

KM: Were there benefits to having been outed at this point?

DB: The main benefit was that it was a crucial step to breaking with the conservative movement. If I had not done that at that time...I don't think I would later have had the self-confidence to write *The Seduction of Hillary Rodham* my own way, thinking for myself and not the way conservatives wanted me to.

In the process of writing the book, she became—or at least the idea of her became—a vehicle...for me to work out in print a lot of the reservations I was having about the conservative movement.

KM: Do you think anyone will face political or legal consequences because of *Blinded by the Right*?

DB: Obviously, [Supreme Court Justice Clarence] Thomas has life tenure, so he's pretty much untouchable. There's probably a group of people who may have been persuaded by my first book [*The Real Anita Hill*] who now will have to take into account this new information. That might change their minds back in the other direction.

Ted Olson is somewhat different. His involvement in the Arkansas Project came up in his Senate confirmation last year for solicitor general, even before the book had come out. Forty-seven senators voted against his confirmation, which is a lot for that position.

A committee was set to investigate him, and I was contacted to testify, but the process got short-circuited by [Vermont Sen. Jim] Jeffords' defection. Mass chaos ensued, and one

day when the Republicans still had control over the Senate, they basically rammed it through...if he were to be nominated for the Supreme Court, the whole thing could be reopened again.

KM: Overall, the right has been, as *Salon.com* put it, "eloquently silent" regarding the revelations in your book.

DB: [Laughs] It says a lot. The logical conclusion would be that they have no way of disputing it, and they're embarrassed by the truth. So it's a little vindicating.

KM: You did make an effort to humanize them....

DB: I was aware while writing about some of the characters...that I didn't want to repeat the mistakes I had made earlier in my career. I didn't want to paint them unfairly in terms of a black-and-white situation, that they were good or evil.

KM: So, do you still have a career in journalism after all of this?

DB: I was concerned that I wasn't doing my career any good by writing this book. But if I didn't come clean on what I had done, I felt I didn't have the authority to criticize others....

I'm sure I'll continue to be able to have a career writing on politics. I'm always going to be controversial. I'll just have to live with these questions about my credibility for some time to come. ■

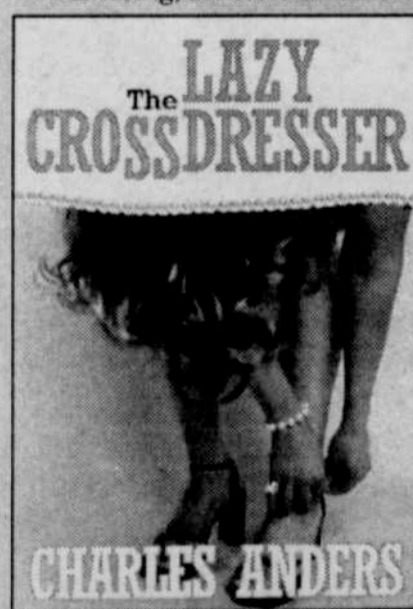
KEVIN MOORE is a political cartoonist whose work can be viewed at www.incontemptcomics.com.

REVIEWS

THE LAZY CROSSDRESSER
by Charles Anders. Greenery Press, 2002; \$13.95 softcover.

Charles Anders is the perfect lady, not counting the dangly bits he was born with and the protruding bits he assembles on his own—when he's in the mood. In *The Lazy Crossdresser*, his virgin solo voyage, he nimbly reveals the mysteries of women's makeup and garment rituals and why men have an equal right to enjoy them.

Amusing, sensible and nonthreatening, this



is an excellent manual for enjoying the process of dressing up and not simply obsessing on whether one looks "passable." Like any fashion book worth its runway time, *The Lazy Crossdresser* explores how best to flatter a variety of body types, shopping basics, underwear and how to paint your face pretty. It continues its education with beard stubble solutions, advice on dating and a state-by-state resource guide.

The writing is light without being too airy, helping desensitize potentially sticky topics and keeping the focus where Anders feels it should be: on having fun and allowing one's inner femme to run free—or at least at a reasonable price.

—Darklady

HOLY HELL: A LILLIAN BYRD CRIME STORY
by Elizabeth Sims. Alyson Books, 2002; \$13.95 softcover.

In the style of hard-boiled crime detectives of the past comes a new sleuth that one can't help but find likable. She's a maverick: impulsive, resourceful, naive, witty, stubborn and courageous.

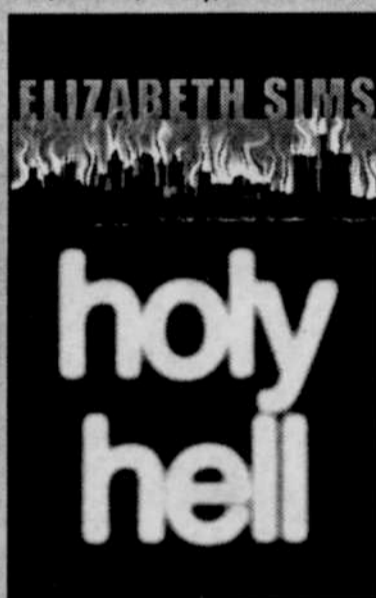
Bumbling news reporter Lillian Byrd debuts in Elizabeth Sims' first novel, *Holy Hell*.

The story begins with the protagonist, in typical fashion, resorting to the use of an X-Acto knife to fight off the inappropriate advances of her boss' son, playing devil's advocate with herself as she justifies the breakup with her girlfriend and trying to stay one step ahead of a tough, but lovesick, dyke in overalls named Lou.

In the midst of these dilemmas, Lillian stumbles into the investigation of the disappearances of five Detroit women and the brutal slaying of a sixth woman with whom she had recently become acquainted.

Sims' suspenseful plot moves fast and is full of surprising turns and quirky, engaging characters. *Holy Hell* will leave mystery fans craving the next Lillian Byrd escapade, which, the reporter-turned-author says, "starts on a dark and stormy night. Lillian makes her way west to help out an old friend and gets mixed up with an LPGA golfer, who seems to be hiding a dangerous secret. Stay tuned."

—Page Jordan



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