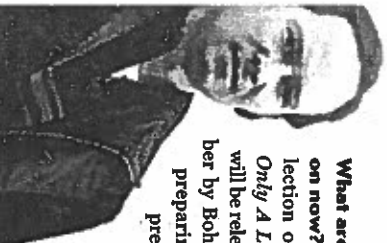


Thirteen shades of tension and possibility

QUESTIONNAIRE MICHAEL BRYSON



What are you working on now? My second collection of short fiction, *Only A Lower Paradise*, will be released in September by Boheme Press. I'm preparing that for the press, and working on a novel about space aliens and the death of the family. How **is your current project going?** With the novel I'm coming out of a dormant period, and gearing up to go to the Fiction Colloquium at the Sage Hill Writing Experience in Saskatchewan. In September I'm going to be the first writer-in-residence at the Gibraltar Point Arts Centre, thanks to the Writers Union of Canada. **Is there a short sentence from your previous work that you find particularly pleasing?** "Bob called last week to say he'd been dumped by my grandmother." **What is it about this sentence that pleases you?** That sentence is the opening of my story "Boys and Girls, Girls and Boys" and it has the mixture of tensions and possibilities that I love in an opening sentence. **Who is your favourite author?** One favourite right now is David Foster Wallace. **Which book do you wish you'd read by now?** Joyce's *Ulysses*. **Which book do you think should be rescued from obscurity?** Why? *Snell It* by Hal Niedziwiecki. It's the starkest, funniest, most provocative collection published in Canada in the past 25 years. **What advice do you wish you had been given at the beginning of your career?** Do it for love. **What author or figure in the publishing industry has had the worst effect on the work of young writers?** The twin hydra of Margarets, Atwood & Lawrence. Nationalism became an industry and it deadened the ears of readers to more subtle literary values. **Which plot device do you think is most overused?** Death. **If you were not a writer, what would you want to be?** A journalist. **What is your favourite quotation?** "He not busy being born is busy dying," Bob Dylan. Michael Bryson is author of a short story collection *Thirteen Shades of Black and White* (Turnstone Press).

To the modernist writer Wyndham Lewis, exiled in Canada in World War II, Toronto was a frozen hell

The novelist as timebomb

Agon of Modernism: Wyndham Lewis's Agonies, Aesthetics and Politics

By Anne Quéménil
Knell University Press,
242 pp., \$57.25

PHILLIP MARCHAND



Be aware what books you read when you're 15 years old, especially good ones. It

an "over-influential mother." In Lewis's case, this fixation was heightened by his father's abandonment of his mother when the young Lewis was 11. Ever afterwards, Lewis overcompensated for his closeness to his mother, with its attendant suggestion of homosexuality, by emphasizing a kind of austere heterosexual maleness as the principle of his art. "Male homosexuality is perceived as a threat because it represents the son's feminizing identification with the mother, which kept haunting the Lewisian psyche," is how Quéménil explains it.