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# OBITUARIES

## Boyd McDonald

Boyd McDonald, one of the most popular gay writers and editors of his time, died September 16, 1993, at his home in New York.

Born in South Dakota in 1925, McDonald led a varied and mainstream career before turning to editing and writing books about gay sex. After dropping out of high school and serving in World War II, McDonald attended Harvard, graduating in June, 1949. Afterwards, he moved to New York City and worked as a writer at Time magazine, and then for IBM and several Wall

Street firms.

Overcoming 20 years of alcoholism, McDonald in the early 70's began the magazine *Straight to Hell*, known also as the *Manhattan Review of Unnatural Acts*. The publication consisted of true accounts reported in the news media. McDonald's experience soliciting and editing the submissions became the basis for the twelve books in the *Straight to Hell* chapbook series, whose titles include *Meat, Flesh, Smut, Wads, Juice, Sex, Cream, Raunch* and *Lewd*. The manuscript to his 13th volume, *Scum*, was completed two months before his death and is set to be published later this year. In addition, McDonald wrote *Cruising the Movies*, a gay guide to Hollywood films.

Boyd's books were among the most successful gay titles ever published, with some volumes selling in excess of 50,000 copies. They spawned a number of imitators, but none have duplicated Boyd's dry wit and commitment to

veracity.

"I consider this history, not pornography," McDonald said in a 1987 interview with *The Guide*. "It's very serious work. A lot of people in the gay press just put it down as being jack-off, but I don't write it for that. I consider these books the true history of homosexual desire and experience." Many of the experiences readers recounted were from what Boyd called the "golden age of homosexuality," from the 1940's up until the rise of gay liberation in the late 60's.

At various times, McDonald's sex histories and sex-in-the-news columns appeared in such publications as *Christopher Street*, *The Weekly News*, *Advocate Men*, *Blueboy* and *The Guide*. But over the past few years, his column was successively dropped from all except the last. Boyd took this as a sign of the gay press' growing conservatism.

McDonald died of natural causes. He was suffering from lung cancer and emphysema.

*"As often as a study is cultivated by narrow minds, they will draw from it narrow conclusions."*

John Stuart Mill

## DENTISTS From P. 1

investigating the charges.

"Justice delayed is justice denied (for people with HIV)," said ACLU attorney Scott Burris.

The announcement coincides with a flurry of national attention to AIDS and dental care.

The same day as the press conference, the Justice Department announced it was filing civil rights lawsuits against two dental offices—one in Houston and one in New Orleans—for refusing to

the Commission and bring them before the state's Court of Common Pleas. Five of the dentists then decided to settle. The last case, against Blue Bell dentist Richard Branca, is on its way to court.

Burris said the Commission "took three years to do nothing."

Commission spokeswoman Laura Treaster said the 11 cases took a long time to investigate.

"We would like to give everybody same-day service, but there are procedures we must follow," Treaster said.

She said most HRC cases are closed in a year to 18

