Hello, everyone!

I just wanted to wish you all a Happy Holidays, and best of luck in 2006! This past year has been a great year for the round table, and for this newsletter. One of our biggest successes this year was moving the production of the newsletter from our own resources to those of the very generous Haworth Press, who now covers all of our production and mailing costs for this publication. Many thanks to them for this help!!

The deadline for all submissions for the next issue is March 15th, 2006, so please have all your book reviews, officer reports, and general interest articles sent to me before that time!

Thanks for all of your continued support, and please let me know if there are any questions or comments about the newsletter!

Ken Wells, GLBTRT Newsletter Editor  
kenwells@ufl.edu

It has been an odd experience planning for an event and not knowing where it will occur. That is what it was like for me and various members of the steering committee as we finalized the plans for the New Orleans annual conference. Conference Planning and Michael Gorman have agreed that we shall be going to New Orleans next June. I am looking forward to a return visit with the chance to visit my favorite restaurants and pick up some new pieces for the collections. I recommend that everybody start planning now since the housing options will be tight. Hopefully the city will have reopened some of the branches and the main library by then and recalled the staff so they can continue provide the services that the people of the city need to restore their lives and homes.

There has been much activity on the list regarding the Haworth Press cancellation of upcoming issue of the Journal of Homosexuality. Many people made comments regarding censorship and the possible conflict of interest. A simple question to Haworth Press resolved the issue without the steering committee having to take action but we do need to keep watch out for other possible censorship issues.

The next big topic dealt with transgender rights and the Library of Congress. As I write this message, select members of the RT are composing a resolution to bring to Council for a vote outlining our stand on fair employment for all individuals. Anne Moore and Steve Stratton are following up with the wording changes for various ALA employment policies that were proposed to Diversity Council last year. These changes need to be become part of the organization policies and procedures so that future cases like this can be defended with greater ease.

I wish to thank all the people who responded to the request for information on library services for GLBT teens from Debra Whalen at School Library Journal. She has told me that many people came forward and have supplied her with information. I can not wait to see article when it comes out. Sharing information in this manner is one way that we can help each other and the people who use our library collections.

If you have not figured out by now, I am the type of manager who will often asks the person with the complaint or comment on an issue to come up with a solution. So keep this in mind for future list discussions. Always think of a possible solution to the issues at hand and propose this within your posting. This will lead to a fruitful discussion and help us resolve things sooner.

I hope that John Bradford has received lots of names from interested parties who wish to run for Female Co-Chair and Secretary next year. Just think of the fun you will have for the next two years once you win the election.

My best to everybody for the upcoming holiday season and I look forward to seeing everybody in San Antonio in January 2006.

Yours in service,

Norman Eriksen  
Assistant Division Manager Language and Literature 
Brooklyn Public Library  
n.eriksen@brooklynpubliclibrary.org

Anne L. Moore, Coordinator for Access Services 
W.E.B. Du Bois Library 
University of Massachusetts  
amoore@library.umass.edu
In the fall of 2004, thanks to the initial efforts of a technical services colleague and one of our Central Library’s administrators, the Dallas (TX) Public Library’s GLBT Adult Programming Committee was born. Because one of our founders was well aware of my interest in all things glbt-related, I was invited to join the group, which eventually included several branch and division assistant managers, a member of our cataloging department, and two administrators.

From a humble beginning of impromptu ideas scribbled on a napkin, we began brainstorming exactly what we hoped to accomplish, and how to make it all happen. Prior to my joining the staff in 2000, the library had produced several popular glbt fiction and non-fiction print bibliographies, but it had been a number of years since any systematic outreach efforts to this particular group had been attempted. So the time was obviously ripe for whatever our “team” could devise.

After several discussions, we decided to tackle the challenge of mounting a series of presentations by glbt authors, to take place on Saturday afternoons during fall 2005 at our Oak Lawn Branch Library, which is located in a Dallas neighborhood home to many glbt citizens and businesses.

Since I had had prior professional dealings with Julie Anne Peters, the award-winning author of the young adult novels Luna and Keeping You a Secret, she was our first choice as a presenter. She was utterly delighted to be part of our efforts, and became our “kick-off” speaker on September 17. The attendance was lower than we had hoped, but Julie proved to be a wonderful guest, and we were pleased that our first “event” transpired without a hitch.

On October 29, we welcomed the comic strip artist Alison Bechdel, creator of the legendary series “Dykes to Watch Out For”. Once again, audience numbers were disappointing, but she offered a fine program and we were delighted to be hosting her first appearance in Dallas.

Our final event took place on November 19, with an appearance by the celebrated poet/memoirist Mark Doty. Happily, our audience numbers were much improved, with over 40 persons attending. Scheduling this particular event on a Saturday free of any other “must-attend” activities in the neighborhood, combined with a targeted PR push the week before, evidently helped bolster attendance considerably.

Each of our authors offered an hour-long presentation at Oak Lawn, and then participated in a “meet and greet” bookselling/signing session either at the nearby Crossroads Market Bookstore & Café, which specializes in glbt-related merchandise, or at the branch library itself. Despite our fluctuating audience totals, we on the committee felt that the series was both a worthwhile experience for our authors, and, even more significantly, an opportunity to acquaint that particular neighborhood with its next-door library and all it has to offer.

Finances proved to be a challenge throughout the entire project, as the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina affected many local organizations’ ability to sponsor our series as readily as might have been possible at a different time. In 2006, we hope to present more “home-grown” talent, thus not requiring huge expenditures for airfare and speakers fees, and to perhaps shift our focus to programs dealing with current issues facing the glbt community as a whole.

In our “off season,” we also hope to produce new bibliographies and pathfinders, in print and online form, on a number of relevant topics, as well as to begin formulating an official collection development statement on behalf of the Oak Lawn Branch Library, which houses one of the largest glbt-related collections in this part of the country.

In short, we on the Dallas Public Library’s GLBT Adult Programming Committee look forward to offering programs for our community that are enjoyable, inspiring and maybe just a bit eye-opening. We are all very proud of our involvement in the process so far, and look forward to even more exciting outreach ahead.

Cathy Ritchie
Dallas (TX) Public Library
critchie@dallaslibrary.org
GUIDELINES FOR REVIEWERS

My goal is that we review many books, both books we recommend and books we do not recommend. These reviews should be professional, combining the best practices of the library profession and our unique perspective as GLBT individuals. Keeping in mind that The Newsletter is not infinitely expandable, these reviews should be between 120 and 180 words long. Yes, some books demand longer reviews because of their complexity, controversial nature or importance. When you feel that a book you are reviewing will need additional space please let me know so I can plan.

Reviews should clearly state what the book is about and include an evaluative section. It is always helpful if you can compare it to other books. The review should end with a clear recommendation and indicate audience. If there are situations or language which may cause problems these should be pointed out. Such situations, language, etc. need should not overly influence the recommendation unless they are inappropriate, extraneous to the book, or badly handled.

I think that LJ and Booklist are good models. The reviews I enjoy reading are from Kirkus, but I would be hard pressed to do one of that literary quality for every book I read.

Below is a sample review for you to consider. More are available upon request, or see other reviews in this issue. Please note the bibliographic form and the form for your byline.

This is a quick set of guidelines to get us through the current issue. Please help me by sending me your comments.

Ray Barber, Book Review Editor
rbarber@penncharter.com


David Boyer uses the high school prom to wrap stories about coming out and living as a homosexual. The book is divided into sections with profiles from the 90’s, 80’s, 70’s and 60’s, and back through the 1930’s. Each profile includes the date and place of their high school senior year, pictures and a summary, in their own words, about their senior prom. A postscript gives information on where they are now, and a bit about how they got there. Extras include a style guide, prom trends and a section on how the American idea of a senior prom has spread around the world. Each profile is surprisingly gripping and many make you think of your own high school experience. The pictures will bring knowing nods from older readers and gales of giggles from teens. This book offers a good window into the high school experience and would be a good addition to a YA or high school library collection.

Reviewed by Mark Singer, High School Librarian, retired.
GLBTRT Newsletter

Volume 17
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Winter 2005

ALA 2006 Midwinter Conference
January 20-25, 2006
San Antonio, Texas

http://www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferencesb/midwinter/2006/home.htm

GLBTRT Meeting Schedule

Saturday, January 21, 2006

GLBTRT Steering Committee/All Committee Meeting
Date: 1/21/2006  8:00 AM —  12:30 PM
Location: Marriott Rivercenter - Room: Conference Rm. 1
Meeting Type: Open

GLBTRT Book Awards Committee
1:30 PM —  6:00 PM
Location: St. Anthony - Room: Corpus Christi
Meeting Type: Closed

Sunday, January 22, 2006

GLBTRT Book Awards Committee II
Date: 1/22/2006  1:30 PM —  3:30 PM
Location: St. Anthony - Room: Boardroom
Meeting Type: Closed

GLBTRT Social
Date: 1/22/2006  6:00 PM —  8:00 PM
Location: San Antonio Public Library, Central Branch, 600 Soledad (about 1 mile from the Convention Center)
Options for getting there include a 20 minute walk, a 5 minute cab ride, or a quick ride on the Streetcar Blue Line – http://www.viainfo.net/Ride/Streetcar.aspx
If you are driving, there is a city-run parking garage at the library.
Once you arrive at the SAPL, please use the employee entrance, as the library will be closed to the public. Look for the signs to the GLBTRT Social being held on the 3rd floor. Please bring your ALA Midwinter Badge with you!
There will be beer, wine, finger food, and lots of nice librarians.
$5 donation requested.
More about SAPL at: http://wwwsanantonio.gov/library/central/
Meeting Type: Open

Monday, January 23, 2006

GLBTRT Steering Committee II
Date: 1/23/2006  8:00 AM —  12:30 PM
Location: Marriott Rivercenter - Room: Conference Rm. 16
Meeting Type: Open

ALA Mid-Winter Social: San Antonio

All work and no play can make even the hardiest of librarians a bit dull. Take out your Mid-Winter Meeting Agenda Planners, and your Sharpie Ultra Fine Point Permanent Marker, and block out Sunday, January 22nd, 6pm-8pm. The GLBTRT Mid-Winter Social will most certainly take priority. There'll be lots of goodwill, and maybe one small thrill, but I digress into musical theatre.

The social will be held at the Central Branch of the San Antonio Public Library, located at 600 Soledad, in downtown San Antonio, about a mile from the Convention Center. Options for getting there include a 20 minute walk, a 5 minute cab ride, or a quick ride on the Streetcar (Blue Line - http://www.viainfo.net/Ride/Streetcar.aspx) If you are driving, there is a city-run parking garage at the library as well.

Once you arrive at the SAPL, please use the employee entrance, as the library will be closed to the public. There is another event here, so look for the signs directing you to the GLBTRT Social, on the 3rd floor. And please bring your ALA Midwinter Badge with you!

For more information, please contact Gary Wasdin, Program Chair, wasding@newschool.edu

Hope to see y’all there!

Gary A. Wasdin, Chair
Program Committee
wasding@newschool.edu
Gay & Lesbian Community Center  
(210) 223-6106  
106 Warren St  
San Antonio, TX 78212

Independent Bookstores  
Cheever Books  
3613 Broadway  
210-824-2665  
Fine used and out of print titles. Very popular.

Remember the Alibi Bookstore  
Castle Oaks Village  
8055 West Ave.  
210-344-7776  
Mystery books on the outskirts of town.

The Twig Bookshop  
5005 Broadway  
210-826-6411  
thewtwig.booksense.com  
This neighborhood shop specializes in children's lit and Texana.

Food and Drink  
Central Market  
4821 Broadway  
210-368-8600  
www.centralmarket.com  
Gourmet groceries and take out for your hotel room.

Rainbow Spirits  
2811 N. St. Mary's  
210-735-8920  
Package store.

Café Latino  
1621 N Main Ave Ste 9  
San Antonio, TX 78212-4353  
(210) 220-1845  
Coffee, sweet breads, and empanadas. Famous for café con leche.

Carmen's de la Calle Café  
www.carmensdelacalle.com  
720 E Mistletoe Ave  
San Antonio, TX 78212-3521  
(210) 737-8272  
On Thursdays, Carmen's features live jazz and Spanish paella, while Friday nights bring tapas (Spanish-style appetizers) and flamenco dancing with classical guitar. Cover charge for live music Thursday and Friday.

Crumpets  
3920 Harry Wurzbach  
210-821-5600  
www.crumpetsa.com  
Continental cuisine and European bakery for Sunday brunch, lunch, dinner with bar and live music.

Demo's Greek Food  
2501 N Saint Marys St  
San Antonio, TX 78212-3739  
(210) 732-7777  
Typical Greek comfort food in a blue and white room with outdoor tables.

El Milagrito Cafe  
521 E Woodlawn Ave  
San Antonio, TX 78212-3542  
(210) 734-8964  
English is not required in this traditional tex-mex joint known for it's friendly staff and fresh food. Located on the North St. Mary's club strip.

Espuma Coffee and Tea Emporium  
928 S Alamo St  
San Antonio, TX 78205-3419  
(210) 226-1912  
Popular for Granitas—frozen coffee—, gourmet teas, sweets and light, healthy fare as well as live music on the front porch.

Madhatters  
320 Beauregard  
San Antonio, TX 78204  
(210) 212-4832  
http://www.madhatterstea.com/  
Unique, kitschy diner with large tea and coffee menu in a relaxed atmosphere with WiFi.

The Electric Company  
820 San Pedro Ave.  
210-212-6635  
Dance bar that is lesbian owned, and welcoming to everyone.

Tong's Thai  
1146 Austin Highway  
210-829-7345  
Thai cuisine and bubble tea with live music.

Kingston Tycoon Flats  
2926 N St. Mary’s, San Antonio, TX  78212  
210-737-1929  
Picnic tables, burgers, tex-mex, fried plantains, collard greens and pitchers of margaritas and rum laced concoctions in a popular local hangout for the cholesterol-friendly. Live music.

Candle Light Coffeehouse  
3011 North St. Mary’s,  
Offers “a cup of kindness” & “cultured cruising” as well as a patio.

Sweet Bean Cafe’  
2300 N St. Mary’s at Josephine  
210-736-2060  
Sandwiches, coffee, desserts, great atmosphere.

Bars & Clubs  
2015 Club  
2015 San Pedro Ave  
San Antonio, TX 78212  
(210) 733-3365  
Named best cruising and neighborhood bar by the Texas Gay Rodeo Association, popular in the afternoon. Need we say more?

The Bermuda Triangle  
119 El Mio, San Antonio, TX 78212  
Phone: (210) 342-2276  
Lesbian Bar/ Restaurant with dance floor.

Bonham Exchange  
411 Bonham  
San Antonio, TX 78205  
(210) 271-3811  
Cross Street: Houston Street  
There is always a party in this mansion filled with men and a few women, but how is the décor?

The Heat  
1500 North Main  
212-227-2600  
Is San Antonio’s largest gay club with video bar, famed DJs and heated patio. Mostly men.

Silver Dollar Saloon  
1422 N Main Ave  
San Antonio, TX 78212-4305  
(210) 227-2623  
Urban cowboy-only honky-tonk; cowgirls need not apply.

The Saint  
1430 N Main Ave  
San Antonio, TX 78212-4305  
(210) 225-7330  
Speedo-clad boogie men keep the customers coming back.

Petticoat Junction  
1818 N Main Ave  
San Antonio, TX 78201  
(210) 737-2344  
Cross Street: Locust Street  
Mostly women make up the diverse crowd at this dance club with a lesbian literature alcove and a glass-topped bar.

SA Eagle  
1010 Main  
210-226-2529  
San Antonio’s First True Levi/ Leather Bar for our leatherman colleagues.

Tagz  
5307 McCullough Ave  
210-828-4922  
Mostly men, but women welcome. Very popular dance bar.

Dark Fire Gallery  
7126 Eckhert Road Suite #8  
210-682-3500  
Extreme toys... Gentle prices!!!  
Best selection of BDSM gear, best prices, immediate ship!

Zebra’z  
1216 E. Euclid  
210-472-2800  
Club wear and assorted gay accessories and necessities.

In the new edition Editor Summer has pulled together a collection of fiction that would appeal to most YA readers interested in various permutations of the coming-of-age theme. This variety is one of the strengths of this anthology, although, in a way, it is also a downfall of it. I can think of very few readers who will like all of the stories it contains; yet I can’t think of any reader who won’t enjoy at least one of them. Ranging from New York City of the 1890’s to Africa of the 21st century the very settings reinforce the diversity of this volume. The contributors include such modern lights as Angela Brown, Gregory Maguire, and Claire McNab. This collection is recommended for those high school and public libraries that have a demand for more literary fiction, whether GLBT or not.

Reviewed by John Sandstrom, Manager, Collection Development and Acquisitions, El Paso (TX) Public Library


There are many kinds of families in the Central Park Zoo - but none quite like that of Roy and Silo. When the two male chinstrap penguins form a special bond, exhibiting mating behaviors and ultimately building a nest in which they try to hatch a rock, a sympathetic zookeeper gives them an unwanted egg laid by another penguin. Roy and Silo, taking turns and dutifully sharing parental responsibilities, keep their egg warm and secure until - “CRAAAACK! Out came their very own baby!” The proud penguin papas raise their chick, Tango, with all the devotion of any avian couple, feeding her, snuggling with her, and swimming together as a family, to the delight of zoo visitors. This true story is gently told, in straightforward language, accompanied by the winsome watercolors of illustrator Henry Cole. Cole’s irresistible penguins, simply drawn in soft pastel shades, are expressive of a wide range of emotions (from comic bewilderment to loving adoration) recognizable to any young child. Sure to be a popular selection of same-sex and adoptive parents, this charming tale will appeal to any preschooler and any parent who advocates the truism that ‘love makes a family.’

Note: While And Tango Makes Three is neither overly didactic nor overtly political, it was inevitable in the current social climate that these penguins - and now this book - would be seen as controversial and as promoting the infamous ‘gay agenda.’ The media sensation intensified when it was revealed - after six years as a couple and only months after the release of this book - that Roy and Silo have split up and Silo has mated with (gasp!) a female, thus becoming a potential champion of the ‘ex-gay’ movement. Alas, how anthropomorphism can backfire and fail a cause! This reviewer only hopes that all the ludicrous hype will serve to publicize an endearing story - one that stands on its own merits - to its intended audience.

Reviewed by Roseann Szalkowski.

Joe Bunch, from The Misfits (2001), is a pretty lucky kid. He has open-minded parents, a social justice-minded best friend, Addie, and a really solid sense of sexual identity—all at twelve years old! Joe is not so into the "manly-man" thing; he’d rather cook than play sports, giggle than belch, and have his G.I. Joe’s marry each other than go to war. He’d also like to date Colin, the reserved, closeted jock, and therein lies his problem. Colin is skittish about expressing affection, especially when bully Kevin Hennessey seems poised to lash out at them. Joe’s voice leaps and dances in the narrative form: an assigned “alphabiography,” with a “life lesson” at the end of each letter-based chapter. Joe exults, jokes, and laments his way through this coming-of-age tale, and its fresh lightness and optimism—not at the expense of any insight—takes attention away from the now-typical nature of certain characters, especially Addie, Colin, and Kevin. Readers should appreciate that this book maintains an emotional range without ever losing its smile. Recommended for all teen fiction collections, especially middle school libraries.

Reviewed by Joey Nicholson, Assistant Librarian, Touro University Library


Nadine Hubbs’ pioneering effort posits the question: how could the gay Aaron Copland gain recognition by queerphobic American institutions like the U.S. Navy as the preeminent composer of Americana? This seeming contradiction is the basis for Hubbs’ exploration into the musical circles of gay modernism in American composition and their otherwise-closeted interactions with greater U.S. culture. In places, Hubbs’ writing, especially when focused on the themes and social ramifications of Gertrude Stein and Virgil Thomson’s Four Saints, resounds with passion and poignancy. In places where the book pushes to elaborate beyond the immediate life and work of Copland and Thomson, Hubbs’ explorations repeatedly run into walls. Hubbs’ foundations rest on establishing queer/hetero-coded dichotomies (e.g., between French tonalism and German serialism) that Hubbs compromises through further research. Hubbs also questions another of the foundations of the book: the readability of queer codes in a non-literal medium such as music. Yet, while the book is repeatedly stymied and ultimately unconvincing, its moments of sparkling clarity and extensive notes offer inspiration for future research into this new field. Recommended for large public, and academic music libraries.

Reviewed by Joseph Wilk, Library Assistant, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh — Teens
Britain Creating Gay Museum

by Peter Moore, 365Gay.com London Bureau

(London) An organization of LGBT historians, educators and art authorities is working with a British government agency to set up a museum of gay history and culture.

Proud Heritage is contacting museums across the UK asking that they examine their collections - and in many cases reassess them - to help create a gay database.

Things collected by museums over the years may not have seemed at the time to have a gay connection. One example is a Welsh collection on Eleanor Butler and Sarah Ponsonby.

Known locally as the Ladies of Llangollen, they lived together in a small cottage from 1819 until their deaths in 1829 and 1831, and were renowned for wearing dark riding habits, an eccentric choice of dress for the time.

Recently Proud Heritage worked with the Llangollen Museum to update reference material on the collection.

"They would never have used the word lesbian to describe their relationship but there is no question that they lived together and shared the same bed," Proud Heritage's director Jack Gilbert tells The Guardian. "We think there may well be similar examples in other archives, but because people didn't use words like lesbian and gay 200 years ago archivists have either overlooked it or simply don't realize it's there."

The organization is considering an exhibit from the archives of British prisons that would include the door to Oscar Wilde's cell in Reading jail. It is also looking at possible exhibits of campaign material from gay rights fights and a history of gays in the military.

Once Proud Heritage says once it has gathered a national database from gay rights fights and a history of gays in the military.

The next step would be the establishment of a museum building. Gilbert said the heavily gay King's Cross area of London would be an ideal location.

The project has the backing of the museums documentation watchdog, MDA. It is the lead organization in the heritage sector and is already working closely with the London Assembly to unearth similar "hidden histories" in the collections of London curators and archivists.

The plan also has the backing of Britain's two largest LGBT civil rights groups: Stonewall and OutRage.

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In the last year there have been several media reports about the influence exerted by Straussian (intellectual followers of the philosopher Leo Strauss) in the Bush administration. Leon R. Kass is often mentioned as one such Straussian luminary and, in fact, he is the chair of the President’s Council on Bioethics as well as a distinguished professor at the University of Chicago. Due to his influence, both in the political realm and in the conservative movement, this book, Reading Genesis: The Beginning of Wisdom, should be of interest to GLBT librarians.

The parts of the book which deal directly with same-sex affection and sexuality are small. The term “homosexuality” has only two references in the index. However, the subject matter of the book, patriarch correctly understood (as a Straussian might say) should be of central importance to readers of this newsletter. But first, let’s look at the treatment of same-sex attraction and sexuality in the work. First, Kass accepts the view that the sin of Sodom is inhospitality toward strangers but he also holds that in the city’s sins, inhospitality and violence, are intimately linked to “sexual perversion”, which he believes the author of Genesis views as profoundly selfish. He further links same-sex attraction to the incest later committed by Lot’s daughters with their father. In the second indexed reference, Kass writes that homosexuality, incest, and bestiality, as well as child sacrifice, are linked by the author(s) of Leviticus as sins particular to the Canaanites and Egypt, and are ones which do not make the correct distinction between like and unlike or between man and woman. Kass holds that a major goal of the Genesis text is to make these distinctions and to reject the worldview of Egypt, the Canaanites, and of cities in general. A final treatment of same-sex attraction and desire, oddly enough not listed in the index, is in Kass’s treatment overall of the patriarch, Joseph. Joseph is presented as a failed patriarch because he is a failed father, a failed son, as assimilated to Egyptian ways, and as a leader who lacks foresight. In what is probably the most unnecessary homophobic passage in the book, Kass speculates that Joseph’s tendency to weep, particularly upon seeing his younger brother, Benjamin, is an expression of an overly dramatic, effeminate, homosexual personality, and in the case of interaction with Benjamin, perhaps has its origin in Joseph’s incestuous feelings for his brother. The book, therefore, repeats what has become a standard right-wing religious view of same-sex attractions, namely, that they are essentially selfish and produce men who are unfit to rule.

It is also important to realize that Kass is religiously respectful but not necessarily believing or devout. He admits in the preface that as much as he wants to believe, and as much as he respect his familial religious traditions, he is not able to do so entirely. He goes on to write, however, that his “sympathies have shifted toward the biblical pole of the age-old tension between Athens and Jerusalem”. This, however, is an affirmation open to many interpretations. It might also be viewed as one possible standard Straussian position, and, I argue should be taken as central to our understanding of the book. Religion for most Straussians is a useful tool for producing rightly governed nations, especially ones in which the leaders are able to appropriately combine cunning and prudence. Straussians are also noted for not saying entirely what they mean. In fact, they hide their most important points within the text by means of ambiguous statements, contradictions, and silences about issues which should be raised or clarified. The truth, so hidden, is to be discovered only by the closest reading. My close, suggested reading of this particular text is that Kass presents the development of patriarchy in Genesis as a response of one people to a series of questions concerning rule. These questions are ones which Kass and other Straussians believe must arise in all societies that manage to survive. The questions go something like this: How does one reduce the initially ungoverned sexuality of men? How does one turn imprudent young men into somewhat prudent adults? How does one select prudent leaders? How does one turn men, and women, away from their natural inclination to worship the body and toward actions that have positive consequences for future generations? And What sorts of religious teachings get these jobs done? On this reading, Kass’s book is an extended, poetic, argument that patriarchy, as brilliantly developed in Genesis, is meant to solve this set of political, not religious, problems. As librarians, we need to be able to place the book within this larger context.

Finally, in order to help librarians do this contextual placing, and to deal with other Straussian texts, I suggest two excellent commentaries on that philosophical tradition. They are Shadia B. Drury’s 1997 book, Leon Strauss and the American Right, and Anne Norton’s more recent, 2004 work, Leo Strauss and the Politics of American Empire.

Reviewed by David E. Woolwine, Ph.D., MLS, Assistant Professor of Human Services, Metropolitan College of New York.
Banned Gay Book Being Returned To School Library
by 365Gay.com Newscenter Staff

(University Place, Washington) A book about gay teens removed last month from the University Place school district’s library shelves following parents' complaints is going back to school.

The University Place school board endorsed the superintendent’s decision to return "Geography Club" to the Curtis High School library, but not the library at Curtis Junior High.

Superintendent Patti Banks says after talks with community members, students and people across the country she decided the book is O-K for older students, but not eighth- and ninth-graders.

The book was pulled from both schools because of concerns it could induce students to meet strangers through the Internet.

Despite her "split decision" the recommendation is a marked departure from statements she made when the book was banned in November.

At that time she said she was alarmed by the "romanticized" portrayal of a teen meeting a stranger at night in a park after meeting the person — revealed to be a gay classmate — in an Internet chatroom.

Banks claimed that she was not anti-gay but was concerned about meeting people in chatrooms.

"We want to send a strong consistent message to all our students that meeting individuals via the Internet is extremely high-risk behavior," she said last month.

In the 2003 book, by by Brent Hartinger of Tacoma, a teenager thinks he’s the only gay student in his high school until he learns that his online, gay chatroom buddy is a popular athlete at his school. The teen meets others, and they form the school Geography Club, thinking the name will be so boring no one else will join.

Banks had "Geography Club" withdrawn from Curtis Junior High and Curtis Senior High school libraries after a University Place couple with children in both schools filed a written complaint Oct. 21 asking the district to remove the book.

"Geography Club" is one of 10 nominees for the Evergreen Young Adult Book Award 2006. It's received favorable reviews and been placed on numerous adolescent reading lists.

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