

# GLTF NEWSLETTER

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VOLUME 5, NUMBER 1, SPRING 1993

## FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

### Roland Hansen: Male Co-Chair

There are many things to report after the Denver Midwinter Conference. The highlight was the rally against Amendment 2 on Monday at the Capitol steps. ALA President Marilyn Miller opened the rally at the convention center with a very strong and moving statement, the text of which appears on page 3 of this newsletter. There was daily coverage in *Cognotes*, and articles in the *Denver Post* and the *Rocky Mountain News*.

Approximately 2,000 lapel pins were given out that read "It's a civil rights issue, it's a library issue." Karen Whittlesey-First did the design and I coordinated the production. SRRT funds paid for the pins and ALA Conference Services made sure they were delivered and that a SRRT Booth was set up in the registration area for distribution. This visibility brought the issue to the membership, and the show of support was very gratifying. Needless to say, the passage of Amendment 2 and the repeal efforts dominated GLTF meetings and activities.

In other GLTF business:

There will be a revision to the by-laws proposed before annual conference to change the Secretary/Treasurer position to Secretary only. This is in line with ALA policy for Task Forces in that the Coordinator (or Co-Chairs) are responsible for the budget process. The changes will appear in the June newsletter and voting will take place at the membership meeting in New Orleans.

Another proposal was submitted to add the word "bisexual" (and all relevant forms of the word) to the name and the bylaws of the Task Force. After discussion at the All Committees Meeting on Saturday, I proposed a discussion group to gauge how much interest there might be in A) changing the name of the Task Force and/or B) maintaining a discussion group within the GLTF on a permanent basis. Mike Montgomery presented a statement of purpose and a mission and goals statement at the final Steering Committee Meeting. The first meeting of the group will be in New Orleans, and will be listed in the final meeting schedule in the June newsletter.

Plans for the 1993 Annual Conference are nearly complete. Since the Pride Day Celebrations are held on Saturday in New Orleans, the Steering Committee decided to move all GLTF Activities and events to Sunday, with the possible exception of the Social. Watch the final schedule for times and places. We also requested the Monteleone Hotel as the location for the Book Awards presentation, the program, and the Read-Aloud. Several people are going to request it as their hotel, and anyone wishing to do that is encouraged.

The 1994 program in Miami conflicts with the Gay Games being held in New York, as well as the 25th anniversary of Stonewall. At this time, plans are not to hold a program in Miami, but have an expanded Read-Aloud, and do some co-sponsoring. The Program Planning Committee is open to suggestions and local arrangement folks are needed. Please contact Terry Allison or Karen Whittlesey-First if you are interested in helping. We particularly need some Miami connections, since Terry is participating in the Gay Games as a swimmer and will not be attending the Miami conference. We wish him well and hope that he will be the first swimming librarian to win a medal!

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We will step up investigating the printing and mailing of the newsletter from ALA Headquarters. Karl Fattig will become editor in July, and his library is not able to fund the production of the newsletter. However, there has been discussion that ALA will discontinue producing and mailing newsletters across the board because of budget cuts. I will be pursuing this with Mattye Nelson at OLOS.

Future Steering Committee vacancies beginning in July 1993 include:

Male Co-Chair  
Book Awards Committee Chair  
Publicity Committee Chair  
Finance Committee Chair  
Newsletter Assistant Editor\*

\*Karl Fattig will become editor until July 1995.  
We should start looking for an assistant as soon as possible.

Anyone interested should contact me or Karen. Thank you. See you in New Orleans.

## Karen Whittlesey-First, Female Co-Chair:

### Notes From Denver

Bisexuality Discussion Group - There has been some discussion on GAY-LIBN and through more personal channels about the Steering Committee's handling of two Task Force members' efforts to amend the bylaws to be explicitly inclusive of bisexual people. Any changes to our bylaws and name need approval from our members and from SRRT Action Council.

The upshot of the Denver meeting was a Steering Committee recommendation that a bisexuality discussion group be formed. The mission statement of the discussion group states that it shall "serve as a forum for discussion of the purposes specified in the GLTF bylaws as they relate to bisexuality and librarianship; promote an understanding of bisexuality within the gay and lesbian communities and the library community at large; and provide an opportunity for bisexual, gay and lesbian librarians, archivists, and other information professionals to explore common areas of interest and activity. The BDG is open to persons of all sexual orientations and identities." The first meeting has been tentatively scheduled at the New Orleans Annual Conference for Friday, June 25, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Bisexuals are particularly urged to attend.

Some people are afraid that this decision is a postponement of what they think the Task Force ought to be. Others hope this is an indefinite postponement of what they fear the Task Force will be.

For two reasons, I urge members to attend the discussion group meeting in New Orleans. The first is that sexuality is a complicated aspect of our lives, however we express it, and that we ought to be sensitive to the experiences, hopes, and fears of all our Task Force members. The second is that sexuality is heavily charged in the political arena and if we are to ask for explicit inclusivity of bisexual people in our name and bylaws we need to know what the implications are as far as SRRT and ALA are concerned. We need to be as well educated as we can be on both counts so that we can all make careful, informed, well-thought-out decisions.

The Rally - About two hundred people attended a rally Monday at noon on the steps of Denver's State Capitol. They had walked together from the Convention Center where Roland Hansen introduced ALA president Marilyn Miller who spoke to the crowd there. Sporting buttons and wearing warm jackets against the 20-degree temperatures, the group heard from Stephen Stillwell (SRRT coordinator), Dee Conkling (Feminist Task Force), Mark Rosenzweig (co-founder and co-editor of the *Progressive Librarian*), Susan Searing (ACRL's Women's Studies Section), Sandy Berman (SRRT Action Council and Minnesota SRRT), Sylvia Turchyn (Intellectual Freedom Round Table), Charlotte Reubens (LAMA), Sue Anderson (Equality Colorado and member of the board of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force), and Stacy Dorian (Boycott Colorado and University of Colorado Law School Library). A local singer, Mary Orland, who is also a state worker, provided some entertainment during the hour-long rally.

In addition to thanking the speakers and singer, I would like to note the efforts of Zakk Zoah and Sue Anderson (both from Equality Colorado) who did everything from securing the permit to holding speakers on their heads during the rally. They were vital to the success, indeed the very fact, of this rally.

More Thanks Due - For the Task Force, I want to make mention of some fine supporters who worked on our behalf in Denver:

▼ Mattye Nelson and Gail Purches, our staff liaisons to ALA, who helped with many things, including the production of pins.

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▼ Paul Graller, conference services, for coordinating everything, including the SRRT both at registration where we had pins, flyers, schedules, and the list of friendly places. Paul also arranged for speakers and the stage at the Convention Center rally and handled matters with the Mayor's office.

▼ Pier London, who made sure our events and schedules were in *Cognotes*.

▼ Linda Wallace, Peggy Barber and Pam Goodes of the public information office, who produced press releases and notified the Denver media of our events.

▼ ALA President Marilyn Miller and Executive Director Peggy Sullivan, who gave us a lot of support. Marilyn spoke at the rally at the conference center and Peggy spoke at the Steering Committee Meeting Friday night.

▼ The Children's Book Council, Neal-Schuman Publishers, Mohawk Library Furniture, Crises Press, and Highsmith, vendors and exhibitors who indicated their opposition to Amendment 2 by boycotting or displaying signs.

Boycotting Colorado - The decision to attend Midwinter in Denver was not easy. Some of us chose to boycott Colorado; others to go in, do our committee business and get out as quickly as possible; still others to go about Midwinter as usual, maybe tacking on a ski vacation. I did attend Midwinter, wore my buttons, attended the rally against Colorado Amendment 2, wrote letters of support to vendors who boycotted the conference or indicated they were there under protest, ate at "friendly places."

What to do now, however? Even though the cities of Denver, Aspen, and Boulder passed anti-bias ordinances, and even though thousands of people throughout the state are angry and unhappy over the passage of Amendment 2, and even though gay, lesbian and bisexual Coloradans will be hurt economically — even so, I must encourage a boycott of travel to the state and purchase of its products. The state has already suffered five to ten million dollars of lost conference business (depending on who you talk to), and yes, the Supreme Court may find the amendment unconstitutional. Still, I call on Task Force members to make a clear statement that anyone concerned with human and civil rights cannot support Colorado in any way.

Does that mean that book selectors shouldn't order from Colorado publishers? Perhaps it does. I would urge you to do whatever your conscience dictates as the most effective ways of boycotting. However you decide, let the appropriate people in Colorado know — don't do it in silence.

Dr. Marilyn L. Miller  
President, American Library Association  
Remarks, January 25, 1993

*We are gathered here today to make a statement to the citizens of Colorado. We are concerned about the passage of Amendment 2. We are here as librarians in convention to carry out the business of our association.*

*We are guests in your state but when we leave, we leave colleagues, family members, and friends whose livelihood, their physical well-being — even their safety — are in the hands of the voters. As an association of concerned human beings, we feel we must speak out on an issue that could divide us as a nation.*

*The American Library Association has a long tradition of supporting equal rights and intellectual freedom. And we feel the existence of Amendment 2 threatens both — in Colorado and perhaps in other parts of the country in the form of copycat legislation.*

*Amendment 2 has implications for librarians beyond the issue of protecting basic human rights to employment and safety. As a profession, librarians are committed to providing information and resources that reflect the diversity of human experience and promote understanding of all people. Curtailing one freedom only makes it easier to curtail another. Will successful implementation of Amendment 2 lead to the curtailment of library collections and access to those collections?*

*We know how the line can blur between access to information and denial of our human rights. We learned this during the book burnings in Nazi Germany. Any erosion of human liberty can lead to an erosion of intellectual freedom.*

*This nation has completed a decade marked by divisiveness, mean spiritedness, and decisions made out of fear, bigotry, and intolerance. We who are here today are testimony of the many millions of Americans who say let us respect diversity and let us care about one another. Let us continue developing a nation in which all may be educated, find work, safety, and security. Let us all enjoy freedom of expression and access to that freedom.*

## MORE ON MIDWINTER

### 1988 Midwinter Meeting

ALA's Executive Board voted on January 23 to move the site of its 1988 Midwinter Meeting from Denver, due to the passage of Amendment 2 in Colorado. The Board passed the resolution with two dissenting votes. The following is an excerpt from the resolution:

*Whereas this Amendment inherently permits discrimination against gay men, lesbians, and bisexuals; and  
Whereas ALA Policy 54:17 reaffirms the Association's "support for equal employment opportunity for gay librarians and library workers"; and ...*

*Whereas Amendment 2 to the Colorado Constitution is incompatible with these policies of the American Library Association,  
Therefore, be it resolved that a new site for the 1988 Midwinter Meeting be selected; and*

*Be it further resolved that a new site for the 1988 Midwinter Meeting be selected; and ...*

*Be it further resolved that the American Library Association commends the efforts of Governor Roy Romer and Denver Mayor Wellington Webb to have Colorado Constitutional Amendment 2 overturned in the courts.*

Several state library associations and other groups adopted position statements opposing Colorado as future a conference site, including the Colorado Library Association, the California Library Association, the Minnesota Library Association Social Responsibilities Round Table.

### More on Colorado

From a letter to Stephen J. Stillwell, Jr., Coordinator, SRRT Action Council from Peggy Sullivan, Executive Director, ALA: "I enjoyed being able to sit in on at least part of the GLTF meeting during Midwinter, and was impressed with how well the discussion went, how reasonable and forceful the arguments were, etc. I am sure that much of the credit for that goes to good leadership."

When the Colorado Library Association voted to boycott Colorado counties that supported Amendment 2, John Sheridan, director of the Tutt Library, Colorado College, brought the motion to the floor and was therefore in the

limelight due to his action. Sheridan's home was thereafter vandalized and his family's safety jeopardized by shots at the house from a pellet gun. His car was vandalized twice as well. After a family meeting, Sheridan determined to continue his fight against Amendment 2, seeing the issue as part of civil rights in America.

The Executive Board of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) announced in December that the association will not hold its 1998 Annual Meeting in Denver as planned.

Neal-Schuman Publishers declined to attend Midwinter to join in the economic boycott of Colorado and issued the following statement: "...Colorado is the first example of a successful campaign to limit individual rights. We firmly believe that it should be not only the first, but the only one, and we have chosen to join the boycott as the most forceful way of asking the people of Colorado to change their law. We hope that this boycott will be a clear signal that intolerance of any sort is not even marginally acceptable..."

Columbia University Press sent complimentary copies of several titles from its lesbian and gay studies series "Between Men - Between Women" to public libraries throughout Colorado to protest that state's recent passage of Amendment 2. The books were sent not only to the most appropriate state and local libraries in Denver, Boulder, and Aspen, but also to public libraries in those cities that voted for the discriminatory amendment: Colorado Springs, Fort Collins, and Greeley.

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### Bisexuality Discussion Group

A new discussion group was approved 1/23/93 by the Steering Committee. Its mission statement is quoted on page 2, under Karen Whittlesey-First's report on the group. The first meeting has been tentatively scheduled at the New Orleans Annual Conference for Friday, June 25, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. For more information, contact Mike Montgomery, c/o GHRD, Princeton University Libraries, One Washington Road, Princeton, NJ 088544-2098, (609) 258-3180, Internet <michael@pucc.princeton.edu>.

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## GLTF Book Award

Karen Whittlesey-First, GLTF Female Co-Chair, sent a letter to librarians in Denver before Midwinter and asked them to display books which have received the GLTF Book Award during the conference week. A list of annual award winners from 1971 on were included.

## New Resource List

The newest GLTF bibliography, *Religion and Spirituality: A Checklist of Resources for Lesbians and Gay Men*, is now available for purchase. The bibliography covers 195 titles in six categories: Christian traditions, Jewish traditions, other Eastern religious traditions, alternative viewpoints and journeys, ceremonies and rituals, and historical scholarship. Many books included in the bibliography are not written by gay men or lesbians, and not every title expresses a supportive attitude toward homosexuals or their spiritual needs. Listings of religious organizations for lesbians and gay men and periodical publications follow the bibliography. The 17-page list is \$3 from the GLTF Clearinghouse, c/o Office for Library Outreach Services, ALA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

## GLTF Steering Committee Membership List Spring 1993

### Male Co-Chair

Roland C. Hansen  
Readers' Services Librarian  
SAIC Flaxman Library  
37 S. Wabash  
Chicago, IL 60603  
(312) 472-3555 (h)  
(312) 899-5097 (w)  
(312) 263-0141 (fax)  
7/91 - 7/93

### Female Co-Chair:

Karen L. Whittlesey-First  
Harvard Law School Library  
434W Langdell Hall  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
(617) 495-4295 (w)  
(617) 495-4449 (fax)  
E-Mail:  
Internet: Whittles@Hulawl.Harvard.Edu  
Bitnet: Whittles@Hulawl.Bitnet  
7/92 - 7/94

### Secretary

Joseph Eagan  
Enoch Pratt Free Library  
Government Reference Service  
400 Cathedral Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
(301) 486-6310 (h)  
(301) 396-4042 (w)  
(301) 396-9537 (fax)  
7/92 - 7/94

### Book Award Committee Chair

Susan Hoffman  
180 Wilson Library  
University of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, MN 55455  
(612) 824-4196 (h)  
(612) 626-7298 (w)  
(612) 626-7585 (fax)  
BITNET: s-hoff@uminnl  
7/91 - 7/93

### Clearinghouse Coordinator Chair

Edmund Santa Vicca  
Head, Reference Services  
Hayden Library  
Arizona State University  
Tempe, AZ 85287-1006  
(602) 965-5167 (w)  
(602) 965-9169 (fax)  
7/92 - 7/94

### Newsletter Committee Chair/Newsletter Editor

Kathy Anderson  
Atlantic County Library System  
Community Relations Office  
2 S. Farragut Avenue  
Mays Landing, NJ 08330  
(609) 546-7385 (h w/machine)  
(609) 625-2776 (w)  
(609) 625-8143 (fax)  
7/91 - 7/93

### 1993 Annual Program Committee Chair

Terry L. Allison  
California State University, San Marco  
Library Services  
San Marco, CA 92096  
(619) 752-4358 (w)  
(619) 471-6494 (fax)

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## Publicity Committee Chair

Leon Bey  
Dayton and Montgomery County Public Library  
215 E. Third Street  
Dayton, OH 45402  
(513) 227-9500 x 324 (w)  
7/91 - 7/93

## Special Committees

### Feminist Task Force Liaison

Bonita Corliss  
Business and Technology Department  
Seattle Public Library  
1000 4th Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104  
(206) 386-4652 (w)  
(206) 386-4638 (fax)

### Finance Committee Chair

Leon Bey  
Dayton and Montgomery County Public Library  
215 E. Third Street  
Dayton, OH 45402  
(513) 227-9500 x 324 (w)  
7/91 - 7/93

## **GLTF Read-Aloud**

Bonita Corliss opened the traditional Read-Aloud on Sunday evening at Midwinter Meeting with a moment of silence for Audre Lorde, a quote from Kevin Allman's *Advocate* tribute and a reading of Lorde's "Litany for Survival." Karl Fattig read a selection of poems designed to evoke the way his feelings about Colorado have changed over the course of the last six months, including selections from Adrienne Rich, Philip Dacey, Weldon Kees (a Lincoln, NE librarian-poet) and others. Steven Murden entertained with an excerpt from the novel *Boys Like Us* by Peter McGehee.

Adam Schiff read from Neil Miller's *Out in the World; Gay and Lesbian Life from Buenos Aires to Bangkok*, a non-fiction account of homosexuality from the international perspective. His choice was a subchapter that dealt with the struggle for gay rights in Australia's most repressive province, Tasmania. The description of the rise of the radical right in Tasmania evoked an uncanny sense of déjà vu in the audience. Ray Means delighted us all with an

excellent interpretation of a monologue from Christopher Durang's play, *Laughing Wild*.

Joe Egan and Gary Klein read selections of gay/lesbian poetry. Gary read from the *Penguin Book of Homosexual Verse*. Rod MacNeil read haunting excerpts from the *Diary of Anne Frank*, the story of a young woman whose courage and hope gave us all something to think about in Colorado.

Bonita then gave us a short lesbian anthology of sorts, from Sappho to Corliss, by way of Renee Vivien, Olga Broumas and Adrienne Rich. Though her voice was the only woman's to speak that night, the collective voice of women poets was ever-present. The Read-Aloud ended with Karl reading several maxims from Rex Bruce's *Conceit: Aphorisms for the Civilized Pervert*, a zine-like collection that might best be described as witty-gritty.

contributed by Karl Fattig, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

## **Electronic Access Panel**

GLTF members Mike Montgomery and Gary Klein participated in the RASD/MARS/User Access Services Committee open forum panel discussion at Midwinter, "Electronic Access to America's Diversity: Problems, Strategies, and Solutions." Mike Montgomery, sitting in for GLTF member Polly Thistlewaite (who was unable to attend) distributed a handout on gay and lesbian periodicals accessible electronically; talked briefly about the state of gay/lesbian periodical indexing in general; and offered to provide the producer of a multicultural database with a list of LesBiGay papers for possible inclusion.

Dave Strickler talked briefly about the new listserv, GAY-LIBN. Gary Klein contributed insights to the general discussion (Internet, status of indexing LesBiGay publications, growing concerns of various groups) and provided copies of his recent submission to ERIC and LOEX, "Helping Students Find Sensitive Materials."

Contributed/information provided by: Gary Klein, University of Toledo; Mike Montgomery, Princeton University; Polly Thistlewaite, Hunter College.

## New Orleans Preview

The Annual Convention in New Orleans in June is taking place at the same time as the Gay Pride festivities and accommodations are going fast as a result. Anyone wishing to get a room needs to do so fast. Costs should run around \$95.00/night and most sites provide either full or continental breakfast with room.

The following guest houses are listed in the New Orleans "This Week Guide: Entertainment and Resources for Gay and Lesbian New Orleans." Most of these inns are located in the Quarter or within a block or two of it. All are equally safe/dangerous and are more or less equidistant from the conference site.

Bon Maison	835 Bourbon	(504) 561-8498
Bourgoyne House	839 Bourbon	(504) 524-3621
Chartres St. B&B	2517 Chartres	(504) 943-8621
The Frenchman	417 Frenchmen	(504) 948-2166
K's Professional Lesbian Accommodations		(504) 524-9028
Lafitte Guest House	1003 Bourbon	(504) 581-2678
Mazant Guest House	906 Mazant	(504) 944-2662
Mentone B&B	1437 Pauger	(504) 943-3019
N.O. Guest House	1118 Ursuline	(504) 566-1177
Rue Royal Inn	1006 Royal	(504) 524-3900
Sun Oak Inn	2016 Burgundy	(504) 945-0322
Ursuline Guest House	708 Ursuline	(504) 525-8509

Preliminary plans for the GLTF Social are for a cocktail hour at The Mint Bar, 504 Esplanade, Saturday evening. A dinner is planned to follow the cocktail hour. Details on these and other events at the Annual Conference will be included in the June issue of the *GLTF Newsletter*.

contributed by Mark E. Martin,  
T.L. Temple Memorial Library Archives, Diboll, Texas

## Letter From A New GLTF Member

Excerpt from a letter from Michael Gingrich, MLS student, University of North Texas:

"...My reason for writing bears on how much negative response there has been to a magazine article and coverage of gay related topics. I am astounded at the rhetoric and vehemence being espoused by educators and library personnel. I should hope that in my career I may avoid most of the small minds I've seen in the press and 'letters to editor' comments. ...As a new member of both the GLTF and ALA, you can count my vote as one person who is proud of people, minds and creative acceptance of variety and diversity. When a group closes doors to such large groups of a society as gay/lesbian people represent, then we hedge on a psychology not dissimilar from Himmler, his boss and co-workers."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

▼ A new journal, *Empathy: An Interdisciplinary Journal for Persons Working to End Oppression on the Basis of Sexual Identities*, is now available. *Empathy* covers topics related to the struggle to end homophobia and heterosexism, including culture, education, politics, parenting, youth, and spirituality. To subscribe or for more information, contact *Empathy*, P.O. Box 5085, Columbia, SC 29250. A one year subscription for two issues is \$15 (individual), \$20 (institutional), \$25 (library). *Empathy* is published by the Gay and Lesbian Advocacy Research Project, a non-profit corporation.

from *Empathy* brochure

▼ *Time Magazine* (12/14/92) carried a 2 page article about educating children about homosexuality, much of it focused on *Daddy's Roommate* and the New York City "Children of the Rainbow" teachers' guide that includes lesbian/gay -positive books as proposed readings. The article addressed the high suicide rate among gay and lesbian adolescents and included successful curriculums and projects taking place around the country.

▼ The Lesbian Herstory Educational Foundation is requesting donations to help pay off the mortgage on their new permanent home, which will contribute to their future financial stability. All donations are tax deductible. For more information or to contribute, contact LHEF, Inc. P.O. Box 1258, New York, NY 10016, (718) 768-7DYKE.

from LHEF flyer

▼ The Publishing Triangle Center's Pat Parker/Vito Russo Library, in operation for a year and a half, is planning to move to a permanent space within the Lesbian/Gay Community Center at 208 W. 13th Street in Manhattan, New York City and has begun fundraising efforts to finance the move. The new site will enable the library to triple the amount of space currently available for books and periodicals and allow the library to remain open for longer hours. Publishing Triangle is a national dues-paying membership organization dedicated to the furtherance of gay and lesbian publishing. The organization may be contacted at P.O. Box 114, Prince St. Sta., New York, NY 10012.

from *Publishing Triangle News*, Winter 1992.

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▼ People who would like their local PBS station to run "In the Life", a nationally produced monthly half-hour variety/magazine talk show for the gay and lesbian audience, are encouraged to write their local station and request that it be shown. The show, hosted by stand-up comic Kate Clinton, is designed specifically for public television, with a non-confrontational and positive outlook. It highlights art, politics, health and entertainment. Although this program is available to public television stations nationwide, only a handful of general managers have been willing to offer this groundbreaking series on their station. For more information, contact Multi-Cultural Marketing International, Deborah Larkin, at (212) 247-2451.

from press release

▼ After a 5-year battle, lesbian library employees in Minneapolis won a discrimination suit against the city of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Library Board for denying them dependent health insurance coverage. The Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights awarded Marie Hanson, Jane Anglin and Judith Bagan a total of \$90,516.21 in damages as well as attorneys' fees and costs. Anglin, quoted in *Equal Time: Minnesota's Newspaper for Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals*, recalled when she went to her union (AFSCME) about the issue, the business agent "laughed when I first asked him to file a grievance."

The Library Board subsequently decided in a closed session on December 2 to appeal the Commission's decision, followed by the City Council's Executive Committee on December 9 to appeal.

In a telephone interview reported in *Library Journal*, Hanson said she will "definitely continue" her fight. "It is the fair and right thing to do. There should be no discrimination in the library. It should be equal benefits for equal work."

from *Equal Times*, 12/4-12/18/92, p. 1; *Library Journal*, 1/93, p. 17

▼ Lesbian author Dorothy Allison, whose novel *Bastard Out of Carolina* was a finalist for last year's National Book Award, has been disinvited to a workshop at the Oklahoma Center for the Book. National Book Foundation execs say it's because she's gay, but center execs say it's because of scheduling conflicts. NBF's Neil Baldwin said the center's Ann Hamilton told him: "This is the buckle of the Bible Belt. We have only two major events a year and we do not want one of them to be a gay event."

from the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, 2/4/93

▼ The Society for the Protection of Personal Rights, headquartered in Tel Aviv, Israel, offers the Yonat Arava Library, the only library of its kind in the country, with books, magazines, and other publications devoted exclusively to lesbian/gay topics. The library appreciates gifts of books and other readables from its friends in Israel and beyond. They can be contacted at S.P.P.R., P.O.B. 37604, Tel Aviv 61375 Israel.

from *Israel Update*, S.P.P. R. Newsletter, 9/92

▼ Lesbian/feminist publishing house Spinsters Ink was purchased by Joan Drury and the new owner has moved the press from San Francisco to Minneapolis. To contact them, write Spinsters Ink, P.O. Box 300170, Minneapolis, MN 55403.

from *Equal Time*, 11/6-11/20/92, p. 3

▼ The January 1993 issue of the *Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom* notes censorship attempts in Elizabethtown, North Carolina (*Daddy's Roommate*, *Heather Has Two Mommies*); Olathe, Kansas (for gay and lesbian pamphlets in a file); Gwinnett County, Georgia (*Daddy's Roommate*); Los Angeles, California (AIDS information video).

from ALA's *Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom*, 1/93

▼ A newsletter which aims to raise public librarians' awareness of the importance of public perception, *The Public Image*, focused its Winter 1992 issue on *Daddy's Roommate* and censorship. To contact the newsletter, Neuse Regional Library, 510 N. Queen St., Kinston, NC 28501, fax (919) 527-9235, phone (919) 527-7066.

from *The Public Image*, Vol. 4, No. 4.

## Out of the Stacks And Into the Streets...

librarians from all over the country are joining the 1993 March on Washington, D. C. for Lesbian, Gay & Bi Equal Rights and Liberation on April 25, 1993.

If you would like to march with other librarians, look for the GLTF banner in the section with other professional organizations, which will be number 65 out of 100+ major groupings in the march lineup.

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▼ Chelsea House Publishers is planning a series of books on gay and lesbian topics for teenagers, spearheaded by Martin Duberman, author, historian and founder of the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies at the Graduate Center, City University of New York. The first two books in the series will be a biography of James Baldwin by Randall Kenan and a study of gay and lesbian culture by Donna Minkowitz. The series will debut in fall of 1993.

from the *New York Times*, 11/24/92, p. B4

▼ Leaders of two library workshops on sexuality materials are willing to make materials and advice on the topic available to other librarians. Therese Broderick presided over "Erotic Literature and Media in the Public Library" at the New York Library Association. She can be contacted at 687 Morris St., Albany NY 12208 (518) 482-2639. Harriet Selverstone of Norwalk (CT) High School, led a workshop for the American Association of School Librarians, "Where Are We Now in the 'Sexual Revolution' And How Can the Library Media Specialist Respond?" She can be contacted at Library Media Center, Norwalk High School, County St., Norwalk, CT 06851 (203) 838-4481, x 214.

from press release

▼ After receiving rejections from 23 printers, Beacon Press finally found a printing company willing to print a book featuring graphic illustrations by Robert Mapplethorpe and other gay artists. Rapoport Metropolitan Printing Corporation agreed to print *Gay Ideas: Outing and Other Controversies* by Richard Mohr (reviewed on page 13).

from ALA's *Newsletter for Intellectual Freedom*, 11/92, p. 183

▼ The new offices of The Gay Association of the South Africa-610 Counselling Service in Cape Town, South Africa includes a gay library.

from *Frontiers*, 11/20/92 p. 24

▼ Project 10 in Sonoma County, California aims to collect and place books that deal with gay and lesbian issues in a positive way in local libraries, among other educational projects.

from *We the People*, 11/92, p. 20

▼ Vandals destroyed four books about gay issues at the Corvallis-Benton County Library in Portland, Oregon recently. Library officials issued a public statement deploring the incident.

from *Just Out*, 10/92, p. 12

▼ The Lesbian Mother's National Defense Fund will donate story books about children in lesbian and gay families to selected elementary schools in Seattle. Schools will be selected for donations based on the presence of gay and lesbian families within their attendance area. The project was funded by the Pride Foundation. When Sasha Alyson of Alyson Publishers heard about the project, he sent a personal donation and an offer to match the Pride Foundation's contribution — in free books.

from *Mom's Apple Pie*, LMNDF Newsletter, Winter 92/93, p. 3.

▼ The 3rd edition of *The Purple Circuit Directory* listing gay and lesbian theatres and kindred spirits is available by sending a contribution in any amount to ACA, Artists Confronting AIDS, with a SASE to The Purple Circuit, Bill Kaiser, 2025 Griffith Park Blvd. #4, Los Angeles, CA 90039, (213) 661-1982.

from *On the Purple Circuit* Newsletter, Vol. 1, No. 2, p. 1

▼ The publisher of *BLK: The National Black Lesbian and Gay Newsmagazine* is offering to a selected number of libraries a complete file of all 36 issues, on a first come, first served basis. To contact BLK, P.O. Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912, (213) 410-0808.

from press release, 9/12/92

▼ The first Black lesbian and gay centre in Europe, opening soon in South London, will include a library among its services.

from *Bad Attitude*, 12/1-92/93, p. 20

▼ "Growing Up Gay" a supplement of the *Star Tribune*, Minneapolis, includes a resource list along with an extensive feature story and photo essay on lesbian and gay teenagers. Reprints may be ordered from: The Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55488.

▼ *Library Journal* of 1/93 carried a collection development feature article, "Intensive Care: Materials on AIDS and HIV", written by Jean Hofacket, Director of Library Operations, AIDS Information Network, Philadelphia (p. 65+) and a favorable review of a new gay and lesbian magazine, *Out* (p. 172).

▼ After receiving 10 written complaints, the Fairfax County (VA) Public Library System has decided to review its decision to make the *Washington Blade* available and to keep it in the libraries' collection of local newspapers.

from *Washington (D.C.) Blade*, 2/5/93, p. 7

## BOOK REVIEWS

## Fiction

**Singular Spy.** By Amanda Kyle Williams. Naiad Press, 1992. \$8.95. Paper. (ISBN 1-56280-008-6)

The good guys are bright and likable. The heroine, special Company operative Madison McGuire is tough; but not hard-as-nails. The minor characters are well defined, especially Alexandra Kimble (who hopefully will be seen in future books) and an incongruously named Irishman Max Ruder. The book was written shortly before the Soviet Union broke up and in some instances is dated (10 Rubles is not exactly a big bribe now). The very soft love scenes make the book suitable for young adult collections. For larger collections or where there is a Madison McGuire following.

E.R. Magal  
Tel Aviv, Israel

**The Censors.** By Luisa Valenzuela. Curbstone Press, 1992. \$12.95. Paper. (ISBN 0-915306-12-3)

This is an anthology of four collections of short stories. It is shorter than it seems, since it is a bilingual book: each left page is in Spanish, the right one is in English. The stories are funny, sad, fantastic, fatalistic, realistic. The lesbian/gay elements are not conspicuously part of many of them.

Many of the stories deal with feeling trapped; some characters get out alive, most do not. The language in the translations is gripping and visceral; my Spanish is too rusty to evaluate the left hand side, but the praise of Cortazar and Fuentes is high. In English the writing is close to poetry.

The stories are short—some only a page or two, most somewhat longer; the last almost a novella. They take place in Buenos Aires, in France, in small nameless fishing villages, and small deserted towns, as well as in surreal jungles. The actors are children and old men, wives and witches; drunken husbands and timorous lovers and despairing guards.

The book is suitable for any library with contemporary fiction.

Susan Lee Sills  
University of California-Irving  
Irving, CA

**The Worry Girl: Stories from a Childhood.** By Andrea Freud Lowenstein. Firebrand books, 1992. \$8.95. Paper. (ISBN 1-56341-016-8) \$18.95. Cloth. (ISBN 1-56341-017-6)

*The Worry Girl* is about growing up in many different ways: Jewish, apartment dweller, daughter of Holocaust survivors. It's about being the only kid in class who's seen a psychiatrist by age six (the author is the great-granddaughter of Freud); being the only one who can't do twelve line maps or sew a skirt; and the only one who hasn't known everyone else since kindergarten.

Lowenstein's collection is a moving blend of fiction and narrative. Each chapter of this very personal work touches on the facet of survival in a world that demands fitting into a mold. The narrator is far from the only misfit in that world; and one of the most painful realizations is that even misfits can't band together. They prefer to despise each other; a clear foreshadowing of the adult world to come.

The heroine's coming out at the end of the book is very well done. It has evolved gently and logically. Again we see Lowenstein's skill is foreshadowing. The previous boy/girl childhood battles are kept realistic and are not exaggerated as they could have been (and too often are). The book is highly readable and is suitable for high school age and up. Suitable for all libraries.

E.R. Magal  
Tel Aviv, Israel

**Movie Hooky.** By Dan Foster. Los Hombres Press, 1992. \$9.95. Paper. (ISBN 1-879603-0407)

William Carfax is a young boy growing up in Dallas, TX, in the mid-1930's. Long before young William discovers his sexual identity, he discovers his drug of choice, the movies. This campy send up of a coming-of-age novel is, at best, a difficult read. The hero of the story is a hopelessly spoiled mama's boy who reacts to everything in his life as if it were a scene from a movie. He unwittingly falls in with a group of very effeminate young men and decides that this must be his life trajectory.

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There's lots and lots of elevated philosophical rhetoric in this slim novel. The plot jumps around from fantasy to reality without the reader ever having been aware that they'd left one reality and entered another. The author's love for music; classical and jazz as well as for opera, movies, and most of all, the English language, permeates the novel.

David R. Hardee  
College of Library and Information Science  
University of South Carolina

**Love, Zena Beth.** By Diane Salvatore. Naiad Press, 1992. \$18.95. (ISBN 1-56280-015-9)

When twenty-two year old Joyce Ecco, reporter on assignment for a New York City weekly, meets thirty-nine year old Zena Beth Brazer, writer and icon of the lesbian community, it's instant infatuation. Shortly after a dinner and evening of mutual pleasure, Zena Beth invites Joyce to move in to the rural North Carolina ranch, a move described as "winning the lesbian lotto."

In the process, Joyce breaks up with her lover, takes a job at a local daily paper, and in a late addition to the plot, becomes involved in a gay rights bill and the outing of a local, homophobic politician.

Much of the plot revolves around Joyce's attempts to understand Zena Beth, and the relationship Zena Beth had with Helena Zoe, a noted lesbian skier. It is disappointing that none of the characters, though sympathetically drawn, are well defined, and motivations for their actions are unclear. This may be due, in part, to the fact that *Love, Zena Beth* is just over 200 pages long.

This roman a clef is, however, exceptionally well-written and entertaining, and is one of the very few books that Naiad has published in hardcover. It is notable that there is an average of one moderate-to heated, erotic scene every thirty or so pages.

*Love, Zena Beth* is suitable for libraries with collections of gay/lesbian popular literature, and for any collection what would profit from the addition of a well-written, entertaining, lesbian-positive novel.

Martha E. Stone  
Treadwell Library  
Boston, MA

## Nonfiction

**Ramon's Story.** By Rick Elston. Los Hombres Press, 1991. \$9.95. Paper (ISBN 1979603071)

The Ramon of *Ramon's Story* is currently a successful businessman in the southwestern United States, a feat one might consider almost heroic, given the story presented here. *Ramon's Story* is the transcription and condensation of a series of interviews conducted in the mid-1980's by cultural anthropologist Rick Elston (pseud).

As Elston points out in his introduction, Ramon's story is not unique, and, consequently, is not always very interesting. A product of extreme poverty and parental neglect in his native Mexico (he feigns illness and wears his sister's clothes for attention), he turns to alcohol, drugs and prostitution for survival. The poignancy of his early life, however, soon becomes a somewhat tedious and inarticulate litany of the horrors he experiences. Finding salvation in a 12- step program once (illegally) inside the United States, the story ends with the faintest possibility of hope for our speaker.

This slight book might be useful in collections catering to the recovery movement or in very comprehensive gay studies collections. Otherwise not recommended.

Peter Fekety  
South Brunswick Public Library  
Monmouth Junction, NJ

**Gay People, Sex, and the Media.** Edited by Michelle A. Wolf and Alfred P. Kielwasser. Harrington Park Press, 1991. \$17.95. Paper. (ISBN 0-918393-77-9)

This anthology follows the Haworth Press formula of an individual issue of an academic journal reprinted as a book (Harrington Park is a Haworth subsidiary). It first appeared in 1991 as an issue of the *Journal of Homosexuality*. A mixed bag of essays and quantitative studies turned out by a distinguished lot of professors, associate professors, and instructors, it offers a few flashes of insight, some intriguing ideas, but also much that is trivial and banal, cloaked in academic jargon and supported by the weight of statistical tables.

For example, in an attempted "deconstruction" of Dr. Ruth's appearances on the talk show circuit, we learn that "Although the economic constraints of the American broadcast system partially define the late-night talk show

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genre, the programming's mode of production is dissimilar enough from that of prime-time programming to dislodge the parameters of cultural content."

Curiously, six of the twelve studies have little or nothing to do with gays. One essay on communication law has only the most tenuous claim to be about the media. The preface and editors' introduction are illuminating, as are an essay by Larry Gross about the treatment of sexual minorities in film and on prime time, and a meditation by R. Brian Attig on gay themes in popular music.

A bibliography and some interesting illustrations round out the volume. Appropriate for university libraries with comprehensive collections in media, journalism, or gay studies.

David Stoltesz  
Fairview Park Regional Library  
Fairview Park, OH

**Noah & the Ark; the Influence of Sex, Homophobia, and Heterosexism in the Flood Story and Its Writing.** By Arthur Frederick Ide, Monument Press, 1992. \$10.00. Paper. (ISBN 0-930383-20-6)

A dense study of the Noah story from Genesis comparing texts to gain a better understanding of the Judeo-Christian flood narrative. Ide brings the book of Enoch and the Midrash to the flood story, and compares the tellings of the events leading to the Deluge and after (Noah's drunkenness, the displacement of his sons to repopulate the earth).

It is Ide's contention that the Genesis story as we know it is nothing short of an attempt to censor the original legend which was a narrative of sexuality and sexual choice.

Positively, Ide's provocative thesis is well thought out and documented. On the negative side, Ide's intense writing is relentlessly dreary. Add to academic religion collections where needed.

James J. McPeak  
New Brunswick Free Public Library  
New Brunswick, NJ

**Gay Ideas: Outing and Other Controversies.** By Richard D. Mohr. Beacon Press, 1992. \$25. (0-8070-7920-0)

A curious book, by anyone's definition. And an interesting book, to boot. However, as one weaves in and out of the substantive fabric of the ideas that the author has to purport, it becomes evident that there is no consistency of style nor of presentation. Language alone ranges from the erudite and tricky, to the crass and mundane. And by the time one finishes reading, about all we can really say of the author is that he knows how to think. Effective communication of those thoughts is not as easily evidenced.

Mohr arranges his eight chapters/essays/philosophical tracts into three major areas: politics, culture, identity. The first area includes four essays, one of them allegedly controversial for its defense of outing.

The essays read more like articles written for a law review, seemingly lacking any real sense of humanism between concepts—and more importantly between writer and reader. More often than not, I had the distinct feeling that I was the object of condescension—as in "how could you not agree with this?" In reality, Mohr tries to present objective, rational arguments for actions that have traditionally been subjective and irrational. Indeed, I have been compelled more strongly by discussions with friends over coffee than I have by the arguments in this book. Well-documented and well-executed, these essays nonetheless leave one with a sense of intellectual ambiguity.

The two essays which follow focus on culture. The first is an interpretation of emotional semiotics of the AIDS Quilt. The second is a long, rambling, self-masturbatory piece that has at its center the iconography of gender/sex through various cultural media, primarily the graphic (including photography) and theatrical arts. Interesting and coy, amusing and thoughtful, it remains a territory of armchair interpretation.

In two final essays, the author analyzes models for the social construction of homosexuality, and argues for a redesign of gay studies programs. The essays are sound and insightful, slightly more down-to-earth and intelligible than their predecessors, for the average reader. As inaccessible as the writing sometimes appears, this is still a work worth reading, if for no other reasons that that it provokes one to think.

Ed SantaVicca  
Arizona State University  
Tempe, Az.

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**Tough Acts to Follow: One-Act plays on the Gay/Lesbian Experience.** Edited by Noreen C. Barns and Nicholas Dutch. Alamo Square Press, 1992. \$9.95. (ISBN 0-9624751-6-5)

*Tough Acts to Follow* includes twelve plays that range from near slapstick ("One Fool" by Terry Baum) to poignant ("Bert and Jessie" by Robyn Barr Gorman).

The collection not only contains both gay men's and lesbian drama, but is an eclectic mixture of genres and styles, with plays that should suit anyone's tastes wither for reading or as a source for production pieces. Most of the selections include two or more roles and range from the comic to the serious. There is a wide variety of racial and ethnic backgrounds.

There are monologues such as Baum's lengthy "One Fool" about an American seeking love in the Netherlands, or Charles Busch and Kenneth Elliott's "Apres Moi, Le Deluge" a portrait of a posturing high school drama teacher, living his life through his students. Occasionally the writing is poetic as in "A Time-Piece" by Neal Bell in which a thirty-year old tries to come to terms with his feelings about his deceased father. Another excellent piece is Gorman's "Bert and Jessie", which suggests innocence and trust in a world of cynicism.

A few of the pieces simply do not come up to the standards of the others. Well written but lacking in coherence is "Portrait of Iowa" created by four authors, which may explain its scattered effect.

Yet all in all, *Tough Acts to Follow* should be an excellent addition to any library.

Marsh Cassidy  
San Diego, CA

**How To Find Information About AIDS.** Edited by Jeffrey T. Huber. Harrington Park Press, 1992. \$14.95. Paper. (ISBN 0-918393-99-X)

Huber, an AIDS information specialist, has updated and enlarged the first edition dated 1988 and co-authored by Virginia Lingle and M. Sandra Wood. The original text which covered 130 pages now has been expanded to 288 pages.

The foci of *How To Find Information About AIDS* is on the most notable organizations, databases, hotlines, and other categories. While not a definitive guide to AIDS information, it definitely provides a very accessible and readable entry point.

A plethora of resources are covered within the book. Among items included in the text are AIDS organizations, whether community based or service oriented at the national, state, or local levels; state health departments; federal agencies; research institutions; AIDS grant funding organizations; electronic databases; print materials; and audiovisual producers. All materials are presented in a large easy to read format. A general and geographical index provides ready access to materials located throughout the book.

Libraries with limited budgets along with those wanting a quick guide to the current AIDS information would do well by purchasing two copies of this title: one for reference and another to circulate. Those wishing a more definitive guide may be best served by Malinowsky's *AIDS Information Sourcebook* which Oryx Press will soon be releasing in an updated fourth edition.

Michael A Lutes  
University of Notre Dame  
Notre Dame, IN

**Good Sex: Real Stories from Real People.** By Julia Hutton. Cleis Press, 1992. \$24.95 hardbound (ISBN 0-939416-56-5); \$12.95 paper (ISBN 0-939416-57-3)

A collection of interviews in which sixty-two individuals reveal what sex means to them. The interviews cover a broad range of sexual feelings, experiences. They are grouped together under six broad headings: "Desire", "Sex Talk", "Female Trouble", "Mixed Media", "Sexual Healing", and "Ecstatic Outlaws". Most of these individuals have struggled with different choices but have finally accepted their own uniqueness as sexual beings and sex as a force for good. The collection contains a useful appendix titled "Safe Sex Guidelines" in which basic safe and unsafe practices are defined. Recommended for public libraries.

Jane Jurgens  
Northeastern Illinois University Library  
Chicago, IL

**Write from the Heart: Lesbians Healing from Heartache.** By Anita Pace. Baby Steps Press, 1992. \$10.95 paper. (ISBN 0-9631666-0-3)

Breaking up is hard to do. and it isn't pretty. Sometimes it seems harder and uglier for lesbians than for anyone else. For those reasons *Write from the Heart* is not an easy

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read. The stories here, collected from forty women all over the U.S. (and one from New Zealand), are painful, uncomfortable, and sad. But they also show growth, strength, and courage. There are lots of therapists, 12-step programs, friends, relatives, and tears. Since the stories are as individual as the women telling them, there is solitude, peace, and self-awareness as well.

As with most anthologies the writing is uneven. Some stories are smoother than others even when the events of the story have turmoil. Unfortunately, some of the best writing comes later in the book. The question and answer segments are interesting but need to be longer to be more helpful. Suggestions of where to get help would have added to the book's usefulness. The reader will look forward to more from Anita Pace and several others from the book. This is a subject about which more is certainly needed.

Jane Lowry  
Bellingham Public Library  
Bellingham, WA

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

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**Coming Out of the Classroom Closet: Gay and Lesbian Students, Teachers, and Curricula.** Edited by Karen Harback. Haworth Press, 1992. \$17.95. Hardbound. (ISBN 1-56023-013-4) Originally published as *Journal of Homosexuality*, volume 22, numbers 3/4, 1991.

This book is a collection of 10 research articles on the paradoxes which have arisen in America's educational system when the topic of homosexuality surfaces in classrooms, from pre-school to grad school.

If you are looking for lesson plans to incorporate into your curricula, then this is definitely not for you. But if you want a good collection of recent research on homosexuality in education, educational administration, or the history of education, then this is worth buying. The contributors include authors who are experts in the fields of law, social work, sociology, psychology, education, sexuality and womens studies, with the participants in their research projects include both students and teachers at a variety of grade levels.

I would recommend purchase of this book for anyone looking for academic research in the fields of homosexuality, homophobia, gay consciousness, or identity management unless you already have volume 22 of the *Journal of Homosexuality* sitting on your shelves. Each of these articles has a good bibliography and, unlike the JOH version of this collection, this work is fully indexed.

Gary M. Klein  
University of Toledo  
Toledo, OH

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