

# SPECTRUM

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## The Black Triangle

### It is time to indulge in "feel-good" activities

by Tristis Bhaird

When you've had a long week of depressing experiences, family arguments, homework gridlock, and the other typical February experiences, you can sometimes feel like it isn't worth the battle. This is the time that you have to take a little time to indulge in feel-good activities. Even rough and tumble, stand up for themselves, the world ain't gonna slow me down, mega-dykes need pampering (in small doses, of course).

Escaping the harsh (or boring) world of reality can be done through the pages of a book, or with a movie easily enough, but which should you choose to sooth your lesbian soul? I was at a really fun coffee house not too darn long ago and we played a game of Lesbo Family Feud. One of the questions involved lesbian books, and I was surprised at some of the answers (and how some lesbian authors are not too well known). It struck me then that if the (more or less) out lesbians didn't know some of these writers, then the women who have no lesbian friends to share with might be completely in the dark about them.

Everyone seems to know Rita Mae Brown. This is good. She is a very good, really outspoken writer, who can inspire anyone to action. She's written a lot of books. Most, if not all of them can be ordered through a regular bookstore without raising o much fuss. Some, at least, can be found in the public library. Off the top of my head I can recall titles such as Rubyfruit Jungle, Sudden Death and Bingo.

Try Jane Rule, if you haven't heard about her before. The cool part about Ms. Rule's writing is that she writes about things that aren't specifically gay, it's just that the characters are. Inland Passage is one of her books, but she's fairly prolific. I know for a fact the Harriet Irving library has her work.

In the "books that were cooler than their movies" category, we have Fried Green Tomatoes At The Whistle Stop Cafe by Fannie Flagg. The movie is nice. It's soft and gentle, and pretty obvious to us if not to heterosexuals. The book is wonderful, funny, touching and definitely lesbian.

The Color Purple was beautifully shot, but mostly wasted on the big screen. It was a children's show, complete with happy endings and glossed-over strife. The book was hard hitting, gritty, moving, and again, undoubtedly gay.

Straying into movies a bit, I want to warn you about some pitfalls of mainstream movie selecting. This is important if you haven't had a look at some of the cooler stuff yet, and people start recommending films just because they have lesbian characters. It seems to be a rule that if you are going to depict lesbians in your movie, they have to lead miserable lives, die, or get converted by the dashing hero.

This is especially common in older films.

"Personal Best" is not recommended if you want to feel good about yourself. I went into a week long fit of depression after that one. It's about these two athletes training for the Olympics. They end up in bed together and it ruins their training. Their coach tries to rescue the younger one (whom he's achin' for) and the other one (mistakenly?) trips her, causing serious damage. There's more, but who cares.

"The Trouble with George" is really old, and really miserable. Dykey stereotypes abound, and lesbianism is not just depicted as bleak, but also deranged and deadly.

On a lighter note, there is an English subtitled film called "Entre Nous". It follows the growth of a rich, fulfilling relationship between two women, and the - sometimes unfortunate - adjustments in their families.

I'll finish off for now with the other extreme. "Virgin Machine" is, well, lesbian pornography? I don't know. It is Not mainstream. I didn't watch it the whole way through (we took a vote of everyone in the room that night, and canned it) but what I saw was bold, and I do like challenging input. Next time I want to dedicate the whole column to erotica verses pornography, walking the line, and what some feel is right, other feel is wrong.

I wouldn't want anyone to get the feeling that this tiny selection is all there is. There are bookstores full in larger cities, and a small pile available here in Fredericton.

Amnesty International  
Youth/Campus Network

## Youth under attack

DISAPPEAR/ Young people around the world today are "disappearing" and their age is no protection.

by Kourosh Mohseni

Young people are under attack in countries around the world today. Their age is no protection from intimidation, illegal arrest and detention at the hands of governmental and paragonmental forces. They "disappear", are banished, turned into refugees, tortured and executed.

In many countries, young people are subject to the same reprisals as adults when governments see them as potential opposition. Examples are as varied as South Africa and Afghanistan, Peru and former Yugoslavia, Northern Ireland and Islamic Republic of Iran. In these countries courageous young people are persecuted for the non-violent expression of their beliefs, for their opinions and for the disclosure of information that their governments would rather keep from the public. These people are con-

SOOTHING THE SOUL/ Escaping the harsh or boring world of reality can be done through the pages of a book, or with a movie easily enough, but which should you choose to sooth your lesbian soul?



sidered as prisoners of conscience by Amnesty International, a worldwide independent movement founded in 1961 by a British lawyer who worked hard for the rights of prisoners of conscience. Today Amnesty International has more than one million members all around the world working in more than one hundred countries. The Canadian branch of A.I. has eight different networks. Youth/Campus network represents some of the most active groups of students in all universities across the country. At the University of New Brunswick through Amnesty International Group YC 405 we present the ideas that we share with other parts of the network in Canada and the Interna-

tional Secretariat in London, England as well as other countries. Amnesty International, Group YC, 405, UNB.

We believe that students should not be persecuted for reading certain kinds of literature, taping foreign broadcasts, for having contacts abroad, for showing that they want to emigrate or simply by expressing their thoughts and opinions about their society or government. Denying Human Rights and crushing the human spirits must end now. We must speak out for every young person who is under attack. Amnesty International has found that if enough people act, people who became the victims of

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human rights abuses can be protected, helped and freed. Come and join your campus Amnesty International group.

Amnesty International, Group YC 405 has general meetings every three weeks in campus. Our meetings are open to the public. Everybody welcome! Next meeting will be held at SUB room #26 on Sunday February the 14th at 7:00 p.m.

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