

Dragging out the Aunt Jemima Affair

There were quite a few new faces reflected in the mirrors of Dahl and Penne's back room on Wednesday, October 12. What brought them there was this year's most talked-about drag feature, Aunt Jemima (A.J.). When a community meeting was called several weeks previous to this to rally workers for Lesbian and Gay Pride (LGP) '84, the subject of the AJ incident kept popping up. It had brought to the foreground the issues of racism in the lesbian/gay community and the function of the monitors. It was decided to devote an entire meeting to these issues when people who felt strongly that AJ had a right to remain at the LGP '83 March and Rally could counter with their opinions.

It was not surprising that sympathizers with the cause of AJ were not heavily represented; only one of the fifty or so people in attendance was vocal in his support. He seemed willing to accept the problem.

The basic thrust of the meeting was to confront as a matter of course the racist statements and acts one witness, (2) monitors at LGP functions are vital in administering the policy of being sensitive to racism, sexism, ageism, etc. and should be empowered to act on defusing potentially incendiary situations, and (3) the LGP '83 Steering Committee

should draw up a letter commenting on the significance of the AJ incident and recommend a policy for the '84 steering Committee. This policy letter will be published in Portland's gay and lesbian periodicals. Those who feel troubled with the direction that this matter is taking must *work with not talk at* those who will be organizing LGP '84.

— Dennis Peterson



The Lucille Hart Dinner was named for the only Lesbian from Oregon mentioned in Jonathan Katz's *Gay American History*. She was, in fact, the only Oregon gay person mentioned in the book.

In Katz's most recent book, *Gay/Lesbian*

Almanac, "further research has now established that the former Alberta Lucille, as Dr. Alan Hart, wrote and published five books, four novels, and a popular account of radiation treatment, a type of medicine in which s/he had specialized."

According to Katz's new book Dr. Hart was hounded from job after job, and eventually settled in Connecticut, and that Hart's widow was still living there.

Hart's novels were mainly concerned with the medical profession and contained episodes of veiled homosexuality. Also of concern in the novels was the bigotry and gossip directed towards some of the characters because of their personalities.

Hart's novels are: *Doctor Mallory* (1935), *The Undaunted* (1936), *In the Lives of Men* (1937), *Dr. Finlay Sees It Through* (1942).

A Woman's Place to begin fund-

Only fifteen people attended the meeting, but those in attendance had deep concerns. The lack of people indicated to the collective that the community, as a whole was not concerned about the direction of the bookstore and in fact, were giving them full rein to undertake whatever action deemed necessary and in the best interest of the bookstore.

Those in attendance were in agreement that a "move" would be beneficial as long as expenses were kept in line with projected receipts. All were also aware of the high amount of burnout experienced by volunteers in the bookstore. A suggestion was made to seek objective consultation to help restructure the Bookstore. One of the points brought up relating to burnout was the lack of appreciation for the hard work volunteers do.

Although the Bookstore is currently financially stable, funds are needed to initiate a move, and help the Bookstore reach more women. A decision was made to implement a membership drive which would enable friends of the Bookstore to purchase \$25.00 membership cards that would entitle them to

good for one year on most

needs your support? help?

are in the Bookstore, thank

the volunteers for their dedication and hard work.

2) Stop at the Bookstore *first* this holiday season.

3) Purchase a sustaining membership card for yourself or a friend.

4) Donate your time and volunteer.

munity to discuss issues concerning the future of the bookstore. The collective has felt for some time that a move would be beneficial for the bookstore since the current space is inadequate, with books busting out the seams, and there is a need to be more visible & accessible to all women.



Hobbs

Will be serving
THANKSGIVING DINNER
Thursday, November 24th

Seating at 4:00 pm
6:00 pm
8:00 pm

Reservations helpful

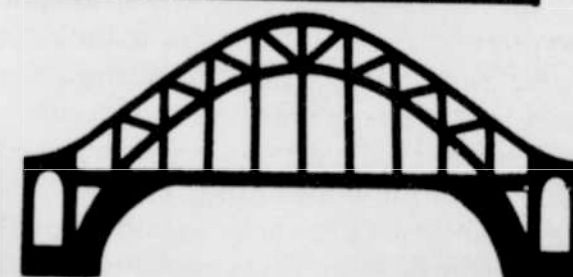
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