

# Feminist Bookstore News

## IN THIS ISSUE

Letters	3
Women In Print Conference 1985	11
First International Feminist Bookfair	14
Century Book Club	17
Booklist: Women and Alcohol	26
Susanna Sturgis on SF	27
They Went That-A-Way	31
Calendars for 1985	32
From Our Own Presses	35

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 3

Femina Serial  
am F32978 11/1/85

THE FEMINIST BOOKSTORE NEWS is published six times a year, on or about the first of January, March, May, July, September, and November. Deadline for articles, copy, letters, ads, etc., is the fifteenth of the preceding 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 \$35.00 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, P.O. Box 882554, San Francisco, California 94108. 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 U.S. and Canada, as well as a number of libraries, women's studies departments, and feminist bookstores in Great Britain, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand.

ADVERTISING RATES are \$200 per full page, \$125 per half page. Inside back cover is \$225. Camera ready copy or layout and paste-up services available at a nominal fee. Contact FBN at P.O. Box 882554, San Francisco, California 94108 or (415) 431-2043 during regular office hours Pacific Standard Time.

BOOKS FOR REVIEW AND BOOK ANNOUNCEMENTS may be sent to FBN at P.O. Box 882554, San Francisco, California 94108. 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.

© 1984 FEMINIST BOOKSTORE NEWS.  
ISSN No. 0741-655

## NOTES FROM THE COMPUTER TABLE

TADUM!

Another FBN in hand. A minor miracle of word-processing, long distance telephoning, limit-setting on my other job, and part-time assistance from Karen Brungardt, librarian and ex-feminist bookstore fill-in worker. Thanks too, to Ede Rosen of Antigone Books (Lucson), for help sorting through the backlog of info that has accumulated in the office and my living room.

This issue has been a lot more fun to work on than several of the previous ones. Partly the joy of being current. Partly the telephone connections as I interviewed different people for the International Feminist Bookfair report and the (hot and exciting) discussions around the Century Book Club. But most of all the response to the last issue. Several people sat down after reading the last issue and wrote letters to respond to different articles in the last issue and add perspective and information to the reports in the last issue. That form of contact and communication is my favorite part of FBN. I'm hoping that with FBN appearing regularly, there will be a lot of that kind of dialogue.

Next Issue: Look for an articles on selling a feminist bookstore and on creating the women's reading list advertising insert in the Village Voice this fall. That's four (count them--4!) pages of centerfold advertising featuring 200+ books. And, hopefully, FBN will be back in its more spacious and readable two-column format. Thanks to all the people who called up or wrote with feedback on the last issue.

A number of stores haven't renewed their subscriptions for Volume 7. If you're one of those stores, you'll get another notice in a couple weeks. Please pay promptly at that time, as that's the money that pays the printer for the three issues after this one.

Speaking of money, I'm looking for more advertising for FBN. If you have any ideas about how to pursue that, please give me a call or drop me a note. FBN is in the hole to me by about \$5000 at this point, and I'd like to make some of that back via advertising.

You'll notice that this issue is thin on mainstream books, both paperback and cloth, and on mass markets. I'm not getting the information necessary to write those columns anymore, so if you're interested in doing any of that info collecting for FBN, let me know. FBN's only regular columnist (besides me) is Susanna Sturgis of Lammas who is doing a Science Fiction column and we need more.

Official office hours for FBN are still Thursday afternoons, 1:00 to 6:00, but I'm likely to be here any other afternoon except Tuesdays, if you want to call with info, questions, a late article, or whatever. If I'm not here and you get the machine, leave suggestions for when to call you back.

Deadline for the next issue is November 1.

Yours in spreading the words,

Carol in Computerland

## LETTERS

## To Us/From Us

Hello Carol and FBN,

Glad to see FBN in print and in front of me. Congrats on the new computer. I totally agree that the hardest part involved in computerizing is selecting the right hardware and software to purchase. It took me six months to choose one for Daedalus, but now I thank the heavens that we have our A/R, payroll, and our large inventory on the system. Soon we'll have the ability to produce our own in-house financial statements.

I was really interested in Mary and Susanna's comments on the ABA in the last issue and look forward to seeing/hearing with other women have to say. I speak from the viewpoint of someone who runs a booth at ABA, not from a bookstore perspective. A good ABA to me is one in which: we (Daedalus) does well salewise; I get to talk books surprisingly this is nowhere near the top of most people's priority at ABA); and I get to see old friends. This ABA in Washington satisfies all three of the above desires. From a sales viewpoint this was an excellent ABA for us and for most other publishers I talked to. I truly believe that ABA is a worthwhile investment for feminist publishers trying to reach a broader audience. (I believe that Barbara Grier will quickly second this, and come to think of it, probably have even more to say about it.) Of course, location plays an important part. I don't know anyone who bragged about their sales when the ABA was in Dallas or Atlanta, and I hope we never have to exhibit in those cities again. San Francisco next year should be stupendous due to the sheer number of bookstores on the West Coast. (Of course, there are numerous other reasons why it will be a wonderful ABA which I won't mention in this letter). I hope that a lot more feminist publishers will be exhibiting in San Francisco, especially women on the West Coast due to travel cost not being so prohibitive. It is definitely not too early to start writing to ABA for information on exhibiting since space is very limited this year.

ABA was amazing in lots of ways this year. Gay publishing got a big write-up in the convention issue of American Bookseller and there was a gay publishing booth on the convention floor. Barbara Grier did another one of her "firsts" by getting Katherine Forrest to autograph books at the official ABA autographing booth. (I hear they lined up, and am bereft that I had to work my booth and couldn't get in line!) Daedalus, Nalad, Crossing, and Pandora (RKP) hosted a party for ABAer's interested in women's publishing and it was one of the best parties at ABA. (Of course I think because I was one of the hosts...hostesses? I get confused). Anyway, there were over three hundred people who came to the party held at a local wine bar which holds only 90 people at a time. You can just imagine--people had to be turned away at the door. Patricia Holt did an editorial in the San Francisco Chronicle and compared our party to the one at the Italian Embassy for Umberto Eco. She thought our party better. But enough said about the party. The most important part about ABA for me is that it gives me one time a year to get together with other women in the industry (and by industry I mean trade publishers, university publishers, feminist publishers, literary bookstores, general trade bookstores, and feminist bookstores) and talk shop/brainstorm. ABA is a valuable place to meet women in the industry who are interested in feminist publishing, consider themselves feminists, but would not necessarily hear about or attend a Women in Print Conference. It's just one more place for women to network. I hope that as many women as can attend ABA in California.

Last on my agenda is the fact that I would like everyone to know that Daedalus now has all of the remaining inventory of Quest magazine. It's no longer being published and was sitting in a warehouse here. Some women from Quest asked if we would distribute it. I have always had a great deal of admiration for the magazine and for the extraordinary women who published and wrote for it. I know that the bookstore owners know how difficult it is to sell back issues of a journal so I decided to wrap ten issues of the magazine together and sell it as a package for \$4.98. Unfortunately, because there are radical differences in quantities of each issue we cannot provide specific issues and can't say what's in each package. I will say, however, that each package has ten different issues of the magazine. I believe this is a great opportunity (and last opportunity) for women to acquire a valuable part of feminist herstory. The handling of the thousands of issues was quite expensive so nobody's making big bucks off the sales. The women of Quest and I would just like the magazine to get out there. I'm hoping that feminist bookstores will carry the sets and terms are the usual 50% non-returnable discount.

I'll be putting out a new catalog in September which will include a lot of good titles like Valerie Miner's *Murder in the English Department*. I won't go on and on about different books but I'll send a free catalog to anyone interested. Write to me at Daedalus Books, 2260 25th Pl., N.E., Wash., D.C. 20018. Thanks much.

Best,  
Helaine Harris

\*\*\*\*\*

Women & Children First  
1967 N. Halsted  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Carol and FBN Readers,

I'm writing to share the happy news that Women & Children First is moving to new larger quarters. As of August 1, 1984, we will be at 1967 N. Halsted, which is just 2 blocks east and a few doors south of our present location. We like our neighborhood and were happy to find bigger space (almost twice as big) near by. Please help us spread the word, especially to folks you know who may be visiting in Chicago. Unfortunately the new *Gala's Guide and Places of Interest* show our old address. Our phone # will be the same (312-871-7417).

Sisterly,  
Linda Bubon

\*\*\*\*\*

Red And Black Books Collective  
524 15th Avenue  
East Seattle, Washington 98112

Carol!

Hi! Here's a check for \$35, for a subscription to FBN. Thanks for sending us copies before we were able to pay for them.

Red & Black is doing well. We netted \$4800 from our production on Oct. 1 of Alice Walker, which took care of a big chunk of our overdue bills. Believe it or not, we're actually current with almost all of our creditors. Only the periodical accounts remain in disarray. Our daily sales average is up over the break-even point, and has been since August. Were it not for the loan payments we still owe (\$5000/yr.) the business would be able to support itself, without the periodic transfusions of cash which have been necessary since our eviction from University Way, three years ago.

We will be trying to raise the money for the loan payments, by producing more literary readings and events. Our experience with producing Alice was very rewarding. We sold a lot of books and made some excellent connections with women who hadn't heard of the store.

All in all, business is good, and barring any sudden changes in our operating expenses, I think that Red & Black can survive. I would never have said that a year ago.

Thanks again for your support. We really appreciate it. If you're in Seattle, be sure to call or stop by. I'll try to contact you, the next time I'm in the city so that maybe we can have coffee.

Judy says hello. We're gonna start paying her in 1984!  
S. Reddick for Red & Black Books

\*\*\*\*\*

Lambda Rising  
2012 S Street, NW  
Washington, DC, 20009

Another information-packed issue of FBN arrived today and, unlike last time, I am going to sit right down and write this letter to thank you for expending all the time and effort necessary to produce such a useful and important publication. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Susanna Sturgis' report on the ABA and the Feminist Bookstore meeting was especially interesting and gave us some good ideas that we hope to implement in the future.

One thing not mentioned in that report was the presence of the Gay Caucus Booth, at which both gay and feminist titles were featured. Thanks to a timely article on gay books for the non-gay bookstore that appeared in the special convention issue of American Bookseller, the Gay Caucus booth was kept extremely busy answering questions and making suggestions for non-gay bookstore owners who wanted to set up a gay section in their stores.

The Gay Caucus (actually Alyson Publications and Lambda Rising) also sponsored a well-attended cocktail party the night before the convention started. We hope to repeat these functions at next year's confab in San Francisco.

Lastly, by the time this letter appears in print, Lambda Rising will have opened a new satellite bookstore in Baltimore, MD (in the Gay Community Center building at 241 W. Chase Street). We look forward to joining our friends at 31st Street Bookstore in bringing good gay and lesbian literature to Baltimore.

Keep up the good work,  
L. Page Maccubbin

Lammas Women's Shop  
321 Seventh Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20003

Most dear Ms. Seajay:

Here are two tidbits for you. One is a news item from the ABA Newswire-- I don't know if you are following the development of the Booksellers Order Service (BOS), but this might be of interest both to the feminist publishers who read FBN and to the store that are wondering whether small presses might ever get involved in BOS. (SEE elsewhere in this issue).

The other is the first ad I've seen for Century Book Club. You will note, of course, that the club is underselling bookstores AND that it isn't charging any shipping costs. More annoying, however, is that ever since this fool ad came out, we have received many eager phone calls asking, "Have you got Amateur City yet?" When I say, "No, it's not due until fall," I get skeptical "oh's" in return. We haven't received announcement of it yet even. The question that enters my suspicious little mind is, "Perhaps the book club edition is going to be out before stores have the book? And why is there no mention in the ad that this book isn't printed yet?"

Or maybe I'm just paranoid. Maybe this is just an elaborate scheme to get rid of Faultline overstock?

Who knows. Hope you're well, Hope to see FBN in the mailbox soon (hint, hint), hope there really is a Women in Print in SF in '85. . .

Sincerely (of course)  
Susanna J. Sturgis

\*\*\*\*\*

Nalad Press  
PO Box 10543  
Tallahassee, Florida 32302

Dear Carol,

There is a comment in the latest issue of FEMINIST BOOKSTORE NEWS that should strike terror into the hearts of any publisher hoping to stay in business... Without identifying the publisher there is a comment indicating that "some" publisher is no longer adamant about the stores buying direct...

I do not KNOW who the publisher is referred to there, but I am sure of one thing, it's one that doesn't intend to around in 12 months.

Feminist bookstores account for about 25% of our business and we can increase that to almost half our business when we add the mixed gender gay and Lesbian stores. Add to that 20% for distributors and the remaining about 30% is individual orders and "odd wad" distributors and miscellaneous institutions. IF THE FEMINIST STORES (the gay male and Lesbian stores all buy directly with only one exception) stop buying at least all their "bulk orders" from us, especially new book orders these are the results:

1. We will have to raise prices (and we are determined to hold at \$7.95 for fiction in future... for at least as long as we are allowed to do so.)
2. We will have to stop those super generous 50% discounts that we toss out at the drop of a hat to the stores.
3. The stores will begin to get their new books 3-5 weeks later than they do when they order directly from us.

Now, to a subject near and dear to my heart. The book club. These are the direct results we can expect from the club IF it flourishes. Towards this end I have been working my already overworked self to death.

HERE is why:

1. The book Club is well financed and is able to do the kind of advertising in gay, straight, Lesbian, feminist, mixed, you name it media in a way that no publisher in the field has ever been able to dream of doing.
2. In this next year literally hundreds of thousands of Lesbians and gay men will hear about this club and take advantage of it. MOST of them will remain closeted and insular as they are today, but about 5% of them will probably "take the bait" and become curious, write to the various and sundry movement publishers, get on mailing lists... creep out of the darkness into the light and find us all...find their store...find the mailing lists, take part.
3. The \$\$\$\$ that pour into gay, Lesbian, feminist, women's, you name it, movement periodicals will obviously benefit them.
4. The publicity, rather than hurting bookstore sales will make the books outsell themselves. PROBABLY by the time you read this, it will have happened. I predict that Katherine V. Forrest's book, AMATEUR CITY and Sarah Schulman's book, THE SOPHIE HOROWITZ STORY will sell and sell and sell, that you won't be able to keep them in stock.
5. The \$\$\$\$ pouring into our movement publishers will simply enable them to publish more books. In the next 12 months you will get to see some of the books we will publish that are not commercially feasible but will be possible because of the bookclub.
6. The \$\$\$\$ will enable us to make some of our authors a bit less terrified about their future...that is IMPORTANT. The women's movement needs to be able to COMPETE (that ugly word) with the trade publishers because otherwise our "hot" authors will continue to go to trade presses who do NOT know how to promote them and therefore use them and lose them. And if you just take a look around, there are some outrageous examples right now of that specific problem...
7. And finally, this is reaching a bit, but I am almost certain it will help. The bookclub is picking up some trade hardbacks and discounting them and PUBLICIZING THEM A LOT...A WHOLE LOT...and it won't be many but my guess is it will make it possible for bookstores to sell a larger number of books like BITTERSWEET by Neveda Barr and GIVE ME TIME by Linnea A Due. I will make easier the selling of books like THE LADIES by Doris Grumbach (from the publisher immortalized in the last issue of FBN, Dutton).
8. Lastly, why should you believe me? Well, I have been being published myself for 34 years. I have written and had published 35 books more or less. I have been a publisher for eleven years and I have had a good track record for knowing what is good for publishing and for this movement that I am not new to, either. My fear, if I have one, is that this bookclub will not succeed, and that will be detrimental to us all.

Barbara Grier  
Nalad Press

\*\*\*\*\*



A Woman's Place  
4015 Broadway  
Oakland, CA 94611  
(654)-3645/547-9920

Dear FBN:

A few issues ago, you ran statements from the two sides of the conflict at A Woman's Place in Oakland, CA. We wanted to update people about the resolution of that struggle, and what's happening now at A Woman's Place.

First of all, please know that our name is still A Woman's Place! We formed a non-profit mutual benefits corporation which owns A Woman's Place, and someone already had that name as a California corporation, so we took the name Women and Children First for our corporate name. However, we will still do business as A Woman's Place (we dropped the I.C.I. part of our name, which was supposed to stand for Information Center Incorporate, but seemed only to confuse people). Our apologies to the women's bookstore in Chicago for any worry the statement in FBN caused them.

Incorporating was fairly easy; we even found attorneys who did it for free out of a grant they had for county low-income legal work. We chose this form of non-profit mutual benefits corporation because we wanted to include the principle that no collective member should have to invest money to come in or take money out when she leaves, and also the principle that the collective should be the same as the board of directors (in other forms of non-profit in California, the board must be 51% "disinterested" directors, i.e., not on the payroll or receiving any monetary benefit from the corporation). We're very glad to have an official form of organization which reflects our reality, which of course was part of our problem in our previous struggle.

We've also just incorporated a non-profit tax-exempt corporation called Woman and Children Too, with which we'll carry out some of the non-income earning projects of A Woman's Place (women's lounge, lending library, books to women in prison, events, etc.). We hope to sue the tax-exempt status to solicit donations and grants.

We are doing extensive store remodeling (we now have rolling shelves so we can push them aside for evening events, a jewelry case, and are building racks for crafts) and have several projects going. You mentioned in the last issue "memberships"; we started doing this in August and they are being very successful. We call them discount cards, as we don't want to imply that people gain voting rights by purchasing a card, as they do in the local Co-op. The cards are \$15.00 and up for a year's worth of 10% off all taxable purchases; we've already sold 300, which means in effect that we now have "loans of \$4,500 from our customers which we repay as they buy books, until, when they reach \$150.00 purchased in a year, they start realizing savings. In the meantime, we get the \$15 and increased patronage from the card holders; we think it's a good deal for all. Modern Times, the radical bookstore in San Francisco from whom we copied the idea, swears it has been their salvation.

Finally, let me make a brief summary of what went wrong with this previous collective, in hopes that it can be helpful to FBN readers. This is definitely my personal rendering of what it was really all about, and is not necessarily shared by other collective members.

One of the elements of the problem was that this bookstore collective for the first 12 years had no stated politics and beliefs. We had operated under an assumption that we all agreed what running a feminist bookstore, for, by, and about women, meant. As our conflict sharpened, it became clear that we in fact had very different ideas about feminism; for example, some of us thought that a feminist bookstore had to actively combat racism, in ourselves and in others, others of us thought that was inappropriate to a feminist bookstore. Once our differences had emerged, it was of course too late to come to agree-

ment; I think now that any political group must have from its inception at least some general written agreement on its politics.

Another element was that the power imbalance between women who had been part of the founding collective in 1972 and women who came later had never been addressed, and was in fact a taboo topic. The two women of the six of us who had been founding members had an obvious, though unstated, notion that theirs was the original, correct vision of how the bookstore should be, and that others had to change to accommodate them, never vice versa. Eventually this assumptions led to their participation in locking the rest of us out.

Finally, the collective operated with what I now think of as a very primitive conception of consensus decision-making. All decisions had to be made by unanimous agreement; if anyone said no, no change could occur. In effect, we operated by minority vote, or minority veto, which became very frequent occurrences in our decision-making. The result was that very few new ideas were agreed to; any affirmative action became ineffective as the ideas brought by new members were stymied; and all of us were immensely frustrated.

The current collective has what I think is a much more workable understanding of consensus; that is, that consensus means building a group unity, coming to a way of doing things that may not be any particular individual's way, but is a way that works for the group. We regard a "no" as no more important than a "yes," and keep working until we can come to agreement. Vetoing or blocking is regarded as a very grave action, and a sign of a deep problem within the group; if anyone were blocking with any frequency, I think we'd have to ask if that person should really be working in this group. Also, we have signed a "fall-safe" agreement so that, if we come to a stalemate and are unable to mediate or move in any other way, we will take the problem to outside arbitrators.

So much for the past. On to the future!

Jesse Meredith, for A Woman's Place,

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### HOME AGAIN! TORONTO WOMEN'S BOOKSTORE

More than a year after the fire, The Toronto Women's Bookstore has a permanent home again. Do a bit of a celebration in their honor, and send your congratulations, shipments, invoices, customers and correspondence to TWB, 73 Harbord St., Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5S 1G4. This has been one long haul!

### APHRA PRESS

Hooray for another new publisher! Aphra Press is looking for two creative works of lesbian fiction for publication during 1985. In addition to fiction, Aphra will also publish lesbian/feminist biographies and short stories. Aphra does not plan to publish poetry. Include a SASE with manuscripts.

Rumor (via Barbara Grier) has it that Aphra will fall somewhere between Crossing Press and Nalad Press. More literary than one, less political than the other.

Inquiries and manuscripts to Carolyn Netzer, Editor, Aphra Press, HSJ Box 867, Springfield, Mo. 65801.

### WOMANSPACE BOOKSTORE-ARIZONA FOR SALE

\$20,000. Established nine years. Includes all fixtures, debt-free inventory, mailing list, lease through 4/85, etc. For more information call or write: Mooneyan, Womenspace Bookstore, 425 S. Mill Ave., Tempe Az 85281.

### MARGARETDAUGHTERS

Another new feminist publishing company! Called Margaretdaughters as a tribute to both of the founders' mothers. Their first book **Peace and Power: A Handbook of Feminist Process** will be out in October. (See Feminist Press Books for more info.) **Feminism for the Health of It** by Wilma Scott Helde is scheduled for release in mid-1985. Margaretdaughters are Charlene Eldridge Wheeler and Peggy L. Chinn, both members of the Emma, (the Western New York Women's Bookstore), for several years and their first book includes this experience. PO Box 70, Buffalo, NY 14222.

# WOMEN IN PRINT CONFERENCE '85

Looks like there's going to be one. Here's the announcement:

August 30, 1984

Yes Virginia! There is going to be a 3rd National Women In Print Conference!

Bay Area Women in Print is organizing the conference which will take place May 29-June 1, 1985, in San Francisco, right after the American Booksellers' Association (ABA) conference here.

Our conference is open to all feminist women now working in the print trades: editors, publishers, printers, librarians and archivists, booksellers, reviewers, agents, women in marketing and distribution, self-publishers. We want to create a space where we can share our experiences, problems and information about our work as women in print. Of course, we also want to have a good time, so there will be plenty of opportunities to eat, socialize and schmooze.

What can you do to help? We're glad you asked. Most importantly, we need your ideas, and energy. What workshops are you interested in attending? What workshops can you facilitate? What are your special needs for childcare, accessibility, etc?

We're doing our best to keep the conference costs as low as possible: We're looking into low cost charter flights and hotel accommodations. Still, we need your help, not only to organize the conference, but to provide scholarships and financial aid to women who might not otherwise be able to attend.

We're asking everyone to send \$5.00 to stay on the mailing list--more if you're able, less if you can't. Other donations will be gratefully accepted. Make checks out to Workshops Cooperative. Please mail all correspondence to: Women in Print, PO Box 3184, Oakland, Ca 94609.

Questionnaire:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ initial organizing fee enc.

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_ donation enclosed

Address:

Zip:

I will organize the following workshop(s):

Other workshops I'd like to attend are: (Please give us names of people who might organize them:

I will also help organize the conference by:

My special needs are:

We are trying to decide whether to hold the conference in San Francisco, which would mean hold the workshops on a couple buildings or outside the city at a conference site. Which would you prefer? \_\_\_\_\_ in SF \_\_\_\_\_ conference site

Please give us names and addresses of women who might be interested in the conference:

We're looking forward to hearing from all of you!

\* \* \* \* \*

There may also be cheap hotel accommodatons during the ABA. Stay tuned to this channel for more info. Is the ALA convention going to be on the west coast, too? Anyone have dates and place? Given the number of WIP-ers who've been looking for an excuse to explore San Francisco, there should be a good crowd here. And one of the best ABA's ever. Start saving those nickels and dimes for the plane fare. Hopefully the \$119 NYC to SF flights will be operating by then.

# THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL FEMINIST BOOKFAIR

LONDON  
June 7-9, 1984

Start by imagining 4500 people, mostly women, working their ways through book exhibits representing the work of over a hundred and fifty publishers, including a hundred separate booths with about fifty publishers represented in combined exhibits for publishers who weren't able to send a person with their books. About 65 of the publishers are British, the rest are from overseas, mostly from Europe and some from the USA, but also from India, Soweto, Australia... Imagine all these women making their way through this one exhibit hall in two and a half days and buying L33,000 (that's about \$45,000 US at the current exchange rate) in books, and you'll have some idea of the First International Feminist Bookfair in London.

The bookfair was overwhelmingly successful. Almost too successful. Far more women, and many more international publishers attended than were in the organizer's wildest dreams. The hall where the fair was held is the site of the annual socialist bookfair, and was expected to be big enough. And it wasn't nearly. Women lined up, sometimes as many as two hundred, waiting to get into the fair. Inside the relatively small hall, it was often so crowded that it took half an hour to get from one side of the hall to the other. The fair was set up primarily as a selling-to-the-public fair, with an entrance at one end, and cash registers at the other end. (Cashiering done by the women of SisterWrite. Imagine selling \$45,000 dollars worth of books in 19 hours and empathize. Then imagine the bookkeeping involved with 150 different publishers and be amazed. And then complicate that with the problem that many of the overseas publishers expected to be selling their own books at the full retail price and hadn't expected to be turning over a standard bookstore discount to SisterWrite for their work cashiering, expecting, instead to be paying some of their expenses and you have the stuff of feminist nightmares. But it all seemed to work out in the end, with the women of Sisterwrite going out to the booths and renegotiating the discounts and generally making a system that didn't work from the start work out.)

Many of the criticisms of the fair had to do with its overwhelming success, its too-crowdedness and the popularity of the programs associated with the fair, particularly the International Lesbian Writers Celebration and the Black and Third World Writers Evening. See the August-September *Off Our Backs* excellent article for more information on the political debates and issues that were raised at the fair and for a brief tour through the talks by third world women at the bookfair.

The other major problems seemed to stem from differing concepts of what an international feminist bookfair would be and what it would achieve. Americans, of course, assumed that the goal was to network. The organizers organized around creating a bookfair with selling to the public as a primary goal, and a few major public speaking/reading events and a number of spin-off events around the country. Others likely brought other agendas and it was all complicated and enhanced by the different and oftentimes conflicting cultural assumptions brought to an international event. Not to mention the necessity of working through meetings in translation and having "simple" and complex conversations through translators. Almost every American that I talked to described those aspects of the event as awesome and humbling.

Besides the immediate success of the event, there was also considerable media coverage in magazines, including articles and announcements in almost all of the "glossy" women's magazines. There were at least 50 "spin-off" events held in conjunction with the fair in the greater London area, including book readings and autographings organized by publishers for their authors who were in town, held by booksellers in bookstores, events in libraries, schools and more. There were also at least 40 autonomous groups throughout Great Britain that worked with the Bookfair organizers to book the international visitors to the fair for readings and speaking engagements after the fair was over. The week following the bookfair was declared feminist book week throughout Great Britain and these groups also organized readings with local authors, held workshops on writing, on children's literature, did events in libraries, etc. Bookstores all around the country, including W.H. Smith Bookstores, Britain's largest chain, did window and instore displays celebrating Feminist Book week featuring books listed in the back of the bookfair catalogue, the logo of the fair and special materials created in honor of feminist book week by the various British publishers. The national Book League, a very conservative group, bought books from the fair and obtained permission to create a touring exhibit feature international feminist books and will circulate to libraries and schools in Britain for the next two years for a modest rental of £26 (\$35 USA). The bookfair organizers felt that the fair's tremendous success served as a tremendous reinforcement for mainstream British booksellers to keep publishing feminist books and gave support to feminist working therein. Mainstream publishers, in turn, were mostly very supportive in attending the fair, creating special promotional literature for the fair, and distributing it nationally to be given away in bookstores during Feminist Book Week.

Amid all that, it seemed sometimes forgotten that this was an international book fair, that women had come from all around the world to do what they needed to do at an international book fair. Conference organizers say that if they did it again, they'd set aside a day that the fair would be open to "the trade" only. Hopefully for negotiating the selling of rights, hopefully for bookstores to attend and work out the details of buying internationally, of setting up credit with publishers and for actually buying the books in bulk and for setting up more international distribution channels and enhancing the ones that already exist. Remarkably few bookstores seemed to attend the fair and that seems to me to be a major loss of potential impact. Neither Bookpeople nor Inland, the largest distributors of small and feminist press books to the US attended, as far as I know, which seems to me to represent a lack of attention to creating a climate that would further international distribution. Hopefully that aspect was covered better by other regions of the world. And hopefully a day or two of workshops for "the trade", could also be added, to facilitate exchange of information and experience among us internationally as well as to make connections that could strengthen our international ties enormously.

Only two bookstores from the US attended. Arlene Orshan, from Giovanni's Room, going both as a bookstore buyer, and in her capacity as an importer of gay literature to the US for distribution to bookstores. And Karyn London from Womanbooks. Karyn's goal was to bring back books from women in other countries that are not available here. Wanting both to make the books available, and just wanting to have the books in the store, to create a visual statement of feminism alive and writing all over the world, in as many different languages as possible. Says Karyn, "The books in Norwegian may sell only once in five years, but we need to know, as a community, that those books exist, and that women are writing and publishing all over the world. In India, in Soweto, in Zimbabwe as well as in Spain and France and Germany. We're too English-locked here and I want to put these books into the bookstore for all of us to see. To expand our thinking." Hopefully some of the

information Karyn is learning about international ordering, shipping, exchange rates, and international drafts to pay for the books, and then getting them through customs will show up in future issues of FBN.

Other comments from other Americans attending the Fair included the frustration of attending a trade show where the REAL agenda wasn't networking, as per the American ABA. A comment that the feminist publishers in the USA were financially well off compared to feminist publishers everywhere else. That the 'feminist publishing model' in Britain is significantly different than in the USA in that much of British feminist publishing seems to be funded by male money. And also that there is a socialist feminist organization model to the feminist publishing there...what we would think of as leftist publishers publishing a significant number of feminist books with fewer women-owned, women-controlled publishers than in the US. But that socialism in Britain seems to be much more clearly informed by out-lesbians and by lesbian experience than it is in the US. And at the same times, though there would certainly appear to be lesbians working in the straight publishers and the more established women's publishing houses, they were significantly more reticent about identifying as lesbians that we're used to.

And most awesome and wonderful was the internationalism of the fair itself. Of meeting and learning about feminist publishing in India, in Zimbabwe, in Morocco, in Latin America.... as well as in Britain and the rest of Europe.

Unfortunately there isn't yet planning for the next International Feminist Bookfair. The conveners of this one visualize the fair as a bi-annual event, moving from country to country, rather than being London based, but no one has yet come forward to organize the next one, a planning process of at least fifteen months. But stay tuned.... This was too big a success and too exciting an event not to be reattempted in a bigger and even more exciting way.

## Vibrators for Sale

Joani Blank of Good Vibrations (Vibrator Store in San Francisco) and Down There Press offers free help for feminist booksellers who want to sell vibrators (advice, product selection, sources, etc.) "I'd like to stress that getting into vibrators does not mean a big cash outlay--I'd even be willing to send out a small starter inventory on consignment. Vibrators are potentially very profitable and a store need only carry three or four different models to do well with them."

Long ago, (I'm reaching back though the mists of time to remember this), when we first started Old Wives' Tales, we carried vibrators. We stopped when Joani opened her store, since she was doing a much better job of it than we were, but until she opened up, we sold quite a few vibrators, and a lot of our customers were very pleased to be able to buy vibrators in a women-focused, women-safe environment. And I think that Joani's offer of a starter inventory on consignment is a tremendous opportunity for any stores that want to give it a try.

For more information write Joani Blank, 3416 22nd Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110.

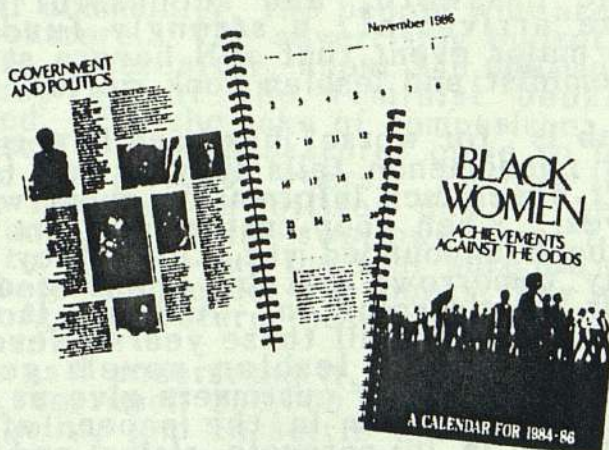
-Carol Seajay



# BLACK WOMEN

## ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST THE ODDS

A CALENDAR  
FOR 1984-1986



- **BLACK WOMEN** is a 6½ x 9", 88-page desk calendar which can be used for the years 1984, 1985, and 1986.
- **BLACK WOMEN** features portraits and biographies of over 100 black women ranging from a slave poetess born in 1746 to a tennis player born in 1957. Research was done by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES).
- **BLACK WOMEN** includes women active in education, civil rights, religion, sports, labor, journalism, dance, theater, arts, government, the military, law, music, literature, medicine and business.
- The *New York Times*, *People* and *Publishers Weekly* featured the 1981 edition as an outstanding calendar of the year.
- This is what's been said about **BLACK WOMEN**:  
*Essence*: "...an inspiration."  
*Bookman*: "...useful to students, especially."  
*Report From the Capitol*: "...worthy and fascinating."
- The cost of **BLACK WOMEN** is only \$7.95 plus \$1.50 per copy for shipping and handling. There is a significant discount for fund raising, schools, organizations and bookstores.

No. of copies	Cost per copy	Per copy Shipping/Handling
7 - 12	\$6.75	\$1.25
13 - 24	5.75	.75
25 - 49	4.75	.50
50 - 99	4.50	.30
100 - 249	4.25	.25
250 or more	4.00	.15

Check payable to  
GMG PUBLISHING

Send this coupon  
and check to:  
GMG PUBLISHING  
25 West 43rd Street  
New York, N.Y. 10036

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of **BLACK WOMEN**.  
A check for \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

## CENTURY BOOK CLUB

The Century Book Club wants to be a resource for the world of gay and lesbian publishing. And undoubtedly they will be. They already are. In an industry where change is the password, and successful change is the requirement for survival, the arrival of a strongly funded mail-order discount offering bookclub is a major event that will have a strong impact on many different facets of the feminist and lesbian book world. For better and also, probably for worse.

One way that the book club is "for worse" has been in terms of bookstore workers nerves. When a major phenomenon falls in your lap (or advertises in your local paper), and you don't have much information about who, what, why, its definitely hard on the nerves. When your customers start calling you up asking for books that haven't been announced yet....AND they think they can get them in the mall (probably tomorrow) just by dropping a check in the mail...it makes a woman wonder what's going on. And how it will affect the bookstore she's been putting together over all these years. Never mind feeling like a fool for not knowing about new lesbian novels getting massive publicity. Never mind the flack some of our customers give us for not having a book in stock that they "know" (it was in the paper, after all!) is in print. Never mind that the moon is in paranola rising and the sun is in ignorance. It's hard on a woman's nerves.

All of which is to say that Century Book Club has landed in the feminist bookstore scene with a rather ungraceful thud. Not the sort of entrance that gets welcomed with open arms. Though it seems that they've landed in other parts of the women-in-print industry more gracefully.

Meanwhile the dust has been settling. Some of the information that is rising is helpful, some of it is conflicting, which is not. Most of it is thought provoking. What follows is as much information as I've been able to gather, some ideas about impact, some my own and some from conversations. All of which is meant to be a starting point, not final conclusions. I'm assuming that there will be a lot of differing opinions, a lot of ideas not considered here, and that all that will pour into FBN's mail bags and be an ongoing conversation for the next several issues.

Basically, CBC is a "soft" bookclub. They send a brochure (monthly?) to all of their members featuring a main selection, an alternate and (so far) as many as 14 other books in a variety of categories. (Critic's choice, new bestsellers, classics, special selection, etc.) All the books are discounted, usually a dollar off paperbacks, two dollars off cloth selections. Additional discounts are available for buying in combination, ie all the Katherine Forrest novels. Ie anyone who buys all five Ann Bannons earns a 25% discount over the list price. Books purchased earn bonus coupons. Some of the books listed in each catalogue are repeats from previous catalogues. In addition, there will be special gift (Xmas) catalogues featuring calendars and "special gift books". Meanwhile I've also been told that CBC isn't really going to affect feminist bookstores because they will featuring only 24 women's books a year. Maybe that's literally true (are "features" main selections and alternates?), but by the second month of operation 16 book are being listed and I'm doubtful that the rest of a year will go by with only 8 additional titles. That would be outrageously poor business planning, and I really don't think that's the name of this game. All of which is to say that there seems to be a quality of "reassuring information" coming from some quarters that isn't helpful at all.

.pa

The bookclub recruits members via advertising, by buying mailing lists (ie the National Women's Mailing list), and by giving their packets to groups that are interested in mailing them to their memberships, but don't share their mailing lists with anyone, for the purpose of protecting their members. This last approach has been successful with gay religious organizations and seems to me to be one of the best and most appropriate uses of this kind of a book club, to reach the very scared and very closeted segments of our community, the people who are (still) to afraid to enter a gay or feminist bookstore. The advertising budget for the first three months was \$125,000/month. Thereafter, about \$40,000/month.) I think it is important to note here that all of the feminist bookstores have been thoroughly undercapitalized. For the sake of comparison: the combined start-up money of the five largest feminist bookstores came to less than \$40,000 and have built from there for the last 10+ years. Feeling like one has to compete with a company that has half a million dollars behind is has its overwhelming moments. Paranoias of being swallowed aren't unreasonable. I don't see that that is going to happen, but the fear sure makes sense to me.

The members then order the books they want, no strings attached. No postcards to forget to return, no minimum number of books to buy in a year, no membership fees.

The plan, as I understand it, is to achieve 50,000 members by the end of the first year, to reach 250,000 after two years, to cut back advertising at that optimum point, and to settle down to running a successful book club at that point. One of the stated goals of the book club is to reach the people in states and towns that don't offer gay and feminist bookstores, and to reach the people who don't buy books in bookstores, anyway. The people who are too closeted to go into bookstores, or who just prefer to order mail order, anyway. To reach the people that aren't now being served by gay and feminist bookstores. The theory that I'm being told is that there is a huge untapped market of gay book buyers (100,000? 250,000?) that aren't currently involved in the "movement communities" and don't know how to get the books and that they are the market for this book club. That the book club will not be competing with feminist bookstores for sales. I'm more than willing for this to be true. I hope it is. It is one of the premises on which we are all intended to survive and flourish. But there is a problem here, in that all the advertising I see is in the gay and feminist movement press. The "discrete ads" in more mainstream media are planned to run something like "Are you interested in books by Judy Grahn, Audrey Lorde, etc?" Which, again is only going to connect with the already informed, which is to say the readers already served by feminist bookstores and reading the feminist press. Maybe the plan is to build up a solid base of "ready" customers and then to do outreach into the closets of America? I do know that a lot of people in podunk subscribe to the gay and feminist press, maybe they're the target of these ads? Off Our Backs reported that CBC's target audience is Nowhere Utah and Uptight, Nebraska, and that to that purpose they are using selected national mailing lists excluding New York, California and major cities in other states. Sounds good, but I received the lesbian brochure on a mailing label with NWML in the corner, and San Francisco is definitely a major city in California....

I'm willing to believe that the book club is selling to a lot of people in podunk. And I think that is wonderful, and it's certainly something I'm glad to see. And I think it is going to affect bookstore sales. But I think CBC is going to affect bookstore sales in a lot of ways, that won't necessarily add up to a loss in sales.

## AND ON THE OTHER HAND

Book clubs run by buying a lot of books up front, at an enormous discount. (60-75% discount.) They then sell the books at discount (still coming out far ahead of the average retail bookstore). A lot of the money in between goes out in advertising. Advertising to build a base of members, and advertising to sell books to the members once you have them. Is that expense greater than the expense of running a retail shop? Well, the point of most book clubs is to make money. On the other hand, it's going to take a lot of books sold to payback \$40,000/month advertising budgets. What do publishers get out of selling at such a low discount? A lot of advertising, for one thing. And upfront money to take to the printers. A solid hope to firm belief that this distribution form will increase their total sale for a title, and a larger print run, and so a lower production cost per book/unit. Which means a higher profit margin, which helps to balance out the extraordinary discount. Multiply this by an increased total number of books sold and you get... well, at least some idea of why Random House, et al have been happily selling to book clubs for years. Because it works for them.

Part of what works is the advertising. It's not for nothing that all those PW listings proudly announce "book of the month club selection". The publicity sells books. And it also speeds up the sales of books that would take longer to "find their market". In the feminist book community, this may mean that publishers' limited capital spends less time sitting on the shelves waiting for the market to find the title. And increased turnaround time is next best thing to having more capital. Which means more money in hand to publish more books. Which means more books to sell, which will likely more than make up, financially, for sales lost to the book club in the long run. With some publishers this money will translate into the freedom to publish some slower moving titles, as well. Oftentimes the books we want most to see in print.

There is also a theory that "selective discounting" sells books. In our own communities we know that word of mouth is what sells books--the excited reader who tells two of her friends who tell two thousand of their closest friends. The ripple effect. It is likely that the books that are selected by the book club will sell more books, and faster than they would otherwise sell. And the more people who read a (good) book, the more copies it will sell. And bookclubs don't carry a title forever, so the backlist sales will go (back) to the bookstores. It looks like a funny picture to me: Bookstore sales lost to bookclub sales. Bookstore sales increased and speeded up by all the book club advertising. And increased backlist sales due to all the previous advertising. What does it add up to? Maybe increased sales for the bookstores in the long run? Maybe even in the short run? Maybe the two cancel each other out, and the publishers will benefit by selling more books over all, which will result in more books being published which will result in...more books to sell and increased sales? If the publishers sell more books, the authors will benefit, financially as well, which is a lovely spin-off, and so will the lawyers, because every book contract will now need a clause for book club rights, which hasn't been a major issue until now with feminist-press published books, but every writer worth her salt should be running wild fantasies by now....

I don't know what the periodicals are planning to do with this sudden burst of advertising revenue, but I do like to imagine....

Looking at it this way, it doesn't look like such a bad deal. Some of the publishers I've talked to have said that they decided to deal with the bookclub only after coming to the conclusion that the feminist bookstores

weren't going to lose sales and that the net result would be increased sales of the books they were already committed to publishing. Feminist publishers have a vital stake in the health and survival of feminist bookstores, and will likely be watching bookstore sales almost as closely as the bookstores.

Initially it looked as if CBC was going to have access to books and sell books in advance of when the bookstores would get the books. That turns out not to be the case. (ie Nalad ships to the bookstores and to CBC at the same time, as soon as the books come off the press.) CBC has an advantage in advertising the books ahead of the pub date when they feature books the same month the books are published, but they won't always be doing that. In fact, the books they are featuring later this year include books that are already in the bookstores. It will be interesting to see how these books do for the bookclub, and how that influx of advertising will affect sales of these titles.

#### AND THEN ON THE OTHER HAND

(You have to have a lot of hands to be a feminist)

People who can afford to put up half a million dollars can often afford to lose it. What if this book club is a fine effort that doesn't make it? Hopefully no publishers will get stuck, but that doesn't seem likely given that bookclubs usually pay prior to printing date. Will this approach succeed in selling books to lesbians? Will the same approach work selling books to lesbians as gay men? I had two house guests the same week I had the CBC brochures sitting on my kitchen table. One said "This will be a bust. I don't know a lesbian who would buy a book off a brochure like this. It's too Hollywood." The other said, "Wow! This is hot!" So much for lesbian unanimity.

#### AND THEN ON THE OTHER HAND

(Lesbians are supposed to be good with all these hands)

That this bookclub is pursuing the small press is exciting and speaks to their commitment to the literature, and that excites me. I'm interested in the diversity of the books they are featuring. At first I thought they were going to do all "good time" and escapist books, but that doesn't seem to be the case. I'm interested in seeing what books they choose to resurrect, to give special printings. I'm also very interested in using the bookclub approach to shake money out of publishers for advertising. Mainstream publishing is notorious for publishing books and then not letting the audience know that the book exists before declaring it out of print. Advertising, via bookclubs, could be an aggressive way of changing that.

Overall, the lesbian and gay book market is a very big market, one that has barely begun to be tapped. Mainstream press has tried to reach the mythic "gay disposable income" and hasn't had a lot of success. Gay and feminist publishing has made a success of publishing from the heart. One more approach to finding more of the people who want the books is probably going to succeed. There are a lot more people out there wanting the books than are finding them. Reaching those people is going to be the hardest part. That's always been the bottom line and the primary goal of gay and lesbian liberation. It measures our success and our progress, and my guess is, with gay planks in the Democratic party platform, and with Rev. Jesse Jackson saying that racy word "lesbian" twice in one TV speech, it's time to be making some more giant strides in creating distribution of gay and lesbian literature. It's going to mean some adjustments, some changes in buying and selling patterns. I'm thinking of the startling day I looked at my tourist season sales and saw that they

weren't what they had been. That travelers were no longer dropping in and buying ten and twenty books at a time and buying for a whole crowd of people "back home" because feminist bookstores had been opening up "back home". It made for a couple bumpy seasons while I learned to buy differently. But sales didn't fall off over-all. And having feminist bookstores in all the smaller towns did mean that more books were sold over all. Which meant that more books were published. Which meant more books to sell, which meant more women got to read the books. Which was the whole point of the women in print movement, anyway.

#### Another Book Club

Another new bookclub, that no one seems have noticed or commented on is The Book Company, a "Personalized Book Service Just for You. Individually Selected/Reasonably Priced." Out of San Diego. The gig is that a member takes out a 6 or 12 month membership for \$5 or \$10, and then receives a book a month in one of the categories they have selected (biography, children's, cookbooks, health, lesbian, men, minority women, women's fiction, women's non-fiction and the other of your choice) each month. Books may be returned for another book of comparable value. For more info write The Book Company, PO Box X33993, San Diego, Ca 92103.

# Feminist PUBLISHER News

July 1, 1984

Dear Friends.

Frog In the Well announces the publication of a new periodical **The Feminist Publishers News**.

That's right, a forum to exchange and share news, ideas, suggestions, and signals of distress.

\* Find out just who are those masked men behind that new gay and lesbian (or is it lesbian and gay?) book club?

\* Explore ways to get to know those cute book review editors. (Any suggestions?)

\* Discover what really did happen at the First International Feminist Bookfair. (Nancy Bereano will fill us in in the first issue.)

\* And is Japan ready for an onslaught of American Feminist Books? (Ruth Gottstein will tell all.)

This and other fine news will be delivered to you five (5) times a year - September, November, January, March and May - for only \$15.00 per year. What a deal!

Since the NEWS will be a vehicle for us to communicate with each other, we need your input. Please fill out the enclosed simple (under 3 minutes) questionnaire. And please, send articles, letters, announcements and back rubs by the 15th of the month preceding publication. There will be an edition for publishers only, so mark your correspondence accordingly.

until September then,  
Susan Hester  
for Frog in the Well.  
430 Oakdale Road  
E. Palo Alto, Ca 94303

PS Don't forget to send the money.

++OOPS. Write for a questionnaire. FBN sent hers in and didn't think to make a copy to reproduce here.

## Fundraising

Half the Sky, (Dallas) has been holding garage sales and doing very well with them. Johnny says that they sold things cheap & fast, and that they had the sale in the store parking lot behind the store. They collected donations for a while and stored things in a garage until THE weekend, then they made \$1000 in two days. "Very profitable for not much up front." A nice side effect was a lot of interaction and good connections with people in the neighborhood that they don't usually see in the bookstore. Not to mention a lot of fun. Half the Sky now has a garage for storage on loan to them and will do the garage sale twice a year.

## BOS - Bookstore Ordering System

Is anyone using BOS, or has anyone explored it from a feminist press perspective? Will you give me a call and tell me about your experience with it so I can pass it on via FBN? Call afternoons, or call mornings and leave a message about when I can call you back. (415-431-2093) -Thx, Carol.

Here's the info from the Newswire that Susanna sent:  
New Low-Cost System Enables Small Presses To Join BOS

In response to a large number of requests made to Booksellers Order Service from small publishers seeking to participate who did not have computer capabilities, PCS Data Processing Company, has announced the availability of a low-cost turnkey system for small presses and wholesalers.

The PCS Small Publisher System offers a single disc drive Sanyo computer, monitor, modem and printer along with software that enables a publisher to receive BOS orders on line; print those orders; convert the original orders into industry-standard BISAC (Book Industry Systems Advisory Committee) invoices when the books have been shipped; create credits in the BISAC format; and transmit invoices and credits to BOS. The hardware will also enable the vendor to communicate through the GTE Telemail network.

The cost of the system includes an initial fee of \$500 for start-up; \$175 a month for two years, after which the publisher owns the hardware; and \$110 a month thereafter which covers hardware and software maintenance costs as well as future enhancements to the software. The only additional charges is for the publisher's own use of the GTE Telemail network, which is billed on a monthly basis by BOS and is based on actual usage.

Bernie Rath, ABA executive director and president of BOS, said: "We are very pleased to have found a method of accommodating the desire of the small presses to offer their books through BOS. Our members tell us that the ease of ordering books from smaller vendors through BOS will be one of BOS' greatest advantages. They stress that the paperwork and difficulty of locating the source, creating separate purchase orders, and paying separate invoices to the hundreds of small publishers in the country are chores they eagerly look to BOS to handle for them."

For more information, contact Bert Rodd at PCS Data Processing, 140 Cedar St., New York, NY 10006 or call (212) 964-4646.



## Writing Wanted

And photographs, too: Crossing Press is looking for photographs for the 1986 Strength of Women Calendar. The theme will be "Being All that We Can Be". Nancy is looking for photographs that show women of various ages, abilities, classes, ethnicities, and races engaged in the activities that make up the patterns of our daily lives. Images that we can live with and learn from for a month at a time, images that inspire, teach, and please. Deadline October 1, 1984. For more info write: Nancy Bereano, Crossing Press, PO Box 640, Trumansburg, NY 14886.

Aunt Lute Book Company will be publishing a book on women canoeists and want writing/journals/letters/rememberings of recent and distant past canoeing experiences. They are looking for stories of women who paddled 30-40 years ago, women who made long adventurous wilderness trips, women who kept a journal on their first canoe trip. Professional writing experience NOT required, the editors will work with women and help to edit material for publication. Journals, letters, stories, taped interviews, photographs and and contacts you may have with women who paddled in years past--send to Barb Wieser, Aunt Lute Book Company, PO Box 2568, Iowa City, IA 52244 or Judith Niemi, Woodswomen, 2550 Pillsbury Ave, South, Minneapolis, MN 55404.

WANTED: "Sticky" Questions for *The Book of Lesbian Etiquette, Courtship, Bedside Manners, Jealousy Tool Kit, Social Diseases, Vile Habits, The Relationship Spectra*, any penetrating queries sought on lesbian social yoga (w/ handy solutions if available). Women's whose ideas are used will get a free copy of the guide and credit. Send questions, social howlers, great moments in overcoming awkwardnesses to social secretary Celeste West, Booklegger Press, Class Action Suite, 555 29th St., San Francisco, Ca 94131. You'll be glad you did.....

Seal Press has decided to shed it's Northwest image and is now looking for feminist fiction and nonfiction (book) manuscripts from around the country. Submissions should be proposals or sample chapters with SASE. Send to Seal Press, 312 S. Washington St, Seattle, Washington 98104.

*Backbone*, has changed hands. It was originally published by Seal Press as a series of anthologies featuring Northwest women writers. Now it's a semi-annual, feminist literary magazine that will publish women from across the continent, highlighting US Northwest and Canadian women writers. They will publish work that inspires poetic, feminist, spiritual, and political dialogue. *Backbone*, PO Box 95315, Seattle, Wa 98145.

There's going to be a *Lesbian Mothering Anthology* (including mothers, co-mothers, and the children). The collectors especially encourage women who do not consider themselves to be writers and/or who have never submitted their work for publication. Send essays, stories, poems, letters, interviews, etc. The anthology is to reflect our diversity of experience: race, class, culture, ethnicity, age, able-bodiedness, nationality. Will place emphasis on women traditionally denied access to publishing. Deadline: December 24, 1984. Write: Anthology, 1803 Mission St., Box 160, Santa Cruz, Ca 95060-5296.

Kate McDermott is collection for an anthology of women's theater designed to present lesbian experience. Monologues to multiple-act-plays, preferably unpublished. SASE. 401 Altivo Ave., La Selva Beach, Ca 95076

Timely Books is looking for full-length (50,000-70,000 words) manuscripts. Fiction and non-fiction from a strong feminist perspective. No poetry, children's books, sci-fi. Book length collections of short stories considered. SASE. Timely Books, PO Box 267, New Milford, Conn. 06776.

Thoughts, poems, stories, journals, paragraphs, photographs, and articles all wanted for **White Women and Racism Anthology**. The purpose of this book is to have women who are not the direct targets of racism write about their racism, how racism affects them, and how they are fighting racism. Sections include: The Spectrum of White in America, How Racism Affects Us as Whites--as white women, Becoming Anti-Racist, What We Are Doing to Fight Racism, Breaking the Taboo--Interracial Relationships, Our Vision for the Future, and Practical Section. For more information write Tia Cross, RFD, Woodstock, Vt. 05091

## Help Wanted

The Iowa City Women's Press & A Fine Bind are looking for a new collective member. You will be trained to specialize in some but not all of the following areas: Office: managing finances, estimating jobs, purchasing, customers, production schedule managing, day to day operations. Production: Operating several machines including presses, folder, cutter, darkroom equipment. Decision Making: Long and short range planning of the business is done collectively. Qualifications: Specific experience with one of more of the areas listed above would be helpful, printing experience would be especially helpful. We are looking for someone hardworking and responsible. Pay and Benefits: We work a 40 hours work week with occasional overtime. There is one paid day off per month. TAKEhome pay is \$750/month. Our financial status has always been shaky, but we have been in business over 10 years and have plans to grow. We are a full-service print shop and bindery, handling all kinds of commercial accounts, with a special commitment to working for and with women. WE are located in Iowa City Iowa--a university town, population 60,000. Application Deadline: August 22, 1984. ICWP, 1801 Stevens Drive, Iowa City, Iowa 52240. 319-338-7022.

Womankind just bought a computer....and named it Sarah....because it needs Patience. Thanks to a traveling Judith McDaniel for that one.

## MORE BOOKS: Women & Alcoholism

I had to leave my favorite book off the last list because I didn't know that it had been reprinted by Last Gasp Comix. It is **Mary Wings' Are Your Highs Getting You Down?** (Written with the assistance of women in the Substance Abuse Groups at the Pacific Center in Berkeley). It features All the Hassles of Alcohol in a Dyke's Life. And includes real life lesbians, Black Panthers, sobriety in a wheel chair ("You think there aren't any accessible Liquor Stores?") being multi-cultural in a mono-cultural society, dyke street-artists, reefer-sadness and hope. \$1.50. Don't miss it. It's available from Bookpeople and maybe Inland.

Another ACA book: Sandy at A Room of One's Own/Madison writes that this is THEIR<sup>3</sup>'s third best selling book re Adult Children of Alcoholics and that they order it in lots of 50. **Adult Children of Alcoholics** by Janet Geringer Woltitz 106p \$5.95 paper. 5-49 copies get 40% discount. Order from Heath Communications, 2119-A Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood Florida 33020.

**Rosie** is a novel by Anne Lamott (Viking \$16.95 cloth). Rosie is one precocious child growing up with her mother who is an alcoholic. It is an incredible book: Besides being very tightly written, hilarious, touching and insightful, it presents life in an alcoholic family from the perspective of both the child and the parent without taking sides or pitting one position against the other. I wouldn't have thought that was possible. No one in this book is a victim. None of the characters are extraordinary people and each one has the strengths and the qualities that they need to find their way through. The price is steep, but once people get a whiff of this book, price isn't going to stop them. I not only bought it at full price in a bookstore, I went back and bought a second copy because I didn't want to be without one in the house while my first copy was making the rounds of my friends. Shelve it with the books on Adult Children of Alcoholics and maybe with books on incest for a happier ending than many of us knew. And of course in fiction.

**True Story of a Single Mother** Nancy Lee Hall (Southend Press \$6.50). Once every ten years Nancy Hall gets a book out. The first, you may remember **True Story of a Drunken Mother** was one of the first books published by Daughters. They called it "fictionalized autobiography written in the styleless style of the literature of the drugstore which is the culture and college of women who marry young and have babies...." Ten years later, I'd say Hall writes in the direct and honest way of truth-telling as it is found around the tables of AA. This book is primarily about being a single mother, but it's also about being a SOBER single mother. About being sober and going on, dealing with your own kids' drinking and dope growing.

**Alcoholism and Women: The Background and the Psychology** Jan Bauer (Inner City Books \$12) is a Jungian perspective on alcoholism. PO Box 1271, Station Q, Toronto, Canada, M4T 2P4.

**An Elephant in the Living Room** comes in two versions, a workbook for kids, ideally to be used in a group situation, and a handbook for group leaders. The workbook starts with the question "What if there was an elephant, a big grey elephant in the living room of the house...and all the people who lived there walked around it everyday, avoiding the swaying trunk, and pretending it wasn't there. And no one talked about it, and so the children in the family learned not to talk about it, or ask questions about it or...." And goes from there to talk about living in an alcoholism, living in an alcoholic family, what happens to feelings, coping with problems, changes, and making choices. The workbook is designed for children from about seven to

early adolescence. I found that 34 was the perfect age to encounter it, so I think the publisher/author have limited their scope too much. The Leader's Guide is designed for leaders of groups of children from alcoholic families but I think it would certainly be of interest to anyone working with any aspects of alcoholism treatment and recovery and to many adult children of alcoholics as well. An Elephant-The Children's Book is \$6.00. An Elephant-A Leaders Guide for Helping Children of Alcoholics is \$7.95 or can be ordered in a set for \$12.95. From CompCare Publications, 2415 Annapolis Lane Suite 140, Minneapolis, MN 55441. (Toll free order phone: 800-328-3330. CompCare also publishes a number of other books of interest including Kids and Drinking in which three recovering child alcoholics tell their stories and describe how they started drinking at 9, 8, and 7 and I Never Saw the Sun Rise a private diary of a fifteen year old girl recovering from Drugs and Alcohol that I haven't seen. 40% for 6-24 books, 42% for 25-49%, etc.

## Susanna Sturgis

### on SCIENCE FICTION

Dear Venerable Editrix,

It was most wonderful to see FBN in my mail folder -- though I must confess that I had advance warning, since I happened into Smedley's Bookshop the day after it arrived there. Irene and Smedley's had just moved into their new home on W. State Street, and we had a couple of good visits while I was in the area (which I loved) for the writing workshop (which I also loved, but that's a long story, and I'm leaving for Massachusetts on the late train tomorrow night).

I don't know if you have seen our snappy new stationery: this is it! I have been happily merging renew-you-sub letters and here's-a-review-of-your-book letters for the newest Little Review, which is on its way to you, along with a charming article w/pictures of Ms. Farmer and myself at our place of business.

Mostly this letter is Susanna's basic list of feminist science fiction, which you are free to use in any way you want. When I return from up north (if I return from up north. . .), I will start compiling lists of forthcoming titles, but I figured a starter set was in order for the non-fanatics among us. My inclination is to do a selective rather than comprehensive list. There is some excellent feminist fiction being written and published as fantasy and science fiction; there is also a lot of dreck that is written by women. It's very difficult to determine which is which from the publishers' catalogues--they could probably make Female Man sound like a torrid heterosexual romance (if FM were in print, that is).

Brief history of the Lammas f/sf collection (aside for those who keep up on their jargon: using the term "sci fi" marks one as a hopeless outsider--"sf" is preferred): When I started at Lammas in July 1981, there was very

little fantasy or science fiction, and what there was wasn't moving. My totally biased opinion was that some of the best feminist fiction around was fantasy or science fiction, so I set out to create a section. I began with a handpicked section, i.e., there was nothing in the section that I hadn't read and couldn't recommend. Now a quarter of our general (non-lesbian) fiction section is devoted to f/sf, and sales more than justify the space devoted to it. In these hard times, it's worth noting that much f/sf comes out in mass-market paperback original and is therefore relatively cheap. I do want to emphasize, though that I know the section very well. That makes a difference. If you don't have any aspiring f/sf fans on staff, you might find a willing "consultant" in the community--one nice thing about f/sf readers is that we love to talk.

Publishers to keep track of: DAW (distributed by New American Library); Ace; Berkeley; Pocker; Avon (some). St. Martin's is coming into the field, in hardcover & trade paperback. Del Rey (Ballantine) does a lot of f/sf, but precious little of it is feminist.

So here, by author, are my favorites and/or strongest sellers . . . (I've only noted prices on the more expensive titles--most mass-markets are in the \$2.50 - \$3.95 range.)

Louky Berslanik, *The Euguellonne*, Press Porceptic (avail. from Inland), \$9.95. French Canadian, cited by Mary Daly in *Pure Lust*, serious (and funny) feminist literature.

Marion Zimmer Bradley. A giant in the field. I think that the success of *Mists of Avalon* is going to get a lot of women to give her Darkover novels a try, and they probably won't be disappointed. The older Darkover novels are available from Ace; they don't offer much to a feminist audience, though they are fun. The newer ones (from the early 1970's onward) are from DAW. Absolute musts are *Shattered Chain* and its sequel *Thendara House*, which focus on an all-women guild on patriarchal Darkover. My favorite Darkovers are *Heritage of Hastur* and *The Forbidden Tower*. We sell all the DAW titles, and in increasing quantities, even *Darkover Landfall*, which has spurred much controversy and at least one novel (Joanna Russ's *We Who Are About To*). We also sell MZB's Atlantis series (*Web of Light* and the new *Web of Darkness*, both from Pocket), although I find it very slow. Also *Ruins of Isis* (Pocket), about a matriarchal society--probably the worst MZB I've read!

Octavia Butler. One of only two black women that I know of who are publishing novels (the other is young-adult author Virginia Hamilton--see below). Unfortunately most of her stuff is out of print. *Clay's Ark* (St. Martin's, hardcover) is good, but not her best. Hope for the return of *Wild Seed* and *Kindred*, both of which were Pocket when they disappeared.

C.J. Cherryh (aka Carolyn Janice Cherry--there are plenty of pseudonyms and initials in the field). I wish she could imagine some of her memorable female characters into relationships with one another. Try the Morgaine trilogy (*Gate of Ivrel* -disgusting cover: that's another characteristic of the field, *Well of Shivan*, and *Fires of Azeroth*), and maybe *Hunter of Worlds*. Her *Downbelow Station* won a bunch of awards and people may ask for it and/or its related titles, *Merchanter's Luck* and *40,000 in Gehenna* (forthcoming). All from DAW.

Jo Clayton. Skip the long and still-growing *Diadem* series and try the *Duel of Sorcery* trilogy: *Moongather*, *Moonscatter*, and *Changer's Moon* (due in 2/85). Lesbian content, an intriguing all-women's community of healers, craftswomen, and warriors. All from DAW.

Suzette Haden Elgin. A feminist and a linguist, who has devised a women's language called Ladaan. Her Ozark Fantasy Trilogy is good (and blessedly NOT based on Celtic tales!) -- **Twelve Fair Kingdoms**, **Grand Jubilee**, and **And Then There'll Be Fireworks**, all from Berkeley. Her brand new one **Native Tongue**, made PW rather hysterical (strident feminist rhetoric etc.) and looks promising -- from DAW.

Sally Gearhart. **The Wanderground**. Of course you've been carrying it since Day 1. So put it in your new f/sf section. (Alyson Press).

Charlotte Perkins Gilman, **Herland**. Ditto. (Random, trade).

Lisa Goldstein, **The Red Magician** (Pocket). Won an American Book Award for paperback original novel a year or so back; based on Eastern European Jewish themes and set before and during the Holocaust.

Sandi Hall, **The Godmothers** (Women's Press/London, trade, available through Merrimack Publishers Circle, 47 Pelham Rd., Salem NH 03079). Lesbian and feminist.

Virginia Hamilton. **Justice and Her Brothers**, **Dustland**, and **The Gathering**, all from Avon. The other black woman sf writer that I know of, known primarily as a young-adult novelist. These are young-adult novels featuring pre-teen protagonists, and I loved them.

Carol Kessler, ed. **Darin to Dream**, \$8.95. New anthology of utopian stories by U.S. women, 1836 - 1919. Routledge & Kegan Paul's Pandora imprint.

Ursula LeGuin. Another giant in the field, but we don't sell much besides **The Left Hand of Darkness** (Ace), an absolute classic must-have and **The Dispossessed** (Avon), also a must-have. We're also selling a newer one **The Compass Rose** (Bantam), and I think I may try more of her recent work.

Megan Lindholm, **Harpy's Flight**, **The Windsingers**, and **The Limbreth Gate**, all from Ace. Solid adventure, woman hero (heterosexual), good writer.

Elizabeth A. Lynn. Carry everything, esp. if you have a gay as well as a lesbian clientele. I mean it, she's GOOD. **A Different Light** (gay male protagonist); the "Chronicles of Tornor" -- **Watchtower**, **Dancers of Arun**, and **Northern Girl** (absolute must -- excellent lesbian, woman-centered novel); **The Sardonyx Net**; **The Woman Who Loved the Moon and Other Stories** -- all from Berkeley. St. Martin's has a new fantasy novel on the way (due 8/84, but I haven't seen it yet) called **The Silver Horse** (cloth, \$9.95 about). (Lynn is a lesbian, feminist, and martial artist, among other things).

Vonda McIntyre. **Dreamsnake** (Dell) is a classic, featuring a solitary, traveling woman healer named Snake. **Superluminal** is excellent and will soon be out in paper from Pocket.

Anne McCaffrey. A long-time writer and another giant, but not a high priority for a feminist store -- unless customers are asking for her. Del Rey does most of her stuff; Bantam has one of the popular Dragon series.

Joanna Russ. Possibly the best of a very impressive lot, and a lesbian and feminist to boot. Most of her novels, including **Female Man**, are out of print -- thinking too long about this puts me in a bad mood. There are some signs of hope though: **Extra(Ordinary) People** is her newest, in cloth from St.

Martin's (10.95), a novel in the form of five novellas; **The Zanzibar Cat**, a fine collection of short stories is coming in paper from Pocket, which for some reason has let the year-old edition of Russ's Alyx stories (**The Adventures of Alyx**) go out of print.

Jessica Amanda Salmonson. Two excellent anthologies, **Amazons!** and **Amazons II**, both from DAW (mostly but not entirely women writers). I stock rather half-heartedly the Tomoe Gozen saga, **Tomoe Gozen**, **The Golden Naginata**, and **Thousand Shrine Warrior** (all from Ace). The half heart has less to do with the books (sword-and-sorcery drawing very knowledgeable on Japanese legend) than with the fact that the author is a transsexual who identifies himself as a lesbian.

Pamela Sargent. Novelist and editor of three basic anthologies, **Women of Wonder**, **More Women of Wonder**, and **New Women of Wonder**, all from Random House (trade, about \$3.95 each).

Sydney Van Scyoc. Very good and very underrecognized. **Darkchild** draws strongly on triple-goddess themes; it is followed by **Bluesong** and **Starsilk** (forthcoming). All from Berkeley.

Men. Needless to say, male authors are not a priority, but there are two who are so good, and whose female characters are so wonderful, that I make exceptions. One is for John Varley. John Varley is, as far as I know, a white heterosexual male, and whenever I vow to kill off the entire breed, I make an exception for him. His publisher is Berkeley; the must-haves are the Gaean trilogy, **Titan**, **Wizard**, and the new **Demon** (trade, \$6.95). Samuel Delany is the other exception, who is one of my favorites as a reader but his work doesn't sell well enough for me to stock it regularly (again, if you have a large gay clientele--give him a try). Delany is gay, black, and published by Bantam; his reach is broad and his grasp of economics and history is breathtaking. **Babel-17**, **Tales of Neveryon**, **Triton**, **Neveryona**.

Looking through my shelves at home, I was once more disgusted by how much good stuff is OP. Suzy McKee Charnas's **Motherlines**, for one thing; Phyllis Ann Karr's **Frostflower** and **Thorn and Frostflower** and **Windbourne** for two more. Hope to be reporting on their return, and that of others, in future FBNS.

For serious lesbian/gay/feminist f/sf fans, there is Eric Garber and Lyn Paleos wonderful annotated bibliography **Uranian Worlds**. w/ Intros by Delany and Russ--\$28.50 (when I got it anyhow) from G. K. Hall in Boston.

## They Went That-A-Way

New Feminist Bookstores: Hoorays and Celebrations and Congratulations to: Mama Bears' is the new feminist bookstore and cafe opened by the women who lost the battle for ICI-A Woman's Place in Oakland last year. They sell new and used feminist books, have gallery space, an alcohol-free space, readings, performances, etc. Their address is 6536 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, Ca. Stop by and say hello when you're in town to Natalie, Carol and Alice and a collective of thousands. The Chambered Nautilus opened in January at 3814 East Madison, Seattle, Wash, 98112. Sunrab Book Service is a new women's bookstore in Huntington, West Virginia (2705 Fifth Ave., 25702) Phone: 304-552-7114. Open Friday Evenings from 5-8:30 pm and growing. The bookstore is being kept afloat by another fledgling business, FemWay Powered Equipment and Garden Center. The women at Sunrab are Elizabeth Bonzo-Savage and Carol Reynolds. Everyone's Books is a new "general left" bookstore, probably the best (only?) outlet of feminist-lesbian titles in Vermont. They will also have lots of progressive, feminist, "mind expanding" kids books and are hoping someday to do a progressive alternative to scholastic book service. The woman behind the store there is Nancy Braus, Everyone's Books, 71 Elliot St., Brattleboro, Vt. 05301. Move, Moving, Moved: Women and Children First are now at 1967 N. Halsted, Chicago, 60614. Small Changes is now at 1311 W. Market St, Bloomington, Il, 61701. Smedley's Books, or rather her owner bought a house that will be living quarters upstairs and bookstore on the ground floor. Now that's being close to your work! New address: 307 W. State Street, Ithaca, 14850. Irene Zahava/Smedley's writes: "There is so much to do....I've spent the whole morning on the phone with contractors, lawyers, painters, insulators...when it happens, it happens fast...but it's happening. Phew. It's been totally necessary to do this, because Smedley's needs the security. The landlady at our present place refused to give me a long-term lease after I moved to the second floor space last July. It's been a year of fear and tension in that regard, soon to be over."

Books move around with the same ease (?) (and difficulties) as bookstores: Keeper of Accounts, published in 1982 by Persephone is now available from Sinister Wisdom, PO Box 1023, Rockland, ME 04841. Standard bookstore discount. \$5.95. Liberating Masturbation, after eight editions, nine years and 150,000 copies has been replaced by Self-Love and Orgasm and is no longer available in the old form, thank-you for asking....Order from Betty Dodson, Box 1933 Murray Hill Station, NY, NY 10156.

More book movings: Wanderground and Choices, former Persephone titles, have been re-printed and are now published by Alyson Press, distributed by Carrier Pigeon.

Bookstores Change Hands, too. Full Circle Books in Albuquerque has been sold to Anne Grey Frost, that some of us met at ABA in Dallas, and her partner whose name I don't have. Paula Wallace will keep working there part time til spring while being a student full time and pursuing a masters in theater. Paula was a co-founder of Old Wives Tales before she moved to Full Circle. Before which she was a member of ICI-A Woman's Place Bookstore in Oakland, before which she was a part of The Women's Press Collective....(She may THINK she's escaping the women's book world....) Her article on selling a feminist bookstore will appear in the next FBN if it isn't in this one.



Dulie Griet



## CALENDARS - 1985

**Tracking Our Way Through Time: A Lesbian Herstory Calendar/Journal** edited by Janet Soule. Most exciting calendar on my desk to date. Two hundred sixty pages of lesbian herstory and trivia, the pages I've seen are very 'print' oriented, a delight for book-women....annotations celebrating the founding of lesbian distribution companies, film distribution networks, lesbian writing conferences, writers, the founding of Kitchen Table, the awarding of the first black belt in a lesbian karate school....and more. I think it is an anthology of a history we've been so busy living that we've forgotten to conceptualize. This calendar will give us that. 6 x 9, spiral bound, sturdy, lots of room to write dates and appointments and meetings. Interesting idea: **Tracking** is arranged by date and month, not arranged by days of the week, so that it can be used year after year. A good calendar to keep on hand for the women who come in in July having lost their calendar and needing another. \$10.50, 40% to bookstores, no minimum. Sandpiper Books, PO Box 268139, Chicago, IL 60626-8139.

**The dyke Decadence Calendar for 1985.** Say the publishers: "A light, funny and entertaining calendar--one like YOU'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE. It has "unique" photographs of dykes in decadent settings. It is an astrological calendar with sun and moon phases, the exact E.S.T. (And all time zones) that the moon goes full and the times and descriptions of solar and lunar eclipses. All tradition and Jewish holidays are recognized. It has a different decadent saying for each day; if you follow this calendar you will either be the most popular dyke or the most ostracized from the community. \$8.00." I haven't seen it either. Sounds interesting, tho, in your basic p.i. way.... Bookstore rates not sent. Order from: Knott-Dykes Publications, PO Box 8897, Atlanta, GA 30306.

**The 1985 Sara Steele Calendar** is being distributed to bookstores by Ladyslipper this year. This calendar is always a collection of paintings sensually exquisite flowers and is always a dependable seller. Judging from the cover, this one will be as beautiful as the previous ones. \$7.95 45% for non-returnable. 40% returnable after Jan. 15, 1985. Ladyslipper Music, PO Box 3124, Durham, NC 27705.

Crossing Press is doing it again: **Women Writers** is that wonderful spiral bound, ever popular calendar that goes everywhere in backpacks and briefcases. Definitely one of THE women's calendars each year...\$6.95. **Herolnes** and **Strength of Women** are wall calendars. **Herolnes** includes Mother Jones, Coretta Scott King and Lupe Anguiano. **Strength of Women** features extraordinary photographs by women photographers following the movement of women through the phases of our lives. \$6.95. Order directly from Crossing for 45% discount, returnable and 50%, non-returnable. Also at BP and IN. Not specifically a women's calendar, but featuring many fine women: **Singing the Blues** in a new "space saver" size. **Small Reminders** is checkbook sized and features small animals. Both \$2.95.

**1985 Women in Trades-Toronto Calendar.** Features Women Working in Trades, Professional Photography, "Hi--We're Women In Trades--Toronto. We have created a calendar for 1984. The calendar contains creative environmental portraits of women performing their various skills within a non-traditional occupation. We are offering the calendar at \$5.00 (Canadian) for individual orders (stores may be allowed 100% mark-up). Bulk orders of 10 or more--\$300/calendar plus postage and handling. Prepaid orders only. Thanks!" From Women in Trades, 22 Davisville Ave., Toronto, Ont. M4S 1E8. Flier features a welding woman working on a railroad car.

The Canadian Women Writers Calendar 1985 is already a success story in addition to being an exciting calendar. Published by Yewdewit Books (which is what happens when you want a women writers calendar featuring Canadian Women. Beginning with Canada's first novelist (The History of Emily Montague, 1979) it includes writers from throughout the country, various in age and background, each a gifted and authentic voice. Each month has a 4-part feature on one writer. Each open page presents one week, plus a portion of the feature: a picture, a two-page excerpt, and a biography/bibliography. It is produced on durable, off-white stock, laminated 10-point coated paper cover, spiral bound, 6" x 9", 128 pages. Lots of room to write in meetings and dates. Writers featured include: Elizabeth Brewster, Frances Brooke, Marlon Engel, Sylvia Fraser, Joy Kogawa, Margaret Laurence, Gwendolyn MacEwen, Mary di Michele, P.K. Page, Gabrielle Roy, Jane Rule and Miriam Waddington. It is edited by Adele Wiseman.

Wanting to get a feel for the market for this calendar, Ruth decided to print to advance orders in May, then do a second printing in the fall based on reorders and late orders, in the hope of distributing as many calendars as possible without having a lot leftover at the end. So she sent out publicity, early, and by mid-May she had sold 4000 copies. ALL the major bookstores in Canada, including the chains ordered it. Doubleday Bookclub/Canada bought it. A lot of small bookstores bought it, of course, and several department stores, including Eaton's picked it up. Meanwhile, in the US, Inland and Bookpeople both decided to distribute it, and the response from US stores has been so good that she decided to add a couple token US holidays--the "American" Thanks-giving and Independence Days, in addition to the Canadian and Jewish holidays already listed. Order direct from Yewdewit Books for 50% discount for 5+(non-returnable) PO Box 228, Station P, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2S7. Or from BP and Inland.

The ninth annual Lunar Calendar, without which many a feminist would be lost in time... Always a classic in feminist bookstores, it divides the year into the thirteen original (moon) months, and goes in a spiral from there... \$10.00, wall hanging style. Bookstore terms not sent, but I'd assume a standard 40% by now. Luna Press, 511 Kenmore Station, Boston, Ma 02215. And probably at BP and Inland as well.

NOW AVAILABLE FROM LADYSLIPPER:



**The 1985 Sara Steele Calendar!**

A new collection of Sara Steele's stunning watercolors to brighten 1985... the most gorgeous calendar on the market today.

Retail price: \$7.95  
 Wholesale prices: NO RETURNS ..... \$4.35 (45 +%)  
 RETURNS by Jan. 15, 1985 ..... \$4.75 (40 +%)  
 Terms: COD first order, 30 days net thereafter

WRITE OR CALL FOR OUR NEW 1985 CATALOG OF RECORDS & TAPES BY WOMEN, WITH 1000 + LISTINGS

Order from:  
 LADYSLIPPER • P.O. BOX 3124 • DURHAM, NC 27705  
 (919) 683-1570

**More Interesting Calendars:**

Golden Turtle Press has a **Great Writers on Peace Calendar** that offers photos of great writers accompanied by their writings on the subject of peace. Includes Virginia Woolf. \$6.95 50% non-, 40% returnable. 1619 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, Ca 94709. Probably at distributors.

**The Brontes**, a calendar in the style and format of last year's Virginia Woolf Calendar by the same editors, Martha Starr and Elizabeth Hill, it includes photos, excerpts from their various journals, letters, and novels, a monthly over-view calendar, and weeks spread over two facing pages with room for a lot of appointments or a short journal entry, or both. Spiral bound. \$10.95. Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich.

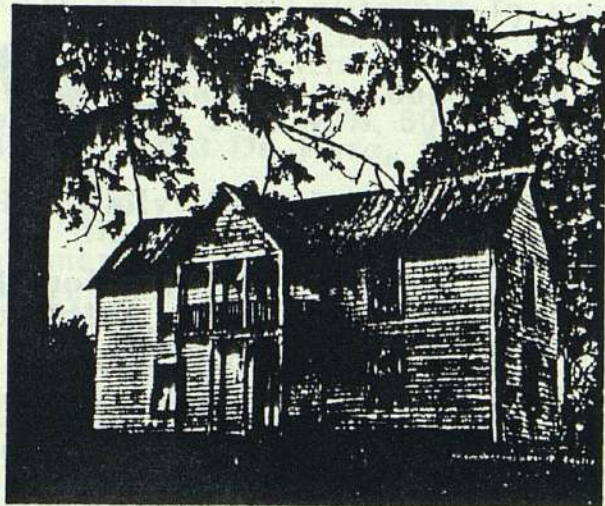
**The Quilt Engagement Calendar** is a repeat from Dutton. Spiral bound with a full color photo of a different quilt facing each page. It is always a lovely calendar.

**Appalachia 1985 Simple Lifestyle Calendar.** Black and white photos by Warren Brunner of life, people, country and mountains. I'm totally taken by the photo of two old(er) women caught in conversation. I'd like it just for the photos, but each day has a built-in slogan or bit of advice to follow each day: ie "Develop a budget" is Feb. 5. On the 6th, the advice is "Laugh and cry freely." Which is followed three weeks later by "Reuse Vacuum cleaner bags." "Start an avocado plant" and "Remember those in prison". Wall calendar, 8 1/2 x 11 on linen-finish stock. \$4.75, 40% for 6+, returnable.

# Appalachia 1985

## Simple Lifestyle Calendar

Once distributed only in Appalachia, this unique and quietly beautiful wall calendar has since captured country lovers' hearts across the nation. Warren Brunner's prize-winning, evocative black-and-white photographs tell of the simple joys of the Appalachian Mountains. Offering 365 daily simple lifestyle suggestions, the calendar enriches your life with homespun advice. 8 1/2"x11" format. Ivory linen-finish stock. Saddle-stitched.



"progressive but humble"

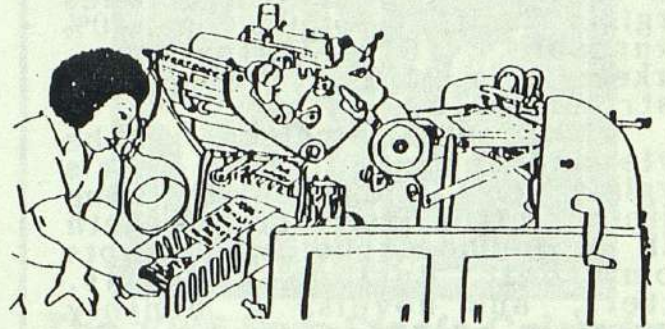
Includes dates we all should be aware of, from Susan B. Anthony Day to African Freedom Day.

Retail \$4.75 40% Discount

Available by direct purchasing or consignment.

ASPI PUBLICATIONS  
P.O. Box 298  
Livingston, KY 40445  
(606) 453-2105

FROM OUR



OWN PRESSES

2 5 9 is the catalogue for the First International Feminist Bookfair held in London this spring. Perfect bound, 108 pages, it includes: "How it all Happened", "Publishing for Women in Zimbabwe", "Women and Print in Britain", "On the Absence (so far) of Feminist Book Publishing in India", "Feminist Publishing in the Nordic Countries", "Feminist Publishing in the US", a list of 259 recommended books, and fully annotated, addresses and distribution details for all the exhibitors present at the bookfair. Quite a wonderful document to hold in my hands, given that I couldn't get there myself. A wonder-book for feminist bookstore workers and all feminist bookies. Irresistible \$5.00 @, 40% discount to bookstores, no min. Order from NWSA (US Distributors), University of Maryland, College Park, Md. 20742.

DAUGHTERS PRESS REMAINDERS: Nalad press still has a few of the following books from Daughters Press: **Rubyfruit Jungle**, **Confessions of Cherubino**, **Bertha Harris**, **Angel Dance**, **M.F. Beal**, hi-adventure lesbian detective story, and **\*Happenthing in Travel On**, **Carole Spearin McCauley**. Available to bookstores on a first come first serve basis as follows: **Rubyfruit** is \$1.25 a copy postpaid and the other three are \$.75 a copy postpaid. Nalad will return your check uncashed if they run out. Except for **Rubyfruit**, it is unlikely that these will be reprinted, so this is likely your last chance. Order from Nalad Press, PO Box 10543, Tallahassee, Fl. 32302

**Falling From Grace**, **Elly Van de Walle**, is a collection of poetry dealing with breast cancer and mastectomy written over a period of six years. The gathering of the poems into a book form was inspired by the cancer-related death of a close friend, in hope that the work would help anyone facing a life threatening disease. \$5.95 Press Gang. Dist in Canada by The Women's Press -- order from University of Toronto Press. In the USA, order from Bookpeople and Inland.

From Spinsters Ink: **Winter Passage**, novel by Judith McDaniel. "This novel set in Vermont in the 1970's, shows the intersection of three women's lives and how their growth and friendship influence each other's lives. One is a poet, one a painter, two are mothers, one divorced, one married, one a lesbian. \$6.95. July. **Here's the Good News: Lesbians and Sex** Joann Gardner-Loulan. Gardner-Loulan is the text behind the cartoons in **Period** and if she is half as direct with adults as kids, this will be a wonderful book. And she is, so look forward to it. Says the publisher: "It is a warm and affirming book, exploring couple relationships, initiating, orgasm, taking responsibility for your own sexuality, sexual misinformation and many other related topics." \$8.95. September. **The Highest Apple** Three essays by Judy Grahn exploring lesbian poetry from Sappho to the present, as the written documents of lesbian history. More of Grahn's research into lesbian and gay history.... Shelve it in poetry, if you must, but don't forget to put it in the lesbian section, front and center. \$5.95, October. **It's Time: A Nuclear Novel** Star L. Bluejay. No, no relation to the Seajay and no, I've not seen it, but the publisher says: "This is a vivid and insightful novel that is most closely categorized as a fable. It is set in California in some other time than the present, and explores issues of violence/non-violence, social change, ecological destruction, and social transformation. Like the nuclear freeze movement this book grows out of, **It's Time** is profound, moving, witty and demanding. \$7.95, October. 2-4 books, 20%, 5-49 40%, 50+ 45% Returns on textbook orders only-20%. Avail. Spinsters (803 De Haro, San Francisco, Ca 94107, (BP, IN, & The Distributors.)

From Volcano Press, **Menopause, Naturally: Preparing for the second half of Life** Sadja Greenwood, MD MPH w/ illustrations by Marcia Quackenbush (**Period**) Emphasizes the process of menopause as transition rather than crisis, while detailing preventive measures for hot flashes, osteoporosis and heavy bleeding. Discusses the pros and cons of estrogen replacement therapy and provides a self-rating scale to help women determine their individual needs. For those of us approaching menopause as well as for the women in the process. \$10.00 paper. Volcano Press, you may know, is a women owned company publishing women oriented books that seek to enlighten, liberate--and delight. Formerly New Glide Publications, the original publishers of **Lesbian/Woman and Word is out**. Order from Volcano, 330 Ellis St. San Francisco, Ca 94102 or BP and Inland. OOPS! The book itself just arrived. (The above was written from the flier). And it is irresistible. Partly it's those Marcia Quackenbush cartoons, that draw me right in every time. But the text turns out to be just as clear and direct as the cartoons. Information filled but not simplistic. And that brilliant form of technical writing in which the reader gets to the end of a section and goes "oh, yeah." And the information taken in feels as full and natural as if that's something the reader has "always" known. I gave **Our Bodies Ourselves** to my younger sister years ago, and always wanted a book as important to give to my mother. (Who will get this book for her birthday next week even if it is a few years later than when she would have needed it the most.) And my lover will get a copy, but not until I finish reading it, and then my best friend.... Be prepared to sell a LOT of these....

**Peace and Power: A Handbook of Feminist Process**, Charlene Wheeler and Peggy Chinn, grew out of the editor/authors' experiences working in women's groups, including the Emma Collective which operates the feminist bookstore in Buffalo. "We have thought for a long time that the oral tradition of feminist process that we use at EMMA and in other groups needs to be preserved in writing. When we have passed the oral tradition along to other women, many have asked if there is any written material on the process. We decided to write about the process as we have learned and created it; we know that there are many different forms of feminist process and we hope that this book will inspire others!. The first two chapters give a brief summary of the feminist

Ideas that give form and substance to Feminist Process in action. The third chapter contains practical guidelines for formulating a groups principles of unity and an overview of how feminist process is done. Chapters 4-7 describe Check-In, Rotating Chair, Consensus, and Criticism/Self-Criticism. We include many examples of real-life situations to illustrate the process, provide practical illustration of both difficult and mundane situations that are typical of group work. A limited number of review copies are available for bookstores. If you are interested in seeing a review copy, please write now to reserve your copy. Bookstore discount for this book is 35% prepaid (pre-paid) On orders of 25+, Margaret daughters will pay postage and handling. PO Box 70, Buffalo, NY 14222

**Voices from the Shadows: Women With Disabilities Speak Out** Gwyneth Ferguson Matthews uses interviews to explore the lives and experiences of disabled women in Canada. Employment, parenting, education, sexuality, housing, accessibility, and social and governmental assistance are all addressed. Written by a woman who is herself disabled, it provides a gripping and honest picture that cannot be ignored. The Women's Press, (Canada) paper, 16 Baldwin Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. BP and Inland.

From Pandora Press/Routledge Kegan Paul: **Test-Tube Women** A hard and feminist look at the technology that surrounds motherhood: genetic engineering, sperm banks, test tube fertilization, sex selection, surrogate mothering, experimentation in the third world, increased technological intervention in childbirth.... Who controls it and who benefits? \$8.95 paper.

**Pictures of Women: Sexuality** Jane Root. Based on a TV series produced by the Pictures of Women Cooperative, this book looks at the effects of the images of women that



## BOOKPEOPLE

your single source for calendars this upcoming holiday season. With over 400 calendars, there is sure to be one to fill your every gift giving need. Of course we have your favorites:

- Everywoman's Almanac 1985
- Western Herstory Engagement 1985
- Ever'woman's Calendar 1985
- Lunar Calendar 1985
- Women Writers Desk Calendar 1985
- Woman's Daybook Engagement 1985
- Sara Eyestone Calendar 1985
- Barbara De Vault Calendar 1985
- Sara Steele Calendar 1985
- Heroines Calendar 1985
- Contemporary Women Artists Datebook 1985
- In Praise of Women Artists Calendar 1985

There's no per title minimum and orders of 10 or more calendars earn a 40% discount.

Book Trade orders only please.  
 Bookpeople, 2929 Fifth St., Berkeley, CA. Call toll-free: in California, (800) 624-4466; in the continental U.S., (800) 227-1516, to request our calendar checklist (extra copies available for in store display).



are produced by our societies, looking at the sexual ideas created in pornography and advertising, the connections between sex and work which are made in both prostitution and in workplace sexual harassment, and the sexual theories and assumptions that lie just below the surface of the law. \$8.95 For the fun of it: *Daring to Dream*, a collection of utopian stories by United States Women: 1836-1919, compiled by Carol Farley Kessler. "Writing which encapsulates all the yearnings of a vanished generation for a future which has still to be made. The women who wrote them dared to make that leap of the imagination which is the precondition for change, and they and their sisters thus turned discontent into hope, hope into action, and with the first rising of the women's movement, action into the power to shape a different kind of future." Women after my own heart. Watch, too for *Old Maids* Short stories by US Women Writers.

**Women Who Do and Women Who Don't Join The Women's Movement** Robyn Rowland, looks at exactly that question. Why do women of often remarkably similar experience join opposing sides. Australian based, and as applicable to the American scene as the Australian, I think. I was particularly interested to read about Aborigine feminists and a Maori lesbian in the section that looks at the lives of particular feminist and anti-feminist women. What is amazing, of course, are the similarities between 'us' and 'them'. \$8.95, Routledge Kegan Paul.

When an ex-feminist bookstore worker now in publishing writes and says: "This is the best book I've ever sent you and the best book I've ever worked on. It may even be one of the best novels around." It's time to sit up and take notice. And I have to say that I did. I sat up, or rather sat down to glance through to book and my whole life went on hold until I had finished the last paragraph. And I was prepared not to like it. The book is *This Place* by Andrea Freud Loewenstein. *This Place* is a women's prison. I wanted to think that I could glance through this novel and retain my detachment. I wanted to think, for all my politics, that I could remain somehow separate from women locked into prisons, whether by sentence or by work. A part of what is stunning in this novel is Loewenstein's ability to take those of us "outside" inside the prison in terms of our identification with these women. And to take what is "inside", out into the world in which most of us travel freely. To present what is different and what is not. To my surprise, I found myself identifying with the delusional Telecea. What I mean to be saying is that Loewenstein's characterization is brilliant. If there are flaws in this first novel, I couldn't find them. I worried my way through the last half wondering how she was going to manage to end this novel. Who would turn out to be the hero/ine? How could anyone of the characters become the hero without betraying the other women. And the brilliant solution is that each woman continues to be herself. Loewenstein writes of women's lives inside the prison, she writes of being lovers in prison and of what that does and doesn't mean. She writes of homophobia within the prison without being homophobic. Of warm relationships, and petty restrictions designed to humiliate. Of women who choose to work in prisons and the dramas in their own lives. There's a wonderful bit of a look at feminism's real and delusional impact on women's lives in prison. The main characters are two inmates, Telecea, who is sometimes gently and sometimes violently delusional and overly infused with a deluded version of fundamentalists Christianity and Candy, who is quite in love with Billy, both of whom are on the verge of release and two therapists, one experiences in the verbal, traditional forms of therapy and the other a new art therapist. For booksellers there are going to be two problems with this book: the first one will be getting women to pick up this book that looks to be about something so "heavy" (so here's hoping for a brilliant cover). And the second one will be prying it out of their hands. Pub date will be October 31, (to honor the climax of the novel that takes place on Halloween night?) \$14.95 cloth. 439 pgs. This is Pandora's first contemporary fiction. Don't

miss it for anything. Pandora Press/Routledge Kegan Paul, 9 Park Street, Boston, Mass 02108.

**Let's Talk About Sexual Assault** is an excellent and exciting book for young women. It is short, simple and concise. And wonderful. A brief history (1/2 page) puts sexual assault in a historical and feminist context. The statistics are presented as grafetti.... Produced by the Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Center, 1045 Linden Ave., Victoria, BC V8B 4H3. \$1.50 @, 20% discount to bookstores. Could be marked up a little higher to make discount.

**Self-Defense Teacher's Guide** is the proceedings of the National Self-Defense Teaching Practicum held March 4-6 in Columbus Ohio. Edited by Sunny Graff, Sandy Dickinson, Sarah McKinley. Looks to me to be useful not only to the teachers, but to many students who are thinking through the "why do it this way", and "why that way". Also to women who work in and live in battered women's shelters, and rape crisis centers, etc. I appreciated that conflicting views were presented in the book, often in the same article, presenting different perspectives and a lot of vitality. Also the critique of the "cutsy girl" approach to self-defense often taken by law enforcement agencies and their friends. Spiral bound paperback, 125 pages, \$11.95. Published by Intrepid, PO Box 02180, Columbus, Ohio, 43202. Also available from Intrepid: **Rape Prevention Workshops: A Group Leader's Guide** \$19.95, **Freeing Our Lives: A Feminist Analysis of Rape Prevention** \$1.50, **Fighting Back: A Self Defense Handbook** \$1.00, **Myths About Rape** .10 @, **Proceedings of the National Conference on Rape Prevention Theory, Strategies and Research** \$5.00, **Strategies for Free Children: A Leader's Guide to Child Assault Prevention** \$19.95, **Getting Out: A Divorce Manual for Women** \$7.50, **Violence Against Women: Personal Lifeline** \$5.00. Bookstore terms not sent.

**Crimes Against Women: Proceedings of the International Tribunal** has been reprinted by Frog In The Well, after being unavailable for some time. As Charlotte Bunch points out in her introduction to this issue, the Tribunal was held only eight years ago, and already many feminist throughout the world have never heard of it--our own history and our work become invisible in our own time without our attention to it. The International Tribunal was organized and presented by feminists independent of any other global organizations, and as such was both free of the kinds of controls that the UN conferences on women have experienced, and at the same time has no such funding, which resulted in a weak representation for women in third world countries. And still it is the fullest documentation of the crimes against women and their everyday impact on women throughout the world that is available. It is an awesome document. \$7.95 40% Frog In The Well, 430 Oakdale Road, East Palo Alto, Ca 94303. Also Inland and BP.

**Goat Song** is the new book from Aunt Lute Book Company. It's another novel from the pen of Dodici Azpadu of **Saturday Night Prime of Life** fame, which you may remember got my novel-of-the-year award. Aunt Lute says: "In this revised form of classic tragedy, mocked by the demands of real life, we have another important novel by Dodici Azpadu. Once again she challenges and involves us--pushing us to widen our understanding of who we are and where we came from." Someone else, I don't know who said: "Goat Song is fast-paced, full of hard truths, this book reverberates long after the first reading." I haven't seen it, but I'm more than sure that the day I get my hands on a copy the world will stop until I find time to devour it. Order from Aunt Lute Book Company, PO Box 2568, Iowa City, Iowa, 52244 and get your books hot off the press.

Nalad's Fall list includes **Amateur City** (Katherine Forrest) and **The Sophie Horowitz Story** (Sarah Schulman) which you have no doubt read about in great detail in the Century Book Club ads, and a reprint of Jane Rule's **The Young in One Another's Arms**. I'm always glad to see more Rule in (re)print. **The Young** was published in cloth in the US by Doubleday. A Canadian mass market house did a paperback edition that was always a challenge to order, so



I think that the Naiad edition will reach a lot of readers that haven't seen it before. It's set in a boardinghouse--one of Rule's favorite approaches to exploring what she calls "voluntary families"--in Canada that gets razed in the process of roadbuilding. And the occupants become family and establish a new home on one of the islands off Vancouver. The novel, as I recall, explores the successes and frustrations of the attempt. Feels rather like real life, as I recall. Tho I'd not choose any of the lesbian roles for myself, I can imagine finding myself in them, given another geography or time... **Amateur City** I haven't read. But the one here who has thought it a good murder mystery and a good read. **Sophie Horowitz** I did read and my response was to want to duck. Trying to be entertaining. Funny sometimes, and expensive. That is, too often "humor" at someone's expense. I think it was the parent's scene that was most blatantly so, and it is totally unnecessary. I want better. Maybe next time? But it will sell, especially given the publicity it's received. All \$7.95. Order from Naiad. (See Barbara's letter, elsewhere) PO Box 10543, Tallahassee, Fl., 32302. Will be at BP and Inland.

Watch for **Women and Words, The Anthology** which will be the first bilingual work of women writers in Canada. (Display with the Canadian Women Writers Calendar?) Conceived of as a gathering together of women's writing across the country and as a testament to the different voices, experiences and artistic strategies which make up Canadian literary landscape. 81 writers, English and French, some well known and some published here for the first time. The Anthology is an outgrowth of the Canadian Women and Words Conference last summer. Harbour Publishing, Box 119, Madeira Park, British Columbia, V0N 2H0. Hopefully more details in the next issue, but assume standard bookstore terms and order now.

Metis Press introduces **Berenice: A Comedy in Letters**. One such letter begins, "Dear Aurella: Why didn't you tell me there's such a thing as 'Non-Monogamy'?" I always knew people cheated on their lovers, but I never knew there was a whole philosophical system to support that practice." Written by Georgia Jo Rasmeyer; printed by Metis Press, bound by A Fine Bind/Iowa City Women's Press, this epistolary novel will be available for the holiday ordering season. Bookstore terms: 3-9 books, 40%, 10+ 50%. Prepaid orders: 45% for 3-9 books, 50% for 10+. Order directly from Metis Press, PO Box 25187, Chicago, IL 60625.

**We Make Freedom: Women in South Africa**. "Beata Lipman, a white journalist was active in the liberation movement in South Africa and worked on the banned Congress Paper New Age. She left South Africa for exile in Britain in 1960. Many years later she was sent back on a film assignment and, discovering that she could enter the country without attracting attention, she made up her mind to return, this time in order to record the voices of the women who struggle and endure there. In this book, their words come through with a power and immediacy which shockingly conveys the texture of daily life in a country organized entirely on the proposition that the majority of its people simply do not count as full human beings." "Black women in South Africa live their daily lives within a framework of apparently immutable laws that have said, for hundreds of years, that if you are both black and female you may not aspire, you are not equal and you have no rights. But those who spoke to me so frankly do not accept their status; they are neither passive nor victim. They certainly do not sit with their hands folded listlessly in their laps." Pandora Press/Routledge Kegan Paul. \$9.95.

From the pen of Dorothy Bryant **Myths to Lie By**, a collection of essays, reviews, stories, and a play spanning 20 years. I usually think of Bryant as a novelist, in spite of reading her occasional book reviews and her wonderful, witty essay "How to Talk to a Writer" that appeared in my local Sunday paper a couple years ago, and so this book presents another aspect of Bryant as a writer. Besides being an interesting and diverse collection of her work for

those of us who wonder "where she comes from and what makes her tick", Bryant has used this "collected work" format to explore a number of questions of interest to her and to us. The first section is called "False Myths and True Heros", the last is "Being a Writer", both of which read like ongoing conversations with a good friend--questioning, provoking, causing one to look at a question from another angle.... Which is what I like best about Bryant's writing, anyway. This makes nine books in print from Bryant via her own publishing house, Ata Books. Last time I talked to her, she was spending about half of her time writing and half of her time managing the publishing, and was making a decent living combining the two. Making her a true hero for our generation of women writers? \$7.00 paper, \$13.00 cloth. Standard bookstore terms. ATA Books, 1928 Stuart Street, Berkeley, Ca 94703. And available at BP, Inland, The Distributors, etc. Bryant is the odd publisher that would just as soon you ordered her books from the distributors, the time it takes to fill the orders being more valuable to her as writing time than as added income for the press.

**Connection Women in the Community: A Handbook for Programs** looks at the ten programs funded a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Grant to the Schlesinger Library titled "Women in the Community: Where Are They? Where Are They Going?" To be set in libraries, the grants required that an interdisciplinary team of public and academic librarians, community representatives and women's studies scholars work together to create the programs that were located in both rural and urban areas. The book looks at the concrete experiences of the programs, and explores the possibilities of more such programs, obtaining funding, finding collaborators, choosing topics and formats, keeping the group together, letting the audience know, handling logistics and evaluating the results. It looks like a useful addition to the scant literature on community organizing as well. Paperback. \$9.95. 40% to bookstores. Order from Women in the Community Project, Radcliffe College, Schlesinger Library, 10 Garden Street, Cambridge, Ma. 02138.

**True Story of a Single Mother** Nancy Lee Hall. I don't know where to begin. I pick it up, and can't put it down. Laugh and cry, usually laugh my way through overwhelming obstacles (just as Nancy intends the reader to do) and gripe at the end that there isn't more. Short, not exactly sweet, but real, direct as a woman looking in your eyes telling it like it is. Being single with a houseful of kids, reclaiming self-respect and self-esteem, doing what is necessary and going on, and remembering to have as many good times as can be fit into a life. Someone once said to me "Hall is a genre writer." I don't know what genre she was talking about, but I sure wish there was a whole

*Rich with developing sexuality and attraction with the ins and outs, pain and joy of adolescent love . . .*

# CRUSH



A NOVEL BY  
**JANE  
FITCHER**

*"Crush provides a rare look into the world of the rich and privileged . . . written in the authentic voice of one who knows the territory."*  
—Eve Pell, *Pacific Sun*

Available now. Avon/Flare paperback. \$2.25

field of books as direct and honest and truthful and as readable as this one about women's lives. That would sure turn the world inside out. South End Press should get a prize for publishing this one. I'd like to see it in women's bookstores, in Daltons, on corner liquor store mass market racks, as the text in literacy classes for women.... Hopefully South End will also republish Hall's **True Story of a Drunken Mother** that was published by Daughters in 1974 and is currently out of print if enough bookstores write them a note asking for it. South End Press, 302 Columbus Ave., Boston, MA. 02116. \$6.50. Avail BP and Inland, though South End would certainly rather you order direct from them.

## Poster

Down There Press will be doing a poster of color photos a la the centerfolds of **I Am My Lover** within the next year. It will be sold rolled for people who want to hang it on their walls, but will be designed to be folded to 8 1/2 by 11 so therapists and teachers can carry it in their briefcases. Joani will be encouraged to do this project sooner rather than later if she hears a hue and cry from the bookstores that such an item is desired.

So hue and cry to Joani Blank, Down There Press, PO Box 2086, Burlingame, Ca 94010.

## Magazines

**Hot Wire** is the new journal of women's music and culture premiering in November. Info on festivals, women in radio, artist promotion, booking and tour coordination, computers and music, overcoming stage fright, an interview w/ Kate Clinton and Ann Bannon on Lesbians and Writing, new record releases and more. Bookstore terms not sent. \$5 single issues. Hot Wire, 1321 W. Rosedale, Chicago, IL 60660.

Special issue of **The Women's Studies Quarterly** focusing on teaching about peace, war and women in the military. Covers the role women have played in the women's peace movement from mid-nineteenth century to the present. Photos and an extensive bibliography. \$6.00 from The Feminist Press, Box 334, Old Westbury, NY 11568. Bookstore terms not sent.

**Bridges Magazine** is to be a glossy, monthly feature magazine for professional (I think that means white collar working, as opposed to street working) and career-oriented Gay women. It is aimed at an audience comprised primarily of Lesbian entrepreneurs and corporate/professional Gay women functioning in the traditionally male-dominated mainstream. It will include stories, profiles and interviews about trendsetting women in our local and national communities who are making a difference in their own lives and in the lives of others. Also regular columns on health, law, astrology, financial investments and book reviews by yours truly. The magazine will be 64 pages/issue, saddle stitched, 60% discount to bookstores, invoices due when next issue comes out (30 days) and are returnable for full credit by returning the front cover. Editor is Zsa Zsa Gershick, Publication Manager is Barbara Goldsmith, Advertising Director is Susan Thompson. Please place standing orders now, the first issue will be shipped November 1. **Bridges Magazine**, 6536 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, Ca 94609. 415-452-2045.

Women of Power's premier issue is out and about and it is lovely! A hundred and more pages (saddle-stitched) of interviews, photographs, articles, columns, fiction, poetry providing a forum for the studies of feminism, spirituality and politics, as they intersect as a part of a world wide awakening and transformation of women and society. I think it will be a powerful and useful tool. I found it particularly grounding and encouraging a part of which was due to the diversity of women included in this first issue, a diversity of spiritualities, cultures, ethnicities and races, and physical ability. Single issues seem to be \$5.00. 40% discount to bookstores. Full credit on returns, please return the magazine intact. Order from Women of Power Magazine, PO Box 827, Cambridge, Ma. 02238-0827.

Of a Like Mind is the magazine of an international network dedicated to bringing together women on a positive path to spiritual growth. Their focus is on Goddess religions, women's mysteries, paganism and our earth connections. Columns include: herbs, dreams, the craft, goddesses, herstory, wellness, letters, psychic development, astrology, tarot, reviews and network weavings which includes listings of groups, travel, teachers, announcements, events, and publications. It is a 20 page paper published quarterly. \$2.50/issue, 40% discount to bookstores. Order from OALM, Bull Distribution, Box 6021, Madison, Wisc. 53716.

## From the Small Presses

From Crossing Press: **Birth Stories: The experience Remembered** edited by Janet Isaacs Ashford. A diversity of stories spanning 70 years, recalling childbirth at home and in the hospital, in isolation and among friends, with joy, with frustration and with anger. Recalling complications and loss as well as of fulfillment, of compromise as well as triumph. \$5.95 paper, \$14.95 cloth. Also: **An Herbal Sample: A Notebook for Women**, a "blank book" for women with tips on the use of herbs for health and beauty.

And coming over the fall: **Clenched Fists, Burning Crosses: A Novel of Resistance** by Cris South, whose work you may know from **Feminary**. This novel explores the resistance of a woman battered by her bully of a husband, a lesbian who "needs to be taught a lesson", and activist ambushed for taking a stand. "This gripping story moves us through brutality, pain, anger, and frustration to resistance and action." \$7.95 paper, \$17.95 cloth. **Triangles**, second novel and third book by Ruth Geller. "A loving look at a slice of Jewish family life...warmth and tumult, private dramas, holiday celebrations, laughter, betrayal and tears. From Sunny, coming to terms at age thirty with her Jewishness and her lesbianism, to Rosie, her irrepressible octogenarian grandmother whose pronouncements on life are peppered with the Yiddish of her youth. The cast of characters engages and delights" \$8.95 paper, \$18.95 cloth. **The Work of a Common Woman**. The third edition of this irrepressible collection of Judy Grahn's poetry (1964-1977). Includes **Confrontations with the Devil in the Form of Love**, **Edward the Dyke**, and **The Common Woman**. Reprinted from the original Diana Press edition with Introduction by Adrienne Rich.

**Our Future at Stake: A Teenager's Guide to Stopping the Nuclear Arms Race** is result of the work of nine young people who spent the summer of 1983 researching the nuclear movement and looking for ways to involve young people in working for peace. \$8.00 from Citizens Policy Center, 1515 Webster St. #401, Oakland, Ca 94609.

Two exciting books on kids and parenting in these war-threatened times: **Watermelons Not War: A Support Book for Parenting in the Nuclear Age** and **A Manual on Nonviolence and Children**. Both \$9.95. That they are essential goes without saying....BP, IN, or direct from New Society Publishers, 4772 Baltimore Ave., Philadelphia, Pa 19143.

**Women In Development** a reader and resource guide for organizing and action. Out at last, FBN has been noting the progress of this book for a couple years now. Edited and collected by ISIS, Women's International Information and Communication Service with a forward by The Boston Women's Health Book Collective, this is a collection of articles looking at women's inclusion and exclusion in rural development, health, education, migration and tourism, and the multinational corporations. Would I like to see this book required for every "Economics of Developing Nations" course at every university! Rich with the voices of the voices and photographs of third world women. Full of concrete information and tools for activists who aren't willing to wait for the "trickle down effect". And visually beautiful book, as well. \$14.95 paper, \$39.95 cloth. New Society Publishers, BP, IN. (See above for address.)

**At Home** is the catalogue from an art exhibit Womanhouse, a collaborative art environment created by 23 women of the Feminist Art Program of the California Institute of the Arts under the direction of Judy Chicago and Miriam Shapiro in which an abandoned and condemned house was transformed into a work of art on the subject of women's lives in their homes. It also reads like a history of the women's art movement in southern California... documenting many exhibits, plays, and experiences that are usually lost to the world of print. \$12.95, 40% for 3+ copies. Order from Barbara Hendricks, bookshop manager, Long Beach Museum of Art, 2300 East Ocean Blvd. Long Beach, CA 90803.

**Julian**, a one woman play by James Janda, based on the life of Julian of Norwich, writer, mystic, spiritual guide. Born two years after Chaucer (1392), she's the first known English woman whose written work survives. Seems that she thought of and referred to "God" as "our mother". Not so radical an idea then as now? This play is valuable, perhaps, as another piece of documentation. \$6.95, paper. Winston Press, 430 Oak Grove, Minneapolis, MN 55403.

**Women and Revolution in Viet Nam** Arlene Eisen. In 1974 Arlene Eisen (Bergman)'s **Women of Viet Nam** (People's Press) was published, and was one of the most vital books of the anti-war period and, translated into Danish, Farsi, French and Spanish, of the international women's movement at the time. In 1981, Arlene went back to Viet Nam to explore the questions of women's lives in post-war Viet Nam. How had the promises come true, how had women's liberation progressed in peace time Viet Nam? What was our western romance with Vietnamese Women's Liberation, and what are the realities of changing the lives of women in a war-torn, economically backward country during revolution? And, considering the results of Agent Orange spraying that we are hearing about among Viet Nam Vets in the USA, what has happened to the women who lived in the country? Why doesn't the US press cover the birth defect rate among Vietnamese women, where chromosome breakage is six times higher than among survivors of Hiroshima. **Women and Revolution in Viet Nam** is the result of that journey. Zed Press. (paperback) 57 Caledonian Road. London N1 9BU. US Distributor: Biblio Distribution Center, 81 Adams Drive. Totowa, NJ 07512. Zed, if you are not familiar with their publishing, has a number of extraordinary books on women in third world countries. Write for their catalogue if you don't already carry them.

**We Are All Part of One Another: A Barbara Deming Reader**, essays, poems, stories, speeches and letters from 40 years of feminism, anti-war and non-violence work by lesbian-feminist Deming. Edited by Jane Meyerding. Forward by Barbara Smith. "Barbara Deming always challenges us to rise above easy

answers about who we are. Her insight into the nature of political change and the needs of the human spirit makes hers a unique feminist voice which guides and inspires us in the struggle for a more humane world." --Charlotte Bunch. wish someone would publish Deming's lovely coming-out novel. New Society Publishers. Paper \$10.95. Cloth \$24.95. 4722 Baltimore Ave. Philadelphia, Pa 19143.

**Warrior at Rest** A Collection of Poetry by Jane Chambers. Chambers is probably most loved for her plays **Last Summer at Bluefish Cove** and **The Late Snow** (You're probably wanting to know that Paula Wallace/Full Circle played the writer in the Albuquerque production.) These poems were written between 1958 and 1980. They are personal responses to specific events and feelings, including the impact of terminal illness and were written right up to the last months of her life. I enjoyed the book enormously. It gave me insight into this women's life and work, and comforted my loss that we won't be receiving more plays from her pen. Chambers also wrote novels, one of which **Burning**, a tale of two lesbians in a haunted house, was published last year. All available from JH Press, PO Box 294, New York, NY 10014. paper, \$5.95. 40% Also available from Inland.

From Pulp Press: **The Promise**, a collection of short stories by Wanda Blynn Campbell in which she "writes about a Quebec that few people know: the rural Quebec of immigrants--Poles, Czechs, Germans, French, British--and the Quebec of the Metis and the Indians, people who have been displaced or lost, whose language is displaced, and who, somehow, distinctly, are aware that their lives are being encroached on by the industrial forces that surround them. **The Promise** emphasizes women's dominant role in immigration and the preservation of culture." Pulp Press, 986 Homer St., Vancouver, BC V6B 2WY.

## From the University Presses

**Woods-Working Women: Sexual Integration in the US Forest Service** Elaine Pitt Enarson. Quite a detailed report of the process. A lot of interviews and information. Not as radical as I've always dreamed the forest service could be...but what else is new. Vital reading for any women in or considering a career in the forest service. \$18.95. If you carry much on feminist studies you'll also be interested in **Feminist Visions: Toward a Transformation of the Liberal Arts Curriculum** edited by Diane L. Fowlkes and Charlotte S. McClure. \$22.50. Both cloth from University of Alabama.

Estelle Freedman's **Their Sister's Keepers: Women's Prison Reform in America 1830-1930** is now out in paper from University of Michigan Press.

For Harriette Simpson Arnow (**The Dollmaker**): **Flowering of the Cumberland**, companion piece to her earlier **Seedtime on the Cumberland** both look at the culture and society of the Cumberlands from 1780-1803, daily life, the transitions, and the "art of pioneering" \$13.00 paper, \$28.00 cloth. University of Kentucky.

## And on Publisher's Row

Now out in Paperback!

**Between Women** A wonderful collection of women writing about their work on women. \$11.95. Beacon Press

**Listening to our Bodies** \$7.95. Beacon

**A Map of the New Country: Women and Christianity** Sara Maitland, is now out in paperback. Yours from Routledge Kegan Paul.

New Edition: **The Experience of Childbirth** by Sheila Kitzinger. Penguin. \$4.95.

May Sarton's latest journal: **At Seventy**. Not her best? A little redundant? I found myself skipping over the sections on flowers.... Or maybe I'm still too young for it? None of which stops me from reading it, though. \$15.95 Norton. Cloth

**Women and the Enlightenment** a scholarly work by four women from The Institute for Research in History. \$19.95. Haworth Press, 28 East 22 St., NY, NY 10010.

ACW5451

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: November 1**

**THE '85 LUNAR CALENDAR** 

Dedicated to the Goddess in Her Many Guises.

 **9th annual**

\$12. postpaid to

**LUNA PRESS** 

Box 511 Kenmore Station  
Boston, MA 02215 USA

**Classified Ads & Literary Personals**

~~FBN Classifieds \$5.00/line. 78 spaces per line. Prepaid. Send your ad to FBN, P O Box 882554, San Francisco, Ca. 94188.~~

**It Could Happen To You: An Account of the Gay Civil Rights Campaign in Eugene, Oregon,** by the Gay Rights Writers Group. 90p. \$3.95 1-10 50%, more \$1.00 ea. Mother Kali's Books, 541 Blair, Eugene, Or. 97402. Please prepay. Postpaid.

Wanted: A copy of **Hard Laughter** by Anne Lamott. Viking. If you've got a copy in stock, drop me a line and I'll send you a check for the book + postage. Carol Seajay, 456 14th St. #6, San Francisco, Ca. 94103.

**Quilt Postcards:** Star Quilt and Flower Garden. Sets of 10, mix or single design, \$3.00 + .50 post. Judith McDaniel, 28 Colear St., Albany NY 12209. SASE free samples.

**New Lesbian Writing** Ed. M. Cruikshank. Pix of Authors. \$7.95. Distributed by Bookpeople and Inland.

Stock up on **Sexuality** books for Fall. Two new titles for kids, books on vibrators and anal sex, sex playbooks for women, men, and children. Down There Press/Yes Press, PO Box 2086, Burlingame, CA 94010. Most titles also available from Bookpeople and Inland.

**The Magic of Tahini: Open Sesame** by Dusty Miller, \$7.00 ppd. & Billie Potts' **Witches Heal**, \$9.00 ppd. from Hecuba's Daughters, Inc. PO Box 488, Bearsville, NY 12409.

**Cohosh Corners Courier**, herbal newsletter, \$6.00 yearly, from Billie Potts, L.F.R. PO Box 158, Summit, NY 12175.