

# Archival InQueeries

Society of American Archivists  
Lesbian and Gay Archivists Roundtable Newsletter  
Number 33, Spring 2008



## *In this issue:*

From the Co-Chairs	1
Editor's note	2
LAGAR Announcements	2
SAA Announcements	4
Archive news & announcements	4
Making History	7
News bits and bites	12
International news	18
Call for papers / proposals	26
Upcoming conferences	28
Something completely different	31

## [From the Co-Chairs:](#)

### **From the Chairs**

It may be hard to believe but the Lesbian & Gay Archives Roundtable will be 20 years old this summer! About a dozen lesbian and gay archivists met informally during the 1988 Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archivists, held that year in Atlanta, to discuss establishing an SAA roundtable that would be a forum for the concerns of lgbt archives and archivists. The consensus was to proceed, and that December a petition signed by 31 archivists – lesbian, gay, and straight – was sent to SAA Council formally requesting that such a roundtable be authorized. Council established us at their February 1989 meeting and our first formal meeting was at the 1989 SAA annual meeting.

We are the oldest existing organization of lesbian and gay archivists and of those who, whatever their sexuality, work with lesbian and gay archival materials. In the larger field of "information professionals," only the American Libraries Association's GLBT Roundtable is older.

We will commemorate this anniversary with a panel discussion on the state of LGBT archives during the LAGAR annual meeting held this year – appropriately enough – in San Francisco on August 27, from 3:15 to 5:15. We will be meeting at the GLBT Historical Society, which has generously opened its doors to us.

Of course, our meeting is part of the larger annual gathering of the Society of American Archivists held Aug. 26-30 and which will feature dozens of workshops and sessions of interest to archivists of all sexual orientations.

A sign of how far LGBT archives have come in the last 20 years is that this May in New York there will be an entire three day conference devoted to the topic. The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies (CLAGS) of the City University of New York Graduate Center is sponsoring the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual conference on what they call, in an excessive use of acronyms, GLBT ALMS. That stands for Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual, and Transgendered Archives, Libraries, Museums and Special Collections. International in scope and with speakers that include several of our very own LAGAR members, the conference will “explore the construction, use, organization, reflection, and preservation of queer archival material, collections, and research.” We hope many of you can make it. For more information see the conference web site at <http://web.gc.cuny.edu/clags/glbtalms/>

Stephen Novak and Bonnie Weddle, Co-Chairs

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*From the Editor:*

Hello fellow LAGAR-ites! I'm hoping you all have had some of the beautiful spring weather that I've been experiencing here in upstate NY.

Here it is, time for another issue of *Archival InQueeries* – where has the time gone? Well, as you will see in the next 25 or so pages in this issue, lots and lots of things which somehow touch LGBT issues, history and people have been happening all over the world, literally. In Cuba, an influential member of the Castro family is in support of LGBT rights. In Paris, a gay mayor is ready to run for their presidency. Our own presidential race where a black man and a white woman campaign as opposites of the same political party but both have several times acknowledged the LGBTQ folks and even agree that we exist, are viable human beings, and deserve the same rights that others who do not hold our preferences/choices/biological destinies have held as far back as history can record.

We are living in very exciting times and I can't think of any other profession I'd rather be involved in. Being an archivist right now is exciting because it is up to us, all of us, to maintain our history and do our best to ensure, protect, and promote the history of our LGBT predecessors and the history we create and those who come after us create so that we as a group, a viable 'family' of sorts, are not forgotten or lost in the history of the world.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of LAGAR's *Archival InQueeries* and, as always, I welcome your comments, suggestions, and offerings to promote our profession and our 'family' through our newsletter.

Take care and be safe,

Maggi Gonsalves, Your friendly newsletter editor

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## LAGAR Announcements

### **Leather Archives & Museum Digitizes Physique Films from the 1960s**

The Leather Archives & Museum recently digitized nineteen short physique films from its Kris Studios collection. The 8mm and 16mm films were shot by Chuck Renslow and Dom Orejudos (the artist Etienne) in Chicago in the 1960s. These films were sold by Kris Studios along with still physique prints to gay men through physique publications such as "Physique Pictorial", "Tomorrow's Man", "Grecian Guild Pictorial" and "Mars". The digitization was done by Cinepost in Atlanta, GA. The project was sponsored in part by a Chicago researcher who was interested in including footage in a documentary and in part by International Mr. Leather, Inc.

The films are made available to researchers at the LA&M. The Leather Archives has also posted clips of the films on YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com> search for Kris Studios) and is selling the complete films on DVD in its museum store to help support LA&M operations and future digitization projects.

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### **Nominations for Male Co-Chair**

Yes, it's time again to start thinking about who you wish to nominate for the Male Co-Chair. Steve Novak, after serving 4 years [two consecutive terms] must step down and, according to the by-laws and rules of SAA, is not allowed to seek or be nominated for another term of office [Article 4, section B, item 1].

Steve has been a very active and forward thinking co-chairperson throughout his service to LAGAR. So, let us raise our glasses, as it were, and thank Steve for all he's done, though I feel confident that he's not going anywhere really, he'll just be a smiling face in the LAGAR crowd and will still remain an attentive, active, and engaged participant.

With that being said, start to think of who you might wish to nominate at the next LAGAR meeting in San Francisco, which will be our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and will meet at the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Historical Society, 657 Mission St, #300, San Francisco, on Friday, August 27 from 3:15 – 5:15 pm.

Plan on joining your LAGAR colleagues at this special meeting and make your voice heard as to who you would like to have as our next male co-chair.



**Early-Bird Registration:** Register by **July 7** and save \$50 off Advance registration rates and \$100 off On-site rates.

**Advance Registration:** Register by **July 30** to save \$50 off On-site rates.

**Late Registration:** Registrations received after **July 30** will be returned to sender. After July 30 you must register on site at the SAA Registration Desk located in the Hilton San Francisco, 333 O'Farrell Street, San Francisco, California. Those registering after July 30 may not appear in the conference attendee roster.

**Advance registrations for Pre-conference Programs ONLY will be accepted until July 30. After this date, individuals may register onsite pending availability of seats in the program.**

LAGAR is part of Roundtable Meetings II on August 27 from 3:15 – 5:15 pm. For more details and information go to [Http://www.archivists.org/saagroups/lagar/annualmeeting.html](http://www.archivists.org/saagroups/lagar/annualmeeting.html) H .

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[Archive news and announcements](#)

**The History Project Launches Two Online Exhibitions**

Founded in 1980, the mission of The History Project is to document and preserve the history of Boston's LGBT communities and to share that information with the public.

Thanks in part to funding from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health HIV/AIDS Bureau and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, *Above + Beyond*, The History Project's successful 2006 exhibit on the local community's response to the HIV/AIDS crisis, is available online.

Throughout 2007, volunteers Bruce Bell, Pat Gozemba, Stewart Landers, and Pat Ould worked with THP board member Libby Bouvier and Karen Simon of the New York City

based design firm Simon Does to develop an interactive version of the exhibit that captures the focus, energy, and depth of the original.

Visit *Above + Beyond* online: [www.historyproject.org/AIDS\\_exhibit](http://www.historyproject.org/AIDS_exhibit).

Our current project is *The Queer East*, an online exhibition that celebrates Boston's LGBT Asian community by recounting the stories of its members. The focal point of the exhibit is a series of innovative multimedia profiles that combine streaming video with text, photographs, and other visual elements. Profile subjects share their insights on a broad range of topics related to their Asian identity and their sexuality, including issues related to family, racism, culture, politics, and relationships.

The preview exhibit (launched in November 2007) features profiles of performance artist Sudarshan Belsare and activist Jacob Smith Yang. In June 2008, two additional profiles will be added to the site: of Wellesley College faculty member Geeta Patel and of the Good Asian Drivers (Melissa Li and Kit Yan), a Boston-based spoken word and folk music duo. We plan to expand the site to include 12 profiles of community members.

An expanded version of the exhibit will also feature access to relevant archival materials from The History Project's extensive collections. We will launch this portion of the site in summer 2008.

You can visit *The Queer East* online at [www.queereast.org](http://www.queereast.org).

For more information about The History Project and our current projects, email [info@historyproject.org](mailto:info@historyproject.org), call 617.266.7733, or visit us online at [www.historyproject.org](http://www.historyproject.org).

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**Rainbow History's** site now includes ten new pdf documents of the gay left in the 1970s, including issues of *Come Out Fighting*, *Red Flag*, and *Gay Left*. Also online are two Lavender & Red Union readers. The documents can be accessed from [www.rainbowhistory.org/gayleftUS.htm](http://www.rainbowhistory.org/gayleftUS.htm) < <http://www.rainbowhistory.org/gayleftUS.htm> > .

All recently added archival documents are listed on the home page: [www.rainbowhistory.org](http://www.rainbowhistory.org) < <http://www.rainbowhistory.org/> > .

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## **Tony Kushner and Edmund White Help Launch New Support Group for The New York Public Library's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Collections**

LGBT @ NYPL Announces over \$500,000 in Major Corporate Gifts from Time Warner, MAC AIDS Fund, and Estee Lauder and Private Donations at April 3 Kickoff

(New York, NY) April 4, 2008 – A new donor support group, LGBT @ NYPL, will help to expand, build, and make accessible The New York Public Library’s extensive Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) collections, one of the few such efforts by a non-LGBT organization.

At an inaugural reception last night at the Library, LGBT @ NYPL’s Co-Chairmen Hermes Mallea and Carey Maloney announced it has raised more than \$500,000 in corporate and private donations to strengthen LGBT collections across the The New York Public Library’s four research libraries and 87 branches. Mallea and Maloney were joined by Library Chairman Catherine C. Marron and President Paul LeClerc as well as Honorary Chairmen Tony Kushner and Edmund White. (Honorary Chairman Rita Mae Brown was unable to attend.)

“For decades, The New York Public Library has documented the history and creative contributions of LGBT communities. These collections show both the struggle for social justice and the individual accomplishments of community members,” said New York Public Library President Paul LeClerc. “It is vitally important for the Library to preserve this history and expand its collections in this area. We are deeply grateful to Hermes Mallea and Carey Maloney for founding and chairing the LGBT Committee, and to all those who have donated funds.”

TimeWarner has pledged \$300,000 to the LGBT Collections; MAC AIDS Fund has pledged \$150,000; Estée Lauder has pledged \$30,000. The MAC AIDS Fund Gift will bring HIV/AIDS issues to broader public attention by providing wider access to the Library’s extraordinarily rich collections on HIV/AIDS activism and advocacy. There are also 41 individual Members, with gifts totaling over \$100,000 this fiscal year. Membership gifts range between \$1,000 to \$25,000.

The core strength of the Library’s LGBT collections is the combination of archives of key LGBT activists and activist organizations, such as Gay Activists Alliance, the Mattachine Society of New York, Barbara Gittings and Kay Tobin Lahusen, Jonathan Ned Katz and Joseph Beam, alongside the archives of pivotal LGBT artists and cultural figures such as William S. Burroughs, W. H. Auden, Virginia Woolf, and Charles Ludlum, combined with some of the country’s strongest collections on the LGBT movement

or LGBT issues. The collections comprise at least 50,000 volumes and over 300 archives, including hundreds of thousands of letters, manuscripts, photographs, and posters, along with numerous films, videos, and audio recordings. Library programming such as author talks, lectures, public conversations, films, and musical performances add richness and context to the wealth of materials.

A new blog highlights some of the fascinating materials in the Library's LGBT collections. Managed by Jason Baumann, Manager of the LGBT Committee, [lgbt @ nypl](mailto:lgbt@nypl.org) also provides links to the Library's LGBT Digital Collections and Resources. [lgbt @ nypl](mailto:lgbt@nypl.org) can be found at <http://lgbt.nypl.org/>.



### [Making History](#)

## **CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK GRADUATE CENTER NEW YORK CITY, MAY 8-10, 2008**

CLAGS hosted an extraordinary international conference focusing on GLBT Archives, Libraries, Museums, and Special Collections (ALMS) and the archivists, librarians, researchers, artists, activists, and volunteers who work with them. This was the 2nd ALMS conference since 2006 to explore the construction, use, organization, reflection, and preservation of queer archival material, collections, and research.

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### **Co-sponsorship**

Proud sponsors of ALMS 2008 included:

- EBSCO
- Lesbian Herstory Archives
- The Leslie/Lohman Gay Art Foundation
- Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
- The New York Public Library
- The James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center
- Barnard Center for Research on Women
- Bibliogay Publications
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies at Yale
- Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library
- Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture
- The Sophia Smith Collection at Smith College
- Yale Research Initiative on the History of Sexualities
- The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgender Community Center
- Impact Stories, California - LGBT Oral Histories
- The Human Sexuality Collection, Cornell University Library

- Lambda Literary Foundation
- Gerber/Hart Library
- The Institute for Tongzhi Studies
- International Resource Network
- Third World Newsreel

**Presentations included**

**Archival Knowledges: Practical, Political, and Theoretical Observations on Making Queer History**

Susan Stryker  
 Filmmaker, Writer, GLBT Historical Society activist  
 Ruth Wynn Woodward  
 Endowed Professor, Women's Studies, Simon Fraser University, San Francisco

**Keeping Current: China's LGBT Information Networks**

Jiang Hui "Bing Lan"  
 Founder, LGBT Archive  
 Damien Lu  
 President, Information Clearinghouse for Chinese Gays & Lesbians (ICCG), Aibai Culture & Education Center, Beijing, China  
 Daniel C. Tsang  
 University of California, Irvine

**Memory in Action: Documenting Same-Sex Experience in an African Context**

Busi Kheswa & Anthony Manion  
 Gay and Lesbian Memory in Action (GALA), Johannesburg, South Africa

**Drag Show Video Vérité & The 82 Club: A Multi-Media Tik**

Joe E. Jeffreys  
 Theater historian, archivist of drag performance & The 82 Club, New York

**Opening Reception**

Lesbian Herstory Archives, Brooklyn

**Mid-Conference Reception**

National Archive of Lesbian, Gay Bisexual & Transgender History  
 The LGBT Community Center, Manhattan

**Closing Reception**

Black Gay & Lesbian Archive, Harlem

**Tributes to:**

Yolanda Retter  
 Barbara Gittings  
 Allan Bérubé





## ***Thong-Clad Protesters Stripped of Civil Rights Suit***

Shannon P. Duffy <http://www.law.com/jsp/article.jsp?id=1202421637055&pos=ataglance>  
05-23-2008

A group of young men who stripped down to thong underwear and formed a roadside pyramid to stage a protest when President George W. Bush was visiting Lancaster County in July 2004 have lost their bid to revive a civil rights suit against the Pennsylvania state troopers who arrested them.

The protesters claimed in the suit that they were attempting to recreate one of the infamous photographs of abuse in the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq, and that their simulation of nudity was therefore essential to their message.

But U.S. District Judge Paul S. Diamond dismissed the suit in March 2006, finding that the troopers had probable cause to arrest the protesters for "open lewdness" because they "appeared to be entirely naked" and there were young children in the vicinity.

As a result, Diamond concluded in his opinion in *Egolf v. Witmer* that the troopers had not violated the protesters' First Amendment rights. But even if they had, Diamond said, the four troopers named in the suit would nonetheless be entitled to "qualified immunity" because there is no "clearly established" right to employ simulated nudity in a political protest.

Now, the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has upheld Diamond's decision, but the three-judge panel was divided in its legal analysis. Two of the judges said Diamond's dismissal of the suit should be affirmed purely on qualified immunity grounds because the protesters could not show that the arresting officers violated any clearly established right.

But the third judge said he wouldn't even reach the qualified immunity issue because he believed Diamond was correct in holding that the protesters' constitutional rights were never violated. The protesters' lawyer, J. Dwight Yoder of Gibbel Kraybill & Hess in Lancaster, Pa., said he was disappointed by the ruling because he believes his clients were engaged in "core political speech" that "cannot be suppressed merely because it is offensive."

Yoder said none of the protesters violated public indecency laws because their genitals were never exposed, and that their decision to pose in a "nearly naked" state was "the only way to convey how horrible" the abuses at Abu Ghraib were.

According to court papers, Bush was scheduled to make a campaign visit to East Lampeter Township on July 9, 2004, for an invitation-only event. In the hours before the president's arrival, crowds gathered along Route 340, including protesters and Bush supporters.

At one point, a group of seven young men selected a spot along the motorcade's route and stripped down to thong underwear. Five got on their hands and knees on the ground; two others then climbed onto the backs of the five and also got on their hands and knees, baring their buttocks toward the road.

The group later said they had intended to form a structure that resembled a photograph taken at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq that showed three naked Iraqi inmates perched on the backs of four others. The group also included a woman, who was to stand behind the pyramid with a sign reading "Great War, George," and an eighth man who planned to videotape the protest and explain it to bystanders.

But the president never saw the protest because state troopers began to arrest the men about a minute after the pyramid was formed. One protester who "quickly dressed" was not arrested, but the other six were handcuffed and taken into custody for about two hours.

Lancaster County's district attorney later declined to press any charges.

The lawsuit was filed by Yoder and attorney Paula Kay Knudsen of the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of five of the arrested protesters -- Tristan P. Egolf, Adam Clayton Willard, Jonathan A. Kohler, David J.C. O'Bryant and Benjamin D. Keely.

(Egolf, the lead plaintiff, a writer whose first novel at age 27 had won him comparisons to William Faulkner and John Steinbeck, committed suicide in May 2005, and his parents took his place in pursuing the lawsuit.)

In dismissing the suit, Diamond said he agreed that the protesters were engaged in "political" speech, but that he also found that Pennsylvania's open lewdness statute is "content-neutral," and that the protesters had violated it.

"I believe that any reasonable person -- seeing plaintiffs' near-nude display in the presence of children and adults awaiting the president's visit -- would have concluded that the First Amendment did not protect plaintiffs' conduct," Diamond wrote.

On appeal, the case sparked a disagreement among the three judges about how to approach such First Amendment cases.

The majority focused on whether the arresting officers were entitled to qualified immunity and concluded that they were because the situation forced them to make a "split-second" decision about whether such sexually explicit protests qualify as protected speech.

"The choice that the protesters made to portray this particular image generates a question that would have been difficult to assess on the scene: whether the depiction of an inherently sexually offensive image is any less shocking simply because people recreate it as a protest," U.S. Circuit Judge Richard L. Nygaard wrote.

But in a lengthy concurring opinion, U.S. Circuit Judge D. Brooks Smith said he would also uphold Diamond's dismissal of the suit, but that he would take a different path.

Smith said he believes the U.S. Supreme Court has instructed lower courts to take a two-step approach to such cases, focusing first on whether any constitutional violation occurred and turning to the qualified immunity question only if the plaintiff can establish a constitutional violation.

Under that analysis, Smith said, the protesters suit would fail at the first step because they cannot show that their arrests violated either their First or Fourth amendment rights. Smith said he agreed with Diamond that the officers had probable cause to arrest the protesters for open lewdness, and that the protesters cannot show that there was any less restrictive means of preventing violations of the lewdness law. As a result, Smith said, it was unnecessary for the court to reach the issue of qualified immunity because no constitutional violation occurred.

The disagreement among the judges stemmed from their differing views on how to read the U.S. Supreme Court's 2001 decision in *Saucier v. Katz*, which outlined a two-step process for deciding questions of qualified immunity. Under *Saucier*, courts first decide whether the facts alleged by the plaintiffs amount to a constitutional violation, and, if so, decide in the second step whether the violated right was a "clearly established" one.

Nygaard, in an opinion joined by visiting 8th Circuit Judge David R. Hansen, found that since the analysis of the existence of the right hinged on predictions of state law, the case was an exception to *Saucier's* "generally mandated analytic framework." The purpose of the two-step process outlined in *Saucier*, Nygaard said, was to mandate that courts address the constitutional questions in order to "advance the elaboration of the law" so that police would receive "better guidance on the parameters of constitutional violations."

But Nygaard found that when the constitutional question hinges on predictions of state law, such as the parameters of Pennsylvania's lewdness statute, the purpose of *Saucier* was no longer being served. "In cases such as this, federal courts do a disservice to state actors who would be induced to rely on a ruling that might change altogether upon subsequent review by the state court," Nygaard wrote.

Smith disagreed, saying, "I regard the *Saucier* rule as mandatory and do not believe that inferior courts are free to depart from it."

Deputy Attorney General John G. Knorr III, who argued the appeal for the state troopers, could not be reached for comment.

Yoder said he has not yet discussed the decision with his clients and that no decision has yet been made about whether to seek reargument in the 3rd Circuit or pursue an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

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### It took 56 years.



**Del Martin and Phyllis Lyons** met in 1952 and have been together ever since. On February 12, 2004, Del and Phyllis were the first couple to be married in San Francisco. Mayor Gavin Newsom officiated. Shortly thereafter, an appellate court invalidated their marriage because under California law only a man and a woman can marry.

Del and Phyllis were among the plaintiffs that challenged that definition. On May 15, 2008, the California Supreme Court held that the prohibition against same-sex marriage is unconstitutional.

The groundwork for Del and Phyllis to marry began sixty years ago when 40 states had criminal laws that prohibited whites and blacks from marrying. These miscegenation laws were routinely upheld by state and federal courts. In 1948, the first of these laws was struck down by the California Supreme Court. It was the first appellate opinion to affirm marriage equality.

There are few more fundamental freedoms than the right of each citizen to choose the life partner of his/her choice and to have society treat that relationship and their children with equality. Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon will be the first couple to be married with equal rights and responsibilities pursuant to the California Supreme Court's decision. **It took 56 years.**



[From *Equality Forum*, a national and international GLBT civil rights organization with an educational focus. Equality Forum coordinates GLBT History Month, produces documentary films, undertakes high impact initiatives and presents the largest annual international GLBT civil rights forum. For more information, visit: [www.equalityforum.com](http://www.equalityforum.com).]

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### [News bits and bites](#)

## **Gay & Gender Research Releases New Study**

**"Retired Gay & Lesbian Couples: A Qualitative Exploration Into Their Concerns, Experiences, Needs & Problems."**

This qualitative study presents the results of in person and phone conversations with 20 gay male and lesbian couples in long-term relationships, close to, or retired from full-time employment. Length of the relationships ranged from 6 and 42 years. Couples lived in rural and urban areas of California, Florida, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin. With a focus on the relationship, this study examined the couple's concerns, experiences, needs and problems. During a time of passionate debates regarding gay marriage, this study can serve to better inform the discussion by showing with concrete data the many ways couples are affected.

The study is available in a free download, and book format at:  
<http://www.lgbtresearch.org>

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**From:** Breaking News, May 2, 2008, American Libraries Online <<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/>>

## **Librarians Join Challenge to Oregon Harmful-to-Minors Laws**

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon and the American Library Association's Freedom to

Read Foundation have joined 13 other plaintiffs in challenging two state laws that criminalize the provision of

"sexually explicit" materials to minors. Filed in U.S. District Court April 25, the suit says that the statute, which is aimed at sexual predators, is so vague that it could intimidate Oregonians from giving youngsters sex-education materials and other constitutionally protected works.

David Fidanque, executive director of the ACLU of Oregon, said that the statutes "do not take into account whether someone's intent is to harm the minor." Instead, he said, they "criminalize all acts of furnishing 'sexually explicit' material no matter who is doing it and no matter for what purpose." The group notes that under the law a 17-year-old girl could be prosecuted for lending her 13-year-old sister a copy of Judy Blume's *Forever* and advising her to "read the good parts."

The laws, which went into effect January 1, makes it a crime to provide sexually explicit material to children younger than age 13, or to a minor under 18 if the intent was to arouse or satisfy sexual desire or induce the minor to engage in sexual conduct. Although the statute addressing children exempts public libraries, law enforcement agencies, museums, and medical-treatment providers, it contains no exception for bookstores; the statute aimed at protecting minors contains no exemptions at all.

The 15 plaintiffs include FTRF Vice President Candace Morgan, who was asked to participate by the ACLU of Oregon, for whom she volunteers and speaks on library issues. Morgan, former associate director of the Fort Vancouver Regional Library District in Vancouver, Washington, told *American Libraries* that while the statute was "very well-meaning," its vagueness results in a "chilling effect." Noting that parents and family members are not exempted, she said the parents of her 7-year-old grandson recently asked her to choose a sex-education book. She selected titles by Robie Harris, author of *It's Perfectly Normal* and other acclaimed but often-challenged works, but then wondered if they would violate the statute. "If giving them accurate information makes you subject to being charged, that's frightening," she concluded.

No date has been set for a hearing on the case.

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## **Booksellers Join Challenge to Oregon Censorship Law**

NEW YORK, NY, April 24, 2008 – Six Oregon booksellers will join the American Booksellers

Foundation for Free Expression (ABFFE) and a coalition of groups in filing a lawsuit in federal district court in Portland tomorrow challenging a new Oregon law that unconstitutionally restricts the display and sale of books and magazines that are protected by the First Amendment. House Bill 2843 makes it a felony to allow a minor under 13 to view or purchase a “sexually explicit” work. “We do not doubt the good intentions of the Oregon legislature,” ABFFE President Chris Finan said. “But H.B. 2843 lacks the safeguards for booksellers that the U.S. Supreme Court has mandated in this kind of law.”

Finan said that booksellers are concerned that H.B. 2843 does not include a requirement that a book or magazine be judged as a whole in determining whether it is illegal; such a test may exempt works that contain only a few sexually explicit images or passages. In addition, there is no exemption for material that has serious literary artistic, political or scientific value for minors. Under H.B. 2843, a bookseller can be prosecuted for allowing a curious 12-year-old to examine a sex education book if it contains drawings depicting sexual conduct, even one that is written for minors.

H.B. 2843 is also a logistical nightmare. “For booksellers, the new law is vague and difficult to apply,” Michael Powell, owner of Powell’s Books in Portland and a plaintiff in the case, said. “It says a 13-year-old can legally buy these books, but it’s a crime to sell them to a 12-year-old. How do I card a 12-year-old?”

The other Oregon booksellers participating in the challenge are Annie Bloom’s Books, St. John’s Booksellers, and 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Books, all located in Portland; Paulina Springs Books, which has stores in Sisters and Redmond, and Colette’s Good Food + Hungry Minds in North Bend.

The other plaintiffs are ABFFE, the Association of American Publishers, the Freedom to Read Foundation, the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund, Planned Parenthood of the Columbia/Willamette, Inc., Cascade AIDS Project, the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon and Candace Morgan.

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## **TIAA-CREF Endorses Legislation Calling for Domestic Partner Benefits**

TIAA-CREF today announced its support for H.R. 1820, Tax Equity for Health Plan Beneficiaries Act of 2007, introduced by Congressman Jim McDermott (D-WA) in the House and S. 1556, Tax Equity for Domestic Partner and Health Plan Beneficiaries Act of 2007, introduced by Senator Gordon Smith

(R-OR) in the Senate.

The bill would eliminate the inequities in federal tax law by excluding the value of domestic partner health coverage from the taxable income of the employee and from wages for purposes of payroll tax obligations. The bill would correct these inequities for domestic partners and others who qualify as plan beneficiaries under the employer plan but do not meet the tax code definition of spouse or dependent.

In particular, it would permit a Voluntary Employees' Beneficiary Association (also known as a VEBA) to provide full benefits to domestic partners or other non-spouse, non-dependent beneficiaries without endangering its tax-exempt status.

A number of colleges and universities currently provide benefits to domestic partners. Many of these institutions are also considering participating in a tax-exempt VEBA or other similar trusts, as a way to help employees save additional resources to offset the rising cost of health care in retirement.

"We support those institutions that wish to help cover the retirement health care needs of employees and their dependents," said Nancy Heller, Senior Managing Director and Head of Institutional Relationships. "We look forward to working as part of the coalition to support passage of legislation that would enable VEBAs to provide full benefits to domestic partners."

"Every American deserves to be treated with dignity, respect and equal treatment under the law, but that is not happening in the workplace today, because of a glaring inequity that treats a married couple differently than domestic partners when it comes to an employer's contribution for a health care premium," Rep. Jim McDermott said. "This is absolutely wrong and I intend to correct this through the Tax Equity for Health Plan Beneficiaries Act."

"All employees should have the opportunity to freely choose benefit plan beneficiaries, said Andy Brantley, Chief Executive Officer, College and University Professional Association for Human Resources (CUPA-HR). "CUPA-HR supports removal of the tax inequities that currently apply to VEBAs to give employees who participate in these plans the opportunity to freely designate the beneficiaries of their choice."

TIAA-CREF is the leading retirement system for people who work in the academic, research, medical and cultural fields with more than \$419 billion in combined assets under management. The company

serves 3.4 million active and retired employees of more than 15,000 institutions.

TIAA-CREF will advocate for the passage of this legislation. TIAA-CREF is a member of the Business Coalition for Benefits Tax Equity, a group of employers and business trade associations, who also support this legislation.

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## **Little Gay Bookstore That Fought Big Battle Is for Sale**

by Kilian Melloy

EDGE Contributor

<http://www.edgeboston.com/index.php?ch=news&sc=gibt&sc3=&id=73432&pf=1>

Wednesday Apr 23, 2008

A little gay bookstore in Vancouver that made a big impact on Canadian censorship is going up for sale.

After more than 23 years of fighting back against homophobia of all kinds--from the anti-gay violence of censorship laws to bombs lobbed into their building--the owners of Little Sister's Book & Art Emporium, Jim Deva and Bruce Smyth, are looking for new owners to continue the shop.

An Apr. 20 [article](#) posted at Mclean's.ca quoted Deva as saying that some people felt threatened by the shop, "Because we were... very, very blatant about being open" about being gay.

Said Deva, "[W]e were threatening to homophobes."

The two men opened the book store in 1983; in 1985, they became embroiled in a fight with censorship authorities that ended in victory in 2000, but which then led to yet another round in the courts that only finished up last year, with the case being decided against Little Sister's while still handing the establishment something of a moral triumph.

Even as he made preparations for a 25 Anniversary celebration for the business, Deva spoke of moving on, Mclean's [s.ca](#) reported: "It's probably time to pass on the torch hopefully to some younger, energetic people who are willing to work with our store."

Added Deva, "I'm not in a rush [to sell]. We're going to take our time."

The article noted that the store's fight with a censorious customs office saw the seizure of books by Jean Genet, Quentin Crisp, and the playwright Joe Orton, along with companion books *The Joy of Lesbian Sex* and *The Joy of Gay Sex*.

But the store had support from the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association, along with high profile writers.

Said Deva, "I think it's our tenacity. We just wouldn't give up and came back again and again at them from every angle we could figure out."

And now, when even the Canadian high court recognizes that there remains work to be done in terms of battling censorship, Deva says that the Censorship office has come to understand that



"when they make a sort of pronouncement on a book, that they may well have to defend that."

Added Deva, "We still disagree with the process but it's certainly fairer than it was 20 years ago."

Said the B.C. Civil Liberties Association's John Dixon, "When you look at the trial record of Little Sister's [you see that] what it was about wasn't just about gay sex, it was about the freedom, the right, to not only imagine your sexuality but to talk about your sexuality with other people."

Said Dixon, "If you don't permit people to talk about their sexual lives, talk about their sexual fantasies, talk about their sexual needs, you're cutting off an awful lot of thinking about something that is very important--unless you take the view that sex isn't important for human beings, and that's wrong," Mclean's [s.ca](#) reported.

Dixon went on, "They were on the sharp end of the movement in Canada to liberate sensibilities about the life of the spirit, sex, all that kind of stuff."

The store's struggles resulted in a book and a film; together with author Stuart Blackley, Janine Fuller, the store's manager, co-wrote *Restricted Entry: Censorship in Trial*, and received an honorary Ph.D. from Simon Fraser University, whose president, Michael Stevenson, noted that, "the gains made by Little Sister's have benefited all Canadians."

A documentary titled *Little Sister's vs. Big Brother* was made in 2002 by filmmaker Aerlynn Weismann, leading to a fresh insult from the government when an official with the censor's office threatened to yank the festival before it opened at Vancouver's 2002 Out on Screen Queer Film and Video Festival.

The government said that the festival did not have the required permits; but the glaring bias in the matter was so obvious (permits were not a requirement for any other film festivals) that a public backlash resulted, and the festival, together with the film on Little Sister's went forward.

For such a significant player in Canada's literary and queer culture, the store had humble origins as a marginal business; the Mclean's article said that Deva and Smyth lived on the premises along with their cat, after whom the store had been named.

The article quoted Deva as reminiscing, "Looking back, they were very good times."

Added Deva, "The secret is to enjoy part of the journey you are on without being overwhelmed by the stress."

In time, however, the store became a gathering place and a fixture for the local GLBT populace.

But the good will of local gays and lesbians was not all the store drew; a bomb exploded in the stairwell in Dec. of 1987, followed a year afterwards by a second bombing. Then, four years later, the restaurant that Deva co-owned in the same building was similarly damaged by a bomb.

No arrests were ever made in connection with the bomb attacks.

Those incidents may have been frightening, but they were of less consequence in the larger picture, and in the long run, than the resolution of the store's case against the government's Customs office for seizing books. The 2000 Canadian Supreme Court ruling in the case saw Little Sisters emerge victorious, and saw Customs now reigned in and required to explain and justify its seizures.

A subsequent case involving compensation to Little Sister's by Customs was lost by the store, but even so, the Supreme Court recognized the service the business had done for Canada's culture of letters.

Wrote the justices of the court, "Given that 70 per cent of Customs detentions are of gay and lesbian material, there is unfinished business of high public importance left over from Little Sisters No. 1."

The Supreme Court also reiterated its earlier decision with a passage that read, "Systemic discrimination by Customs officials and unlawful interference with free expression were clearly established in the earlier case and numerous Charter violations and systemic problems in the administration of Customs legislation were found."

Said Deva, "Throwing that light on this very sort of insidious and backroom kind of activity is very, very important."

But, said Deva, the work he and Smyth started cannot be allowed to fall by wayside, though it will be expensive to safeguard Canadians' rights. "In the future, my concern would be [that] no one would be willing to take on and do what we did because of the mounting costs."

Added Deva, "It is very important work and I think it is important for all Canadians."

But there are other threats to the culture of the community bookstore out there, in the form of discount chains and Internet-based sales.

"I think that small bookstores perform -- as this one has -- as sort of a soul in a community."

Added Deva, "When we lose all of our small bookstores [then] the books that are important, that are on the edge that change our world, [are] not going to be printed published or sold."

"That," reckoned Deva, "is way too dangerous."

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### [International news](#)

## **Moscow Pride Organizer to receive award in Brazil**

<http://www.gayrussia.ru/en/news/detail.php?ID=11410>  
<http://ukgaynews.org.uk/Archive/08/May/1801.htm>



The world's largest Gay Pride – São Paulo – is to "twin" with Moscow Pride, it was announced on Friday.

And Moscow Pride organiser, Nikolai Alekseev will be flying in from Russia this week to take part, and to receive the Brazillian Pride's "Citizen Award for Respecting Diversity" in a ceremony on Thursday afternoon.

In ten years, São Paulo 's LGBT Pride Parade has developed from 2000 people in 1997 to being the largest public event of its kind in the world. It unquestionably contributes to generate more respect for diversity, and is considered a benchmark for social movements in Brazil, proving that to be political one need not forsake irreverence and spontaneity.

Activities range from the festive, grandiose Pride Parade along Avenida Paulista, that invariably gives a splash of colour to the front page of the major Brazilian newspapers and fills TV screens across the country, to more discreet series of workshops and debates in faraway working class districts of the city, that spread awareness of LGBT human rights and STD/Aids prevention to those who previously did not have access to such knowledge.

Organisers of the Pride, Associação da Parada do Orgulho GLBT (LGBT Pride Parade Association – APOGLBT), have decided on “Homophobia Kills! Defending the Secular State” as the theme for this year.

“The presence of [Nikolai Alekseev] will strengthen our fight against homophobia ... and for Senate approval of a law criminalising homophobia,” a spokesperson a APOGLBT says. The proposed law is being fiercely resisted by religious politicians.

São Paulo Pride is recognised by the Guinness Book of Records as the largest in the world –around four million people in the city is a sight to behold.

Moscow is not the only Pride to be honoured by São Paulo . Jerusalem and Open House also gets the nod.

Both Pride Parades face strong opposition from public officials, religious leaderships and conservative groups.

“We consider that the two Pride Parades are the best examples of homophobia in all the world and their organizers and participants represent our best hopes in construction of a world with more justice and respect to the human rights, as well the guarantee of citizenship of LGBT population,” the spokesperson said.

“We hope this alliance can help them in their local struggle, summing more this support for a better condition in the next Pride Parades.”

São Paulo Pride Parade will take place on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> May.

**GayRussia.Ru, UkGayNews.Org.Uk**

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## **Gay diver breaks Australian sporting taboo**

By Kathy Marks in Sydney [<http://www.independent.co.uk/>]  
*Monday, 26 May 2008*

Australia's cities all boast thriving gay communities, and the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, which recently celebrated its 30th birthday, has become a mainstream cultural event. Yet Australian sport remains a bastion of heterosexuality – on the surface, at least.

Now a diver, Matthew Mitcham, has taken his first cautious steps towards dispelling that myth. Mitcham, 20, who will be competing in Beijing, will be the first openly gay Australian to take part in an Olympic games.

The Queenslander, who is now based in Sydney, told the Sydney Morning Herald that he had applied for a grant to enable his partner, Lachlan, to accompany him to the Games. Lachlan has supported him throughout a turbulent period during which he fought depression and temporarily retired from his chosen sport.

Mitcham's decision to reveal details of his personal life was a brave one. Australia is a sports-mad country that still expects its sporting heroes to conform to old-fashioned notions of masculinity.

The diver quit his sport in mid-2006 and returned to it last year. He is regarded as a serious gold medal prospect. Earlier this month, he beat two Chinese Olympic favourites at a World Cup event in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, with four perfect dives from the 10-metre platform. Dawn Fraser, one of Australia's Olympic swimming greats, has acknowledged having had lesbian relationships. But when the gold medallist competed at the 1960 Rome Games and in Tokyo in 1964, her sexuality was a private affair.

The American gold medal-winning diver, Greg Louganis, competed at the Montreal Games in 1976, in Los Angeles in 1984 and in Seoul in 1988. Shortly after returning from Seoul, he came out as both gay and HIV-positive.

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## Gay Mayor of Paris sets his sights on French presidency

By John Lichfield in Paris

[\[http://www.independent.co.uk/news/europe/gay-mayor-of-paris-sets-his-sights-on-french-presidency-832857.html\]](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/europe/gay-mayor-of-paris-sets-his-sights-on-french-presidency-832857.html)

Friday, 23 May 2008



AFP/Getty Images

Bertrand Delanoë said 'I am ready to invest my convictions and energy in my country'

Will a black American president shake hands one day with a gay president of France? Barack Obama has already taken strides towards reversing the conventional, racial wisdom of US politics. Bertrand Delanoë, the popular, successful, gruff, acerbic – and gay – Mayor of Paris took his first step yesterday on a four-year obstacle course which could, in theory, take him to the Elysée Palace in 2012.

In the introduction to a book of interviews, outlining a market-oriented and even Blairist future for Socialism in France, M. Delanoë hinted strongly that he would run for the leadership of the Parti Socialiste in November and probably seek the party's presidential nomination in four years' time. He was ready, he said, to "invest my convictions and energy in my country" if "democracy and the Socialist Party call on me... to act".

In a brief reference to his sexual orientation, M. Delanoë rejected the view – often voiced in the provinces but a taboo subject for the Paris media – that La France profonde is not ready to elect a homosexual as president of the republic. "People say that homosexuality is acceptable in Paris but not in the suburbs or in the provinces but that's a false idea," he said. "So long as people feel that it is not a problem for me, then it's not a problem for them."

When they discuss M. Delanoë's prospects, national newspapers avoid this subject, to the point of absurdity. Blogs and chat-rooms on the internet are less cautious. A typical contributor yesterday said that M. Delanoë was "poking himself in the eye" if he ignored the rampant homophobia, among both right-wing and left-wing voters, in the French provinces.

Opinion polls paint a much more encouraging picture for M. Delanoë. A survey this month for the magazine Le Point said that 57 per cent of French people thought that the Mayor of Paris would make a good president, compared to only 28 per cent for Ségolène Royal, the failed Socialist candidate last year.

The reliability of polls four years before the next election is open to doubt. All the same, the findings and M. Delanoë's approaching book launch, panicked Mme Royal into an early declaration of her own interest in the Socialist Party leadership last weekend.

Although other candidates exist, the struggle to be the Next Big Thing on the French left looks likely to be a two-horse race between M. Delanoë, 58, and Mme Royal, 54.

Since he was elected Mayor of Paris in 2001 (and re-elected earlier this year), M. Delanoë has established himself as a competent, inventive politician, capable of bridging the ideological gulf in France between socialist ideals and market realities. A typical Delanoë initiative – the Vélib help-yourself bicycles for hire scheme – is cheap to users, funded by a private company in return for advertising space and provides revenue to the town hall.

In a book of interviews with the editor of Libération, Laurent Joffrin, published yesterday, M. Delanoë promises to bring the same kind of pragmatic, market-oriented socialist politics to the whole country.

The word "liberal" – in the sense of free-market economics – should not be shunned by the French left but reclaimed as a left-wing concept, M. Delanoë said. Social democracy should be about ideals and aims and "good management", he said, not about anti-capitalist ideology.

The Mayor even went as far as to say that the former British prime minister Tony Blair – a figure of hatred and scorn on the French left – had achieved "excellent things".

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# Gay graveyard opened in Copenhagen

April 8, 2008 - 7:20PM

<http://news.theage.com.au/gay-graveyard-opened-in-copenhagen/20080408-24m9.html>

A special graveyard has been opened for Danish homosexuals in Copenhagen where the organisation Rainbow has reserved 36 places for funeral urns, reports said.

The organisation has an option for a further 12 places in a section of the municipal Assistens cemetery in the Danish capital where famed Danish writers HC Andersen and Soren Kierkegaard are buried.

Ivan Larsen said he and his partner, Ove Carlsen, felt they wanted to be close also after death, and co-founded Rainbow a year ago that offers its members a funeral urn site for 2,500 Danish kroner (\$A567.69).

"We have our own places where we can meet and have fun, gay bars and such. That is why we wanted our own graveyard," Larsen, a priest, told public broadcaster DR.

Carlsen said some eight urn sites were already reserved.

The graveyard is marked with a big stone and the rainbow flag that often symbolises gay and lesbian community pride.

Denmark pioneered same-sex unions in 1989.

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May 23, 2008

World Briefing | Europe

## *Germany: Tribute to Nazis' Gay Victims*

By VICTOR HOMOLA

A memorial dedicated to gay men and lesbians persecuted and killed under the Nazis will be inaugurated on May 27, the Lesbian and Gay Federation in Germany said. The \$935,000 monument, designed by Michael Elmgreen of Denmark and Ingar Dragset of Norway, will be in Berlin on the edge of its Tiergarten park and near the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe. It features a concrete slab with a window that will allow visitors to view a looped video that will alternate every two years between a clip of men kissing and a clip of women kissing. Germany's culture minister, Bernd Neumann, and Berlin's mayor, Klaus Wowereit, who is gay, are expected to attend the ceremony.

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## **Holocaust Academic Pans Monument to Nazis' Gay Victims**

<http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,2144,3368183,00.html>

29.05.2008

A leading Holocaust scholar has criticized a monument in Berlin to homosexual victims of Nazi Germany unveiled this week, saying the location was poorly chosen.

Israel Gutman of Jerusalem's Yad Vashem Institute told a Polish daily in an interview published Wednesday, May 28, that Germany had made a mistake by erecting the monument to commemorate homosexual victims of Nazi Germany in the heart of the capital, Berlin, news agency AFP reported.

"For many years after the war I had the impression that the Germans understood the immense scope of the crime of the Holocaust which they had committed ... But this time, they made an error," Gutman told Rzeczpospolita.

"The location was particularly poorly chosen for this monument. If visitors have the impression that there was not a great difference between the suffering of Jews and those of homosexuals, it's a scandal," Gutman said, according to AFP. "A sense of proportion must be maintained."

Across the street from Jewish memorial

The simple grey rectangular stone monument was unveiled earlier this week by Berlin's openly gay mayor, Klaus Wowereit, at the Tiergarten park, half a block from the iconic Brandenburg Gate and across the street from Germany's national memorial to Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

Designed by Danish-Norwegian artists Michael Elmgreen and Ingar Dragset, the monument contains a window that invites the visitor to look inside and see a film of a gay couple kissing.

A text on the stone surface details the persecution of gays under Hitler. The Nazis banned homosexuality in 1936 and convicted around 50,000 people for "unnatural" behavior deemed unbecoming of the Aryan "master race." It is estimated that between 5,000 and 15,000 homosexuals were deported to Nazi concentration camps, where more than half died.

Gutman, himself a Holocaust survivor, said the Nazis persecuted "exclusively German" homosexuals, many of them Nazis. They were "victims of internal political battles within the NSDAP," the Nazi party of Adolf Hitler, he said.

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## **People of Lesbos take gay group to court over term 'Lesbian'**

By NICHOLAS PAPHITIS

April 30, 2008

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jwGrN8MIMRy0HlsJPIIqZqVWsjmQD90CDUUG7>

ATHENS, Greece (AP) - A Greek court has been asked to draw the line between the natives of the Aegean Sea island of Lesbos and the world's gay women.

Three islanders from Lesbos - home of the ancient poet Sappho, who praised love between women - have taken a gay rights group to court for using the word lesbian in its name.

One of the plaintiffs said Wednesday that the name of the association, Homosexual and Lesbian Community of Greece, "insults the identity" of the people of Lesbos, who are also known as Lesbians.

"My sister can't say she is a Lesbian," said Dimitris Lambrou. "Our geographical designation has been usurped by certain ladies who have no connection whatsoever with Lesbos," he said.

The three plaintiffs are seeking to have the group barred from using "lesbian" in its name and filed a lawsuit on April 10. The other two plaintiffs are women.

Also called Mytilene, after its capital, Lesbos is famed as the birthplace of Sappho. The island is a favored holiday destination for gay women, particularly the lyric poet's reputed home town of Eressos.

"This is not an aggressive act against gay women," Lambrou said. "Let them visit Lesbos and get married and whatever they like. We just want (the group) to remove the word lesbian from their title."

He said the plaintiffs targeted the group because it is the only officially registered gay group in Greece to use the word lesbian in its name. The case will be heard in an Athens court on June 10.

Sappho lived from the late 7th to the early 6th century B.C. and is considered one of the greatest poets of antiquity. Many of her poems, written in the first person and intended to be accompanied by music, contain passionate references to love for other women.

Lambrou said the word lesbian has only been linked with gay women in the past few decades. "But we have been Lesbians for thousands of years," said Lambrou, who publishes a small magazine on ancient Greek religion and technology that frequently criticizes the Christian Church.

Very little is known of Sappho's life. According to some ancient accounts, she was an aristocrat who married a rich merchant and had a daughter with him. One tradition says that she killed herself by jumping off a cliff over an unhappy love affair.

Lambrou says Sappho was not gay. "But even if we assume she was, how can 250,000 people of Lesbian descent - including women - be considered homosexual?"

The Homosexual and Lesbian Community of Greece could not be reached for comment.

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## Castro daughter champions gay rights

published Friday, March 28, 2008



The daughter of Cuba's new president is urging the Cuban National Assembly to adopt a law protecting LGBT rights, arguably the most liberal bill of its kind in Latin America.

Mariela Castro, Raul's daughter, is the head of the National Center for Sex Education. The proposed legislation would recognize same-sex unions, including inheritance rights, allow free gender-reassignment operations for transgender people, and allow transgender people to change their identification records without first having to undergo surgery. The bill, however, does not allow adoption for gay couples, nor does it push for marriage equality. "A lot of homosexual couples asked me to not risk delaying getting the law passed by insisting on the word *marriage*," she said, according to BBC News. "In Cuba marriage is not as important as the



family, and at least this way we can guarantee the personal and inheritance rights of homosexuals and transsexuals."

Castro said she has seen her father become less homophobic as she's grown up, and that he is supportive of her work, though he warns her to move cautiously. Her mother, the late Vilma Espin, was an internationally heralded women's rights advocate. During the early days of the Cuban Revolution, gays were sent to forced labor camps for reeducation and rehabilitation. While the camps were not in use very long, gays were still labeled "ideological deviants." According to the article, gay and lesbian sex was legalized 15 years ago, but police raids on gay events has persisted until recently.

"In the early years of the revolution much of the world was homophobic. It was the same here in Cuba and led to acts which I consider unjust," she said. "What I see now is that both Cuban society and the government have realized that these were mistakes. There is also the desire to take initiatives which would prevent such things happening again." (*The Advocate*)

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**FROM CANADA NEWSWIRE:**

TORONTO /CNW/ - The Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes, gay activist and senior pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto, will be invested as a member of the Order of Canada on Friday, February 22, 2008.

The Order of Canada is Canada's highest civilian honor. Created in 1967, the Order of Canada recognizes a lifetime of outstanding achievement, dedication to community and service to the nation. Over the last 40 years, more than 5,000 people from all sectors of society have been invested into the Order.

"To my knowledge, Rev. Dr. Hawkes, is the only person to receive their country's highest honor in recognition of their gay activism," said Douglas Elliott, founding president of the International Lesbian and Gay Law Association.

Rev. Dr. Hawkes has been a champion of human rights and social justice for decades, and is a leading advocate in the struggle for equality of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons. A man of fearless conviction, he presided over Canada's first legal wedding of a same sex couple - also the first in the world - and has continued to call for tolerance, understanding and respect for all Canadians. Rev. Dr. Hawkes has previously been honored with the City of Toronto's Award of Merit, the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal, the United Nations Toronto Association Global Citizen Award and the YMCA Peace Medal.

Her Excellency the Right Honorable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, presided over the 101st Order of Canada investiture ceremony at Rideau Hall in Ottawa.

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[Call for papers / proposals:](#)

## **Archiving Pleasures: an international history of the founding and the future of lesbian and gay archives**

Call for contributors for new book by Joan Nestle, co-founder Lesbian Herstory Archives, and Daniel Marshall, Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives / La Trobe University.

### The Project

Thirty years ago, in places as far apart as New York City and Melbourne, gay and lesbian activists and their allies build community archives from almost nothing. In so doing, they innovated new archival practices, built new ways of doing community around the archives' collections and in many ways transformed conventional ideas about what archiving was, what was worth collecting, and whose history ultimately counted.

Thirty years on these archives face new questions and at the same time their founders are looking more and more to another generation to contribute their work.

### Scope of Book

This book will chart the historical development of LGBTIQ archives around the world, using first hand accounts of those who dreamt and built such collections, moving from the 1960s to the present time.

Now is the time to publish such a work, as these archives and their founders undertake intergenerational handover and transition.

This book will focus on the tensions and the pleasures of divergent ways of doing queer archiving that are brought into focus by international and intergenerational perspectives.

### Your Contributions

We seek:

- ✓ Personal accounts of the creation of archives in the 1970s and 1980s.
- ✓ Reflections by users of collections, including reflections on the types of communities (e.g. grassroots, institutional, public), knowledges, pleasures and tensions produced by these archives.
- ✓ Contemporary experiences of generational transition within archives; and
- ✓ The challenges faced by LGBTIQ archival projects in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Contributions can come in many forms. These could include taped roundtable conversations, critical essays, oral history excerpts, pictorial essays, collages of founding documents, Contributions are welcome in all languages.

Please send us a description of your proposed contribution by September 1, 2008.

### Contact Details

Joan Nestle, Co-Founder, Lesbian Herstory Archives, [cellonest@yahoo.com](mailto:cellonest@yahoo.com)

Dr. Daniel Marshall, Secretary, Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives / La Trobe University

[Daniel.Marshall@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:Daniel.Marshall@latrobe.edu.au)

1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 215 Franklin St., Melbourne, Victoria 3000, Australia

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## Los Angeles Queer Studies Conference 2008

### CALL FOR PAPERS -- LGBT Studies UCLA

**Conference dates: October 10 – 11, 2008**

**Call for Papers Deadline: June 23, 2008**

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies Program at UCLA is an interdisciplinary program that supports teaching and research on the historical and contemporary experience of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgendered people. It provides an academic home for those who wish to study the intellectual and cultural traditions that have shaped our current understanding of sexuality and gender, as well as for those who wish to challenge such traditions and generate new theoretical paradigms. The program sponsors courses, offers an undergraduate minor, organizes lecture series, facilitates the study of minority sexualities and genders in the broadest interdisciplinary context, and tries to bring together interested students, faculty, and members of the larger Los Angeles community.

For more information contact **Director:** [James A. Schultz](mailto:James.A.Schultz@ucla.edu) (Professor of German) or

**Assistant:** Courtney Marshall      **Office:** 2214 Rolfe Hall

**Email:** [lgbs@humnet.ucla.edu](mailto:lgbs@humnet.ucla.edu)      **Phone:** (310) 206-0516

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## The Canadian Queer Reader: Call for Submissions

Dr Maureen FitzGerald, Dr Andrew Lesk, Dr Scott Rayter, editors  
Mark S Bonham Center for Sexual Diversity Studies, University of Toronto

Essays are welcome for an interdisciplinary reader on queer Canadian issues and topics, to be published by Women's Press / Canadian Scholars' Press, Fall 2009. The editors welcome critical essays that would appeal particularly to students in the field of sexuality studies. We seek engaging and studious voices in queer discourse that discover or rediscover the literary, social, historical, and political developments of what is considered queer in (or about) Canada. Essays may wish to address the foundations and problematics of queer history, diversity, engenderment, socialization, identities, bodies, pedagogy, social change, cultures, and global positioning. A non-exclusive list of subjects

Include:

- ✓ Censorship and its (ongoing) battles
- ✓ Governmental policy and anti-discrimination measures
- ✓ Transexuality and other "trans"gressions
- ✓ The efficacy of human rights
- ✓ The history of cultural production (including literature and theatre)
- ✓ Underground press / periodicals / magazines
- ✓ Diaspora and cross-culture impact
- ✓ Commix and zines
- ✓ Intersections with other movements

- ✓ Quebecois literatures and sociopolitical movements
- ✓ The regulation of normative bodies
- ✓ Aboriginal, Two-spirited and First Nations
- ✓ HIV / AIDS
- ✓ Definitional shifts, from “gay” to inclusive terminology
- ✓ Marriage and changing socio-cultural values
- ✓ Graphic, pictorial, and filmic representations
- ✓ Race and ethnicity
- ✓ Geographies and space
- ✓ Pedagogical concerns
- ✓ Sex culture, erotica, pornography
- ✓ Criminology and social impact (e.g. bathhouse and pussy-palace raids)

Proposals should be 400-500 words and must clearly indicate significance, the line of argument, principal texts considered, and relation to existing scholarship (or originality). One email copy of the proposal, along with a 100 word abstract and 50 word bio note must be included, as an attachment in MS Word. Final papers should be 2 – 7,000 words (not including any artwork), and copyrights to pictures/artwork etc must be secured in advance.

Deadline for proposals is **30 September 2008**. Please send queries and submissions to [andrew.lesk@utoronto.ca](mailto:andrew.lesk@utoronto.ca)

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[Upcoming conferences](#)

**LGBT AGING IN A CHANGING WORLD**

**Join us in New York City for SAGE's Fourth National Conference on LGBT Aging.**

**IT'S ABOUT TIME: LGBT AGING IN A CHANGING WORLD**

**will take place October 12-14 2008**

**and is sponsored by AARP.**

Why should you go?

Over the next quarter century, the number of seniors in America is projected to grow geometrically from 12% to 20% of the total population. Since 6-8% of these individuals are likely to be lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT), by the year 2030, LGBT seniors age 65 and above are expected

jump from 2.5 million to as many as 4.7 million. With 2.5 million LGBT seniors today, and another 2 million joining them in the next 25 years, shouldn't you be prepared?

SAGE's Fourth National Conference on LGBT Aging, It's About Time: LGBT Aging in a Changing World, sponsored by AARP, will offer you resources, information, tools, insights, and networking opportunities to effectively address what LGBT aging will look like in the 21st century.

For more information, to register, and to obtain a Call for Proposals, please visit [www.sageusa.org/nationalconference](http://www.sageusa.org/nationalconference)

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**Seminars in the City**

**QUEER MIGRATIONS**

**Facilitator: Carlos Ulises Decena, Rutgers University**

**LGBT Community Center**

**Room 101**

**208 West 13th Street (between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue)**

**New York, NY 10011**

**(212) 620-7310**

**DATES: 6/2, 7/7, 8/4 (first Monday of the month, June-August)**

**6-8 PM**

**QUEER MIGRATIONS**

Migration has been crucial to the formation and fostering of many queer communities in the United States; however, population movement has only recently come into prominence in queer studies in this country and internationally. This series of seminars will introduce the participants to this dynamic field of scholarship through a discussion of case studies from the past and present. Our readings will include essays by John D'Emilio, Eithne Lubheid, Adi Kuntsman, Kath Weston, Susana Peña and others as well as the illustrated autobiography/ graphic testimonial *Sexilio/Sexile* by Jaime Cortez. Our main objective is to understand the importance and interaction of sexuality with traditional as well as emerging themes such as ethnic/racial assimilation, transnationalism, and homeland politics.

*The free reading group will meet at the LGBT Community Center, 208 West 13th Street, in room 101 from 6 to 8 PM on the first Monday of each month from June to August. To RSVP and obtain a course reading packet contact CLAGS by phone (212-817-1955) or by email ([clags@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:clags@gc.cuny.edu)). CLAGS strives to make all of its events accessible to our members. ASL interpretation can be provided for any CLAGS event if requested 10 or more working days prior to the event. If you have other accessibility needs, please contact the CLAGS office, with a relay operator when necessary. For more information, visit our website, [www.clags.org](http://www.clags.org).*

**FREE COURSE PACKETS NOW AVAILABLE IN OUR OFFICE (Graduate Center, Room 7115) PLEASE CALL BEFORE COMING. 212-817-1955**

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## Postwar Queer Underground Cinema, 1950-1968

A Conference at Yale University, February 20-21, 2009  
Organized by the Yale Research Initiative on the History of Sexualities

Kenneth Anger's *Scorpio Rising* (1963), Jack Smith's *Flaming Creatures* (1963), and Andy Warhol's *Chelsea Girls* (1966) are widely regarded as some of the most important and influential films of postwar underground cinema. But cinema studies has only recently begun to take seriously the fact that Anger, Smith, and Warhol were gay filmmakers whose films developed a queer aesthetic to explore questions of queer subjectivity and world-making. Moreover, the field has still barely registered the fact that they were not just brilliant auteurs working in isolation but were enmeshed in and influenced by a larger circle of mostly New York-based queer filmmakers, performers, writers, and artists.

This conference seeks to map the contours and assess the significance of this wider cultural formation, which we call postwar queer underground cinema. This cinema largely developed in the 1950s and 60s in the ferment of downtown New York, the scene of complex interactions, collaborations, and conflicts between mostly gay or bisexual male filmmakers and critics and mostly heterosexual but resolutely anti-heteronormative female (and some male) filmmakers as well as between white, Puerto Rican, African American, bohemian, and gay cultures, communities, and artists. We hope to explore the work, interrelationships, and influence of Marie Menken, Willard Maas, Ben Moore, Ken Jacobs, Jonas Mekas, Barbara Rubin, José Rodríguez-Soltero, Gregory Markopoulos, Mario Montez, Naomi Levine, Shirley Clarke, Charles Boultenhouse, and Parker Tyler, among others, as well as Anger, Smith, and Warhol.

Confirmed participants include **Callie Angel** (Whitney Museum of Art), **Douglas Crimp** (Rochester), **Jennifer Doyle** (UC-Riverside), **Tom Gunning** (Chicago), **Melissa Ragona** (Carnegie-Mellon), and **Ann Reynolds** (UT-Austin), plus the playwright **Robert Heide**, filmmaker **Ken Jacobs**, and critic **Amy Taubin**.

The conference will consist of both public sessions and closed working sessions. Public sessions will feature public lectures, a panel of artists and critics reflecting on the underground scene they witnessed, two evenings of performances, film screenings, and panel discussions, and an exhibition at the Beinecke Rare Books and Manuscripts Library displaying the library's considerable holdings of papers bearing on the conference theme.

The heart of the conference will consist of a series of closed working sessions at which a dozen or so participants discuss one another's pre-circulated papers. Although

presenters may show illustrative film clips and make introductory remarks, most time will be devoted to discussion--not a reading--of the papers. Our hope is that this format will produce a more focused, sustained, and productive conversation than public conferences often do.

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**Have a wonderful Summer!**