rapid rise in rates for non-profit informational booth space. Those in attendance were most disburted at the idea of non-profit booths being used to support the profit-making booths making more money. Apparently, LSF is not the only group disgruntled about the rise in rates. Also related to Pride Day. Michael and Tim are working on a flyer to hand out; and we'll also hopefully host a soon-after-Pride-Day social event.

We also discussed everyone's favorite topic - the Gaylactic Network. It seems the latest GNAPA ticked a number of LSF members off because decisions were seemingly made by Board officers without the authority to make them. The most egregious decisions dealt with the numbering and finances of Gaylaxicons. Jack, as his firt duty as Network Rep, has been given the task of trying to innocently get everyone to follow the rules of the charter.

Three upcoming events were discussed. The first will be a Gaylaxicon ConComm meeting at Jack-and-Kendall's at 6 PM on Sunday, May 4th. The second will be an LSF room party at Disclave on Saturday, May 24th. Finally, there will be a combined meet-

ing/"Video Madness" Party on Saturday, June 7th (3 PM) at Julien's place in Georgetown. Additional details on these events will be forthcoming.

The final business item was an update on the status of *Gayteways*. With Philip's passing, Michael has been asked to work on the 'zine with Rob. The first issue will be dedicated to Philip and will be produced ASAP (hopefully in time for Gaylaxicon in Boston).

After the business items were completed, we moved on to more frivolous endeavors. In movie news, a number of remakes and sequels are in the works: Barbarella may be remade starring Drew Barrymore; "The Avengers" movie looks to star Ray Fiennes and Uma Thurmann, with Sean Connery as the villain; Dr. Doolittle, starring Eddie Murphy (!!?) is in discussion; and Superman Reborn will star Nicholas Cage and be directed by Tim Burton (according to the latest rumors). Michael passed around a strange excerpt from a court case of a woman claiming to be a cyborg, who thinks that here is a plot afoot involving Iraqi soldiers being used to create prostitution rings, the death-sport hunting of black women, and strange telepathic-type messages - and who claims that Bill Clinton is the son of Jimmy Carter. In saner news, fossil remnants of actual feathered dinosaurs have recently been discovered (highlighted in the current issue of Audobon magazine), which has the world of dinosaur buffs spinning.

And that was the end of that. People hung around for food and chatter for quite some time. As always, James was a marvelous host.

$\Lambda \Psi \Phi$

A man's knowledge is like an expanding sphere, the surface corresponding to the boundary between the known and the unknown. As the sphere grows, so does its surface; the more a man learns, the more he realizes how much he does not know. Hence, the most ignorant man thinks he knows it all.

--- L. Sprague de Camp ---

excerpted from Science Fictionisms, compiled by William Rotsler (Gibbs Smith, 1995)

"Yes, Virginia, there is *another* Renaissance Faire!"

Every Fall for the past few years, a number of adventurous LSFers have banded together and jumped into the TARDIS to time-travel back to Merrie Olde England during the reign of Good King Hal. (OK, so we've got over-active imaginations! Actually, we jump into our cars and drive out to the Maryland Renaissance Festival!) Well. Randy called the other day to say that he'd heard there's another Renaissance Faire besides that one. It's located out near Fredricksburg, VA (which, according to my AAA map, is on I-95, about halfway between the District and Richmond); and it runs from now until June 8th. (Advance tickets available by calling 1-800-52-FAIRE.)

At any rate, Randy wondered if anyone would like to wander on out there for the day. He asked me to include this little notice in the newsletter and to say that he'll bring the details to the May 11th LSF meeting so that interested parties can make plans. Consider yourself advised.

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Babylon 5 Does It Again!

CAPTAIN JACK (TO MARCUS COLE AND DR. STEPHEN FRANKLIN): "Now there's just one thing... We don't usually have people coming through here in pairs. Most of the Resistance travel light, travel alone... So to get travel permits for the two of you together... Well, our access to the Transit Bureau is limited to whatever we can steal... So you're Jim Fenneman and you're Daniel Lane, a young married couple on holiday to Mars for their honeymoon."

MARCUS COLE (TO DR. FRANKLIN): "Well, shall we go, Darling?"

dialogue excerpted from "Racing Mars", the Babylon 5 episode which aired 4/25/97



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

Lambda Sci-Fi is a Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror fan club for Gay people and their friends. Annual membership fees are \$15, for which you will receive this monthly newsletter and a membership directory. Newsletter submissions are always welcome.

Meetings are generally held on the second Sunday of each month at a private residence. The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on Sunday, May 11th, 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, and James



May 23-26, 1997 **DISCLAVE 1997**. Ramada Inn Conference & Exhibition Center (8500 Annapolis Rd., New Carrollton, MD - "Back where we used to be years ago!"). Guest of Honor: Patricia Anthony; Artist Guest of Honor: Lissane Lake. Cost: \$40 at the door. On-line information at: michaelnel@aol.com

May 23-26, 1997 COSTUME CON 15. Radisson Plaza Lord Baltimore Hotel (Baltimore, MD). "Costume lovers rejoice! Four fun-filled days devoted to the art of costume!" Membership: \$60 from 12/1/96 to 4/15/97 ("more at the door"). Make checks payable to "Costume Con Fifteen" and send to: CCXV, c/o Marks, 7806 Hanover Parkway, Unit T-2, Greenbelt, MD 20770-2617.

For more information, e-mail at: betsy@access.digex.net

July 4 - 6, 1997 **GAYLAXICON "LITE" '97**. Boston Marriott Burlington (Burlington, Mass.). Membership: \$15 until 6/15 (\$25 at the door). Make checks payable to "GSFS" or "Gaylaxian Science Fiction Society" and send to: Gaylaxicon Lite '97, c/o Chris Conran, P.O. Box 292, Marlboro, MA 01752. [NOTE: Checks must be accompanied by "Gaylaxicon Lite '97 Registration Form". People under 18 yrs. old must be accompanied by a legal guardian; and the guardian's registration form must accompany the minor's form.]

For more information, check out: www.gaylaxians.org

July 11 - 13, 1997 SHORE LEAVE 19 (a Fan-Run Trek Convention). Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD).Confirmed guests: Ethan ("Neelix") Phillips, Peter David. Adult membership: \$45 until 5/31/97 ("higher cost" at the door). Make checks payable to "Shore Leave" and send (with 2 SASEs) to Shore Leave 19, P.O. Box 6809, Towson, MD 21285-6809. For updated info, visit their WWW page: http://members.aol.com/ShoreLeave E-mail: ShoreLeave@aol.com Info line: (410) 821-5563

Aug. 28 - Sept. 1, 1997 LONESTARCON 2 (the 55th World Science Fiction Convention). San Antonio Convention Center & surrounding hotels (San Antonio, TX). Honored Guests: Algis Budrys, Michael Moorcock, Don Maitz. Attending membership: \$135 until 7/31/97. Make checks payable to "LoneStarCon2" and send to: LoneStarCon2, PO Box 27277, Austin, TX 78755-2277.

E-mail: lsc2@io.com voicemail: (512) 435-7446

Aug. 5-9, 1998 BUCCONEER (the 56th World Science Fiction Convention). Baltimore Convention Center & surrounding hotels. Guests of Honor: C.J. Cherryh, Stanley Schmidt, Michael Whelan. Attending membership: \$110 for period 10/1/96 thru 9/30/97 (and it goes *up* after that). Make checks payable to "Bucconeer" and send to: Bucconeer, Post Office Box 314, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701.

E-Mail: baltimore98@access.digex.net Web page: http://www.access.digex.net/~balt98