



# Lambda Rising. NEWS



Winter, 1989

1625 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20009 • 202-462-6969

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# WELCOME

Dear Friend:

We would like to welcome our newer customers and welcome back those of you have been with us for a while to the *Lambda Rising News*. This is our way of saying thank you for your patronage and of letting you know what has been happening at Lambda Rising since we were last in touch. Inside you will find information on *The Whole Gay Catalog* and *Lambda Rising Book Report*, two publications that have greatly influenced gay and lesbian publishing! You will also see what is happening at Lambda Rising's Baltimore store, get to know some of the staff, and read the latest on what we have been doing.

So much has happened since we were last in touch. Washington, DC's lesbian and gay community has seen the Quilt unfold three times. We have had hundreds of thousands from all over the US and abroad participate in rallies and demonstrations fighting to advance lesbian and gay political and social agendas. And like many of you, Lambda Rising's Washington and Baltimore stores have participated in June's Gay Pride celebrations.

Lambda Rising has hosted author signings with Sarah Hoagland (*Lesbian Ethics*), Edmund White (*Beautiful Room is Empty*), David Leavitt (*Equal Affections*), Claire McNab (*Fatal Reunion*), Armistead Maupin (*the Tales of the City series*) and Sarah Schulman (*After Delores*). In that same time a new generation of writers has emerged—David Feinstein (*Eighty-Sixed*) and Dorothy Allison (*Trash*), to name two. We've also witnessed the passing of literary heroes James Baldwin, Robert Ferro, and Pat Parker.

Yes, the 1980's has been a decade of tremendous progress and pain for our community. As always, Lambda Rising has been there and will continue to be there to help you "celebrate the lesbian and gay experience."

# CATALOG NEWS

Since the printing of the last **The Whole Gay Catalog™** in 1986, several hundred lesbian and gay titles have been published, and alas many have gone out of print. In the Spring of 1989, we decided it was time to begin work on a new edition of the Catalog, an all encompassing book catalog that would include gifts, jewelry, games, music, and videos — all of interest to our special customers! An editor was hired and production began.

In the ensuing months, several production glitches occurred — not the least of which was the startling discovery of how much it would cost to produce such a catalog. Times had indeed changed since 1986. In our efforts to keep up with the new books constantly being published versus those that shortly would be unavailable (we did not want to tantalize you with titles we knew we could not stock within weeks

after printing the Catalog), we realized what a monumental task we had undertaken. It is no surprise that some of you may have become frustrated upon discovering that the publication date continually had to be pushed back.

How then, we asked, can we expediently provide our customers with a reference tool with which they can read about and order gay and lesbian books? We brainstormed and came up with a series of periodic mini-catalogs.

Inside the latest edition of **Lambda Rising BOOK REPORT**, which you received with this newsletter, you will find that mini-catalog. It is the beginning of the answer to our dilemma. We hope to produce such a supplement on a regular basis to send to our interested customers. In addition, annually we will produce what is familiar to you as **The Whole Gay Catalog**. With the mini-catalogs, we can provide you with

the newest, most interesting gay and lesbian books in print, and then use the annual Catalog to include information on other items available through Lambda Rising's mail order division, such as backlist books, rainbow flags, buttons, pins, stickers, jewelry, videos, albums, tapes, games, and more!

Right now, we are tossing around different ideas on how to format the mini-catalogs (e.g. newspaper size or small booklets). You have received one that, though only four pages in length, still contains information on over 100 current lesbian and gay books!

We appreciate your patience as we think of new ways to serve you. As always, if there is any book or item you think we should carry, we probably do. Do not hesitate to call our toll-free order line: 1-800-621-6969. Mail order manager David Manning is waiting to help you!

## THE BALTIMORE STORE : STAFF PROFILE

The Lambda Rising branch in Baltimore, MD is currently negotiating with the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Baltimore to expand the bookstore's space to three times its present size. If all goes well, in a few months Baltimoreans will enjoy access to an even larger selection of books, greeting cards, and gifts.

Our location on the first floor of the Community Center means your visit can combine participating in Community Center activities and catching up on the latest gay and lesbian publications. After five years in the same location we are always pleased to see new faces.

We are also a ticket outlet for gay and lesbian events occurring in the Baltimore metropolitan area, or stop by for your copy of the several community newspapers including *Women's Express*, which features a calendar of events for women, the *Baltimore Alternative* and *The Gay Paper*.

We hope that your next visit Charm City will include a stop at Lambda Rising!

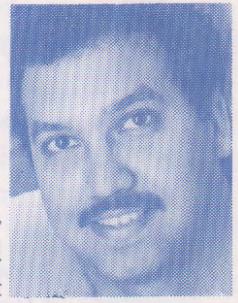
— Jack Garman, Manager, Lambda Rising Baltimore

The Whole Gay Catalog, Lambda Rising BOOK REPORT, and even the newsletter you are reading at this moment are done in-house using Macintosh desktop publishing software. But our collective skill would be for naught if it wasn't for Al Arevalo, our information systems manager. "I left a job working for a computer research & development firm because I wanted to work in a gay-owned business. I get a lot of satisfaction out of working here."

In addition to answering the daily cries for help from the staff when computer problems arise, Al also maintains the mailing list and handles distribution for BOOK REPORT. So, if you are moving, please notify Al.

"I also think it's important for people to know that our mailing list is confidential. Problems sometimes occur when a friend adds someone's name to our mailing list without that person's permission," cautions Al.

His experience, presence, and winning personality make Al an asset to the Lambda Rising staff!



# Book Report

In 1985, Lambda Rising's owner, Deacon Maccubbin, realized that, outside of a few scant reviews in predominantly heterosexual periodicals, no one source existed for reviews of gay and lesbian literature and publishing. In 1987 that realization brought about a different reality and **Lambda Rising BOOK REPORT™** became the largest nationally circulated gay and lesbian periodical in the country with a distribution of over 110,000 printed copies!

Thousands of people who are serious about gay and lesbian books, including librarians, publishers, writers, and readers, already subscribe to **BOOK REPORT**, or pick it up at their local bookstore. Editor Jane Troxell invites you to become a part of that history. In this mailing, in addition to the mini-catalog, you received a free copy of **BOOK REPORT**, the nation's only



gay and lesbian book review journal. But we can't rest on our laurels...

Beginning in February, *Lambda Rising BOOK REPORT* will change its format to a sleek magazine and change its name to *Lambda BOOK REPORT*. Buzz Bryan, former Lambda Rising night manager, will lend his hand as the new assistant editor. Inside you will find reviews; interviews with such prominent authors as Anne Rice (*Queen of the*

*Damned*), Armistead Maupin (*Tales of the City* series), Michael Nava (*Goldenboy*), and Rita Mae Brown (*Bingo*); excerpts (*AIDS: The Women*), articles ("Gay, Black, and Self-Published"); features on getting published; books in brief, and a bestseller list.

Though the costs of producing such a high quality literary journal are high, we will continue to offer the current subscription rate to our customers through January 1990. See inside **BOOK REPORT** for details. Or if you prefer, you can purchase copies of **BOOK REPORT** at the newsstand or your local bookstore. If they do not carry it, have them call Rose Fennell, **BOOK REPORT**'s managing editor, at 202-462-7924. She will be glad to give them the information.

With **BOOK REPORT**, you will be "on the cutting edge" of lesbian and gay publishing.

## LAMMYS

Achieving excellence in any field is a labor of love. Recognition for such an achievement makes it all the more sweet. Historically, gay men and lesbians have not been rewarded for accomplishments that advance our lifestyle. And so it had been in the field of writing. That is until...

SECOND ANNUAL



LAMBDA  
LITERARY  
AWARDS

1990  
in  
Las Vegas!

Lambda Rising **BOOK REPORT**, sponsors of the Lambda Literary Awards ("Lammys"), is proud to announce the Second Annual Lambda Literary Awards to be held in Las Vegas, NV, June 1, 1990. The event will coincide with the annual American Booksellers Association convention to be held in that city during the same week.

Last year's Lambda Literary Awards banquet, held in Washington, DC, proved to be a resounding success.

Attendees included over 300 authors, publishers, booksellers, and readers from around the country. The recipients, including double Lammy winners, Dorothy Allison (*Trash*) and Michael Nava (*Goldenboy*) added to the spiritedness of this gala event.

But none of this would have been possible without one pivotal aspect, readers of lesbian and gay books. All Lammy nominees were selected by people like you. Thousands of ballots were sent out across the country. You may have seen one in **BOOK REPORT** or in your local community newspaper. In the ensuing weeks, ballots were returned and tabulated, and from those tabulations emerged the final nominees. Selection of the Lammy recipients was done by a panel of judges, experts in their chosen field of literature.

We're not satisfied with this process. Why? Because, of the millions of gays and lesbians in the US, tens of thousands of ballots should be tabulated! We want yours! On the back cover of your free issue of **BOOK REPORT** is a ballot. Fill it out and send it in by the date indicated. Contact your local bookstore or feel free to contact us if you have questions about eligible authors and titles.

And then mark June 1st, 1990, on your calendar and plan to join us in Las Vegas. Hope to see you there!

## EVENTS

Here at Lambda Rising, in addition to our ongoing retail operations, mailorder division, publication of The Whole Gay Catalog and Lambda Rising BOOK REPORT, we always like to put some of our time and energy back into the community. Our individual staff members volunteer for such gay and lesbian organizations as Gay Womens Alternative, Human Rights Campaign Fund, National Gay and Lesbian Democratic Club, The Publishing Triangle, and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force to name a few.

Lambda Rising bookstores have provided space for many of Washington's and Baltimore's local lesbian and gay groups. We are situated in prime business locations, thereby providing the kind of walk-by traffic the groups need. The Gertrude Stein Democratic Club has added names to its membership and registered voters; the National Coming Out Day Com-

mittee has helped people emerge from the closet, and Whitman-Walker Clinic has increased public awareness of safe sex, all in our store or at our doorstep.

We serve as a ticket outlet and post notices for community events such as Romanovsky and Philips with Suede in concert (Baltimore); the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC; MCC of Rockville dance; Holly Near in concert at George Washington University Lisner Auditorium, and Common Threads — a performance for The Names Project.

And, because we are, foremost, a bookstore, we have author signings. In recent months, we have hosted Billy Howard (*Epitaphs for the Living: Words and Images in the Time of AIDS*), Armistead Maupin (*Tales of the City* series), Michael Wilhoite (caricaturist whose work appears in *The Gay Desk Calendar*), Richard Harteis (*Marathon: A Story of Endurance and Friendship*), and A.M. Homes (*Jack*). Even if you cannot attend our signings, it may be possible to get books signed for you. Please let us know if you are interested.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Mickey Fleming (signing)

**About Courage**

December 15, 7-9PM

Valerie Miner (signing)

**Trespassing and Other Stories**

December 28, 7-9PM

Sarah Schulman (signing)

**People in Trouble**

to be announced

OutWrite '90, the first National Lesbian & Gay Writers Conference in San Francisco (Lambda Rising will be a participant)

March 3,4

**Southeastern Conference for Lesbians & Gay Men '90**

In Raleigh, NC (We will be presenting a workshop — Gay and Lesbian Bookstores: Developing a Community Resource.)

March 22-25

MAY YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES HAVE A HAPPY,  
GAY, AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON

Rose Farrell

Jane Troell

Deann Ramkin

Ian Bennett

Nadia Molley

Jackie Cooper

*Susan L. Pashate*

Rick Fodge

THE STAFF AT LAMBDA RISING

David K. M.



It's been a pleasure sharing our News with you. Again, we are sorry it has taken so long.