

A & E

Summer Reading and More...

BY ANDREA L.T. PETERSON

It seems to be getting harder and harder to keep up with the good stuff. More and more writers are cracking the secret code to good style, and more and more favorite authors are keeping one step ahead of the game. Mysteries seem to be the fastest growing genre—even in gay and lesbian literature—recently. Authors like Rita Mae Brown, Mark Richard Zubro, and Sandra Scoppetone have new mysteries. Ed Karvoski, Jr., has a new light collection of gay and lesbian trivia, and lesser known Brit Kate Summerscale brings readers the fascinating true story of the eccentric "Joe" Carstairs, "fastest woman on water."

Giving credit where it is due, Brown has the adept assistance of canine companion and co-author Sneaky Pie contributing to another successful episode in the life of canine sleuth Mrs. Murphy (and her four footed pals) in cozy Crozet Virginia. Murder on the Prowl is just what Sneaky Pie fans have come to hope for from the little furred genius. This time, murder seems to plague the faculty, staff, and students of an exclusive Crozet school and, naturally, the incompetence of humans hinders the animals investigation, but doesn't prevent their successful unraveling of yet another mystery.

One of St. Martin's treasures is Mark Richard Zubro, author of both the Tom & Scott and the Paul Turner Mystery series. Zubro's seventh Tom & Scott mystery, *Are You Nuts?* is a welcome addition to the Zubro collection, and a great read for Zubro fans and mystery readers not yet familiar with this author.

Gay teachers in the public school system—and the radical right—get equal time as high school teacher Tom Mason returns from a summer filled with national publicity about his lover, baseball hero Scott Carpenter's coming out. Dirty politics and dirty pool work together to endanger the lives and reputations of Tom and one straight colleague and friend in particular. Both of Zubro's series are well worth the time it takes to read them, and *Are You Nuts?* is no exception.

Gonna Take a Homicidal Journey is another success for Little, Brown author Sandra Scoppetone. In a battle between "old-line home owners and eager developers," dyke dick Laura Laurano finds her self knee-deep in murder and mayhem. A working vacation to a quiet little resort town where she and her partner Kip plan to work on a friends house and on their relationship turns into anything but a problem solving getaway—at least in the way the two women had planned—and Laurano is drawn to put all of her energies into delving into the town's past, its secrets, and ITS problems, instead of her own. Fans definitely will not be disappointed in this, Scoppetone's latest.

The world of entertainment gets a bit of attention from comic Ed Karvoski, Jr., author of last year's *A Funny Time To Be Gay*. In *What's Your*

BOOKS

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"I wanted to be an altar boy"

CATHERINE RESMER INTERVIEWS

KATHERINE QUINN

The first time I saw Katherine Quinn play was during UVM's Free To Be: GLBT Visibility Week. After the first song, I turned to the woman I was with and said, "I'm never missing another show she does." Two nights later, I saw Katherine play at the Rhombus Gallery. It was my first date with the woman I've been seeing ever since.

I got a chance to tell Katherine my date story when we sat down for an interview and a couple beers at The Other Place. "That's a pretty common thing," she says, "women using my shows as first dates." And no wonder—Katherine Quinn is clever, talented, and articulate, and she writes and performs her own songs. She writes about loving men, about loving women, about telling off men (and women), about telling off her boss. And she's not shy about her sexuality.

Quinn identifies as bisexual, and says that one of the reasons she's so open about it is that she doesn't remember seeing positive images of queer people when she was growing up. She says she's out because, "being in the closet makes young girls who are drawn to women have no role models."

In "Give Your Name Away," she sings about a relationship with a childhood girl friend. In the song, the girls shave with their father's razors, play on the Little League team, and kiss in the backyard. She wrote the song after receiving an invitation to the friend's wedding, and the refrain asks, "Girl, why you gonna give your name away? Why you gonna let them give you away?"

We talked for a while about being young, queer, and Catholic—wanting to fit in. "I wanted to be an

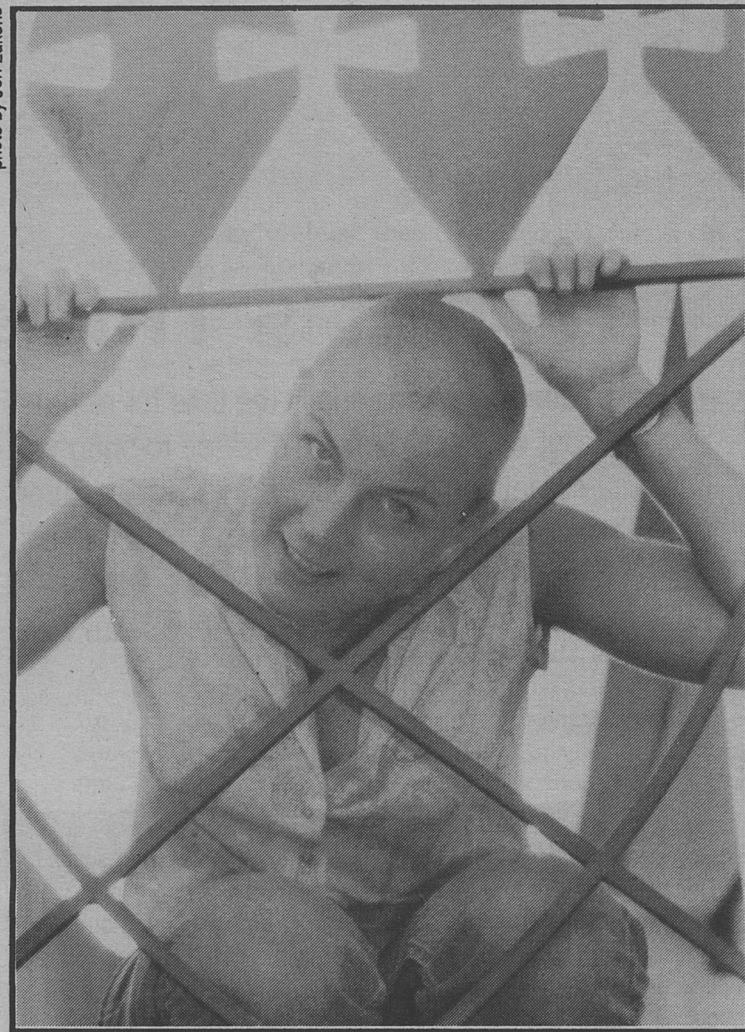


photo by Jon Lukens

altar boy," she says. She told her priest, who said, "if you want to be an altar boy, why don't you write to the bishop." So basically, he was saying, "why don't you just kiss off." I was ten years old, and I went home and told my mother. She rolled her eyes and said, "he's such an asshole!" Katherine laughs. "So I wrote to the bishop, and I got this letter back that said I should serve the way women

were supposed to serve, in the back with Sr. Doris, serving coffee." After that, she says, she gave up her religious aspirations. "That was the end. The romance was dead."

Quinn, who grew up in Providence, Rhode Island, went to Brown University, and graduated in 1992 with a Bachelor of Arts in Education. She taught high school for a short time before moving to Burlington in Janu-

CALENDAR

13 MONDAY

Brattleboro - 6:30 pm Potluck on the Belle of Brattleboro, launching from the Marina Restaurant 7 pm SHARP. The Marina Restaurant is on Putney Road across from the Connecticut River Safari Canoe Rentals, Brattleboro. A two-hour tour on a pontoon up & down the scenic Connecticut River. Please bring a dish to share and a beverage of your choice. The cost of rental is \$235, so we need at least 20 people registered by Tuesday, July 7th to make it happen. Please RSVP to Carey (802) 254-4444 or Craig (802) 258-9130

Middlebury - Addison County Rainbow Families inaugural gathering at the Festival on the Green concert. Lisa McCormick is the 7:00 show. Bring your picnic and look for the rainbow windsock. Queer families from anywhere are welcome. You don't have to bring your kids, but they'll have a great time if you do. FMI - Barb 388-8298

15 WEDNESDAY

Brattleboro - Vermont Freedom to Marry Force, Organizational meeting at the home of Mark Herman, 21 Belmont Ave, 7pm. FMI 387-5788

17 FRIDAY

Middletown Springs - Solarfest, a weekend of music dance theater, puppetry, story-telling, clowning, games, bonfires, children's activities, astronomy and renewable energy workshops on a 40-acre site, all powered entirely by the sun. Featuring Stanley Jordan, Dar Williams, Michael Manning, the New Nile Orchestra, and the June Rich band. Weekend pass, \$35, daily tickets \$20, free camping available, no dogs or glass bottles. Tickets available at the Flynn Theatre Box Office, 86-FLYNN or at the gate. FMI

18 SATURDAY

Manchester - Vermont Symphony Orchestra Gala. An evening of romantic music under the stars features Grant Johannesen performing Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2 with the VSO. Kate Tamarkin conducts. 7:30 at Hunter Park Call for more information at 1-800-876-9293.

Wrightsville Reservoir - Women of the Woods canoeing swimming, and floating party. Meet at the boat launch at 11 am. Bring your own canoe or flotation device. Rain date is July 19. FMI 299-0109

22 WEDNESDAY

Brattleboro - 7 pm Gay/Bi Men's Movie & Pizza Night at Michael Gigante's 15 Myrtle St. Brattleboro. Please join us for "It's My Party," the 1996 drama starring Eric Roberts & Gregory Harrison as a West Hollywood couple coming to terms with AIDS. Pizza compliments of the Gay

& Bisexual Men's Program. FMI Michael (802) 254-8032, Ron (603) 876-4825 or Carey (802) 254-4444

Burlington - Jennifer Bloomfield presents her one-woman spoken-word cabaret, "Blood, White, and Blue" during the Rhombus Gallery summer theater festival. Second performance on Thursday, July 23. Bloomfield, whose play "Escaping Warsaw" premiered off-Broadway this spring, will take on 15 characters, from the Stripper to the Accountant, all of whom struggle to maintain their individuality in corporate America. 8 pm, admission \$5-\$10 sliding scale. Rhombus Gallery is located at 186 College St., 2nd floor. Call 865-3144 for info.

25 SATURDAY

Manchester - The Glenn Miller Orchestra performs at Hunter Park in Manchester VT. Nostalgic big band tunes. 7:30. Call 1-800-876-9293 for more information.

South Royalton - Christmas in July at the

Crossroads Bar and Grille. Co-sponsored by members of the Upper Valley Gay community, Tunbridge Quality Ales, and the Crossroads. This is a toys for tots fundraiser. Cover chg will be a new toy unwrapped or three dollars at the door. Festivities will be starting at 7:30. Dinner will be available from 4 till 9 for those wishing to come early and would like to get good food.

26 SUNDAY

Putney - Lesbian Book Group: 7 PM at Heartstone Books. We read books in all genres, by women authors, usually with some lesbian content. Please join us! For more information, Tatiana (802) 387-2781, or tatianas@sover.net.

1 SATURDAY

Agawan, MA - Gay Day at Riverside Amusement Park, August 1st 1998 for the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender commu-