

# Feminist Bookstore News

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THE FEMINIST BOOKSTORE NEWS is published six times a year, on or about the first of January, March, May, July, September, and November. Deadlining for articles, copy, letters, ads, etc., is the fifteenth of the preceeding month unless other arrangements are made. Signed articles are the responsibility of the authors; no editing is done on such work. FBN is compiled and published by Carol Seajay. Subscriptions are \$30 per year. (Sliding scale available to feminist bookstores.) Make checks payable to FEMINIST BOOKSTORE NEWS. Send subscriptions, correspondence, news, letters, ads, and articles to FBN, 1009 Valencia, San Francisco, California, 94110. FBN may be reached by telephone during regular office hours (Pacific Standard Time) at 415-431-2093.

THE FEMINIST BOOKSTORE NEWS is a communications vehicle for the informal network of feminist bookstores. It reaches 110 stores in the US and Canada, as well as a number of libraries, women's studies departments, and feminist bookstores in Great Britain, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. Combined annual sales of the US and Canadian stores is \$4 million annually.

ADVERTISING RATES are \$200 per full page, \$125 per half page. Inside back cover is \$225. Make space reservations by the fifteenth of the month preceeding publication. Camera ready copy or lay-out and paste-up services available at a nominal fee. Contact FBN at 1009 Valencia, San Francisco, California, 94110 or 415-431-2093 during regular office hours, Pacific Standard Time.

BOOKS FOR REVIEW and BOOK ANNOUNCEMENTS may be sent to FBN at 1009 Valencia San Francisco, California, 94110. Feminist publishers are invited to write their own (short!) blurbs for listings. FBN believes that you know more clearly than we do why you choose to publish a particular book. Books published by the feminist press are listed in FBN only when FBN hears about them, so DO remember to send announcements. Pre-publication announcements facilitate early orders. All publishers should include bookstore terms. Please also include distributors who (will) carry the title for the benefit of small stores that order primarily from distributors. If you prefer that bookstores order directly from you, please include that information as well.

FBN welcomes letters, articles, announcements and trivia from publishers as well as bookstores. We are the left and right hands of the same goal.

## NOTES FROM THE DESK TOP

This issue of FBN is a little late...or a little early, depending on how you want to look at it. And a little fat. I had hoped to get V.6 #4 out in mid-February, late enough to include information from the North West Women In Print Conference. But then there were these few other little distractions, so I've stretched it out, put almost everything in it, and declared it a double issue.

Sometime in January/Feb. when I was <sup>first</sup> working on this issue, I was asked to do an up-to-the-minute bookstores list for an article to be published in the issue of MS MAGAZINE. That was something that many of us had been working toward for a couple years, so I stopped everything to do that. But never one to keep things simple (tho I am learning), I decided to update the FBN list of bookstores for publishers as well, since I had requests and only a very outdated list to send. So I did that, and sent out 32 copies of the list to 32 hopefully glad-that-it-came-at-last-people. That was a satisfying piece of work to do. I hope it helps everyone.

But on the way to the printers with the list (all nicely xeroxed on peel-off labels) I realized that there really wasn't enough money in the FBN account to print and mail the next issue of FBN. And that the subscription money wasn't trickling in fast enough. While working on the MS list, I had noticed that a lot of stores hadn't yet paid for their subscription to Volume 6 yet, so I went back and looked again and found that nearly half the subscribers hadn't paid for the issue yet. Aha! My mathematical brain lept to the analysis and got that if  $\frac{1}{2}$  the subscribers had paid up, and if FBN was  $\frac{1}{2}$  way through the subscription year, and FBN was nearly broke, my budgeting was almost perfect and the only problem was getting the other half to get around to paying up. So stop working on FBN, (again) and draft and mail a form letter to those 80 stores/women/publishers/and who-all. (And then process all that as it comes in.--a job that I thought I had finished last fall.) But the benefits were an updated subscription list (the old one had so many cross-outs and changes that I couldn't even ask anyone to help with that part for all the explaining I'd have to do) and lots of good energy & notes on the evaluation forms. That was such a high in the midst of winter that it made me glad that all those folks had waited to resubscribe and send all that energy in the middle of the year. So that part worked out well, even if it did slow things down a little. )



The most common request on the forms was that FBN come out more often, and be smaller. (And this issue is the antithesis of that.) Coming out every two months & on time would help that, I'm sure. But I'm also wondering, if I can free up time in my life to do FBN every 6 weeks or even every month, do stores want to pay the extra money it would cost to pay for it? My guess is that subs would go up by half again the standard \$30, which would be pretty steep. Let me know.

You'll also see in this issue some of the fruits of the Doing Newsletters Class I took in February. Hence double columns to get more words per page, hopefully graphics, a more consistent look to it, typeset headlines for regular features and more. And what you don't see is a myriad of little details that make FBN much easier to do on this end: A new subscriber system, updating systems, organization, knowhow, skills, process, (I could do a book on doing newsletters, but the woman who taught the class is already doing one). I've also been reading and practicing a lot of the suggestions in GETTING ORGANIZED, Stephanie Winston, Warner trade 5.95) which I've been selling for 3 years but never really opened before. I won't say it's the most important book that I've ever read but I did move my 'office' from the darkest corner of my house to the lightest. And I've discovered that the top of my FBN worktable is painted black. And the new postage scale paid for itself the first time I didn't have to go to the post office to find out how much all those bulky envelopes of mailing labels cost to mail. I wouldn't say that the class and the book changed by life in any way like coming out did, but I do have a whole new relationship with the desktop. And the formerly overwhelming and now pleasant amount of mail FBN receives.

Most of the typing (except for the booklists) in this issue was done by Miriam Abrams. Thanks.

Enjoy!

Carol Seajay

## LETTERS

## To Us/From Us

Dear Carol,

Thanks for your letter. Enclosed is our cheque for one year's subscription. Please let us know when it's due again.

We, a collective of 3, took over this bookshop from Julia last Sept. With no previous experience in this area we've all got a lot to learn. I wasn't sure when our subscription was due, so was waiting to hear from you and hoping you wouldn't cut us off the list. Your newsletter is very helpful to us - as well as being very enjoyable to read.

At the moment we are snowed under with the beginning of the university year - women's studies courses, etc. starting all over the place, as well as women's re-training programs starting and setting up libraries for women, a young women's conference next week-end, bookstalls for IWD, as well as just re-stocking from the "festive" season. Even with 3 of us it's difficult to keep up with the work. But we are managing and loving it (in spite of 45° heat yesterday!)

Also enclosed is an article about us from last year. Thought you might like to see our faces.

Keep up your good work.

In sisterhood,

Gail

For the Feminist Bookshop Collective

## THE FEMINIST BOOKSHOP IS MOVING

THE Feminist Bookshop will be changing hands and moving in late Aug/early Sept. Our new address is: 315 Balmain Rd LILLYFIELD 2040 same telephone No: 82-2666

The new shop is larger, is on bus routes 440 & 445, has plenty of parking space, and what's more has a view! Come and see us soon and please tell everyone about the move.

After the move, the Feminist Bookshop will be run by a collective of three. We are full of energy and ideas and plan to continue the work started years ago in Eastwood by June and Julia. We'd like to thank them for their efforts in establishing the book shop, and special thanks to Julia for keeping it going in Balmain for the last five years. We think it has played a very important role in the developing feminism of many women.

We have a lot to learn about running a bookshop, and appreciate the help Julia is giving us. Let us know if you have any ideas, and also contact us soon if you make cards, posters, T-shirts etc. And keep us informed of social and political events of importance to women so we can continue to be an information centre.



FEMINIST BOOKSHOP COLLECTIVE — Gail, Jane, Libby.

We also want to thank our Aunt Joanie, a very beautiful woman who died last year. Feminism never made a mark in her life and she didn't understand the "strange" way of life her nieces had found. She died quite young, lonely, sick and unable to survive alone in this society after her husband died. She left some money

to us, her three nieces, all feminists, so with her help we are able to take on this project.

So we dedicate the new Feminist Bookshop to Joanie, in love and gratitude.

Feminist Bookshop Collective  
Gail, Jane, Libby

Womanspeak, Aug-Sept, 1982 — 17

Some Australian feminist publications your readers may be interest in:

Girls Own, P.O. Box 188 Wentworth Bldg., Sydney University, NSW 2006  
(a two-monthly newspaper)

Womanspeak, P.O. Box 672, Potts Point, New South Wales  
(a quarterly magazine)

Refractory Girl, C/o Women's House, 62 Regent St., Chippendale, New South Wales  
(quarterly literary journal)

Scarlet Woman, c/o Women's House, same address as above  
(socialist-feminist quarterly)

Gay Information, P.O. Box 943, Darlinghurst, NSW 2010  
(quarterly journal, women and men)

Magdalene, c/o Nan Barnes, P.O. Box 170, Epping 2121 NSW  
(quarterly Christian feminist magazine)

Women & Children First  
May 11, 1983 Chicago

Dear Sisters,

This letter is long overdue. I promised Barbara Grier shortly after the winter '82 holidays to report the too-seldom-heard news that our business was up 25% this holiday season from last year's. Although the first quarter of '83 was slow, business was very good in April and this month. We're feeling stable and confident that our business will continue to grow.

My primary reason for writing, however, is to tell you about a wonderful new book written, edited, and published by young women (under 21) called  *Holding Her Own*. The title is apt; the essays, poems, journal entries, and interviews in this book show the spirit and strength of young women surviving. Just as the voices of other women not represented in mainstream culture--women of color, disabled women, Jewish women, lesbians--have connected and inspired us, I know these writings will.

There is no other book like this one (Daughters Press published  *Daughters in High School* nearly ten years ago, edited by an adult woman, which will soon be unavailable), which is reason enough to represent it in your stores. But I think you'll want to buy in larger quantities and promote the book. We've sold more than 50 copies in the four months the book has been available. Adolescent women of various racial, class, and ethnic backgrounds write on many important issues, including student oppression, incest, rape, lesbianism, and teen-age motherhood. And they write in their own voices, uncensored.

The women who worked on the book attended the Chrysalis Learning Community, an alternative school for young women in Chicago, and were inspired and guided by enthusiastic feminist teachers. In the insightful introduction, Joan Costa explains the process of making this book. I was excited to read how these young feminists  *acted*, and acted thoughtfully, able to analyze the process of completing this challenging project.

I applaud their decision to publish and distribute the book themselves, and I urge all of you to honor and encourage this independent step by our young sisters. The book is available from Holding Her Own, 4527 N. Malden, Chicago, IL 60640. 5+ books at 40%, 30 days net. Or take advantage of a special offer: Your initial order of 5+ books at 50% prepaid, Inc. \$1.75 postage for 5 books, \$2.75 for 10.

Have a prosperous summer,  
Linda Bubon.

P.S. Carol, You asked for our "silly questions" list (as per Midwest WIP Conf.) but I have to confess that we have no such list on paper. We started one once, but we unfortunately didn't keep up with it. We do share our silly questions with each other, usually in front of customers. We also treated our customers to a skit at our 3rd birthday party in which we answered the phone 20 times or so, dealing with silly questions, and other employees trooped in and out with more silly questions and unreasonable demands. Customers admitted that it was a real consciousness-raiser, and we all shared laughter.

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I am looking for Heresies #5 and Sinister Wisdom #14 and would pay more than cover price and postage to get these for my collection. I figure one of the bookstores still has old copies. No, magazines do not have.

Thanks,

Karen  
Sistermoon  
2128 E. Locust  
Milwaukee, WI 53211

# TROUBLE

Dear FBNeers

Unfortunately, there's a lot to write you about this month. We've been having some hard times - a local group calling itself S.H.U.N. (Stop Homosexual Unity Now) has been threatening local lesbians and wimmin's enterprises with bodily harm, arson and destruction. We've been one of them.

It started in December with telephone threats to the New Alexandria Lesbian Library, located in a town near us. The group started taking names and phone numbers out of the local wimmings newspaper, the Valley Women's Voice, and calling up individual wimmin and threatening them - the "usual" get-out-of-town-we-hate-you type messages. At least 4 or 5 wimmin got the same type of calls, with the same 2 or 3 voices. We tried going to the police, with little success. Then the store got a series of 3 notes, saying "you will never be accepted", "Homosexual people must be eradicated" and "N.A.L.L. will never exist - gays must be persecuted". Several individuals tried, or did, get traps on their phones, with no success. We started having community meetings.

We decided to go public with the harassments. Around the same time there was a local flap with the town newspaper, the Gazette, over a misquote of the mayor's assistant about gay rights, so the city was eager to have a meeting in order to complain about local media coverage. It was relatively easy to arrange a meeting with the mayor, his assistant, the Gazette editor, the District Attorney, and local police. Not wanting to have that meeting on their terms, though, we publicized the meeting within our community, and drew 200 people (95% wimmin) to the meeting, with 100 more people, straight and gay, in a vigil outside.

There are quite a few 'interesting' aspects to the harassments - although the letters and calls talk about "gays", in fact it is almost entirely lesbians being threatened. Also, the callers have usually avoided talking to wimmin in person, but have waited for answering machines, in order to leave their threats on tape. Needless to say, there is endless speculation about if and how much the police might be involved in the harassments. Although GCN quoted me differently, I believe that they are not. We are trying to provide surveillance on the store - the police have said they don't have the manpower to do it - and extra wimmin are sleeping at the library every night. We are also trying to provide mobile dyke patrols for neighborhoods where several harassed women live. Of course, it takes an immense amount of energy. Any publishers reading this - if my store is behind in bill paying, this is the reason why. Other than physically keeping our doors open, we have been putting almost all of our time into organizing recently.

The meeting with the city went pretty well. The Gazette broke our agreement about not publicizing the meeting in advance, and named me as a lesbian in their story, so I led a rather ringing denunciation of them that night. (They'd been printing a series of homophobic letters-to-the-editor, plus columns of Joseph Sobran, a national ultra-right-wing writer, who's recently been raging about the "homosexual network" in his columns. The paper's attitude has been that controversy sells newspapers, and they're just trying to give all sides an opportunity to air their views.) We ran the meeting according to our agenda, rather than the officials', and I think we made them see the gravity of our concerns. The mayor's office and the DA have each issued public statements denouncing the threats, and we are setting

up a task force on lesbian and gay concerts. Local politics enter this a lot - the city doesn't especially like the paper, the police don't like the mayor, so they've been trying to use us to snipe at each other. It's been hard to keep our issues uppermost. But I'm fairly hopeful that things will work out well. We did get a lot of publicity, which (at best) will let the harassers know that they do not enjoy the support of the local populace. We've also been soliciting, and getting, letters of support from other progressive groups in our area.

The latest letter we got, on Jan. 29th, threatened us with arson. Later that day we got a death threat at the store. Since the city meeting there haven't been any overt threats - right now we are all waiting to see what happens next.

I'd like to quote from the last letter, just to give you an idea of what we're up against --

To All Homosexual Groups:

We as a Community, are sick of the threat of the Gay Life to our children, families and life in this city. Everyone has a right to be what they want, but wantonly flaunting a "disgusting" way of life on our streets will not be condoned. We members of S.H.U.N. (Stop Homosexual Unity Now) have been sending messages and threats to the Smith College Lesbian Alliance, to G.A.L.A. (a local gay rights organization) and to various Lesbians in this town. We are an Amherst based group dedicated to the "eradication" of gays in this area. We will route (sic) out and expel this extremist homosexual germ by peaceful or violent means. Please publish this letter in your Gazette (a reference to the Gayzette, a local gay newsletter) to let people know who is harassing you. If you do not the attacks will get much worse --

No power to the Lesbos

No dyke Tomorrows

No Xxxxxxxx (a local lesbian's name)

No Womonfyre books

Bring a sane way of life back to our streets.

If you do disregard this, Womonfyre Books will be burned to the ground along with NALL!!

Hetersexually yours,

Mik Retnuh

(co-founder, S.H.U.N.)

"Mik Retnuh" is Kim Hunter backwards, but we don't know what (if anything) that signifies. I'm telling you all this to spread the word about what's happening, and also to solicit advice: if any other communities have received similar harassments, we'd like to know your response(s) .. We are talking about other strategies too, but would like to keep them confidential for the time being.

Please let us know what you think.

In (unfortunately) perpetual  
struggle,

Kiriyo Spooner  
for Womonfyre Books





Good Vibrations  
3416 22nd Street  
San Francisco, CA  
94110

January 28, 1983

Dear Friends of the Feminist Press:

I'm writing to let you know about the dealings I've had with Ms. Magazine during the past few months. The problems I've encountered have brought to light some issues of importance to all of us in the feminist movement.

From March through October of 1982, I was attempting to place an ad in the Classified section of Ms. (The ad, for my vibrator store, is attached at the bottom of this page.) One month after I submitted the ad, I received a notice informing me that Ms. would not print it because they "already had too many ads for sex aids in the classified section." After some research and persistence on my part, I convinced Ms. to print my ad in the June, 1982 issue. I immediately requested that the ad be reprinted in the next two issues, and sent a check to cover the cost. On August 6, my check was returned, along with a letter from the Classified Ad Person at Ms. The letter stated that their "Advertising Acceptance Committee" had cancelled all vibrator ads from the pages of Ms. It also suggested that I advertise "another product."

As I see it, the issue at hand is the relationship between Ms. Magazine and the diverse women's movement for which it speaks. Those of us who work in the sexuality field are facing ever-greater obstacles from the powerful forces of the right-wing in this country. Now, more than ever, we need our sisters' support. The clout that Ms. can wield would be put to much better use in defense of, and not in censorship of, the sexual freedom of women.

We in the feminist movement need Ms. Magazine. It uniquely speaks to the world about feminism. But Ms. must realize that it also needs us; that its potential is not met unless it helps us communicate with each other. Now that sex-related products are being sold by responsible women in a non-exploitative way, Ms. would do well to help its readers avail themselves of these products. Or should we go back to seedy adult bookstores and sexist mail-order catalogs?

I have been frustrated in my efforts to engage the staff of Ms. in a dialogue about this issue. I am asking for your help. If you'd like more information about my experience, drop me a card and I'll call you. If you'd like to hear Ms.' side of the story, write to Patricia Carbine, its publisher, and ask her to explain it to you. (If she does, please send her response to me. I'd like to hear it too!) If you'd like to make this story available to your readers, please contact me for an interview or material for an article.

By making Ms. Magazine more responsive to its most dedicated audience, we strengthen the movement for womens' equality! Won't you join me in this effort?

In Sisterhood,

*Joani Blank*

Joani Blank  
Owner, Good Vibrations

cc: Patricia Carbine  
Publisher, Ms. Magazine

Good Vibrations: the vibrator store. Hitachi Magic Wand and many others at very reasonable prices. Informative catalog, only 50 cents. G.V., 3416 22nd St., San Francisco, Calif. 94110.

# DISCOMFORTABLE COVER

February 9, 1983

Jack Romanos, Publisher  
Bantam Books  
666 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10103

Dear Mr. Romanos:

We were excited at first to hear that Bantam's spring title list included two new books by Rita Mae Brown: *Southern Discomfort* in paper and *Sudden Death* as an original trade novel. Our enthusiasm rapidly dissipated into shock and disappointment when shown the jacket covers for these books. Because we feel strongly and care alot, we are taking the time to explain the reasons for our reactions in the hope that you can incorporate this feedback into revising your art, marketing and publicity plans for these books.

Womanbooks has been in the business of selling books by, about and of special interest to women since 1975. We are part of a loose network of approximately 75 women's bookstores in this country who communicate regularly on issues of common concern and interest via *The Feminist Bookstores Newsletter*; and collectively represent gross sales in 1982 of over four million dollars. At Womanbooks we have sold 125 copies to date of the Harper and Row hardcover edition of *Southern Discomfort*. We have been receiving frequent advance inquiries for more than a year from customers eagerly awaiting the appearance of *Sudden Death*.

We predict that many of Rita Mae Brown's most loyal fans and readers will find these book covers so offensive that they will refuse to purchase them to register their disapproval. We cannot stress enough how a woman revealing her garter (and allthat implies) is likely to alienate many potential readers of Rita Mae Brown's work. This cover offends as an example of the typical sexual exploitation of women's bodies to sell a product. The *Cosmo* jacket blurb further distances the likely reader from the book in a misguided effort to reach those readers who might be lured to it by the *Cosmo* endorsement. A satisfied reader who has been moved by a book and "talks it" with her/his friends generates the word-of-mouth publicity that sells books. The approach currently planned, as exemplified by this cover, we believe misses the real and natural audience in favor of enticing readers who will be drawn to the book by the cover it has been designated. We believe that this will backfire.

*Rubyfruit Jungle* and *Six of One* have had permanent face-out display positions on our bookshelves, but we wouldn't consider facing out these new titles because of their covers. These could be "big" books for us -- as things stand, we have not placed an advance order for *Southern Discomfort*. You, as the publisher, and we, as booksellers, share a common goal of selling books: It is in this spirit of moving books into the hands of the audience the author had in mind when writing as best we can that we are advising you of our objections and offering our experience to suggest ways of maximally attracting rather than alienating the audience of readers of this well-known author.

It is probably too late to scratch the planned covers completely (although we are convinced this would be the best route you could go); however, we propose your art department create an alternative design offering booksellers and readers a choice. The choice of bookjackets aimed at different markets has been done in other instances and we believe this is a case that calls for such a merchandising alternative.

If we can be of any help in further discussing or implementing this suggestion, don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Karyn London  
for Womanbooks

(See page 46 for a reproduction of the rejected cover.)

Ms. Karyn London  
WOMANBOOKS  
201 W. 92nd St.  
New York, NY 10025

BANTAM BOOKS  
February 23, 1983

Dear Ms. London:

This is in response to your recent correspondence regarding your concerns over the cover Bantam has selected for *Southern Discomfort* by Rita Mae Brown. Let me assure you that a great deal of thought, care and attention went into the decision as to which approach to take for *Southern Discomfort*.

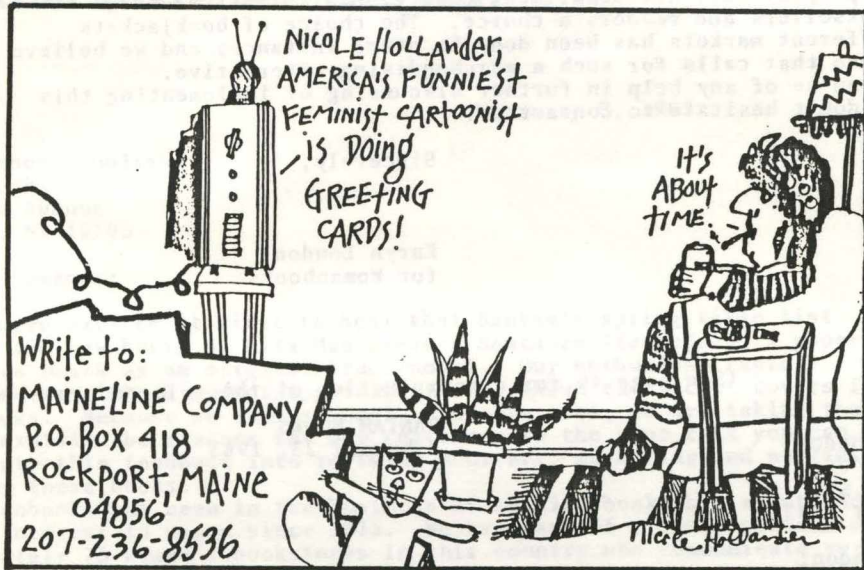
Since this book is a mainstream novel and Rita Mae's intention was to reach as broad an audience as possible, we felt that it should have a "mass-market" cover. However, we were concerned ourselves about the reaction from Rita Mae Brown's most loyal fans and readers and, certainly, did not want to design a cover which would be offensive to anyone. Since one of the main characters in the book is a prostitute, we do not feel it is unfaithful to the book to use the visual approach that we have chosen.

I have attached for you 2 covers which were prepared for *Southern Discomfort*. I'm not sure which cover you have seen; however, I want to point out to you that cover #1 -wherein the garter dominates- has been scrapped, for we, too, shared concerns about the "taste" of such an approach. We are going, instead, with the second cover, wherein the garter is minimized and, in fact, in many display fixtures would not be seen at all, due to the constructions of many bookstore shelves. I must point out, however, as I said earlier, that we are trying to teach as broad an audience as possible for Rita Mae Brown.

Your suggestion that we prepare 2 covers is impractical at the launch phase of this book, since we could not easily control the dispensation of 2 different jackets to our accounts. It is possible at a future date when *Southern Discomfort* has settled in as a backlist title that we might repackage the book, but an approach which dictates 2 totally different covers, at this point, would be impractical.

Thank you for expressing your concerns and let me assure you that we certainly had the potential problem in mind when we decided on a cover approach. I hope that you can see fit to support this title in your store.

Sincerely  
Jack Romanos  
Vice President-Publisher



## POSTAGE AND ANGER

*A Room  
Of One's  
Own* ♀

**Feminist Bookstore**

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

Jan. 18, 1983

Dear Carol & FBN:

In our frustration with high shipping costs and our suspicion that we were additionally being grossly overcharged for shipping, we at A Room of One's Own started keeping track of actual postage and UPS charges (as marked on the box) and recording the actual charge next to the charge billed on the invoice. Our original assumption was that it was the boys who were overcharging us the most and that the smaller companies would bill much closer to the actual cost. Well, surprise. In the six months we've been keeping track, we've found pretty much the opposite to be true. For the most part, the big publishers and distributors are reasonably accurate (within .50 - 1.00) and in addition, many have come up with freight pass-through plans. It's the small publishers and distributors who are the worst offenders. Many, for their own convenience, charge a fixed percent of net for postage (anywhere from 4 - 15%, depending on the company and size of order). →

Sometimes this is close, usually it is not. The most disturbing thing we've found, when we've approached small publishers about postage overcharges, is the underlying attitude that retailers are responsible for bearing the costs of the publisher's shipping operation (including labor, shipping cartons, mailing tubes and tape, as we were told by Equality Products!) Rather than including these normal business expenses (i.e. overhead) in the cost of their books or posters, where they can be passed along to the customer, they expect bookstores to absorb them as "handling" while telling us they have purposefully kept their prices low and expect us to do the same! Presses who say they are offering a 40% discount, but then charge 10% of net for postage are in reality only offering a 36% discount. In the case of books or other pre-priced items, we don't have the option of marking the item up and we are stuck absorbing the publisher's overhead expenses. Can you imagine if we all added an extra quarter at the cash register to each customer's total to pay for the cost of the cash register tape used and our time for ringing up the sale? The customer would be annoyed, and with reason - these are normal expenses of our doing business which should be figured into our budgets as overhead.

After keeping track of the discrepancy between actual and billed postage for a while, we started deducting overcharges from our payments when the discrepancy was more than \$1.00 per invoice and explained what we were doing and why (we simply can't afford to subsidize publishers in this way!). We've gotten a variety of interesting responses. Both Naiad and Persephone have changed their billing procedures to charge actual postage rather than a percentage (many thanks!!). Crossing Press explained their graduated billing procedure (6% of net for invoices under \$50, 5% from \$50- \$100, and 4% over \$100), acknowledged the problem of discrepancies, especially for medium-sized orders, and were accepting of our attempt to adjust the billing by deducting excess charges. Diaspora Distribution, which operates on a less-than-shoestring budget, was not happy about our adjustment, but was willing to compromise. Other companies have been less willing to negotiate a solution. Womens Resources Distribution Company, which habitually overcharges on postage (e.g. billed \$7.50 when actual postage was \$4.67, billed \$4.00 when actual was \$1.55, etc.) sent the attached letter telling us we were lucky they didn't overcharge us even more on shipping, as they apparently do with non-women's/alternative stores! Our solution in this case is to mark their posters up above the \$12 suggested price in order to cover their exorbitant shipping charges. The prize for overcharging, though, goes to Equality Products (pencils, bumperstickers, etc.), who charged us \$6.13 when actual charges were only 2.09. (This was under their old rate structure of 10% on orders under \$100, 5% on orders over \$100. Under their new policy of 10% on orders under \$200, 5% over \$200, we would be charged \$12.26 for the same order where actual charges came to 2.09!) In looking back over our three orders to Equality Products this past year, we found that we paid a total of \$43.68 in transportation charges! When we wrote to protest, we were told by owner Shirley Spalding that such discrepancies rarely occurred (!), that wholesale orders "were not carrying their fair share of the shipping expenses," and that charging actual postage on pre-paid orders (they require prepayment or COD) "would be an administrative headache." She suggests that we should be "thrilled" at the specials she offers, rather than dismayed "by an occasional (sic) order that costs you more in shipping charges than it actually costs to get the package to you." We are not thrilled. Our choice is to either mark the pencils and bumperstickers up further (although they are already fairly high-priced), or we can stop ordering from Equality Products altogether. Either way, we resent being overcharged 3 to 6 times the actual cost!

Since this is a problem all the stores must deal with, I'm wondering what other tactics in the way of educating small presses and distributors others of you have used and found successful. I'd be interested in hearing how other stores deal with overcharging on postage.

In frustration,

*Rose Katz*

P.S. Here is the stamp we had made to use when taking deductions. Our next step is to add the wording "We pay exact postage only" to our purchase order forms.

**WE WERE BILLED \_\_\_\_\_  
ACTUAL POSTAGE \_\_\_\_\_  
WE ARE DEDUCTING \_\_\_\_\_  
FOR POSTAGE OVERCHARGE**

Women's Resources Distribution Company

Dear Sandy and Rose,

I am writing to you regarding WRDC's policy on postage and handling costs. We have set our prices in order to cover actual labor and material costs by doing this we are able to continue to keep our product costs down. For example in most stores our posters retail at \$14.00 and wholesale at \$7.00 each here in women's stores and alternative stores we retail them at \$12.00. In this way we maintain good product prices for both you and ourselves but we must insist that we be able to cover our minimal cost when it comes to shipping our products to you. In most cases I usually adjust the packing and shipping charge but I cannot just charge you actual UPS postage.

In your last two payments you have deducted \$2.78 and \$2.45 for postage. I must ask that you remit this so that we don't carry a balance due on the account.

I do hope you understand our position. Please contact me if you have any questions. Thanks again for all your support.

Regards.  
WRDC

\*\*\*\*\*

Fan The Flames  
5-8-83 Columbus

Dear FBN,

Fan The Flames has finally moved! We had been looking for a larger space for about a year. At the beginning of April, we moved into four times the space at the YWCA in downtown Columbus. We are in a room just off the lobby along the front of the building. Already our business is better than it was at our old location.

We're very pleased with the transition. Please let others know of our new address in the next FBN. Thanks.

Sincerely,  
Karen Jensen

Dear Carol,

On the 20th and the 21st of February we had a Women in Booktrades Conference in Nottingham, the first since 1980. It was extremely well-organized and attended by over a hundred women from all over Britain. Workshop topics included fundraising, feminist practice in the booktrades, feminism and distribution, self-publishing, and others. As usual, the influx of new ideas and information led to the formation of dozens of schemes - one of the most imaginative was a plan for a women's bookbus to visit out-of-the-way areas where feminist books are still hard to find - at least some of which should work out eventually. We hoped to be able to start a Women in Booktrades Newsletter and have another conference sooner than before.

I talked about FBN in the distribution workshop - there was a newsletter workshop, but the Scottish contingent had to leave before it took place, since it's seven hours' drive between Nottingham and Edinburgh. I asked women to send information for a British booktrades column in FBN. The response was enthusiastic. I hope to have more to send you in a month or two.

In Sisterhood,

Sigrid Nielsen  
Lavendar Menace  
11a Forth St.  
Edinburgh EH1 3LE

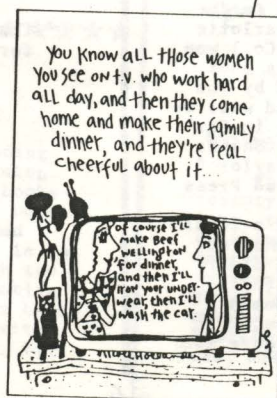
Dear Carol,

Sorry to have missed you when you were in D.C. - I want to send FBN a news-letter from Lammis but must wait till I have a minute - which will be after I finish teaching my course on women's communities in science fiction.

We're sad indeed to hear of the troubles at A Woman's Place and hope that FBN will carry the stories. . .

Susanna S.

Maine Line Company  
100 Pascal Avenue  
Rockport, Maine 04856  
(207) 236-8536



# BACK TO PRESS

Winston Press reports that *Women's Reality: An Emerging Female System in a White Male Society* is in its fifth printing making 60,000 copies in print.

Naiad Press reports second printings on *Muse of the Violets*, making 4700 copies in print and *Prism* for 11,000 copies. 7000 copies of *Outlander's* third printing makes 16,000 copies in print while 6000 more copies of *Cytherea's Breath* make the same total for it. Back to press for the fourth time are *Latecomer* with 5000 copies for a total of 15,000 copies in print and *A Woman Appeared to Me* with 4000 for 10,000 copies in print.

Naiad is also going back to press with *Anna's Country*, for 12,000 copies in print. *Mrs. Porter's Letters*, second printing will make 20,000 copies in print, and the third printing of *Sapphisty* will mean 25,000 copies in print. Naiad also reports sales of two thirds of their 31,800 first print run of *Faultlines*.

## Trivia?

Alice Walker won a Pulitzer Prize for *The Color Purple*. Also an American Book Award. And it's about time some recognition went her way.

Giovanni's Room has a wonderful new catalogue on Women Artists and Art History. Yours for a SASE. 345 S. 12th St. Phila, Pa. 19107. Alyson's fall 82 book catalogue had a great article on unfair competition faced by independent bookstores -- yours for a SASE & it's great for posting or lifting your morale after a hard day of competing with the discounters. PO Box 2783, Boston, Ma 02208.

Name that book: A customer comes in asking for that book "Overcoming Male Sexuality" and you, of course promptly reach for *Surpassing the Love of Men* and you are both pleased.

*American Women Artists: From Early Indian Times to the Present* by Charlotte Streifer Rubinstein (G.K. Hall & Co.) won the 1982 Award for Best Humanities Book.

*Faultlines* has been published by The Women's Press, Ltd. in England and will be published by Subrosa Frauenverlag in Germany in late 1983. Four authors, Sheila Taylor, Sarah Aldridge, Valerie Taylor & Jane Rule, account for 55% of Naiad Press income.

Overheard in the bathroom of a local women's store re the sign about what not to flush due to the plumbing, and older woman (29ish) to a younger woman (6): "When you get your period, some women don't use sponges, they use tampons." Which reminds me that we already have made a few revolutions.

## DEALERS SPECIALIZED IN OUT OF PRINT BOOKS BY AND ABOUT WOMEN\*

JUDITH ARMSTRONG  
1451 East Elm  
Springfield, MO 65802

BLUE RIDER BOOKS  
65 Mt. Auburn Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138

THE BOOK STORE  
108 East 4th Avenue  
Olympia, WA 98501

BOUDICCA BOOKS  
P.O. Box 901  
Station K  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4P 2H2 Canada

GOOD TIMES BOOKSHOP  
150 East Main Street  
Port Jefferson, NY 11777

INDEPENDENT WOMEN BOOKS  
50 Forest Street  
Hartford, CT 06105  
(especially lesbian books)

PAULETTE ROSE, LTD.  
360 East 72nd Street  
New York, NY 10021

JOANNA TAYLOR  
2461 El Pavo Way  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

E. WHARTON AND CO.  
36 Hancock St.  
Boston, MA

BOLERIUM BOOKS  
931 Judah  
San Francisco, CA 94117  
(specializes in scholarly feminist books)

\* Thanks to Independent Women Books for this list.





## Daughters, Ink. Books Remaindered

The big news is that I will have all of the Daughters Inc. titles that are left, probably in stock by the beginning of April. This includes most of their published titles. I will be selling the books for \$1.00 with the exception of *Rubyfruit Jungle* which will be selling for \$1.98 (less 50% non-returnable discount as usual). Stores interested in the Daughters titles would watch for our next catalogue which should be out by the beginning of April or they should write to me and I will send them the catalogue. Also, the following titles are now available:

Orig. Daedulus  
Price

*Powers of the Weak*,  
Elizabeth Janeway, Knopf  
13.95 3.98

*A Soldier's Embrace*,  
Nadine Gordimer, Viking  
8.95 1.98

*Beginning to See the Light*,  
Ellen Willis, Knopf 12.95 2.98

*The Takeover*, Muriel Spark, (paper)  
Penguin. 3.95 1.00

*Dreamers & Dealers*, Leah Fritz  
(paper), Beacon. 5.95 1.00

*Rosa Bonheur*, Dore Ashton,  
Viking. 20.00 4.98

*Bridgeport Bus*, Maureen Howard,  
(paper) Penguin. 4.50 1.00

*Rich Rewards*, Alice Adams,  
Knopf. 9.95 2.98

*Changing of the Gods: Feminism and  
the End of Traditional Religions*,  
Naomi Goldenberg, Beacon.  
10.50 1.98

Thanks,

Helaine Harris  
Daedulus Books



## NEW FBW LIST OF BOOKSTORES AVAILABLE

Revised, up-to-the minute, and with a commitment to revise quarterly, this list has 109 feminist, gay, and alternative stores, 8 stores in Europe & "down under" that stock a lot of US/Canadian published books, 9 libraries & archives, and 13 feminist periodicals you may want to inform about your new book, conference, or whatever. It comes on pressure sensitive labels. Cost is \$10.00 to feminist publishers, \$25.00 to commercial publishers (the FBN would cheerfully take more) for one-time use/rental. (Sorry for having 2 prices, FBN can't afford to subsidize the mainstream press.) Make checks to FBN at the return address.

## LC DOING A DIRECTORY OF WOMEN'S STORES

I'm hoping in the next few months to get it together for another directory of women's stores. (I just collied up the last one and it was in 1977! Time certainly flies.) So, what would be very helpful is if stores sent back their questionnaires when they get them. Looking at the last one I remember that even after 2 letters to the stores over 1/3 never responded--and it simply asked for their name, address & hours. NOTE TO ALL WOMEN STORES: WHEN YOU GET THE DIRECTORY QUESTIONNAIRE FROM LESBIAN CONNECTION, PLEASE FILL IT OUT & SEND IT BACK IN. DON'T PASS UP THIS CHANCE FOR FREE PUBLICITY. IF YOU DON'T GET LC WRITE THEM NOW.

If it works out I may again put together a thing with the logos from some of the stores, so please include logos in various sizes, preferably black on white.

We're thinking of putting out the next advertising catalog out earlier this year so we can have copies to distribute at the Music Festivals. It'd be great if stores got together and had several pages, or if they started planning now for groups in their city to share it with. Of course it just occurred to me that if the directory runs 4 pages it would be neat if everyone in it put in \$20 or whatever it would cost and we could just put the whole directory in the catalogue. Somehow I can't imagine everyone agreeing on something like that, tho.

For Ambitious Amazons  
(PO Box 811  
East Lansing, Mi. 48823)  
Margo

# The Struggle for A Woman's Place -Oakland.

Asked time + again to provide some context + some info on the conflict at ICI - A Woman's Place, I'm reprinting the most complete statements I could find from each side. One side's story begins on the next page. The other side begins 3 pages later. That story is followed by the complete text of the arbitrators decision. The "winners" are changing the name of the store to "Women & Children First."

# One Side

*The following statement describes, as briefly as we could put it, who we are, and why we had to remove four members of A Woman's Place collective, an act not to our liking, resorted to because we knew of no other way to quickly halt the bookstore's decline. Time was running out for the bookstore, the way things were going.*

On September 12, 1982, I, Alice Molloy, with the endorsement of Carol Wilson and Natalie Lando, closed the doors of A Woman's Place for a week. I took this action with the aim of effecting a reorganization of the bookstore's operating systems, as well as its personnel. I did not take this step lightly, but with the full sense of responsibility I felt was attendant with the bookstore's ownership. I did so for the following reasons:

1. The bookstore was in serious financial difficulties. It was caught in a downward economic cycle, approximately \$28,000 in debt, and required immediate action if the trend were not to become irreversible, given today's economy. Four of the collective members were insisting upon an ordering and return policy that had led to this condition.
2. The six collective members were at a total impasse that a year of bickering had failed to resolve. Attempts at mediation had only made things worse. It was clear that the situation was deteriorating and had reached a level of constant emotional battery. To allow it to continue was unthinkable.
3. There is a long history of feminist collectives bludgeoning each other until the bitter end and taking their projects down with them. I refused to let this happen to A Woman's Place.

The key issues of the collective disagreements were:

1. Policies for ordering books
2. Policies for returning books
3. Productivity and accountability
4. Whether the bookstore would remain a woman's place, or would be changed to become a people's place (e.g., shifting the primary focus of endeavor away from "books by, for, about, and of interest to women"...allowing men to attend the events there).
5. Whether the bookstore should remain an information center, or should become a political action center (e.g., taking an "active leadership role" instead of being an information resource.

Points 4 and 5 involved changing the primary principles of unity of the bookstore, as reflected in its name: Information Center Incorporate—A Woman's Place.

I had to make a decision that would most insure the continuation of the bookstore and its service to the Women's Movement. There appeared to be two factions within the collective disputes: Darlene, Elizabeth, Keiko, and Jesse, on the one hand, Carol and Natalie on the other. It was obvious that the two groups were no longer capable of working together and that some choice was going to have to be made between them if the bookstore were to have any hope of continuing on the stable, even keel that has characterized it for the past 11 years.

I had been a member of the bookstore collective for the first six years of its operation. Although I, too, had sometimes balked at Carol and Natalie's policies, I had come to know that it was their consistent and steady adherence to those policies that had kept the bookstore in operation through thick and thin. It was due to my knowledge of their constant and rigorous devotion that I felt free to step out of the collective five years ago, knowing that I was leaving the bookstore in their safe hands.

During the past five years they have, in fact, twice rescued the bookstore from the edge of insolvency when it was threatened by the policies of the various collectives.

At the time that we originally founded the bookstore, I was the one person willing and able to take on the responsibility and liability of its ownership. It is a responsibility that I have never taken lightly or ignored. During the past five years I have kept a close watch on its finances and operations. I have always told new collective members that the power inherent in the ownership would not be invoked except in drastic circumstances. I saw the current economic and spiritual threat as such a circumstance. There have been occasional discussions over the years about changing the business structure of the bookstore to a different form. But, we've never been able to devise a form with a better mechanism with which to protect the bookstore from a given collective's disintegration or bad judgment. This particular collective has been unable to agree with the ongoing bookstore collective's principles of unity, much less develop the by-laws that would be the necessary foundation for any such change.

During the decade of its existence, it has always been understood that I have held the bookstore in trust for the Women's Movement, never for any one collective. It was in the spirit of this trust that I acted to remove four women from the collective once I was convinced that swift action was called for. I deplore the negativity that has been aroused since, and can only hope that it will not irrevocably damage the bookstore and its service to the Women's Movement.

The lawsuit brought by the four women is extremely serious. In addition to claiming that we must personally pay them over a million dollars, they each claim to be part owners of the bookstore. They are asking to be given complete control and that we be excluded. In the event that they are not given control, they ask that a receiver be appointed, that the property of the bookstore (including the lease, the books, furniture, shelves, and even the kitchen utensils) be sold: to be divided up between themselves and us. Their suit is a matter of public record, filed at the Alameda County Court. My ownership role has always been one of trust and preservation. I have not profited from it and neither have the twenty-five to thirty women who have been the collective members that have worked there over the years, helping to run it. This includes the four now suing for ownership rights.

Because Carol and Natalie have a proven eleven year record of successful management, including the training of numerous collective members, my removing the plaintiffs from the bookstore does not interfere with its continuity. Their lawsuit, on the other hand, suggests that if the four of them cannot obtain exclusive control of the bookstore, they would see it sold and divided up, rather than allow us to continue it.

### On The Financial Situation:

The four women attempt to brush off the financial problems we hold them responsible for by claiming that we had seriously erred over the years by not having expertise. They also claim that "for many years this error was minimized by keeping costs down and by the support the store received from its community, which meant an ongoing trend of increased sales." They make it sound as though these two were incidental accidents, and not important. Indeed, they are half the battle in a business, the other half being that a business must not tie up cash in unsold inventory (which is what the four women were doing—that's the serious error.) Costs were kept low because Carol, Natalie and Alice are zealots about that—we don't even have printed letterhead! Furthermore, there was very little community in 1972; and it wouldn't be as well-developed as it is today had the bookstore not emerged and served well. Carol and Natalie didn't make financial errors; between them they have 50 years of small-business experience and know-how. And our accountant, Phyliss Benoy, was there when we did need guidance.

In their statement in last month's *Coming Up!*, the four women give kind of glib explanations, throwing figures around, to indicate that the bookstore was not in trouble, it was just business as usual. Well it wasn't. A bookstore our size, \$28,000

in debt, and paying bills every more slowly (75 to 90 days and creeping up), with too large an inventory for its gross sales, and only 15% of that inventory actually selling, is in deep trouble—especially in today's economy. That they could not, or would not see this is sad, and bitterly frustrating to Carol and Natalie.

### Who We-Carol, Natalie and Alice-Are:

All three of us come from working class backgrounds (upward striving poor); Carol is Texas-Oakie-moved west; Natalie is Orthodox Jewish Boston ghetto; Alice is New York first-generation Irish. We are not college graduates. We have been dykes since the 1950's. All three of us were in DOB in the 1960's, Carol and Natalie in San Francisco, Alice in New York.

Carol and Alice were among the dozen-ish women who started Gay Women's Liberation in 1968 in the Bay Area—the group that started the woman's community you see around you today. We brought to our activism the deep, constant concern we had each experienced since our adolescence (early '50s) toward the oppression of black people in this country, and we were among those seared and consciousness-raised by the A-bomb, the McCarthy era, and the black civil rights movement. For example, Alice's political activism history began with participation in Dorothy Day-led civil disobedience in the mid '50s. Carol's first political arrest, in 1970 or 1971, occurred during an attempt to integrate a woman's bar in San Francisco.

By 1971 we had helped start Gay Women's Liberation and worked on *It Ain't Me Babe*, a woman's newspaper—the first; and Carol was in the first anti-rape group, had taught the first women's auto repair course through Breakaway, and begun, with three other women, Free Women's Distribution, the first distributor of women's magazines and papers. Having seen the problems with women's centers (grant money, energy drain), and having deep concern for information communication, we decided a woman's bookstore was in order and said to each other, let's keep our eyes open for a good spot. At the end of 1971 we found such a place—oddy enough, or not so oddy, it was the very same space Carol had noticed a year earlier one day, and said, if that place was available, it would be perfect. We looked at it, rented it on the spot, and called five other women: Natalie, Nancy, Rosalie, Starr, and Forest. They shared our vision completely and two months later we opened.

The bookstore has remained true to that vision (largely through our sustained, thoughtful steadiness)—and to the concrete business strategy that we (and especially Carol) designed to keep it financially stable over long periods, and able to weather crises. We aim to continue.

## What the Ordering Problem Was:

Ordering books, especially new titles, is one of the most enjoyable tasks in any bookstore. It's a real test of how well one can handle one's self-indulgence. It's also the most challenging and perilous task (if you care about the end results).

Without enough overview and thought as to:

1. What the customers want to buy,
2. how much of each title are on hand (if a reorder) and will sell in a given time,
3. what the current status of bills is,
4. what the current status of cash flow is,
5. and various other factors (seasonal items, etc), you can end up with hundreds and hundreds of books just sitting in the store and very big bills from the publishers pouring in, bills you can't pay because the books aren't selling. This is known as being in deep trouble.

The four women ordered almost all of the new books during the past year and a half. Three of them were on the ordering team, and the fourth one ordered books anyway.

They ordered too many books, and too many of each title. They ordered books that our customers wouldn't want and couldn't afford. Books started piling up about the place that we couldn't afford to pay for. We tried to explain this cause-and-effect, but they just ordered more books. At the same time, only about 15% of our titles were selling.

We had far more books than is sound for a bookstore of our size. Now we are stuck with a lot of books we can't return because: a) certain publishers won't take books back after a certain number of months, or b) we won't be buying books from some publishers, so we can't use the credit they give us for the returns (many publishers won't give money).

It started taking us longer and longer to pay our bills. We have always paid them in 30 days, then it started to taking 60 days, then it began to be 75 days. Creditors get suspicious and nasty when not paid on time: they either stop sending books or move legally to collect—or both—and they also spread the word that you're a bad risk, which has the effect of cutting off more credit; once that process starts, it can snowball very quickly.

We'd like to pause at this point and say that if you think this is dry and boring you're absolutely right—but this is as brief and uncomplicated as we can get it and even begin to get across the effects of the four women's ordering practices and their refusal to respect the relationship with selling the books, paying for the books, and paying the rent and salaries, etc. And, most important, the relationship with returns.

It was a double bind that caused the crunch: these women ordered too much and returned too little.

## From the Heart:

We regret that it was necessary to take such drastic action as firing four collective members. We too are appalled that the atmosphere was so negative that we were compelled to change the locks, to avoid trouble. The alternative, walking away from the bookstore (we are workers, not fighters) meant watching the bookstore crumble, and that was too awful. We couldn't do it.

We are deeply disheartened to see ourselves characterized by the other four women as racist and against coalition and diversity, when we have strived so long and so hard to make sure the bookstore is just the opposite. We three have been the most constant, most consistent influence of all on the bookstore; the bookstore expresses who we are. If you came to the bookstore any time during the past 11 years and saw what it was and what it carried, you know that such charges are not true. They insult not only us, but all the caring women who worked there, and the community itself.

We feel bad that we cannot respond in detail in this space to the misrepresentations of our characters and politics, our words and deeds, and our business acumen, and to the discounting of our nurturance of the bookstore. We feel that these four women are not seeing us for who we are. Although we are deeply disturbed by the amount of negative energy they have expended over the past year and a half, on one level we do not blame them for the tangle they are in. This kind of thing has been happening in collectives all along, for years. Ask anyone on the street who's been in one. Something is drastically wrong with the way we're all trying to be collectives and has been wrong for years. It's about time to do something about that. (We have begun to write articulations about this problem, and are interested in your narratives of your collective experiences, and your analyses. We are thinking of publishing in the Fall. Please contact us if interested.)

## In the Meantime:

Please, please support the bookstore...we love it, and you love it, so come in and browse, and buy something if you can, and if you can bring some cheer with you, we could all use it.

Our defense fund is very low—it's expensive to be sued and we live on low incomes. If you could see your way clear to a donation it would help us tremendously. (For one thing, we have to fly two witnesses in from other states.) Please feel free to call or write if you have questions, or just to express support—we need that as much as we need money—maybe more. Write or call: Alice Molloy, 4205 Terrace Street, Oakland 94611. 655-6098.

Alice, Carol and Natalie

# The Other Side

On September 12, 1982, a lockout took place at I.C.I.—A Woman's Place, a collective, feminist bookstore and information center in Oakland, California. Two collective members and a former collective member are responsible for this lockout and attempted takeover. On the eighth day following, the store was reopened, a court hearing took place and the six collective members and the former collective member were ordered back to work together, pending resolution of this dispute. As of this writing, all parties are working toward an arbitrated settlement using feminist and alternative resources and urge you to support A Woman's Place with your "matronage."

We are the four collective members who were locked out. We'd like to briefly explain our view of the issues within the collective and the current situation at the bookstore.

## Collective Issues and Conflicts

The bookstore collective was made up of six women who had been through many conflicts together. Conflicts were common among the various groupings of women who have made up the Woman's Place collective. Perhaps the greatest conflict between us had to do with our differing *visions of feminism*, and thus, of what it meant to be a feminist bookstore. The two collective members who participated in the lockout, Carol Wilson and Natalie Lando, took the position that sexism is the primary problem in all women's lives and that A Woman's Place should reflect this position. The four of us think that there is no one correct interpretation of feminism. We believe that A Woman's Place as an institution should understand feminism as a *coalition* of women who oppose sexism and are struggling against sexism in many different ways. For example, for the four of us, the oppressions we've experienced due to sexism, class, racism, anti-semitism and homophobia are all central in our lives.

We wanted A Woman's Place to be a place where different visions of feminism could all have a forum. Three of us had been brought into the collective specifically because it was felt that more participation by working class women and women of color would enrich and broaden the collective. But the two collective members who participated in the lockout, although they were originally supportive of this affirmative action, felt threatened by this broadening of the viewpoints represented within the collective.

As part of the effort to discuss different views of feminism, Jesse brought the collective a taped copy of Bernice Reagon's workshop on coalition building within the women's movement from the second West Coast Women's Music Festival and asked each of us to listen to and be prepared to talk about it at our next meeting. This workshop has become important to the four of us because it gave us a name for our understanding of feminism as a coalition.

Carol and Natalie's reaction to the tape was to maintain that Bernice was not a feminist, based on their disagreement with one statement on the tape. Likewise, the four of us were told directly and indirectly that we were not feminists when we disagreed with Carol and Natalie. We don't think that dismissing another woman's feminism is a good way to resolve differences among feminists.

One way our differing perceptions of feminism emerged most clearly was over policy on events. Jesse made a proposal that the collective accommodate more kinds of events, in response to a spectrum of protests and comments we'd received from many women including Dorothy Bryant, Florence MacDonald, Alta, Bell Hooks, Daphne Muse, Elana Dykewoman, Women Against Imperialism and the editors of *Womanblood*. This proposal was in three parts, none of which were dependent on the others. The first part was that we continue to have events every Tuesday night in the

women's lounge for women only. The second was that events could be held which were addressed to certain groups of women only—lesbians, women of color, battered women, etc. This proposal had been vetoed two years before when lesbian-only events were requested; Natalie particularly opposed it, saying we were a woman's place, not a lesbian's place. This proposal was again vetoed by Carol saying that she saw no benefit to the women's movement in such restriction of events. The third part of the proposal was that some events could be attended by women and men if so requested by the woman giving the event; this idea arose from an offer by a Black woman who wanted to hold a discussion for parents on children's books. These events would be held in the main part of the store, which is open to the public. Carol and Natalie also vetoed this. When we asked for more discussion and/or a counterproposal or compromise, Carol proposed that we stop having Tuesday night women only events until we reached consensus on a policy. The 4 of us were not willing to stop these events. Again, they insisted that their politics had to determine the store events policy, and would make no room for women with different visions of feminism to create different kinds of events.

We have been asked by many women for more specifics on how *racism* tore the collective apart. When the collective discussed such issues as representation by women of color at the 1981 Women in Print conference, dealing with customers' racist behavior in the store, making statements of support for anti-imperialist and anti-racist political groups, etc., and sometimes in interactions with each other, we became divided along color lines.

Keiko and Elizabeth, the two women of color in the collective, were not being listened to as women who, because of their life experiences had intimate knowledge of racism which the white women in the collective needed to understand. This had been the case since Keiko and Elizabeth first joined the collective. Keiko and Elizabeth never labelled any collective member a racist. They never demanded that the other collective members bow to them on issues relating to racism. They did say, in many different ways, that the white women in the collective had a responsibility to listen to them, to try to understand their viewpoints, and to act supportively against the racism they encounter.

The white women in the collective did not recognize the value and power that can come from acknowledging our differences. At one point, Carol informed Keiko that Carol saw Keiko as a woman, not as a person of color. Carol did not understand that this meant she was refusing to see Keiko as who Keiko is, and that this refusal was hurtful to Keiko and to the relationship between the two of them.

A pattern emerged in the collective discussions in which an issue involving racism would come up. The white women would refuse to acknowledge what Keiko and Elizabeth had to say; Keiko would react by becoming angry and upset, Elizabeth by withdrawing; and the discussion would then focus on Keiko and Elizabeth's reactions. This repeated dynamic kept the collective from working on racism, and made Keiko and Elizabeth into "the problem."

Because of Elizabeth and Keiko's attempts to raise consciousness about racism within the collective through letters, written statements and discussions, as well as because of workshops given to the collective by Ricky Sherover-Marcuse on Unlearning Racism and Unlearning Anti-Semitism in the fall of 1981, Jesse and Darlene began to understand the concept of white women acting as allies to women of color in the fight against racism and to take this stand in the collective. In collective meetings, in one-to-one discussions, and in letters circulated within the collective, Jesse and Darlene tried to encourage Natalie and Carol to also become allies. We can make available the letters and statements circulated within the collective on racism to anyone interested.

Natalie and Carol clearly felt threatened, and took the position that Elizabeth and Keiko were using the charge of racism in an effort to manipulate white women, and that Jesse and Darlene were allowing themselves to be manipulated out of white guilt. In effect, they were saying that the only problem of racism in the group was that women of color use the issue to create trouble. This attitude was a terrible problem for the collective.

Equalizing power in the collective was a related problem. Natalie and Carol were among the founders of the bookstore in 1971, with five other women. Among the many women who have been part of the collective since then were Darlene who has been part of the collective for 6½ years, Jesse for three years, Keiko for 2½ years and Elizabeth for two years.

Each of us was asked into the collective because of specific skills and knowledge, including political organizing, devotion to feminist literature, bookstore management and collective experience. But Carol and Natalie frequently adopted the attitude that other collective members should defer automatically to their experience at A Woman's Place. Through the years Natalie and Carol had frequently been criticized by many collective members for hoarding information and for acting like bosses rather than as equals in the collective. This attitude was particularly disastrous for the collective in making financial decisions.

The business has operated with no budgeting and no financial analysis. No one in the collective had the expertise to provide or utilize this information, nor did the collective seek outside help. We



recognize this as a grave error for a business grossing over \$250,000 a year, and are critical of ourselves as well as of Natalie and Carol for allowing this to happen. For many years, this error was minimized by keeping costs down and by the support the store received from its community, which meant an ongoing trend of increased sales. In 1978, 1979 and 1980, the store experienced significant growth in our sales.

However, the combination of a recession economy, competition from other bookstores, paying salary to a sixth collective member and the expenses and disruption of our move in 1981 stopped our growth if inflation is considered and lowered our profit to only 1.1% in 1981 from the average of about 6% we'd experienced in 1978, 1979 and 1980. (Please keep in mind, when we discuss this and other financial information, that some of this information is incomplete or can be calculated more than one way.)

And once again through August of 1982, the last full month the store was open before the lockout, the growth remained stymied but using the same percentage of our costs that we'd used to figure the earlier years, A Woman's Place broke even. As we've said in earlier statements, in September, October, November and December, sales are the highest of the year and thus we could have expected a healthy profit for 1982 in spite of the lack of growth. Instead after the lockout, we experienced a 1% loss for 1982.

Finally, *collective process* became a major problem. The collective made decisions by consensus, a process which required that group members actively work and compromise to bring the group to a unified decision. Natalie and Carol frequently blocked decisions and accepted no responsibility to engineer compromises. This left the four of us to make one-sided compromises or accept constant stalemates.

As relations within the collective deteriorated, so did Carol and Natalie's behavior. The four of us felt strongly that, no matter how angry and frustrated we all felt with each other, we had a responsibility to act with courtesy and respect. Carol and Natalie did not agree. After a particularly offensive outburst by Natalie towards Darlene, a proposal was made that collective members refrain from name-calling, hostile use of obscenities, or prolonging hostile conversations; this proposal was blocked by Carol and Natalie.

The immediate prelude to the lockout was a collective stalemate at a September 10th meeting over how to handle replacing Keiko when she left for maternity leave. Jesse made a proposal to resolve that stalemate through arbitration. The collective members agreed to consider this and to meet again to discuss it. We think that Natalie and Carol panicked when faced with the possibility that they could not control the collective through

blocking consensus. The suggestion was once made in the Spring of 1982, that the collective make decisions by majority vote since consensus had broken down; before discussion could take place, Carol said that she would see the store closed first, a statement which we found appalling and incomprehensible at the time.

On September 12, Carol and her roommate Alice Molloy did just that, claiming the right to fire us. Natalie supported their action. This lockout was in violation of our collective agreements and understandings, including the understanding that the collective owns the bookstore in behalf of the community.

The reasons given at that time by these three are very different from their more recent statements. At a community meeting a week after the lockout, an attorney representing Alice, Carol and Natalie said that Alice had panicked, made a terrible mistake, and was very sorry. Now Alice, Carol and Natalie claim that the lockout was long-planned and done to protect the bookstore, citing complaints against us that were never brought up within the collective. They claim that Alice is the sole owner of the bookstore, a claim that was not made prior to the lockout. (Alice was among those entrusted with signing papers for the bookstore in which she was represented as an owner, for which she was generously reimbursed; efforts to change the way the collective represented itself on paper were blocked by Carol.)

We have chosen to fight to keep I.C.I.—A Woman's Place alive as a feminist, principled institution and to oppose this attempted takeover of a collective endeavor, in every way we can. Some women have indicated that, no matter what they've done, Natalie, Carol and Alice rightfully "own" the store because of their years of work there. We agree that Natalie's eleven years, Carol's nine years and Alice's five years of paid and unpaid work at A Woman's Place, as well as their work on other feminist projects, should be acknowledged and honored, as should the many years of paid and unpaid work the four of us have devoted to A Woman's Place and other feminist projects. We do not agree that this means they have a particular claim to "own" a project which has always been presented as a collective of equals, owning and running a not-for-profit business for the benefit of the women's movement.

Some women have criticized us for taking this dispute to "man's court." We want to point out that it was Alice, Carol and Natalie who first moved this dispute into the legal arena by locking us out and by relying on Alice's name on the papers to determine the fate of the collective. Because no women's/ feminist court presently exists, and we faced an immediate need to get the store reopened and functioning, we made the decision to file suit against Alice, Carol and Natalie for their actions, as well as to take other actions such as

rallying community support, and trying to create an alternative of feminist arbitration. We feel these were the best of the options open to us.

Our choice to file a lawsuit has had some good results; the judge has made such decisions as ordering that the store must remain open, that the lockout could not continue, and that a fair and competent receiver be appointed. This woman, Janet McGinnis, has helped us with financial analysis and decisions and has mediated between the two sides.

Some women have expressed to us that no matter how reprehensible the actions of these three, we should not have opposed them because it divides the women's community. We can understand that this struggle is hard for many women to face. In the past, many women have been driven out of the collective by the problems we've described. We don't want that to keep happening, and we will not be driven out.

The struggle we're undergoing at A Woman's Place reflects many of the problems in the women's movement as a whole. We think the struggle is worth it to have I.C.I.—A Woman's Place and the women's movement be worthy of our respect and support.

Many women have offered their help and support to us, and many have attended our benefits. We thank you all.

### Current Situation

The financial situation of the bookstore is grave, but is potentially manageable. Carol, Alice and Natalie's lock-down of the store in September was a disaster for A Woman's Place. We estimate a \$7,000 loss in gross sales from the eight days the store was closed. Sales from September through December, 1982, were down from 1981 by \$20,900, or 20%. Had the sales trend for 1982 of 9% increases over 1981 been uninterrupted by the lockout, the store would have grossed about \$30,300 more than it actually did, so sales were actually down about 27%. In spite of these losses and the considerable cost of paying the court-appointed receiver, Janet McGinnis, the bookstore's before-tax loss for 1982 was only \$2,900, thanks in large part to Janet's help.

The bookstore cannot continue this downward sales trend and survive without major changes. There are many possible ways to ensure the survival of the bookstore, including appeals for community support, inventory reduction, reduction in paid staff, restructuring the store or part of the store as a non-profit corporation, finding investors, etc. But the first step must be settlement of this dispute as soon as possible through arbitration, so that the disastrous effect of the lockout can be put behind us and solutions can be implemented.

Janet McGinnis' term as receiver has ended. The store is currently co-managed by Jesse Meredith and Carol Wilson. Any decisions they cannot agree on are to be referred to a court-appointed third party, Brenda Harbin, an Oakland attorney.

Restraint of angry and hostile behavior continues to be an issue at the bookstore. As a result of a court hearing January 11, Alice Molloy is now excluded from the premises until the dispute is settled, based on her unwillingness to show such restraint.

Keiko Kubo returned to work from her maternity leave for four days in January. As per a written proposal for on-site childcare drafted with input from childcare professionals and accepted by Janet as a workable proposal for A Woman's Place, and with the help of volunteers, Takeshi, her baby, came with her. The childcare was very successful for that brief time. However, on the basis of a claim by Alice, Natalie and Carol's attorney at the court hearing, that the baby's presence was disruptive and that the four of us did no work while the baby was present, the judge extended Keiko's paid maternity leave and excluded her from the premises until the dispute is settled.

No joint statement is yet available on arbitration. Since November, the four of us have made no public statements about the lockout, based on Janet's advice and request. Janet believes that continuing to issue separate statements does damage to the business and asked both sides to instead issue a joint statement encouraging matronage of the business. But, Natalie, Carol and Alice have continued to publish separate statements, and no joint statement has yet been agreed upon. Many women have urged us to provide more detailed and specific information on the issues; thus this current statement.

Women who would like to talk to us further are welcome to call us for the location of our Sunday evening gatherings. We also have available letters and proposals on racism, the events policy proposal, legal documents, previous statements and other relevant papers, including those outlining financial information about the store.

Please support our fight for A Woman's Place that's for all of us. We need your ideas, your help and your donations.

Darlene Pagano  
Jesse Meredith

Elizabeth Summers  
Keiko Kubo  
c/o Box 3184  
Oakland, Ca 94609  
(415) 658-7726

## THE ARBITRATORS DECISION,

THE DISAGREEMENT AT A WOMAN'S PLACE WAS SETTLED OUT OF COURT USING AN ARBITRATION SERVICE. THE FOLLOWING IS THE ENTIRE TEXT OF THEIR FINDINGS:

THIS MATTER WAS HEARD by the undersigned Arbitrators on March 12, 13, and 21, 1983. The parties were represented by counsel, Plaintiffs by Kathryn Dobel, Esq. and Ellen Lacroix, Esq., and Defendants by Rachel Ginsburg, Esq. Testimonial and documentary evidence was presented on March 12 and 13, 1983. On March 21, pursuant to the guidelines of Arts Arbitration and Mediation Services, and consent of the parties, the Arbitrators engaged in an informal mediation and informational session. No issues were resolved by voluntary agreement of the parties.

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED ARBITRATORS, having been designated in accordance with the Agreement to arbitrate entered into by the above-named parties, having been duly sworn, having heard the evidence, and good cause appearing therefore, FIND AS FOLLOWS:

1. ICI-A Women's Place bookstore is a political business formed for the benefit of the women's community, the essence of which is decision making by unanimous agreement, ie consensus.

2. Based on the intent of the parties as manifested by their conduct, ICI A Women's Place bookstore is a partnership composed of all plaintiffs and all defendants.

3. Irremediable differences have arisen between the parties such that it is no longer possible for them to own/operate the bookstore business as partners.

Based on the foregoing, dissolution of the partnership and distribution of the business assets would be an appropriate disposition of this matter. However, since all parties and counsel agree that their primary concern is the survival of the bookstore as an asset of the women's community, the Arbitrators AWARD/ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

1. Plaintiffs (Keiko Kubo, Darlene Pagano, Jessie Meredith, and Elizabeth Summers) shall incorporate the business immediately.

2. ALICE MOLLOY shall cease to represent herself as sole proprietor of the business and shall execute all documents necessary to effect this result.

3. Plaintiffs shall act as interim managers of the business/corporation for a maximum of two years. Plaintiffs shall rotate out of the business/corporation: two Plaintiffs to leave within one year of the date of the AWARD and the other two to leave within two years of the date of this AWARD.

4. Defendants (Alice Molloy, Natalie Lando, and Carol Wilson) shall cease their association with the business/corporation as of the date of this AWARD except that they may, if mutually agreeable, act as consultants for interim manager plaintiffs regarding the financial affairs of the business/corporation.

5. Interim manager plaintiffs shall stabilize the business/corporation by building sound fiscal and management policies and practices.

6. Each party, upon discontinuing her association with the bookstore business in accordance with this AWARD shall receive the equivalent of one month's salary as severance pay, and may receive unemployment benefits as accrued.

7. Any party may reassociate with the business/corporation no less than two years after she leaves.

8. Tangible items relating to the bookstore business including books, records, documents, fixtures, inventory, etc, shall be the property of the business and shall remain on the business premises. The parties may remove their personal effects from the bookstore premises.

9. ALICE MOLLOY shall receive copies of tax returns filed on behalf of the business in her name.

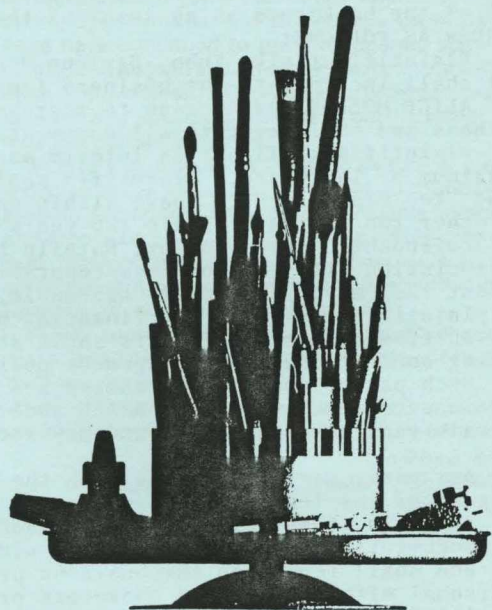
10. No party shall harass or disturb the peace of any other party, or the business/corporation.

11. Neither Plaintiffs nor Defendants shall recover money damages from each other in connection with this dispute.

12. Attorneys fees and costs shall be borne in the following manner. Each plaintiff and defendant group may withdraw from the business \$2000 (total \$4,000.) for fees and costs. Such withdrawals shall be made in equal quarterly installment payments from the business/corporation, the total amount to be paid within eighteen months of this AWARD. The parties shall bear the balance of their own fees and costs.

4/15/83

Teresa Carey  
Helen Stewart  
Roma Guy



# They Went That-A-Way

Ambitious women move bookstores! Build strong minds and strong bodies in new ways. Fan The Flames is now at 65 S. Fourth St., Columbus, Ohio. 43215. Rainbows of Life is now at 303 W. Jefferson, Ft. Wayne, Ind 46802 & has been for about a year, but FBN missed it. Dreams and Swords is now at 828 E. 64th St, Indianapolis, Ind. 46220. (Those midwestern women are movers!) A Womansplace Bookstore in Phoenix has moved over a berg to Tempe, 425 S. Mill Ave., Tempe, Az. 85281. La Papaya has moved to 24 Prospect Place, Brooklyn, NY & is open Fridays 12-9 only except by appointment call 212-638-8143. Djuna, the bookstore in The Village, has closed.

Lady Unique Inclination of the Night (magazine) has moved to 605 B Baylor St. Austin, Tx 78703 and Spinsters, Ink, (publishers) has moved to 233 Dolores #8, San Francisco, Ca. 94103.

New Bookstores: Herland Bookstore, 4630 NW 19th, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 73106. A Womans Place Bookstore, 2814 29th St. SW, Calgary, Alberta, T3E 6W3 will open her doors in either June or Sept. but is already doing mail orders and conferences. Iris Books opened May 1 at 1100 North Main St., Dayton, Ohio 45406.

For *The Record* and *The Handbook for Women on the Nuclear Mentality*, both mentioned last issue, are also distributed by Crossing Press. *Eye to Eye: Portraits of Lesbians*, by JEB (Joan Biren) which is rumored to be out of print and is certainly unavailable is actually being revised & updated and will be reprinted in the conceivable future & will have a blue cover.

Bookstores that don't get *The Lammis Little Review* can get one by sending SASE or better yet, send \$4 for a year's sub. to LLL, 321 Seventh St, SE, Washington, DC 20003. It's my favorite of the reviews media we've developed. It feels like an over the counter chat with a bookseller. (especially for those of us who work alone and worry about how much we're talking to ourselves.) Lammis writes that they had their first sale in Sept. & that it was a great success. They've done a fair amount of on-the-road selling in the last year & plan to continue it.

Crossing Press's spring catalogue is a treasure chest and a pleasure, as always. Write to them for a copy if perchance you aren't on their mailing list. CP, Box 640 Trumansburg, NY 14886.

Oops! In case I confused you last issue, the Ottawa Women's Bookstore is at 380 Elgin St, Ottawa, Ontario, not at 300 Elfin St. as I typo'd.

Keep the faith!

Carol Seajay

## FINANCIAL SURVEY OF O's BKSTORES +

A support committee for the Uncommon Reader (formerly The Women's Bookstore) of Worcester Ma. has completed their survey of women's bookstores. It has a lot of financial information in it and is divided into 'financially successful stores and 'non-successful', I think with the goal of figuring out what works! It's wonderful reading and points out things like 'the best selling areas were fiction and lesbian literature. The worst selling categories most often mentioned were poetry and alternative energy.' Only 1/3 of the stores contacted responded, so they feel that it isn't the ultimate document, but it's the best I've ever seen. If you weren't one of the stores that responded & so don't already have one, or if you're a new store, try sending them a long SASE and a couple dollars for xeroxing and see if they'll send you a copy. Write: The Uncommon Reader, 51 Union Place, Worcester Ma. 01608.

## OBITUARY

Writer & researcher Ann Novotny died of a stroke in December. Ann is probably best known in our community for giving us the riches-to-rags story of lesbian photographer Alice Austin, for her book *Alice's World: The Life and Photography of An American Original: Alice Austen, 1866-1952* (Chatham Press), and for her discovery of Alice's photographs in the basement of a historical society, & her work selling them to raise money to get Alice out of the poorhouse & later to convert her home into the first museum in the country for the work of a lesbian photographer.

Novotny also founded her own freehnce research firm which she and her long-term lover built into the premier firm of its kind.

Info from Tee Corinne, Judith Schwarz & Off Our Backs. Thanks



## FIGHTING WOMAN NEWS



IS SEVEN YEARS OLD:

The first issue of *Fighting Woman News*, a magazine of martial arts, self-defense, and combative sports for women, was published in December 1975. The start-up capital of the

new publication was \$65, and there were about 20 paid subscribers. The eight-pager was typed - the publisher didn't yet know about typesetting - and the layout can best be described as design-by-accident. "We just kept pasting up until there was no more room. The issue 'closed' when we ran out of space," recalls Valerie Eads who still edits and publishes the journal.

"In spite of the incredible ignorance we had some good things in that first issue. The cover drawing was taken from an old Japanese print of a woman samurai and she is still our logo. Besides the historical value of such a print, she epitomizes my concept of a martial artist. She is a woman and she is beautiful; she is a warrior and she is powerful. She knows her beauty and her power and is proud of them; they go together like her left and right hands.

"To a certain extent the magazine parallels my development as a martial artist. Along with most of the women I knew I was very much a beginner. The first issues were all about sticking it to the boys who controlled the martial arts. It took a while to get around to what women were doing. Now, it is very much the reverse. We still report on the absurdities of sexism within the male-dominated martial arts, but usually as News & Notes items. Our features and articles concentrate on quality martial arts, and the last issue actually had a good article on Aikido written by a man. It was written for a general audience, but it was a quality article so I grabbed it!

Our policy is now to concentrate on what women are doing and since they are doing very fine marital arts, by any standard, we can't help but have a good martial arts magazine."

*Fighting Woman News* went to magazine format in 1978 in order to be able to handle longer articles and more complicated graphics. It is now typeset and printed by a real printer instead of the local copy shop. The articles are footnoted and usually proofread. But the bags are still hauled to the post office on the subway by the publisher.

"And we still get last choice on photos, after the photographer has tried all the paying markets. But we get to press."

Subscriptions to *Fighting Woman News* are \$10. Institutional and foreign subscriptions are \$15. Box 1459, Grand Central Stn., New York NY 10163. *FWN* is distributed by Carrier Pigeon and the magazine is sold in many feminist and alternative bookstores. *FWN* is also in about a dozen libraries cross country, usually in the women's or alternative periodical collections.

## NO-SHOW PRE-PAYS

Does anyone know how to get an answer out of Jonnik Enterprises, the publishers of *Lesbian Voices*? (P.O. Box 2066, San Jose, CA 95109) I sent them a prepaid order for 10 *Lesbian Voices* on 6/22/82. I phoned 'em on 8/26 - Johnnie assured me they would be here in Sept. On 10/23 I wrote a postcard requesting either the issues or a refund. No answer. I wrote again on 11/23 and 12/31. I'm tired of wasting my money on postcards. I should add that my check has not been cashed yet - but I am hesitant to put a stop payment on it with the bank as that costs \$6 - \$10 here... I am in a similar situation with Annie Buttons, the button-maker. Can anyone help?

Thank you,

Moonyean  
Womansplace Bookstore  
2401 N. 32nd St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85008



# FROM OUR OWN PRESSES

Backbone 5: Humor by Northwest Women. Ed. by Barbara Wilson & Rachel da Silva. What? Feminists stop and take time to laugh? Relax? "It's got stories about dentists, smokers, lesbian nymphomaniacs, take-offs on Dear Abby, the NY Times and Writers Digest, photos, and cartoons. Funny, feminist controversial, tasteless, political and politically incorrect. But never boring." The Seal Press. 4.95 312 S. Washington, Seattle, Wa. 98104. -4=20%, 5+ = 40%. Dist. by Bookpeople.

The next issue will be new writing by Northwest women of color. Backbone is an annual publication that aims to showcase the work of local writers, provoke dialogue & foster community. It LOOKS like a book.

A Guide to Women's Art Organizations and Directory for the Arts. Cynthia Navaretta. Includes Multi-arts Centers, Galleries, Groups, Activities, Networks Publications, Artists Colonies, Grants & Fellowships, Health Hazards, & more. Covers painting, sculpture, drawing, photography, intermedia, dance, music, theatre, architecture, crafts, film & electronic print media, writing. Midmarch Associates, Box 3304 Grand Central Station, NY, NY 10017. \$8.50, 30% to stores

Blatent Image II. Another annual "book". "Another landmark volume for feminists, photographers, & those who delight in visual imagery. 96 pages, coated stock, 120 half tones by 9 photographers from USA, Canada & Europe. Also theoretical articles, herstorical material, & practical information. \$11." (#1 is still available. \$10.) 40%, 30 days for 3+. or 25% for 3+ on consignment, you pay in 6 months. The Blatent Image, 2000 King Mt. Trail, Sunny Valley, Or 97497-9799

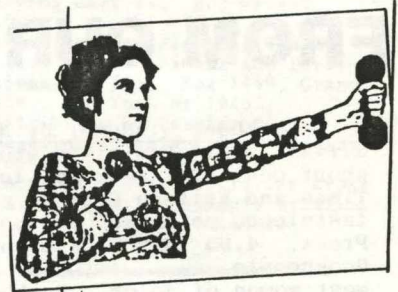
Shadow Country, Paula Gunn Allen, "A collection of poetry by Laguna Pueblo Indian - Lebanese/American poet Paula Gunn Allen. Beautifully illustrated with original paintings by Southwest Artist James Trujillo. Southwestern images, stories, and approaches to tribal and urban life." The first poetry by Allen that I read and reread and reread was "Dykes are like Indians" in an issue of Conditions. She has a novel coming out later this year from Spinsters, Ink. \$7.00, UCLA-Native American Series. Dist. by Crossing Press.

Sitt Marie Rose, a novel by Etel Adnan. Trans. from the French by Georgina Kleege. "Adnan is a poet & writer well known through the Arab world. This is the story of a woman abducted by militiamen during the civil war in Lebanon and executed. It reveals the tribal mentality which makes of the Middle East a dangerous powerhouse." \$5.00 40% to bookstores. Consignment also available from Peoples Translation Service, 4228 Telegraph Ave, Oakland, Ca 94609. (They are also going to reissue the lesbian issue of Connexions, you might order both at once.)

Women Artists: A Resource and Research Guide, Paula L. Chairmonte, Ed. Includes both historical and contemporary women artists. Features print and non-print formats as well as organizations. Also articles on exhibition catalogues, galleries and performance art. From the Art Libraries Society of North America. \$3.50. discount info not sent. ARLIS/NA, 3775 Bear Creek Circle, Tucson, AZ 85749.

Self Help for Premenstrual Syndrome. Michelle Harris, MD. (Author of A Woman in Residence, Random House). "What is PMS, Whom does it affect? Where to start in treating PMS, how to chart symptoms, treatment including diet, vitamins & minerals, progesterone, Antiprostaglandins, diuretics, acupuncture, peer support, stress reduction, exercise & psychotherapy, and address some of the political issues raised by PMS. Terms for bookstores not sent. \$4.50, Matrix Press, PO Box 740, Cambridge, Ma. 02238

Assertion Skills for Young Women: A Manual. Ginny Mc Carthy. Unbound. \$5. The National Female Advocacy Project, 376 S. Stone Ave, Tucson Az. 85701.



FROM OUR OWN PRESSES. CON'D

A Day in San Francisco, latest novel from Dorothy Bryant. Whew. In some ways this is Bryant (Killing Wonder, Miss Giardino, Kin of Ata) at her best. Looking at a question/an issue, then looking to see where that comes from, and where the that that produced that came from. Some ways I found it painful: to the extent that I identify with the gay men's community(ies) here, I wished that the criticism offered of that community was more constructive...how does one MOVE that identity and it's consciousness? But much of the criticism is deserved. I wish Frank was less of a caricature (but then, that's the point of the novel), and the ending troubled me for days--street toughs out to bash a queer, stumble upon straight lefty mother of Frank, decide she's a suburban dyke & worth rolling. She's saved by her own despair. When they hear her talking & crying to herself, they decide she's a crazy-woman and not to be messed with, so she gets off free. The readers relief is immediately tempered by the knowledge that the toughs are off to kill a faggot. And I leave the book knowing that's no solution to violence against women. The whole book is a series of contradictions in similar form. The intolerance of the liberal-lefty (asexual) mother for her son's sex-oriented superficially political life. By the end, neither is a sympathetic character, A disconcerting ending to be sure. For non-San Franciscans, its a look at Gay Pride Day, the Castro Street Fair, and a marathon reading, and only in fiction do they all happen on the same day (thank heaven!) Still, where else do we get competent middle-aged women characters, Feminist Bookstores, and such elegant descriptions of the Gay Pride Day Parade? Don't be confused by my many criticisms, I picked it up to look at, then didn't stop until I'd finished the last page. One of the major topics of conversation in town is 'what did you think of A Day in SF?' and it left me thinking and pondering for weeks. Quite a gift. \$6. paper/ \$12. cloth. Dist. by Bookpeople, Publishers Group West, Inland, The Crossing Press & The Distributors

Mad at Last & Getting the Most Out of It, poetry and watercolor paintings by Ruth Hynds-Hand on the theme of anger resolving old pain and letting one get on with life. The paintings are based on photo album photos depicting some of the points of anger & process. One of those (increasingly less?) rare feminist press published books that is heterosexually based and oriented. A useful book for women facing their own anger for the first time. \$4.59. Balboa Landmarks Press, PO Box 7, Balboa Island, Calif 92662. 40% for 5+. Consignment also avail.

1983 Index/Directory of Women's Media is now available. The ultimate resource for anyone with a book, idea, whatever to promote in the feminist bookstore, peiodical, publisher, women's music groups, radio & TV programs, films, art/graphics/theatre networks, new services, women's columns, speakers bureaus, special library collections + hundreds of individual media women. Useful for feminist bookstores wanting to reach women publishers, too. \$8. 40% to bookstores, 50% if you're in it (tho maybe not 50% for resale.) Order from Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press. 3306 Ross Place, NW, Washington DC.



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-Peg Aver111/LNS

FROM OUR OWN PRESSES. CON'D

From the Island by Judith Small. "In a haunting sequence of poems and prose, Judith Small explores the links between generations of women brought to light by her grandmother's death. Designed and with images by Debbie Costello. Black Oyster Press, San Francisco and Chicago. \$5.95. 1-4copies 30%. 5+ 40% Black Oyster Press, PO Box 8550 Chicago, Il 60680. or Small Press Distribution. (Also from BOP is From Shadows Emerging, An Anthology of Bay Area Women Writers.)

Steadying the Landscape, poems by Jeanne Lohman. "these poems keep making me want to answer them, sometimes with smiles, sometimes with quarrels, sometimes with poems of my own...(It) is about human beings, the lives they keep inside of themselves, the lives they express in telation to other human beings." 5.95, 40%, 722 Tenth Ave, San Francisco, Ca. 94118.

The Women of Skid Row, a pen and ink sketchbook with commentary by Ann Alexandria Wolken. 7.95 Shadyside press, 320 Brooks Ave, Venice, Ca 90291. Dist. by BP

Uncommon Sense. A collection of columns by Alene Morris that were originally published in the National Association of Bank Women Journal. 27 essays including "Me Tarzan You Dust" and "On Not Getting Married: Myths and Mrs." 9.95 from NABW, 500 N. Michigan Ave. Suite 1400, Chicago, Il 60611.

And last, and may or maybe not least, depending, is Worms Eat My Garbage, another book in the Kalamazoo tradition of ecological do-it-yourselfing. This appears to be a serious book by biologist and internationally recognized developer of household-scale vermicomposting systems Mary Appelhof. "Did you know that earthworms can: 1. Eat your table scraps, peelings and leftovers? 2. Save energy? 3. Give you nutrient rich organic material to enhance your house & garbage plants? 4. Reduce your waste disposal costs? Contents: Intro. What to call the system? Where to put the unit? What kind of container. Worm beddings, What kind of worms. How many. What kinds of garbage. Maintenance procedures. Earthworm biology. Facts about worm castings. Other critters in the box and more." (Does it say what to feed them when I'm on one of those restaurant binges and not eating at home? Do I ask in polite restuarants "Could you put that in a wormy bag for me?")(It's hard to be wholesome here in Sin City.) (But not to make fun--I was born & conceived in the Kalamazoo environs & spent my first 23 formative years there and I certainly feel like a self-help project. I'm just getting that it's a local tradition, and no wonder....) Order Worms from Flower Press, 10332 Shaver Road, Kalamazoo, Mich, 49002. \$5.95.

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\*\*\*\*Material in the above column enclosed in quotation marks is taken directly from the publishers fliers, letters, jacket copy or whatever. I use the publisher's own copy to describe their books as much as possible, believing that feminist publishers know better than I do what they are publishing and why they have chosen to publish it. CS



FROM OUR OWN PRESSES, CON'D

The City of Hermits is Gina Covina's (The Lesbian Reader, The New Lesbians Amazon Quarterly) first novel. It is set in the northern California town of Guerneville. Explores the positive results of the next great California earthquake. Central characters are a diverse and eccentric collection of independent women, including Lucile Handy, their hermit, television reporter Zorra Beth Cushion, and millionaire Silvia Silver, owner of "Sister Spa," the feminist resort. 6.95 paper. published by Barn Owl Books, dist. by BP & Inland.

New, expanded, revised and updated is Good Vibrations: The Complete Guide to Vibrators. New Drawings by Marcia Quackenbush who did the illustrations for Period. Still far and away the best in the buzz-off field. Order from Down There Press, BP \$4.50.

Breathing Room, Barb Fisher. "Novel about Bella Daniels who is struggling to be a successful photographer and to reconcile her sexual identity as a lesbian. Her story traces her life through her mid and late twenties and takes the reader through the Greenwich Village to the power driven world of Washington DC, and finally to the experimental cultures of the San Francisco BAY Area. The novel includes a myriad of characters: her best friend, a black, male, gay lawyer, a highly successful young couple in DC, the husband in the course of the novel finds out he is bisexual; and three women who Bella has romantic relationships with." \$8, The Brighton Street Press, 53 Falstaff Rd., Rochester, NY 14609. 30% discount on the first, very small printing. 40% on the second and subsequent printings.

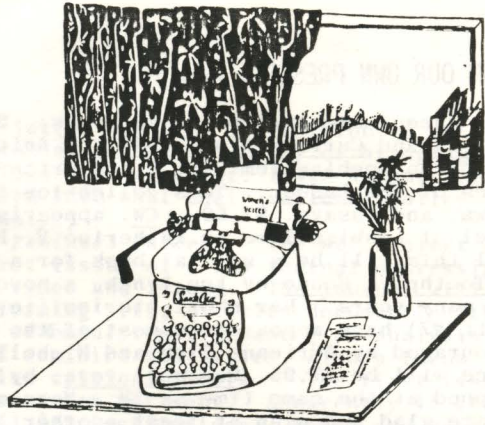
A Herstory of Prostitution in Western Europe, Jess Wells. "...Perhaps the brothels have been in the hands of the church since the days of St. Swithin, but by 1107 the profits from the women's work, and the rents on the brothels are building the churches of London. The Bishop is selling sex."--from the book. \$4.50. Shameless Hussy Press, PO Box 3092, Berkeley, Ca 94703. Dist. BP

Relatively Norma, Anna Livia. "The first deliberately humorous novel to come out of the women's movement here in Britain. It takes a sharply amusing look at feminist in the 80's both here and in Australia and provides a gently mocking insight into present day Australian culture. Most importantly for us, it is a lesbian feminist novel--Anna Livia herself is a lesbian feminist--and this obviously plays a major part in the shaping of the book and its content." L2.95 (about \$5.50 US). From Onlywomen Press, 38 Mount Pleasant, London WCL. The cover is great, red on rich yellow w/ cartoon-graphics--dyke on bicycle w/ laybris over her shoulder on the front cover, and equally fast moving granny in wheel chair on the back cover.

Four Greek Women: Love Poems. Ed. & Trans by Eleni Fourtouni. "Four lyric, erotic but distinctive voices celebrating the gladness of love and the pain of its loss. \$6.50." Available now. Coming this summer: Greek Women in Concentration Camps. "Journals, drawings, photographs of political prisoners during the Greek civil war of 1945-49. A moving account of the Greek woman's struggle against facism and sexism." \$6.50. Also avail from this publisher are Greek Women Poets "Stirring translations. Songs of khaki tents, olive trees, firing squads, dead sisters shoured in fish nets--revolutionary, sexual, lyric." 6.50 and Monovassia, Fourtouni's own poetry. All 6.50, 40% for 5+. Thelphini Press, 1218 Forest Road, New Haven, Ct. 06515.

Antoinette Brown Blackwell, a biography by Elizabeth Cazden. The Feminist Press, Box 334, Old Westbury, NY 11568. 9.95 paper. Write for their catalogue.

# PERIODICALS



## FROM OUR OWN PRESSES, CON'D

Materials you can order from Alliance Against Sexual Coercion. Mitos Y Realidades Sobre el Hostigamiento Sexual, paper on myths & facts in Spanish. \$1. Sexual Harassment, an annotated Bibliography. 177 entries, \$7. Sexual Harassment and the Law. 70 pgs., \$5. Combatiendo el Hostigamiento Sexual, handbook on fighting sexual harassment in Spanish \$2.50. Why Men Harass, interviews with men who harass as well as men working against harassment. Male perspective on sexual harassment \$2. University Grievance Procedures, 30 pg, for harassed students. \$4. Sexual Harassment at the Workplace: Historical Notes, Mary Bularzik. \$2. Fighting Sexual Harassment: An Advocacy Handbook \$3.50. Fighting Sexual Harassment: Update Updates the previous \$2.00, or both bound together for \$3.95, \$3.50 for 4-10 copies. Discounts for bookstores not included, tho the flier was sent to FBN, so there may or may not be bookstore discounts. If not, you can mark the books up. PO Box 1, Cambridge, Ma 02139.

Forthcoming books from Spinsters, Ink: Words of a Woman Who Breathes Fire poetry and prose by Kitty Tsui, an Asian American lesbian writer. Avail. April 15, 1983. \$5.95. (I have to say that I heard Kitty reading from this book last night and loved it. I like her straight-forward style and most of appreciate the chance to see into a culture that isn't mine...especially moving to me are her portrayals of old men and women. You'll hear more about her grandmother in years to come. You've seen Kitty's work in Lesbian Fiction and Lesbian Poetry) Woman Who Owned the Shadows, "a novel by Paula Gunn Allen, an Indian lesbian writer, this novel is a powerful exploration of an Indian woman's confrontation with white American culture." Avail. July, 7.95 (tentative). Out From Under: Sober Dykes and Our Friends, an anthology edited by Jean Swallow --the first book to explore recovery from substance abuse in the lesbian community. Available August '83. 7.95 (tent.)."

Kitchen Table/Women of Color Press/'s first major project is doing promotion and distribution for Cheryl Clarke's self-published book Narratives: Poems in the Tradition of Black Women. "Narratives offers a gallery of incisive, specific portraits of Black women, whose lives, as June Jordan states, are 'honestly perceived with a clearly hard-working respect and without affectation.'" Clarke considers her Black, lesbian, and feminist identities to be 'the filter of her imagination,' in a work which points to a courageous new Afro-American women's poetry for the 1980's." 4.50, available now, 40% on 5+, 30 days net. Kitchen Table is one of the most important & essential of the feminist publishers. They're just getting off the ground, so do all you can to support them. Order, their book, (and books to be), display them will, talk about KT to your customers and let them know that there's more to come. Kitchen Table, Box 592, Van Brunt Station, Brooklyn, NY 11215.

FROM OUR OWN PRESSES, CON'D

Announcements from Naiad Press: Shipping May 1 are Black Lesbian in White America and Curious Wine. BLWA, by Anita Cornwell. "Anita is the first of the outspoken Lesbian feminist black writers. Her earliest work appeared in the pages of The Ladder. This collection includes fiction, autobiography, interviews, and essays. \$7.50. CW, appearing at the same time, is a very romantic novel of Lesbian love by Katherine V. Forrest. Cost will be 7.50 and we (Naiad) feel this will be a special book for a long time to come. Shipping Aug. 1 will be Toothpick House by Lee Lynch, a novel by a fine young writer we have known for many years. Her short stories (ie Oranges Out of Season, and The Coat, CL/LL #7) have appeared in most of the movement periodicals, and she was strongly encouraged by Adrienne Rich and Michelle Cliff to turn a story into this novel. Price will be \$7.95. Madame Aurora, by Sara Aldridge, her sixth novel, will be shipped at the same time as TH. More on it next time. We are 10 years old now. We are glad and plan at least another 10. Fall promises to be out most exciting season to date." Naiad will send special offers to all bookstores on their mailing list with substantial discounts. I can't resist adding that Lee Lynch's special talent seems to be making pre-feminist lesbian realities and lives comprehensible and exciting to contemporary lesbians. I've seen her earlier work and later work, but not yet TH. Much of it seems to be working class based, right from the heart. I file her between Joan Nestle and Audre Lorde on by own bookshelves. Naiad Press, PO Box 10543, Tallahassee, Fl. 32302. Naiad is distributed by Bookpeople, but much prefers that stores order directly from them.

From Persephone Press: Keeper of Accounts, Irena Klepfisz. "Born in Warsaw Poland in 1941, Irena Klepfisz views America as alien country where safety can never be assumed by the outsider....She writes of the connections between historical events and the individual, of common entrapments, and of the erosion of identity to meet daily needs....Her poems reveal the fragility of the soul as well as its tenacious will to live, not just survive....Acutely aware that the past cannot be undone and that the present holds new dangers, IK nevertheless expresses the necessity and the possibility of hope in our lives." Klepfisz was one of the founders of Conditions, her earlier book Periods of Stress is available from Crossing Press. She is part of the wave of women exploring and writing about being Jewish, lesbian and feminist at this point in time and will be read by everyone. 5.95. Dist. by BP, but last I know, Persephone preferred direct orders. Specify bookpost or UPS. PO Box 7222, Watertown, Ma. 02172.

How To Stop Sexual Harassment: Strategies for Women on the Job. Cara Peters and Erin Van Bronkhorst. Newly revised and illustrated with "Cathy" cartoons. "The book explains a worker's legal rights regarding sexual harassment, and provides a series of steps for resolving the problem informally. Procedures for filing complaints and lawsuits are explained. Info on legal cases. \$3.50. Facts for Women, PO Box 15113, Seattle, Wa. 98115. Bulk rates not sent.

Cathy

by Cathy Gusewite



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# PERIODICALS

*Black Lesbian Newsletter.* "This newsletter needs to be distributed nationally because it is the only such publication of its kind. A way of bringing Black Lesbians in touch with each other." 50¢ 40% discount. 1442A Walnut St. #307, Berkeley, Ca. 94709. (I forgot to ask them what their national policy would be, but we pay for the copies sold only.)

*Women and Performance: A Journal of Feminist Theory.* "The W&P Project at New York University is publishing the first issue of a new journal addressing feminist issues in theatre, dance, film, video and ritual. The journal will include interviews with women in the performing arts, articles documenting the history of women in performance, reviews of feminist performance, an analysis of mainstream theatre, and discussions of feminist aesthetics. Also a forum for the continuing development of feminist critical theory." The first issue will be published in May, 1983. Bookstore rates not sent. Apparently it will come out 2x/year. Subs. are \$9/individual, \$15/institutions. *Women and Performance*, New York University, Tisch School of the Arts, Department of Performance Studies, 51 West 4th St. 300 South Building, NY, NY 10003

*Lesbian Contradiction: a journal of irreverent feminism.* This is a journal that isn't available for distribution in bookstores, but I'm including it anyhow, because it is likely that women are coming into your store and asking for it. It's a 16 page, newspaper format collection of articles that is intended to be a conversation, a place to ask questions and talk about, rather than be the last word or ultimate authority. It's published by 2 women in SF and 2 women in Seattle. Has articles on class, feminism, the middle east, old dykes homes/health, cartoons, sm, humor. One of the gems was the reprint of a 13 part grafetti on the women's building bathroom wall re 'going straight'. They don't want to do bookstore distribution, for reasons I don't quite understand, but you can write to them and ask, I suppose, or at least write for a copy to have on hand for when women come in asking for it. Subs are \$5/yr. write to LesCon 1007 N. 47th, Seattle, Wa 98103 or LesCon 2770 22nd St. San Francisco, Ca 94110.

*The Women's Rights Law Reporter* Vol 7, No 3 is a special issue dealing with Reproductive Rights. The contents evolved from a one-day symposium conducted by *The Reporter* attended by lawyers, activists, historians, educators & health workers. Includes info on 14th ammendment's protection of women's right to be a single parent through artificial insemination. To be published in early summer. \$4. retail to non-subscribers (\$8 to institutions). Bookstore rate not sent. 15 Washington St, Newark, NY 07102.

*Women Organizing* is a publication of the Democratic Socialists of America (formerly the New American Movement?) & is a 32 page journal providing a forum for discussion of a wide range of issues and ideas related to socialist feminism. It serves as a resource for organizers on socialist feminist theory and practice. The next issue focuses on socialist feminist approaches to racism (#11). #12 on the international women's movements, #13 on women & political power." 853 Broadway, Suite 801, NY, NY 10003.

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\*\*\*\*once again, info in " 's is taken from the publishers material.





***I CALL IT PAC WOMAN...SHE GOES  
AFTER SEXISTS, RACISTS AND  
PEOPLE PROGRAM BUDGET CUTTERS!***

## TOYS

The Chicago Womens Graphic Collective sends a flier saying that reality has descended and that they can't keep all their old posters in stock and continue to produce new ones, so 18 of their posters are "while supplies last" only. The most popular ones will be kept in print. If you aren't on their mailing list write them at PO Box 25429, Chicago, Ill 60605. They also sent a flier of post cards that I thought they were distributing but on closer look are distributed by the artist. They are the Estrella Postacrdcs. They celebrate rebirth & resurrection. 4x6 glossy, Bulk terms not sent. Ursula Kavanagh PO Box 08086, Chicago, Ill 60608

Naiad Press's Jane Rule poster (4 photos of Jane Rule by Tee Corinne, book cover photos plus one other) are now available for sale: retail, \$2.00, 50% discount. Minimum order is 10. I think they'll come folded, just as the free copies did. Order w/ you Naiad Press book order, PO Box 10543, Tallahassee Florida, 32302

It had to happen! Computer games for women: From 2-Bit Software<sup>TM</sup> comes Mad Dash "tests you ability to race thourgh the house when you haven't had a break all day, while Carfool demands that you figure out how to use the least amount of gass while running errands all over town. The Harried Housewife adventure game rewards the successful player with a hot bath and anap after a hectic day that includes a dazed search for your car in the parking lot of Shopping Mall. A fun way form women to learn about computers and stay ahead of their kids--or their husband. Perfect for a Mother's Day Gift. (Also recc. for househusbands-in-training and for women to give to partners who don't understand what she goes through every day." 14.95. Bookstore terms not sent. 2-Bit Software, PO Box 2036, Del Mar, Ca 92014, a woman-owned, woman-operated company. Fox Timex/Sinclair computers (2K memory).

Women Working stickers. Yellow Waterproof vinal with black border and letters. They go everywhere--on bumpers, typewriters, desks, lunchboxes on office doors. suggested retail, \$1.00. 40¢ @ in lots of 100. 50¢ @ for smaller quantities. Order from Ina Mae Murri, 16089 Carolyn St., San Leandro, 94578.

# FROM THE SMALL PRESSES

From the Crossing Press Feminist Series is coming a rich springful of books. *The Whole Birth Catalogue* by Janet Isaacs Ashford is a cross between *The Whole Earth Catalogue* and *Our Bodies, Our Selves*. This will likely be as essential a tool for feminist mothers-to-be as *OBOS* has been for the rest of us. \$14.95 paper, 28.95, cloth. A collection of poetry in the subject, *Natural Birth* by Toi Derricotte captured by interest, partly because she writes about being a teenager, 'homes', and birth from that experience of being an upity woman. I didn't put it down until I finished it. 4.95 paper, 11.95 cloth.

Also from Crossing's Feminist Series is the reprint of *True to Life Adventure Stories, Volume I* edited by Judy Grahn, and *The Politics of Reality: Essays in Feminist Theory* by Marilyn Frye, a lesbian feminist philosopher. My guess is that these essays will be read by all the feminist intelligensia this year. Frye is a challenging & engaging writer and speaker and has been published in a number of feminist & lesbian periodicals. Grahn, on the other hand, will be read by everyone. *True to Live, Vol I*, was first published by Diana press in 1978. Out of print for several years now, and following the success of Vol II (pub. by Crossing 2 years ago) it will be a relief to book-sellers to have Vol I in hand again. And a pleasure. Now if all goes well, perhaps Crossing will publish Vol 3 next year, and all of them will be in print at once for the first time since they were collected in the early 70's. The introductions alone are worth the price of the books, and the stories are the like of which is never published outside the feminist press. Thank you to Crossing for getting them back into print, and to Judy for persevering.

*The Way Back: The Stories of Gay and Lesbian Alcoholics*. Five lesbians & five gay men tell their personal stories of strenght, hope and recovery from alcoholism through Alcoholics Anonymous. The stories included are intended to help gay alcoholics everywhere who are seeking a richer life of sobriety. 5.40 paper. 10-24 4.30¢, 25+ 3.25¢ plus shipping. Order from the Whitman-Walker Clinic, 2335 18th St, NW, Washington, DC 20009.

More on alcoholism: *I'm Black and I'm Sober* by Chaney Allen is the first autobiography by a Black woman recovering alcoholic. 6.95 paper. Also: *Sober, Clean, and Gay* and *Gay Drinking Problem* both by John Michael. about 6.95. All three from CompCare Publications, 2415 Annapolis Lane, Suite 140, Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. 800-328-3330. 20% for any quantity.

*The Greenfield Review* has a double issue on American Indian writing. \$4. ISSN 0017-404. R D 1, Box 80, Greenfield Center, NY 12833.

Jane Chambers' play *Last Summer at Bluefish Cove* "The breakthrough lesbian play. (it) is a tender and moving but still hilariously funny portrait of a tightly-knit summer community of a group of longtime lesbain friends. For one of the women, it is her last summer there, because of her struggle with terminal cancer. She meets and falls in love with a woman to whom she can bequith her special gifts of warmth, spirit and independence." 6.95 paper, 25.00 cloth. Also from JH Press is Chambers' *My Blue Heaven* and *The Gay Theatre Alliance Directory of Gay Plays* at 4.95 and 5.95 ¢. PO Box 294, Village Station, NY, NY 10014. 40% to bookstores.

ZED Press again has an awesome list of books about women in the Third World. Their recently published books include *Woman Why Do You Weep: Circumcision and its Consequences*, *Sisters in Affliction: Circumcision and Infibulation of Women of Africa*, *Women of Africa: Roots of oppression*, and *Woman at Point Zero*, and *In the Shadow of Islam: The Women's Movement in Iran*. All about 8.95 paper and distributed in the US by Lawrence Hill, Inc., 520 Riverside Ave. Westport, Conn. 06880. Get on their mailing list if you aren't already.

*Women and Male Violence*, Susan Schechter "takes an in-depth look at battering, its causes, and the movement against it. It describes both the horrifying experiences of the victims and the growth of a movement demanding not only an



## FROM THE SMALL PRESSES, CON'D

end to violence, but also permanent changes in the conditions of women's lives and in the larger society. It covers in detail the emergence of the first shelters in 1976, the establishment of state and national coalitions, the struggle for police reforms, racism, the particular roles of lesbians and men, a theory of violence against women in the family, current government cut-backs and right wing attacks. 7.50 paper, South End Press, 302 Columbus Ave, Boston Ma 02116. Also BP

*Uranian Worlds: A Reader's Guide to Alternative Sexuality in Science Fiction and Fantasy* by Eric Garber and Lyn Paleo. Seems like this book has been in the works almost since we first opened the bookstore, so it's a pleasure to hold the real thing in my hands at last. This bibliography covers the genre from 200 AD through the '70's. The annotations are as much fun to browse as many of the books. In cloth at \$28.50 it won't sell by the dozens but will to collectors of gay and lesbian literature, along with the *Lesbian in Literature* bib. Also from the same publisher is *Ursula K. Le Guin: A Primary and Secondary Bibliography* at \$39.95 and *Women's Periodicals and Newspapers from the 18th Century to 1981: A Union List of the Holdings of Madison, Wisconsin Libraries*. Madison turns out to have one of the most complete collections of women's periodicals anywhere (I didn't know that.), so this bib. will be helpful to scholars & researchers. It also indicates what's available on microfilm and other holdings so it isn't as localized as it appears at first glance. This one is only \$38. G. K. Hall, 70 Lincoln St., Boston, Mass. 02111. Probably 20%.

*Japanese Women Writers*. Stories by contemporary writers translated by Noriko Lippit and Kyoko Selden. Japan has a long tradition of major classical literary work by women that is still in force. Sight unseen, but it sounds interesting. 12.95 paper, 25.00 cloth. Also from the same publisher are *Sweden's Right to be Human: Sex Role Equality, the Goal and the Reality* by Hilda Scott 17.50 cloth, and *Women, Work, and the Family in the Soviet Union* edited by Gail Warshofsky Lapidus. cloth 22.50. from M. E. Sharp, 80 Business Park Dr. Armonk, NY 10504

*Pictures of Patriarchy*, Batya Weinbaum. "Radical Feminist theory of the workplace, analyzes work in terms of family roles--father, brother, daughter, wife. Alternate to class paradigm. Opens with personal/political narrative of the 70's recounting struggles for breakthroughs in thinking and relation between experience, theory, practice. Includes notebook sections providing "snapshots" of culture and evidence from economic consciousness raising groups. More accessible than her first book, *The Curious Courtship of Women's Liberation and Socialism*. \$7.00 paper, 17.50 cloth." South End Press. Dist. by Crossing, BP, & Inland.



## FROM THE SMALL PRESSES, CON'D

*Callaloo* #5 is a special issue of this Black South Journal of Arts and Letters devoted to women poets. Includes work by well known writers and women not so well known. Issue #16 is primarily devoted to the work of Gayl Jones. Both are well worth the effort to carry. 4.50 for 5+, you choose a retail price c/o Charles H. Rowell, Department of English, Univ. of Ky., Lexington, KY 40506.

*One Teenager in Ten* is the newest release from Alyson Press. Stories & tales of gay teenagers. Don't miss it. Also from Alyson are *The Advocate Guide to Gay Health*, a reprint of that essential book, and *Coming to Power*, reprint the the Samoos book that has caused such a ruckus across the country. All are dist. by Carrier Pigeon, BP

*Audiovisuals for Women* is a bibliography that was published in 1980 at 9.95. McFarland is in-house remaindering the remaining copies at \$40 for 10+ Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640. Their new book is *The Sexual Victimization of Children* by Mary de Young. 18.95 cloth, 20% Looks at the 'characters' involved in paternal incest, 'the affair', effects on victims, the sexual victimization of sons, sibling incest, and heterosexual and homosexual pedophilia.

## THE UNIVERSITY PRESSES

Already out for a while, but well worth a mention: *Daughters of Time: Women in the Western Tradition*, Mary Kennear, an excellent looking history. 13.50 paper, U. of Michigan. Also from U. of M. is *Parti-Colored Blocks for a Quilt*, a collection of essays, interviews and reviews by Marge Piercy. I was glad to reread a number of these pieces and expect that it will sell well now, with *Braided Lives* recently out in paperback. 6.95 paper. While you're ordering, throw in *Writing Like a Woman*, Alicia Ostriker. Includes "Learning to Read H.D., The Americanization of Sylvia" and articles on Anne Sexton, May Swenson, & Adrienne Rich. 8.95 paper, U of M.

*A Feminist Perspective in the Academy: The Difference It Makes* is a collection of essays looking at the achievements and impacts...and the potential impact of women's studies on academia. Ed. by Elizabeth Langland & Walter Gove. U. of Chicago. 5.95paper. 17.00cloth. Also from U. of C. is *Writing and Sexual Diffenence* 7.95, and *Feminist Theory: A Critique of Ideology*, a collection of essays from *Signs*. 7.95

One of the most exciting of the books from the university presses is *The Mirror Dance: Identity in a Women's Community* by Susan Krieger, a sociological study of a midwestern lesbian community that is written like a novel and will appeal to a broad audience. It takes the reader inside a lesbian community and presents individual characters and their relationships with one another. Its central theme is that lesbian relationships, and relationships between women generally, are difficult because they pose fundamental challenges to the individual's sense of self. *The Mirror Dance* attempts to portray these challenges by creating a compelling sense of reality using the language of members of the community to tell a story that will be familiar to all who have experience with lesbian social life. June '83. 8.95 paper, 19.95 cloth. Temple University Press. trade discount with 46% for 10+ paperbacks. Also from Temple is *A Woman's Place Is At the Typewriter: Office Work and Office Workers, 1870-1930*. 24.95 cloth.

OFF PRESS IN APRIL:

## THE MIRROR DANCE

*Identity in a Women's Community*

by Susan Krieger

A masterful portrait of lesbian life.

clothbound \$19.95 s

paperback \$8.95 trade

Special Offer: 46% discount on orders of 10 or more paperbacks only.

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Services Building, Room 305

Broad & Oxford Streets

Philadelphia, PA 19122

# THE MIRROR DANCE

IDENTITY IN A  
WOMEN'S COMMUNITY

*Susan Krieger*

## MASS MARKET BOOKS

January 83

*Flight Against Fear*, Lucy Freeman, Warner 3.50, Psych.  
*Somewhere Child*, Bonnie Lee Black, Bantam, 3.50, Child Snatching  
*Street Games*, Rosellen Brown, Ballantine, 2.75, S. Stores.  
*Mother & Daughters*, Gail Godwin, Avon 3.95 pb. Fiction.  
*Love and Work*, Gwyneth Cravens, Fawcett, 2.95 Fiction.  
*Turning Points*, Ellen Goodman, Fawcett, #.50, Non-fiction.

February 83

*Claudine Married/Claudine and Ann*, Colette, Ballantine, 2.95, Fiction.  
*Unicorn Creed*, Eliz. Scarborough, Bantam, 3.95, Fantasy.  
*Indemnity Only*, Sara Paretsky, Ballantine, 2.50, Myst.  
*Upon the Head of the Goat*, Aranka Siegel, NAL, 2.25 NF & Jewish Women.

March 83

*Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant*, Anne Tyler, Berkley, 3.50, Fiction.  
*Twelve Fair Kingdoms*, Suzette Elgin, Berkley, 2.50, S.F.  
*Dream Children*, Gail Godwin, Avon, 3.50, S. Stories.  
*Braided Lives*, Marge Piercy, Fawcett, 3.95, Fiction.  
*Heroic Visions*, ed. Salmonson, Ace, 2.75, S.F.



## MASS MARKET, CON'D

- Witchworld #4*, A. Norton, Ace 2.50, S.F.  
*Daughter of Witches*, P. Wrede, Ace, 2.50, S.F.  
*Three Women at the Water's Edge*, Nancy Thayer, Bantam, 3.50, F.  
*An Unknown Woman*, Alice Koller, Bantam, 3.95, NF.  
*Family Book About Sexuality*, Mary Calderone, Bantam, 3.95, NF.  
*The Walls of Ain*, Barbara Hambly, Ballantine, 2.95, SF.  
*The Unmaking of a Dancer*, Joan Brady, Pocket, 3.95, NF.  
*Golden Space*, Pamela Sargent, Pocket, 2.95, SF.

### April 83

- Witch World #5*, A. Norton, Ace, 2.50, SF.  
*Green Grow the Dollars*, Emma Lathen (Mary Jane Latsis and Martha Henissart, Pocket, 2.95, Myst.  
*Benefits*, Zoe Fairbairns, Avon, 2.95, F.  
*I'm on My Way Running: Women Speak on Coming of Age*, Ed. Reese, Avon, 4.95, NF.  
*Star Rider*, Doris Piserchia, Bantam, 2.75, SF.  
*Bodily Harm*, Margaret Atwood, Bantam, 3.95, F.  
*Tar Baby*, Toni Morrison, NAL, 3.50, F.  
*Dancer's Luck*, Ann Maxwell, NAL, 2.50, S.F.  
*Mary Wollstonecraft Reader*, Ed. Salomon, NAL, 3.95, NF.  
*The Dreamstone*, C.J. Cherryh, NAL, 2.95, SF.

### May 83

- Puffball*, Fay Weldon, Pocket, 3.95, F.  
*Banking on Death*, Emma Lathen, Pocket, 2.95, Myst.  
*Golden Swan*, Nancy Springer, Pocket, 2.95, S.F.  
*Saint-Germain Chronicles*, Chelsea Quinn Yarbro, Pocket, 2.95, SF.  
*Bigamist's Daughter*, Alice McDermott, Fawcett, 3.50, F.  
*Southern Discomfort*, Rita Mae Brown, Bantam, 3.50, F.  
*Sudden Death*, Rita Mae Brown, Bantam, 16.95 Cloth, F.  
*Eve's Journey*, Susan Lichtendof, Berkley, 3.95, NF.

### June 83

- Rivington Street*, Meredith Tax, Jove, 3.95, F. & Jewish Women.  
*Clock Winder*, Anne Tyler, Berkley, 3.50, F.  
*Household Saints*, Francine Prose, Berkley, 3.25, F.  
*Lady Sackville* (Bio. of Victoria Sackville-West), Susan Alsop, Avon, 3.95.  
*Till Morning Comes*, Han Suyin, Bantam, 3.95, F.

### July 83

- Many-Colored Land*, Julian May, Ballantine, 2.95, SF.  
*Family Happiness*, Laurie Colwin, Fawcett, 2.95, F.

# FROM THE BOYS

*Motherpeace--A Way to the Goddess through Myth, Art, and Tarot* Vicki Noble. Out at last. This is the book that goes with the Motherpeace deck (avail. BP 19.95). A beautiful, rich, wonderful book. Concentrates on the healing aspects of the Tarot. Will be a hot book in most feminist stores. 11.95. Also of interest is the promo packet that Harper & Row put out with it for 'the media'. White glossy folder with the front cover glued to the front. A full cover on the inside, xeroxes of a couple reviews, photo, and 5-6 other pieces of paper offering Vicki for interviews, besides. Wonder if it sells more books to a wider market?

*And They Felt No Shame.* New book by Joan Ohanneson (*Woman: Survivor in the Church*) "Demands that the Catholic Church better relate to young adults, sexuality and the bodiliness that has to be at the center of all spiritual realities. Includes commentary on homosexuality, celibacy, Vietnam, nuclear war, pollution & overpopulation." Winson Press paper, 11.95.

*Real women Send Flowers.* I suppose it had to happen. This one by Susan Curtin and Patricia O'Connell. Pub. by Morrow-Quill. Trade paperback at 3.50. I suppose the highlights of the book are found between the lines--ie using call-forwarding to forward obscene calls to Dial-A-Prayer. Shelve it in you etiquette section, or in sex-roles-for-the-eighties.

*On Not Being Able to Paint.* Joanna Field/Marion Milner. (*A Life of One's Own.*) Also recommended for writers and all other forms of creativity. Field is a pshcholanalyst by day and a "Sunday Painter" by night, explores creativity and how to open to it. 6.95 Tarcher/Houghton Mifflin

*Those Who Ride the Night Winds: Poems* New poetry by Black writer Nikki Giovanni. I especially like her pieces dedicated to Rosa Parks, Phyllis Wheatley and Billie Jean King and dislike her love poetry. 9.95 cloth Morrow.

*confirmation; An Anthology of African American Women* edited by Amiri Baraka (LeRoi Jones) and Amina Baraka. A rich and needed collection including work by "new" writers and the better known, 49, altogether. Both the editors are Marxist-Leninists and they have put together an appropriately angry volume. 10.95. Morrow paper.

Also from Morrow are *What Kinds of Guns are They Buying for Your Butter: A Beginner's Guide to Defense, Weaponry, and Military Spending*, Sheila Tobias, et al (Cloth 15.95 and the paperback edition of *The Sex Contract: The Evolution of Human Behavior*, Helen Fisher, 6.95. ("Revolutionary changes in female sexuality sparked the sex contract--the unique human propensity to bond--and the evolution of language, kinship, responsibility, altruism, jealousy, and many other ancient behavior patterns that shape our lives today.") also in paper is *Growing Up Underground*, Jane Alpert's autobiography. 6.95.

Not new, but one of my favorite young people's books is Scott O'Dell's *Sing Down The Moon*, Set in the days when the Navaho lived in Canyon de Chelly, the story tells of Bright Morning's kidnapping by the Spanish slavers and her escape.

Remaindered and available from the author: *Sea Run: Surviving My Mother's Madness.* Says Marge Piercy: "Here is the story of a woman who refuses to remain a victim. Mary Lou Shields is more than a survivor. She goes back into the pain, the raw need, the frightening world of the abused child to emerge at last with insight, strength, and love. She writes with an honest at once lacerating and healing of her nightmares, her sexuality, her fears....above all as a woman learning to trust and respect herself." Originally priced at 11.95 (cloth), 5+ copies 3.50 @ + UPS suggested price, 5.95. Order from Mary Lou Shields, 16 Mead St, Cambridge, Ma 02140.

## FROM THE BOYS, CON'D

*The Savage Sacrament*, Eileen Zieget Silberman. A critique of sacramental marriage, seen as "improvising both women and the Church" which may be useful to Christian Feminists. from Twenty-Third Publications, PO Box 180, Mystic, CT 06355. \$5.95

*Lobbying for Freedom in the 1980's: A Grass Roots Guide to Protecting Your Rights*, ed by Kenneth Norwick, "easy to read step-by-step guide to grass-roots lobbying for citizens who want to combat threats to civil liberties. Focuses on reproductive freedom, women's rights, gay rights, drug laws and censorship." 4 of 5 of which are vital issues to women's bookstores/clientele (and drug law reform may or may not be, depending....) Periegee Books, 200 Madison Ave, NYC NY 10016.

*Ruby*, one of my favorite young adult lesbian novels, is back in print. A part of a series of YA books involving a large circle of black teens in NY, this one focuses on a West Indian girl having a loving, sexual relationship with another girl. Author Rosa Guy says that it isn't a lesbian novel, it's just a phase that many girls go through. This 'phase' ends, I think, when one of both girls go off to college (it's been a while since I read it), but it doesn't put down lesbian relationships, either, while providing the image. Sells for us out of the YA, lesbian, and black women's sections. Bantam.

*The Color Purple*, Old Wive's Tales bestseller for 1982 by Alice Walker is a June release from Pocket. Order it now, shipping is probably early May.

*Benefits*, Zoe Fairbairns. This is a very feminist futurist (?) fantasy re what would happen if Wages for Housework got their way and the (English) gov't paid a child-raising stipend to mothers--and then the government was taken over by the Right. Intense. An urban version of *Wanderground*? First published by a women's press in England, it was almost published by South End here, (You may remember from FBN about 1½ years ago) and is now finally in print here from Avon. 2.95.

McGraw Hill sent fliers on the following books: *A New Approach to Women and Therapy* (Miriam Greenspan, \$16.95 March). "Unifies the theory and practice of the grass roots movement of the last ten years known as feminist therapy." *Women Who Marry Houses: Panic and Protest in Agoraphobia* (by psychoanalyst Robt Seidenberg and former NOW president Karen DeCrow, April 7.95 paper, 15.95 cloth) Primarily a 'women's disease', the inability to leave their homes has been treated with drugs and therapy. This book argues that "only the equal acceptance of women in the world outside the home will address the fear and rage of these women who appear to be paralyzed inside it." *The Home Front: Notes from the Family War Zone*, (Louise Armstrong, author of *Kiss Daddy Goodnight-a Speakout on Incest* 14.95 cloth. March) "Crimes in the home-serious behavior which would be criminal if directed toward a stranger-should be returned to the criminal, legal arena. Trendy, therapeutic approaches which divert attention from the actual abuser do not work. She vigorously attacks the power of psychiatry and the "medicalization" of crimes against spouses and children." *The War Against the Amazons*, (Abby Wettan Kleinbaum, 18.95, Jan.) "The Amazon image was designed not to enhance women, but to serve the needs of its male creators--to show the transcendent and heroic qualities of her conquerors....Shows how the Amazon remained a vital impulse in the products of popular culture and how she fits in to feminist and lesbian theories today. *Lifeprints: New Patterns of Love and Work for Today's Women*, (Grace Baruch, Rosalind Barnett, and Caryl Rivers, 14.95, Feb.) "Based on a three year study funded by the National Science Foundation, it defines what is truly important in creating a sense of self-fulfillment for women. Goes beyond *Passages* to find that it is not the specific choice that a woman makes that makes her happy, but rather the mastery and pleasure she derives from the lifestyle she has chosen..a choice most likely to be successful when it reflects the individual's personal needs. (I guess we need a book to legitimate this? I thot that was Women's Movement 101, but now the NSF has funded it, so we know it's true.) Marriage & children do not guarantee happiness Being without a man or child does not ensure misery." (!!! imagine!)

## Southern Discomfort

Only the author of *Rubyfruit Jungle* could have written a novel as rich, passionate and delightful as **Southern Discomfort**. Filled with Rita Mae Brown's incisive wit, deep warmth, and penetrating insights into the world around her, **Southern Discomfort** is the tale of two decades in Montgomery, Alabama—a world where all is not what it seems. Here is the story of Hortensia Reedmuller Banastre, a beautiful woman entrenched in old money, white magnolias and a loveless marriage—until she meets a gorgeous young prizefighter. Against a panorama of such memorable characters as Banana Mae Parker and Blue Rhonda Latrec (two first-class whores) and Reverend Linton Ray (a man of the cloth who wears his clerical collar too tightly for anyone's good), Hortensia must learn to survive the hurricane of emotions caused by her scandalous love. How she triumphs against all odds is a warm, touching and beautiful human drama—an intense and exuberant affair of the heart.

**"Brown's winning outrageousness is nonstop."**  
—Philadelphia Inquirer

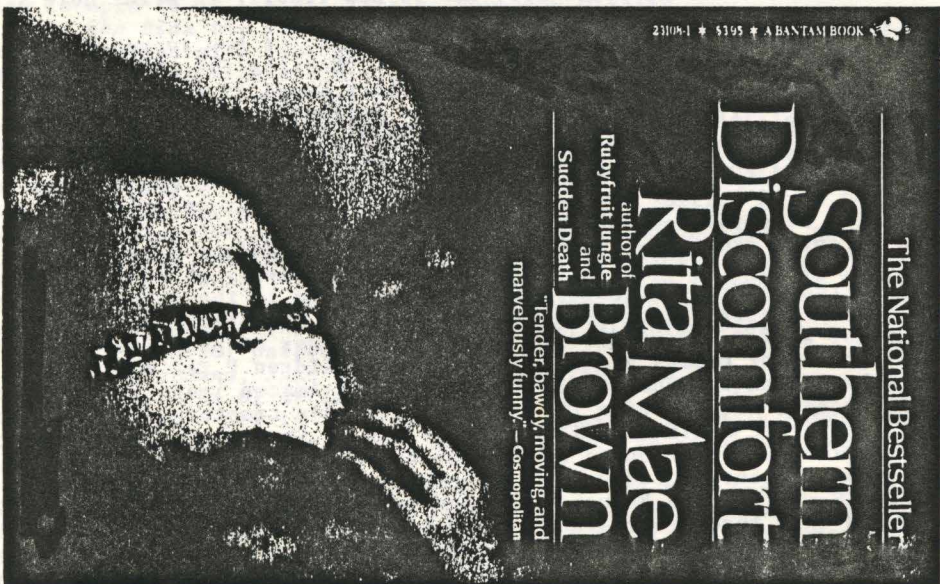


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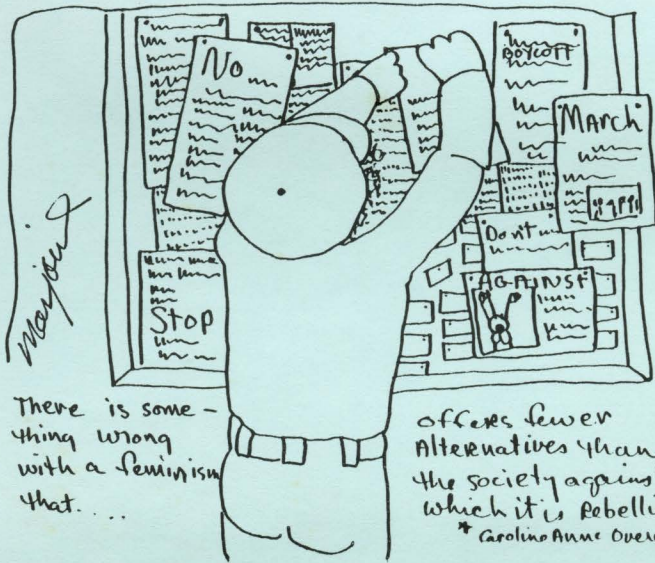
Southern Discomfort Rita Mae Brown



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The cover not used. See page 10.



May 1979

There is some-  
thing wrong  
with a feminism  
that...

offers fewer  
alternatives than  
the society against  
which it is rebelling.  
\*Caroline Anne Overman  
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