

OUT THERE

27 June 1996 BAY AREA REPORTER 83

BY PHIL GALORE

tor suggest is lurking behind this incident.

Inches away from success

On the lighter side, **Billy Norwich's** *Observer* column covers his reading at A Different Light on Castro Street: "Five people, two of whom I didn't know, attended. The 30 or so empty chairs were set up next to the section where the most, shall we say, *visual*, magazines are sold and gentlemen cruise. As I read from my novel, flesh-toned images

of emboldened male erotica flashed on glossy pages behind the heads of my audience of five. 'How could you compete with Inches?' a friend queried when I arrived in Los Angeles."

Unless ADL has changed its readings configuration Monsieur Norwich is guilty of a bit of poetic license-taking, but we do regret that more people didn't show up for the witty fellow's appearance. We'd planned to attend ourselves, but couldn't because the Nob Hill having that **Hal Rockland** *active*.

Love note

Confidential to **Joan Jett-Blakk**: In answer to your musical question, "Would you have used such an imperial tone were I not a negro?" The quick answer is, "Yes!" Perhaps our published remarks were a tad brutal, and so we apologize, but the real insult was dealt not to you, nor to us, but to the author whose introducer couldn't be bothered to read past the book flap. Sweetiepumps, that's lame!

But you're right, Miss J-B. This truly is the season of sweetness and light, so if you've finished ex-coriating us in public and implying that we're racist, we promise never to pay attention to a single word you say at A Different Blight again. Luv *your* work, too!

Gay is not so good

The gloves really came off in **Daniel Mendelsohn's** pithy and not entirely off-the-mark *Observer* review of four recent gay books, including **Brad Gooch's** *The Golden Age of Promiscuity* ("simply the worst book you'll ever read — gay, mainstream or otherwise") and **Martin Duberman's** *Midlife Queer* ("[t]he result is an exercise in vanity that will give