



LAMBDA SCI-FI

DC Area Gaylaxians

PO Box 656, Washington, DC 20044 - (202) 232-3141 - Issue #193 - April 2006

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

**Next LSF Meeting:
Sunday, April 9th
NOTE: Change of Venue!**



The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held at a new site: Norman & Arn's place (2039 New Hampshire Ave. # 604) on Sunday, April 9th. For directions or more information, call 202-306-7974. The business meeting will begin at 1:30 PM; and the social meeting will begin at 2:00 PM.

The following motion will be voted on at the April meeting:

MOTION: *I move that LSF host Gaylaxicon 2008.*

If you cannot be present at the meeting, please remember to send your proxy vote on this motion to one of the LSF officers.

Please bring some munchies or soft drinks, if you can. See you there!

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Lambda Literary Award Finalists - SF/F/H Category

reported by Kendall

For those interested, the finalists for the 18th annual Lambda Literary Awards were announced on March 3rd. The finalists for the SF/F/H category are:

- Fledgling* by Octavia Butler (Seven Stories)
- Shapers of Darkness* by David B. Coe (Tor)
- Temple Landfall* by Jane Fletcher (Bold Strokes)
- Daughters of an Emerald Dusk* by Katherine Forrester (Alyson Books)
- No Sister of Mine* by Jeanne G'Fellers (Bella Books)

Winners will be announced in Washington, DC on May 18th, on the eve of the Book Expo America Convention. For more details, check out the following:

http://www.lambdaliterary.org/finalists_LLF_awards.html

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The LSF Book Discussion Group



If you're interested in lively discussions of F&SF books (with an emphasis on elements of interest to the LBGT community), we invite you to join the LSF Book Discussion Group. Each month, we conduct fascinating roundtable discussions of works by significant F&SF authors.

The LSF Book Discussion Group generally meets on the 4th Thursday of every month, starting at 7:00 PM, at Peter & Rob's home: 1425 "S" St., NW -- for directions or more details, call 202-483-6369. The next meeting will be held on April 27th. Here's the schedule for the next several meetings:

April 27th - *Ruled Britannia*, by Harry Turtledove; moderator: Barrett.

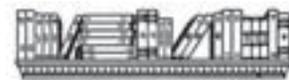
May 18th (NOTE: This month's will be held on the 3rd Thursday, NOT the 4th Thursday!) - *Quicksilver*, by Neal Stephenson; moderator: Mike P. (NOTE: This is the title of the recent mass-market paperback edition. If you own the either the hardcover or trade paper editions, then "Quicksilver" is "Book One" within the volume entitled *Quicksilver*.)

June 22nd - *Watchmen* (graphic novel), by Alan Moore (author) & Dave Gibbons (artwork); moderator: Greg M.

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For details on Gaylaxicon 2006 & 2007, see Con Calendar on page 6.



WHAT'S INSIDE?

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March LSF Meeting

minutes taken by Scott

Business Meeting

Carl advised that he and other LSF members are exploring the idea of running a **Gaylaxicon in the DC area in 2008**, perhaps in the September timeframe. He named various LSF members who have already volunteered to fulfill various roles. Wayne Wilkening (in Boston) has also expressed interest in helping out. Carl explained that LSF will be asked to host the con, but that the con-comm would be a separate organization from LSF. (It would ideally be an incorporated 501C3 organization and would secure its own liability insurance for the con-comm and the convention weekend.) He also said the con-comm would probably ask the Gaylactic Network and LSF for some seed money. They will be looking at hotels in and around Ballston, Arlington, and other locations that are Metro-accessible. A new, separate e-mail list has been created to discuss con-planning activities. Peter volunteered to e-mail the regular LSF mail list members with the new G-Con 2008 list name and invite those who are interested to subscribe to that list.

MOTION (Carl): *I move that LSF host Gaylaxicon 2008.*

This motion will be voted on at the April meeting.

Peter informed everyone that this year's **Capital Pride** parade is slated

for Saturday, June 10, with the festival on Sunday, June 11. He suggested that LSF follow the same tradition as in prior years: host a joint LSF meeting (changed from the regular 2nd-Sunday schedule) and video party at Peter & Rob's home starting on the afternoon of the 10th, stroll over to the parade at an appropriate time, eat out somewhere (or get fast food/pizza/etc. at Peter & Rob's), then return to the video party. Then, on Sunday, the 11th, **LSF will have its booth at the Capital Pride festival** at Freedom Plaza. (Note: The following weekend is Gaylaxicon 2006 in Toronto!)

Social Meeting

LSF Speaker Norman initiated a name circle, especially helpful for two first-timers. Kendall stated that the Lambda Literary Awards finalists have been announced, and he cited the F&SF finalists. It was noted that Sam Goody is going out of business and that good deals on genre videos can be had. (Hurry fast!)

Peter passed around *Parsec*, the newsletter of the Pittsburgh-area sci-fi club. Barrett brought some genre-related posters from prior Smithsonian exhibit and several members bought them (proceeds to the LSF treasury).

The Natural History Museum will be showing *Harry Potter IV* on the BIG screen sometime soon. Rob mentioned that his review of Octavia Butler's last book, *Fledgling*, is now posted at: strangehorizons.com He commented

that *Fledgling* has GLBT content.

Rob also announced that **Gaylactic Spectrum Award nominations** will be open through the end of March 2006. The awards will be announced at the 2006 WorldCon (Anaheim).

Michael reported that the recent LSF movie outing to see the original *Kong Kong* at the AFI was lots of fun. He is planning another AFI movie outing to see *Sunset Boulevard*, which could be stretched to be considered genre-related. [Ed. Note: It's narrated by a dead man, ya know!]

X-Men III opens on May 5. Peter is thinking about hosting a video party to show the first and second *X-Men* movies prior to the *X-Men III* opening. Look for an upcoming e-mail announcement. Rob suggested an outing to see *V for Vendetta*.

The upcoming LSF Book Discussion Group titles are: *James Tiptree Award Anthology I* (March), Harry Turtledove's *Ruled Britannia* (April), Neal Stephenson's *Quicksilver* (May - Note: it's the new mass-paperback version or only the first "book" within the hardback or trade paperback versions), *The Watchmen*, the DC graphic novel (June).

The meeting wrapped up with an animated discussion of the season finale episode of *Battlestar Galactica*. (New episodes begin in October.) Plus, Peter enthusiastically advised that the 2006 *Doctor Who* episodes will soon be shown in the US.

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Gay Superhero Flick

an e-mail notification from Paul Jack at [enigmatelevision \(poetbeware@gmail.com\)](mailto:enigmatelevision@poetbeware@gmail.com)

I'd like to plug the movie my friends and I made over the past year: It's a gay superhero movie about a guy who moves to San Francisco and gets superpowers. For details, check out:

<http://www.pandemoniummovie.com>

We are just weeks away from finishing the final touches. However, we'd like to debut at this year's San Francisco Frameline GLBT film festival, which doesn't happen until June. So the current plan is, finish up the movie, throw a HUGE party, rent a small theatre/con-

ference room to run the movie by a test audience in April, do local promotions in May, and debut in June.

After we debut we're going to put a full version of the movie up for download under a Creative Commons license, so it will be free and legal for anyone to burn their own DVD. Even so, we're still planning to hit as many festivals as possible. Thanks.

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On Sunday, June 11th, LSF will once again have a booth at the DC Capital Pride Festival. Be sure to drop by and say: "Hi!"



On February 24th, award-winning SF author Octavia Butler fell outside her house and struck her head. She was found by a neighbor and rushed to the hospital, where they found that blood had pooled in her brain. She passed away the next day.

Before anybody told her that black girls do not grow up to write science fiction, Butler (the daughter of a shoeshine man and a maid) was already fashioning a place for herself in a white-dominated universe. Octavia Butler became one of the country's leading writers - a female African American pioneer in the white, male domain of science fiction. She has been considered the most successful African American woman writing in the science fiction genre; and in 1995 she became the *only* science fiction writer to receive one of the vaunted "genius grants" (\$295,000) from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. She has also received the PEN Center West Lifetime Achievement Award, two Nebula awards, and two Hugo Awards.

Following her participation in the Clarion Science Fiction Writers Workshop, Butler's first short story ("Crossover") appeared in the 1971 Clarion anthology. Additional sales were slow to develop; but in time she published nearly 20 novels and books.

Perhaps Butler's most popular work is *Kindred* (1979), a time-travel novel in which a black woman from 1976 Southern California is transported back to the violent days of slavery before the Civil War. The novel — an exploration of issues such as the relationship between the empowered and the powerless, and an expression of Butler's vision of social justice — became a popular staple of school and college courses and now



Octavia Butler
1947 - 2006

has more than a quarter million copies in print. (*Kindred* was repeatedly rejected by publishers, many of whom could not understand how a science fiction novel could be set on a plantation in the antebellum South.)

In Butler's stories, African Americans and other people of color are present and significant in ways they had not been previously. This both attracted readers and allowed her to use the genre as a powerful means of speaking to a range of issues including race, gender, and the environment. Her best-known works include: *Patternmaster* (1976); *Survivor* (1978); *Wild Seed* (1980); "Speech Sounds" (1984; Hugo for best short story); *Clay's Ark* (1984); "Bloodchild" (1985, Hugo and Nebula for best novelette); *Imago* (1989); *Parable of the Sower* (1993); *Bloodchild and Other Stories* (1995); and *Parable of the Talents* (1998, Nebula for best novel). Finally, after encountering a form of writer's block, came her first new novel in seven years, *Fledgling* (2005). The novel is reportedly uncharacteristic for Butler, including as it does both a vampire story and significant GLBT content.

In 1999 (after her mother's death), Butler moved from her native Southern California to Seattle. Normally



reclusive (self-described as "comfortably asocial"), she became a frequent participant in readings and writers' conferences, especially Clarion West. She also served on the advisory board of Seattle's Science Fiction Museum and Hall of Fame.

Steven Barnes (SF writer, from his webpage): "A lady of incredible intelligence and rather dark humor, she was also what I called 'a REAL writer.'"

Tananarive Due (F&SF writer, from a *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* interview): "What she really conveyed in her writing was the deep pain she felt about the injustices around her. All of it was a metaphor for war, poverty, power struggles and discrimination. All of that hurt her very deeply, but her gift was that she could use words for the pain and make the world better."

Rob Gates (Gaylactic Spectrum Award Administrator, from an e-mail): "She was a brilliant writer and, if there is justice, will be remembered as one of the greatest writers ever of the speculative fiction genre. Her work speaks of what we were, what we are, and what we might become as individuals and as a society."

Walter Mosley (mystery/SF writer; quoted in a *Los Angeles Times* article): "She wasn't writing romance or feel-good novels, she was writing very difficult, brilliant work... For an African American woman to somehow define herself as a science fiction writer and to realize that dream is an extraordinary thing."

On March 2nd, Seattle's Science Fiction Museum and Hall of Fame hosted readings and remembrances in honor of Octavia Butler, including an open-microphone session during which people shared their memories of her life.

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Greek Mythology Revisited (Part 2)

a review by Carl Cipra

As I said in Part 1 of this series (in the January 2006 newsletter), Greek mythology is a pretty big subject; and there are certainly a *lot* of F&SF books out there based on the stories and themes and images of the gods, heroes, and monsters of the ancient Greeks. I thought I'd share my thoughts about some of the good ones I've read recently. In Part 1, I started by reviewing a recent translation of "the Sources" (*The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*, translated by Robert Fagles) and a couple of unique works about Greek mythology: Spivey's *Songs on Bronze* and Calimach's *Lover's Legends: The Gay Greek Myths*.

This month, I'll continue the series by looking at the first of three sexy "mythological biographies."



Alexander the Fabulous: The Man Who Brought the World to Its Knees, by Michael Alvear and Vicky A. Shecler (Advocate Books/Alyson Publications, 2004)

OK, OK, I know what you're thinking. Strictly speaking, Alexander the Great isn't exactly "fair game" when it comes to a discussion of Greek mythology. Well, I offer the following in my defense: (1) Alexander frequently proclaimed himself to be the son of Zeus. (This was either a reflection of his colossal ego or a product of his rather stormy relationship with his human father, Philip of Macedon.) (2) He was

certainly considered to be at least a demigod by his contemporaries. (3) He seems to have consciously patterned his life after that of the mythical hero Achilles – possibly even considered himself and his "longtime companion" Hephaestion to have been some sort of reincarnation of Achilles and Patroclus. (4) By medieval times, the historical Alexander had become the center of a number of fables and legends that were collected into the incredible and widely-read "Alexander Romance" (which included, for example, stories of how Alexander had traveled under the sea in a glass submersible and been carried up into the heavens by tamed gryphons). (5) Not to mention the fact that Alexander has *certainly* been incorporated into some sort of "gay mythology" in the present Era. (6) And there *is* a lot of discussion of "gay Greek myths" in this book (Zeus and Ganymede, Hercules and his many young lovers, etc.). So, having said that...

This is a very "glitter and be gay" book – lots of wry humor, lots of sexual innuendo, lots of gay double entendre. Here are a couple of examples:

In a world where gods were believed to take human form, Alexander became intoxicated with this exalted view of himself. This was especially true in bed. When his lovers yelled "Oh, God, I'm coming!" Alexander always replied, "I know, sweetheart, I know."

[excerpt from the "Timeline" at the beginning of the book] **333 BCE** Alexander, 23, solves riddle of Gordian knot, wins first Persian conflict – the Battle of Issus – conquering all of Turkey. Goes online with sassy screen name ("Fuknhotblond") and provocative profile ("strong stick, velvet throat"), trades pictures and meets the beautiful eunuch Bagoas at a Starbucks.

This is not to say, however, that there isn't a lot of accurate historical reportage in amongst all the sassy patter – there *is*. In fact, I highly recommend "Chapter 4: Sex in the City-States" for a fairly lucid explanation of the *erastes/eromenos* {"lover"/"beloved") relation-

ship and of Greek socio-sexual practices in general.

Just don't go into this book expecting a replay of your high school (or even college) History 101 text. I mean, *puh-leez!* This book is quite witty and *très amusant*.

[Next month: interesting new "biographies" of Venue and Bacchus!]

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Gaylactic Network Speaker
Alan Lutton at I-CON 25
info passed along via e-mail
by Jay Schneiderman,
Asst. Director of Programing



Gaylactic Network Speaker Alan Lutton appeared as a guest at I-CON 25 in Stony Brook, NY on March 24-26. He spoke on the topics of "LGBT People in Sci-Fi and Fantasy" and "Convention management."

I-CON is the northeast's largest convention for science fiction, science fact, and fantasy – as well as medieval, anime, gaming and more.

Also appearing at I-CON were George Takei, Kevin Sorbo, Ron Glass, Spider Robinson, Terry Brooks and many others. For info about I-CON go

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New Canadian TV Series Based on Tanya Huff Books

e-mail comments from Kendall and Lance



Tanya Huff

Says Kendall:

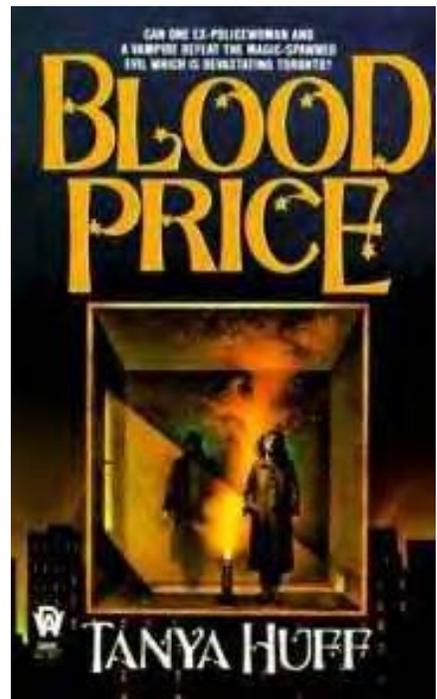
For those of you who're fans of Tanya Huff's excellent series of novels (the "Blood" books, for lack of an actual series title), take note – there may be a TV series done in Canada. It may bite – pun

intended – but I plan to set my expectations low and therefore probably enjoy it. If they make DVD's, at least... Since it's going to be made for a Canadian TV channel, I don't expect to see it in the USA.

Says Lance:

However, I believe that both City and A Channel can be picked up if you have a satellite dish. [shameless plug] For anyone who's interested, Tanya Huff *will* be at Gaylaxicon, June 16-18 in Toronto. She's not listed as a guest, but she and Fiona Patton were the first two people (apart from concom) to pre-register. I expect that we'll likely have a panel on the show. For more information about this year's Gaylaxicon, go to:

<http://gaylaxicon.gaylacticnetwork.org/2006>



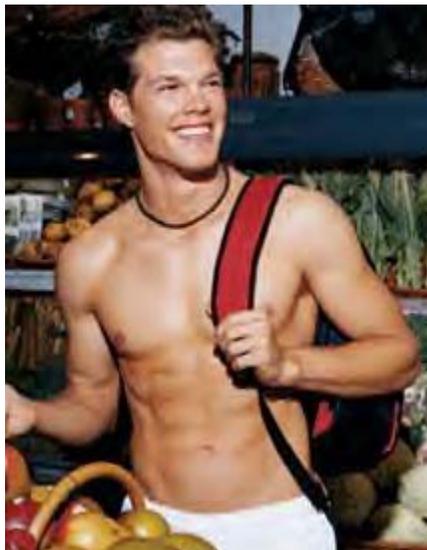
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Aquaman: A New, New Body?

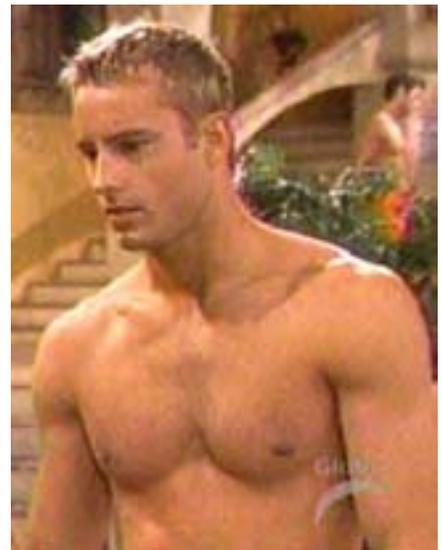
info passed along by Carl

OK, so last month we passed along the information that William Toale had been chosen as the star for the new *Aquaman* TV series. Well, there've been changes since then!

On Feb. 22nd, the Sci-Fi Channel's website ran an article entitled "Aquaman Pilot Nets New Star" and stated (in part): "The CW network's untitled Aquaman pilot has a new leading man: Justin Hartley, who replaces the previously announced Will Toale in a major recasting, according to *The Hollywood Reporter*. 'Will is a talented actor with a promising career, and we hope to work with him in the future,' a CW spokesman told the trade paper. 'We have made the decision to go in a different direction with the Aquaman role and wish him the best of luck in all of his endeavors.'" There were also some rumors about the series being called *Mercy Reef*! And then came the following Sci-Fi Channel on-line article



William Toale - Out?



Justin Hartley - In?

("Phillips Dives Into Aquaman") on March 6th. Please note the discrepancies (underlined) in this excerpt:

"AquamanTV.com reported that Lou Diamond Phillips... will play Tom Curry, father to hero Arthur Curry, in The CW's upcoming Aquaman pilot... The as-yet-untitled Aquaman pilot is based on the DC Comics franchise,

about the underwater superhero and heir to the throne of Atlantis. Will Toale has been cast in the lead role. The series is being created by the team behind The WB's *Smallville*."

Confused? Place your bets as to which "body" will be featured as the aquatic superhero and what the series will be called.

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

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

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

Annual membership fees are \$10, for which you will receive an e-mailed this monthly newsletter and a membership directory. (Hard copies of the newsletter cost an additional \$15 per year.) Newsletter submissions are always welcome.

Meetings are usually held on the second Sunday of each month at a private residence. The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on the Sunday, **April 9th**, at *Norman & Arn's place: 2039 New Hampshire Ave. #604* (for directions or more information, call 202-306-7974) - 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 Rob



May 26-29, 2006 **BALTICON 40**. Marriott's Hunt Valle Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). Guest of Honor: Neil Gaiman; Artist GoH: Lorraine a'Malena; Special GoH: Gene Wolfe. Membership: \$55 after Apr. 30 & at the door (registration form available on-line).

Website: WWW.BALTICON.ORG

E-mail: balticoninfo@balticon.org

June 16-18, 2006 **GAYLAXICON 2006**. Best Western Primrose Hotel (Toronto, Ontario, Canada). Guests of Honour: Richard Arnold; Michael Rowe. Membership (currently): US \$40/CAN \$50 (registration form available on-line).
Website: <http://gaylaxicon.gaylacticnetwork.org/>

July 7-9, 2006 **SHORE LEAVE 28**. Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn (Hunt Valley, MD). "Guests will be announced as soon as they are confirmed." Membership: \$55 until 6/15/2006 (higher at the door). Make checks payable to "Shore Leave" (and enclose two SASE's) and send to: Shore Leave 28, PO Box 6809, Towson, MD 21285-6809.

Website: www.shore-leave.com

E-mail: information@shore-leave.com

Aug. 23-27, 2006 **L.A. CON IV (64th World Science Fiction Convention)**. (Los Angeles, CA). Author GoH: Connie Willis; Artist GoH: James Gurney; Special Guest: Frankie Thomas (*Tom Corbett, Space Cadet*). Membership: currently \$150 thru 09/15/05 ("will go up after that"). Make checks payable to "L.A. Con IV" and send to: L.A. Con IV, c/o S.C.I.F.I., Inc., PO Box 8442, Van Nuys, CA 91409
Website: www.laconiv.com For more info: info@laconiv.org

Oct. 20-22, 2006 **CAPCLAVE 2006**. Hilton Washington/Silver Spring (Silver Spring, MD). More information as it becomes available. Membership: \$30 thru 5/31/2006; \$40 from 6/1/2006 thru 9/30/2006; \$50 at the door. Make checks payable to "Capclave 2006" and send to: Capclave 2006, 7113 Wayne Dr., Annandale, VA 22003-1734

Website: www.capclave.org

E-mail: info@capclave.org

Aug. 2-5, 2007 **ARCHON 31 (2007 NASFiC)**. (St. Louis, MO). Featured Guest: Barbara Hambly; Artist GoH: Darryl K. Sweet; Media GoH: Mira "Delenn" Furlan. Membership: \$45 (currently). Make checks payable to "Archon 31" and send to: Archon 31/2007 NASFiC, PO Box 8387, St. Louis, MO 63132-8387.
Website: <http://www.archonstl.org/31/>

October 5-8, 2007 **GAYLAXICON 2007**. Sheraton Midtown Atlanta at Colony Square (Atlanta, GA). Full membership information will be provided as soon as possible, including purchasing memberships online via PayPal. Guest of Honor details are being worked out with the various parties, and announcements will be made as soon as possible.
Website: <http://2007.atlantagallifreyans.org/>