A PUBLICATION OF THE GAY. AND LESBIAN TASK FORCE

OCLC RECORD NUMBER 20077538, ISSN 1045-2893 -VOLUME 3, NUMBER 3, FALL 1991

FROM THE CO-CHAIR

As many of you know, this year new
appointments to both Co-Chairs should have been
accomplished at ALA Annual. However, by the end of the
conference, only the male Co-Chair had been elected.
By

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with the Task Force for some
ti.-ne, and served two tenns as Secretary/Treasurer, from
1986 - 1990. I am currently Readers' Services Librarian at
the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, a position I have
held for eleven years. I am also a past-chair of the ACRL
ARTS Section, as well as Program Chair for 1990
ACRL/ ARTS; Chair, Orientation Manual Revision COmmittee, ACRL/ ARTS 1990 -1992. I write reviews of video tapes for Video Rating Guide for Libraries, and I am in the process of compiling a bibliography related to AIDS and the Arts. I am also a member of the Art Libraries

Society of North America.
There are many issues confronting the Gay and
Lesbian Task Force of ALA, both externally and internally. Some of the external ones include:

~ Monitoring ALA Placement Services for discriminatory participants.
~ Addressing issues of censorship, as in the case
of the Los Angeles Public Library Lesbian and
Gay History Month controversy.
~ Gay/Lesbian positive cataloging and collection development.
~ Providing materials for librarians and
individuals through the Task Force
Clearinghouse.

Within the GLTF, several issues need to be
confronted. I would like to address some of these during

the next two years that I am Co-Chair. As a collective
group, we need to think about some restructuring of the
Task Force. Some ideas have already been proposed, and
some will be presented at Mid-Winter.
At issue is the continuity of the Task Force from they are

use of the term
"task force", and where these task forces fit into ALA. I
think once these basics have been smoothed out, we can
spend a lot more energy on our programs, workshops,
and conference activities as a whole. I plan on staying in contact with Mattye Nelson, the new Director of the ALA Office for Library Outreach Services. (OLOS is the "parent" for SRRT and all SRRT Task Forces.) By the time this gets printed, I will have met with Ms. Nelson at least once. I hope to have something to report for the December issue, as well as during Mid-Winter.
I would really appreciate any input from anyone reading this newsletter on some of the issues I've mentioned. Also, what other issues are people concerned about, and what ideas do you have to deal with/resolve them. As with so many ALA activities, things take time, and require people to do the work. There are many things that take very little time at all, and some things that take a fair amount of time. There is always a strong core group of Task Force members at the conferences, and that has been very instrumental in sustaining this group. We always need new people to get involved. Anyone interested in getting more involved may write to me, or direct your letter to ALA/OLOS if you prefer.

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Here are the addresses:
~ Roland C. Hansen
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37S. Wabash

Chicago, IL 60603
OR

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Office for Library Outreach Services
SOE.Huron

Chicago, IL 60611

Steering Committee Vacancies

Female Co-Chair

Duties include: Attend all membership and
Steering Committee meetings; presiding at meetings; preparing and distrihuting an agenda for each meeting; appointing the coordinators of standing and special committees and delegating tasks as appropriate to these coordinators; representing (or appointing a designee to attend) meetings of the Social Responsibilities Round
Table Action Council; writing reports of Task Force
activities and submitting Task Force budget to Action
Council; implementing assignments made by the Task
Force membership or the Steering Committee; acting as
spokesperson for the Task Force; responding to
correspondence received by CouncH2 (Council; )Tj 0.0392075 Tc 2.22uncH2 Tm 0tin Tc 10.842e2.22uncH2t 1l9d,T7san

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function. We are looking'for more members. SRRT Action Council has been interested for some time now in outside funding for the

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Feminist Task Force Liaison: Vacant

Finance Committee Chair
Joseph Eagan
Enoch Pratt Free Library
Government Reference Service
400 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
(301)486rl6310(h)
(301) 396-4042 (w)
(301)3~9537(fax)

Business/Steering Committee Meetings from Annual Conference, June, 1991

Steerin~ Committee Changes
Roland Hansen was elected to

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attention to covering this particular subject area ... "
8. 'Tm not qualified to order those books ... "
9. "Can't people just use interlibrary loan to get these

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BOOK AWARD NEWS

Call for Nominations

The Gay and Lesbian Task Force of the American Library Association is issuing a call for nominations for its 1992 Gay/Lesbian Book Awards. Awards are made for both literature (long and short fiction, poetry) and nonfiction, and are given to books of exceptional merit relating to lesbian and gay experience. To be eligible, a book must have been published in calendar year 1991. Awards are not limited to works issued by American publishing firms: books published outside the United States are eligible. As most non-English language titles cannot be read and adequately evaluated by all committee members, only titles in English translation can be considered for these awards.
The awards have been given since 1971, making
them the oldest gay and lesbian awards in the United
States. A committee made up of librarians who are
members of the ALA Gay and Lesbian Task Force decides
each years winners from a list of nominations compiled

throughout the year. Any individual or group not n affiliated with the publisher of the book being

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(e.g. by telephone conference), to consider the nominations of the previous year. The Committee will decide by consensus whether to make a recommendation for the award to the Steering Committee of the Gay and Lesbian Task Force, which will have the final decision as to whether the award will be made in any given year. Only one award will be made in a given year, and in some years no award may be made.
A monetary award equal in amount to that given
to each winner of the Gay/Lesbian Book Award will be presented to the winner of the Award for Exceptional Achievement. The Award will be announced at the same time that the Book Award

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.. The Free library of Philadelphia has distributed among
its 52 branches 318 books that help parents deal with the homosexuality of a child. The purchase was made possible by three donors: Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, the Oaudia Scott Fund, and Core States Bank.

•• .reported In AIIID'iam Librllria, Julyl August 1991

.. Besides its book reViews-about a dozen per issue-the

Journal of the History of SexUlllity has a regular column
entitled ''Books of Critical Interest" that librarians, especially academic librarians, will fin.d useful. For subscription information, contact John Fout, Editor, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 12504.

.. librarians thinking about assembling an exhibit of their
gay and lesbian materials might consider doing that near October 11, 1991, the fourth annual ''Nationian

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BOOK REVIEWS

NON-FICTION

Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers. By Ullian Faderman. Columbia University Press, 1991. Hardcover. $29.95. (ISBN 0-231-07488-3)

Faderman, the author of Surpassing the Love of
Men, has made a significant contribution to the field of social history in her excellent, readable study of lesbian life in America. Lesbian relationships and images of those relationships have undergone remarkable changes throughout the 20th century.
The decades have witnessed varying degrees of naivete, support, tolerance, condemnation and suspicion of 'The life" since the turn of century to the present time. The era of the "educated spinster" and "devoted companions" of the middle to late nineteenth century was a time when women's "romantic friendships" were accepted and even encouraged. Such relationships came under scrutiny in the early 1900's, becoming "abnormal" and "inverted." The author continues her odyssey through the "lesbian chic" of the 1920's, which for some was a period of voluntary ostracism from the mainstream values and deliberate experimentation outside the standard moral code; through the shadowy and confusing 1930's; to the amazing expansion of the lesbian culture of the 1940's; to the backlash, ambivalence and cruelty of the 1950's; to
the "revolutions" of the lesbian culture in the 1960's and

1970's; to the present where the personality of the lesbian
of today is being redefined and refined within the
community and without.
The final lesson of this history (and other
histories!) is the realization that after prdel0110.2ef1 Tm (after )Tj 0.3128925 (lesso)Tj 10.319 Tc 10 0 065.d (to )Tjati 0.05 T

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sources for further research but not all the essays also include bibliographies.
Although the plot would be of general interest, it makes up a small part of the book, so it would be most appropriate to a graduate level library.

Bill Edminster
Gerber-Hart Gay and Lesbian Library
Chicago, lllinois

FICTION

The Gilda Stories: A Novel. By Jewelle Gomez. Firebrand, 1991. Library Binding - Adult. $20.95. (ISBN 0-932379-95-8) Paper. $9.95. (ISBN 0-932379-94-X)

This is an African-American lesbian vampire
story. One of the advantages to the vampire format is that the author has several characters

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Vampires Anonymous. By Jeffrey N. McMahan. Alyson, 1991. Paper. $8.95. (ISBN 1-55583-183-4)

Andrew Lyall, who made his first appearance in
the short story collection Somewhere in the Night, is gay, attractive, witty, incredibly sexy - and dead. Andrew introduces us to the subculture of homosexual vampirism. It's not

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While the book aims to entertain, and succeeds, it is surprisingly honest in portraying a part of the contemporary lesbian scene. This may not be verismo, but is far beyond a simple romantic tale.
Just Say Yes is suitable for collections of
contemporary gay /lesbian life.

Susan Lee Sills
University of California
Irvine, California

Getting Away With Murder. By Pele Plante. Clothespin Fever Press, 1991. Paper. $9.95. (ISBN 1-878533-00(2)

Amateur detective c.c. Scott, a semi-retired
therapist and avid bird-watcher, successfully uncovers the murderous past of do-gooder Jeffrey Randall in this "quick read". The suave Jeffrey has indeed murdered several
wealthy, elderly women after they've made his charitable organization their major heir, c.c. discovers. She prevents
the same fate from befalling her neighbor and friend,
Kathryn, a recent widow.
c.c.'s relationship with

us

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ATTENTION

GLTF members!

Have you sent in your

subscription renewal?
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