

*more Blessing...*

lesbians, women, Jews, Native Americans, all invariably are, or in some way, do something against nature as it is so defined.

The book itself is long, over 300 pages, and structured somewhat like a textbook, explaining each path and theme in a chapter. It is rich in history: Fox draws heavily for his material from several fascinating feminists from the Middle Ages, among them Julian of Norwich and Mechtild of Magdeburg.

I liked very much his practice of opening each chapter with a page of relevant quotes. The book fairly brims over with the combined wisdom of an amazing variety of people including Adrienne Rich, Willa Cather, Elie Wiesel, Starhawk, Chief Seattle, Thomas Merton, and many others. Drawing from so many voices, Christian and non-Christian, is a principal strength of the book.

In short, "Original Blessing" is a wonderful and important book for many people to read, particularly those who have been condemned or felt condemned by the widely accepted Western approach to Christianity today, and longed for an alternative.

## Lesbian Sues for Visitation Rights

New York, N.Y. (March 18, 1988) - Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund has filed a revolutionary case in the area of lesbian and gay family law. The case seeks to establish the parental rights of a lesbian co-parent who has no biological or legal relationship with the child.

Lambda represents the co-parent in her petition for restoration of visitation with her son. Paula L. Ettelbrick, the Lambda Staff Attorney who represents the co-parent, stated, "The increasing numbers of lesbian couples having children by artificial insemination has led to a multitude of questions regarding the legal relationship between the child born of that relationship and the co-parent. Because the emotional bond between parent and child is so strong in this case, it is essential to get the court to legally protect that relationship."

The case involves a lesbian couple in a small New York town who had a child together through artificial insemination in 1981. Both parents supported the child financially and emotionally, and it was clearly agreed that both of them were the child's parents.

When the couple separated in 1983, their son, then 2-1/2 years old, remained with his biological parent, though the parents worked out a very liberal visitation schedule so as to keep the relationship between the co-parent and child intact. Further, the co-parent continued to attend to her son's medical needs, took him to and from school, provided discipline and love, and cared for his tangible needs such as food, shelter and clothing. This amicable agreement continued until late 1986 when the biological parent began limiting the co-parent's access to their son.

By summer 1987, visitation and contact was cut off totally when the co-parent took a temporary job outside of the country. The biological mother disconnected the phone, returned cards and gifts sent by the co-parent and moved to avoid any contact between the child and the co-parent.

Ettelbrick said, "This case is just a first step in what will be a long battle for recognition of lesbian families in every state."

Noel Tepper, the Lambda Cooperating Attorney assisting with the case, emphasized that the couple is from a small com-

*(Continued on page 10)*



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