

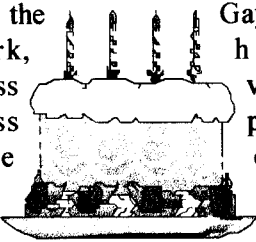


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E-MAIL: LAMBDA\_SF@AOL.COM WEB SITE: <http://members.aol.com/lambdasf/home.html>

### Happy Birthday LSF! By Peter Knapp

With the publication of this 96<sup>th</sup> newsletter, Lambda Sci-Fi is celebrating its eighth birthday. Not bad for a club with no charter and only a handful of "officers." Over the last eight years, we've held meetings every month, published the newsletter without interruption, organized and ran two Gaylaxicons, contributed to the running of the Gaylactic Network, held countless video parties, movie outings, and other such events, and promoted gay science fiction, fantasy, and horror, amongst ourselves and in the genre community in general. Most importantly, we've had fun! I'm proud to be a founding member of Lambda Sci-Fi. May the next eight years be as enjoyable as the first eight years! ▼



### Lammy Nominees Announced by Rob

In early February the publishers of the Lambda Book Report announced this year's nominees for the Lambda Literary Awards. These awards are given annually in a number of categories to honor books of interest to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community. This year's nominees in the science fiction/fantasy category are:

- Bending the Landscape* ed. by Nicola Griffith & Stephen Pagel (White Wolf)
- Grave Passions* by William Mann (Masquerade)
- Harvest* by Perry Brass (Belhue)
- Monsters in the Closet* by Harry M. Benshoff (Manchester University)
- The Drag Queen of Elfland* by Lawrence Schimel (Circlet)

Winners will be announced at a special ceremony during the annual ABA Convention in May. ▼

### Dorsey, Link Earn Tiptree Awards from Sci-Fi Wire - <http://wire.scifi.com>

Candas Jane Dorsey and Kelly Link were named co-winners of the 1998 James Tiptree Jr. Award, which honors works of science fiction or fantasy that expand or explore gender roles. This year's awards, which include a \$1,000 cash prize as well as quite a bit of chocolate, will be presented at Readercon 10, which will be held July 10-12 in Westborough, Mass.

Dorsey was honored for her book *Black Wine*, which was published in 1997 by Tor Books and which also received the 1997 William J. Crawford Memorial Award for best first fantasy novel. Link earned the Tiptree for her short story "Travels With the Snow Queen," which appeared in the winter 1996/1997 issue of *Lady Churchill's Rosebud Wristlet*. It was only the third work of short fiction to win a Tiptree in the award's seven-year history.

"I think there were just some very strong short stories this year," said Elizabeth Hand, one of this year's five judges and a past Tiptree winner. "Kelly Link's 'Travels With the Snow Queen' was a terrific discovery, and I think there was - for me, at least - a real thrill in recognizing someone new." ▼

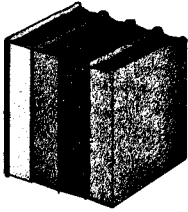
**NOTE:** At the next meeting we will be discussing LSF's policy toward alcohol at our events. Please provide your input at this important meeting. ▼

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### Upcoming LSF Meeting

The next LSF meeting will be held Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at the home of James Crutchfield: 1414 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW Apartment 413 (near Dupont Circle). The business meeting is at 1:30pm; the social meeting is at 2:00pm. Please bring some munchies or soft drinks to share if you can. Hope to see you there!



***The Mirror***  
 by Marlys Millhiser  
 (Rue Morgue Press, 1997)  
 reviewed by Carl Cipra



(Ed. note: This is our first contribution from the Middle East – hot off the presses from Saudi Arabia!)

A friend of mine recommended this book to me some weeks ago; but it's been difficult to locate. (It's published by a small press out of Boulder, CO.) Fortunately, a recent business trip to Denver allowed me to visit the fabulous Tattered Cover Bookstore, where I purchased a copy. I'm happy to report that this book is well worth the search!

*The Mirror* doesn't classify easily. The action centers around what is pretty clearly a fantasy device – a magical mirror of some sort; but the time-travel aspects of the story are more the sort of thing you'd label science fiction. Then again, *The Mirror* often comes across as an excellent historical fiction novel. About the closest comparison I can make is to the time travel novels of Jack Finney, such as *Time and Again*.

The story centers around three women: Brandy McCabe and her granddaughter Shay Garrett, and Rachael Maddon Garrett, "the woman in between" (daughter of Brandy and mother of Shay). As the story begins, Brandy and Shay are both staring into a weirdly-fashioned mirror on the night before their weddings – Brandy in 1900 and Shay in 1978 – and neither of them is exactly looking forward to her wedding. Brandy frankly doesn't want the marriage her father has arranged for her; and Shay isn't exactly sure she wants to go through with the marriage she's been pushing for. Suddenly, in a flash – hey, presto! – the mirror magically exchanges their personalities and "rescues" them from

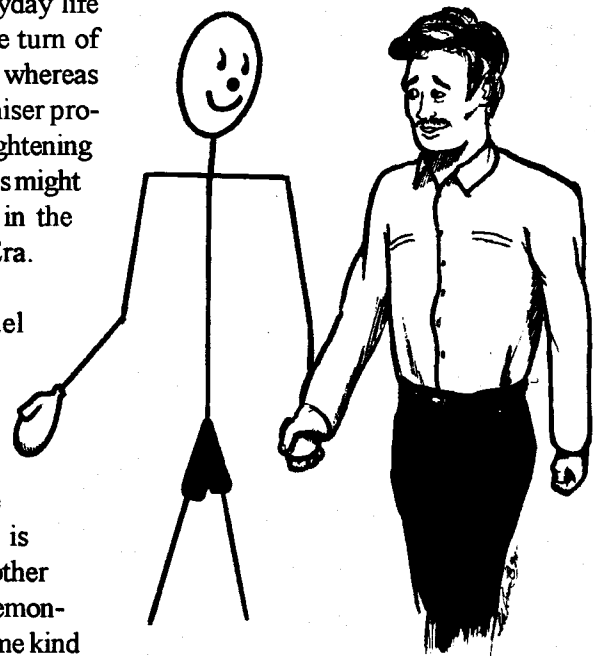
their respective wedding dilemmas. Unfortunately, each of them now finds herself in another (unknown) woman's body and faced with marriage to an unknown man in very disorienting circumstances!

Only gradually do Brandy and Shay come to learn the true nature of this grandmother/granddaughter exchange – and to face the fact that this exchange seems to be permanent. Most of the novel explores how they deal with their new lives: Shay, in the body of the girl who would become her Grandma Bran, living in a Colorado that existed some fifty-plus years before Shay was born; and Brandy, in the (unexpectedly pregnant) body of her granddaughter, dealing with that "strange new world" of Boulder in the 1970's. Through Shay's eyes, Millhiser gives the reader a fascinating panoramic view of everyday life in the Boulder area from the turn of the century to the 1970's; whereas through Brandy's eyes Millhiser provides a hint of just how frightening (and ridiculous) modern times might appear to a woman raised in the traditions of the Victorian Era.

And then there's Rachael Maddon Garrett. As I said earlier, she's "the woman in between," as much a victim of the mirror's awesome powers as either of the other two women. Rachael is raised by a disconcerting mother who frequently seems to demonstrate "second sight" and some kind of foreknowledge of future events; and she raises a daughter who mysteriously seems to have gone crazy on the night before she was supposed

to get married. Her outlook – and hang-ups – are molded by the influence of her mother/daughter, and her life is later shattered by the actions of her daughter/mother.

A tale of three women and their relationships over time, a family saga to rival any made-for-TV mini-series, a fascinating portrait of Colorado life over the decades, a back story exploration of time travel paradoxes – *The Mirror* is quite a heady, well-written mixture; and I found it very enjoyable! If you can't find a copy locally – or if you aren't able to swing a quick trip to the Tattered Cover Bookstore in Denver – trot on over to Lammas and see about ordering a copy. I think you'll find it'll be well worth the effort! ▼



**GOSH, YOU'RE SO SIMPLE TO GET ALONG WITH. . .**

## The Agreeable Minutes of the January LSF Meeting

by Peter Knapp



Someone must have put a potion in the soda and juice because everyone agreed with each other when discussing the world of genre. I brought up the upcoming X-Files episode written by Stephen King – “Chinga.” Carl poo-poo’ed all Stephen King material that has made it to TV. Tim, Joe P., and James disagreed bringing up some of his TV movies such as *It* and *The Stand*. I pointed out that Chris Carter was editing King’s story. Carl responded, “With any luck he will correct what Stephen King writes.” Joe P. made the comment that a lot of what we read is trash. That comment generated much discord among the ranks. We take pride in what we read, even if we don’t love it. In discussing the alternate history author Turtle-dove, Wayne I complained, “He goes on and on.” Carl retorted, “But he writes well.” I kept my mouth shut about my 200 plus Doctor Who books.

The conversation then turned to movies. Kevin Costner’s latest epic *The Postman* was heralded by some and trashed by others. Similar comments were made about Costner’s other Sci-Fi blockbuster, *Waterworld*. Joe P. informed us that the Freddy vs. Jason movie was in the can and waiting for a Halloween release. He told us to look for the cameo by Michael Myers. Many in the room groaned. Joe also warned us about *Sphere*. He predicted it would be awful as it had been sitting on the shelf for a long time. The only reason it’s being released is because the new studio president wanted to clean off the shelves and decided to release everything that was completed, regardless of quality. Joe also gave a thumbs down for *Fallen* which he has seen and did not enjoy. Next Barrett and Joe P. faced off in their reactions to *Deep Sea Rising*. Joe liked the

monster. Barret thought the movie was stupid. And so it goes.

The world of television was not spared either. Tim suggested that the latest Babylon 5 season has not been up to par. The consensus of the room agreed with Tim. We discussed the Sci-Fi Channel picking up *Sliders* (along with *Earth 2*, and *Space: Above and Beyond*). People were not sure if the advertised “New Episodes” are truly new, or simply unaired episodes. At the Doctor Who convention I attended in CA, I found out that the “New Episodes” are indeed going to be newly filmed for the Sci-Fi Channel.

Thankfully, people had announcements that were hard to disagree with as they were mostly factual. Joe R. discussed Star Trek: The Experience that recently opened in Las Vegas. He had a great time and brought pictures to share. He also recently met Leonard Nimoy at a Washington photogra-



**STAR TREK  
THE EXPERIENCE™  
LAS VEGAS HILTON**

phy exhibit opening. Nimoy likes to take erotic pictures of young women. Joe asked if he had considered photographing young men. Nimoy responded that he hadn’t, but that it was a good idea. Joe also announced a Star Trek / Romance BiCentrist Alliance party at his house on Valentine’s Day. (I hope it went well – I was at a Doctor Who / Romance party in CA that weekend.) Michael brought the latest Psychotronic Video schedule. Movies are shown Tuesday nights at the Lucky Bar on Connecticut Avenue in DC at 8:00pm. Call 202/736-1732 or visit [www.wpfs.org](http://www.wpfs.org) for information.



Joe P. passed around a movie magazine and discussed upcoming video releases. He also let us know about the next Michael Crichton movie – *Eaters of the Dead* – starring Antonio Banderas which will be released soon. Tim wrapped up discussion with a comment about a new role playing game called “Kindred of East,” based on the World of Vampire gaming series. He thought it, “Sounds fun.”

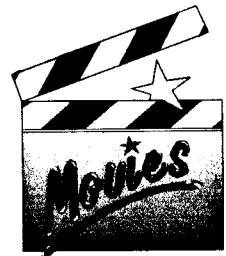
We then broke for more informal conversation and munchies. Many of us saved room for dinner and went to La Frontera Cantina. While I’ve seen my share of people flirting, our waiter’s reaction to Joe bordered on scandalous. He used every excuse in the book to talk with Joe, brush against Joe, and whisper sweet nothings in Joe’s direction. Joe’s Italian stallion must have stirred the waiter’s Latin passion. Amour (at least the waiter’s) was in air! ▼

### Babylon 5 Sequel Series from *Starlog* Magazine

The sequel series to Babylon 5 will air on TNT in either late 1998 or early 1999, according to *Starlog* magazine.

J. Michael Straczynski, the creator and executive producer of B5, will exec-produce the new series as well. It takes place immediately following the Babylon 5 series and centers around the efforts of the Rangers to cleanse the Earth of a deadly Drakh virus that will kill the Earth’s population in five years. The Rangers seek ancient technology left by the First Ones in order to cure the virus. If you haven’t seen B5, none of this will make any sense, but don’t worry: Straczynski promises this series will be easier to jump onto than B5. ▼

Upcoming Flicks - Data on Upcoming Genre and Gay-Related Movies,  
Courtesy of *Entertainment Weekly's* Spring Movie Preview Issue  
by Michael Cornett



Slim pickings this season, folks. But what's out there may be interesting....

**Dark City**, from director Alex Proyas (*The Crow*), stars Rufus Sewell (*Hamlet, Carrington, Cold Comfort Farm*) and Keifer Sutherland in a dark-Gothic Kafkaesque thriller. If the trailers are any clue, it'll have lotsa cool imagery but not make a lot of sense. (Now Playing)

**The Object of My Affection** has "Friend" Jennifer Aniston falling for her gay best friend (Paul Rudd, the gay guy from *Clueless*). Despite resemblances to a certain Julia Roberts film, it's supposed to be a serious-minded look at relationships. (3/27)

**Lost in Space**, with William Hurt, Matt LeBlanc, and Gary Oldman as Dr. Smith, in a serious version of the campy 60's TV show, including a sinister new Robot from Jim Henson's Creature Shop. New Line is trying to launch a new franchise with this film (a la "Star Trek")...let's see if it actually happens. (4/3)

**City of Angels** stars Nicholas Cage as an angel who falls in love with heart surgeon Meg Ryan. Supposedly based on Wim Wenders' modern classic *Wings of Desire*. (4/10)

**Nightwatch**, a suspense/horror flick that's been previewed forever, starring Ewan McGregor (*Trainspotting*) as a morgue attendant being stalked by a serial killer. (4/17)

**Sliding Doors**, delayed from winter release to spring (perhaps to avoid a certain boat?), stars Gwyneth Paltrow as a woman bouncing between alternate futures. With John Hannah (one of the gay lovers from *Four Weddings and a Funeral*). (4/24)

**Tarzan and the Lost City**, in which the main attraction is *Starship Troopers* ubermensch Casper Van Dien in a loincloth. (4/?)

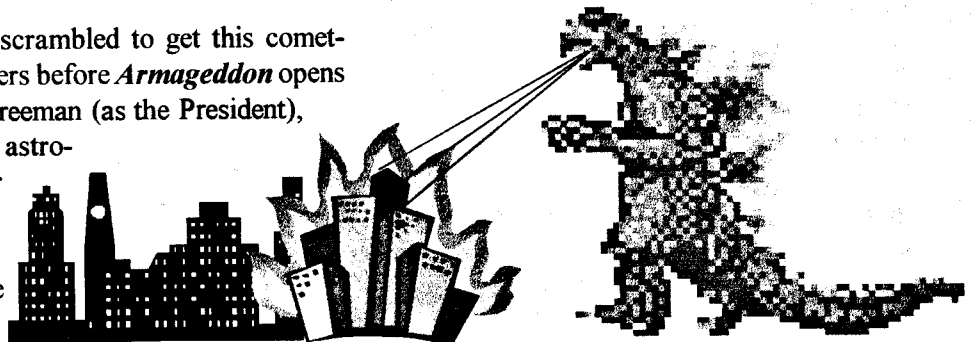
**The Hanging Garden**, a independent release from a first-time director. An overweight boy attempts suicide, then runs away from home, only to return 25 years later trim and openly gay to confront his messed-up family. (4/?)

Perhaps the season's most terrifying horror film: **Barney's Great Adventure: The Movie**, in which a hideous purple dinosaur runs amuck, driving children into a frenzy, destroying their parents' bank accounts, and inducing nausea in the movie going public. (4/?)

**Wilde**, with Stephen Fry, Vanessa Redgrave, and Jude Law (from *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*) retelling the life of Oscar Wilde. (5/?)

**Deep Impact**. DreamWorks SKG scrambled to get this comet-menacing-civilization thriller to theaters before *Armageddon* opens in July. With Tea Leoni, Morgan Freeman (as the President), and Robert Duvall (as a burned-out astronaut), and directed by Mimi Leder (*The Peacemaker*). (5/8)

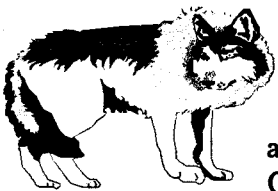
And of course, on Memorial Day, we have.....**GODZILLA!!!!** ▼



**An American Werewolf in Paris: Le Loup-Garou Merde**  
**A movie review by Joe Parra**

I am one of those people who believes that a large budget, studio backing, an interesting idea, and 16 years in development should result in a good movie. Hell, I'm not expecting great or even very good, just good. What *An American Werewolf in Paris* is can be expressed in the French expletive *merde*, which I'm sure everyone is familiar with.

Three Americans, possibly students, possibly hobos, are vacationing in France and are engaged in a long-winded game of "can-you-top-this?" The dullard of the group, the very cute but schmucky Tom Everett Scott, decides he will best his comrades by executing a bungee jump off the Eiffel Tower. As he is about to do this remarkably stupid thing (as his friends tell him, in the most excruciating exchange of dialog ever written), a young woman appears and jumps off the



Tower as well, sans bungee rope. He manages to save her and, in reverse Cinderella fashion, has her shoe. He awakens in a hospital and suddenly remembers she left a suicide note. This is fine except that when he saw her leave the Tower, she didn't leave a note. So much for continuity. Our

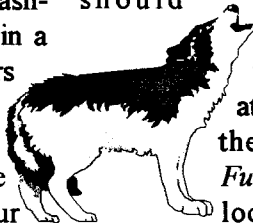
hero and his two stooge friends find the note and somehow (beyond the ken of Sherlock Holmes) ascertain from the note where she lives. Once there, the girl tells Scott (and Larry and Curly) to go. Being stupid, they return that night, only to find a friend of hers there; he tells them how she isn't home but invites them to a party at the Club de Lune. It's a werewolf



party; and guess why humans are invited?! The girl comes to save Scott as the moon draws full and she turns nasty, as do the club kids who are dining on the guests. To make a really long story short, Scott gets infected with lycanthropy, and he and the girl have to save everyone from the evil werewolves, who are not her friends after all.

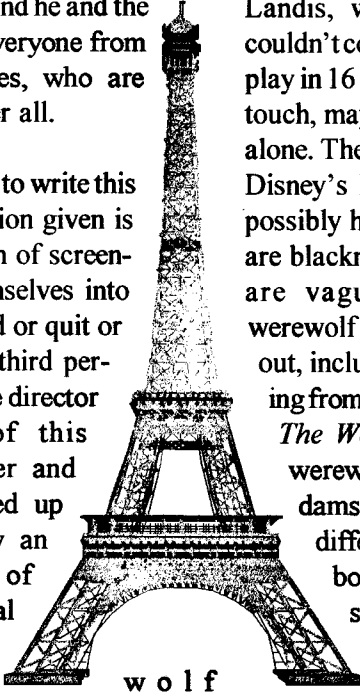
It took three people to write this mess. The impression given is that the initial team of screenwriters wrote themselves into a corner, were fired or quit or whatever, and the third person (who is also the director and producer of this fleabag) took over and thoroughly screwed up what was already an incoherent mass of garbage. The special effects (hah!) are laughable, as the

folk are computer-generated beasties that look like cartoons. A company called Magicon was responsible and should be drummed out of the industry. All I could think of when looking at them was a line from the classic song, *My Funny Valentine*: "Your



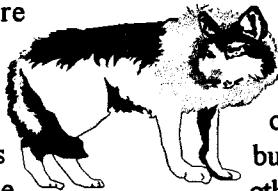
looks are laughable, unphotographable." Supposedly, the character of the young wolf girl is the daughter of the David Naughton and Jenny Agutter characters from *An American Werewolf in London*. How this information is to be conveyed is presumably through osmosis, since there is no reference to this in the film, only in press

materiels provided to magazines.



The acting ranges from "not bad" (Delpy & Scott) to "why bother" (anyone else in this old bone). Anthony Waller is the responsible party at the helm of this disaster. Common sense should have told him that if John Landis, who helmed the original, couldn't come up with a decent screenplay in 16 years that any studio would touch, maybe it should have been left alone. The only possible excuses that Disney's Hollywood Pictures could possibly have for fronting this bomb are blackmail and/or tax loss. There are vague references to other werewolf flicks and stories throughout, including a pathetic bit of stealing from Guy Endore's classic novel *The Werewolf of Paris*, with the werewolf hero having to save his damsel from other beasts. The difference is that in the Endore book, the rescue is in an insane asylum. The parties responsible for this film should take a cue..

As most of you know, I adore werewolf movies. I adore lousy movies. One would think this was a marriage made in Heaven. Well, this shaggy dog went straight to Hell, and I want a divorce!! Enjoy? Shit (English for *merde*, in case you didn't know), I'd have been happier watching a rerun of the *Lost In Space* werewolf episode! Stay home and wait for this to come on cable. You'll still have to pay, but at least there will be myriad other films to get for your HBO or Showtime fee. !Au revoir!



Rating: ½ out of 4  
 Yes, that's one half out of a possible four!  
 (Ed. Note: This one must be for the dogs...) ▼

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

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

Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians is an affiliate of the Gaylactic Network, an international organization for gay people and their friends who are interested in science-fiction and fantasy.



### Convention Calendar

by Carl, James, Rob, and Peter



April 10-12, 1998 **BALTICON 32**. Baltimore Omni Inner Harbor Hotel (Baltimore, MD). GoH: Harry Turtledove; Artist GoH: Jody A. Lee; Science GoH: Dr. Yoji Kondo. Hotel room: \$104/night (up to four in a room). Membership: \$40 until 3/14/98, and \$45 at the door. Make checks payable to "Balticon 32" and send to: Balticon 32 Registration, PO Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203-0686. For more information send e-mail to [bsfs@access.digex.net](mailto:bsfs@access.digex.net) or check out <http://www.balticon.org>

July 3-5, 1998 **GAYLAXICON 8**. Troy Marriott in Troy, MI (\$75/night. Call 800/228-9290 for reservations, and make sure to mention Gaylaxicon 8.) Guest of Honor: Anne Harris; Artist Guests of Honor: Kurt Erichsen and Frank Gembeck, Jr. Membership: \$25 through the end of 1997, \$35 thereafter. Make checks payable to "Gaylaxicon 8" and send to Gaylaxicon 8, PO Box 700392, Plymouth, MI 48170. For more information send e-mail to [Gaylaxicon8@aol.com](mailto:Gaylaxicon8@aol.com)

July 10-12, 1998 **READERCON**. Westborough Marriott (Westborough, MA). GoHs: Bruce Sterling and Lisa Goldstein; Memorial GoH: Leigh Brackett. Membership: \$40 until 6/30/98. Make checks to "Readercon" and send to: Readercon, PO Box 381246, Cambridge, MA 02238-1246. For more information, check out <http://www.mit.edu/~zeno.readercon.html>

July 25-26, 1998 **NOVA CON**. The West Park Hotel in Tysons Corner, VA. (Call 703/734-2800 for reservations and mention Novacon for the special \$69 rate The hotel sells out every year so call early.) Guests: Roxann Dawson (Torres of Voyager), Wil Wheaton (Wesley Crusher of TNG - 1st con in years), and a surprise guest. Tickets on sale at Ticket Master and also by calling Phone Charge at 202/432-SEAT. For more information send a SASE to: One Trek Mind Productions Inc., PO Box 1124, Ashburn, VA 20146, call 703/858-1716, send e-mail to [onetrek@juno.com](mailto:onetrek@juno.com), or check out <http://members.aol.com/novacon97/>

August 5-9, 1998 **BUCONEER (the 56th World Science Fiction Convention)**. Baltimore Convention Center & surrounding hotels. Guests of Honor: C.J. Cherryh, Stanley Schmidt, Michael Whelan. Attending membership: \$130 from until 6/15/98, and higher at the door. Make checks payable to "Bucconeer" and send to: Bucconeer, PO Box 314, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701. For more information send e-mail to [baltimore98@access.digex.net](mailto:baltimore98@access.digex.net) or check out <http://www.access.digex.net/~balt98>

October 8 - 11, 1999 **GAYLAXICON 1999: THE 10th GAYLAXICON**. Washington, DC. GoH: Diane Duane; Artist Goh: Nancy Janda. Membership \$40 until 8/8/98, \$50 from 8/9/89-8/1/99, \$60 at the door. No mail-in registrations after 8/1/99. Make checks payable to "Gaylaxicon 1999" and send to Gaylaxicon 1999, c/o Lambda Sci-Fi, PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044.

For more information call 202/232-3141, send e-mail to [lambdasf@aol.com](mailto:lambdasf@aol.com), or check out

<http://members.aol.com/lamdbdasf/lsf/gcon1999.html>



### Editor's Corner by Peter Knapp



I'm back! While Carl is giving the Saudi's his encore performance of "Carl of Arabia," I'm guest editing the newsletter. I hope you like it.

Thanks this month go to the newsletter's usual contributors - Carl Cipra (sent from the desert!), Michael Cornett, Joe Parra, and Rob Gates. Thank you also Tyler for the Babylon 5 article from *Starlog*. Finally, I'd like to thank Chris Browning, a recent Gaylaxians International convert, for his cartoon. I believe that this is the first time we're publishing original artwork in the newsletter. I encourage other LSF artists to do the same.

Please keep those articles and cartoons coming. The more material I get, the less I have to make up! ▼