

GLTF NEWSLETTER

FALL 1993

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 3

FROM THE EDITOR

Karl Fattig, Incoming Newsletter Editor:

I don't think I can start this without thanking Kathy Anderson for the tremendous effort she has made to ensure that this transition be as "painless" as possible, at least from my perspective. One afternoon at a restaurant across from the New Orleans Convention Center, Kathy, David and I discussed the mechanics as well as the philosophy of the *Newsletter*. I hope to continue producing a publication that will benefit all gay, lesbian and bisexual librarians.

The *GLTF Newsletter* will continue to strive to be all-inclusive – women, men, gay, bi, public, academic, school, special, professional, paraprofessional, administration, technical services, public services, black, white, brown, etc. If you perceive any problems along these lines, please let me know. The look and feel of the *Newsletter* will remain the same. However, with changing technologies there come countless opportunities. Electronic publication and dissemination will enable us to reach a wider audience. And while there are many individuals and libraries who do not have the same access to such resources, we cannot deny these channels of access. There will always be a paper *GLTF Newsletter*. But, the more there is of value on-line, the more likely we are to be connected to it. In future issues, you will read of our efforts to expand access to this publication. I will of course ask you to participate in this exciting project. Now before this starts sounding like a Clinton speech, let me introduce myself.

I am a cataloger at a relatively large academic library in the Midwestern United States – but I am originally from Alabama. I began by maintaining the subscription list and creating mailing labels – now I assume responsibility for the production of the *Newsletter*. Oh no, a run-on sentence, mistake number one, or is it number two? I removed the ISSN from the masthead and justified the paragraphs, and what about that... So forgive me if I feel a bit like a tentative and nervous Murphy Brown with her new baby. At least I don't have to come up with a name. I hope you will enjoy reading this *Newsletter* as much as I have enjoyed putting it together. Of special interest is the feature on the Dewey Decimal

System. After I decided to print Joan Mitchell's press release, I asked Sandy Berman to give a response from his point of view. The DDC Press release was prompted by numerous complaints to ALA, LC and OCLC Forest Press. Also, do note that this is the first issue of the *Newsletter* to be printed by ALA. Finally, I apologize for the delay in publication. The Winter issue is likely to be somewhat late too, albeit due to the later February 1994 Midwinter schedule.

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SUBSCRIPTION ADDRESS: GAY & LESBIAN TASK FORCE, OLOS, AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, 50 E. HURON ST., CHICAGO, IL 60611.

EDITORIAL ADDRESS: GLTF NEWSLETTER EDITOR, KARL FATTIG, 209N LOVE LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA, LINCOLN, NE 68588-0410. VOICE (402) 472-3545, FAX (402) 472-5131, INTERNET: KARLF@UNLLIB.UNL.EDU

FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

Roland Hansen, Male Co-Chair:

I would like to welcome to the Steering Committee the new Female Co-Chair, Wendy Thomas. Wendy volunteered to fill out the remainder of Karen's term, and was appointed at the Tuesday Steering Committee meeting. Read more about her in her segment of this article.

The 1993 Annual ALA Conference was a busy one as has been the case during the past few years. Our meetings were fairly well attended, but we still need more volunteers/workers. This is especially true when we look ahead at some of the future goals, projects and plans. As a result of our successful program (read Wendy's report), the 1994 program will be an unofficial sequel. After discussion during Membership and Steering Committee Meetings, it was decided that we should present a program dealing with gay and lesbian issues as they relate to juvenile and young adult literatures. The overall schedule of meetings and programs will be quite different for this conference. The reasons for this relate to the events happening in New York: The Gay Games and the Stonewall Anniversary. These are the same weekend as ALA Annual. I will keep you all current via the *Newsletter* and Wendy will keep you all current via e-mail.

There was considerable discussion regarding the Clearinghouse – its function and purpose, how to get materials to those ordering in a timely manner, and how to keep our publications current. This in addition to the "electronic issues" brought up by several members. Since the end of the conference, there is one volunteer for Clearinghouse Coordinator, to fill out the remainder of Ed SantaVicca's term, and hopefully beyond. This will be resolved before the next issue of the *Newsletter*. The Clearinghouse is a very vital function of the GLTF, in my opinion, and there are some very important issues that need to be dealt with. As usual, we need people to provide input, support, and sweat to keep the Clearinghouse going.

The Book Awards Committee has brought forth some issues as well, especially concerning structure, methodology of awards, etc., as well as the ever-popular funding issue. Please read the article concerning this in this issue of the *Newsletter*.

New Steering Committee Members are:

Wendy Thomas Female Co-Chair
Ellen Greenblatt Book Awards Committee Chair
Karl Fattig *GLTF Newsletter* Editor
Mark Martin Publicity Committee Chair

Because of a major oversight on my part, I mistakenly thought all Steering Committee members were appointed. This is not the case, and if one were to re-read the bylaws one would find that the Co-Chairs and the Secretary are elected, except if an unexpected vacancy occurs. My term was to end at the conclusion of the New Orleans Conference. To cover my behind, the Steering Committee

graciously decided to extend my term one year, provided I memorize the by-laws (I hope they were kidding). At any rate, this will give us the opportunity to have a real election in 1994, when the membership will elect both Co-Chairs and the Secretary. The newly elected Male Co-Chair will serve one year, and the newly elected Female Co-Chair two years. There will be another election for Male Co-Chair during the Membership meeting of the 1995 Annual Conference. This will keep us operating according to the bylaws, with staggered terms for the Co-Chairs. The term for Secretary will be two years. I'm really sorry this happened and apologize to anyone offended by this blunder. As a result of all this, I would like someone to volunteer to act as Election Coordinator and conduct the nominating, balloting and election of people to these offices. Anyone interested please contact me at your earliest convenience. This will be a one-time duty.

I would like to thank outgoing Steering Committee members for all of their hard work and dedication. Susan Hoffman, Book Awards Committee; Kathy Anderson, *Newsletter* Editor; Leon Bey, Publicity Committee. Thank you all so much for your diligence, caring and "most excellent" accomplishments. It is so rewarding to work with colleagues and friends and know things are being accomplished, for the advancement of the GLTF membership and for gay and lesbian librarians and library-users at large. Thank you.

Wendy Thomas, Female Co-Chair:

I should begin my musings here with heartfelt thanks to the GLTF members, especially Karen Whittlesey, Roland Hansen, and the members of the steering committee. Karen urged me to consider taking her place as female co-chair, after she resigned her position last Spring, and I am thrilled to finish her term. Roland and the other members of the steering committee have made me feel welcome, and have offered invaluable assistance and encouraging words.

My impressions of the 1993 Annual Conference in New Orleans are still forming. It seemed to be an exciting, busy Conference, and I met several people who expressed interest in becoming involved with our efforts. The GLTF events and meetings were lively and well-attended. Those of us who had the pleasure to hear the GLTF program "I Read You Loud and Queer: The New Demand for Gay and Lesbian Literature," were quite impressed by the turnout (standing room only) and the diversity of the crowd (many, many public librarians). Program Planning Committee Chair Terry Allison moderated the panel discussion, which featured Carol DeSanti (NAL/Dutton a division of Penguin USA), Stephen Pugh (Yankee Book Peddler) and Amy Kautzman (Northeastern University Library). Ms. DeSanti spoke about publishing issues for gay and lesbian writers, and described her efforts to build a good lesbian list. Mr. Pugh discussed the trend towards accommodating interdisciplinary areas inclusive of gay and lesbian materials, in approval plans. He reported that about 25% of Yankee's libraries now have a gay and lesbian subject field in their approval plans. Ms. Kautzman provided the librarian's view of gay and lesbian publishing and collection development, and described the drawbacks of relying on approval plans, which often do not carry material published by small presses. She also addressed issues of diversity and multiculturalism in gay and lesbian collection development.

Attesting to the popularity and timeliness of our topic, the *New Orleans Times Picayune* covered the GLTF program in the Metro News Section (6/29/93, p. B3). The article contained several quotes from the panelists. (If you would like a copy, let me know).

As Roland has mentioned, the question and answer period following the program indicated that many attendees would be interested in a program on juvenile/young adult gay and lesbian publishing and library issues. Terry Allison and the Program Committee are pursuing this topic for the 1994 Annual Conference in Miami; please contact Terry or me if you would like to become involved.

Other news from Annual... The Bisexuality Discussion Group drew 15-20 people to its Friday meeting in New Orleans. Mike Montgomery has drafted a resolution to change the by-laws of the GLTF to include bisexuals; this resolution will be proposed formally at the 1994 Annual Conference in Miami (and the text will appear in the *GLTF Newsletter* beforehand). In New Orleans a straw poll was taken at the Membership meeting on Monday, to get an idea of how members feel about this: 23 members were in favor, 9 abstained, no one opposed.

As always the GLTF is looking for volunteers to help and become involved with our activities. If you are interested, contact me, Roland or another member of the steering committee. There are all sorts of things we need help with, from updating bibliographies and assisting with the maintenance of the Clearinghouse, to planning a social event at Midwinter (Los Angeles) and Annual (Miami). Also, it's never too early to start thinking about 1994... GLTF will be electing a Male Co-Chair (one-year term), Female Co-Chair (two-year term), and a Secretary (two-year term).

I am looking forward to a busy year with the GLTF. There is a lot of work that needs to be done, but it is a pleasure to be associated with such a devoted and thoughtful group of people. I hope to see many of you at Midwinter!

Wendy Thomas, Public Services Librarian
Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America
Radcliffe College
Cambridge, MA 02138
voice phone: (617) 495-8647 fax phone: (617) 496-8340
e-mail: wendy@harvard.harvard.edu

GLTF NEWS

New Orleans Read-Aloud Highlights

Steve Murden welcomed us all to the Vieux Carré (Voo Carray) Room in the Monteleone rooftop suites. The commanding view of the Mississippi was the backdrop for this most eventful Read-Aloud. Bonita Corliss read selections from Adrienne Rich's poetry, notably from "21 Love Poems". Gary Klein, above average leathered librarian, recited two stories, "Peanut Butter and Dragon Lady" and "Dragon Lady Responds" from *Original Coming Out*

Stories, Expanded edition. Steve Murden read prose, from a novel entitled *Tongue in Cheek* and from the program notes from Gay Pride Richmond.

Kathy Anderson read from lesbian poet Mary Oliver's *Selected Poems*, "Wild Geese" and "The Buddha's Last Instruction". She commented that although Mary Oliver's recently published verse is not OUT, the lesbian sensibility is there. Cal Gough also offered Mary Oliver's verse, but it was his reading of an Armistead Maupin essay, "Seven Rules for Living the Gay Life" from the mid-80's gay male anthology *Gay Life* that had us oohing and ahhhhing. Maupin's artful advice was particularly well-received.

Karl Fattig read a Louie Crew poem on the subject of religion and a poem by the late Jim Everhard on the misguided, sometimes self-instructed notion of curing homosexuality. Mark Martin read selections from Richard Mohr's *Gay Ideas*, a non-fiction work that he had been reading on his commute to and from Diboll, Texas. Joël Sartorius had the whole audience chanting in unison with his performance of a medieval English story about an old woman, her pig and the adventure to get the pig home from market - oh what a difference one individual can make.

Finally a woman student from the University of South Carolina grounded us in our times with a reading of her own work, especially one poem composed while at the March on Washington, in which she eloquently expressed the urgency of our desire for equal rights and full respect in society. My notes do not show her name.

Karl Fattig, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

How to Become Involved in the Task Force

Did you, like countless other lesbigay persons who attended the March on Washington, come back inspired? Did you vow to become more of an activist after that empowering experience? Even if you are in a small library or not able to attend ALA conferences and meetings you **can contribute** to the work of GLTF. Here are some suggestions to new or newly reactivated GLTF members:

▼ Become a GLTF book reviewer. Books for review will be sent to you and your job is to write and return the review by the newsletter deadline. If you are interested in finding out more, send for reviewer guidelines from the GLTF Book Review Editor, David Streeter, Pomona Public Library, P.O. Box 2271, Pomona, CA 91769

▼ Become a "clipper" for the *Newsletter*. Just scan your local lesbian/gay newspapers for news of interest to GLTF readers. For an idea of relevant subjects, look at the "News in Brief" section of *GLTF Newsletter*. Send in items before the deadlines (March, June, September, December) to the Editor.

▼ Get involved with Clearinghouse activities. Examples of ongoing projects include creating bibliographies and directories. Contact the Clearinghouse Coordinator to find out more or to volunteer for a project in your area of interest.

▼ Local arrangements volunteers are always needed - if you live near the site of Midwinter (Los Angeles) or Annual (Miami) you can help GLTF by suggesting sites and ideas for the GLTF Social; creating "friendly" lodging and restaurant lists (very helpful); networking with local lesbian and gay community organizations, bookstores, archives and libraries for social and programming efforts.

Kathy Anderson, Atlantic County Library, Mays Landing, NJ

Overview of the GLTF Book Awards Situation

Over the course of the past two years, members of the Gay/Lesbian book awards committee have noted and begun to express concern about problems associated with the selection of award winners. While it has always been challenging to select winners for the award due to difficulties identifying and acquiring titles, coupled with the dispersed nature of the committee, in recent years the selection process has become even more taxing. Ironically, the problems the committee faces are due primarily to the explosion in publishing of those very types of titles which we seek to honor. Indeed, the heart of the problem as many of us dispersed group must contend with in a limited period of time.

According to an *Advocate* "review of 1992" article, over 1200 lesbian and gay titles were published worldwide. The list of titles compiled by member Ellen Greenblatt for consideration for the 1993 award topped 500. Identifying ourselves to publishers, acquiring review copies for an ever-changing group of readers, staying on top of the volume of books published, and maintaining "reading equity" between offerings of small and large publishing houses and popular and scholarly publications are all barriers which the committee faces increasingly in the selection process. While electronic communication has begun to enhance our ability to communicate as a committee, it is not yet possible to use much of the new technology to streamline our selection process.

A second issue of concern to some committee members is the stated purpose of the award itself. Until now, the committee has been charged with identifying the "best books" of the year in two categories, Literature and Nonfiction. However, as the committee falls further behind in reading comprehensively all the offerings in those categories, it becomes harder to lay claim to the notion that we can read widely and deeply, and select "best books" from the relatively small pool of books we can actually read. Briefly, we are concerned that we can, under current conditions, claim to objectively and impartially select the "best books". Most of the review copies that are sent to committee members are not requested, but sent automatically to us by "mainstream" publishers with large promotion/publicity budgets. Increasingly, the publishing houses determine what the majority of committee members read. This is not an insidious or conspiratorial maneuver on the part of mainstream publishers to collect the award. They simply have the resources to send multiple copies automatically to individuals who have little or no time to request them. The obvious conclusion of this practice is that a smaller pool in a widening sea of books will

be brought to the attention committee members, and that this small pool reflects the titles being promoted by large publishing houses. To return to the "second issue", can we really claim to have selected the "best books" when we read so few relative to the numbers available to be read? And when those books are "de facto" selections sent to us by publishing houses doing what they are supposed to do, which is to find creative ways to promote their books? The current situation leaves far too many books from small, specialized and academic presses in jeopardy of not being read.

Finally, we have briefly discussed the possibility of doing away with the "best book" designation altogether, and replacing it with a list of recommended titles in an expanded list of categories. This alternative is posed in light of the following points. Practically, the committee will continue to have a difficult time staying abreast of new titles, then whittling this hard-won list down to two "best books." Politically, in a publishing and reading environment that is growing and permuting, does it make sense, for librarians at any rate, to be paring and narrowing? Why not promoting and expanding awareness of the existence of these materials? Expanding the categories acknowledges the growing range of interests and formats that queer authors are exploring. There are many books that would benefit from being promoted as "recommended reading" by an ALA committee which currently do not receive such a boost. The money that is given as an honorarium to the winning authors might be spent further publicizing the existence of a recommended titles list akin to "Recommended Reference Titles" or other ALA "Notable Books".

To address these concerns, the committee set aside conference meeting time for discussion. We are, in fact, only at the beginnings of articulating problems and possible solutions. The following are suggestions for changes in the awards and awards process that have surfaced in the past two years:

Changes in how materials are solicited and received

▼ Create categories of reading by type, including subject/discipline, formats, academic/popular, small press, or combinations thereof. Ask individuals to select from these categories those areas they want to read comprehensively in. Close to the end of the year, have these individuals recommend titles for the entire committee to consider for inclusion as "recommended reading."

▼ Have the chair automatically request review copies for committee members of all titles that have been nominated for the awards.

▼ Explore ways to involve small press publishers in the nomination process

Changes in the awards designation

▼ Change the award from a "Best Book" award to a "Notable" or "Recommended G/L" reading list.

▼ Use honorarium funds to better publicize a longer list of recommended titles. By doing so, more types of books that have less of a chance of being considered for the awards, i.e., YA titles, mysteries, academic press titles, could receive wider publicity.

▼ Keep the "best book" designation, but use majority of funds associated with the awards to publicizing "notable" titles to the library/bookselling communities.

Let me re-emphasize on behalf of our committee that we are in the initial stages of discussions about change. We appreciate the input of all Task Force members in our attempt to improve the awards. We can all be proud of and concerned for the tradition and continued viability of the award, which is notable as being the first award in the United States to honor excellence in lesbian and gay writing. We hope that through discussion with members of the Gay/Lesbian Task Force Steering Committee, Task Force membership, and other friends of the awards, we can address the stated concerns and strengthen the awards process and meaning.

Susan Hoffman, Outgoing Chair on behalf of the Committee

NEWS IN BRIEF

▼ Lesbians and gays who were "out" in Atlanta or elsewhere in the Deep South between 1920 and 1970 can participate in the Atlanta Lesbian and Gay History Thing's oral history project by calling John Howard at (404) 872-4488.

-CLGH Newsletter, May 1993, p. 9

▼ The Western Reserve Historical Society and the Lesbian/Gay Community Service Center of Greater Cleveland have jointly established the Northeast Ohio Lesbian/Gay Archives. The Archives, to be housed at WRHS, should be open for research by Fall.

-CLGH Newsletter, May 1993, p. 9

▼ Oregon Citizens Alliance (OCA), backers of the failed Proposition 9 is now proposing "The Minority Status and Child Protection Act." The new attempt seeks to amend the Oregon State Constitution to eliminate so-called "special rights" for gays and lesbians. One section specifically addresses libraries: "This section shall not limit the availability in public libraries of books and materials written for adults which address homosexuality, provided access to such materials is limited to adults and meets local standards as established through the existing library review process." Idaho Citizen's Alliance is proposing copycat legislation.

-GAY-LIBN posting, 10-5-93
-amend2-info posting, 10-12-93

▼ *Censorship and Self-Censorship: Anti-Feminist Harassment in the Academy*, is being compiled by the MLA Commission on the Status of Women in the Profession. Greta Gaard is soliciting statements from lesbians who have been ridiculed for lesbian-feminist ideas; heckled at conferences; baited politically; refused support for research projects in lesbian studies, etc. Send statements or inquiries to Greta Gaard, Dept. of Composition, 420 Humanities Building, University of Minnesota, Duluth MN 55812.

-SLGC Newsletter, Spring 1993, p.5

▼ The Canadian Gay Archives, which celebrates 20 years of operation this fall, has relocated to larger quarters at 56 Temperance Street #201 in Toronto. The Archives has acquired microfiche of forty Canadian lesbian and gay periodicals and is currently preparing an inventory of its photographic holdings, 1927-1987. For more information or to make a donation, write CGA, Box 639, Station A, Toronto, ON M5A 1G2, Canada or call (416) 777-1755.

-CLGH Newsletter, May 1993, p.9

▼ The *Lesbian Herstory Archives Newsletter* contains reports about LHA's new home in Brooklyn. To help them make capital improvements and pay off the mortgage, send contributions to LHEF, P.O. Box 1258, New York, NY 10116 or call (212) 874-7232.

-Lesbian Herstory Archives Newsletter #13

▼ Small Press Distribution, a not for profit book wholesaler offers catalogue and Standing Order/Approval Plan options for libraries and individuals. For more information, write SPD, 1814 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, CA, 94702, or call (510) 549-3336.

-Announcement

▼ PEN American Center has announced plans to fight American school boards' removal of lesbians and gay men from the curricula. The establishment of the Lesbian & Gay Committee is the first step in the battle. Including Adrienne Rich, Gore Vidal, Essex Hemphill, Blanche Boyde, Armistead Maupin, Jewell Gomez, Allen Ginsberg and 33 other gay and lesbian writers, the Committee will visibly target threats to gays' First Amendment rights.

-Au Courant, Philadelphia Gay News, 6/14/93, p.43

▼ Dorothy Broderick argues for "free access to as many points of view as possible" in her *On My Mind* contribution, "Moral Conflict and the Survival of the Public Library." After discussing homosexuality and librarians' reactions to gay and lesbian activism, Broderick concludes that everything in the library must be offensive to someone: "It is vital that librarians understand that being offended begins with us." One is never quite sure whether Broderick is suggesting that gays and lesbians must continue to be offended by homophobia in the library community, or that those opposing civil rights for gays must continue to be "offended" by pictures of Task Force members on the cover of *American Libraries*.

-American Libraries, May 1993, p.447

▼ Novelist Christopher Bram's speech at the *Booklist* Adult Books Forum during Annual Conference in SF has been adapted into an article in *Booklist* entitled "Part of the Family: Gay and Lesbian Literature in the Mainstream."

-Booklist, May 15, 1993, p.1656

▼ Westview Press (5500 Central Ave., Boulder, CO 80301) announces a new series titled "Queer Critique: Studies in Lesbian and Gay Criticism and Culture." The series editor is Gary Thomas of the Department of Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature at the University of Minnesota.

-press release

▼ In June the San Diego Public Library displayed selections of materials from the Lesbian and Gay Historical Society of San Diego. Segments of the organization's 60-foot long timeline of lesbian and gay history were prominent parts of the exhibit.

—*San Diego Gay and Lesbian Times*, June 3, 1993, p.16

▼ The most popular and well-attended of the thematic displays in the exhibits at the American Booksellers Association 1993 Convention in Miami was the gay and lesbian aisle according to *Publisher's Weekly*. Two of the most popular titles: *Madonnarama: Essays on Sex and Popular Culture* and *Mable Maney's Case of the Not-So-Nice Nurse*.

—*Publisher's Weekly*, June 21 1993, p.48

▼ A new library periodical title, *Librarians at Liberty: an Interactive Newsletter* debuts in June 1993. It aims to give people working in libraries and related fields an unconstrained opportunity to express professional concerns. *Librarians at Liberty* is published by CRISES Press, 1716 SW Williston Rd, Gainesville, FL 32608, phone (904) 335-2200.

—*Librarians at Liberty*, v.1 no.1

▼ Two high school librarians wrote letters in response to negative reactions to a positive review of *Out of the Closet and Into the Classroom: Homosexuality in Books for Young People*. Citing gay and lesbian invisibility as a part of the problem, Anita Weisenfeld notes, "It is helpful to know that books exist which can help librarians make intelligent choices for those patrons who request such materials."

—*SLJ* June 1993, p. 6

▼ A permanent browsing collection of lesbian and gay material has been made available at the Los Angeles Public Library's Goldwyn Hollywood Branch, 1623 N. Ivar Ave. The collection consists of popular gay fiction donated by Larry McIndoo. For Information, call John Holleman (213) 467-1821.

—*Lesbian News*, July 1993, p.20

▼ The 1993-1994 *Annual Report* of New York's Lesbian & Gay Community Services Center (208 W. 13th St, New York, NY 10011) features an article on the Pat Parker and Vito Russo Center Library, a joint project of the Center and the Publishing Triangle. The Library has found a permanent home on the first floor of the Center. Renovation of the space will enable the library to triple the amount of space available for collections and services.

—*LGCSA Annual Report 1993-94*, p. 23

▼ The *Publishers Weekly* of June 7, 1993 features articles on gay and lesbian publishing. In "The Paradox of Success", Bob Sumner discusses tensions and questions in the community of gay and lesbian writers, including the "Black Experience" as well as concerns of mainstreaming. "Where Do You Shelve Books That Are Out of the Closet" is Eric Bryant's contribution. Bryant explores marketing options for general trade stores with an eye to increasing sales of lesbian and gay materials.

—*Publishers Weekly*, v.240, no.23

▼ If *Daddy's Roommate* isn't being "banned in Boston," it may be bagged in Bangor. So it is not surprising that Sasha Alyson has offered to donate replacement copies of the gay-themed children's book to libraries requesting them.

—*Advocate*, July 13, 1993, p.8

▼ The Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California has begun an Oral History Project to record the life stories of gays and lesbians who lived in the Bay Area in the 1950's and 60's. For more information, write Nan Boyd, c/o GLHSNC, P.O. Box 424280, San Francisco, CA 94142 or call (415) 626-0980.

—*SOLGA Newsletter*, v.15, no.2, p.25

▼ "Prejudice and Pride: Selections from the Gay and Lesbian Center," was exhibited in the San Francisco Main Library during the months of June and July. The preview included video kiosks with *The Times of Harvey Milk*, *Stories from the Quilt*, *Word is Out* as well as selections from major collections of the future Center, including Randy Shilts' personal archives, the Barbara Grier/Donna McBride Collection, the archives of Naiad Press, and personal letters from Harvey Milk. The Gay and Lesbian Center will open in 1996.

—*Our Stories*, v.8, no.2, p.10

▼ Viking Press has refused to print two Spinsters Ink books due to a homophobic reaction to Spinsters staff, according to Joan Drury, Spinsters' owner. Viking denies the claim. This is apparently the second time this year that Viking has refused to print for gays and lesbians. Viking, who does much printing for major religious organizations, also refused to print the *Equal Times 1992-93 Directory*.

—*Equal Times*, June 4-18, 1993, p.4
—*Bay Area Reporter*, July 1, 1993, p.16

▼ "I feel fine about being called a lesbian writer, but I wish that Stephen King was also called a heterosexual white male Christian writer. But that doesn't happen."

—Leslea Newman, Author of *Heather Has Two Mommies*, in *10 PERCENT*, Fall 1993.

▼ ONE Institute's Baker Memorial Library is moving from the basement of the Milbank Mansion to Arlington Hall, owned by ONE's foundation affiliate the Institute for the Study of Human Resources. The Library holds the archives of the Mattachine Society, which will now be conveniently accessible for research use. Anyone interested in contributing to defray ONE's legal costs may send checks to them at: ONE, 1130 Arlington Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90019, or call (213) 735-5252.

—*Update*, July 14, 1993, p.A-9

▼ Minneapolis Public Library sponsored a successful and well-attended booth at the 1993 Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender Pride Fair on June 26 and 27. More than 2500 persons visited the booth. A library contingent marched in the Pride Parade, including staff members from MPL, Hennepin County Library and Quatrefoil Library.

—*Press Release*

▼ Catherine Lehman's article "AIDS and Public Libraries: A Look Back and a Look Forward" examines the reaction of public libraries to the AIDS epidemic during the first decade. Lehman reveals the results of a survey of 52 public libraries concerning acquisitions, weeding and other collection management issues. Results of the survey are correlated with *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report* statistics on AIDS cases.

-RQ, v.32 no.4, Summer 1993, p. 505-514

▼ "Browsing the Apparatus" by Nicholas Packwood examines the inherent biases in library classification systems. From a cultural anthropologist's point of view, Packwood explores the powerful ways in which homosexuality is torn apart by association with illness, crime and "perversion." Naturally the analysis leads to an ultimate questioning of the system.

-Border/Lines, no.28, p. 19-23

▼ Lesbian Mothers' National Defense Fund reports it has sent children's books about lesbian and gay families to 13 Seattle public elementary school libraries. The donation was made possible by a grant from the Pride Foundation and discounts from Alyson Wonderland Publications. LMNDF also notes that no responses have been received from any of the libraries. LMNDF will follow up on the status of the books next year.

-Mom's Apple Pie, LMNDF Newsletter, Summer 1993, p.3

▼ "Bisexuality" by Michael William has been reprinted in the *Alternative Press Review*. The article examines bi movements and their attempts to be heard. Including a sidebar resource list, the article focuses on bi visibility and the bi-phobia in the lesbian and gay community.

-Alternative Press Review, Fall 1993, p. 54-59

▼ A scholarship for Gay and Lesbian law students has been established at the University of Southern California Law Center. The scholarship is named in memory of Alan Holuch, formerly of the Law Center faculty and associate director of the Library. Holuch left USC for Villanova and Ohio State, where he was Director of the Law Library. Holuch died from cancer in 1991.

-Update (San Diego), May 5, 1993 A7-8

▼ The Library of Congress welcomed Paul Monette, recipient of the National Book Award in January 1993. Monette's talk was sponsored by LC's Center for the Book and the National Book Foundation. A relatively full report of Monette's address appears in the *LC Information Bulletin*.

-LC Information Bulletin 2/22/93, p.72-74

▼ Carolyn Caywood provides an overview of the reasons for offering resources and programs for gay and lesbian teens in a column entitled "Reaching Out to Gay Teens". Caywood notes that librarians can play an important part in helping lesbian and gay teens accept themselves by providing materials replete with references to and descriptions of gay/lesbian role models.

-SLJ, April 1993, p. 50

▼ Negotiations have been undertaken for Duke University Special Collections Library to house the inactive records of the *Lesbian and Gay Studies Newsletter*. Materials to be transferred include correspondence, memoranda and manuscripts related to the publication of LGSN. For more information contact Suzy Taraba, Gay and Lesbian Studies Bibliographer, Special Collections Library, Duke University, P.O. Box 90185, Durham, N.C. 27708-0185.

-LGSN, July 1993, p.7-8

▼ Selections of responses to ALA Council's reaffirmation that gays and gay materials should be protected from discrimination under the law were printed in ALA CD#11.1, *1993 Midwinter Meeting Implementation Report to ALA at the 1993 Annual Council*. Those responding include governors and attorneys general of numerous states. Also note Denver Mayor Webb's response to moving 1998 Midwinter 1998 from Denver.

-ALA Council Document #11.1, p.4-5, 12

▼ Donations of gay and lesbian materials are being solicited for the home town library of Georgia Senator Sam Nunn. The 60,000 book card catalog only contains four entries under "Homosexuality" - two by Anita Bryant, all from the 1970's. If you would like to contribute a book, send it to Perry Public Library, Sam Nunn Collection, 1201 Washington St., Perry, GA 31069.

-Minneapolis Star Tribune, Wednesday, 8/11/93 p. 13E

▼ 50 staffers showed up for the first meeting of LC's new GLB organization. The association is dedicated to educational, cultural, and social activities and plans to put out a newsletter, put up exhibits, bring in speakers, declare coming out week, have a gay pride month, etc. Everyone at the meeting was highly motivated and talented. There was a feeling of euphoria. On the down side, over 300 posters advertising the meeting were torn down shortly after being put up. LC has a long way to go but with the dynamic group forming today it should soon be a bastion of GLB activity.

Yours in liberation,
Rob Shields
shields@mail.loc.gov

-GAY-LIBN posting 7/22/93

▼ Sanford Berman reports the following additions to HCL Subjects: Bisexual Students, Catholic AIDS Patients, Closet Gays, Gay Cowhands, Gay men and opera, Gay men in textbooks, Gay surgeons, Gay teachers, Homophobia in arts policy, Homophobia in textbooks, Lesbian fashion models, Lesbian sailors, Lesbian Students, Lesbians in textbooks, Loneliness in gay men, Working class lesbians. Library of Congress Subject Headings weekly lists report the following HCL headings accepted at LC: Lesbian feminism, Gay theater, Gay police. To receive regular, complete updates of HCL subject analysis, subscribe to the *Cataloging Bulletin*. \$12/institutions, \$6/individuals. ASD/Accounting, Hennepin County Library, 12601 Ridgedale Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55305-1909.

-HCL Cataloging Report, April-June 1993

▼ There's a new spin-off from BIACT-L of folks who want to engage in theoretical discussion of bisexuality and gender issues. BITHRY-L is neither a social group, nor a support group, nor an announcement of a news forum. . . . If you have a particular interest in activism, biact-l@brownvm is an appropriate forum. If you are interested in a personal discussion and social list, please look at bisexu-l@brownvm or bifem@brownvm (for women only). To subscribe, send a message to LISTSERV@BROWNVN:
SUB BITHRY-L [YOUR NAME]. Happy bitheorizing!

-GAY-LIBN posting, 8/31/93

▼ Many places are involved in controversies resulting from challenged materials. *GLTF Newsletter* will spotlight these places and the questioned titles every issue. For specific details refer to local newspapers and the *Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom*.

Fairfax County, Virginia	<i>The Blade</i>
Montgomery Co., Maryland	<i>The Blade</i>
Eau Claire, Wisconsin	<i>100 Questions and Answers About AIDS</i>
Lawrence, New Jersey	<i>Daddy's Roommate</i>
Goshen Township, Ohio	<i>The Advocate</i>
Crystal Lake, Illinois	<i>Unlived Affections</i>
Goldendale, Washington	<i>Gay Sex: A Manual for Men Who Love Men</i>
Derby, Kansas	<i>AIDS: You Can't Catch It Holding Hands</i>
Apple Valley, Minnesota	<i>Daddy's Roommate</i>
Columbus, Mississippi	<i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</i>
Seekonk, Massachusetts	<i>Daddy's Roommate</i>
Helena, Montana	<i>New Joy of Gay Sex</i>
Chattanooga, Tennessee	<i>Daddy's Roommate</i>
Bend, Oregon	<i>The Arizona Kid, Annie on My Mind, Hey, Dollface</i>

▼ A fund intended to benefit gay and lesbian libraries and archives has been established in the name of Luis Balmaseda. Applicants must be nonprofit, non-governmental organizations. For more information or to make a contribution, write to:

LUIS BALMASEDA FUND-CCF, c/o California Community Foundation, 606 South Olive St., Suite #2400, Los Angeles, CA 90014-1526 or call CCF directly at (213) 413-4042. The contact person for setting up the fund was Joe Lumarda.

-GAY-LIBN posting 8/17/93

▼ Lucinda Johnston reports on censorship as practiced in Canada at point of entry into the country. The list of impounded books includes: *Piercing Fans International Quarterly*, *Querelle* by Jean Genet, novelist Kathy Acker's works, lesbian anthologies *Macho Sluts* and *Hothead Paisan*, even *The Advocate*. These and other works have all been seized or indefinitely held by employees of the Prohibited Importations Directorate. These officials often are "free to decide what violates the code and seize these materials: in effect, acting as sole witness, council, judge and jury."

-Fuse, May/June 1993, p. 10-14

▼ The April issue of *Perspectives* included an abridged version of the Committee on Women Historians' *Report on the Lesbian and Gay Historians Survey*, written by Anna Clark. The report notes that 19.2 percent of the survey respondents' domestic partners enjoyed access to the gym and/or library.

-CLGH Newsletter, May 1993, p.1

▼ Digital Queers is a new national professional organization serving queers who work in the high tech industry. Founded by employees of Adobe, Apple, General Magic, Hi-Tech Comm, IDG, Lotus, Microsoft, Nolo Press, Quorum, SuperMac, Ziff-Davis, etc. Goals include community, activism, social, professional, educational and recreational. Membership is \$35 regular and \$50 family with various other categories. They are a cooperating member of NGLTF. Regular meetings in SF, with groups forming in Boston and Seattle. Write to: **DQ 574 Castro St, Suite 150 San Francisco, CA 94114**. Phone (415) 826-0500.

-GAY-LIBN posting

DEWEY OR DON'T WE? INACTION AND REACTION

Dewey Decimal Classification, Edition 20 (published 1989 by OCLC Forest Press) does not treat all gay and lesbian issues under "sexual deviation" as has been alleged during recent written and electronic mail communications to the American Library Association. Topics related to gays and lesbians are scattered throughout the schedules, since the basic arrangement of Dewey is by discipline and then topic within discipline. Whenever the classification allows one to show the topic by history and description with respect to type of person, one can add the notation for homosexuals (08664), male homosexuals (086642) or lesbians (086643). For instance, a new book on gays in the military was classed 355.008664, the number for the military with respect to homosexuals.

There are numbers in sociology for works on gays as one class of social groups, e.g., the gay liberation movement (305.90664). A number is provided in culture and institutions for homosexual marriage (306.738). Gays are also included in the numbers for the sociology of sexual orientation. Heterosexuality classes at 306.764, bisexuality at 306.765, and homosexuality at 306.766. Homosexuality is further divided by male (306.7662) and female (306.7663).

There is a place in medicine for works treating homosexuality as a sexual disorder (616.85834). This number has been in the schedules for several editions and a few books are still being published on this topic. *Dewey Decimal Classification* operates on the principal of literary warrant, developing and retaining numbers for topics that appear with some frequency in the published literature. We will be reviewing our treatment of homosexuality from a medical viewpoint as a part of the preparation for the 21st Edition described below.

BOOK REVIEWS

It is possible that some libraries are using older editions of the DDC that did not treat gay and lesbian literature according to the current view of the topics. Some libraries do not reclass materials when new editions of DDC are published. Also, some libraries may not be applying the schedules as they were intended.

We currently are in the process of developing the 21st Edition of *Dewey Decimal Classification*. Dewey is interested in using current terminology and providing an accurate organization of knowledge based on literary warrant. We work closely with our international Editorial Policy Committee to review all proposed changes to DDC. We also work closely with outside review committees, such as those appointed by the American Library Association, to insure that developments and changes reflect the literature and use current terminology. We welcome feedback from our user community.

Joan S. Mitchell, Editor, *Dewey Decimal Classification*,
Library of Congress

"Literary warrant" won't wash as a rationale/excuse for retaining 616.85834 ("Sexual disorders: Homosexuality"). Yes someone may write a book from the perspective or opinion that gayness is a "medical problem," but that doesn't require a "medical" classification. At Hennepin County Library, we some time ago deleted the "616" notation since no reputable medical/psychiatric authorities any longer regard homosexuality as a disease or psychosis.* Instead we'd probably class the hypothetical work in a general 300 number for homosexuality, perhaps subdivided by -019 ("Psychological principles").

Incidentally, DDC does *not* consistently nor uniformly class according to the author's "intent" or "perspective." For instance, material on UFO's and pyramid power are classified in 001.94 ("Controversial knowledge"), even though the writers maintain that what they're claiming is true and even "scientific."

In short, individual DDC-using libraries should drop the "616" number immediately. And Forest Press should do likewise in its next announcement of changes, additions and deletions. The "616" number is so wrong, outdated, and judgmental that there's no acceptable reason for waiting to remove it until the 21st edition, which could still be another several years away. It can – and should – be done *now*.

Sandy Berman, Head Cataloger, Hennepin County Library

*Editor's note: If you look up homosexuality in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual III (Revised 1987)* of the APA, there remains one diagnosis – Ego-dystonic Homosexuality, including a "persistent and marked distress about one's sexual orientation." An individual diagnosis for Ego-dystonic Homosexuality *per se* is **not** however allowed, as the reader is instructed to reference Sexual Disorders Not Otherwise Specified. In order for a psychiatrist to make such a diagnosis, a patient would have to express that he or she is of homosexual orientation and has severe emotional difficulties about this. Treatment strategies could include discussing why the patient feels uncomfortable, but ill-conceived conversion to heterosexual orientation has often been and still is attempted.

Reviews are a regular feature of the *GLTF Newsletter*. If you would like to become a reviewer or to receive reviewer guidelines, contact the Reviews Editor.

David Streeter,
GLTF Book Review Editor
Pomona Public Library
P.O. Box 2271
Pomona, CA 91769
(714) 620-2026 (w)
(714) 623-0850 (fax)

The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader. Edited by Henry Abelove, Michele Aina Barale, and David M. Halperin. Routledge, 1993. \$24.95, paper. (ISBN 0-415-90519-2)

Can a three-pound, 666 page collection of forty-two lengthy and heavily footnoted essays, all written by academics in a style that the greater part of literate mankind dreads to read, recommend itself to any reader not required to use it? The happy answer in this case: an emphatic yes. Despite its intimidating size, its often formidable tone, and its 1,200 notes, *The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader* is unique, impressive, and important.

The anthology's editors accurately describe their *Reader* as the largest interdisciplinary collection of recent English language work in the field. Unlike most gay/lesbian centered anthologies, this one contains essays of interest to students and professors of not only aesthetics, but of philosophy, history, anthropology, sociology, psychology, political science, and popular culture. Along with an exciting sampling of recent work on this wide variety of topics, the editors have included several gay/lesbian classics.

A few of the *Reader's* essays have never been published before and a few are available in other anthologies. The editors have rescued the majority of such items from the relative obscurity of the scholarly journals in which they first appeared. In a refreshing departure from many other gay/lesbian anthologies, only some of the contributors to this one are white males. The range of U.S. and British institutions represented by the *Reader's* 14 male and 28 female contributors is also an accomplishment. Only one fourth of them, for example, work in colleges and universities in California.

The editors were successful in limiting themselves to exclusively *recent* scholarship. All but one of the *Reader's* essays were published in the 1980's and 1990's. Seventy percent of them were published in the past five years. Exposing readers to a wide range of current scholarship resulted in the omission of ground-breaking work from earlier periods, a fact the editors acknowledge with regret. Perhaps even more regrettable is the lack of important examples of non-scholarly contributions to gay/lesbian studies made by gay and lesbian intellectuals over the past two decades via essays and columns in gay/lesbian magazines and newspapers.

The editors enhance the value of the essays they did select in a number of ways. They provide an abstract at the beginning of each essay; they concisely introduce the field of gay/lesbian studies in the course of describing the structure of their book; they list the essays according to the academic discipline each is most germane to; and they end the anthology with a remarkably comprehensive and interestingly arranged compilation of recommended additional readings. An index would have also been useful, especially in view of the extensive footnoting throughout the book and the editors' accurate claim – proven over and over by the texts themselves – that gay/lesbian studies, like women's studies or gender studies is an intensely interdisciplinary arena.

The obvious audience for *The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader* is the growing number of faculty and students involved in gay/lesbian studies programs at over four dozen U.S. colleges and universities, as well as English language gay/lesbian academic programs elsewhere. The *Reader* will also serve as a rewarding and convenient resource for anyone, scholar or not, who is interested in sampling what English speaking gay and lesbian academics are up to these days. Since many of these professors are movement activists as well, much of what they have to say is pretty exciting stuff.

Routledge, a pioneering and longtime publisher of work in gay/lesbian studies, is to be commended for sponsoring this important contribution. There is doubtless more than enough material available or in progress, to produce a series of *Readers*. This is a recommended purchase for all academic and large public libraries.

Cal Gough, Atlanta-Fulton Public Library, Atlanta, GA

A Legal Guide for Lesbian and Gay Couples. By Hayden Curry, Denis Clifford, and Robin Leonard. 7th ed. Nolo Press, 1993. \$21.95 paper. (ISBN 0-87337-199-2)

The most recent edition of this well-written, well-documented, well-designed, and practical book is destined to be as popular as the first one, published in 1980. The authors are attorneys; their book takes into account recent legal developments in covering the full gamut of legal situations confronting the gay or lesbian couple – everything from whether to use joint or separate checking accounts to how to draw up a will that protects one's partner from arrogant or ignorant heterosexual relatives. Couples will find as well guidelines for dealing with insurance companies, hospital bureaucrats, Realtors, help in obtaining divorces from heterosexual spouses, changing one's name, or dividing up property if the partners in a same sex couple decide to go their separate ways. About one fifth of the book is devoted exclusively to sample legal forms and contracts of various kinds; additional examples of legal agreements are found throughout the text, dealing with everything from artificial insemination to co-parenting responsibilities. Also helpful are numerous charts, including a summary of still existing U.S. sodomy laws, lists of U.S. states, cities, counties, large companies, and academic institutions protecting certain rights of lesbians and gay men, and an appallingly lengthy list of other rights enjoyed by married heterosexuals that are denied to same-sex couples throughout most of the country.

The workbook-sized *Guide* is written in the refreshingly straightforward, down-to-earth style Nolo Press books are known for, and several cartoons and line drawings humorously illustrate the legal ironies and indignities endured by millions of U.S. gay and lesbian householders.

Recommended without reservation; every library ought to buy a reference copy and several circulating copies of this book.

Cal Gough, Atlanta-Fulton Public Library, Atlanta, GA

Gay and Lesbian Characters and Themes in Mystery Novels: A Critical Guide to Over 500 Works in English. By Anthony Slide. McFarland & Company (Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640). 1993. \$35.00 ISBN 0-89950-798-0.

Well known as a film historian, Anthony Slide has focused his talents on mystery genre fiction. This is a critical guide to over 500 works dealing with gay and lesbian themes by 260 authors. The work is arranged alphabetically by author with subject references interspersed. Biographical and/or critical commentary is provided for most of the authors. The gay/lesbian themes are identified for the works listed, with critical appraisal including comments on negative imaging if appropriate. Entries range from a few lines for some minor authors to over nine pages for Joseph Hansen. The book concludes with a list of specialist publishers of gay/lesbian fiction, an index to gay/lesbian characters, a title index, and bibliography. Additionally, the author's introduction provides a capsule history of the evolution of gay/lesbian characters from the earliest (Charles Dickens' *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, 1870) to the 1990's. Authors were selected for this work because they wrote on gay/lesbian themes, not because of their sexual identity.

One minor criticism can be made of this work, and that is of editorial design, not content. While the entries are alphabetical by the author's last name, each entry begins with the author's first name: Michael Nava, not Nava, Michael.

Until the publication of this work, subject access to gay/lesbian mystery novels has been limited. The major works were Tasha Mackler's *Murder by Category* which listed 39 titles and Steven Olderr's *Mystery Index* which listed 21 titles. *Gay and Lesbian Characters and Themes in Mystery Novels* is an essential purchase for all mystery collections. Larger libraries will wish to have both reference and circulating copies, as this work is a good read as well as an outstanding bibliographic reference work.

David Streeter, Pomona Public Library, Pomona, CA

Queer in America: Sex, the Media and the Closets of Power. By Michaelangelo Signorile. Random House, 1993. \$23.00 (ISBN 0-679-41309-X)

Michaelangelo Signorile is no stranger to controversy. The man who mad "outing" a household word, has written what has got to be considered the definitive work on lesbian/gay politics. *Queer in America* is a thought-provoking and fascinating book. What makes it so wonderful and unlike any other work on the subject, is its

straight-forward, honest approach and technically superior writing. Signorile's background in journalism is quite evident in his use of language and quality writing. The information contained in this book is powerful and often gives the reader motivation to participate in some sort of queer political activity. *Queer in America* is divided into four parts: *Queer in New York*, *Queer in Washington*, *Queer in Hollywood*, and *Epilogue: Queer in America*. This Epilogue also features a very powerfully written piece entitled *A Queer Manifesto* which would provide any budding lesbian/gay rights activist with enough fuel to start a revolution.

Each part of this book focuses on some aspect of lesbian/gay life in the United States and how the closet acts as a deterrent to the living of one's life to the fullest potential. The first part deals exclusively with Signorile's personal life and the events and interests which motivated his career in journalism and eventually his specialization in the field of queer politics. The second part discusses in great detail the hypocrisy of closeted power-brokers in Washington, D.C. The third part focuses on Hollywood and the homophobia which greases the machinery of Tinsel Town.

While reading *Queer in America*, this reviewer made some insightful discoveries about himself and his lack of awareness regarding queer politics. The information in his book may anger you. It may even upset you. But boring is not a word this reviewer would use when referring to *Queer in America*. Signorile's book would be an excellent addition to any library with strong lesbian/gay or social sciences collections.

Rob McCabe, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

The Unfinished. By Jay B. Laws. Alyson Publications, 1993. \$9.95, paper. (ISBN 1-55583-217-2)

Like his earlier *Steam* (Alyson, 1991), this novel draws the reader quickly into a world of terror where disbelief is readily surrendered and the reader experiences the horror of the novel. Recovering from radial keratotomy, Jiggs decides he wants to move. While celebrating his improving eyesight in an outing at Lands End with his partner Luke, they happen upon an ideal house that is for rent in Noe Valley. Suffering from first night anxiety, Luke goes to bed after viewing a mysterious white Cadillac limousine, and the nightmares begin. Wasting away due to his illness, Brent meets a mysterious stranger and is given a strange medication. His health miraculously returns. But Brent needs more medication and there the terror renews as he begins to make deliveries of the essential ingredient for the medicine until the ultimate demand is made for him to deliver his nephew. Because of his own deafness and a fluke in his operation, Jiggs becomes the speaker for one of the Unfinished, an earth-bound spirit whose life was interrupted, desires incomplete. In all a very chilling, engrossing story.

Few gay novelists are true masters of the craft of writing. Jay B. Laws was one of those masters. Regretfully he died of AIDS before the publication of *The Unfinished*. Highly recommended for all fiction collections.

David Streeter, Pomona Public Library, Pomona, CA

Isis Rising. By Jean Stewart. Rising Tide Press, 1993. \$9.95 paper. (ISBN 0-9628938-8-9)

Fantastic! This sequel to *Return to Isis* is a fast, readable science-fantasy romp. Set in the Pacific Northwest 100 years from now, it has many different good gals (indeed the diversity is so complete, one imagines the writer with a checklist) and a mysterious, not-so-good, finally evil sister. Whit and Kali are the leaders rebuilding the community of Isis, destroyed by firebombs some ten years before. Groups of women from other communities (Tubman, Boudicca, Artemis) have come together to use their backs, minds and hearts to rebuild this city, with the tension (and mysterious "accidents") increasing as elections for Leader of the City approach.

The plot was a bit difficult at first, for someone who had not read the first book. But the characters are strongly (if not deeply) drawn and they develop well as the story proceeds. The author is clearly committed to the melding of "science," the respect for the Earth and her resources, and the use of computers to free us from drudgery. Techno-marvels abound, mentioned in such an off-hand manner that they almost sneak by before you have a chance to say "Wait a minute! What cold-fusion powerpak? What decibel-squelcher device? What 'standard' parthenogenic technique?"

The sex is steamy by innuendo – we read about kisses which seem to dissolve into tremendous passion, then ellipses. . .

A fun novel with some captivating ideas, suitable for general libraries with a large collection of gay/lesbian fiction.

Susan Lee Sills, University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA

Danger in High Places. By Sharon Gilligan. Rising Tide Press, 1993. \$9.95 paper. (ISBN 0-9628938-7-0)

Alix Nicholson is a substitute art teacher and free-lance photographer. She comes to photograph the AIDS quilt at a March on Washington both for the "photo op" and to help reconcile the recent death of a colleague and friend. While the reading the names and dates of birth and death is going on, a woman suddenly grabs the microphone to shout her rage at the pitiful support for women's health issues and at women who put all their energy into men with AIDS. The protestor, Sandra, is forcibly subdued and Alix races off to talk with her. The next day at a reception for the senator who is a pivotal voice on health-care spending and an ACT-UP-type group with a messianic leader, Sandra is found dead. But maybe there is something more – and Alix has to know.

In the course of the novel, Alix is attacked, spends some nights recovering with the closeted aide to a woman senator from Washington, and learns more than she wants to know about the "seamy underbelly of Washington politics." Not exactly a fun read – but entertaining and engaging. Suitable for collections of popular gay/lesbian fiction.

Susan Lee Sills, University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA

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