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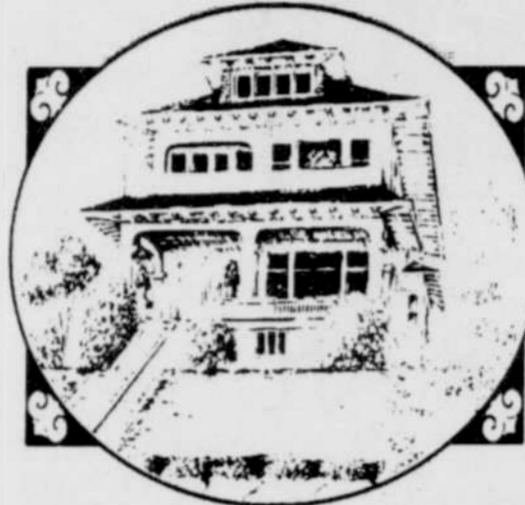
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**national news**



OutWrite '96 features a lecture named for Audre Lorde (left); Jewelle Gomez will be part of a panel discussion of politics and the creative process

**Boston hosts OutWrite '96**

OutWrite: The National Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Writers' Conference will be held Feb. 23-25 at Boston's Park Plaza Hotel. Nearly 2,000 writers from around the world are expected to attend. This is the sixth year for the conference, which is sponsored by the Broomfield Street Educational Foundation.

Nationally and internationally renowned writers, publishers, agents, journalists and readers from various literary disciplines will attend. Among those attending the panel discussions, workshops and roundtables will be Sarah Schulman, Mark Doty, Jacqueline Woodson,

Nancy Garden, Norman Wong, Judith Katz, Reginald Shepherd, Kitty Tsui, Jewelle Gomez and Randall Kenan.

This year's keynote speakers are Minnie Bruce Pratt, author of *SHE, Rebellion: Essays 1980-1991* and *We Say We Love Each Other*; and Edmund White, author of *Our Paris, Genet: A Biography, A Boy's Own Story* and other works.

The annual Audre Lorde Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Cheryl Clarke, an African American lesbian-feminist poet. Clarke's latest book, *experimental love*, was nominated for a Lambda Award for poetry.

Kristine Chatwood

**Gay and lesbian doctors launch medical journal**

The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, a bi-national gay and lesbian health advocacy group, announced in January the creation of the *Journal of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association*. The publication will be the first peer-reviewed, multidisciplinary, scholarly journal dedicated to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered health.

The journal, which begins publishing in early 1997, will specialize in original clinical research and will publish review articles, brief reports, topical essays and news concerning lesbian and gay health. It has a 28-person editorial board.

Jocelyn White, M.D., an assistant professor of internal medicine at Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland, and Mark Townsend, M.D., an assistant professor of psychiatry at Louisiana State University School of Medicine in New Orleans, are co-editors of the journal.

**Churches get the boot for "affirming" gay lifestyle**

Delegates to a special session of the western region of the American Baptist Churches denomination voted to expel four Bay Area churches because they joined the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists, an organization that accepts and affirms gay men and lesbians. The targeted churches are the San Leandro Community Church, the New Community of Faith Church in San Jose, the First Baptist Church of Berkeley, and Oakland's Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church.

This vote was advisory and will be presented to the western regional board in March. After that it will be taken up by the national board in June.

**Man murders man he met on-line**

A New Jersey man has confessed to murdering a man he met through an on-line "chat room." Mercer County Assistant Prosecutor Timothy

McNamara said that George Hemenway, 38, admitted to shooting Jesse Unger, 39, in the head, the (Newark, N.J.) *Star-Ledger* reported.

Unger's body was found wrapped in a tarp and covered with lime in Hemenway's basement on Jan. 4.

The two men had communicated through private messages and via the chat room prior to their in-person meeting.

Police found the body after receiving a tip from two friends of Hemenway's who had attempted to help him move the body.

Hemenway is charged with murder, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, unlawful possession of a weapon, and tampering with evidence.

**Lesbian cop forced to name lovers in L.A. case**

The Los Angeles City Council has agreed to investigate allegations that the city violated the civil rights of a lesbian police officer by demanding that she name her past sexual partners.

Police Officer Virginia Acevedo is on disability for stress she claims was caused by harassment she suffered because of her sexual orientation, the Associated Press reports.

When she refused a demand by the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office to name her friends, associates and past sexual partners, the city filed a motion to terminate her workers' compensation benefits. The city contends that Acevedo's stress may stem from her relationships.

"That's absolutely, unbelievably outrageous," lesbian Councilwoman Jackie Goldberg told the AP. "I am more offended than I've been since I've taken office. They had better have asserted this in every case of psychiatric disability for every heterosexual man. I know darn well they haven't asked this question."

Charles Dickerson, special assistant to the city attorney, said questions about personal relationships are asked in every stress disability claim case.

Compiled by Kristine Chatwood

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