Volume 3 Number 3

WIND ended. Such a dark day the day I heard the news. (More on that later.)

This issue of FBN is dedicated to Cynthia Gair and Helaine Harris in appreciation for their vision in seeing the necessity of a solid feminist distribution service and all their work in trying to reach that end. And is also dedicated to all the rest of us bookstore and publishing women who are picking up the pieces and going on. Continueing to be committed to supporting the feminist press. (If we can't publish and distribute our own words, we certainly can't expect anyone else to do it!) Continueing to carry just as much feminist and small press work as we possibly can. Figuring out our new work loads, ordering from all those small publishers rather than just whipping out a single order to WIND. Listening to the financial impact of ordering from individual publishers rather than one distributer—one stamp for the order, one for the invoice, whatever your check charges are times the number of orders you will now do a month PLUS the increase in postage costs that will come from having to pay that \*@#\*! 58¢ for the first pound of each order rather than just paying it once on a distributer order. Then figuring out where that money is going to come from and re-budgeting if necessary to cover these expenses rather than letting the costs sneak up on us and sink us later.\*

When I heard that WIND was closing I wrote to Cynthia & Helaine to say that I'd publish a list of their publishers' addresses in FBN if they'd send them to me. My letter crossed in the mail with theirs asking me if I could do just that. Paula Sperry from Woman to Woman in Denver phoned a day later offering to type up the list & did so. Sherry Thomas (once of Country Women magazine, now working at Old Wives Tales) and I worked until 11 pm two nights going through our files to get the terms for all the publishers OWT had ever ordered from direct. Then I worked until 11 another night typing them onto the addresses list that Paula had typed. And here I am now, beginning to type this at 11pm on another night. And so this emergency issue of FBN came together in the midst of her editor (lover or mother might be better terms) looking for & moving to her new home. The terms listed in this issue are only as up to date as OWT's last order from each publisher. They may well

\*That's \$26.60 per month for 30 additonal orders. 30 x (15¢+15¢+58¢+10¢ check charge). A lot or not a lot depending on your store size and how many orders you actually will do each month after the first flurry of orders. Figure it out for the number of orders your store will write.

Extra Copies of the pub. Inst thit mut stores or HO if you have offered it.

have changed in the interim, but at least they are a place to begin. If you have terms for other publishers (or as you get them) send them to me & I'll publish them in FBN and probably do an updated revised list in the fall.

Remember as you order that some of thses publishers have never done distribution before and that some of them have had the bulk of their distribution done by WIND. For the first group it means never having dealt with packing, shipping, invoicing, filling orders, creating minimums that work for them and us. For the second group it means a whole shift in workload. Which all adds up to this: that as bookstores we can expect (or should I be more positive and say 'we should not be surprised to see') a whole raft of problems. I hope that all the bookstores will be able to take the hassles in stride and take the time to write the to the publishers with suggestions and solutions to the problems. Probably if a publisher gets 18 letters in a month saying that a minimum order of 28 copies of her only book is to high a requirement for a 40% discount suggesting that she cut it to 3 or 5, she/they will probably change their discount schedule. Or 15 letters saying "If you pack your books in used newspapers, the print rubs off on the books and they look dirty" will probably solve the problem fast. So lets all take them moment to write such notes as the problems come up. (Steal the time from resenting the same thing when it happens the next time.) Pass on your insight/need/experience/understandings. We have to teach each other. If we all spend the next few months writing notes we'll solve a lot of the problems before the Christmas Madness (I mean 'Season'!) descends on us.

This issue of this newsletter now is my form of a love letter to each of us in feminist publishing--from the writers to the publishers to the printers to the distributers to bookstores who will take on the workload WIND's absence leaves us and will continue to go on as Judy Grahn writes in Vera (The Common Woman Poems):

...the common woman is as common as good bread as common as when you couldnt go on but did. For all the world we didn't know we had in common all along The common woman is a common as the best of bread and will rise and become strong--

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## MORE ON WIND'S CLOSING

I first heard about WIND's impending bankruptcy a month ago in Nebraska. I'd arrived to visit Harriet Desmoines and Catherine Nicholson of <u>Sinister Wisdom</u> and that was they news they greeted me with as I came through the door. We spent a long and often gloomy night talking together. Thinking of Diana Press's recent announcement, followed too quickly by WIND's. Sharing our knowledge of the precariousness of some of the women's record companies, some of the small presses, of at least onemajor feminist bookstore. Not all of these are struggling for the same reasons. To link them is in some ways is a false connection, but what we were feeling that night was the fragility of institutions we've come to almost take for granted. And the recongitions that we may be entering a new period of difficulty, a time to reaffirm our commitment to keeping feminist theory, art, culture alive in the world. We felt a strong need, a hunger, to learn from the "failures", to understand patterns and problems that might keep the rest of us from similar fates. Is this the beginning of the end of the feminist business stragety? we wondered. Will inflation, recession, repression knock a hole in that effort? "What made us think they's <u>pay</u> us for making a revolution, anyway?" Harriet asked. And that was in a way comforting. Somehow, in whatever form, we will always go on. It's our lives we're talking about, creating the possibility of our survival. So I left Nebraska, still full of feelings. Beginning to think of all the ripples and waves that would be caused by WIND. Iremembered a book of lesbian portraits WIND was to distribute this fall, and bped women will continue to dare to self-publish without a distributor to get the books out. I called Carol in SF to share the news and the grief with her, to warn her of the load her FBN would now have to carry. Writing today, "grief" seems perhaps an exagerated word. Already, we're beginning to pick up the pieces, gathering ordering information, becoming resigned to writing 15 orders to different small presses instead of one to WIND. But grief it was when the news first hit, and grief it will be over and over in small doses as we realized all WIND did for us (despite its occassional failings.) And for Carol hearing the news, it was pain and shock and sadness and a tremendous need to find someone to share it with, another bookstore person who would know what a loss WIND means to writers, presses, self-publishers, bookstores. To all of us who were connected thought WIND. An so we want to say to each of you reading this please whare you feelings too. Please write FBN with reactions, thoughts, ideas, feelings about what this means and will mean to us all.

When RPM (an East coast alternative press distributor) went bankrupt a few years ago, they took 30-40 small presses with them. Those were the presses that just couldn't stand to loose the money that they were owed by RPM. This will not happen with WIND's closing IF the bookstores that owe WIND money pay up. This money will then go to the presses and keep them alive. If even a decent percentage of bookstores pay up (and that means feminist stores first!) then all of the presses will get all of the money owed to them (they've already received all the stock that WIND still had on hand.) Then the loss will be taken by the women who invested or loaned money to WIND. So if you had any doubts about paying you outstanding WIND bills, DO IT. That money will keep our feminist presses alive.

The next priority is to begin (or continue) to order directly from thepublishers as soon and as often as possible. Making the effort now to get books from presses that have only one title. To not let those books vanish from our shelves, our stores. To remember that without small presses, our stores are terribly vulnerable. To believe that "the boys" will publish us a moment longer that it suits and profits them, is to be optimistic in the extreme. It is our own presses that we must depend on. And they will continue to be there only as long and as well as we support them. Now (as always) is the time to take time to educate the women in our stores about which are the women-made books, how and where they've come from, why they cost what they do. \$5.00 for <u>The Wanderground</u> is a sure investment in a feminist future.

Two other projects we have in mind may help us all to go on without WIND. We are 's scheming to produce a Feminist Books In Print--with annotated listings of all the books currently available from feminist (and alternative?) presses, and with complete ordering information for each publisher. We need direct feedback <u>now</u>: would this be useful to you, do you want it?

Our other project (see the next article) is the proposed national bookstores conference (if you also knew that we both work at Old Wives' Tales, and are each writing a book this year, you might well ask when do we sleep? The trouble is, we don't know ourselves.) A bookstores conference seems more necessary than ever now, in the wake of WIND's downfall. A chance to share information and skills, to explore philosophy & strategy questions for the coming years...Yes?! Well, it it's yes, friends, you <u>must</u> let us know. As we say elsewhere, we aren't going to do it unless we knwo it's wanted and supported.

How can we say what the last few weeks have been like? In the bookstore at 11:30 at night looking up yet another of WIND's 180 publishers and seeing with relief that his one gives 40% with no minimums. Sandy Horn (publisher of <u>Gaia's Guide</u>) calling from London to get us to call other SF stores and help in setting up west coast distribution. (<u>Gaia's</u> stands to lose up to ten thousand dollars if WIND's bookstore accounts don't pay.) Talking with Barbara Grier of Naiad in Missouri about what she and Naiad are doing. A long call from Joan Biren in Washington about how to distribute her forthcoming book of lesbian portraits...it has for us been quite graphically and clearly a time of national (even international!)questioning, crisis, mild chaos, pulling together, going on. For all of you it must have been some version of the same.

first thoughts on what you'd like

Things to include in your posteard: if you'd come

We trust that this issue of the newsletter will help. We know that the newsletter now is an even more crucial vehicle for communication among ourselves, between us and publishers. Once again, if you haven't renewed your subscription to FBN, <u>do it now</u> (\$24/year to the return address on the outside of the newsletter). FBN won't come to you for free. We need each other///write to us/FBN, make FBN a priority in your overcrowded life. Without your input, what's it's content? And now's the time we need to hear from lots of stores: about the <u>Feminist Books in Print</u>, about the national bookstores conference, about any presses you know of and we don't, about how best to go on...

Because we are definitely going on.

Sherry Thomas Carol Seajaý

PS, Barbara Greer says she will answer all queries about publishers addresses if you send SASE. write her c/o Naiad press, address in the pub. list.

## NATIONAL FEMINIST BOOKSTORES CONFERENCE!!????

We are considering organizing a national feminist bookstores conference to be held in April or May 1980. "Considering" refers to two things: first, a serious investigation of whether we have the energy to run OWT, to do FBN, write a book, live our lives AND organize a conference. (We do have the not-so-naive enthusiasm.) And secondly, whether all you other bookstores are seriously interested in having a conference. We feel we would need a clear statement of support from 2/3 of the bookstores for it to be worth our effort organizing.

What we have in mind is a 5 day conference either in the middle of the country (to equalize travel costs) or on one or the other coasts with some kind of travel-cost sharing plan. It would be out in the country again, for those of you who were at the Women In Print Conference in 1976, though we are not necessarily committed to Omaha. In any case we'd organize the conference far enough ahead for each store to arrange for people to be free, for those who want 90-day discount air fares to get them, etc. Spring seems like a good time, since it's a pretty slack time in most stores and gives us time to get the conference organized.

In terms of content, we're thinking now of two days of skills workshops about bookstore operation (doing returns, joint orders, Single Title Order Plan, etc, etc.) and 2-3 days of political philosophical, process discussions (what makes a <u>feminist</u> bookstore, a feminist business, deciding which books to carry, how does your collective partnership/group/ whatever-you-are function, long-term commitments & seperation agreements, etc., etc.) For this to be meaningful, we'd like a lot of input about specific topics/issues to cover at the conference. And we'll need people willing to organize specific workshops.

And, having learned something at WIP, not to mention being west-coasters, there'd be time to play, socialize, give massages, change the whole conference if necessary, develop romantic interests or not develop romantic interests. That sort of thing.

So what do you think?

WARNING! WE MUST HAVE AT LEAST A POST CARD FROM 2/3 OF YOU BY THE END OF AUGUST OR WE DON'T GO ON!.

love,

Carol Seajay and Sherry Thomas

Things to include in your postcard: if you'd come. first thoughts on what you'd like to have included. if you'd come if it was on the east coast west coast midwest.

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THE BISEXUAL OPTION: A CONCEPT OF ONE HUNDRED PERCENT INTIMACY, Fred Klein, Arbor House/ Priam, 4.95. Reportedly the first bk of its kind on bisexuals and bisexuality in America. THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF CASSANDRA PRINCESS AND PROPHETESS OF TROY, Ursule Molinaro, Archer

Editions, 10.00. A monologue tells about her life and events surrounding the fall of troy and the public's intolerance of her as the shift from matriarchy to patriarchy occured. FOR THE WOMAN OVER 50, Adele Nudel, Avon, 2.95. "Ways of coping with physical and mental chan-

ges, lifestyles in transition, financial problems and job challenges." HOW TO BE A FINANCIALLY SECURE WOMAN, Mary Elizabeth Schlayer, Ballantine, 2.50. How to:

get credit, invest in bonds, treasury notes & stocks, make money on the job. THE JOY OF MONEY, Paula Nelson, Bantum, 2.25. "Geared particularly to women."

DREAMERS & DEALERS: AN INTIMATE APPRAISAL OF THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT, Leah Fritz, Beacon Press, 12.95. Takes stock of first decade of modern feminism theoretically and practically.

Looks at factions within the movement, problems of structure and leadership, class and power. SUNDAY'S WOMEN: A REPORT ON LESBIAN LIFE TODAY, Sasha Gregory Lewis, Beacon Press, 9.95. Examines the alienation experienced by lesbians and their experiments in life-styles in a volatile society. In-depth interviews show the estimated two to 10 million in U.S. belong to a leaderless sub-culture of extended families which offers information and mutual support.

- LIMBO, Carobeth Laird, Chandler & Sharp, 5.95. From authors experiences in nursing home, helpless, isolated after major surgery & her efforts to hold onto sanity & identity in a dehumanizing atmosphere.
- PORTRAIT OF A SEDUCTRESS: THE WORLD OF NATALIE BARNEY, Jean Chalon, trans. by Carol Barko, Crown, 10.00. Barney held the most notable and long-lasting Paris salon of the century. Chalon, a close friend, reflects the various aspects of her character.
- FIFTY STORIES, Kay Boyle, Doubleday, 10.95. Author of The Underground Woman, these stores span a 50 year writing career.

IT'S TIME TO GO TO BED, Joyce Segal, Doubleday, 6.95. Picture book, using baby animals' excuses for postponing going to bed, the eternal parent-child bedtime struggle is depicted.

RISE, GONNA RISE: PORTRAITS OF SOUTHERN TEXTILE WORKERS, Mimi Conway, Doubleday/Anchor, 19.95. Deals with the J.P. Stevens Company workers to unionize. Author interviews the range of factions involved analysing the battles effect on the economic development of the South.

THE SELF MADE WOMAN, Ava Stern, Doubleday, 9.95. Based on interviews with independent business women, this is supposed to be an inspiring guide for women who "dream of turning their ideas and expertise into business empires. The most successful businesswomen are not corporate managers but entrepreneurs who own their own business. The question: how many more business empires can the economy sustain? (my question-not the books)

TURNING POINTS, Ellen Goodman, Doubleday, 10.00. Case histories and interviews describing how people change, often through crisis points, and how individual change affects society as a whole. "-speaks to the young, frustrated middle aged, and the elderly."

WOMEN: A PICTORIAL ARCHIVE FROM NINETEENTH-CENTURY SOURCES, Jim Harter, Dover, 4.00 THE WORKING MOTHER'S COMPLETE HANDBOOK, Gloria Norris & Jo Ann Miller, Dutton, 7.95. Along

with anecdotes about and quotations from more than 150 women they cover: childcare, facilitating housework, shopping & cooking, school vacations, making best use of time with family during evenings & weekends, alternatives to full-time, nine-to-five work.
GRANDMA STRIKE BACK, Edwina Sherudi, Frederick Fell, 9.95. Helping the older woman to define and share herself with her family despite the role that's been pinned on her.

GOCD RIDDANCE, Barbara Abercrombie, Harper & Row, 8.95. Story of a woman, divorced and raped by an aquaintance, who fights back"out of rage and a sense of helplessness, taking control of events for the first time in her life."

RUMORS OF PEACE, Ella Leffland, Harper & Row, 10.95. Story of a teenager growing up through W.W. II. Her brother in the army, she follows every radio broadcast & headline trying to understand what is happening.

WOMEN OF A CERTAIN AGE: THE MIDLIFE SEARCH FOR SELF, Lillian B. Rubin, Harper & Row, 19.95. (Sept.) At 39, author divorced, remarried, & mother of 14-year-old - started college as a freshman.& received her doctorate in sociology eight years later. She explores the

"real choices open to women at midlife."

FRONTIER WOMEN: THE TRANSMISSISSIPPI WEST, 1840-1880, Julie Roy Jeffrey, Hill & Wang, 11.95. "Migrations of mid-19th century offered women an opportunity for liberation; yet, with even with new responsibilities and shared labor with men, they clung to the old stereo-

type of wife and mother, guardian of family morals and values. Primary sources, white women most from with rural and small-town backgrounds.

- MARATHON MIRANDA, Elizabeth Winthrop, Holiday House, 6.95. Story of two girls striving for a sense of identity for different reasons. A conflict is resolved with the help of a wiser older woman. (9-12)
- IN THE VANGUARD: SIX AMERICAN WOMEN IN PUBLIC LIFE, Peggy Lamson, Houghton Mifflin, 9.95. (Aug) Among the six are:Elaine Nobel, lesbian, legislator from Massachusetts; Congresswomen Fenwick and Holtzman, of New Jersy and New York and Eleanor Holmes Norton, head of EEOC. Each is "revealed as a problem-solver, zealous, independent and, remarkably, uncynical."
- THE ECONOMICS OF BEING A WOMAN, Dee Dee Ahern and Betty Bliss, Mcgraw Hill, 3.95."Discusses the disproportionately low benefits women receive from an economic system that favors men."
- WOMEN AND MONEY, Mary Rogers & Nancy Joyce, Mcgraw Hill, 8.95. An introductory book that "cuts through financial jargon- family record keeping, insurance, investments, real estate, tax shelters, death and divorce"
- BETWEEN TWO WORLDS: YOUNG WOMEN IN CRISIS, Linda G. Sexton, Morrow, 9.95 (Fall '79) Young women"coming of age today facing critical choices & conflicts of careers, lifestyles, motherhood & marriage in our new world."
- BLESSINGS: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL FRAGMENT, Mary Craig, Morrow, 6.95. With two of her four children born retarded, the author found her Catholic upbringing of little help. Forced to rest away from home she involves herself in the work of Sue Ryder who is devoted to the care of tragic survivors of Nazi camps and displaced persons.
- FAMILIAR PASSIONS, Nina Bawden, Morrow, 8.95. Story of a woman married 13 years questions her life in relation to those closest to her when her husband wants a separation. From adoptive parents to "real" mother, her daughter and stepchildren she raised as if they were her own. She learns a strange secret about her parents marriage and also something about herself and patterns of ancestral connectioh.
- THE NEW MALE: FROM SELF-DESTRUCTION TO SELF\*CARE, Herb Goldberg, Morrow, 10.95 (Fall '79) "Examining the crises created by traditional notions of masculinity, author clarifies changes all men must go through to free themselves of destructive stereotypes."(No clue about attitude re: women- so be careful.)
- WOMEN'S ACTION ALMANAC: A COMPLETE RESOURCE GUIDE BY THE WOMEN'S ACTION ALLIANCE, edited by Jane Williamson, Diane Winston & Wanda Wooten, Morrow Quill, 7.95."A quick reference handbook on women's issues & programs, with a guide to national organizations."
- WHY MALES EXIST: AN INQUIRY INTO THE EVOLUTION OF SEX, Fred Hapgood, Morrow, 9.95 (Fall 79) The new science of sociobiology: author"argues that throughout the animal kingdom males exist to serve females in the mating relationship."
- BEYOND SUGAR & SPICE: HOW WOMEN GROW, LEARN & THRIVE, Caryl Rivers, Rosalind Barnett & Grace Baruch, Putnam, 10.00 (Sept)"Explores the psychological growth of the female from the perspective of competence, illuminating the forces and relationships that fosteror thwart- a woman's sense of self-esteem." Teaching daughters to cope in the real world.

PERFECT BALANCE: THE STORY OF AN ELITE GYMNAST, Lynn Haney, Photos-Bruce Curtis, Putnam, 8.95.Documentary of 15-year-old Leslie Russo, 5' tall. Showing no signs of athletic prowess as a child, she went from ballet to pymnastics and is working for her goal of competing in 1980 Olympics ih Moscow. (12-cp)

THE NEW GAY LEBERATION BOOK, Edited by Len Richmond with Gary Noguera, Ramparts Press, 5.95. "The sequel to "The Gay Liberation Book" collects more writings describing the experience of being gay in an unsupportive society." Tom Hayden outlines steps he feels should be taken by federal government to end discriminatory practices. Sounds all male.

THE EDUCATION OF A WOMAN GOLFER, Nancy Lopez, Simon & Schuster, 8.95. Author tells story of her career and gives candid look into life on the women's tour. Over 70 photos.

THE BASEMENT, Kate Millett, Simon & Schuster, 10.95. Recounts the 1965 sadistic murder of a 16-year-old girl by a middle-aged woman, her three teenage children and some neighbord hood boys. Addresses issues of sexual guilt, psychology of group obedience & male supremacy. THE DAY CARE BOOK: A GUIDE FOR WORKING PARENTS TO HELP THEM FIND THE BEST POSSIBLE DAY CARE FOR THEIR CHILDREN, Grace Mitchell, Stein & Day, 10.00. Well credentialed, Mitchell explains how to:evaluate day care facilities, balance two jobs, understand the environ-

ment of a day care center.

THE OBSTACLE RACE: THE FORTUNES OF WOMEN PAINTERS AND THEIR WORK, Germaine Greer, Straus & Giroux, \$25.00.(Oct.) Greer argues that social constraints have kept women from devel-

oping into great artists. 32 color plates & 165 black-and-white illustrations. HOW ANY WOMAN CAN GET RICH FAST IN REAL ESTATE, Margaret Crispen, Warner (Spring'80) Real estate as most lucrative seeling field for women.

EFFECTIVENESS TRAINING FOR WOMEN: E.T.W., Linda Adams, Wyden, \$10.95. Assuring women that they can learn to shed their programmed dependency on men and assume control of their own lives.

MOVING ON: OVERCOMING THE CRISIS OF WIDOWHOOD, Mary Ellen Reese, Wyden, 8.95. Views crises of widowhood through eyes of four widows of different ages and backgrounds. Author argues that wives must be psychologically prepared to accept loss and forge new life without a mate. Case histories contribute human interest to points made before.





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