
Feminist Bookstore News





Recovery Books

March/April 1989

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Volume 11 Number 6

4/28/89

MAPPING THE MORAL DOMAIN

A Contribution of Women's Thinking to Psychological Theory and Education
Edited by Carol Gilligan, Janie Victoria Ward, and Jill Taylor, with Betty Bardige



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The Victorian Construction of Womanhood
Cynthia Eagle Russett



Cynthia Russett has produced a learned and immensely enjoyable chapter in the annals of human folly: that of nineteenth-century male scientists and thinkers trying to prove women inferior to men. No other work has treated this provocative topic so completely. "This is a solid and necessary contribution to the history of science, intellectual history, and women's history: scientifically literate lay readers will be amused and aghast."—*Kirkus Reviews*
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NOTES FROM THE COMPUTER TABLE

This has been a particularly trying time for booksellers worldwide, with Khomeini using death threats against writers as a bid for publicity. As we were preparing this issue for press, Cody's Books and the Telegraph Avenue Waldenbooks were both fire-bombed. Perhaps the most amazing aspect of this whole ordeal has been the various chains' reconsideration and decisions to stock Rushdie's *Satanic Verses*. The silver lining, if there is one, is the international attention to the necessity of freedom to write and to publish and the drawing of public consciousness to the ability of chain bookstores to limit the distribution of ideas and literature and thus to impinge on the public's right-to-know (and consequently the need to support independent bookstores). Each and every bookseller who has stood behind this book should be commended for this necessary act of courage. One hopes that some way will be found to do so at this year's ABA. Kudos as well to Viking for keeping the book in print and to the many, many people inside and outside the trade who have spoken in support of this book and its author. Appreciation, also, to the people who have participated in public readings of *Satanic Verses* and also to those who have included readings of Marianne Wiggins' work at the same time. Important as this global incident has been, it is also important to remember that a more subtle suppression of the works of many women and men occurs daily, as a matter of routine, around the world as well as at home.

The next Women-In-Print conference is still in the works but won't be scheduled for 1989. The Minneapolis organizing committee, after many months of trying to create a racially and culturally diverse core

organizing committee, has concluded that it is, in the long run, more efficient and more useful to schedule the conference for a later date than to try to organize a(nother) major conference that is not inclusive of Women of Color from the start. To that end, the committee is expanding to a regional base for organizing, and will move to a national committee structure if the needed energy isn't available in the upper midwest area. More news as it develops!

This issue welcomes two new columnists. Mary Lowry, one of the founders of New Words in Cambridge, has taken on the Mysteries column. Nett Hart, of Word Weavers, is initiating a column, tentatively called "But Can She Type?" dedicated to stirring up discussion about issues in the Women in Print movement. Many thanks to Karen Axness who has done the Mysteries column for the past couple of years. Karen will continue with the Mass Market column and will contribute other occasional columns and articles.

FBN has an opening for a three-quarter time Production Coordinator/Office Manager. Lorena Boswell, FBN's current and first-ever office and advertising manager is moving on to the next phase

Office Manager/Production Coordinator Opening at FBN

Must be computer literate, good with detail, have experience or interest in lay-out, and care passionately about lesbian and feminist literature! 3/4 time. Starts at \$7/hour. If interested, call ASAP for job description. We expect to fill this position in early April. FBN: 415-626-1556

in her career. She's done an excellent job of taming the FBN office and helping FBN move into the new technology of desk-top publishing and will be sorely missed! We'd like to fill this position by April 15th — sooner if possible — so call immediately if you're interested. We're looking for someone who is computer literate, is good with detail, has some graphic experience (or a good eye and learns fast) and cares passionately about feminist books!

The women at Southern Wild Sisters wrote to suggest that FBN run a specific problem solving

column, where stores can write in with a problem and other stores can offer suggestions. Sounds great to me! Send in your favorite (or most interesting) problems, and we'll get it started!

And an enormous thanks to Sadie and Marvin J. Katz for hours and hours of work doing mailings for FBN's spring subscription drive and our annual mailing to advertisers!

And now on to FBN's first-ever Recovery Books Issue.

Recovery is A Feminist Issue

Silly me, I thought that if FBN did a special recovery issue, it would be about the books being sold in the bookstores. But the first responses to the suggestion for a recovery issue were requests for women's stories of dealing with addiction and recovery issues in feminist bookstores, so that's where this issue begins. Then we go on to a basic core list of recovery books by Mary Morrell and Anne Frost of Full Circle Books, a round-up of new and recent books in the field, and an eclectic list of "recovery fiction," a beginning toward a "recovery fiction" section for feminist bookstores. Scan the regular columns, too, for additional titles dealing with these issues.

Whether one likes the late-eighties focus on recovery programs and on personal recovery from a multitude of substance and process addictions or not, the fact is that the recovery sections in feminist bookstores are the best-selling sections since lesbian fiction hit the market.

Most feminist bookstores started stocking recovery books for the women who had traditionally been our customers, often at the request of local feminist therapists. Many feminist bookstores, once they began to stock a range of recovery books, became *the* bookstore-of-choice for the recovery communities in their areas. Recovery programs, anarchistic and decentralized as they are, all have active and vital word-of-mouth communications networks that know what books are available, what books are good for specific situations, and where to get them; they pass that information to newcomers with an efficiency that the news media should envy.

That there's been a tremendous loss of lesbian and feminist energy to alcoholism and co-dependency is no longer debated in most parts of our community. Women are getting sober, getting clean, getting their focus on themselves and generally utilizing AA, Al-Anon, Co-Dependency Anon (CODA), Nar-Anon,

Coke-Anon, OA, ACA groups, Incest Survivors Anon or whatever it takes and whatever is available to address the issues in our lives.

When feminists (and/or the news media) decry the lack of visible feminist organizing in this day and age, this urge toward sobriety (in all its forms) is generally overlooked. Feminists and lesbians are organizing support groups in all the recovery programs — and indeed, are organizing entire programs (i.e., Incest Survivors Anonymous) with the same passion and, it seems to me, the same intentions that we were organizing and attending Consciousness Raising groups twenty years ago. When we fail to recognize this activity as an extension of feminist organizing and expression, we are selling ourselves and our movement short. Consciousness Raising was an initial expression of the feminist movement. Later the focus shifted to theory and organizing, and the CR groups faded into the past. But I think that we lost something crucial in that shift — theory heals the mind, but it takes immediate and focused attention to one's emotions to heal the guts. Women are now using 12-step programs to address feminist issues such as self-esteem, co-dependency, incest, addictions to prescription drugs and other debilitating substances, and many of the multitudinous results of living under the daily terrorism of patriarchy.

What we don't have yet is the theory. I'm looking for a good solid feminist analysis of the ways that addiction and co-dependency keep women and particular racial and ethnic groups oppressed.

How about a feminist analysis of burnout? Of co-dependency in the movement? What are the long-term effects of "co-ing" the movement, both for the individual and the movement and how does a movement "recover?" How about an addiction-to-violence analysis of war? (As I'm writing this, Tower is promising that he'll quit drinking "tomorrow" if approved for Secretary of Defense. I keep having visions of Tower waking up the morning after blowing up the world saying "Christ! Was I drunk last night!") Where is a feminist analysis of denial as a force against social change? How do we break denial on a governmental

and global scale? Anne Wilson Schaeff's books hint at the beginning of this theory, but *only* the beginning. When do we get the rest?

There is an addiction-based analysis of pornography and its role and function in society. How does that analysis conflict with the legislate-it-out-of-existence approach to pornography? Can it be any more effective than prohibition?

Social organizing generally follows consciousness raising. If all the women currently in recovery programs move into increased personal empowerment, one of two things is going to happen — either all this energy will go into realizing individual goals or, more likely, there will be another wave of social and political organizing centered on changing the structures that allow and create such intense dysfunction in society: a wave of attention to creating and enforcing prohibitions against incest and other child abuse laws and sanctions. We're already seeing demand for increased sanctions against drunk driving. How will these demands, coming from groups with limited political experience and an individual-based social analysis be manifest? Will they be co-opted by the right's reactionary "pro-family" platforms? Will there be a feminist analysis to move this energy? —CS ○

FBN Deadlines

May/ABA Issue:

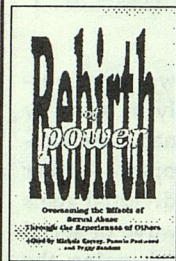
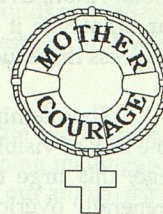
April 15

Summer Sidelines Issue:

June 15

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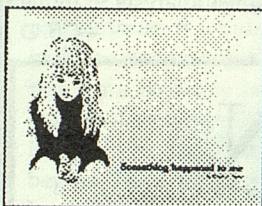
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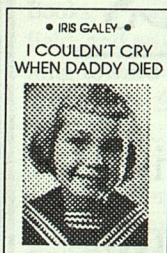
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 Help for victims of child sexual abuse, even if they are adults now.
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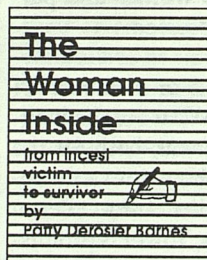


Something Happened to Me
 by Phyllis E. Sweet, M.S.
 A sensitive, straightforward book designed to help children victimized by incest or other sexual abuse.
 ISBN 0-941300-00-5 \$4.95



I Couldn't Cry When Daddy Died
 by Iris Gale
 First published in New Zealand, this courageous and sensitive personal account of an incest survivor is not just one of despair, it is a story of inspiration and hope.
 ISBN 0-941300-10-2 \$9.95

—and coming in July



The Woman Inside
 from Incest victim to survivor
 by Patty Derosier Barnes
 A workbook designed to help an incest victim work through pain, confusion and hurt. Practical mental lists, emotional recipes, activities and exercises for healing.
 ISBN 0-941300-13-7 \$11.95

Order directly from **Mother Courage Press**
 or bookstores and libraries may order from—Inland, Bookpeople and Baker & Taylor

Application for second-class postage pending at San Francisco, CA.
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CONTENTS

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Columnists

Art Books	Tee Corinne
Canadian Content	Donna Murray
Children's Books	KT Horning
Gay Men's Literature	Jane Troxell
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THE FEMINIST BOOKSTORE NEWS is the communication vehicle for the informal network of feminist bookstores. FBN reaches 350 feminist and feminist-inclined bookstores in the U.S. and Canada as well as feminist booksellers in England, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, India 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.

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DEPARTMENTS

Advertising Index	95
Announcements	42
Back to Press	38
Canadian Content	49
Classified Ads	96
Letters	6
Out-of-Print Books Wanted/Offered	67
They Went That-A-Way	51
Writing Wanted	62

ARTICLES

News/Short Stories	11
On Attending ABA	39
Is This a Business or a Political Organization?	43
On the Economics of Publishing	45

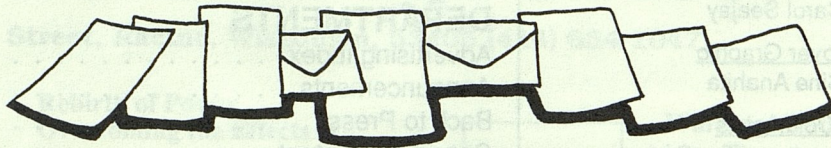
THE RECOVERY SECTION

An (Ex-)Bookseller's Story	17
Recovery Among the Booksellers	19
Addiction and Recovery in Fiction	21
New and Recent Recovery Titles	29
A Core List: Recovery Books	33

THE BOOKS

Art Books	53
Our Own Presses	69
The Small Presses	75
Gay Men's Literature	65
Mass Market Titles	95
Mysteries	58
Poetry	55
Publishers' Row	87
Science Fiction	59
Short Raves	63
University Presses	81

LETTERS



Why Aren't All the Bookstores Offered the Same Terms?

Rubyfruit Books
666-4 W. Tennessee St.
Tallahassee, FL 32304

Dear FBN,

In the last issue, Carroll Leslie of a Different Drummer wrote an excellent letter on book distribution to chain stores and the preferential treatment that some publishers have given Naiad Press. I'm writing to show my support for Carroll's statements. I know I am not alone in my support though other stores may not feel able or choose not to publicly express their support and concerns.

I, too, was at the meeting last May (1988) when many of the feminist and/or lesbian publishers present insisted they couldn't help us in any way on our escalating freight costs. Many of these publishers bemoaned their financial status, and some claimed they couldn't even afford to send us review copies in order to help us sell their books. As bookstore owners, we know how it is to struggle with high overhead, increasing rent and freight costs, competition for skilled staff in a low-paying, low-profit profession, etc., etc. So we conceded that their position was tough and that many were already giving us all they could afford.

Then we receive word that many of these same publishers and some others are offering Naiad a 55% discount, free freight and an extra 30 days to pay, when bookstores can't get anything near these same terms! For some of these publishers the only time we receive any extra percentage points off or free freight,

seldom both, is once a year at the A.B.A. convention. Never do we receive the generous terms Naiad got. (Ironically, Naiad Press gives 50% five to six times a year on their new titles and their backlist.) We've heard about this deal with Naiad, but are there also "special" deals being made with the chain stores that we don't hear about?

Publishers can sell to anyone they like, be it the chain stores or other publishers. We may not agree or like their decisions, but as long as they treat everyone equally, what they do is not illegal.

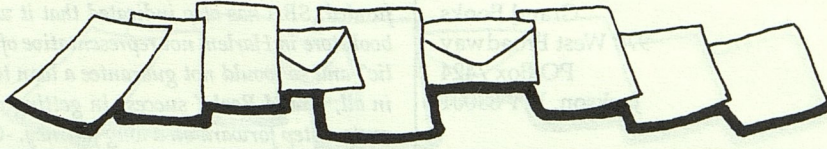


Thus, I see the question not so much as why Naiad, a publisher, is going into competition with bookstores, but more the question of why aren't *all* the bookstores offered the same terms. Whether or not we can meet them is not the point. What's important is that everyone is offered the same terms and that no "special" deals be made with anyone.

We have a situation here with secret deals and special terms. Carroll already mentioned how the courts found such deals and terms to be illegal, let alone unethical. *Why* do these feminist or lesbian/gay publishers have to be reminded of that? Publishers seem to have forgotten that we are all in this together and that independent bookstores are the backbone of the industry.

So, I'm proposing that we all write to the publishers involved and express our displeasure and concerns. Then if changes aren't made, we can discuss the situation at our meeting at the A.B.A. this June. I wish

Please see page XX for Banned Books new terms!



we hadn't been placed in this position, but considering our meeting last May we shouldn't have been!

I'm listing the publishers for your reference: Alyson, Banned Books, Calyx Books, Cleis, Firebrand, New Victoria and Seal.

I hope we all can resolve these issues quickly.

Sincerely,

Joan Denman

More News From Bookstores

Crazy Ladies Bookstore
4039 Hamilton Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45223

Dear Carol/FBN,

Crazy Ladies moved to our new building (bought with donations and loans from our customers) on January 19th. We moved everything by a human/woman chain down the block and across the street in 1 1/2 hours! We had over 150 women here at 7:00 a.m. on a Sunday morning. It was sort of like being at Michigan. Our new space is twice the size, and already our business has increased. We have 900 square feet for the store and about 500 for the meeting room. We will begin to renovate the 2nd & 3rd floors in March to rent out as office spaces to women and women's groups. The community spirit has been terrific. What a way to start our second decade!

Patty Callaghan

Our new address is 4039 Hamilton Ave. All else is the same.

Women's Bookstop
333 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario
Canada L8P 1K1

Dear FBN,

Thank goodness you're there. I swear I depend on your publication above the catalogues I wade through. It seems to me that *Feminist Bookstore News*

(like so many of our little enterprises) is sneaking towards strength. We hang in there with the idea that has nagged us and which we brought forth. We struggle to manage. We think we might not make it. And then we are running with the baby. There're always pit stops and flats we don't need but isn't it good to watch the seed blossom into a being in her own right. So far \$250.00 toward Barcelona!

Renee Albrecht

Visions & Voices
255 Harris Avenue
Providence, RI 02909

Dear FBN,

Please continue our subscription. We couldn't possibly live without it.

Best Regards,

Lynn & Carolyn

P.S. Visions & Voices is four months old & growing, things are going great!



Bold Print
478A River Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Canada R3L 0C8

Dear Carol/FBN,

Over and over I marvel about the quantity and quality of information in *Feminist Bookstore News*. I appreciate that we now have "Canadian Content" and that Donna Murray took on the task. I anticipate Bold Print taking a turn since there are writers among us. I'll write to Donna.

Bold Print had its best season ever this Fall so we're feeling optimistic about 1989. May 1989 be a good year for you, too.

Sincerely,

Joan Turner

Grand Books
970 West Broadway
PO Box 7424
Jackson, WY 83001

Dear FBN,

I was just sitting here going through September's FBN and decided to send you a copy of our first newsletter — Whew, what a lot of work to put out!

If you remember, our bookstore is owned by four lesbians — we have a general bookstore — here in Jackson, with a large selection of lesbian books — in the "Closet." The gay men's books don't sell real well — so we're putting all of those out with the other books. We did 50% ahead of our projections for December, and we'll be able to pay Dorothy full-time too, beginning in June. We're really excited about how well the bookstore is doing.

And we do enjoy FBN.

Thanks!

Jackie Sparks

Dorothy Holland

Pat McCloskey

Bette Morgan

P.S. Some one from the Small Business Administration office here in Wyoming is using our bookstore as an example in their next newsletter!

Ed. note: Grand Books is a general bookstore in Wyoming that assumes that feminists and lesbians are a part of the general reading public — and so includes a good selection of feminist and lesbian titles in their stock. When they applied to the Small Business Administration for a loan, they were turned down on the grounds that they were a specialty bookstore and hence not serving the general public. They appealed the decision and submitted a proposed stock list arranged by section of the store with women's history books integrated into the history section, etc., and received the loan. This was about the same time that Judith's Room in New York was turned down by the SBA, also on the grounds of being a specialty store. Grand Books' success in getting a SBA loan is a huge step in the right direction — getting the SBA out of the McCarthy Era and into funding such racy and "subversive" and "ideologically" oriented businesses such as bookstores. (They still do not, as far as I know, allow loans to any kind of publishing enterprises.) But the SBA still, as far as I know, maintains its position that women's bookstores are "too specialized" to be

funded. SBA has also indicated that it would find a Black bookstore in Harlem not representative of the "general public" and so would not guarantee a loan to such a store. All in all, Grand Books' success in getting a SBA loan represents a step forward on a long journey. —CS

No Frills Fading

Naiad Press

PO Box 10543

Tallahassee, FL 32302

Dear Carol/FBN,

The "No Frills" books we have been carrying for the past several months proved uniformly to sell at a lesser rate than Naiad Press titles. They did well enough not to be considered in any sense a failure or loss, but they do not turn over fast enough to be worth their space in our crowded flier. We have decided, therefore, to let the stock of them run out and not replace them. We noted that even the apparently "hot" titles sold for us at a mid-list rate....

On a more delighted note, the project to list the bookstores with good or complete stocks of lesbian, women's and gay titles, that went out to the entire mailing list (U.S. only) in our January, 1989 mailing has been incredibly successful. More than 45 stores have already bothered to tell us on the phone or to send little notes with orders or payments about their experiences as a result of the listing. Our own customers have thanked us, pointed out a couple of "sinners" to us, and asked for extra copies of the list. We will continue to send the list out to women who request information about their area during this year and we will revise and update it sometime in 1990... probably early in the year. In the meantime, if you are a store carrying more than 75% of Naiad Press titles at all times (right now that means about 80-84 titles of ours) and you were *not* in the list let us know please....

During 1989 we will double the size of our warehouse, from the present 2808 square feet (a building 70' long by 39' wide) to exactly twice that, and we will have 5616 square feet of book storage space. Its amazing that we are doing this, but even more amazing that we need to do it.

Barbara Grier



Support the Lammys

Alyson Publications
40 Plympton Street
Boston, MA 02118

Dear Carol/FBN,

I understand that some lesbian and gay book-sellers and publishers may skip the Lambda Literary Awards, at this year's ABA, because they feel the \$50 tickets are too expensive. I hope they'll reconsider.

Fifty bucks is more than I generally pay for dinner, too. But we're not simply buying dinner. This is a chance to support a first-of-its-kind undertaking which will promote lesbian and gay bookselling in general, as well as providing publicity for the sixty titles that are nominated and the twelve that win.

At \$50 a ticket, Lambda Rising is doing this at a lower price than any comparable event I've seen in years. Sure, they could serve peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwiches and charge even less. But aren't we, as a community, ready to support something better than that?

Events like the Lambda Literary Awards represent a step forward for gay and lesbian publishing. I hope everyone who's going to the ABA will look for a way to support it with their attendance.

See you there — I hope.

Sasha Alyson

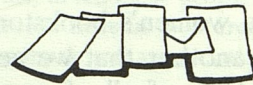
An Update on Reading Matters

The Radical Bookseller
265 Seven Sisters Road
London N4
U.K.

Dear Carol/FBN,

Thanks for the encouraging letter. Congratulations on the new style — makes FBN much easier to read... Hopefully we'll be onto Ventura in the next couple of issues.

So far as I know, the Reading Matters story has a happy ending. They moved to larger, more central premises in Wood Green (about 2 miles from here) next to the Library. Turnover reported as doubled.



The story is that the Labour Group (Labour is the ruling party in Havinger of which Wood Green is a part) was committed to "positive images" (of gays etc.) and the Conservatives thought that stirring up anti-gay prejudice in the area would be politically useful. One of the ways they chose to do this was to go to Reading Matters (which has council grants & other aid such as library orders to some thousands of pounds a year) and *actually ordering* gay books which they would then "expose" them for stocking in hopes of embarrassing the Labour Group. Finally the Conservatives achieved coverage in a national newspaper by planting an anarchist comic book which included instructions for bomb-making and such in the Reading Matters children's section. ("Left-wing gay-loving Bookshop tries to indoctrinate children" type headlines.) And when Clause 28 came up they (the Tories) tried to stop the grant/aid to Reading Matters (this was *before* it was law!).

There was a large picket of the council meeting and the Labour Group and the council were forced to recommit themselves to Reading Matters. Hence all the Tories plans came to naught — in fact with the vast cutbacks the local council was having to make, one of the workers at Reading Matters who was worried for his job admits that (by forcing the Labour Group to take a political stand) the Conservatives have done him a favour!

Fergus (Nicol)

○

BOOKSELLERS NEWS



Naiad Press is continuing to offer its 50% backlist and frontlist specials 5 to 6 times each year and has just initiated a new special 45% discount to sweeten your cash register at other times. Keep your shelves stocked and your account paid up to date. Let us pay your rent again this year.

One women's bookstore told us that we were 49% of their lesbian business in 1988, another that we accounted for 35.5% of their income. Our GOAL is to be over 50% of all of your lesbian-generated business and towards that end we gear everything we do to maximize our service to you. You can now FAX orders to us at (904) 539-9731, or call on either of the regular telephone numbers [(904) 539-9322 or (904) 539-5965]. Officially, our hours are 9:00 am to 5:30 pm Monday through Friday (EST). Unofficially, you can place orders usually from 7:00 am until 9:00 pm seven days a week. If you get the answering machine, all the better; we will call you back at once or as fast as possible with less cost to you.

We also call many bookstores routinely once a month to be sure no one in their busy schedule overlooks the monthly flyer. If you would be helped by that reminder call and someone to call you and take your order, just let us know and we will add you to the list.

In 1989 we will issue TWENTY-FOUR new books. By the time you read this, TEN will be out . . . bringing women eagerly into your store.

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Short Stories

BANNED BOOKS EXTENDS 50% & 55% DISCOUNTS TO ALL BOOKSELLERS

Banned Books, in announcing their new terms this Spring, became the first of the "No Frills" publishers to offer their case-lot discounts to all retail booksellers.

Their announcement, titled "Help Us Help You Sell More Books!" reads "Since the process and financing costs are lower for large quantity orders, we will pass our savings on to (booksellers) with the following discounts on large, single titles, nonreturnable orders. The terms must be firm (nonreturnable) for us to be able to offer these discounts:

"50% discount, free freight given on full case of single title, nonreturnable orders, net 60 days.

"55% discount, free freight given on 3 full case quantities of any single title, nonreturnable orders, net 60 days.

"Payment after sixty days reverts to regular discount schedule, no other discounts apply. Case quantities for individual titles on request."

Banned Books' regular terms are 30% for 2-4; 40% for 5-15; 41% for 16-25; 43% for 26-50; 45% for 51+; net 60 days, returnable in saleable condition for credit, no authorization required. Prepaid orders of 10+ books are shipped postpaid.

Banned Books further explains that their expenses are less when they sell through their distributors and that the key to their being able to extend these discounts to booksellers is promptly and timely payment of invoices and that they will not be able to continue offering additional discounts without bookseller cooperation in keeping their cash flow current.

If you'll drop Banned Books a note to say that you stock their books, they'll add your store to their list of stores and locations that they send to individuals on their mailing list, to tell those people where they can buy Banned Books titles in their area. They also deserve some feedback and appreciation for their new terms!

Banned Books/Edward William Publishing Co., Number 231, PO Box 33280, Austin TX 78764. New phone: 512-282-8044. ○

SPINSTERS/AUNT LUTE ANNOUNCE LESBIAN NOVEL CONTEST

\$2,000 PRIZE & PUBLICATION

In an effort to find more quality lesbian fiction, Spinsters/Aunt Lute has decided to run a yearly lesbian fiction contest with no entrance fee and with a \$2,000 prize. The reading period for manuscripts will begin January 2 and continue through February 28 of each year; the judge (who will change each year and will be an accomplished and published writer known to the lesbian community) will pick the best of five manuscripts; the winner will be announced by July 1 of each year — the winning title to be published in the Spring of the following year. We will begin our contest January of 1990 with the winning title to be published in the Spring of 1991.

For further information write to Spinsters/Aunt Lute, P.O. Box 410687, San Francisco, CA 94141 and ask for a set of rules for the Lesbian Long Fiction Contest.

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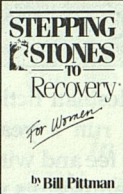
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- Other _____

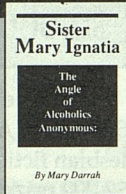
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KATHY ACKER'S THE SENSELESS EMPIRE BANNED IN CANADA

By Lawrence Boyle
L'Androgyne Bookstore/Montreal

According to a "Notice of Determination" issued November 4, 1988 by Revenue Canada (Customs and Excise) Kathy Acker's novel *Empire of the Senseless* contravenes the provisions of article 114 of the Customs Tariff. Article 114 prohibits the importation of "obscene material" into Canada. The agent who made the decision stated that Acker "sensationalized rape, incest and buggery" which "outweigh its merit as a novel."

Kathy Acker is the author of six novels, including *Blood & Guts in High School*, *Don Quixote*, and *Great Expectations*—all published by Grove Press (Random House). Her work appears on Women's Studies and Contemporary Literature course lists as well as Concordia University's Contemporary Cinema course (for her screenplay of *Variety*). She has been published in various languages, including French (éditions Silages, Paris).

Kathy Acker is not a pornographer. Random House does not publish obscene material. Canada Customs cannot distinguish serious from spurious treatment of women and violence (as evidenced in their recent attempt to ban *Caught Looking: Feminism, Pornography & Censorship*.)

The agent who decided the book was obscene admitted to having no particular training, no previous knowledge of Acker, and to having only "skimmed" the book.

This decision means that all further importations of this title into Canada will be stopped and seized.

We demand:

1. The immediate release of all copies of *Empire of the Senseless*.
2. An official apology to the author, the publisher, and to L'Androgyne.

3. The abolition of current federal pornography legislation because it is vague, uninformed, and not in our best interests.

What you can do:

1. Phone or write Canada Customs' head office in Ottawa. The manager is Linda Murphy: Manager, Prohibited Importations, Revenue Canada, Customs & Excise, Ottawa Ontario K1A 0L5, Canada. Tel:613-954-7048.

2. Contact your local federal deputy and ask that this matter be raised in the House of Commons.

3. Publicize this event. Write to your newspaper. Tell your friends.

For more information, contact:

Lawrence Boyle, L'Androgyne Bookstore, 3636 boul. St. Laurent, Montreal Quebec H2X Canada, 514-842-4765

REPRINT THE DINNER PARTY!

Wanda Hensen from Southern Wild Sisters Unlimited in Gulfport Mississippi called to add *The Dinner Party* and *The Birth Project* by Judy Chicago to the list of books we'd like to see back in print. Until that happens, if anyone has or has access to any copies, Southern Wild Sisters would like to have them. "No one here in Mississippi has seen these books and I think it's very important that we have them available!"

AQUARIUS BOOKS: A SHORT HISTORY

By Nicki Nicklas

I don't know what I wrote you before about Aquarius but I will give you a short history.

Aquarius is the fulfillment of the dream of six women here in the Bloomington community. When

we heard that Dreams & Swords was going to close down the local store, we gathered together and put our money into the pot and just said, "We need this store in Bloomington. Let's go for it." And so we did.

We opened in the same space that was Dreams and Swords and while our supply of books was nil, at that time, we were there to let folks know that the bookstore was staying. That was September 1. By November 1 we were up to full stock, had completed a catalogue mailing of 2500 and survived a grand open-house! We are now in the process of making plans for the future, stabilizing what we have and just generally taking a breather to get fully aware of where we are. It all looks good and we are so grateful to our community support system, and for each other.

We are fully incorporated and we have outside counsel to advise us. We each bring something different into the corporation. We called ourselves Aquarius because the timing of the Harmonic Convergence (passing from the more masculine qualities of Pisces into the feminine of Aquarius) occurred with the passing of the old bookstore to the new bookstore.

The content of the store hasn't changed much and we have arranged the books in the usual places so people would not feel like strangers to the shelves. We have increased the titles in the Third World section, have a Gay Men's Studies section and are beginning to build stock in the Disability and Peace Studies area.

Aquarius Books: For a Feminist Future, 116 North Grant Street, Bloomington IN 47401. ○

Prose and Poetry
By and About Women

edited by Greta Hofmann Nemiross

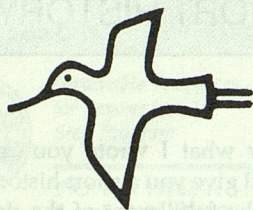
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ASTARTE SHELL PRESS: A NEW FEMINIST PRESS

Astarte Shell Press, a new feminist press, has been formed by seven partners in Bass, Maine. Among the seven are a typesetter, a designer, an editor, and a marketer. They will publish feminist peace and justice books and articles, starting in the Fall with **Visions and Struggle: Feminist Meditations on Spirituality and Politics** by Dr. Elly Haney. They hope to publish a second book, a book of Rituals, by the end of the year. Contact Debbie Leighton, Astarte Shell Press, 227 HCR 32, Bass ME 04530, 207-442-7260. ○

OBITUARIES

Zöe Saloom who, with her daughter Zöe, operated Labrys Bookstore in Chico, California, died in an auto crash in mid-October, 1988, along with her husband of 30 years. Affectionately known as Mama Zöe, she was a beloved figure in the Chico women's community, always there for all women who needed a friend to talk to, and is especially remembered for her wise, loving counsel to young lesbian women worried over their parents' reactions to their lifestyle. Women of the Chico community gathered in a memorial circle, a week after her death, to commemorate her.

Labrys Bookstore was not able to sustain the loss, and has closed.

-From Mama Bears *News & Notes* ○

Joseph Beam, writer and gay activist, died in December a few days before his 34th birthday. He had been ill for the last year with respiratory and stomach ailments, according to his family.

Beam was noted for editing **In the Life**, an anthology of work by Black gay writers published by Alyson Press in 1986. Contributions to the Joseph F. Beam Memorial Scholarship Fund may be sent c/o Marie Inyang, Attorney, 12 South Twelfth Street, Philadelphia PA 19107. The scholarship will be given to freshmen in creative writing at Temple University in Philadelphia. ○

THE PUBLISHING TRIANGLE: PROMOTING GAY AND LESBIAN PUBLISHING

NYC: Fifty-some members of the book community have joined together to form "The Publishing Triangle: A Caucus for Gay and Lesbian Publishing" as the result of an informal meeting held at the Book-of-the-Month Club offices on January 9.

"We're responding to the explosion that has been taking place in gay and lesbian publishing over the last few years," commented David Groff, spokesperson for the group and Editor at Crown Publishers. "The Publishing Triangle will further the publication of books written by lesbian and gay authors and books with lesbian and gay themes. We'll also aim to provide support and a means of communication for those involved in publishing such books."

The Publishing Triangle intends their membership to include booksellers, book wholesalers, editors, agents, production people, marketers, reviewers, publicists, and authors and to extend throughout the book community nationwide. With get-togethers, educational efforts, seminars, exchanges of information and ideas, and outreach efforts, The Publishing Triangle will aim:

- To promote awareness of and ensure access to gay and lesbian literature for an ever-growing audience.
- To help publishing people meet and get to know each other.
- To sponsor seminars, panels and discussion groups about lesbian and gay publishing and to participate in and encourage awards for lesbian and gay writing.
- To support efforts in the war against AIDS both generally and within the publishing community itself.

The Publishing Triangle will sponsor a panel discussion at ABA and will give the keynote address at the Lambda Literary Awards Banquet in June.

For more information contact Scott Manning at Avon Books 1-212- 481-5637. ○



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An Ex-Bookseller's Story

By Susanna J. Sturgis

I don't remember a time when I didn't know my mother was an alcoholic. I made jokes about my home life, about the way my mother goaded my father (hiding behind his newspaper) and eventually he yelled back and sometimes he knocked her into the wall. "At least there was no physical violence in my family," I said in numerous conversations and feminist rap groups. After years of reading feminist publications and listening to women's stories, it dawned on me that what I had seen and heard at home was physical violence.

Denial, as they say, is the name of the game.

I despised my mother. My mother was fair game for verbal abuse by me and my father. At 12 I decided that I was never getting married, and I was going to be as unlike my mother as ever a daughter could be. At the same time, though, I was certain that I was an alcoholic and so I never touched liquor till I was a junior in college. To my surprise, I was not immediately teleported to Skid Row.

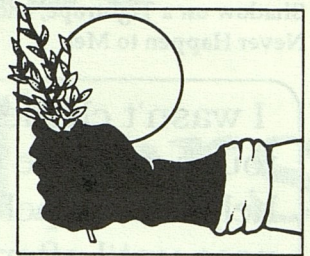
I started eating compulsively at 14 or 15. Over the course of one school year I gained 40 pounds, about which I was completely oblivious until the spring

weigh-in in gym class. I developed a bright, witty persona for public consumption and underneath it festered a seething swamp. For the next 15 years I was a Walking Head.

The Jester (my bright, witty persona) did her damndest to clear time and space for me to write more, but the Writer (aka the seething swamp) was undermining these efforts every bloody step of the way. When I had the urge to write, I'd hang out with my housemates, drink brandy, and smoke dope instead. If no one was around, I stuffed down a pint of ice cream and/or a couple of boxes of Pepperidge Farm cookies and made myself sick. Either way I put off writing until "tomorrow."

"Insight is cheap," says a quote in my favorite meditation book (*Each Day a New Beginning*, from Hazelden), but once in a while one of those blinding flashes makes a difference. What I realized was that I was turning out just like my mother. I used food the way she used alcohol — never mind that I had been devoting every conscious effort to being as unlike her as I could.

To celebrate my 30th birthday in June 1981 I quit my last 9-to-5 job and threw myself a party, during which Mary Farmer took me aside and asked me to



come buy books for Lammas Women's Shop. I didn't know the job was open and wouldn't have applied if I had; obvious qualifications notwithstanding, the seething swamp had persuaded me that I couldn't do anything I hadn't done before.

Lammas threw books, people, and ideas in my way so insistently that I couldn't avoid them. (My long-standing preference was to keep ducking until whatever was disturbing my peace went away.) Of all the books that passed through my hands, the three most essential to my recovery were Starhawk's *The Spiral Dance*, the fat oppression/liberation anthology *Shadow on a Tightrope*, and Claudia Black's *It Will Never Happen to Me!*

I wasn't challenged to touch my core conviction of helpless, hopeless worthlessness until after I left the feminist community.

Despite eight years of Sunday school, four years in the junior choir, and confirmation at 13, the Episcopalianism of my upbringing never "took." Through high school and college I read a lot about various religious traditions, mostly monotheistic. I even adopted some of their practices for greater or shorter lengths of time. Undernourished, my spiritual quest ran out of steam and stayed on indefinite hold for years. Until *Spiral Dance*. Not for nothing did I wind up working at Lammas, which is named for a crossquarter day in the Celtic "wheel of the year," a harvest celebration that falls at the beginning of August.

If *Spiral Dance* was homecoming, *Shadow on a Tightrope* was the teacher that posed difficult, radical questions. The most crucial to me was, "Why do you, who have questioned just about every received 'truth' you grew up with, continue to insist that you are ugly, unlovable, and generally incapable because you are fat?" Almost immediately I started to ask questions back, and the most significant was, "Why do you insist that my being fat has nothing to do with the way I

eat?" Fat oppression and my own self-hatred were related, certainly, but not in a simple cause-and-effect way.

Enter the third book, *It Will Never Happen to Me!* Even at first reading, the book's deficiencies glared: It was poorly written, apparently unedited, and hadn't a glimmer of feminist perspective on class, cultural differences, or family dynamics. Yet its impact on me was greater than those of much better books encountered later, because it provided my first solid clue that my current problems, from writing to relationships, might be rooted in the survival mechanisms I developed growing up in an alcoholic family.

I started to write two to four hours every morning. My first two projects were a series of poems about a mostly unrequited relationship, recently and turbulently ended; and a 100 page autobiographical inquiry into Who I Was and How I Got Here. The latter triggered a number of shorter essays that were eventually published in various feminist journals. All the while, Lammas reminded me continually that writing was important and publication possible.

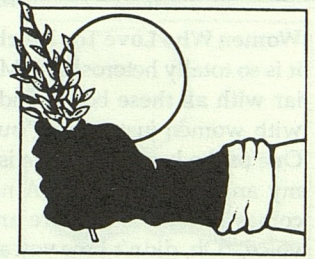
A character in my novel (still in progress) decided to move to Martha's Vineyard and I knew I had to do the same; it had been pulling at me more and more persistently for almost twenty years. Only half-acknowledging that it meant leaving Washington, the lesbian community, and Lammas, I started making plans. Trouble was, the only way I could imagine to leave a positive relationship was to re-vision it as negative and yank myself free. That too was a turbulent parting. Fortunately we mended fences later.

Where I am now, almost four years later, I couldn't have imagined when I left D.C. The fantastic weirdnesses of living year-round in a summer resort have become familiar; since July 1985 I've moved eight times. I'm involved in theater, which has affected both my writing and my performance of my own work in many ways. Through theater I met my actor-artist girlfriend, who spoiled my plans for being stoic and celibate for the rest of my life.

I write for the *Martha's Vineyard Times* as well as *FBN* and other feminist publications. New Words, my "local" feminist bookstore is 90 miles away, 45 minutes by boat and 2 hours by bus; I get there three

See page 48

Recovery Among the Booksellers



By an Anonymous Bookstore Worker
and Recovering Co-Addict and Workaholic

About 12 years ago, as the partner of an alcoholic, I found my way to recovery in the Twelve Step program for relatives and friends of alcoholics, called Al-Anon. To cut a long story very short, after some years of recovery, I left the alcoholic, became a lesbian feminist, continued to let go of my various addictions, and made contact with many other women doing the same. And eight years ago, with three other women I found myself financially able to start a women's bookstore. At the time none of my partners were in recovery and I didn't think that was important. But now most of the women I am working with are recovering in one or another Twelve-Step program.

Most of us are adult children from alcoholic or very dysfunctional families. So we are all co-dependents, most of us have eating disorders of some description, and we've all been often in relationships with alcoholics, or with other adult children, or with compulsive over-eaters. So there's quite a lot of dis-ease, but also quite a lot of recovery. My feeling is that a little recovery goes a long way in influencing a collective situation for the better.

I enjoy very much working with this group of mainly recovering co-dependents. We are all alcohol and drug free, so there is no very unmanageable alcoholic behavior, unreliability, or hangovers to contend with. We're all non-smokers, and our bookstore is smoke-free. Personally I find co-dependents are wonderful to work with — very reliable, meticulous, punctual, and very pleasant to our customers. All quite wonderful attributes for bookstore work. In terms of "defects of character" we would probably all be seen as people-pleasing, obsessional work-aholics!

"A bookstore can be either
paradise or a one-way trip
to hell for a workaholic."

With so many of us being into recovery and Twelve Step programs, we began to specialize in books on addiction/co-addiction, and this has become a huge part of our business. Recovering addicts and co-addicts are very addicted to books on recovery! Our best-selling book for ages has been

Women Who Love Too Much, a great book except that it is so totally heterosexist. Most of us are pretty familiar with all these books and we're often able to talk with women just finding out about their addictions. One of the hazards for me is fairly frequently having my anonymity broken. A newly-recovering woman comes into the bookstore and says at the top of her voice, "Oh, didn't I see you at the meeting last night!"

"Alcoholism/addiction/coaddiction keep an oppressed people in our oppression. The women's movement and the lesbian community have lost a lot of women and a lot of energy to addictive dis-eases."

So lots of stuff happens in the bookstore every day about addiction/co-addiction — and we are all very careful of our anonymity and respectful of others, and don't use our position to "shove" addiction awareness at women. Word of mouth about the books we have brings women and men from far beyond the women's movement. We also have a very good addiction book list.

It's great working with recovering women. The advantages are that they all are very into taking responsibility for themselves. They generally have support systems outside of the collective, they don't stay in negative spaces for long or lay their shit on co-workers. And they're usually cheerful and positive, and *very* hard workers. Because we know each other pretty well from recovery programs there's a lot of trust and respect between us.

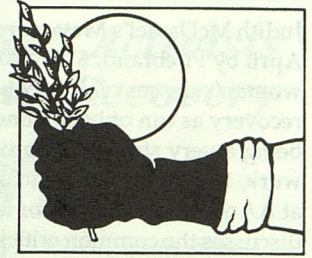
There aren't many disadvantages to working with co-addicts. One is that we all occasionally go on ordering binges! Bookstore work is ideal for very obsessive people, because so much attention is needed to

all the fine details. We all seem to enjoy the repetitive work and the intricacies of orders/invoices/book lists, etc. There's a never ending supply of jobs needing meticulous care — and we do manage to have a lot of fun as well. After all we *are* recovering. Alcoholism and co-dependency are so wide-spread in the lesbian feminist community around here and it's good to see recovery happening in quite a big way. A few years back I was aware of quite a lot of suspicion and hostility towards Twelve Step programs. Now everyone has a few friends who are sober and clean, or recovering from co-addiction, and there's a lot of respect for AA, Al-Anon, NA (Narcotics Anonymous), etc. A lot of women are starting to deal with compulsive eating problems, and it's great to see recovery turning up in lesbian fiction. **Good Enough to Eat** by Lesléa Newman, and **Leave a Light on For Me** by Jean Swallow are both such good books, and also I love how Lee Lynch brings recovery into her stories.

My opinion is that alcoholism/addiction/co-addiction keep an oppressed people in our oppression, and that the women's movement and the lesbian community have lost a lot of women and a lot of energy to addictive dis-eases. I am so glad we seem to be addressing these issues — especially issues of adult children and co-dependency. Co-dependency is the *big* one. It cripples most of us long before we start getting involved in any chemical addictions.

I'm sure most of you would agree that bookstore work is very stressful, and can be very addictive in many ways. Personally I have to be very careful of my workaholicism. It sneaks up on me. I have to make a very conscious effort to take lunch or tea breaks, and to go home at closing time and not take work home with me. I need to get physical exercise and do a lot of yoga and relaxation to clear my head. A bookstore can be either paradise or a one-way trip to hell for a workaholic. We've all had a fair share of repetitive-strain injuries, bad backs, eye problems, insomnia, and possible chemical allergy reactions, and headaches. It's good to have an addiction framework to be able to deal with workaholicism.

Women in recovery are wonderful. I'm glad to be one, and happy to have recovering women as my friends and co-workers. ○



Addiction & Recovery in Fiction

Compiled by Carol Seajay

When I moved to a new apartment last summer and rearranged my books into categories after nine years of hodge-podge accumulation, I noticed that I had a number of fiction titles that I was shelving under the loose category of "recovery fiction" — novels and short fiction and even science fiction — that ranged from somewhat moralistic books featuring clean and sober politically correct dykes to down-at-the-heels (but with a heart of gold) (male) detectives trying as hard to stay sober as to solve the murders. The books looked at growing up in alcoholic families, at remembering childhood sexual abuse, at re-centering one's self after rape, at compulsion and even a few that looked at codependency issues. The genres ranged from straightforward fiction to mysteries and science fiction, suspense, and autobiography. Publishers range from South End and Seal and Spinsters/Aunt Lute to Viking, Bantam and Popular Library.

It occurred to me that if I was collecting a range of books in this direction that spoke either to my life or to the lives of my friends, then probably women across the country are also looking for and using

fiction to explore similar themes. Fiction is often less threatening than non-fiction and can be a useful approach to something scary.

I wondered how many bookstores had put together a "Recovery Fiction" section and what books they stocked. When I asked in the last issue for titles, I received only a few responses — and no one has (yet) written to say they have a section. So here's an eclectic collection from my own bookshelves and from FBN's mail bag. As other novels and stories come to mind, send them in and we'll run "addendum" columns.

Alcohol & Alcoholism

The obvious titles from the lesbian shelves include **Three Glasses of Wine Have Been Removed from This Book** (by Marian Michener, Silverleaf Press, \$7.95, 0-941121-00-3), a rather serious, somber look at one dyke's process coming to terms with her need to get sober; Jean Swallow's **Leave a Light on for Me** (Spinsters/Aunt Lute, \$8.95, 0-933216-23-8); and several of Lee Lynch's books including **Home in Your Hands** (Naiad, \$7.95, 0-930644-80-0) and **Dusty's Queen of Hearts Diner** (Naiad, \$8.95, 0-941483-01-0).

Judith McDaniel's *Metamorphosis* (to be published in April by Firebrand, \$7.95, 00-932379-61-3) details one woman's descent into alcoholism *and* her process of recovery as can only be done in poetry. In addition to being a very strong and profoundly moving body of work, *Metamorphosis* includes a useful critical look at AA as a recovery tool for lesbians and feminists and discusses the common criticisms of AA. Judy Grahn's long poem "Descent to the Roses of the Family" in *The Queen of Swords* (Berkeley Publishers Group, \$8.95, 0-425-08737-9) probably provides the strongest analysis of the interrelationship of alcoholism, co-dependency, the oppression of women and children, child abuse, racism and global systems of economic exploitation yet to be published.



More lesbian titles that might not spring quite so quickly to mind: *For Sylvia: An Honest Account*, (Norton, \$13.95, 0-393-02297-8) Valentine Ackland's long and moving love letter to her lover Sylvia Townsend Warner describes her struggles with alcohol and its affects on their relationship in a time (1949) when much less was understood about alcoholism. Carolyn Weather's two short story/chapbooks *Leaving Texas: A Memoir* and *Shitkickers and Other Texas Stories* (Clothespin Fever Press, 0-9616572-0-0 and 0-9616572-2-7) both include alcoholism and drinking-beyond-sanity as themes. *Leaving Texas* details drinking out-of-control as a response to growing up p.k. (preacher's kid) and other adolescent traumas. *Shitkickers* elaborates on the experience in fiction and then looks at coming out in pre-feminist Texas (in bars and significantly alcohol-based) and then looking for "home" in urban country-western bars in later years. Killer Shep (the German Shepherd) worries about cocaine abuse on the part of his people in Willyce Kim's *Dead Heat* (\$6.95 pb, Alyson Publi-

cations, 1-55583-119-2). (See also Susanna J. Sturgis' review of *The Prosperine Papers* in Short Raves.)

The mainstream press keeps a few good titles dealing with alcohol and drug addiction in print: Barbara Gordon's survival through near-killing experience with tranquilizers and battering men *I'm Dancing as Fast I as I Can; A Craving* (Emily Arnold, Avon) tells of a young mother and career woman's downhill slide into an alcoholic haze that seems to offer a comfort worth any price and any risk and any loss, "an authentic, suspenseful and keenly moving drama of one woman versus a devastating disease;" and *The Cracker Factory* (by Joyce Rebeta-Burditt, Bantam, \$3.95, 0-533-26228-9) soon to be, or recently, back in print.

Nancy Hall's *A True Story of a Single Mother* (\$6.50, South End Press, 0-89608-208-3) is the epitome of the kind of gutsy, raw, working/poor class, women's writing that the mainstream presses rarely touch with a ten-foot pole. In *Single Mother*, Hall, a sober alcoholic, describes the daily feat of raising seven children by herself, using a mix of determination, optimism, love, courage and sheer stubbornness in the face of unemployment, poverty, and sometimes violence. I keep waiting for the day when someone republishes Hall's *A True Story of a Drunken Mother*, an even stronger autobiographical fiction about a woman facing that ongoing internal scream demanding her own identity. Both books offer a vivid portrayal of life with alcohol, the daily challenges of life without that buffer, and the difference sobriety can make in addressing them. *A True Story of a Drunken Mother* was published by Daughters Press in 1974 and has been out of print for the last decade.

A lesbian novel that's been out-of-print for a long time and should be considered for republishing is *In A Class By Herself*, a 1976 novel by Linda Crawford (published by Popular Library in massmarket) looks at a yuppie-ish woman trying to make it in a fast-track world of journalism and losing her way in her personal life as her world blurs into a whirl, destructive affairs with men, blackouts, betraying her lover and (no surprise) much too much booze. Not your happily-ever-after ending, but the message is clear.

And of course one has to look to the small press

for portrayals of the rest of our lives. Johnson Institute published *Drink the Winds, Let the Waters Flow Free: American Indians and Recovery from Alcoholism*, a short collection of poetry by Sharon Day-Garcia and Pat Panagoulas and traditional quotes, songs, and prayers (attributed to the appropriate tribes where possible) that celebrate Native sobriety in an often hostile environment. (\$5.25 pb, 40 pp, 0-935908-12-9, perfect bound The Johnson Institute, 7151 Metro Blvd., Suite 250, Minneapolis MN 55435.)

Co-Dependency

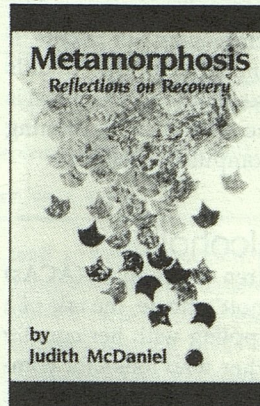
In fiction as in real life, co-alcoholics seem to receive less attention than alcoholics. In this whole stack of books there are only two that deal with co-dependency issues.

Vincent Virga's *A Comfortable Corner* is one of the few pieces of fiction that grapples with the co-alcoholic's dilemma: learning to take care for oneself while caring passionately about someone else whose drinking is killing them *and* coming to terms with exactly what one can — and can't — do "to help." Published, as they say "ahead of it's time," *A Comfortable Corner*, offers the struggles of a gay man in a long-term relationship who can no longer take the havoc his lover's alcoholism was making of their lives, disentangling himself from the alcoholism while keeping the love intact. A rare story, and one that needs reprinting desperately. Published in 1982 by Avon, this book would find two strong audiences now if published by one of the gay men's presses and was also distributed via Hazelden or CompCare. Most of Virga (*Gaywick*) readers have probably never seen this title.

The other novel that deals with co-dependency issues is Laura Z. Hobson's little known (and out-of-print?) *Untold Millions*. Hobson is best known for *Gentlemen's Agreement* and *Consenting Adult*, but all of her novels explore issues that merit, but rarely receive attention — and often she's so far ahead of her time that the books fade from view before the issue becomes popular (i.e., *The Tenth Month*, about a single woman choosing to have a child on her own in the thirties). *Untold Millions*, a somewhat autobiographical novel, is set in the 1920's and tells the story

Two Political Activists Write About Recovery

METAMORPHOSIS,
Reflections on Recovery
by Judith McDaniel



ISBN 0-932379-61-3

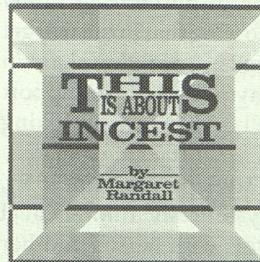
Moving from alcohol addiction and alienation to greater self-empowerment, Judith McDaniel explores her recovery process. In an insightful essay she examines her experience of Twelve-Step programs from a feminist perspective, while her poetry covers the emotional turf.

At a time when women in increasing numbers are struggling with their chemical dependencies, *Metamorphosis* opens up new space for understanding and growth.

\$7.95 paper

80 pages

THIS IS ABOUT INCEST
by Margaret Randall



ISBN 0-932379-29-X

Using words and photographic images as her tools, Margaret Randall painstakingly works her way through the process of reclamation as she unearths and comes to terms with her grandfather's sexual assault on her as an infant.

This Is About Incest is an affirmation—a tribute to her own grit, her politics, and the support of loving friends and a gifted therapist.

\$7.95 paper

72 pages

Available to the trade through Book-people, The Distributors, and Inland.



Firebrand
Books

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Ithaca, New York 14850
(607) 272-0000

of a young woman working in journalism and advertising who is very much in love with an older man and would-be novelist whose gusto for spending beyond his means is matched only by her skills at managing extra work, finding sudden cash for the inevitable emergencies he manages to create, and inventing solutions for "their" dilemmas. It's very much the story of a young woman reaching maturity, facing reality, owning her own limits and embracing her talents. If there's a Debtor's-Anon organization for the "friends and loved ones of compulsive spenders," this novel is for them — and for everyone whose life is running amuck with someone else's compulsive behavior.

Adult Children of Alcoholics

Novels about adult children of alcoholics (ACAs) are more common. Anne Lamott's *Rosie*, the tale of a precocious nine-year-old grappling with her equally wacky, witty, wonderful mother who looks for comfort in books and bottles after her husband's death. The books seem to do no harm, but the bottles are preoccupying mom when Rosie needs help dealing with sexual abuse from her best friend's father. It's also a wonderful story that is also about the importance of women's friendships. A hysterically funny book that leaves the reader knowing that Rosie will get the attention and help she needs. A wonderful aid in learning to envision better ways for adults to support molested children. (\$3.95, Dell 0-440-17495-3/Viking in cloth.)

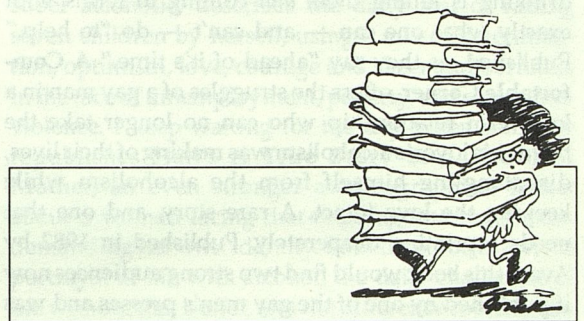
Charleyhorse (by Cecil Dawkins, Penguin, \$6.95, 0-14-008010-4) is another hysterically funny novel about an adult coming to terms with herself and her (alcoholic) mother. Alcoholism is more of a between-the-lines theme in **Charleyhorse** than in *Rosie*, but the behaviors and particular forms of (sometimes humorous) madness are all there in this wacky coming-of-maturity tale of a young-ish woman who learns to run the family ranch years before she comes to terms with her lesbianism, and learns to take her own personal power and to be the woman she is with pride. (Viking 1985)

In Terry McMillan's **Mama** (Washington Square Press, \$5.95, 0-671-64932-9) family life becomes increasingly chaotic in a large Black family as the

mother's alcohol consumption increases over the years. The novel offers insight from both the mother's and the children's perspectives and climaxes when the (now adult) daughter confronts her own need to stop drinking.

Giving Up the Dream, published last year (Amana Books, \$7.95 pb 0-915597-71-3, dist. by Inland) is a novel about the orphaned daughter of two alcoholics finding a way for herself through adolescence and young adulthood in the hopeful, wanting to be radical sixties. Excellent both on growing up working class and on the legacies of alcoholic parents.

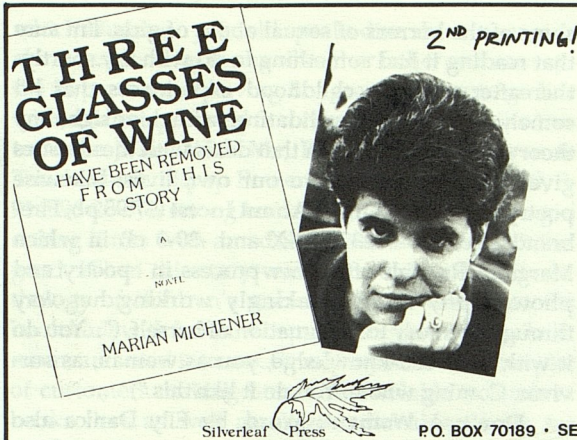
Rebecca Brown's **The Haunted House** (\$15.95 cl, 0-670-80985-3, Viking) becomes a rather surreal, but true-to-life account of growing up with a hard-drinking father (who disappears) and a co-dependent mother who fades into fantasy. Just when our heroine seems to have escaped into an adulthood of her own making with her lover, her world (in the form of the house the two women are restoring) falls apart entirely. A too common story well told.



Sheila Ballantyne's **Imaginary Crimes** (\$7.95 pb, Penguin, 0-17-006540-7) is ostensibly the tale of life as the daughter of a con man — but it's perhaps more than coincidental that he's also an alcoholic and that Ballantyne's novel will ring bells for anyone growing up (embarrassed) in an alcoholic family. Hysterically funny, poignant...and very true to life.

Teens

Teen-agers drink, too, of course. **The Late Great Me** (Sandra Scoppetone, Bantam, \$2.95, 0-553-25910-5) and **High and Outside** (Linnea Due, Spinsters/Aunt Lute, \$8.95 pb, 0-933216-58-0) both



Silverleaf Press

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INLAND or BOOKPEOPLE

A novel about drinking, and loving, and lesbian life, it's ultimately about courage and perspective and getting sober.

When Olivia leaves Malcolm and his bottles behind for Alison, she doesn't see how closely Sister Wine follows. In fact, the lady in green becomes her constant companion, filling in the hollow spots with boozy cheer. When Olivia finally recognizes her, the break-up begins.

"This book is real and warm and funny. The story and wisdom are contained within sentences so well written they startle. It will stay with you."

Jean Swallow, author of *Leave a Light On For Me* and editor, *Out From Under: Sober Dykes and Our Friends*.

September 1988 ISBN: 0-941121-00-3 \$7.95

portray the lives of high school girls caught in the cycle of using alcohol to ease the stresses and pain of adolescence. Geri, in **The Late Great Me** is under tremendous pressure from her family to be "pretty, bright and popular with the boys," rather than to be who she is. Niki, in **High and Outside** already has it all, she's the star jock in her high school, has the highest SAT scores in her class (though not much interest in the other sex) — and slides from a little social drinking to blackouts. True to life, no one seems able to help either girl until she decides for herself that her drinking is giving her more grief than comfort. Both are excellent reads, vivid portrayals of adolescence that many adult women will recall, and both offer any reader an excellent education about the process of alcoholism and achieving sobriety. Much easier to read for the resistant and the scared than is most non-fiction.

Eating Disorders

Almost everyone I know, whether they normally live with eating disorders or not, seems to have binged her way through the first half of Lesléa Newman's **Good Enough to Eat** (Firebrand, \$8.95 pb 0-932379-21-4; -22-2 cl) and then settled into some serious thinking about food issues in the second half. Ranging from hysterically funny to poignant, **Good Enough to Eat** offers the very true-to-life adventures of Liza Goldberg: funny, Jewish, twenty-five — and a bulimic — coming to terms with all these parts of herself as

well as her lesbianism. Classic feminist fiction of the ground-breaking nature. I'm willing to believe that there's other fiction out there that offers images of women dealing with eating disorders, but I don't know what they are. Suggestions? Meanwhile, poetry fills in the spaces, particularly Lesléa Newman's **Love Me Like You Mean It** (\$6.00 pb, HerBooks, 0-939821-28-1, dist. Inland) and Christine Donald's **The Fat Woman Measures Up** (\$9.95 pb, Ragweed/Gynergy, 0-921881-04-5).

Incest and Other Child Abuse

Women are increasingly using fiction to look at and offer their insight about incest and child abuse. Alice Walker's **The Color Purple** (Pocket Books, \$3.95, 0-671-61702-8) is probably the most famous of the novels looking at the devastating effects of incest.

The Unbelonging (The Women's Press -U.K. 0-7043-3959-5) by Caribbean writer Joan Riley offers the experience of an eleven-year-old girl summoned to Britain by a father she has never known, her isolation both as an Black child in a sea of white faces and as an immigrant in the cold land of Britain facing, without help, her father's violence and his threatening sexuality. "Help" in the form of social worker intervention and a "home" for "unplaceable," "wayward" girls offers little comfort and a compounded grief of racism. Hyacinth escapes into a fantasy of life on The Island and, in the end, must test this dream against reality. Riley covers a lot of territory in this novel and



Aditi is the Indian goddess of whatever defies measurement — the infinite universe. Aditi, also called Mother Space, is believed to have given birth to a large egg that drifted into the heavens and transformed into the sun
 Sudie Rakusin in *Goddesses and Amazons*

deserves a much wider American readership than she's yet found.

The House with the Blind Glass Windows (Herbjorg Wassmo, \$9.95, 0-931188-50-4, Seal Press' Women in Translation series), set in Norway, describes an unfortunately universal experience of girl-child threatened by an often drunk (step)-father embittered by war and unemployment (or whatever) taking his grief out on girl children via physical and sexual violence. In this case, Tora, with the help of her aunt, other girls, and the women around her is able to create a safe place for herself in the world.

In Search of April Raintree by Beatrice Culleton, published by Pemmican Press (701-310 Broadway, Winnipeg, Manitoba RC3 0S6, \$? pb, 0-919143-32-6) includes the threats of sexual abuse two young Métis sisters face in a foster-care situation. It conveys both the abuse and rejection inflicted on these particular children as well as society's rejection and abuse of their parents and ancestors. A difficult and passionate book not gentle in its portrayal of injustice. Hard to get and worth every bit of the effort.

Hand Me Downs by Liz Barnes (\$7.95 pb, Spinsters, 0-933216-18-1) is set in the political times of the thirties. It's told from the innocence of a nine year old girl coping with incest and learning how to say no to her older brother's abuse.

Michelle Martin's **If I Should Die Before I Wake** (out-of-print?) was one of the first novels to document

some of the horrors of sexual abuse of girls. I'm sure that reading it had something to do with my shortly-thereafter recalling childhood experiences that I'd somehow forgotten, validating with hindsight my theory that having fiction that deals with these issues gives us greater access to our own lives. Likewise poetry: especially **This is About Incest** (\$7.95 pb, Firebrand Books, 0-932379-29-X and -30-3 cl) in which Margaret Randall offers her process in poetry and photography of painstakingly working her way through memory to reclamation of herself. ("...You do it with your self-knowledge, you as woman, as survivor. Coming whole. You do it like this.")

Don't: A Woman's Word, by Elly Danica also recalls the details of daily abuse, naming for us all the "unnameable". Unswervingly feminist in its analysis, **Don't** reminds us just how much sexual violence (whatever its form (incest, rape, pornography, flashing, verbal harassment) is not only a repeated assassination of our vitality, our dignity and our creativity, but also a way for men to occupy our lives, in the same way one "occupies" a country." A book by a fighter and a weaver, reclaiming her past and demanding her present. (Gynergy Books in Canada, \$12.95 pb 0-921881-05-3; Cleis Press will do the U.S. edition this Spring.)

Patricia Murphy's **Searching for Spring** (\$8.95 pb, Naiad, 0-941483-00-2) counters the image that fiction collectively seems to be portraying that sexual abuse is a problem to be associated primarily with people of color or/and poor people or/and people in "other" countries. It offers a fictionalized telling of one woman's discovery that the "secret ugliness in her childhood" was not confined to her and her subsequent exploration of the hidden core of pure fury that lies within her.

For The Kids...

Books for children dealing with incest include **Katy's Yucky Problem** by Linda Morgan (Papers Inc, \$4.50 pb, 34 pgs, 0-903780-20-6, distributed by Inland) an excellent book for children from Australia; **Frances Ann Speaks Out: My Father Raped Me** by Helen Chetin (New Seed Press, \$3.50, 20pp, saddle-stitched pamphlet, 0-938678-05-1, dist. by Bookpeople) in

which a fourteen year old speaks directly to other girls about her abuse at the hands of her father and conveys the importance of having her grandmother to go live with; and my personal favorite, Ellen Bass' **I Like You to Make Jokes With Me, But I Don't Want You to Touch Me** (Lollipop Power/Carolina Wren, \$5.00, 0-914996-25-8) a strong book for girls, that shows a girl setting limits with an adult whose touch doesn't feel good. When this story was first published in an anthology of children's stories, a friend came into the bookstore with her new copy, sat me down in the back room, and read it to me. One of my favorite examples of customers making literature available to feminist booksellers as well as a groundbreaking book for children. Bass, as you know, went on to write *The Courage to Heal*

My Mother's Boyfriend and Me (Alice Jacoby, Dial Books Young, \$13.95, 0-318-21810-0, -01354-410) looks at the all too common sexual harassment of girls by their mother's boyfriends. This novel also offers a poignant and moving portrayal of a mother-daughter relationship.

Don't Hurt Laurie (Willow Davis Roberts, Aladdin/Macmillan, \$3.95, 0-689-71206-5) and **Good Night, Mr. Tom** (Michelle Magorian, \$3.95 Harper/Trophy, 0-06-440174-X) give youngsters a look at surviving and recovering from battering by their disturbed mothers. **Don't Hurt Laurie** looks at the experience of a young American girl, the importance of support from an outside adult, and the importance of both support and honesty in coming to terms with the abuse after it has ended. In **Good Night, Mr. Tom** the intervention and separation of a battered boy from his mother comes in the global form of World War II, and the removal of children to the safer countryside. It is an immensely healing novel based on the compassion of a gruff, kindly old man who takes him in. Both are excellent books and are suggested for adults recovering from childhood physical abuse as well as for children in the same situation. For adults they offer an image of intervention that may not have been available in childhood.

Re-Centering After Rape

Even after this many years of the women's move-

ment there are altogether too few images for women surviving the aftermath of rape. **Coming Back Up** by Suzanne Lipsett is a very fine, very realistic novel (that seems to be out of print) about the extensive damage rapists inflict on women and tells one woman's long journey coming back to herself. Her second novel **Out of Danger** (Atheneum, \$18.95, 0-689-11825-2) offers the struggle of a single mother whose daughter is kidnapped and sexually abused, and the long journeys faced by mother, daughter and grandmother. Both rank right up there with the best of feminist fiction. **Back in the First Person** (Kathy Page, pb, Virago 0-86068-642-6) follows Cath from the first time her boyfriend slaps her through her decision to kick him out, his return to rape her, police inactions, courtroom theatrics, and a painful year walled up in her own silence until she is finally able to move back into the first person, taking charge of her life once more.



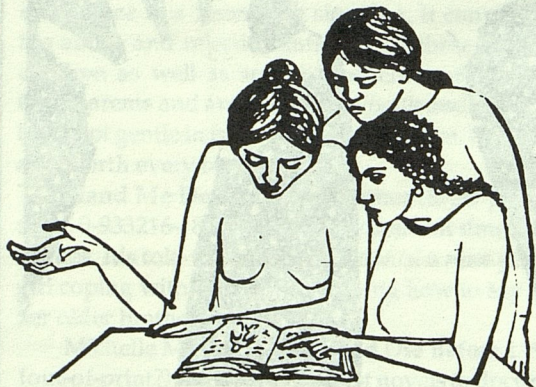
All three books detail the far-reaching consequences of rape.

Genre And Other Fictions

Many (most?) of Raymond Carver's (i.e. *Where I'm Calling From*, Atlantic Monthly, \$7.50, 0-87113-235-4) short stories, I'm told, include an alcoholic character or are told from the perspective of a child in an alcoholic family. Not pretty stories, and usually *very* male in character, perspective and assumption. Stock if you're selling to the straight male recovery crowd?

Mystery writer Lawrence Sanders has a series featuring a down-at-the-heels detective (Matt Scudder) who, toward the end of the series, turns out to be an alcoholic (no surprise by this point). *When the Sacred Ginmill Closes* (Ace Books, \$3.95, 0-441-88097-5) details Scudder's progress in solving the crime drink by drink in explicit detail as only a sober alcoholic can recall. *Eight Million Ways to Die* (Jove Publications, 0-515-08090) is perhaps more useful in this column. This time Scudder's on his second time out of detox with the understanding that drinking is going to kill him forthwith. The reader follows Scudder into (and often out of) AA meetings in a day-by-day battle against the bottle. Of course he solves the crime. And breaks down the AA mystery for a lot of readers along the way.

In the suspense and horror department Isabelle Holland's *Bump in the Night* (\$16.95 cl, Doubleday, 0-385-23891-6) offers an intense tale of a mother trying desperately not to take "that first drink" while she, her ex-husband, and the police search for her missing son.



drawing by Susan Kresge

Meanwhile, the reader knows what the mother only fears — that her son's kidnappers are child pornographers who have no intention of letting him survive the night. Tension! High drama! and a satisfying ending including the boy's rescue by the fire department and Mom heading off to a treatment center. Excellent, too, on the struggle **not** to drink under stress when it's a way of life. Watch for it in paperback.

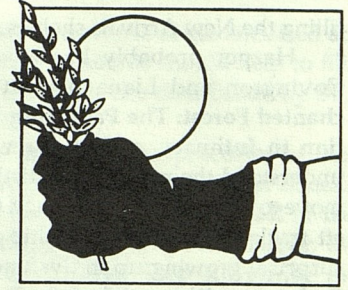
Science Fiction? Why not? Anne McCaffrey's *Crystal Singer* (Del Ray, \$3.95, 0-345-32786-1) is as vivid a portrayal of addiction and craving as you'll find — and being science fiction, the addictive substance/process is mining crystals, rather than one of the standard addictions about which many people have already developed an information-resistance. Jenifer Levin's *Water Dancer* (\$3.95 Pocket, 0-671-46764-6) is another tale of compulsion, though hardly science fiction. (Talk about workaholicism!)

I'm particularly fond of Mercedes Lackey's Queen's Arrows trilogy (*Arrows of the Queen* \$2.95 0-88677-089-7, *Arrow's Flight*, \$3.50, -222-2, and *Arrow's Fall*, \$3.50, -255-9, all from DAW) in which a young girl from a brutal frontier society where authoritarian families and physical brutality toward children are the norm, forms a psychic bond with the intelligent telepathic horse-like Companions and becomes the Queen's Own Herald. Beneath the sword and sorcery is a gentle tale of a girl healing her way through childhood abuse and becoming a strong and powerful woman. I also like Sheri Tepper's *Marianne, The Magus and the Manticore* (\$2.95 pb, ACE, 0-441-51944-X) for the same reasons, though others will think I'm out on a limb with this one.

Booksellers also tell me that they recommend Irene Zahava's *Hear the Silence: Stories by Women of Myth, Magic & Renewal* (Crossing Press, \$8.95, 0-89594-211-9) as "healing reading" for women in various forms of recovery. I might also add *Door into Ocean* for it's honest version of dealing with madmen in power while retaining one's sense of self against all the odds.

What else could be added to this list? Send suggestions for further fiction reading and we'll run an addendum in a the summer issue. ○

New & Recent Recovery Titles



Compiled by Carol Seajay

Here's a collection of new and recent "recovery" titles. It isn't comprehensive, rather it reflects a range of books from publishers who responded to FBN's invitation to participate in this issue in one way or another. What *is* a recovery book? Recovering from what? What's "the real thing" and what's just bandwagon jumping, what's useful and helpful from the ever-expanding "recovering fringe"? I wish I had the answers!

I asked one long-time bookseller (who is selling a *lot* of recovery books) to do the annotations for this column. "What's to annotate?" she responded, "They all say the same thing!" Another cheerful cynic swears the books are all churned out on a word processor using the "search and replace" function to vary the addiction. More practical advice comes from another bookseller, "*Stock* the new titles," she said, "But only known authors and books that have been out for a couple years sell in quantity. This is a word-of-mouth sales area, and the communities that buy these books read and discuss them. If it's a good book, the word will spread and it may become a best-seller, but it will take awhile. You can't rush these books — or the

people who buy them!" Another bookseller likens selling recovery books to selling lesbian titles — "There's an intelligent, informed community out there that knows exactly what they want and what they need. There's a major, if primarily underground, communication network that sorts the wheat from the chaff pretty efficiently. The 'bandwagon' books fall into oblivion, and that's that."

So here's a look at some of the new books that aren't covered elsewhere in this issue — the reading community will make the decisions in the long run.

Oddly enough, there isn't much that's new on alcohol addiction, the grandfather of them all. Or are we just not getting the books here? There was last year's spate of books dealing with the history and philosophy of AA, but that's the last surge I've noticed — except that some of the major writers on alcoholism recovery, are now writing about growing up in alcoholic families and healing/recovering from that. Books dealing with co-dependency, recovering from growing up in an alcoholic family, dealing with food addictions and eating disorders, and "generic" recovery books, applicable to a range of addictions, are filling the New Arrivals shelves.

filling the New Arrivals shelves.

Harper probably has a winner in Stephanie Covington and Liana Beckett's **Leaving the Enchanted Forest: The Path from Relationship Addiction to Intimacy**, a book for women who want to understand the nature of addictive relationships and move toward genuine intimacy. Covington and Beckett track addictive relationship patterns back to (no surprise) growing up in dysfunctional families. Less flashy than *Women Who Love Too Much*. I expect that there are a large number of men who need a similar book.... \$10.95 pb, Harper & Row, 0-06-250163-1. (Shelve an extra copy in the Cookbook section next to *The Enchanted Broccoli Forest* for those with cooking addictions?)



Letting Go With Love by Julia H. (\$7.95 pb, Tarcher, 0-87477-443-8) is a classic introduction to co-dependency for people who haven't (yet) realized that living with, responding to, and putting up with that kind of behavior on a long term basis has a negative effect on most people.... **Letting Go** describes the craziness and advocates Al-Anon as a way of learning about codependency and getting the focus of one's life back on oneself.

Ernie Larsen (*Stage II Recovery, Stage II Relationships*) is one of the several writers who have recently turned their attention to Adult Child of Alcoholics (ACA) issues. **New Patterns, New Truths: Beyond the Adult Child Syndrome** (\$9.95 pb, Harper & Row, 0-06-255494-8; also available from Hazelden) is a

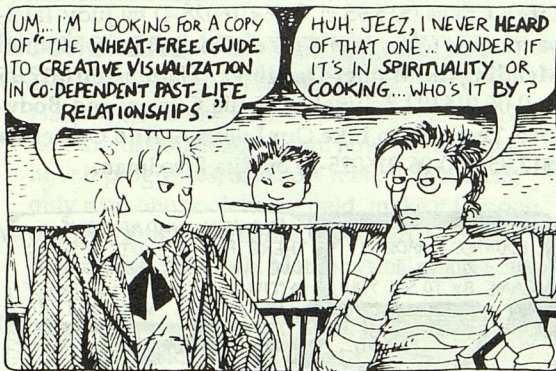
workbook for ACAs and adults from other dysfunctional families designed to help adult children identify problem areas in their lives, grasp the patterns of their present dysfunction and learn to alleviate feelings of fear and powerlessness and take personal responsibility for their recovery. Larsen is a popular writer with 30+ books to his credit. **Hope: New Choices and Recovery Strategies for Adult Children of Alcoholics** by Emily Martin (\$8.95 pb, Harper, 0-06-091511-0) is another general recovery book for ACA's. The community jury is still out on this one. **A Time to Heal: The Road to Recovery for Adult Children of Alcoholics** by Timmen L. Cermak (\$15.95 cl, Tarcher, 0-87477-454-3) offers a somewhat more detached, more academic approach perfect for people who want or need to think about their own lives in the third person. **Design for Growth: Twelve Steps for Adult Children** by Veronica Ray (\$7.95 pb Harper/Hazelden 0-06-255498-0) translates the 12 steps of AA into a format for ACAs.

Growing Up Again: Parenting Ourselves, Parenting Our Children by Jean Illsley Clark and Connie Dawson (\$10.95 pb Hazelden, 0-89486-566-8) opens up a market for ACA's who are presently parenting children (or planning to) who do *not* want to pass the grief they learned in their own childhoods on to their children. Watch for a run of titles in this area over the next few years.

Dear Kids of Alcoholics by Lindsey Hall and Leigh Cohn (\$5.95 pb, Gurze Books, 0-936077-18-2) is written in first person young (tenish?) boy describing living in an alcoholic family, learning about alcoholism, being part of a family doing intervention, and life during the first year after his dad stops drinking.

Harper and Row is republishing a revised, expanded edition of **Making Peace with Food** by Susan Kano, previously published by Amity Publishing and distributed by Inland), a book that has done well in many feminist bookstores. This edition includes new sections on nutrition, resources, new resources, and an expanded section "for loved ones who want to help." \$10.95 pb, 0-06-096328-X. FBN's consultant on eating disorders also gives good reviews to Harper/Hazelden recent releases **Feeding the Empty Heart: Adult**

Children and Compulsive Eating by Barbara McFarland and Tyeis Baker-Baumann (\$6.95 pb, 0-06-255483-2) and **Keep Coming Back: The Spiritual Journey of Recovery in Overeaters Anonymous** by Elizabeth L. (\$7.95 pb, 0-06-255497-2). Also of interest from Hazelden are **Compulsive Eaters and Relationships: Ending the Isolation** by Aphrodite Matsakis (0-89486-543-9) and **Abstinence in Action: Food Planning for Compulsive Eaters**, a workbook by Barbara McFarland and Anne Marie Erb (0-89486-538-2). In April Hazelden will publish **Someone You Love is Obsessed with Food: What You Need to Know about Eating Disorders** by Linda Riebel and Jane Kaplan, a book that's been needed for a long time. It gives information about the various eating disorders; stresses that eating disorders have less to do with fat or food eaten than with the thinking and the emotional options and choices a person makes; and offers the awareness and encouragement that readers may need in order to take care of themselves whether their loved one recovers or not.



New titles on the incest recovery front include **Treatment of Adult Survivors of Childhood Abuse** by Eliana Gil (the author of the excellent and very popular *Outgrowing the Pain: A Book for and about Adults Abused as Children*), a book directed at professions that will be read by women recovering from sexual abuse as well (\$16.95 pb, 0-9613205-6-7), and **When You're Ready** by Kathy Evert and Inie Bijkerk, a book written by a therapist/survivor recounting her healing from childhood physical and sexual abuse by her mother (\$9.95 pb, 0-9613205-4-0). There's still very

little in print about women whose abuse occurred at the hands of their mothers, so this should help to fill that gap. Launch Press books are distributed by BP, IN, Moving Books and B&T.

A lot of people are using the processes of the classic twelve-step programs to deal with other issues. **The Color of Light: Daily meditations for all of us living with AIDS** (\$6.95 pb, Hazelden/Harper, 0-89486-511-0) and **The Twelve Step Response to Chronic Illness and Disability** (pb, Hazelden, 0-89486-562-5) use the AA-pioneered programs as a way to face and deal with AIDS and/or other chronic illness on a daily basis.

Back from Betrayal: Recovering from His Affairs by Melody Beattie (**Codependent No More**) uses the sex-addiction model to understand men who keep having affairs, then offers their wives an understanding of coaddiction and codependency and the necessity of taking care of oneself as the beginning of a process that can change or break the cycle. I have to admit that I expected this one to be totally flaky when I first saw the announcements, but I have to take it back. It's a good, solid, helpful book for women caught in this classic patriarchal trap. \$15.95 cl, Harper/Hazelden, 0-06-255480-8.

When Helping You is Hurting Me: Escaping the Messiah Trap by Carmen Renee Berry (\$12.95 cl, Harper & Row, 0-06-060788-2) is for those that "co-" on a movement or global level, focusing on ending burn-out by sorting out the things "one can do and the things one can't" and then working in the areas of potential success rather than guaranteed failure, *but only* after sorting out how and why one neglects her personal needs to focus solely on helping others. This book will probably do much better in paperback than cloth.

A number of books deal with "generic" recovery issues. John Bradshaw's **Healing the Shame that Binds You** (\$9.95 pb, Health Communications, 0-932194-86-9) defines toxic shame as a common core problem to many compulsions, codependencies, addictions, the drive to superachieve, and sees shame as a powerful common element in all forms of dysfunctional families. Bradshaw's previous book (*Brad-*

shaw on The Family) and the PBS series by the same title have a strong following (despite or because of his religious/preacher style?) and this title will draw as much attention as the previous book.

The Addictive Personality: Understanding Compulsion in our Lives (\$7.95 pb, 0-06-255488-3) by Craig Nakken looks beyond the alcohol and drug addiction to look at the common traits and experiences of compulsive eaters, gamblers, sex addicts, workaholics and compulsive spenders who may have never used any mood-altering chemicals in their rituals of getting high, yet who share a common experience of emotional isolation, shame and despair. **Self-Discovery in Recovery** (\$7.95 pb, 0-06-255491-3) by Abraham Twerski focuses on the development of healthy self-esteem (primarily in alcoholics, but applicable to other addictions) which he sees as the keystone of lasting recovery. **Strong Choices, Weak Choices: The Challenge of Change in Recovery** (\$7.95 pb 0-06-255484-0) by Gayle Rosellini and Mark Worden (authors of *Of Course You're Angry*) is for people already in a recovery program who are trying to cope with the demands of change, a demand that seems to occur just when they are beginning to feel safe and secure. It points the way to healthy coping skills and ways to meet the challenge of change, as well as affirming the necessity for change (often in terms of jobs, housing situations, relationship) that sobriety and increased self-esteem often demand. **Relax, Recover** (\$13.95 cl, 0-06-255492-1) by Patricia Wuertzer and Lucinda May looks at stress management for recovering people. Both books can be seen as part of relapse prevention programs and all four books are from the the Harper/Hazelden Recovery Series.

Many people believe that a spiritual (though not necessarily religious) component is a necessary ingredient in recovery from compulsive and/or addictive behavior. **The Spiritual Dimensions of Healing Addictions** (\$9.95 pb, Cassandra Press, 0-9615875-5-5) and **Further Dimensions of Healing Addictions** (\$9.95 pb, Cassandra Press, 0-945946-00-7) by Donna Cunningham and Andrew Ramer are "channeled" books offering information on how astrology and gemstones, flower essences, chakra work and an examination of relevant past lives and Karma can be

helpful in addressing coffee, tobacco, marijuana, sugar, heroin and cocaine addictions. Cunningham is a therapist specializing in treating addicted people and their families and is also an astrologist. Ramer does past life work and is the channel. A "new age" approach to recovery. BP, IN, etc.

Other new books of interest include Wingbow Press' **Illuminations: The Healing Image** (\$12.95 pb, 0-614728-63-6) by Madeline McMurry, a book on personal healing and spiritual development through contact with "the inner artist" in everyone, and **The Dance of Intimacy: A Woman's Guide to Courageous Acts of Change in Key Relationships** (\$17.95 cl, Harper & Row, 0-06-016067-5, April) by Harriet Goldhor Lerner which picks up where *Dance of Anger* left off, showing how good relationships can thrive and endure and how difficult ones be healed. 115,000 copy first printing. Other books from Harper and Row that will do well alongside this section include **You Don't Have to Suffer: A Handbook for Moving Beyond Life's Crises** (\$15.95 cl, 0-06-016028-4) by Judy Tatelbaum (*The Courage to Grieve*); **Don't Blame Mother: Mending the Mother-Daughter Relationship** (\$17.95 cl, 0-06-016102-7, June) by Paula Caplan; and **Bodylove: Learning to Like Our Looks — And Ourselves** (\$17.95 cl, 0-06-016025-X) by Rita Freedman.

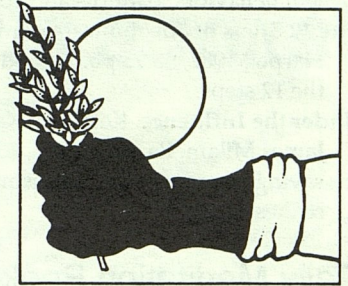


From *More Dykes To Watch Out For* by Alison Bechdel

Thanks to Alison Bechdel and Firebrand Books for the graphics in this article. And special thanks to Sine Anahita for the cover graphic! ○

A Core List

Recovery



Books

By Full Circle Books

Alcohol and Substance Abuse

Addictive Personality. Nakken, Craig.

Harper/Hazelden, 1988 \$7.95 pb. A very important discussion of addiction: how it originates, how it progresses, and how it ends. If you can only read one book in the field, make it this one.

Alcoholism and Spirituality. Whitfield, Charles.

Perrin, 1985, \$9.00 pb. Metaphysical approach to recovery.

The Booze Battle. Maxwell, Ruth. Ballantine, 1976, \$3.50 pb. Basic but a bit dated.

Broken Promises, Broken Dreams. Meryman, Richard. Berkley, 1984, \$3.95 pb. One woman's recovery from alcoholism.

The Courage to Change. Wholey, Dennis. Houghton, 1984, \$4.50 pb. Personal conversations about alcoholism.

Good-bye Hangovers, Hello Life. Kirkpatrick, Jean. Ballentine, 1986, \$3.95 pb. The special problems of the woman alcoholic. The author challenges some premises of AA which she believes fails to address the specific needs of women.

I'll Quit Tomorrow. Johnson, Vernon. Harper, 1980,

\$15.95 cl. A manual for the understanding, intervention and treatment of alcoholism and other dependencies.

Of Course You're Angry. Rosellini, Gayle and Mark Worden. Harper, 1985, \$6.95 pb. Deals with anger and the chemically dependent.

Prisms. Mackay, Marianne. Fawcett, 1981, \$3.50 pb.

A novel. Two women haunted by alcoholic dreams, their escape from feelings of insecurity.

Recovering: How to Get and Stay Sober. Mueller, Ann M.D. and Katherine Ketcham. Bantam, 1987, \$8.95 pb. Begins with a clear definition and covers treatment, including selection of a good treatment center.

Self-Parenting. Pollard, John. Generic Human Studies Publishing (dist. by Health Communications), 1987, \$9.95. A guide to inner conversations.

Stage II Recovery: Life Beyond Addiction. Larson, Ernie. Harper, 1985, \$6.95 pb. (Audio, \$9.95.) How to rebuild a life. It deals with change, relationships, habits (changing them) and how to make the sober life work.

Stage II Relationship: Love Beyond Addiction. Larson, Ernie. Harper, 1987, \$6.95 pb. Explores prob-

lem behaviors, patterns and conflict resolution.

The 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. Hazelden. Harper, 1987, \$6.95 pb. A good interpretation of the 12 steps.

Under the Influence. Ketcham, Katherine and James Milam. Bantam, 1983, \$3.95 pb. A life saving approach to alcoholism: who and why it strikes and how to treat it.

Daily Meditation Books

Daily Affirmations. Health Communications. Health Communications, 1986, \$6.95 pb. For adult children of alcoholics.

Day by Day. Hazelden. Hazelden, 1986, \$6.95 pb. By and for recovering young adults.

Days of Healing, Days of Joy. Larson, Hegarty. Harper, 1987 \$6.95 pb. For adult children of alcoholics.

Each Day a New Beginning. Hazelden. Harper, 1982, \$6.95 pb. Especially for Women.

The Promise of a New Day. Casey, Karen and Martha Vanceburg. Harper, 1983, \$6.95 pb. (Audio, \$9.95.) Meditations for sane living.

Learning to Live Without Violence

by Daniel Jay Sonkin, Ph.D.
and Michael Durphy, M.D.
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Developed during many years of counseling men who batter, this completely revised, expanded workbook contains new information on drug and alcohol abuse, "letting go", and how to start a men's self-help group. Proven techniques can be used in group counseling or by a man alone. ISBN 0-912078-84-7

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Children and Teens

Elephant in the Living Room. Hastings, Jill & Marion Typpo. Compcare, 1984, \$6.00 pb. Good workbook for 8-12.

High and Outside. Due, Linnea, Spinsters/Aunt Lute, 1982, \$2.95 pb. A novel about a bright athletic teen who is an alcoholic.

I Wish Daddy Didn't Drink So Much. Vigna, Judith. Albert Whitman, 1988 \$11.95 cl. Excellent children's book about a Christmas rescued from an alcoholic's abuse.

My Dad Loves Me, My Dad has a Disease. Black, Claudia. MAC, 1979, \$8.95 pb. A great book for little kids.

Serena's Secret. DeVault, Christine and Bryan Strong. Network, 1987, \$3.95 pb. A teen novel. "Choose your own adventure" type story about a star gymnast's experiments with alcohol. Fun and well done.

Warning Signs: A Parent's Guide to In-Time Intervention in Drug and Alcohol Abuse. Van Ost, William. Warner, 1988, \$7.95 pb. Excellent discussion of parent's role in the development of their child's addiction. A strong stand.

Adult Children of Alcoholics

Adult Children of Alcoholics. Woititz, Janet. Health Communications, 1983, \$6.95 pb. What it means to be the child of an alcoholic and how this process evolves over time. Excellent.

After the Tears. Middleton-Moz, Jane and Laurie Dwinell. Health Communications, 1986, \$7.95 pb. The grief process as a part of healing.

Another Chance. Wegscheider-Cruse, Sharon. Science and Behavior, 1981, \$14.95 cl. Hope and health for the alcoholic family. One of the best books on family therapy for the alcoholic family. Excellent.

Bradshaw On: The Family. Bradshaw, John. Health Communications, 1988, \$9.95 pb. A guide out of dysfunction to wholeness. Teaches us that families can be healed. (See also section on Shame.)

Children of Alcoholism: A Survivors Manual. Sexias, Judith and Geraldine Youcha. Harper, 1985, \$7.95 pb. A full and honest portrait of the alco-

holic home which offers much needed relief for those caught in the pain of having grown up with alcoholism.

Choicemaking. Wegscheider-Cruse, Sharon. Health Communications, 1985, \$7.95 pb. A personal account of growing up in a dysfunctional family.

Healing the Child Within: Discovery and Recovery for Adult Children of Dysfunctional Families. Whitfield, Charles. Health Communications, 1987, \$8.95 pb. Discusses repression, shame, stress, and transformation.

Home Away from Home. Woititz, Janet. Health Communications, 1987, \$13.95 cl. The ACA in the workplace. The problems, the strengths, and the weaknesses are outlined for both employer and ACA employee.

The Flying Boy Healing the Wounded Man. Lee, John. Health Communications, 1987, \$8.95 pb. A wonderful story of true masculinity and healing.

It Will Never Happen To Me. Black Claudia. Ballantine, 1982, \$3.95 pb. (Audio, \$9.95.) Excellent discussion of the problems of adult children of alcoholics, how to prevent and how to handle them.

Journey Into Me. Fritz, Nell. Journey (4790 Irvine Blvd. #105-122, Irvine CA 92720), 1984, \$14.95 pb. A 12 step action workbook for everyday life.

Learning to Love Yourself. Wegscheider-Cruse, Sharon. Health Communications, 1987 \$7.95 pb. A journey to self-worth through breaking down of negative self concepts and the building of new, solid, positive ones.

Repeat After Me. Black Claudia. MAC, 1985, \$13.95 pb. A workbook to help with the problems of a dysfunctional family. Excellent. Not just for ACAs.

Struggle for Intimacy. Woititz, Janet. Health Communications, 1985, \$6.95 pb. Better ways to interact with others.

The 12 Steps: A Way Out. Friends in Recovery. Recovery, 1987, \$14.95 pb. Workbook with explanations and exercises for the 12 steps and how to work through them.

The 12 Steps for Adult Children. Friends in Recovery. Recovery, 1987, \$6.95 pb. A spiritual approach.

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5. STRUGGLE FOR INTIMACY • Woititz • Health Comm
6. BRADSHAW ON THE FAMILY • Bradshaw • Health Comm
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Understanding Me. Wegscheider-Cruse, Sharon. Health Communications, 1985, \$13.95 pb. A workbook.

Workbook for Healing. McConnell, Patty. Harper, 1986, \$9.95 pb. Simple and honest exercises.

Addictive Relationships

Addictive Organization. Schaeff, Anne Wilson. Harper & Row, 1988, \$16.95 cl. How to make work healing instead of sick.

Co-dependence: Misunderstood-Mistreated. Schaeff, Anne Wilson. Harper/Winston, 1986, \$7.95, pb. The history and development of the concept including its confusing and overlapping definitions.

Co-Dependency, An Emerging Issue. Health Communications. Health Communications, 1984, \$6.95 pb. A collection of articles discussing the collusion and co-dependency of family members.

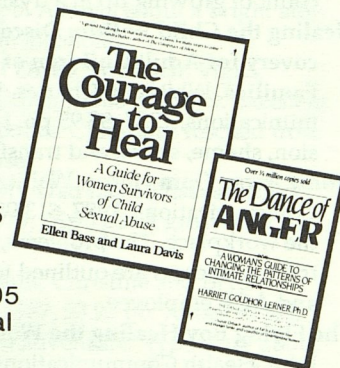
Co-Dependent No More. Beattie, Melody. Harper, 1987, \$8.95 pb. (Audio, \$9.95.) An overview that talks in detail about its characteristics and offers

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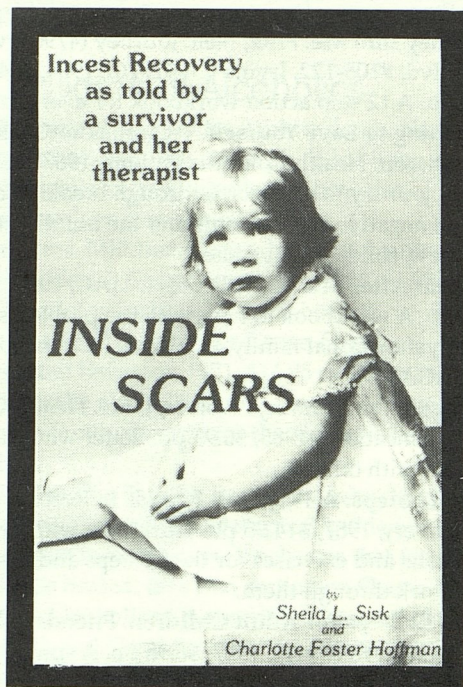
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options for change.

Coupleship. Wegscheider-Cruse, Sharon. Health Communications, 1988, \$8.95 pb. How to build a healthy relationship.

Dance of Anger. Lerner, Harriet. Harper, 1985, \$7.95 pb. The causes and patterns of anger. Includes specific strategies for making changes in important relationships.

Diagnosing and Treating Co-Dependence. Cermak, T. Johnson, 1986, \$8.95 pb. This guide for professionals includes criterion for diagnosis symptomatology, and stages of treatment.

Do I Have to Give Up Me to Be Loved by You.

Paul, Jordan, and Margaret Paul. Compcare, 1983, \$9.95 pb. The struggle to mesh personal freedom and intimacy. Contains charts and exercises to work together on power struggles and sexual expectations.

How to Break Your Addiction to a Person. Halpern, Howard. Bantam, 1985, \$3.95 pb. The title says it all.

Men Who hate Women and the Women Who Love Them. Forward, Dr. Susan. Bantam, 1986, \$4.50 pb. This book has changed lives. I believe that it should be read by every person in a relationship where blame, abuse or belittlement exist. Excellent and important.

When Society Becomes an Addict. Schaefer, Anne Wilson. Harper, 1987, \$8.95 pb. Synthesis of feminist, chemical dependency, and mental health theories. Truly enlightening.

Women Who Love Too Much. Norwood, Robin. Pocket, 1985, \$4.95 pb. A way to free yourself from destructive loving. If you haven't read the book yet, do it now.

Women's Reality. Schaefer, Anne Wilson. Harper & Row, 1981, \$7.95 pb. Clearly written description of the differences in male and female perceptions of reality.

Shame

Facing Shame. Fossum, Merle. Norton, 1986, \$19.95 cl. One of the clearer discussions of shame. Very clearly written, minimal jargon, appropriate examples. Deals with family systems. Also

recommended for therapists.

Healing the Shame That Binds You. Bradshaw, John. Health Communications, 1988, \$9.95 pb. Honest and clear discussion of the origin, progression, and healing of toxic shame.

Shame: The Power of Caring. Kaufman, Gershen. Schenkman, 1980, \$10.95 pb. Of value for everyone who is trying to understand the effects of shame in childhood.

Sexual & Abuse Addictions

Hope and Recovery. P.D.N.E.C. Compcare, 1987, \$12.95 cl. (Audio, \$14.95.) 12 step program for healing compulsive sexual behavior.

Learning to Live Without Violence. Sonkin, Daniel Jay and Michael Darphy. Volcano Press, 1985, \$10.00 pb. A workbook.

Out of the Shadows Carnes, Patrick J. (previously titled Sexual Addiction). Compcare, 1983, \$8.95 pb. A wonderfully complex and thorough discussion of addictive sexual behaviors. Excellent.

Male Grief: Notes on Pornography and Addiction. Mura, David. Milkweed, 1987, \$3.50 pamphlet. Fascinating. I believe every woman (and every man) should read this.

Man to Man: A Guide for Men in Abusive Relationships. Gondolf, Edward and David Russell. Human Services Institute (distributed by Inland), 1987, \$4.95 pb. A straightforward attempt to discuss men's abusive behavior.

Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous. Augustine Fellowship Staff. Augustine (distributed by Moving Books), 1986, \$13.00 pb.

Does anyone know of a *good* book dealing with healing from cult-abuse and ritual abuse? Preferably one that focuses on healing rather than on the causes? The best book we've found so far is **Michelle Remembers** by Michelle Smith (Pocket Books, 1980), but we're looking for a more therapeutically oriented book. Something more on a par with the excellent (but very short) section in **Courage to Heal**. If you have a suggestion, call us at Full Circle (505-266-0022) and let us know!

○

BACK TO PRESS AND OTHER GOOD NEWS

Getting Free: A Handbook for Women in Abusive Relationships by Ginny NiCarthy, the classic in books for battered women, was first published by Seal Press in 1982, after the manuscript had been rejected by over twenty major publishers. Seven years later, it is in its second edition with 75,000 copies in print. The immediate success of *Getting Free* reflected the tremendous need for self-help literature for battered women and inspired Seal to develop its New Leaf Series on issues of domestic violence. The series includes books specifically written for Black women and Latinas, a picture book for children, and an anthology on lesbian battering. See "From Our Own Presses" for new titles in this series by Seal.

The Obsidian Mirror: An Adult Healing from Incest by Louise M. Wischild, also published by Seal, went back to press in December for 10,000 copies in print.

Mother Courage Press reports that *Why Me? Help for Victims of Child Sexual Abuse Even if They Are Adults Now* by Lynn Daugherty went back to press at the end of 1988 and now has 30,000 copies in print. *Something Happened to Me* by Phyllis Sweet now has 25,000 copies in print and is scheduled to go back to press this month. Mother Courage also sends news that the German language edition of Iris Galey's *I Couldn't Cry When Daddy Died* has sold 50,000 copies in Europe.

The Gynergy Press (Canada) edition of *Don't: A Woman's Word* by Elly Danica went back to press for a second printing in December. Cleis Press will do a U.S. edition of the book this spring.

Courage to Heal (Harper and Row) has gone back to press for a sixth printing for a total of 142,000 copies in print. That's a far cry from a decade ago when mainstream publishers insisted that there was no market and no interest in books about incest.

Arctic Daughter (Bergamot Books) went back to press in November and again in January. 3,000 copies were printed each time.

Chicory Blue Press' first title *A Wider Giving: Women Writing After a Long Silence* has gone back to press for a 3,000 copy printing bringing the total number in print to 6,500.

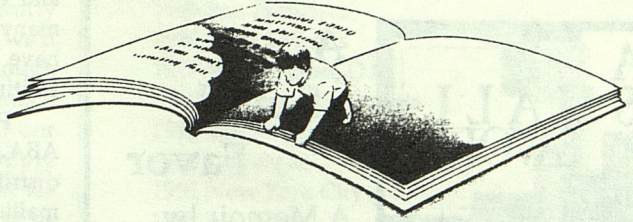
Etel Adnan's novel *Sitt Marie-Rose* has gone back to press for a total of 7,000 copies in print as has her recent poetry collection *The Indian Never Had a Horse*, which includes a series of love poems among which are "the most lyrical of lesbian poetry".



Lilith Publications has given in to popular demand and reprinted the *Guide to Gracious Lesbian Living*. Half of the printing has already been shipped. Tee Corinne's *Dreams of the Woman Who Loved Sex* (Banned Books) went back to press in December. The new print run makes for a total of 12,000 copies in print.

Alyson Publications has gone back to press with *Choices* by Nancy Toder and *Unbroken Ties: Lesbian Ex-Lovers* by Carol S. Becker. *Choices* was originally published by Persephone Press in 1980. By the time Alyson bought rights in 1984 there were 20,000 copies in print. In January Alyson went back to press for their fourth printing of 9,000 bringing the Alyson edition to over 33,000 copies. Altogether there are over 53,000 copies of *Choices* in print. *Unbroken Ties* went back to press for a second printing of 7,000 copies in January for a total of 14,500 copies in print. Selected Alyson titles are now available from Ingram, Baker & Taylor and Golden-Lee and their entire booklist continues to be available from Inland and Bookpeople. ○

ON



ATTENDING

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By Neil Woodward
Category Six Books
Denver, Colorado

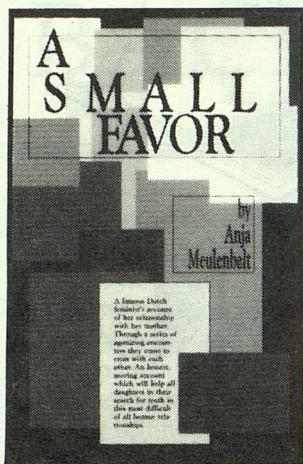
For Category Six Books on Capitol Hill in Denver the annual ABA convention is vital. While we don't live for it, we do look forward to each new convention with the greatest anticipation. If we had known how important ABA would be for us we would have gone from year one. As it was, we had been in business two years before deciding to attend. We're small: 2.7 FTE (full time equivalent staff), gross sales falling in the second ABA dues category, and after six years of steady growth, still growing. And in Denver's economy that ain't horsefeathers!

Each year the highlight for us happens first; the great gathering of all the gay and lesbian and feminist and allied booksellers, publishers, reps, authors, editors, and so on. Each year the party, which is sponsored by Naiad Press, Alyson Press and Firebrand, among others, seems bigger. In 1987 in Washington, D.C. the event was held at the elegant gay club Tracks with well over 400 showing. Last year in Anaheim the party was in a less-than-elegant hotel ballroom. But what the heck — that's Anaheim. At any rate, this is the place to shake hands, kiss and hug, gossip, kibitz, catch up, meet new friends and talk to old ones, see the faces attached to the voices on the phone for the

last year, all while enjoying the sense of solidarity and sharing the first euphoria of getting out of the shop for a few days. In 1989 in Washington, D.C. the first-night party will be combined with the first annual Lambda Literary Awards gala banquet to recognize excellence in Lesbian and Gay writing. Lambda Rising Bookstore's Book Report is sponsoring the program.

After the party's over it's all work for us as we split the next days up as follows: two days visiting publishers, gathering catalogs, scouring them and making up orders, with the next two days spent placing these orders. We generally don't attend the author breakfasts or banquets or other parties, preferring to get the necessary work done instead. Very often we're in our hotel room reading catalogs, making notes, calculating costs, and making decisions until late in the night. The early mornings are reserved for plotting the course of the day over a substantial breakfast. We need to figure out who we must see, where they are located, how we're going to choreograph the sequence of visits on the overwhelmingly huge convention floor. We learned the first year that planning and

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strategy and tennis shoes are important in accomplishing convention goals. We do try to pass by each and every exhibit and in so doing we have found many wonderful items for our shop that either would have been missed altogether, or ordered too late by waiting for the fall lists to show up in the mail.

For any new shops considering attendance at ABA, let me add that this is a very good place to distribute your calling card in order to get on the mailing lists you wish, and the place to open accounts with publishers. Each year we take photocopies of our credit-reference sheet, lots of business cards, and a few checks. Many items are free or sold at or below cost at the end of the convention. You can also go to seminars on all aspects of running a book business. We usually do not attend these because we're too busy. But we always buy the cassette tapes of the seminars we want to know about. They contain invaluable information from your peers. If you have a computerized inventory system you will be able to attend your users group meeting as well. The users group for Booklog is a priority for us each year.

One of the most significant occurrences is the opportunity to talk with authors and publishers in order to arrange in-store appearances and to get the scoop on what's next. Our clientele absolutely loves it when we come back to Denver with stories from conversations with authors. We met Armistead Maupin in San Francisco and two years later 350 people showed up at our store for his visit here. Our customers really care what Katherine Forrest or Anne Rice or Samuel Steward say in passing or have planned next. We have taken questions from our customers to writers who will not be coming to Denver. We greatly enjoy being this conduit between writers and readers and our customers love us for this personal connection they otherwise would not have.

Financially the trip involves a large outlay of cash or a big credit card bill or both. However, the profit from deals we strike at ABA always more that pays for everything: train or airfare, meals, hotel, car rental, and all other costs associated with the convention. For example, last year we ordered over \$16,000 worth of books at retail from 29 publishers at the convention. The difference between the higher discounts achieved there and normal discounts amounted to over

\$1,900.00. Remember: this is just the discount differential alone — not the whole discount. To put it another way, by going to ABA we profited by nearly \$2,000.00 that we wouldn't necessarily have if we'd stayed home and ordered those same books. Although we would have been entitled to the same discounts if we stayed home and ordered, the likelihood of our doing so is less than probable since we simply wouldn't have acquired the same awareness that we get at the convention. It's true! The whole trip cost us just over \$1,300.00 for two. The remaining \$600.00 was just gravy. This is assuming that we sold through all ABA titles ordered. We did. We rarely return titles ordered there. In addition to buying at the convention we also make every effort to spend a day visiting antiquarian and used book dealers to look for titles in our specialty. We find them, ship them back and resell them, often times to customers who have looked for months or years for that certain title. This more than pays for itself too. The above demonstrates that most small stores ought to be able to manage ABA and manage to make it financially worthwhile. Even if only one of you can go, it can be worthwhile. After all, it is exactly just for us booksellers that the convention exists. 80% of the membership of ABA consists of small stores such as yours and ours. So you all should be right at home with the people there.

Given the above experience for us, we see no excuses to forego the convention. It's definitely work but it's the most fun I've ever had working, not to mention the opportunity to explore restaurants in a new city! (OK, OK. Yes, we have a little bit of nightlife, etc. But not very much!) Actually it's exhilarating to participate in one of the world's largest trade shows. It's a magnificent feast of ideas, color, sound, motion. All you have to do is wear sensible shoes, plan ahead a little, and set some convention goals. If you show up with no *modus operandi* it will be overwhelming, chaotic, and no fun at all in very short order. If, on the other hand, you do show up with an *M.O.*, then it will be overwhelming, chaotic and lots of fun! We're convinced that the convention makes us better booksellers. You ought to go and see what you think. Read Ginger Curwen's article on the ABA in your copy of the *Manual On Bookselling*, page 438, while planning. And don't forget your tennies!

Following is a list of past and future ABA convention sites:

- 1985 San Francisco
- 1986 New Orleans
- 1987 Washington, D.C.
- 1988 Anaheim, California
- 1989 Washington, D.C.
- 1990 Las Vegas
- 1991 New York City
- 1992 Anaheim
- 1993 Miami
- 1994 Los Angeles



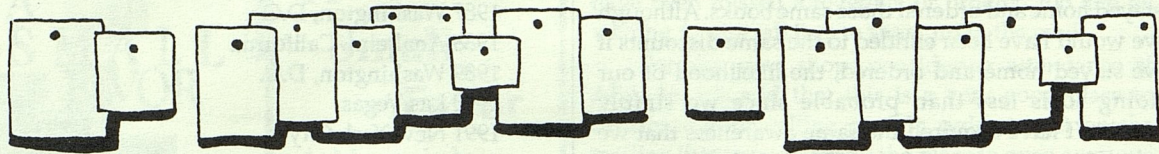
Editor's Notes:

This year's ABA Convention will be held June 3-6. For registrations forms, events schedules, information on hotels, transportation and alternative housing write to The American Booksellers Association, Department C, 137 W. 25th St., New York NY 10001 or call 800-637-0037.

Events this year include a Small Store Roundtable (June 3), a discussion group focusing on operational problems for stores grossing under \$250,000 and a second round of Specialty Store Get-togethers (June 4 & 5) in eight specialty areas: Afro-American, cookbooks, feminist, mystery, new age, science fiction, technical, and travel. Several different rooms will be utilized this year, and scheduling, hopefully, will allow one to be both feminist and Afro-American, etc. Apparently there will be no meeting for gay booksellers this year.

-CS ○

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Dinah Lefakane was awarded Women In Publishing's New Venture Award for setting up Serita sa Sechaba, a publishing project for women's writing and children's books in Soweto, South Africa. (See FBN Volume 11 Number 4.) Serita sa Sechaba may be reached at 62384 Marshalltown, 2107 Johannesburg, South Africa. Women In Publishing is an organization promoting the status of women in publishing in the United Kingdom. Women in Publishing can be reached c/o Val Stevenson, 96 Mansfield Road, London NW3 2EK.

Bharati Mukherjee's collection of short stories, **The Middleman and Other Stories**, won the 1988 National Book Critics Circle Award for best fiction. The stories in **The Middleman** focus on the Third World immigrant experience in America.



Arte Público Press has received a \$133,426 grant from the Ford Foundation to publish an Hispanic Playwright Series. Over a two year period Arte Público Press will publish twelve collections of plays by U.S. Hispanics. Four of the twelve collections have not yet been determined. Submissions should be sent to Dr. Nicolás Kanellos, Arte Público Press, University of Houston, Houston TX 77204-2090.

"Roger Williams, manager for Independent Retailers at Bantam/Doubleday/Dell (666 Fifth Ave., NY NY 10103) is interested in seeing as many bookstore newsletters and catalogs as possible. He believes that these newsletters offer his company a marketing opportunity and seems sincere about carefully researching and studying the field. He says that people in his company are trying to find ways to better help independent booksellers sell their titles and one option might be to offer support to in-store publications. He would also like to receive circulation figures along with newsletters." This information is from the Northern California Booksellers Association Newsletter. It strikes me that sending a deluge of feminist bookstore newsletters might be an effective way of pointing out the strength of our market.

-CS.O

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But Can She Type?

Is This a Business or a Political Organization?

Some opening dialogue on the way to Women-In-Print #4

By Nett Hart

All of us are part of what is loosely called a Women-in-Print movement—as readers, writers, reviewers, artists, editors, publishers, distributors, booksellers et al. of the hardcopy of the Women's Liberation Movement. We are part of a swelling movement not only in the numbers of women involved, but also in the quantity of artifacts this movement produces. Where once we could read *everything* that came from our movement as it came out, now stores and catalogs and backlists bulge with our success. It can no longer be assumed we've all read the same pieces or that the code words of earlier works evoke the whole discourse.

We need to ask questions again about the heart of the Women-in-Print movement. We represent different skills, different structures of ownership (from collective to partnership to sole proprietors), different political commitments (from socialist to new age to gay/Lesbian to feminist(!)), and different economic realities (from earning livelihood in this work to volunteer). We have women who learned their skills in order to do the political work they are doing and others who, having the skills and background, put them in service to their political beliefs.

If it seems we are without focus as a Women-In-Print movement, consider the state of the Women's

Liberation Movement. While there are cohesive organizations around Lesbian culture, global feminism,



Sudie Rakusin in *Wickedary*
BE-SPELLING: *Dis-covering and releasing the Archimagicall powers of Words*

trafficking in women, academic women's studies, electoral politics, and prochoice, there is no overall agenda from the Women's Liberation Movement that relates the various parts of the movement to each other. Our analysis of what needs to change has become so far-reaching that we have broken off into many task forces and in that process we've diversified our participation. Those who think the WLM is dead are simply looking for the wrong signs of leadership and action.



I think this process of diversification has not gone far enough: there are still women whose voices are not heard and women who have not heard of the women's bookstore in their town. I also think that the lack of focus for women's liberation has many women (1) afraid the momentum is lost and (2) unfairly blaming the perceived inertia on the growing diversity of the movement, thereby creating our own little backlash on "outreach." There is a vast difference between spanning difference to incorporate and make comfortable less radical women and genuine diversity of women who have been radicalized through a variety of analyses: racism, ageism, classism, looksism, heterosexism, imperialism.

I think what we have lost as a movement (both

Nett Hart is a raving Lesbian-feminist who is part of the Minneapolis Women in Print convening committee trying to create a diverse planning committee for a fourth Women-In-Print Conference. She is a partner in Word Weavers: A Lesbian Publishing Company, a writer, and a graphic artist who has designed and produced books for Word Weavers and for the Institute of Lesbian Studies and done book covers for Bergamot Books and Onlywomen Press. She is a country dyke and, of course, a Sagittarian.

WLM and WIP) is our sense of being radical, outrageous. Once we kept all our means of production and distribution in our own hands because we were aware of how our foresters' work had been lost to us and because our business was not welcomed by the mainstream. Now we have situations of success where not only are many of our books carried by mainstream and alternative bookstores, our books and writers are avidly sought by mainstream publishers. Are we doing something wrong or something so very right that the mainstream wants to co-opt it? Our bookstores and publishing enterprises have become what they are by saying something specific, by seeking a particular audience through a definite politic, by putting into print (and pledging to *keep* in print) what we know to be important.

There are thousands of questions of individual choice, ethics and politics involved. There are business decisions and political decisions. There is market development and consciousness raising. I think we need to discuss these questions openly and passionately with one another, not to establish "rules" or uniformity, but to give us basis for the decisions we make, to know the implications of our choices. If we are not going to be all things to all women we should know why.

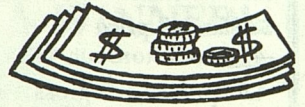
So this is what I hope we continue to be for one another as Women in Print: not just a resource for desktop publishing or putting the store inventory on computer, but a trustworthy place to air our concerns. It's a lot easier to talk about the mechanics of our print organizations because if we differ in our assessments we feel no reflection on us by our choices, no judgment. As important as those decisions are to the success of our businesses, the challenges that brought all of us to this work are not entrepreneurial but political and it is those challenges, these on-going dialogs, that give content to the work we are doing.

Let's get rowdy together, hazard some opinions, engage on another. Responses, opinions, speculations welcome. ○



On
The

Economics



of Publishing

Spinsters/Aunt Lute
PO Box 410687
San Francisco, CA 94141

Dear FBN,

We've been wanting to write for some time and then the discussions in the September 1988 and, subsequently, the January/February 1989 FBNs about the Inland catalog and the "No Frills" Naiad books finally prompted us to do something. Let it be a comment on the nature of any feminist business that it can take from September to February for good intentions to become manifest.

We're writing partly because it is so long between Women In Print conferences and because we know from conversations with good friends who are bookstore workers that it is very easy to lose sight of each other's realities. We see this letter as a desire for ongoing dialogue and understanding between us. That is the intent of what we set down here. And we'd like to say at the outset that coming to book publishing from being a printer and a bookstore worker, respectively, we're under no illusions that anyone else's road is any easier.

There are several things we'd like to discuss, discounts and costs being one, which books sell being another, etc. If what we say seems elementary, it's surprising how many of us on all sides of the business don't really know how the numbers stack up with the other sides.

Publisher cash flow. From the jump, publishers are stuck with a very harsh capital flow reality. In order to balance their sold books against their in-

ventory not sold, bookstores traditionally give themselves some breathing room around cash flow by adjusting publishers lists into "A", "B" etc, 60, 90, 120 days, and so on. Books sold this week may not be paid for until two and a half months later. And if inventory is moving really slowly, returns are an option. (Though once again thank you to all you feminist stores who put our invoices on the top of the "to-be-paid" pile.) The publisher, on the other hand, is up against very stiff restrictions at the printing side. The *whole* press run (which may not sell for 6 months to two years, and which won't be paid for by the bookstores until at least 60 days after each shipment) must be paid for at the printer within 30 days. The most liberal printer around will go 60 days, but if you are late once, then you're on a cash-up-front basis for a considerable period of time. And the sums are significant: for a lesbian title with reasonable expectations, printing alone will run \$8,000 to upwards of \$16,000 per book. In addition, we have to pay cash up front for postage and UPS (which run around \$2,000 a month). When bookstores average 85 days to pay, we've got another \$5,666 tied up in shipping we haven't been reimbursed for.

Discount margins, or lack thereof. So for the publisher, cash flow is an enormous and continual problem. With that as a background we'd like to talk about margins and discounts. We're going to use our new title *All The Muscle You Need* as an example. It's a lesbian detective story with a pretty typical print run of 5,000. Each book from the first printing cost us \$1.94 each, including typesetting, art, production, printing and freight. That's about \$10,000 we had to pay out by December 1988. Here's how it looks on the revenue end:

Direct to Bookstore at 45% Through Inland at 57%

\$8.95 retail price	\$8.95 retail price
<u>-4.02</u> bookstore cut, 45%	<u>-5.06</u> Inland's cut, at 57%
4.93 publisher's gross	3.89 gross
-1.94 production cost	-1.94 cost
<u>-0.63</u> author's starting royalty	<u>-0.63</u> royalty
2.36 publisher's "net"	1.32 publisher's "net"

This means that we have somewhere between \$2.36 and \$1.32 to pay for all of the following: postage out, freight to distributors, packing materials, rent, overhead, staff salaries, interest and principle on borrowed money to pay the initial \$10,000, all advertising, promotion, author tours *and* reprinting the book. Since most bookstores buy most of their copies from the distributors (60% of our sales are through distributors and only 25% directly from bookstores; the rest of our sales are through author appearances not in bookstores, through direct mail or to universities and library jobbers), this usually leaves us in the vicinity of \$1.80 for all those expenses. Reprinting alone will run about \$1.30. With one really fast-selling title last year, we paid for three printings while we were still trying to collect from sales of the first 5,000 copies.

To make all this more complex yet, there's then the question of which books sell and which don't, how fast they sell and so on. Which is also a question of how many of those \$1.80's you actually have. Spinsters/Aunt Lute is basically supported by 7 or 8 titles; these sell and these pay not only all their own expenses but basically all the expenses for all the other books as well. Another 10 or so are mid-list books; they sell steadily but not a lot and they contribute small amounts to overhead. The rest are basically dead; they sell so few that the smallest print run would be a 2-5 year supply. Now you may be saying, "boy S/AL sure picks some lousy books," but some of our deadest books still speak to issues in a way other books just don't. So, bookstores are very vocal about wanting us to keep some of these titles in print yet feel they can only stock 2 or 3 copies themselves. (This is another area that S/AL wants to work on with bookstores in some creative way.) And when, once in a while, we

have a *new* book that doesn't sell we don't have a returns option with the printer and must live with the dead weight for a long time.

But to stick to economics, for those of us who keep publishing diverse women's work, and who believe that if we only did what was most palatable there wouldn't really be any point for publishers like us to exist, this means that those 7 titles that sell have to support others that will take 2 years to be adopted as texts, that will become popular 3 years after publication because their issue has suddenly become fashionable, or that sell 900 copies a year but everybody "wants". That \$1.80 didn't begin to cover our expenses for its own book, so it sure doesn't go very far to cover 27 other titles that need support.

We hope this is enough said to make it clear that we're all barely making it. And that without some short discount sales, a direct mail list for customers not near bookstores, and some other infusions of capital at printing time (grants, angels, foreign rights sales, etc.) we wouldn't make it at all. If we were to start selling all of our books at deeper discounts than 40 - 45% we wouldn't be around to produce the books you sell.

Capital through Naiad's "no frills" deal. Now Spinsters/Aunt Lute didn't do the "No Frills" deal, so we feel like a good candidate to talk about it. What made it so attractive was that it represented very large sums of cash for very little expense. Large orders were placed with guaranteed payment ahead of the usual 90 days for distributors. The amount of publisher money in shipping, waiting for reimbursement, was a lot less because it probably all went by truck. Processing took less time. So for less outlay on the publisher's part, cash came in just as the Fall printing bills were due. (Whereas a Fall title sold to the bookstores will *begin* paying in late Dec. and not pay for all Christmas sales, much less the whole print run, until March or April.) Publishers probably felt as well that Naiad's mailing list is one that buys by mail. Expert consultants have been telling us that people who fall into one of two groups who habitually buy by mail or habitually buy in a retail store, do not cross over that pattern. So these large infusions of cash probably did

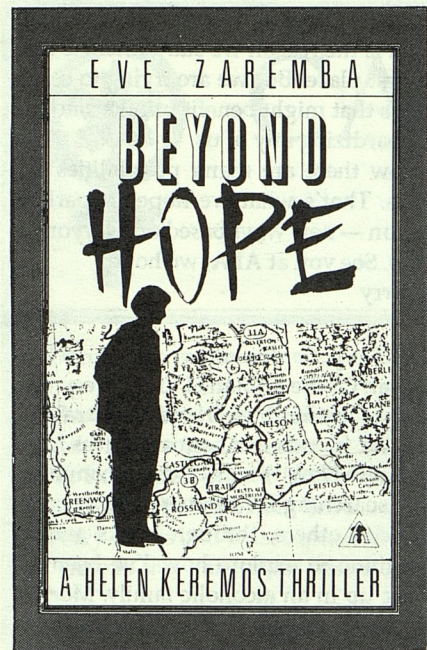
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not cut into bookstore sales and did some good towards advertising. It is clear that Naiad wants to watch for and be responsive to any serious changes noted by booksellers. It is also true that if booksellers could band together and offer some of the same large cash infusions and absorb larger processing costs (because publishers would have to ship to more than one destination) publishers would be highly motivated to discuss larger discounts. Again, an ABA discussion?

Public visibility and the chain stores. One of the tasks publishers have set for themselves, especially the more lesbian-identified ones, is to insist that we have a right to be everywhere. That is one of the reasons for trying to break into the chains. "Break into the chains" for Spinsters/Aunt Lute means, not that we expect our books to be in every chain bookstore, but that we want to be on their microfiche. The only way you do that is to be carried by Ingram or Baker and Taylor. It is the right of every lesbian who does not have a woman's bookstore in her town to walk into a shopping mall bookstore and *at least be able to order* any book that she wants. After JoAnn Loulan was in a group of lesbians on the Oprah Winfrey Show, we had

several phone calls from women who had the courage to walk into their local Waldens and ask for *Lesbian Passion*, only to be told that they couldn't be ordered. And these were the women who found a person willing to look us up in Books In Print. Think of the ones who just had to walk away. When someone calls us from a town near a feminist bookstore, we *always* recommend that she go there instead of ordering from us. She obviously needs to know about you, if she doesn't already. Surely no one is saying that *Why Can't Sharon Kowalski Come Home?*, among others, shouldn't be available to everyone who wants to read it. That would be like suggesting women's bookstores not carry certain books because they're not published by feminist presses. I want to be able to buy Grace Paley at my local women's bookstore and I want Jane ? in Podunk, California to be able to read any of our books she wants. You need to stock Grace for your readers; we need to seek more markets for our readers.

It's a joke to think that any major income is going to come to us through chain bookstores. No one believes that. On the other hand, our commitment to put out books by diverse populations of women

means we also have to be committed to marketing them in very diverse ways. For the most part, the books that we put out by women of color, including lesbian-identified authors, do not sell well in feminist bookstores — certainly not as well as they did ten years ago. There is large room for speculation about why. But we understood when we undertook to do *Tight Spaces* that the authors wanted to reach populations of women that maybe aren't habitual book buyers. Our responsibility to them included trying to place the books in chain stores in large urban areas, especially around their hometown, Detroit. When Julie and Karen came to us with *Why Can't Sharon Kowalski Come Home?* they made it clear that they wanted this book to be accessible everywhere and that was one of the reasons they were considering the mainstream publishers. So, even beyond a philosophical commitment to reaching women anywhere they seek us, there is the commitment we make to individual books to get them to the diverse audiences their authors intend them to reach. This consideration has even a further twist in that some lesbian authors tell us that they go to mainstream not so much for the money but for the sales exposure. And that not all of the audience they want to reach buys through feminist bookstores.

Where are our priorities? In all of this defense of our situations, we don't want to lose sight of the very positive way we want to relate and have related to feminist bookstores. You are our priority, and we spend a lot of time trying to show you some of the same support you show us. We send out posters made at our expense, we help with costs of readings, we give special seasonal discounts *only* to feminist booksellers, and right now we are brainstorming about cooperative advertising with a few booksellers in order to broach the subject at the next ABA meeting. AND we give a 45% discount on books of 50 or more. It is interesting to us when we sometimes get a peek at Bookpeople and Inland customer sales to find that many bookstores that have ordered over 50 of our books that month passed up an extra 5% discount. (And a chance to give us the extra margin instead of the distributors.) Now, I understand that for booksellers it is sometimes inefficient to do business that

way and that it's often easier to order through the distributor, which is the reason we started to use distributors in the first place. But we are trying to come up with new ways that might benefit us all economically without jeopardizing any of us.

And we know there are many possibilities for even newer ways. That's what we hope is sparked from this discussion — new ways based on everyone's economic realities. See you at ABA, we hope.

Joan and Sherry

An Ex-Bookseller's Story, Continued

or four times a year. Of the lesbians I know, very few are feminist; most of my feminist friends are straight. Several of my island friends and acquaintances have paid their first visit to New Words on my recommendation, and often searching for recovery literature.

Alone and with others, through books and in discussion, I continue to explore how I've been affected by growing up in an alcoholic family. Months after I moved here, I was having second thoughts about a job I'd just accepted, working full-time in a local bookstore for \$4.25 an hour. I wouldn't have much time to write, nor would I be able to save enough to buy writing time. A friend, also an adult child of an alcoholic, asked what I *wanted*. I struggled to speak and then I burst into tears. I didn't know what I wanted. Why want anything? I'd never get it.

What puzzles and sometimes angers me is that I wasn't challenged to touch my core conviction of helplessness, hopeless worthlessness until after I left the feminist community. I'm frustrated that the feminist movement isn't right here, right now, while some of my friends are grappling with their memories of incest, their realities of failed relationships with men. I'm *outraged* when I hear feminists trashing 12-step recovery programs. "AA has about 35 weekly meetings here," I want to say, "and with Al-Anon, ACA, NA, OA, and SLAA, there are about 60 12-step meetings a week. Where the hell are you?"

There isn't a feminist CR group in sight, and the only feminist periodical I've ever seen for sale on the island is *Sojourner*. I have a "Live and Let Live" sticker on the back bumper of my pickup, and an "Easy Does It" on the front. ○



CANADIAN CONTENT

By Donna Murray

Issues of recovery figure as largely in Canada as they do in any region concerned with feminist outreach. I dropped in to a local store to see what they considered to be important in the line of addiction and recovery books and was impressed with the offerings available to this Vancouver Island community.

Healthlines Bookstore, 1520 Fort Street, Victoria BC, V8S 5J2 (604) 598-1411, is run by Jacquie Denage and Sandy McLellan, and offers a full range of health related books, tapes, magazines, posters and paraphernalia including stones and crystals. They sell everything from traditional medical works and technical texts through to holistic and alternative health publications. The only store of its kind — totally devoted to health matters — in BC, Healthlines caters to a wide clientele including practitioners, government ministry libraries and individuals seeking good health practices.

Their selection of recovery books takes up two six-foot wide five-shelf units and includes over two hundred titles. They list their categories as eating disorders, alcoholism, domestic violence, families, child abuse, sexual assault and adult children of alcoholics, but topics extend through a broad range of related subjects including co-dependence, grandchildren of alcoholics, addiction, battered women, rape in marriage and incest recovery offering themes on just about everything related to self-help.

Jacquie Denage points out that their selection of books "gets into everything from the individual's 'right to a spiritual high'," to the process of addiction

"...how we get in and how to get out..." and the possibilities for recovery "...how to get strong enough to do something about the problem."

Jacquie sees the healing process as one of looking at different depths of recovery. "We have to look at the layers. It's all part of a whole. We look at the emotional and physical and we also have to address the spiritual healing."

Because of its specialized focus, Healthlines acts as a resource centre for customers in the area. "People will drop in and ask, 'Do you know a therapist?'," says Jacquie. In turn therapists and group leaders know they can refer their clients back to the store for pertinent reading materials.



Jacquie says, "There are self-help groups for just about everything in Victoria now. Many of our customers learn about different books from their classes while they are learning to deal with themselves. They come in with two or three ideas from their group or therapist and may buy one or two titles, as well as others."

Jacquie says that the majority of customers interested in recovery books are women and that while men come in to look at many of the topics in the recovery section, it is usually because they are doing so at the request of someone else.

Healthlines has been in operation for five years, having been busy during its own growing period.

Says partner Sandy McLellan, "When we started, we had a good idea of what we wanted. We had a good idea of who was in the community and what the community needs were. It has been a reciprocal arrangement. People have always come in and asked us for books which we would bring in, and we are always on the lookout for appropriate titles."

Says Jacque, "What we have found to be important in running the store is not to be exclusive on a basis of 'well, that wouldn't be my approach'. We've had to be extremely open."

Although she could not cite specific 'best sellers' Jacque pointed out a few of the titles that Healthlines carries that exemplify the variety of books available for readers looking for information on a variety of means to recovery: by Janet Woititz **Adult Children of Alcoholics**, 0-932194-15-X, **Struggle For Intimacy**, 0-932194-25-7, and **Healing Your Sexual Self**, 1-55874-018-X, all from Health Communications Inc./Deerfield Beach, Fla.; **The Courage to Heal** Bass/Davis, Harper & Row, 0-06-055105-4; **The Obsidian Mirror: Adult Healing From Incest** by Louise M. Wischild...The Seal Press, 0-9311880-63-6; **Dance of Anger** by Harriet Goldhar Lerner, Harper and Row, 0-931188-63-6; **The Wounded Woman - Healing the Father/Daughter Relationship** by Linda Schierse Leonard, Shambhala Publications, 0-394-72183-7; **Making Peace with Food** by Susan Kano...Harper & Row, 0-06-096325-X; **Spiritual Dimensions of Healing Addictions** by Donna Cunningham with Andrew Ramer...Cassandra Press, 0-9615875-5-5, and by the same authors, **Further Dimensions of Healing Addictions**, 0-945946-007.



Jacque mentioned two books for workers in the field of addiction, both by Jacqueline Small: **Becoming Naturally Therapeutic** from the Canadian National Council for Alcoholism, and **The Transformers - The Therapists of the Future** from De Vorss, 0-87516-529-X. One book, perhaps the only one on the topic of men recovering from incest, was also highlighted by Jac-

que: **Victims No Longer** by Mike Lew...Nevraumont Publishing Co./NY, 0-945223-01-3 with an introduction by Ellen Bass.

Only one title was presented as being specific to the Canadian environment in a book looking at the Native experience of incest and child sexual abuse: **The Spirit Weeps: Characteristics and Dynamics of Incest and Child Sexual Abuse** by Tony Martens, with a Native perspective by Brenda Daily and Maggie Hodgson...Nechi Institute, Box 3884, Postal Station D, Edmonton Alberta T5L 4K1, 0-9693440-0-7.

WOMEN'S RECOVERY CONFERENCE

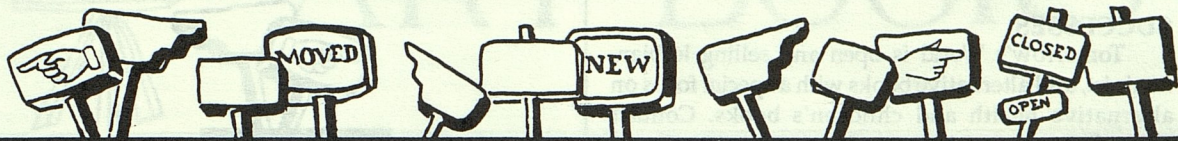
Toronto - March 31 - April 3, 1989. Community Resources and Initiatives presents: **Beyond Survival: Women, Addiction and Identity**. Although not specifically concerned with the bookselling aspect of feminism, this topical conference bears mention in this FBN issue featuring recovery books. The four-day conference is designed for professionals exploring "the intersecting dimensions of early childhood trauma, violence against women and addictive coping mechanisms." The conference, which by its very existence indicates the interest that has been generated regarding the whole area of addiction and recovery, offers thirty-five workshops, 9 day-long clinical training workshops, and brings to Toronto Ellen Bass, Sandra Butler, and Clarissa Chandler (Alcoholism Centre for Women, Los Angeles) as keynote speakers.

Workshop sessions will cover the topics of addictions, eating disorders, anger, domestic violence, shame-based identity, child abuse, weight prejudice, retrieving lost traumatic memories, addressing a myriad of other related subjects. From a feminist perspective, panelists will explore these topics providing an opportunity for those in the helping professions to 'enhance clinical skills, share resources and develop strategies for progressive and social change.'

The numerous conference resource people offer a wide variety of credentials and experience hailing from private practice, educational institutions, health centres and treatment centres.

Further information is available from Community Resources and Initiatives, 150A Winona Drive, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M6G 3S9 (416) 658-1752. ○

THEY WENT THAT-A-WAY



NEW BOOKSTORES

International Women's Day is the official opening date for Judith's Room, NYC's long awaited feminist bookstore, though the opening party will be held April 2. Judith's Room is at 681 Washington Street (NYC 10014) between 10th and Charles, just two blocks west of A Different Light. The new phone is 212-727-7330. Stop in when you're in NYC!

Bridgit Books, the store Patty Callaghan (currently manager at Crazy Ladies) will open in St. Petersburg this summer now has a temporary address: PO Box 7699, St. Petersburg FL 33734-7699.

A feminist bookstore in St. Pete's is an idea whose time has come! Marion Del Bene and Connie Fanini, two ex-Californians are opening Visions Bookstore (The Plaza, 111 Second Ave. NE, St. Petersburg FL 33701) on April 1. Visions will stock feminist, lesbian, and gay literature, as well as a range of sidelines including videos, jewelry, tapes, t-shirts and cards. Their temporary number (until the store opens) is 813-391-7798.

A Different World, a bookstore for women and children, is opening May 6 in Beloit, Wisconsin at 414 E. Grand Ave. (53511). Judee Post-Woodsman is the owner; Linda L. Borgwardt will manage the store. The store's phone number will be 608-365-1000.

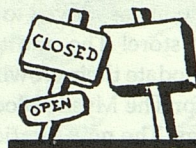
In Eau Claire, Wisconsin, Kim Dahlstrom and Patricia Kage are in the process of opening The Woman's Word. Their temporary address is 1209 Fairway Street (54701).

Marge Booker and Lori Matocha are opening Wild Seeds Bookstore and Cafe at 704 University Ave. in Rochester NY 14607 on April 30! Their number is 716-244-9310.

Arlene Samowich is planning to open a women's

bookstore in Nashville. Send her information c/o The Book Oasis, 1513 Clayton Ave., Nashville TN 37212.

In Manhattan, Kansas it's Kindred Spirit Bookstore for feminist issues, new age books and women's studies titles. Send information to Lonnie Kaplin at Kindred Spirit, 426 Houston, Manhattan KS 66502. Phone: 913-539-6137.



Mary Sims is considering going into the feminist book business in Dallas. Send her information at 11215 Joaquin St., Dallas TX 75228.

Mary Dellisanti is planning to open a bookstore in the Philadelphia area focusing on women's issues and literature. She's looking for advice from other women's bookstore owners. Please send her information at 300 North Essex Ave. Suite 104B, Narberth PA 19072.

Kelly McCausland working on opening a bookstore in Connecticut in May. Send her information at 1132 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale CT 06255.

TEMPORARILY CLOSED DUE TO FIRE....

The Love That Dares Bookstore in San Francisco was destroyed in a four alarm fire that took the entire building on the corner of Castro and Eighteenth Streets. Several other businesses were demolished as well. Co-owner Calvin Lowry reports that not only was the stock of the new store adequately insured, their new insurance agent had convinced him to add

business interruption insurance to the store's insurance package only a few months before the fire occurred. Calvin expects to reopen the store within a year — as soon as the building is rebuilt.

SUCSESSES

Tomorrow's World is open and selling lesbian, feminist, and alternative books with a special focus on alternative health and children's books. Contact Diann Bowoman and Marnee Kennedy at 4471 Signal Rd, Columbiana OH 44408. Phone: 216-482-2482.

MOVING

The Walt Whitman Bookshop (previously on Market Street near Castro, 94114) has moved to 1429 Polk Street, San Francisco CA 94109. Walt Whitman's move to the "Polk Gulch" neighborhood and the fire at The Love That Dares temporarily leaves A Different Light as the only gay bookstore in The Castro.

The Mystic Moon has moved to a space twice the size of their first store! The additional space was needed to accommodate their growing stock and will make it possible for The Mystic Moon to offer workshops and readings. The new location is in the same building but the new address is 7808 Maple St., New Orleans LA 70118 (504-865-9465).

NOT MOVING!

Fear of God notwithstanding, Mother Kali's has achieved a one-year lease from their current landlord and *won't* be moving for at least a year. Mother Kali's had been renting on a month-to-month basis and was informed by their landlord over the holidays that he was selling the building to the Salvation Army and that they would have to move immediately.

NEW ADDRESS

Jezebel Tapes & Books' new address is PO Box 12, Seaton, Devon EX12 2XH, U.K.

NEW TITLES

Amanita Enterprises' new title **Pornography and the Sex Crisis** by Susan Cole (with introduction by Sheila Jeffreys) was previously announced as *Who's Doing What with Whom*. Under either title, it's a book "disturbing enough to set out a new social/sexual

agend for us all." In the U.S. order from Inland and Bookpeople; in Canada from Amanita, PO Box 784 Station P, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2Z1.



BOOKS MOVE TO NEW PUBLISHERS

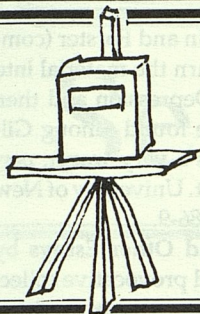
Beacon Press will be publishing a revised and expanded edition of **The Tribe of Dina: A Jewish Women's Anthology** edited by Melanie Kaye/Kantrowitz and Irena Klepfisz in April. Harper and Row will be doing Z. Budapest's next book **Grandmother of Time** in August.

Ballantine Books published **Rainbow Roun Mah Shoulder** by Linda Brown Bragg in February. **Rainbow** is a strongly feminist novel about a Black woman healer. It won the North Carolina Cultural Arts Coalition/Carolina Wren prize for the best book written in North Carolina by a minority writer during 1983 and was originally published by Carolina Wren in 1984.

Arcade Publishing (distributed by Little Brown) has the current edition of **Storyteller**, Leslie Marmon Silko's montage of tribal tales, family memories, old photographs, poems and songs.

TERMS CHANGE OR STAY THE SAME...

Heinemann Educational Books' Marketing Director, Lisa Barnett, writes that Heinemann "recognizes that in order to be competitive, especially for the small and specialty bookstores, we have to offer discounts based in reality" and that Heinemann *does* offer a 40% discount to bookstores on all books in their African and Caribbean Writers Series and the Methuen Drama line, contrary to the information we published in our reviews of *Harriet's Daughter* and *Ti Marie* in the last issue of FBN. (See page 61.) If you call Heinemann's toll-free number to order, you may have to quote their terms back to them. When FBN called to confirm terms, the person on the order desk was adamant that trade discounts weren't available for these titles, so be persistent and get the 40% discount! ○



ART BOOKS

By Tee Corinne

Here are some new titles that are just too good to let having the flu keep me from telling you about. First is **Gluck: Her Biography** by Diana Souhami. Gluck (1895-1973) was a British Jewish Lesbian painter who dressed in dykey attire, smoked a pipe, lived openly with her lovers, and left a large number of paintings, including significant self-portraits. She was the model for Romaine Brooks "Peter, A Young English Girl" of 1926.

Gluck: Her Biography is thorough, informative and highly readable. Her love of women is treated with fairness and clarity. I imagine that the attention brought to Gluck by Onlywomen Press (inclusion in *Past Participants* and as the cover of *The Reach*) helped to revive interest in this virtually forgotten artist. Unwin Hyman (Pandora Press), 8 Winchester Place, Winchester, MA 01890, order direct, \$34.95 cl, 086358-236-2, 1-4 assorted titles at 20%, 5 + at 40%.

Inspirations: Stories About Women Artists by Leslie Sills is a beautiful, colorful children's book featuring four women artists: Georgia O'Keeffe, Frida Kahlo, Alice Neel and Faith Ringgold. Ringgold is the organizer of the "Coast to Coast: Women of Color Artist's Book Project" about which I hope to have concrete book news for you soon. **Inspirations** is an intelligently conceived, feminist informed, finely crafted book that will be enjoyed by adults as well as younger people. Albert Whitman & Co., 5747 West Howard Street, Niles, IL 60648, \$16.95 cl, 0-8075-3649-0 dist by Baker & Taylor and Ingram.

The New Americans: Immigrant Life in Southern California by Ulli Steltzer is a loving, generous book with a big heart. It's already been nominated by

the American Library Association for the "Best Books for Young Adults" award. In **The New Americans** hundreds of immigrants and refugees from 34 countries (four continents) tell their own stories accompanied by very moving photographs. Highly recommended. NewSage Press, P.O.B. 41029, Pasadena, CA 91104-8029, \$24.95 pb, 0-939165-07-4;



Samansabadra From *In the Forbidden Stiton* MAYUMI ODA

\$34.95 cl, 0-939165-06-6, dist by IN, BP, Baker & Taylor and Ingram.

The University of New Mexico Press continues to amaze with the breadth and quality of their publications. **Daughters of The Desert: Women Anthropologists and the Native American Southwest, 1880-1980** by Barbara A. Babcock and Nancy J. Parezo is a multi-disciplinary, multi-faceted collection of biographies and photographs interweaving art, politics and history. The introduction is a feminist examination (without jargon!) of the conditions which drew women to the southwest and the effects, both immediate and long term, of their involvement there. Should be of interest to general readers. University of New Mexico Press, \$19.95 pb, 0-8263-1083-4; \$39.95 cl, 0-8263-1087-7.



Mrs. Hardbilly, 1953 in *Denizens of the Desert*

Denizens of the Desert: A Tale in Word and Picture of Life Among the Navaho Indians, the letters of Elizabeth W. Forster/photographs by Laura Gilpin, covers two years in the life of a public health nurse working in the Navaho trading settlement of

Red Rock, Arizona, 1931-33. Gilpin and Forster (companions for fifty years) tried to turn the material into a book at the time but first the Depression and then war intervened. The letters were found among Gilpin's papers after her death. It is a very warm, personal, respectful book, a lovely gift. University of New Mexico Press, \$24.95 cl, 0-8263-1086-9.

Women: Art and Power and Other Essays by Linda Nochlin is a stimulating and provocative collection by one of the finest intellectuals currently writing about the intersection of feminism and aesthetics. Nochlin includes enough information to make the reader part of an adventure in discovery, yet not so much that you become mired in unconnected details. Full of insights, quotable passages and a wry humor. Harper & Row, \$22.50 cl, 0-06-435852-6.

Unexpected Journeys: The Art and Life of Remedios Varo by Janet A. Kaplan is a welcome study of the life and startling, lovely and enigmatic paintings of the Spanish born Varo (1908-1963) who was connected with the surrealists in Paris before fleeing from the Nazis to Mexico City where she remained until her death. **Unexpected Journeys** is a very satisfying book, rich with information, color reproductions and photographs. Abbeville Press, \$35 cl, 0-89659-797-0.

Making Their Mark: Women Artists Move into the Mainstream, 1970-1985, is one of those big, glossy gorgeous books that also has a wealth of useful and sometimes unexpected information. The core of the book is a discussion of the work of 87 contemporary women artists. Additional essays like "Women Artists Today: Revolution or Regression?" by Marcia Tucker and "Career Markers" by Ferris Olin and Catherine C. Brawer make this an exceptionally interesting and useful book. Abbeville, \$45 cl, 0-89659-958-2.

The Hand That Holds the Camera: Interviews with Women Film and Video Directors, by Lynn Fieldman Miller, is a collection of serious, thoughtful interviews with seven directors. The introduction is a fine analytic feminist overview of women in U.S. film. Garland Publishing Inc., \$29 cl, 0-8240-8530-2, dist. by Blackwell and Baker & Taylor. ○



Selling Poetry in Feminist Bookstores

By Betsy Nuse

Among the interesting books I discovered at the Third International Feminist Book Fair in Montreal last June was an attractive volume of poems by Lakshmi Kannan called *Exiled Gods* (US\$3.30 pb, Arnold-Heinemann Publishers, New Delhi). Blank verse rich in imagery, the poems reflect particulars of South Asian culture but explore "universal" feminist themes: women's roles in family and society and our relationships with men. For information or to order I'd suggest writing to Kali for Women, (India's first women's publishing house), at N-84 Panchshila Park, New Delhi 110 017. They were selling the book at the fair.

Blackberry Books of Nobleboro, Maine publishes an interesting assortment of books and chapbooks by women which should enrich an already-thriving poetry section. If you have room for only one new title, try *In Celebration of Planet Earth* by Miriam Dyak (US\$7.00 pb, 0-042396-53-7). These word-leaping meditations on planetary and human consciousness could be shelved also in your Womanspirit section. If you sell poetry tapes too, a cassette of the book is available (US\$8.00 or as a set with the book for US\$13.50). The same small house also offers Rebekah Bloyd's chapbook *Sister Island* (US\$3.00 pb, 0-942396-47-2) which includes a remarkably haunting poem, "The Overwhelming" which opens "Before you go out, think of your mother again...." and a reprint of Elizabeth Coatworth's first book of poems *Fox Footprints* (US\$5.00 pb, 0-942396-46-4) which was inspired by travels in China, Japan and the Pacific. All these and more are available direct from Blackberry (Chimney Farm, RR1 Box 228, Nobleboro, Maine 04555, terms: 40% on 5 or more mixed) or from Inland.

Carol mentioned last issue *Presenting ... Sister No Blues* (Firebrand, US\$8.95 pb, 0-932379-49-4), a first book of poems by the too-long-anthologized, not-soon-enough published Hattie Gosset. Remember her wonderfully outrageous work from *Pleasure and Danger* and *This Bridge Called My Back?* These poems pull no punches, read wonderfully out loud and belong in both poetry and Black Women's sections of our stores.



How women survive in the strange landscapes men create is a theme of the fine poems in *Disciplining The Devil's Country* by Carole Borges (US\$7.95 pb, 0-914086-77-4, direct from Alice James Books or from Baker & Taylor, Inland or Small Press). Borges grew up on a boat in the Mississippi River and wandered the continent before settling in Massachusetts to chronicle her experiences.

Selected Poems (White Pine Press, US\$8.00 pb, 0-934834-16-4 direct from the Press, 76 Center Street, Fredonia, New York 14063, terms: 40% 5 or more, mixed OK; or from Inland, Bookpeople, Small Press), brings to English-speaking readers the fascinating work of Alfonsina Storni (1892-1938), "one of the greatest twentieth century poets of South America." Storni lived unconventionally. Her outrage against war, compassion for the natural world and uncompromising female perspective and voice give her work

ETEL ADNAN
THE ARAB APOCALYPSE



Etel Adnan deconstructs poetic discourse to reflect destruction itself. *A tour de force!*
— Elizabeth Fernea

This book, a masterwork of the dislocations and radiant outcries of the Arab world, reaffirms Etel Adnan, as among the foremost poets . . .
— Jack Hirschman

POETRY / \$13.50

ISBN 0-942996-09-7

THE POST-APOLLO PRESS
35 Marie St., Sausalito, CA 94965

remarkable contemporary relevance. The same press has also published a fine book of poems inspired by the sea and rural northwest coast landscapes, **Small Ceremonies** by poet-storyteller Connie Martin (US\$5.50 pb, 0-934834-11-3).

Feminist Bookstore Bestsellers Part II (M-Z)

Now for the continuation of the bestseller lists compiled from your questionnaires. (B) means that this author's work could also be shelved in a separate Black Women's section; (L) means her work could also be shelved in a separate Lesbian section. All editions are paperback unless otherwise noted. * identifies the top ten writers on the list; they were mentioned by *many* stores and should be low-risk or no-risk authors to use to start up a small poetry section. All editions are paperback unless otherwise noted.

Daphne Marlatt (L)

When one of Canada's most well-respected contemporary poets came out, her next book contained

some of the most extraordinary lesbian love poetry I have ever read: **Touch To My Tongue** (Longspoon, C\$7.00, 0-919285-27-9, from NeWest Press via University of Toronto). Marlatt's style is modern and experimental, but should be a treat for anyone who loves new writing. A recent collaboration with Betsy Warland, **Double Negative**, was inspired by a rail journey across Australia. This book explores time, relationships and language (gynergy, C\$9.95, 0-921881-02-9, in Canada from University of Toronto, in the U.S. from Inland).

Sharon Olds*

Feminist readers may have first encountered Olds' work in the **Powers of Desire** anthology. She writes boldly about a broad range of emotions as well as sexuality. Her most recent collection is **The Gold Cell** (Knopf, US\$8.95, 0-394-84770-4), but when *American Poetry Review* featured her work in 1988, they mentioned that a new book, **World War**, was "forthcoming."

Pat Parker (B,L)

A working-class Black lesbian, one of the early voices published by Diana Press in the 70's, Parker's recent work was one of the first books published by Nancy Bereano's Firebrand Press: **Jonestown and Other Madness** (US\$5.95, 0-932379-00-1).

Marge Piercy*

Her poetry should be as reliable to recommend as her novels. I'd start with her most recent: **Available Light** (US\$8.95, 0-394-75691-6). The selected poems, **Circles on the Water**, might make a good gift suggestion to fans of her fiction who don't know her poetry (US\$12.95, 0-394-70779-6). Both are from Knopf, Random in Canada.

Helen Potrebenko

If your store is in a city or you have office workers as customers, introduce them to Helen Potrebenko! She has worked as an office worker (among other interesting things) in Canada's most westerly big city, Vancouver, and her poetry is a readable, sardonically funny look at the system from the bottom up: **Love, Life and Unions** (C\$7.95, 0-920999-06-9, Lazara Pub-

lications, Box 2269 VMPO, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 3W2 in Canada, in the U.S. from Inland). The same company also has attractive broadsides of individual poems suitable to be "tacked on office bulletin boards!"

Minnie Bruce Pratt (L)*

Theory readers may recognize Minnie Bruce Pratt as one of the co-authors of *Yours in Struggle*. Appealing, sensuous imagery and compassionate, political awareness characterize the poems of *We Say We Love Each Other* (Spinsters/Aunt Lute, US\$5.95, 0-933216-16-5).

Adrienne Rich (L)*

This well-respected and established poet rattled the U.S. literary establishment and took the feminist community by storm when she came out so eloquently in the 70's. Recommend any and all of her poetry as well as her prose. The most recent volume: *Your Native Land, Your Life* (US\$6.95, 0-393-30325-X); the most recent collection *The Fact of a Doorframe: Poems New and Selected 1950-1984* (US\$9.95, 0-393-30204-0). Both are from Norton, in Canada from Penguin. Rich's new book will be out in the U.S. from Norton in May.

Sonia Sanchez (B)

A dynamic performer and a committed anti-racist, Sanchez writes "testifying" Black English poems with such inexhaustible fire that they can't help touch our emotions. Her most recent book is: *Under a Soprano Sky* (Africa World, US\$6.95, Inland).

May Sarton (L)*

Sarton came out publicly in 1965 with the publication of *Mrs. Stevens*, a brave move that cost her teaching jobs at the time. Her late-in-life love poems are included in *Halfway to Silence* (US\$6.95, 0-393-00992-0). A more recent volume is *Letters from Maine* (US\$6.95, 0-393-30222-9). If a selection would make a good gift suggestion, try the one Sarton made herself in collaboration with Serena Hilsinger: *Selected Poems of M.S.* (ISBN 0-393-04512-9, US\$8.95. All from

See page 64

Second Stories

The Politics of Language, Form, and Gender

in Early American Fictions

by Cynthia S. Jordan

Cynthia Jordan reexamines texts by seven major American writers: Benjamin Franklin, Hugh Henry Brackenridge, Charles Brockden Brown, James Fenimore Cooper, Edgar Allan Poe, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Herman Melville. She concludes that the early nationalists promoted the new social order by writing in the language of father figures, but that their work was threatened by an underlying second story challenging that paternalistic worldview. The romantics, however, rejected the patriarchal language of their predecessors and often offered stories of women representing the sociopolitically oppressed "other" in American society.

approx. 270 pp., \$27.50

Gender and American Culture

available at bookstores or from

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Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2288

MYSTERIES

By Mary Lowry

First a bouquet to Karen Axness who has done this column for years. Thanks Karen, and I am happy to take up the bloody pen. I'd like to know how all of you choose mysteries for your store. If you will, please tell me if:

1. You carry mysteries
 - written only by women
 - written by women and gay men
 - written by women, straight men, gay men
 - is there another choice?
2. You carry mysteries
 - with women private detectives, police women or women amateurs only
 - with male detectives if written by women
 - with woman / man teams written by women
 - other variations?
3. You keep lesbian mysteries
 - with lesbian fiction
 - with mysteries
 - other variation in shelving?
4. Do you carry
 - horror
 - adventure
 - mystery/romance - romance?

Not as comprehensive as Carol's bookstore survey but I'd love to know how you choose and arrange and, also, how mysteries sell. Write to me at New Words Bookstore, 86 Hampshire St., Cambridge MA 02139.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Grafton, Sue, **E is for Evidence**, Bantam, \$4.50, May. 5th in the alphabetical series about California P.I.

Kinsey Milhone. Also in May, from Holt comes **F is for Fugitive** in cloth.

Babson, Marian, **Murder Sails at Midnight**, Bantam, \$3.50, May.

Paretsky, Sara, **Blood Shot**, Ballantine, \$4.95, June. Chicago P.I. V.I. Warshawsky in the latest and best of the series.

Brown, Sandra, **Best Kept Secrets**, Warner, \$3.95, April. A new author for me. But the blurb sounded OK.

Muller, Marcia, **Eye of the Storm**, Mysterious, \$3.95, March. A Sharyn McCone P.I. story.

Wallace, Michelle editor, **Sisters in Crime**, Bantam, \$3.95, May. Includes stories by Paretsky, Pickard, Michaels, etc. Not to be confused with Non-fiction work by Maureen Reddy with same title.

Storey, Alice, **What's Done is Death** Pocket Books, \$3.50, May. I'm a little confused because I heard this announced as *Next Kill All the Liars*. By the author of *First Kill All the Lawyers* featuring an investigative reporter, Samantha Adams.

Wilson, Barbara, **Dog Collar Murders**, Seal Press, \$8.95, March. I'm always eager to read a new book by Wilson.

Cott, Rosie, **Glory Days**, Seal Press, \$8.95. New title in their International Women's Crime series.

Bushnell, Agnes, **Shadow Dance**, Crossing Press, April. A new offering in the Womansleuth Series. Introducing Johanna Wilder and her partner Ruth Wilson — private investigators in Maine — first two woman duo in novel form that I know of.

Rendell, Ruth, **An Unkindness of Ravens**, Ballantine, \$3.95, May.

Natsuki, Shizuko, **Innocent Journey**, Ballantine, \$3.50, May. Author of *Third Lady* and *Murder at Mt. Fuji*. ○

SUSANNA STURGIS

ON

SCIENCE FICTION



Last night (February 16, 1989, for the record) the manuscript for Crossing Press's first anthology of women's fantasy and science fiction finally fell into place. I've received and read something like 200 stories, including enough excellent ones to make at least three collections. What I haven't read much of lately is already published f&sf novels, so the annotations that follow rely more heavily than usual on publishers' blurbs and other reviewers' opinions.



In the latest *Locus*, that journal's main reviewers list their favorites from the past year, and among those most persistently and enthusiastically mentioned are the following candidates for feminist bookstore shelves: Sheri S. Tepper's *The Gate to Women's Country* and *Marianne, The Madame, and the Momentary Gods*, Octavia E. Butler's *Adulthood Rites*, C. J. Cherryh's *Cyteen* and *The Paladin*, Michaela Roessner's *Walkabout Woman* ("just plain blew me away," said Tom Whitmore), Joanna Russ' *The Hidden Side of the Moon*, Nancy Kress' *An Alien Light*, Jane Yolen's *Sister Light, Sister Dark*, James Tiptree, Jr.'s *Crown of Stars*, Elizabeth Moon's *Sheepfarmer's Daughter*, Nancy Springer's *The Hex Witch of Seldom*, Elizabeth Ann Scarborough's *The Healer's War*, Megan Lindholm's *The Reindeer People* and *Wolf's Brother*, Diana Paxson's *The White Raven*, and Pamela Zoline's *The Heat Death of the Universe*.

Dan Chow raves about *Heat Death* and about Sarah Lefanu's critical survey of women's f/sf from Women's Press/U.K., *In the Chinks of the World Machine* ("the best one-two punch in the genre last year"). He notes, "Even in Berkeley's feminist bookstores, however, Lefanu's book is unknown and unavailable." I noted it here in April 1988 but still haven't laid eyes on the book; as noted below, a U.S. edition seems to be en route from Indiana. Come to think of it, *are* there any feminist bookstores in Berkeley?

ACE

Child of Saturn, by Teresa Edgerton, \$3.50. In this first, high-fantasy novel, the great wizard has disappeared, leaving behind only his apprentice, a young and inexperienced girl. Other characters include her renowned knight-companion and a beautiful but evil princess.

Marianne, the Madame, and the Momentary Gods, by Sheri S. Tepper, \$2.95. Marianne, of *Marianne, The Magus, and the Manticore*, attempts to relive her own life and, despite her foreknowledge and careful planning, finds herself similarly trapped, albeit with new twists.

On the Seas of Destiny, by Ru Emerson, \$3.50. Conclusion of the Nedao trilogy, about the tribulations and triumphs of Ylia, the witch-queen.

Millennium, by John Varley, \$3.95. OK, where Varley is concerned my separatist inclinations go out the window. This reissue begins with a "snatch" of passengers from a doomed airplane and expands into a grim vision of the future. And, get this, it's being made into a movie with Kris Kristofferson and Cheryl Ladd.

Light Raid, by Connie Willis and Cynthia Felice,

\$17.95 cl. "During a second Civil War, a young woman must decide which of her parents is a traitor." (PW). 4/89.

Starfarers, by Vonda McIntyre, \$3.95. A research and exploration space ship is commandeered by the military, but the crew is determined to continue its original mission. If the author's past performance is any guide, this will be a good read with well-developed women characters. 4/89.

AVON

Featherstroke, by Sydney J. Van Scyoc, \$3.50. "An outcast girl discovers her magical powers" (PW). Van Scyoc has written several solid f/sf novels, including the fine "Darkchild" trilogy.

BAEN

The Hex Witch of Seldom, by Nancy Springer, \$3.50. Reprint of an enthusiastically reviewed contemporary fantasy of a girl with psychic powers and her alliance with a black, blue-eyed horse.



BANTAM/SPECTRA

A Wind in Cairo, by Judith Tarr, \$3.95. In medieval Egypt an emir's spoiled son is transformed into a stallion with human intelligence, who comes into the hands of an equally spirited and adventurous woman. Tarr's *The Lady of Han-Gilen* (Tor, \$3.95) so impressed me that I'm ready to read anything she writes — as soon as I have time.

Still Life, by E. E. Horlak (Sheri S. Tepper), \$3.95. Although I'm not a "dark fantasy" fan, this one's cover intrigued me with its allusion to Hopi magic. The story is engrossing, complete with occult deaths and convincing red herrings, and the protagonist, college student Sarah Chenowith, an articulate main narrator. A significant theme is Sarah's attempt to connect with her Hopi grandmother's ways, despite her mother's apparently total rejection of her Native heritage.

There's a (heterosexual) love interest, but Horlak/Tepper eschews romance conventions and lets the novel's own dynamic prevail. Recommended.

BANTAM/STARFIRE

The Golden Thread, by Suzy McKee Charnas, \$13.95 cl. \$13.95 cl. A YA, and likely containing further adventures of Val and her magically proficient grandmother, of *The Bronze King* and *The Silver Glove*. 6/89.



DAW BOOKS

A Gathering of Stones, by Jo Clayton, \$3.95. Conclusion of the trilogy of Brann, Drinker of Souls, and her demon companions. 4/89.

Magic's Pawn, by Mercedes Lackey, \$3.95. 6/89.

DONNING/STARBLAZE

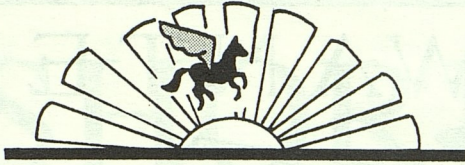
The New Eves: Heroines of Science Fiction, text by Hank Stine and JanRae Frank, art by Ron and Judith Miller, \$12.95. A "visual reference book" exploring the portrayal of women protagonists in sf. Until I see otherwise, my assumption is that this means mostly female characters in men's fiction. 6/89.

DOUBLEDAY/FOUNDATION

The City, Not Long After, by Pat Murphy, \$17.95 cl. If PW can be believed, Murphy, author of the excellent and award-winning *Falling Woman*, seems to have the second-book blahs. Several artists transform a San Francisco decimated by plague, then become the core of resistance to a military invader.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY PRESS

Feminism and Science Fiction, by Sarah Lefanu, \$29.95 cl, \$9.95 pb. I think, I dearly hope that despite the pedestrian title, this is the U.S. edition of *In the Chinks of the World Machine* from Women's Press/U.K. 6/89.



NAL

Ancient Light, by Mary Gentle, \$18.95 cl. Lynne de Lisle Christie of *Golden Witchbreed* returns to Orthe and is again enmeshed in conflicting cultures and dangerous intrigue.

POPULAR LIBRARY/QUESTAR

Adulthood Rites, by Octavia E. Butler, \$3.95. Second in the Xenogenesis trilogy.

Cyteen, by C.J. Cherryh, \$3.95 each. The huge and almost universally hailed hardcover blockbuster is being released as a paperback trilogy: **Cyteen: The Betrayal** in February, **Cyteen: The Rebirth** in March, and **Cyteen: The Vindication** in April.

Imago, by Octavia E. Butler, \$19.95 cl. Third in the Xenogenesis series, in which develops from the mating of alien Oankali and surviving humans the *ooloi*, a third sex. Coop advertising is available for you who get involved in such things. 5/89.

Rimrunners, by C. J. Cherryh, \$19.95 cl. Far-future space opera. 6/89.



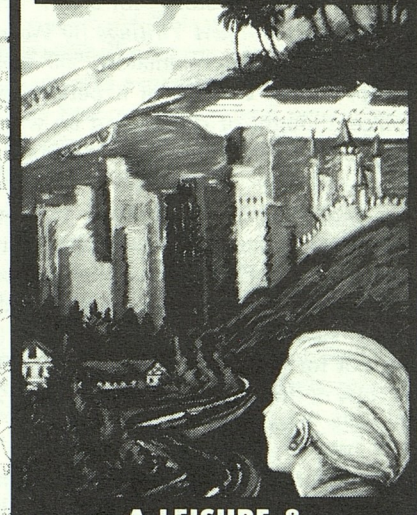
TOR (ST. MARTIN'S DIST.)

Four From the Witch World, ed. by Andre Norton, \$16.95 cl. Novellas by Cherryh, Elizabeth Boyer, Meredith Ann Pierce, and Judith Tarr, all set in Norton's Witch World.

The Starry Rift by James Tiptree, Jr. (Alice Sheldon), \$3.95. Some readers used to criticize Tiptree for being too "sentimental," which (I suspect) meant they were uncomfortable with characters they had to care about. This triptych, loosely related to Tiptree's last novel, **Brightness Falls From the Air**, includes the gut-wrenching "The Only Neat Thing to Do." Recommended. ○

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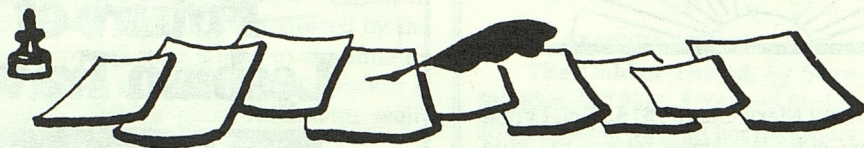
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WRITING WANTED



Irene Zahava is looking for what might be called "the haiku of the short story" for a new anthology *Word of Mouth: Short-Short Writings By Women*. Submissions should be approximately 500 words and should capture the essence of a person, moment, event, place, thought or dream and be writing that will energize, motivate, stimulate and inspire readers. The scope and tone will reflect a wide range of women's experiences, sensibilities and outlooks. Work in both traditional and experimental forms welcome, but no poetry. Pieces should be approximately 500 words. Deadline is June, 1989. Include SASE, brief biographical statement and phone number (for editor's use, not for publication). Payment will be \$10 plus one copy of the anthology. Send to Irene Zahava, 307 W. State St., Ithaca NY 14850.

Dell Richards is collecting trivia, information, lists, and suggestions for lists of special interest to lesbians for *Lesbian Lists*, a book to be issued this fall by Alyson Publications. Send information to her at PO Box 163120, Sacramento CA 95816.

Sidewalk Revolution Press is seeking submissions for an anthology of erotic lesbian poetry. No s/m. Five poems maximum, typed and double-spaced, with SASE. No previously published work. Payment in contributor's copies. Deadline: June 1, 1989. Send to Sidewalk Revolutions Press, PO Box 9062, Pittsburgh PA 15224.

Alyson Publications, publisher of *Shadows of Love: American Gay Fiction*, is planning two further anthologies of short fiction. These will include a second anthology of short fiction by gay men, as well as an

anthology of short fiction by lesbians. The books will highlight, though not be limited to, the work of writers who have not been widely published. The editors are especially hoping to include the work of members of minority groups and of writers living outside major metropolitan areas. Send stories to Alyson Publications, 40 Plympton St., Boston MA 02118, Attn: Tina Portillo for the women's anthology, Attn: Joe Chapple for the men's anthology.



WRITING WORKSHOPS

The International Women's Writing Guild will hold its annual week-long Summer Writing Conference July 28-August 4 at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NY. The theme for this year's conference is "Empowerment Without Embitterment Through Writing". Forty workshops will be offered in three major categories: Nuts and Bolts Writing Workshops; Self-Discovery and Personal Growth; and Mythology, Philosophy and Ethics. Workshops will include: How to Have a Cookbook Published; Writing and Producing Radio Programs; Shaping Free Verse, Building a Writing Career, and The Heroic Quest—Developing Characters through Archetypes. Barbara Kingsolver (*The Bean Trees*) will teach a workshop titled Writing Fiction: Combining Moral Imperatives with Craft. For more information contact Hannelore Hahn, IWWG, PO Box 810 Gracie Station, NY NY 10028-0013. Phone 212-737-7536. ○

SHORT RAVES

The Prosperine Papers

About four times in the last year, I've yanked my head out of the fantasy/science fiction trough to read something else. In January it was Jan Clausen's **The Prosperine Papers** (Crossing Press, \$8.95 pb). I loved it. From her briefly requited lust for an academic colleague to her cold war with her soon-to-be-ex-lover's daughter, Dale is real. She muddles through, sometimes just barely, struggling to harness all the details of her life, failing relationship, job frustration, a problem with alcohol. Clausen, long a prose adept, has loosened up, and what comes through is a new facility with humor, the ability to find the laughable in situations otherwise tragic. I particularly admire Clausen for not forcing a "happy" ending, as I think she did in **Sinking, Stealing**. She allows the characters their own integrity and the situation to develop in internally consistent ways, even when it means leaving her narrator — and this reader — with a hollow in the pit of her stomach. Brava!

—Susanna J. Sturgis

Kate Rushin's Golden Oldies

This is the second column from the New Words Newsletter series featuring personal favorites by collective members.

I'm the type of person who torments DJs with requests for Gladys Knight's version of "Heard it Through the Grapevine" or Aretha's "Natural Woman." When I'm asked to recommend a good book, my thoughts return immediately and repeatedly to a few that have remained close to me over the years; books I was reading when I was younger, in love, well-loved, or broken-hearted, when I had a special friend, lost one, or needed one. I suppose it's

not surprising that most of my "Golden Oldies" have to do with a coming-of-age of one kind or another.

Member of the Wedding, Carson McCullers. "It happened that green and crazy summer when Frankie was twelve years old. This was the summer when for a long time she had not been a member. She belonged to no club and was a member of nothing in the world. Frankie had become an unjoined person who hung around in doorways, and she was afraid." That says it all. It's my favorite opening.



Sula, Toni Morrison. *Beloved* won the Pulitzer but it is the friendship of Sula and Nell who were "neither white nor male" that sent shivers up and down my back: "We was girls together," she said as though explaining something. "O Lord, Sula," she cried, "girl, girl, girlgirlgirl."

Zami, Audre Lord. It's the biomythography of a woman who is Black and Lesbian. It expands the definition of the erotic and "coming-of-age novel." At times it took my breath away.

Praisesong for the Widow, Paule Marshall. Another kind of coming-of-age story about a woman in her middle years coming to terms with her life and her African and Caribbean roots after the death of her striving husband.

Housekeeping, Marilyn Robinson. There's nothing like a well-written sad story with a sense of humor. It's easy to empathize with the two girls in the story trying to keep track of unpredictable adults while their world is falling apart.

Rubyfruit Jungle, Rita Mae Brown. The first novel I read about women loving women was *The Well*

of *Loneliness*. **Rubyfruit** was a welcome antidote. It's great to see Molly laughing and loving and fighting back.

I'll include two short story volumes: **In Love and Trouble**, Alice Walker. "Everyday Use," "To Hell With Dying," and "1956" are among my favorites. Alice never approaches the world in predictable ways. **Gorilla My Love**, Toni Cade Bambara. The title story and "Raymond's Run," like the other stories, are down-to-earth, humorous, and wise without being pretentious. I must also include one volume of poetry, Gwendolyn Brooks **Selected Poems**. She is the first Black woman to win the Pulitzer Prize, and the first Black woman poet I read. I love "Kitchenette Building" and the sonnet cycle, "Children of the Poor."

You might be surprised by how much pleasure you get from these "kid's" books:

The Yearling, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. This is a heart-wrencher about a boy and a fawn in backwoods Florida that won the 1939 Pulitzer. (If you find the original over-sized edition with thick paper and Wyeth illustrations, buy it.)

The Little House series, Laura Ingalls Wilder.

Purge Michael Landon from your mind.

Mary Poppins, P.L. (that's Pamela) Travers. An unmarried woman who wore sensible shoes, didn't smile unnecessarily, and could fly? Purge Walt Disney and Julie Andrews from your mind.

Little Women, Louisa May Alcott. I think it is amazing what Alcott was able to do under financial and publisher duress. Also, you should check out Alcott's political writing, and see the 1933 film version of "Little Women" with Kate Hepburn as Jo. ○

Poetry, Continued

Norton, in Canada from Penguin.

Alice Walker (B)

Another novelist who is also a poet! Like Piercy, Walker writes directly and with feeling. Recommend her poetry to fans of her prose. The most recent single book: **Horses Make a Landscape More Beautiful** (HBJ, US\$5.95, 0-15-642173-9). The same publisher offers a boxed gift set of three earlier volumes (**Once, Good Night, Willie Lee and Revolutionary Petunias**, US\$12.95, 0-15-694102-3). ○



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GAY MEN'S LIT

for Feminist Bookstores

By Jane L. Troxell
 Lambda Rising *Book Report*

Spring is here; why doesn't my heart go dancing? Because there are too many good books to read. I've already covered the Big Books (David Leavitt, *Men on Men 2*, etc.) for Winter/Spring, so I'll take a look down the road to late Spring and early Summer. At press-time, only a few of these books are actually on the shelves.

NEW TITLES — GENERAL INTEREST

St. Martin's Press will promote new Stonewall Inn Editions in late Spring. Because of their similar cover designs, and the quality and diversity of these select titles, Stonewall books make a good display if you have ever considered giving leftover (am I stretching it?) shelf space to gay men's lit. Included this season is **The Boys and Their Baby** by Larry Wolff (\$8.95 pb, ISBN 0-312-028-784, May). A delightful comedy about how the natives of San Francisco are reshaping what we mean by "family," **Boys** features a straight man and a gay man who move in together to raise the gay man's baby. You'll have to read it to find out where he gets the tot. (Phyllis Chesler would have something to say about this.)

Coming out in paperback as part of the Stonewall line, Brian McNaught's **On Being Gay** (\$7.95 pb, ISBN 0-312-030-24X, May) is a collection of insightful, humorous essays by one of the founders of the gay Catholic group, Dignity. **Parisian Lives** by Sam Steward (\$7.95 pb ISBN 0-312-029-594, May) rounds out the Stonewall shelf this Spring. Set in the last lovely years of Europe before World War II, this delightful novel tells the story of Sir Arthur Lyly, the last and most notorious protege of Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas. Steward, a.k.a. erotica writer Phil An-

dros, has been both a professor of literature and a tattoo artist.

SMALL PRESSES

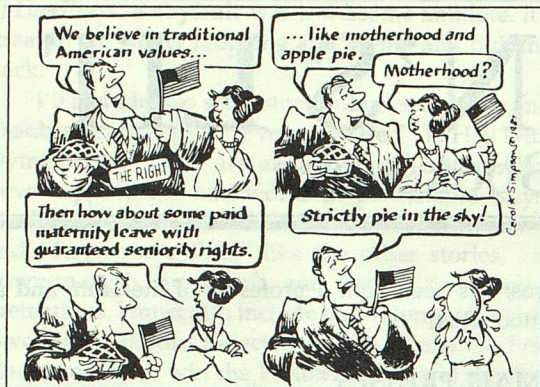
Gay presses feature highly this Spring. Texas-based Banned Books, Boston-based Alyson Publications, West Coast's Crossing Press, transitory Knights Press (now resting comfortably in Connecticut), and the Big Apple's new Amethyst Press promise quality trade paperbacks for the national gay male readership.

Banned Books has a *fine line* of Spring titles, led by Gerard Curry's **Fine Lines** (\$7.95 pb, ISBN 0-934411-23-9). The author of *Tangled Sheets* brings us, in one book, a short novel (**Fine Lines**, itself) and four short stories, including "Variations on a Theme," "Shirtless Boys in Pickup Trucks," "Slow Dancing," and "Male Nude."



Also from Banned is **Sacred Cows** by Jed A. Bryan (\$3.95 pb, ISBN 0-9934411-20-4, April), a satire of the Miss America pageant; it seems the winner wears falsies to enhance his figure. **Common Sons** by Ronald L. Donaghe (\$8.95 pb, ISBN 0-934411-21-2, May) is a small town coming-of-age story about young Joel and the new preacher's son, Tom. Joel doesn't understand his feelings until a very public kiss from Tom starts the ball rolling — and the world crashing.

Alyson Publications has a strong (butch?) Spring list, with a gay pirate adventure story and a gay romance set in the arena of professional baseball. **Changing Pitches** by Steve Kluger (\$7.95 pb, ISBN



1-55583-1559, April) is the tale of Scotty Mackay, an American League pitcher who has to hit the comeback trail to save his all-star career. All goes well until he gets teamed with a young catcher he detests: pretty boy Jason Cornell. Jason is the sort who poses for underwear ads; what's worse, he has blue eyes... and Scotty's favorite color is blue. By August, Scotty has a major-league problem on his hands.

Publisher Sasha Alyson personally raves about the pirate adventure, **The Buccaneer** by M.S. Hunter (\$8.95 pb, ISBN 1-55583-153-2, 320 pp., May. Well-written and well-researched, **Buccaneer** presents the exploits of Tommy the Cutlass and his shipload of randy buccaneers as they get involved with some of the past's most notorious individuals. As the catalog states, **Buccaneer** is "historical fiction at its swash-buckling best."

Also from Alyson is a reissue of the Dutton hardback, **The Best Man** by Paul Reidinger (\$7.95 pb, ISBN 1-55583-149-4, April). In this impressive first novel, David and Katherine are best friends who are respectively looking for one man with whom they can spend the rest of their lives. But, their individual searches lead them to the same man — and a threesome is *not* what they had in mind.

Bloodstream by Joel Redon (Knights Press, \$9.00 pb, ISBN 0-915175-35-50) is a thoughtfully written first novel about how to *live* with AIDS instead of dying from it. The setting is rural Oregon; Peter, his family, his new friend, and the members of his support group, all learn how to deal with the effects of the disease. Author Redon was diagnosed with AIDS in 1986.

New from Crossing Press are the beginnings of a gay male fiction series from the publisher of lesbian and women's spirituality titles. In **Shy** by Kevin Killian (\$8.95 pb, ISBN 0-89594-348-4, 175 pp., April) four hungry people converge from four different corners of sexuality during one explosive summer. Harry Van, the young gay hero, doesn't know much about reading and writing, but he does want to know love's total expression. Out of "September," a story appearing in the acclaimed anthology **Men on Men: Best New Gay Fiction**, grew this charming first novel.

The second Crossing title, **The Zombie Pit** by Sam D'Allesandro (\$6.95 pb, ISBN 0-89594-350-6, 100 pp., April), is a slightly slim collection of stories reflecting the complexity of gay male identity in the 1980's. D'Allesandro explores a hedonistic fantasy with the devotion of a religious pilgrim as he journeys across new terrain. D'Allesandro, who was fast becoming one of the better writers of his generation when he died of AIDS at age 31, also made his book debut in **Men on Men**.

Recently announced is the formation of a new gay press, Amethyst Press, Inc. One of two books to be published by Amethyst in the Fall is **Shy** author Kevin Killian's second novel, **Bedrooms Have Windows**. Editor Stan Leventhal, art director Joe Mauro, and production director Michele Karlsburg are dedicated to producing quality gay literary works. The team will also publish a reissue of Dennis Cooper's **Idols** in September. More on this exciting new publishing venture to come....



BIOGRAPHIES

When James Baldwin died in December 1987 at the age of 63, the gay community lost not only one of its most outstanding authors, but also an important social thinker, a tireless crusader for civil rights, and a loyal friend to many — Black and white. In **James Baldwin: Artist on Fire** (Donald I. Fine, \$19.95 cl, ISBN 1-55611-126-6, 412 pp.), biographer W.J. Weatherby traces the genesis of Baldwin's brilliant writings, chronicles the author's dealings with his

literary agents and publishers, and deals candidly with Baldwin's homosexuality and drinking and their meaning in his art and life. An altogether fitting, carefully crafted portrait of an extraordinary man.

Air Force Sergeant Leonard Matlovich appeared on the cover of *Time* when he was discharged for being gay — and decided to fight. Coming in June is the long-awaited biography, **Matlovich** by Mike Hippler (Alyson Publications, \$8.95 pb, ISBN 1-55583-129-X; \$15.95 cl, 1-55583-138-9). Hippler chronicles the life of this courageous activist whose generally conservative views created controversy over his role as a leader of the gay community. In his last years, Matlovich fought the discrimination he faced as a Person With AIDS with the same tenacity he brought to his earlier battles. Before his death in 1988, Matlovich cooperated fully with Hippler on the biography.

NONFICTION

Doubleday, of all people, is going all out (targeted ads during Gay Pride Week, national coop) for a controversial book looking at the trampling of homosexuals by our society. Based on "Waging Peace," one of the most popular essays ever to appear in *Christopher Street*, **After the Ball: How America Will Conquer Its Fear and Hatred of Homosexuals in the 90's** (\$19.95 cl, ISBN Doubleday-239006-8, June) essentially declares that the gay revolution has failed, and that most gays who can "pass" remain too frightened to come out of the closet. Harvard-trained social scientists Marshall Kirk and Hunter Madsen, authors of the original article, expound on their theory that, despite AIDS and activism, progress toward gay rights has ground to a halt. **After the Ball** is a double-barreled critique of both straight oppression *and* the misguided gay movement.

SCIENCE FICTION

As promised in this space in the previous issue, Banned Books will publish **Two Novellas: Walking Water and After All This** by former *Philadelphia Gay News* writer Thom Nickels. The two novellas are presented in one volume (\$8.95 pb, ISBN 0-934411-22-0, May) and feature the exciting imagination of this *Cliffs of Aries* author. In "After All This," Julius and Toma fear that they are the only two people left on Earth

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Gay Men's Literature Continued

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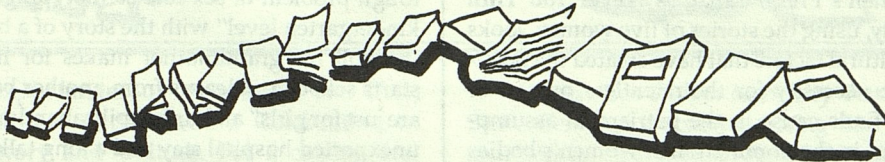
BEHIND THE MASK, by Kim Larabee, trade paper, \$6.95. Maddie Elverton, a member of English high society in the early nineteenth century, leads a double life as a highway robber. Her carefully-balanced world is threatened as she falls in love with Allie Sifton, another lady of English society. ISBN 1-55583-151-6

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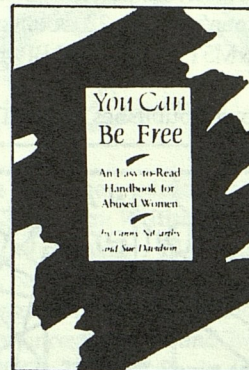


Compiled by Carol Seajay

Feminist presses, of course, are continuing to publish recovery books—Mother Courage Press announces **The Woman Inside: From Incest Victim to Survivor** to be published in July, The Women's Press/Canada offers **Never Too Thin**, and Seal Press announces two new titles in their New Leaf Series: a simplified version of *Getting Free* titled **You Can Be Free: An Easy-To-Read Handbook for Abused Women** in April and their first audio cassette which will be a guide to recognizing various forms of abuse and taking emergency steps to get out of an abusive relationship. If the tape is well-received, Seal will put other New Leaf titles on cassette as well.

Mother Courage's **The Woman Inside** by Patty Derosier Barnes will be a workbook as practical as Betty Crocker's cookbooks, designed to help incest victims work through some of the confusion, pain and hurt that may have been constants since the sexual abuse began. It has mental lists, emotion recipes, activities, exercises and other helpful techniques to stimulate, relax and compose the survivor's mind after doing some tough work on this problem. Through the examples presented in the book, the survivor will slowly learn to develop methods of her own to alleviate the stress, anxiety and anger that result from incest. \$11.95 oversize pb, 0-941300-13-7, July. Mother Courage will also publish **Womb with Views: A Contradictionary of the English Language**, a biting, outrageous social commentary, cartoon-illustrated feminist dictionary. \$8.95 pb, 0-941300-12-9, June. Mother Courage Press, 1533 Illinois St., Racine WI 53405. BP, IN.

Seal Press' **You Can Be Free** by Ginny NiCarthy and Sue Davidson has been prepared both for women with only basic reading skills and for women in trauma who need a simplified approach until the state of trauma recedes, an approach that proved to be very effective with Elaine Gil's *Outgrowing the Pain*. \$6.95 pb, 0-931188-68-7, April.



Seal's other Spring books include a new Pam Nilsen mystery, **The Dog Collar Murders** by Barbara Wilson that examines life (and death?) in the polemical war raging among feminists on anti-porn to sexual freedom issues (\$8.95 pb, 0-931188-69-5, March); **Glory Days** by Rosie Scott, the fifth title in Seal's International Women's Crime Series, (\$8.95 pb, 0-931188-72-5, Feb.); **A Vindication of the Rights of Whores: The International Struggle for Prostitutes' Rights**, an anthology edited by Gail Pheterson (\$14.95 pb, 0-931188-73-3, May); and **Nervous Conditions** a first novel by Tsitsi Dangarembga set in colonial Rhodesia in the 1960's, exploring the devastating human loss involved in the colonization of one

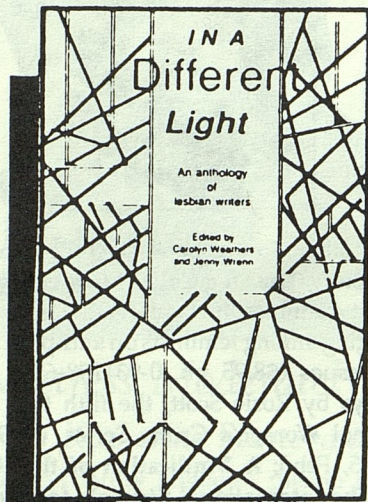
country by another. (\$8.95 pb, 0-931188-74-1, March.)
Published previously by The Women's Press-U.K.

The Women's Press/Canada's **Never Too Thin** by Éva Székely, using the stories of five women, looks at the sociocultural factors that have created the possibility and the necessity for the relentless pursuit of thinness and finds cause in the patriarchal assumptions of society, in the domination of women's bodies by men, and the contradiction between an idealized version of life and our actual everyday reality—the trick promises of patriarchy that are never delivered. \$9.95 pb, 0-88961-127-0. **From Private to Public: A Feminist Exploration of Early Mothering** by Amy Rossiter considers the contradictions of early mothering. Using her own experience as a first-time mother, and the experiences of three other women, she analyzes the social factors that make early mothering both a joyous and oppressive experience. \$9.95 pb, 0-88961-128-9. The Women's Press, 229 College St. No 204, Toronto Ontario M5T 1R4. IN and BP in the U.S.

Lollipop's first book since 1984, and the first book since Lollipop was taken over (taken under wing?) by Carolina Wren Press in 1986. **The Boy Toy** tackles "the tough problem of sex role stereotyping at the crucial kindergarten level" with the story of a boy who loves the doll his grandmother makes for him—until he starts school and learns from another boy that "dolls are just for girls" and unhappily abandons his doll. An unexpected hospital stay and a long talk with his dad help him understand that his doll is a "boy toy" and centers Chad for his confrontation with his young friend. Rich with nurturing fathers, Black doctors, women surgeons and other stereotype-breakers. \$5.00 saddle-stitched pb, 0-914996-26-6, 32 pp. 40% for 5+ books. Order from Carolina Wren, PO Box 277, Carrboro NC 27510 or Inland.

Helaine Victoria Press's new catalog is out. As usual, it reads like a brief course in women's history and includes cards on women from South Africa to Tibet and the recently published post card series on Latin American women. Forthcoming series will include Sisters of the Harlem Renaissance, Cultural and

Lollipop Power publishes again! **The Boy Toy** is



In a Different Light

An anthology of lesbian writers
Edited by Carolyn Weathers
and Jenny Wrenn

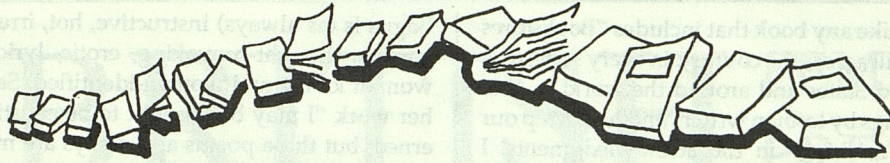
Twenty-eight lesbian writers--eclectic in styles, themes and subject matter--ranging from the unusual, such as Woverton's poem "each poem is a fistfight...each word is a knuckle ready to bruise" to the commonplace, such as Louise Moore's poems about Mrs. McKinnis and her garden. Serious, whimsical, satirical, poetic, erotic... experimental, traditional--short stories, poems and excerpts from novels. Some of the works deal with lesbian issues. Some do not.

Clothespin Fever Press

5529 N. Figueroa
Los Angeles, CA 90042
(213) 254-1373

Size: 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 'Perfect' Binding Pages 216

ISBN 0-9616572-5-1 Trade Paper \$9.95



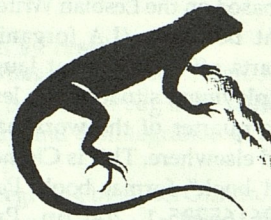
Historical Experiences of Women in the U.S., Women's Political Action, and a Celebration of Lesbian Herstory and Culture. For a catalog and wholesale terms write Helaine Victoria press, 411 E. 4th St., Bloomington IN 47401 or call 812-331-0444.

Papers Inc. in New Zealand, publishers of *Katie's Yucky Problem* have hit the mark again with **Look Back, Stride Forward** by Miriam Saphira and Lindy McIntyre, a book for kids who have friends who are being or have been abused—and also for young and not-so-young people who have been abused. An excellent, easy to read book that defines various kinds of abuse, defense systems kids develop, names feelings, claims a place in the world and suggests a variety of ways to make change. Should be at Inland soon.

Papers Inc. has also recently published **New Lesbian Literature 1980-88** compiled by Miriam Saphira, a sort of "granddaughter of *The Lesbian in Literature* (Barbara Grier, Naiad Press) and stop-gap action until *The Lesbian in Literature* can be updated. It lists Authors, titles, publishers, years and cities of publication and little else. U.S. users will find it to be rather British/Commonwealth-based, that it suffers from the limited (or late) availability of books "down under," and will wish for annotations. But many of us will also find it irresistible and will eagerly scan pages for books we don't know. Price not sent. You may want to see if it turns up at Inland before ordering direct from New Zealand from Papers Inc. (Papers & Books), PO Box 47-398, Ponsonby, Auckland, New Zealand.

HerBooks has a new collection of short stories and a cassette tape. **Messages: Music for Lesbians** by D. A. Clark who is already known to a variety of lesbian poetry readers for her book *To Live with the Weeds*. **Messages** offers an eclectic collection of musical styles with verse in the best lesbian traditions. We listened to it as we were bundling up the last issue to send it to the post office and had a great time. \$6.00.

Lizards/Los Padres stories by Bettianne Shoney Sien offers "an uncompromising first collection of short stories by a lesbian raised in the Midwest. Here are stubborn, sunburnt farm women, resourceful lesbians in and out of closets, women who love the land and animals. These are tales of a 'country poor' childhood, about a lesbian adulthood not Utopian, but chronicled with insight and dignity." \$7.00 pb, 0-939821-31-1, 132 pp.



HerBooks has a new edition of **The Lesbian In Front of the Classroom: Writings by Lesbian Teachers** by Caroline Sidaway, Ellen Louise Hart, M. Eugenia Rosa, Sarah-Hope Parmeter and Anza Stein, a short (60 pages but perfect bound!) describing a range of experiences both in and out of the closet. \$6.50 pb, 0-939821-31-1. HerBooks is one of the few publishers left who will organize a book or long pamphlet around an idea and then publish it while the debate is still hot, before the conclusions and "correct" analysis can be derived, thus bringing the reader into the discussion while it is still being formed. Order direct from HerBooks, PO Box 7467, Santa Cruz CA 95061, or BP & IN.

Calyx's gorgeous **The Forbidden Stitch: An Asian American Women's Anthology** has been out for a while now, but I'm mentioning it again lest anyone have missed it. This first anthology of Asian American women's creative work is a first step toward filling a large silence. \$14.95 pb, 0-934971-10-2. Calyx Books, PO Box B, Corvallis OR 97339. BP & IN.

I have to like any book that includes "Bookstores everywhere...all across the country, in every state, outside the United States and around the world — that provide readings by lesbian writers and help keep our lively arts flourishing" in the acknowledgments. I took **In A Different Light: An Anthology of Lesbian Writers**, edited by Carolyn Weathers and Jenny Wrenn, on a weekend in the mountains with a half a dozen dykes and it seemed like everyone *except* me got a chance to read part of it. So I'll have to depend on those cheerful raves for a review. It includes short fiction, some poetry and a song by a range of lesbian writers including Judy Grahn, Terry Wolverton, Jess Wells, Nancy Tyler Glenn, SDiane Bogus, Eloise Klein Healy, Judith McDaniel, Marie Jose Delgado, Paula Gunn Allen, Ayofemi Stowe Folayan as well as the editors and is based on the Lesbian Writers Series at A Different Light Bookstore/LA (organized by Ann Bradley). It starts off with a great laugh about the improving employment situation for lesbian characters.... About a quarter of the work has previously been published elsewhere. This is Clothespin Fever's first "standard book" format book. Perfect bound, \$9.95 pb, 0-96165725-1, 200 pp. Published by Clothespin Fever Press, 5529 N. Figueroa, Los Angeles CA 90042. Standard Bookstore terms. No distributors that I know of.

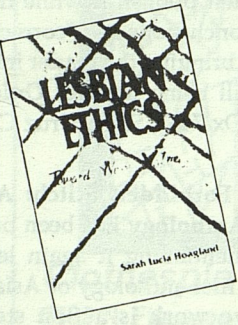
SDiane Bogus is back, this time with **Dyke Hands and Sutras Erotic & Lyric**, by the rowdy and rarely behaved author of *Sapphire's Sampler*, *The Woman in the Moon*, and *I'm Off to See the Goddam Wizard, Alright!*.

Bogus is (as always) instructive, hot, irreverent, subversive, thought-provoking, erotic, lyrical and *very* woman loving and woman-identified. Says Bogus of her work "I may be thought to be caustic or ungoverned, but these poems and essays are meant to be a sharing of what I have learned from my personal risks as a lesbian in a heterosexual world, as a Black lesbian in the white community, from being Black in a Black culture, as a childless woman in a world of mothers, as a Christian, as a Buddhist, as a lover of women white and Black, as a creative artist, a seeker of life and light in an oppressive and fearful world. I share what it means to be sexual when it is dangerous in a male world and suspect in a lesbian one; I share my private hells and my particular heavens." And she does. \$9.00, 0-9341-72-218. WIM Publications, 2215-R Market St., San Francisco CA 94114.

Eighth Mountain Press is doing a new collection of poetry by Judith Barrington titled **History and Geography** that even *PW* liked! This may be a first! Look for it in mid-March. \$7.95 pb, 0-933377-03-7; \$15.95 cl, -00-2. Eighth Mountain Press, 624 SE 29th Ave., Portland OR 97214. BP, IN, etc.

Naiad's four spring books are: **The Bee's Kiss** by Shirley Verel (*The Other Side of Venus*) "a humorous and poignant love story" set outside London in the late 1950's about a mother, writer, and widow whose life is turned upside down when the much younger Joanna enters her life. \$8.95 pb, 0-941483-36-3, April.

See page 74



LESBIAN ETHICS

Sarah Lucia Hoagland

LESBIAN ETHICS uses lesbian experience as a starting point for redefining ethics. The overall thesis is that the values from anglo-european ethical philosophy undermine rather than promote lesbian connection. Challenging control in lesbian relationships, the book develops an ethics relevant to lesbians under oppression — one which avoids both blaming the victim and victimism, which embraces the spirit of lesbian resistance, and which encourages plurality.


In a time when much of what is written by non-colored women fails to touch me. *Lesbian Ethics* is a politically engaged philosophy I can relate to.

Cloria E. Anzaldúa

This is a book in which your best friend discusses and argues with you until 3 a.m., and you finally fall asleep delighted to be a lesbian, able to dream "lesbianism, the theory."

Elana Dykewomon

\$14.95
ISBN 0-934903-03-4



INSTITUTE OF LESBIAN STUDIES

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PALO ALTO, CA 94306

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FROM
THEBRITISH FEMINIST
PRESSES

Caeia March's **Three Ply Yarn** (published by the Women's Press/U.K.) is one of my all time favorite lesbian novels. I'd hoped that it would be published and promoted here, as well, but it didn't happen, and it is just now beginning to reach the U.S. readers via the Women's Press/Inland distribution arrangement. March's new

novel **The Hide and Seek Files**, like **Three Ply Yarn** is a multi-generational saga of working-class lesbian women's lives, offering the ways women did and didn't find to express their love for women in various situations and times. I especially enjoyed **Three Ply Yarn's** ability to include difficult issues such as classism, racism, access to education and the ways education can separate us from our families and communities as well as open new doors, while maintaining the integrity of the novel form and keeping the story moving. **The Hide and Seek Files** explores, among other themes, the way that small, seemingly insignificant decisions shape lives and generations, the life-long effects of "random" acts of violence directed at lesbians, and the importance of intimacy and commitment — all while telling the tale of a striking mill-worker's daughter who escapes the police by putting on boy's clothes and "borrowing" a bicycle — and then "passes" for the rest of her life. It's a lovely novel of love and support, commitment

and courage, reticence and a new generation. Don't miss it. Pb, The Women's Press/U.K, 0-7043-4096-8. Spring 1989. Should arrive at Inland soon. And order **Three Ply Yarn** while you're there. -C.S.

Here's a quick recap from *The Radical Bookseller* of some of the British feminist press titles from last Fall that FBN missed covering:

The Women's Press

Bag and Baggage by Judy Allen. A novel about a woman who becomes a bag lady rather than put up with the decay and disintegration of her council flat. 0-7043-412-5 pb.

The Prizegiving by Aysel Ozakin. The first of this



Turkish novelist's works to be published in English, though her work has been acclaimed in her own country and in Germany. A "novel within a novel," **The Prizegiving** tells of a middle-aged woman who has written a Turkish "feminine mystique" novel to the acclaim of the local press and arts community while receiving disdain from her more radical university student daughter. 0-7043-4123-9.

The Fourth Wall by Barbara Paul. Murder story

set in the context of a Broadway play. 0-7043-4138-7.

February Shadows by Elisabeth Reichart. An Austrian writer examines the trauma of her country's Nazi past in novel form. 0-7043-4143-3.

She Came in a Flash by Mary Wings. Mystery story set among the cults and lifestyles of Southern California. Will be published in the United States by New American Library in cloth.

No Child's Play by Caesarina Kona Makhoere. Prison memoir of schoolgirl arrested as an "agitator" after the 1976 uprising against "Bantu education". She was held virtually incommunicado and in solitary confinement for six years. 0-7043-4111-5.

The Female Gaze by Lorraine Gamman and Margaret Marshment. Essays on popular culture exploring the contradictions and possibilities of the new images of women. 0-7043-4109-3.

Both Right and Left Handed by Bouthaina Shaaban. Interviews with Arab women talking about their lives. 0-7043-4102-6.

The Women's Press Livewire (YA) Series

Mutuwhenua—The Moon Sleeps by Patricia Grace. Novel set in New Zealand about contrasting values—old and new, young and old, Maori and Pakeha. 0-7043-4140-9.

Virago

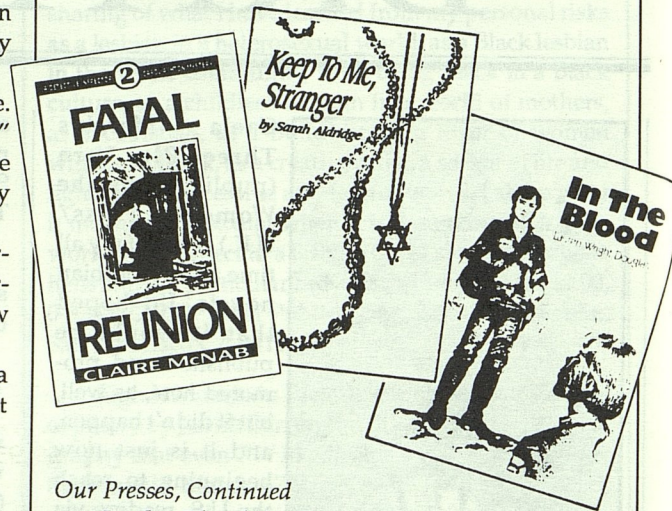
Out the Other Side edited by Christian McEwen and Sue O'Sullivan. A Collection of essays, interviews, speeches and articles by contributors who proudly identify as lesbian. 0-86068-948-4.

Virago Upstarts

Both Feet on the Ground by Barbara Hughes. Sally is destined for a job in the local supermarket if her mother has her way. But she has another ambition — to be a dancer, even if it means fights with her parents. 0-86068-077-0.

Nell's Quilt by Susan Terris. When 18-year-old Nell agrees to marry the widower chosen by her parents, she must give up her dreams of college. That day in 1899 she stops eating and begins to make a quilt. As it grows larger she grows weaker. 0-86068-087-8.

Wandering Girl by Glenyse Ward. Autobiography of Australian Aboriginal woman who was taken from her natural parents at the age of one. 0-86068-085-8. ○



Our Presses, Continued

In the Blood, by Lauren Wright Douglass (*The Always Anonymous Beast*), offers an America in the near future ravaged by biological warfare. Enclaves exist where the Red Death has not wrecked its havoc. One of them is Arizona. Another is a mysterious and uninfected women's community and still another hidden lesbian group.... A primal struggle for survival and safety. \$8.95 pb, 0-941483-22-3, April.

Keep to Me Stranger, the ninth novel from Sarah Aldridge's pen, explores the glamour and elegance of the world of high-fashion department stores. Romantic intrigue, the intricate politics of a warring family, and granddaughters who carry on their grandmothers' legacies. \$8.95 pb 0-941483-38-X, May.

In Fatal Reunion by Claire McNab, Australian detective Carol Ashton is drawn back into time when her once-love is charged with murder. The roster of suspects includes Christine's high society suspects, the dead man's business partners as well as his brother.... And then there's the rekindling of passion itself. \$8.95 pb, 0-941483-40-1, May.

Keep to Me Stranger and **Fatal Reunion** will be Naiad's ABA books. Naiad Press, PO Box 10543, Tallahassee FL 32302 or distributors. ○

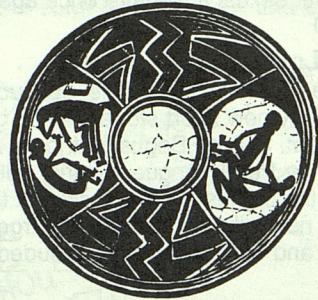
FROM THE SMALL PRESSES

Compiled by Carol Seajay

This issue's mailbag had two wonderful surprises in it, **Sonahchi: A Collection of Myth-Tales** and **Stony Creek Woman: The Story of Mary John**. While researching Pueblo Indian tales for her work on Mimbres pottery, Pat Carr found herself responding to certain stories that seemed to her to deal with the basic human conflicts. **Sonahchi** is her re-creation of these ancient tales. At this point in history, one has to be a little skeptical of (apparently) white writers from Anglo traditions retelling the stories from other peoples' cultures. I have no way to judge the cultural accuracy of these stories and will have to leave that to those much more knowledgeable than I. They do, however, resonate with that universal quality of myth and story—and perhaps I liked them particularly for all being women-centered and told from women's perspectives. Pointing this book out to a few women in your community and shelving it next to **Daughters of Copper Woman** should help it find its readership. It will be word-of-mouth book, as this is the only fourth book from Cinco Puntos Press. \$8.95, 80 pp, good cover, 0-938317-06-7. 40% for 5-24 and worth the direct order. CPP is distributed by Small Press Distribution (1813 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley CA 94702) or order direct CPP, 2709 Louisville, El Paso TX 79930. Later this year Cinco Puntos will be publishing *Border Patrol* by Debbie Nathan, which focuses on women's issues on the border between Mexico and El Paso. Hopefully they'll get more distribution then.

Stony Creek Woman: Sai'k'ut Ts'eke (The Story of Mary John) is the other major treat in the mail bag. It is "one woman's story" (that speaks for thousands of untold stories) about Mary John, a Native mother

of twelve and a member of the Carrier Indian Band living on the Stony Creek Reserve in northern British Columbia. It recounts the hardships endured by her people—racism, sickness, poverty—her personal struggles resisting these indignities and her life as an independent Native woman in a story of hope and personal and cultural survival. Her story was recorded by Bridget Moran, an Irish activist social worker and free-lance journalist now living in B.C. \$9.95 pb, 0-88978-197-4. Published by Tillacum Li-



Sonahchi brary/Pulp Press. Pulp's new address is 100-1062 Homer St, Vancouver, Canada V6B 2W9. Some readers of **Stony Creek Woman** may also be interested in Tillacum/Pulp's **Resistance and Renewal** by Celia Haig-Brown, a collection of Native perspectives on the Kamloops Indian Residential School, a telling account of the resistance movement against the system's oppressive environment which sought to stifle Native culture. \$10.95 pb, 0-88978-189-3.

At the Feminist Bookfair in Montreal last summer, the Fitzhenry & Whiteside stand sported a poster promising a collection of prose and poetry by and about women, **Celebrating Canadian Women**. It

Spring At BANNED BOOKS

• **The Contactees Die Young** \$8.95

Antoinette Azolakov. Nightmare, UFO abduction—or murder? Introducing T.D. Renfro, lesbian therapist/detective in a passionate, dangerous mystery/adventure. Romantic, explicit love scenes, fascinating characters, the book is set in the pine forests of East Texas. "There are those who'll say I'm just in love with Texas writers, but Azolakov sure can tell a tale. There's a wonderful new set of characters in this one, including a sexy, red-headed therapist whose aversion to the outdoors is a comic and welcome breakthrough in lesbian literature!" [Lee Lynch] Available March. 18-2

• **The Assistance of Vice** \$8.95

Roslyn Dane. Roslyn Dane hits the ground running with thirty-three chapters of explicit lesbian sex. Not for the timid reader, this book brings new meaning to the word "hot." The novel keeps the tension at a fever pitch, relenting occasionally to catch a breath, then off on another sexual adventure once again. Available March. 19-0

• **Lovers: Love and Sex Stories** \$7.95

Tea Corinne. For lovers of gentle, sensuous erotica. Includes twenty new short stories, some gentle, some with more heat. SDiane Bogus [author of *Dyke Hands*] says: "Like the Pearl Tongue (clitoris) belonging to each of us, the stories in *Lovers* swirl in the juices of our realities naturally, exquisitely, as large as life." An introduction and bibliography are included. Available April. 17-4

• **Sugar With Spice** \$8.95

Kieran. (Not previously announced) Thirty-six short stories from a writer with a special talent for making a point with humor. After trying the mainstream—everything from journalistic endeavors to detective novels, romance, TV scripts—Kieran has turned her attention to creating *her* kind of stories. She's tried to touch upon many of the challenges common to today's lesbian. Some are very short, some longer—all are worth reading more than once. Available July. 24-7

If you don't regularly get mailings from us, please let us know and we'll make sure you're on the list.

Available from: Inland, Bookpeople, The Distributors, Golden Lee, Baker & Taylor, or BANNED BOOKS, #292, P.O. Box 33280, Austin, Texas 78764 (512) 282-8044 (new number).

seems like its been a long wait, but it's finally out. The work of ninety women is arranged in topics that make a woman want to sit right down and read: *Growing Up Female*, *Women and Men*, *Women and Women*, *Work*, *Women Alone/Women Aging*, *Mothers*, *Power and Transcendence*. Writers include the famous and expected, a wide range of work by women I've read previously and am always pleased to see again, as well as many women I've not read previously. I'd give a lot to take a week off work right now and devour its entire collection. It includes work by a few dykes—fewer than I'd hoped for—and far fewer Native, Quebequise, and Black writers than I'd expected, a problem that is aggravated by the curiously traditional structure of the biographical notes that specify birth place but exclude race, political or cultural identity or sexual preference. Guess Fitzheny and Whiteside will have to do a companion volume to fill in the spaces. Edited by Greta Hofmann Nemiroff. C\$35.00 pb (ouch!), 88902-6467. Order from Fitzheny & Whiteside, 195 Allstate Parkway, Markham Ontario, Canada L3R 4T8. If I get any information about U.S. distribution I'll pass it along.

✓ **In Talking Back: Thinking Feminist, Thinking**

Black Bell Hooks (Gloria Watkins) speaks with a much more personal voice than in her previous books (*Ain't I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism* and *Feminist Theory from Margin to Center*). In *Talking Back* Hooks writes about the healing power of writing, the meaning of feminist consciousness in daily life and about self-recovery, about overcoming white- and male-supremacy, and about intimate relationships. \$10.00 pb, 0-89608-352-73. Published in the U.S. by South End Press. Available in Britain from Sheba Press. Also from South End: **Women Under Attack**, a revised, expanded edition of the 1979 publication by the Committee for Abortion Rights and against Sterilization Abuse (CARASA). Would that we didn't need this one so badly! \$5.00, 76 pp, perfect bound, 0-89608-356-X. South End Press, 116 St. Botolph St., Boston MA 02115. BP & IN.

Black Womanist Ethics by Katie G. Cannon, a study in ethics, gender and race, articulates the distinctive moral character of the Afro-American



women's community. It begins with a reconstructive history of the Afro-American woman's situation in America, traces the emergence of the Black woman's literary tradition and explains its importance in expressing the moral wisdom of Black woman, and then examines the life and work of Zora Neale Hurston for her unique contributions to the moral tradition of the Afro-American woman. Price not sent. Pb 1-55540-216-X; cl 1-55540-216-1. Scholars Press Emory University, PO Box 15288, Atlanta GA 30333. Distributed through Cornell University (PO Box 6525, Ithaca NY 14851.) 40% for 5+.

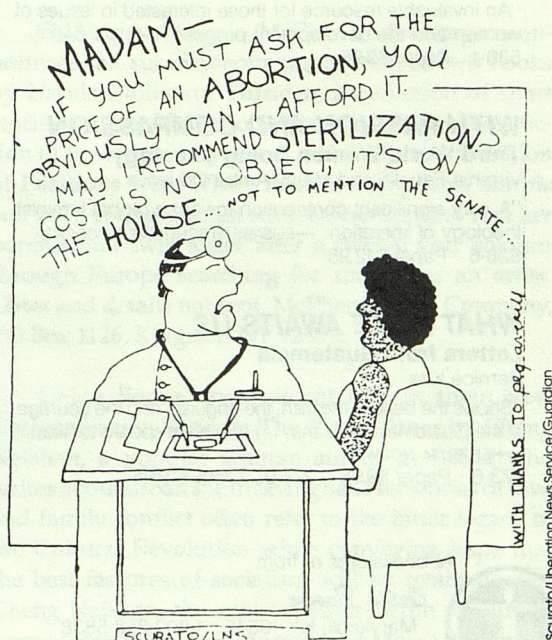
Nia Francisco uses a storytelling form of poetry to depict the changing currents of Navajo life values in *Blue Horses for Navajo Women*, a short collection published by The Greenfield Review Press (2 Middle Grove Rd., Greenfield Center NY 12833). \$9.95 pb, 0-92678-72-0. Inland.

Sellers and Servants: Working Women in Lima, Peru by Ximena Bunster and Elsa Chaney, photography by Ellan Young, uses an innovative "talking pictures" technique to present the lives of women street peddlers and domestic servants in Latin America from their own perspectives and in their own words. \$18.95 pb, 0-89789-171-6. Bergin & Garvey, 670 Amherst Rd, Granby MA 01033. IN & BP.

Stroking the Python: Women's Psychic Lives by Diane Stein (*The Quan Yin Book of Changes*) recounts women's psychic experiences and offers a theory and explanation of psychic experiences, women's shared and varied experiences. High praise on the back cover from Kay Gardner and Gail Fairfield (*Choice Centered Tarot*)! \$12.95 pb, 0-87542-757-X. **In the Shadow of the Shaman: Connection with Self, Nature & Spirit** by Amber Wolfe is based on the importance of connection to the deepest power of Nature. Hard to disagree

with that—but I do have a bit of trouble with "cook-book shamanism" that lists specific recipes, as if performing certain rituals with certain stones at certain phases of the moon is the primary approach to solving one's own or the world's problems. Others will be less critical than I. \$12.95 pb, 0-87542-888-6. Llewellyn Publications, PO Box 64383, St Paul MN 55164. BP/IN.

Shifting gears a bit, Crossing Press lists more than a dozen books for Spring: a new edition of Diane Mariechild's *Mother Wit* (\$10.95 pb, 0-89594-358-1), one of the classic bestsellers in the spirituality section (80,000 copies sold) and a revised and enlarged edi-



From *Women Under Attack*

Scurato/Liberation News Service/Guardian

Orbis

DISPUTED QUESTIONS

On Being a Christian

Rosemary Radford Ruether

Ruether looks in depth at four identities: Christian, Catholic, feminist, and American.

549-2 Paper \$10.95

THROUGH HER EYES

Women's Theology from Latin America

Edited by Elsa Tamez

Foreword by Delores Williams

Sexual identity, spirituality, religiosity, the 'right to beauty,' the Trinity, Christ, the Church, and the Kingdom of God are studied by women in this landmark in feminist theology.

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tion of *The Coming Out Stories* retitled *The Original Coming Out Stories* edited by Julia Penelope and Susan J. Wolfe and originally published by Persephone Press (\$10.95 pb, 0- 89594-339-5). Crossing is also publishing *Lesbian Love Stories* edited by Irene Zahava (of *Smedley's Bookstore* in Ithaca), a mix of tales of love, romance, crushes, sexual passion and also betrayal, loneliness, fights, break-ups and loss — the whole reality from a strong collection of lesbian writers (\$8.95 pb, 0- 89594-341-7). On the spiritual front there's *She Lives! The Return of Our Great Mother* by Judith Laura which begins with a retelling of the creation story from a matriarchal point of view and extends the telling to contemporary myths in which the Goddess appears to women from all walks of life and includes many rituals and meditations (\$8.95 pb, 0-89594-332-8, \$22.95 cl, -333-6); and, *She Rises Like the Sun: Invocations of the Goddess by Contemporary American Women Poets* edited by Janine Canan including work from Maya Angelou to Nellie Wong (\$8.95 pb, 0- 89594-352-2; \$22.95 cl, -353-0; includes 8 illustrations by Mayumi Oda and introduction by Jean Shinoda Bolen).

For parents, Crossing offers *How Could You: Mothers Without Custody of Their Children* by Harriet Edwards, based on her own experience and questionnaires from 300 others (\$12.95 pb, 0-89594-335-2; \$26.95 cl, -3356-0) and an anthology on *Spiritual Parenting in the New Age* edited by Anne Carson on transmitting one's spirituality and ethics to one's children. (\$8.95 pb, 0- 89594-356-5; \$22.95 cl, -357-3). *The New Healing Yourself* by Joy Gardner replaces that fine little yellow booklet *Healing Yourself* than many of us have used for years with an updated, expanded edition (\$10.95 pb, 0-89594-354-9; \$26.95 cl, -355-7). *Shadowdance* by Agnes Bushnell, the newest *WomanSleuth Mystery*, explores the world of Russian emigres and dissidents, secret groups of radical feminists, and visionary feminist poets with a bit of a love interest beneath it all... (\$7.95 pb, 0-89594-346-8; \$18.95 cl, -347-6). My guess is that *A Small Favor* by Dutch feminist writer Anja Meulenbelt is Crossing Press' co-owner Elaine Goldman Gill's favorite book on the list. This is Meulenbelt's second book (through the first published in the U.S), a story of reconciliation between a difficult daughter and a difficult mother



after the mother finds Meulenbelt's autobiographical account of her early years—an account with which she has strong disagreements. (\$14.95 cl, 0-89594-338-7).

Crossing also lists **From Housewife to Heretic** Sonia Johnson's account of her spiritual awakening and Excommunication from the Mormon Church (\$8.95 pb, 0-89594-334-4).

See "Gay Men's Lit" for titles from Crossings' growing gay men's list. All of the Crossing Press titles are due out in April but are probably available for shipping. Crossing offers 40% for 5-24 books, 42% for 25-49 books, 43% to 99 books and 45% for 100+. The Crossing Press, PO Box 1048, 22D Roache Rd., Freedom CA 95019. 800-777-1048. Also at BP, IN, etc. Banned Books has a sure set of winners for women's bookstores this spring including a new Antoinette Azolakov mystery/adventure **The Contactees Die Young** that starts off in a therapist's office and considers UFO abductions on the way to elusive childhood memories. Myself, I think I liked *Skiptrace* and *Cass and the Stone Butch* just a little bit better than this one — but all of Azolakov's readers are going to want to read **Contactees** for themselves — and then will be waiting for her next one.... \$8.95 pb, 0-934411-18-2, ready now. **Lovers**, a collection of twenty new short stories by Tee Corinne, will be another classic of erotic lesbian literature and sell alongside *Dreams of the Woman Who Loved Sex*. Complete with a bibliography for further reading and an introductory essay looking at the history and development of lesbian erotica. \$7.95 pb, April. I haven't seen **The Assistance of Vice** by Banned Books' new author Roslyn Dane. This is promised to be "not for the timid: thirty-three chapters of explicit lesbian sex in a novel that keeps the tension at a fever pitch, relenting occasionally to catch a breath, then off to another sexual adventure...." \$8.95 pb, March.

Banned Books (Edward-William Publishing) gets

kudos for being the first of the gay and feminist publishers to offer case-lot discounts of 50% and 55% (for 3+ cases) net 60 days *and* free freight to *all* the booksellers. If you can sell a case of **Lovers** or the new Antoinette Azolakov, go for it! If you can't, consider going together on a case with your nearest friendly bookstore. Banned also offers 45% for 51+ books, 43% for 26-50, 41% for 16-25 and 40% for 5-15. Banned will also send your bookstore's name and address to individuals on their mailing list if you'll drop them a note saying you stock their titles. Banned Books, Number 231 PO Box 33280, Austin TX 78764. 512-282-8044.



Shifting gears again, McPherson & Company announces the simultaneous publication of two books by Ursule Molinaro. **Thirteen**, a collection of short stories gathers Molinaro's most exceptional short fiction of the last twenty years, and a paperback edition of **Positions with White Rose**, a deceptively simple story of a young woman who returns home to visit her parents and twin sister after a twelve year sojourn through Europe searching for success as an artist. Dates and details not sent. McPherson and Company, PO Box 1126, Kingston NY 12401.

China Books' most recent title in their New Chinese Fiction Series is **The Piano Tuner** by Cheng Naishan, a popular woman author in China who writes about urban life in Shanghai. Her stories of love and family conflict often refer to the bitter legacy of the Cultural Revolution while conveying hope that the best features of socialism will be retained. For Cheng Naishan, the achievements of the revolution were essential, but so is the need to harness the energy of today's business class. She is the first Chinese Chris-

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tian to achieve national literary stature in China. \$8.95 pb, 0-8351-2141-9; \$16.95 cl, -2142-9. Other titles by women in this series include **Lapse in Time** by Wang Anyi (\$8.95 pb, 0-8351-2032-5; \$16.95 cl, -2031-7) and **At Middle Age** by Shen Rong (\$5.95 pb, 0-8351-1609-3). Cheng Naishan and Wang Anyi will be in the U.S. in late March and early April; hopefully the publicity will generate additional customer demand. China Books, 2929 24th St., San Francisco CA 94110. BP & IN.

Nadine Gordimer is the latest addition to Routledge Chapman Hall's Contemporary Writers series. Judie Newman's study places particular emphasis on Gordimer's searching investigation of the relation of gender to genre, and explores other major concerns such as the crisis of liberal values, racism, sexual politics, and the psychopathology of power. \$9.95 pb, 0-415-00660-0.

Verso, one of the remaining independent political presses offers **The Fourth Dimension: Interviews with Christa Wolf** \$14.95 pb, 0-86091-939-0) and **The Female Spectators: Looking at Film and Television** edited by Deidre Pribram (\$14.95 pb, 0-86091-922-6), both distributed in the U.S. by Routledge Chapman Hall.

A Time of Protest: Suffragists Challenge the Republic: 1870-1877, by movement activist/historian Sally Roesch Wagner tells "the empowering story of feminism's legacy of nonviolent civil disobedience."

Wagner was the founder of one of the country's first Women's Studies programs. Feminist publishing trivia experts will recognize her from her introduction to *Woman, Church and State* by Matilda Joslyn Gage re-published by Persephone Press in 1980. \$8.95 pb. Sky Carrier Press, Box 30, Carmichael CA 95609. Bookstore terms not sent. Sky Carrier also has copies of *Woman, Church and State* and Matilda Joslyn Gage notecards for sale.

In **Sex in the Therapy Hour: A Case of Professional Incest**, Carolyn Bates examines her experience of "sexual intimacy" with her therapist. Annette Brodsky, expert witness in Carolyn's subsequent malpractice lawsuit evaluates the case and explores the far-reaching ramifications of such interactions. Together they dramatically reveal the damage done by a sexually abusive clinician. \$19.95 cl, 0-89862-726-5. Also of interest: **The Invisible Web: Gender Patterns in Family Relationships** by The Women's Project in Family Therapy \$30.00 cl, 0-89862-734-6, **The Sexual Abuse of Young Children** (\$14.95 pb, 0-89862-703-6) and **Female Authority: Empowering Women Through Psychotherapy** (\$25.00 cl, 0-89865-679-X). Guilford Publications, 72 Spring St., NY NY 10012. While Guilford offers only a 20% discount, they have made arrangements to distribute these titles through Publishers Marketing Service at 43% discounts (for 1-12 books). PMS, 11661 San Vicente Blvd. Suite 206, Los Angeles CA 90049. 800-537-7335. ○

FROM THE UNIVERSITY PRESSES



By Kris Hoover
Amazon Bookstore
Minneapolis

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA PRESS

Feminists began rediscovering Mary Austin's fiction, written between 1900 and 1934, about ten years ago. Rutgers recently reissued two of her novels in *Stories from the Country of Lost Borders*. Now, Nevada has published a collection of her short stories **Western Trails**, \$24.95 cl, 0-8741-7127-x, 309pp., and a startling radical feminist novella Austin was never able to publish: **Cactus Thorn**, \$15.95 cl, -7135-0, 122pp. **Western Trails** includes a biography of Austin by Melody Graulich and both books have informative afterwords. These Nevada editions have full-cloth covers and eye-catching dust jackets — good buys, as hardcovers go.



Austin, like her friends Willa Cather and Ansel Adams, explored relations between people and the land. The range of themes Austin grounded in the desert landscape is wide and utterly contemporary: men's unconscious theft of women's energy and feminists' necessarily radical response; the strains between daughters and mothers and between Indians and whites; and feminist ecology, to name a few. Austin wrote some sentences of 19th-century proportions, but persistent readers will be rewarded with surprising wit and insight, fables and Western tales reminiscent of Anne Cameron's, and glowing description of the natural world. Nevada's minimum order is

3. Send orders to: Kate Gude, Univ. of Nevada Press, Reno, NV 89557-0076.

UNIVERSITY PRESS OF MISSISSIPPI

Redressing the Balance: American Women's Literary Humor from Colonial Times to the 1980's, ed. by Nancy Walker and Zita Dresner. This anthology is mainly for classroom use, not a book to curl up and giggle with — what women have thought was funny and what they could publish are clearly two different things. Nonetheless, general readers, especially those with a historical bent, will find some really funny writers among these 55. Selections include the ladylike bite of American Revolutionary playwright Mercy Otis Warren's political satire, columnists specializing in the comical woes of housewives, one of Alice Childress' hilarious and poignant stories about working for white people, perhaps the mildest passage in *Rubyfruit Jungle*, and Gail Sausser's essay on lesbian potlucks. \$17.95 pb, 0-8780-5364-6; \$35. cl, -5363-8, 454pp.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO PRESS

The Stairway, Alice A. Chown. First published in 1921, this memoir by a leading Canadian Christian Socialist, feminist and pacifist introduces in a particularly friendly and personal way the concerns, tactics and daily lives of a generation of activist women. A long introduction by the author's great grandniece, Diana Chown, lends context for U.S. readers and describes her dynamic aunt's increasingly radical activities in the years after the memoir's publication, which included organizing against racism and anti-Semitism in her seventies. \$12.95 pb, 0-8020-6683-6; \$30. cl, -5769-1, 273pp., 9 illus.

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BY MARY D. GARRARD



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UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS PRESS

Breaking Boundaries: Latina Writing and Critical Reading, ed. by Asuncion Horno-Delgado et al. Collects personal statements by many Puerto-ricanas, Cuban@s, Chicanas and other Latinas writing in the U.S., along with critical essays on their work. Also includes an annotated bibliography. \$12.95 pb, 0-8702-3636-9; \$40. cl, -3625-0, 336pp.

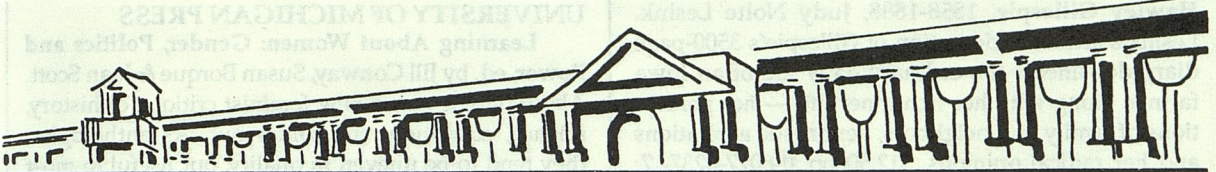
CORNELL UNIVERSITY PRESS

New Islands, Mar1a Luisa Bombal. Bombal, a Chilean writer of the '30s and '40s, is revered for her lush, surreal prose. Plotwise, I thought these tales of indolent women's obsessive inner lives and sad, fitful relationships were morbid. Stylistically, they're interesting as precursors of the currently popular "magical realism." \$6.95 pb, 0-8014-9538-5, 112pp.

Life/lines: Theorizing Women's Autobiography, ed. by Bella Brodzki & Celeste Schenck. These essays by well-known scholars represent several political and theoretical approaches. All assume readers have read some autobiographies, but only a few require knowledge of the wordsplitting language of deconstructionist criticism. Several, like Carolyn Heilbrun's on privileged women's writing and Nelly McKay's on Zora Neale Hurston's *Dust Tracks on a Road*, explain literary arguments and terms well enough for non-students to follow. Given the current interest in women's autobiography, this is a safe buy for any store with a market for literary criticism. \$12.95 pb, -9481-8; \$39.95 cl, -2208-6, 363pp.

Women and the Public Sphere in the Age of the French Revolution, Joan B. Landes. This comparison of women's status before and after the Revolution serves as an introduction to the origins of French feminist organizing. Landes shows that once the revolutionaries had cast out a few influential women along with the rest of the elite, the men among them expected even the most revolutionary women to stay home. It was this bourgeois marginalization, not the revolution itself, Landes argues, that led women to begin to organize as women in the early 19th Century. \$10.95 pb, -9520-2; \$31.95 cl, -2141-1, 363pp.

Also note two new books in arts criticism from a feminist perspective: **The Expense of Spirit: Love and Sexuality in English Renaissance Drama**, Mary Beth



Rose, \$29.95 cl, -2189-6, 272pp.; and **Herself Beheld: The Literature of the Looking Glass**, Jennijoy LaBelle, on the common literary and artistic device of female self-consciousness through mirror-gazing. \$24.95, -2202-7, 240pp.

Progressive booksellers might also carry **Beyond Words: Images from America's Concentration Camps**, Deborah Gesensway & Mindy Roseman, on art by Japanese-American women and men during the 1940s. \$18.95 pb, -9522-9, 192pp., 67 color & 10 b&w illus.



SPRING 1989

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS PRESS

Ruth Benedict: Stranger in This Land, Margaret M. Caffrey. Benedict (1887-1948), one of the founders of anthropology, is remembered for her studies of culture and personality. Her two previous biographers agree that she was also a feminist and a poet. Benedict's dear friend and sometime lover Margaret Mead wrote *An Anthropologist at Work* (1958) to secure Benedict's reputation as a humanistic scholar, but was loath to announce Benedict's feminism, much less her lesbian sensibilities. Judith Schachter Modell's feminist biography, *Ruth Benedict: Patterns of a Life* (University of Pennsylvania, about \$14.95 pb) emphasizes Benedict's psychology, and particularly her depressions, but lets readers down on the lesbian question. In this readable new biography, Caffrey presents the life and work of a more securely sane Benedict. And, instead of contorted misinterpretations of the pronouns in Benedict's love poetry, she offers a serious effort to discern Benedict's own ideas about loving women. \$24.95 cl, 0-2927-4655-5, 419pp.

The Symbolism of Subordination: Indian Identity in a Guatemalan Town, Kay B. Warren. This

ethnography, by a feminist, contains detailed information about Guatemalan Indian women's social conditions and religious beliefs. It will also be of interest to anthropologists because Warren successfully combines methods from anthropology's two warring camps: those who study religious and other symbols and those who study political repression, work and other material conditions. about \$12.95 pb, ISBN tba, 209pp., 22 illus., May.

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PRESS

Confessions of Love, Uno Chiyo. Yukiko Tanaka (*To Live and to Write*, Seal, \$8.95) calls this newly translated novel an accurate picture of urban Japan in the 1920s, and one of the best fictional studies of love of the pre-WWII era. This story of a weak-willed male artist and his involvement with three very different strong-minded women caused a scandal for similarity to the foibles of well-known Tokyo intellectuals and established the author's literary reputation.

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY PRESS

Ourselves Alone: Women's Emigration from Ireland, 1889-1920, Janet Nolan. Nolan describes Irish women's unique immigrant experience through the particulars of her grandmother's life. Her biographical focus makes this a good companion to the standard work on Irish immigrant women, Hasia Diner's *Erin's Daughters in America* (Johns Hopkins, 1983, \$9.95). \$16. cl, 0-8131-1684-8, 144pp., June.

Feminist Literary Criticism, 2nd Edition, ed. by Josephine Donovan. Donovan urges a return to radicalism in her new introduction to this landmark 1975 collection. This reissue also includes a bibliography of feminist critical theory 1975-1986. \$6.00 pb, -0190-5, 112pp., May.

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA PRESS

Secret to be Buried: The diary and Life of Emily

Hawley Gillespie, 1858-1888, Judy Nolte Lesink. Lesink's artful condensation of Gillespie's 3500-page diary documents the ordinary daily life of an Iowa farmer, along with her rich inner life — her perceptions of family and neighbors, her artistic aspirations and her radical opinions. \$12.50 pb, 0-8077-4237-7; \$35. cl, -5229-6, 392 pp., 14 illus., May.



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI PRESS

Hanna Wilke, A Retrospective, Joanna Fureh & Thomas Kocheiser. Stores with large art sections might carry this collection of photos and video scripts accompanied by a critical essay. Wilke began working as a sculptor in the early '60s and is noted for paintings, drawings, video and performance art as well as her chewing gum and eraser sculptures: "It's a perfect metaphor for the American woman — chew her up, get what you want out of her, throw her out and pop in a new piece," explains the artist. \$25. cl, 0-8262-0703-0. 168pp., 55 color & 77 b&w illus., April.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN PRESS

Learning About Women: Gender, Politics and Power, ed. by Jill Conway, Susan Borque & Joan Scott. About once a year a new feminist critique of history, science, education, etc. comes out. As anthologies, they tend to be uneven in quality, but useful to most academics. This collection makes an unusually great effort to go outside higher education as well. Typical is Evelyn Fox Keller's telling of how she became a feminist critic of science as well as a scientist, which speaks to the conflicts any woman working in a male-dominated profession feels. Anne Fausto-Sterling summarizes her book *Myths of Gender* (Harper & Row, \$9.95) about the misuse of biological research to support sexist assumptions. Brooklyn District Attorney Elizabeth Holtzman and English Social Democratic Party President Shirley Williams discuss women in politics. Other essays cover militarism and public art, teaching, and feminist critiques of liberalism. \$8.95, 0-4720-6398-7; \$24.95 cl, -9398-3, 256pp., 10 illus.

Marriage, Class and Colour in 19th Century Cuba, Verena Martinez-Alier Stolcke. First published

ARMS AND THE ENLISTED WOMAN

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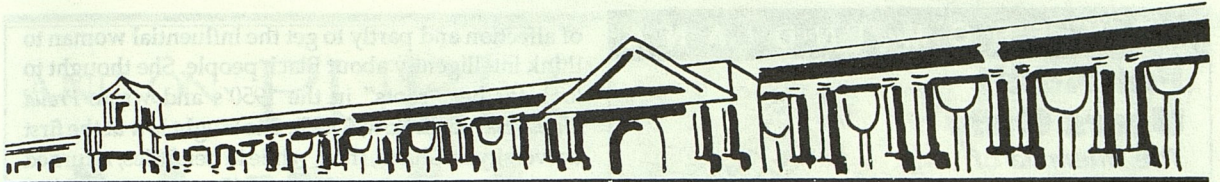
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in 1974, this is an innovative blend of history and anthropology to study gender, race and class. \$12.95 pb, -6405-3, 224pp.

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH PRESS

New in the Pitt Poetry Series are **The Six O'Clock Mine Report**, Irene McKinney — this West Virginia writer's poems are meditations by solitary women on the connections between people and the natural world. Some are written in the persona of Emily Dickinson. \$8.95 pb, 0-8229-5415-x, \$16.95 cl, -3611-9, 64pp., April; and **Applause**, Carol Muske — poems, the author says, "about joy and dread, two conditions of the spirit with which I am most familiar." \$8.95 pb, -5417-6, \$16.95 cl, -3613-5, 64pp., May.

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY PRESS

The Everyday World as Problematic, Dorothy E. Smith. If sociology were to be useful to most people, Canadian radical sociologist Smith says, it would transform personal ills, widely shared, into public issues. Her book is for sociologists and for anyone who wants to make everyday life less confusing and oppressive. A little tolerance for academic prose is required, however. Smith asks such questions as "How are social institutions, like schools and courts, made to seem 'objective' and genderless?" and "How has sociology, which is supposed to reveal social relations, obscured women's experience instead?" Then, through case studies, she shows how feminist sociological methods can be used to answer these and even more common everyday problems. \$12.95, 0-5555-3037-0, 251pp.

Feminist Challenges, ed. by Carole Pateman & Elizabeth Gross. Josephine Donovan called this collection of feminist theory "admirably subversive" (*Signs* 14(1)). Writing for a feminist audience, these Australian authors are highly critical of liberal reformist attempts to integrate women into male categories and of deconstructionist critics who deconstruct

"women" as a political category altogether. Instead, they return to the notion that feminist theory starts with women's material realities. \$11.95 pb, -3004-4.

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE PRESS

Pauli Murray. Murray was a modest but powerful storyteller — I found this autobiography, woven around major events in her life, almost impossible to put down. She tells about understanding racism and sexism by being rejected first by the University of North Carolina because she was Black, then by Harvard because she was a woman. She explains how she worked day and night to save a sharecropper wrongly sentenced to death, and failed. She describes life at Howard University by telling how she and her friends got arrested for integrating a Washington, D.C. cafe, in 1940. She befriended Eleanor Roosevelt, partly out

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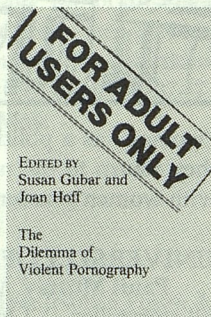
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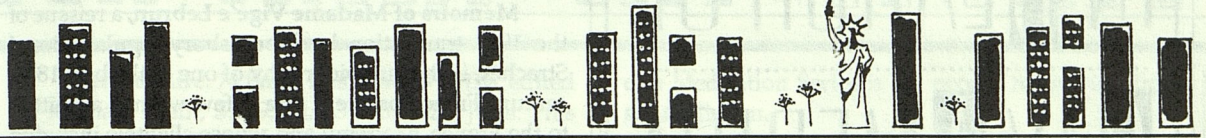
of affection and partly to get the influential woman to think intelligently about Black people. She thought to look for her "roots" in the 1950's and wrote *Proud Shoes* (Harper & Row, \$8.95). She taught law at the first university in Ghana, then, while in her fifties, returned to the U.S. to complete a Doctor of Laws degree at Yale. She co-wrote an article on "Jane Crow" laws that discriminated against women in 1965, and began to take on feminist cases. Her amazing life story ends with an incident from a few years before her death in 1985: shortly after her ordination as one of the first women Episcopal priests, she led the service in the church where her grandmother was baptized as one of "five servant children belonging to Miss Mary Ruffin Smith." (The cloth edition was published by Harper & Row as *Song in a Weary Throat*.) \$16.95 pb, 0-8704-9596-8, 464pp, 9 illus.



Close Connections: Carolina Gordon and the Southern Renaissance, Ann Waldron. Gordon "had the dubious honor of cooking and cleaning for virtually every American literary figure" of her time. Waldron explores the work and personality of this talented novelist and critic who devoted so much of her life to promoting the work of her husband, poet Alan Tate, of Katherine Ann Porter and many others, at the expense of her own writing. \$14.95 pb, -9594-1, 416pp., 30 illus.

Also note: **Sara Teasdale**, William Drake (male author) — the life of the popular romantic poet of the 1920s, \$14.95 pb, -9595-x, 320pp., 14 illus.; **A Female Vision of the City**, Christine Wick Sizemore — London, in the writing of Doris Lessing, Margaret Drabble, Iris Murdoch, P.D. James and Maureen Duffy, \$27.95 cl, -9599-2, 280pp., 16 illus., June; **Seeking Women in Late Medieval and Renaissance Writings**, ed. by Sheila Fisher & Janet Halley — essays on how to interpret the scarce writing about women from this period of European history, \$29.95 cl, -9591-7, 288pp., May; and **Afro-American Women of the South and the Advancement of the Race, 1895-1925**, Cynthia Neverdon-Morton — on Black clubwomen's activism and impact during the Progressive era. ○

AND ON PUBLISHER'S ROW



Compiled by Sandi Torkildson
and Anita D. McClellan

ADDISON WESLEY

Prices have dropped on paper editions of Merloyd Lawrence's authoritative Radcliffe Biographies Series. Robert Coles, psychiatrist and Pulitzer-Prize winner for his *Children of Crisis* series, is author of books on two 20th-century spiritual thinkers. **Dorothy Day: A Radical Devotion**, based on Coles' 35-year friendship and correspondence with Day, is an intellectual and psychological portrait of the political radical, Greenwich Village novelist turned devout Roman Catholic, single, unmarried, unorthodox mother, religious conservatist and leftist leader. \$9.95 pb, 0-201-07974-7, March.

Simone Weil: A Modern Pilgrimage considers the major quests, conflicts (as Jew and as Roman Catholic) and obsessions of this mystic, radical, activist, theorist, intellectual, and, some think, near-saint. Weil's short life centered on the Spanish Civil War and the Holocaust, during which Weil starved herself to death. \$9.95 pb, 0-201-02205-2, March.

ATLANTIC MONTHLY

The Madwoman's Underclothes: Essays & Occasional Writings, Germaine Greer, \$8.95 pb, 0871133083, June. This collection of essays covers the diverse topics that are the history of the women's movement. She presents a funny and admiring view of women in Cuba, looks at the International Women's Year as "one long Mother's Day" and is both a witty and shrewd observer of contemporary life.

In Search of Gay America: Women and Men in a Time of Change, Neil Miller, \$18.95 cl, 0871133040,

April. Journalist Neil Miller traveled through small towns, rural areas, midsize cities, suburbs in search of what it means to be gay in America today. He weaves together a diversity of topics and people. We meet an openly gay mayor of a small Missouri town, a lesbian coal miner, an AIDS activist in North Dakota, members of a Black gay church in Washington D.C., among many others.

**BEACON PRESS (Dist. Harper & Row)**

The Exiled Heart: Emma Goldman's Later Years, Alice Wexler, \$24.95 cl, 08070-70041, June. This is a sequel to Wexler's earlier book *Emma Goldman in America*. She looks at the twenty years Goldman spent in exile. Deported to Russia from the U.S. in 1919, Goldman quickly became disillusioned with the Bolshevik regime. She spent the last decades of her life alone without a permanent home. The portrait that emerges here is of a courageous and passionate woman.

I Myself Am A Woman: Selected Writings of Ding Ling, edited by Tani Barlow, \$22.95 cl, 08070-67369, August. Before her death in 1986 at 82, Ding Ling was considered the leading Chinese woman writer of the 20th century. Brought up by a feminist mother, she published her first stories in the late 1920's. These stories, about the sexuality of young women, made her instantly famous but eventually brought her into a conflict with the Communist Party that led to her imprisonment. This first collection of her writings published in the U.S. includes short sto-

IN SEARCH OF
GAY AMERICA
WOMEN AND MEN IN
A TIME OF CHANGE
NEIL MILLER

"Neil Miller finally accomplishes what others have tried but failed to do, offering the first look at the true scope of gay America from small Southern towns to the coastal urban meccas. The result is not only scintillating reading for today, but will prove a valuable historical document for future decades."

—Randy Shilts, author of *And the Band Played On*

"This is an important book, a needed book, and should be read by every citizen of the United States who cares about real people and the courage of real people to stand openly on the frontier."

—May Sarton



Atlantic Monthly Press books are distributed by Little, Brown and Company (Inc.)

ries, an essay, a memoir, a novella and an unfinished novel.

GEORGE BRAZILLER & PERSEA BOOKS

Memoirs of Madame Vigée Lebrun, a reissue of the 1903 translation by Bloomsbury-regular Lionel Strachey, is the autobiography of one of the best 18th-century French painters, one of few women admitted to the French Academy and whose clientele included Marie Antoinette, Benjamin Franklin, Lord Byron, Catherine the Great. She barely survived the Revolution's Reign of Terror and describes beautifully her travels throughout Europe during the Napoleonic Wars. \$12.95 pb, 0-8076-1222-7, March.

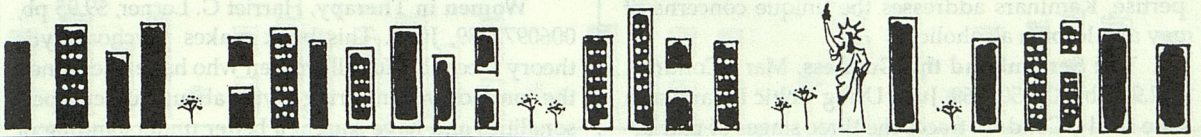
Persea's *A Medieval Woman's Mirror of Honor: The Treasury of the City of Ladies* by Christine de Pizan is a companion to the 15th-century author's *The Book of the City of Ladies*. De Pizan's practical advice to all women, from whores to princesses, on how to manage domestic affairs, raise children, deal with fashion reveals along the way how medieval women lived their lives. Noted medievalists Charity Cannon Willard and Madelein Pelner Cosman translated and edited the work. 0-89255-135-6, \$11.95 pb, 20 b&w illus., April.

CROSSROAD/CONTINUUM (Dist. Harper & Row)

Myths & Mysteries of Same-Sex Love, Christine Downing, \$17.95 cl, 08264-04456, July. In order to discover what Downing calls the "depth significance" and "soul meaning" of same-sex love, she re-examines what modern theorists like Freud and Jung have said about homosexuality and how they faced or feared it in their own lives. She delves into the historical myths of homosexual desire told and retold in ancient Greece.

CROWN

Adult Children of Alcoholics Remember, edited by E. Nelson Hayes, \$17.95 cl, 0517-572079, May. These stories reveal a myriad of ways that being raised by an alcoholic parent can undermine adult emotional stability. Eighteen stories show how recognizing a parent's alcoholism as a root of one's difficulties helps people address their problems and begin to recover.



Poets for Life: 74 Poets Respond to AIDS, edited by Michael Klein, \$18.95 cl, 0517-572427, June. This collection, which includes poems from Adrienne Rich, Allen Ginsberg and June Jordan, is a powerful and immediate response to one of the great life-and-death issues of our time. The best poets writing today, male and female, gay and straight, Black and white, express their anger and grief and sometimes their joy in these passionate poems.



E.P. DUTTON

Dutton has a few novels worth looking at this Spring:

In the Night Café, Joyce Johnson, \$17.95 cl, 0525247416, April. The story of the one great love of her life, told by a woman looking back on a life of abandonment and loss.

Racing into the Dark, Kate Woodworth, \$17.95 cl, 0525247661, May. A first novel about two sisters, one who suffers from mental illness and the other who cares for her. This novel contains much insight into life with an unstable family member.

Motherwit: An Alabama Midwife's Story, Onnie Lee Logan as told to Katherine Clark, \$16.95 cl, 0525247513, August. The story of Onnie Lee Logan who decided to become a midwife while growing up in Sweet Water, Alabama where doctors didn't deliver many babies, especially those of Black or poor white mothers. This is the oral biography of a woman who declares "I got so much experience in here that I just want to explode."

HARPER & ROW

Answers in the Heart, Hazelden, \$7.95 pb, 0062554174, August. This latest volume in the Hazel-

den Meditation Series is for people recovering from sex addiction.

The Tribe of Dina: A Jewish Women's Anthology, edited by Melanie Kaye-Kantrowitz, \$12.95 pb, 0807036056, August. This is a reprint of a *Sinister Wisdom* special issue. Most of you know about this, but I wanted to let you know where to get it in the future.

The Woman in the Body: A Cultural Analysis of Reproduction, Emily Martin, 10.95 pb, 0807046043, May. Contrasting the views of medical science with those of ordinary women from diverse social and economic backgrounds, anthropologist Martin explores the different ways that women's reproductive processes are seen in American culture.

Freud, Women, and Morality, Eli Sagan, \$9.95 pb, 0405-025722, August. This critique of Freud argues that the Freudian theory of morality is fundamentally flawed. Sagan offers a new psychoanalytic explanation for moral and immoral behavior and confronts the issue of equality between the sexes.



The Non-Sexist Word Finder: A Dictionary of Gender-Free Usage, Rosalie Maggio, \$9.95 pb, 0807060011, May. This unique, easy-to-use dictionary format gives alternatives, explanations or definitions for over 5,000 sexist words or phrases. It suggests appropriate substitutes and helps in deciding when to exclude terms that might be considered offensive or obsolete.

Accepting Ourselves: The Twelve-Step Journey of Recovery from Addiction for Gay Men and Lesbians, Sheppard Kaminars, \$8.95 pb, 0062504932, May. Drawing on his own personal experience as a recovering alcoholic, case histories and his professional ex-

pertise, Kaminars addresses the unique concerns of gay and lesbian alcoholics.

The Serpent and the Goddess, Mary Condren, \$12.95 pb, 0062501569, July. Using Celtic Ireland as a case study, Condren traces the three stages of patriarchy in western culture as power shifted from the egalitarian, woman-centered society to one that is monotheistic and warrior-centered.

Don't Be Afraid Gringo, edited by Medea Benjamin, \$7.95 pb, 006097205X, July. This book, originally published by Food First, is the oral history of a Honduran peasant woman who has become one of the country's leading political activists.

Beyond Codependency, Melody Beattie, \$9.95 pb, 0062554182, May. This companion volume to *Codependent No More* moves beyond self-understanding to explore the dynamics of healthy recovery. It is a book for people struggling to master the art of self-care and continuing recovery, to gain control of their lives.

My Father's House: A Memoir of Incest and of Healing, Sylvia Fraser, \$8.95 pb, 006-0972181, May. In this vivid and lyrical autobiography, novelist Sylvia Fraser tells of the desires she repressed for 40 years and of her healing process. This book offers hope and encouragement to others struggling with similar pasts.

The Joy Luck Club

The Joy Luck Club will rank right up there as one of the five or ten best novels of the year. Told from the daughters' perspectives, it tells the tales of four sets of mothers and daughters — the daughters are all America-born and identified, the mothers are all from Old China and immigrated under the most difficult of circumstances. Amy Tan presents the mothers as heroes of their times and as "old-fashioned" traditional mothers with all their contradictions intact. The daughters, with their struggles to make sense of their several worlds and find their own place in all of them are portrayed with matching complexity. An excellent tale of mothers and daughters, of cross-generational understanding, of immigration and home-building, and of women's lives in the 70's and 80's. I read it a couple of months ago, and still find myself listening for news of the women from this novel. \$18.95 cl, Putnam, 03991342. -CS

Women in Therapy, Harriet G. Lerner, \$9.95 pb, 0060972289, June. This book makes psychoanalytic theory accessible for all women who have questioned the common yet enduring myths about women's personalities and have sought a better understanding of themselves.

The Sugar Mother, Elizabeth Jolley, \$7.95 pb, 006-0915889, June. This new novel by the Australian author is the story of Edwin, a 54-year-old professor and his involvement with his new neighbors.

Letourneav's Used Auto Parts, Carolyn Chute, \$7.95 pb, 006-0972254, June. This new novel by the author of *The Beans of Egypt Maine*, evokes life below the poverty line in a small town in Maine.



A History of Their Own: Women in Europe From Prehistory to the Present, Vol. I, Bonnie Anderson & Judith Zinsser, \$12.95 pb, 0060914521, May. This is the first history of European women organized by role. Whether queens or nuns, craftswomen or laborers, the authors argue that gender has been the most important factor shaping women's lives.

Stand Up!: My Life as a Woman, Roseanne Barr, \$17.95 cl, 006015957X, May. This book is picked to be a big seller for the new season. I have never seen the "hit" ABC series the author stars in, but she's a feminist and very funny also (yes, really, I am told). I will have to check this one out — good humor is hard to come by.

The Unopposite Sex: The End of the Gender Battle, Elisabeth Badinter, \$22.50 cl, 006-0390964, July. On the bestseller list in France for over a year, this comprehensive book is a study of the sexes since the beginnings of human society. Harper & Row plans a national ad campaign on this book, so you may sell a number of copies even at the high price.

Total Immersion: Stories, Allegra Goodman, \$16.95 cl, 006-159987, May. This collection of short stories about the dilemmas of contemporary Jews who have to balance tradition and solidarity with individualism and modernity is by a Radcliffe undergraduate. Interlocking stories portray a young rabbi wrestling with sex education, a feminist sociologist interviewing

CROSSROAD/CONTINUUM
CROSSROAD/CONTINUUM
CROSSROAD/CONTINUUM

New Titles in Women's Studies

Julie Firman and Dorothy Firman

DAUGHTERS AND MOTHERS

Healing the Relationship

"This magical, inspiring, and deeply felt book is a wonderful resource for professional and non-professional alike. If you, Mother, and you, Daughter, had a Fairy Godmother, this is the gift she would give you!"—Lynn Hoffman, author of *Foundations of Family Therapy* \$17.95

Maureen T. Reddy

SISTERS IN CRIME

Feminism and the Crime Novel

Focusing on female mystery writers who have created female protagonists, this pathbreaking book shows how a wide variety of these authors are redefining the mystery genre by espousing a feminist point of view. A selection of the Writers Digest Book Club. \$17.95

Bonnie Lester

WOMEN AND AIDS

A Practical Guide for Those Who Help Others

Based on dozens of interviews with nurses, teachers, and other professionals who have dealt with the problem of AIDS, this practical guide shows women how to deal with their fears and respond to the issue with compassion and sensitivity. \$15.95

Jennifer S. Uglow

THE CONTINUUM DICTIONARY OF WOMEN'S BIOGRAPHY

New expanded edition

The most comprehensive and reliable reference source on women throughout the world and throughout history. Close to 2,000 entries. Among the 350 new articles in this edition are entries on Maya Angelou, Nancy Lopez, Shirley MacLaine, Barbara Pym, and Meryl Streep. Illustrated. \$39.50 June

At your bookstore, or call 1-800-638-3030

CROSSROAD/CONTINUUM

370 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017

Sweet Summer: Growing Up With and Without My Dad by Bebe Moore Campbell, LA's award-winning Black journalist, is a first book of nonfiction. Campbell grew up in the fifties and sixties in Philadelphia with her middle-class divorced mother and her grandmother. Summers, her undependable, engaging, exuberant, partially paralyzed father whisked her off to North Carolina and a different life. Campbell's memoir of adolescence gives access to an uncommon girlhood view of a family in the throes of the Civil Rights movement. 0-399-13415-8, \$18.95 cl, June.

ST. MARTIN'S PRESS (JEREMY P. TARCHER BOOKS, PRIMA PUBLISHING)

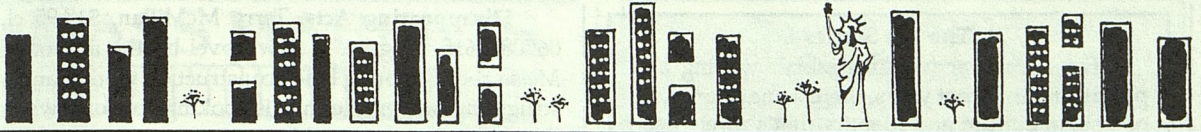
AIDS: The HIV Myth by Jad Adams, a London-based, award-winning medical journalist, questions the single focus of AIDS research on HIV as a cause and raises basic questions about our knowledge of AIDS. 0-312-02859-8, \$16.95 cl, March.

The Very Best Childcare and How to Find It by Danalee Buhler focuses on infants and toddlers, including special-needs babies. 0-914629-94-8 Prima Pub., \$8.95 pb, April.

The Beloved Prison: A Journey into the Unknown Self by Lucy Freeman is the sequel to Freeman's million-copy-seller *Fight Against Fears* (1948). This author of 60 books addresses her 14 years as the *NY Times's* "lady reporter" (she founded the paper's psychology section) and 20 years of analysis during the evolution of psychoanalysis and critical scrutiny of Freud's legacy. 0-312-02866-0, \$18.95 cl, May.

Uniting Heaven and Earth by Sukie Colegrave, foreword by Robert Bly, is a reissue/retitle of *Spirit of the Valley* by the author of *By Way of Pain*. Drawing on Chinese philosophy and mythology along with the work of Freud, Jung, and Rudolph Steiner, psychotherapist Colegrave shows how the female self-in-relation style of being is on the rise and how people can improve by reintegrating feminine spirit into their lives and in the world. 0-87477-505-1 Tarcher, \$9.95 pb, May.

This season Vermilion Books' popular, pricey, reprint biographies of women marks the pain and convoluted private selves of two talented, prominent twentieth-century writers' lives and their early, dis-



eased deaths. **Katherine Mansfield: A Secret Life** by Claire Tomalin (*The Life and Death of Mary Wollstonecraft*) covers Mansfield's brief (34 years) life as a writer, extravagant autobiographical liar, and controversial figure in early 20th-century London. 0-312-02937-3, \$13.95 pb, June.



Jean Stafford: The Life of a Writer by journalist David Roberts is a "flesh-and-blood portrait of a woman in great pain; provocative, illuminating, distressing" (Kirkus) whose marriage to poet Robert Lowell culminated in a lengthy mental illness and alcoholism. Her highly praised novel *Boston Adventure* (1944) was never followed by another, an injustice to her literary gift. 0-312-02934-9, \$14.95 pb, June.

Going for the Cure by Francesca Morosani Thompson, M.D., is the triumphant autobiographical account of an orthopedic surgeon's incurable bone-marrow cancer, its risky revolutionary treatment, and each step of her unexpected 1987 recovery, including personal meditations on the process and her family's reactions. 0-312-02921-7, \$18.95 cl, June.

Overheard, Cartoons by Susan Catherine, whose strips appear in *Prime Cuts*, *Wimmen's Comix*, *Seattle Star*. 0-312-02961-6, \$5.95 pb, June.

Gay Relationships: How to Form Them, How to Improve Them, How to Make Them Last by Tina Tessina (*How to Be a Couple and Still Be Free*) is a step-by-step guide for gay men and lesbians that covers where to find a partner, legal issues, in-law reactions, and more. 0-87477-517-5 Tarcher, \$17.95 cl, June.

"Run That Sucker at Six!" is the second **Morgan Calabrese Cartoons** collection by N. Leigh Dunlap, who looks at gay and lesbian culture in a nationally syndicated strip. Her first collection was published by New Victoria. 0-312-02951-9, \$6.95 pb, June.

Sounds-promising hardcover fiction on recovery: **The Body's Memory** by Jean Stewart, a disabled-people activist, and MacDowell Colonist, centers on a spirited teacher in her mid-thirties whose hip operation leaves her unable to walk freely again. Written in journal form, the novel explores Kate's adaptations, her recovery process, her relationships, her fears and her courage in order to examine the nature of personal freedom, its loss and its redefinition under forced changes. 0-312-02875-X, \$16.95 cl, June.

The Fine Art of Recuperation by Regina S. Ryan (co-author of *The Wellness Workbook*, Ten Speed) presents a ten-step approach to recovery from illness or long-term confinement with exercises, suggestions for support systems and productive use of recovery time. 0-87477-511-6, Tarcher, \$9.95 pb, July.



Karin by Margareta Bergman, filmmaker Ingmar Bergman's sister, offers a fictional treatment of the Bergmans' parents, which brother Ingmar portrayed differently in his film "Fanny and Alexander." While focusing on memories of an anguished childhood in Stockholm before and during World War II, middle-aged protagonist Karin tries in England to come to terms with grief and guilt over two family suicides. Will this novel echo Virginia Woolf's musings about the talents of sisters of famous brothers, the mythic Judith Shakespeare? 0-312-02936-5, \$16.95 cl, August.

VIKING

Viking has a number of promising novels worth checking out.

Joy Ride, Barbara Howell, \$17.95 cl, 0670826537, May. The friendship of two very different women — one conventional and reserved, the other reckless and careless.

Sweet Desserts, Lucy Ellman, \$17.95 cl,

The Bar Stories

For all the activity in lesbian writing and publishing in recent years, there's one stronghold of lesbian culture and identity that's rarely been portrayed — The Bar. For several generations of the lesbian nation, The Bar was a center for social life, the local lesbian center, and often times, the only place to meet or to simply be lesbian in a public place. In San Francisco today, there are fewer lesbian bars than there were forty years ago — probably for the best and the worst of reasons. Fortunately, Nisa Donnelly documents the contemporary bar scene before it changes altogether in **The Bar Stories**, a novel built around the lives of the regular weekend crowd at Babe's, a mythical, legendary lesbian bar. The whole gang is assembled in this novel: the owner, the bartenders, the softball team, the pool players, the shy kids, the Saturday Regulars, the one you always hoped to meet and the ones you'd just as soon not know, the mothers, the feminists, the anti-feminists, the baby-dykes, the roller derby queens, the historian, the lush, the sober...and even a vampire. The novel is structured around the events of a single weekend, using flashbacks to give depth and history to key characters. It's as much the story of interlocking lesbian families and social circles as it is of bar life and is one of the few novels that successfully portrays the complexity of lesbian social networks rather than reducing a character's entire community to two or three people. Well told, well written, and accurate to the bar milieu. My only reservation is that much of the audience for this book is a paperback crowd. But never fear, the paperback contract is signed and sealed. Look for it in a year. In the meantime, consider the cloth edition, \$16.95 cl, St. Martins Press, 0-312-02544-0.

0670827118, June. The story of two sisters who confuse love with lust, appetite with gluttony, and food with solace. This is a look at the world of the bulimic.

Swann, Carol Shields, \$17.95 cl, 067082822X, June. The story of four lives that become intertwined with that of Mary Swann, a rural-Canadian poet whose genuine talent is only discovered after she is brutally murdered.

Disappearing Acts, Terry McMillan, \$17.95 cl, 0670824615, August. A new novel by the author of *Mama* about a young Black construction worker and a struggling singer. Neither is looking for love when they come together in this comic unsentimental love story.

Women Together, Women Alone, Anita Shreve, \$19.95 cl, 0670819107, August. This is a political and emotional history of the consciousness-raising movement from the 1970's to the present as seen through the lives of seven women who met in a CR group and who reconvene for a reunion in the late 1980's.



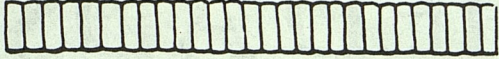
Sylvia!: The Biography of Sylvia Ashton-Warner, Lynley Hood, \$24.95 cl, 0670819379, May. A biography of the New Zealand teacher and novelist, known for her work with Maori children.

Wedding Readings, Eleanor Munro, \$16.95 cl, 0670810886, June (of course). Just the book for all the requests even a feminist bookstore receives for wedding readings. It includes readings from the liturgy of Judaism, Christianity and Hinduism as well as literature. The book is cross-indexed for easy consultation and includes readings from Sappho, Rilke, Shakespeare and the Aztecs, to name a few.

No Regrets, Fern Kupfer, \$18.95 cl, 0670824593, June. A novel about two women friends — one with a comfortable marriage and family, the other leaving her husband to live with a new lover — who travel across the American heartland together learning a great deal about each other and themselves on the way.

The Floating World, Cynthia Kadohata, \$17.95 cl, 0670826804, July. Olivia, the 12-year-old Japanese-American narrator, captures both her adolescent world and her parent's hard reality as they wander the Pacific northwest through the early 50's. Olivia pieces together her family's history as they travel to keep ahead of bad luck, prejudice and an uncertain country in the aftermath of the war and the internment camps. Both a coming-of-age story and a story of being ethnic and trying to fit in. ○

MASS MARKETS



Compiled by Karen Axness

March

Your Royal Hostage, Antonia Fraser, Bantam, \$3.95, Mystery.

Golden Witchbreed*, Mary Gentle, NAL, \$4.50, S.F. (reissue).

Long Distances, Fabienne Marsh, Pocket (WSP), \$6.95, Fic.

The Middle Ground, Margaret Drabble, Ivy, \$4.95, Fic.

Women and Children First, Francine Prose, Ivy, \$3.95, Fic. (s.s.).

Eye of the Storm, Marcia Muller, Popular Library, \$3.95, Mystery.

The Beautiful Room is Empty, Edmund White, Ballantine, \$4.95, Gay Fiction.

Filaree, Marguerite Noble, Ballantine, \$3.95, Fic.

The Hearts and Lives of Men*, Fay Weldon, Dell, \$4.95, Fic.

Women and Love, Sheri Hite, St. Martin's mass market, \$4.95, NonFic.

April

Starting from Scratch, Rita Mae Brown, Bantam, \$8.95, Writing.

Loss of Flight, Sara Vogan, Bantam, \$7.95, Fic.

The Bride Who Ran Away, Diana O'Hehir, Pocket, \$6.95, Fic.

I Wish This War Was Over*, Diana O'Hehir, Pocket, \$6.95, Fic. (reissue).

And Condors Danced, Zilpha Keatley Snyder, Dell, \$3.25, YA-Fic. (9-13yrs.)

The Edible Woman, Margaret Atwood Warner, \$4.95, Fic.

May

E is for Evidence, Sue Grafton, Bantam, \$3.95, Mystery.

Index of Advertisers

Alyson Publications	68
Amanita Enterprises	47
Atlantic Monthly	88
Ayer Company Publishers	85
Banned Books	76
Bookpeople	16
China Books	42
Clothespin Fever Press	70
Crossing Press	40
Crossroad/Continuum	92
Firebrand Books	23
Fitzhenry/Whiteside	14
Harvard University Press	C2
Health Communications	C4
Indiana University Press	86
Institute of Lesbian Studies	72
Mother Courage Press	4
Moving Books	35
Naiad Press	10
New Star	80
New York University Press	64
Orbis Books	78
Oxford University Press	C3
Pandora Press	36
Post-Apollo Press	56
Princeton University Press	82
SilverLeaf Press	25
Temple University Press	84
University of North Carolina Press	57
Women's Traveler	61
Womontyme Distribution	36
Volcano Press	34

Housekeeping, Marilyn Robinson, Bantam, \$7.95, Fic.

The Greenlanders, Jane Smiley, Ivy, \$4.95, Fic.

The Needle's Eye, Margaret Drabble, Ivy, \$4.95, Fic.

Teen Angel, Marianne Ginger, Ballantine, \$3.95, Fic.(s.s.).

* Highly recommended.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

& LITERARY PERSONALS

Gladys from Feminist Horizons (previously of Ontario) (or anyone who knows her whereabouts) please contact Carroll Leslie at A Different Drummer, 1027 N. Pacific Coast Hiway #A, Laguna Beach CA 92651. 714-497-6699. We need Eleanor Roosevelt and Amelia Earhart posters and other supplies!

Job Opportunity: Selling line of feminist new age jewelry. Familiarity with spiritual imagery & sales exper. necessary. Sales kits available for some areas. Serious inquiries only, please. Send resume to Jane Iris Designs, Inc. (formerly Jane Sipe & Co) PO Box 608, Dept FBN, Graton CA 95444.

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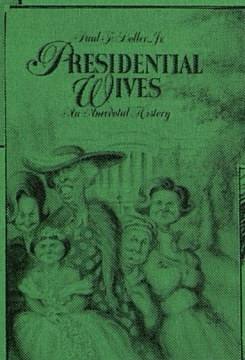
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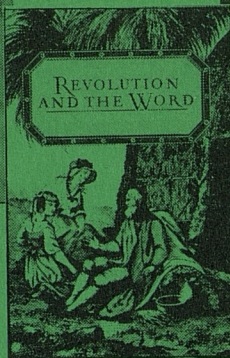
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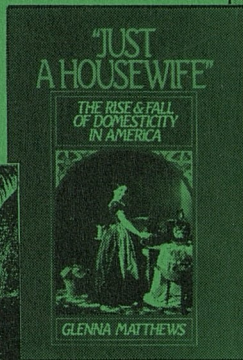
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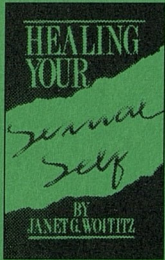
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Books

Why Support Feminist Publishing?

by Shane Snowdon

Since a *Soj* letter-writer recently expressed puzzlement at the criteria for titles' inclusion in this column, let me say (in answer to her hidden query) that, no, the fact that I may mention here the eighteenth Nymph Press mystery featuring dyke detective Pierce Arrow does not mean that I place the book at the forefront of contemporary fiction, or even that it kept me up past my bedtime. Instead, the mention reflects my commitment to letting you all know what feminist publishers are doing (call me hypercritical, but I find the *Times Book Review* spotty in this regard) and my knowledge that Nymph-type tomes, however amateurish, are the bread and butter of most women's bookstores because of their positive portraits of lesbian lives. So, although I plan to be less reticent about the fact that the editing at some feminist presses is far from thorough, I won't be passing over Pierce's adventures in order to give publicity to titles featured in mainstream mags. To me, it's crystal-clear that the women's presses continue to be the source of almost all of the most exciting, important, and affirming feminist and (especially) lesbian writing being printed today.

A great example of feminist publishing at its lifesaving best is *Why Can't Sharon Kowalski Come Home?*, a book that I can't imagine a mainstream house printing at all—much less with the thoughtfulness that Spinsters/Aunt Lute has shown. Sharon is the Minnesota lesbian whose 1983 auto accident has left her in a nursing home, unable to move or communicate in traditional ways, and whose father—awarded sole guardianship in a homophobic court decision—has steadfastly denied visitation rights to Sharon's devoted lover, Karen Thompson. It's Karen who's written this book (with Julie Andrzejewski, one of her earliest allies in bringing the tragedy to national attention), and her simple narration of her ongoing struggle to see and support Sharon brought tears of anger to my eyes. The book wrenchingly portrays the homophobia that permeates our society—but it also shows the process by which Karen, who says she was passive and apolitical before the accident, lost her naivete and built on her rage and sorrow a national campaign for the rights of all disabled people and of all lovers unblessed by marriage certificates. In time-honored feminist fashion, Karen's story is followed by detailed info on how unwed couples can try to safeguard their rights in case of accident or illness, as well as on how we can help free Sharon; this book belongs in all of our homes.

Another example of the best in feminist publishing—and of the creative power of women's rage—is Dorothy Allison's new story collection from Firebrand, *Trash*. At the risk of seeming to downgrade some of the most engaging fiction I've read, I have to say that this book is worth buying for the introduction alone, in which Dorothy describes without self-dramatization her decision first to live, then to write "without lies or evasions or sweet-talking nonsense" about "the shit-kicking anger and grief" of her life as a "poor white trash" lesbian. The stories that follow are as much a "shout of life" for the reader as for their writer: they're tender and illuminating, yet also raw and lusty—too much so to be the kind of lesbian fiction that mainstream publishers generally risk. Yes, Dutton just ventured Margaret Erhart's *Unusual Company* and Sarah Schulman's *After Delores* (the publicity for which ludicrously claims, "Not since *Rubyfruit Jungle* has a novel so daringly and compellingly revealed the lesbian world"), but I'd guess that these novels' fundamental heartlessness was key to their acceptability.

Having just waxed sarcastic about mainstream publishing, I want to devote a few sentences to one of its loveliest recent offerings, Alice Hoffman's novel *At Risk* (Putnam). The tale of an eleven-year-old girl with AIDS, it is, of course, heartbreaking—but don't let that deter you from a story that also evokes, in deceptively simple prose, the courage and compassion that tragedy can teach. The praise being heaped upon this Brookline-born book is richly deserved—something I can't say about Kathryn Davis's first novel, *Labrador* (Farrar, Straus), which is being compared to feminist fave *Housekeeping*. It has the fey cleverness of Marilynne Robinson's book, and I was periodically entranced by the

lyricism and imagination with which it, too, tells of two sisters' girlhood among ghosts. But I found it ultimately more absorbing than moving—more demanding than its limited emotional impact justified. And then there's Alison Lurie's latest novel, *The Truth About Lorin Jones* (Little, Brown), which some of you may have flagged for its heroine's avowed feminism and (transitory) lesbianism. Don't bother enriching B. Dalton for its sake: it's not only predictable and cliched but also, like most mainstream women's fiction trendily featuring L-word phenomena, ignorant and insulting (examples include the protagonist's belief that if she joins a women's study group she will find herself with hair "chopped short," "worn, woolly dark clothes," and "a serious and determined expression," and her decision to move in with a penurious male poet rather than "become an angry, depressed lesbian or a selfish, successful career woman").

I have one more bouquet for mainstream publishing, this time for Carolyn Heilbrun's *Writing a Woman's Life* (Norton). Heilbrun's no radical, but over the years I've much appreciated her graceful prose, lightly-worn learning, and synthesizing skills; her books of commonsensical lit-crit always mention at least a half-dozen others I want to locate or read anew, and always challenge some of my most cherished beliefs. In her newest, for example, Heilbrun asserts, "I do not believe in the bittersweet quality"

merging, class, and color) with unfaltering readability, and I've never seen health issues examined with so keen an awareness of the impact of misogyny and homophobia. I read this book in one sitting and will return to it again and again.

A classic one-sitting read is Firebrand's *Diamonds Are a Dyke's Best Friend*, by Yvonne Zipter. Uh-huh: just in time for holiday giftgiving comes a volume devoted to "the lesbian national pastime," softball. Yvonne writes of her own right-fielding experiences, but most of her book presents the thinking of a variety of players (poet Pat Parker, Naiad Press's Barbara Grier, and musician Alix Dobkin among them) about such concerns as love on the field, discomfort between "intellectuals" and "jocks," tension with straight players and team sponsors, and the sport's whiteness. I haven't put on my cleats in ages, but I'm always interested in all-too-rare frank talk about what unites and divides the women's community—and, to tell the truth, I'd read the Fargo phone book if it featured Alison Bechdel's cartoons. Like all great feminist works, this little book will, I predict, have more than intellectual impact: I'm sure I won't be the only reader who, on learning that the average player is in her early thirties, thinks about hunting up her glove.

The end of the softball season also brings us novels from Major Feminist Authors Rita Mae Brown, Judy Grahn, and Jan Clausen. It may be strange to see Rita Mae described that way, since her days of activist daring and revolutionary writing are long behind her and she is now a mainstream celebrity with few kind words for the women's movement, when she speaks of it at all. But I can't help noting her lifechanging influence on many of us, even as I say that her new novel, *Bingo* (Bantam), is—like her other recent fiction—a Harlequin-esque assortment of underdeveloped characters (including a few women whose contrived toughness doesn't make them either interesting or powerful) who move jerkily through an unconvincing plot dropping their author's trademark (if truly funny) wisecracks. In contrast, Jan Clausen's *The Prosperine Papers* (Crossing) is the multilayered story of a lesbian feminist academic struggling with her employer, her lover, her lover's daughter, her drinking—and her grandmother Rose, for access to the papers of Rose's old friend Prosperine, a pre-World War I lesbian radical and writer. It's a suspenseful, knowing, and thoughtful novel that's often witty in spite of Jan's lapses into passive-voice, multisyllabic phrasing. Which brings me to Judy Grahn's *Mundane's World* (Crossing also). I have tremendous respect for Judy, whose pioneering woman-loving poetry has meant so much to so many over the years, and I admire her ambitious effort at a "timeless, ritualistic story in which all women can recognize themselves and be at home." Lovers of feminist fantasy—whose ranks are swelling—may well find this new work engrossing both in what it attempts and what it achieves. For me, however, it lacked the mythic magic it clearly strives for: it's thoroughly woman-centered, and it has appealing passages, but—gulp—I found much of it dull and clumsily written. (The tone-setting first paragraph reads, in part, "Five mostly brown young girls moved down by the riverside . . . They ranged in age from the eldest to the youngest . . . They were not all together very often, but on this particular evening they were all together . . . They ranged in color from the extremely dark one through medium brown to the one who was oddly mottled white.") It pains me to say that I don't think this feminist fantasy approaches the strength of Monique Wittig's classic *Les Guerilleres*—or of the latest release in Beacon Press's Black Women Writers Series, sf author Octavia Butler's eerie *Kindred*, in which a black woman in modern-day L.A. finds herself repeatedly summoned to the antebellum South to save the life of the man who owned and fathered one of her forebears. Beacon, by the way, is on the verge of releasing *Spider Woman's Granddaughters*, a Paula Gunn Allen-edited anthology of traditional tales and contemporary writing by Native American women, and *Making Waves*, a collection of Asian American women's prose gathered by Diane Yen-Mei Wong; I haven't seen either yet, but they'll do well to match the power of *Reclaiming Medusa: Short Stories by Contemporary Puerto Rican Women* (Spinsters/Aunt Lute), a handsome, groundbreaking book edited and translated by Diana Velez. And, speaking of the groundbreaking, Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press has just printed *17 Syllables and Other Stories*, the first fiction to appear in the U.S. by Hisaye Yamamoto, a Japanese American in-

Continued on next page

Feminist Bestsellers

Listed below are the October bestsellers at New Words, the Boston-area women's bookstore (186 Hampshire Street, Cambridge; 876-5310).

1. *Beloved*, Toni Morrison
2. *The Courage to Heal: A Guide for Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse*, Ellen Bass & Laura Davis
3. *Feminist in the Dark: Reviewing the Movies*, Kathi Maio
4. *Testimonies: A Collection of Lesbian Coming Out Stories*, Sarah Holmes
5. *Places of Interest to Women 1989*
6. *The Obsidian Mirror: An Adult Healing from Incest*, Louise Wischchild
7. *Unbroken Ties: Lesbian Ex-Lovers*, Carol Becker
8. *Why Can't Sharon Kowalski Come Home?*, Karen Thompson & Julie Andrzejewski
9. *Lesbian Passion*, JoAnn Loulan
10. *Lesbian Couples*, Merilee Clunis & Dorsey Green
11. *Incest and Sexuality*, Wendy Maltz & Beverly Holman
12. *Mundane's World*, Judy Grahn
13. *Double Daughter*, Vicki McConnell
14. *Finer Grain*, Denise Ohio

of Eudora Welty's hallowed *One Writer's Beginnings*, "nor do I suppose that the Welty there evoked could have written the stories and novels we have learned to celebrate," and she praises the Woolfs' marriage while criticizing Stein and Toklas's. Don't miss this Renaissance woman's ruminations on topics ranging from the differences between black and white women's writing to her own motives for writing mysteries under the pseudonym Amanda Cross.

I want to return to the offerings of feminist publishers with a plug for another of those titles that the mainstream presses will print when hell freezes over: *Alive and Well*, the "lesbian health guide" from Crossing by Cuca Hepburn and Bonnie Gutierrez. I had trouble warming to its chipper cheerleader style; maybe my internalized homophobia's on the rise, but I found myself giggling when a reference to "the creativity and joy of Lesbian relationships!" was soon followed by a reminder that "the bonus and joy of Lesbian relationships is their absolute creativity!" And it's far from accepted, even in feminist health circles, that "cervical cancer has been proven to be a Sexually Transmitted Disease, transmitted by men to women," though this radical hypothesis deserves attention. But these are quibbles. *Alive and Well* covers a vast amount of ground (including stress, pregnancy, s/m, battering, addiction,

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ernment survivor, and *Desert Run*, poetry and prose by Mitsuye Yamada, also a World War II camp survivor.

But let me return to Crossing's new titles—foremost among them, for me, my friend Kathi Maio's *Feminist in the Dark*, which collects not only her wonderful film criticism for *Soj* but also hilarious and perceptive new reviews of movies ranging from *Desert Hearts* to *The Stepfather*. I'm biased, but I think Kathi's the most entertaining feminist writing today (with JoAnn Loulan a close second). Crossing has also brought us a charming small anthology from Irene Zahava, *Through Other Eyes: Animal Stories by Women* (contributors to which include Alice Walker, Dian Fossey, May Sarton, Keri Hulme, and Beryl Markham—women I'd have loved to gather in one room), and two slim volumes that I expected to find prosaic but that instead intrigued me: Sharon Lebell's *Naming Ourselves, Naming Our Children: Resolving the Last Name Dilemma* and Dena

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how important Naiad books' insistently positive portrayals of lesbians were to my self-esteem and empowerment when I was closeted, when I was coming out, and when I moved to a town without a women's community—and I believe they continue to support readers in circumstances like these (as well as offering beach and subway reading). I also can't help wondering if some of the intelligentsia's disdain for Naiad fiction arises from a lack of interest in—or identification with—the working-class, rural, suburban, teenage, and old characters who people the books to an unusual and laudable degree. So, at the risk of being labeled a lowbrow, I'm going to publicize Naiad's newest: a Nyla Wade mystery from Vicki McConnell, *Double Daughter*; *The Finer Grain*, a lesbian bestseller by Denise Ohio; *October Obsession*, by Meredith More ("the pseudonym of an author with the same name as a better-known lesbian fictionwriter"); Jessie Lattimore's novel *High Contrast*; Ruth Baetz's *Lesbian Crossroads*, interviews first published in 1980; and *Heavy Gilt*, a first novel by Dolores Klaich, whose influential *Woman + Woman: Attitudes Toward Lesbianism* will be reprinted by Naiad in a fifteenth anniversary (!) edition next year.

New Victoria Publishers, which prints a certain amount of Naiadish fiction like Judith Alguire's new

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musician of note (including *Soj*'s ex-Music Editor, Marcia Deihl), supported by lively biographical info. What a treat—especially by comparison to the most loathsome allegedly feminist title I've read in many a month: Marcia Cohen's *The Sisterhood: The True Story of the Women Who Changed the World* (Simon & Schuster). Do not, under any circumstances, be misled into buying this book (and do consider placing a wet umbrella atop it in stores). Its portrayal of the women's movement as the creature of Manhattanites Betty Friedan, Gloria Steinem, and Kate Millett (in that order) is so deeply ahistorical, elitist, homophobic, and racist that I could list examples from here to the Classified section. I'll just note that Millett is virtually the only lesbian mentioned, and Flo Kennedy the only black woman; the sole evidence presented of feminism's impact is a handful of stats about media coverage and middle-management jobs; dozens of pages are devoted to such key issues as Steinem's dating and such watershed events as The Day Betty's Dress Tore; and, in a hilarious aside that symbolizes the book's stupidity, Friedan is credited with the term "herstory." Why am I paying any attention to this execrable title? Because, yes, it's a Book of the Month Club selection that I see stacked on the bestsellers table of every mainstream bookstore—still another reminder of the urgent importance of feminist publishing.

Shane Snowdon, having been Editor of *Sojourner* for four years, admits to a bias in favor of women's publishing.

Taylor's *Red Flower: Rethinking Menstruation*, a highly readable compendium of health tips and her own and others' musings on the subject.

A still better example of fine feminist publishing is Louise Wischild's moving *The Obsidian Mirror: An Adult Healing from Incest* (Seal); predictably, it's the women's press that began—and continues—to offer the inspiring abuse recovery stories of ordinary women, while mainstream houses' bandwagon-jumping still mostly takes the form of ghostwritten celebrity revelations. Seal's other brand-new release is Merle Collins's novel *Angel*, which is fascinating and important in its portrayal of generations of Grenadian women, but falls short of the beautiful and vibrant fiction of Paule Marshall and Rosa Guy, who contribute cover blurbs. (For absolutely stunning work by Caribbean women, be sure to get hold of Beryl Gilroy's *Frangipani House*, Zee Edgell's *Beka Lamb*, and Maryse Conde's *A Season in Rihata*, gems in Heinemann's new series of "international women's writing," and to search out Peter

All Out, has just released a couple of especially interesting titles: *Lesbian Stages*, plays by Sarah Dreher, the creator of dyke detective Stoner McTavish, and *Found Goddesses: Asphalt to Viscera*, by "radical lesbian witch" Morgan Grey and "wild lesbian linguist" Julia Penelope. I had high hopes for the latter: it's Bechdel-illustrated and it left Joanna Russ and Joy Harjo laughing. But although its authors are shrewd observers of the contemporary lesbian scene who conjure some apt modern deities (Cuddles blesses our pore-to-pore hugs, and Collatea our mailings), their Dalysesque punning and gynoelect palled on me (forgive me, oh, Detoxia and Nemehaalish). Alyson Publications, meanwhile (gay male-owned source of the recent Naiadian novels *A Mistress Moderately Fair*, by Katherine Sturtevant, and *Dead Heat*, by Willyce Kim), has a women's bookstore bestseller in Sarah Holmes's *Testimonies: A Collection of Lesbian Coming Out Stories*, the latest of many such affirming and emboldening anthologies.

Having devoted most of this column to the women's presses, I'll mention a few more titles from The Others, like Pam McAllister's *You Can't Kill the Spirit*, the first in a multi-volume series from New Society devoted to "stories of women and nonviolent action" and dedicated to activist Barbara Deming (who's mysteriously under-read by feminists). Pam's

Bedrick Books's *Writers and Seekers: Creative Writing by Black Women*, edited by Collins and Rhonda Cobham, and *Charting the Journey: Writings by Black and Third World Women*, from Sheba.) Seal's recent fiction also includes Madelyn Arnold's *Bird-Eyes*, which is taxing and rough in spots, but proves stirring as it tells the tale of a sixteen-year-old lesbian imprisoned in a mental hospital.

Okay, it's time to talk about Naiad Press—whose staple "coming out fiction" is so derided by many in the feminist intelligentsia that if they dare buy a Tallahassee title at all, they consider carrying it home inside *McCall's*. I can't say that I breathlessly await each barely-distinguishable-from-its-predecessor release, and the predictability of their plots, flatness of their characters, and stiltedness of their prose suggest that some of the novels are produced by LesWord software (even the reliable and renowned sex scenes are starting to cloy). But I will never forget

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serviceable prose is sometimes disjointed, and she makes occasional factual errors (including a reference to Boston's own Cynthia Enloe as British), but her book is uniquely significant and inspiring in documenting centuries of struggle by women for social justice. Another great title is Alice Walker's *Living by the Word: Selected Writings 1973-1987* (Harcourt). True, it's a slender volume for sixteen bucks, the journal extracts included are frustratingly cryptic, and some of the essays are familiar from *Ms.* and *In These Times*. But, for me, there's always enough insight and magic in her work to make a hardcover binding essential as I read and reread.

My regard for Harper & Row's surprising commitment to feminist writing has been renewed by their *Womanspirit Sourcebook*; it's not, of course, the "definitive guide to the women's spirituality movement" it claims to be, but editor Patrice Wynne has assembled an impressive array of essays, interviews, and resource listings in an eye-catching layout. A similar large-format book is Hilda Wenner and Elizabeth Freilicher's *Here's to the Women: 100 Songs for and About American Women* (Syracuse). Expecting the usual bland assortment of vaguely woman-related material featuring Rosalie Sorrels and Malvina Reynolds at best, I was astonished to discover contributions from virtually every women's

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The Women's Forum

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