

Feminist Bookstores Newsletter

Vol. 5
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This is the post-Christmas issue of the newsletter. By the absence of all the regular columns and the fact that the bulk of the content in this Feminist Bookstores' Newsletter comes from non-bookstore women, you can tell that bookstore women are still re Cooperating from the holiday madness. Anti-Semitism is the issue in this newsletter. Beginning on page 13 is a series of letters discussing anti-Semitism in the last issue. On page 25 & 26 are responses from Celeste & I.

-CAROL

Fulltime bookstore position available at New Earth Books and Records. Write or call immediately for application. Bookstore workers preferred. 2 West 39th St., Kansas City MO 64111. 816-931-5794

DEADLINES


Book mark orders
Next issue

Ms. Blurbs - NOW
Feb 15th. (see page 3)
MARCH 15th

Nov. 17, 1981

HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE ACTUALLY READ THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT?

Not enough. To make the point of the clarity and simplicity of this Amendment's 52 (count 'em, 52) words, buy copies for your friends (and adversaries) of *The Complete Text of the Equal Rights Amendment*, a small, elegant book with the ERA in a different typeface on each of more than 100 pages, and an epilogue listing the states that have ratified and those that haven't. Available at Brentano's and Walden Books. Or send \$3.95 plus 75 cents postage to Ganis and Harris, Inc., 119 West 57th Street, New York, New York 10019.



I've been thinking about an idea for awhile now that I may not yet have perfected but I wanted to write and see what others thought...I started out with the wish that we as a group of feminist bookstores would get some formal recognition from Ms. Magazine -- maybe in the Gazette pages, or along one of those wonderful columns on the inside edge of the magazine, say, next to book reviews...This was sparked by my anger over a little item that ran in the April '81 issue of Ms. regarding THE COMPLETE TEXT OF THE ERA in which they gave the publisher a free plug (which I have no quarrel with) and Bretano's, of all things! (Bretano's is an east coast chain bookstore which is, I suspect, not even owned by women, much less feminist.) I was incensed over this free ad for Brentano's (since then I've been told it very possibly wasn't free, that perhaps Ms. received a kickback from Brentano's for the mention) when some of us pay regularly for a tiny classified ad in the back pages of Ms...it just felt like a real slap in the face. So---how to get some formal (& free) recognition from Ms. of our existence? If anybody has any ideas on this, please write them to FBN!

Meanwhile, I've been thinking, if we can't get free recognition, I know they'd take a paid ad. What if a bunch of stores went together & split the cost of a full one column, 1/3 page display ad that said:Support Feminist

Bookstores (or something similiar) across the top, and then listed the name and address and phone number of as many bookstores as we could fit in (& could pay) with (& this is very important) a blurb at the bottom saying "Send \$1 & a SASE to any of the above-listed bookstores for a complete list of every US feminist bookstore." This would insure that those smaller stores who could not afford the money to be listed in the ad would gain from it indirectly. We'd just have to make sure that each store listed had a supply of copies of the list of bookstores (either FBN's or mine..I tend to favor mine because it's typeset & it's only one page, but I would be sure to update it before something like this took place.)

What do you think? Is it worth pursuing? Is there 10 or 12 or how many bookstores out there interested in possibly splitting an ad? (I have written to Ms. for ad rates; no response yet. I expect I'll probably have heart failure when I see them.)

Moonyean
Womansplace Bookstore
2401 N. 32nd St.
Phoenix, Arizona 85008
(602) 956-0456

*Ms. is going to run a piece on feminist bookstores, probably late spring/early Summer. (see last FBN)but this looks like a good idea, any way. Reply to Moonyean

Carol

DEADLINE 2
BOOKSTORES
Next issue
Ms. Blurb - NOW
Feb 12th (see page 3)
March 12th

The Women's Store / San Diego / Gloss

BOOKMARKS

There will be bookmarks!

Twenty bookstores wrote and said they wanted 75,000 bookmarks. Several stores that were enthusiastic about the idea didn't respond at all, so I'm assuming that we will reach the 100,000 bookmark level. Most stores voted for black and a color (will up the price per store by \$1.00). Eight stores wanted the horizontal design and eight wanted the vertical, so Iowa City Women's Press has agreed to print half of each and to try to give everyone what they want, so when you order specify which you want, if you want half and half, or if you don't care. The press women will choose the most smashing combination of paper stock and ink color available and will screen the background and do all that stuff. If you would like your store's bookmark printed on the back, it will be an additional \$50 for any quantity up to 50,000 bookmarks (it's the set-up costs that are do high; not the printing).

ORDER BY FEBRUARY 15TH

TO ORDER:

Send \$7.76 for each 1000 bookmarks that you want, plus \$1.00 (for the colored ink -this was a collective decision) plus postage (\$1.75 for 1,000; \$2.70 for 2000; \$3.55 for 3,000; \$5.25 for 5,000) to Iowa City Women's Press, 529 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, Iowa 52240. They'll print them up & get them to you quicker than the next newsletter. ORDER A GOOD SUPPLY. I don't imagine doing this again soon.

Final vote on grammar: "her" wins over "she". Even the experts are confused.

Dear Women:

I hate to have to write this, but I think only fair to warn other womyn's bookstore owners. On June 10 of this year, I placed an order for 2 dozen sponges with Moontide (Box 7246 Berkeley, CA) which I prepaid with a check for \$30.00. This check was cashed on July 8. When the sponges still hadn't arrived by August 3, I wrote to Moontide requesting that the sponges either be sent or the money refunded. There was no response. On Nov. 18, I wrote once again requesting the same thing and threatening to do exactly what I am doing, writing FBN, if there was no response by Dec. 1. It's Dec. 2, so here's my story. This is the first and only time I have ever had this kind of trouble with a woman-owned and run business. Is this a common occurence for other bookstores?

Thanks again for all your good work. I shall miss reading FBN at the bookstore. I've thouroughly enjoyed each issue and have equally appreciated all the valuable information.

Sinisterly,

Phoebe Hunter
The Plains Women Bookstore
Iowa City

The Women's Store / San Diego / Closes

Dear Carol:

I came in to leave this information about the demise of The Women's Store at 2965 Beach in San Diego. The news is a little late to be a bulletin, perhaps you can just add it in to the yearly summary of bookstores and their news in FBN. The store was flooded out of business Dec. 1980, literally drowned us through an improperly repaired roof. Our salvageable stock went to Lioness Books, a terrific new bookstore for Sacramento women. It is there on consignment, the backbone for a rapidly expanding in-depth inventory. Theresa Corrigan is doing a great job.

I am moving to Palo Alto and hope to find other women interested in developing a community for women. If you know of any sisters in the P.A. area interested in networking and support, please give them my name and phone.

Stay Strong,

Lynn Taylor
(415) 325-1175

P.S. FBN is the best assistance our store ever had. Thank you for all the help.

NEWS FROM NAIAD.....

The Naiad Press, Inc. P.O. Box 10543, Tallahassee, Fla. 32302 announces plans to publish a minimum of 8 books and possibly 12 in 1982. First off is FAULTLINE by Sheila Ortiz Taylor, released to stores on Jan. 11, 1982 \$6.95 with a first printing of 30,000 and advance sales well in excess of its usual press run of 5,000. For those thousands of women who have been waiting, the second book of 1982 is a trade paperback reprint of Jane Rule's second novel, THIS IS NOT FOR YOU, due out March 10, 1982. \$7.95

Sarah Aldridge's fifth novel, THE NESTING PLACE (rumor has it that there is a picture of the author included) will be out April 10, 1982. \$6.95. Long time OFF OUR BACKS collective member, Carol Anne Douglas is the author of TO THE CLEVELAND STATION, a novel about a white/radical Lesbian/feminist working on a Washington based women's newspaper who falls in love with a black woman who contacts the paper for help. Release date May 10, 1982, \$6.95. FAULTLINE t-shirts are available from Naiad Press. Bookstores will be getting a flyer on this early in 1982, in time to coordinate their stock of the t-shirts to the book.

Barbara Grier of Naiad is quitting her "straight" job, hallelujah, as of the 5th of Jan. 1982..and working full-time (with a salary) for Naiad after that..she is getting old and decided she needs more than 3 hours sleep each night. The Naiad telephone number 904-539-9322 will therefore be available from 8AM until 9PM 7 days a week.

Summer and Fall titles will be announced later, but they include a first in a Lesbian mystery series, featuring detective Nyla Wade, written by Vicki P. McConnell, another reprint from Jane Rule, CONTRACT WITH THE WORLD, a Lesbian version of the Sistine Chapel in Tee Corinne's YANTRAS OF WOMANLOVE, etc.

NAIAD IS A DISTRIBUTOR, TOO! Naiad should have been included in the list of distributors in the last issue. They distribute for many publishers and they are interested in adding others, particularly self-published authors. Naiad distribute for Glad Hag Books (JEB'S EYE TO EYE), Women's Educational Media, Inc. (Liz Diamond's THE LESBIAN PRIMER), Pagoda Publications (Barbara Demming's REMEMBERING WHO WE ARE and Jan Gapen's SOMETHING NOT YET ENDED) and Double Axe Books (Peg Cruikshank's THE LESBIAN PATH). They are also now distributing the remaindered hardbacks of Ruth Baetz's book, LESBIAN CROSSROADS, at a very low price \$6.95 with regular 40% discount. This will be available early in Jan., 1982.

STAFFING

Dec. 30, 1981

Dear Wimmin:

Having lost the last FBN and finding it again just this morning, here is our reply to your info requests - a mere 2 weeks late. (That's probably an improvement from my usual).

As long as I'm here, a few other responses-

-cheers to the absence to the big PW list! We subscribe to it so don't need the repetition. But it's good to list the cream, cause it helps to remind us of stuff we may have missed.

-after reading of your experience, coming home to criticism that you were anti-Semitic and "uncaring of women", I wonder if may be we could use a gripe column, to let off steam about customers and get suggestions of how to deal with these problems. I guess before reading of your experience I sort of assumed I was "the only one" or just shrugged it off, but there have been a couple of times I've gotten really upset and/or didn't know how to handle a situation, and it would be nice to hear other wimmin's experiences. (So, of course, I can't remeber any of my experiences right now.)

-The wimmin's music stuff seems to have been frozen by the Xmas rush. Until the next step is taken, how about printing the labels' replies in the next FBN? I think they're very educational...

-About the workshp I led at WIP - Inventory Systems - we talked a lot in the workshop about the various systems different stores use - which ranged from eyeballing the stock to computer time-sharing. Surprisingly, size of store had nothing to do with complexity or completeness of systme. The most common system was a card file, 1 card per title, filed in alphabetical order by title with all the quantity, when ordered, ID#, price, and publisher info on it. Most stores then wrote down the title everytime they sold a book, or wrote down titles they knew they had only 1 or a few of, often stores also kept a file, by cards or in a notebook, of what titles they carry from each publisher, to make it easier for them to do inventories. We also exchanged forms - order forms, return forms; debit forms, course order forms - I have copies of almost all of them so if you would like any, or have any specific questions about inventory, please write me - I'll be glad to answer anything.

-Onward and upward with bookselling! (as soon as I recover from you-know-what-holiday, I'll begin to enjoy it more again.) Thanks for being there.

Kiriyo Spooner
Womanfyre Books, Inc.
68 Masonic St.
Northampton, MA 01060

P.S. Best request of the week - "Do you carry Lend Me Your Deaf Ear?"

TITLE OF BOOK		Author of Book		Where it's shelved			
Publisher of Book		ID#	cloth/ppr	price			
N inst/ND	ORDER	date	arrival date	OH	U	date	arrival

BURN-OUT

One of the exciting and passionate workshops I attended at WIP Conference was the one on Burn-Out. We laughed (sometimes hysterically), told a few of our deepest, darkest secrets. The sharing was immense. This workshop "changed my life" - and is also changing the dynamics in my collective. I'm excited by it all and want to share as much as I can of the workshop with the rest of the bookstores. What follows is taken from my notes and of course reflects what hit me hardest - not necessarily anyone else's experience or goal in presenting the workshop. These are rough notes, so take what you can. Thanks to all the women and organizations that shared.

- Carol Seay

SYMPTOMS OF BURN-OUT

Boredom
Resentment
Incompetance
Shorter tolerance levels (growing impatience)
Inflexibility/rigidity - being closed to new options
Dreading meetings
Pessimism
Anger at new ideas ("all right - but who's going to do it!?!")
Resenting it when someone else can't do something
Grouching at customers (worse: taking pleasure & glee in grouching at customers)
Answering your home phone with the store's name
Failing to keep committments
Feeling guilty about leaving
Can't be there & can't be away, either
Don't have a soul to turn to - And won't take anything from anyone
Identity tied up in work. ("How are you, Jane?" "Business is up.") ("Hi, who are you?" "I work at X")

MORE FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO BURN-OUT

Repetition
Standards: Too high? Not knowing where to set them.
Never enough time to do what you want to do
Unequal committment leading to disparity leading to alienation leading to resentment leading to destruction
A large success after a period of "non-success" can lead to soaring expectations which are impossible to achieve which can lead to depression/frustration instead of the expected satisfaction
Unrealistic definition about our own "personal needs" and/or thinking that political needs are more important than personal needs (being too guilty to take a vacation)
Growth of the organization (can't just work an extra 4 hours and bail it out an Sat. night)
No long-range planning (finding ourselves still here, doing this, instead of planning or choosing to be here, doing this, several years along the way)

FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO BURN-OUT

Too few people
Too little money
Lack of change
Holding on to power
Lack of appreciation
Not valuing one's self enough
Crises:
Getting robbed
Living in stress (i.e. living in NYC)
Internalizing external adversity i.e. "it's your fault" thinking
Being too tired to distinguish
Not being able to let go of projects that meant a lot
Not knowing when to let go
Not being able to let go & let someone else do it
Not being able to see an end
The whole community discharges its stuff on you
Watching your friend be crazy 7 times in a row.
Lack of appreciation for your work
Isolation

Working in too close quarters
Never enough time to do what is needed
The overwhelming reality of the economic situation

FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO BURN-OUT (CONT.)

If leaving equals getting a divorce, or involves guilt, then workers may need to create a scene to leave and will leave others in the lurch.
Getting caught in a strong woman syndrome

QUALITIES & FACTORS IN A HEALTHY STORE:

A stable, long-term staff
Clear ideas about how the store fits into our lives
Clear commitment from each worker, even if all workers don't work the same number of hours
Never have meetings that last more than 2 hours
Have lives outside the store - Never stay late or work over 40 hours/week
Socialize separately
The store respects workers' other commitments: time to swim at noon, leave early to go to Aikido
We were all strangers in the beginning (so no backlog of stuff & no alliances)
All are committed to the store & know others feel the same
Realistic goals (we crept along)
Sufficient capital to start
Saying "I'm bored" then rotating jobs. This prevents later hassles. Small changes help.
Planning no-work projects.
Staying open to stimulation
Really leaving at closing time & keeping your mind out until morning
Physical recreation & complete relaxation helps! i.e. Aikido
Respect everyone's stress & boredom ("I have better things to do than be neurotic about that")

MORE WAYS TO STAY SANE:

Be silly, ridiculous and laugh
Self value and self-assertion
Create a time for your community to socialize with and appreciate you
Consider this: It may not be so important
Step back when confusion sets in

SUGGESTIONS FOR HEALING BURN-OUT

Stop trying to be all things to all people
Do "News & Goods" at the end of the day (from Co-Counselling)
In the last half hour of the day do something you can start and complete, even if its mundane
Incorporate leaves of absence. Be sure to Include:
A firm belief that one can leave & return
Socialize with the one on leave
If one woman being on leave makes it harder for the remaining workers, remember that she's probably at or approaching the point where she wouldn't (couldn't) do her work anyway, which would only depress you & bring bad energy anyway.
Set limits
Practice saying: "It's not possible for me to do that".
Practice saying (at parties): "Call me about that in the morning"
Join a health club
Demand payment for therapy
Practice saying: "I do all the work one woman can do."

BLUE FUNKS ARE A PART OF LIFE!

Dear Feminist Bookstore Newsletter Women,

Enclosed is a letter-article which I hope you will include in the upcoming issue of FBN. I would also welcome responses from you personally. FBN serves a crucial need -- I hope we publishers/printers keep it together to do a continuing newsletter this time.

Metis is doing well, beginning to typeset our next book--a comedy in letters. I like it a lot but then my serious nature desperately needs clever distractions.

Good luck to you.
Chris Straayer

Distribution & Distributors: Two Different Networks

An Open Letter from Chris Straayer, Metis Press

Fortunately, this October (1-4, 1981) I was able to attend the second **Women in Print Conference** which was held in Washington D.C. and organized by the women of *Off Our Backs* and Lammas Bookstore as well as several independent area women. Like two other Metis women and most probably each of the other approximately 200 women there, I had in my baggage not only feminist attire and feminist print but stored up frustrations, enthusiasm and expectations to share with my women in print peers. We had waited since 1976 for this second conference; for many it was the first.

When Metis arrived at 11:30 Thursday night, the conference was already rapidly underway. The halls were full of women exchanging first, last and organizational names. There was a mood of celebration and immediacy. Quickly we Metis women found our room, dumped our suitcases and headed for the workshop hall. Within minutes I would begin dumping my emotional baggage as well.

In the basement of *Workshop Hall*, hanging on the wall was a long strip of brown wrapping paper with various notes and drawings written on it. Its theme in large magic marker letters was "Get Thee to a distributor." Irritated, I took out a pen and wrote below this, "Pay for this convenience, thyself." I had hardly yet spoken aloud to anyone and very few had yet spoken to me.

Of course four days can't provide 200 women with enough time to talk about everything, much less in depth, much less each to each other one personally, much less supportively, much less to listen as well. Most importantly, when years of isolated work converge on a four day conference, the communication cannot help but be both scanty and desperate. Yet we expect a lot of our peers. While the conference was much needed and earned, what it most taught me even from this beginning *interaction* was that I shouldn't have waited for it. Nor should I have expected the Bookstore/Publisher Dialogue workshop to be able to discuss the *issue* of distribution/distributors thoroughly. Hence this article.

For the purpose of identification and stating perspective, let me give a brief description of Metis Press. Metis was formed as a lesbian/feminist press and publisher in 1976 shortly before and during the first Women in Print Conference. All Metis members work full time jobs outside of Metis. Metis meets on Saturdays and one evening per month. All labor for these six years has been volunteer. Generally, we do our own production. (Iowa City Women's Press just reprinted *Wild Women Don't Get the Blues*.) One of our foremost goals is for women to obtain the skills and access to equipment necessary for production. This means that we produce approximately one book, 1000-2000 edition, per year. We have published five books to date.

Metis Press began with \$75.00, has grown at a steady but slow pace and is just now able to pay for its own mailing supplies, an occasional ad and \$25/mo. rent. As a press or pressmembers individually, we have never had access to enough capital to even consider the possibility of paid labor or the leap to a cash *flowing* system. In short, Metis is barely feasible financially and it is absolutely necessary to the survival of Metis and to our good spirits that we Metis women never lose track of the personal and political rewards offered by lesbian/feminist publishing.

Now let me return to the issue of distribution and distributors from a personal position fully knowing that the personal position often tends to sound petty.

"Get thee to a distributor" has been said to Metis more times than this once on brown wrapping paper. Each time it evokes very strong reactions on several counts: 1) it sounds like an imperative; 2) it is a request initiated by bookstores though the financial burden (via custom?) falls on publishers; 3) it assumes that the use of distributors is a viable and desirable alternative to distribution.

There is a definite need for discussion here. As I address these points, please consider it an attempt to start a conversation. I am not only speaking to bookstores but to every element of the feminist literary network including distributors. Just as you could not possibly know my thoughts before this writing, I am eager to better understand your situations. The creation, distribution and protection of women's words is our shared goal. Though our individual labors are specialized, problems belong to and must be solved by us all.

What is the threat heard when bookstores urge us to use a distributor: that we will be passed by otherwise; that, if we do not fit into the *most efficient* order of things, bookstores will begrudgingly or not at all carry our books; that the system of using distributors will eventually become so set that new bookstores will open via distributors' catalogs alone and never even know about us; that new small presses will no longer be able to start with editions of 100.

When, like during the Bookstore/Publisher Dialogue workshop, bookstores offer a critique of book covers for their selling ability and all the books even chosen for critique are of essentially *standard* size and binding, I cannot help but hear a second message: be like the standard. Though this is undoubtedly meant as honest helpful advice on what customers take home, I cannot accept customers' reactions as unchangingly standard. Otherwise why would there be women's bookstores at all. (It is important that I add that much of the critique dealt with cover design as an independent element, eg. visibility from as far a distance as possible. This was indeed specific information useful to all of us. I am not dwelling on this or other aspects of the conference, however, as they are outside this particular discussion.)

Given all else equal, it is obvious that perfect bound slick covers will best sell a book. But all else is not equal. Jane Addams and Women & Children First bookstores in Chicago have boosted Metis sales enormously by placement of books, over the counter recommendations, and joint participation in community activities. Only a rare review dwells on a book's surface, yet we all know the influence a review can have on a book's distribution.

con'd

(9)

Here lies a crucial point. Distributors are not offering to carry all women press books. Even WIND was quite selective. *Homemade*, *personal*, and *artist* books which have throughout herstory added an unique and immediate voice to the women's movement are often passed up by distributors. Periodicals, the dialogue of our revolution, are almost always rejected. We have experienced no instance of a distributor either developing promotion to present positively the uniqueness of non-standard books or very small periodicals or of actively developing the distribution networks which are least accessible to small presses, eg. libraries, children's markets and non-bookstore rural areas. Instead, if I dare to be so bold, distributors are offering to act as an efficient middleperson for the sale of the easiest sold, i.e. slick, books to already developed markets. I see their main contribution at this time to be in bookkeeping and overall organization. I am not suggesting that distributors should exist to serve my needs specifically, merely that they are not in fact serving my needs.

When bookstores urge the use of distributors I assume two main motivations: 1) genuine desire for us to sell more books; 2) a desire to make their lives easier. Fewer envelopes, stamps, checks and columns is what the brown wrapping paper poster set forth as the reasoning. I assume less running after us feminist presses for shipments, invoices, new titles, out of print info, etc. Obviously at this level bookstores would be served by the use of distributors and presses as well indirectly. Fine. Then quite seriously, shouldn't the distributor's payment be shared. Who decided that 15% or more for the distributor should come from the publishers 60% gross rather than the bookstore's 40% discount. I contend that this is an assumption within our network, a carryover from the male publishing bureaucracy.

"But presses sell more books via distributors. You'll make more money in the long run and save time to be spent on more important work." This too is an assumption. Let me cite a concret example. *the distributors* has carried several Metis titles for two years. Not only have they sold very few books, they have insisted on consignment terms, never paid postage and created extra bookkeeping for us. Oscar Wilde bookstore, on the other hand, has sold more of our *Wild Women* books than any other bookstore, distributor or mail orders. I believe this is because they give space to us in their mail order catalog and present us in our own specialness.

The feminist literary network is financially interdependent. A hierarchy of poverty is worthless, yet we cannot afford to ignore differences or crisis points. At the conference a disturbing number of women spoke of *folding* or *closing*. We need to start examining the financial situation of the feminist literary network as a whole. Allow me to venture a *point of view* beginning.

The financial experiences of bookstores vary from those of small publishers especially self-publishers, presses and periodicals. What are considered necessities to most bookstores (a decent working space, meager wages) seem luxuries to many publishers. I can remember when many bookstores existed only in cardboard boxes which women carried to every available conference, but I can name many periodicals whose places of business *presently* are rotating living rooms. Not only do I think that bookstores could consider sharing the distributor's payment, but I think even more strongly that bookstores could consider decreasing their buying discount for all periodicals which are barely or not surviving. Also I feel that women who have made bookstores out of dreams (and hard work), who dream now of expanding and computerizing, can surely find ways to display non-standard saddle-stapled books. Are Jean Sirius' books on your counters? She needs them there.

And what can the publishers do? Certainly we should be spending as much money on advertising in our own papers as in *Ms.*, et. al. We can insist that feminist bookstore names and addresses be included in all local PR. We can share publicity and distribution efforts with sister periodicals. What else?

I hope that many of you have seen the post-conference women-in-p rint ad designed by New Earth Bookstore and further used by Women & Children First. Lammas bookstore has produced a reviews-mail order booklet filled with feminist press books. Such things make a song.

This brings me to a final point—distribution as communication. Metis Press has spent six years building the distribution network we have. In all that time we have only been able to afford six ads and eight flyers...total. Despite this limited promo, bookstores have connected with us and supported us. Though we know very few of you by name and really, like most people, are shy about approaching you personally when the chance does arise, it is this connectedness to a supportive feminist network that provides Metis a reward and sense of meaning. Regardless of the invoices, envelopes, stamps and bookkeeping, we do not want a third element between you and us.

We are all together a movement, the print of a revolution. When you say Metis needs a distributor, I say we need to work harder on developing a network. For Metis, handling our own distribution reminds us of where we belong. Of course, number of books to number of people at number of places counts. Growth and money are important to the women in print movement. But we are all so much more than that. There must be a balance where policies follow their appropriate intentions.

Distributors must play their essential role. Perhaps even Metis at some future time will find them the best of choices. But a distributor is not synonymous with a distribution/communication network. Both should be discussed but not as interchangeable. Thank the Goddess that business is a part of our feminist revolution. Thank Her again that it is only one part.

Replies welcome:

Chris Straayer

c/o Metis Press

P.O. Box 25187

Chicago, Illinois 60625

November 25, 1981

Dear Feminist Bookstores Newsletter,

We'd appreciate it if you'd print this inquiry for us.

"Our bookstore (Spinsters Books) wants to start a lending library and would appreciate suggestions about how to operate one from bookstores that run a library or have tried to. How do you check books? How do you make sure you get books back— or do you? How do you get your books for the library? And any other suggestions you have.

Write to Spinsters Books Box 1306, Laurence, Kansas 66044. (913) 842-7095."

Thanks a lot!

Sincerely,

Jeanne Neath
for Spinsters Books

December 12, 1981

Dear Carol:

FBN is great as usual. We have had one formal report-to-the-community meeting (about 20 women came) and several informal seminars and mini-reunions. Nancy and Jocey from Hillaine Victoria have been here as well as Mary Helen and Ellen from New Earth. Sandi and Rose from Room of One's Own, too - (all this relates to Women in Print II and how we are still processing it and will be for months). Plans are a foot for a Midwest Gathering in April.

Having an annex store at The Dinner Party is very good - seeing lots of old friends and meeting women from all over the world - But it's exhausting, too.

We celebrated our 5th anniversary last weekend - I'm enclosing our anniversary press release for your info and files-archives - whatever.

Thanks for all your good work. Love to all the Old Wives at Old Wives Tales!

Nancy

Jane Addams Bookstore
5 South Wabash
Chicago, Ill. 60603
(312) 782-0708

ABA HANDBOOKS - The annual revision of the ABA handbook is out, so if you're struggling alone with the old one, now is the time to get your friendly neighborhood bookstore or newest large feminist store to order a duplicate copy and give it to you. Cost is \$24.95 and about \$1.50 postage.

Cleis Press (P.O. Box 8281) has promo-bookmarks about their new book FIGHT BACK and they'll be glad to send them (absolutely FREE) to any/all bookstores that write and request them.

January 4, 1982

Dear FBN:

Today I was talking with the Prentice-Hall sales representative about the fact that OUR RIGHT TO LOVE is currently out-of-stock, with possible scheduling to OUT-OF-PRINT.

The rep felt there was a strong possibility that Prentice-Hall could be open to keeping the book in print, if booksellers wrote encouraging that possibility.

Those interested in keeping this fine, informative book in print should write to:

Gene Perme, Product Manager
Prentice-Hall
Box 500
Englewood, NJ 07632

Thanks,

Arleen

Giovanni's Room
345 So. 12th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

**A Room
Of One's
Own**
Bookstore & Gallery

317 W. Johnson Street
Madison, WI 53703
Phone: 257-7888

1/11/82

Here are the new mass market titles for the next FBN. Hope you survived the storms alright. We are cold here and nobody is going out to buy books, but it's getting warmer by the day. It may get above 0 today.

Feb.

Brat Farra, Tey, 2.50, Pocket, Mystery

Lone Pilgrim, Laurie Colwin, 2.95, Pocket, Short stories

Cleaning House, Nancy Hayfield, 2.50, Ace, Fiction.

March

Housekeeping, Marilynne Robinson, 2.95, Bantam, Fiction

Alice James, Jean Strouse, 4.50, Bantam, Bio.

Ghost Stories, Edith Wharton, 2.95, Fawcett, Short Stories

Umbertina, Helen Barolini, 3.50, Bantam, Fiction

April

Sport's Doctor's Fitness Book for Women, Marshall, 7.95, Dell

The Swordswoman, Jessica Amanda Salmonson, 2.50, Tor Books (Pinnacle), S. Fiction.

Passing Strange, Catherine Aird, 2.25, Bantam, Mystery

Frances Farmer: Shadowland, Arnold, 2.75, Berkley, Bio.

Children's Zoo, Lillian O'Donnell, 2.50, Fawcett-CBS, Mystery

ANYONE IN AL-ANON?

I've just started going to Al-Anon meetings. Am thunderstruck by what I am learning about myself, my life, my life patterns and family "traditions". I keep hearing myself telling this "joke" about how the bookstore is such a perfect place for me - gives me an opportunity to "co-" the entire community. (HaHa, Not so funny) And am wondering if anyone else in bookstore-land is doing Al-Anon and connecting it up to daily life in the store and wants to correspond with me about it. I'd like it a lot. I intend this to be private conversation (this notice and all correspondence) and not for sharing. Please write me at home: Carol, 456 14th St., #6, San Francisco, CA 94103

12

Letters from the bookstores:

Dec. 8, 1981

Dear FBN,

Re: Medea media on W in P conference.

No there is not any humor in the Jewish Working Class Lesbian Press. We do not appreciate Jewish stereotypes (in print especially not knowing where this context is coming from). Can you imagine a comparable joke using racist stereotypes about any other ethnic group? Why is it we only are allowed to joke about Jews in this manner?

Other than above complaint, we appreciate all your heroic work and effort. We are miserable about missing conference saving up for next year.

We have been incredibly busy here. We have doubled our space - now we have about 1600 square feet and have been celebrating with author appearances and readings. I enclosed our flyers. Please spread the work that we want to have autographing and speaking events when book makers are in town. Thanks.

Simone
Sisterhood Bookstore
1351 Westwood Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90024
(213) 477-7300

P.S. We do not get much out of PW list. We read it carefully ourselves. We prefer more of the obscure, small press info.

Dec. 25, 1981

Dear Carol and ~~OO~~:

For us the Women in Print conference was particularly remarkable for its persistent efforts to grapple with the issues of race/class privilege and oppression in feminist print media. Thus we were especially disturbed to read "Medea Media's" offensive comment about learning at Women In Print "that feminist publishing is controlled by JEWISH-WORKING-CLASS-LESBIANS." This questionable attempt at humor invokes oppressive untrue stereotypes of women who are Jewish, working class, and/or lesbian. Furthermore since a dedicated and visible member of a prominent lesbian-feminist publishing company is indeed a lesbian from a working-class Jewish background, "Medea's" remark sounds like a veiled personal slur. We protest this most strongly and hope that such comments will find no place in future FBNS.

"Humor" has long been a potent weapon for stereotyping, trivializing, and silencing women, people of color, and anyone else who is different from the (mostly) white, privileged men who make the jokes. Most of us have at one time or another been accused of having no sense of humor because we don't laugh at misogynist, homophobic, racist, or other unfunny remarks. Let's be especially sensitive to how we use humor.

In Sisterhood,

Mary Farmer
Susanna Sturgis
Lammas Women's Shop
321 7th St., S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003

SINISTER WISDOM

Box 660 Amherst, Massachusetts 01004



12/1/81

Carol Seajay

Old Wives Tales
1009 Valencia
San Francisco
CA 94110

Dear Sisters:

I am writing in response to two remarks which appear in volume 5, no. 3, of the FEMINIST BOOKSTORES NEWSLETTER. Both of these remarks made me angry, and I need to question them.

On p. 2 you refer to an incident after the Women in Print Conference, after your return to San Francisco, in which you were told you were "uncaring of women and were Anti-Semitic for not having books on the shelf that are O.S.I. at the publishers." O.S.I. implying, that is, that you are not Anti-Semitic but that the situation of what mainstream presses keep in stock is beyond your control. Indeed it is. *But I simply do not believe that every book ever published on the situation of Jewish people, or the history of Jewish women, or the force of Anti-Semitism in the western world has been declared O.S.I. There is Lesley Hazleton's book on Israeli women, Myra Glazer's anthology of Israeli women poets, Fania Fenelon's Playing for Time, Germaine Tillion's Ravensbruck, Lucy Davidowicz's The War Against the Jews, the work of Anzia Yezierska, Alice Bloch's Lifetime Guarantee, etc. *

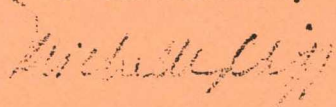
*In this letter Michelle is assuming that OWT had no other books about Jewish Women, Jewish People or anti-Semitism. This is not true. The complaint was title-specific. We have a large Jewish Women section. (See page). It is an important part of the store, is tended as carefully and well as any other section in the store (international ordering, ordering from one-book publishers, etc.) and is consciously located in the direct path of the customers' eye-gaze as she stands at the counter waiting for us to write up her purchases. We put it there specifically to raise consciousness about anti-Semitism. /// I wrote to Michelle asking if this section could be ~~deleted~~ from her letter, rather than distracting from her letter by doing a footnote to respond to the assumption that we didn't have books about Jewish women in the store. She preferred to leave it in and that I should respond and say about the books being available at OWT, because her conclusion from the too brief statement was "that books by/about Jewish women were not at the event in question because they were not available." To which I need to respond again and say that this wasn't at some event, it was in the bookstore. I am concerned that non-bookstore readers are not placing the content of what they read in FBN firmly in the bookstores. -Carol.

In the first place, Anti-Semitism does exist. It has always existed. The stereotyping of Jews which is part of this reality suggests the Jew as a power-monger; the Jew as someone who has "made" it and therefore has no real right to speak of oppression. I think the remark on page 2 implies two things: One, that Anti-Semitism is not to be taken as seriously as other forms of oppression--I doubt, for example, that you would have substituted the word racist in this sentence. By extension, that Jewish women or non-Jewish women who criticize an event, or bookstore, or whatever on the grounds of Anti-Semitism are somehow making an observation which is invalid. Two, that the Anti-Semitism in American culture lies only in the dominant white male culture and power structure, and that we as women have no part in it. Unfortunately, we all have a part in Anti-Semitism, just as we have a part in other oppressions.

In the column, "Medea Media's Hotterline," a comment was made which was less subtle in its bias than the one on page 2; perhaps because it was Anti-Semitism posing as humor. "Then it was off to the Women in Print Conference, where I learned that feminist publishing is controlled by Jewish working class lesbians and the 4-H." This is an example not of humor, but of what Hannah Arendt called banality (as in the banality of evil). We live in a world which actually believes in the so-called Zionist conspiracy, in a "cabal" of Jews. We live in a world in which Jews are murdered for being Jews--note, for example, the deaths of Jews in Antwerp and Paris in 1981 and 1980 respectively. In which synagogues are bombed and/or defaced with obscene symbols and words. The mythic notion of Jews and their "control," goes way back in history--in Renaissance Europe it was thought that the Jews controlled the progress of the plague and so they were put to death (as were the witches); in twentieth-century Germany it was thought that the Jews controlled the economy, and so they were put to death (as were homosexuals and lesbians). The Holocaust, I think, was not the isolated act of one insane man--it was an event in which the force of racism joined with that of capitalist expansionism and led to a "logical" outcome.

Anti-Semitism is not some sort of acceptable form of racism. It has the same basis as racism directed against Black and Third World people--the fear of difference. I have been concerned recently that as white Christian women begin to grapple with racism, they do not see that Anti-Semitism can be fueled by the same energies. And that it needs to be opposed just as vigorously. It is hatred in a different form: nothing more, nothing less.

In sisterhood,


Michelle Cliff

Please do not cut this letter if you want to publish it in the Newsletter

SINISTER WISDOM

Box 660 Amherst, Massachusetts 01004



December 8 1981

Feminist Bookstores Newsletter
1009 Valencia St.
San Francisco CA 94110

Dear Carol

I write this out of a good deal of pain and shock, on seeing pages 2 and 15 of the current Newsletter. On p. 2, you allude in passing to an incident in which the bookstore was criticized as anti-Semitic for "not having books on the shelf that are O.S.I. at the publishers." In the offhand reference to this incident there is a distinct implication that the charge was absurd, trivial, unnecessary to deal with. You raise the issue of having been charged with anti-Semitism, then drop the subject so swiftly that it's unclear what actually happened. But, as a Jew, I can't assume so readily that a charge of anti-Semitism is ridiculous or unimportant. If you chose to refer to the incident at all, your readers deserve to know something more of the facts of the situation.

I think most of us at W.I.P. shared your feelings of exhilaration at the atmosphere of "recognition and support and connection". However, at the final session, you may recall that Jewish women presented a statement on the difficulty of engaging with anti-Semitism at the conference, and Mab Segrest of FEMINARY also spoke of the need for non-Jewish women to recognize and point out anti-Semitism where it arises, just as white women need to identify and respond to racism. I was raised in a predominantly Christian social world, a world of extremely genteel, pervasive anti-Semitism -- simultaneously with the Holocaust in Europe. It has taken me years -- and the articulate voices of other Jewish feminists and lesbians -- to begin to refuse to let "acceptable" levels of anti-Semitism pass me by unchallenged.

"Medea Media's Hotterline", in the Newsletter, is obviously intended as a column of "outrageous" quips and satire. However, the allusion to "Jewish Working-Class Lesbians" controlling the feminist media is not particularly original or daring -- it repeats the too-familiar stereotype of the Jew who "controls" resources -- particularly intellectual and economic ones -- a legend which has been used to justify mass murder, synagogue bombings, discrimination and cultural scapegoating, among other things. If this is a joke at all, it is a very old, standard joke, and we need to take seriously the role played by caricature in perpetuating injustice, cruelty and violence. Most of us stopped laughing

some while back, for good reason, at anti-woman jokes. In any case, feminist humor is a tricky business. At W.I.P. we talked, as you know, of the kinds of images and language, free from oppressive stereotyping, that we want in our books and periodicals; we also talked about the kinds of critiques we need from reviewers and critics. What we present as "humor" deserves the same examination.

I am enclosing a recent article by Irena Klepfisz, published in New York City's Womanews for December/January. In it she speaks of "the anti-Semitism of indifference and silence, the anti-Semitism which trivializes the Jewish experience and Jewish oppression." I deeply hope you will consider these words in determining what goes into the Newsletter, and in your thinking about the wider realm of feminist print and publishing.

When the FBN came, it felt like a rush of energy akin to the atmosphere of W.I.P. -- so that the two items I mention came as an even stronger contrast, and shocked me into knowing I had to write to you.

In sisterhood,

Adrienne.

Adrienne Rich

If you should by any chance wish to use this in FBN, please do not cut it. But it is really written to you, as a personal communication.

Anti-Semitism in the Lesbian Feminist Movement

by Irene Klepfisz
In *Prisoner without a name, Cell without a number*, the Argentinean Jew Jacobo Timmerman answers the question "whether a Holocaust was conceivable" in his country, in this way:

Well, that depends on what is meant by Holocaust, though no one would have been able to answer such a question affirmatively in 1937 in Germany. What you can say is that recent events in Argentina have demonstrated that if an anti-Semitic scenario unfolds, the discussion on what constitutes anti-Semitism and persecution and what does not will occupy more time than the battle itself against anti-Semitism.

Timmerman's statement can easily be applied to the situation here in the United States where, I believe, an "anti-Semitic scenario" is on the verge of developing. And like so many other issues of the "mainstream," this one is being mirrored in the lesbian/feminist movement. Repeatedly, I find that I am preoccupied not with confronting anti-Semitism, but with trying to prove that anti-Semitism exists, that it is serious, and that, as lesbian/feminists, we should be paying attention to it both inside and outside of the movement.

My experience with this is much like shadowboxing. For the anti-Semitism with which I am immediately concerned, and which I find most threatening, does not take the form of the overt, undeniably measurable painted swastika on a Jewish grave-stone or on a synagogue wall. Instead, it is elusive and difficult to pinpoint, for it is the anti-Semitism of indifference and silence, the anti-Semitism which trivializes the Jewish experience and Jewish oppression. One example will suffice.

I recently expressed to *Womanews* my concern over this issue. My letter was published in October; the first part appeared on p. 2, but the remainder was buried on p. 13, as was *Womanews'* disturbing concession: "Your criticism of *Womanews'* failure to address anti-Semitism is well founded. Only a handful of articles published in our pages have included that topic.... Even more disturbing, however, was the following passage: "Your anger is understandable, but the tone of your letter is puzzling. An oversight, considerable as it is, is not necessarily a sign of insensitivity much less intentional silence." (italics mine) In a movement that has focused on the meanings of oppression, silences, and absences and that has rigorously examined how they are functions of oppression no matter what the intent, this last statement is puzzling. For me to absorb, much less accept.

Womanews then concluded with the announcement that in December it would focus on the issue of anti-Semitism. Appearing on p. 13, the announcement had no special box around it, no special printing devices to draw attention to it. It contained no guidelines, no suggestions of possible

topics, no deadline. Such an announcement—undefined, almost invisible, completely unheeded—is to me a reflection of carelessness and slapdash analysis. All of which thought and serious analysis. All of which leads me to one conclusion—a complete indifference to anti-Semitism. I consider such a difference equally anti-Semitic.

I am, of course, pleased that *Womanews* has given me the opportunity to discuss this problem. And I have not analyzed the collective's response in order to single it out. On the contrary, I have pressed this analysis because this paper's reaction demonstrates perfectly the anti-Semitism of silence and indifference that permeates our movement. In saying this, I am aware that there are many Jewish women on the *Womanews* staff and that the paper is based in a city with one of the largest Jewish populations in the world. And that makes the situation even more painful and even more dangerous. For it is clear that what I am confronting here is not just anti-Semitism of non-Jews, but of Jews as well.

I recently heard a Jewish woman complain about what she perceived to be a lack of pride among Jewish lesbian/feminists. Though in agreement with her observation, I felt angry with her complaint. For what philosophy, emerging out of this movement and sustaining of such pride? What strategies evolved against the growing oppression in this country have included the strategy for countering anti-Semitism, a strategy that would enable Jewish women to feel some self worth? What theory of oppression, formulated by either Jews or non-Jews, has incorporated an analysis of the history of anti-Semitism outside of the movement and within it, a theory that would reflect a caring for the fate of Jews? And how often have Jewish lesbian/femi-

by Irene Klepfisz

The following are some questions that I might both Jewish and non-Jewish women think consider asking in trying to identify in themselves sources of shame, conflict, doubt; and anti-Semitism. They should keep in mind that the questions are designed to reveal the degree to which they have internalized the anti-Semitism around them. I hope that by examining their own anti-Semitism, Jewish women will conclude that anti-Semitism, like any other ideology of oppression, must never be tolerated, must never be brushed up, must never be ignored, and that, instead, it must always be exposed and resisted.

- 1) Do I have to check with other Jewish women in order to verify whether something is anti-Semitic? Do I distrust my own judgment on this issue?
- 2) When I am certain, am I afraid to speak out?
- 3) Am I afraid that by focusing on anti-Semitism I am being divisive?

east coast.

And I think about these two facts also in terms of this movement, the lesbian/feminist movement, consisting of diverse groups with diverse needs and diverse experiences of oppression.

I want the issue of anti-Semitism to be incorporated into our overall struggle because there are lesbian/feminists among us who are threatened in this country not only as lesbians, but also as Jews. If that incorporation simply takes the form of adding us on to the already existing list of problems, then it will be merely tokenism and lip service. But if it includes self-examination, analysis of the Jew in America, and dialogues between Jews and non-Jews, then I think this movement will have made a real attempt to deal with the issue.

Some lesbian/feminists have already started to do this. For me the most prominent ones speaking recently are Beverly Smith, Judith Stein, and Priscilla Galling. Who initiated one such exchange: "The Possibility of Life Between US: A Dialogue Between Black and Jewish Women" (Conditions: 7). I am also grateful to Naomi Dykesstein who has pressed the issue of anti-Semitism in the work of Z. Budapest and in so doing has opened up another important dialogue among the readers of *Off Our Backs*; one that is still continuing. I am grateful to Gloria Anzaldúa and Cherrie Moraga for *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings of Radical Women of Color*, an anthology which explores the complexities of oppression in this country and which, though it does not deal with anti-Semitism, gave me courage to do so. I am grateful to Alice Bloch for *Lifetime Guarantee*, a book not focused on Jewish issues, but thoroughly centered in the author's Jewish identity, a book unequivocal in its pride. And, finally, I am grateful to Peg Byron of *Womanews*, who encouraged me to express what I was feeling. □

start to develop a sense of pride and a sense of our survival as Jews is important.

If someone were to ask me did I think Jewish Holocaust was possible in this country, I would answer immediately: "Of course!" Has not America had other Holocausts? Has not America proven what it is capable of? Has not America exterminated those it deemed undesirable or those in its way? Are there not Holocausts going on right now in this country? Why should I believe it will forever remain benevolent towards the non-Christian who is the source of all its troubles, the thief of all its wealth, the commie betrayer of its secrets, the hidden juggler of its power, the killer of its God? Why should I believe that given the right circumstances America will prove kind to the Jew? That given enough power to the fascists, the Jew will remain untrouced?

There are many, and Jews among them, who do not accept my view. But I am firm in my belief: Not out of panic. Not out of paranoia. I believe it because of what I know of American history and of what I know of Jewish history in Christian cultures.

I am a lesbian/feminist threatened in this country. I am also a European-born Jew, born during the Second World War, a survivor of the Jewish Holocaust. That historical event, so publicized and commercialized in the mass media, so depleted of meaning, has been a source of infinite lessons to me, lessons which I value.

A Fact: It took four years before the Jews of the Warsaw Ghetto could learn to trust each other and overcome their hostilities toward their divergent political philosophies; it took four years before they could pool their energies and resist the Nazis in what has become known as the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. And before that while the Zionists would not speak to the Socialists, and while the Socialists would not speak to the Communists, the Nazis were creating more and more efficient death camps and more and more Jews were being exterminated.

Fact: When the Jews finally staged the uprising in April, 1943, the Polish underground refused them almost every form of assistance. Even though they were facing the same enemy, even though their country was occupied, the Poles could not overcome their anti-Semitism and join the Jews in the struggle for the freedom of both groups, and had to stage a separate Polish Uprising more than a year later.

These two facts concerning this event in Jewish history are permanently etched on my consciousness. (1) The oppressed group divided against itself, incapacitated, paralyzed, unable to pull together while the enemy grows stronger and more efficient. (2) Two oppressed groups facing a common enemy unable to overcome ancient hatreds, struggling separately.

And I think about these two facts whenever I think about a completely Jewish demonstration against the American Nazi Party in the midwest and then hear about a completely Black demonstration against the same American Nazi Party, this time on the

I believe that Jewish lesbian/feminists have internalized much of the subtle anti-Semitism of this society. They have been told that Jews are too pushy, too aggressive; and so they have been silent about their Jewishness, have not protested against what threatens them. They have been told that they control everything; and so when they are in the spotlight, they have been afraid to draw attention to their Jewishness. For these women, the number of Jews active in the movement is not a source of pride, but rather a source of embarrassment, something to be played down, something to be minimized.

For these women, it is enough that their names are Jewish. Their Jewishness never extends any further. Their theories and viewpoints are never informed by Jewish traditions, and culture, or by Jewish political history and analysis, or even by Jewish oppression. In short, there is nothing about them that is visibly Jewish except their names—and that is simply a form of identification, of labelling. No, Jewish women have not been visible in this movement as Jews. They have been good, very good. They have not drawn attention to themselves. And I, a lesbian/feminist proud of her Jewishness, am as sick of it, as I am sick about it.

Resisting the American Holocaust Tradition

I think it is time that Jewish and non-Jewish women focused on this issue and got it into perspective. I think it is time for all of us, in this movement, Jews and non-Jews alike, to examine our silence on this subject, to examine its source. And Jews especially need to consider their feelings about their Jewishness, for any self-consciousness, any desire to draw attention away from one's Jewishness is an internalization of anti-Semitism. And if we want others to

ble for me to acknowledge Jewish racism, struggle against it, and still feel Jewish pride? And still oppose anti-Semitism?

- 9) Do I feel that historically, sociologically and/or psychologically, anti-Semitism is "justified" or "understandable," and that I am, therefore, willing to tolerate it?
- 10) Do I believe that by focusing on the problem of anti-Semitism I will make it worse? Why?
- 11) Do I feel that anti-Semitism exists but it is "not so bad" or "not so important"?
- 12) Do I feel that Jews have done well in this country and, therefore, should not complain?
- 13) Do I feel that Jews draw too much attention to themselves? How?
- 14) Do I associate the struggle against anti-Semitism with stereotypes am I afraid of being identified with? What do I represent in myself in order to prevent such identification? □

There have been a few who have sensed that something is wrong about this, but even they have been hesitant to bring it up, as if by doing so they would be just causing trouble. How is such hesitancy possible among women who have passionately devoted themselves to fighting every form of oppression? How can anyone, given our goals and ideals, even doubt the correctness of challenging anti-Semitism?

4) Do I feel that by asking other women to deal with anti-Semitism I am draining the movement of precious energy that would be better used elsewhere?

- 5) Do I feel that anti-Semitism has been discussed too much already and feel embarrassed to bring it up?
- 6) Do I feel that the commercial presses and the media are covering the issue of anti-Semitism adequately and that it is unnecessary to bring it up also in the movement? Am I embarrassed by the way anti-Semitism/the Holocaust is presented in the media? Why?
- 7) Do I have strong disagreements with and/or an ashamed of Israeli policies and, as a result, don't feel that I can defend Jews wholeheartedly against anti-Semitism? Is it possible for me to disagree with Israeli policy and still oppose anti-Semitism?
- 8) Do I feel guilty and/or ashamed of Jewish racism in this country and, as a result, feel I can't defend Jews, wholeheartedly against anti-Semitism? Is it possible for me to acknowledge Jewish racism, struggle against it, and still feel Jewish pride? And still oppose anti-Semitism?

by Irene Klepfisz

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AUDRE LORDE

"My work is to inhibit the silences with which I have lived and fill them with myself until they have the sound of brightest day and the loudest thunder."

THE CANCER JOURNALS

...should be read by every woman...

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Gloria Z.
Greenfield
Treasurer

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December 15, 1981

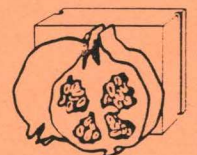
Carol Seajay
Sherry Thomas
Feminist Bookstores Newsletter
c/o Old Wives Tales
1009 Valencia Street
San Francisco, California 94110

Dear Carol

I am shocked and angry at the anti-Semitism in the recent issue of the Feminist Bookstores Newsletter. The fact that anti-Semitic remarks appeared in FBN, a vehicle for women committed to developing and maintaining a feminist communication network, and supposedly functioned to help "bring the (Women in Print) conference home to bookstores that couldn't go," is both significant and infuriating.

The author of Medea Media's Hotterline states, "I learned that feminist publishing is controlled by Jewish-working-class-lesbians and the 4-H." This statement is viciously anti-Semitic in all its implications. It is an unadulterated version of the "Jewish conspiracy" theory which has been espoused by anti-Semites for one purpose--the destruction of Jews. The Nazis effectively used the propaganda that "Jews will take over the world" to increase anti-Semitic sentiment for an end result: the murder of six million Jews.

In addition to perpetuating a negative stereotype of Jews as "pushy" and "aggressive," this statement demeans and belittles the invaluable work of Jewish lesbians in feminist publishing. There is a strong Jewish presence in the women's movement, as is true of most liberation movements. You have assaulted the integrity and commitment of Jewish lesbians by flippantly connecting them with the 4-H Club. Is this intended as light-hearted humor? Would you dare to print a similar insult about lesbians of color? Anti-Semitism is a form of racism, and is escalating at an extremely rapid pace. The Jewish Press reports that a significant number of militant Ku Klux Klan and Nazi Party activists, dissatisfied with the "moderate" leadership which advocates



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cross-burnings and synagogue bombings, are forming independent groups committed to increased violence and terrorism. Last week in Quincy Market, a major Boston tourist center, a group of Nazis in full uniform casually shopped, unchallenged. Anti-Semitic actions are not acceptable behavior, whether in the general public, the Right, or the feminist media.

This offensive, demeaning tone is also present on page two of FBN ("coming home to criticisms that we were uncaring of women and were anti-Semitic for not having books on the shelf that are O.S.I. at the publishers. This is a true story"). Implied here is that demands for material relevant to Jewish women are so unreasonable that the reader will find them hard to believe, will understand that the matter is out of Old Wives Tales' control, and will sympathize with the bookstore's position. Old Wives Tales is depicted as being victimized by women who have no good reason to complain, and who charge anti-Semitism without provocation. By completely denying the legitimacy of these complaints, and refusing to examine the materials available at Old Wives Tales, you are denying the existence of anti-Semitism.

As women involved in the media of print, we must recognize the responsibility we hold in influencing and building a feminist movement. This demands an awareness, sensitivity and commitment to eradicating and confronting oppression, and an awareness of the messages we print. Through the abovementioned remarks, you have grossly insulted Jewish women and indicated the lack of seriousness with which you view the oppression of Jewish people. I strongly urge you to examine your behavior, educate yourselves about anti-Semitism and Jewish history and culture, and safeguard against future publication of pernicious, offensive viewpoints.

Sincerely,

Pat McGloin

P.S. This may be printed in FBN; please do not edit without my approval.

December 16, 1981

Dear Carol:

First, let me say how much I liked "Screen Factory." I've been meaning to write you since I read it shortly after WIP. I love the sense of how they break her in, how she learns the ropes, then the ropes get to be the lair. I think it's so true of so many job situations. But I'm glad it was the job situation you chose. The factory seemed very real to me except that it was hard to imagine there were others around except those mentioned. Were there other screeners, glass cutters, etc.? It reminded me of several jobs I've had and I liked the way you treated the relationship to work itself, the ways one becomes caught up with different aspects of it, the wish for closure when the work is repetitive, etc. I hope you are writing more stories like this that I will be able to read soon.

The other thing on my mind to open up with you is the Oct. FBN, particularly MM's comments about who controls feminist publishing. I stumbled across this line a couple of times, once reading it myself, once sharing MM's column with another woman. I found myself explaining the context for it as being that final session with the show of women standing for working class and/or Jewish representation. Explaining that I thought whoever MM is had left out a couple of words, or goofed somehow. The third time I offered this explanation I was called on it by a Jewish woman who was raising the issue of the anti-Semitism in it and who felt that I was attempting to diminish or sabotage her reaction, and ultimately I think that she was right, tho I don't think my impulse was to be anti-Semitic, rather to be defensive for you, the F.B.N., the writer. But I do understand that to be defensive in the face of someone's expression of their gut reaction can be construed as a dismissal, and, in fact, often is a dismissal. And I think the things Irena Klepfisz says in her article in Womanews, which I'll enclose in case you don't have, about spending more time establishing anti-Semitism than being able to fight it, are important to our dealing with this. (see pg 15) Certainly I experience this a lot with regards to class. Within feminism. When I know in my heart that something seems classist to me, I am still at risk to mention it, lest they don't accept my definition. And the definitions are hard to establish, having so much to do with sensitivity, with power and with all our differences. I hope you will print a response in FBN to show a sensitivity to women who were offended--many, I believe. I know the word control is especially upsetting to Jewish women.

I was also upset that the show of working class women wasn't defined, rather was distorted by that statement ("controlled by Jewish working class lesbians"). I experienced the classism in that distortion, which seemed a reaction against a healthy showing of women who identified as coming from working class backgrounds. I also think the question (raised at the final session) for a show of women who currently considered themselves working class needs to be examined for classism, in its implicit assumptions about mobility and the flexibility of identification.

I hope you'll let me know how you're feeling about all this. I have been very upset the last couple of days about it, realize over and over what a difficult life it is where we perch on the edges.

Hope all else is well. We have just had 12" of beautiful snow. I've had a cold and cancelled work, but it's 2:30 and the plow still hasn't come through. It's either because we're dykes and spinsters or because we're democrats and voted against the incumbent, I'm not sure which. Ridiculous, eh? Keep writing.

Love,

Maureen

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**The
Crossing
Press**

Trumansburg
New York
14886

Telephone:
607 387 6217

John &
Elaine Gill,
Editors
& Publishers

December 30, 1981

Feminist Bookstores Newsletter
Old Wives' Tales
1009 Valencia Street
San Francisco, California 94110

Dear Feminist Bookstores Newsletter Women:

This letter has gone through many transformations, in my head/heart and on paper, before being sent. In the process, I have experienced the difficult, often painful, yet essential work of facing anti-Semitism.

When I first read Medea Media's Hotterline and came upon the statement that she learned at the Women In Print Conference that "feminist publishing is controlled by JEWISH-WORKING CLASS-LESBIANS," I responded at that visceral place that tells me my integrity has somehow been compromised and, at the same time, makes me feel trapped. A sinking feeling, like emotional quicksand. Knowing that there is no easy way out.

It is the same feeling I had before the word "imperialism" meant anything to me when, at a Thanksgiving family dinner in the late sixties, an aunt said not to get so upset about the fighting in Vietnam because "orientals don't value life as much as we do." It is the same feeling I had in my pre-feminist days when I found it hard to laugh at the lady driver or dumb blonde or even mother-in-law jokes but tried my damndest to do so nonetheless. It is the same feeling I have in those situations where another white person assumes support from me in making some derogatory comment about "them," and I hide behind my non-response rather than confront what I know, in my head and gut, is racism.

Even as a Jew, or maybe especially as a Jew, I wanted the MMH line to simply disappear. I thought I might be over-reacting. After all, FBN is put together by politically astute women, and the column is humorous, and "controlled" is such a blatant baiting word. I didn't want to have to deal with the anti-Semitism that I assume is present in our lesbian feminist world as it is everywhere else. To make a scene. To be forced to explain to other Jewish women why my response is not just a question of personal opinion. To test how wide the chasm between Christian and Jew really is. To call attention to myself as a Jew so that "too loud" and "pushy" take on meanings beyond those intended by threatened males.

But there is no easy way out. There is, in fact, no way out except through.

It seems to me that the process of uncovering the ways in which we oppress others and internalize our own oppression is similar regardless of the substance of the oppression. As a well-intentioned white woman, I must recognize that my racism is inseparable from my white skin privilege; as a lesbian, I must recognize that my homophobia became visible to me only after



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I came out; as a dutiful daughter of the middle class, I must recognize the benefits my background has given me, often at the expense of others. These realizations have caused me/cause me enormous discomfort, but they allow me to spring the trap. It is an analagous recognition that a Christian world, even a highly secularized Christianity, breeds anti-Semitism.

I write this letter from a place inside myself of absolute seriousness. I believe that there is no other choice. If we want to survive -- and I mean this literally -- in a world that is increasingly hostile to who we are as women, feminists and lesbians, increasingly hostile to our voices in the books we write, publish, sell, buy, review and read, we have a great deal of work to do. Facing the realities of anti-Semitism is one large chunk of this work. We cannot afford to be insensitive, stupid or uninvolved.

All of us must remember again and again what I was taught, and must be reminded of continually, at the Passover table: "In Germany, the Nazis came for the communists, and I didn't speak up because I was not a communist. Then they came for the Jews and I did not speak up because I was not a Jew. Then they came for the Trade Unionists and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Trade Unionist. Then they came for the Catholics and I was a Protestant so I didn't speak up. Then they came for ME...by that time there was no one to speak up for anyone." (Pastor Martin Niemoller)

There is, in fact, no way out except through.

In Sisterhood and Struggle,

Nancy K. Bereano

Nancy K. Bereano, Editor
Feminist Series



**The
Crossing
Press**

*Trumansburg
New York
14886*

*Telephone:
607 387 6217*

*John &
Elaine Gill,
Editors
& Publishers*

1/4/82

Feminist Bookstores Newsletter
Old Wives Tales
1009 Valencia St.
San Francisco, Calif. 94110

Dear FBN,

I am writing about Medea Media's Hotterline in your latest issue. The first sentence of the 2nd paragraph disturbs me. The writer, it seems to me, is muddy in her thinking. She attempts to be funny, but it isn't clear what the joke is.

Does she mean that it was ridiculous at the final meeting of the conference for working class women to identify themselves? And then for Jewish women to identify themselves? (Non-lesbians were not asked to stand up but were identified during the conference itself.) I dismiss the inclusion of "4-H" as an attempt to lighten the sentence, to make sure we know she is joking.

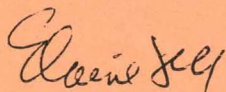
If she thinks the standing up was ridiculous, I don't. I stood up with the working-class women and again with the Jewish women. I enjoyed doing it and I also learned something from the action.

On the other hand, does she mean literally that feminist publishing is controlled by that group. Shall we take a survey? I can begin here, in this office. I am a Jew. My husband, co-owner of the press, is not.

I guess I prefer the old-time vaudeville jokes about the Irishman, the Jew and the Greek to this stuff. At least I know where the old time jokes were coming from. This stuff I can't identify as lurking anti-semitism or ill-placed joking. I hardly expected this kind of thing to emerge from a conference where women were supposed to achieve higher consciousness on ethnic and racial differences.

I'd appreciate it if the writer would elucidate her position.

Sincerely,



Elaine Gill



BOOKLEGER PRESS

555 · 29th Street · San Francisco 94131 · (415) 647-9074

MEDEA MEDIA (a.k.a. Celeste West) REPLIES:

If there are limits to the decency of irony, your comments convince me I should learn them.

My column for the last three years has been thoroughly tongue-in-cheek muck-mulching -- as it has taken on racists, fascists, "Christians," sexists, various grand poo-bahs, even smug feminists. I recognize humor is one trickster of a spirit. As a member of groups whose execution and mutilation are currently being advocated, I have been outraged at "humorous" remarks about my "kind" which range from insensitive to vicious and sadistic. I am now ashamed to make the same error.

To me, the sentence that feminist publishing is controlled by the Jews, the working class, the lesbians, and the 4-H is absurd on its face. Its irony was intended in part to parody the offensive remark that "the Jews control publishing," as in the NYC-NYRB Random House-etx. constellation conspiracy. Which is anti-Semitic. The Jews do not control publishing. I have written seven articles and several speeches on who does: WASP, homophobic corporate men with no loyalty to religion, nation, or morality.

In any event, my attempt at irony was feeble, futile, and a total flop according to several women whom I respect. I deeply regret causing pain to any Jew, working class person, or lesbian. Your oppression is my own. Please know my aim is to use humor to unite rather than to isolate us.

Trying harder,

Celeste West
u.u.

CAROL'S RESPONSE:

It wasn't my intention to be anti-Semitic or to facilitate or perpetuate anti-Semitism in any way, though I seem to have done so. It is clear from the many letters and phone calls I've received that many women went through a lot of pain, grief, anger and that some women felt betrayed by what they read in the last newsletter. I am very sorry for that. I intend FBN to be a support system for bookstores, bookstore women, and other women in our print movement. I am especially grieved that women felt attacked and betrayed while reading FBN and had to go through that response while reading FBN.

It is vital that anti-racist work be a part of the newsletter and I appreciate the many women who have contributed that work to this issue. We live in a society that is permeated with racism, anti-Semitism, classism, sexism, able-ism, agism, homophobia and more. It is within us, as well as "out there". It is essential that we take the time to call each other in these issues, to struggle through with each other, to care for each other, to raise one another's consciousness, to learn, and to grow, in order to make the changes to which we, the women's movement, and the women in print movement are committed. If we don't, we might as well give it all up right now. I am personally grateful to all the women who have been willing to sit with me, write to me, and phone me up to talk about the anti-Semitism they found in this issue. And I deeply appreciate the clarity, depth and passion that the letters bring to this issue of FBN.

I have learned a great deal and have grown with these letters. I am printing them all because each of them makes a different point or conveys a different clarity. I didn't think it possible to "sum-up" the letters and could not excerpt them.

I especially appreciate the clarity about the pain and frustration in having to first establish that anti-Semitism is occurring before being able to combat it. As per sexism, as per homophobia...

One piece that I hadn't realized was that I had brought up this specific charge of anti-Semitism in isolation from all other conversation about anti-Semitism without including anywhere in the issue, or in recent issues, any consciousness of anti-Semitism within our community, any reporting on what we have done in the bookstore to combat anti-Semitism or our responses to criticism that has been more accurate. That to dismiss a criticism without any acknowledgement that similar or related criticisms can be or are valid, is to dismiss (in this case) anti-Semitism as a force and serves to invalidate struggles against it. I am sorry to have done this. I write FBN as a personal letter to women with whom I am in continuing personal conversation. I tend to assume that we have all been in the same rooms having the same conversations and (often) forget that this is not so, i.e. that many readers weren't in the discussions at WIP, haven't sat in discussion of the anti-Semitism in THE HOLY BOOK OF WOMEN'S MYSTERIES, VOL. II, may not have Jewish Women Section, etc. I think that I have probably written "in omission" on other topics as well. I will be more watchful and inclusive.

I also now understand the issue of "control", which I didn't understand at all when I was compiling the last issue, i.e., While pasting down MM's HOTTERLINE I glanced through it, snagged on the sentence in question, tried it on myself as a working class woman, didn't feel offended (wanted to be taken a bit more seriously, but not necessarily by MM), and trucked off to the printers. Now I "get" why that didn't work: i.e. that false accusations of control have been used as an excuse for virulent, violent anti-Semitism, but it isn't used similarly against working-class people in my experience. It is the particularity of the oppression that needs to be understood, as well as the effects of the oppression. Trying on the sentence as working-class woman in no way tested out

I also want to own my paragraph on page 2 as a particularly poor piece of writing that was hurtful. Friends have helped me to see that when I am under stress or am in personal trauma, I tend to understate the problems that face me and to minimize them, both to myself and in conversation. If I am stressed, whatever I write comes out understated and minimized. When I compiled the last newsletter I was exhausted, under time pressures and in immense personal trauma. When I could put all that together, I could see clearly why women felt trivialized and why they felt I was trivializing the issue of anti-Semitism. They felt so because I had done so. Seeing that this is how I

function under stress, I can commit to changing that as well as to not trivialize anti-Semitism.

I am also caught out with trying to squeeze an enormous amount of ideas, emotions and experiences into many too few sentences (another flaw in my writing, and also in speaking). Usually when this doesn't work, it just doesn't work. This time it was hurtful. What I was trying to include in those 4 sentences (on page 2) includes: My concern that anti-Semitism be addressed in our movement. A naming and acknowledgement of the post-partum WIP depression that I was hearing about from coast to coast. To acknowledge and name the difficulty in re-entering daily work life minus the recognition and support that were so nourishing and so readily available at WIP. To acknowledge a particular exciting quality of the WIP conference re the quality and depth of delving into the many-faceted issues of racism, anti-Semitism, sexism, classism, able-ism agism in our work and our literature. That same depth and quality of feedback and criticism that was very present, i.e., when a woman at WIP approached me and others with this, that, or another criticism, specific or general, that is was a well considered, valid, probably accurate criticism, and in every case was deserving of careful consideration. In part because of the quality and depth of political commitment and work of the women there, and partly because the women there were engaged in similar or/and related work. And to point out for all us returnees, that this quality of criticism is simply not what we get from every woman who uses the bookstore(s). From some, but by no means all. Back in the store, I found myself listening to each and every piece of criticism from each woman as carefully and deeply as I had been listening to each criticism and insight at WIP. It was exhausting and impossible, trying to do that. Finally I realized that I had switched universes and needed to include in my listening an evaluation of the feedback in a way that was unnecessary and even inappropriate, at WIP. I wanted to convey that realization to other bookstore workers. I also included my anger at women who come in and use the store and offer only negative energy in return. (The woman who leaves the store believing that the only reason we don't have tickets for the Cris concert is to make her life more difficult. The many women who will criticize but never listen or support.) And also my anger at the women who dares to come in when I am busting my ass and tell me, to my face, that I am uncaring of women. And my anger and frustration that access to most information in this country is based solely on profitability. I wanted to, and now want to remind sister-workers and myself to take what information we can from such encounters and to not take on all the negative energy that isn't about us/our stores.

I think (and this is the crux of the matter) that condensing all this (which is still too brief) into 4 sentences into the representation of one customer, is unfair, trivializing, an obvious failure and poor writing. I am sorry for putting out the poor writing, am sorry for the pain that it/I caused and perpetuated, and also doubt that I could have done any better under the circumstances. We all deserve better.

I do want to say that what I expected readers not to believe was that a woman would walk into that store and say to my face that we were uncaring of women. I wasn't saying to not believe that we would be charged with anti-Semitism. I honestly didn't even mean to imply that. Nor to express surprise that a customer would be angry at us for not having books that are OSI. Bad writing again. (Clauses in the wrong place.) But I tell you this: If I could write clearly, richly and deeply about all this on the first draft under pressure, I would be writing brilliant novels for us instead of working in the store or doing FBN. Take it as a mixed blessing.

I have spent much of this last 6 weeks examining whether I should be editing FBN that is changing the words of what comes in, asking women to reconsider or rewrite what they send in, whether I should do more about soliciting specific articles, as some women have suggested. Whether I should take more responsibility for the content of what is in FBN (beyond my own pieces). What I have come to is that: 1. That is is inappropriate to run an unsigned column in a newsletter primarily published and edited by one woman (who is not that columnist) because there is no accountability, (as differentiated from the Chicken Lady Column in Off Our Backs, the original model for this column). 2. FBN

is not a magazine for public consumption, it is a newsletter that circulates among a fairly small group of women deeply committed to a common goal of making the work of women available, most of whom hold themselves accountable to one another. What has happened in these two issues (and what I trust will continue to happen) is that women wrote what they were able, women who found their work offensive said so and why, we who wrote it learned from our errors and the rich criticism, and everyone who reads FBN gets to benefit. I believe this to be a fitting structure and method for a newsletter of this scope, size and readership. 3. That editing should not be a one person job. I don't believe that one individual can edit an entire community. In this particular case (newsletter format to this audience), it is far wiser, more effective and more useful to expect the entire readership to participate in that process than to expect one person to be able to do it.

In keeping with this, I would like to ask that women who have had criticisms of this last newsletter that they have been willing to share with the grapevine but haven't shared with me, to please give me the respect of doing so. I deeply thank the women who have shared with me directly. I commit to the continuing dialogues among us all.

With Commitment + Love,
CAROL Seajay

HOW FBN IS COMPILED..

I am writing this piece now because there is being a lot of confusion about who does the newsletter & how it comes to be. Specifically 3 letters addressed to me and my lover(!). Several women (via phone) expressed shock that, even if I missed it, that no one else had caught the anti-Semitism in the last issue. Many women were surprised that no one in my bookstore collective had caught it i.e. when collating the newsletter. I was quite surprised by all this. So here are a few paragraphs to try to clear this all up. The one of my co-workers who has read this piece thinks it is a vast understatement. It is.

My new plan is that I take a half a day a week off from the store (unpaid) to go home and work on FBN. That's the plan. This has been since Dec. 1, but in fact I have so far ended up doing the everything else that needs doing in my life. (Groceries, sitting still.) Before that I have been on a 3/4 time work schedule (since last June) where I have a week a month out of the store. Mostly I have done FBN in that time. It takes 50-65 hours of work per issue. I do it at home, where I have a desk that is 7 feet long and has nothing but FBN paraphernalia on and in and around it.

I tend to have to wait until I have that week to even open the mail. I seem to start each issue with opening the mail, setting the requests for info, subs, bookstore lists aside, pulling out what has been sent in for the issue. Then there is a flurry of condensing books, blurbs, scratch notes and what all into the book lists that I do. (From Our Own Presses, From The Small Presses, Toys, Mags, and From the Boys) Then I spend some time digging out info that people have requested (And when did I start believing that I was a reference librarian?), info that is needed but not at hand (an address, terms, trivia). Then a flurry of info into the columns of They Went That Away and TRIVIA. Sometimes I write a real article on something. Often times an introduction to the issue. Somehow I try to fit in and share as much of the news, trivia and information that comes my way. Then the woman that FBN pays to type FBN comes over usually while I'm at work and converts all the piles of paper into neatly typed, correctly spelled sheets of paper. --Quite an improvement over the days when I tried to type FBN. Much easier on my mental health, I have more time to myself. And much easier on the readership --long-time readers will assure anyone that I can neither type nor spell and that my typos are much more often incomprehensible than humorous. When the typing is done and I have a morning or an evening or a day off, I cut it up, paste it down, insert the ads, type a table of contents & whatever else comes up. Drive across the bay to the "instant" print place that prints up the needed number of copies at 3.3¢ per side, collates the pages and staples them together (3¢ per staple). I drive back the next night (they're open til midnight, thank the goddess of utility) fold them in half, staple them again, paste on the labels that I had the foresight to make, lick and stick the stamps that I picked up along the way and drop them in a post-box.

Then sometime (in the next 2 weeks? months?) I go back and deal with all the correspondence, bill the publishers for ads, clean up the mess, and begin again.

What I mean to say about this is that FBN is my work and my responsibility. It's an after hours job that I do with love and passion (and sometimes burnout). At this point and for about half of FBN's 5+ year history, I do it primarily alone. It isn't the work of my lovers, my co-workers or my collective. They aren't responsible for it nor do they (bless them) get credit for it.

- CAROL Seigley

MORE CHILDREN'S BOOKS - THANKS TO BLOODROOT

I think our favorite is THE GREEN HARPY AT THE CORNER STORE from Kids Can Press \$3.50 (585 1/2 Bloor St. W., Toronto Ont. M6K1K5). This press has a commitment to showing kids in all their various ethnic and color differences. Harpy is beautifully designed in black and white and poison green. Also from Kids Can: MRS POPPY'S GREAT IDEA \$2.25, THE PEANUT PLAN, \$3.50, THE SANDWICH, \$2.95, LITTLE MISS YES MISS, \$2.95, KIDS CAN COUNT, \$2.95. I LOVE MY CAT, \$2.95. Others are good but the above are favorites.

The Women's Press (280 Bloor St. W, No. 313, Toronto, Ont. M5S1W1) publishes THE TRAVELS OF MS. BEAVER, \$2.95, and MS. BEAVER TRAVELS EAST, \$2.95. Ms. Beaver is independent and funny. Kids love these books. OVERNIGHT ADVENTURE, \$3.95 and THE RECYCLERS are both picture books without words in which the funny stories are clear to understand. Ann Powell is the illustrator; she coauthored Ms. Beaver with Rosemary Allison who wrote Green Harpy. MOMMY WORKS ON DRESSES is about a union-working mother. MUKTU: THE BACKWARD MUSKOX and MY FEET ROLL (Before we are six - same address as Women's Press) are good too. The latter is a wordless story of a girl in a wheelchair, \$2.75.

WHAT IS A BOY, WHAT IS A GIRL (\$3.95, Peace Press) is a book of beautiful photographs of many kinds of children breaking sexual stereotypes. This is usually available from Bookpeople. Also usually available from BP is the bilingual MY MOTHER AND I ARE GROWING STRONG from New Seed in which the father is in jail for political reasons and the mother and daughter learn to take care of themselves. Also usually available from BP The Children's Book Press in San Francisco (address?) is responsible for the series called 5th world tales. Our favorites are AEKYUNG'S DREAM, a Korean girl's story, and MY AUNT OTILIA'S SPIRITS, a very funny kid's spirit story. We wish BLEW AND THE DEATH OF THE MAG were still available from Freestone, since it's a story about death and/or change that is unique.

CARLOTTA AND THE SCIENTIST is a strongly feminist penguin story that makes its point subtly from Lollipop Power.

And from the boys' presses our hands down favorites are JULIE OF THE WOLVES, \$1.95, Harper and NODOBY'S FAMILY IS GOING TO CHANGE, Dell, \$1.50, both for early teens. The former is a wilderness survival story which explores what it is to be Eskimo and decries the white men's destruction of interrelated animal lives. NOBODY'S FAMILY is, we think, Louis Fitzhaugh's finest book, about a middle class fat black girl who wants to be a lawyer and her younger brother who wants to tap dance. Both these books are recommended adult reading, too.

NOELLE'S BROWN BOOK - New Victoria, 7 Bank St., Lebanon, NH 03766, \$1.75. Noelle is brown and everything she likes is brown. The photos of Noelle are beautiful, too.

MY MOTHER THE MAIL CARRIER - Feminist Press is a Spanish-English very feminist story of a girl's relationship with her tough mother. Unfortunately Feminist Press dropped FIREGIRL a poignant book about a girl's aspirations.

There is a wonderful cluster of feminist children's publishers on Bloor St. in Toronto. Since their best books are available only sporadically from Bookpeople, since their terms allow 10 asst. titles for 40% discounts and since they have (each) so many fine titles we recommend ordering direct.

Bloodroot
85 Ferris St.
Bridgeport, CT.

BOOKS FROM O.W.T.'S JEWISH WOMEN SECTION...

OWT received a request from a woman organizing the First National Jewish Feminist Conference in Britain that we send her a list of all the books she saw in our Jewish Women section the previous summer. What follows is the list we sent her. We wrote it our just after the holidays when we were out of a lot of things and so it isn't complete. I alphabetized the list, hoping that other bookstores would compare it against their stock and send in lists of what else they had and we could, in that way, create a good list of books by/for/about Jewish Women.

Carol + OWT.

AND THE SUN KEPT SHINING. B. Ferderber-Salz; Schocken Books
ANTISEMITISM. H. ARendt; Harcourt, Brace
ANYA. S. Schaeffer; Avon
By A. Yeziarscha: THE BREADGIVERS: THE OPEN CASE: RED RIBBON ON A WHITE HORSE - all
Persea Books
THE HUNGRY YEARS; Arno Press
CHILDREN OF THE HOLOCAUST. H. Epstein; Bantam
CHOICES. Toder; Persephone Press
CHUTZPAH. New Glide Pub.
CONSECRATE EVERY DAY. J. Sochen: State Univ. of NY
DAUGHTERS OF RACHEL. N. Rein; Penguin Books
FRAGMENTS OF ISABELLA. I. Leitner: Dell
GENDER & CULTURE: KIBBUTZ WOMEN REVISITED. M. Spiro; Schocken Books
GENERATION WITHOUT MEMORY. Rolphe; Linden Press
HEBREW GODDESS. R. Patai, Avon
HOUSE ON PRAGUE STREET. H. Demetz; St. Martins
ISRAELI WOMEN. Hazelton; Simon & Schuster
ISRAELI WOMEN SPEAK OUT. G. Stern; Lippincott
THE JEWISH FEMINIST MOVEMENT IN GERMANY. Kaplan. Greenwood Press
THE JEWISH RESISTANCE IN FRANCE. A Latour; Schocken Books
THE JEWISH WOMAN IN AMERICA. Nal Plume
THE JOURNEYS OF DAVID TOBACK. C. Malkin; Schocken Books
KIBUTZ MAKOM. A. Lieblich; Random House
LIFETIME GUARANTEE. Al Bloch; Persephone
LILITH MAGAZINE
THE MATRUSKA DOLL. B. Traub; Marek Pub.
MEMOIRS OF GLUCKEL OF HAMELIN: Gluckel; Schocken Books
NEW LIVES. D. Rabinowitz; Avon
NUMBER OUR DAYS. B. Meyerhoff; Simon & Schuster
ODYSSEY OF KATINOU KALOKOVICH. N. Petesch; Motherroot Publications
ONE SUMMER IN ISRAEL. Cole & O'Connor; Academy Press, Ltd.
PLAYING FOR TIME. F. Fenelon, Berkeley
A PROMISE TO KEEP. N. Belth; Schocken Books
THE RED MAGICIAN . L. Goldstein; Pocket
SEASONS SUCH AS THESE. Petesch, Swallow Press
TAKE CARE OF JOSETTE. J. Wolf; Watts Pub.
THEY FOUGHT BACK. Y. Suhl; Schocken
TULIPS ARE RED. L. Rose; A.S. Barnes & Co.
UNION OF HEBREW WOMEN FOR EQUAL RIGHTS IN ERETZ ISRAEL. S. Azarahu; Women's Aid Fund, Haifa
OPEN THE HEAD OF THE GOAT. A. Siegal; Farrar, Straus
THE WOMAN WHO LOST HER NAMES: Ed. Harper & Row
WOMEN & JUDAISM. R. Lacks; Doubleday
WOMEN IN JUDAISM. L. Swidler; Scarecrow Press
WOMEN'S PASSOVER SEDER. 1351 Westwood Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90024
YESTERDAY. Zunser, H & R
YESTERDAY'S STREETS. S. Tannebaum. R-H

BOOKS FROM OUR OWN PRESSES AND PUBLISHERS.....

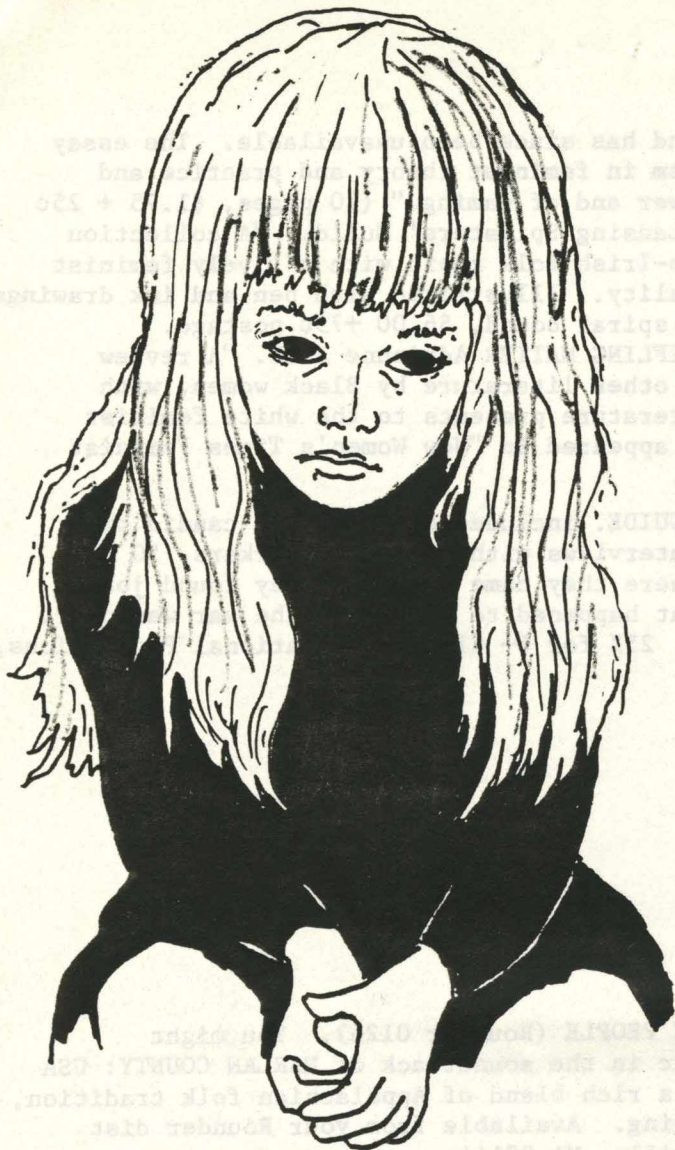
WEEDS by Edith Summers Kelly. First published in 1923, well reviewed, but poor selling, it was reprinted in cloth by Southern Ill. Univ. Press and in paper by Popular Library (paperback ed. is now O.P.), it is now being re-published by The Feminist Press. As powerful a novel as THE DOLLMAKER it tells the story of Judith Pippinger, a spirited spunky woman living out her life as a tenant farmer in the tobacco regions of Kentucky. I'm very impressed with the book and am delighted to have it back in print again. This edition will include a birth scene (the most painful and frightening piece I've ever read) that was cut from the original edition, probably by Alfred Harcourt. It is a graphic reminder that men are afraid to publish the truth about women's lives. Feminist Press. paper price (6.95?, 7.95?) also dist. by BP and B&T.

WE ARE MESQUAKIE, WE ARE ONE by Hadley Irwin. "In 1845, the United States government forced the Mesquakie Indians to leave their beloved Iowa homeland to move to a Kansas reservation. This book is based on historical fact and tells the story of Hidden Doe, a Mesquakie girl, who grows to maturity during this turbulent period in the history of her nation." \$7.95 cloth The Feminist Press.

NEW FROM PRESS GANG... DAUGHTERS OF COPPER WOMAN by Anne Cameron. "Weaving together the lives of mythic and imaginary characters, it travels across time, charting the origins of human beings and their society, the first disastrous encounters with Spanish Keestadores, and more recent struggles with the European invaders. Throughout these tales of difficulty and destruction there shines a vision of womanhood, of how the spiritual and social power of women - though relentlessly challenged - can Endure and Survive." \$7.95. STEPPING OUT OF LINES - A Workshop Manual & Resource Guide On Lesbianism/Feminism. "Provides a method for bringing women together to explore the link between lesbianism and feminism. Emphasizing the social mythology of lesbianism and its implications for all women, this book offers a practical approach to personal and social change" \$6.00. "THE DAY THE FAIRIES WENT ON STRIKE (by Linda Briskin & Maureen FitzGerald) combines a fanciful story and drawings with the message to play fair, and be resourceful. By presenting a strike in an imaginary setting, this book will be attractive to adults wishing to introduce children to the idea of organizing and improving the workplace. Suitable for young readers, THE DAY THE FAIRIES WENT ON STRIKE will engage the imaginations of children aged 4 to 9." \$4.95. Press Gang is a feminist anti-capitalist publishing collective in Vancouver. (and printing collective). Press Gang Books are avail. BP or d.o. - posters (inc. Class Consciousness is Knowing which side of the fence you're on are d.o only Press Gang Publishers 603 Powell St., Vancouver, BC V6A 1H2, Canada Tel. 604-253-1224.

BIRTH SONG is a journal written as poetry of a midwife's work with birth. It describes moments of her training, her early flirtation with the high energy of birth, and her slow process of burning out as the intensity of both lovely and troubled births pass through her hands. List Price \$5.95. Two or more copies 40% off. Write to BRITH SONG P.O. Box 956 Ben Lomond, CA 95005. Shelve in Birth Section.

NEW BOOKS FROM NEW SEED... RED RIBBONS FOR EMMA. Emma Yazzie, Navajo grandmother and shepherd, is a modern day hero fighting the pollution of reservation lands, Ages 8 and up. \$5.00. SILAS AND THE MAD-SAD PEOPLE. His parents' separation upsets Silas, but together they learn new ways to live and grow. Ages 4-10. \$3.00. *SOME THINGS YOU JUST CAN'T DO BY YOURSELF. This book is a whimsical account of some of the ways people need each other. Preschool-7. \$2.50. *FANSHEN THE MAGIC BEAR. In this fairy tale Laura solves the kingdom's problems by distributing the land more fairly. Ages 6-10. \$2.50. *PETER LEARNS TO CROCHET..with his teacher's help and encouragement. Ages 5-8. \$2.50. Avail. B.P. or d.o. BP carries 6 of the 9 New Seed titles; doesn't carry (*) so they must be ordered directly from New Seed. Their new address is: 1665 Euclid Ave. Berkeley, CA 94709



SOMETHING HAPPENED TO ME. Phyllis E. Sweet, M.S. A rich but very simple book to help children who have been sexually abused talk about their feelings and experiences. Though aimed to professionals who work with abused children, it seems to me that it could be useful to any sympathetic adult-child relationship where sexual abuse or battering have been an issue. The illustrations richly reflect the story line: Children moving from isolation to communication, connections and support as the child moves out of shame and silence to telling an adult their experiences and receiving support. Produced, illustrated & published by Barbara Lindquist and Jeanne Arnold, the women of Mother Courage Bookstore, \$4.00, 1-4 -20%, 5+ 40%. Also available from Mother Courage is their packet of 12 Women of Courage notecards. Don't have the terms here, but you can order both in one swoop and save postage. 224 State St. Racine, WI 53403 (414-632-3120).

VIRAGO PRESS sent FBN a copy of their prospectus from the Frankfurt book fair. It lists their current and forthcoming books into 1984 and is impressive and a pleasure to browse. US rights on many of their books have been sold to Dial (Virago Modern Classics Series) some are reprints from the USA publishers. Others aren't and are worth the direct order to England for a lot of stores. Some of their forthcoming books are: BREAST CANCER (4/82)

Carolyn Faulder L2.95; UNION STREET, Pat Barker "the grit, humor and reality of working-class lives", story of 7 women and their men in the winter of 1973. A first novel and looks excellent from their blurb. L3.50-paper, May 1982; ADA NIELD CHEW - THE LIFE AND WRITINGS OF A WORKING WOMAN includes her stories, articles and letters; she was a suffragist socialist, trade unionist and formidable speaker. Another foremother omitted from our history books. The packet says not for sale in the USA (rights belong to Houghton Mifflin) BUT you might try ordering CASSANDRA AT THE WEDDING anyhow. L2.95 since I'm doubtful that H-M has any plans to republish it anytime soon. Published in 1962, it's the story of twin sisters - one passionately in love with the sister who is marrying a doctor...THE LESBIAN IN LIT gives this a C*** rating ("Varient" as opposed to Lesbian, but essential to the Lesbian collection). I remember a lot of alcohol, depression and pain and I will order it for my store. And get one for me. Get a Virago catalogue if you don't already have one. Virago Press, LTd. Ely House, 37 Dover St. London W1X 4HS Distribution: Poutledge-Harrap, Broadway House, Newton Rd. Henley-On-Thames, Oxon RG9 IEN

THE CERVICAL CAP HANDBOOK FOR USERS & FITTERS, the first comprehensive sourcebook on the cervical cap, Emma Goldman Clinic for Women, 715 N. Dodge St. Iowa City, Iowa 52240, \$3.00. "The cervical cap is a thimble-shaped rubber contraceptive device that fits snugly over the cervix. The cap can be used by many women who cannot be fit for a diaphragm or who simply find a diaphragm uncomfortable or inconvenient. The cap is in use in Europe and has been around in its soft rubber form for nearly 140 years."

FROM: TEA ROSE PRESS P.O. Box 591, East Lansing, Michigan 48823: SOME REFLECTIONS ON SEPARTISM AND POWER. Marilyn Frye. "This is a reprint of the essay which appeared in

cont. Tea Rose releases: Sinister Wisdom 6 and has since been unavailable. The essay explores the meaning of the theme of separatism in feminist theory and practice and connects it with analysis of the nature of power and of naming." (10 pages, \$1.75 + 25¢ postage). THE GREENGATHERING FEAST. Greater Lansing Spinsters' Guild. "A collection of songs combining the rich tradition of Anglo-Irish folk music with a lively feminist approach to aesthetics, politics, and spirituality. Illustrated with pen and ink drawings by Judith Anderson." (56 pages, 13 drawings, spiral bound, \$6.00 +75¢ postage. Forthcoming (Winter 1982): WHOLENESS IS NO TRIFLING MATTER Adrienne Rich. "A review of "The Salt Eaters" by Toni Cade Bambara and other literature by Black women, with discussion of the challenges Black women's literature presents to the white feminist reader and reviewer. A version of this essay appeared in "New Women's Times Feminist Review." Bookstore Terms: 40% discount on 5+.

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ROSIE THE RIVETER FILM GUIDE. includes colorful and candid oral accounts selected from hundreds of personal interviews with women war workers, 50 photographs, and essays about the women and where they came from, how they found jobs, how they were treated in the factories and what happened to them when the war was over. Reader's ed. and Educator's ed. \$6.95 & \$7.95. 25% for 6+ Clarity Educational Productions, Inc. 4560 Horton St., Emeryville, CA 94608

TOYS AND OTHER ESSENTIAL PLEASURES.....

HAZEL DICKENS: HARD HITTING SONGS FOR HARD HIT PEOPLE (Rounder 0126). You might know her work from her albums or from her music in the soundtrack of HARLAN COUNTY: USA or a good friend's living room. Her music is a rich blend of Appalachian folk tradition, country and bluegrass and southern church singing. Available from your Rounder dist. or direct from Rounder 186 Willow Ave., Somerville, MA 02144.

THE REEL WORLD STRING BAND (Vetco #518) is a group of women musicians that met at the International Women's Year Conference in Lexington, Ky. in 1977. It's a rich, exciting album, includes traditional tunes, Working Girl Blues (Hazel Dickens), The Woman Fiddler and Evergreen, a tribute to the women strikers at the Case Garment Factory. Order from Jimmie Skinner Music Center, 5825 Vine St., Cincinnati, Ohio 45216 Wholesale price is \$4.32, net 30 days or \$4.00 cash.

RECORDS:

HEARTSONG June Millington's first solo album is out. Distributed by Olivia, so you probably have it by now. Suffice to say that it is one of those rare albums that my entire collective likes.

WILMA is a feminist band with a new 45. \$1.15 wholesale, no min. order from Wilma, c/o 525 8th Ave. SF, CA 94118

Allegra Broughton is a folk/jazz/blues singer, guitarist and songwriter from Sonoma County, CA. Her new album SONGS FROM THE HEART features 10 of her songs. She is interested in distributing her work on consignment (this record & an earlier cassette). Retail is \$6.95, consignment terms are 33% discount. Order from Allegra Recordings, P.O. Box 733, Penngrove, CA 94951

FROM THE SMALL PRESSES.....

3 from Talon Books: "REAL MOTHERS is a new collection of short stories by Audrey Thomas, the author's first collection since LADIES & ESCORTS. In these stories, Audrey Thomas journeys to France, Greece and Africa; and she writes about Galiano Island B.C., where she lived while these stories were being written. REAL MOTHERS concerns itself with women who, in one way or another, are mothers; with mothers and daughters; with mothers and husbands - or lovers; with mothers alone." "Audrey Thomas is not a romantic, nor is she a narrow satirist of false sophistication. She is a realist and a terrible comedian who exposes her characters in a light like 'the intense glare of the sun against the white walls of the houses'." Jane Rule, The Globe and Mail. \$7.95 paper. LILY BRISCOE: A SELF-PORTRAIT by Mary Meigs. "Taking as her alter ego Lily Briscoe, the painter in Virginia Woolf's "To The Lighthouse", Mary Meigs paints a portrait of herself, her family and her friends in LILY BRISCOE: A SELF-PORTRAIT, a book that is both autobiography and memoir. In it, she describes the three major decisions of her life: 'Not to marry, to be an artist' and to listen to her 'own voices'. Says Meigs: 'We are formed.. by everyone we meet, out of resistance or emulation, but our choice of friends often seems to come from the pressure of whatever in us wants to grow, or refuses to grow.'" In this book you will also meet Marie-Clair Bluis, Barbara Demming, Mary McCarthy, Hortense Flexner and Marianne Moore. "It is a very wise and thoughtful book written by a woman who has waited - and lived- some sixty years to write. It is an extraordinary first book." \$8.95. THEMES FOR DIVERSE INSTRUMENTS a collection of Jane Rule's short stories that was first published in 1975 is supposed to be back in print, tho I haven't seen it yet. Order it from U. of T. as well. All of above, published by Talonbooks, order from University of Toronto Press, 5201 Dufferin St., Downsview, Ontario M3H 5T8.

LOADED QUESTIONS - WOMEN IN THE MILITARY. Ed. by W. Chapkis. "Do equal rights include the right to fight? Could feminists reform the military from within? Are women naturally pacifists? Those are baffling and divisive issues for women in hypermilitarized societies like the US, Israel and Western Europe. LOADED QUESTIONS doesn't offer easy answers but is a comprehensive and challenging starting point for any discussion of women and the military. It would be invaluable just for the international diversity of perspectives it presents - from women in liberation armies to women facing participation in militaries which will be used to repress Third World liberation struggles. In addition, LOADED QUESTIONS is tightly written and remarkably sensitive to all the contradictions women face when we seek equality in an unjust world." \$4.95 standard trade discount. Institute 1901 Que St. NW, Washington D.C. 20009 *In Gildea at New Words says that this is excellent. is wonderfully accessible readable.*

KILLING WONDER Dorothy Bryant (Kin of ATA, Miss Giardino) has done it again. This novel poses as a murder mystery but actually is a long serious look at the feminist (or any) writing community. All my favorite foibles are there: the one-book novelist, the super-star, the ghost-writer and ghost-written.. All the egos, some of the sweat, much of the aspiration. Loyalty, passion and commitment. Bryant pokes fun at herself, no less than anyone else. The guru of the local feminist writers drops dead, suddenly, at a party for feminist writers. Who did it? I wouldn't dream of spoiling the ending. I am always impressed by Bryant's ability to pick-up yet another form and use it brilliantly. That she can get me to read and love a murder mystery amazes me - tho its clear that its her content, not the genre that does me in. And I think its her best since Miss Giardino. Bryant also proves once and for all that yes, heterosexual women writers can write believable lesbian characters. If you don't have it, give yourself a treat and order it forthwith. But take this as fair warning: once you start it, dinner dates, lovers and your need for sleep will just have to accomodate themselves to your reading. \$6. Available from Bookpeople, Publisher's group West, The Distributors/Indiana and Book Dynamics, NY (or ATA Books, but they prefer you to use distributors.

MABEL: THE STORY OF ONE MIDWIFE with 30 Birth Stories. Elizabeth Redditt-Lyon. Mabel is a woman from Ghana who arrives in the USA with a midwife's training and 3000 deliveries behind her. This book includes her experiences with both the medical establishment and the home birth movement. "This is Mable's story and that of many couples she has helped. It is a book for couples considering a more natural or home birth, for midwives and other birth attendants." Cloth \$9.00, Paper \$5.50, discounts are available. Red Lyon Rublications, 6940 NW Oak Creek Drive, Corvallis, Ore. 97330 (503-753-5019)

MY BLUE HEAVEN. Jane Chambers. "In this play the parson comes a-calling on the "Farm Couple of the Year", Molly and Josie, two lovers who leave sophisticated Manhattan to rough it in upstate New York, but he finds that everything's gay. In two of the "Adventures of Molly and Jo", a christian book publisher wants to publish Molly's fictionalized version of her and josie's life together in book form and later, Molly and Josie are visited by a childhood sweetheart of Molly's who is now a minister and wants them to marry to prove how 'progressive' he is." \$4.95. GAY THEATRE ALLIANCE DIRECTORY OF GAY PLAYS . \$5.95. JH Press, P.O. Box 294, Village Station, NY, NY 10014

THE AGE TABOO-GAY MALE SEXUALITY, POWER AND CONSENT. Daniel Tsang (ed.) "It is not a simple issue; an understanding of the questions it raises helps to shed light on a great many aspects of human sexuality. In a new book form Alyson Publications, 18 writers look at these questions from a wide range of perspectives. The viewpoints of both gay men and lesbians, of adults and young people, are all represented. Some of the issues they discuss include: power differences, consent, sexuality, childhood, the new right, feminism." \$5.95 Dist. Carrier Pigeon & Bookpeople.

MAGAZINES.....

Back in the running: LESBIAN VOICES, Vol 4 #2 just published after two years of promise. It's a literary quarterly. This issue includes an excerpt from Faultlines, a play, a serial, reflections on the aftermath of losing the battle for gay rights in San Jose and responses to a survey of L.V. readers. The editors have given up on consignment will now ship only for pre-paid orders. The deal in this: 30% for 5, 40% for 6-10, 50% for 11+. Unsold salable issues can be exchanged for the current issue. When each new issue comes out, they'll send you a postcard reminding you to pay, then will ship the issue when they get your check. Make checks payable to Jonnik Enterprises, P.O. Box 2066, San Jose, CA 95109

FEMINARY: a Feminist Journal for the South, emphasizing the Lesbian Vision, is for women living in the South and in exile and for women everywhere who want to know more about the lives of Southern women. P.O. Box 954, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

FROM THE BOYS.....

CRUSH. Jane Fatcher. A wonderful high-school lesbian romance. Ends confidently ever-after, if not happily-ever (but who lives happily-ever-after-high-school, any way?) Rich with developing sexuality and attraction with the ins and outs, true pain and joys of adolescent love, I wish I had it to read in high school. Liked reading it now- it evoked many forgotten moments for me. Tho set in a posh boarding shcool, it is saved by a bit of class and political consciousness on the part of the heroine. If it was in paper, we'd all sell tons. In cloth, we'll sell fewer and will pray for paperback. \$8.95, Little Brown

ORGANIZING: A GUIDE FOR GRASS ROOTS LEADERS. Si Kahn. "Here are the reasons for and how-tos of organizing: selecting issues that are both meaningful and winnable, recruiting memebers to the organization and fostering leadership potential, planning strategy and choosing tactics, handling media and money, and keeping an organization viable from one issue to the next." \$5.95. paper, McGraw, Hill

GAYSPEAK. "The means by which gay men and lesbians communicate with one another as well as with heterosexuals and the ways in which these communication methods define the social meaning of homosexuality. Among the many topics addressed: the ways which gay men and lesbians use to recognize one another in straight settings, the phenomenon of the gay disco as a means of physical and emotional release, the frequently hostile relationship between homosexuals and religious fundamentalists" and includes an essay by Sally Gearhart. Pilgrim Press, \$9.95 paper.

CHRISTING ROSSETTI, a bio of the author of the varient classic goblin market (C**). Hard to tell from the blurb if it will pursue her "varient" self or the self that turned to religion, invalidism and other classic ills of the Victorian Age. \$16.95, Holt.

SO FAR AWAY. Harriet Rochlin (Jove). Someone (the author?) sent a cover and blurb to FBN. Can't tell from the cover...one of those wildwest romance types. The blurb says, "The story of a (wildly) idealistic young Jewish woman in 19th century San Francisco and the Arizona Territory." That H.R. has a BA in HIspanic Studies and is working on an illustrated social history of pioneer Jews in the Far West that will be published by Houghton Mifflin in late 1982. Could be one of those wonderful books in a terrible cover that sneaks itself into the hands of romance reading women by way of the corner drugstore. I hope so - I do love them.

THE SPIRIT OF THE VALLEY. Suke Colegrave. "It explores the rising dominance of male values and addresses an essential task of our time--reintegrating the feminine spirit into both our consciousness and culture, reawakening the vital and renewing forces of life that it contains. The author brings to her subject an unusual point of view that blends Chinese philosophy with the thinking of the great psychologist Carl Jung." \$11.95. Dist. by Houghton Mifflin.

WOMEN IN ISLAM. Naila Minai. Seaview Books, \$12.95. .

I'M IN CHARGE. Joan Drescher. "What happens when Mom's at her job and Dad's upstairs working and can't be disturbed?" \$9.95. Little, Brown and Co., 34 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02106

UPWARD MOBILITY by the Staff of Catalyst. "A national nonprofit organization that promotes the full participation of women in business and professional life by expanding career options and furthering women's upward mobility. UPWARD MOBILITY is a concise and effective catch-up course for able and ambitious women of all ages eager to find positions that will give them the paycheck and status commensurate with their abilities. Written in an upbeat and informal manner, it encourages women to take a realistic look at themselves and take appropriate action for career advancement." \$15.95. Holt, Rinehart and Winston.

CAROLYN FROM CRAZY LADIES writes: Where did you learn that Emma Latham was 2 men? Last spring Wall Street Journal had an article about the author - who they claimed was 2 women: a Wall Street financier & a lawyer. Who Knows?

Carol-

If you haven't heard yet - SOUTHERN DISCOMFORT is not out yet. Will come out in March, '82
HB is \$12.98, LC 81-47683, ISBN 0-06-014928-0
Published by Harper & Row. Don't know if its coming out in paper at the same time.

Lyn Le Vack
Charmed Circle
Feminist Books
4603 Park Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92116
(714) 296-9024

Sudden Death will be Bantam -
details next issue ... Stay tuned to this rag -

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