

OCTOBER 1986

Impulse

VOL. III, NO. 3

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Tour p. 16**

**AT WORK.
Reader Survey
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it Effect Your Job?
by Husa & Dolainski**

Willa Cather
by Terry Boughner, Ph. D

**Straight Implications of
a Levitical Law**
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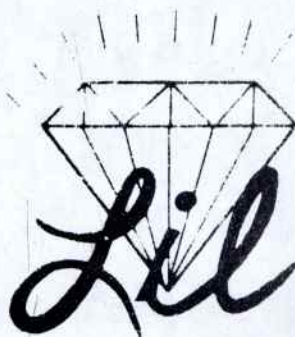
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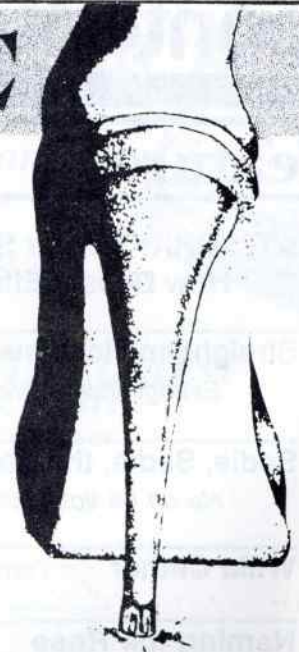
ROSE QUINTANA

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Belinda Renteria

MIRA K. CHISME



Well, girls, here it goes! First of all, my soap opera based on **Our Memories**. All apologies go out to the **Diamond Lil**. It seems I didn't collect all their ballots for the MKC Awards. It was an honest oversight, so you will be awarded a consolation prize. You have a choice of **ZaZa** doing her serious portrayal of Mae West or a rare recording by Maria Callas (not to be confused with the real thing) singing her version of "Keep an Eye on Your Close Friend," or we could bring **Myra** back to do her illustrious (?) impersonation of Cher.....**The Briar Patch** seems to be quite festived these days. The rumor is that the kitchen has a WONDERFUL reputation! I wonder what they're cooking?.....Why was **Rachel** asking for donations at the **SAMC**? Was it really for her production of the "Cell Block Tango"?.....Que le dijo una nalga a la otra? "Trucha, proque aqui va haber pedo!".....Y hablando de pedo, que paso en el **Scorpion**? Nadien me quiere decir, solo que habían quatro carros de la patrulla! La persona que le robó la cartera a mi amiga, por favor regrésele el pasaporte!.....I think I'm going to write a

the excitement between "las dueñas", makes the "Young and the Restless" look like the "Mickey Mouse Fan Club." I think the "Tongue and the Restless" would be a suitable title for your soap.....The **Old Plantation** will once again be bringing out-of-town guests for the Sunday shows. Let's give our local girls a big hand for their effort during these weeks of tribulation. As they say "The show must go on!" Congratulations to **Wild Cherry** on her triumph at the bubble gum blowing contest. Our best wishes go out to our sister (**Lola**) in the hospital. We all await your return.....And so it seems that **Fragile Freddy** isn't quite so fragile. The brou-ha-ha at the Tigua Reservation wasn't exactly a rain dance or a pow-wow (not even a peace pipe in sight!), but it was still quite amusing. The grape vine says **Freddy** wanted the title of "Miss Gay Tigua Reservation." Watch it girl, the reigning queen (**Crazy Eddie**) might scalp you.....Que le dijo una pierna a la otra? "A la noche va haber baile en la casa de la despeinada." Y le dice la otra, "Y tu como

sabes?" "Porque ahí pasó el pelon con las maracas!".....Bueno, girls, en esta fecha como en la pasada, me retiro mucho a la chingada!!

MKC

Are you having trouble with your lover, boss, friends, etc.? Next month look forward to reading "Dear Aunt Crabby" who will help you with all your daily problems.



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'At Work' Forum: Reader Survey "OUT" OR NOT— HOW DOES IT EFFECT YOUR JOB?

As we've noted in previous columns, research concerning gay men and women and their jobs is not extensive. We believe the issues involved with being gay in a nongay work environment are of importance to all of us and deserve some attention. So, in this column, instead of providing information, we're asking for it from you in the form of a survey. It's short, informal and anonymous.

We'd like to accomplish two things with the survey: 1.) expand existing information or contribute new data to the research that has already been conducted, and 2.) keep "At Work" responsive to your concerns and needs by hearing what you have to say.

We hope to conduct more surveys in the future that will deal with other specific work-related issues or gauge trends and attitudes among gay men and women.

When you've completed the survey, please mail it to us at the address below within two weeks. The results will be published in the November column.

Directions for completing survey:

Circle the response that most closely describes your answer. If you'd prefer to write your answers on a separate sheet of paper, include the question number with your answer (e.g., 1A, 2B). Additional comments are welcome.

1. Are you "out" at work?

- A. Yes, completely.
- B. Somewhat, only to a few colleagues.
- C. No, completely closeted.

(Your answer to question #1 is referred to in the following questions as your "position.")

2. How does your "position" effect your job performance?

- A. Very positive effect.
- B. Somewhat positive effect.
- C. No effect.
- D. Somewhat negative effect.
- E. Very negative effect.

3. How does your "position" effect your stress level at work?

- A. Greatly increases stress.
- B. Somewhat increases.
- C. No effect on.
- D. Somewhat decreases.
- E. Greatly decreases.

4. How does your "position" effect your working relationships with your coworkers?

- A. Very positive effect on relationships
- B. Somewhat positive effect.
- C. No effect.
- D. Somewhat negative effect.
- E. Very negative effect.

5. How does your "position" effect your overall job satisfaction?

- A. Greatly increases satisfaction.
- B. Somewhat increases.
- C. No effect.
- D. Somewhat decreases.
- E. Greatly decreases.

6. How do you think your "position" effects your chances for career advancement?

- A. Greatly increases chances.
- B. Somewhat increases.
- C. No effect.
- D. Somewhat decreases.
- E. Greatly decreases.

7. How large or small is the company you work for?

(Indicate the number of employees.)

8. Describe your work environment.

- A. Nonhomophobic; liberal.
- B. Somewhat homophobic.
- C. Very homophobic.

9. Do you know any other gay people working in your company?

- A. Yes. (If yes, how many?)
- B. No.

10. Does your company have an official nondiscrimination employment policy that protects gay people?

- A. Yes.
- B. No.
- C. Not sure.

11. Please provide the following information:

Occupation:
Annual Income:
Education:
Age:
Sex:
City:
State:

Mail completed surveys within two weeks to SDH Associates, SURVEY, 8306 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 661, Beverly Hills, CA, 90211. Results will be published in the November column.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS: Dolainski and Husa are the editors of *The Stevens Report*, a newsletter for gay professionals.

The Levitical law is found in two different verses:

Lev. 18:22' You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination.

Lev. 20:13' If *there is* a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act; they shall surely be put to death. Their blood-guiltiness is upon them.

These verses look pretty straight-forward (no pun intended), but is it that simple? If these verses are simply referring to gay males it is interesting that God specifically forgot about gay females or lesbians. In the following verse, Lev. 18:23, both sexes are prohibited from bestiality. No, God doesn't forget anything. Maybe this law is not about gay males after all.

First, recognize that the two verses have been taken out of context. Even when you read all of Leviticus chapters 18, 19 and 20 it is not that easy to discern the overall intent of the lists of "don't's", let alone the intent of these two verses. Fortunately for us, Jesus helped us out by telling us in Matthew 22:39 - 40 that God's intention was given in :

Lev. 19:18' You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.

But does that let gay men off the hook?

Let's get this straight--NO ONE is ever let off the hook by works of the Law, which includes Lev. 18:22 and Lev. 20:13 and by the way Lev. 19:18.

"For we maintain that one is justified by faith (in Jesus Christ) apart from works of the Law." (Romans 3:28, see also Galatians especially 2:16).

But what does this particular law tell all people about loving their neighbor? What was God teaching us? Since there is no Bible passage where this law was invoked which would illustrate exactly what it meant, let's look at a law which on the Sabbath was prohibited in Exodus 31:15 with the same death penalty as is found in

STRAIGHT IMPLICATIONS OF A LEVITICAL LAW

by Evangelicals Concerned

Lev. 20:13. Numbers 15:32-36 demonstrates a situation where it was enforced.

This seems to give a clear insight into how God feels about breaking the Sabbath. Even so, you should read the gospels and compare Jesus' attitude toward the Sabbath as it was being interpreted by the Pharisees (eg. John 5:18).

The Pharisees thought they had the straight-forward meaning of the law but they missed God's heart every time.

When you read Lev. 18:22 and Lev. 20:13 you may think you understand the verses clearly because they are translated into English. But did the translator know God's intention? If you read the Bible as a whole, hopefully you will find God's heart and be found by God. These two verses, however, have a phrase in common which is not found anywhere else in the Bible. It's the same in both verses, but the two as translated above have it two different ways, "as one lies with a female" and "as those who lie with a woman." In Hebrew it actually is "beds-woman" or "beds (plural) of a woman" (singular).

This one Hebrew construct is made up of two nouns only. As an illustration, if we take the word "lady-killer" in English we might deduct that it could mean "a lady who kills" or "a person who kills ladies". Furthermore, it might really mean something else unrelated to its parts like "a person who has his way sexually with a lot of women." The English construct

"lady-killer", although not made up of two nouns like the Hebrew, actually has the third meaning.

Nobody knows for sure exactly what the Hebrew construct "beds-woman" means because it has no explanatory context. We assume it is sexual because a bed is where people have sex. Notice, however, that this woman has more than one bed.

Notice also that the verse 18:22 is found after prohibitions against sacrificing children to Molech (which was part of the Amonite religion), and before prohibitions against bestiality (which was part of the Egyptian ram cult--read Leviticus 18:3).

From these two things we have noticed, it appears that God is either prohibiting idolatrous sex with male temple prostitutes or possibly more generally God is saying that sex with a man counts the same as with a woman--having more than one bed is adultery. Both idolatry and adultery, are an abomination to God, as we know from many scriptures. On the other hand, we know from history that this Levitical law has only within the last few hundred years been taken as referring to gay men.

Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees (Matthew 16:6).

For more information about what the Bible does and does not say to and about gay men and women write:

Evangelicals Concerned
Box 532332
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LAROUCHE CANDIDATE CON- VICTED FOR LIVER DONATION

SKOKIE, ILL.--Janice Hart, the Democratic nominee for Illinois secretary of state, was recently convicted of disturbing the peace after she handed a Roman Catholic bishop a piece of bloody, raw liver while he was speaking at a suburban Chicago synagogue. Hart, a supporter of radical politician Lyndon LaRouche, said that she was protesting the archbishop's support of the International Monetary Fund and its South African apartheid stand. "Nobody wants to deprive them of their rights to make the statements in the proper political forum, but they can't go into a meeting and try to make a mockery of what is going on and in doing so disrupt the entire service," Everette Hill, prosecutor for Skokie, said in his closing arguments.

ARE YOU DEAD, YET?

HOUSTON--South Houston's former city secretary has been sentenced to 10 years in prison and fined \$8,000 for shooting his wife because she taunted him about his sexuality: Charles Wilson, 51, was sentenced after pleading guilty to charges of attempted murder in the shooting of his wife of five years. Mrs. Wilson testified that they began arguing in the car, after a drinking spree, over the merits of cat food. In the heat of the discussion, she called him a "gay SOB." When they reached their home, he followed her into their suburban lovenest, went to the bedroom, came out and while she taunted him with catcalls of "gay, gay, gay," he shot her four times in the face, leg and buttocks with a 0.38 caliber pistol. Wilson testified that he left her lying on the carpet, went into the kitchen for a snack and returned to question his wife, "Are you dead yet?" When she didn't reply, he shot her in the back. She pretended to be dead, and crawled out of

the house almost an hour later. Mr. Wilson testified in his plea for leniency, "I just flipped, her claims against my masculinity drove me to shoot her. I just couldn't tolerate it anymore, I've had problems with my sexuality, but I'm not gay."

FRENCH DISCOVER- ER OF AIDS FEELS HOPE FOR CURE

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY--The French discoverer of the AIDS virus said recently that the disease is less complex than cancer and predicted "it will be cured before the year 2,000."

The Pasteur Institute scientist, Dr. Luc Montagnier said that while the disease is complicated it is not unconquerable. "AIDS is a complex disease, but less complex than cancer," Montagnier said. "I am optimistic that it will be cured very soon."

Treatment of the HIV virus and ARC so far has come with drugs that were developed before the virus reached epidemic proportions. These drugs in some cases have been known to prevent the virus from reproducing, but in general have been of little use in halting the course of the disease. Several of the drugs have severe side effects.

Dr. Robert Gallo, NIH tumor cell biologist, who has been embroiled in a controversy with Montagnier over who discovered the HIV virus first, has said that he is uncertain how closely the virus resembles other viruses in the same family that have been linked to certain forms of leukemia.

"It is likely that both have been inherited from an ancient virus common to all primates, though many steps in this evolution have not been traced," he said. "The AIDS virus is very close to the virus that infects the African green monkey," he added.

NO GAYS IN CHINA?

PEKING--Chinese officials said they plan to pass a law that may force foreign

visitors who plan to stay more than six months to undergo testing for AIDS and other diseases. If found positive for HIV antibodies, visitors face the possibility of forced quarantine or expulsion from the country under the proposed law. Formerly the laws did not cover AIDS or venereal diseases. China has reported very few AIDS cases, following the government line that homosexuality does not exist in their country. Chinese officials are saying that all infectious sexually transmitted diseases are being brought in by foreign visitors.

\$336 MILLION ON AIDS RESEARCH

WASHINGTON--The U.S. House of Representatives has voted to give \$336.8 million dollars to the Department of Health and Human Services for funding of AIDS research for the 1987 fiscal year. The amount is 66 percent more than what President Reagan had requested for 1987.

Pending in the house is a separate bill that will provide an additional \$10-14 million in 1987 funding for the Food and Drug Administration. At this time the Senate has not acted on any AIDS funding provisions.

AIDS RESEARCHERS BAFFLED OVER BEHAVIOR OF VIRUS

WASHINGTON--Researchers have reported baffling new findings in their investigation of the HIV virus. Although the virus destroys certain cells that are crucial to the body's immune system, it also causes dramatic increases in production of other disease-fighting cells, neutralizing their ability to battle infection.

Researchers at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases confirmed the AIDS virus apparently attacks B-cells, a type of white blood cell that comes from bone marrow and produces antibodies against viruses and bacteria.

"This really expands the scope of understanding of what the virus that causes AIDS can do. It seems paradoxical that it's destroying one cell line and stimulating another," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the institute. It was known that B-cells multiply rapidly in the presence of AIDS, but researchers had thought it was due to interaction with other viruses, such as the Epstein Barr virus, which causes mononucleosis and infects many AIDS patients.

When triggered by a signal such as that produced by the AIDS virus, immune system cells like the B-cells are unable to do their job against these infections, Fauci said.



PHOTO BY GRACIELA SANCHEZ

Belinda Renteria, editor of El Paso's gay magazine, *IMPULSE*, addresses meeting of the GLT conference.

GAY & LESBIAN TEJANOS CONFERENCE

HOUSTON--The first meeting of Texas gay & lesbian Hispanics, held in Houston on August 30 and 31, was a success. Arturo Olivas keynoted to a plenary session of about 50 persons, all leaders representing the cities of Austin, Dallas, El Paso, San Antonio, and Houston in the Texas gay & lesbian Hispanic network.

Other participants and guests came from as far away as New York, and Los Angeles.

Nazario Saldana presented a workshop on Farmworkers. The topic remained relatively low key until the film, *The Wrath of Grapes*, was presented during that workshop. The conference also endorsed such issues as the "NO" vote on California's LaRouche Initiative (the LaRouche proposal calls for quarantine of people exposed to the AIDS virus). The conference also called for an increased participation by women.

Belinda Renteria spoke about the rewards of working within the gay community. Not just for ourselves but for the rights of all gay Texans. Belinda reminded us that homophobia is our main concern and warned gay Hispanics not to lose sight of the main struggle.

Other presenters were Aurelio Montemayor, Andre Guerrero, Joe Perez, Arthur Cordova, Ray Anthony, Manny Quiroz, Rosann Duamas, Graciela Sanchez, Richard Hernandez and Dennis Medina.

GAY DEMOCRATS ATTEND BOARD MEETING

AUSTIN--Lesbian/Gay Democrats of Texas (L/GDT) held a board meeting September 6 in Austin. The purpose of the statewide meeting was to shape the future going into this November's general election. Board members from El Paso, Denton, Dallas Houston, San Antonio and Austin were among those who attended the meeting.

The next quarterly meeting of L/GDT will be in El Paso on November 15. Anyone wishing to contact L/GDT may contact Steve Johnson, (Representative-At-Large) at 584-0313 or Belinda Renteria (representing region 2) at 591-2213.

NORMAN LEAR A RADICAL?

WASHINGTON--Presidential possibility, evangelist Pat Robertson has verbally attacked one of his strongest critics. During a recent *700 Club* broadcast,

Robertson said that Norman Lear was an atheist who favors casual sex and wants to eliminate religion from America. Lear, who helped dispel many myths about feminism, homosexuality and racism through such programs as *All in the Family*, *Maude* and *The Jeffersons*, is founder of People for the American Way, a group established to monitor the religious right. The group has sharply criticized Robertson's position on church/state separation and other issues. They recently published a 25-page report entitled, *Pat Robertson: Extremist with a Baby Face*. During a recent broadcast, the baby face said, "I don't know why these people are doing this. I don't understand why they want to try and stop me from serving my country. Norman Lear is an atheist. And he doesn't believe in any religious values in our life." Robertson continued, saying, "Lear represents a radical fringe of 15 percent or so, of the American people who want to move us toward a collectivist, socialist model essentially undermining the free enterprise system." Lear's group has approached the *700 Club* in a plea for equal time.

ARMY SCREENS ALL PERSONNEL FOR HIV ANTIBODIES

WASHINGTON--This week, Army medical teams are scheduled to begin performing AIDS antibody tests on soldiers stationed at all Army installations in the Washington metropolitan area. Due to the concern that there will be serious breaches of confidentiality in cases involving gay service members, medical officials are assuring gay rights leaders that test results will be kept confidential.

Medical technicians were scheduled to draw blood from nearly 1,500 service members during the month of August, and will increase that number to 1,750 per month after September. In addition to the blood testing, soldiers will be required to attend an educational briefing on AIDS before they actually take the blood test. According to Col. Thomas A. Mino, both the briefing and the testing are

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

SADIE, SADIE, the Rabbi Lady

I went to a Roast La Rouché rally the other evening and met a dedicated fighter named Tim who was busy stuffing and stamping envelopes addressed to just about every friend he had--with addresses spread across the country. Just one guy doing one small thing which can really turn into a major happening. All it takes is a bunch of other guys and gals doing exactly the same thing. With very little change in the original text, I'm offering these words for your approval. Change them again to suit your more personal statement, but I do urge you to do exactly the same thing as Tim. With very little effort and just a small expense, you can play a big role right now.

"Dear _____,
I need your help with something that's going on in California. The help I need is money and I'll explain why.

There's an initiative on the ballot November 4th called Proposition 64, the LaRouché AIDS Initiative, and it's a direct threat to me. Indeed, it's a threat to anyone who values justice and freedom. The initiative, mindless as it may seem, calls for firing people from jobs, imposing travel restrictions, and placiding people in "isolation" (quarantine). It's directed at those who have AIDS and anyone testing positive to the HTLV III virus. And it further includes all members of every high-risk group or even those who live with, are associated with or are even suspected of being in any of those groups.

Crazy, huh? That's what I thought until it qualified in June for the November ballot with twice as many signatures as were necessary. The fact is, AIDS is *not* casually contagious. I thought people understood that fact and that the measure wouldn't even get enough votes to qualify. But it did. That tells me there's enough people in California who either through ignorance or fear or who harbor hatred of people with AIDS and see this

as a 'gay' disease, will vote for this in November.

Supporters of 64 plan to spend between \$6 million and \$9 million to win. The No On 64 team estimates it will take \$3 million to defeat it and educate the public by fighting the fear with the facts. Almost \$12 million that could be better spent on education, prevention, research and patient care! But 64 must be stopped.

Proposition 64 is part of a larger movement to limit or remove or prevent civil rights of unpopular people in America:

---In June the U.S. Justice Department ruled that an employer can legally discriminate or fire someone with AIDS (or even *suspected* of having it) if the employer is simply "afraid of getting it" from the person.

---The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in June that gay men and women have no right to privacy, *even in their own homes!* They said the states have the right to regulate private adult consensual sexual behavior. Sex other than the "missionary position" is already criminal in 24 states. Apparently the Supreme Court thinks I'm a "criminal" and this decision sets a dangerous precedent to be used against anyone, gay or not.

---Governor Deukmejian of California officially approved of discrimination against people with AIDS by vetoing an anti-discrimination law. The Governor has also vetoed a law that would have made anti-gay discrimination illegal in the state. It's still legal to fire people and evict them based on their sexual orientation, gay or not.

I guess when you're not a member of the group(s) directly affected by these events, it's easy to dismiss my request for help as being "paranoid." But the fact remains that I'm asking for your help. Why? Because you're my friend and I've promised *myself* I would get my friends and loved ones to collectively contribute

\$2,000 to the Stop LaRouché/No On 64 campaign. It's *that* important to me. If it wins in California, AIDS experts predict it would encourage "quarantine fever" around the rest of the country.

Please help. I'd like to encourage you to make a minimum contribution of \$25.00 (payable to *Stop LaRouché*) and mail it to me at the No On 64 headquarters where I work as a volunteer. The address is 130 Church Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. I hope you'll help, *and soon*. Money is needed *now* in the early stages of this campaign. There are less than 65 days left before the vote and not everyone is as enlightened on this issue as you and I. Thanks for your help. If you can send a similar letter to your friends and loved ones across the country, we can quickly multiply our efforts.

Appreciatively,
Tim "

Well, there it is. A simple request to your friends can mean the difference. The time really is right now. The challenge is clear. I don't have to remind you how fragile civil rights are to all of us. But we need to reach out to all our friends, especially those not directly affected. You may be very surprised to see just how understanding and generous they can be.... after all, they *are* your friends, *aren't* they?

And here's the math to see how it works: 80 friends times \$25 equals \$2,000. 80 friends times their 80 friends times \$25 equals \$160,000. And 80 friends times all those friends times \$25 equals \$12,800,000! Sound simple? It's as simple as sending off your \$25 and then sending a note to 80 people you know. Think of the consequences if LaRouché should win. Think of your part and how small and easy it is. Think how good you're going to feel. OK? So...stop thinking and get going already!!

Love and knishes, Sadie, Sadie

WILLA CATHER

"This is happiness, to be dissolved into something complete and great."

by Terry Boughner, Ph.D.



Though she was born in Virginia, near Winchester, in 1873, less than ten years after the Civil War, there is little about Willa Cather to remind you of a daughter of the South. Instead, I think, you're left with the impression of sharp angles and a deep, no-nonsense type of strength that reflects her years growing up on the frontier. Like the pioneers of whom she was to write, she was austere, plain and restrained like a good piece of yard goods or a pair of jeans.

Yet there was also within her a startling intensity as of a mid-western thunderstorm that builds up and then breaks the quiet and heat of a summer day. She was like that too, living her life in a mercuriality of mood with sometimes furious bursts of energy followed by calm.

One of her biographers, Phyllis Robinson, describes her as an "ingrown genius." She was introspective, given to self-analysis as were many artists and writers of the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. But it was the time for it. For the first time in history, Man was creating for himself a new environment, an industrial environment, seemingly independent of nature but totally exploitive of it. It was fascinating and fearful at the same time. This thing, this throbbing industrial machine, capable of producing so much, was made by man yet did not seem human, seemed in fact to be a rape, not only of nature but of values and standards that had stood for centuries. Artists struggled within themselves to come to terms with this; to analyze it; to describe it. Willa Cather was one of these. She stood, one foot in the country with its old ways; one in the city where all was new. She started by rejecting one and ended by refusing to accept the other.

Where you're born is not necessarily where you begin. For Cather, beginning was in Red Cloud, Nebraska. Some can romanticize those little "down home"

places. Later, after years of city living, she would get very nostalgic about Red Cloud. But if you've ever lived in one of these small towns, I think you'll understand why the word "civilization" is derived from the Latin word for city. The best hope for an active mind coming into being in a place like that is to go into early revolt. She was instinctively wise and did just exactly that.

She cut her hair, wore short skirts and generally acted as if traditions and conventions were for the fools who made them. Her family was tolerant. Perhaps, they thought, this was some sort of phase. It wasn't. Their tolerance was strained when she demanded to be called "William" instead of Willa, announced in her high school yearbook that her favorite form of amusement was "vivisection", while under "Greatest Wonder of the World", she wrote, "a good looking woman."

While vivisection may have been her idea of rebellious humor, designed to shock and to grate, there is no doubt that she meant exactly what she said about women. To put it plainly, she was a Lesbian. The best proof of that is that she said that she was and followed through with deep and very romantic attachments to women. The admission, however, was private. She said that she would never deny the fact if asked but would never announce it.

I think there are two reasons for this. One is that she was, as many writers are, a very private person. Secondly, during her life, women's sexuality was finally acknowledged. Thus, since women could feel something with men, they could also feel it with each other. By this reasoning, Lesbianism joined male homosexuality in disgrace. Cather was a non-conformist but her desire for privacy, especially as she became famous, didn't allow for the furor that an announcement of that kind would cause. She was a rebel but with no

wish to be a revolutionary. That wasn't her style.

She attended the University of Nebraska. There she learned about loving other women and discovered that she wanted to write. But that, as she thought, couldn't be done in Nebraska. She needed the excitement, the intellectual stimulation and the professional opportunities of a city. She chose Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania which had been described as "Hell with the roof off" and seemed to her--before she arrived--as "the very incandescence of human energy." After she'd lived there awhile, she wrote more realistically that Pittsburgh was divided into two parts--"Presbyterian and Bohemian." When she finally left the mill town for New York, she described Pittsburgh as "oppressive and inimical to art and creativity" and her departure as "a flight from drabness." I can identify with her feelings completely.

In Pittsburgh, she edited the *Home Monthly*, taught English at Allegheny High School and met, in 1899, the first great love of her life, Isabelle McClung, the daughter of a prominent Pittsburgh family. Love grew rapidly between them and they wanted to live together. In those days young women didn't just set up somewhere in a pad of their own--at least so the "better" families thought. So, after a battle, the McClungs saw no other choice but to have Willa move in with them. In the end, the family grew to like Willa, accepted her as another daughter and either ignored or out of indifference did not concern themselves with whatever might be going on after dark in the bedroom the two women shared.

Willa loved Isabelle deeply but came to believe that she needed to get out of Pittsburgh. When the chance came to work for *McClure's Magazine* in New York, she jumped at it.

Isabelle begged her to stay. Willa, in

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Lynn Lavner and matzo's





Romanovsky & Phillips and Lynn Lavner Star in "Leather & Lace" Tour

What do you get when you cross a not-so-politically-correct dyke with two feminist faggots? You get the Leather & Lace Tour, the hottest night of Lesbian/Gay music and comedy of the year. When Lynn Lavner teams up with Romanovsky & Phillips, the evening can't help but be a smash hit. These three will tickle your funny bone and touch your heart with their outrageous humor and refreshing humanity.

Romanovsky & Phillips are familiar faces to west coast audiences, having toured extensively over the past three years in addition to recording two albums, *I Thought You'd Be Taller!* and *Trouble In Paradise*. Their recent SRO concert at San Francisco's Great American Music Hall, a ground-breaking event, brought Gay Men's Music into the mainstream at last. The *Bay Area Reporter* calls them "first rate musicians and singers who perform with flair and charm" and the *Advocate* says, "Their wit and observations are peerless."

Lynn Lavner has been described as a "lesbian Tom Lehrer" and "one of New York City's finest entertainers". Packed into a diminutive five foot tall frame and dressed in full leather, Lynn performs with the power and energy of someone twice her size. In addition to recent appearances at the West Coast Women's Music and Comedy Festival and the Southern Women's Music Festival, Lynn has performed in London and Paris and has released three albums, *Ladies Don't Spit and Holler*, *Something Different* and *I'd Rather Be Cute*.

The Leather & Lace Tour will include more than a dozen cities from Seattle to San Francisco, San Diego to Albuquerque. In El Paso, the show, sponsored by the El Paso Business Alliance, will be presented on October 22nd at the Old Plantation. Tickets are available at the OP, at the SAMC or from any El Paso Business Alliance member. Cost is \$6 advance and \$7 at the door. For more information call the GAY INFORMATION LINE at 534-8220.



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH: October 1, Paul of Russia; 3, Gore Vidal; 5, J.A. Symonds; 7, John Horne Burns, James Whitcomb; 11, Eleanor Roosevelt; 12, Henry Moore; 14, Vernon Lee (Violet Paget); 16, Oscar Wilde, Laud Humphreys; 17 Montgomery Clift; 18, Sarah Churchill; 21, Ted Shawn; 22, John Reed, all Librans. Scorpio birthdays in October are 26, Erasmus; 28, Anna Dickinson; 29, Sir Walter Raleigh; 31 Natalie Barney.



ARIES (March 21 - April 20) Your imagination is working overtime, and you're mighty glad of it. There is so much either/or decision making in the reality section of your life that a heavenly retreat allowing for fantastic fantasy could be very healthy.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 20) Like your neighboring sign Aries, there's overtime in the picture for Taurus. Yours is of an extremely practical nature and, aside from the extra money involved, could lead to special recognition or even a bit of fame.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21) September was not a great month. So what's new, you say? October. Last month's anxious questioning could turn into this month's calm and quiet answers. A lot of the peacefulness will come from the joys of friendship. Rejoice.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22) Friends and lover may not see eye to eye. Whether it's new friends and old lover or new lover and old friends, you're in the middle. Deal with the situation so you can get on with loving them all.

LEO (July 23 - August 22) Recent possibilities of major moves and/or purchases has left you feeling a bit overwhelmed. This kind of feeling is not typical Leo territory. Checking in with family may help give a fresh and valued perspective.

VIRGO (August 23 - September 22) The person closest to you needs, in many ways, more of you than usual. This is a testing time in your relationship that you can pass with flying colors. Showing compassion and concern in all areas will make your love grow and grow.

LIBRA (September 23 - October 22) Libra is well balanced and all is right with the world. Grab any opportunity that comes your way and, no matter how odd it seems at first, hold on. Pay no attention to that pest in your life. Take a look in the mirror. Looking good!

SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21) Time to step out of the limelight for some peaceful, introspective time. All of the opportunity that is knocking so loudly at your door will still be there when you open it again. A long distance call may be a beautiful interruption.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 - December 21) September was a relatively quiet month, and you may be surprised to find out how successfully things turned out when so little was done. Looks like a case of leaving well enough alone! The air of October is full of enchantment.

CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 19) October begins on a note of romance. In order to hear the complete and beautiful song, you'll need to resolve your travel problems. Turning a negative into a positive should be as easy as whistling a new tune.

AQUARIUS (January 20 - February 18) Unless your love is also an Aquarian, you'll need to remember that no matter how close you've become, you are two different people. Differences exist. If your partner is an Aquarian or perhaps a Libran - it's time for bliss!

PISCES (February 19 - March 20) The approach of something very important is in the air. You can almost taste it. In this case, the excitement of anticipation will not exceed the thrill of realization. You're creating something of beauty, even as you wait.

OUR HISTORY

A King's Minion

A. NOLDER GAY

*The mightiest kings have had their
minions:*

*Great Alexander lov'd Hephaestian;
The conquering Hercules for Hylas wept;
And for Patroclus stern Achilles droop'd.
And not kings only, but the wisest men.*

Marlowe, Edward II

Echoes of Evelyn Waugh's homoerotic novel *Brideshead Revisited* were heard in June when an Oxford undergraduate, daughter of a British cabinet minister, died after a drug and drinking party. The all-night affair was thrown in the Christ Church College rooms of Count Gottfried von Bismarck, a descendent of the famous 19th century German chancellor. Young Bismarck is a member of what one press report called "one of the notorious university dining clubs that Waugh depicted in *Brideshead*," the Piers Gaveston Society.

Who was Piers Gaveston? More notorious than the Society named for him, he was the flawlessly beautiful lover of the Plantagenet King Edward II (b. 1284), who ruled England from 1307 to 1327. Gaveston was a Gascon squire who, having fought with distinction under Edward's father, had been appointed companion to the young prince. "And when the King's son saw him," wrote one chronicler, "he fell so much in love that he entered upon an enduring compact with him." What began as an adolescent "crush" for a handsome bravo turned into the real thing. But early in 1307 the old King, fearful of the problems this relationship might cause for his son's forthcoming marriage with a French princess, banished Gaveston from England.

Gaveston departed in May, 1307, but the ailing King died in July. The new King, now an extraordinarily handsome 23-year old, immediately recalled Gaveston, made him Earl of Cornwall (a royal domain, now held by the Prince of Wales), showered upon him many other honors and properties, and married him to one of the royal nieces. The English nobles were inflamed by Gaveston's insulting remarks and the King's excessive generosity, especially when Gaveston

turned up at court wearing jewels from the young Queen Isabella's dowry. It became a matter of common gossip that the King preferred Gaveston's bed to that of his young French bride. The barons revolted in 1308, and civil war averted only by the King's sending his lover to Ireland, as Lord-Lieutenant.

Gaveston was recalled in 1309 after concessions by the King, but the barons persisted in trying to get rid of him permanently. Exiled a third time in November, 1311, Gaveston was back and being publicly entertained by the King at Windsor before Christmas. The following year Gaveston was captured, imprisoned in Warwick Castle, and subsequently murdered by the nobles. "His chief offense," writes Edward's biographer, "was his lack of respect for the great barons of established lineage, little culture and less wit...."

The King's grief was extravagant and so were his cries for vengeance. Rebellion and defeat in Scotland, civil war in England, and invasion from France under the now estranged Queen and her lover, Roger Mortimer, followed over the next dozen years. Edward was captured in November, 1326 and deposed in favor of his young son, Edward III, the following January. Imprisoned in Berkeley Castle, he was murdered there on September 21, 1327.

A number of lurid tales grew up concerning Edward's murder. It was said that he died of the effects of having "ahote broche [a red-hot spit or poker] putte thro the secrete place posterially [need I modernize?]" Presumably this was to remind him of Piers Gaveston. These stories have been questioned by some scholars, though John Boswell leans toward acceptance in his *Christianity, Social Tolerance and Homosexuality* (1980). One chronicler, a

Cistercian monk, complains of "too much sodomy" between the King and Gaveston, and another says that they had "a love which is said to have surpassed the love of women," citing David and Jonathan. There is also dispute over the relationship between the King and a later possible "minion," Hugh le Despenser, some thinking it purely political and others also sexual. Boswell refers to le Despenser as "Edward's second lover" and points out that before his execution (also by the nobles) his genitals were cut off and publicly burned, a common penalty for sodomy.

Edward's elaborate tomb in Gloucester Cathedral, erected by his son (who later executed his mother's lover and shipped Isabella off to an isolated castle in East Anglia), soon became a place of pilgrimage and of reported miracles ascribed to the martyr-king. Edward's tragic story became the subject of a famous play by the gay Elizabethan playwright Christopher Marlowe, whose Edward "frolics with his minion," Gaveston. There is also a less well-known version by Berthold Brecht.

Edward was something of a patron of the arts and crafts, and founded Oriel College, Oxford. During the 17th century the front quadrangle of Oriel was rebuilt, to include a Hall boasting an elaborate porch, over which were erected statues of the Virgin Mary and two of the gay kings of England, Edward and James I (who had formally incorporated the college in 1603). Later, in the 19th century, Oriel College became a principal base of the Oxford Movement, a somewhat homoerotic affair which led to a devotional and liturgical renewal within the Church of England, the start of an Anglo-Catholic religious tradition in England and America which has always attracted disproportionate numbers of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

Scheduled OCTOBER

EL PASO/JUAREZ EVENTS



First Annual International Western Film Festival Debuts in El Paso

The First Annual International Western Film Festival, the only event of its kind, will debut in El Paso October 31 for three days, ending November 2.

The celebration will include the screening of a variety of western films with personal appearances by movie directors and film stars; special tribute programs; seminars, and other activities all designed to celebrate the Western as it has been portrayed in motion pictures throughout the world.

In addition to the Friday social event, there

will be a premiere showing Saturday night at the Ft. Bliss Center Theater, featuring a classic western film and its star. Sunday western films will be shown throughout the city at various public theaters.

To confirm these El Paso/Juarez events and for further information refer to the phone number listed for each event, or, if pertaining to the El Paso Civic, Convention and Tourist Center, call (800) 351-6024 from outside Texas; (800) 592-6001 from within Texas.

gotta Sing gotta Dance

SPORTS & MAJOR EVENTS

OCT 3 - 5: Ice Capades, El Paso County Coliseum, Paisano & Boone (532-4661). Fri at 7:30 pm, Sat 1 & 7:30, Sun 1 & 6. Prices unavailable at press time.

OCT 3 - 5: 14th Annual Border Folk Festival, Chamizal National Memorial, San Marcial & Delta (541-7780). Fri at 7 pm, Sat & Sun at noon. Free. One of the top five major folk festivals in the country.

OCT 9: World Class Wrestling, El Paso Civic Center, Santa Fe & San Francisco (532-4661). At 7.

OCT 17 - 19: Tractor Pull, El Paso County Coliseum, Paisano & Boone (532-4661). At 8.

OCT 10 - 12: Kermezaar, El Paso Civic Center, Santa Fe & San Francisco (534-0609). Fri 7 pm - 10., Sat 10 am - 8 pm, Sun noon - 6. Adm \$2. Annual Arts & Crafts Festival.

OCT 31 - NOV 2: Western Film Festival, Ft. Bliss and various city theaters (534-0500) Fri at 7, Sat 10 - midnight, Sun noon - 5. Gen adm price unavailable at press time.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL: University of Texas at El Paso, Sun Bowl Stadium (747-5234). Oct 18: San Diego State. Game time 7:30 pm.

DOG RACING: Juarez Racetrack, off Ave 16 de Septiembre, Juarez (778-6322). Greyhound racing at 7:30 pm nightly Wed thru Sun; matinee Sun at 2:30 pm.

HORSE RACING: Sunland Park Racetrack, Sunland Park Dr., I-10 freeway exit west of downtown (589-1131). Season opens Oct 11. Post times Fri - Sun at 1.

MUSIC & DANCE

OCT 4 & 5: Pro-Musica El Paso, First Baptist Church, 805 Montana (532-9139). Sat at 8 pm, Sun at 2:30 pm \$5 - \$10. Bach, Williams, Persichetti.

OCT 17 - 18: Violinist Oscar Shumsky & El Paso Symphony Orchestra, El Paso Civic Center Theatre, San Francisco & Santa Fe (532-8707). At 8. \$4 - \$13.50

OCT 25: Vincente Fernandez, El Paso County Coliseum, Boone & Paisano (532-4661). At 8. Mexico City artist. Call for ticket information.

OCT 25 & 26: Pro-Musica, First Baptist Church, 805 Montana (532-9139). Sat at 8 pm, Sun at 2:30. \$5 - \$10. The Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers.

OCT 27: The Empire Brass Quintet, El Paso Civic Center Theatre, Santa Fe & San Francisco (565-6226). At 8. Season ticket (5) \$20. Community concert.

OCT 29: Pianist Joseph Zins, Chamizal National Memorial Theater, San Marcial & Delta (541-7880). At 8. Free. Ruisseau Conservatory, Tucson, Ariz.

OCT 31: Moe Bandy, El Paso Civic Center, Santa Fe & San Francisco (593-5851). At 8. Adults \$7.50, child \$3.75 or family \$25 (2 adults/4 child). Concert & dance.

THEATER & STAGES

OCT 3 - 5, 10 - 12: Our Town, Fox Fine Arts Theatre, UTEP Campus (747-5146). Fri & Sat at 8, Sun at 2:30. Season \$15 & 10.

OCT 9 & 10: Got to Sing, Got to Dance, El Paso Civic Center Theatre, Santa Fe & San Francisco, (533-3437). Time & Ticket price not set at press time. Broadway touring group sponsored by SRO.

OCT 9 - 12: The Amen Corner, Chamizal National Memorial Theatre, San Marcial & Delta (541-7880). Thur-Sat at 8, Sat & Sun at 3. \$3 & \$4. Black life depicted.

OCT 10 - NOV 1: The Odd Couple, El Paso Playhouse, 2501 Montana (532-1317). Fri & Sat at 8. \$3 & \$5.

OCT 17 - NOV 2: The Real Inspector Hound, SRO Warehouse Theatre, 1301 Texas (533-1671). Fri & Sat at 8, Sun at 2:30. \$6.50 - \$7.50 single, or, \$30 season.

OCT 19 - 20: I Am Celso, Chamizal National Memorial Theater, San Marcial & Delta (541-7880). Sun at 3, Mon at 8. \$3 & \$4.

OCT 24 - NOV 2: The Music Man, Chamizal National Memorial Theatre, San Marcial & Delta (541-7880). Fri & Sat at 8, Sun at 3. \$3 & \$4.

Violinist Headlines October Performance of the El Paso Symphony Orchestra

OSCAR SHUMSKY, acclaimed as possibly the greatest violinist before the public today, will be the featured guest artist for the October 17 and 18 concert of the El Paso Symphony Orchestra.

The October program, held in the El Paso Civic Center Theatre, will include Wagner's March from Tannhauser; Ravel's Daphnis and Chloe; Suite 2;

Schubert's Symphony No. 8, D. 759 in B minor; and Bruch's Concerto for Violin and Orchestra No. 1 in G minor, Op. 26.

Born of Russian parents in Philadelphia, Shumsky began to play the violin at the age of three. His advance was rapid and, at the age of seven, he appeared as soloist with The Philadelphia Orchestra performing Mozart's Violin Concerto in A Major. Leopold Stokowski, who conducted the performance, pronounced the young Mr. Shumsky "the most astounding genius I have ever heard." He became the youngest pupil ever accepted by famed pedagogue Leopold Auer, and went on to complete his studies with Efrem Zimbalist at the Curtis Institute.

However, according to a prior press release, Shumsky was unwilling to follow the rules set for the pursuit of a star solo career plus he harbored the desire to broaden his musical experience.

He continued to perform, on a limited basis, while following parallel careers in chamber music, conducting, and teaching; serving with distinction on the faculties of The Juilliard School, Curtis Institute of Music, and Yale University.



Oscar Shumsky

The Saturday night performance of the Shumsky/El Paso Symphony Orchestra has been designated "Armed Forces Dress Blues Night" as a salute to this city's Armed Forces by the El Paso Symphony Orchestra Association.

Tickets for the two evening Shumsky/El Paso Symphony Orchestra performance are available at the El Paso Symphony Office, El Paso Chamber of Commerce, Ten Civic Center Plaza, (915) 532-8707. They range in price from \$4 - \$13.50. Visa, MasterCard and The Popular charge cards are accepted.



A showbiz musical entertainment from co-creator of Broadway's "Jerry's Girls."

A SPECIAL BENEFIT PERFORMANCE
FOR
SOUTHWEST REPERTORY ORGANIZATION
WITH THE ORIGINAL NEW YORK CAST

CIVIC CENTER THEATER - 8 P.M.
OCTOBER 9th & 10th

TICKETS AT ALL RAINBOW
TICKETMASTER LOCATIONS
\$10, \$12, \$15, \$20, \$25

532-4661

THE CITY OF EL PASO ARTS RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

PRESENTS

The City of El Paso Arts Resources Department will present a variety of performing and visual arts events during the month of October:

ART A LA CARTE - Series of noontime concerts in downtown El Paso begins October 7. These free outdoor concerts will run twice weekly, Tuesdays on San Jacinto Plaza and Thursdays on MBank's Plazad at the corner of Texas and Kansas Streets, for a total of six weeks.

MUSEO-MUSICA - Chamber music series begins Saturday, October 11, 2:00 p.m., with a special outdoor performance on the Civic Center Plaza by TOP BRASS, national touring quintet from Ohio. Top Brass is a young and vibrant ensemble

performing a wide repertoire of jazz and pop arrangements as well as classical masterworks. The Top Brass concert is free to the public and takes place concurrently with the Kermezaar Arts Festival inside the Civic Center Exhibition Hall.

TEX-SYNECTICS - Series of three visual arts exhibitions featuring Texas artists, held in City Hall October through December. No admission is charged to this exhibit, located in the First Floor Lobby; hours are 8 - 5, Mondays - Fridays. TEX-SYNECTICS artists featured during Part I, October 7 - 24, will be Richard Baron, photos; Susan Davidoff, prints; Walter Davis, metals; and Jose Marquez, sculpture.

"THE COPASETICS" - The "Legends of Tap" will perform Wednesday, October 29, 7:30 p.m. in the Civic Center Theatre. The oldest tap dance ensemble afoot, the gentlemen comprising "The Copasetics" have all been in show business more than 50 years, and are veterans of the vaudeville circuit, the Apollo Theatre, and the Cotton Club in New York. They've appeared with Duke Ellington, Count Basie, and Cab Calloway, and performed on Broadway and in movies.

Arts Resources is also offering special group rates to this performance of "The Copasetics." Discounts will be available of 20% off regular ticket prices to groups of 10 or more, and 40% to groups of 50 or more when prepurchased by October 20. Regular ticket prices will be \$5, \$7.50 and \$10 through Ticketmaster.

These programs are presented by the City of El Paso Arts Resources Department with additional grant support provided by the Texas Commission on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. For further information, call the Arts Resources Department at 541-4481.

THE COPASETICS LEGENDS OF TAP



bookworms

The Great American Gay Porno Novel

Shearer, Mike. *The Great American Gay Porno Novel*. San Francisco: Gay Sunshine Press, 1984. \$8.95.

This is a somewhat inspired bit of pornography. There are actually four parts to this book all intermixed until they gradually blend into one.

Mark Edwards writes pronography. He is the most successful pornographer in the country. His mind is constantly recording his experiences which he then puts on paper. He also discusses pornography with the reader from a literary criticism point of view.

Marco is Mark's fictionalized alter ego. His escapades are another part of this book.

And finally, there is the pornography, which occupies a third part of the book.

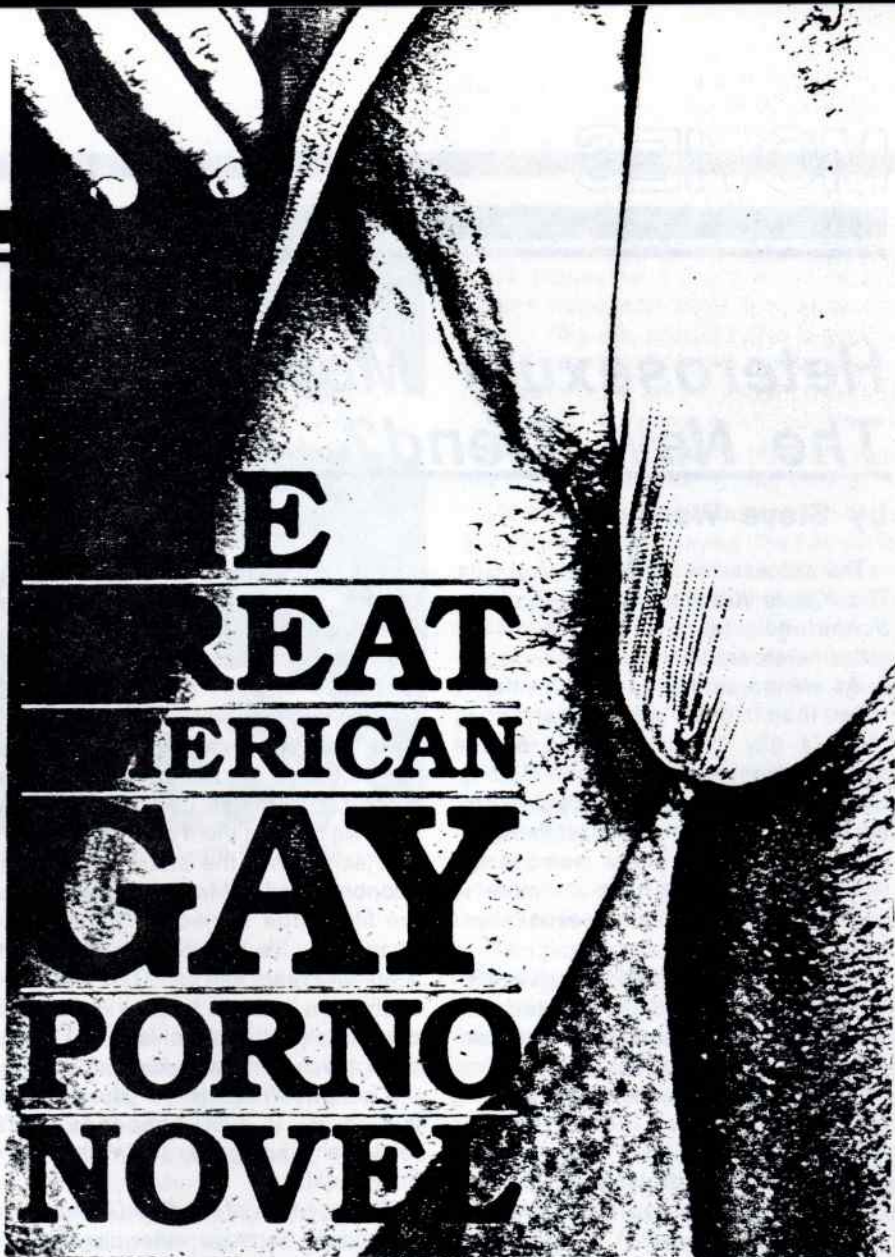
The writing jumps back and forth between these three parts, until towards the end, all the parts and characters--Mark, Marco, and an endless number of hunky hunks come (no pun intended) together to form a fourth part to the book, one that continues the individual characters search for the fulfillment of their sexual fantasies.

This unusually written book is easy reading. There is much explicit sex, but it is all in good fun. The writing and organizational style puts it above the level of mindless, pulp pornography. Ed Meese would, however, be appalled by it.

Joseph and the Old Man

Davis, Christopher. *Joseph and the Old Man*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1986. \$13.95.

This is the author's first novel. It is written with such strength and sensitivity



THE GREAT AMERICAN GAY PORN NOVEL

that Davis is sure to become a major voice in the growing number of American gay writers.

It is the story of two men. One is an older man, a world famous novelist. He is the Old Man. The other--Joseph--is his lover. Joseph is some thirty years younger and is also a writer, but of history and political science. They have been lovers for ten years and are, during this story, spending their customary summer at Fire Island in the Cherry Grove Community. Their days consist of writing in the morning, relaxing on the beach afternoons, and then having cocktails with friends and/or admirers of the Old Man's work. Dinner would usually be for just the two of them. Davis presents this in a rather idyllic way.

The two met when Joseph was a college student and took a writing course from the Old Man who was teaching at the

University. Contrary to the way some people viewed their relationship, it was Joseph who pursued the Old Man. He was attracted by the Old Man's wisdom and intelligence and they loved each other very much.

The summer progresses much as previous ones, until tragedy strikes--Joseph is killed in an automobile accident on a trip into New York. The second half of the book tells how the Old Man reacts to his young lover's death, including condolences from friends, dealing with Joseph's hostile family, and finally, trying to live with his grief.

This reviewer has rarely been so affected by a work of fiction. The words flow continually pulling at every emotion. Davis' ability with words is comparable to Edmund White's. His story telling is superior.



Heterosexual Movies-- The New Trend?

by Steve Warren

The success this summer of *Top Gun*, *The Karate Kid Part II* and *Back to School* indicates a new trend--movies about heterosexuals.

As absurd as that sounds, it's hardly sillier than stories written last spring about a gay "trend" augured by the near-simultaneous release of *Parting Glances*, *Desert Hearts* and *My Beautiful Laundrette*. Apart from the fact that each has at least one major homosexual character the three have no more in common than the "heterosexual" films listed above.

In an article by Richard Goldstein titled "The Gay New Wave," the *Village Voice* said the gay trio "share a randy candor about sex, and a postliberation politics. They each assert the primacy of a loving relationship between men or between women; they reject the traditional image of gay people as grotesquely butch or femme, and refuse to be defined by straight expectations."

True enough, except for *Desert Hearts'* preliberation setting; but there are "old wave" gay films (e.g., *Taxi zum Klo*, *Sebastiane*) that boast these attributes, and the summer's nongay hits share as many coincidental similarities: stories of young men fixated on fathers or father figures, a major competition to resolve the plot, an abundance of rock music; and if you will, they each assert the primacy of a loving relationship between men and women, and refuse to be defined by gay expectations.

Even with some crossover success to nongay audiences the combined gross of *Glances*, *Hearts* and *Laundrette* is unlikely to equal that of *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, just as this summer's three big hetero hits must combine their fortunes to surpass the \$200 million-plus earned by last year's *Back to the Future*.

Not until halfway through *My Beautiful Laundrette* do we learn that Omar (Gordon Warnecke), the central

character, and his old school chum Johnny (Daniel Day Lewis) are lovers. Their romance, a spicy subplot, never becomes as significant as their interracial friendship and the fact that Johnny, a Caucasian, is working for Omar, a Pakistani. "They came over here to work for us," one of Johnny's unemployed white racist mates complains. "That's what we brought them over for."

Racism and the state of the British economy under Margaret Thatcher are the film's true subjects. "It's genuinely about life. It's about England," director Stephen Frears told us. "The real victims in the film are the white kids, who are completely disenfranchised....The gay aspect was done with such innocence in the script. When Hanif (Kureishi) was writing it, it just happened. The relationship just grew. I don't think it was intentional."

The gayness of *Parting Glances* was intentional, because writer-director-editor Bill Sherwood was tired of seeing his lifestyle portrayed inaccurately, if at all, on the screen; but the fact that the main characters are gay is not an issue. They live in New York where everyone important to them accepts them as they are. It's the very absence of conflict in their lives that has made Robert (John Bolger) restless enough after six years with Michael (Richard Ganoung) that he accepts a temporary assignment in Africa.

In the course of the last 24 hours before Robert's departure it becomes evident that part of his concern is over the impending death from AIDS of Michael's best friend, Nick (Steve Buscemi). Robert doesn't feel strong enough to help his lover through the crisis and is escaping, as many heterosexual protagonists have escaped--through drink, drugs or outside sex, if not geography--from unpleasant screen situations in the past.

When we spoke to Sherwood shortly after the picture's New York opening he sounded dubious about the distributor's hopes for crossover success, but expressed a crossover mentality in discussing his next project, a comedy with fewer gay characters: "The world is a vast and complicated place where you find all kinds of people, including gays."

Buscemi, who has gone on to shoot a *Miami Vice* with Willie Nelson for fall airing, said he was "proud to be in (*Parting Glances*). Some people are saying it's a landmark because it portrays gays as people and AIDS as just a part of life. It's a very special film."

The Last "Gay Movie"

"I hope I never see another 'gay movie!'" gay film historian Vito Russo, author of *The Celluloid Closet*, said at the tenth San Francisco international Lesbian and Gay Film Festival in June. "After *Parting Glances* and *My Beautiful Laundrette*," he explained, "I just want to continue seeing lesbian and gay characters in all kinds of films, where being gay is not the issue."

Because even fewer films are made about lesbians than gay men, it's not surprising that homosexuality is still an issue in *Desert Hearts*, a period piece (1959) about a woman (Helen Shaver) who goes to Reno to divorce her husband and falls in love with another woman (Patricia Charbonneau) while she's there. The will-she-or-won't-she? question dominates a good part of the film, and even after she does the ending leaves open whether she will pursue a lesbian lifestyle or revert to something more socially acceptable when she returns home.

Producer-director Donna Dietch said she was attracted to lesbian author Jane Rule's novel, *Desert of the Heart*, when a friend gave it to her. She read it seven



Alex McArthur, Helen Shaver, Patricia Charbonneau and Gwen Welles in "Desert Hearts."

times and wrote three screen treatments before she could afford to hire writer Natalie Cooper to do the final script.

The show business trade paper *Variety* was quick to proclaim the spring trend: "Homosexuality is hot stuff at the boxoffice this week...four gay-themed films...all depict gay relationships with graphic frankness and focus on homosexuality as a central thematic concern and a source of dramatic tension." That was in April. To date they haven't noticed the new heterosexual trend.

The fourth picture *Variety* referred to was the Mexican comedy *Doña Herlinda and Her Son*, which had just opened well in New York and has since played in San Francisco. It's a disarming comedy about a mother who arranges for her son to marry a woman while continuing a relationship with his male lover. She sees to it that everyone ends up happy, including the audience.

While *Doña Herlinda's* son may be bisexual, director and co-writer Jaime Humberto Hermosillo is gay. He told us he overrode his producer's requests to incorporate some heterosexual love scenes for nongay viewers: "I said no, that's not what it's about," even though such scenes "would have been more comfortable for straight people in the audience--and for the actors," at least one of whom is not gay.

No major studio backed any of these films or is involved in their U.S. distribution. *My Beautiful Laundrette* was made for British television but released to theaters after getting rave reviews at the Edinburgh Festival. *Doña Herlinda and Her Son* was made independently with a subsidy from the Mexican government.

Those options being unlikely in the States, the makers of *Parting Glances* and *Desert Hearts* had to raise money on their own. Bill Sherwood had a relatively easy time lining up \$40,000 he needed to start shooting. The total \$330,000 cost of the much more expensive-looking film wasn't paid off until after it opened. Donna Deitch went around the country for two and a half years to raise \$1.5 million for *Desert Hearts* at fundraising parties. "In Los Angeles," she said, "I sold it as a film that would make money. In New York I sold it as art. In San Francisco I sold it as politics."

"Independent" has two meanings in the phrase "independent filmmaker." They work independently of the studios because they want to retain their independence of thought. Once a studio is involved, only a very few of the top directors are able to put their original vision on the screen without interference.

Deitch and Sherwood have ambivalent feelings about working as they have. If she had it to do over again, Deitch said, "I

wouldn't spend two and a half years raising money, and I would want to have more money so I could afford to pay people more and have more shooting time." "My job should be to make the film," Sherwood protested, "not calling the film lab to make sure they sent a print to Chicago." Calming down quickly he added, "I guess that's the price I have to pay if I want to control my own destiny."

Variety quoted "distributors, exhibitors and filmmakers" as saying "the turnout for these films reflects mainstream acceptance of homosexual lifestyles and a willingness among audiences to recognize 'universal' elements in gay love stories." Obviously they didn't check with the Supreme Court for a second opinion.

Still these four films, especially *My Beautiful Laundrette*, are doing reasonably well at the boxoffice. So what's next in the area of gay-themed cinema? Will Vito Russo get his wish and never have to see another "gay movie"?

Two probable fall releases in the U.S., *Caravaggio* and *Ménage* (formerly *Tenue de Soirée/Evening Dress*), have done very well in their countries of origin, both critically and commercially.

Caravaggio is a fanciful portrait of the controversial--and probably gay--eponymous turn-of-the-17th century Italian painter. It was made by the equally controversial--and definitely gay--English filmmaker Derek Jarman. He was already planning *Caravaggio* in 1978 when we interviewed him in London after the opening of his second feature, *Jubilee*. "I'll make films as long as they upset people a little bit," he said then. "If I'm ever totally accepted I'll pull back and do something else for a while." The initial reaction to *Caravaggio* indicates his bluff may be called.

Retro Trend

Bertrand Blier's *Ménage* is a darkly comic tale in which Gerard Depardieu woos Michel Blanc away from his wife, Miou Miou. If it's part of a trend it would seem to have more in common with *Something for Everyone* (1970) and *Sunday Bloody Sunday* (1971) than any of this year's releases.

Barbra Streisand has bought the rights to Larry Kramer's AIDS-related play *The Normal Heart* and plans to co-star and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

mandatory. "The soldier will be told when to attend the pre-screening and being a good soldier, he will be there."

Fearing that the soldiers who test positive will be badgered into revealing how they came in contact with the virus, Leonard Graff, legal director for the National Gay Rights Advocates, is urging service members to obtain legal counsel before they answer any questions pertaining to their sexual orientation.

GAYS CONSTITUTE MORE THAN 10%?

CHICAGO--The government is using possible outdated statistics to determine the number of gay and lesbian Americans, in their attempt to predict the rise of AIDS and ARC. Meade Morgan, chief of statistics for the CDC's AIDS program, has said that current estimates of how far the disease has spread and the amount of increase to be expected is being based on the statistics from the 1948 Alfred Kinsey work, *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male*.

Morgan estimated that "between 1 million and 1.5 million may be infected with the virus, but those statistics are being based on the Kinsey research from over twenty years ago." He added that "We may have underestimated the spread of the disease by basing the predictions on Kinsey's figures. I am embarrassed by the published numbers.

"I don't think that the government would have much luck on getting this information," he said. "I don't know how to do it. And the answer may be no, that we can't get it."

GAY BOWLING LEAGUE TO START IN EL PASO

EL PASO--The fall/winter bowling season is starting and El Paso Bowl will be forming a gay bowling league soon. This is a great way to meet new friends and for all you under-21's there is no age limit to roll around a few balls. Bowl El Paso is hosting a free bowling party for the gay community on October 25th at 6 p.m. in order to get more people interested. For more information you can call Mike at 534-8596 or Linda at 534-8501.

LGRA BOARD MEETS

AUSTIN--The Board of Directors of Lesbian/Gay Rights Advocates met in Austin on Saturday, September 20, 1986. The Board members concurred with the proposal put forth by the Dallas Gay Leaders Conference attendees to implement the hiring of a year-round Executive Director for Lesbian/Gay Rights Advocates.

Board members drafted a revision of the organization's by-laws to encompass future duties of an Executive Director; provisions were also written to allow for an expanded Board of Directors which would include two "General Membership" and two "Finance Committee" board members.

Board members approved the inclusion of Dallas Lesbian/Gay Political Coalition on the Board pending the organization's growth to 50 members; Tarrant County Gay Alliance was put on ex officio status pending their selection of Board members.

Board of Directors Co-Chair Pat Cramer was instructed to place ads in both gay/lesbian and straight media soliciting the services of an Executive Director. The next Board meeting was set for October 25, 1986 in Austin, time and place to be announced.

LESBIAN & GAY ELECTED & APPOINTED OFFICIALS TO MEET IN WASH., D.C.

WASHINGTON, D.C.--The Second Annual National Conference of Lesbian & Gay Elected and Appointed Officials and Prospective Candidates will be held in Washington, D.C. from November 20 - 23, 1986.

This special event, which is again being sponsored by the National Association of Gay & Lesbian Democratic Clubs, will build on the success of last fall's West Hollywood Conference which marked the first time in US history that openly Gay and Lesbian elected officials from across the country spoke out in unison on the critical issues of AIDS, anti-Gay violence and the ongoing struggle for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights.

In addition to last year's program--which was covered by the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times and the Times of London--the 1986 Conference will also

include greater emphasis on supporting prospective candidates as well as the role and responsibility of Lesbian and Gay appointed officials who now hold public office in at least 38 states.

As announced earlier, the National Association will also conduct its 3rd Biennial National Convention of Lesbian and Gay Democratic Clubs in conjunction with this conference. At the convention, member clubs from across America will elect the National Association's new Executive Committee for the next two years.

Highlights of the weekend will include the banquet on Saturday, November 22, in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the first Lesbian and Gay organization in the Nation's Capital and a day long AIDS Teach-In which is being coordinated by Boston City Councilmember David Scodras.

All interested individuals are invited to participate in the conference. For further information, please contact the National Association at 1742 Massachusetts Ave., SE; Washington, DC 20003.

GAYS ATTACKED BY MEXICAN POLICEMEN

MEXICO CITY--Ten persons were injured at Mexico City's Gay Pride Day and March, when police drove their motorcycles into the crowd. Witnesses alleged that there was widespread harassment and violence directed at the parade participants by police. Riot police had tried to thwart the parade prior to its start, and participants were menaced by agents of the Secretaria de Gobernacion, an internal affairs division, disguised as journalists.

MCC HOLDS 2ND ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

EL PASO--The MCC of El Paso presented its 2nd Awards Banquet Saturday, September 20. The awards were given to honor individuals and organizations that were chosen for special recognition.

Among the recipients were Tony Bengert for both the "The Community Service Award" and "The Pioneer Award" for his work with the Southwest AIDS Committee. Belinda Renteria, publish-

er/editor of *Impulse Magazine* and Lety Zamarripa of the *El Paso Herald Post* received "The Media Award" for their aid in furthering positive Gay awareness.

John Sutton received "The Political Action Award" for his effort in promoting civil rights and political awareness in El Paso.

Other recipients included David Fleet, Mike Harmon, Doug Holley, Hurdie Styles and Steve Bond.

\$50 MILLION FOR AZT

NEW YORK--In a speech made to the U.S. Senate last month, Republican Senator Lowell Weicker said that the National Cancer Institute now only has the funds to provide the drug AZT to 1,000 of the 10,000 people in the terminal stages of AIDS. "At least 10,000 people can live an extra six months and I'm not coming off the floor of the United States Senate until I get the money to see that that happens," said Weicker.

Weicker's comments helped secure Senate passage of \$47 million in additional research funding, but some scientists have expressed great concern with his comments on AZT.

Dr. Martin Hirsch of Massachusetts General Hospital, who is currently studying AZT, said AZT is not necessarily the best of the drugs under study, noting that "there are many more promising others which will soon be available for clinical trials."

Weicker's staff has stated, however, that the senator has reason to believe that AZT may prolong the lives of PWA's, possibly buying them more time until a cure for AIDS is found.

LOCAL AIDS UPDATE

EL PASO--A new AIDS INFORMATION LINE goes into effect October 1. The number is 541-4266. At first there will be a recorded message with an opportunity to leave a message of your own. Soon, as trained volunteers increase, the line will be operated live for increasing hours each day. The phone and office space are provided by the city-county health department; Southwest AIDS Committee provides the volunteers. We see this as a sign of increasing cooperation and understanding between the committee

and the health department.

A training program for BUDDIES who enter into helping relationships with persons with AIDS has begun. For more information about the concept and the program call 541-4266.

Volunteers to staff the Information Line during the day are being sought. Persons with health care, gay switchboard or counseling background preferred (but not required). Please call and leave your number.

The next meeting is at 6 p.m., Thursday, November 6 at the MCC, 2201 Mills. All interested persons may attend. Southwest AIDS Committee mailing address is P.O. Box 370832, El Paso, TX 79937.

AIDS IS A LIMITED PROBLEM-- ACCORDING TO DR. SABIN

CINCINNATI--Dr. Albert Sabin, the discoverer of the oral polio vaccine, recently said he felt AIDS was a limited health problem and he wished researchers would devote more time to "finding cures for international afflictions such as cancer, circulatory diseases and Alzheimer's disease as well as colds and upper respiratory illness that put people to bed. AIDS is a limited problem for a small portion of the American population, to people who say it's more of a problem, I would say shut up and go back to work," he added. When asked what his greatest hope for mankind was, he replied, "My greatest hope is that, some day, it will be possible for everyone to die in good health, that when they reach the age of 80 or 90 they will be able to go to sleep one night and simply not wake up." Dr. Sabin, who will turn 87 this year, appears to be slightly overdue for his afternoon nap.

ARCHBISHOP HICKEY SHOWS HIS OTHER SIDE

WASHINGTON--The Rev. James A. Hickey, currently embroiled in the scandal over a Catholic theologian's right to dissent against the church, surprised Washington gay rights activists when he announced that the Catholic

Archdiocese of Washington plans to open a home for People With AIDS. "The idea for them is to be able to spend their last days surrounded by compassion and peace," he said in his announcement.

Hickey is a long-time thorn in the side of Washington gay rights groups for his continued anti-gay stands. In 1985, he voiced extreme dissatisfaction over students at Georgetown University demanding recognition for their on campus gay rights group. He has also voiced his disapproval over the gay Catholic Support group Dignity, holding their masses on the Georgetown campus. Hickey said that "efforts to provide peace of mind to AIDS victims who have nowhere to go in their last days does not conflict with the Catholic teaching concerning homosexuality."

"We're trying to be very consistent with our teaching," he said. "Our teaching with regard to homosexuality as immoral is very clear. But so is our tradition of reaching out to those in need," he added. Hickey currently is facing off against censured Catholic priest Charles Curran over Curran's ideas on birth control and homosexuality as a possible moral relationship.

The hospice will be run by the archdiocese and the Missionaries of Charity sisters, the order founded by Nobel prize winner Mother Theresa. The 60 year-old convent building will eventually house 15 patients, not all whom will be suffering from AIDS. Some 592 people in the Washington metropolitan area have AIDS or ARC, and 326 have died.

GAY CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS TO MEET

HOUSTON--Gay Christian Scientists will be holding their annual National Conference in Houston the weekend of Oct. 11-12. The two-day conference is open to all interested in Christian Science. Four workshops will be held on subjects of concern to this group: Healing AIDS with Christian Science; Dealing with the religious right; Applying Christian Science to relationships and the purpose of Emergence, a support group for gay Christian Scientists.

NewsWatch is drawn from several news sources, including the *Washington Blade*, the *Montrose Voice*, and *TWN*.

WILLA CATHER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

essence was change and whose heart beat was one with the modern age.

She was relatively wealthy and she was able to live where she wanted. But Edith had made New York her own. She liked her job and had no desire to leave. With the bond between them and perhaps, with the memory of how a love was lost so long ago, Willa stayed.

Willa died peacefully one afternoon in 1947 while Edith was away. She was full of years and honors as one of the great writers of her time.

For Edith, living alone for the next 25 years, there was little but pain. She died on August 11, 1972 and was buried beside her love. Her judgement on her life? I think that perhaps she agreed with what her lover had written in *My Antonia*. "That is happiness, to be dissolved into something complete and great." She had that happiness and few, I think, are those who would deny that it was so. Δ

NAMING THE ROSE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

the acceptance of it, and the development of our uniqueness to a position of highest happiness, even as the beauty of each rose is the individual revelation of its own potential. Δ

Christine Burton is editor of *Golden Threads*, a contact quarterly for lesbians over 50.

OUR HISTORY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

gay men.

Three years ago I gave a paper before an international scholarly gathering at Oxford, and was delighted to find myself housed in Oriel College and dining in the Hall under the gaze of its gay kingly Founder. I also amused myself by identifying all the gay subjects of the portraits and stained glass windows under the magnificent hammer-beam ceiling of the Hall, in the intervals between lusting after the bod of a handsome young waiter, who one day wore a lavender necktie. (Oh, well, one can dream on....)

Oriel was the last of the all-male Oxford colleges to go co-ed, though three all-female colleges remain. Nowadays the University's best-known male

homosocial hangout is the nude bathing-ground on the Cherwell, "Parson's Pleasure." The area is surrounded by a high fence displaying a sign forbidding "ladies" to pass beyond a certain point. Under the sign, at the time I checked it out, some ardent feminist had spray-painted the words "sexist poseurs!" Ah, Piers Gaveston, where are you, now that we really need you? Δ

HETEROSEXUAL MOVIES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

direct, but production hasn't started yet. Frank Sinatra is set to star in the film version of *La Cage aux Folles*--the musical. Last rumors had Jack Lemmon turning down Ol' Blue Eyes' proposal and Dudley Moore being considered for the role of his male "wife."

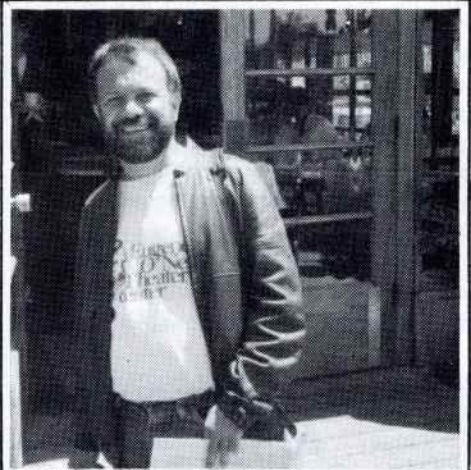
Laundrette director Frears began filming in mid-July on a long-cherished project, *Prick Up Your Ears*, the biography of gay playwright Joe Orton, who was murdered by his lover. Gary Oldman, Alfred Molina and Vanessa Redgrave star. Shooting started a week earlier in Paris on a lesbian fantasy with some basis in biography, *On the Trail of the Lonesome Pine*, with Linda Hunt as Alice B. Toklas and Linda Bassett as her lover Gertrude Stein. Documentarian Jill Godmillow is directing the film, which will air on PBS' *American Playhouse* some time after its theatrical release.

In the latter category was the surprise winner of the Festival's audience poll, *Pervola: Tracks in the Snow*, an arty drama from the Netherlands about sibling rivalry between two middle-aged brothers, one of them gay.

Doña Herlinda and Her Son was a predictable second choice, followed by the equally likely *Westler (East of the Wall)* by West Germany's Wieland Speck. A *Romeo and Juliet* story of gay lovers separated by the Berlin Wall, it's poorly made but irresistibly plotted and cast with handsome nonactors.

The Spanish *Manuel y Clemente* takes a casual approach to the fact that the title characters are lovers. More importantly they are opportunists who build a cult from a phony vision of the Virgin Mary. The satire, which fizzles in the closing minutes, is said to be based on fact.

Two other films from Spain were more traditional in terms of showing gay angst and dealing with the problems of coming out. Eloy de la Iglesia's *Hidden*



Jaime Humberto Hermosillo, director of *Doña Herlinda and Her Son*.

Pleasures, which has played commercially in at least two U.S. cities without much success, is significant primarily for having been made shortly after Franco's death. *The Death of Mikel* is more recent, a shocker about a man who leaves his wife and discovers his true sexuality when he falls in love with a transvestite entertainer.

Mala Noche (Bad Night) sounds equally Spanish but was made in Portland, Oregon, by Gus Van Sant, an American independent who shows promise despite problems in this debut feature about a young man who is attracted to Mexican migrant workers.

AIDS was mentioned in three mainstream films--*Power, Hannah and Her Sisters* and *Down and Out in Beverly Hills*--released in an eight-day period at the beginning of the year, but it hasn't been heard from since, except in *Parting Glances*. Aside from last year's *Buddies* all the AIDS-connected work at the San Francisco festival was on video, including two highly recommended hour long documentaries, *Coming of Age* and *The AIDS Show: Artists Involved with Death and Survival*.

In other words, the only trend in gay filmmaking is toward a lack of trends. Despite last spring's fluke, people in all but a handful of large cities will have to watch art houses closely to catch any quick visits by gay films, at least until *La Cage aux Folles* and *The Normal Heart* are made and released. The heterosexual movie trend should dominate our screens until then. Δ

Steve Warren is a freelance writer based out of San Francisco. He will be a regular contributor to *Impulse Magazine*.

photo by Steve Warren

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We reserve the right to edit or reject any material submitted.



I AM AN ATTRACTIVE, 35 year-old experienced, secure, intellectual, artistic feminine **lesbian** interested in meeting same who wants to share in cultural activities, dining, conversation and hot sex. Response with photo/phone/letter gets mine. **S299**

(Skoh-lee), **Carla** from NMSU, 8-10-86. It was too good and natural not to have been sincere. I would like to talk with you again. (and again) The printer from Austin. 512/343-4244.

Gay Hispanic Male, medium height, dark, & mustached seeking good times with slender, passive, 20-30 year-old. Light smoking and drinking OK. No drugs. Can show you good times. **N229**

G/Hispanic/M currently living and working in Puerto Rico wishes correspondence and/or possible meeting in the near future with dominant construction worker type. I prefer aggressive, well endowed men 27 - 37 years old. I am planning a visit to El Paso in December. **N333**

Hairy, GWM, 38, professional, new to area, looking for friends in El Paso area. 25-40 age range. I'm trim, healthy, well educated and don't smoke, don't do drugs, and drink very little. I'd like the same from you. I will answer all replies. **N522**

PAUL--We're already lovers. You just don't know it yet. Love, Steve.

GWM, 20, seeks young AIDS victim for correspondence and friendship. **N535**

Personals

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