



# Feminist Bookstores Newsletter

Volume 2 No. 2

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### GOING TO THE ABA CONVENTION?

The first thing is, what are we going to do/say/demand around the fact that the ABA is being held in a state that refuses to ratify the ERA? And following that--what do we want to do around the ABA decision to hold the 1980 convention in Chicago, Illinois, being another non-ERA state. (1979 is scheduled for Los Angeles.)

I, for one, already planned to go to the ABA Conf. long before it even dawned on me about that twist. I still do plan to go. Maybe we can ask the ABA to make some kind of \$ retribution to pro-ERA forces to make up for their blunder? (Assuming as I am that it was in no way deliberate.) I know that's a pretty mild gesture, but I can think of few other little-time-to-work-on-it tactics. What does anyone else think?

Now, with that all said (and Meant) I want to say that I am going to the conf, and am eager to make my time there VERY worthwhile. Could people drop me a line, if you're going, with some of the reasons you're going to the ABA. (I'll do the same for you). Does anyone see a need/reason for a meeting of feminist bookstores. I do. Maybe we could plan a meetint to swap info, ideas, questions, complaints and just plain meet each other and have a good time. I'm willing to try and do some co-ordination around that.

I went last year and it was just wonderful. (But then I'm the sort of person who schedules her vacations just so, to go to this thing. Which I did. So you may want to take my enthusiasm advisedly.) For some reason, I expect that that being on the east coast more small and women's presses will be there. Does that sound logical?

In any case, the message is that I'm going to the conference and I would like to see women's bookstores have their presence felt and am willing to do as much work as I can to that end.

Darlene  
A woman's Place  
5251 Broadway  
Oakland, Ca 94618

# Getting Feminist Books Back-In-Print (Chapter 5)

I wrote to Marge this spring (finally) out of the conversation we had last fall inspired by the conversations we had at the Women In Print Conf. a year ago last fall (these things take a long time) and inspired by all the customer requests in the meantime. I told her about our interest in organizing campaigns to get feminist books back in print, and that we were especially interested in this one, and that women in different bookstores would probably write letters to Fawcett---so her is MP's reply, go to it sisters!

Box 943  
Wellfleet, Mass. 02667  
March 13, 1978

Dear Carol,

I remember the conversation we had about getting DANCE THE EAGLE TO SLEEP back into print.

Since then, I proceeded on my own with no success. First of all, Doubleday still controls the hard cover rights. They are supposed to relinquish them to me. They are supposed to be doing so, but at the pace with which mountains wear down.

As for the paperback rights, Fawcett appears to have them. They are not interested in reusing the book at this time. Their response was something like, if my next hard cover book (the one I'm writing now, not the HIGH COST OF LIVING) should do quite well in hard cover and they should purchase the paperback rights, they would consider at that time reusing DANCE THE EAGLE TO SLEEP. The said "books on the 60's don't do well."

I would be very pleased to have pressure put on Fawcett to have them reissue DANCE. Fawcett has the paperback rights to all my novels except the first one, GOING DOWN FAST. I would concentrate on DANCE at the moment. I think no one currently has the rights to GOING DOWN FAST. It would be a matter of finding a new publisher.

I don't actually have any contact with Fawcett and don't know who to pressure. I will try to find out from my agent.

Thank you enormously for your offer of time and energy.

In Sisterhood,  
Marge Piercy

Fawcett Publishing, Inc.  
1515 Broadway  
New York, New York 10036

It seems to me that we can cite reasons like: customer request for more Piercy novels, increasing interest in feminist science fiction/fantasy (ie Woman on the edge of time, female man, etc.) increasing interest in feminist books by & for high school students, native Americans, etc.

MORE NEWS ON REPRINTS: WELL OF LONLINESS & THE BLUEST EYE, which disappeared from Pocket's list for a couple months have reappeared on the current list. How & why, I don't know. Maybe they were just slow getting the books re-printed. Maybe they got letters asking for more copies. We continued to write in orders on their order blanks for large quantities of WELL & BLUEST EYE, to be sure they knew the books were still in demand. This is a low energy & direct way to give request info to companies as the orders are fed into their computers, and the computers (I trust) spit out totals for unfilled orders into the hands of the marketing & sales dept.

## THE LIST:

\* means that the bookstore subscribed to FBN either this year or last year, so I'm pretty sure that they are really there. The other names were compiled from the list in Lesbian Connection, the list that Womanbooks compiled, and various bits in women's papers, hearsay, etc. Because this list will be used for many purposes, I wanted to make some distinction between the bookstores that I KNOW are there, and the ones that I think might be there. Anyone having corrections on addresses, more bookstores, info on stores listed that have closed, etc, please send it to Carol, FBN c/o Old Wives Tales, 532 Valencia, San Francisco, CA 94110, and I'll incorporate it into the next list.

# Bookstores

- Alternative Booksellers\* Djuna Books\* Isis  
 10 North 4th St. 154 West 10th St. 146 Commercial St.  
 Reading Pa. 19601 New York, NY 10014 Provincetown, MA 02657  
 215-373-0442
- Amazon Bookstore\* Earth's Daughters It's About Time Women's\*  
 2607 Hennepin Av. So. 944 Kensington Av. Bookcenter  
 Minneapolis, Minn 55408 Buffalo, NY 14219 5241 University way, NE  
 612-374-5507 EMMA, the Buffalo\* 206-525-0999  
 Woman's Bookstore
- Antigone Books\* 2474 Main St. Jane Addams Bookstore \*  
 415 N. 4th Ave Buffalo, NY 14214 & Bakery  
 Tucson, AR 85705 716-836-8970 37 S. Wabash Ave,  
 602-792-3715
- Ariel Books Everywoman's Bookstore\* Kay's Book Studio\*  
 2766 4th Ave 715 Sir Frances Drake 86 Front St.  
 Vancouver, BC San Anselma, Ca Birmingham, NY 13902  
 Canada 607-722-4032
- Birmingham Booksellers\* Everywoman's Books \* Lammas Women's Shop\*  
 2222 E. Carson St Victoria, BC 321 7th SE  
 Pittsburgh, Pa 15203 Canada Washington, DC 20003  
 606-592-7311 202-546-7292
- Bloodroot Restaurant,\* Erewhon Books Lesbian Feminist Center  
 Bookstore & bookmobile Box 2827 Station A Bookstore  
 85 Ferris St. Edmonton, Alberta 707 W. Wrightwood (?)  
 Bridgeport, Ct 06605 Canada Chicago, Il  
 203-576-9168
- Book & Tea Shop Eve's Garden Lesbian Gardens  
 1646 E. 19th Ave 119 West 57th St. 200 Main St.  
 Eugene, Or 97403 New York, NY 10019 Northampton, MA 01060
- The Book End, Inc Book Collective Lilith: Womyn's Bookstore\*  
 7641 Pacific St. 127 E. Woodruff Ave 1743 Walnut  
 Omaha, Neb 68114 Columbus, Oh. 43201 Boulder, Co 803 02  
 614-291-7756 303-443-9467
- Bookstore Feminist Connection\* A Mind of Your Own\*  
 c/o Debbie Boyle 1202 W. Platt 1171 25th St.  
 742 N. Beatty St. Tampa Fl 32301 Des Moines, Iowa 50311  
 Pittsburgh, Pa 15206 515-277-9091
- Califia, Inc Feminist Horizons Mother Kali's Books \*  
 3415 Highland Ave (Gift Shop) 541 Blair  
 Manhattan Beach, CA 10586 1/2 W. Pico Blvd. Eugene, Or. 97402  
 90266 Los Angeles, Ca 90064 503-343-4864
- Common Woman Bookstore\* Feminist Wicca Motherright  
 1510 San Antonio #4 442 Lincoln Blvd. 530 Seabright Ave.  
 Austin Tex. 78704 Venice, Ca 90291 Santa Cruz, Ca 95062  
 512-472-2785 213-399-3919
- Cora-The Women's Full Moon\* Ms Atlas Press & Bookstore \*  
 Book mobile 4416 18th St. 330 South 3rd St, Suite B  
 342 Jarvis St. San Francisco, Ca San Jose, Ca 95112  
 Toronto, Ontario 94114 408-289-1008  
 Canada
- Coventry Books\* Hershef \* My Sister's Place\*  
 1824 Coventry Rd. 2 Highland 100 Main St.  
 Cleveland Hts, OH Highland Park, MI Fort Lee, NJ  
 44118 48203  
 313-869-4045
- Davis Women's Books\* Herstore, Inc New Earth Bookstore\*  
 PO Box 1011 112 E. Call St. 24 East 39 St.  
 (217 K ST) Tallahassee, Fl 32301 Kansas City, Mo 64111  
 Davis, Ca. 95616 904-224-2728 816-931-5794  
 916-758-5058
- New Leaf\*  
 223 N. Bloodworth St.  
 Raleigh, NC 27601

\* subscription to FBN - Vol I or II

- New Words Bookstore\*  
186 Hampshire St.  
Cambridge, Ma 02139
- Old Wives' Tales\*  
532 Valencia  
San Francisco, Ca. 94110  
415-552-1015
- The Open Book\*  
1025 Second Ave  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103  
801-364-6152 or 359-2636
- The Oracle\*  
22640 Main St.  
Hayward, Ca 94541  
415-886-1268
- Organizer's Book Center\*  
44 N. Prospect St.  
Amherst, Ma 01002  
413-253-9792
- Our Place  
1202 W. Platt  
or 12114 Knoll St.  
or 12315 N. Nebraska  
Tampa, Fl  
813-886-8300
- Outrageous Woman \*  
Enterprises  
(Dee Linton)  
PO Box 1985  
San Francisco, Ca.  
415-282-6580
- Page One  
26 North Lake  
Pasadena, Ca. 91101  
212-792-9611
- Penn Woman's Center  
Bookstore  
Women's Cultural Trust  
3601 Locust Walk  
Philadelphia, Pa 19174
- PlainsWoman Bookstore\*  
PO Box 1935  
Iowa City, Iowa 52240  
319-629-5496
- Rising Woman Books\*  
600 Wilson,  
Santa Rosa, Ca. 95401  
707-545-6590
- River Queen Women's Center  
Bookstore  
PO Box 273  
(17140 River Road)  
Guernwood Park, Ca 95446  
707-869-0333
- A Room of Her Own  
3305 S. Peoria  
Tulsa, OK 74105
- A Room of One's Own  
101½ W. Kirkwood,  
Bloomington, In 47401
- A Room of One's Own\*\*  
317 West Johnson St.  
Madison, Wisc, 53703  
608-257-7888
- A Room of One's Own  
12 Frances St,  
Annapolis, Md 31401  
301-267-6827
- Sacramento Women's Center  
Attn Lynn  
1230 H St.  
Sacramento, Ca. 95814  
916-442-4657
- Shameless Hussy \*  
9 Prospect St.  
Nanuet, NY 10954  
914-623-5819
- Sister Bear Books\*  
401 1st St.  
Liverpool, NY 13088  
315-457-7777
- Sister Moon Feminist\*  
Bookstore & Gallery  
1625 E. Irving Pl.  
Milwaukee, Wi 53202  
414-276-0909
- Sisterhood Bookstore\*  
1351 Westwood Blvd.  
Los Angeles, Ca 90024  
213-477-7300
- Sisterspace  
1414 N. Broadway  
Fort Wayne, Ind 46802
- Small Changes Bookstore  
409A N. Main St.  
Bloomington, Il 61701  
309-829-6223
- Smedley's Bookshop\*  
119 E. Buffalo St.  
Ithaca, NY 14850
- Sojourner Bookstore \*  
538 Redondo Ave,  
Long Beach, Ca 90814  
213-433-5384
- Something Ventured  
524 South Monroe St.  
Green Bay, Wisc. 54301
- Sonya Wetstone's Book &\*  
Cheese  
529 Farmington Ave  
Hartford, CN 06105
- Sojourner Book Center  
203 E. Locust,  
De Kalb, Il 60115  
815-758-8178
- Thirtyfirst St. Bookstore \*  
425 E. 31st St.  
Baltimore, Md, 21218  
243-3131
- Tigris-Eupharates  
A Feminist Bookstore  
PO Box 6  
Plainfield, VT 59667  
Location:  
Women's Concern Center  
20 Main St.  
Littleton, NH
- \* Toronto Women's Bookstore\*  
85 Harbord St.  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
M5S-1G4  
416-922-8744
- Vancouver Women's Bookstore \*  
804 Richards St.  
Vancouver, BC, Canada
- Woman to Woman Feminist\*  
Bookcenter  
2023 Colfax  
Denver, Co 80206
- Womanbooks\*  
201 W. 92 St.  
New York, NY 10025  
873-4121
- Womancrafts\*  
PO Box 190  
(373 Comercial St.)  
Provincetown, Ma 02657  
617-437-5498
- Womankind Bookstore\*  
6551 Trigo Rd.  
Isla Vista, Ca 93017  
805-658-3969
- Womankind Books\*  
2015-B Belmont  
Nashville, Tenn 37212
- A Woman's Bookstore  
12 West 25th St.  
Baltimaore, MD 21218
- The Woman's Eye  
905 Yale (or 6344 S. Rosebury)  
St. Louis Mo 63105
- A Woman's Gallery\*  
302 Rio Grande Blvd  
Albuquerque, NM 87104  
505-243-0291
- ICI-A Woman's Place\*  
5251 Broadway  
Oakland, Ca 94618  
415-547-9920
- A Woman's Place Bookstore \*  
1300 S. W. Washington  
Portland, Or 97205  
503-266-0848

# Other Subscribers

The Woman's Touch  
6352 W. 37th St.  
Indianapolis, In 46224  
317-299-6336

Woman's Words \*  
PO Box 233  
Warner, NH

Womanself Bookstore\*  
University Mall,  
200 MAC  
East Lansing, Mi 48823  
517-337-2404

Womanspace\*  
211 1/2 N. 4th Ave  
Ann Arbor, Mi 48108  
313-995-3400

Womansplace\*  
2401 N 32nd St.  
Phoenix, Az 85008  
602-956-0456

Womanstore\*  
12 NW 8th St.  
Gainesville, Fl. 32601  
904-377-0234

The Women's Store  
2965 Beech St.  
San Diego, Ca 92102  
717-233-4194

Women's Works Bookstore \*  
181 7th Ave  
Brooklyn, NY 11215  
499-7763

Diana Press\*  
4400 Market St.  
Oakland, Ca.

Women & Literature\*  
Box 441  
Cambridge, Mass 02138  
(Publisher)

Down There Press \*  
PO Box 2086  
Burlingame, Ca 94010

Booklegger (Mag.) \*  
555 29th St.  
San Francisco, Ca 94131

Womanspirit (Mag.) \*  
Box 263  
Wolf Creek, Or 97497

Kay Cassell\*  
Women-In- Libraries  
Newsletter  
44 Nathaniel Blvd.  
Delmar, NY 12054

Lay & Singer\*  
Feminist Literary Agency  
PO Box 4000E  
Berkeley, Ca 94704

## Europe

Lilith Fravenbuchladen GMBH  
Kanstr. 125

Editora das Mulheres\*  
Ave Sidonio Pais 28-5° Drt  
Lisboa--Portugal

## French Language

Librairie des Femmes d'Ici  
375 Rachel St. E.  
Montreal, Quebec  
514-843-6273

## Distributors

Amazon Reality \*  
PO Box 95  
Eugene, Ore 97401

Atlantis  
Box 60119  
New Orleans, LA 70160  
504-523-4933

Old Lady Blue Jeans  
200 Main St.  
Northampton, Ma 01060

Persephone \*  
PO Box 7222  
Watertown, Ma 02172  
617-924-0336

Spread the Word Distribution\*  
Central Mail Room  
Univ. of Mass  
Amherst, Ma 01002

Women In Distribution\*  
PO Box 8858  
Washington, DC 20003  
202-543-0638

# LETTERS & news from all over

MS. Atlas Press & Bookshop  
San Jose, Ca.

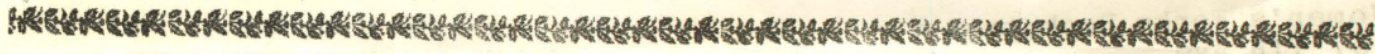
Hi, Gang--

Saw that you ran information from our leaflet in FBN. Thought we ought to bring you up to date on what's happening at MS Atlas Press & Bookstore. Our Book Sale during November didn't go very far toward clearing out our inventory, so we still have a bookstore. However, we are simply not buying new feminist titles from major publishers. Instead, we have decided to concentrate on lesbian titles from small presses, periodicals, and womyn's records--these are what sell, and there is nowhere else to buy them in San Jose. We still have a goodly supply of feminist and other titles, plus used books, and will continue to sell but not replenish. Our primary income still comes from printing, not bookselling. We will also continue to publish LESBIAN VOICES, and a double issue will be out any day now. We are going to try to get back on schedule and start really promoting the magazine, which we have never done. When we are back on schedule and have built up circulation, we will start looking actively for advertisers.

We had a fire in our shop in December and had to move to another location, which totally disrupted our business and put us in the hole financially and in terms of time and energy. Our insurance claim is still not settled at this point, so we are operating at a survival level with help from the gay community. Help has come from many, sometimes unexpected, sources.

On top of everything else, we are involved in some hot politics in San Jose, what with the conservative fundamentalists getting up in arms over the City's proclamation of Gay Pride Week (which was consequently changed to Gay Human Rights Week). Both Briggs and Davis were here speaking last week, and we have our own local male Anita Bryant named Rick Harrington of the Citizens Committee Against Gay Pride Week. He is rumored to be with the Mormon Church. Things will be very hot until after elections.

Take care,  
Nikki & Johnie



WOMEN'S CULTURAL TRUST Bookstore  
3601 Locust Walk  
Philadelphia, Pa 19174

Dear Carol-

FBN is terrific, and you deserve all sorts of praise for your efforts. Before we subscribe, I'd like to know something--why are your costs so high? I assume it must be for printing, but if you've got a decent mimeo (& electro-stencil the originals) the product is just as good.

By my calculations, it should only cost somewhat under \$1 per issue by this method. If you kept the costs down, you'd have more bucks left over to pay yourself.

Regards,  
Rose

Dear Rose,

The cost for Producing Vol 2, No 1 of FBN were Postage 28.20, Printing 37.90 and labor \$117.25 (that's 33½ hours work at \$3.50/hr.) Total = 183.35

I don't have access to a mimeo, or any other kind of printing press. The people who print the newsletter donate their labor (as they do w/ all their community service printing) and charge us only for their materials, & supplies. This particular bill breaks down to 18 stencils cut @ 1.50: 27.00 2 reams of paper @ 3.20: 6.40 Run 2 reams @ 1.75: 3.50. Total 37.90 The materials costs are high, I know, but this is San Francisco, and that's what they cost here. The labor however, is free, which can't be beat. If I was running them off (as Andre & I used to do on the machine in Santa Rosa, I'd charge for my time, and the quality wouldn't be nearly as good. I do not have printing skills.)

At this point we have 53 paid subscribers. So that's 1.25 per store for the postage & printing alone. With the labor, that's 3.46 per store, or \$27.68 per store per year for the 8 promised issues. Since most stores are paying on my old estimate of expenses (based on smaller issues & more subscribers), the difference is taken up by the extra \$\$ that the larger stores send in, hopefully by advertising, or else by me not paying myself. (I'm still hoping for more subscribers and advertising, myself).

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con'd next page

The time I count as labor is the time I actually spend editing, typing, laying out the newsletter, coallating, stapling, addressing and doing whatever correspondence is unavoidable (Subscription info to new bookstores, new subscriptions, renewals, etc.) I don't charge for the time I spend in the bookstores gathering the info on new books & feminist presses. That's my donation to the newsetter.

Carol

Dear Carol,

I'm sending you a copy of our monthly newsletter--will put you on the mailing list. Thank you for all your good work in bringing women's bookstores together.

I agree that taking advertisements from feminist presses will draw limited revenue away from women's periodicals. But why not go ahead and take straight ads? You can certainly use the money.

I'd be interested in hearing about the ways work is organized at Old Wives' Tales and other stores--are there conflicts between paid and volunteer workers? To what extent do feminist bookstores consider themselves responsible to the women's communities in their cities?

Again, thanks for your good work!

Yours,  
Rebecca Gordon  
A woman's Place Bookstore  
Portland

## KNOW & Discounts

Dear FBN,

Please consider printing this letter we wrote to KNOW about their discount policy in the next FBN. I have heard that other women's bookstores are as concerned as we about the change.

Sincerely,  
Marie Prins  
Toronto Women's Bookstore

Dear Women of Know,

23 March 1978

After months of natural procrastination, due to the heavy workload of running a women's bookstore, I am finally writing about a matter that has disturbed me for some time - namely your "new" discount schedule. We have ordered many pamphlets and books from Know in the past. Since last spring, however, we have stopped all orders simply because we can no longer afford to carry any of your materials. The 10% discount given us on our last order does not even cover the difference between the Canadian and the US dollar, let alone a 10% customs charge at the border. With the new discounts, we need to double the price of the pamphlets, something I'm unwilling to pass on to our customers. This, in short, is our story on why we no longer stock Know material.

What I do not understand, is the reason(s) for this discount schedule. I suspect that the cost of printing these pamphlets has sky-rocketed. That could justify a price increase, or a higher (25) minimum order for each pamphlet. But to penalize bookstores by reducing your discount to them will only dramatically reduce orders from them.

The most disturbing aspect of the new policy is the discount on your books. (I hope I'm wrong on this. But I don't think so.) No other press, feminist or otherwise, offers a 10% discount of 50 or more of their books. I am referring specifically to "She Said, He Said" and "Women, Menopause & Middle Age," books that we want to carry, but again cannot afford to do so. What is the purpose of printing these books if women's bookstores cannot afford to order them? No women's bookstore is in the financial position to buy books in such quantity or at such a low discount.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Feminist Bookstores' Newsletter. Perhaps other objections to the policy will surface. I know they exist. Please reconsider who Know is trying to service, who needs these materials and whether or not the materials are reaching them.

In Sisterhood,  
Marie Prins for TWB

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# Ticket Selling

New Words  
Cambridge, Mass

Dear Carol & FBN,

We are sorry we've been so mute for the last year. Will try to resume more regular communication. We are about to have our fourth birthday! in April. We'll have a two-day 20% sale to celebrate with a party for a few hours on Sunday April 9. Also we'll hand out a statement we're working on about some organizational & financial aspects of the store. Will send you a copy when it's finished.

I'm enclosing a copy of a letter we recently sent to women's organizations in the area about ticket selling. It has helped us deal with tickets more efficiently. Hope you are well.

In Sisterhood,  
Jean for NW

NEW WORD'S Letter to women's organizations about ticket selling:

Dear

More and more concerts and benefits are being held for which New Words is being asked to sell tickets. We see selling tickets as an important service, but especially when several events are held at the same time, it can become difficult and confusing for us. So we've tried to figure out a method for selling tickets which will minimize confusion. We're sending out these guidelines to women's organizations so that you can be aware of what's involved in selling tickets at New Words in the early stages of your planning, and hopefull we can avoid last minute problems.

We need sufficient notice to make a decision about whether or not we can sell tickets for a particular event. In most cases we will say yes, but when several things are happening at once, we may feel there's a limit to how many different tickets we can sell at one time. We meet on Wednesday mornings, so we can usually give a answer on the Wed. afternoon after you let us know you want us to sell tickets. If you need to know where tickets will be sold for your publicity, please ask us well in advance of your publicity deadlines.

The information we need to know in order to make a decision:

1. How many tickets will be available--what is the capacity of the hall? Where else will tickets be sold and what proportion of the tickets do you expect will be sold at New Words?

2. What will the ticket price be? Will it be a fixed price or variable price. (suggested price, or, for example, 3.50, more if you can, less if you can't) If it's a variable price we need to discuss how it will be described in the publicity and how it will be handled when the tickets are sold.

3. Will New Words get any commission for selling tickets. We are in the process of formulating a policy about this, but at this point we feel that if the event is a benefit for a women's organization for which everyone is donating her time working on it, we will also donate our time selling tickets. If the production is one for which people are getting paid to organize it, work on it, etc, wheter or not it is a benefit, we feel we want to get paid for our work also.

4. We sometimes ask people from the sponsoring organization to help us sell tickets, especially at our busy times (weekends) or times when we think there will be a crush of ticket buying (the first few days or the last few days.) This all depends on the size of the event, how well known the performer is, etc. So we'll want to know if you can provide us with some help if it seems necessary. We would not take a commission on tickets sold by someone from your group.

5. Will child care be provided. Will we be expected to take reservations for childcare?

6. Who will be our contact person in your group? Someone we can get in touch with easily for more tickets, information, etc. It helps keep communication simple to have one contact.

After we've decided to sell tickets we'll want to talk to the contact person, IN PERSON, to make sure we have all the above straight, find out how checks should be made out, arrange for money to be picked up on a regular basis. Just for information we need to know if the event is intended to be especially for women or is intended to be open to men and women, as we will get questions about this from people buying tickets.

This is a lot of information, but we hope it will facilitate ticket selling for future events. Please hang onto it for future reference.

Thankyou!

(We left out asking about children's ticket price and policy for returns.

8



# BASIS OF UNITY

*Developing a coalition policy,*

*Success and Process at:*

# A WOMAN'S PLACE — PORTLAND

This is hard for me, trying to decide how to introduce this set of "articles" what to print and what to edit. As moral support, I just put "Face the Music" on the record player. I like to make the communication happen on these pages. Report success. "Spreading good news & good ideas. Struggle is harder. I like to think that I like struggle ("finding new ways to grow..."), at least, in this moment, I'm sure that I like that good feeling of unity after the struggle.

This series of articles started to happen when Rebecca Gordon put FBN on the mailing list for the WOMAN'S PLACE NEWSLETTER. I loved the newsletter for it's process, the reporting of change, because it referred to some crisis survived. (Good, I thought, they have crises and survive. Gives me faith that we'll survive our crises, too.) In the newsletter was the announcement of their Coalition Policy (reprinted below) which was great to see because we (OWT) have been in the process of trying to figure out some basis for who to "endorse" & who not to endorse, and how to make that endorsement mean something, or should it (continue?) to be almost a rubber stamp action. I decided to put it in the newsletter & write to Rebecca and ask for the

Basis of Unity that was referenced in the newsletter, and print that, because a lot of stores are trying to develop, or are thinking about trying to develop some kind of basis of unity. That much seemed easy, & it was until I got a letter back from Rebecca w/ the Basis of Unity and a lot of discussion about the problems she sees with this basis of unity. Then I got their next newsletter with a long article saying that neither the basis of unity nor the coalition policy were working well and that neither the basis of unity nor the community meetings which had been held several months earlier, had effected change in the functioning of the collective. So I found out that, as much as I (I who am far away and have never even been to this bookstore) wanted these documents to be perfect and working and inspiring, they weren't. What I had originally wanted to do was to report on the unity after the struggle, but that unity hasn't happened yet. What I choose to do is include in the newsletter as much of the information as I could, as a way of reporting on the PROCESS going on around these two issues--Coalition endorsements and developing a basis of unity. I think that reporting on the process, rather than the finished 'products' will be much more useful to many bookstores. I am sitting here at my typewriter, appreciating A Woman's Place's openness in sharing their processes including their failure to achieve immediate 'success'. I'm also appreciating Rebecca's openness and sharing, and taking time to write her letter to me and FBN. I want to say right now that I'm sure that the following set of articles no way represents the ideas and perceptions of all of the collective members, but I do think it gives insight into the processes and hope it gives encouragement to anyone else who feels discouraged because it didn't all work out perfectly this time.

What follows is: 1. The Coalition Policy. 2. The basis of unity 3. Rebecca's comments and cautionary words re: the basis of unity. 4. (If There is space, and I still have energy to type,) a second (edited) article from their newsletter about the coalition policy & how it works or doesn't. 9

## DEVELOPING A COALITION POLICY....

**BOOKSTORE NEWS:** The bookstore collective have worked hard this month evolving a policy to guide us in making decisions about what political organizations and coalitions we want to support. The final result, we feel, is significant not only for its clarity, but for the degree of compromise it represents among collective members. We are anxious to hear community response to the following.

### PROPOSED COALITION POLICY

- I. Coalitions involving only women:  
We can support all-women coalitions if and only if:
- We support their aims, goals, demands.
  - "Support" indicates
    - Endores
    - Display literature
    - Collect donations
- Further support activities need to be examined individually.
- The aims, goals, and/or demands of the group(s) in question are feminist in nature. We define "feminist" as "contributing to increased self-determination for all women, but not for some women at the expense of others.." We can support groups working to expand areas for choice in women's lives. We cannot support groups working to limit women's choices, for example, anti-abortion groups which work to limit women's choices about our reproductive functions.
- II. Coalitions involving women and men:  
We can support mixed coalitions if and only if:
- They fulfill all the requirements for coalitions involving only women AND
  - There are women in the leadership of the group, representing the needs and interests of women.
  - The literature, and other products, of the group which relate to women are written or produced by women and do not contain material which is offensive to women, or anti-feminist in the sense defined above.

The bookstore is concerned about not only the words, but the ACTIONS of groups which seed our endorsement. We feel we have the right to expect, in return for that endorsement, a certain level of sensitivity to the needs and interests of women be demonstrated by the group requesting it. It is not too much to ask today that men who look to feminists for our approval of their efforts in fact be behaving in a manner which we can approve. For this reason we like to have information about the structure of a group, as well as its verbalized stance, before deciding to endorse it. It is not in our interests, for example to endorse groups which relegate women to positions of little or no power or decision-making capacity.

from A Woman's Place Newsletter March 78  
Portland, Oregon

# BASIS OF UNITY

Woman's Place Book Center  
Portland, Oregon. Nov. 1977

- We have come together fighting oppression as women in our lives, in our work and in our cultures. We recognize that traditionally the great majority of social systems have been constructed so that men control these systems and ensure the domination of men over women. We affirm our opposition to these systems and we are struggling towards an alternative that reflects feminist principles. The Woman's Place Book Center is a tool in this fight providing books, resources, educational activities and a place for the practice of non-oppressive behavior.

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# Basis of Unity, conid.

2. Feminism is not a single issue movemnt. It is aimed at freeing all women from all types of oppression. Because our oppression is not isolated, it is in our interest to support many struggles and wthe women working within them. We support the liberation struggles of women, men and children working together to make the world a place free from the tyranny of the rich and powerful few over the rest of us around the world. We fight the oppressions that such social andeconomic systems foster: oppressions based on sex, class, race, sexual preference, age, nationality and political identity. We feel that lesb lesbians because of their sexual preference are discriminated against, so we join together to oppose the oppression of women by sexual choice and to celegrate women being women together.
3. We cannot support any group or individual that does not acknowledge and respect the interdependence of these issues. The bookstore collective will not be representative of any one political party.
4. Our goal is to make decisions by consensus. If after two meeings concensus is not reached, we will call in a facilitator. If consensus is not arrived at at the facilitated meeting, the decision will be make by majority vote at that same meeing. unless further facilitation is agreed upon by consensus. Membership in the bookstore collective is defined as attending one collective meeting a month, working for the bookstore for a minimum of three hours a month and contracting with the Basis of Unity. Membership is required to participate in consensus although in-put is welcome from any woman. When a vote is to be taken, only members who have attended one of the tow previous meetings at which the question to be voted on was discussed will be able to vote.
5. Where the individual needs of collective members conflict with the needs of the community the bookstore seeks to serve, our priority is the needs of th the community. We are here to serve the community, not to provide income to a few individual women.
6. We will actively work within the collective on struggles around race, class, age, sexuality, ethnic background, nationality, life-style, politics and heterosexism. We will do this in an on-going way through evaluation at every meeting, and we will have workshops at least four times a year to make sure that we are dealing with these concerns as they relate to the collective and to its role in the community. At least one meeing a year will be held with the community atwhich current major issues of the bookstore will be presented to the community for community in-put.

## Contracting with Basis of Unity

I understand that the Woman's Place Book Center will operate according to the principles of the Basis of Unity.

1. I agree with the Basis of Unity and my actions will reflect this agreement.

Date:

Name:

Address:

2. Although I disagree with part/parts of this Basis of Unity I agree that my actions will not disrupt the operation of the Bookstore according to the principles of the Basis of Unity.

My disagreement(s) is/are as follows

The way I will handle this/these disagreement(s) is/are:

1.

1.

Rebecca Gordon

name:  
address:

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# Rebecca's Letter

Dear Carol,

(I'm feeling much more articulate now that my typewriter is back from the shop. ....) Thanks for your card. Enclosed you'll find a copy of our Basis of Unity, about which I'd better say a few cautionary words:

As you'll notice in our April newsletter (out soon--the printer's holding us up because we owe a bit of money), not everyone is thrilled with our Basis of Unity. I wish it were a document which is the result of the effort of women of diverse political views to evolve a set of principles that we all affirm. Unfortunately, the Basis of Unity was imposed on the bookstore collective by a group of mostly socialist women who felt--perhaps legitimately; I wasn't there--driven to the wall by separatist members. Their intention (privately but not publically expressed) was to close the collective to women who do not espouse socialism. The original document contained more specifically marxist rhetoric which was toned down in the final version.

A series of community meetings in which the decision making power of the "community" was never clearly defined resulted in the adoption of the Basis of Unity, slightly amended. During the community meetings it became clear that supporters of the Basis of Unity felt themselves in a strong enough position to demand not only the adoption of the document, but the ouster from the bookstore collective of those women whom they said they could no longer trust. When it came down to identifying those women by name, however, these women backed down. The decision that the bookstore should adopt the Basis of Unity was reached by a vote of those still left after a grueling six hour meeting when at least half of those originally present had left. In addition it was decided that all collective members would be required to sign a contract--the contract of the Basis of Unity itself (!) --stating that they either agree with the document in its entirety or will work as if they did.

I personally feel uncomfortable with the whole process by which we acquired this Basis of Unity and have some criticisms of the document itself. In particular, I could never assent to the statement in paragraph (3) that I "cannot support any group or individual that does not acknowledge and respect the interdependence of these issues." The women who walk in here every day are extraordinarily diverse. Some have only begun to think about and make political choices. I'm not going to automatically withdraw my support from women who do not share some of my own political perspectives.

I'm afraid that the language about lesbianism in paragraph (2) was tacked on to answer the charge that it was homophobia which motivated supporters of the B.O.U. to seek ouster of separatist women. (My personal sense of the matter is that homophobia WAS part of the problem--I did hear the sentiment expressed during one community meeting that you can always find a LESBIAN to work in the store, the implication being that it's harder to find real women.) In any case, although the language was an attempt to make some lesbians feel better about the Basis of Unity, the way it was tacked on stands out clearly as one reads the whole document.

I also have problems with paragraph (5) which states in part, "We are here to serve the community, not to provide income to a few individual women." The issue of volunteerism--a volatile one here--is not dealt with adequately in this section. Historically there's been a real lack of continuity in the operation of the bookstores, in part because we're not able to pay most of our workers. This in turn affects our ability to serve the community, because a new group of women are constantly relearning what's already known about running the store. I think paragraph (5) is in direct conflict with a goal I'd personally like to see the bookstore set--the hiring of more paid workers.

Well, Carol, I've really rambled on here. I hope you don't get the impression that women in Portland are all grouchy humorless bunch. Essentially I'm optimistic about our developing a real Basis of Unity which I suspect will include only the most basic of agreements: We agree to come together to run a bookstore, to get women's books into the hands of women. I think the coalition policy you spoke so highly of is a beginning. If the composition of the collective doesn't shift too drastically, we may be able to hammer out similar policies about other matters and eventually from that body of agreement evolve a real Basis of Unity.

I don't know how much of this, if any, you'll want to print, but if you print any of my commentary, please be sure it's clear I'm speaking only for myself, not the bookstore collective.

I enjoy this correspondence. It's so easy to lose a sense of proportion in the midst of day-to-day struggles, and hearing about other women's work and struggles helps so much, makes me feel less isolated. Be well, Carol, and I hope this all was of some use to you and FBN.

Yours,  
Rebecca Gordon

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(editor's note: I felt that I should edit the following article. It seems too long, to many details particular to this one situation.....But I couldn't decide what/which to cut. What wasn't important? Remembering CR groups, & learning then not to edit out things before we know what is important, I decided to type the whole thing. Besides, I said to myself, I don't have the writer's permission of edit her work. So here it is, intact and with all the diversity included. - (ARL))

# RESPONCE to the BOOKSTORE'S

## COALITION POLICY

—reprinted from  
A Woman's Place Newsletter

In Portland there currently seems to be a growing movement towards coalitions as a means for political action. The Woman's Place Bookcenter has recently attempted to determine its place in this movement. This article is submitted for those who are interested in knowing something about the process leading to the collective's coalition policy, and to inform you that the Basis of Unity and community meetings which took place several months ago have effected no change in the functioning of the collective.

Last month the bookstore was approached by two women from the National Fight Back Coalition for our endorsement of a march in Washington, DC. Their basic platform is summed up in the slogan "jobs or Income Now". By this, they mean full employment or welfare without harrassment. Among their demands are passage of the Equal Rights Ammendment, and end to forced steriliaztion, implementation of affirmative action, a woman's right to abortion, and accessi ble childcare.

The coalition identifies sexism as a force in the interest of capitalism idviding the working class. They amake a stron statement that women will not act as a reserve labor force willing to work for less than adequate pay, that we will not "compete for crumbs" and that we understand the interdependence of working poeple. There was no information available about the internal structure and founding of the ocoalition.

The bookstore collective could not reach consensus to endorse this march. The primary obstruction to endorsement was the interperertation by collective members that interdependence of men and women working wtowards fair employment for all means self-sacrifice on the part of women. The statement that we will not let sexism divid us was considered to be "clearly anti-woman."

Tue collective spent parts of at least two meetins discussing the coali- tion and the broader issue of the bookstore's support of coalition politics. The \$first meeting resolved (sic) in a deadlock and do the subsequent meeing was scheduled to be devoted to futher discussion. The meeting, scheduled to begin at 7:00 began at 7:25. There were two proposals for alternative agendas. One was that we devote the meeting to a discussion of how we can support the women's resource center. It was pointed out that thisis an immediate pressure of concern to local women. Another suggestion was that we devote part of the meeting to a proposal concerning how to better organize and structure our business meetings. We devoter about half an hour to the added agenda items and then began the discussion about the bookstore's relations to coalitions. Throughout the meeting there was somd doubet expressed as to wheter this discussion, aimed at coaliton policy, should be a priority. The discussion began with each of us having the chance to give a short position statement. T These statemnts were not policy proposals; they were opinions of collective members. The eventual proposal (Published above) indicates that some of these opinions were compromised.

The folloing are paraphrases of some statments made during the two meetings I attended. The are not in chronological order, but they do reflect the content and tone of the meetings:

Coalitions drain our energy from the important business of the store. We should be careful not to spread ourseves too thin.

## Response to the Bookstore's Coalition Policy, cont'd.

- The pamphlet was obviously written by a man, directed at women and therefore should not be supported.
- That we (should) choose carefully among coalitions, including those containing men.
- That we should rule out coalitions containing men as being anti-woman.
- That such coalitions use women's issues as a lure. They suck in women whose work is then coopted.
- We all agree with the demands of the coalition. It's the language we don't like.
- That we could endorse the coalition by giving nothing more than our name to issues we support. This would involve a minimal amount of energy and entitle us to demand that further issues and internal structure be addressed.
- That issues and goals are as important as rhetorical style.
- That "the rhetoric makes me want to puke."
- That there are two kinds of coalitions: Those which are organized hierarchically and invite you to join them and give you no power, and those which invite you to join them and be part of the structure and policy making.
- That the persons in this collective cannot agree on what to endorse and so we should have no policy on endorsements.
- That we could easily reach consensus to endorse any all women's coalitions except separatist coalitions.
- That we question the bookstore endorsing any group or concept of men and women working together.
- That we should give publicity, not endorsement to coalitions. That we aren't a group which should endorse any coalition.
- That we shouldn't be here acting like it's separate from us (a coalition for gay rights.)
- That there are so many limitations (to what this group will endorse) it must be personal. Instead of looking at things on a practical level we are looking at things on a personal level. That we impose too many limitations.
- That there is strength in numbers.
- That we will not depend on men. That interdependence is not the same as dependence.
- Consideration of coalitions should never come before consideration of bookstore business.
- On those occasions when collective members agree, it will be by accident.
- The bookstore, as a feminist organization, should recognize that attacks made on women are from multi-issue platforms. That we can learn what is dangerous to our oppressors by seeing how they attack us.
- We do not function as a collective. Maybe the bookstore should call itself a committee.
- That the Basis of Unity is a farce. That essential words, such as "support" are vague and therefore meaningless. That the basis of Unity has no real principles which can be invoked. It is unclear because it is not specific.
- That the Basis of Unity is not a farce. That its principles are real but its acceptance is a farce. Contracts explaining how disagreements will be handled are a farce.
- It will always come down to specific issues. There will always be a time pressure.
- Invoking the Basis of Unity where there is a time pressure is willful obstruction. In this case, no consensus must be a de facto decision not to endorse this coalition.
- That the collective will not use the Basis of Unity to make decisions because it was imposed on the collective rather than reflecting principles on which there really is internal agreement.
- That we will have a committee of three draw up a coalition policy proposal which will be a step towards a real Basis of Unity.

Additional note: of the nine women who signed the first draft of the Basis of Unity, none are currently working at the bookstore.  
Phyllis Press,  
former bookstore collective member  
A Woman's Place Newsletter  
Portland, Oregon  
April, 1978

# New Books\*

\*(Sight-unseen except where noted by \*)

## NEW & FORTHCOMING CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Compiled by the Oracle Collective.

- CONTRIBUTIONS OF WOMEN Series: THEATRE, Ann Dillon and Cynthia Bix, \$6.95:  
RELIGION, Naomi Bloom, \$6.95, Ages 10up, Dillon.
- A WOMAN'S PLACE, Anne Crompton. Generational novel about five young women who succeed each other as wives and daughters. Atlantic Monthly Press. 6.95  
Ages 12 & up. (Might be one to avoid.)
- WILL I GO TO HEAVEN? Peter Mayle (death & dying). Ages 6-10. 3.95 Pinnacle.
- I'M NOBODY! WHO ARE YOU? Poems of Emily Dickinson for children. \$5.95. Poems with color paintings featuring 19th century settings. Ages 6up. Stemmer House.
- WOMEN IN SPORTS Series: RODOE, Elizabeth Van Steenwyk. 4.97, Harvey House, Ages 10-15.
- THE GENDER TRAP: A CLOSER LOOK AT SEX ROLES. Three book series: EDUCATION & WORK, SEX & MARRIAGE, MESSAGES & IMAGES. 4.25 each. ages 12up Academy Press. (I believe these books are reprints or revisions of some books published by a feminist press in England.)
- \*GIRLSPORTS, Karen Folger Jacobs. Portraits of 16 females whose careers reflect changes in attitudes toward women in sports. Ages 10-16. Bantam. 1.95.
- WOMEN AGAINST SLAVERY: THE STORY OF HARRIET BEECHER STOWE, by John Scott, March. 7.95 Ages 12up. Crowell.
- MOTHER HONES, THE MOST DANGEROUS WOMAN IN AMERICA, Linda Atkinson. Apr. 7.95 Crown, Ages 12up. (Pioneer union organizer.)
- MILLENNIAL WOMAN-TALES FOR TOMORROW, ed, by Virginia Kidd. Sci Fi including LeGuin, Joan Virge, Diana Paxson. July 6.95. Ages 12up Delacorte.
- IN SEARCH OF MARGARET FULLER, a biography. Abby Slater, April. 6.95 Delacorte, Ages 12 up.
- JANET GUTHRIE, FIRST WOMAN DRIVER AT INDIANAPOLIS, Edwar Dolan and Richard Lyttle. Photos. June 5.95. Young adults. Doubleday.
- SMOKE JUMPERS, Bret Filson. A Hispanic girl's adventure with fire fighting. 5.95 Young Adults. Doubleday.
- KEVIN'S GRANDMA Barbara Williams. 1.95 Dutton. Very Good, colorful, new in paper. Ages 4-6
- New Madeleine L'Engle book: A SWIFTLY TILTING PLANET. About a boy who travels through space and time to battle other world evil. 6.95. Ages 10up FS&G
- HERACLEA: A LEGEND OF WARRIOR WOMEN. Feminist version of the myth of Heracles. about the exploits of a gigantic young woman. By Bernard Evslin. 9.95 Four Winds. Ages 12up.
- YOUNG WOMEN IN THE WORLD OF RACE HORSES. Photos. Ages 10-14. 6.95, McKay/Walck.
- AMERICAN COWGIRLS. Shaaron Cosner. Photos (past & present). Ages 10up 6.95 McKay/Walck.
- THE YEAR THE DREAMS CAME BACK, Anita Macrae Feagles. A girl's coming to terms with her mother's suicide. Ages 12up. 1.25 Young Adult. Archway/Pocketbooks.
- WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT Norma Klein. A 12 year old learns to adjust to changes in her life based on the love between her mother & herself. Ages 10-14. 1.50 Archway/Pocket.
- THE CAREER CUT-OUT BOOK FOR BOYS & GIRLS. Non-sexist guide to working world. Price/Stern/Sloan. 1.95
- THE MOUSE, THE MONSTER AND ME. Book of assertiveness for Ages 8-12. 3.95. Impact -Price, Stern, Sloan.
- LIKING MYSELF. Feelings, Self-Esteem and assertiveness for ages 5-7. 3.95 Impact-Price, Stern, Sloan.
- MORGAN & ME. About a young girl and her unicorn. \$1.50. Price/Stern/Sloan.
- LISTEN TO US! Articles by kids on many different topics. paper. 5.95 Ages 10 up. Workman Pub. June. Also for adults.
- SPORTS STAR: DOROTHY HAMILL, S H Burchard. Photos. Ages 6-11, HBJ 1.95 May.
- THE NO-RETURN TRAIL, Sonia Levitin. Story of first white woman to cross the country by wagon train. Based on the Bidwell-Bartleson expedition. 12up. 6.95 HBJ.
- WILD ANIMALS, GENTLE WOMEN. Margery Facklam. Photos. Portrayals of eleven Women Ethnologists, including Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, & Birute Galdikas-Brindamour. Cloth 5.95. Ages 12up. HBJ. May.
- A new book by Charlottee Zolotow (WILLIAM'S DOLL): SOMEONE NEW. A small boy's feelings that something is missing. 5.95, Ages 4-8. Harper-Row.
- RUNAWAY TO FREEDOM-STORY OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILWAY. Barbara Smucker. Ages 9-13. 6.95 H&R
- THE ABOLITIONISTS. Dan Lacy. Special chapters on contributions of blacks and women in history of abolition from colonial to civil war days. 5.95 All ages McGraw-Hill.

More children's books:

(CAROL)

A MIND OF HER OWN: A Life of the Writer George Sand. Tamara Hovey. 12up 7.95-cloth. Looks like a good bio, according to the blurb sent out by Harper-Row. This is one of two "books for young adults in the field of women's studies." The other is:

THURSDAY'S DAUGHTERS: The Story of Women Working in America. 7.96 cloth Janet Harris (THE PRIME OF MS AMERICA) Looks wonderful to me (or else HR has a damned good blurb writer--aimed directly at the feminist heart. Covers women now working in non-traditional jobs (roustabout & manager for information-systems division) and women in 'men's' jobs since colonialism. Also shows why women have been denied equal job status, what remains to be done, and how one social protest links & leads to another. (If this book is half what the blurb promises, I want it for our 'adult' section, too.)

AND FROM OUR OWN PRESSES:

-CAROL'S Collection

WILD WOMEN DON'T GET THE BLUES, Barbara Emrys (Short stories) and DEIRLS MIRROR short stories by BARBARA SHEEN (avail May 15). \$3. & 3.50. 40% on 5/, 30 days or consignment. Prepayment requested on smaller orders. These are Metis Press' first books. Hooray and congratulations to them! WILD WOMEN DON'T GET THE BLUES Buttons also available..\$1 @, 40%, min order, 10. (2" circle, pink letterin on black.)

SISTER HEATHENSPINSTER'S LUNATION CALENDAR (3rd edition) (CREATED & printed entirely by dykes and bears the Seal of Approval of the Miss Muriel Dreamspark League for Unwed Spinster.) 5 copies will be sent to any woman's bookstore for free distribution to women. These copies will be sent on request w/ payment of \$1 postage. on more copies the bookstore price is \$1.44 each to be sold at any price not exceeding 2.40/. Order from Sister Heathenspinster/ Michelle Brody. 809 Maggard, Iowa City, Iowa 52240.

WOMEN IN MUSIC HISTORY--a research guide. Jeannie G. Pool. \$3. 42pgs. Intrc, title essay, bibliography. list of recordings available by 80 women composers, list of 270 women composers before 1900, & possible research topics. \$2@ for 5/ paid in advance. Jeannie B. Pool. PO BOX 436, Ansonia Station. NY, NY 10023

WE SHALL GO FORTH--A directory of resources in women's music. 28pg. Directory w/ names, addresses & phone numbers for production, distribution, recording facilities, women's record companies, songwriters, song books, technicians, coffeehouses, radio, publishers & publications. \$2/ 1.50 for 5/- prepaid. Toni L. Armstrong. 12751 Park Place, Apt H-1, Crestwood, Ill. 60445

CONTEMPORARY GREEK WOMEN POETS Trans. Eleni Fourtouni. A gathering of poems celebrating the Greek woman's struggle against facism and sexism, as well as her joy and pain as she confronts life, love and death. 3.50 Thelphini Press. 1218 Forest Td. New Haven Conn. 06515. 40% dis. to bookstores. "I hope you can support my first efforts in publishing by buying a few copies!"- Eleni

MAW -A Magazine of Appalachian Women. PO Box 8074, Huntington, W. Va 25705  
GIBBOUS RISING, 1230 H St, Sacramento, Ca 95814--Sacramento based women's paper. New. 65/40

FEMINIST PRESS: Now has cassette tapes of fairy tales-non-sexist, and is planning to issue a non-sexist anthology for ages 5-11. It will be an illustrated collection of traditional tales from various cultures, chosen for their portrayals of resourceful women and for plots concerned w/ sexual equality. Probably ready this fall.

from thier spring list:

THESE MODERN WOMEN--Autobiographies of Women in the 20's.

SALT OF THE EARTH--about the women's participation in the strike and the film made in the 1950's that was blacklisted.

THE FEMALE SPECTATORY--English women writers before 1800.

CHANGING LEARNING, CHANGING LIVES--Women's studies curriculum for young working class women. If you don't have their catalogue--write for it

THE FEMINIST PRESS, Box 334, Old Westbury, New York 11568.

FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT SLEEP--poetry from NEW WOMAN PRESS (Womanspirit) Box 56 Wolf Creek, Oregon 97497. 3.50/2.10 40%



AND OTHER SMALL AND MOVEMENT PRESSES:

-CAROL

THE REMARKABLE WOMEN OF ANCIENT EGYPT. Barbara S. Lesko (Egyptologist at UC) fascinating survey of life as it was lived by women 3500 yrs ago in Egypt....a society in which common-born women enjoyed more legal rights economic and social privileges than women have in many nations of the world today. 4.95 40% disc, returnable for cash if unmarried. B C Scribe Publication PO Box 4705, Berkeley, ca 94704. 34 pages of text,,11 full color plates, 13 b&w photos.

WOMEN ON THE BREADLINES Meridel Le Sueur. 1.00. I forgot to mention this one last time...I wish I could reprint the introduction for you... I'll paraphrase what I remember: These are the stories of women who can no longer tell you thier stories: they died inducing their own abortions, have gone crazy from the oppression of race, can no longer even tell you their own names...." \$1.00 40% for 1Q 45% thereafter. West End Press, Box 697, Cambridge Mass 02139

ESSAYS ON LA MUJER, a collection of recent writings on Latinas, focusing on social, economic and historical conditions. The first section is composed of articles that sprang from a course on La Chicana offered at UC-San Diego. The seconce is selected writings on academic research & community perspectives. CHICANO STUDIES CENTER PUBLICATIONS, U. of Cal, Los Angeles, 405 Hilgard Ave, Los Angeles, Ca 90024. \$5.35 (I have yet to figure out how to get a discount from them. WIND, maybe you could pull it off & distribute it?

GLORIOUS DEEDS OF WOMEN--Books, pamphlets, Autograph letters, Manuscripts, etd, by, agout or relation to Women. William P Wreden, Books and manuscripts., PO Box 56, Palo Alto, Ca 94302. I don't even remember where I got this. Don't know if it's marvelous or bad. Sorry.

Records--JASS WOMEN--a feminist retrospect. 2 album set. & AC-DC Blues--gay jazz reissues (not necessarily feminist.) Stash Records, PO box 390, Brooklyn, Ny 11215

REPRINTS & GOLORIOUS REDISCOVERIES....

-CAROL

DESERT OF THE HEART, Jane Rule's first novel (and one of my 4 all-time lesbian fiction favorites!) is now available in cheap (2.95) paperback again. This time, with help from the canacian council for the arts. Written in the early sixties, the story combines the lives of a woman ending a 16 year marriage inReno and a change-girl at a casino and the Desert. Rule is clear & compassionate, & sharp as always. The book reflects the strength of lesbians in the 60's and gives some sense of the pre-movement roots of lesbianism. We're selling out of orders of 20... Order it from Talon Books (the same people that published Rule's THEMES FOR DIVERSE INSTRUMENTS) #201 1019 Cordova, Vancouver, BC V6A 1M8 or from Serve West, 8320 Prince Edward Ave, Vancouver, BC. V5x-3R9. (Now if only we can some how get THIS IS NOT FOR YOU back in print.....)

BLUEST EYE (Toni Morrison) and WELL OF LONLINESS have reappeared on Pocket's list. I don't know why or how (do You?) but we sure were glad to see them again.

MARGARET MURRAY FANS.... I just 'discovered' that her GENESIS OF RELIGION is available fron Philosophical Library, 15 E. 40 St, NY, NY 10016. \$3.75. matriarchally oriented Murray was a part of the wave of feminist scholars that hit the universities in the thirties, She also researched the (feminist) history of witches.

If you want to be listed in the AMERICAN BOOK TRADE DIRECTORY's 24 edition, send the following information to Renee Lautenback, Sponsoring editor, Jaques Cattell Press, (division ro RR Bowker co, 2216 South industrial Park, PO BOX 25001, Tempe Arizona, 85282:  
 NAME, address, telephone, standard Account number, personnel (#?), date store established, approximate number of volumes stocked. Square footage of store or dept, catalogue issued \_\_\_\_\_ times annually, mainstre, branch or franchise, major character of business (paperbacks, women's movemt, religous) wa joy subjects covered, sidelines.

**ADULT BOOKS**

COMPILED BY THE ORACLE COLLECTIVE.

- BATTERED WOMEN, Marila Roy, Van Nostrand.
- HEARTH AND HOME, Oxford Unive Press. due in spring. Images of women in mass media.
- WIFEY, Judy Blum. September. Putnam. Writer of children's and young adult books, her first adult novel about a wife/mother who tires of it all and goes looking for her own life.
- \*FOR COLORED GIRLS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED SUICIDE WHEN THE RAINBOW IS ENOUGH. IS BEING REPRINTED for the fourth time by Macmillan. 5.95. (remember when the Shameless Hussy copy sold for .85?)
- CONJUGAL CRIME: UNDERSTANDING AND CHANGEING THE WIFEBEATING PATTERN. Terry Davidson, 9.95, Hawthorn. PW mentions that the author is involved in programs aimed at freeing women from sadistic husbands and helping the men as well since their brutality is often caused by mental illness. (not according to other things I've been reading on this subject-) Also deals with police response, has appendix of shelters and hotline numbers.
- LIKE A BROTHER, LIKE A FRIEND: male homosexuality in the american novel & and theater from Melville to Baldwin, By Geolges Michel Sarotte. Doubleday \$10. (For those of you who have gale male customers.)
- CATHERINE, EMPRESS OF ALL THE RUSSIAS an intimate biography. Bincent Crovin. Morrow. 12.95
- CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE: THE TRAUMA OF INCEST, Sandra Butler, New Glide Pub. \$10.
- HOMOSEXUALITIES-A STUDY OF DIVERSITY AMONG MEN AND WOMEN. Alan Bell & Martin Weinberg. S&S 9.95. Interview with 1500 persons, delves into sexual circumstances, psychological adjustments, life styles. This is a continuation of the Kinsey Studies.
- FAMILIES. Jane Howard. S&S 9.95 Personal exploration of roots and present realities of American families.
- THE BISEXUAL OPTION:CONCEPT OF 100% INTIMACY. Fred Klen, MD Dutton. How bisexuals see themselves, their needs.
- IS THE HOMOSEXUAL BY NEIGHBOE? Lethan Sconzoni & Birginak Mollenkott. HR, 6.95. From a religious perspective.
- GUILTY BYSTANDER, Lauren Shakley, 3.95 Poetry. Random House. Cited by Diane Wakosky for her "terrifying ironic vision of 20th century urban madness"
- \*BURNING QUESTIONS, Alix Kates Shulman (who wrote MEMIORS OF AN EX-PROM QUEEN) 9.95 Knopf/RH. (RH is pushing this one. See Reviews in OFF OUT BACKS. Fiction including an overview of the Feminist Movement to date...I'm not content with the conclusions, though...Carol.)
- Out of print: Midical Sexism. Ehrenrieck. HRW

**ONES TO AVOID:**

- THE HOMOSEXUAL CRISIS, why gays are not right with god.
- THE EXECUTIVE WOMAN, "the art of inter-relating in business management... How to cope with the male ege. How not to look like a secrtety. How to use feminity constructively to gain power." YOU'll pay 9.95 for this from Chilton.
- THE MALE MYTH, what women want to know about men's sexuality. NAL-Signet. June 2.95. At least check it out very carefully.

**NEW CLOTH**

- \*SCREAM QUIETLY Erin Pizzey. The pioneer book about wife battering & woman's shelters from England. (This edition has a special american forward, but otherwise it's the same book available from J Ben Stark for 1.95.) Ridley Enslow Publishers, 60 Crescent Place, Box 301. Short Hills, NJ 07078
- PORTRAIT OF A SEDUCTRESS: THE WORLD OF NATALIE BARNEY Jean Chalon. \$10. Crown Pub. June . only authorized biography based on intervies and other material prvided by Barney. 20 photos.
- NIGGER IN THE WINDOW.-A Black woman learns to cope with a white-collar world 7.95 Double-day
- MAD IN PURSUIT Violette LeDuc-French Lesbian Writer. FE&G 8.95
- IMMIGRANT WOMEN- Dover, dist. by WIND. I'm not sure if this is paper or cloth
- CHILD OF THE MORNING. Pauline Gedge. 8.95 Dial. Looks like a feminist (fictionalized biography of Hatsehpsut.
- A HORSE OF ANOTHER COLOR U of Ill. Short storées, fiction. again--don't know if this is cloth or paper, but if I go back & check it out, I'll never get this newsletter in the mail.
- GREAT JEWISH WOMEN. Breta Fink. Profiles of 22 Jewish women, including Stein, Meir, & Ernestine Rose--a founder of the women's rights movement. Bloch, March 78.

**MASS MARKET TITLES**

The Oracle Collective &  
Paula from Old Wives' Tales

- MARY JANE HARPER CRIED LAST NIGHT, Joanna Lee & TS Cook, NAL, May, 1.50.  
(about child abuse.)
- \*THE HIDDEN MALPRACTICE: HOW AMERICAN MEDICINE MISTREATS WOMEN, Gena Corea Jove 1.95 (originally called Women's Health Care.) Exploration of sexism and other evils in medicine and public health.
- \*GAMES MOTHER NEVER TAUGHT YOU: CORPORATE GAMESMANSHIP FOR WOMEN. Betty Lehan Harrigan, Warner. 2.50. How to play the ladder-climbing better than the men who invented it--if you can stand the title and the game.
- \*LOVING SOMEONE GAY Don Clark. NAL 1.95 (good book, cheaper than the original Celestial Arts edition.)
- \*PINK COLAR WORKERS: INSIDE THE WORLD OF WOMEN'S WORK. Louise How, Sleep IT OFF LADY. Jean Rhys. Short stories, mostly about women. Pop. Lib. April.
- \*SITA- Kate Millet. Ballentine, June.
- THE THORN BIRDS Big bestseller in Australia. Avon. June.
- JOURNEY new Science fiction by fine woman author. Pocket. May
- \*THE CRACKER FACTORY Joyce Rebeta-Burditt. Bant. March. Alcoholic housewife & her experience in psychiatric ward. fiction.
- HAYWIRE. Brooke Hayward. Bant. March. reportedly good showbiz biography.
- \*P.E.T. IN ACTION Thomas Gordon. March. Good book on parent effectiveness training. bant.
- \*THE STONE ANGEL. Margaret Laurence. Bant. March. Good women's fiction--by this Canadian writer. I think this is the first it's been available in the US.
- RED STAR OVER CHINA. Edgar Snow. Classic account of Chinese Revolution. Bant. March.
- RUN RIVER. Joan Didion. Pocket. March. New fiction or reprint of an old one?
- \*VICTORIAN MURDERESSES. Mary S. Hartman. Pocket. March. Interesting lives of women.
- \*MARGARET AND I. Kate Wilhelm. Pocket. March. Reissue of good suspenseful Science Fiction.
- THE CHURCH AND THE HOMOSEXUAL. John J. McNeil. Pocket. March. We stock it for women to send home to their parents.

**NEW PAPERBACKS!**

- CAROL
- \*THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD., first published in 1937. Zora Neale Hurston 3.95 U. of Ill. Zora is one of the (or THE) great black women writers from the earlier part of this century. Clearly writing ahead of her times.... This book focus on the character Janie Crawford, a black woman with a powerful belief in herself..... Uof I also has 2 other of her novels... DUST TRACKS ON THE ROAD and JONAH'S GOURD VINE. and a biography of ENH. The biography is expensive, but worth it. The others are paperbacks.
- \*THE DREAM OF A COMMON LANGUAGE: POEMS 1974-1977. Adrienne Rich. Norton April 2.95
- DAUGHTER OF THE HILLS \* Myra Page. A woman's part in the Coalminer's Struggles. First published in 1950. 3.95(?) Persea/Braziller.
- \*BABEL. Patti Smith. Putnam. Feb. 4.95paper. 8.95cloth. Patti Smith is superstar among avant-garde poetry & rock music. I don't get it, but she's highly recommended by women as diverse as my bookkeeper, & my 16 year old housemate hot into punk rock.
- TRAVEL AND THE SINGLE WOMAN-EUROPE. Shirle Ban Campen 4.95 Merton House. 5 books-40% On the surface it looks quite heterosexist--assuming that one of your main pursuits in traveling is men, but it might be useful. Merton House specializes in travel books. In Oct. they will release TRAVEL AND THE SINGLE WOMAN- Hawaii. If successful, it will be a series. Merton House. 8 S. Michigan Ave, Chicago, Ill 60603.
- LOST GODDESSES OF ANCIENT GREECE. 4.95 Moon Books, dist. at WIND. Highly praised at the great goddess conference.

AMAZON bookstore is sponsoring a series of Open Raps for the women's community. The first is an open forum for exploration: Transsexuality and Feminism.

OUR RIGHT TO LOVE-lesbian resourcebook edited by Gini Vida, is doing exception-ally well. Someone suggested the book to an editor at Prentice Hall. PH liked the idea and asked Gini if she would edit it. She agree. PH expected to sell 1500 copies in cloth, then put it into paperback. Instead they got a landslide of pre-publication orders (8,000). They expect another 5,000 orders from libraries (due to the good review in MS) and continued good sales. And they have decided not to release the paperback until early 1979. (Would your believe that PH is making a mint on this book?) One final note: Each of the contributors was paid a flat rate of \$50 for their articles, (though Gini and NGTF get percentages, which is standard practice.) Paying contributors a flat fee, rather than a % means that PH gets to keep even more of the money. All of this is NOT to criticize the women who put this book together, the point is just to be aware of how straight publishers exploit us.

#### ADVERTISING

About 6 weeks ago, I got a call at the bookstore from a woman at Random House, inquiring about FBN's advertising rates, as they wanted to do some special promotion to get BURNING QUESTIONS in front of feminist buyers. I hemmed & hawed, and procrastinated until I got settled in my mind that: RH has LOTS of money, RH came to us, rather than us to them. We have something they wanted. So, having gotten encouragement on the advertising policy I suggested in the last newsletter, I wrote to them, sending them copies of the newsletter (edited with scissors) and said that our rates were \$550 for 8x14, 450 for 8x11, 350 for 8x8, 250 for 5x6, with a \$100 surcharge for being the first to advertise in the presigious newsletter. Deadline APR 6. Why think small, I said to by self. The rates are slightly under the rates that LIBRARY JOURNAL charges, but offering twice the space for the money. They did not respond. So I'm thinking to drop the rates and try again. One suggestion for getting this information out was to send a story to the MEDIA section of Publishers Weekly, which I will probably do.

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(P)