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# LEAPING LACROSSE

## NEWS

P.O. Box 932  
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March 1989  
 Volume 9, Issue 3

### KOWALSKI AND THOMPSON MEET FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER THREE YEARS

Sharon Kowalski and Karen Thompson have finally met again.

On February 2, Thompson made her first visit to Kowalski in more than three years, a visit that extended over a three-day period. In just that short span, Kowalski showed cognitive improvement from contact with her life partner, Thompson, who has been denied visitation by Kowalski's father since 1985.

Sharon Kowalski was severely injured in an automobile accident in November, 1983 and has been hospitalized ever since. Her father Donald Kowalski, who was appointed her legal guardian, moved his daughter to a nursing home with minimal rehabilitative care and barred Thompson and Sharon's other friends from visiting her.

After a four-year legal battle to get rehabilitative care for Kowalski, Thompson was able to convince the court to test her for competency last September. As a result, St. Louis County (MN) District Court Judge Robert V. Campbell issued an order on December

28, 1988, that Kowalski be transferred to Miller-Dawn Medical Center in Duluth for a period of rehabilitative care. The court order also stated that Sharon was to be allowed to visit with whomever she specifically requested to visit.

In her meeting with Kowalski, Thompson attended all of her therapy sessions in communication, memory and comprehension, and physical workout/stretching. She said Kowalski was extremely responsive to all her exercises, laughed a lot, and was consistently alert. Thompson was encouraged by therapists to participate in the sessions.

Thompson was distressed, however, by the deterioration in some aspects of Kowalski's physical condition since 1985, the last time they were allowed to meet. She said the tendons in Kowalski's legs had been allowed to become so tight that it is questionable whether even surgery could restore her feet to a proper 90-degree angle. "She may not ever be able to stand again," Thompson said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Thompson said she expects to be able to visit Kowalski whenever she can make the almost four hour drive, provided she notifies a psychologist working with Kowalski in advance, to avoid confrontations with Kowalski's parents. The doctors will provide the judge with a progress report after 60 days. Ultimately, the judge will have to issue additional directives about Kowalski's future.

(The above article was excerpted from a NOW press release. NOW has been and does support Thompson's ongoing struggle to get Kowalski the care she needs. LLN editor.)

**ATTENTION**

**LESBIAN MOM SUPPORT GROUP**

Saturday, March 11, 1989  
 Noonish  
 Karen and Cindy's  
 322 North 21st Street  
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*Sara's 75th  
 Birthday Party.  
 It's a surprise!!  
 Be there at 6:30 sharp!  
 (Joy's 133 8th Ave, So., Omakaska)  
 ~ MAR 11 4th, SAT. ~  
 Supper & beverages served.  
 Bring a hat wrapped up for  
 Sarah + a donation  
 for our 5. About if you'd  
 like!  
 Everyone welcome to help  
 Sarah (Smerud).  
 celebrate in style!*

**UPCOMING  
 EVENTS**

March 1: Dr. Jean Kilbourn, creator of the video, *Killing Us Softly*, will demonstrate the impact of advertising on unconscious attitudes about ourselves and others, and how this helps perpetuate stereotypes. 7:30, Valhalla, Cartwright Center, UW-L campus.

March 2: *The World According to Us: De-Marginalizing Strategies of Women of Color*, a presentation by Barbara Smith. 7:30, 247 Main Hall, UW-L campus. Free admission.

March 3-5: Joann Loulan, nationally acclaimed psychotherapist and sex educator, author of *Lesbian Sex*

ain't fighting back." Write HBO and tell them YOU are part of their audience and don't think inciting people to beat you or gay men, is at all funny. Write: Michael Fuchs, CEO, Home Box Office, 1100 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036.

Of all the homophobes with nationally syndicated columns, none is quite so homophobic, so often, and with such vehemence, as Patrick Buchanan. (His column is in the *La Crosse Tribune*.) In the last few months, Buchanan has denounced the ACLU for supporting "judicial Imposition" of civil rights for gays, called on Congress to repeal Washington, DC's gay rights statue (which Congress did soon afterwards), described alternative lifestyles as the sign of "a corrupt people and a degenerate nation," and proclaimed that gays are getting beat up by teenagers all over America "because a high percentage of them go out and proposition these kids." This is just a small sampling of Buchanan's views. If you would like to tell Buchanan's syndicator what you think of his hate campaign, write to: Tribune Media Services, 64 East Concord Street, Orlando, Florida, 32801, or call toll free, (800) 322-3068.

GLAAD is a group dedicated to confronting homophobia in the media. You may contact them at: GLAAD, 99 Hudson Street, 14th Floor, New York, NY 10013; or call (212) 966-1700.

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**RED OAK  
 BOOKS ....  
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abeth Bishop, and gave me a new look at Lorraine Hansberry, author of *Raisin in the Sun*.

Rich has written eleven volumes of poetry and one other prose work in addition to her essays, *Of Woman Born*, now reissued in a tenth anniversary edition. In her feminist thinking, in the continuing discussion of lesbian history and the lesbian existence and continuum, in ways of recognizing our white women's privilege, she continues to present me with ideas that help me to question my assumptions and learn new ways of thinking and relating. I would highly recommend her works to you.

Red Oak Books (Main Street in La Crosse) has, or can order Rich's books for you. All of her prose works are presently in print.

JOY

### Lambda Rising BOOK REPORT



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 Mail to: BOOK REPORT DEPT # 577  
 1625 Conn. Ave. NW, Wash. DC 20009  
 PHONE ORDERS: 1-202-462-6969

### NEWS FROM THE GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE AGAINST DEFAMATION

Warner Brothers Record released an album by comedian Sam Kinison titled *Have You Seen Me Lately* that is so homophobic it may prompt you to write to the record company and complain.

Here are a couple examples of what Kinison considers humor:

On AIDS: "Safe sex! God damn these fucking bastards. Get off our backs. Because a few fags fuck some monkey--they got so bored their own assholes weren't enough they had to go in the fucking jungle, grab some fucking monkey and fuck him and bring us back the black plague of the 80's."

On lesbians: "Most lesbians are like, 'Hi there, my name is Dallas. I own my own security business.' Fucking big bitches, man, have an ass bigger than yours."

If you would like to let Warner Brothers know that you do not intend to buy albums from a company that makes money by degrading the lesbian and gay population, write to: Mo Ostin, Chairman, Warner Brothers Records, 3300 Warner Blvd., Burbank, CA 91510, or call (818) 846-9090.

HBO recently aired a program called *Take No Prisoners--Robert Townsend* on the HBO Comedy Hour. Comedian Damon Wayans spent part of the hour encouraging gay bashing, saying, "Fags

and *Lesbian Passion*, and all around funny lecturer, will present a series of workshops in Madison. The Friday night presentation, *What's So Funny About Lesbian Sex?* may be attended separate from the more serious workshops on Saturday (*Creating the Sex Lives We want and Deserve*) and Sunday (*Psychotherapy With Lesbian Clients*). For more information or to preregister (there's a break on prices), contact LHS Productions, c/o 401 Wisconsin Avenue, Madison, WI 53703. MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE. Or call Mare at (608) 256-3733.

March 4: DANCE IN ROCHESTER. Gay/lesbian Community Services sponsors this Saturday night dance which runs from 8:00 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1727 Walden Lane S.W. It's located on the west side of Highway #52 as you head north into Rochester. If you start watching on your left, after you pass Apache Mall, you should see it. Must have ID proving you're 21. The church is a smoke free environment.

March 8: As part of Women's History Month, Professor Cheryl Johnson-Odim will speak on *'The Ties that Bind': Gender, Race, and Class in U.S. History*. The presentation will be followed by the film *Fundi*, about black activist Ella Baker. 7:00, Valhalla B, Cartwright Center, UW-L campus. Free admission.

March 9: This month's potluck is at Peg's aunt's house, 2324 Vine Street (on the southwest corner of 24th and Vine) starting at

6:30. This will be a potluck to celebrate the coming of spring. Wear spring clothes. If you would like, bring your least favorite article of winter clothing to give away, or exchange, or give as a gift to the Goddess of Spring. If there is a special type of food you associate with spring, please bring it. As always, bring a dish to pass, your own beverage, and a friend(s).

March 11: Lesbian moms' group will meet at noon at 322 North 21st Street, Karen and Cindy's house. This is a relaxed, friendly, unstructured group that welcomes new lesbian moms who are interested in getting together to share support with other lesbian moms. For more information and to double check that child care is available, call 782-5627.

March 13: Women's Studies Student Association meeting. 4:00, 306 North Hall.

March 15: Lunchbox/soapbox. *Everything You Always Wanted To Know About Male Culture--And Less: A Lite Beer Commercial As Metaphor*, Greg Burdick, UW-L student and Women's Studies minor will discuss male culture as it relates to power and control.

March 15: As part of Women's History Month, the films *The Double Day* and *Simplemente Jenny*, both about women in Latin America, will be shown at 7:00, Main Hall Auditorium. Free Admission.

March 21: LLN deadline.

March 28: Feminist Flicks, 7:00, Ward Room, Cartwright Center, UW-L campus. Free admission.

March 29: As part of Women's History Month, *Small Happiness*, about Chinese women, and *No Longer Silent*, about women in India will be shown. 7:00, Main Hall Auditorium. UW-L campus. Free admission.

April 5: Lunch box/soap box. *Life in the Military: A Woman's Perspective*. Jean Lafky and Colleen Tracy, UW-L students, will discuss what it is like to be in "this man's army."

April 6-9: *Parallels and Intersections: A National Conference on Racism and Other Forms of Oppression*. For more information call (319) 335-1486 or write: Women Against Racism, The University of Iowa, Women's Resource and Action Center, 130 North Madison Street, Iowa City, IA 52242.

April 13-14: A workshop for healing from child sexual abuse will be held in Madison. There will be sessions for survivors or child sexual abuse, as well as for professionals. Watch next month's *LLN* for more information.

April 27-30: The second annual AIDS Conference entitled, *Aids Medicine and Miracles*, will be held in Boulder, CO. The conference is a multi-disciplinary dialogue for care givers, policy makers, and People Living With HIV Infection. For more information, contact: AIDS, Medicine and Miracles, INC., 2033 11th Street, Suite 1, Boulder, CO 8032; or call: (303)447-8777.

ET CETERA

LESBIAN HUMOR ANTHOLOGY: Silverleaf Press is seeking short stories, poems, essays, and cartoons for an anthology of lesbian humor. We are looking for material covering a broad range of lesbian experience: we would like to see humor, insight, and quality writing. We are interested in both new and previously published work, high comedy or subtle humor, or anything in between. Contributors will be paid for their work. Tentative deadline is October 1989. Manuscripts or drawings (with SASE) should be sent to: Ann Larson and Carole Carr, Silverleaf Press, PO Box 70189, Seattle, WA 98107.

LAMBDA RISING BOOK REPORT: The Washington, DC gay bookstore, Lambda Rising, is publishing a monthly periodical that they say includes, "provocative opinion, informed criticism, enlightening essays, and revealing interviews," concerning gay and lesbian issues. If you use the coupon located elsewhere in this issue to subscribe to the publication, the *LLN* will receive \$5. So, if you are interested in the publication and want to subscribe, please use the coupon in this issue, so that you make a contribution to your home-area newsletter too.

LESBIAN FESTIVAL IN AUSTRALIA: The *LLN* received a flyer announcing a lesbian festival in Melbourne, Australia in late January 1990. The flyer says there will be entertainment,

sports, events, exhibitions, and conferences. We will try to include additional information in the *LLN* in case you want to plan a winter vacation for next year (remember that January is summer in Australia), or if you prefer, contact the festival organizers at: PO Box 302, North Carlton, Victoria, 3054, Australia.

BOOK REVIEW

*Blood, Bread, and Poetry: Selected prose 1979-1985*  
Adrienne Rich  
W.W. Norton, 1986  
(paperback \$7.95)

*Blood, Bread, and Poetry* is Adrienne Rich's second book of essays. Like the first, *On Lies, Secrets, and Silence: Selected Prose 1966-1978*, it is filled with exciting and challenging ideas and poet's metaphors. In the forward she writes two things that, for me, typify her feelings and approach to the world. The first celebrates her coming out. In speaking of the Women's Liberation Movement and her knowledge of it since the 1950's and her renewed awareness of it in the 1970's, she says, "I identified myself as a radical feminist, and soon after--not as a political act but out of powerful an unmistakable feelings--as a lesbian." And later, speaking of the essays as a "time line" of her travels since 1978, she observes, "The essays are indicative of a continuing exploration, not a destination."

The book contains her much read and published essay, "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence." I

think this is an essay that should be read by all lesbians, so if you haven't read it, or read it a long time ago, this essay alone is reason enough to buy the book. (Buy it so you can read it over and over again.) I could quote and quote from it, but I will just give two quotes to illustrate the kind of challenging ideas she presents. In a new forward to the essay, she writes of "the ideology which 'demands' heterosexuality, and that lesbians cannot assume that we are untouched by the ideology and the institutions founded upon it." And later she says, "A lesbian, closeted on her job because of heterosexist prejudice, is not simply denying the truth of her outside relationships or private life. Her job depends on her pretending to be not merely heterosexual, but a heterosexual woman in terms of dressing and playing the feminine, deferential role required of 'real' women."

She finds homophobia "too diffuse" a term in another essay, "Invisibility in Academe", in which she writes, "Homophobia is an inaccurate term implying a form of uncontrollable mental panic, and that heterosexism better describes what is really a deeply ingrained prejudice, comparable to racism, sexism, and classism--a political indoctrination which must be recognized as such and which can be re-educated."

Other essays in the book speak of women's education, women's studies, feminist criticism, Jewish identity, her visit to Nicaragua, rebellion, and prejudice. She introduced me to poet Eliz-