

## Brian McNaught to Speak at UVM

by Dave

Brian McNaught, whose first appearance at the University of Vermont in the spring of 1982 was extremely controversial and highly publicized, will be returning to Vermont to give a public lecture on April 30 and a day-long workshop on May 1.

During his free public lecture, McNaught will tell his own story of growing up and dealing with his homosexuality and the impact that "coming out" had on him, his employment, his family, and his future. That presentation, "Homophobia: The Toll it Takes on All of Us," will take place on Monday evening, April 30, at 7:30 p.m. in the Ira Allen Chapel on the campus of the University of Vermont in Burlington.

McNaught's story is not only inspiring and empowering, but his presentation helps people to realize that they are in charge of their own lives, and that with courage and support they can learn to love themselves and share the unique gifts they have to give as gay men and lesbians. A reception will follow the evening presentation.

The day-long workshop will take place on Tuesday, May 1, at Marble Island, and is entitled "Understanding and Responding to the Needs of Gay and Lesbian People." The cost of the workshop is \$45.00 and includes lunch.

This workshop is for people who wish to understand more about homosexuality and who wish to be better prepared and more comfortable in responding to the needs of gay and lesbian clients, whether those clients be in a doctor's office, a classroom, a health care facility, or a counselor's office.

### Gay Book Awards

The Gay and Lesbian Task Force of the American Library Association is pleased to announce its winners of the 1990 Gay/Lesbian Book Awards. For fiction, the award goes to *Eighty-Sixed* by David Feinberg (New York: Viking). Neil Miller's *In Search of Gay America: Woman and Men in a Time of Change* (New York: Atlantic Monthly Press) was selected as the non-fiction winner.

In addition, the Task Force announced the winner of its first Award for Exceptional Achievement, Armistead Maupin, for his "Tales of the City" series of six novels.

McNaught's first book, *A Disturbed Peace*, was published in 1981. As I have done homophobia workshops myself with a variety of groups over the past several years, I have often quoted from passages of that book, especially from the chapter "I Like It."

Since his first book's publication, McNaught has been a freelance writer and an educational consultant and lecturer addressing the topics of homosexuality, homophobia, acceptance, family, and faith. His new book, *On Being Gay: Thoughts on Family, Faith, and Love* is excellent and includes some of the best chapters of his first book along with several new thoughts and ideas generated by his experiences. His chapters on "Oppressing Ourselves" and "Living for Yourself" are of particular

value and offer each of us challenges we may or may not be ready to face. "Listening to the Voice Within" also manages to make us think - not once, not twice, but several times about paying attention to our gut feelings:

"The voice within is a person's best friend. It is also a troublemaker. The voice within sings an anthem of independence. Listening to it can make you feel dissatisfied with the way things are. Listening to it can prompt you to do and say things you never imagined were within you. Following its call to action can create all sorts of trouble." (p. 161)

Posters and brochures on McNaught's lecture and workshop can be obtained by calling the UVM Office of Human Development Studies at 656-4050.

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