

# LAMBDA

C378  
UQLa

---

## Carolina Gay Association Newsletter

---

Volume 9, Number 4

May/June 1983

### Air Force Lesbian Awaits Clemency Hearing

(Compiled from The Washington Post, The Washington Blade, Gay Community News, and press releases from the State Conference Legal Defense & Education Fund)

Lt. Joanne Newak, who was court-martialed, convicted on charges of using marijuana, engaging in sodomy, and attempting to use amphetamines, and sentenced to six years of hard labor at Leavenworth Penitentiary will have a new clemency hearing in June 1983.

Newak joined the Air Force in August 1979, and had a spotless career prior to these charges. She was highly recommended for advancement and was being considered for a promotion prior to being charged.

During her off-duty hours at Hancock Air Force Base in Syracuse, NY, where she was stationed and where she assumed that her private life in her off-base apartment was not subject to the military code, Newak occasionally smoked marijuana, had an affair with a woman and belived some pills in her possession were amphetamines. The pills, tested by the Air Force, turned out to be caffeine pills.

Officials in command at the base made a deal with a female airman who had been picked up for drunken driving; they dropped charges against her in exchange for her agreement to spy on other enlisted women at the base. After the spy had gathered evidence against Newak and her lover, Airman 1st Class Lynn Peelman, lawyers in the Judge Advocate General's office promised Peelman a transfer to Germany, which she had wanted, in return for her giving evidence against Newak. Peelman agreed, and the same officials subsequently booted her out of the Air Force with a less-than-honorable discharge. Newak began serving her six year sentence in June 1982.

Newak was originally appointed Air Force attorney Captain Raymond Smith for her defense. Smith had a conflict of interest because he was also defending Peelman, who he had persuaded to testify, under immunity, against Newak. He also admitted to telling Peelman that Newak was "going down the tubes."

Smith was removed from the case, and Newak obtained a new civilian lawyer,

(See AIR FORCE LESBIAN, p. 2)

### *Querelle* Fassbinder's Final Film

As the last film completed by the legendary Rainer Werner Fassbinder prior to his untimely death last June, "Querelle" was bound to become a cinematographic myth even before it was presented to the public. Adapted from the 1947 novel "Querelle de Brest" by Jean Genet, "Querelle," apart from being Fassbinder's valedictory film, also represents the tantalizing marriage of two of the world's most daring and revolutionary "renegade" artists. The response to their collaboration, which was first unveiled at last summer's Venice Film Festival, has ranged from euphoria to unadulterated shock.

Genet, who began his writing career while serving one of his numerous prison

sentences for stealing, begging and smuggling, was condemned to life imprisonment in 1948, just a year after writing "Querelle," his signal work. Pardoned by the President of the Republic at the behest of France's most eminent writers, he then went on to become one of France's most eminent writers himself, with such novels as Our Lady of the Flowers, The Thief's Journal, and the Miracle of the Rose and such plays as "The Balcony," "The Blacks," and "The Maids," now widely acknowledged as landmarks of post-war literature. Never one to hide his homosexuality, Genet used the once-shadowy milieu of the gay "out-cast" as a symbol of modern man's solitude in a hostile world.

(See QUERELLE, p. 3)