

NEWSLETTER

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VOLUME 4, NUMBER 3, FALL 1992

FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

Roland Hansen, Male Co-Chair:

GAY AND LESBIAN TASK FORCE ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

1. New Steering Committee Appointments

Joseph Eagan, re-appointed as Secretary/Treasurer

Edmund SantaVicca, appointed Clearinghouse Coordinator

Bonita Corliss, appointed Feminist Task Force Liaison

David Streeter has agreed to remain Book Review Editor of the Newsletter. Karl Fattig has agreed to be Assistant Editor of the Newsletter and will be appointed Editor in July, 1993, at the end of Kathy Anderson's term.

Steve Murden will coordinate the Read-A-Loud Program for the 1993 Annual Conference in New Orleans. Bonita Corliss will coordinate the program for the Denver Midwinter Conference.

Karen Whittlesey-First was officially appointed Female Co-Chair, even though she began working at Midwinter in San Antonio.

The other Steering Committee members are:

Roland Hansen, Male Co-Chair, 1993

Kathy Anderson, Newsletter Editor, 1993

Susan Hoffman, Book Award Committee Chair, 1993

Terry Allison, Program Planning Chair, 1994

Leon Bey, Publicity Committee Chair, 1994

It was great to meet so many new people. Attendance at all of the GLTF meetings and functions was very strong, as is usual for San Francisco. A joint contingent of ALA librarians and local librarians marched in the annual Gay and Lesbian Freedom Day Parade. There were approximately 150 marchers near the end of the parade route. Attendance for the annual program was 125.

2. Resolution on Gay and Lesbian Materials

In response to the Oregon Initiative (see more on page 5-6) passed by the residents of Springfield, Oregon, a resolution was presented to SRRT Action Council, ALA Membership, and ALA Council. All three groups endorsed the resolution, almost unanimously. The resolution was moved (and written by) Adam Schiff. Gail Warner, ALA Council member, helped complete a re-write to conform to the ALA requirements for presenting a resolution. The resolution was part of the Wednesday membership meeting agenda. Several people spoke to the resolution at the meeting. The vote was 208 in favor, 2 opposed. The resolves are as follows:

Resolved that the American Library Association condemns any attempts to censor or exclude any viewpoint on homosexuality from libraries; and be it further

Resolved that the American Library Association urges the Oregon Library Association and all librarians to publicly and energetically oppose the implementation of censorship in Springfield, Oregon; the passage of the anti-gay state initiative in Oregon; and any other similar initiative in other local or state jurisdictions; and be it further

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Resolved that copies of the resolution be transmitted to the Springfield, Oregon, City Council and Mayor, Public Library and Chamber of Commerce; the Oregon Library Association, the Oregon State Library, OUTPAC (the statewide anti-initiative political action committee), the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, the library press, and the major gay and lesbian press.

3. Library Information Clearinghouse

Ed SantaVicca volunteered and was appointed Clearinghouse Coordinator at the final Steering Committee meeting.

A new publication for distribution via the Clearinghouse was approved by the Steering Committee. It is "Religion and Spirituality: A Checklist for Lesbians and Gay Men" by Don Bell. It is organized by general subject areas, and along with the bibliographic information, a list of religious organizations is also included. It should be available by September.

Karl Fattig and Elizabeth Brackeen volunteered to begin the revision of the *Directory of Gay and Lesbian Library Workers* for a 1993 edition.

Robert McCabe is beginning the revision of the list of libraries, archives and special collections. Many items still need to be revised and/or rewritten.

Anyone interested in working on a Clearinghouse project, or anyone wanting an order form for materials should contact the American Library Association, Office for Library Outreach Services, 50 E. Huron, Chicago, IL 60611.

4. Gay and Lesbian Book Awards

The Book Award winners were announced:
Literature: Paul Monette, *Halfway Home*, Crown, 1991;
Non-Fiction: Lillian Faderman, *Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers*, Columbia University Press, 1991.

Paul Monette accepted his award in person, delivering a very inspiring and moving acceptance speech. He also read from his new book, *Becoming a Man*. Dr. Faderman was represented by Dimi Berkner, who read a speech written by Dr. Faderman for this occasion. Approximately 220 people attended the presentation. (For more, see pages 3-4)

Future plans for the Committee include implementing the Exceptional Achievement Award, funding of the Book Awards by outside sources, and re-evaluating the structure of the presentation itself.

5. Other Items

Thanks to the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California for hosting a Friday night reception and tour. Bill Stanton and Jim Van Buskirk were responsible for the Saturday night social at the Eureka Valley Harvey Milk branch of the San Francisco Public Library. A giant thank you to them and all of their staff and volunteers. Jeff Escoffier of *Out/Look* Magazine and Sasha Alyson of Alyson Publications presented the OutWrite/Vanguard Award to Carla Mari Trujillo, editor of the anthology, *Chicana Lesbians: The Girls Our Mothers Warned Us About* (Third Woman Press, 1991).

The Historical Society displayed many of the paperback novels from the 1950's and 1960's that are in their collection in the library display cabinets. This was to the great amusement of all — thank you, Bill Walker.

The GLTF depends on many volunteers to carry on with its projects, activities, and causes. If you would like to get involved, please contact either of the Co-Chairs.

Also, please send any agenda items for the Midwinter Meetings to Karen Whittlesey-First by December 1, 1992.

Karen Whittlesey-First
Harvard Law School Library
434 W Langdell Hall
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Roland Hansen
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Karen Whittlesey-First, Female Co-Chair:

San Francisco in June opened its arms, gathering in one place the homeless, some of whom are still in the hippie days, sheltered on the sidewalks, alleys, and doorways during the mild summer; the gourmands, who seek out new restaurants and old favorites in a city which rightfully boasts of many excellent restaurants offering tempting and delicious meals of a variety unknown in Boston; gay and lesbian people who find even a straight citizenry speaking freely and supportively of "the Parade" down Market Street; the health- and-body awareness folks who frequent the juice bars and gyms; and the librarians, those intrepid souls, some 20,000 strong, who flocked to earthquake land to attend ALA's annual conference.

ALA in the summer is something to experience at least once. It is quite astounding that so many people can be gathered in one place to attend so many meetings, programs, exhibits, receptions, and socials. There are public librarians, academic librarians, rural librarians, and prison librarians. There are art librarians, rare book librarians, anthropology and mathematics librarians. There are public services librarians and technical services librarians, librarians from large libraries and one-person libraries. There are booksellers, authors, publishers, computer vendors. Although there is one convention center, events are held in several hotels, with many different things happening at once. Scheduling, especially for people with committee responsibilities, is a maze for which a spreadsheet is most useful. (You wanna buy a spreadsheet? Exhibit area aisle 1500, booth 687.)

ALA badges are on people all over town: in the swanky shops around Union Square, down by the Embarcadero, in the City Lights bookstore, over in the Castro, in the cafes in North Beach, in restaurants on Fisherman's Wharf. They're on people touring Sausalito, Berkeley, and Muir Woods. Badges and ALA tee shirts give us away – or is it out glazed-over eyes or the paperbacks peering up over the edge of our canvas totes like periscopes spying on the inhabitants of a strange land? It is a strange land – even before the librarians descend.

Take, for example, the cab driver who drove me into the Castro one evening. Young, tanned, white tee shirt with rolled up sleeves. "Do you like driving the night shift?" "Oh yeah. Gives me plenty of time during the day to squeeze my carrot juice, work out at the gym, that kinda thing, you know?" Well, no, I don't exactly, but, hey. "Have you always lived in San Francisco?" "I just got back from Santa Fe." And how was Santa Fe, I wondered? "Great place, you know? (That I do know.) And the cool thing was, I really felt significant on the landscape." They actually talk that way.

I was probably one of those librarians with the out-of-focus eyes and the dumb grin. My peering periscope paperback remained unopened most of the time and thankfully I could find my way back to my hotel on automatic pilot, but I wouldn't have wanted to miss any of the conference.

It was grand to meet you all, to renew acquaintances with those of you I only met in San Antonio, to visit libraries and archives which are of great importance to the lesbian and gay community, locally and nationally. Everyone involved with making sure programs and the pre-conference worked out did a fabulous job. I felt very proud of us.

And the parade was stupendous. One of my fellow librarians at Harvard (a straight woman) said she loved the parade and she stayed for all of it, waving her badge when the Task Force passed by. Speaking of the Task Force, what about the cover of *American Libraries*, huh? Great photo, great positioning.

I continue to be excited to be part of the Task Force and I look forward to Denver, New Orleans, and beyond! Keep in touch as we plan future events.

ALA HIGHLIGHTS

Gay/Lesbian Book Awards

Susan Hoffman, Book Award Committee Chair:

The annual Gay/Lesbian Book Awards took place midday Saturday, June 25: audience members arriving on time at the Hilton ballroom were greeted by the spectacle of a division of hotel waiters and managers cleaning up breakfast dishes from a late-running previous ALA meeting. About 15 minutes later than scheduled, and with over 220 people in attendance, the program began with a brief welcome and introduction to the book awards by committee chair Susan Hoffman.

The two guest speakers at the presentation were literature award winner Paul Monette and Dimi Berkner, representing Lillian Faderman, the award winner in the non-fiction category.

Monette gave a wonderful, angry, funny, defiant and extemporaneous talk about writing his award-winning book, *Halfway Home*, and went on to read from his new work, *Becoming a Man: Half a Life's Story*. Monette was awarded a standing ovation at the conclusion of his address.

Lillian Faderman was unable to attend the presentation due to a scheduling conflict that sent her to Great Britain on a book publicity tour. Her prepared remarks drew upon her experiences as a Ph.D candidate forced by convention to do research on a "proper topic" rather than the topic she was drawn to, lesbian sensibility in Willa Cather's fiction. Her remarks, delivered by the director of marketing at Columbia University Press, acknowledged the "metamorphosis" that had taken place in the publishing industry regarding lesbian and gay publishing. The climate for change, she wrote, "...could never have come about had not we, as

gays and lesbians, demanded it ourselves through grass roots movements, and continued to demand it in our schools, workplaces, professional organizations, and of government and media everywhere."

Many thanks to those of you who attended, and brought friends and colleagues from your libraries. It was gratifying to have such a large turnout for the presentation.

Please remember that the 1993 book awards nominating process is in full swing. If you or anyone you know is reading lesbian/gay books (and who isn't?), consider nominating the best of your reading for this year's award. Nominations can be sent to Susan Hoffman, 180 Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, MPLS, MN. 55455. Each title nominated should be accompanied by a brief paragraph stating why the title should be considered for the award. Nominations must be received by December 31, 1992.

Preconference Report

"The World Has Sex 100 Million Times Daily," read the front-page headline in the San Francisco Chronicle, citing a World Health Organization international study of reproductive health. Librarian-sexologist Martha Cornog of the American College of Physicians used the story on the WHO report as an example of the great public interest in sex and sexuality in her presentation on June 25 at the GLTF preconference, entitled "When Sex Is the Question: Who Asks, Who Answers?"

About 35 people attended the lively preconference, held at the Nikko Hotel. Terry Allison, librarian at California State University-San Marcos, moderated the panel discussion.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Estelle Freedman, history professor at Stanford University. She briefly outlined the history of sexuality, stating that questions concerning sexuality have been strongly linked to gender and racial issues.

Librarian-sexologist Martha Cornog stated that librarians need help in answering sex questions, and she chronicled libraries' and librarians' treatment of sex education materials from the "guardians of the best of civilization" to today's freedom-to-read ideology. Cornog noted that the number of programs on sex at ALA conferences increased from one in 1987 to four in 1992.

Christine Jenkins, a doctoral student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, presented "Looking for the Good Parts: Sexuality Information in Young Adult

Novels." According to Jenkins, love and sex are romanticized in young adult novels, instead of presented realistically. Few details are provided, so readers get frustrated and are still "looking for the good parts."

The final speaker was Sherry Thomas, owner and publisher of Spinsters and Aunt Lute book companies. To satisfy the demands and needs of "begging patrons," Thomas encouraged librarians to assist in breaking some of the roadblocks to improving library acquisitions of gay and lesbian materials from independent and small publishers, and to write reviews of lesbian and gay books. She encouraged lesbians and gays to work together with other identifiable constituencies at the local level in order to improve library services to gay and lesbian users. Thomas cited San Franciscans' successful drive to raise \$1.6 million toward a lesbian and gay historical archive planned for the new main San Francisco Public Library, due in 1995.

The program concluded with questions and comments from members of the audience, with reactions from and interactions among the panelists and registrants. Specific local materials challenges were cited and policies and practices of libraries were discussed.

Adapted with permission from Mark C. Goniwiecha, Assistant Professor of Library Science, University of Guam. Originally printed in *Cognotes*, Saturday, June 27, 1992

GLTF Annual Program

"Gay and Lesbian Media After Mapplethorpe," GLTF's Annual Program held on June 27, drew an audience of 125 people. Co-sponsored by ACRL's Arts Section, speakers for the program included R.J. Curry, Gay/Lesbian Press Association; Michelle Wolf, San Francisco State University; John DeCecco, editor of *Journal of Homosexuality*.

DeCecco spoke of the development of the *Journal of Homosexuality* and issues relating to controversial theories and studies relating to homosexuality. Wolf called gay and lesbian people "the most annihilated subculture on TV," speaking in particular about the devastating effect that the lack of images of gay and lesbian life in the media have on gay and lesbian youth. Vulnerability to hate crimes and an dramatically increased risk of death by suicide are two results of the media's "systematic annihilation" of gay and lesbian life.

Questions and discussion from the audience raised issues about homoeroticism in advertising, censorship, dealing with students and more.

OREGON

Karen Whittlesey-First, Female Co-Chair:

Oregon has been on my mind. This state, beautiful, still "frontier" in many ways, progressive in some matters, has become a harbinger of bad news for lesbian and gay people in this country. It is frightening and appalling that we are in danger of losing jobs and homes because we are considered "abnormal, wrong, unnatural and perverse," to quote the proposed amendment to the Oregon constitution. The constitutional amendment is reprinted here (as it appeared in *The New York Times* on August 16, 1992):

This state shall not recognize any categorical provision such as 'sexual orientation,' 'sexual preference,' and similar phrases that include homosexuality. Quotas, minority status, affirmative action, or any similar concepts, shall not apply to these forms of conduct, nor shall government promote these behaviors.

State, regional and local governments and their departments, agencies and other entities, including specifically the State Department of Higher Education and the public schools, shall assist in setting a standard for Oregon's youth that recognizes homosexuality, pedophilia, sadism and masochism as abnormal, wrong, unnatural, and perverse and that these behaviors are to be discouraged and avoided.

It shall be considered that it is the intent of the people in enacting this section that if any part thereof is held unconstitutional, the remaining parts shall be held in force.

In a page one story, the *Times* reported that this is the "strongest anti-homosexual measure ever considered by a state."

In November, both Oregon and Colorado will be considering measures that will deny or take away legal protections for gay and lesbian people. Some legal scholars are saying that these proposals, initiated by citizens, will make it possible to remove gay and lesbian people from teaching positions and state jobs, will justify removing books from libraries, will deny parade permits.

There is a good chance of passage of the Oregon amendment, given the recent history there of elections based on anti-gay and lesbian platforms. This is part of a national trend, very much put in place by the Reagan-Bush administrations. It scares the hell out of me. Giving constitutional "blessing," making such bigotry and hatred the official law of the land, terrifies me. But it terrifies me

into wanting to be more visible, more connected to my gay brothers and lesbian sisters, more involved in all settings.

This "editorial" is a plea to you for unity and solidarity. If there are out lesbian and gay people you know at work or in other settings, make and keep contacts alive, as far as possible. If there are people struggling to come out, support them in any way you feel that you can. Attend rallies. Write letters to editors, contact city or state supportive agencies and offer to help, use gay- and lesbian-owned businesses as often as you can. Keep the faith.

Oregon Library Association Resolution

Resolution passed unanimously by the membership at the Oregon Library Association Conference in Portland, Oregon, April 16, 1992:

Whereas, the Oregon Citizens Alliance is proposing an amendment to the Oregon State Constitution that would mandate the state government and its educational institutions to officially recognize homosexuality as "abnormal, wrong, unnatural, and perverse," and,

Whereas, this proposed amendment would pose a threat of censorship of library collections, eliminating literature by gay or lesbian writers, or about homosexuality, and,

Whereas, the traditional mission of libraries has been to make available to library patrons the widest diversity of views and modes of expression, and,

Whereas, the right of free speech is taken very seriously by the Oregon Library Association, and,

Whereas, in this era in which cultural diversity is gaining respect, and

Whereas, the proposed amendment also poses a threat to library personnel, who could be fired for being gay or lesbian, and

Whereas, the proposed amendment could mandate libraries to refuse service to homosexuals,

Wherefore, be it resolved that the Oregon Library Association opposes the proposed constitutional amendment on homosexuality, and urges library supporters not to sign the OCA's petition.

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More On the Issue

Springfield, Ore. — The conservative Oregon Citizens Alliance (OCA) plans to rid schools and libraries of what it considers objectionable books now that voters here have approved an anti-gay rights measure. "If we find that a book about homosexual lifestyle like *Heather Has Two Mommies* is in a library, we will do everything we can to get it out of there," OCA spokesman Scott Lively said.

from *Equal Time*, June 19-July 3, 1992, p. 22-A.

Shortly after voters in Springfield, Ore. approved an "anti-gay rights" amendment to the city charter, a city councilman requested a list of all books ordered by the city library in the last six months to review. "We know what that means."

from press release, *American Library Association*, June 27, 1992.

Activists around the state who opposed the OCA initiatives are receiving harassing phone calls, letters, and death threats. The office of Campaign for a Hate Free Oregon (CHFO), the group which is coordinating statewide efforts to defeat OCA initiatives, was robbed and vandalized. Personal address books, background files, computers and office equipment were stolen. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, headed by Urvashi Vaid, is assisting CHFO activists and recommends that contributions, resources, and letters of support be sent to CHFO, P.O. Box 3343, Portland, OR 97208, (503) 232-4501.

from *Update*, Wednesday, July 1, 1992, p. A-2.

Consequences of the OCA initiative include:

- The mandate for a moral code in education would apply to all public schools, including colleges, universities, and medical schools. Books, films, art, and other educational materials could be subject to review.
- Library collections could be censored, the jobs of gay and lesbian library staff could be threatened, and libraries could be mandated to refuse service to homosexuals, according to the Oregon Library Association, which passed a resolution opposing the measure. (see page 5)

from *The Advocate*, July 30, 1992.

A local political group that opposed the anti-gay initiative, OUTPAC, presented two children's books to Springfield, Ore. Public Library with the apparent intention of provoking a challenge by the OCA. Following its selection policies, the library added *Daddy's Roommate* by Michael Willhoite to the collection and rejected *Heather Has Two Mommies* by Leslea Newman. ACLU of Oregon plans to challenge the measure's constitutionality in court, once someone contests the presence of *Daddy's Roommate* in the library.

from *American Libraries*, July/August, p. 549, *New York Native*, June 8, 1992, p. 46.

Excerpts from interview with Scott Seibert from CHFO and Sandy Shirley from No on Hate/Lane County, by Chris McManus, "A Campaign for a Hate-Free Oregon," *New York Native*, July 6, 1992, p. 16-18:

Seibert: Let's face it, they want to remove books from the library that mention homosexuality. That's the raging controversy in Springfield: Is *Daddy's Roommate* or *Heather Has Two Moms* okay?

Shirley: And they are mostly going after children's books because they can hold them up and say, "This is propaganda trying to recruit children." They haven't yet gone after things like the *Kinsey Report*. The Oregon Library Association is really concerned. They have come out just this last week publicly condemning this constitutional change because they feel it will decimate their libraries. There is no telling where it will stop.

[Regarding hate crime increase]

Seibert: After we gave gay-positive books to the Springfield Library, I received a threatening call which the caller conveniently left on my answering machine, so I could give the tape to the police department.

McManus: That was a death threat?

Seibert: Yes.

[Regarding stopping OCA and other hate groups in other states]

Seibert: If we come out to those close to us, then those people will say he is my brother, my son, daughter, uncle, aunt, or friend. That is the most powerful weapon we have in Oregon and across the country.

McManus: How will the November vote turn out?

Shirley: It's going to be close, but we're going to win.

[End]

The OCA initiative is part of a burgeoning backlash in the West against homosexuals and a theme that has flared, in a much less defined way, in the Presidential campaign, according to a front page article in *The New York Times*. The issue has been a subtext in Bush/Quayle comments on the campaign trail on family values. But in Oregon, the issue is much more overt. "This is what we're fighting against," said Lon Mabon, waving a copy of a book called *Daddy's Roommate*. Mabon, the director of the OCA, hopes to take his campaign to the rest of the nation.

from *The New York Times*, August 16, 1992, p. 1.

FOR MORE ON DADDY'S ROOMMATE AND OTHER ALYSON BOOKS, SEE PAGE 13.

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GLTF Indexing Project Update

Polly Thistlewaite, Hunter College Library,
New York, NY:

In the summer of 1990, with GLTF's blessing and endorsement, I began a letter-writing and petitioning campaign to improve coverage of gay and lesbian periodical titles in popular periodical indexes. At that time, *The Journal of Homosexuality* was the only gay/lesbian title covered by popular and academic periodical indexes - the "token" gay/lesbian title covered by over 30 indexes. *The Alternative Press Index*, including six gay/lesbian titles, was the only current periodicals index covering the gay/lesbian press in any significant way.

As a reference librarian at Hunter College Library and a coordinator/volunteer at the Lesbian Herstory Archives, it was painfully obvious that the research needs of students, faculty, and particularly gay and lesbian communities were being ignored by mainstream periodical indexers. Hunter students' frequent searches for information about gay and lesbian life, politics, AIDS, and censorship left the gay/lesbian press and, consequently, gay and lesbian perspectives unexamined. Researchers seeking out the gay/lesbian press were constantly frustrated with the lack of online or CD-ROM access to current and historical periodicals. A Hunter class assignment to investigate the subject "outing" became a lesson about bias and exclusion in periodical indexes. Searches on *WilsonDisc*, *InfoTrac*, and *ProQuest* consistently turned up articles on "outing" from *Time*, *Newsweek*, *The Nation*, and *The National Review*. But nothing from the gay press could be found in these indexes, including the *OutWeek* article exposing Malcolm Forbes that sparked the whole controversy (an article unindexed to this day.)

Gale Research Inc. was the first to respond to GLTF's concerns by adding *The Advocate*, *Christopher Street*, *Lambda Book Report*, and *Out/Look* to *Book Review Index* in 1991.

Information Access Company (IAC) began indexing *The Advocate*, *Christopher Street*, and *Out/Look* in *Magazine Index* during 1991, making these the first gay and lesbian periodicals indexed in electronic format.

IAC's competitor, UMI, copied IAC's move and added the very same titles to their *ProQuest Periodicals Abstracts* shortly thereafter.

While we were pleased that four gay/lesbian titles were included in these leading periodical indexes, we

were concerned that the titles as a group failed to reflect the political, sexual, and ethnic diversity of the gay/lesbian press. GLTF never recommended inclusion of any particular title over another. In fact, we always noted differences among gay/lesbian publications and suggested a range of titles appropriate for inclusion: *Gay Community News*, *Bay Area Reporter*, *OutLines*, *BLK*, *The Lesbian News*, *On Our Backs*, *OutWeek*, *The Washington Blade*, NYQ (now QW).

In the meantime, repeated phone calls and letters to executives at the H.W. Wilson company urging addition of gay and lesbian titles to *The Reader's Guide* yielded only terse and noncommittal responses. Given the tremendous popularity and influence of *The Reader's Guide*, the GLTF endorsed a write-in petition and phone zap campaign aimed at H.W. Wilson's President, Leo Weins. We estimate that over 2000 signatures were gathered through the diligence of several GLTF members and supporters and sent to H.W. Wilson between June 1990 and June 1991. This is the statement those signatures endorsed:

We urge the H.W. Wilson Company to index lesbian and gay periodicals in The Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature. By ignoring the gay/lesbian press, Wilson denies us access to important commentary, including lesbian and gay perspectives on homophobia and heterosexism, censorship and intellectual freedom, AIDS/HIV-infection and health care. The absence of lesbian and gay periodicals diminishes the research value of The Reader's Guide. By denying conventional access to the lesbian and gay press, Wilson also ostracizes gay and lesbian lives and history which acts to reinforce ignorance and homophobia. Lesbian and gay magazines appropriate for The Reader's Guide include The Advocate, BLK, Gay Community News, The Lesbian News, Out/Look, and OutWeek.

In support of this effort, the Lesbian Herstory Archives sponsored a bit of guerrilla library activity by printing "warning" labels adhered to *Reader's Guides* across the country cautioning library users about the exclusion of gay/lesbian periodicals from the H.W. Wilson Company index.

The H. W. Wilson Company does all library users a disservice by continuing to exclude gay and lesbian titles. In March 1991, a review panel of Wilson Company executives added 22 new titles to *The Reader's Guide*, none of which were gay or lesbian. Fortunately for library users, Wilson's major competitor is more forward thinking. In January 1992, IAC added *Gay Community*

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News, Lambda Book Report, and The Journal of Gay and Lesbian Psychotherapy to their *Expanded Academic Index*, for a total of seven gay/lesbian periodicals indexed by IAC products.

GLTF has contacted a number of other periodical indexes with concerns about failure to include gay/lesbian titles in their products. EBSCO's *Magazine Article Summaries, Access: The Supplementary Index to Periodicals, Women Studies Abstracts, Film Literature Index*, and G.K. Hall's *Index to Black Periodicals* have yet to include gay/lesbian titles.

Another problematic bias appears in medical and health science indexes. GLTF has expressed concern to producers of *Index Medicus/MedLine*, IAC's *Health Indexes*, and *International Pharmaceutical Abstracts* about their failure to index several important community-based AIDS/HIV publications (including *John James' AIDS Treatment News, The Body Positive, GMHC's Treatment Issues*.) For more information on these community-based publications, see "Underground Press Leads Way on AIDS Advice," *New York Times*, December 16, 1991 and P. Thistlewaite, "AIDS Information in Periodical Indexes: A Problem of Exclusion," *Reference Services Review*, 1991, vol. 19 (2): 35-8. Medical indexers have held blindly to a policy excluding "non-academic" publications, even though a wealth of information about AIDS/HIV is first and/or only reported in gay/lesbian magazines and HIV-community newsletters. In addition to being of vital importance to people seeking treatment for HIV-infection, these publications are of tremendous interest to the medical and pharmaceutical industries. Why exclude an informative publication because of its format or the texture of its paper?

In addition, GLTF has urged Dialog and other electronic carriers to market relevant paper-based indexes in electronic format. Several indexes including *The Alternative Press Index, Women's Studies Index, The Gay/Lesbian Periodical Index*, and *Index to Black Periodicals* would be more widely used if available on disc and/or online. Others, such as IAC's *Expanded Academic Index* (now covering 6 gay/lesbian titles) should be available not only on CD-ROM, but also online.

Finally, GLTF supports comprehensive projects to index gay/lesbian periodicals, both current and retrospective in scope. One such project, the forthcoming *Gay/Lesbian Periodical Index* driven by Alan M. Greenberg of Integrity Indexing (2012 Queens Road West #1, Charlotte, NC 28207) is a paper index covering 36 gay and lesbian periodicals beginning with 1990 issues. Outside of Clare Potter's retrospective *Lesbian Periodicals Index* (Naiad Press, 1986), Greenberg's index stands alone in its

exclusive focus on gay/lesbian periodicals. GLTF members must make efforts to ensure that Greenberg's project continues beyond its first issue and is widely distributed to public, academic and special libraries. *The Gay/Lesbian Periodical Index* is currently under consideration for publication by ALA.

Please join GLTF in bringing your concerns to the producers of library periodical indexes and their electronic carriers. Write or phone the individuals below (or others of your choice!) with specific recommendations for improving their products. The indexing industry prides itself on its responsiveness to librarians and researchers — their customers. But it takes more than a handful of activists making recommendations to make a difference. We must make our voices heard to end the exclusion of the gay/lesbian press from periodical indexes.

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American Libraries Cover Photo

The July/August issue of *American Libraries* featured a cover photo of the GLTF contingent in San Francisco's Gay and Lesbian Freedom Day Parade, held June 28 during Annual Conference. The photo, shot by Leonard Kniffel, is centered on the large GLTF banner, in blue and white, with paired library logo figures on each end. Surrounding the banner are librarians dressed in everything from T-shirts to business suits, holding signs saying, "Check it out. Lesbian and Gay Materials" and "San Francisco Public Library" and "Coming Soon - Gay and Lesbian Center at the New Main."

The issue also featured a photograph of GLTF member Adam Schiff (page 561) at the Membership II meeting, in the process of passing a resolution opposing Oregon's anti-gay initiative.

Letters thanking *American Libraries* for the cover photo and the coverage of GLTF activities at the Annual Conference can be sent to: Thomas M. Gaughan, Editor, *American Libraries*, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

Clearinghouse Gets Donation

The GLTF Information Clearinghouse received a donation from the following contributors to *Gay and Lesbian Library Service* (McFarland, 1990) from their first-year royalties:

Franklin Abbott
Sandy Berman
John Cunningham
Wayne Dynes
Frances Hanckel
Thomas Hill
Stephen Klein
John Littlewood
Bob Malinowsky
Polly Thistlewaite
Dan Tsang
Tom Turner
Liz Wheeler
Steve Wooldridge

All future royalties from all contributors will be donated to the Clearinghouse as well, in acknowledgement of the important work of the Clearinghouse and the usefulness of its publications in the creation of *Gay and Lesbian Library Service*.

Many of the contributors are members of the GLTF. Cal Gough and Ellen Greenblatt, Editors of *Gay and Lesbian Library Service*, are former GLTF chairs and current GLTF members.

NEWS IN BRIEF

▼ An Oakland, CA firm (Events Spectacular and Bill's Searchlight) contacted to make a balloon that was to fly at the site of the new San Francisco Public Library's Gay and Lesbian Center during the Pride/Freedom Day Parade refused to do the job because of the inclusion of the words "gay and lesbian" on the balloon, according to a Library Foundation spokesman. The large helium balloon, which was eventually made by another company (Pie in the Sky), sported the wording "SF Library Gay and Lesbian Center" and served as a visible reminder to parade-goers at the Civic Center Plaza that the Center will be a reality in 1995.

from *Bay Area Reporter*, July 2, 1992, p. 3.

▼ For the second consecutive year, the Pacifica (CA) Library hosted an exhibit for Gay and Lesbian History Month. The 1991 exhibit drew intense criticism from homophobes and a demonstration organized by a local minister. The library's display was featured in a GLAAD (Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) Media Watch, which asked that letters of support be sent to the branch manager.

from *The Bay Area Reporter*, June 25, 1992, p. 32.

▼ The Purdy-Kresge Library of Wayne State (MI) University hosted an exhibit during Gay and Lesbian History Month, "Out of the Closet and Into History: A Collection of Gay and Lesbian History." The exhibit, in keeping with the university's commitment to multiculturalism, was created by Library Science student Robert McCabe Jr. and Multicultural Librarian Deborah J. Tucker. The exhibit's purpose was twofold. Its primary purpose was to present an educational retrospective of the contributions made to society by gays and lesbians throughout history. The materials for this exhibit consisted of items pulled from the Purdy-Kresge Library, as well as from McCabe's personal collection, and featured a wide range of books, videos and mounted photographs taken from a gay/lesbian history calendar. Secondly, the exhibit was to serve as an aid in developing a sense of understanding and acceptance for alternative lifestyles as well as give additional meaning to the term multiculturalism. McCabe reports that the response to the exhibit was favorable, with students and faculty alike commenting on the need for exploring this issue further.

from press release

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▼ Protesters failed to block the Tallahassee Lesbian and Gay Film Festival at the Leon County Public Library in Tallahassee, Florida on June 15. The festival went on as scheduled despite efforts by the American Family Association to stop the program. The Christian-right AFA originally filed a complaint, which the library board ruled against, voting unanimously to permit the festival. Another appeal was filed, which prompted several hundred phone calls to the library protesting the video showing. Some 200 people attended the subsequent appeal hearing, after which the library board again voted unanimously to allow the program. The protesters then went directly to the county commission, which heard the complaints and voted 4-2 to uphold the library board's decision. The screening proceeded to an overflow crowd without incident, despite several hundred praying protesters outside and the presence of an undersheriff stationed in the projection booth to make arrests if he detected obscenity.

from *American Libraries*, July/August 1992, p. 548-9.

▼ Dan Tsang, gay social sciences bibliographer at the University of California at Irvine, is reviewing 25,000 declassified FBI documents in his study of gay aspects of FBI policy under former Director J. Edgar Hoover. Through the Freedom of Information Act, Tsang has collected evidence which reveal Hoover's campaign to discredit gays and their supporters. His research reveals that U.S. surveillance of gays began in 1919 under FDR and included FBI infiltration of gay organizations. At the conclusion of the study, a foundation will be created that establishes a national archives documenting government surveillance of lesbians and gays.

from interview by John Earl, "Inside J. Edgar Hoover's Lesbian Files" in *Orange County Blade*, August 1992, p. 34

▼ The July/August 1992 issue of *Deneuve* Lesbian Magazine features an interview with publisher Barbara Grier. Grier and her lover of 20 years, Donna McBride, recently donated a 10,000 volume collection of lesbian and gay books, magazines, newspapers, films and buttons to the Gay and Lesbian Center of the new San Francisco Public Library. Other gifts to the Center to date include extensive interviews and film archives from Peter Adair (*Word is Out*); Academy Award winner Rob Epstein (*Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt* and *The Times of Harvey Milk*) and the research papers of Randy Shilts (*And the Band Played On*.) The Grier-McBride Collection, contains a massive library of lesbian mass-market paperback books; a gay male paperback collection; hardback and paperback trade books; periodicals; correspondence; video and audio materials; and more.

Grier met her lover, Donna McBride, in the stacks at the Kansas City Public Library where McBride was a librarian. Twenty years before she'd met, in the same manner, the first woman she lived with, Helen Bennett, a librarian at the same library. "I've lived all my life with librarians," Grier said. "Books are what I care about." Grier and McBride founded Naiad Press in 1973.

from *Deneuve*, Vol. 2 No. 4, July/August 1992

▼ Skokie (IL) Public Library held its first celebration of Gay and Lesbian History Month, with a program on June 18 called "Minority Civil Rights in Peril: A Panel Discussion." Speakers from three different community organizations participated: Horizons, a gay community center; the Anti-Defamation League; and the Japanese-American Citizens League. The moderator was the head of the ACLU Hate Crimes Project. Gay and Lesbian History Month booklists were prepared for the program. For a copy of the booklist, contact Lydia Stux, Coordinator of Programs and Exhibits, Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton Street, Skokie, IL 60077, (708) 673-7774.

▼ The second edition of *Encyclopedia of Gay and Lesbian Recordings* is now available, containing over 400 new titles documented since the first edition as well as additional indexing and biographical notes. The cost is \$40. For more information, contact Jay McLaren, P.O. Box 11950, 1001GZ Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

from press release

▼ Librarians can now receive a demonstration of experimental software for an HIV risk assessment test via a PC with a modem. To access the software, call (405) 525-2345. To avoid corrupting the research files, it is suggested that professionals seeking demonstrations should select DEMO item number 3 on the preliminary menu. The software was designed by Michael Wright. Wright is seeking support in the form of correspondence from librarians that he will then use to lobby the government for funds to distribute the software free to libraries.

from *Library Journal*, June 1, 1992, p. 33.

▼ As of August 1, the AIDS Library of Philadelphia will be called The AIDS Information Network. "Rather than trying to explain that our concept of a library is so much more than a typical library, we decided to change our name," said Resource and Program Development Director Heshie Zinman. Zinman said the organization plans to expand its outreach activities to increase services delivery, prevention education and early intervention. The AIDS Information Network is directed by Jean Hofacket, Librarian/Director of Library Operations, and can be contacted at 32 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106, (215) 922-5120.

from *Philadelphia Gay News*, July 31, 1992

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▼ Gay and lesbian bookselling and publishing were profiled in *Publishers Weekly* recently. The article details the "dream market" of gay and lesbian demographics. The history of gay and lesbian publishing, the role of booksellers, the increasing involvement of mainstream publishing with gay and lesbian books, and related topics are covered in the extensive article, which concludes with *Gay/Lesbian Bestsellers List* as of June 1992. In the same issue, Paul Monette, 1992 winner of the GLTF Gay and Lesbian Book Award, is interviewed.

from *Publishers Weekly*, June 29, 1992, p. 36-43.

▼ *Alternative Library Literature, 1990/1991: A Biennial Anthology* (McFarland, 1992) contains several articles on gay and lesbian topics, including Barbara Gittings, "Gays in Library Land," Glen Creason's "Anatomy of a Hate Crime," Creelman/Harris' "Coming Out: The Information Needs of Lesbians," Wrenn/Weathers' "Visibility through Book Publishing: The Story of Clothespin Fever Press." The book, edited by Sanford Berman and James P. Danky, is available from McFarland & Company, Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640 (ISBN 0-89950-726-3, \$35)

▼ The Publishing Triangle, the 500-member association of gay men and lesbians in publishing and bookselling, held a "town meeting" at the American Booksellers Association in Anaheim. Top topic at the meeting was the launching of the first annual National Gay and Lesbian Gay Book Month in June. Jim Bennett of the Lambda Rising bookstores in Washington, D.C., Baltimore, and Rehobeth Beach, Del, noted that in addition to in-store promotions, the store is donating copies of each of the 17 books honored with 1992 Lambda Book Awards to the Rehobeth Beach Public Library.

from *Publishers Weekly*, June 15, 1992.

▼ Gay and lesbian books were featured in the "Quick Bibs" column in *American Libraries* in June. The books featured were on a new "main theme" in gay and lesbian fiction — how gay men and lesbians fit into their families, their communities and the world. The theme was a focus of the *Booklist* Adult Editorial Forum, "Part of the Family: Gay and Lesbian Literature in the Mainstream," held at the Annual Conference.

from *American Libraries*, June 1992, p. 536.

▼ The GLTF Book Awards were mentioned in the *Newsletter of the New Orleans Gulf South Booksellers Association*, which is distributed to bookstores from New Iberia, LA across the Gulf Coast to Mobile, AL, and as far north as Natchez, MS.

from *Newsletter of the New Orleans Gulf South Booksellers*, Summer, 1992.

▼ K Mart, Walmart, and Walgreen, three major retailers, have refused to carry *What You Can Do to Avoid AIDS* by basketball star Earvin "Magic" Johnson, who tested positive for the HIV virus late last year. Despite the overwhelming support of the bookselling industry and major endorsements of the book by leading health experts and organizations, the book was judged "inappropriate for our drugstore shopper" according to a Walgreen's spokesperson. In response, ACT UP activists have held demonstrations protesting the retailers' censorship of the book and called for a national boycott if the decision isn't reversed.

from *Publishers Weekly*, June 8, 1992, p. 17 and June 29, 1992, P. 13.

▼ The GLTF was recommended as a source of information on good books for children and young adults on gay and lesbian topics in a recent article, "Gay Information: Out of the Closet." The author pleads with librarians to "never swerve from our responsibility to serve this much-neglected segment of our population" despite possible negative reactions.

from "Gay Information: Out of the Closet" by Douglas Eric Anderson, *School Library Journal*, June 1992, p. 62.

▼ Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) has produced a lesbian-and-gay-positive hour long video, "It is What It Is," for teens and adults, addressing safer sex and sexuality issues in view of the AIDS crisis. The video is composed of three twenty-minute segments addressing sexual identity and coming out, homophobia, and a frank section on safer sex education. A discussion guide and lesson plans are included. The cost is \$50, shipping included. For more information or a catalog, contact GMHC, Marketing/Education, 129 W. 20th St. New York, NY 10011-0022.

from press release

▼ A librarian removed 20 books in a display of gay and lesbian literature at the Concord Branch of the Contra Costa County Public Library in July. The reason given was that the books, from A Different Light and Infinity Bookstores, were not in the library system's collection. A sign suggesting that patrons buy the books and donate them to the library was also removed. Ken Stanley, of the Contra Costa Gay and Lesbian Public Awareness Committee, said that the irony of the incident was that the books that were removed dealt primarily with lesbian and gay people of color and women. After confronting library staff about the removal of the books, the books were ordered replaced in the display.

from *Bay Area Reporter*, July 16, 1992, p. 5.

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▼ The Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International (GLPCI) has issued an annotated bibliography, "Books for Children of Lesbian and Gay Parents." The bibliography's contents include: "Sex Roles, Sexual Identity and Positive Self-Image", "Books for Young Children About AIDS," "Nonfiction Books Featuring Lesbian/Gay Parents," "Books Featuring Single Fathers/ Single Mothers/ Nontraditional Grandmothers," and "Women-Only Space," and "Books Which Are Explicitly Lesbian or Gay." GLPCI can be reached at P.O. Box 50360, Washington, DC 20091 or (202) 583-8029.

▼ Stephan Likosky, a librarian for the New York Public Library, has edited a collection of gay and lesbian nonfiction from around the world, *Coming Out: An Anthology of International Gay and Lesbian Writings* (Pantheon, 1992).

from *Publishers Weekly*, June 29, 1992, p. 56.

▼ A bibliography on lesbians and AIDS by GLTF member Polly Thistlewaite is featured in the *Lesbian Herstory Archives Newsletter* of June 1992.

from *LHA Newsletter*, #13, June 1992.

▼ An idea from an article responding to the Los Angeles Public Library Library Materials Selection Policy as it relates to gay and lesbian issues in the library: "How many of our lesbian and gay librarians are proudly identifiable and approachable by themselves, by each other, by co-workers and by patrons? A Lambda button or an inverted triangle button is a nice way to start."

from *Librarians Guild Communicator*, Vol. 25, Nos. 1-3, January-March, 1992., p. 34.

▼ Los Angeles Public Library celebrated its second Lesbian and Gay History Month in June. Last year's observance erupted into controversy when City Librarian Elizabeth Martinez Smith removed promotional material which featured a quote from Langston Hughes. Martinez Smith commented recently, "The first year of this observance was traumatic. However, we have learned from this mutual experience and have expanded the program."

Since the first observance, all employees have been required to participate in a series of workshops on homophobia. A collection of 50 books and periodicals has been purchased for the central library, 63 branches, and two bookmobiles. The materials are for children and adults and include Spanish language materials. A new packet of book lists, program resources, a directory of community organizations, and a booklet on "Finding Materials By and About Lesbians and Gays" has been

produced and distributed. All libraries in the system are required to display materials contained in the packet. In the past, use was discretionary. A Lesbian and Gay History Month Committee, composed of homosexual and heterosexual staff members, has assisted with the planning for June's observance.

An article on the Los Angeles Public Library controversy in GLAAD/LA Reports calls the Human Relations Commission Report "a powerful read" and urges the library to act on the recommendations that remain undone. GLAAD/LA suggests ways for readers to make their local libraries gay and lesbian-friendly places, including requesting gay and lesbian materials. A list of addresses of Los Angeles city officials and library administrators follows for letter-writing in response to the controversy.

from *Library Hotline*, June 29, 1992, *GLAAD/LA Reports*, April, 1992, Vol. 4, no. 3.

▼ Libraries who want to receive a promotion packet on Lesbian and Gay Book Month can call Publishing Triangle publicist Michele Karlsberg at (718) 351-9599 — still useful for planning for next June!

from *Library Journal*, June 1, 1992, p. 19.

▼ Los Angeles Public Library has developed new programming material for Gay and Lesbian History Month, including Spanish language materials lists, list of books and periodicals by subgenre, and a recommended branch collection of book and periodicals. Call Pat Kiefer at (213) 612-3267 to request copies.

from *Library Journal*, June 1, 1992, p. 19.

▼ The following letter was sent to Patricia Glass Schuman, President of ALA, on March 26 (excerpt reprinted with permission):

As a long-time member of ALA, proud of its tradition of justice and equity, I was chagrined to learn recently from Robert Doyle [Director of Library/Book Fellows Program] that ALA sponsors and administers a program which treats lesbian, gay and bisexual people differently than heterosexual people. I am informed that the Library/Book Fellows Program will provide travel expenses for a heterosexual spouse but not for a lesbian or gay spouse. I respectfully urge you to ask ALA to disassociate itself from any program that discriminates against its lesbian, gay or bisexual members or against lesbian, gay or bisexual librarians because of their sexual orientation.

Signed, James D. Anderson
Associate Dean
Chairperson, President's Select Committee for Lesbian and Gay Concerns, Rutgers (NJ) University

At the April 28 - 30 ALA Executive Board, the spousal issue was brought up and the Board voted to instruct the International Relations Committee (IRC) to investigate the policies of the United States Information Agency (USIA), which sponsors the Library/Book Fellows Program and to ask ALA counsel to review the language of ALA policy 54.3, which denounces discrimination on the basis of "...individual life-style" among other items. Debate centered on the use of this term, which could mean almost anything, over "sexual orientation."

During Annual Conference, the Executive Board made a commitment to making ALA an example of progressive policies on domestic partnerships, according to a report in *American Libraries*. The Executive Board was asked to rescind its request that IRC investigate the spousal rights practices of the USIA, since ALA has no personnel policies of its own on this topic. The charge to IRC was rescinded. Peggy Sullivan, new ALA executive director, was asked to look into the matter.

from American Libraries, June 1992, p. 532 and July/August 1992, p. 563.

MANY THANKS

to those who send the *GLTF Newsletter* items of interest from their local, regional, specialized and national media sources. If you see an item that we should know about, send anytime to Kathy Anderson, GLTF Editor, Atlantic County Library System, 40 Farragut Avenue, Mays Landing, NJ 08330 or fax to (609) 625-8143.

CENSORSHIP ATTEMPTS

Alyson Books Under Assault

A new line of books about children with lesbian and gay parents has come under nation-wide attack. But so far, librarians have resisted demands that the books be pulled from the shelves.

Much of the controversy focuses around *Daddy's Roommate*, a picture book by Michael Willhoite about a boy whose divorced father is gay. But with ten books in print so far, publisher Sasha Alyson anticipates that his Alyson Wonderland imprint will become the focus of more censorship attempts in the months ahead. Among the attacks so far:

Olympia, Wash.: A local parent objected to finding *Daddy's Roommate* in the children's section. Kathy Niblack complained that the book "says being gay is another kind

of love," and insisted that it be moved to the adult section. The Regional Board of Directors voted to keep the book in the children's section.

Springfield, Ore.: On May 19, residents approved a local initiative that prohibited the use of city funds to "promote, encourage, or facilitate homosexuality." However, the library had already purchased a copy of *The Duke Who Outlawed Jelly Beans*, and children's librarian Judy Harold accepted a donated copy of *Daddy's Roommate*. Both books came under fire from local fundamentalists as part of their campaign, but so far, both books are still on the shelf.

Roswell, N.M.: As protesters marched outside, 150 people attended the monthly board meeting of the public library to debate whether *Daddy's Roommate* should be on the shelves. Board president Robert Belles stood his ground, stating that "our policy is to allow free access to everything in the library."

Goldsboro, N.C.: *Daddy's Roommate* came under fire here after a lead story on page one of the local paper reported that *Daddy's Roommate* "promotes a mailing list for gay and lesbian books and videos." An editorial in the same paper set out to fan readers' worst fears by asking, "What positive influence can should [sic] a book possibly have on small children who might happen to pick it up at the library? What is its message to the youngster who might subsequently be propositioned by an adult male in a theatre or rest room?" The Board of Trustees voted 7-to-2 against evicting *Daddy's Roommate*.

Ft. Myers, Fla.: *Daddy's Roommate* has come under attack by a mother who claims that she found her child browsing through it and is now afraid that she can never erase "those images" from the child's memory. Seven formal protests have been filed against the book since February. After a 5-member review committee ruled that the book should remain on the shelves, protesters went to the library commission with a 100-signature petition.

Harrisburg, Pa.: A woman complained about *Daddy's Roommate*, which she claimed to have unwittingly found on the shelf where "anyone could get it." Faced with a petition drive and letter-writing campaign, the Dauphin County Library re-examined it, but decided to keep it on the shelf. The protesters turned to the county commission with a 2000-signature petition, but the commission voted 2-to-1 to back the library's decision. "There's quite a waiting list for the book now," said library director Rich Brwa.

Queens, N.Y.: Only in the culturally diverse city of New York did authorities back down, and it was a school board, not a library, that did so. The school board voted unanimously to reject a first-grade curriculum entitled "Children of the Rainbow," because its bibliography listed three Alyson Wonderland titles: *Daddy's Roommate*, *Heather Has Two Mommies*, and *Gloria Goes to Gay Pride*.

Publisher Sasha Alyson comments, "This is the same mentality that complained about a naked toddler floating through Maurice Sendak's *In the Night Kitchen* two decades ago. These are the parents who, fifty years ago, wouldn't have wanted their kids to play with a child of another race. Fortunately, the world has made some progress since then. Obviously, we still have a ways to go."

Targeted Books Offered Free to Libraries

Two books that are under attack from fundamentalist groups are being offered free to libraries, in an effort by the publisher to counter those censorship efforts.

Daddy's Roommate and *The Duke Who Outlawed Jelly Beans* were both well reviewed and won awards, says publisher Sasha Alyson, but are unavailable in some libraries because of what he called "an organized movement by the right wing to check them out and forget to return them."

The books are published by Alyson Wonderland, a two-year-old imprint of children's books that depict families with gay parents. Alyson said that *Daddy's Roommate*, in particular, has been targeted by a group named Concerned Women for America, who have demanded that it be removed from library shelves in cities around the country. In every case, so far, libraries have refused to do so, despite considerable pressure in some areas.

"Having failed with that strategy," Alyson said, "they're now trying to make our books unavailable by checking them out themselves." He noted that Harrisburg, Penn., library director Rich Brwa cited a "long waiting list" for *Daddy's Roommate*, in the wake of an unsuccessful petition drive to get the book removed from the shelves.

To counter this strategy, Alyson has offered a free copy of each book to the first 500 libraries that request them, no later than Nov. 1, on their letterhead. "Librarians have gone to the mat for us on this one," he said, "and this is our way of helping them meet demand in a time of shrinking budgets." To request book copies, send a letter to Alyson Wonderland, 40 Plympton St., Boston, MA 02118.

from Alyson press release, August 25, 1992.

BOOK REVIEWS

FICTION

Candy Holidays and Other Short Fictions. By Stan Levanthal. Banned Books, 1991. \$9.95. (ISBN 0-93441-151-4)

This is Stan Levanthal's second collection of short stories, which covers a diverse group of literary backgrounds.

The twelve stories in this book range from a backstage look at the cast and crew of a Broadway play, to a Jewish family feuding in the middle of a traditional Passover dinner, to an exchange of sexual banter and escapades taking place across the solar system.

The title story, "Candy Holidays," is my personal favorite as it gives a realistic look at the ups and downs in the relationship between Daryl and Evin. Realistic characterizations and family settings are also found in "Seder," while "Oasis Motel" and "Brotherhood" deal with the ways in which people are often struggling with themselves while they are supposedly relaxing during a vacation.

Some of the stories are sexually explicit, which will cause problems for many public libraries that might otherwise consider purchasing this book. But most of the stories have only minor references to any form of sexual activity, which makes some of these stories milder than the "soap operas" which are broadcast on daytime television.

Gary M. Klein
University of Toledo
Toledo, OH

Pei Yu: Boy Actress. By George Soulié de Morant. Alamo Square Press, 1991. Originally printed in French, 1925. \$19.95. (ISBN 0-9624751-3-0) Paper. \$12.95 (ISBN 0-9624751-4-9)

This fascinating book is a novel based on the life of a young man during the last dynasty of China. The man, known as a *hsiang-k'ung*, or boy-actress, enacted the parts of women on stage. Offstage, the *hsiang-k'ung* were also trained in literature, intellectual games and the sensual arts, and they served the personal needs of noblemen, who vied for their affections.

This particular young man, Pei-Yu, rose to fame as a singer and actress-actor. The story is told by George Soulié de Morant, a French novelist of the turn of the century who lived in China during the final years before

the republic. The author writes, "In this work I wanted to portray the souls of the actors, the souls that were of an often admirable nobility..."

This book is highly recommended for libraries with an established gay/lesbian collection, or for any library wishing to take a wonderful journey into another time and place, of tastes and passions of classes of people long forgotten by contemporary China.

David R. Hardee
Student, University of South Carolina
College of Library and Information Science
Columbia, SC

NONFICTION

Bi Any Other Name. Edited by Loraine Hutchins and Lani Kaahumanu. Alyson, 1991. Paper. \$11.95. (ISBN 1-555831-745)

This book's subtitle explains more about the purpose for this book than anything else: "bisexual people speak out."

Just as gay women and men have difficulty in coming out of the closet due to a lack of role models, so do bisexuals.

To alleviate that problem, the editors have compiled contributions from 70 women and men across the U.S., representing a wide range of educational and political backgrounds. A few of the entries are poetic, while many of the writings incorporate each person's "coming out" story.

Bi Any Other Name is certainly enlightening for any reader, since so many straights and gays have said, "I have never met a true bisexual." After reading this book, your eyes will open up to a more diverse world of sexuality. Organized into four chapters, the book focuses on psychology, spirituality, visibility and politics.

I would categorize this title as a "basic coming out book," which should be read by counselors, therapists, clergy and doctors, as they all work with individuals' sexuality. I would also suggest this for instructors of human sexuality classes, as well as volunteers at lesbian and gay phone lines, as they should be prepared to handle questions on all forms of sexuality.

Although bisexuality has been noticeable in societies for centuries, there are less than 40 books on the subject in some of the largest academic libraries in the U.S., and only a handful in most public libraries. Therefore this book would likely fill a collection gap at most public and academic libraries.

Gary M. Klein
University of Toledo
Toledo, OH

Growing Up Gay in the South: Race, Gender, and Journeys of the Spirit. By James T. Sears, Ph.D. Haworth Press, 1991. (Haworth Series in Gay and Lesbian Studies, vol. 4) \$39.95. (ISBN 0-86656-911-1)

In *Growing Up Gay in the South*, James Sears looks closely at the lives of "sexual rebels," gay and lesbian adolescents born in the 60's and 70's. In his study, he delved into the hearts and minds of 36 gay men and lesbians, all from South Carolina, to reveal their experiences of growing up and coming to terms with their own homosexuality. He examines the childhood and adolescence of a racially, socially and economically diverse group of young people within the contexts of church, community, school and family. The book presents data and observations on the 36 subjects, but the reader is presented with detailed portraits of 13 of those studied.

This book is not a compilation of "coming out" stories, but rather a sociological study of how a group of young people's sexualities, worldviews and self-concepts influenced or were influenced by the social and cultural setting in which they grew up. All of this is looked at from five vantage points: religious life; race, gender and social class; the family; childhood feelings and behaviors; and high school/young adult experiences. By presenting individuals' narratives together with his comments and conclusions, Sears contends that their "sexual identities are socially constructed."

Each of the five vantage points is covered, beginning with an essay on the particular issue in question (church, family, etc.) as it relates to homosexuality in the Southern social and cultural context. The essays are accompanied by narratives of gay and lesbian youths about their experiences, observations, and impressions of growing up gay or lesbian in their various worlds. These are followed by the author's commentaries, which offer valuable insights into the subjects' lives, relating many of their experiences and circumstances to research findings on similar case studies.

The extensive notes at the end of each chapter and the 60-page bibliography at the end of the book are evidence of the extensive research that went into this work. Throughout the book, Sears relates the findings of his research to other sociological studies which focus on the South, and in an appendix, presents his research methods, methodological issues and participant data. The book also includes a name and subject index.

This book is valuable as a study of issues and concerns gay and lesbian adolescents face growing up in a homophobic society. This reviewer, however, does take issue with the fact that this book's focus on "The South" will likely serve to reinforce regional stereotypes

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and prejudices. The same type of study done in other parts of the country or across the country would have likely revealed few, if any, differences in how the family, religious and educational institutions, social norms and peer pressures affect childhood and adolescent perceptions of and questions about one's own homosexuality. Furthermore, this reviewer seriously questions the fact that the subjects that make up the sample are all from only one area of the South, one that is culturally rather homogeneous, WASPish and that has no sizeable urban centers. How can the data on this sample be used to make generalizations about a very large and extremely diverse region?

Several statements in the preliminary pages of the book support the premise that the problems faced by gay and lesbian youth are by no means unique to the South. The Foreword was written by Virginia Uribe, whose 1984 doctoral dissertation assessed the extent of services for gay and lesbian youth in the 10 largest school systems across the U.S. She states that her nationwide survey "...revealed a pattern of homophobia in the education system that systematically damages gay and lesbian teenagers..." In the Preface, Jonathan Kozol praises the book, also saying, "But it is also an important portrait of the coming-of-age of all young people in this country." The author himself refers to his experiences growing up in the rural Midwest, where straight, white church, family and community standards were imposed on him, and where he "...learned that homosexuality was sinful..." And finally, Walter Williams, in his emotional and laudatory Introduction, states that "...despite the gains of the gay rights movement, growing up gay in the South is still as terrifying as ever." he also suggests that "the South" does not yet "appreciate and value" the "wondrous diversity" of its population, such as is found in the varied backgrounds of Dr. Sears' sample from South Carolina. It must be asked here if he truly feels that the problems of societal acceptance and support faced by gay and lesbian youths in Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston, Denver, or New York are really any different?

Although this reviewer makes these criticisms about the focus and point of the book, it IS a valuable piece of research into the complex lives of gay and lesbian youth in our culture. Indeed the fact that the findings in Dr. Sears' study are representative of the homophobic climate of the entire nation is to the book's credit. What the readers and others should be aware of is the fact that the book's title and underlying premise suggest taking an all-too-familiar regional stereotype as a "given."

With this in mind, the book should be a valuable addition to the literature consulted by educators, scholars,

social service professionals, as well as many others.

Steven Fowlkes
Tulane University
New Orleans, LA

Male Intergenerational Intimacy: Historical, Socio-Psychological and Legal Perspectives. Editors: Theo Sandfort, Edward Brongersma, Alex van Naerssen. Haworth Press, 1991. (Also published as *Journal of Homosexuality*, Vol. 20, No. 1/2, 1990. (ISBN 0-918393-787)

If you expect this book to address intergenerational intimacy, amongst various age ranges, than that would make at least two of us who were misled by this title. This book is a collection of 16 research articles and three commentaries which focus on pedophilia — sexual relationships between men and boys. None of the articles address situations where adult men have intergenerational relationships with other adult men.

If you already subscribe to *The Journal of Homosexuality*, then this book will be unnecessary if you already have Volume 20 on your shelves, as every article in this book is reprinted from the 1990 issues of JOH.

This book definitely lives up to its subtitle, as it offers a diverse collection of research on the subject of male pedophilia, including historical, sociological, psychological, cultural and legal perspectives.

Except for the article by Martin Killias (which has only one citation), each contributor provided a comprehensive set of research notes which would be of immense help to anyone doing extensive research on pedophilia. However, the absence of an index is disconcerting.

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Gay and Lesbian Library Service. Edited by Cal Gough and Ellen Greenblatt. McFarland, 1990. \$36.50. (ISBN 0-89950-535-X) Available from: McFarland & Co., Publishers, Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640; tel: (919) 246-4460.

This book contains essays and bibliographies which address many aspects of library service relating to gay and lesbian issues. It is not a book just for gay and lesbian library users. Rather, it is useful for all librarians and users interested in better access to a broad spectrum of materials dealing with gay and lesbian lifestyles, culture, history, and more.

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The Forward, by Sanford Berman, does a good job of illustrating why the information in this book is both necessary and useful. He relates numerous incidents of homophobic ignorance, negligence, discrimination and violence occurring in the news media, public laws, censorship cases, and library cataloging practice. A number of the chapters and appendices which make up the book first appeared as journal articles or as bibliographies or resource lists available from the GLTF's Clearinghouse. However, much of the material included was specifically written and compiled for this publication, so there is a wealth of new information presented here, too.

Both the whys and ways to improve many different aspects of library service to the gay and lesbian community are presented, starting with chapters on collection development issues to be considered for school, public and academic libraries. Chapters on "Service Issues" discuss how to make the library more user-friendly to the gay and lesbian community, and encourage library exhibits of gay/lesbian materials, artwork, etc.

Other significant chapters include: "AIDS Information in Libraries," discussing the role of the library in AIDS education, and giving a directory of AIDS organizations; "Gay and Lesbian Periodicals" presents selection and collection management issues to be considered, as well as giving an annotated list of 73 recommended titles; "Reference Materials For or About Gays and Lesbians," listing bibliographies, indexes, directories, book review sources, and more.

At least as valuable and useful as the information given in the main chapters are the 16 appendices, which fill almost the last 250 pages of the book. It is in this section that lengthy bibliographies, filmographies, and discographies are included, covering topics such as gay and lesbian nonfiction books, gay and lesbian bibliographies, films and videos, music, drama, biography, and AIDS. Several directories listed in this section include: Publishers of Gay and Lesbian Books, Bookstores and Mail Order Films, Special Collections of Gay and Lesbian Materials, and Gay and Lesbian Professional Groups.

In general, *Gay and Lesbian Library Service* gets a very high rating by this reviewer. It is multi-faceted in its coverage of the many issues of importance to all librarians and to gay and lesbian library users. However, a few changes that could have improved the book are suggested here, and perhaps could be considered when planning possible future editions or revisions.

The numerous items listed in the extensive bibliographic notes in several chapters (Chapter 2, Gay and Lesbian Issues for School Libraries and Librarians, and Chapter 14, AIDS Information in Libraries) would

have been much more useful if presented in a regular bibliographical format and included as additional appendices.

Chapter 11, on Reference Materials, was originally published in a 1988 issue of *Booklist*; it perhaps should have been updated before its inclusion here.

Appendix XII, a pathfinder on Gay and Lesbian History and Culture, perhaps should have been revamped to make it non-library-specific, and thus, more useful to other librarians and library users.

In spite of these few criticisms of the book, it is an excellent work that would be a useful tool for those engaged in all phases of library work, from selection and acquisitions, to cataloging, from program and policy development to reference and public service work. Because of its extensive bibliographies and directories, it is also an invaluable resource for library users interested in researching gay and lesbian issues.

This reviewer recommends that all libraries purchase this book; in fact, why not buy two copies, one for your office collection, and another for the reference or circulating collection.

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Society and the Healthy Homosexual: How to Get the Most Out of Being Gay. By George Weinberg, with foreword by Gerry E. Studds. Alyson. Copyrighted 1972 by George Weinberg, with Foreword copyrighted in 1991 by Alyson Publications. \$7.95. (ISBN 1-55583-193-1)

Authored by the psychotherapist who is credited with coining the word "homophobia", George Weinberg's book has not been updated since it was first published in 1972.

Despite the outdated statistics, the references to organizations which have disappeared over the years, and the fact that most of the research cited in this book was written in the "Pre-Stonewall Era" — the fact is that this is an easy to read "classic" which should be on the shelves of every public and academic library in the world!

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Gay Voices From East Germany: Interviews with Jurgen Lemke. (English translation of: *Ganz Normal Anders.*) English version edited by John Borneman. Translations by Steven Stoltenbert, et al. Indiana University Press, 1991. Hardcover. \$35.00 (ISBN 0-253-33319-9 alk) Paper. \$12.95. (ISBN 0-253-20630-8 alk)

This book is the culmination of a project which started in 1978 when Jurgen Lemke started interviewing homosexual men who lived in what was once referred to as East Germany. The German language edition was published in 1989, but the English translations were not completed until after the Berlin Wall was opened.

Though the country no longer exists, the interviews provide much insight into the lives of gay men who were living in the German Democratic Republic. Three groups of GDR's citizens from the 1980's are profiled in the book, in nearly equal proportions: gay men who were born before, during and after World War II.

By the very nature of living to talk about their lives in the 1980's, each of these men discuss their unique set of survival skills — coping with the oppression of a fascist regime under Hitler, coping with the restrictions of a Communist regime, coping with the tight housing and employment markets in East Germany, in addition to struggling through life itself within the framework of a heterosexist European culture.

The individuals who were interviewed discuss the lighter and darker sides of their lives, including the anguish and joys which arose from relationships with their families, lovers, neighbors, colleagues and the society at large.

Even though women are absent from this book, it still provides a cross-sectional look at gay studies in Europe which is not available elsewhere.

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Reviews are a regular feature of the *GLTF Newsletter*.

REVIEWERS URGENTLY NEEDED!

If you would like to be a reviewer or would like to receive reviewer guidelines, contact the Book Reviews Editor, David Streeter, at the following address:

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