
GLBTRT Officers

I am extremely pleased to announce that New York City will host the 2008 GLBT ALMS (Archives, Libraries, Museums, & Special Collections) Conference.

Specific dates will be announced by the New York Conference Committee, led by representatives from CLAGS, the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies, at the City University of New York. We expect late spring or early summer dates. For more information on CLAGS, go to <http://web.gc.cuny.edu/clags/index.html>

New York was selected as the 2008 site after months of discussions and consultation with other potential sponsors. The New York site will allow for the best access and travel options for many of our European colleagues. We also expect access to an impressive list of speakers, authors, and experts, in addition to the great GLBT resources available to tour in the New York area. Future conferences will include a 2009 GLBT ALMS Conference in Europe, perhaps in London, and 2010 in Atlanta, Georgia. I

am still working to gather information about a potential European site with several of our

Kameny Papers Added to Library of Congress

lesbian Americans have joined the American mainstream story of expanded civil liberties in the 20th century. Today, by accepting these papers, the nation preserves not only our history but marks how far gay and lesbian Americans have traveled on the road to civil equality."

The Kameny archive includes thousands of pages of letters, government correspondence, testimony, photographs, picket signs and other memorabilia. They trace the arc of the gay civil equality movement in the U.S. through Kameny's life and activism from the 1950s to the present. The collection includes original photographs of gay men and women picketing the White House in 1965 along with the original picket signs; the original policy statement of the U.S. Civil Service Commission (1966) ex-

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American Library Association
50 E. Huron St.,
Chicago, IL 60611

Letters to the editor, correspondence to the above address care of:

John Bradford,
GLBTRT Newsletter Editor
jpbmls@yahoo.com

Clubs / Bars / Lounges

The Bad Juju Lounge

(Gay/Straight mix)

1518 11th Ave (at Pike)

206-709-9951

The Baltic Room

(Gay/Straight mix)

1207 Pine St (at Melrose)

206-625-4444

CC Attle's (Men)

1501 E Madison (at 15th Ave)

206-726-0565

also Veranda Room, Men's Room

The Crescent Lounge (Men)

1413 E. Olive Way (at Bellvue)

206-720-8188

The Cuff (Men, Levi)

1533 13th Ave (at Pine)

206/323-1525

Double Header (Men)

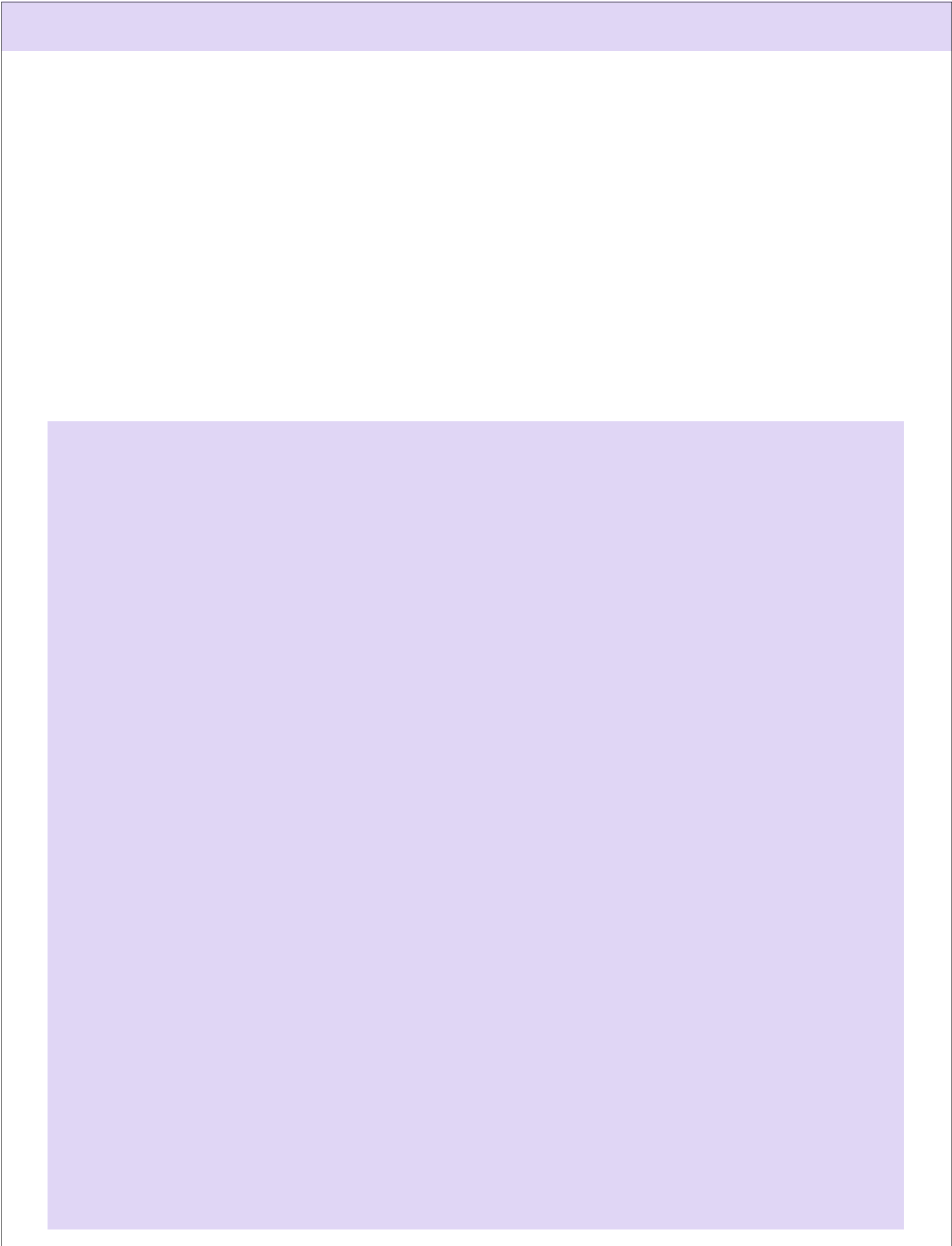
407 2nd Ave S Extension (at Washington)

206-464-9918

Eagle

(Men, Levi/Leather)

314 E Pike St.



vices Department at the Queens Library; **John Mitchell**, SACO Coordinator, Cooperative Cataloging Team at the Library of Congress; and **Kathryn Whitacre**, Regional Librarian with the Free Library of Philadelphia. **Dustin Larmore**, Assistant Professor and Technical Services Librarian at the Karl E. Mundt Library and Learning Commons at Dakota State University, and

In a continuing celebration of its fifteenth year of existence, the Leather Archives & Museum used a special issue (2006, No. 3) of its quarterly newsletter, *The Leather Times* (ISSN 1552-1915) to recount its history. With accounts and illustrations of

each year's highlights, the newsletter provides a look inside one of the alt-sex community's most innovative and enduring institutions.

The unique collection

of artifacts, publications, and archival materials held by the Leather Archives & Museum covers all aspects, individuals and groups that make up the BDSM/fetish community. From its start in the combined collections of 1st Amendment pioneer and bar owner **Chuck Renslow**, his lover **Dom Orejudos** (the artist **Etienne**

Frazer's debut novel is set in the world of a Bohemian circus troupe traveling the American Midwest at the turn of the 20th century. The cast of characters (typical of the circus sideshow coterie - fat lady, thin man, dog woman, strong man, etc.) is headed by Shanghai, a fire-throwing dwarf with a closely-guarded secret (he is physically a woman).

Shanghai is reeling from a love affair with a trapeze artist who stayed behind in Prague to marry a man. His memories of their relationship, however, are inhibited by the gypsy Mariana, wife of the circus manager, who has cast a spell on him, stolen his diary, and confiscated his mail. Entering this company of "anomalies" are conjoined twins Atasha and Anna, whose father sells them to the circus. Pandemonium and a series of disasters ensue when Shanghai and Atasha have an affair and Anna, with the complicity of Mariana, unwittingly in-

forms their father of Shanghai's true gender.

Even in this community of aberrations, homosexuality is so abhorrent as to be beyond tolerance. Would any queer reader living in the real world find this transparent theme so incredibly shocking? Probably not, but those who feel revulsion at the physical deformities of the protagonists might well be indignant that they fall beneath them on the scale of acceptance, thus the point of the novel. Unfortunately, despite no small talent in storytelling technique, the author's efforts to present these characters as complex and fully-realized human beings (if that is her intention) is mitigated from the start by the fable-like aura she creates through the magical abilities of Mariana. Nor is the premise as unique as one might imagine. A number of recent titles (minus the transgendered aspect but all favorably reviewed) explore

the travails of co-joined twins. Readers interested in novels set in the circuses should check out *Chang and Eng* by Darrin Strauss (2000), *Geek Love* by Katherine Dunn (1989), or *Cabinet of Wonders* by Renee Dodd (2006). A more in-

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MacLennan, Alex.

This is not an easy novel, for the reader. It is not a fun book to take to the beach or the ski lodge.

Alex MacLennan, a former zookeeper (or at least a zoo employee) himself, has chosen to chronicle the mostly

sad frustrating life of an other-directed, insecure just-beginning-a-career young man, who has spent his life trying to please

others, many of whom are difficult – his mother, his sister, her son, his boss at the zoo, his snazzy new boyfriend, and his best friend, a woman who gives up her struggling restaurant in Dupont Circle to return to Pennsylvania to care for her Alzheimer's-afflicted mother.

At least the superficially successful boyfriend encourages the zookeeper to start standing up for himself and pursuing his life in a way that suits him. In the end, finally in the last few pages, he does just that and tosses the boyfriend aside.

The characters are carefully drawn, psycho-

logically, but I never had a clear picture of what they looked like. I wanted a little more physical description, to help me along. The book is nicely designed, but flashbacks are in tiny and difficult to read italic type.

This is a serious literary novel, befitting its author's first attempt as a teacher of writing. Libraries collecting serious gay literature will want to consider it.

*Reviewed by James D. Anderson,
Professor Emeritus of LIS
Rutgers University
Ometeca Institute, St. Petersburg, FL*

Mock, Carlos T., MD. *Mosaic Virus*

Chicago: Floricanto Press, January 2007. 268 p. ISBN: 9780915745791 \$24.95

The year is 1983 and a series of unexplained deaths of priests has the Vatican Secretary of State worried, so he summons a Jesuit priest to investigate the cause of the deaths. Is it Stasi, KGB, CIA, FBI, former Nazi scientists or NIH? The story

moves across the globe from Vatican City to New York to Washington DC to Moscow and South Africa as Father Janiver Barraza and

FBI agent Lillian Davis Lodge follows the clues that bring them closer to the truth that threatens to destroy many lives and institutions.

This medical thriller examines the idea that the AIDS virus was created in a laboratory to be used as medical weapon. Cold War attitudes, Colonial and Post Colonial views toward the African peoples, the anti Gay and the Catholic church's fear of the past are vital elements in the story as Father Barraza learns more about the way the world operates and what has been done in the past by Germany, the United States and the Catholic Church which causes him to

question what he has been taught to believe.

The characters are realistic, the settings are real locations and the author makes good use of the historical facts of the period. The book is a quick read but it does make you think about the possible reality of this kind of biological warfare. I would recommend the book for purchase for public libraries.

*Reviewed by Norman Eriksen
Chief Librarian for Language
and Literature
Brooklyn Public Library*

Behind the Moon, continued...

unfamiliar with Australian English may find themselves reaching for a dictionary from time to time, as well as atlases of the city of Sydney and Australia.

This novel would be a valuable addition to the GLBT fiction collections of college and university libraries, although public libraries serving Asian American communities should consider acquiring it as well.

Reviewed by **Robert Ridinger**,
Professor and Electronic Information
Resources Manager
Northern Illinois University Libraries

The Future Is Queer: A Science Fiction Anthology

Edited by Richard Labonté and Lawrence Schimel. Vancouver, B.C.: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2006. 224 p. ISBN 1551522098. \$17.95

Science fiction has long been a vehicle for exploring different sexual and gender constructions, and the eight stories collected in this anthology present us with varied and imaginative realities.

Set in the future, with some technological innovations and different societal structures, the stories address some of our current GLBT concerns and discussions, such as gays in the military and GLBT mainstreaming, and gender transformation, for example.

Other stories address the more universal

concerns of love, relationships, break-ups, longing and sex, albeit within a queer vision. The last story is about the longing that comes when one does not relate or identify with one's body, and could be an excellent starting point for discussion of transgender issues.

The Future Is Queer offers interesting insights into a future that may be here before we know it. It is a quick, entertaining read; the stories are well written and gripping to the end. It might not please those who enjoy a more technologically based science fiction, but will please those who use sci-

ence fiction to reflect on our current realities.

Reviewed by
Michael Waldman
Head, Collection
Management
Baruch College Li-
brary, New York, NY.

**Book Reviews: Non-Fiction*****Ex-Gay Research: Analyzing the Spitzer Study and Its Relation to Science, Religion, Politics, and Culture***

Edited by Jack Drescher and Kenneth J. Zucker. New York: Harrington Park Press, 2006. 352 p. ISBN 978-1-56023-557-6 \$34.95

The idea of the ability of gay, lesbian, and bisexual people to change their sexual orientations to completely or primarily heterosexual has been a highly contested debate for the past several years. Psychiatrist Robert Spitzer significantly increased the intensity of these arguments after discussing at the 2001 American Psychiatric Association Conference a controversial study in which he concluded that some people can change their core sexual orientation through the secular-based method of reparative therapies and spiritually-based methods such as ex-gay ministries. His study was also published in a volume of scholarly journal. ("Can Some Gay Men Change Their Sexual Orientation?: 200 Participants Reporting a Change from Homosexual to Heterosexual Orientation." *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 32(5) (2003): 403-417.)

Incorporating two journal issues—the one

cited above as well as vol. 7, no. 3 of Harworth Press's *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Psychotherapy*—this informative and well-researched text contains 34 articles by scholars and health professionals who specialize in GLBT studies. Most of the authors criticized Spitzer's biased methodology and rigid conclusions. His use of study subjects who worked for organizations whose missions are to help GLB people to change their sexual orientations was especially criticized.

Three authors praised the article, including Richard Nicolosi, the founder of reparative therapy. Compliments included the study's wide scope of questions, recognition of people who have apparently changed from homosexual to heterosexual contrary to the opinions of most mental health organizations, and Spitzer's willingness to provide the complete data set of his study. This latter aspect was praised by nearly all the authors.

One article explained the media's distortion of the results of a study like Spitzer's as well as limit the types of discussion about the study in order to entice and excite the public.

An interview with Spitzer concludes the text. Due to its highly-intellectual style, this book is recommended for academic and GLBT-focused special library collections.

Reviewed by **Dustin P. Larmore**
Assistant Professor and
Technical Services Librarian
Dakota State University

**Build Your Vita! Write Reviews!**

To become a part of the team of reviewers that publish in the GLBTRT Newsletter, or to receive a copy of our guidelines for book reviews, email Book Review Editor **Lisa Johnston** at: lnjohnston@sbcb.edu

A lightly fiction-
alized
account
of true
events
at New
York's
Central

Richardson and Parnell tell the story sensitively; particularly poignant is the description of how Roy and Silo, males unable to produce an egg to nurture, shared time trying to hatch a rock of the right color and shape—and how a sympathetic zookeeper saw a way to grant them their dream of a family and rescue an egg that would otherwise have been abandoned.

A brief, one-page author's note provides a few more details on Roy, Silo and Tango.

While homosexuality in the animal kingdom is well documented (see Bruce Begemihl's *Biological Exuberance: Animal Homosexuality and Natural Diversity* (1999)), this gen-