

page book in which 107 pages were about Kay's love affair with a male.

The book abounded in clichés. For example, true to stereotype, the older woman assumes responsibility for the younger. Mothering and being mothered is an integral part of lesbian relationships, but it is not always the older woman who mothers and the younger woman who is being mothered. Why is this the assumed pattern of lesbian relationships?

Sarah Aldridge, however, does deserve credit for her portrayal of thoughts of the two characters and the emotions they feel for one another. Yet the entire book is not enough - it is not a lesbian book. I found it boring to be part of Kay's life. How about a real lesbian novel from beginning to end? I am not suggesting that men not be part of the book. They do exist and affect us, both past and present, in real life. But must that be the whole substance of a book?

Some people may feel The Latecomer should be classified as "lesbian" because on the last page Philippa and Kay end up in each others arms. But for me, I was left to wonder if Kay would simply become bi-sexual and leave Philippa for the next man to come along. Accord, New York

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"BOOKS TO AVOID"

(Editor's note: A copy of this letter was sent to Ilkki Giovanni, a black woman poet who often reads her poetry at women's conferences.)

We are a Lesbian-Feminist bookstore. We ordered copies of Gemini (in good faith) which we are returning to the publisher. It is our policy not to sell books which are oppressive to any women because of class, race, cultural background or sexual preference. We are disgusted that you of all people would reinforce negative and stereotyped statements about women in general and lesbians in particular.

The two examples from the Viking Press Paperback edition to which we are objecting are:

"...the university again, waiting for melike a big dyke with a greasy smile on her lips who has run her prey into a corner." p. 4]

"...thrown in with sadistic dykes...."

How can you be so unaware and insensitive to other women's oppression?

Labyris Bookstore Collective
P.O. Box 6302
Cincinnati, Ohio 45206

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LESBIANS IN TV LAND

Lesbians made it onto major network TV twice this past month, although it wasn't exactly prime-time. On Feb. 10 four lesbians were interviewed by Tom Snyder for an hour on the Tomorrow Show; on NBC at 11 AM. The four lesbians were Elaine Noble, who was recently elected to the Mass. House of Representatives; Sally Gearhart, Co-Author of Loving men/Loving Women; Eleanor Cooper of Lesbian Feminist Liberation in N.Y. City; and Sally Lafferty, also of L.F.L. and the National Gay Task Force. Tom Snyder was his usual obnoxious self, attempting to be the liberal/liberated male.

I felt that one of the high points of the show was when Elaine Noble caught Snyder in the midst of stating that lesbians hate all men, and calmly explained to him that she was a complicated person and if he insisted on viewing her with stereotypes they wouldn't be able to share. Which, needless to say, left Snyder

rather speechless. I certainly can see how Noble won her election, & almost felt like sending her a fan letter.

I had basically good feelings about the other lesbians, with some reservations. I liked a lot of what Elaine Lafferty (who was billed as the 16-year old) said, but felt that the general public wouldn't understand much of the terminology and political language used. Eleanor Cooper, from L.F.L., left me with no impression at all since she said hardly anything, which is quite understandable. Much of what Sally Short said I don't personally agree with, and I also felt she shouldn't have wasted time answering some of the inane questions Synder came up with (e.g. Why do you wear pants?)... Overall, considering T.V., it was a good show, although it could have been improved greatly if Synder hadn't been there.

The second show on ABC Feb. 27 at 11:30pm. was 90 minutes long, called Homosexuals: Out of the Closets. The moderator this time was David Frost, and he was even worse than Synder, if you can believe that. I thought the show was quite boring, and must admit I quit watching before it was over. The best part of it was a tape of two lesbians from Chicago performing one of their own songs. They were really good, and it made me have a fantasy of a whole show that would just be lesbians playing their material.

The first part of the show was an interview with a gay man and his father. This was followed by a middle-aged couple talking about their lesbian daughter. The lesbian's mother said some amazing things. She talked of when her daughter, "Jerry" (who was 16 at the time), returned after running away. Her brother and his wife brought Jerry home, but first they sat the mother down and said, "Jerry's not a girl anymore." Mother I was so excited- I thought she was pregnant, but then they explained to me what they really meant. Flash a picture on the screen of "Jerry" in male drag. The show went downhill from there.

"Jerry" (her real name is Sherrie, but Frost insisted on calling her "Jerry") and her lover followed, and they tried their best. During Frost's questioning, we learned that they believe they were born lesbians. One is an ex-drug addict, both are a political, and they aren't into roles. Considering how many of Frost's questions were about sex, I'm amazed we found out anything about these women other than what they do in bed. This segment of the program filled me with a mixture of frustration and boredom.

I continued watching the program because I wanted to see the clips of lesbian and homosexual scenes from five movies. When the film clips only lasted about 3 minutes (thats about 35 seconds per film) I gave up. Perhaps this show wasn't anti-homosexual, but boring isn't exactly a great step forward. TV's got a long way to go.

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Santa Barbara, Ca. 125 members of a group called "Concerned Parents" showed up at a meeting protesting positive gay lectures as part of a Family Life course at two local high schools. Spokspersons from the Gay People's Union were there too, with the weapon of knowledge on their side. Result: the Gay speakers will continue because the school board voted 4-1 to retain the course as it was.