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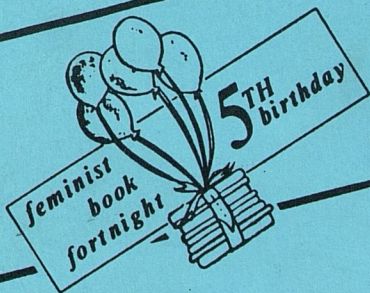
# Feminist Bookstore News



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**FEMINIST BOOK  
FORTNIGHT '88**



June 1988

*Femina Serial am F32978*  
Volume 11 Number 1

*6/3/88*





## Women's Spirituality Brought To You From Llewellyn

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ISBN 0-875420-320-5 **\$12.95**

*Wheels of Life* is the first in-depth study of the chakras from a Western point of view. It relates the chakras to magick, Kabbalah, art, exercise, poetry and much more. It is filled with information on the chakras and rituals, healing, the seven element system, accupressure for stimulating the chakras, and much more. This book is a must for magicians, Witches, healers, tantrics, yoga practitioners and others.

**THE GODDESS BOOK OF DAYS**  
by Diane Stein

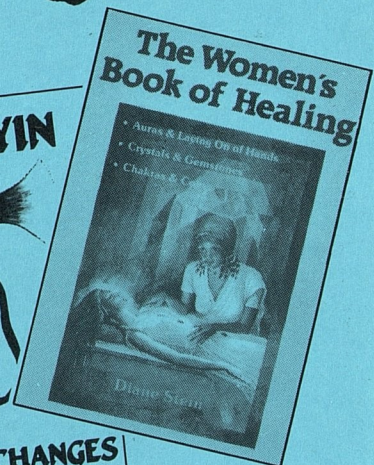
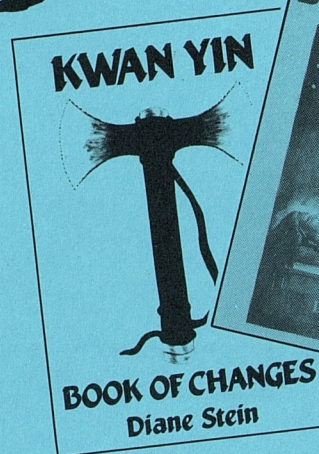
ISBN 0-87542-758-8 (tent.) **\$12.95**

*The Goddess Book of Days* is a perpetual calendar of goddess dates, holidays, festivals and holy days which offers information and knowledge on the goddess in a daily, modern format. The calendar, datebook, planner is an important tool in today's busy living. Not only a useful daily tool, *The Goddess Book of Days* is a reference book of great interest to anyone involved with women's spirituality, goddess cultures, magick and occult, the wiccan religion, and women's herstory.

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# FBN

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THE FEMINIST BOOKSTORE NEWS is the communications vehicle for the informal network of feminist bookstores. FBN reaches 200+ feminist and feminist-inclined bookstores in the U.S. and Canada as well as feminist booksellers in England, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan. Librarians, women's studies teachers, book reviewers publishers and feminist bibliophiles comprise the remainder of the subscribers.

THE FEMINIST BOOKSTORE NEWS is published six times a year in January, March, May, July, September, and November. Letters, articles, news items and announcements should be received the fifteenth of the month preceding publication. Signed articles and letters are the responsibility of the authors.

SUBSCRIPTIONS are \$40 per year/six issues. \$75 for two years. +\$6/yr for Canadian postage, and \$12/yr for overseas postage.

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# Is the Future Female? ... and other new titles

## Is The Future Female?

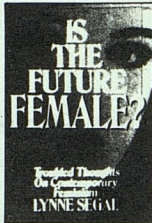
*Troubled Thoughts on Contemporary Feminism*

Lynne Segal

Where is the apocalyptic feminism of Mary Daly, Andrea Dworkin and Dale Spender leading? Here is a provocative examination of current feminist

thinking which also offers a practical approach to continuing inequities.

288 pp \$18.95 hc / \$9.95 pb



## The History of Childhood

*The Untold Story of Child Abuse*

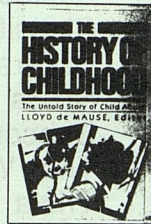
edited by Lloyd deMause

"The truth laid bare in this book ... is sad and depressing, but it holds hope for the future: those who read this book and realize that the children described here later turned into adults will no longer find the atrocities in human history hard to understand."

— Alice Miller

*For Your Own Good*

458 pp \$25.00 hc / \$12.00 pb



## Ain't I A Woman!

*A Book of Women's Poetry from Around the World*

Illona Linthwaite, editor

From Sappho's Greece to Zindziswa Mandela's twentieth-century South Africa, the voices of these poets express themes of love,

Injustice, motherhood, and the oppression of race and sex.

included are Anna Akhmatova, Gabriela Mistral, Marge Piercy, Irina Ratushinskaya and Alice Walker.

"The editor's arrangement of the poems to tell the story of a woman's life ... provides a compelling framework."

— Booklist

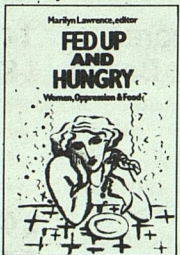
214 pp \$14.95 hc



## Fed Up and Hungry

*Women, Oppression & Food*

Marilyn Lawrence, editor



Foreword by Susie Orbach  
"... offers solace and insight and is a vital contribution ..."

— Publishers Weekly

"... a lively collection ... from a variety of perspectives ..."

— *The Women's Review of Books*

276 pp \$17.95 hc / \$8.95 pb

## Watchers and Seekers

*Creative Writing by Black Women*

Rhonda Cobham and Merle Collins, editors

*Illustrated by Fyna Dove*

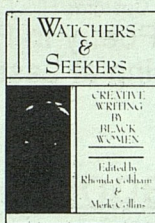
An exciting collection of poetry and prose by Black women from Africa, the Caribbean, India and Pakistan, all of whom now live

in Britain.

"... a moving, enraged statement of the pain of racism."

— Booklist

166 pp \$17.95 hc / \$8.95 pb



## Dancing the Tightrope

*New Love Poems by Women*

Barbara Burford, Lindsay MacRae & Sylvia Paskin, editors

"We wanted to create a space for women writing poetry about sexual love— woman to woman and woman to man.

We have made a selection of poems from a wide range of cultures and backgrounds."

— The Editors

128 pp \$15.95 hc / \$7.95 pb



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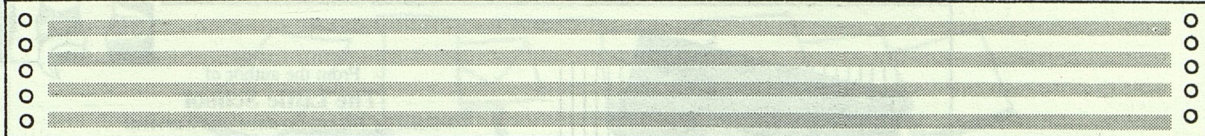
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# NOTES FROM THE COMPUTER TABLE




It's the June travelling season for FBN. This issue will be distributed at the American Booksellers Association Convention, the Third International Feminist Book Fair in Montreal, and the National Women's Studies Conference in Minneapolis. Hopefully we'll see you at one of them. The next issue will bring you reports from the various conferences and the next two issues should be rich with news and books from the international feminist publishing scene. If you picked this issue up at one of the conferences, you'll find subscription information on page 53. Please call or write for advertising rates.

The Montreal Feminist Book Fair is looking more and more exciting. If all goes according to plan, there will be a copy of the Book Fair program enclosed with this issue. We asked for three additional workshops at the last moment -- hopefully they'll be in the program. If not: On the first day of the Fair, Tuesday June 14th at 5:00 pm, there will be a meeting and caucus for all the women attending from feminist bookstores. If it's **not** on the schedule, ask for the location when you get to the Fair. We also asked for an informal joint meeting of feminist booksellers and publishers on common goals and concerns in promoting feminist literature. Our third request was for a workshop titled "Setting up a Feminist Book Fortnight in Your Own Country" based on the experience of the women who organized the British and Canadian Feminist Book Fortnights. If they aren't on the schedule, we'll see what we can set up when we get there. Check at the Bookstore Caucus or at the FBN booth for more information.

Betsy Nuse's poetry column premieres in this issue. It includes many of the responses to the poetry questionnaire, suggestions for **selling** poetry, and reviews of strong new titles. Karen Axness is at the International Congress of Young Booksellers in Spain so there is no "Mysteries" column this issue.

Forthcoming "events": We'll be doing the bookstore economics survey this summer. The time we scheduled for it this spring went to writing a grant proposal for a laser printer and desktop publishing set-up. (Please send positive energy to the goddess of grant proposals or whatever.) I'm still coming to understand how much simpler it would make production. We're excited and hopeful about it. FBN will do the Fourth Annual Sidelines Catalog this summer. We'll send fliers to the bookstores in June. Please pass them on to your favorite craftswomen and sideline vendors. The deadline for ad reservations will be in late July.

Yours in spreading the words!  
Carol Seajay



## FBN

# Deadline

Next Issue:

June 30

Fall Issue:

Aug. 25





# NEW FROM CLEIS PRESS



From the author of  
**The Little School**  
*Tales of Disappearance and Survival*

## YOU CAN'T DROWN THE FIRE

LATIN AMERICAN WOMEN WRITING IN EXILE

edited by Alicia Partnoy

\$9.95

*You Can't Drown the Fire* is the literature of a Latin America in exile. Born of El Salvador, Guatemala, Chile, Uruguay, Colombia, Paraguay, Bolivia, Argentina and Nicaragua, the women whose voices gather in *You Can't Drown the Fire* are among the major literary figures of their time.

*Exile: a painful phenomenon of our times. Women in exile: certainly the epicenter, those who so often receive the greatest weight while sustaining others- and themselves- in a maddening spiral of imposed change. I cannot think of anyone who could have done a better job of gathering up these voices; for Alicia Partnoy is, herself, very much a part of this history. Listen to these women: in essay, narrative, poetry, testimony, song. Learn, through their words, what it means to leave your homeland and take it with you at one and the same time.*

-Margaret Randall

From the editor of  
**Different Daughters:**  
*A Book by Mothers of Lesbians*

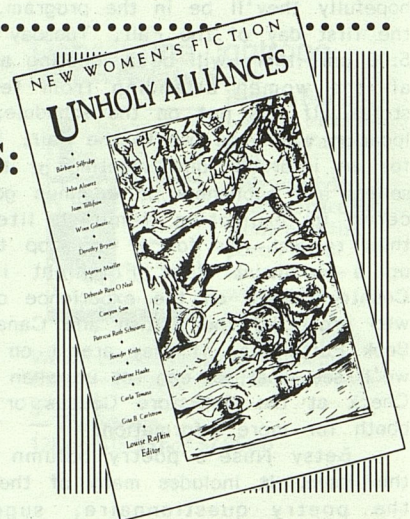
## UNHOLY ALLIANCES: NEW FICTION BY WOMEN

edited by Louise Rafkin

\$9.95

In *Unholy Alliances*, editor Louise Rafkin has assembled "stories of allies and foes, strangers and strugglers, stories of the margin, of relationships just a bit off center." From all walks of life, these stories reflect the urgency of intimacy in the hard times of the eighties.

*Unholy Alliances*, a delightful new collection of women's fiction is contemporary women's fiction: risk-taking, funny, energetic.



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# LETTERS



New Words  
186 Hampshire Street  
Inman Square  
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear FBN,

Enclosed is information about Sisters in Crime which should be of interest to a bunch of **Feminist Bookstore News** readers.

We're heading into our fourteenth birthday aided and abetted by a computer! Inventory system plus point-of-sale cash register. Wordstock (local folks) now has a version for smaller stores. So you don't have New Words to point at for not having an inventory system at all. From nothing to big stuff. We're still in the middle of adjusting to it but we're all enthusiastic.

Also new (well, newish) is our International section now divided into Fiction/Poetry and non-fiction. It really is exciting. We divide each section by country and then file by author within that division.

Mary Lowry

3016 Cottonwood  
Bellingham, WA 98225

Dear FBN,

I was so angered by the article in the last FBN about the SBA's refusal to loan money for a feminist bookstore that I dashed off a letter to my Congressional Representative asking him to look into the situation in hopes that concern from other parts of the country would help.

Thought you might be interested in the response received yesterday.

In Sisterhood,  
Jane Lowrey

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
1502 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

Dear Jane,

Thank you for your letter and enclosed article concerning the SBA's refusal to guarantee a loan for a feminist bookstore in New York City. I appreciate hearing from you.

I share your concerns. For the SBA to deny this loan guarantee on the basis of the bookstore being too 'specialized' is to ignore the fact that loans have been guaranteed for businesses which have demonstrated a lot less potential for success. As the article from **The Feminist Bookstore News** points out: How can "...something that pertains to 53% of the population be 'too specialized?'"

I have contacted the SBA expressing our concerns and asking for their reactions to the article you enclosed. As soon as I hear anything from them I will let you know.

Again, thank you for your letter. I hope you will feel free to contact me in the future.

Sincerely,  
Al Swift  
Member of Congress

Southern Wild Sisters  
250 Cowan Rd  
Gulfport, MS 39507

Dear Sisters,

Thank you so much for reprinting the article on our store. It was great! We have depended upon the knowledge we have gained through FBN to



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... more than the best of Irish journalism, it is a unique account of modern Irish life.  
... the writing of a passionate witness.  
Eavan Boland (Poet)  
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Selected writings — volume 2  
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... impressionistic, interpretative writing has set new standards... she has been a singular voice in Irish society.  
Sunday Tribune  
Nell McCafferty, feminist, activist and writer brings to all of her subjects a sense of immediacy, pathos and humour.  
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The Kerry Babies Case  
Nell McCafferty  
A Woman to Blame is an indictment of Irish society. In it, Nell McCafferty, chronicles the events which led to the setting up of a Public Tribunal to investigate the wrongful arrest of Joanne Hayes for the murder of her new born baby.  
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Contemporary Irish Women's Lives  
text by Pat Murphy and Nell McCafferty  
Women in Focus captures in a series of stunning photographs the plural realities of Irish women's everyday lives. The accompanying text, by Nell McCafferty and film-maker Pat Murphy, provides the vital political and aesthetic counterpoint to this visual record.  
The Women's Review of Books, USA  
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## Ireland's Feminist Press

continue to grow and build community in a wasteland! It has been so rewarding but painful, too. We cherish the connection through FBN with all who have gone before us!

My partner Wanda & I are busy trying to start new safe space programs for our sisters. We now have "Dyke Night at the movies" \$3.00 apiece, shown in store. "Dyke Night at the salad bar," pot lucks and soon "Sisterspirit Salon" complete with speakers, entertainers and pot luck. We are also beginning a metaphysics rap group, we have an Incest Survivors Anonymous group, etc. We are busy, happy and connected. Thank you for the inspiration you provide.

In Sisterspirit  
Brenda Henson  
Wanda Reeves-Henson

31st Street Bookstore  
425 E. 31st Street  
Baltimore, MD 21218

Dear FBN,

Baltimore and Maryland women raised \$30,000 to buy the 31st Street bookstore, which was on the verge of being auctioned off not for want of customers but for want of a buyer. We formed a co-op that now has over 500 members and have been doing well (i.e., keeping the store open and keeping inventory up) since July 16, 1987. The amount of work involved has been truly unbelievable, of course. FBN has helped so much. I can't imagine pulling the stunt called "running a feminist bookstore" without it.

Sincerely  
Shirley Hartwell

Imprints  
917 N 2nd  
Tacoma, WA 98403

Dear FBN,

We would like to have events, e.g., auto-graphing parties, involving well known and/or talented authors. Would you please write me where to begin to contact women authors. I realize this may sound vague. Simply, we need to offer events that will bring people into our store as well as increase book sales. Please offer suggestions where to begin. Thanks.

Linda  
[Ed.'s note: Anyone have suggestions to offer?]







# BEFORE STONEWALL:

THE MAKING OF A GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY

by  
Andrea Weiss  
& Greta Schiller



AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORICAL  
GUIDE TO THE  
EMMY-AWARD WINNING FILM

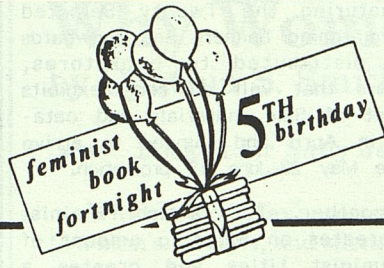
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# FEMINIST BOOK FORTNIGHT '88

By Carol Seajay

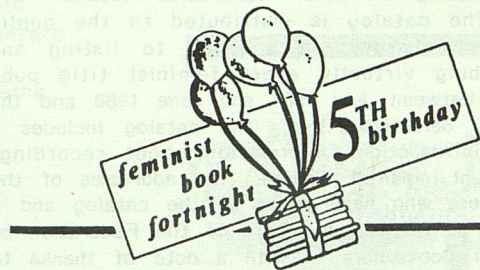
The Feminist Book Fortnight, now in its fifth year, is a very well established and successful retail trade promotion in Britain. It always enjoys massive media attention focusing on the achievement and concerns of women's writing and publishing during the past year. Bookstores across the country, including all the major chains, radical and feminist bookstores and general independent stores, do window displays featuring the Twenty Selected Titles, and Feminist Book Fortnight posters and banners. Hundreds of bookshops and public libraries nationwide stage related events including author visits and readings, workshops, and discussion groups during the Fortnight. The media attention is extraordinary in comparison to any media attention accorded feminist books in this country.

An entire nation's attention is focused, for two weeks at least, on women's writing. However did this happen? Can we do it in the U.S.? In other countries? (Canada is initiating its first Feminist Book Fortnight this summer.) Or better yet, **how** can we do it? FBN requested a workshop at the Montreal Book Fair to be presented by the British and Canadian Feminist Book Fortnight organizers titled "Organizing a Feminist Book Fortnight in Your Country." The next issue of FBN will report on that workshop.

## The Twenty Selected Titles

The promotion's lead twenty titles are selected by a panel of judges and generally include a range of books representing the diversity of the authors, titles, subjects and publishing houses. The Twenty Selected Titles are chosen to celebrate "the strengths and concerns

of feminist writing and publishing during the previous year" and are featured on the poster that is distributed to the bookstores for the window displays, are highlighted in the center pages of the catalog and, of course, enjoy extensive media attention. This year's panel includes Sue Butterworth of Silver Moon (Feminist)

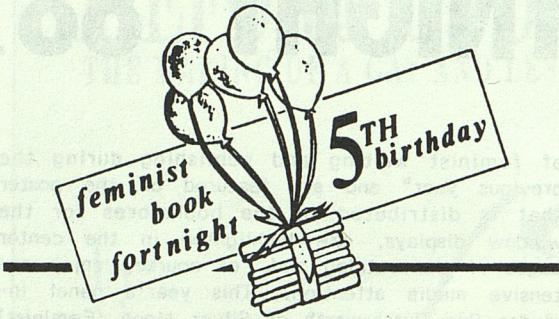


Bookshop, Sheila Davis, Marketing Manager of Books for Students, Irish author and journalist Nell McCafferty, Sylvia Parker of SisterWrite Bookshop, and Kathy Watson, a journalist with **The Voice** newspaper.

The 1987 Twenty Selected Titles were **Watchers and Seekers** edited by Rhonda Cobham & Merle Collins, **The Way-Paver** by Anne Devlin, **Truth Tales** edited by Kali for Women, **The House of the Spirits** by Isabel Allende, **Too Close Encounters and What to Do About Them** by Rosemary Stones, **Gone to Soldiers** by Marge Piercy, **The Women of Brewster Place** by Gloria Naylor, **The Handmaid's Tale** by Margaret Atwood, **Charleyhorse** by Cecil Dawkins, **Push Me, Pull Me** by Sandra Chick, **Half the Earth** edited by Miranda Davies et al, **The Soul Brothers and Sister Lou** by Kristin Hunter, **Through the Break** edited by Pearlie McNeill, Marie McShea, and Pratibha



Parmar, **The Iron Ladies** by Beatrix Campbell, **Lionheart Gal** by the Sistren Theatre Collective, **Women and the AIDS Crisis** by Diane Richardson, **The Joke's On Us** by Morwenna Banks & Amanda Swift, **Women in the World** by Joni Seager & Ann Olson, **Rebecca West--A Life** by Victoria Glendinning, and **Three Ply Yarn** by Caeia March.



#### The Catalog and Other Promotional Materials

The catalog is distributed to the public free of charge. In addition to listing and describing virtually every feminist title published between July 1987 and June 1988 and the Twenty Selected Titles, the catalog includes a short introduction, information about recordings for sight-impaired women, the addresses of the publishers who have books in the catalog and a listing of all the members of the Federation of Radical Booksellers -- with a note of thanks to all the radical booksellers who stock and support feminist writings all year round -- a nifty way to support the stores that support radical feminist books and a way to direct those women who first discover feminist books at a chain store (that stocks only the Twenty Selected Titles) to the stores that offer a much broader range of feminist literature. Catalog sections include Fiction, Women's Studies, The Arts, Biography and Autobiography, Mind and Body, Younger Readers, and Feminist Magazines and Journals.

This year's catalog includes more than 300 titles (descriptions are provided by the publishers) from 87 different publishers. 100,000 copies of the catalog will be printed and distributed. Space is left on the back cover of the catalog under the legend "Books in this catalog can be obtained from:" for bookstores to stamp their name and address.

#### Point of Sale Materials

In addition to the catalog, 7,000 three-color posters featuring the Twenty Selected Titles and 6,000 matching banners and showcards are printed and distributed to bookstores, libraries and others that will do book exhibits and displays. Point of Sale materials and catalogs are ordered in April and shipped to arrive in mid-May for the May 28-June 12 promotion.

Taken all together, The British Feminist Book Fortnight creates an amazing amount of publicity for feminist titles and creates a national recognition for feminist writing and publishing. Several industry observers have suggested that the stability of the mid-sized feminist publishers dates from the publicity received via the First International Feminist Bookfair (held in London) and the first Feminist Book Fortnight. Those events have certainly increased national awareness of women's writing and added credibility to feminist publishing, never mind the financial benefits of the publicity for the publishers. That a Feminist Book Fortnight in the U.S. would be a good idea is no longer up for debate. The question is how to organize it? ○

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# Why Women Shouldn't Marry

by Cynthia S. Smith

✓✓ Booked for Sally Jessy Raphael and Geraldo!

Why should today's woman give up her freedom, adjust to a man's lifestyle, and silence herself to accommodate a man's needs?

**Why Women Shouldn't Marry** shows how for centuries women have been driven into marriage by fear of their own inadequacies. Women have been taught they can't take care of themselves and need men to lean on.

The interviews with women and the research in **Why Women Shouldn't Marry** reveal what a lie this is. Women alone cope better than men, provided their financial life is secure. And as today's woman climbs the economic ladder, financial security can be hers without the help of a man.

**Why Women Shouldn't Marry** is certain to generate nationwide controversy and sales.

Lyle Stuart Inc. cloth \$14.95 ISBN 0-8184-0467-1 Ships June

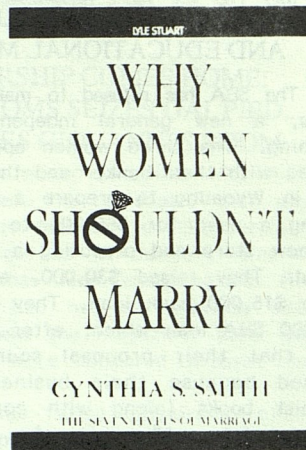
*History's first feminist writer-*

## Sappho

poems and fragments  
translated by Josephine Balmer

Sappho was the first--and arguably the finest--of lesbian poets. She wrote in the 6th century B.C. and has remained an inspiration for poets and lovers ever since.

This new translation is the first in more than thirty years. It brings together all the extant poems and fragments of this important poet. It includes an introduction by the translator, and is complete with footnotes, a glossary and reading list.  
Meadowland/Lyle Stuart Inc. paper \$6.95 ISBN 0-8216-2000-2 ships April



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# Short Stories

## SBA REFUSES GENERAL BOOKSTORE FOR FEMINIST OVERTONES AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

The SBA has refused to make a loan to Grand Books, a new general independent bookstore in Wyoming. The three women opening Grand Books worked with their banker and the SBA representative in Wyoming to prepare a business plan projecting a need for \$60,000 to open and support the new store and proposing a four year payback period. They raised \$30,000, and were approved for a \$15,000 bank loan. They then applied for a \$30,000 SBA loan which, after being told by the SBA that their proposal sounded good, were refused because their business plan includes feminist books (along with computer books and "special interest" sections). SBA further expressed concern about their intention to carry educational materials which the SBA felt was "the state's right to decide." SBA's letter justified their refusal to grant a loan as fear of "interfering with First Amendment rights."

Grand Books will open on Memorial Day weekend with or without SBA assistance. For further information contact Dorothy Holland, Grand Books, Powderhorn Shopping Center, 970 W. Broadway, Jackson WY 83001.

## SOUTHERN WILD SISTERS BURGLARIZED

Southern Wild Sisters, the Mississippi women's bookstore, was burglarized during the night of April 7th. Cash, silver and gold jewelry, buttons, t-shirts, and hand-made clothing valued at \$6,500 were taken. Entry was made through a back window and the burglars appeared to be inexperienced teenagers who spent enough time to eat all the chocolates in the store, but skipped over one entire jewelry case with a hard-to-open door. The stock was insured, and Southern Wild Sisters have since installed a burglar alarm that rings into both their home and the local police station. The store had been thought to be fairly safe as the owners live directly across the street.

## FEMINIST PRESS ASSOCIATION FORMED

The Feminist Press Association was officially formed at the recent East Coast Women's Newspapers Conference. One of the primary goals of the FPA will be to formulate a news service to facilitate the syndication of news articles and graphics between women's newspapers in order to give the newspapers access to better quality material. The FPA will also assist writers in reaching wider audiences and will collect and pay royalties for work distributed to newspapers via the FPA. Other proposed projects include an annual national conference, a quarterly newsletter, a news service, and credentials. For more information, write for a copy of the minutes from the organizing meeting. To join, send \$25 (organizations) or \$10 (individuals) to FPA, c/o Womanews, PO Box 980 Village Station, New York NY 10014.

## NEWSWEEK MISSES THE BOAT (AGAIN)

In March, **Newsweek** published an article on gay (meaning male) writers and publishing. The gist of the article was that mainstream publishers, like Alfred A. Knopf, were publishing "important" books like **The Beautiful Room is Empty** by "important" gay writers like Edmund White, "...unquestionably the foremost American gay novelist." Rita Mae Brown was mentioned as the only lesbian writer to make it at a mainstream publishing house(!) All other lesbian writers were included in the sentence on feminist publishers.

By dismissing the contribution of lesbians and of feminist publishers, the **Newsweek** article ignored their contributions to the world of literature. After all, it was the now defunct Daughters Inc that first published Rita Mae Brown's **Rubyfruit Jungle**, making it an underground bestseller. It also failed to note that major publishers like Dutton and Random House are beginning to publish novels by lesbians and that many publishers have been publishing lesbian writers for years. Dutton has just pub-



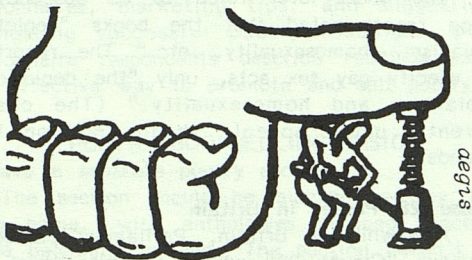
lished Sarah Schulman's third novel **After Dolores**. Her first novel was published by Naiad Press, the second by Seal Press. Fawcett has kept the steadily selling **Patience and Sarah** in print for fifteen years. How do they so casually write off the likes of Adrienne Rich, May Sarton, Janet Flanner, Gale Wilhelm, Radcliffe Hall, Jane Rule, Willa Cather, Sarah Orne Jewett, Gertrude Stein, H.D., Monique Wittig...?

--Based on an article in the April issue of the **Lammas Bookstore Shopping List**.

### SHATTERED GREED

Calling former Securities and Exchange Commission official John Fedders' treatment of his former wife "as classic a case of cruelty of treatment as one is likely to find," Circuit Court Judge James S. McAuliffe has ruled that Fedders is not entitled to any share of Charlotte Fedders' autobiographical account of battering.

An earlier judicial official had ruled that Charlotte Fedders must give her former husband 25% of the profits from her book **Shattered Dreams** because she had provoked him by failing to provide emotional support when he was depressed. McAuliffe ruled that no claims of why Fedders turned to violence could change "the fact that he did it." McAuliffe's rejection of Fedders' claim was actually based on the assertion that the book could not be assigned an exact monetary value and thus could not be considered a marital asset.



McAuliffe's rejection of Fedders' claim came after a dramatic announcement by Fedders' lawyer that he would no longer seek to share in the profits from the book because he felt it had harmed his children. Charlotte Fedders and her lawyer remained skeptical, voicing a suspicion

that John Fedders was trying "to make himself look like a good guy" because he knew he had little chance of winning on that point and hoped to win on others.

If so, the ploy did not work: the rest of the ruling also generally went in Charlotte Fedders' favor.

--Info from the **Washington Post** via **Off Our Backs**

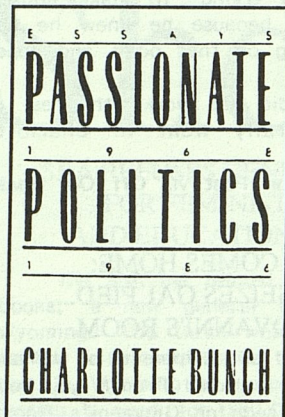
### CENSORSHIP COMES HOME: U.S. CUSTOMS SEIZES GAI PIED... HARASSES GIOVANNI'S ROOM

U.S. Customs seized two shipments of January issues of **Gai Pied**, the national French gay publication, that was destined for Giovanni's Room. The seizures occurred in January and March. Giovanni's Room has been importing **Gai Pied** for eight years and had had no previous complaint from Customs about the magazine. Later shipments of the magazine were delivered without comment or notice.

**Gai Pied** has faced censorship challenges before and triumphed. Late last spring, the conservative French government proposed a law that would have made it illegal to distribute the magazine in magazine kiosks across the country, a move that would have destroyed the magazine. The right wing action created a stir that elicited overwhelming support for the magazine from the French President on down and established clearly in the mind of the French public the magazine's right to public distribution.

This particular seizure seems to be motivated more by political contrivance than concern for the material. According to the seizure notices, one issue was confiscated for "depicting homosexual activity" and the other for "portraying nude children." When Giovanni's Room went to Customs for further information, they got the classic bureaucratic runaround: no one was willing to take responsibility for the seizure and no one could say exactly why the magazines were seized. In the end, the Giovanni's Room representative was allowed to look at the seized issues and was left to make his own determination as to what inspired the seizure of these issues. The "depiction of homosexuality" seemed to be part of a cartoon strip by Rals Koenig, a popular European cartoonist. "Nude children" apparently translates to two youths, one with an arm over the shoulder, both smiling





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- Catharine R. Stimpson

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This book of essays traces the contemporary history of women's struggles in the work of one of the most thoughtful founders and organizers of the Women's Movement. Long regarded as a profound feminist thinker as well as an indefatigable activist, Charlotte Bunch has had enormous impact in this country and around the world. Her reflections on specific topics -- the leadership question, reform and revolution, lesbianism, global connections - - probe and illuminate the timeless and subtle process of individual and cultural change, brilliantly fusing theory and practice. These essays, collected here for the first time, reflect her insightfulness as an organizer and a theorist who raises new questions and finds new possibilities for action in every situation.

\$8.95

ISBN: 0-312-01804-5

into the camera in a video ad. This particular ad has been published (legally) in numerous American publications.

In further discussion with Customs representatives, Customs officials basically agreed that seizures were inappropriate to ridiculous, though nothing was done to release the shipment. One attorney indicated that Customs was being more active than usual in response to a request from Ed Meese and that the activity was timed to coincide with "stuff in Congress."

While the total value of this particular shipment was not significant financially, harassment from Customs, in any form, is. One has to assume that the magazine was singled out on the basis of its being a gay publication and that the timing of the seizure has more to do with furthering rightwing political objectives than performing the duties of Customs.

This type of activity is also threatening in terms of future trade. Materials seized by Customs are not returned to the shipper and the importer is financially responsible for them whether they ever receive the goods or not. While this case does not represent a significant financial loss, it does raise concern about whether future shipments of larger value will be seized. One of the effects of this kind of activity is that it tends to inhibit trade since it is the importers who bear the financial and legal burden as was clearly seen in the battle British Customs waged (and lost) against Gay's The Word Bookstore in London.

In other arenas, Giovanni's Room reports that doubling their floor space this spring has already resulted in a 35% increase in sales.

Giovanni's Room is a Philadelphia bookstore specializing in gay, lesbian and feminist titles. They also import gay and lesbian literature in a number of languages and export feminist and gay literature published in America to gay and feminist bookstores around the world.

### And in Illinois....

It is also worth noting that, in the Illinois "comic book obscenity case (in which the manager of Friendly Frank's Comics Store was found guilty of possession and sale of materials that the court later ruled to be obscene) the police report noted that the books "depicted... lesbianism, homosexuality, etc." The report did not specify gay sex acts, only "the depiction of lesbianism and homosexuality." (The case is currently under appeal, though not on these grounds.)

### Clause 28 Passes in Britain

Meanwhile in Britain, Parliament passed the infamous "Clause 28" which prohibits local government authorities (city governments) from funding anything that includes anything with "intentional promotion of homosexuality" -- from sponsoring theatre events to providing funding for gay and feminist centers to, possibly, purchasing books for libraries that portray positive images of gay lifestyles.



# Selling Poetry in Feminist Bookstores

By Betsy Nuse

Thank you all for your thoughtful responses to the poetry questionnaire! The material in this first column is based on them, on my own experience as a bookseller and devoted-to-the-point-of-mania reader and buyer of poetry, and on interviews with Irene McGuire of Writers and Company Toronto, Kim Nash of the Ottawa Women's Bookstore, Naomi Riches of SCMi Bookroom Toronto, Norma Lundberg (fellow poetry enthusiast), and Wendy Wine of the Toronto Women's Bookstore. I thank them for their time and suggestions.

## POETRY DESERVES A PLACE IN EVERY FEMINIST BOOKSTORE

If you don't have a poetry section, consider starting one. Poetry readers are devoted devourers of printed words. If you can attract them with your poetry section you will develop a regular clientele of book lovers who will buy from other sections in your store. --And while poetry books sell for good prices, poetry buyers tend not to object to book prices. I hope this column will help bring poetry books and poetry readers together in your store.

Future columns will include a checklist of bestselling authors and books compiled from your questionnaires, marketing tips, and suggestions for hosting successful poetry readings. Many questionnaire respondents describe readings as a most effective way to promote and sell poetry.

## POETRY BOOKSELLING BASICS

### 1. Have a separate poetry section.

The section should be alphabetized by author's name, with anthologies grouped together at the beginning or end. The section needn't be in a conspicuous place; in fact, an out-of-the-way spot is desirable. We poetry enthusiasts will search your store until we find the section. We like to browse the shelves and sample the books we are unfamiliar with, so we need space to stand without being jostled, bumped or hurried.

### 2. Display books face out.

Almost every respondent to the questionnaire and all my interviewees agreed that, compared with other genres, poetry book covers tend to be remarkably interesting, attractive and colourful. They will draw customers to the section. In some cases, a good cover can even sell a book by getting someone to pick it up, open the cover and sample the contents.

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"Poetry, by making a pact between the body and soul, gives to the political imagination a dimension of meaning without which it loses its way."\*

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### 3. Add fresh stock regularly.

The only thing poetry readers like better than a new book from a favourite author is to discover a book by an unknown and promising author. Adding even two or three new titles (preferably face out) to your poetry section each month will attract attention to the section and customers will begin to check it regularly for new titles and authors. Backlist should begin to move as customers spend time regularly at the section.

### 4. Go for variety, not volume.

If you have space for only twenty books, it's better to have one copy of twenty different titles than ten copies each of two titles. Poetry enthusiasts find variety a challenge. We love to recognize the names of one or two of our favourite authors on your shelves, but once



we've established the quality of your selection by these benchmarks we will investigate the books we do not know. A varied choice shows us that you, as a bookseller, are stocking your section continuously and thoughtfully, not once in a blue moon with over-enthusiasm.

#### 5. Give the books time.

Poetry does not sell as rapidly as novels or theory. Not surprising -- it does not receive anywhere near the publicity and review space as these other genres! Good poetry books find their market by word of mouth. Once one or two customers like a book, you can be assured of steady sales, but it will take longer for the curve to start its upward turn. If you tend to return unsold novels after three months, hold on to the poetry books for six to achieve the same exposure.

#### 6. Recommend poetry.

Many questionnaire respondents observed that word of mouth is by far the most important way to promote poetry. So, the next time a customer asks you to suggest "something different", suggest a book of poetry. As Kim Nash wryly pointed out, a book of poetry can lighten a pile of "heavy" non-fiction tracts about prostitution, employment equity or political theory. When I describe books in this column, I will point out topical content to assist you in making suggestions to readers unfamiliar with the genre.

#### BOOK HIGHLIGHTS

This first column includes a witch's dozen of outstanding books from the last publishing season. Stocking these will give a major boost to even the most dormant of poetry sections.

#### Four major books by four major authors:

The second wave of feminism already has a strong poetic tradition! The following books are by women who've been on the scene for years. **Available Light** by Marge Piercy (Knopf, ISBN 0-394-75691-6, US \$8.95 pb -- in Canada from Random). If her novels already sell in your store, don't hesitate to stock her poetry. The content is just as politically correct and the language just as readable. Since Piercy has lived on Cape Cod, wild creatures, weather,

**ULTIMATE CONSPIRACY:** new poems by Jacqueline Lapidus. 84 pp, \$7.95 (Lynx Publications).

"Truths others won't risk telling"- Joan Larkin

"Complex, savory"- Marilyn Hacker

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East Haven, CT 06512

gardens and the sea have honoured places in her books. There's plenty of healthy, not nasty humour too. (This book includes a gem called "Wrong Monday" that one-up's any story about a bad day I have ever heard!)

**Poems** by Rita Mae Brown (Crossing Press, ISBN 0-89594-247-X, US \$8.95 pb -- in Canada from Bookcentre). I trust you didn't miss this one when ordering *lesbiana*. It is a reissue, in one volume, of two long-OP chapbooks published by Diana Press in the 70's (**Songs to a Handsome Woman** and **The Hand that Cradles the Rock**). When I was an antiquarian bookseller I sold copies of these scarce books quickly at \$15+ each (depending on condition) whenever I could find one, which was not often enough. What a relief that they are in print again!

**The Queen of Swords** by Judy Grahn (Beacon, ISBN 0-8070-6802-0, US \$14.95 cl -- in Canada from Fitzhenry & Whiteside.) Grahn's early poetry was published by the Women's Press Collective which later merged with Diana Press. She has recently written non-fiction about lesbian history (**Another Mother Tongue** and **The Highest Apple**). The title piece of this book is a poetic play based on the Inanna myth. It is a wonderful lesbian **Murder in the Cathedral**, in which the underworld is a seedy lesbian bar, its gatekeeper a bartender and its 7 judges bar dykes dressed as crows. Because it's a serious reinterpretation of an important myth you might want to shelve it also in sections of your store with mythology or books on Jungian psychology.

**Unremembered Country** by Susan Griffin (Copper Canyon, ISBN 1-55659-001-6, US \$9.00 pb -- from Bookpeople and Inland). During the last ten years Griffin has written major theoretical works (**Woman and Nature** and **Pornography and Silence**). But what a poet! This is a rich and wonderful book. There are "mother" poems (some humorous, some serious), some subtle and lovely poems describing love between women, and political comment that is groundbreaking in its control, compassion and effect.



**Other Gems:**

**Bone Flames** by Colleen J. McElroy (Wesleyan, ISBN 0-8195-1149-8, US \$9.95 pb -- in Canada from Scholarly). I suspect McElroy is undeservedly less well-known than other Black women poets. Professor McElroy writes intelligently and with considerable craft. Her condemnation of racism is clear and strong. The book includes some wonderfully sympathetic poems about women.

**Furious** by Erin Mouré (House of Anansi, ISBN 0-88784-157-0, Can \$9.95 -- from University of Toronto Press). This book represents a fascinating and significant effort to make a poetry entirely of the moment and on the page. The poems are deeply woman-centred and Mouré is clearly engaged in a feminist project to reshape language. Draw this book to the attention of serious poetry readers who enjoy riding the crest of new waves.

**Naming the Waves: Contemporary Lesbian Poetry** edited by Christian McEwen (Virago, ISBN 0-86068-852-6, UK £5.95 pb -- in North America from Random House). "We do well with anthologies," one bookseller said on the questionnaire. Don't underestimate them; they are good gift suggestions and handy for booksellers to recommend to someone who is daring enough to try something new -- but not too much of any one thing! I think some important writers are missing from this collection, but it does give the unfamiliar reader a chance to sample Judy Grahn, Audre Lorde, Pat Parker, Adrienne Rich and several dozen others in one volume.

**Not Noir** by Kate Van Dusen (Coach House, ISBN 0-88910-344-5, Can \$9.95 pb -- in the U.S. from Inland). Most of the poems probe the alienation and loneliness that drown one after breaking up with a lover, but it also includes sardonic comment on the poetry scene. This is a first book by a remarkably skillful writer.

**Notebook of Stone from the Tibetan Plateau and Berlin** by Vivian Darroch-Lozowski (Penumbra Press, P.O. Box 248, Kapuskasing, Ontario, Canada P5N 2Y4, ISBN 0-920806-92-9, Can \$9.95). This is not strictly a book of poetry, but the writing is so luminous I feel it must be included. Darroch compiled it from diaries she kept during a stay in the high desert of western Tibet (Ladakh) and a trip to East and West Berlin. But it's not so much a travelogue as an exploration of dryness and isolation, connectedness and

## New Women's Titles from HANGING LOOSE PRESS

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divisions. There are some wonderful black and white photographs of the Himalayas.

**Serpent (W)rite** by Betsy Warland (Coach House, ISBN 0-88910-346-1, \$10.95 pb. Available in the U.S. from Inland). One long poem in eight "turns" (sections). The narrative plays with Eve in the garden, but more important, Warland plays with words: punning, prying them apart, tracking down their origins so fresh meanings and associations can sprout in the cracks. Recommend this book to anyone who is reading feminist language theory.

**The Sisters: New and Selected Poems** by Josephine Jacobsen (The Bench Press, 1355 Rain-tree Drive, Columbia, S.C. 29210, ISBN 0-930769-04-X. \$9.00 pb. Available in the U.S. from Book-people and Inland). In her review of this book in *The Nation* Marilyn Hacker compared Jacobsen favourably with Elizabeth Bishop, Josephine Miles and Muriel Rukeyser. This book includes selections from her previous books as well as new poems. Offer it to a student interested in tracing the development of a major woman writer, to readers who like serious traditional poetry but who are looking for an unfamiliar writer, to

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# Red & Black Books Flourishing

*Red and Black Books is a multi-faceted non-sectarian leftist bookstore in Seattle that began selling books in the early seventies. For eight years they enjoyed a "good" location on the main shopping street in the university district.*

*It all just "worked." Nearly a quarter of their sales came from walk-in traffic, they developed a steady and committed clientele for the political and movement books they sold, they had a solid group of university lefties to buy the esoteric and hardcore (and cloth) political theory books. Rent was low and the cash flowed. They never even took an inventory for eight years.*

*Then they complained to the landlord about the growing leaks in the roof. He evicted them.*

*And so began the saga of Red and Black's moves. The first move was a disaster. Bad location, no foot-traffic, and they weren't in a neighborhood that was likely to support a lefty store with growing feminist and gay tendencies. In the first location they lost \$10,000 in six months.*

*In an effort to save the store, they moved again, this time to an upstairs location above a well-known political coffee house in a significantly gay and somewhat lesbian neighborhood. At that point, R&B collective members settled down to study bookstore economics to get a grip on their situation. Collective member Judy Bierman and Sherry "Red" Reddick did a workshop on Bookstore Economics for Health and Survival at the 1983 Northwest Women In Print Conference. Their workshop was written up and published in the September 1983 issue of FBN, and was reprinted last spring in FBN's Tenth Anniversary issue.*

*When I was in Seattle last fall, I stopped to see R&B's new(est) store and to get an update on their pursuit of economic health and stability. I left with this (finally transcribed and edited!) interview with Red, the manager of the bookstore. George, a long-time collective member, was logging in books in the back office where we were talking and joined the conversation from time to time.*



# At Last



## MOVING, SALES & STOCK GROWTH

Carol: Tell me what you said as I walked in the door about inventory growth.

Red: Our stock has about quadrupled since we moved here. It's about two and a half times the size of our peak inventory at the last location. Our highest inventory level there was about \$18,000 and it's \$40,000 now. That's wholesale. And it goes up about \$15,000 for Christmas.

Carol: Let's do a little history: Red and Black has moved a lot....

Red: Yeah. In 1980 we were evicted from our store on University because we were so uppity and complained about the leaks in the roof. (Rain pouring in on books is sort of hard on the books, you know?) Anyhow, they evicted us and that was the end of the easy days. It was really the end of the 70's for us! From there we moved to 12th Street for a year. That was a total bust. Totally the wrong location. Then we moved to a neighborhood where the kind of people who buy our books lived. We rented store space above a very popular cafe in February '82. It seemed like a good idea at the time. We moved here in April '86. We nearly went bankrupt over being in the wrong locations. It was really poignant.

Carol: So what happened to your inventory during the move?

Red: Well, as you know, when we were above the cafe we carved our stock down to nothing, and tried to rebuild it with the specific idea of the customers we were going after. It was a better approach but we never had a break-even month up there. Not one!

Carol: Wow.

Red: We stayed alive by doing benefits for ourselves. We produced Alice Walker, and Ntozake Shange, Anne Cameron, Dennis Brutus, a couple of Sweet Honey concerts. We usually sat down and said, "OK, when do we need money?" and scheduled productions around that. It was that extra income that kept the store open, and the fact that people were willing to loan us money on short terms. We would borrow the money and pay it back, then we'd borrow another couple thousand and pay that back, and break it down into a hundred- or two-hundred-dollar-a-month payments, and pay it back. The more we did that the more credit we established with our friends. We never borrowed from a bank, we just borrowed from our buddies. And in order to move here last year we borrowed \$22,000. Some of that was budgeted to finance the time we were closed -- which, as it turned out, was for about twelve hours!

Carol: Well that was good planning, it always takes \$22,000 to get you through those crucial twelve hours!

Red: A lot of that money went into fixtures: everything is new. George went all over town with his tape measure and measured everything and came up with this design. He and another staffer built them.

This was a drugstore and the landlord plastered and painted and built the wall, but we paid for the extra things we wanted: the wheel chair ramp, the office walls and the platform for the office. We also had to pay to have this fan put in, because when they remodeled they didn't put any ventilation in. You're lucky to be here this week, cause it's cool. We never



# Sudden Hunger

poems by Debra Bruce

## After a Long Illness

Damp air breathes against the small of her back. She pulls her shoulders up, her body slack as if from sleep that won't wear off. The doctor said her blood's bloomed back. But it shocks her--to be touched by air, to smell the ground-up spice rain has pounded out of the ground. No more ice anywhere. But she walks as if there were, or as if she's in that winter room of hers tiptoeing to the window to pull down dusk and bury herself deep in her own musk. If her thoughts go back there now, she must shut them out, let the crocus come, tulips cut their colors into the air, let everything--even the barest, thinnest trees--spider toward spring.

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have to turn the heat on in the winter, it's that hot in here. So we did put quite a bit into the physical space. And the fixtures cost \$2,000 or \$3,000 what with having the shelves custom built and all. But, it's well worth it. I've never been in a bookstore with better designed shelves.

Carol: It's gorgeous.

Red: We were supposed to be in here by January, originally, but the landlord wasn't finished with the renovations until April.

The rent is \$1300 per month now. It started as \$1200. It'll go up 5% a year for five years.

George: What seems real clear after all these years is what everybody else already knew anyway: You have to have good bookcases, be at street level, and be accessible -- psychologically accessible. At the old location people had to go down an alley and up some stairs. It's hard for people to do if they have any reservations at all about where they're going.

Red: Here you can just sort of stumble into the store. You don't already have to know we're here.

Carol: And you can look in the windows and see what kind of people are in there.

George: Yeah, it's important. You can check it out and know nothing bad will happen to you. (A lot of laughter.)

Carol: If you're nervous, you can walk by three or four times and see what happens.

George: Right!

Red: We have a lot of odd neighborhood people who come in here. We're much more of a general bookstore than we ever were before. They come in for the New York Times and a card and they stick around and buy books.

Carol: That's great outreach.

Red: Right. This was one of the last spaces left on the street. Rents on Broadway where Red and Black started out are several thousands a month for store fronts nowadays. So this was the



last cheap - not cheap even - but available commercial space on a major commercial street in the city! I read that there are only 18 independent bookstores left in Manhattan, and it's all because commercial rent has gone sky-high, and that's happened here too. So we're really lucky we got it at this price.

Carol: So \$1300 a month is a bargain!

Red: Yeah, and we got a five year lease. Four years now, but the people are pretty nice. I think they'll probably renew without any problem, although they'll probably raise the rent again.

So, stock growth: We borrowed \$22,000 and I sat down with every booklist I ever had in my life and started expanding the stock and got us up to about \$28,000. Then we called all the publishers and said, "OK our bills are going to jump a lot, and we may even be a bit slow, but this is because we're moving and we're moving to a fantastic new space." Most of them said "Fine, no problem."

Carol: So by that time you had cleared up your old debts and were on good terms with most of them?

Red: Oh yeah. We cleaned everything up, all our bills, in about two years, and kept within 60 - 90 days with almost everybody. I learned who you can fuck with and who you can't. Like you don't fuck with Ingram. Basically, you can't fuck with anyone. Ingram you pay in 6 weeks or that's it. We were on a credit limit with them for five years, we were on a credit limit with Random for five years. It's only within the last year that we've gotten back on regular terms with Random House by sending them our financial statements and proving we could pay our bills. And I just earmarked those accounts and had them paid.

Carol: And they just get paid on time.

Red: One of my reps told me that when Tower Books opened 10 years ago they went around to every publisher and distributor and said, "We'll pay you within 90 days, like it or not." Ingram was the only one that told them to shove it, and so Ingram doesn't do business with Tower Books but everybody else does and everybody gives

Tower 90 days. We just figured, well, if Tower can have 90 days, so can we.

Now what's tough is the card people want to be paid earlier. Sidelines people want their money faster than publishers, and I'm just learning about that now. I used to just starve those guys. I know better now. Sidelines sell so well here. They sell really, really well.



"This store survived because there were people who wouldn't let it die, people who were willing to do enormous amounts of labor to keep it alive."

Carol: Sidelines meaning cards and posters?

Red: Cards, posters, T-shirts. Especially cards and records and tapes. And Jeanne (Fondrie) is a whiz with records and tapes. She's been here about five months and the section is three times as big as it was and sells twice as fast, because she knows what she's doing. She really knows her stuff. The old music buyer didn't, and I never did either. When I was the only paid worker I just started everybody else and then ordered books. And our periodical bills went begging, too. Now that there are people who know how to do records and periodicals and those kinds of things, it's real good for the bookstore.

Carol: It always works best if it's your passion.

Red: It does....

So, then came the Sweet Honey concert on which we made \$10,000. That really set us up, 'cause we had that cash to pay the bills for inventory expansion.



Then when the store opened, sales just took off. The first day was about \$600.

Carol: And they stayed constant at that level?

Red: We had a big drop in March and April. We had Carolyn Forché in February, so that helped February a lot. But March and April were real slow. We couldn't figure out why, we still don't know why. And then it started to slowly work its way out. June was very, very good because of gay pride week and July was excellent: it was about \$550 a day. And so far in August we're doing real well. There's a lot of people coming from out of town. The only other store that looks at all like this in terms of lesbians and gay men and women is Bailey/Coy, but they don't have any political books at all. They have an excellent location, it's a nice store, but their stock is not really comparable in terms of being a radical store. [Editor's note: Beyond the Closet Books opened about six months after this inter-



"What seems real clear after all these years is what everybody else already knew: You have to have good bookcases, be at street level and be accessible."

view took place.] Left Bank Books is staggering, they're just barely there. They have rent-controlled rent, so they pay about \$400 a month. Their stock is about 2/3 used books mixed in with the new books, and they don't have very much stuff about women. It's mostly an anarchist store.

George: What's more exciting to me than any-

thing else is the possibility that we can pay operating expenses out of the store's receipts and that we don't really have to do fundraising the rest of our lives!

Carol: Forever and ever!

George: Yeah. Or that if we bring in a performer and we just break even, that's still fine. It's much easier than trying to catch onto a blockbuster like Sweet Honey in the Rock every time.

Carol: So you can do people who would just draw a medium crowd, for instance.

George: Yes, exactly. And you can do people you like.

Red: Yeah, and charge less money for it.

George: Yeah. And I think right now, at least, we've come onto that plateau.

Red: I was just looking at inventory figures. We gained \$10,000 in inventory last summer. I don't know how we did it. It was just amazing to me that we did that. And it was all because we'd already paid our bills off.

#### FINANCES AND PLANNING

Carol: We talked about this some earlier, but the first time I was up here (1982) Red And Black was just pulling out of some pretty dire financial straits. You and Judy Bierman did the clearest presentation of the how-and-why of bookstore finances I'd ever heard. I took notes like mad and wrote it up for FBN. And then, because it was the most-often-requested-article, I ran it again in FBN's Tenth Anniversary issue. (Volume 10 Number 1, May 1987.) Obviously something worked! What happened? How much of what you learned then are you applying now?

Red: Right. Well, what happened was that Judy sat down and read that book and came back and explained to us in practical terms what it said.

Carol: Which book?

Red: **A Manual on Bookselling** (edited by ABA and distributed by Crown.)



She studied all that stuff on how to know how much inventory to have, how to know how much you're turning over, how to keep track of all that, and what kind of manipulations you want to do on information. It took me a couple years of doing it before I even understood what it was that Judy was saying. But it all started to make sense.

Now we financial plan as a group of about six people. Sometimes it feels like we don't really know what we're doing, but we manage to limp along. I don't know....

George: I think we know a lot more than we used to.

Red: Nowadays we know how much inventory we've got. We know how much money we have and how much we owe and if we're falling below what we need to sell to make our turnover.

Carol: You're selling 25% of your inventory?

Red: Yeah, we plan for 25%. That's our turn (over.) I've been trying to cut the stock down for the last four months and it just keeps getting bigger. I don't know if that's because book prices are higher, or if it's just because we've got so many more hardcovers. We didn't carry much in hardback at the other store.

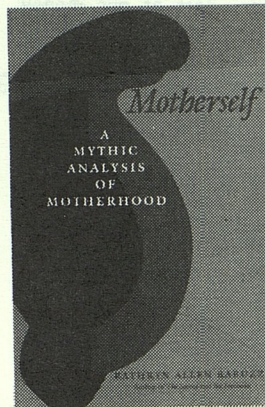
We do an inventory every 90 days.

Carol: The dollar value?

Red: Yeah. We figure 65% of the cover price for everything, 20% of the cover price for mags. So we might think we're a little higher than we actually are, but it's close. That tells me how much to buy, give or take some, depending on if I'm trying to reduce the inventory like I am now, or if we need to build it up. (For example, if sales are \$20,000 in a month, 65% of \$20,000 is \$13,000. The wholesale value of the inventory sold is \$13,000. -- That's the amount I can spend on books.)

Every month I figure the wholesale value of what we sold and what percentage of inventory was sold by dividing the wholesale of what we sell by the total value of the store. And that will tell us what our turnover percentage is. It was 28% last month. That's fine.

(To continue with the figures above, \$13,000 divided by a total inventory value of \$45,000



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would be 29%. That's more than the 25% a healthy bookstore is supposed to have. That's great.)

If it starts to look like our bills are creeping up towards 90 days we think about going out and borrowing a few thousand dollars to pay it off. We also try to put taxes aside every week, so we can pay the sales tax, cause that really adds up. It runs about \$4,500 for three months. That's a week's worth of sales here, and we can't handle it if we don't plan for it.

Carol: How do you budget paying back loans?

George: It's mainly dependent on fundraisers.

Red: We have monthly loan payments. We usually pay loans off in two to three years. We pay interest that's right about the market rate.

George: Our creditors have also been kind enough to extend loans if we need them to. They're individuals, not banks, so there's been a lot of flexibility and generosity.



Red: Every year in December, part of our money goes to pay the interest. We have a big interest payment due at the end of December because we just deferred a bunch of loans till the end of the year. We're paying off one of our last cycles from the other store and then we start the big cycle. Our loan payments are about \$450 a month. We try to put them off if we have to.

Carol: But obviously you're paying them back, over time, because if you weren't, people wouldn't be loaning you more money.

Red: True. We borrowed \$17,000 or \$18,000 before we borrowed this \$22,000.

George: I think we've paid \$20,000 or \$25,000 back by now. We've borrowed it again, but just the fact that we paid it back gives creditors some confidence.

Red: Yeah. And occasionally we borrow for productions. We borrowed \$3000 to produce Alice Walker. A lot of that went to buying extra stock to sell the night of the event. It worked: we sold \$2,500 worth of books that night. I had a month to order the books. It would be hard to do that now, because the store is so much busier. We just ordered everything by Black women that we could find in the entire world, hauled it down to the university and spread it out on tables. People just ate it up!

#### STAFF & SUPPORT & POLITICS

Red: The real reason the store survived is that there were people who wouldn't let it die, people who were willing to do enormous amounts of free labor -- George, Judy, Karen.... I was counting them, there are at least 14 people who have been in this collective for five years or more.

Carol: Wow, that makes a huge difference.

Red: That makes an enormous difference! All the desk workers are volunteers, there are two people per shift, three shifts a day, seven days a week.

Carol: That's amazing.

Red: Yeah, Kay spends 3 or 4 hours a month just

scheduling everybody in. People just said "Red and Black can't go under."

Carol: It's one thing to say it can't go under, but it's another thing entirely to put the energy in to keep that commitment...



"What's most exciting is that we can pay operating expenses out of the receipts and we don't have to do fundraising for the rest of our lives!"

Red: Ummhmm. There are so many progressive people out there who want some work to do, who want some political work to do, and want to do something in the community. Most of what was here is disappearing. We're about the last collective business left in town. A lot of the collectives didn't know how to survive the depressions and recessions of the seventies and eighties and they didn't learn. Or they had shit in their collectives that caused them to fight with each other. And this collective has been **preety calm**. Nobody's ever tried to come in and push an agenda besides selling books, and that's made a world of difference.

Carol: How did you keep the collective going? Or did that just happen?

Red: Luck.

Carol: Luck?

Red: I think it's luck. That, and we have some quality people who, when they see shit on the horizon, tend to call it out. We tell people right up front that we're nonsectarian, so don't come in here and try to push an agenda. Don't



expect to be able to come in and get people to join a particular party, because they're not going to do it.

George: But that simultaneously allows a lot of people to come in and interact: Commies, Socialists, Democrats and everybody, and work together. I really appreciate that. It's a freedom.

Carol: Yeah, it's a mixed social group. You meet people you wouldn't ordinarily meet.

Red: Yeah. There's this generational split now too. There's all us folks who are in our mid to late thirties and early forties, and then there's a bunch of twenty year olds coming up. We've got 21 and 22 and 23 and 24 year olds, who have a really different experience because they weren't in their teens during the sixties or whatever, and so they don't have the experience of the left in this country being a vital force or even of the early days of the women's movement. It makes for some really interesting interactions with people.

Carol: I'm sure!

Red: It's fun. You never know who's going to show up and join!

Carol: So you're not looking at a shortage of volunteers.

Red: No.

George: Our only problem is getting people trained.

Red: Yeah, we go out and recruit.

Carol: How do you recruit?

Red: We ask people to tell their friends. And the friends join. I don't know why they keep coming. Seattle's a very progressive city. There are a lot of people here who are looking for some kind of political work they can do. And this is as good as any, and they get to meet Carolyn Forché or Ntozake Shange or somebody like that. And that's pretty cool. And they get discounts on books.



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George: And they get to meet other girls. Or guys. Or whoever they're interested in....

Carol: And nothing succeeds like success. It's light and bright and cheerful and people are having a good time here and doing something at the same time. You just **want** to be part of it.

Red: Yeah. It's been like that for quite a while, even at the old store. There's a real good sense of humor in the collective; people are really funny.

Red: I don't think we could survive without paid workers, at least not well. We have three now, but it's eighty paid hours. One forty, one thirty and one ten. It provides a good framework.

George: One of the reasons that Red and Black does as well as it does is because of Red. Because she's smart, very political, and a feminist.

Red: But also because I learned on the job, all the time. I basically just got to come in and get taught how to run a bookstore from the ground up. And then when the place almost died and we had to rebuild it, I had so much leeway. I could order whatever I wanted, and nobody was standing over my shoulder saying, "No, get that direct." I kept saying, "Can I do this?" and they said, "Yeah you can do it, just do it." It's the first decent job I ever had. I've been here eight years!

George: A lot of people had given up, but Red was committed. A lot of the credit really does go to Red even though she won't take any of it.

Carol: I can tell that too. It's also attitude, you know. She has this attitude, gets along with people. That helps in a collective.

Red: Barbara, who had the job before me, used to come here seven days a week because she had four children she just had to get away from. She was a socialist and was also a feminist.

The way the store got set up originally there was always this sense of centeredness, and calmness, and that we can just teach ourselves how to do this. I inherited a really great mindset from Barbara.

George: With the younger people, mostly the women, there seems to be this kind of split. The younger ones tend to be very sure about their feminism, but aren't necessarily political, or at least not very well read in traditional left politics.



"We stayed alive by doing benefits for ourselves. It was that extra income that kept the store open."

Carol: So that's interesting -- that younger people are getting their feminist education but they're not getting left politics anywhere.

Red: It's because times are so conservative.

George: And it makes for some funny things at some times here...

Carol: I bet!

Red: We just had a series of study groups. It's the first time we've ever done this. And it worked out pretty nicely. We were trying to pull it all together. When we went to hire we discovered that nobody who applied for the jobs had any political experience except feminism. People who were applying for the jobs didn't come out of the left in the same way that I did, or George did, or that this store does. They're all people who know that there's something seriously wrong in this country in addition to sexism and homophobia and racism, but they're not sure what. It was a real shock to realize that you could say "imperialism" to people and they knew that it was a piece of rhetoric but they weren't sure exactly what it was or where it fits in with, say, what's going on in Latin America. So (with the study groups) we tried to go back and fill in some of the holes.



George: The worst day was when somebody called up....

Red: Oh God!

George: ....And asked if we had the Communist Manifesto and the worker on the desk said "I'm not sure. Could you tell me who wrote it?" **That's** the kind of stuff that was happening. You know. It can't be helped, that's the way it's turned out...

Carol: That's a really interesting comment on the times!

George and Red: Yeah!

### SALES

Red: So why is a leftist bookstore thriving right now?

Carol: Right! So answer that one!

Red: We don't know!

Carol: Do you know how the sales break down? What sections are selling more than others? Besides cards and records.

Red: Umm. For that we would need a computer. But I would say generally lesbian is the fastest selling, and that's because we have the biggest section in town. Well, maybe not as big as Bailey/Coy but almost.

George: Also the so-called "spirituality books" sell real fast. Some people in the collective have a lot of misgivings about them.

Red: They sell very fast.

George: A burgeoning field, depending on how you define it and what you think about it.

Red: The women's section sells real well. The recovery books are selling real well. We don't even have a section for them yet but we're going to create one. New Arrivals, of course, sell real fast. Fiction in hardcover doesn't sell very well, but non-fiction definitely does. Central America has slowed way down. Black studies are picking up again, they were dead for

years and we now have a live section. Politics sits there like....

Carol: Dust?

Red: Dust, yeah. Every once in a while we go over it, clean it out and throw away the old stuff and we order new copies of it. It's an important section, but you've got to freshen up your stock!

George: Is that your experience?

Carol: Yeah, these days people want politics to come in novels. Get people good political novels, though and they eat it up.

Red: Cards are on an incline. We're just starting to stock posters again, after years of not having them. We get most of them from Syracuse Cultural Workers and they're starting to sell real well. I think they'll be a big item. And stuff like buttons and bumper stickers sell real well of course. If we could just get those "Visualize Impeachment" bumper stickers from the Ladies Against Women.... People want those so bad.



"There are at least 14 people who have been in this collective for five years or more."

Carol: Aha! Spiritual meets Political....

I have this new political analysis which is that everyone is going out and getting sober and recovering, and that in about three or four years there's going to be another political uprising....

Red: It's going to be crazy -- once they're all well there's going to be all that energy!

Carol: Actually I was reading this biography by



a Canadian woman, Maria Campbell, called **Half Breed**, about growing up "half-breed" in Saskatoon about forty years ago. There was this one sentence in there that sort of slips by.... She was talking about getting off heroin and drugs and finally getting off alcohol and going to AA meetings where there were a lot of Native people. And then there's this quiet sentence about how she meet all the future leaders of the Native American movement in those AA meetings. And I thought "Oh, that's how it works." That's what's happening right now in this community.

Red: Whew. Wouldn't that be nice.



"Our stock has quadrupled since we moved here."

#### SHOPLIFTING

Carol: What are people shoplifting these days?

Red: We're seeing a lot of theft/shoplifting. People are stealing from politically correct bookstores. They're stealing a lot of alcoholism books, recovery books, and spirituality books. Those are the biggest sections being stolen.

Carol: That's bizarre! Don't the spiritual types believe in karma anymore? Are they shoplifting a lot of Marx and Engels?

Red: Not a bit! We should give a free copy with a purchase over ten dollars. Then we would move them.

Carol: So shoplifters are hitting the same things that are selling.

Red: Ummhmm. And I would think that it's a shift worker messing up, not checking the book off on the right card. But four or five copies go at a time.

Carol: Whew!

Red: Yeah. Somebody's starting a group, a whole series of groups with free books!

#### RENTS, COMPUTERS, AND BUILDINGS

George: Carol, in your experience, do most people always rent?

Carol: Yep. Sad but true.

George: What a tenuous existence!

Carol: Right, because what happens is that you get into a neighborhood and land values go up, the rent goes up, and you go out.

Red: The answer is to buy a building, obviously.

Carol: Right!

Red: Would you computerize first or buy a building first?

George: Buy a building.

Red: Yeah, I would too, but some people here are hot to computerize.

Carol: They say it's worth going computer when your sales reach about \$300,000 a year.

George: We're not there.

George: We're probably \$200,000 I would guess, by the end of this year. \$300,000 is when it starts making economic sense?

Carol: Yeah. And that's also when the inventory gets to the size that doing a manual inventory system gets pretty unwieldy.

Red: What worries me is that I've done it manually for so long that I've memorized everything. I'm worried that the people who come along behind me won't have that advantage.

Carol: Once a store's inventory is on computer, it gives new workers much more access to the stock. They can find things faster than they ever could on a card system. I was talking to Sandy Torkildson who manages A Room of One's Own. She's been there right from the start, for



13 years now. Last year AROOO lost three collective members who had been there eight or more years. So suddenly she was working with a lot of people who don't have that knowledge of the inventory.

Red: Were they book people anyway?

Carol: Yes. But the amazing thing is that any of them can punch a title into the computer and it'll come right back with what's in stock and where to look for it. Even knowing that the computer can be off by one, if it says the book is there, they look for it until they find it. And they're selling books when they might otherwise give up.

**PRODUCTIONS AND MORE**

Carol: What have you produced? You said productions have kept the store alive. What does that look like?

Red: We've produced Alice Walker and Ntozake Shange. We produced Anne Cameron a couple of times; Sweet Honey in the Rock 3 or 4 times; Carolyn Forche, Dennis Brutus; Margaret Randall a couple of times, and some lesbian films.



"People walk in with the list in hand and just go down the list buying everything. It's wonderful!"

Carol: What size audiences are you getting?

Red: Well, they really vary. We're about fifty-fifty on breakevens. We didn't make any money at all on the first Anne Cameron, Margaret Randall, or Dennis Brutus. We had about 1,200 people for Ntozake Shange, about 1,600 for Alice Walker. Walker sold out ahead of time. We signed her three days before she won the Pulitzer Prize....

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Carol: Aaaa!

Red: That was a piece of luck. We sold out the Paramount the last time we had Sweet Honey. It holds about 3,500.

Coming up we have a four day series of events with Starhawk in December. There will be an AIDS healing ritual, a bookreading from her new book, a workshop for women, and something called a rock ritual dance with one of the local bands and her.

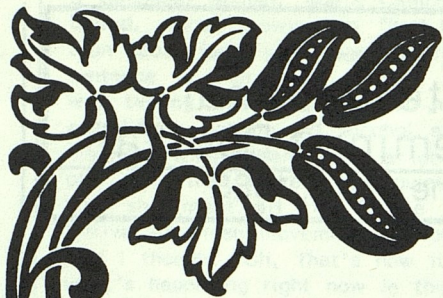
Something we're really excited about doing is a play that draws parallels between the sanctuary movement and the underground railroad. It's coming from back east. They use a choir and a theatre group. And that will happen in March. We're planning for about three hundred people a night. We're asking Pat Parker to come. That will be about five hundred people, I would think. We hope to bring Murray Bookchin on May Day for our 15th birthday. That will again be 400-500 people. Carolyn Forche drew about 600, I think. That surprised me, I thought it would sell out. But again, we sold a lot of books at that one. Sweet Honey and Alice Walker are the big ones. We've been asking Toni Morrison for years. Her publisher tells us that she doesn't like to do readings but we'll just keep asking her and see if we get her. Every six months or so we sit down and ask "OK, who can we bring?"

We've also had a lot of people in the store. Cherrie Moraga dropped by one day 'cause she was in town. That was great, although hardly anybody came. We packed the store for Anne Cameron. We have Frederique Delecoste (**Sex Work**) coming in September. I'm sure we'll pack the store for that one too.

Carol: Do you charge for your in-store events?

Red: We pass the hat. And then we make it off book sales. They're flying Frederique all over





the country to do a tour, and all you have to do is order 50 copies of the book. So we're going to do that. That will be a good one.

Carol: So how much do you invest in productions?

Red: It really depends on the person. We usually have to pay for the space in advance, and publicity and stuff. We sit down and see what our breakeven will be, with their fee, with whatever the space is going to cost, and with publicity. Usually we go for pretty fancy posters that are designed locally and put them on telephone poles all over town. We hardly ever do print advertising and no broadcast advertising at all. We do lots of fliering 'cause we have collective members who will do that. We send press releases to everybody. We have a 4000-person mailing list. We're going to stop sending our newsletter out free to the public, because we just can't afford to do it. But that's our major form of advertising. Whenever we have a production we do a mailing to our whole list. It always has a list of books and stuff in it. People walk in with it in hand and just go down the list and buy everything. It's wonderful.

Carol: Sounds like you can't afford **not** to do the list.

Red: Yeah, except it's costing so much. It's so expensive. So what we're probably going to do is give it away free at the desk and charge about three dollars a year for a subscription. That's going to start after the next one.

Carol: Do you have a membership program?

Red: No. We've been thinking about doing that for years and we never have.

Carol: And you have a thirty-five member collective that you can rely on for doing the productions, so all the work isn't being done by your paid staff.

Red: Right. At the moment we have about three production committees going because we've got three different events going: Starhawk, Sanctuary, and Pat Parker. A lot of time it's the same dozen people who do the work, in any given committee. But, all the other collective members are there for the crews. Everybody brings food to sell at intermission. You can lean on everybody to take tickets and to fill up juice and all that stuff.

Carol: Uh huh. You've got the bodies to do the crowd control.

Red: Yeah, yeah, and without that, again, we wouldn't be here.

Carol: So on the Alice Walker event you made \$5,000?

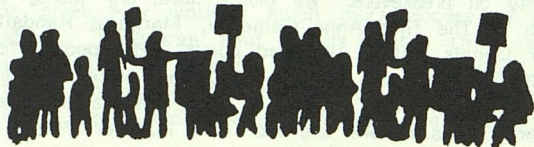
Red: Five grand, yeah. And ten for the last Sweet Honey. Productions have really kept us alive all the years that we had the bookstore in the wrong places. Now the store is starting to support itself. That's a huge difference. It's going to be really interesting to see where **that** takes us.

Carol: That sounds like a challenge worth taking up!

Any last words?

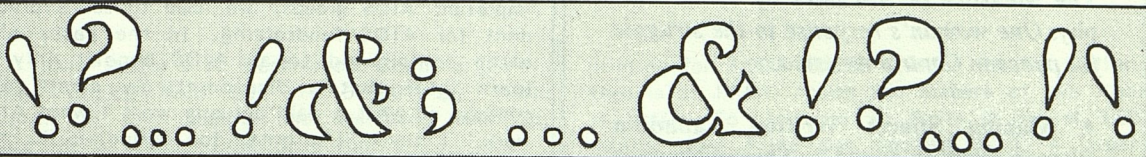
Red: Well, last words, no. But there is this joke around the collective that now that we're in this big well-designed store full of books, looking good, even looking a bit trendy here in the eighties, that maybe we should change our name to "Mauve and Gray!"

Carol: That will be the day!



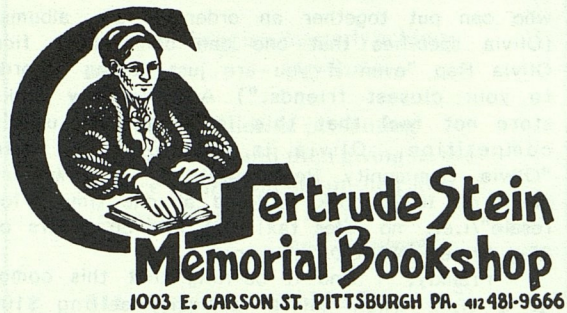


# TRIVIA



Felice Newman at Cleis Press is interested in going computer for order entry, accounting, and database management. She would like to hear from other publishers who are looking at the new software for publishers and/or who have experience with them. She's especially interested in hearing from people who are currently developing systems and would be willing to test a new system. Please find her at ABA (on Feminist Publishers' Row) or contact her at Cleis Press East, PO Box 8933, Pittsburgh PA 15221.

Barbara Grier sends word that Naiad Press will sign no more agented authors nor will they continue to publish writers who acquire agents after publishing a book with Naiad.



**Fundraising:** The Gertrude Stein Memorial Bookshop in Pittsburgh is raising money for a Manager's Fund. Their first fundraiser, a used book sale, was such a great success that they're going to do a second. The books that are sold are donated by customers and supporters. See elsewhere in this column for a look at their great new logo. Contest winner was Colleen Nelson from Holbrook PA.

**Marketing Ideas:** Sisterspirit Bookstore in San Jose CA features a different author each month and gives a 10% discount on all her books. Author for April was Audre Lorde. A great way to draw attention to writers you want to promote.

Karyn London suggests the following ideas: Feminist bookstores in college towns might see if they can get a flier into new-student orientation packets with the store's location, hours and upcoming events. Better yet -- include a discount coupon good for non-text books. Getting the new crop of students into the store for the first time is well worth the discount. If your town does a welcome wagon promotion to (parents of) newborns, include a certificate good for the baby's first book (of your choice -- are there any **Baby X** books still around?) or 20% off anything from the parenting section...

Karyn also suggests keeping a notebook of "short raves" on favorite titles written by staff and customers. (Then send your favorites on to FBN for the "Ranting and Raving" column.)

**Great Booklists:** Eeyore's Bookstore, the only children's bookstore in NYC, does a great catalog of Books of Jewish Interest for Children. Publishers aren't included in the listings, so using it will entail a bit of research. But it would make a great resource and addition to any children's section. Write to Eeyore's Books, 2212 E. Broadway, NY NY 10024 for a copy.

Bookazine, the NYC book wholesaler, has a 40+ page listing of books and videos from their Black Heritage collection. Feminist bookstores renting videos might be particularly interested in picking up copies of **The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman**, a film version of Lorraine Hansberry's **A Raisin in the Sun**, **Lady Sings the Blues** and **Souder**. Write to Bookazine, Black Heritage, 303 West 10th St., New York NY 10014.



**Women's Books  
from the Canadian West**

**The Measure of Miranda** by Sarah Murphy. *One woman's response to the struggle for peace in Central America.*

**A Mazing Space: Writing Canadian Women Writing** edited by Shirley Neuman and Smaro Kamboureli. *The most extensive collection of feminist literary criticism to date about and by Canadian women.*

NeWest Press publishes many other fine books by and about women. Distributed through the University of Toronto.



**NeWest Press**  
204, 8631-109 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 1E8

**Reminders:** Faro House has a very interesting collection of Women's Studies, Black Studies, and Gay and Lesbian Studies remainders. Write to Faro House, PO Box 215 WVS, Binghamton NY 13905 for a catalog and bookstore terms. -CS

**Good News:** Pocket Books will publish a keepsake edition of **The Quilt: Stories from the Names Project** (May 11, \$22.95, 0-671-66597-9) as a non-profit publication. All profits from the sale of the book will go to the Names Project for its continuing AIDS related community service projects. The Names Project Quilt will travel to 25 cities this spring with its message of love and remembrance and the book's publication will coincide with the tour. Written by Cindy Ruskin, designed by Deborah Zemke. The 10 1/2 x 10 1/2 hardcover edition with full color photos will have a first printing of 75,000 and is the second book in Pocket Books' new hardcover line.

Alyson Press, in addition to contributing enormous amounts of time to the giveaway book **You Can Do Something About AIDS**, also donated one-third of all direct-mail book sales during

the month of March to AIDS research. The money was divided equally between the American Foundation for AIDS Research and the PWA (People With AIDS) Coalition. Says Sasha Alyson of the fundraiser, "In addition to getting money to two important AIDS groups, we hope to set a precedent for AIDS fundraising. In the past, I've often contributed to an AIDS benefit only to learn later that a disappointingly small percentage of what I paid actually went toward AIDS work. I think it's great for businesses to donate a part of their sales to important causes, but I'd like to see such announcements always accompanied by a statement of exactly what percentage of the gross amount received will go to what organization. Where a substantial amount of money is involved, I think the contribution should also be audited by a C.P.A."

**Maddening News:** Buried on page 28 of Olivia Records 15th Anniversary Catalog (wherein they devote more pages to selling books than they do to selling their records) is an invitation to every reader to "become an Olivia Community Representative." One hopes that this is an honest attempt to rebuild the grass-roots network that Olivia disbanded some years back. But book-sellers may not exactly be pleased to see that Olivia is offering each "Community Representative" a 25% discount on orders of 10-24 albums (\$7.50) and a 35% discount (\$6.50) to any woman who can put together an order of 25+ albums. (Olivia specifies that one can be a bona fide Olivia Rep "even if you are just selling records to your closest friends.") And lest any bookstore not feel that this is adequately unfair competition, Olivia is also offering said "Olivia Community Representatives" a 10% discount on 10-25 books ordered at one time ("for resale"/i.e., no sales tax) and 15% on orders of 25+. Prices INCLUDE shipping.

Frankly, I find it baffling that this comes at a time when Olivia is busily selling \$100 tickets to their "100th Anniversary Concert" and saying that without such community support, Olivia will have to suspend album production in 1988. Why and how Olivia courts community support from one part of "the community" while it is busily undercutting and alienating the feminist bookstore community continues to baffle me. If it "baffles" you and you have some extra time you might drop them a note of protest at 4400 Market St., Oakland CA 94608. ○



# BACK TO PRESS AND OTHER GOOD NEWS

Joan Nestle's **A Restricted Country** (Firebrand Books) sold out its 5,000-copy first printing in four months and has gone back to press for a second 5,000-copy run.

**Dreams of a Woman Who Loved Sex** (Banned Books) has gone back to press for the fourth time. This printing was for 3,000 copies for a total of 9,000 copies in print.

Seal Press reports that **Getting Free** just went back to press, for a total of 70,000 copies in print. **Egalia's Daughters** is in its third

printing for 8,000 copies. **Murder in the Collective** is at 12,000 copies and **Sisters of the Road** at 10,000. **To Live and To Write** is now at 5,000 copies. Seal Press also decided to do a larger-than-usual 6,000-copy first printing of **Lesbian Couples** on the expectation that it will be a strong seller.

The first title produced by Calyx Books, **Women and Aging**, is now in its third printing and has been cited nationally as one of the finest anthologies ever produced on the topic. **The Riverhouse Stories**, by Andrea Carlisle, is in its second printing. **The White Junk of Love, Again**, by Sibyl James won the Best Offset Press Design Award for 1987.

Naiad Press reports that **Old Dyke Tales** has been reprinted in a run of 10,000 copies bringing 18,000 copies into print in all. The new edition sports the same cover but in blues, blacks and duotones. **Swashbuckler** is also being reprinted for a total in-print of 22,000. **Against the Season** has gone back to press for an in-print total of 16,000 copies. **Curious Wine**, Naiad's runaway bestseller, has gone back for its fifth printing bringing the total copies issued since May 13, 1983 to 59,000.

Naiad also reports that it has been gradually increasing its first-printings from 6,000 five years ago (for fiction titles) to a minimum of 12,000 the last couple of years. Second printings have generally exceeded the original printing by 2,000 copies (i.e., reprinting 12,000 copies if the original printing was 10,000), though, now that Naiad is doing its own book storage, they may cut back on press runs to keep the storage costs down. Naiad reports that they are now printing with Arcata in Kingsport TN.

University of Texas Press reports that there are currently over 20,000 copies of **Women of the Left Bank** in print.

The Pocket Books edition of **Women Who Love Too Much** was PW's longest running mass market paperback bestseller for two years in a row. Guess "the women's market" is still viable, eh?

## A Wider Giving

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### Grants and Awards

Old news, but a pleasure to repeat: Toni Morrison's **Beloved** was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for fiction. It's about time!

Sara Pirtle's **An Outbreak of Peace** (New Society Press) received the 1988 Olive Branch Award for young adult fiction.

Two titles published by NewSage Press were recently honored by the American Library Association. **Women & Work: Photographs and Personal Writings** was chosen by the ALA for "Best Books for Young Adults" and **A Portrait of American Mothers & Daughters** was nominated for the same list. (Ingram is now distributing NewSage Press titles in addition to BP & IN.)

Seal Press was awarded three NEA grants to assist in publication of three new books in their Women in Translation series. The books that are being supported are **Constance Ring**, **The Last Draw**, an international crime thriller by

Swedish writer Elisabet Peterzen (see "From Our Own Presses"), and **Words of Farewell**, an anthology of work by Korean women scheduled for spring publication.

More good news from Seal: Becky Birtha was awarded a Pushcart Prize for her story "Johnnie-Ruth" which will be published in **Pushcart XIII**.

### Translations and International Rights

Naiad Press has signed with the German alternative press "Argument" for the German edition of **The Always Anonymous Beast** by Lauren Wright Douglas and with Pandora Press for the British edition of Claire McNab's **Lessons in Murder**, bringing to four the number of Naiad Press titles in Pandora's mystery series.

Naiad also sends news that Katherine V. Forrest's books **An Emergence of Green**, **Amateur City**, and **Murder at the Nightwood Bar** will soon be available in Dutch and German. ○



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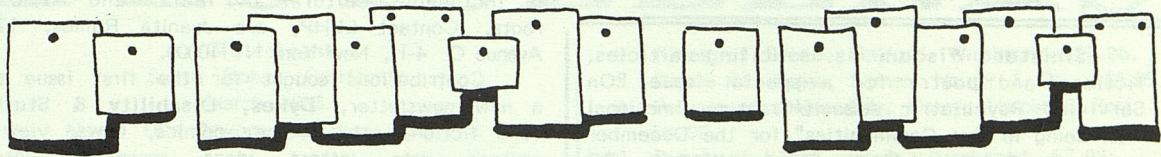
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# ANNOUNCEMENTS



The European Festival of Lesbian and Gay Writing will take place October 17-23 in Rotterdam's De Doelen Festival Complex. Organized by the Association of Lesbian and Gay Writers in Europe who held the first meeting in London last year, the event has taken a massive leap with the equivalent of £30,000 given by the City of Rotterdam alone. A further £5,000 is promised by Berlin as part of their role this year as "Culture Capital of Europe '88. The festival is already receiving mainstream media attention. This year's funding and media attention is in direct contrast to the £250 from GLAA last year as total funding and a complete straight media blackout. 150 delegates are to take part and the public will be invited to readings, plays, films and afternoon literary salons. For more information contact ALGWE '88, PO Box 401, 3000 AK Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

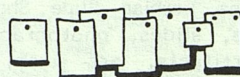


Giovanni's Room has a new first-of-its-kind AIDS bibliography. The 130 annotated titles represent the broadest list of non-technical books available. A supplement will be published every month or two, as new titles are released. The list is divided into fourteen sections including Prevention and Safe Sex, Safe Sex Erotica, Women and AIDS, AIDS Material for Children and Young Adults, Medical Aspects of AIDS, Alternative Healing, Coping with AIDS, Social and Political Ramifications of AIDS, and more. Several books in each section are highlighted as "especially recommended." Most titles are available from Giovanni's for both wholesale and retail orders. SASE to Giovanni's Room, 345 South 12th St. Philadelphia PA 19107.

Susan Hester has decided to cease publishing **The Feminist Publishers News** in order to concentrate on her publishing company Frog in the Well and on The Pacific Publishers' Cooperative.



The London Lesbian Archive and Information Center announces a Lesbian Studies Summer School for July 22-25, 1988. Courses in Lesbian Film, History, Literature, Lesbian-Feminist Theory, Creative Writing, etc. Fees from £10 to £80. For further information contact the Center at BCM 7005, London WC1N 3XX. Phone: 01-405-6475.



Naiad Press is looking for freelance editors. Experienced editors working in commercial fiction with 2+ years of experience are invited to apply. Pay is mildly flexible but is in the range of \$500 for carrying a book from manuscript analysis through rewriting and editing. For further information contact Barbara Grier at Naiad Press 904-539-9322. (PO Box 10543, Tallahassee FL 32302).

Naiad also announces that it has happily filled its Office Manager position with Pat Chapman, a woman with a lifetime Navy career (28 years) behind her as well as many years of office experience. Between January and May 10, Naiad issued 12 new titles. Plans are to issue six titles in the fall season with possible additions in the form of long-out-of-print titles "new" to Naiad. ○



# WRITING WANTED



**Sinister Wisdom** is soliciting articles, fiction, and poetry for a special issue "On Surviving Psychiatric Assault/Creating Emotional Well-Being in Our Communities" for the December issue. Deadline is July 1. Sinister Wisdom, PO Box 3252, Berkeley CA 94703.

HerBooks is calling for contributions for an anthology to be titled **Women Who Didn't Find Out They Were Jewish Until They Were Adults**. Send narratives, poems, essays, letters, etc. to HerBooks, PO Box 7467, Santa Cruz CA 95061 or write for more information (enclose SASE.) Deadline is July 1.

Tough Dove Books is collecting "lesbian bedtime stories" for a book. They are asking for "quality (preferably fictional) stories of a pleasurable, problem-solving, forward-moving nature to encourage and empower women and offer sweet dreams. Work by working-class women and Women of Color especially welcome." Payment. Send SASE for more info to Bluejay, Tough Dove Books, PO Box 528, Little River CA 95456. Deadline for contributions is December 31.

The Latina Lesbian History Project is compiling a Latina Lesbian Slide Show and looking for negatives, slides, photographs, postcards, photos of artifacts, art work, archeological material or jewelry, flyers documenting events, etc. They are looking for evidence which docu-

ments a Latin woman-identified existence, even if it does not imply an outright lesbian existence. Of particular interest in this research project are any references to lesbian practices in indigenous cultures of Indian and African roots. Contact LLHP, c/o Juanita Ramos, 170 Avenue C 4-H, New York NY 10009.

Contributions sought for the first issue of a new newsletter, **Dykes, Disability & Stuff**. Send fiction, art, poetry, comics, news, views, reviews, arts, letters, ideas, resources, verse and controversy. "Still in the formative stages, we have national and international aspirations to network among women with an interest in health, ability, visibility and disability (yes, hidden ones, too!) How about an ASL interpreted, wheel-chair users accessible, special needs welcome! conference for us in 1990?" Send contributions of writings, articles, news, money, etc., to UPE, PO Box 6194, Boston MA 02114-6194.

The deadline has been extended to Halloween (Crones Day) for the Lesbians Over Sixty anthology. Women over sixty are invited and encouraged to send poems, short prose, letters, diary entries, songs, photos and drawings re: accounts of love between women over sixty for the anthology. Send material to Old Lovers, c/o WomanSpirit, 2000 King Mountain Trail, Sunny Valley OR 97497.

Nemesis is seeking written work and photographs from separatists, lesbians and radical feminists which tell tales of heteropatriarchal disruption and womyn-positive reality building. Send SASE. Nemesis, c/o Amber Katherine, PO Box 417042, Chicago IL 60641. Deadline December 1. O

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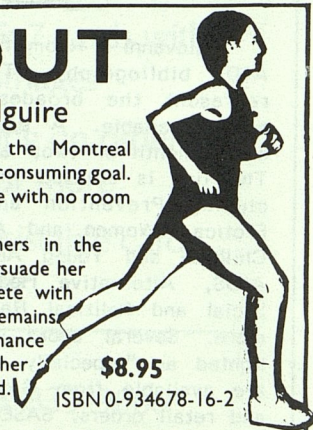
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# BESTSELLERS

## ClaireLight

Santa Rosa, California

March 1988

- 1 **I Never Told Anyone**, E. Bass, Harper & Row, \$7.95.\*
- 2 **Codependent No More**, M. Beattie, Harper & Row, \$8.95.
- 3 **Grandchildren of Alcoholics**, A. Smith, Health Communications, \$8.95.
- 4 **Secret in the Bird**, C. Grae, Naiad, \$8.95.
- 5 **To the Lightning**, C. Ennis, Naiad, \$8.95.
- 6 **Confessions of Madame Psyche**, D. Bryant, Ata Books, \$11.95.\*\*
- 7 **Hard Laughter**, A. Lamott, North Point Press, \$8.95.\*\*
- 8 **Miss Venezuela**, B. Wilson, Seal Press \$9.95.
- 9 **12 Steps for Adult Children**, Recovery Publications, \$6.95.
- 10 **Cherished Love**, E. Kennedy, Naiad, \$8.95.

\* Workshop with Ellen Bass as keynote speaker

\*\* Author appearances in area.

## Room of One's Own

Madison, Wisconsin

April 1988

- 1 **More Dykes to Watch Out For**, Bechdel, Firebrand, \$7.95.\*
- 2 **Heroes of Their Own Lives**, Gordon, Viking, \$24.95.\*\*
- 3 **Incest & Sexuality**, Maltz, DC Heath, \$12.95.
- 4 **Going Out of Our Minds**, Johnson, Crossing, \$10.95.\*
- 5 **Daily Affirmations for Adult Children of Alcoholics**, Lerner, Health Communications, \$6.95.
- 6 **Ceremony**, Silko, Viking, \$5.95.
- 6 **Tar Baby**, Morrison, NAL, \$4.50.
- 7 **Sula**, Morrison, Dutton, \$6.95.
- 7 **Rivers Running Free**, Niemi & Wieser, Bergamot Books, \$12.50.\*
- 8 **Cows and Horses**, Wilson, Eighth Mountain, \$7.95.
- 8 **Woman Warrior**, Kingston, Random House, \$3.95.
- 8 **Codependent No More**, Beattie, Harper & Row, \$8.95.

- 9 **Fires of Bride**, Galford, Firebrand, \$8.95.
- 9 **Dance of Anger**, Lerner, Harper & Row, \$8.95.
- 9 **Promise of a New Day**, Casey, Harper & Row, \$6.95.
- 10 **Burst of Light**, Lorde, Firebrand, \$7.95.
- 10 **Lessons in Murder**, McNab, Naiad, \$8.95.
- 10 **Struggle for Intimacy**, Woititz, Health Communications, \$6.95.
- 10 **Woman on the Edge of Time**, Piercy, Fawcett, \$3.95.
- 10 **Woman of Power #9**, \$6.00.

\* Author appearances

\*\* Local author

## Crazy Ladies Bookstore

Cincinnati, Ohio

Entire Year: 1987

- 1 **Murder at the Nightwood Bar**, Katherine Forrest.\*
- 2 **Dreams and Swords**, Katherine Forrest.\*
- 3 **High Hearts**, Rita Mae Brown.
- 4 **Daughters of Copper Woman**, Anne Cameron.
- 5 **Going Out of Our Minds**, Sonia Johnson.\*
- 6 **Webster's First New Intergalactic Wickedary of the English Language**, Mary Daly.
- 7 **Jambalaya**, Luisah Teish.\*
- 8 **The Handmaid's Tale**, Margaret Atwood.
- 9 **Codependent No More**, Melody Beattie.
- 10 **Women's Reality**, Anne Wilson Schaefer.
- 11 **The Dance of Anger**, Harriet G. Lerner.
- 12 **Women's Ways of Knowing**, Mary Field Benky.
- 13 **Healing the Child Within**, Charles L. Whitfield.

\* Indicates author appearances at Crazy Ladies.

## Women and Children First Bookstore

Chicago, Illinois

March 1988

### NON-FICTION

- 1 **Lesbian Passion** JoAnn Loulan, Spinsters Ink, 1987, \$10.95.
- 2 **Lesbian Psychologies**, Boston Lesbian Psychologies Collective, ed., University of Illinois Press, 1987, \$12.95.
- 3 **Lesbian Sex**, JoAnn Loulan, Spinsters Ink, 1987, \$10.95.



- 4 **1988 Places of Interest to Women**, Ferrari Publications, 1987, \$7.00.
- 5 **Going Out of Our Minds**, Sonia Johnson, Crossing Press, 1987, \$10.95.

**FICTION**

- 1 **Cherished Love**, Evelyn Kennedy, Naiad Press, 1988, \$8.95.
- 2 **Shoulders**, Georgia Cotrell, Firebrand Books, 1987, \$8.95.

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- 3 **Dreams of the Woman Who loved Sex**, by Tee Corinne, Banned Books, 1987, \$7.95.
- 4 **Secret in the Bird**, Camarin Grae, Naiad Press, 1988, \$8.95.\*
- 5 **Leave a Light on for Me**, Jean Swallow, Spinsters Ink, 1986, \$8.95.

\* Local author

**Inland Book Company, Inc.**

Small Press Book Distributor  
January 1, 1988 - April 15, 1988

- 1 **Lesbian Passion**, Loulan, Spinsters/Aunt Lute, \$10.95.
- 2 **Dreams of the Woman Who Loved Sex**, Corinne, Banned Books, \$7.95.
- 3 **Places of Interest to Women 1988**, Ferrari, ed., Marianne Ferrari, \$7.00.
- 4 **This Bridge Called My Back**, Moraga/Anzaldúa eds., Kitchen Table Press, \$9.95.
- 5 **Lesbian Sex**, Loulan, Spinsters/Aunt Lute, \$10.95.
- 6 **Daughters of Copper Woman**, Cameron, Press Gang, \$9.50.
- 7 **Shoulders**, Cotrell, Firebrand Books, \$8.95.
- 8 **Memory Board**, Rule, Naiad Press, \$8.95.
- 9 **If You Want to Write**, Ueland, Graywolf Press, \$6.50.
- 10 **Leave a Light on for Me**, Swallow, Spinsters/Aunt Lute, \$8.95.
- 11 **The Telling: A Loving Hagadah for Passover**, Khayyim, Rakhamim Press, \$4.00.
- 12 **Gray Magic**, Dreher, New Victoria Pub., \$8.95.
- 13 **A Restricted Country**, Nestle, Firebrand Books, \$8.95.
- 14 **Gaia's Guide 1988**, Gaia's Guide/S. Horn, \$9.50.
- 15 **Going Out of Our Minds**, Johnson, Crossing Press, \$10.95.
- 16 **Choices**, Toder, Alyson Publications, \$7.95.
- 17 **When I am an Old Woman I Shall Wear Purple**, Martz, ed., Papier-Mache Press, \$10.00.
- 18 **Child of Her People**, Cameron, Spinsters/Aunt Lute, \$8.95.
- 19 **The Inner Dance**, Mariechild, Crossing Press, \$10.95.
- 20 **Inn Places 1988**, Marianne Ferrari, \$10.00.
- 21 **Different Daughters**, Rafkin, ed., Cleis Press, \$8.95.
- 22 **Motherwit**, Mariechild, Crossing Press,



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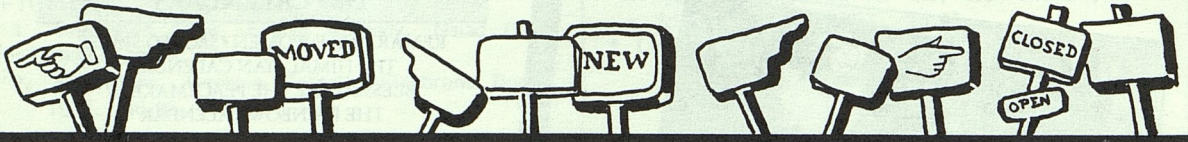
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- \$8.95.
- 23 **The Lesbian in Front of the Classroom**, HerBooks, \$6.50.
- 24 **Cherished Love**, Kennedy, Naiad Press, \$8.95.
- 25 **Dreams and Swords**, Forrest, Naiad Press, \$8.95.
- 26 **Heresies #22: Art in Unestablished Channels**, Heresies Collective, \$5.50.
- 27 **Dykes to Watch Out For**, Bechdel, Firebrand Books, \$6.95.
- 28 **Sister Outsider**, Lorde, Crossing Press, \$8.95.
- 29 **Home Girls**, B. Smith, ed., Kitchen Table Press, \$11.95.
- 30 **Cuentos**, Gomez et al., eds., Kitchen Table Press, \$7.95.
- 31 **Woman of Power #9**, Spring 1988, \$6.00.
- 32 **The Journey**, Cameron, Spinsters/Aunt Lute, \$7.95.
- 33 **To the Lightning**, Ennis, Naiad Press, \$8.95.
- 34 **Making a Way: Lesbians Out Front**, JEB, Glad Hag Books, \$11.95.
- 35 **The Rose-Bearer**, May, Liberty Press, \$7.95.
- 36 **The Secret in the Bird**, Grae, Naiad Press, \$8.95.
- 37 **Sandino's Daughters**, Randall, New Star Books, \$8.95.
- 38 **Politics of the Heart**, Pollack/Vaughn, eds., Firebrand Books, \$11.95.
- 39 **Night Lights**, Arthur, Mother Courage Press, \$8.95.
- 40 **Woman of Power #8** (Winter 1988), \$6.00.
- 41 **Morgan Calabrese: The Movie**, Dunlap, New Victoria, \$5.95.
- 42 **Miss Venezuela**, Wilson, Seal Press, \$9.95.
- 43 **The Women's Book of Healing**, Stein, Llewellyn, \$12.95.
- 44 **Bread Givers**, Yezierska, Persea Books, \$7.95.
- 45 **The Leading Edge**, Winston, ed., Lace Publications, \$9.95.
- 46 **Lesbian Etiquette**, Sausser, Crossing Press, \$6.95.
- 47 **Sex Work**, Delacoste, ed., Cleis Press, \$10.95.
- 48 **Working Inside Out**, Adair, Wingbow Press, \$9.95.
- 49 **Curious Wine**, Forrest, Naiad Press, \$7.95.
- 50 **Motherpeace Tarot**, Motherpeace Tarot, \$24.95.



# THEY WENT THAT-A-WAY



## New Bookstores:

Mary Jane Mullins is contemplating the feasibility of a women's and children's bookstore in the Louisville area. Please send her catalogs and information at 1612 Gardiner Ln #207, Louisville KY 40205.

Rose Maloof and Madelaine Zadik will be opening Womonswords in Worthington MA. Send them information, news and catalogs at PO Box 43, 01098.

Curious Times, the new women's bookstore in Dallas, is scheduled to open May 1. Send information to Kay Vinson at 4129 Prescott, Dallas TX 75219. (This is a temporary address, not the storefront.) She is "especially interested in everything."

Wanda Clark and Linda McGann are booksellers interested in feminist and lesbian fiction and non-fiction, women's studies and peace movement titles. Send them information at 1210 E. Pine St, Seattle WA 98122.

The Mystic Loon Collective will be opening in the New Orleans Area soon. They will be stocking feminist, gay, lesbian, and alternative books, gift items, and running a coffee shop.(!) Send information to the attention of Tahnya M. Giordano, The Mystic Loon Collective, 412 Jefferson Ave., Metairie LA 70005.

Book Connections is a new mail-order venture. Send catalogs et al to Betty A. Prioux, Book Connections, PO Box 530394, Austin TX 78753.

Books, Strings and Things, Inc. is a general bookstore in Blacksburg VA that is expanding its feminist and gay sections. Send catalogs to Paige Hayes, c/o Books, Strings & Things, 214 Draper Rd., Blacksburg VA 24060.

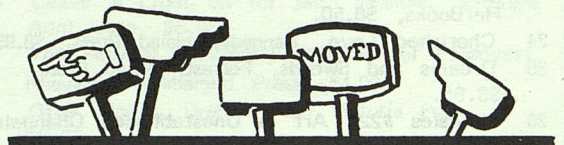
Nathan Goldstein, owner/operator of The Book Store, 323 Washington Ave., Greenville MS 38701, would like to get everyone's catalogs to

expand his retail and mail-order business.

The Metropolitan Community Church in St. Petersburg is opening a library and bookstore and would like to receive publishers catalogs. Send to the attention of Terry Winslow, MCC, 4825 9th Ave. North, St. Petersburg FL 33713.

And in England: Lucia Nixon is planning to open a feminist bookstore in Oxford. Please send her information at 102 Southmoor Rd., Oxford OX2 6RB, U.K.

The Wit and Wisdom of Oscar Wilde & Friends in Houston has closed, but the stock will be moved to Liberty Books in Austin. (1014B North Lamar Blvd., Austin TX 78703, PO Box 50421, Austin TX 78763. 512-495-9737.



## Publishers Move, Too.

Daedalus Books, the ultimate source for remainders of feminist titles, is now at 4601 Decatur St., Hyattsville MD 20781. 301-779-4102.

Pandora Press' (London) new address is 15/17 Broadwick St., London W1V 1FP, U.K.

New Society Publishers has moved to 4527 Springfield Ave., Philadelphia PA 19143. New phone number is 215-382-6543.

## And So Do Books.

The very popular book **Outgrowing the Pain: A Book for and about Adults Abused as Children** by Eliana Gil is now available in a \$5.95 trade paperback from Dell. ○



# Ranting & Raving

*When you begin to hear yourself "ranting or raving" about a book to your customers, co-workers, friends -- be it with delight and enthusiasm or in fury and criticism -- please reach for a pen and jot down your words and send them off to FBN. "Ranting and Raving" is a quick, easy way to share your opinions with (other) booksellers, discuss a book that's pleasing or bothering you, and/or bring a favorite backlist title to the attention of other booksellers. Send just a few sentences or several paragraphs. Please include the author, publisher, title, price, and publisher's address and terms (or distributors) if the publisher is obscure.*

**Working for Victory? Images of Women in the First World War 1914-1918**, Diana Condell and Jean Liddiard 1987, Routledge & Kegan Paul, \$35.00.

Women "kept the home fires burning" while their men went off to war. This is the usual image of the part played by women in the First World War, reinforced through countless posters, government exhortations and even popular songs. It is very far from the truth. As this remarkable book shows, the truth was that women showed themselves capable of undertaking many roles hitherto the sole prerogative of men, a position "righted" once peace was restored: the women who had helped to win the war were displaced by the returning heroes from the Front.

Diana Condell and Jean Liddiard have selected more than 150 superb contemporary photographs, and these unique pictures, with extended captions and accompanying text, illustrate the many and varied roles played by women in the First World War. Many of the photographs have never been published before and they reveal dramatically the extent to which women took over the day-to-day running of society during the war. Fulfilling these roles helped to change women's perceptions of themselves and their place in the social fabric: the photographs are arranged thematically to reveal this and how

society's own view of women was altered as a result.

The book also tells the story of the war from the female viewpoint, assessing its effect on the women involved. It focuses on a neglected but vital part of the history of the emancipation of women. In addition it raises questions about the nature of the victory women had worked for.

From the Jane Addams Book Shop Newsletter

**Hugh Pine and Hugh Pine and the Good Place**, Janwillem van de Wetering, illus. by Lynn Munsinger, Bantam-Skylark, \$2.50 pb each.

For those days when sifting through piles of catalogs and reviews leaves little time for actually reading a book, may I suggest **Hugh Pine** as a highly satisfying alternative. A chapter book for third graders (and adult booksellers), **Hugh Pine** is the story of an unusually clever and determined porcupine who wears a coat and red floppy hat and walks upright so as not to be run over by cars. How he arrives at a way to save the other porcupines from being run over forms the plot of the story. Hugh is rather crustily endearing, the writing is delightful and non-condescending (to either porcupines or children) and the black and white illustrations





are perfect. In fact, it's about the best book I've read since *Frog and Toad*....

Rose Katz

**The Fur Person**, May Sarton, 1983, W.W. Norton & Co., \$4.95.

**The Fur Person** is a wonderful story about a real cat who belonged to May Sarton and Judy Matlack. The story is told from the cat's point of view. He describes his transformation from a no-name Cat About Town into a Gentleman Cat in search of a housekeeper and finally into a Fur Person named Tom Jones who has found two housekeepers, Gentle Voice and Brusque Voice. Tom is in the habit of singing songs that he composes and which are quite delightful. The passages where Tom relates his first catnip hangover and his antics with his play mouse will have cat owners shaking their heads and saying "that's just the way my cat is." He also enumerates the ten commandments of behavior for a Gentleman Cat and adds the eleventh commandment, which he has discovered himself: A Gentleman Cat becomes a Fur Person when he loves and is truly loved by a human being. This book was originally written in 1957 and has been in and out of print over the years. Fortunately for all of us cat-lovers, it is now back in print. ○

From the Jane Addams Book Shop Newsletter

**CALYX BOOKS**

New! Spring 1988

**THE FORBIDDEN STITCH**

An Asian-American Women's Anthology edited by Shirley Geok-lin Lim & Mayumi Tsutakawa Anthology, 252 pages, \$12 pb, \$24.95 hb

**WOMEN AND AGING**

edited by the Calyx Editorial Collective Anthology, 262 pages, \$12 pb, \$24.95 hb "Don't miss any of Women and Aging!" Sojourner

**FLORILEGIA**

A Retrospective of Calyx, 1976-1986 edited by the Calyx Editorial Collective Anthology, 256 pages, \$12 pb, \$24.95 hb "...dense, intense, rich." Tee Corinne, Lambda Rising Book Report

**THE RIVERHOUSE STORIES**

by Andrea Carlisle 144 pages, \$7.95 pb, \$15.95 hb "A book of the heart." Lee Lynch, San Francisco Chronicle

**THE WHITE JUNK OF LOVE, AGAIN**

by Sibyl James 75 pages, \$6.95 pb, \$13.95 hb "...richness, jive and rhythms of the Blues." What's Happening



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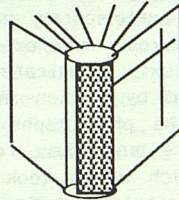
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Stories full of Texas flavor--using her background as a Texas Baptist preacher's daughter, Weathers encompasses a breadth of humanity few writers today can match. Authentic, hilarious, rip-roaring stories, *Shitkickers & Other Stories* is poignantly serious and oh, so funny, where lesbians aren't the only "queers" amid a collection of characters.

"In the South it's said that we don't have crazy people--we just have eccentrics. This book is full of eccentrics, their voices and their lives. I loved it."--Tee Corinne, author of *Dreams of the Woman who loved Sex*

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## H · U · T · C · H · I · N · S · O · N

## IN OTHER WORDS

*Writing as a Feminist*

Gail Chester and Sigrid Nielson (editors)

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009 162731 1 paper £4.50

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## Seeing Red:

The Politics of Pre-menstrual Tension

Sophie Laws, Valerie Hey and Andrea Eagan

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## Helping Women at Work

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Michelle Stanworth

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009 156671 1 paper £4.95

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Christine Delphy

009 153411 9 paper £5.50

## Well-Founded Fear

Jalna Hanmer and Sheila Saunders

009 155041 6 paper £4.50

## REFLECTIONS

*Images of British Women in Their Own Words*

Mary Gifford Brown

Foreword by Dame Judi Dench

A fascinating anthology of extracts carefully selected from autobiographies, letters, diaries and literature by women writers as diverse as Lady Julian of Norwich, Jane Austen and Iris Murdoch. They demonstrate the rich experience of women in youth, in love, marriage, motherhood and old age.

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## SUSANNA STURGIS

ON

## SCIENCE FICTION



In the Whet-Your Appetite Department: Pat (The **Falling Woman**) Murphy has sold a novel and a story collection to Foundation (Doubleday) with paper rights to Bantam (Spectra). **Venus of Shadows**, the sequel to Pamela Sargent's **Venus of Dreams**, has been turned in to Foundation; Sargent is working on the third in the series, **Child of Venus**. Pat (Mindplayers) Cadigan has sold two novels to Bantam (Spectra). NAL will bring Samuel Delany's **The Motion of Light in Water** (Arbor House, \$18.95) out in trade paperback.

Kathryn Ptacek wants "original horror/dark fantasy stories by women writers" for **Women of Darkness 2**, to be published by Tor. Preferred length 3000-7500 words. Contact her at 28 Lincoln Avenue, Newton, N.J. 07860.

Attention, feminist publishers and magazine editors!! The **Year's Best Fantasy: Second Annual Collection** is looking for previously published fantasy and horror stories, "particularly items that were originally published out of genre or in obscure sources." Send fantasy to co-editor Terri Windling, Endicott Studio, 63 Endicott St., Boston, MA 02113. Send horror (marked "The Year's Best Horror") to co-editor Ellen Datlow, c/o Omni, 2965 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10023.

Details aren't settled yet, but Crossing Press has asked me to edit an anthology of women's fantasy/science fiction. (Sharon Yntema started the project last year but had to withdraw because of pressing family and work responsibilities.) What I want most to see are stories (and novel excerpts) that show women variously involved with other women (as friends, lovers, co-workers, mothers, daughters, sisters, etc.) and/or female protagonists over the age of 22. Send inquiries and manuscripts to me at P.O. Box 39, West Tisbury, MA 02575.

Highlights from my recent reading: Suzy McKee Charnas' **The Silver Glove** (Bantam, \$13.95) is a wonderful, contemporary YA fantasy featuring 14-year-old Val Marsh, her sorcerous grandmother, and her mother who threatens to blow everything by falling in love with an evil wizard masquerading as a school psychologist. It follows (but doesn't depend on) Charnas' **The Bronze King**, recently reprinted in paper (Bantam Starfire, \$2.95).



**Northshore**, by Sheri S. Tepper (Tor, \$3.50), volume 1 of "The Awakeners" duology, depicts richly textured political and religious structures built on the uneasily coexisting interests of two species, human and thraish. The individuals caught up in varying degrees of conformity and resistance are complex, their dilemmas moving. I look forward to **Southshore**, the sequel.

The main reason I stay away from medical thrillers and spy novels is that I know they're true. Nevertheless I picked up Sharon Webb's **Pestis 18** (Tor, \$4.50) and couldn't let go. The CIA has been messing with a souped-up version of the bubonic plague, which (naturally) falls into the hands of terrorists. Webb's scenario shows Our Side as barely distinguishable from Their Side, and ordinary folks as the ones who get hurt. The only incredible thing about this story is the (relatively) happy ending.

Being a hard-core fan of C. J. Cherryh's Morgaine series, I eagerly anticipated the fourth volume **Exile's Gate** (DAW, \$3.95). It was dreadful. All words and no heart. Any other





disappointed Morgaine lovers out there, feel free to drop me a card and commiserate!

And now for the good news:

#### ARBOR HOUSE

**Unicorn Mountain**, by Michael Bishop, \$17.95, 6/88. According to *Locus*, "a strong and pleasing soup" comprising "practical feminism, AIDS, homosexuality, the decline of the small ranch, and the changing values of American Indians" as well as unicorns. Intriguing, especially for gay collections.

#### DAW BOOKS

**Blue Magic**, by Jo Clayton, \$3.95, 5/88. Fantasy sequel to *Drinker of Souls*, featuring "the Drinker of Souls and her two demonic, shape-shifting companions," the cruel god Amortis, and (need I add) a plucky girl whose people have been enslaved by a nasty sorcerer. I'm still waiting for Clayton to live up to the promise she showed in the "Duel of Sorcery": **Moongatherer, Moonscatterer, and Changer's Moon.**

**Child of the Grove**, by Tanya Huff, \$3.50, 5/88. "High fantasy" (that means elves and wizards, usually with a Celtic flavor) with a young woman protagonist.

#### DELL

**Lady of Hay**, by Barbara Erskine, \$4.95, 5/88. Reprint of historical romance with fantasy elements; under hypnosis, a contemporary journalist "becomes" Matilda, a 12th-century Welsh woman.



#### DONNING/STARBLAZE

**Gate of Ivrel: Claiming Rites**, illustrated and adapted by Jane Fancher from the novel by C. J. Cherryh, \$6.95. An "illustrated adventure," or super comic book. This segment focuses on Vanye more than Morgaine, which may be a blessing in disguise: in the hands of even an obviously imaginative artist, this Morgaine

doesn't look as if she could survive a day on horseback. Donning/Starblaze can be reached at 5659 Virginia Beach Blvd., Norfolk, VA 23503.



#### McPHERSON

**The Heat Death of the Universe and Other Stories**, by Pamela Yoline, introduction by Thomas M. Disch, \$10 (paper), \$20 (cloth). (Published simultaneously in England by The Women's Press as *Busy About the Tree of Life*.) I remember the title story from ages ago; it appeared in one of the *Women of Wonder* anthologies. Well reviewed by *PW*, which says that "Zoline's cerebral, painterly prose combines the passion of the scientist with the precision of the poet: and suggests that the collection will appeal to non-sf readers.

#### POPULAR LIBRARY (QUESTAR)

**Taji's Syndrome**, by Chelsea Quinn Yarbro, \$3.95. "A gripping example of medical science fiction done right," says *Locus*. An epidemic triggered by genetically manipulated material kills most of its victims, but its survivors develop psychokinetic powers. So some interests want to stop the epidemic, while others don't.

#### ST. MARTIN'S

**Crazy Time**, by Kate Wilhelm, \$16.95. A well-reviewed "metaphysical romance" involving a (male) cartoonist vaporized in a freak accident and a (female) psychologist who finds herself the chief suspect in his disappearance.

#### WARNER

**Adulthood Rites**, by Octavia E. Butler, \$16.95, 6/88. Sequel to *Dawn*, exploring human resistance to the benevolent Oankali and those who are involved with both species.

**Cyteen**, by C.J. Cherryh, \$18.95 (cloth), 5/88. A rave review in *Locus* ("the whole ambitious enterprise succeeds brilliantly") greeted this big novel, which is "at once a



psychological novel, a murder mystery, and an examination of power on the grand scale." A central character is the powerful Ariane Emory, whose cloned "child" and heir-designate, Ari II, becomes a living paradox, simultaneously innocent and responsible for Ari I's many enemies.

**WOMEN'S PRESS/U.K.**

(distributed by Salem House, 462 Boston St., Topsfield, MA 01983, 617-887-2440)

**The Book of the Night**, by Rhoda Lerman, \$5.95. I'm not sure I understand what's going on here, but I'm having a marvelous time. Set on 10th-century Iona, where 20th-century flotsam continually washes up on shore, this novel has a precocious girl-protagonist, Celeste, disguised as a boy in a community of monks and now reaching puberty.

**LAST MINUTE ADDITION**


**Bulldozer Rising**, by Anna Livia, London: Onlywomen Press, £3.95 (U.S. price??). In the future society of Anna Livia's **Bulldozer Rising** patriarchy is compounded by institutionalized

ageism: upon reaching 40 or so individuals are expected to self-destruct for the common good, to avoid using up more than "their share" of scarce resources. To live past 40 is an act of rebellion. Going farther, some oldwomen have banded together in the "Senectity," which combines aspects of a self-help organization and a revolutionary cell.

Through its characters **Bulldozer Rising** demonstrates the few options open to women. As a superb performance artist (on roller skates) Zay gains attention and credits not generally available to her people, the Tramontanes. Her ex-lover Ithaca Benaccar, passing as a man, is the city's powerful Ideo Logician, who invents the slogans that shape public opinion. Ithaca's lover is Karlin, an oldwoman, in a relationship that both flouts the society's taboos and mystifies Karlin's friends. Essa's journey through the oldwomen's ward of a hospital (the "Apres Ski Tower") transforms her conciliatory outlook into something more radical. Scimitel Ekkos is a nellie, a fembot in training.


**Bulldozer Rising** is less a novel than a


CONTINUED ON PAGE 80



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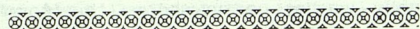
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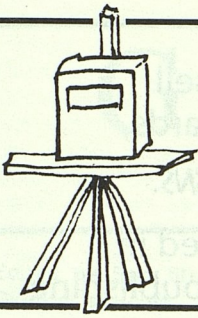
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# ART BOOKS

by Tee Corinne

Many people believe that visual artists are inarticulate and semi-literate. Several books have come my way recently that demonstrate the reverse. **Tide-Race** (orig. 1962) by the Welsh painter/poet Brenda Chamberlain (1912-1971) is a "lush, idiosyncratic and haunting" account of fourteen years she spent on an isolated island off the coast of Wales (1947-61). This 1988 reissue has a new afterword. Published by Seren Books, dist. by Dufour Editions, Box 449, Chester Springs, PA 19425, trade paper: 0-907476-65-1, \$9.95.

Another autobiographical book is **Birthday** by the Surrealist painter Dorothea Tanning (b. 1910). It's a compelling narrative which moves back and forth in time covering her early training, 50 years with the painter Max Ernst and learning to go on after his death. Published by the Lapis Press, PO Box 2510, Novato, CA 94948, trade paper: 0-932499-16-3, \$9.95; cloth: 0-932499-15-5, \$19.95; 1-4 at 20%, 5+ at 40%.

Also from Lapis Press: **AIDS: You Can't Catch it Holding Hands**, words and pictures by Niki de Saint Phalle, cloth: 0-932499-52-X, \$5.95 and **Art After Photography** by Kate Linker, trade paper: 0-932499-54-6, \$6.95; cloth: 0-932499-53-8, \$14.95.

**Laura Gilpin, An Enduring Grace** by Martha A. Sandweiss is an exceptionally fine book. Gilpin (1891-1979) spent over 60 years making elegant, memorable pictures of the southwest. She is especially known for her landmark work: **The Enduring Navaho**. Gilpin never married. She spent 54 years with a "companion", Betsy Forster. Gilpin's was a vision of quiet grandeur. I have hopes that some smaller books about her will come out soon. Published by the Amor Carter Museum, dist. by University of Texas Press, paper: 0-88360-080-3, \$39.95, cloth: 0-88360-077-3, \$75.00.

Also from Amor Carter/U. of Texas Press is **Dorothea Lange Looks at the American Country Woman**. Lange (1895-1965) is best known for her moving photos of migratory farm workers during the depression. **The American Country Woman** was Lange's last book, a culling of two decades worth of pictures and words, focusing on fifteen women and their environments. Large paper: 0-88360-026-9, \$9.95.

**Louise Dahl-Wolfe, a Retrospective Exhibition** by Sally Euchaire includes many of Dahl-Wolfe's (b. 1895) celebrated portrait photographs: a young Carson McCullers looking quizzical, Kurt Weill and Lotte Lenya, a radiant Ingrid Bergman, Colette, Lauren Bacall; and a selection of her fashion photographs. She's been called a photographer of "consummate taste, infectious wit and nascent feminism." Published by The National Museum of Women in the Arts, 1250 N.Y. Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005, large paper: 0-940979-03-9, \$12, 5+ at 40%.

**Anything Goes, The Jazz Age Adventures of Neysa McMein and Her Extravagant Circle of Friends** by Brian Gallagher is the lively biography of an American painter/illustrator (1888-1949) remembered as much for her friendships with creative, lively people as for her own work. Anais Nin modeled for one of her Saturday Evening Post covers. Published by Times Books (Random House), cloth: 0-8129-1215-2, \$18.95.

**The Desert is No Lady, Southwestern Landscapes in Women's Writing and Art**, ed. by Vera Norwood and Janice Monk is a fascinating collection of essays: "Laura Gilpin and the Tradition of American Landscape Photography", "Hispanic Women Artists...", "The Presence of the Archaic in the Landscape Visions of Georgia O'Keeffe..", "Southwestern and Indian Women's Art" and more on art and literature. Yale University Press, cloth: 0-300-03688-4, \$29.95.



**Pieced By Mother, Over 100 Years of Quilt-making Traditions** by Jeannette Lasansky is a beautifully researched and designed book which includes photographs and stories of the individual quilters as well as color reproductions of quilts, information about how the documentation was accomplished and an ongoing narrative that unites the whole. Published by Oral Traditions Project, dist. by the University of Pennsylvania Press, large paper: 0-917127-02-1, \$19.95.

**Hands All Around, Quilts from Many Nations** by Bishop, Bresenhan and Leman is about contemporary art quilts - very beautiful and magical - with quotes from and text about each quilter. This is a very exciting book for artists with quilts from Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Greece, India, Indonesia, Ireland, South Africa, Switzerland, Tahiti, the U.S. and others. Published by Dutton, large paper: 0-525-48280-6, \$15.95.

Also from Dutton is **The Quilts of the British Isles** by Janet Rae which is an extensive history of quilting: techniques, patterns, developments, materials and marketing; profusely illustrated. Written by someone who obviously knows and loves her field. Cloth: 0-525-24573-1, \$32.50.

Another interesting book from Dutton is **Mother, A Collective Portrait** by Mary Motley Kalergis, a handsome book of black and white photos of mothers and children (and a few fathers) with commentary by the women pictured. The text is a counterpoint to the images, often saying that motherhood is harder than they had expected. The pictures glow. Large paper: 0-525-48297-0, \$12.95.

Hedda Morris spent 13 years in China managing a photostudio and taking photographs. The beautiful, moody images in her **Travels of a Photographer in China, 1933-1946** are remarkable documents of a world now gone. The text is immediate and personal - takes you right there with her. Published by Oxford University Press, cloth, 0-19-584098-4, \$24.95.

Just out is **Pre-Raphaelite Women, Images of Femininity** by Jan Marsh, which compares the real lives of Victorian women in Britain with the images created of them. Ms. Marsh also discusses the work of several women artists active during the pre-Raphaelite period of the 1880's. Lushly

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illustrated with a very interesting text. Published by Harmony Books (Crown), cloth; 0-517-56799-7, \$30.00.

Also new is **Joan Mitchel** by Judith E. Bernstock, a finely illustrated volume about one of the early New York School abstract Expressionists (b. 1926) who is still painting and exhibiting today. The text makes Mitchel come alive as a person and enriches our understanding of her work. There are also wonderful photographs of the artist at work and at rest. Published by Hudson Hills Press, dist. by Rizzoli, cloth: 0-933920-81-4, \$50.00.

**Women and Craft**, ed. by Elinor Richardson, Scott, Thomas and Walker, is a collection of essays, commentaries and interviews concerning craft work in this century in Great Britain. Covers domestic craftwork, "Peace Banner Conversations," contemporary crocheting, "Potters of the 1920's: Contemporary criticism," shoe-making, marketing, "The Masterless Way: Weaving an active resistance" and much, much more. Published by Virago, trade paper: 0-86068-540-3, £ 9.95. ○



# GAY MEN'S LIT

## for Feminist Bookstores

Edited by Skip Strickler and Ed Hermance  
Giovanni's Room

The startling and impressive thing about the current book season for gay men is the number and quality of literary explorations of AIDS. It's as though it has taken us six years to feel the catastrophe enough to put it into literature, though the plays **THE NORMAL HEART** and **As Is**, both excellent, have been out for a couple of years. The best of the new books:

**Love Alone: Eighteen Elegies for Rog**, by Paul Monette (St. Martin's), 1988, 65pp, \$13.95 cloth. Though these lamentations speak directly of only one man's loss to the AIDS epidemic, they comprise in their unflinching honesty and nakedness an anthem for a generation of men lost. Monette's cycle of poems on the death of his lover is a beautiful and harrowing book, relentless in its grief and rage, yet furious with love.

**Someone Was Here: Profiles in the AIDS Epidemic**, by George Whitmore (NAL), 211pp, \$17.95 cloth. These elegant profiles reach beyond the statistics into the lives of real people, to etch indelibly the human cost of AIDS -- the toll on the stricken, their families, friends and lovers, and on the people striving to help them.

**Valley of the Shadow**, by Christopher Davis (St. Martin's), 1988, 211pp, \$13.95 cloth. Beautifully written, with a poet's ear for the singular detail, Christopher Davis' new novel tells a story of great love and classic tragedy. It's a story about AIDS and two young men who have it. It's a story about love and about what it's like for the young to die. Like Davis' first novel, **Joseph and the Old Man**, this one's a two-hankie read; but there is tremendous fulfillment here -- the story is sad, but somehow it's not depressing.

**The Darker Proof: Stories from a Crisis**, by Edmund White and Adam Mars-Jones (Plume), 1988 (1987), 233pp, \$7.95 paper. White con-

tributes three stories, and British author Mars-Jones four, to this fine collection of short stories. **The Observer** of London notes that **The Darker Proof** is fiction's first really dignified response to the AIDS crisis -- the acronym is there only once in all seven stories.

Two more first-class responses to AIDS that are due in June and July are Andrew Holleran's collection of essays **Ground Zero** and Paul Monette's non-fiction **Borrowed Time**.



### A New Magazine:

**Other Countries: Black Gay Voices**, A First Volume (Spring 1988), \$6.95. The debut issue of **Other Countries** -- a periodical by, for and about Black gay men. The premier issue is packed with original poetry, short fiction, nonfiction, two plays and a host of stunning art and photography. Congratulations and best wishes to all who labored long and hard on the first of many wonderful issues of **Other Countries**. (40% discount to bookstores. Order from **Other Countries**, PO Box 3142 Church St. Station, NY NY 10008-3142.)

### Fiction -- New and Reprints:

**One Last Waltz** by Ethan Mordden (St. Martin's), 1988 (1986), 196pp, \$7.95 paper. Paperback reprint of Mordden's most recent novel, a wonderfully told story about growing up gay in an old Irish workingclass neighborhood in New York City. Using the legend of King Tara and his three sons -- the warrior, the mason, the poet -- the author fabricates a modern Manhattan fable. This reprint, as well as the following, are part of St. Martin's fine new series of gay classics, new and old, the Stone-wall Inn Editions.

**The Movie Lover**, by Richard Friedel (Plume), 1988 (1981), 300pp, \$7.95 paper. An



old favorite with a new cover. Gay from his very first breath (as a child he preferred *Vogue* to pattycake), the exquisite Burton Raider surprises no one when he moves to Manhattan and ends up a movie tycoon (of sorts). A wonderfully stylish fairy (ahem) tale starring Burton as the irresistible Prince Charming.

**Flux**, by David Rees (Third House), 1988, 176pp, \$7.50 paper. Nine short stories by a favorite British gay author, a polished and prolific stylist whose earlier collection (*Islands*, Knights Press, 1986, \$7.95 paper) probes the experiences of childhood and adolescence. Fine reading, and an enchanting cover photo.

**The Girls**, by John Bowen (Plume), 1988 (1986), 182pp, \$7.95 paper. The story of Janet and Sue, devoted lovers, and of the peaceful, seemingly idyllic life in an English country village. The result of Janet's rather awkward sexual encounter with a fragile young man is all too predictable, and the baby is co-parented with skill and affection by the two women. But who was the young man? And why is another man insistently dogging Janet to discover his whereabouts? This extraordinary novel, which Gore Vidal termed "a satisfying horror," is restrained and beautifully crafted -- a delight for anyone looking for gay fiction with a twist.

**The Closet Hanging**, by Tony Fennelly (Carroll & Graf), 1988 (1987), 216pp, \$3.50 paper. Another brisk little caper set in New Orleans stars the irrepressible, the witty and wealthy Matt Sinclair. Even better than **The Glory Hole Murders** (Carroll & Graf, 1986, \$2.95 paper), Fennelly skewers New Orleans' politics, racism and inherent snobbery with a deft hand and a light touch.

**Paradiso**, by Jose Lezama Lima, translated by Gregory Rabassa (University of Texas), 1988 (1986), 466pp, \$10.95 paper. Until the publication of his first novel in 1966, Jose Lima was director of the Department of Literature and Publications, an agency of the Castro regime in Cuba. Although his novel is not intrinsically political, it does contain frank discussions of homosexuality, causing the author no end of trouble while he remained in Cuba. Lima writes here as both poet and novelist, in a quest for a true re-creation of love and lust and for the spirit of his deceased father. Not reducible to easy summary, **Paradiso** is an intelligent,

absorbing and important work, which incidentally won the National Book Award for translation.

**The 600-Pound Gorilla**, by Robert Campbell (Signet), 1987, 236pp, \$3.50 paper. Baby, the Chicago zoo's most popular gorilla, is suddenly out in the cold when the zoo's heating system breaks down. That's when Jimmy Flannery decides to board Baby -- temporarily, of course -- in a gay bathhouse. Sinister monkey business aplenty in the outrageous whodunit.



#### Drama:

**Burn This**, by Lanford Wilson (Hill & Wang), 1988 99pp, \$8.95 paper. Wilson's new 4-character drama about the pain of loss, the pain of love, and the loss of love. Anna's roommate, a fifth character, is gay and, although he never appears on stage, his presence throughout the drama is pervasive. The play has enjoyed considerable success on Broadway.

#### Biography:

**My Father and Myself** by J. R. Ackerly (Poseidon), 1988 (1986), 219pp, \$7.95 paper. Captivating autobiographical writing by a master of the most difficult form of English prose -- simple, direct narrative. Of this book Donald Windham once said, "**My Father and Myself** is a cross between **David Copperfield**, Rousseau's **Confessions** and the new pornography."

**Rat and the Devil: Journal Letters of F. O. Matthiessen and Russell Cheney**, edited by Louis Hyde (Alyson), 1988 (1978), 408pp, \$9.95 paper. A middle-aged artist and a promising young graduate student met in 1924. Their loving relationship lasted for twenty years, and ended only with one partner's death. Cheney was a talented artist, and Matthiessen became one of America's foremost literary historians. From over 3,000 of their letters, Hyde has selected those which most fully reconstruct the fascinating story of their relationship.

**The Mayor of Castro Street: The Life and Times of Harvey Milk**, by Randy Shilts (St. Martin's), 1988 (1982), 388pp, \$10.95 paper. The definitive biography of the gay San Francisco Supervisor who was gunned down by a de-



ranged colleague. Harvey Milk is for many gay men and women the most visible hero of the modern homosexual movement, written by the prize-winning author of **The Band Played On**.

**The Motion of Light in Water: Sex and Science Fiction Writing in the East Village, 1957 - 1965**, by Samuel R. Delany (Arbor House), 1988, 302pp, \$18.95 cloth. Less about science fiction and more about sex, Delany's memoir is both a portrait of la vie boheme in the early '60s and a vivid account of the brilliant black gay writer's early years: his marriage to poet Marilyn Hacker, the diagnosis of his dyslexia, and early experimentation, both literary and sexual.

**The David Kopay Story**, by David Kopay and Perry Deane Young (Donald I. Fine), 1988 (1977), 279pp, \$8.95 paper. A **New York Times** best-seller when first published 11 years ago, San Francisco Forty-niners' running back Dave Kopay's courageous coming out story enlightens and inspires as much today as it did then. This handsome new paperback edition contains new material updating Kopay's life on and off the gridiron.

**Religion and Spirituality:**

**Gay Spirit: Myth and Meaning**, by Mark Thompson (St. Martin's), 1988 (1987), 310pp, \$8.95 paper. Labeled heretics, pervers or

categorized pseudo-scientifically, gay people in the past existed on the fringe of the Global Village. Today the **Gay Spirit**, the psychic and creative energies generated by gay men and women, has re-emerged and now lives among us. Mark Thompson's timeless book, now in paperback, explores the exciting possibilities of that Spirit.

**The Church and the Homosexual**, by John J. McNeill (Harper & Row), 1988 (1976), 266pp, \$9.95 paper. This is the new updated, expanded third edition of the most important book ever penned for gay Catholics.

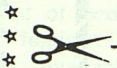
**Junipero Serra, the Vatican, and Enslavement Theology**, by Daniel Fogel (Ism Press), 1988, 219pp, \$9.00 paper. The controversial campaign to canonize the Spanish friar who founded missions on the California coast in the late 1700s has brought into question many aspects of the Catholic Church, among them the place of gays and women in the church hierarchy.

**Other Non-Fiction:**

**Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America**, by John D'Emilio and Estelle B. Freedman (Harper & Row), 1988, 428pp, \$24.95 cloth. This is a monumental, encyclopedic compendium of matters carnal from the very first

CONTINUED ON PAGE 80

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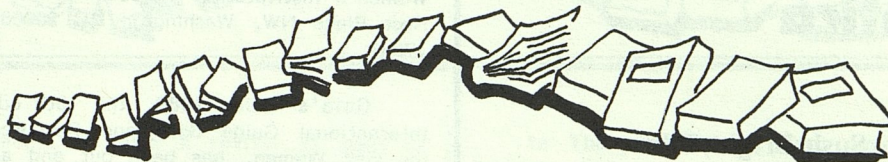
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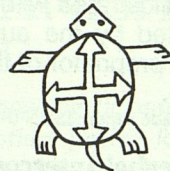
# FROM OUR OWN PRESSES



✓ **Images of Bleeding: Menstruation as Ideology** by Louise Lander (*Defective Medicine: Risk, Anger, and the Malpractice Crisis*) is a combination of history, science and feminist analysis. The first part "Ideology" analyzes 200 years of medical ideology on the subject of menstruation, showing how changes in medical doctrine have paralleled changes in social and economic circumstances, serving the constant purpose of using women's menstrual cyclicity to keep them in their place. It also analyzes the responses of 19th and 20th century feminists to medical ideology. The second part, "Reality" draws on sources ranging from chronobiology to primatology to construct a woman-centered view of menstruation, including a look at menstruation as an evolutionary development and concluding that menstruation is as much a cultural event as a biological one. A fascinating, challenging, and sometimes controversial book. Just the kind of book that would have to be published by a feminist press. Powerfully red cover, of course. Available now. \$11.95 pb 0-9620090-1-6; \$25.00 cl 0-9620090-0-8. 40% for 5-24. Order from Orlando Press, PO Box 1281 Cathedral Station, NY NY 10025, or Inland. Will likely be at Bookpeople soon.

Canadian publisher Amanita Publications offers a new Eve Zaremba mystery **Beyond Hope** featuring the street-smart lesbian detective (Helen Keremos) from her previous books **Work for a Million** and **A Reason to Kill**. "This time Helen is hired to find a long-lost sixties revolutionary. Sara Ann Raymond, the daughter of a right-wing U.S. presidential candidate, had recently been spotted working on a road-gang in the interior of British Columbia. What seems at first like a simple chore in vacation-land turns out

to be Helen's most complicated and terrifying case. Tracking down Sara Ann through the beautiful and remote mountains and valleys, Helen encounters an unlikely crew of people: an ex-draft resister, radical feminists, Doukhobor farmers and construction workers, an Indian lumberjack... plus assorted agents, spies, arms smugglers, mobsters, and cops -- all involved in a deadly game of multinational terrorism, murder and intrigue just 40 miles from the Canadian-U.S. border!" \$12.95 pb, June, 0-921299-02-8. 40% for 5+. Amanita Enterprises, PO Box 784 Stn. P, Toronto ONT M5S 2Z1. Also at IN and BP.



**Not Vanishing** is a remarkable first book of poetry by Native American activist and writer Chrystos. She speaks with a strong, vibrant voice about racism in America, about self-esteem and survival, about love and lust and loss. Ranging from angry poems that will shake you, to lyrical poems that will arouse you, to meditative prose pieces, this is writing from the heart -- a voice of furious passion and clarity. \$9.95 pb, June. 0-88974-015-1. Press Gang, 603 Powell St., Vancouver BC Canada V6A 1H2. BP and IN.

**The 1988 Directory of Woman's Media** is out. Still \$12 (cheap!) for the feminist movement's best book of lists: 603 periodicals, 120 women's presses and publishers, 91 feminist bookstores,



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**Gaia's Guide-1988**, the 13th edition of the International Guide Book and Resource Directory for Gay Women, has been out and around for a while. As always it covers the U.S.A, Canada, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Israel, and Japan. \$12.50. BP, IN, & Giovanni's Room (345 South 12th St., Philadelphia PA 19107. Info and updates for listings, etc., can be sent to Gaia's at 15 West 44th St., NY NY 10036 or 412 Archway Road, Highgate, London N6 5UA, U.K.

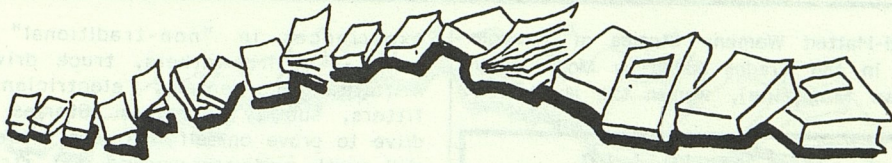


**In Bits of Ourselves: Women's Experiences With Cancer**, edited by the women of Vanessapress, eighteen women write of having cancer, living with friends, lovers, mothers battling cancer. Each has written of her particular journey toward an unknown destination. A brave and encouraging book, one that comforts, challenges and angers. \$7.95 pb, 0-940055-00-7. Order from Vanessapress, Alaska's feminist publisher, (PO Box 81335, Fairbanks, Alaska, 99708) or BP or IN. Previous Vanessapress books include **On Why The Quilt-Maker Became a Dragon: A Visionary Poem** by state poet laureate Sheila Nickerson, \$7.95 pb, 0-914221-01-3, and **Tides of Morning**, short stories (and a few poems) by four Alaskan women: Mei Mei Evans, Suzanne Hancock, Rob Baum, and Sharon Haney, \$9.00 pb, 0-914221-05-1.

Calyx's twelfth anniversary publication will be **The Forbidden Stitch: An Asian American Women's Anthology**. Should be out in May, so order forthwith if you haven't already received it. Calyx Books, PO Box B, Corvallis OR 97339. IN & BP.

In the tradition of hand-printed small press books, Clothespin Fever Press offers **Shit-kickers and Other Texas Stories**, by Carolyn Weathers, a three story trilogy. The first story offers a slice of life in a West Texas town when





the rodeo meets up with a revival as seen by local drunks and by sorority girls out slumming. The second moves to LA and the quest for a true-to-life Texas bar in Tinsel Town. The third story incorporates the elements of the previous two, in a vivid portrayal of gay life in a West Texas Air Force town. 62 pp, \$6.95, perfect bound. 40% discount to bookstores. Clothespin Fever Press, 5529 N. Figueroa, Los Angeles CA 90042. 0-9616572-2-7.

Helaine Victoria Press, publisher of women's history postcards, posters and bumperstickers, celebrates its 15th anniversary this year with a special; three limited edition posters, a special anniversary poster and some new postcards including a set of ten South African Women Activists and a set of four British Women's Suffrage cards. Write for their new catalog if you aren't on their mailing list.... Helaine Victoria Press, 411 E. 4th Street, Bloomington IN 47401.



Seal Press will have five new titles this fall: **Angel**, a novel by Caribbean writer Merle Collins (originally published by The Women's Press/England) "centers on three generations of women and traces the struggle of the Grenadian people to achieve political autonomy. Angel is a child when the houses of the white landowners in Grenada are burned to the ground, ushering in a thirty-year period of change on the island. She grows up rebellious and headstrong and eventually leaves her community to attend university. After she returns home, the mounting unrest on the island, mirrored in Angel's own family, is suddenly cut short by a fateful event: the invasion of U.S. troops.... An impressive work by a passionate new voice." \$8.95 pb, Aug., 0-931188-64-4.

In **The Obsidian Mirror**, Louise Wisechild describes her personal journey as an adult survivor of incest -- the pain of her experience and the triumph of her healing. "To illuminate the psychological process of healing, Wisechild threads throughout the story a dialogue among her inner voices -- the self-critic, the rebel, the 'children within' and shows how these voices were slowly integrated into wholeness. And with beautiful imagery, such as the visionary power of polished obsidian, she traces her growing understanding of her creativity and spirituality. Deeply personal and powerfully universal, **The Obsidian Mirror** gives validation and hope to survivors of incest and abuse and those working with them. A remarkable and transcendent story." \$10.95 pb, Sept. 0-931188-63-6.

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experiences in "non-traditional" blue-collar work -- as ironworkers, truck drivers, phone installers, carpenters, electricians, sprinkle fitters, subway operators. Stories tell of the drive to prove oneself in trades where women are still vastly underrepresented, of struggles with harassment from male co-workers, of growing self-confidence in new-found skills, of sweet success in conquering previously unthinkable challenges -- and earning "men's wages" for it. Will come out just in time for holiday gifting. \$10.95 pb, Oct., 0-931188-66-0.

Two new books in Seal's International Women's Crime series: **The Last Draw** by Elisabet Peterzen, translated from the Swedish by Laura Desertrain, is narrated by a husband and wife journalist team specializing in investigative reporting. They're in hot pursuit of a mysterious killer who is systematically murdering a string of seeming unrelated Stockholm residents. Unrelated except for one fact: they are all men.... "A novel sure to raise controversy and consciousness, **The Last Draw** takes on the theme of misogyny -- and its far-reaching effects -- in a stunning new way." \$8.95 pb, Oct., 0-931188-67-9. In **Ladies' Night**, by Canadian writer Elisabeth Bowers, "Meg Lacy, a happily divorced mother of two and private eye with a black belt in Aikido, finds herself in Vancouver's back alleys on the trail of a missing teenager. Salal, a Native teenager and runaway herself, recruits Meg to help put a kiddie porn operation out of business.... A page-turner that



## Why Can't Sharon Kowalski Come Home? by Karen Thompson and Julie Andrzejewski

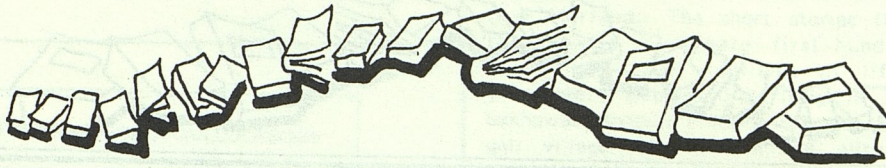
In 1983, Sharon Kowalski was seriously injured when her car was hit by a drunken driver. For the next two years, Karen, her lover of four years, was by Sharon's bedside, helping her in the arduous fight to regain basic life skills. Then the court awarded Sharon's father sole guardianship, and within 24 hours he denied Karen visitation rights.

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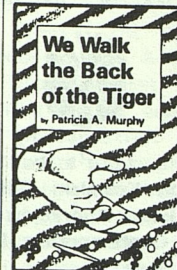
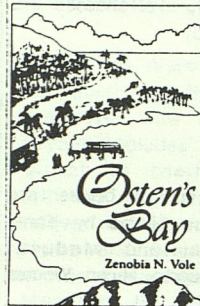
confronts deeply political issues." \$8.95 pb., Oct., 0-931188-65-2.

The Seal Press, 3131 Western Ave. #410, Seattle WA 98121, 206-283-7844. Distributed by Consortium, Bookpeople & Inland.

Naiad Press is the lucky publisher of **Before Stonewall: The Making of a Gay and Lesbian Community** by Andrea Weiss & Gretta Schiller with foreword by Barbara Grier, the book version of the award winning film. It is without doubt the (the) most gorgeous book Naiad Press has ever published. Designed by John Lewis and funded by a grant from the Chicago Resource Center, the book provides an overview of the film and explains some of the decisions that went into the filmmaking. It includes photos, interview excerpts and summaries of the decade by decade changes in gay lives and lifestyles from the beginning of the century through the 1960's. If the mockup I had in my hands is any indication of how beautiful this book will be when it's finished, it will be one of the loveliest books ever published by a feminist press. 96 pp, \$7.95, June, 0-941483-20-7. Naiad will also be distributing the video when it is released.

Naiad offers three spring novels in good time for ABA: **We Walk the Back of the Tiger** by Patricia Murphy (**Searching for Spring**), a tension gathering thriller set in a California coastal town in 1974. Cara Doherty is hired by university officials to direct their fledgling Women's Center because she's new in town and so (they hope) owes no allegiances to anyone.... Marti McDavid is a new divorcee, new to the women's movement, new to her love for Cara, but not new to drugs. She buys from Neil Norman, the local dealer and creep. A customer trades Neil a gun for drugs and Neil exults in his newfound power -- that can make his most cherished fantasies real. Young women start disappearing and I have to admit I stopped reading at that point. You're on your own from there, though I keep thinking it would be interesting to read it back to back with Sarah Schulman's **After Dolores**.

(Dutton), a novel about a woman with gun-in-hand and wild with fantasies thereof. \$8.95 pb 0-941483-13-4.



**Osten's Bay** is offered under the pen of Zenobia N. Vole. (Not seen by FBN.) "Gail Murray is the divemaster and a researcher for an underwater studies institute -- a seemingly wonderful job until she learns that the institute's divers are experiencing a rash of fatal accidents -- and that her research will be used to help an oil company to begin ecologically disastrous oil extraction from within reef cavities. With billions of dollars at stake, Gail becomes enmeshed in intrigue and involved with the erotically alluring, sinister Alicia Soto, the corporation's research director.... but then there's the attractive, self-assured Marike Osten to whom Gail flees when it's clear that her life is at stake...." \$8.95 pb 0-941483-15-0.

**Sunday's Child** by Joyce Bright (whom I remember from the first Women In Print Conference.) "The grueling, pitiless demands of top flight athletics transform both Angie and Kate: Angie discovers in herself new levels of determination -- and a rich depth of loving in her mercurial lesbian nature. Kate looks at her destructive family and tangled past with new eyes...and at her feeling for Angie with totally altered perception. As Kate and Angie grow in their strength and power, the marathon looms larger and larger in importance. But the homici-





dal path of the rapist is moving inexorably closer to the two women..." Not seen by FBN. \$8.95 0-941483-12-6.

Naiad Press, PO Box 10543, Tallahassee FL 32302. 904-539-9322. BP, IN, etc.



Spinsters/Aunt Lute's two spring books are **Why Can't Sharon Kowalski Come Home** by Karen Thompson and Julie Andrzejewski and **Medusa: Short Stories by Contemporary Puerto Rican Women** edited by Diana Velez.

Should anyone not know by now, Sharon Kowalski was severely injured when her car was hit by a drunk driver in 1983, leaving her unable to move or communicate in traditional ways. For the next two years her lover Karen Thompson was by her side constantly, helping her in the arduous fight to regain basic life-skills. In 1985, after many costly legal battles, the court awarded Sharon's father sole guardianship and, within 24 hours, he denied Karen visitation rights. **Why Can't Sharon Kowalski Come Home** takes us through the unbelievable court room scenes of the past four years as Karen struggles to be recognized as Sharon's life partner and thus help ensure Sharon's recovery to her fullest capacity. It chronicles Karen's transformation to a human rights activist as she experiences the extreme prejudices against the disabled, against women, and especially against lesbians. Karen urges that other lesbian, gay, and unmarried couples protect themselves by coming out to relatives and by signing Durable Power of Attorney forms. (Forms and instructions are included in the book.) Also includes an support endorsement from Jesse Jackson. \$10.95 pb, Sept., 0-933216-46-7.

Each of the stories in **Medusa: Short Stories by Contemporary Puerto Rican Women** unmasks patriarchy and lays it bare in a way that

avenges at least some of the wrongs done to women in its name. An aunt takes revenge on her doctor's unethical family when its favorite son marries her youngest niece. A young ballerina dons the character of her ballets to escape the heavy demands of religion, family and matrimony. An unusual story of a falling turtle and a woman's fear come together in a fateful moment. The unspoken and brief bond of a car thief and the unhappy woman watching the thief from her balcony changes both their lives. Influenced by the recent generation of Latin American writers, these well know Puerto Rican authors create an unforgettable impression. Includes introduction and notes on translation. \$8.95 pb, Fall, 0-933216-41-6. Spinsters/Aunt Lute, PO Box 410687, San Francisco CA 94141. Will also be available from BP and IN.

As Grace Paley says, "It's taken a long time to recognize the fact that women are the great organizers and activists. If the well is poisoned, if the river runs thick with toxic waste, the housing is bleak, in most cases, it's women who will undertake the organization of stubborn protests and action, the research, the tedious day-after-day, year-after-year work that changes their own lives. Here are the women, here is a teaching book and an engaging work." The book? **Women Activists: Challenging the Abuse of Power** edited by Anne Witte Garland with foreword by Ralph Nader. (Nader's organization sponsored the research and writing of the book.) \$9.95 pb 0-935312-80-3, \$29.95 cl 0-935312-79-X, the Feminist Press.

In June, the Feminist Press will publish **Sultana's Dream and Selections from The Secluded Ones**, by Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain, "a witty and skillful fantasy that posits a world of 'reverse purdah,' in which the women have taken over the public sphere and men are confined to the seclusion of the harem. War is eliminated and science turned to peaceful ends." First published in English in Calcutta in 1905, a decade earlier



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--Carol Seajay in FBN

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than **Herland**. The short stories that accompany the novella illuminate first-hand the painful, comic and cruel realities of life in purdah. They were published serially in 1929. Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain (1880-1932) was born in a Bengali village into the Muslim elite. She worked tirelessly to end the practice of purdah and founded the first Muslim girls' school in Calcutta in 1911.

Feminist Press titles are distributed by the Talman Company, 150 Fifth Ave, NY NY 10011, (212) 620-3182, and by Inland and Bookpeople.

Plain View Press ("The only feminist literary publishing house in the American Southwest") has seven new titles. **Ancient Child** by Marcella Bryant includes hard hitting poems that are very direct in their presentation of incest. They address the author's private struggle to retrieve memory and her own history, trace a difficult and brave healing process, and represent a step toward justice for one woman. \$10.00. **My Monsters** by Kiki Suarez, a German visual artist and storyteller living in San Cristobal de las Casas in southern Mexico, is Plain View's first international title. Other titles include **Four Shields of Power** by Betty Sue Flowers, Lynn Gilbert, Peggy Kellery, and Elaine Sullender; **The Woman Who Was Wild** (and stays wild) by Karla Andersdatter; **Calico Passages** by Susan Bright; and **Represa**, by Nancy Taylor Day, a collection of escape stories based on her experience as a daughter of the prison doctor at Folsom Prison. Order from Plain View Press, (New address) PO Box 33311, Austin TX 78764, or BP.

MAGAZINES



**Earth's Daughters #29** includes two one-act plays: **Litany of the Clothes** and **Rita's Haircut** by Gabrielle Burton, Maria Burton, and Jennifer Burton, based on an excerpt from **Heartbreak Hotel** by Gabrielle Burton. \$5.00 from Earth's Daughters, Box 41 Central Park Station, Buffalo NY 14215.

**Canadian Women's Studies'** recent issues are on Margaret Laurence (Volume 8 Number 3) and Women's Psychology (Volume 8 Number 4). \$6.00 each. Order from **CWS**, 212 Founders College, York University, 4700 Keele St., Downsview ONT M3J 1P3.



*Coming in July:*

**THE ISLANDERS** by Helen Hull  
Afterword by Patricia McClelland Miller

First published in 1927, this is a novel about a single woman whose metaphoric vision is that of women as "islanders."

Hull and her lifelong companion Mabel Louise Robinson taught creative writing at Columbia for more than 40 years.

450 pages, ISBN 0-935312-91-1, \$10.95, paper

**LEAVING HOME**

Elizabeth Janeway

Afterword by Rachel M. Brownstein

An absorbing story of two sisters and a brother from an upper middleclass family in Brooklyn who must make the transition to independent adult life during the depression years. When originally published in 1958, the *New York Times* called it "a delight to read, and even reread, for its subtle, ironic implications."

350 pages, ISBN 0-935312-73-0, \$8.95, paper

**BLACK FOREMOTHERS, Three Lives**

2nd Edition

Dorothy Sterling

Foreward by Margaret Walker

Introduction by Barbara Christian

Three heroic women, whose stories every woman, man and child should know: Ellen Craft, the daring runaway Georgia slave who used her freedom to serve the cause of abolition; Ida B. Wells, the firebrand journalist whose crusade against lynching awakened the conscience of a nation; and Mary Church Terrell, a gifted and untiring leader in the movement for suffrage, civil rights, and world peace. The new introduction reflects the considerable body of scholarship on black women published in the past eight years and includes up-to-date sources and references.

224 pages, ISBN 0-935312-89-7, \$9.95

**The Feminist Press at**      **Distributed by**  
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**WOMEN ACTIVISTS**

**Challenging the Abuse of Power**

Anne Witte Garland

Foreword by Ralph Nader

Introduction by Frances T. Farenthold

This book is a series of profiles of 14 contemporary women activists who have sacrificed comfortable lives to fight publicly for their principles. Part of a growing breed of independent women activists, they are working to protect their families and neighborhoods, oppose unsafe nuclear power, and challenge unsound corporate and government policies. Their stories are moving, inspiring examples of individuals doing something concrete to control their lives and improve society. "It's taken a long time to recognize the fact that women are the great organizers...and activists... Here are the women: here is a teaching book and an engaging work."

-- Grace Paley

176 pages, ISBN 0-935312-79-X, \$29.95, cloth  
ISBN 0-935312-80-3, \$9.95, paper

**WRITING RED**

An Anthology of American Women Writers, 1930-1940

Edited by Charlotte Nekola & Paula Rabinowitz

Foreword by Toni Morrison

The first major effort to produce an inclusive volume of representative poetry and prose by revolutionary women who were both class-conscious and feminist. Here you will find Muriel Rukeyser, Margaret Walker, Josephine Herbst, Gwendolyn Brooks, Tillie Olsen, Tess Slesinger, Agnes Smedley, Meridel Le Sueur, plus 36 other writers whose names will be new to readers.

400 pages,      ISBN 0-935312-77-3, \$29.95, cloth  
ISBN 0-935312-76-5, \$12.95, paper



# FROM THE SMALL PRESSES



Several interesting titles on the recovery front: **Recoveries: True Stories by People Who Conquered Addictions and Compulsions**, edited by Lindsey Hall & Leigh Cohn, looks at several different addictions and offers true-to-life stories of people with recovery from alcoholism, anorexia nervosa, bulimia, cigarette smoking, cocaine, narcotics addiction, and suicide. The philosophy of the book is that readers will gain as much insight into their own compulsive behavior from reading about how others used other substances or compulsions as coping methods. And it works. Contributors include the Executive Director of Indian Alcoholism Commission of California, the author of **Bulimia: A Guide to Recovery**, and the founder of CompCare Publications. \$9.95 pb 0-936077-11-5, Gurze Books, PO Box 2238, Carlsbad CA 92008. Also at BP.

**Genesis**, Julie Bowden and Herbert Gravitz, \$6.95 pb, 0932194567, Health Communications. Written by the authors of **Recovery: A Guide for Adult Children of Alcoholics**, **Genesis** is about the last stage of recovery -- how to discover and recover one's spiritual self. Spirituality is viewed from three perspectives: the emotional aspect, the perceptual or cognitive aspect, and the actual lifestyle. "**Genesis** is the end that becomes the beginning."

**AIDS and Chemical Dependency** by Dorothy Flynn is an important new (September 1987) pamphlet from Hazelden. It covers the basic AIDS/ARC and safe sex information, then discusses the impact of AIDS on AA as a whole (that every AA group in the country will have lost a member to AIDS by 1995), the importance of not letting AIDS be divisive in AA groups, and finally, using the principles of recovery programs to deal with the effects of the disease. 18 pgs. Other pamphlets in this series include **Lesbian and Gay issues in Early Recovery**, **For Concerned**

**Others of Chemically Dependent Gays and Lesbians**, and **The Homosexual Alcoholic: AA's Message of Hope**. Hazelden Educational Materials, Box 176, Center City MN 55012. 800-328-9000.

**Great Shape: The First Exercise Guide for Large Women** by Pat Lyons and Debby Burgard is a great book about movement and health for large women. Solidly feminist in approach, content and philosophy, the book incorporates many ideas from **Fat Underground**, **Fat Lip Readers Theater** and **NAAFA**. The authors, both women of size, draw on their own experiences to make dancing, swimming, martial arts, walking, aerobics, softball, bicycling, gymwork, and generally having fun with movement, accessible to other large women. Debby started the "We Dance" classes for large women, Pat is a long-time jock who has skied, run races, played tennis and softball, and now enjoys swimming, walking and hiking. The one problem with the book is that the cover and the exercise models are relatively small and trim. It's not until later in the book that large women are shown swimming, playing softball, hiking, being rowdy and having fun. Unfortunately, many of the women for whom the book is written will be put off by the cover. \$22.95 cl, 0-87795-943-9, Arbor House (distributed by Morrow).

Women in the out-of-doors may be next year's publishing fad. Following close on the heels of **Rivers Running Free** are **Mountain High/Mountain Rescue**, **Journey Across Tibet: A Young Woman's 1900-Mile Trek Across the Rooftop of the World**, and **Give Me the Hills**.

**Mountain High/Mountain Rescue** by Peggy Parr, a 63-year-old field leader for a Colorado Springs search and rescue group, is a fascinating account of ordinary people who put their own



## Spring 1988

### WE ARE EVERYWHERE

Writings by and about Lesbian Parents.  
edited by Harriet Alpert. 260 pp. \$8.95 paper.

### OVER THE HILL

Reflections on Ageism Between Women.  
by Baba Cooper. 99 pp. \$7.95 paper

### LOVE, STRUGGLE AND CHANGE

A collection of Stories by Women.  
edited by Irene Zahava. 198 pp. \$8.95 paper

### THE WOMANSLAUGHTER ANTHOLOGY

Contemporary Mystery Stories by Women.  
edited by Irene Zahava. 190 pp. \$6.95.

### COLOR AND CRYSTALS

A Journey Through the Chakras.  
by Joy Gardner. 160 pp. Illus. \$8.95 paper.

### A MENSCH AMONG MEN

Explorations in Jewish Masculinity.  
edited by Harry Brod. 220 pp. \$10.95 paper.

### LETTERS TO MARINA

Fiction by Dacia Maraini  
translated by Dick Kitto/Elspeth Spottiswood.  
208 pp. \$8.95 paper.

### DREAMS AND DREAM GROUPS

Messages from the Interior.  
by Eva Renee Neu. 120 pp. \$7.95 paper.

### MORE THAN 100 WOMEN SCIENCE FICTION WRITERS

An Annotated Bibliography.  
edited by Sharon Yntema. 96 pp. \$39.95 cloth.

### WATERSPIRIT

A Book of Affirmations.  
edited by Irene Zahava. 128 pp. \$4.95 paper.

THE 1989 KATE GAWF CALENDAR. \$8.95.

THE 1989 WOMEN WRITERS CALENDAR. \$8.95.



## The Crossing Press

lives on hold to search the alpine world for the -- hopefully still alive -- missing. Parr writes vividly of the alpine world and its particular beauty and peace. The book is an adventure, an acceptance of death, and a celebration of life. \$15.95 cl, 1-555-1-005-X, Fulcrum Books, 350 Indiana St., Golden CO 80401. Try various distributors.

**Journey Across Tibet** is the amazing story of an Australian woman's three-month solo trek through barren desert and across 16,000-foot mountain passes and into isolated hamlets. Very hard to put down! \$17.95 cl, 0-8092-4608-2. Contemporary Books.

**Give Me the Hills**, first published in 1956 by the Appalachian Mountain Club, is Miriam Underhill's account of a remarkable life of joyful adventure on the high places of the world. Beginning in 1932 she lead all-women mountain climbing teams, one of which climbed the Matterhorn. \$12.95, Devin -Adair, 6 North Water St., Greenwich CT 06830. 40% for 5-9, 20% for 1-4.

**Chicana Creativity and Criticism: Charting New Frontiers in Mexican Literature**, edited by Maria Herrera-Sobek and Helena Maria Viramontes, documents the second conference on Chicana literature. It utilizes poetry, prose, art, and criticism to explore the portrayal of Chicana sexuality, the destruction of patriarchy, and innovations in style and theme. \$10.00 pb, 0-934770-85-9. Arte Publico Press, University of Houston, Houston TX 77004. BP & IN.

**Woman in Ancient Africa** by Heinrich Loth is a beautiful, fascinating, odd, and occasionally maddening book. First off, it's an art book with gorgeous 46 color and 112 black & white photos of sculpture, pottery, weavings, masks, engravings, drawings and rock paintings portraying African women. It's a book worth stocking for the images alone. But the book is also a history of sorts. Loth offers a look at the lives and status of African women as seen by early European travelers who expressed surprise at the elevated position of women in the empires south of the Sahara. They wrote of the legends that described female founders of towns and cities, told tales of women priests and powerful queens. There were reports of towns where women sold stoneware, cloth and other goods in the markets, women performing cesarean as well as circumci-



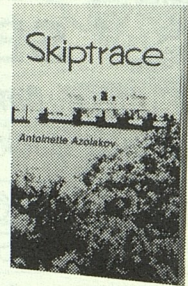
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**CASS AND THE STONE BUTCH**, *Antoinette Azolakov* ☞ It's a little bit love story, a little bit mystery, and mainly a book about lesbian friendship. "I enjoyed it enormously" [Carol Seajay]. **\$8.95**



### IN ITS FOURTH PRINTING:

Tee Corinne's bestselling *Dreams of the Woman Who Loved Sex* **\$7.95**

Coming This Fall Of Interest To Women: **Ripening**, *Valerie Taylor's* conclusion to the Erika Frohmann series; **Profiles Encourage**, *P.S. Johnson's* collection of biographies of twenty women and their accomplishments [nonfiction]; **These Lovers Flew Away**, *Morgan Graham's* historical romance based on the lives of Eleanor Butler and Sarah Ponsonby, "the Ladies of Llangollen;" **Like Coming Home: Coming Out Letters**, edited by *Meg Umans* [nonfiction], coming-out letters from men and women to parents and friends informing them they're gay.

Available From Banned Books, Bookpeople, and Inland Book Company

**BANNED BOOKS**, Number 231, P.O. Box 33280, Austin, Texas 78764, (512) 288-5884

sions long before contact with European medicine. Looking at women's roles in cultures that have radically changed through the eyes of the European (male) adventurers, missionaries and colonialists makes for a strange and distorted history.... **Woman in Ancient Africa** was originally published in Germany and the text contains (translated) passages from writers not readily available here, so reading the book becomes a treasure hunt for clues to a past not elsewhere recorded. How frustrating to have to recreate our history from such sources! When the text gets to be too much, go back to the artwork. \$35.00 cl, 088208-218-3. Lawrence Hill & Co., 520 Riverside Ave., Westport CT 06880.

Lawrence Hill has also recently published the U.S. edition of **Assata**, the autobiography of Assata Shakur. (\$9.95 pb, 0-8828-222-1; \$18.95 cl, 0-88208-221-3. Published in Britain by Zed Books.) "The autobiography is an intensely personal, human document. It reveals a passion for life and principle that belies the fearsome image projected by the FBI, the media, and the courts in which Assata was tried in the 1970's. With great sensitivity, she describes her child-

hood days in NYC and North Carolina and the formative experiences that led her to a life of activism. With pained awareness she portrays the strengths, weaknesses, and eventual demise of black and white revolutionary groups at the hands of government officials." Essential, to say the least.

**You Can't Kill the Spirit** by Pam McAllister is the first book in the multi-volume Barbara Deming Memorial Series: Stories of Women and Nonviolent Action. "With style, passion, and insight, McAllister tells the inspiring stories of women using nonviolent action in their struggles for social justice. Drawn from around the world, gleaned from archives and forgotten library shelves as well as personal and newspaper accounts, with tales going back as far as 13th century B.C. Egypt, these vivid accounts testify to women's courage, inventiveness and effectiveness in using nonviolent strategies in struggles for human and women's rights, economic self-sufficiency, freedom, human dignity and self-determination. McAllister edited **Reweaving the Web of Life**. June, \$10.95 pb, \$32.95 cl. New Society Publishers. ○





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**Joan Rothschild**, University of Lowell, Lowell, MA, USA

An examination of the key concepts and issues involved in introducing and developing a feminist perspective in the technology classroom.

For professors and administrators of technology, women's studies, gender and technology education - secondary and college level.

215x140 mm                      178 pp                      April 1988  
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# FROM THE UNIVERSITY PRESSES



By Kris Hoover  
Amazon Bookstore/Minneapolis

## RUTGERS UNIVERSITY PRESS

**Black Pearls: Blues Queens of the 1920's**, Daphne Duval Harrison, 285p, 28 illus., \$19.95 cl, ready. This is a hard book to put down -- light, journalistic, well-illustrated, and informative. Harrison sets short biographies in the context of Black migration to the north, and portrays "blues queens" as strong, independent women. Some dared to carry on lesbian relationships, and all coped with a harsh entertainment industry -- a business riddled with sexism and demanding "race records" for Black audiences and "plantation shows" for whites.

**Anzia Yeziarska**, Louise Levitas Henriksen, 318p, 25 illus., \$22.95 cl, ready. Yeziarska is best-known now for her novel **The Bread Givers** (1925) about an immigrant Jewish woman's war with her orthodox father. This biography by her daughter depicts her as a woman of talent, passion and brazen self-absorption. The tension between Yeziarska's sense of isolation and her desire to tell, and sell, the stories she shared with a generation of immigrant women is especially well-done.

**Marilyn Monroe: the Body in the Library**, Graham McCann (male author), 220p., illus., \$11.95, ready. The many "biographies" of Monroe have only made the person more distant and the image more plastic. By writing self-consciously as a man, McCann wants to avoid iconography and to portray Monroe's "humanity." By quoting Monroe extensively, he does succeed in presenting her as a complex, guarded, believably human figure. Keeping his own perspective in focus doesn't come off, though -- it's more often ponderous philosophizing and unedifying reminiscence than insight into male perception.

**The Hidden Hand** E.D.E.N Southworth, 450p, \$15, June. Rutgers' catalog describes this re-discovered 19th-century serial as an exuberant, feminist satire: a girl is "rescued" from her life as a newspaper "boy," only to fall once again into such behaviors as saving women in distress, fighting duels and capturing ruffians. Sounds like fun summer reading!



**Patrons and Protegees: Gender, Friendship and Writing in 19th Century America**, Shirley Marchalonis ed., 250p, \$28 cl, ready. You might recommend this to a student or an enthusiastic reader of Margaret Fuller, Walt Whitman, Charlotte Perkins Gilman or the others covered here. General readers, though, would likely see these essays as literary gossip.

**In the Patient's Best Interest: Women & the Politics of Medical Decision**, Sue Fisher, \$13, May. Fisher analyzed hundreds of tapes of doctor-patient interactions to draw out language that renders any part of a woman's lifecycle a "disorder" and injects racism and classism into the supposedly objective process of making medical decisions.

Also note: **Food, Sex and Pollution**, Anna Meigs, \$12, May, about a New Guinea society, by a feminist anthropologist with a gift for catchy titles; and for leftist bookstores: **All the Right Enemies: the Life and Murder of Carlo Tresca**, Dorothy Gallagher, 300p illus, \$24.95 cl, June, a new biography of an important anarchist theorist and organizer.



**The Limits  
of Sisterhood**

The Beecher Sisters on Women's Rights and Woman's Sphere  
by Jeanne Boydston, Mary Kelley,  
and Anne Margolis

"A collection of many delights. Lucid and newly revelatory essays by three historians inform the fascinating documents, which bring the Beecher sisters to life for twentieth-century readers."

—Nancy F. Cott, Yale University  
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by Sydney Stahl Weinberg

"Not only provides scholars, and readers in general, with the first in-depth analysis of the lives of Jewish immigrant women, but it brings the totality of that migration into bold relief, and gives those immigrants, both women and men, true historical life."—Hasia R. Diner

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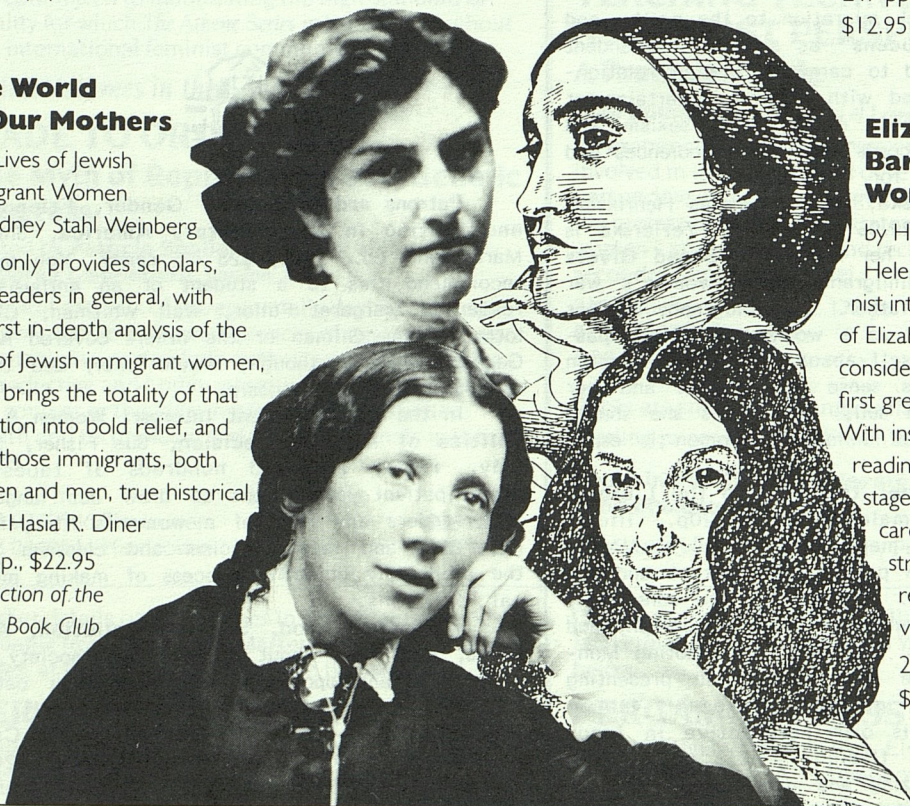
University of North Carolina Press  
PO Box 2288, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2288

**Christina Rossetti  
in Context**

by Antony H. Harrison  
Antony Harrison applies the methodologies of the new historicism, reception theory, and feminist criticism to provide striking interpretations of Christina Rossetti's poems and to place them in their intellectual, artistic, and ideological contexts. "Harrison's book will make a major change in how we read Christina Rossetti."—Jerome Bump, University of Texas at Austin  
247 pp., \$29.95 cloth,  
\$12.95 paper

**Elizabeth  
Barrett Browning,  
Woman and Artist**

by Helen Cooper  
Helen Cooper offers a feminist interpretation of the work of Elizabeth Barrett Browning, considered by many to be the first great English woman poet. With inspired and original readings of poems from each stage of Barrett Browning's career, Cooper demonstrates how the poet realized a mature poetic voice as a woman.  
232 pp., \$25 cloth,  
\$10.95 paper







## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESS

This is California's longest women's studies list in several seasons -- if you've lost track of them, this is a good time to pick up some backlist along with some strong new titles.



**Adorned in Dreams**, Elizabeth Wilson, 304p, 37 illus, \$14.95, ready (though, strangely, it isn't in the spring catalog). A sophisticated, entertaining history of European and U.S. fashion -- Wilson writes equally fluidly about the gender, race and class politics of fashion and the fun and art of dressing up. Her topics range from feminist fashion reform to the exploitation of women clothing workers, to terrific gossip about designers, performers and other shapers of clothing styles.

**On Account of Sex: the Politics of Women's Issues 1945 - 1968**, Cynthia Harrison, 370p, \$25. cl, ready. This look at feminist activism in the bleak post-war decades is more narrowly focused than other recent studies. Rather than proposing new views of the entire period, Harrison adds depth to our knowledge of pro-woman federal legislation, an approach she calls "specific bills for specific ills."

**Veiled Sentiments: Honor and Poetry in a Bedouin Society**, Lila Abu-Lughod, 336p, 19 photos, \$10.95, ready. Egyptian Bedouin women and young men express feelings that violate their culture's moral codes through poetry, a sort of Bedouin blues. Abu-Lughod breathes life into her explanation of Bedouin ideas about gender and social order with her subtle understanding of these short, formulaic yet moving laments. A wonderful book for someone interested in non-Western poetry, the Middle East, the politics of sentiment or the collision of cultural expectations and personal experience.

**Mother-Love and Abortion**, Robert Goldstein (male author), 250p, \$19.95 cl, April. Goldstein argues forcefully for the legal recognition of the special nature of the mother-fetus dyad and the centrality of a concept he calls "mother-love" to society. Privacy and autonomy belong to this dyad, with the mother as decision-maker.

Prohibiting abortion is the theft of a women's "mother-love." Whereas the doctor-patient privacy doctrine of *Roe v. Wade* was only expedient, Goldstein suggests, the mother-love principle is realistic and enduring because it is rooted in the experience of those most affected by pregnancy and abortion. It will be interesting to see what, if anything, the legal system makes of this.

Six other new paperbacks you might want to carry are: **Mothers and Divorce**, Terry Arendell, 235p, \$9.95, ready, which documents the long-term damage inflicted on women and their children by the combination of sexism in employment and current divorce laws; **More Equal Than Others: Women & Men in Dual-Career Marriages** Rosanna Hertz, 261 p., \$9.95, ready, even if your customers don't include the yuppie couples surveyed here. Hertz's discussion of how professional women's equality is facilitated by the labor of working-class childcare providers may be of interest; **Looking into Degas**, Eunice Lip-ton, 252p, 8 color & 125 b&w illus, \$14.95, ready, for stores with strong art sections, this is a feminist look at the 19th century male painter's images of working women; **Holy Feast, Holy Fast**, Caroline W. Bynum, 460p, illus, \$12.95, May, relating medieval European religious symbolism to women's creativity and experience; **Giovanni and Lusanna**, Gene Bruckner (male author), 148p, \$7.95, ready, about a Renaissance Florentine woman who defied convention by suing her wealthy lover; and **Hindu Goddesses**, David Kinsley (male author), 289p, 18 illus, \$10.95, June. I haven't seen this, but it might be a handy survey of the major goddesses and current devotions.



## BOOKS ABOUT WOMEN

### SARAH WINNEMUCCA OF THE NORTHERN PAIUTES

By Gae Whitney Canfield

"A fascinating study of Sarah Winnemucca, one of America's first woman activists. . . . A memorable portrait of an original Indian woman."—*Booklist*. "This sympathetic biography will be a welcome addition to women's studies and Native American collections."—*Library Journal*.

\$9.95 Paper; \$19.95 Cloth

### THE ROMAN MOTHER

By Suzanne Dixon

Explores the origins of traditional Roman attitudes toward mothers and motherhood among all classes. "Her book will interest feminist historians and sociologists outside classics departments."—*Sylvia Barnard*, Classics Department, SUNY-Albany.

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### ALLEN & UNWIN

**FEMALE CRIME**, Ngaire Naffine, 146p, \$12.95, ready. This is a study of criminologists -- of their sexist approaches to female offenders or their glamorized, James Dean view of criminals which ignores women altogether. Naffine also summarizes recent feminist research. She relies mainly on U.S. research, rather than (as is often the case with A&U books) Australian or British work. I wish she had discussed homophobia in more depth, for it must be a factor in the minds of experts who deal with women who assert themselves, even through crime. Otherwise, though, this is a thorough, snappy survey useful to anyone in law enforcement or social work, and a contribution to feminist social analysis.

### YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS

**Sarah Grimke: Letters on the Equality of the Sexes & Other Essays**, Elizabeth Ann Bartlett ed, 176p, \$21.50 cl, ready. Grimke's essays, written 150 years ago, are startlingly contemporary. She wrote on feminist theology, marital rape, the politics of naming, comparable worth, white women's complicity in violence against Black women, sexist language, and international feminism. She and her younger sister Angelina Grimke, two of the earliest and most visionary leaders of the U.S. abolitionist and feminist movements, are profiled in Gerda Lerner's steady-selling **Grimke Sisters From South Carolina** (Schocken, \$9.95). Their importance may make it possible to sell this book in hardcover.

**Parental Leave Crisis**, Edward F. Zigler & Meryl Frank eds., 368p, \$30 cl, ready. This comprehensive, liberal-feminist, policy-oriented collection will be useful to activists. The studies assess employers' policies on parental leave in the U.S. and Europe; the effect of paternal leave on later fathering; and the impact of daycare on infant development. For parents, this book may offer ideas for workplace organizing and reassurance that quality daycare, if it can be gotten, seems to do no harm to children's development.

**Labor Pains: Modern Midwives and Home Birth**, Deborah Sullivan and Rose Weitz, 220p, \$27.50. Except for the price, this is an excellent book for midwives and activists, and the voluminous references are a gift to students. Many prospective mothers and co-mothers will





find the paperback useful when it comes out in about 18 months. The authors, two commonsensical feminists, cover women's revolt against the medicalization of birth and document midwives' struggles with doctors and other obstacles they brave in practicing. Sullivan and Weitz also summarize the latest information on the safety of home birth, compare U.S. care with that available elsewhere, and speculate on the future of midwifery and woman-centered childbirth.



**Jewish High Society in Old Regime Berlin**, Deborah Hertz, 299p, 24 illus, \$30 cl, May. Easily overlooked as a women's studies title, this is a history of wealthy Jewish women's networks that flourished in Berlin before 1800. Hertz reconstructs these women's lives and aspirations and discusses the effects of the "salons" they led on gender-relations in the Jewish community and Jewish women's literary and intellectual freedom.

**Loosening the Bonds**, Joan Jensen, 286p illus, \$12.95, ready. An inventive social history of the women, mainly Quaker or Black, who lived on farms near Philadelphia in the period 1750-1850. Jensen shows how these women transformed the economic self-sufficiency of their thriving creameries and their friendships with neighbor women into a loosening of the bonds of the patriarchal family. Jensen modifies historians' views linking these women's unusual assertiveness and social activism (in abolitionism, etc.) to Quakerism alone.

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN PRESS**

**Constitutional Rights of Women: Cases in Law and Social Change**, Leslie Friedman Goldstein, 656p, \$15, ready. Because the Supreme Court continues to exert its hold on women's rights, this unusually readable textbook summarizing all women's rights cases may have some

general appeal. It's also a good reference book, with a durable flex cover and handy time lines and indexes, a copy of the Constitution, and a brief explanation of how the Supreme Court works.

The end of the Reagan era seems to have renewed interest in feminist law publishing. I've noticed a small upturn in sales at Amazon in Minneapolis, though I don't know yet whether the cause is this trend or just the great popularity here of Catherine MacKinnon's new paperback (see Harvard below).

**Images of Women in Peace and War**, Sharon MacDonald et al, eds., 256p, \$12.95, May. I haven't seen this British publication, but it appears to be essays on women's actual experiences versus popular images in art, myth, and advertising, of women as amazons, freedom fighters, peace keepers and victims of war.

Wisconsin has a 5-copy minimum. Order from regional reps or direct. A good backlist title to help you make a minimum is Gerda Lerner's memoir of living through her husband's death, **A Death of One's Own**, \$7.95.

**UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO PRESS**

**Westward the Women**, Vicki Piekarski ed., 192p, \$19.95, June. Diverse anthology of western fiction by Mary Austin, Leslie Silko, Willa Cather and other women -- good summer reading.

**Hopi Photographs, Kate Cory: 1905 - 1912**, Marnie Gaede et al, 164p, 69 duotones, \$19.95 pb, June. In order to capture the spiritual and orderly life of a Hopi community, Cory created both portraits and scenes of ritual action. Some of her photos will be familiar in stores that carry postcards.

**Blessed Assurance: At Home With the Bomb in Amarillo, Texas**, A.G. Mojtabei, 272p, \$10.95, May. If you sell books on peace, you may want to carry this beautifully-written account of the lives and attitudes of Amarillo residents who assemble nuclear bombs, and of Amarillo residents living in the shadow of the bomb factory who are committed to disarmament.



# NEW THIS SPRING

## FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES PHILOSOPHICAL ESSAYS ON METHOD AND MORALS

Lorraine Code, Sheila Mullett, and  
Christine Overall, editors

The essays in this collection demonstrate that feminist enquiry gives rise to questions about the most fundamental methodological assumptions of philosophy, and requires a recasting of most of the terms and issues central to moral philosophy.

Cloth 0-8020-2627-3 \$25.00

Paper 0-8020-6668-2 \$12.95

## WOMEN IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE REVOLUTION THE FEMINIZATION OF CLERICAL WORK

Graham S. Lowe

Lowe documents the growth and development of the clerical and administrative labour process in Canada, the US, and Britain, focusing on the transition of the clerical workforce from all-male to overwhelmingly female. He considers such factors as the emergence of large corporations, the development of scientific management in the office, and the impact of technology.

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## CORNELL UNIVERSITY PRESS

**Women's Activism and Social Change: Rochester New York, 1822-1872**, Nancy Hewitt, 281p, \$10.95, ready. Hewitt, a historian who worked on the Women's Rights Historical Park at Seneca Falls, NY, broadens ideas of 19th-century women's activism with a look at class distinctions. She finds owning-class women trying to ameliorate poor people's living conditions, women from upwardly mobile families predominating in social uplift crusades like abolitionism and temperance, a small group of urban needleworkers organizing a cooperative, and poor rural Quaker women calling for full race and sex equality.

## UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI PRESS

**Basic Skills**, Anne Finger, 112p, \$8.95, April. Finger's short stories have appeared in two disabled women's anthologies. Her subject range is wide and her curious, smart-mouthed kids are especially good characters.

Missouri's minimum is 3 copies; back and frontlist combine.

## HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS

**Fasting Girls**, Joan Jacobs Blumberg, 368p, 38 illus, \$25 cl, April. Blumberg traces the history of anorexia from its "discovery" by doctors in the 1870's to today, and the parallel track of "treatment" as it has been shaped and reshaped by malestream ideas about women. She relates anorexia to pressures faced by middle class girls in a society which values them mainly for their bodies, and points to increasing commercialism and lingering sexism as causes of the current crisis. The author's contribution lies not in radical conclusions, but in lively and compassionate writing and helpful sense of historical perspective.

**Feminism Unmodified**, Catherine MacKinnon, 328p, \$9.95, ready. MacKinnon's pithy, quotable essays have been the best-selling university press book at Amazon Bookstore this spring. Based on speeches, these stimulating, forthright observations on law, sexual politics and social hierarchy -- gender is about dominance, not difference, etc. -- should gain a wider audience for one of the most radical and brilliant women working within the legal system.

**The AIDS Bureaucracy**, Sandra Panem, 208p,

\$9.95, May. The magnitude of the AIDS epidemic, Panem writes, has strained the federal government's means of studying, treating and preventing disease to the point that all the cracks in the Establishment show. Though homophobia is understood here only in its grossest manifestations, the author's critique of organizational problems is readable and incisive.

**Samurai and Silk, a Japanese and American Heritage**, Haru Matsukata Reischauer, 424p, illus, \$10.95, ready. Readers interested in women's experience will find this memoir disappointing. The author's story-telling is accomplished, but her focus is mainly on the male members of her influential family.



## INDIANA UNIVERSITY PRESS

**The Amazon and the Page**, Karla Jay, 168p, \$10.95, ready. Lesbian-feminist scholar Jay rescues the work of Natalie Barney and Renee Vivien from narrowly romantic and classist appreciation. She shows that these two immensely privileged women and others of Barney's Paris lesbian salon were able to create some authentic, women-centered images and myths -- a "Sapphic modernism" with something to contribute to building women's culture. Jay's witty writing makes her book accessible to anyone interested in lesbian culture.

**Motherself: a Mythic Analysis of Motherhood**, Kathryn A. Rabuzzi, 256p, \$12.95, ready. This is a long, heterocentrist meditation on theology and middle-class experiences of motherhood. It's occasionally hard to follow, and ignorant in its conceptions of lesbian life, but also intriguing in its creative use of myth and the range of ideas the author spins out about the identities of mother and self.

**Why the ERA Failed**, Mary Frances Berry, 160p, \$8.95, ready. U.S. Civil rights commissioner Berry grounds her explanation in a study of how controversial Constitutional amendments succeeded in the past. She concludes that a clear majority of voters remained unconvinced that sex discrimination was a social problem that only a change in the constitution could





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solve. Berry also suggests regional and national strategies and conditions that must be in place to create a strong public, and therefore Congressional, sense of urgency.

**Acoustic Mirror: The Female Voice in Psychoanalysis and Cinema**, Kaja Silverman, 288p, \$12.50, ready. Those well-versed in psychologically-oriented film criticism and the ideas of Julia Kristeva will probably enjoy and be challenged by this book. The author is working with the usual essentialism, but her definition of her subject as film sound track and the sound and perception of women's voices is novel.

**Romanticism and Feminism**, Anne E. Mellor ed., 256p, \$12.95, ready. These feminist essays on such English Romantic writers as William Blake and Mary Shelley show that women and men understood "romanticism" in different ways. Some chapters focus on male writers' attempts to appropriate "feminine" aspects of identity, while others discuss women's response to male definitions of sex difference.

**Sharing the Same Bowl**, Clair Robertson, 320p, \$12.95, April. Robertson examines the effects of colonialism in eroding West African women traders' livelihood and autonomy. In this acclaimed contribution to African studies and anthropology, she argues that 20th century economic colonialism has replaced age with gender as the primary determiner of status in Africa.

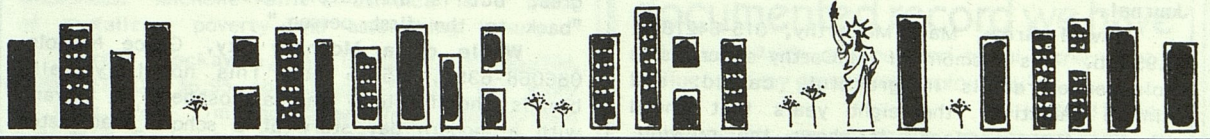
**Cavalry Maiden**, Nadezhda Durova, 256p, \$25 cl, May. The very entertaining diary of a cross-dressing Russian aristocrat who was a decorated veteran of military campaigns against Napoleon. Amazingly, some of her commanders and the Czar knew she was a woman and helped her to hide her identity.

Also note: **Feminist Perspectives in Philosophy**, Morwena Griffiths & Margaret Whitford eds., 256p, \$12.95, April, introducing the thought of several European feminist philosophers; and **Plains Woman: The Diary of Martha Farnsworth, 1882 - 1922**, Marlene Springer & Haskell Springer eds., 352p, \$9.95, ready, the 40-year diary of a fairly typical middle-class Kansas woman. It has no special literary appeal, but is a good regional title. ○





## AND ON PUBLISHER'S ROW



Compiled by Sandi Torkildson

#### DODD MEAD

**One Half of the Sky, Stories from Contemporary Women Writers of China**, Trans. by R. Roberts and A. Knox, 0-396-09291-8, \$15.95. These eight stories span the early twenties to the period after the Cultural Revolution. These writers represent a new school of women writers, many of whose work has not been translated previously. From a story of a child's friendship, to a powerful story written from a prison cell, these selections provide a rare insight into modern China.

**A Place in the News: From the Women's Pages to the Front Page**, Kay Mills, 0396-089321, \$17.95. This book tells the stories of the women who have worked to improve the balance of news coverage in the U.S. The interviews begin with women who got their breaks in the thirties, because Eleanor Roosevelt allowed only women to cover her press conferences, and include contemporary Black reporters breaking barriers of race and sex.

#### DOUBLEDAY

**Somerset Homecoming: Recovering a Lost Heritage**, Dorothy Redford with Michael D'Orso, 0385-24245-X, \$18.95. This powerful story of one woman's journey into the past began on August 30, 1986 when over 2,000 descendants of the slaves who worked and lived at Somerset Place in North Carolina gathered together for a homecoming and reunion. Dorothy Redford is the woman who organized the event and this is the story of her unlocking the past of her ancestors.

#### GROVE

**Out Front: Contemporary Gay and Lesbian Plays**, ed. Don Shewey, 08021-30259, \$14.95 pb.

May. This collection of plays reflects the modern gay and lesbian experience of self-identification, cultural oppression, life, and death. From the power of "Bent", Martin Sherman's drama of homosexual men in Hitler's death camps, to the zany "The Well of Horniness" by Holly Hughes, these plays portray a startling range of personal truths. (Looks like more plays by/about men than women.)



**Moon Tiger**, Penelope Lively, 0-80211027-4, \$15.95. This novel was the winner of Britain's Brooker Prize last year. It is the story of Claudia Hampston, a best-selling author, now elderly and alone in a London Hospital bed. Memories of her life still glow in her fading consciousness and **Moon Tiger** is her own history; the life of a strong, independent woman with its often contentious relations with her brother, daughter, colleagues, and friends.

#### HARCOURT BRACE JOVANOVICH

**Living by the Word: Selected Writings 1973-1987**, Alice Walker, 015-1529000, \$15.95 cl. May. This new collection of prose pieces is the most deeply spiritual of her work thus far. She writes of our intimate connection with plants and animals and of the poisoning of our environment. A number of essays focus on racial questions including the controversy surrounding filming of "The Color Purple". More personal essays include a reminiscence of her father and an account of her relationship to the lesbian and gay community in San Francisco.

**Paris Was Yesterday: 1925-1939**, Janet Flanner, 015-6709902. This is a reissue of the first volume of Flanner's famous **New Yorker**



"Letters from Paris." Presented chronologically, they give an incomparable view of French political, social, and cultural life. HBJ is also redesigning the other volumes of her **Paris Journal**.

**How I Grew**, Mary McCarthy, 015-6421852, \$8.95 pb. This memoir of McCarthy's surprising adolescence recalls in graceful, candid, and intimate narrative, the eight years that ended with her first marriage. It shows the growing, living, and learning of one of our foremost women of letters.

**PRENTICE HALL**

**Coping With Endometriosis**, Lyle Breitkopf, 013-277189-X, \$9.95 pb. May. This book is designed to help women with the often debilitating pain and infertility caused by this progressive disease. It explains how the disease works inside the body and details the scientific advances in treatment, including laser surgery.

**VIRAGO** (Dist. by Random House)

**Back in the First Person**, Kathy Page, 0860-68642-6, \$6.95, July. Cath Shelden struggles to

regain control over her life after she tells Steven to get out of her life and charges him with rape. The harsh indifference of the police and the courtroom drama ring true. Cath struggles, but is ultimately successful in moving "back to the first person."

**Whole of a Morning Sky**, Grace Nichols, 086068-6353, \$5.95 pb. This novel lyrically blends the folklore and atmosphere of Guyana with a modern day story of a school headmaster and his wife and daughter. The social tensions as seen through each character's eyes are both dramatic and compelling. Grace Nichols was born in Guyana and moved to Britain when she was 27.



**Cry Wolf**, Aileen La Tourette, 086068-5896, \$6.95 pb. Curie is a survivor of the nuclear holocaust in this moving novel about the present and future world. Curie tries to protect the inhabitants of the world from knowledge of the old, but is challenged by Sophia to remember. As Curie tells the story of her family she must accept that her denial of a knowledge of evil means an equal denial of good.

**Militarism Versus Feminism: Writings on Women and War**, ed. Kamester and Vellacott. 0860-687821, \$6.95 pb. June. These essays written in 1915 during the First World War have a fascinating relevance to today's discussions of peace. These three important writings, along with a fascinating introduction and explanatory material, set these works into their historical and political context.

**HOGARTH** (Dist. by Random House)

**The White Bird Passes**, Jessie Kesson, 0701207329, \$6.95 pb. July. This is the story of young Janie growing up in the city backstreets. Her beloved mother has "gone to the bad" and her father is gone for good. Janie's dreams are haunted by the Cruelty Man, the Rent Man, and the orphanage. The clamorous vitality of the slums and the comic gusto for life triumph in Janie's spirit.

**RANDOM HOUSE:**

Aventura, Schocken, Vintage, Knopf, Times Books, Pantheon.

**No Telephone to Heaven**, Michelle Cliff,

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Aventura/RH, \$6.95 pb, 0679739422, June. In this novel about colonialism, race, politics and myth is the story of Claire Savage, a Jamaican mulatto, her rites of passage and her quest for wholeness. Michelle Cliff's Jamaica is a place of brutalizing poverty and astonishing beauty.

**From Rockaway**, Jill Eisenstadt, Vintage/RH, 0394-757610, \$6.95 pb, June. This is the story of Alex, Peg, Tim and Chowderhead, working-class kids from Rockaway, NY, a beach community. On the border between childhood and adolescence, this circle of friends breaks apart when Alex gets a scholarship to a "rich kids school" in New England. Back at home for the summer, Alex must face the explosive depth of feeling in kids with few options.

**Ellen Foster**, Kaye Gibbons, Vintage/RH, 0394-757572, \$5.95 pb, May. This was one of the best first novels I've read in years. From the opening lines "When I was little I would think of ways to kill my daddy" the little girl who calls herself Ellen Foster commands our respect, attention and affection. After the deaths of her drunken abusive father and sadly misused mother, Ellen searches for true home.

**Breaking and Entering**, Joy Williams, Vintage/RH, 0394-757734, \$6.95 pb, June. This novel is about two drifters, Willie and Liberty, who break into Florida vacation homes while the owners are away, stay awhile, and then move on. Their search becomes increasingly dangerous and Liberty senses that Willie is drifting away from her. They are searching for not just a home, but for their selves.

**Woman and Child: The Legacy of Baby M**, Phyllis Chesler, Times Books/RH, 0812917456, \$16.95. May. With passion and wisdom, Chesler explores the impact of this landmark case on our legal, psychological, and ethical condition. Chesler explores such questions as "What makes a 'fit' mother or father? Who decides? Is surrogate mothering baby-selling and exploitation of women?" The book projects the impact of this case on the future and questions how the modern family will be defined and by whom.

**The Shooting Gallery**, Yuko Tsushima, Pantheon/RH, 0394-757932, \$7.95 pb. These stories about women in modern Japan bring to life a series of spirited women who, no longer bound by traditional Japanese values, find themselves leading lives of sexual freedom, economic independence, and sometimes loneliness. These

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eight stories evoke passion and jealousy, the joys and sorrows of motherhood, and the struggle between freedom and responsibility. The Women's Press/England did the first English edition of these stories.

**The Bonds of Love: Psychoanalysis, Feminism, and the Problem of Domination**, Jessica Benjamin, Pantheon/RH, 0394-75730-3, \$12.95 pb, Aug. In this book, Benjamin, a feminist theorist and psychoanalyst, explains why we accept and perpetuate relationships of domination and submission. She reveals that domination is a complex psychological process that underlies our family life, social institutions, and especially our sexual relations, in spite of our conscious commitment to equality and freedom.



**A Friend from England**, Anita Brookner, Pantheon/RH, 0394-563875, \$15.95. The seventh novel by this witty and courageous English author is the story of Rachel and her involvement in the lives of the Livingstones. Rachel finds the privileged childishness of Heather Livingstone exasperating. She measures her own unencumbered, carefully gauged liberty against Heather's irresponsible abandon and forces an unforgettable confrontation between them.

**Women & Children First and Other Stories**, Francine Prose, Pantheon/RH, 0394565738, \$16.95. These bright and entertaining tales display Prose's special gift for revealing the mysteries and contradictions of contemporary life. Beneath their humorous surface these stories deal with the discovery that nothing is as we've foreseen -- not even our own desires. Prose confronts our moral responsibilities, and our complex noisy inner dialogue in a world in which women and children are both strongly connected and most vulnerable.

**A Frost in the Night**, Edith Baer, Schocken/RH, 08052-08577, \$7.95 pb, June. This novel set in Germany in 1932 during Hitler's rise to power, recreates a critical place and time in modern history. Through the perceptions of a young Jewish girl, Edith Baer conveys the girl's impressions of how a nation destroys itself and a way of life. ○

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**The Secret Museum: Pornography in Modern Culture**, by Walter Kendrick (Penguin), 1988 (1987), 288pp, \$7.95 paper. Dirty books and filthy pictures have been around almost forever, though the word that is often used to describe them is of recent coinage. Kendrick's illuminating and often amusing account of not only the derivation of "pornography" but also the social ramifications treats a loaded topic fairly and squarely.



**As We Are**, by Don Clark, Ph.D. (Alyson), 1988, 174pp, \$7.95 paper. Author of one of our bestselling gay nonfiction titles, **Loving Someone Gay** (Recently updated and expanded as **The New Loving Someone Gay**), clinical psychologist Don Clark writes a probing look at a new gay identity, one that has emerged from the AIDS epidemic. In this valuable and supportive little book, one of our most important voices reaffirms the importance of being **As We Are**.

**A Mensch Among Men: Explorations in Jewish Masculinity**, edited by Harry Brod (Crossing), 1988, 187pp, \$10.95 paper. In what is perhaps the first major effort to examine the Jewish man in a contemporary feminist context, men's studies scholar Harry Brod has collected 21 essays that examine the social, cultural and religious lives of Jewish men. From scholarly consideration of Jewish writings and intensely personal remembrances, to psycho-cultural essays on homosexuality, family life and anti-semitism, the writers shine the spotlight on previously hidden and unquestioned aspects of Jewish men. ○

SCIENCE FICTION, Cont.

series of clever, funny, often intriguing, and sometimes brilliant vignettes. Consider one strategy the oldwomen have to conceal themselves in this high-speed youth culture: by moving slowly, they make themselves literally invisible to their persecutors.

For me, however, the work as a whole was less than satisfying. I want science fiction and fantasy to create worlds and show me how they work. In **Bulldozer Rising** both the dominant culture and the various pockets of resistance remained sketchy. I want characters that pull me into their worlds and show me how it is to live there. With some exceptions, these did not. ○

POETRY, Cont.

professors and teachers looking for further evidence of a female tradition.

**Ultimate Conspiracy** by Jacqueline Lapidus (Lynx Publications, P.O. Box 902, Provincetown, MA 02657, ISBN 0-9619598-0-0, \$7.95. Also at Inland.) "Poems for the more mature lesbian" is an inappropriately flip way to put it, but this is a solid collection I would recommend to women who have struggled in relationships whose commitment to women through the acid tests is still strong and deep. The style is direct and uncomplicated. There are some downright funny pieces ("Xmas on the Straight and Narrow") and some good sexy stuff. My favourites were the longer suites: one describes a pilgrimage to Lesbos, another a surprising love affair on a trip to Brazil.

**Wild Oats and Fireweed** by Ursula K. LeGuin (Harper & Row, ISBN 0-06-0962275, US \$6.95 pb -- in Canada from Fitzhenry & Whiteside). What kind of poetry to expect from the Pacific Northwest's most famous fantasist? Readable, imaginative, some hard science content (a nice long sequence on Mt. St. Helen's eruption) - full of women of all ages.

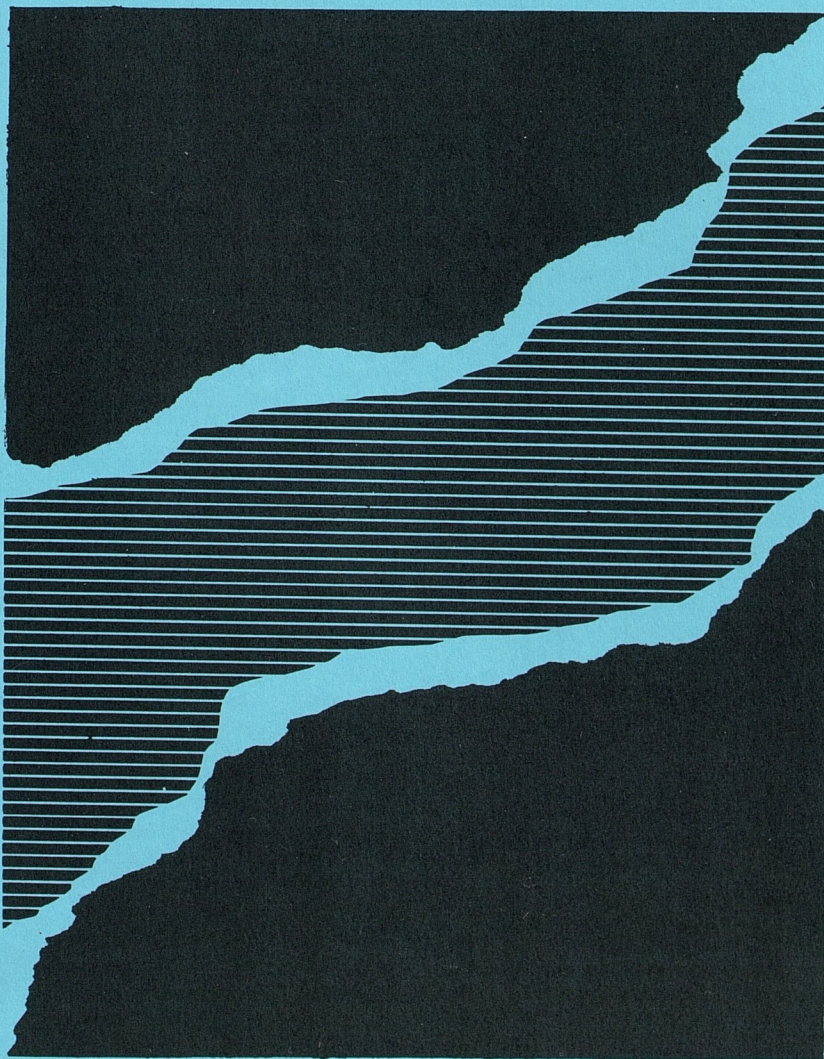
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\* Susan Griffin in "Poetry as a Way of Knowledge" in **Made From This Earth** (The Women's Press - England, 1982.) ○



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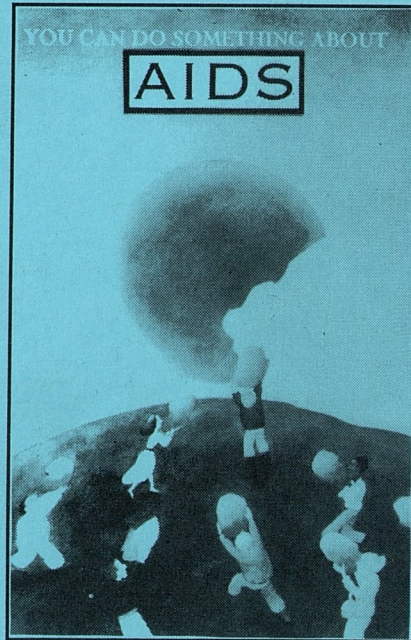


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