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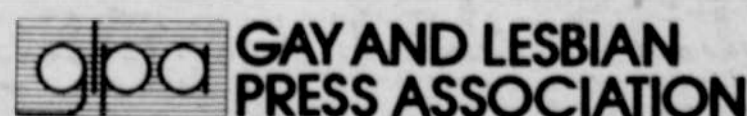
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A Crisp Send-off

To the LRBR:
 Best wishes on the publication of the Lambda Rising Book Report. Do it with style!

QUENTIN CRISP
 New York, New York

Best Wishes for Us All

To the LRBR:
 I've looked over your packet and am impressed. I must honestly say that I would not have chosen the title "Book Report"...but then I suppose it might be a common and humorous reference. In any case, I would have gone for the more stately title of

"Review of Books" or at least "Book Review."

That is my only criticism. I passionately support your project. I admire your energy and ambition. I would love to contribute to the Report.

Businesses like Lambda Rising are what keeps lesbian and gay writers alive. In doing so, you sustain and nourish our whole culture. My good wishes for you are my wishes for all of us...

LEE LYNCH
 Sunny Valley, Oregon

Ed.'s Note:

We thank Ms. Lynch for her wishes. For a response to her comment on the name of this pub., please see Publisher's Perspective on pg. 6. Also, please see At Press Time, below--Ms. Lynch has given voice to editorial policy.

AT PRESS TIME

It is very late. Tomorrow--no, later this morning--the art director, Jim, will be struggling with me and last minute snafus before he hurries the lay outs for this rag to the lab, so we can get stats to the printer. "A.S.A.P." will be scrawled in red ink all over the order.

After having read all the words which comprise this thing, to draw the whole publication together, to establish a theme or set a tone, I figured this would be the last bit written each time we put the *BOOK REPORT* to bed--hence, this piece's title. I just didn't expect writing it with the bonfire breath of an art director, a publisher, and a printer melting down my neck. As you can probably guess, I've missed deadlines. I will be amazed, as you are reading this, that you are reading this.

Welcome to the *LAMBDA RISING BOOK REPORT*. I believe we are the only publication which focuses exclusively on the review of literature of interest to both lesbians and gay men. As you will see, the theme of this issue is quite general, we have not scrutinized any one genre, nor have we hitched up with any fad, or political shenanigans, or season (only two, while I was expecting the lot, of my reviewers mentioned "great beach reading"--small blessings). I foresee this sweeping approach happening often in the future; but, from time to time we will glue our reading eyes onto certain types of books, or we will grasp certain themes which will encompass a variety of types of books.

As with any first publication, this one is flawed. I think I know what they are; and I have given, at least, some tooth-brushing or walking-to-work time to plan strategy for their eradication.

Since I'm discussing flaws, let's immediately focus on the "Comments & Queries" department just above. I want you to use it. Comment on any aspect of this journal. Comment on any aspect of the literary scene. Don't think that only lauds will be printed. We want to consider any and all thinking, and if necessary change our ways, in order to make this paper more comfortable, more useful for you, the reader of books. Also, authors and researchers, use that column to query our readers for information which may help you round out (or completely disintegrate) your work.

I want to be a good host, especially now since it's your first visit; but I don't want to be a bore. There is nothing here arcane or obscure; in fact, the whole idea of the *BOOK REPORT* is so simple that I risk getting caught in some confounded, unendable sentence or paragraph trying to prove it. So, here is my introduction to you: Let the table of contents guide you through the various "Departments." Hopefully, I've been descriptive enough in the "Features" section of the contents that you'll be able to home in on the stuff you like.

Be sure to read the advertising and editorial policies--they're over there just to your left (my right). We feel these policies are pretty gayforward; but let me add a smidge more. Lee Lynch (see letter excerpt above), though she was a continent away and we've never met, managed to draw my nebular thinking about a certain aspect of editorial policy into a compact and shiny star. She articulated my thought as well, or better, than I could have:

"...on the matter of reviewing. Though I make criticisms where I find them necessary, and though I have written at least one "bad" review because I felt the book to be dangerous to gay people, for the most part my reviewing philosophy is simple: matching readers with books. We writers know our weaknesses. All too much criticism in our presses is actually trashing or even, I'm sorry to say, sour grapes. I try to review books about which I feel primarily positive and will seek out the positive points both, as I say, to reach potential readers, and to help nurture an artistic population which suffers enough at other hands."

So be it.

And so be the end of this until next time. The *BOOK REPORT* has come out. It was just a little less arduous than explaining to my military officer father that I was queer (I exaggerate). We hope you enjoy. If you do not, we hope you will tell us why not.

- r. dirmeyer