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Children's works**

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Growth potential:

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Company Principals:

Christie Carr

Ten plus years publishing industry experience; publishing, photography, art direction, design, business management. Woman in Business Award; Woman of the Year Award; Chamber of Commerce Women Business Owners Woman of the Year Award. Volunteer advocate; county commissioner long-range planning appointee.

Stefin Collins

Five plus years publishing industry experience; author. artist, youth advocate

Jane Vogel, Publicist
415•621•3769

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DYKES TO WATCH OUT FOR:

After two years as publishers of an underground magazine (DYKE REVIEW), Christie Carr and Stefin Collins have emerged as very competitive publishers with the debut of their first book: HONORABLE DISCHARGE . . . Memoirs of an Army Dyke, The Donna Jackson Story, published January 1994 in San Francisco, California. Additionally, they have brought DYKE REVIEW magazine into a national position, with a very gutsy, no holds barred look at dykes in hometown America.

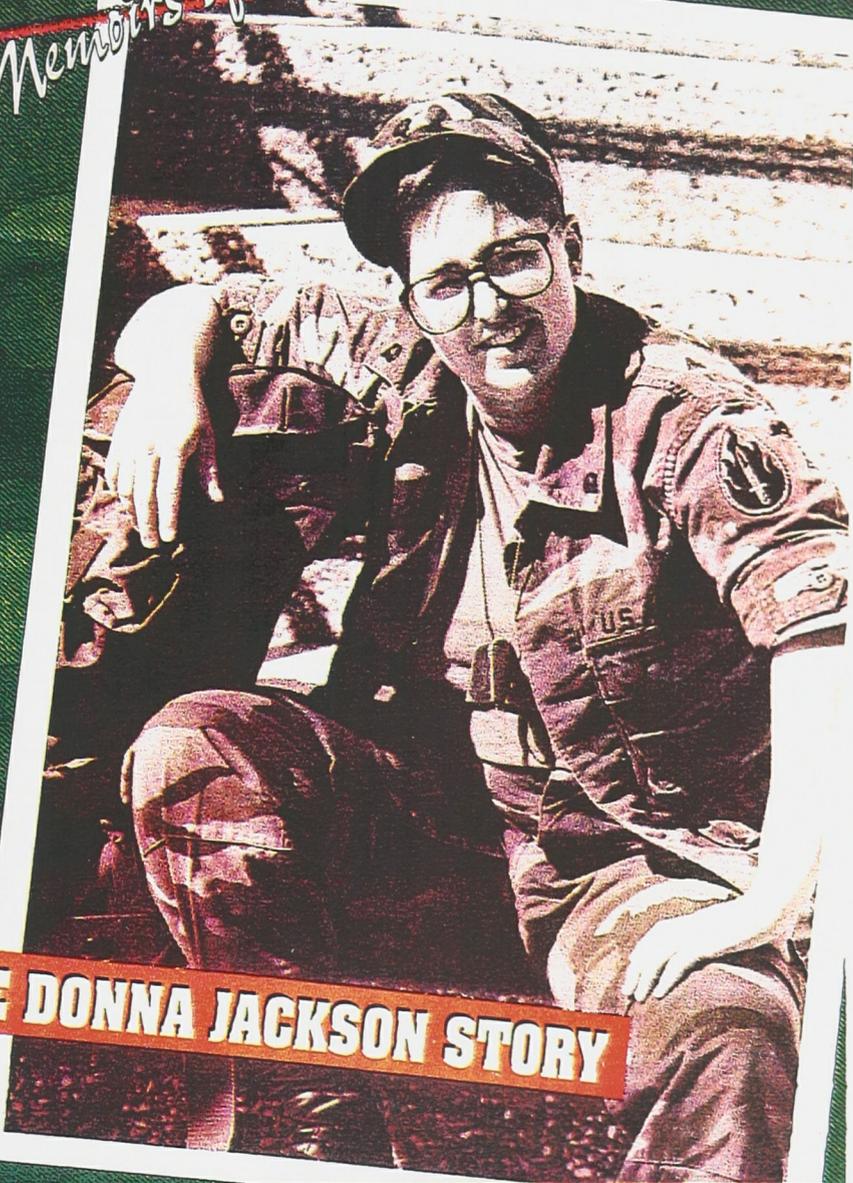
Dyke Review avoids that plastic coated lipstick lesbian venue for a much earthier "Life is truer than fiction" look at the nuts and bolts of the lesbian community. These two dyke publishers have picked up a wide readership from women who don't feel they can relate to the other lesbian publications on newsstands.

The 1990's have been touted as the Years of the Queer; for these two women, it is the Decade of Dykedom.

584 castro street, suite 456, san francisco, california 94114

HONORABLE DISCHARGE

Memoirs of an Army Dyke



THE DONNA JACKSON STORY

"HER STORY WILL REMAIN A TURNING POINT IN THE EVOLUTION OF THIS ISSUE" — RANDY SHILT'S

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TAKE TWO



THE FLIP SIDE

By Joe Garofoli

A lesbian ex-reservist tells her story in print

Donna Jackson laughs at the mention of the Clinton Administration's policy of "don't ask, don't tell." Two days after her Army Reserve unit was activated for Persian Gulf duty in December 1990, she "told" her commander that she was a lesbian.

The Army didn't care. At least as long as the war was on. As her commander said to her, "What will happen is that you will be deployed with your unit to Saudi Arabia for six months, used for the purposes of Operation Desert Shield, and discharged when you return for stating that you are a lesbian... that is off the record, of course."

That's the "Be All You Can Be" lesson at the core of the San Francisco resident's soon-to-be released book "Honorable Discharge: Memoirs of an Army Dyke" (\$14.95, Christie & Stefin Co.). Jackson was ready to sacrifice her life for the country, but she felt Uncle Sam didn't want to hold up his end of the Constitution. The book is believed to be the first behind-the-scenes military tale written by a lesbian.

You don't have to be gay or in the Army to appreciate what Jackson is talking about. Her story is about being true to yourself. To your beliefs. To your soul. For when it came down to it, she was tired of living a lie for the Army.

The pains she went to keep up the charade are almost laughable now. For one weekend a month, the 28-year-old Jackson acted straight. She had to. She was in the Army Reserve.

Never mind that she was out to her parents, her coworkers and her friends. When it came time to pull on her fatigues, though, she changed identities. She became a flirty Army private. As in flirting with men. But mostly by frequently mentioning a mysterious man in her life.

"I played the Name Game," Jackson says at a cafe in San Francisco's Castro District. "The only thing was if I was supposed to have a long-term relationship, I had to remember what guy's name I used. I couldn't say, 'Oh, I'm with Larry,' when I was with Steven the weekend before. That happened a couple of times.

"But nobody ever said anything because the guys were always trying to hustle me. They were always trying to hustle the women."

Most of her heterosexual experiences were, to say the least, not consensual. While serving in Germany, she writes that a sergeant grabbed her and forced her to perform oral sex on him. And that was on the base behind the motor pool.

As he walked away, he told Jackson, "You're not going to say anything about this. Are you? Otherwise, you know you could be in big trouble."

She never reported him. As she says, would you believe a female private's word over a male sergeant's?

Still, after serving for seven years in the Army and the Reserves, she was content to remain closeted to the military. Coming out didn't become an issue until August 1990, when war became a possibility. Then Jackson and her partner and co-publisher, Christie Carr, began talking about the compromises she was making.

"This is war," Jackson says. "I could actually be shot, killed. Even though women aren't supposed to be on the battle lines, war is war.

"If I was going to fight for my country, I didn't want to lie there on the ground, wounded, and say, 'Oh, please tell my boyfriend. Please tell him that I love him.' I didn't want to have to play the whole Name Game thing if I was dying.

"You want to be able to say, 'Please tell Christie.' A lot of people think that may be out there, but that's where a lot of the motivation came from. If I was going to die, I wanted to be who I was. I wanted to be me."

When she came out, she came out big time. The national media picked up the story. Jackson credits the publicity she received for the Army's decision to give her an honorable discharge in January 1991.

Still, it hurts her that so many gays who did not come out as publicly have received dishonorable discharges. The Army didn't even seem to mind when — after being discharged from Fort Ord and still in uniform — Jackson stopped along the beach to pose for a pictorial spread for the lesbian erotica magazine *On Our Backs*. Apparently, scenes of her masturbating and baring her breasts haven't ticked off the wrong people.

She thinks her book won't be popular in some quarters of the gay community. Jackson names names — real names — of former lovers and lesbian friends. Outing gays, Jackson says, is not her purpose.

"It is my story and I have the right to tell it, just as they have to tell their story," she says. "If I were in the closet, and someone used my name, maybe I might take offense. But if this is really who I am then that's just something you have to think about."

Know someone on the cutting edge? How about on the lunatic fringe? Feed your story ideas and comments to

THE NEW YORK TIMES FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 1991

Reservist Headed for the Gulf Challenges Homosexual Ban

Special to The New York Times

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 10 — Just days before her scheduled deployment to the Persian Gulf, an Army reservist declared in a letter to her post commander: "I am an open lesbian and I wish to be deployed as such with my unit."

With her letter on Wednesday, the reservist, Specialist 4 Donna Lynn Jackson, mounted the first known challenge of the military's ban on gay and lesbian personnel in the mobilization of United States troops to the Persian Gulf.

Under Department of Defense regulations, homosexuals may not serve in the armed forces. A military lawyer at Fort Ord, 90 miles south of here, where Specialist Jackson had recently been reassigned as part of the 129th Evacuation Hospital for transfer to the Persian Gulf, is investigating the case and will soon make a recommendation to commanders as to whether she will join the more than 1,000 people a year who are discharged from the military for homosexuality.

Wants to Be True to Herself

Specialist Jackson, 25 years old, of San Diego, says she is eager to go to the Persian Gulf and wants only to be true to herself during her deployment.

"I want everyone to know that there's nothing wrong with being gay and serving my country with pride," she said in an interview on Wednesday at the motel room near Fort Ord where since Sunday she has spent evenings with her partner, Christie Carr.

Gay advocates are cheered by Specialist Jackson's strong declaration.

"I hope it's the first of a whole series of people taking the stand that if we're going to give our blood and spirit as Americans, our country can, at the least, accept us as whole individuals," said James Woodward, a former naval officer who runs a San Diego group for veterans who kept their homosexuality secret while serving in the armed forces.

Case Already Closely Watched

Gay leaders are also closely watching the Jackson case to see if the military will ship her overseas and then discharge her after the crisis as happened to a Vietnam War veteran, Perry Watkins, who acknowledged he was a homosexual when drafted and served 14 years with the Army until he was forced out as a homosexual in 1984. The Supreme Court ruled last November that the Army must allow Mr. Watkins to re-enlist a fourth time because they had allowed him to do so three previous times.

If Specialist Jackson is sent to the

Persian Gulf, gay advocates say, it will highlight the arbitrary enforcement and hypocrisy of the military's ban on homosexuals.

"When they need cannon fodder" they'll take homosexuals "and anything else that comes along," said Mr. Woodward. "But when it comes time to enjoy the harvest, they say: 'Get out.'"

Last February the Supreme Court refused to hear Mr. Woodward's appeal of his dismissal from the Navy and another from a Milwaukee woman who had been in the Army Reserve.

Specialist Jackson said the fear that she might serve in Saudi Arabia and later be forced out of the Army prompted her to raise the issue of her homosexuality.

She said she was on active duty for two years with the Army right after high school, later signing on with the Reserves. But she said the Pentagon

'I am an open lesbian and I wish to be deployed as such with my unit.'

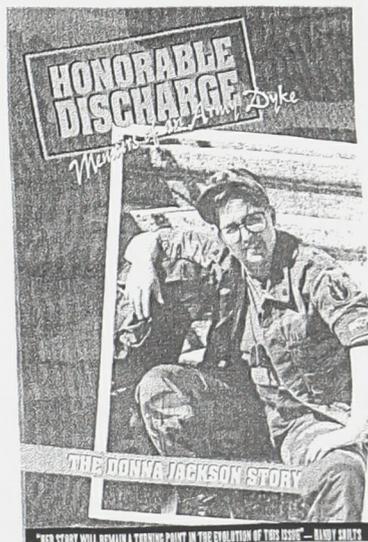
policy banning homosexuals was "not a consideration" for her earlier because she had not been sure of her sexuality. Though she said she had questioned her sexuality for years, she did not enter a lesbian relationship until a year ago.

Master Sgt. Richard Czizik, a spokesman at Fort Ord, said today that a decision in the Jackson case will be made "very quickly," before her unit is sent overseas. A Pentagon spokesman, Maj. Doug Hart, said there had been no change in the ban on homosexuals in the armed forces during the gulf crisis.

The Pentagon ban states that homosexuals disrupt the military's ability to maintain discipline and morale and pose a security risk because they may be blackmailed.

Musing on her recent experiences, Specialist Jackson said: "It's not really a hard thing to deal with in the Reserves. You're only there one weekend a month and for two weeks in the summer. Now that it's full-time it's a whole different ballgame. It's really hard to not be who you are."

The New York Times
FRIDAY JANUARY 11, 1991 PG. A10



THE CHRISTIE & STEFIN COMPANY

Presents

HONORABLE DISCHARGE

... *Memoirs of an Army Dyke*

THE DONNA JACKSON STORY

"[Donna] Jackson was ready to sacrifice her life for the country, but she felt Uncle Sam didn't want to hold up his end of the Constitution. The book is believed to be the first behind-the-scenes military tale written by a lesbian." -Joe Garofoli, Contra Costa Times, January 11, 1994

DONNA JACKSON

"I thought the government ended slavery in 1863. But here it was 1991, and slavery still existed, in America land of the free and home of the brave. The government wants us as long as we deny who we are. I wasn't willing to be caught up in that system any longer."

RANDY SHILTS

"Donna Jackson was at the vortex of the Gays in the Military issue during the highly charged days of the gulf war. Her story will remain a turning point in the evolution of this issue." -RANDY SHILTS, national correspondent for the San Francisco Chronicle, and author of *AND THE BAND PLAYED ON*, *The Mayor of Castro Street*, and *CONDUCT UNBECOMING*.

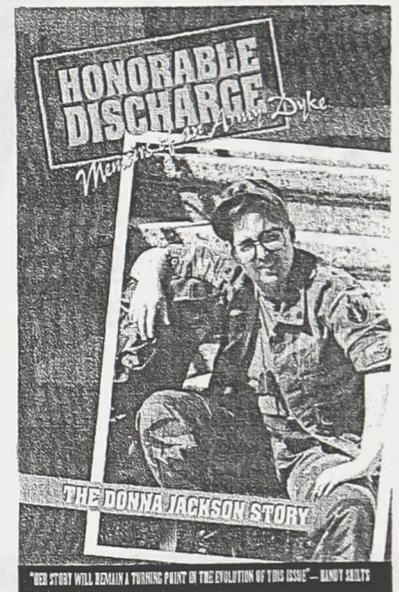
THE EXPERTS AGREE

"You don't have to be gay or in the Army to appreciate what Jackson is talking about. Her story is about being true to yourself. To your beliefs. To your soul. For when it came down to it, she was tired of living a lie for the Army." -Joe Garofoli, Columnist, Contra Costa Times

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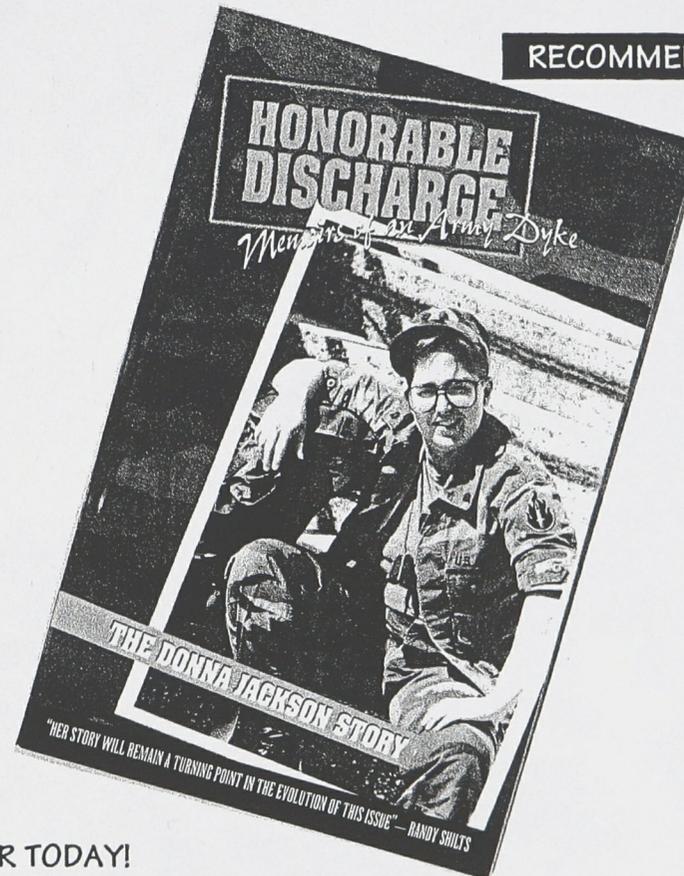
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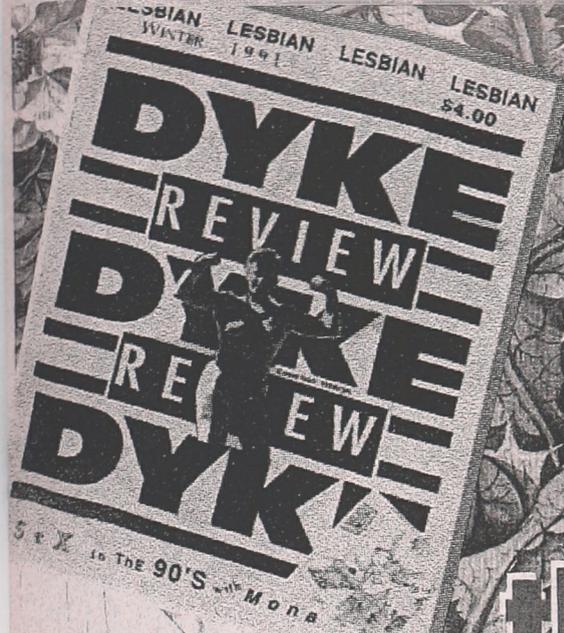
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LN
THE LESBIAN NEWS
VOL. 17, NO. 9, 4/92

the ZINE scene

Roxie says.

"I grew up thinking there was nothing out there. I thought I was alone. I thought all lesbians looked like men and drove a truck. And now I think lesbians who look like men and drive trucks are sexy."

And so does Christine Carr, editor and publisher of Dyke Review in San Francisco. But, she and her lover/business partner, Donna Jackson, are cranking out their zine for a completely different audience.

"We're writing for the dyke — the most 'common'

lesbian. Not a lipstick, lesbian professional, who doesn't get identified at work or the motorcycle-riding, hardcore working-class lesbian," says Carr, a former photo editor for the lesbian sex mag *On Our Backs*, who looks like the readers she's targeting — neither ultra femme or butch. At 44, she just looks as if she would be a lot of fun on a date.

"We're doing this because we can," says 26-year-old Jackson, whose private parts appear in a very public display on the pages of the spring issue. "We started it because we were tired of being rejected by other publications."

During the Persian Gulf war, Jackson, an Army reservist, was called up for duty — but she wound up getting discharged honorably from the service after announcing her lesbianism to her commanding officer. Now she's working in a print shop while writing a book about her experiences as an army reservist.

Just to get the zine out, Jackson and Carr are scrimping to pay for the next edition. Carr says up to this point, most of their advertising has been free, so, "We've sold our clothes at the flea market, we each save \$50 a week, and instead of going out on dates, we rent a \$2.50 video. But it feels good."

Like the San Francisco-based *Taste of Latex*, maybe? It's one of the more raunchy zines. Raunchier than pubic shots of the publisher's partner? Definitely.

LN Photos (K. T. Kotter)



**DINAH
GUIDE
1992**

DYKE REVIEW

M a g a z i n e

LITERARY CONTROVERSIAL INFORMATIVE FUNNY

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HOW DYKE REVIEW WAS BORN:

Inspired by Rachael Pepper's **CUNT**

BORN out of a need to be heard, to get our **OWN** work in print.

Created just because we could; with scissors, glue, photos, and trash.

We were catapulted into the 'Zine Scene' being at the right place at the right time; constant *visual stimulations* in our community made us **WANT** to create it. Being able to market it thru bookstores like A Different Light here in San Francisco made us want to **CONTINUE**. We were somewhere in the middle of it all. Between the rough dark side and smooth vanilla.

DYKE REVIEW: TELLING IT LIKE IT IS

QUOTES: DYKE REVIEW***From Rita Mae Brown: (September, 1993):***

“Thank you for that outrageous copy of your Summer 1993 ‘DYKE REVIEW’. I hope you all have as much fun putting it out as I did reading it.”

From Jill L., Executive Producer of Lavender Underground Productions, Orange County, California:

“DYKE REVIEW is everything it says it is! Literary, Controversial, Informative & Funny — What a wonder, to see pictures of and read about Dykes as they/we really are. It inspires me to continue the fulfilling, exhausting, frustrating, and addictive work of producing women’s music and art.”

From our Contributors:

“Yours is my most favorite ‘zine ever! I love it from front to back and back to front and over and over again! And what’s great is it makes me smile” — Jessie R., San Francisco