Feminist Bookstore News!:\!!!!

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THE FEMINIST BOOKSTORE NEWS is a communications vehicle for the informal network of feminist bookstores. It reaches 110 stores in the U.S. and Canada, as well as a number of libraries, women's studies departments, and feminist bookstores in Great Britain, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BOOKS FOR R E V I E W may be sent to FBN at P.O. Box 882554, San Francisco, California 94108. Feminist publishers are invited to write their own (short!) blurbs for listings. FBN believes that you know more clearly than we do why you choose to publish a particular book. Books published by the feminist press are listed in FBN only when FBN hears about them, so DO remember to send announcements. Pre-publication announcements facilitate early orders. All publishers should include bookstore terms. Please also include distributors who (will) carry the title for the benefit of small stores that order primarily from distributors. If you prefer that bookstores order directly from you, please include that information as well.

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

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NOTES FROM COMPUTER TABLE

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will you take a look at this issue! Pre-printing it's hard to tell which will be more striking, all the new graphics the columns, the new-pseudo type setting look or the attention to detail in the layout and graphic selection and arrangement. All of this is thanks to Mary Collins who has been working on paste-up for Coming Up and was looking for a -project" to work on while she builds up her graphic The "project" includes creating re useable arts business. lavout boards, column headers for regular columns, letterhead stationery for FBN (seems like a a good idea after eight years of notes on legal pads), business cards, and a Not to mention paste up and new rate card for advertising Likely we'll go all the way and layout for the issue! design a whole packet for soliciting advertising as well. I feel like a little kid at Christmas getting everything she always hoped for. If you re in the bay area and need some graphic work done, give Mary a call at 282 7558. She's at 3388 22 Street at Valencia. Thanks, too to Karen Brungardt for her assistance and perseverance in bringing all this to fruition.

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This issue takes a long look at the British Customs harassment of British bookstores Gay's the Word and Lavender Menace, the the seizures of lesbian and gay books published in the USA. All this started happening last spring. Getting up-to-date information has been difficult so these articles may be a bit behind what is actually happening there but it seems important to get some in-depth information out to booksellers here. Next issue will have an up-date on the situation, and hopefully a strategy for people on this side of the ocean to influence the situation there with letters to whom-ever, etc. There are also articles on bookstores closing and opening, on new advertising strategies, and two bookstores looking for new owners.

I'm also working on an article (would you believe a series of articles?) on bookstores and computerized I'll be reviewing Jean Fishbeck's inventory systems. Booklog program, and the more expensive Ibid program, for sure, and anything else that bookstores want to hear about. If you've been thinking of going computer, please give me a call and fill me in on what you've been learning and what Some bookstores (Charis & you want to hear about. Womanbooks, for sure, others?) have been using computers for inventory control for a while, and I want to include those experiences. Accounting systems are the next big topic, so please give me a call of you've been using or thinking about 415-431-2093. I'm home more in the afternoons than them mornings, but the machine is always here if I'm not and I'll call you back.

The new magazine/newsletter The Feminist Publishers News is now out and about. Fifty-six pages of news and notes and it's a wonderful treat and will definitely be an asset to the "industry". Bookstores are welcome to subscribe, along with book and periodical publishers. Subs are \$15.00/year for 5 issues. I'm delighted to see it coming out, though I'm a little concerned about the choice of the name. Feminist Publishers' News is awfully close to Feminist Bookstore News. And FPN looks an awful lot like FBN and they sure do sound alike in a conversation Similar that our goals may be, if there's a need for two separate



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magazines, than I don't think it helps us to set them up to be confused with each other. How about a name like The Magazine for Feminist Publishers (MFP)? That's equally clear and direct and would avoid confusion. For subscriptions write to Frog in the Well, 430 Oakdale Road, East Palo Alto, CA 94303. And/or you might drop them a note encouraging another choice of name.

Speaking of the Century Book Club article; for everyone who was confused, my crack about lawyers making it big financially by writing book club clauses into writers' contracts was meant as a joke. (You know, a Joke, Ha IIa, humor and all that?) I really don't see that the lesbian writing community (even collectively) has the kind of money that's going to make a big impact on the legal profession one way or the other. Several publishers hastened to inform me that every contract they had ever seen (!) had a bookclub clause in it. I've seen a few that didn't, myself, but my point was and still is that when signing contracts, the book club clause hadn't been an item of much significance for most lesbian writers. Certainly not in the contracts where I've been a consultant. Movie rights haven't been a big issue, either, though that will change, too, with the advent of gay and lesbian commercial movie producers. Change, Oh. yeah, that.

Jokes: Let me tell you my current favorite:

Q. Why did the chicken cross the road?

A. You mean there was a choice?

(I also like "Why do Californians like earthquakes?" "California wouldn't be California if we couldn't all share



Courtesy of Booklegger Archives

vibrations." O.K. I admit I have a warped sense of humor. Next topic!

Do I dare make a crack about the current slew of CBC ads with the come-hither men and the elegantly gowned woman peering provocatively over her shoulder at the reader? (Photo taken from a book called **Exquisite Creatures**, a special selection of the book club.) All these years of fighting the objectification of women and the use of sexual imagery to sell automobiles, and "our own" bookclubs put out ads that could be the lead images in a slide show about sexual objectification in advertising??!! Or maybe it was meant as a joke? Don't those feminists have a sense of humor about anything!? (The answer to that one is "No.")

Good news: FBN's being reviewed in library journal! And I've come to the end of my rope with my 35 hour a week "part-time" job driving a Federal Express truck and am quitting after the end of the holidays. After a 15 months behind the wheel. I've returned to the world of the financially solvent, had a lot of time to think about things, and have come to the startling conclusion that I can't drive a truck 35 hours a week, work on a magazine 15 hours a week, and write great literature in the time left over. Somehow, there doesn't seem to be any time left over! It was supposed to be a part-time job, but part-time jobs have this way of expanding to fill the employer's (not necessarily the employee's) needs, and there it is. Mv plans are to pursue a lot more advertising for FBN, to getrich-quick writing lesbian novels (I'll be satisfied with a couple of those not-yet-existing movie contracts), and maybe do a little computer consulting on the side.

Speaking of writing, FBN REALLY needs women to do monthly columns on new books from mainstream publishers, paperbacks, cloth, and mass markets. If FBN doesn't start getting some offers pretty quick, I'll start calling you up and harassing you!

Till next time, Yours in spreading the words,

Garol Seajay

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Firebrand Books 141 The Commons Ithaca, NY 14850 (607) 272-0000 November 8, 1984

Dear Carol and Feminist Bookstore News Readers:

I am writing to let you know both the bad and the good news. The bad news is that I am no longer editing the Feminist Series at Crossing Press. The good news is that I am starting my own publishing company, Firebrand Books, in order to continue and build upon the work I have already done.



Firebrand Books

For more than four years at Crossing I was responsible for Developing a Feminist Series that spoke to many of our diverse strengths. I feel fortunate that recent events have given me an additional opportunity to act upon my commitment to feminist and lesbian publishing.

When I came to Crossing in 1980, Alta's The Shameless Hussy and Jan Clausen's Mother, Sister, Daughter, Lover had just arrived from the printer. When I left in mid-October,



the Feminist Series had grown to include:

Abeng, A Novel by Michelle Cliff

Clenched Fists, Burning Crosses, a Novel of Resistance by Chris South

Learning Our Way: Essays in Feminist Education, edited by Charlotte Bunch and Sandy Pollack

Lesblan Images, Literary Commentary by Jane Rule Movement, A Novel by Valerie Miner

Movement in Black, Poetry by Pat Parker

Natural Birth, Poetry by Toi Derricotte

Nice Jewish Girls: A Lesbian Anthology, edited by Evelyn Torton Beck

The Notebooks of Leni Clare and Other Short Stories by Sandy Boucher

The Politics of Reality: Essays in Feminist Theory by Marilyn Frye

The Queen of Wands, Poetry by Judy Grahn

Sister Outsider, Essays and Speeches by Audre Lorde Triangles, A Novel by Ruth Geller

True to Life Adventure Stories, Volumes One and Two,



edited by Judy Grahn

The Work of a Common Woman, Poetry by Judy Grahn Zami: A New Spelling of My Name, Biomythography by Audre Lorde

In this tradition, Firebrand will publish its first three books in April 1985 They are

Mohawk Trail, by Beth Brant, is an outstanding collection of lively. Incisive, innovative prose by this excellent Indian writer, member of the Turtle Clan editor of A Gathering of Spirit. Both side splittingly funny and deadly serious, with a marvelous eye for the detail that makes people come alive on the page, this book explores the author's several families, the places she comes from and is part of -- families connected by blood, by gayness, and by working class lives

Jonestown and Other Madness, Poetry by Pat Parker, is the second book of poetry by this fine West Coast Black lesbian poet and activist. Her first book, Movement In Black, was relssued as part of the Feminist Series. My commitment to publishing work by women of color is strong because their visions have expanded my possibilities. My commitment to publishing poetry is strong because poets are saying what we need to hear.

Moll Cutpurse, A Novel by Ellen Galford, is the North American edition of a delightful Patience-and-Sarah-type lesbian romp set in Elizabethan England. It is a good read and well done, published in Scotland last year. I came upon it when I was in London at the First International Feminist Book Fair and think that an American/Canadian audience will be equally entertained by Moll's adventures and feisty spirit.

As you must realize, this had been a difficult, challenging, and exiting time for me. I look forward to many years of feminist and lesbian publishing and welcome your feedback, suggestions, and support.

Wannly, Nancy K. Bereano Editor and Publisher Lammas Bookstore 321 Seventh St., SE Washington, DC 20003 October 25, 1984

Dear FBN,

Attached is a forthcoming f/sf "column" -- is there anybody out there who'd like to do something similar for mysteries, especially the paperback variety??

Since the last FBN, Lammas has staged her first bigtime book party ("big-time" means that we got reimbursed for refreshments!"). The guest of honor was Doris Grumbach (The Ladies), who is not only based in D.C. but co-owns a fine rare/used-book store three blocks from Lammas. As a result, we found ourselves working with our old friends E. P. Dutton. That part wasn't bad once we learned (a) that sales reps don't return phone calls, (b) that only receptionists are ever in the office, and (c) that no one is in the office after noon on Fridays. We had the usual terrors-- we'll never sell that many hardcovers, our space is too small, we don't know how to act around straight literati, etc. But it went very well.

This is one bookseller's musings upon reading Barbara Grier's comments on distribution: I try to buy direct from feminist and pro-feminist publishers unless we need something immediately. However, there are a few publishers (whose names I won't mention) that I rarely if ever order from, for the following reasons:

1. Lousy service. Order it now and we're lucky to have it within a month. And that's when I specify UPS -- paying UPS freight costs when the publisher doesn't ship the order until four weeks after she receives it is galling in the extreme! If I order from Inland, I have it in two days.



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2. Continual fuckups with billing and/or fulfillment. Wrong titles, wrong quantities, title Absent Without Explanation. No packing skip. No invoice, either with the order or in the mail. Not just once but over and over,

3. Freight costs. I rarely order direct from West Coast publishers because UPS is so expensive and bookrate is so slow and/or unreliable. I'm trying to order at least new titles direct -- this works best when we're buying in fairly large quantities (10s and 20s rather than 2s and 5s, that is). Publishers obviously can't do much about this (other than making drastic changes in who pays for shipping), and I hope it somehow works out, with East Coast stores ordering from East Coast publishers, etc.

Naturally, there are other things to worry about. We do a booming business with Naiad, for instance, and order direct except for the title that ran out the day after we placed the last order. Naiad is one of the fastest, more accurate shippers in the business. However, the fact that Naiad only ships by the euphemistically so-called postal "service" causes some problems on this end. The local post office (about three doors from the store) will only deliver one or two medium-sized parcels a day. Which means that our multibox Naiad orders trickle in over several days. Along with death and taxes, one of life's little certainties is that **Curious Wine** will come in the very last box, along with the packing slip and whatever else we ran out of two weeks ago.

All of which is by way of saying that we try to support feminist & co. presses, even when circumstances make it difficult, but sometimes ordering direct is just asking for trouble. I'd love to hear how other folks are dealing with this.

Fastidiously keeping track of postage, I remain Yours,

Susanna J. Sturgis

Pandora Book Peddlers 68 W. Palisade Ave. Englewood, N. J. 07631 October 26, 1984

Dear FBN,

Congratulations and thank you for a chock-full issue in September. The timeliness vis-a-vis CBC was very much appreciated in Englewood, NJ. My business partner Pam (Sheldrick) and I were particularly concerned about the club because when we opened (we just celebrated our first birthday at Pandora Book Peddlers) our goal was to build mail order into 75% of our business. After the initial shock on hearing of the CBC venture, we decided to see its advent as a catalyst for turning the two of us into better merchandisers. We look forward to the challenge and we know other feminist bookstores will as well.

By now you may have seen our full page ad in MS. Magazine's November issue (most of which was paid with co-op ad money). We identify ourselves as a women-owned business. If we had the CBC budget we would have gone for a double-



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spread center fold. We find it ironic, as straight women in a heavily lesbian industry (often left out and frowned upon for OUR life-style CHOICE), that we are witnessing in the CBC situation a microcosm of the straight world where the boys again have the money to call the shots,

We do want to thank Donna at Naiad for stopping by at NWSA and giving us the whole story after we heard so many different versions as we were leaving the ABA in May. Thanks to Barbara for shipping to bookstores the same time she ships to CBC.

Kudos, Carol, for a job well done. The longer we're in business, the more important FBN becomes. We are looking forward to an exciting second year filled with growth, learning and, of course, a burgeoning mailing list.

In sisterhood.

Vivian Scheinmann

P.S. Why haven't stories about the CBC, which have appeared in such periodicals as **OOB**, included the fact that gay men are backing the venture?

Crazy Ladies Bookstore 4112 Hamilton Ave. Cincinnatti, OH 45223

Crazy Ladies is doing well! We discovered some serious errors in tax reporting for 1983 this past March and the IRS, state and city tax collectors were hot on our tails. But... we talked, explained, stalled, muttered about "Who was responsible for this mess?"; and finally we got a loan at very low interest from an order of nuns who like to help women's businesses! We are confident that with our fundraising efforts which have been VERY successful and our improved sales due to careful managment, improved store appearance, a newsletter, etc, we will pay back the loan and be stable and in the clear. The information I learned at the Midwest-Women-In-Print Conference was indispensalbe for improving the store's appearance and the store's financial records. Your newsletter is anxiously awaited each time.

Stephanie Browner (manager for 1 year now)

Dreams and Swords

828 E. 64th St.

Indianapolis, IN 46220

Dreams & Swords is growing nicely. I'm about to buy a computer to help with my inventory which has become too large for me to keep track of in my head.

After 2 1/2 years in business, the store is really beginning to feel viable. I have started taking a small salary and am looking forward to next year when I hope to be able to expand.

Wannly,

Harriet

P.S. I love FBN -- it's both fun and helpful.

Daedalus Books 2260 25th Place, NE Washington, DC 20018

Hello Carol,

You might mention somewhere in the next newsletter that it looks like newcomers to ABA will have almost an impossible chance of getting a booth. The letter I got from ABA concerning S.F. was that NO new companies would get booths at ABA due to space problems and that they were requesting people who had exhibited in the past to reduce their booth space. I think this is all prbably true because I just got the lay-out of the Moscone Center and it looks like the size of the bathrooms in past ABAs. I don't know why they chose such a small place since the convention just gets bigger and bigger every year and the ones in California

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are always very large and popular. I'm thinking that they probably chose it five years ago (since I think that's about how far they plan ahead) and didn't ralize what the growth would be. I think that people should double up in booths and put the money they would spend in booth rental to making a jazzy exhibit or put the money into good promotional material to hand out.

There's sort of a feeling of being out of it re the WIP Conference here on the Easy Coast (well, we aren't exactly out there to help). I would definately vote to keep the conference in the city. I would think that a number of us would not be able to attend if it was in the country.

Helaine



Alaska Women's Bookstore Ugly L'il Building 513 West 7th Ancorage, .4K 99501

Dear Carol at Feminist Bookstore News,

I wanted to update your statistics on how many U.S. bookstores attended the International Feminist Bookfair in London, I went, Partly for the benefit of the bookstore -to find fresh titles and authors and to make our offerings more representative of the whole world. And another part of my agenda was to re-charge my own spiritual batteries by plugging into a crowd with feminist energy. Both goals were accomplished beyond my fondest fantasies. I had primed myself by participating in the London for Feminists tour which preceded the Bookfair.

Another ex-teacher (Karen Carlisle) and I had just bought the bookstore short months before a Women's History team came here to do a weekend workshop in March. Certainly I learn a great deal about how other women are running their bookstsores from reading your periodical. Thanks for doing all that work.

The old building where we have been operating has sold, so we will be moving. We've formed partnership with the Alaska Women's Resource Center and a few friendly private investors in order to buy a Women's Building. We're dickering for a small hotel which requires a down payment of \$135,000. We're working on the final \$15,000 of that amount. If we can truly pull it off, it will be beneficial to both the bookstore and the resource center, as well as to the women of Alaska whom we seek to serve. And visiting women. We get firsthand reports on many of the women's bookstores in the South 48 from women who come here on vacation.

Sincerely, Lucille Frey

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WOMEN IN PRINT UPDATE

The current version of the news is that the 1985 WIP will be held on the University of California campus in Berkeley. Cost will be \$200 for people staying there, and \$100 for commuters. The commuters price is a little higher than actual expenses to build in a 'scholarship fund, which seems like an excellent plan.



HELP WANTED

The women of The Naiad Press, Inc., are again accepting applications for a permanent staff position, to be filled immediately!

This is a professional position, and is a career opportunity Lifelong commitment to the Lesbian feminist movement in general and Lesbian feminist publishing in particular is the principal, understood, requirement. You will be expected to move to Tallahassee, Florida, to fill this position. It is possible, even desirable to extend this role to two women instead of one, and two half time positions could be considered. It is also possible to combine your or your lover's educational needs with the work to be done since Tallahassee is the site of Florida State University and Florida A&M University.

All aspects of our business will be taught to you, and there will be periods of time each year when you will be expected to handle all business activity while we are on the road. This involves order filling, mail processing, some rudimentary bookkeeping, typing, and telephone order taking Most of all, it requires a genuine love of hard and meaningful work, and the knowledge that all tasks have equal value and all must be done.

Beginning salary is above local pay levels for comparable work and full health and life insurance benefits are provided by Naiad Press. There are no limits to your growth and personal freedom and success in this position.

Applications may be by phone or mail initially. Contact The Naiad Press Inc., PO Box 10543, Tallahassee, Florida 32302 904-539-9322

BOOKSTORE FOR SALE

Faubourg Marigny Books, Louisiana's only feminist bookstore is for sale. Stock when I was there was pretty evenly divided between gay men's literature and leshian & feminist literature. Says owner Tom Horner: "New Orleans is the most beautiful city in the world, and the biggest party town (of course this legislates against people staying at home and reading, as in some cities where there is noting else to do). Therefore it is an ideal place to live. We have no heating bills here except minimal. We have no real estate tax in case you own property. But I do not own my space. I rent it for \$225 a month." The bookstore is located on the edge of the Frech Quarter, and in the New gay ghetto", not far from several bars, Orleans restaurants, etc. If you're interested, contact Tom Horner at Faubourg Marigny. 600 Frenchmen, New Orleans, LA 70116.

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JANE ADDAMS CLOSES

June 21, 1984, was the closing day of the Jane Addams Bookstore (Chicago). The store, together with her founders and managers, Flora Faraci and Nancy Finke, and hundreds of friends, celebrated 7 1/2 years of feminism in downtown Chicago at the last party on Thursday evening June 21.

Finke and Faraci opened the store together in December, 1976. They heartfully thank everyone who, over the years, bought books at Jane Addams, everyone who participated in the store's events, and everyone who worked on special projects. Thanks especially to Donna Moffett, their partner from 1979-1982, and to the "Jane Addams Irregulars"--the Chicago women who worked in and cared for the Jane Addams Bookstore.

Nancy Finke says, "The Jane Addams Bookstore is the most thoroughly wonderful and thoroughly frustrating endeavor with which I have ever been involved. I am completely glad that we did it. It was a great accomplishment and I loved it. Now I'm ready to do something different."



Flora Faraci will continue in the book business. Her new store, the Jane Addams Book Shop (208 North Neil, Champaign, Illinois 61820, 217-356-2555) opened on August I, 1984. The book shop is an antiquarian bookstore specializing in women's studies, children's and illustrated books, and detective fiction. It is a full-service bookstore providing a free search service for out-of-print books and special orders for new books.

Jane Addams Bookstore's archives and records will be donated to the Chicago Historical Society.

The Jane Addams Bookstore's closing celebration on June

21 began with the store's long-time friend and colleague, Janine Veto, reading from from her novel Iris. "Final Festivities" had been initiated the week before, Friday, June 15, by Chicago Lesbian herstorian Marie Kuda's slide presentation, "They All Came to Paris: Lesbians in France, 1880-1940." These events capped the continuous series of readings, workshops, and performances that have characterized the store's herstory.

During the last few weeks, the Jane Addams Bookstore was overwhelmed with calls and letters of appreciation. Among them, the women of Helaine Victoria Press, Martinsville, Indiana, telegraphed: "You have been an inspiration to the women's community. We will miss Jane Addams..." Kit Duffy, Mayor Harold Washington's Liaison to Chicago's Lesbians and Gays, wrote, "I would like to take" this opportunity to express my admiration for the invaluable role you have played in developing and promoting women's and feminist literature, and for the unique focus you have provided for all of us. The bookstore will be sorely missed, but remembered with a great deal of pride and affection."

Nancy Finke's final words: "I urge and hope that all women will continue and increase their support of women's businesses--enterprises that support and reflect the realities and visions of women's lives."

"We've happily paid 99% of our bills and intend to pay all--a great way to close! Thanks for all your work over the years!" --Nancy

(Source: Press Release and letter dated Aug 10, 1984.)



Defend Gay's the Word

Gay's The Word is London's lesbian and gay community bookshop. The shop was set up in 1979 by a small group of gay people to provide a central reference point for gay and feminist writing of all kinds. It exists as a specialist bookseller, and has always been regarded by those involved as a gay community resource.

OPERATION TIGER

In a very carefully planned and coordinated action, code named "Operation Tiger", officers of Her Majesty's Customs and Excise mounted a large-scale raid on Gay's The Word bookshop in central London. The date was April 10, 1984. Gay's the Word is currently the second-largest lesbian and gay community bookshop in the world, and, as such, stocks many works imported from countries throughout the world, as well as much that is published in Britain. The imported titles, particularly those from the USA, were the target of this raid. American books are ordered from various US trade suppliers, and are sent to Britain in the publisher's standard packing, carrying the appropriate labels and Customs declarations.

HELD FOR SIX HOURS

At nine-twenty am, two officers of HM Customs and



Excise arrived at the home of Glenn McKee, one of the bookshop's eight directors. They produced a 'Writ of Assistance', giving them general powers to enter and search, and went into the flat; they cautioned him, and proceeded to interrogate him over the next six hours. Throughout this period, Glenn was denied access to a solicitor or any outside assistance. The questions centered on the business procedures for importation, the officers having in their possession photocopies of some of the shop's written correspondence. They also thoroughly searched the flat, removing all the bookshops's records and papers they could find, including the subscription list for the shop newsletter, and many of Glenn's personal possessions, papers, books and video tapes.

They advised the Assistant Manager to close the shop and told the customers to leave.

RECORDS REMOVED

At I p.m. a second team of officers entered the shop itself. They 'advised' the Assistant Manager, Paul Hegarty, to close the shop, and told the customers inside to leave. They then began the huge task of sorting the imported titles from the British publications, over which they have no jurisdiction. They seemed overawed by the sheer quantity of books present, and had to confer by telephone with their headquarters more than once. It took them 4 1/2 hours to sift the books, and in the end they left with over 800 volumes -- a substantial portion of the total imports in stock. They also searched the files and business records, and removed many documents vital to the operation of the shop, including invoices, accounting records, address lists, and correspondence. Paud was also cautioned, and questioned extensively by the officers in the shop; he too was denied

the right to contact a solicitor.

PROPERTY TAKEN

Shortly after the officers entered the ship, Amanda, Russell, the shop's Manager, arrived. She was taken off to HM Customs and Excise office in nearby Woburn Place, where she was held, cautioned, and closely questioned. That evening her flat was searched, and some of her personal books and video tapes were removed. She does not keep any shop papers at home.

Late in the afternoon, the home of one other director, Jonathan Cutbill, was raided. By then the raiding party seemed rather tired, and became somewhat half-hearted when faced with Jonathan's house -- he is a serious book collector and owns many thousands of volumes. They did not remove any of his property.

TITLES ·SEIZED

Since the raid all of the stock as been returned except 22 titles against which a Seizure Notice was issued on June 6, 1984.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

If the stock seized by HM Customs and Excise was eventually to be destroyed the suppliers would still have to be paid. This could cause serious financial problems. Even when the books are finally released, a long delay between invoicing and delivery can cause 'cash flow' problems.

STOCK HELD

No imports have arrived at the shop since the beginning of the year, and it is now clear that HM Customs and Excise have refused clearance for all imports destined for Gay's The Word, although no official notification has been received. It is now estimated that they are withholding another L9000 worth of the shop's stock. Clearly, the



financial implications of this aspect alone are very serious.

Since all imports appear to be being blocked, including later orders of titles previously released, it is now impractical to re-order any overseas books even when existing copies are released for sale. This will reduce the total stock, and therefore turnover and income.

Before the Customs action, imported books and periodicals of direct interest of lesbians and gay men accounted for about 35% of Gay's The Word's turnover.

CRIMINAL CHARGES?

One of the officers involved in the raid claimed that HM Customs and Excise may try to bring criminal charges against any or all of the people involved in running the shop. This could be very serious, and would certainly be the most devastating result for those in the shop, and others who work unpaid; regarding it as a trust for the gay community.

TAPPING PHONES

HM Customs and Excise would need the consent of the Home Secretary in order to tap telephones. It is not known if they did tap telephones in this case. But they are free to open any mail coming into the country, as it is treated as 'imports'. It is not clear how they would have had

-- This article is an excerpt from the Gay's The Word information packet.



access to out-going mail as they appear to have done,

EXPANSION POSTPONED

Plans to expand every aspect of the bookshop service, by moving to a larger (and more expensive) premises, originally scheduled for 1984, have now had to be indefinitely postponed as a direct result of the actions of HM Customs and Excise.

RAIDS ON BOOKSHOPS

The action by HM Customs and Excise against Gay's The Word bookshop exposes Custom's powers as a blunt instrument which can readily be used to seriously harass and threaten the gay and Lesbian community. In Edinburgh HM Customs and Excise detained stock destined for Lavender Menace, another gay and lesbian bookshop. Police also used their separate powers under the Obscene Publications Act to seize a magazine, although this was subsequently returned. In both cases the powers are to an important extent arbitrary, depending on individual officer' prejudices, and those at the receiving end are put to great difficulty and expense in establishing their rights. Though part of Gay's The Word's stock has been return, the law has been used to weaken the financial basis of two important lesbian and gay organizations. Lavender Menace could not afford to contest the detention, and thus lost twenty-six imported titles. More recently, HM Customs and Excise have detained nearly 200 books ordered by London's Essentially Gay mail order service which, with limited finances cannot now remain in business.

The outcome is to limit the access of gay men and

lesbians to the printed material vital to the sharing of our culture, whether it is informative, romantic, sensual, of just enjoyable. The Customs law arbitrarily limits the exchange of ideas across frontiers. The actions against the bookshops are very central attacks on the self-determination and self-respect of the gay and lesbian community.

All of these, and similar incidents combine to create an atmosphere which many would argue is used with conscious intent; that is, raids and arrests are used not only to proscribe those who are their immediate objects but also to deliver a message to the gay community, to make us aware that we cannot act with the same sense of freedom and security which other members of society expect as a right.

THE CUSTOMS ACTION: A LESBIAN RESPONSE

On April 10, 1984 officers from HM Customs and Excise raided Gay's The Word book shop and detained some 800 books imported from the USA; of those over half were titles specifically by and/or for lesbians.

It is almost a cliche now that many lesbians made their first discover of their sexuality through reading a novel; although nowadays the novel is more likely to have been **Rubyfruit Jungle than The Well of Loneliness!** Both the fiction which amuses, entertains and supports our lesbianism and the non-fiction which informs our politics or reclaims our history are an integral part of many of our lives.

In London, we are particularly lucky in having Sisterwrite, the bookshop at A Woman's Place, and Silver Moon, all places specializing in lesbian/feminist material. Despite its gender-specific name, coined before the exclusively male use of the word 'gay' had become commonplace, Gay's the Word has provided about a third of its space for lesbian and/or feminist material, and this has been increased particularly in the years that Amanda Russell worked there.

Many lesbian groups have also started out meeting in the shop, and the Wednesday night discussion group has been running for three years highly successfully. (In fact, the numbers of lesbians whose confidence has been increased to the point where they feel able to come out at the group must now be in three figures!)

So what is the relevance of this raid to us as lesbians, feminist, women generally? If the state is, as it seems, trying to widen the scope of the various laws which deal with printed matter -- so that anything with the word lesbian in it is 'indecent', how long before feminist literature (which subverts the family!); peace material (undermines national security!); or any generally leftpolitical works (attacks the status quo) becomes suitable matter for attention?

It is almost a cliché that many lesbians made their first discovery of their sexuality through reading a novel.

As feminists, we understand the dilemmas and arguments surrounding the definition of pornography. We would reserve the right not to support the sale of material we felt was offensive/degrading to women. Hopefully we also understand the 'Right to Read' argument while not necessarily supporting it wholeheartedly. Gay's The Word has never stocked a book which was considered to be any of the above and has had a policy of selling some books to women only. In the notoriously misogynist gay male community this has led to criticism in the past. Amanda often had to argue hard for the decisions she made. In all fairness, she has always been supported by her male co-workers and the majority of the mostly male Board of Directors. Despite their minor battles, Gay's the Word is an example of the strength and success of lesbians and gay men working together.

AIMS OF THE CAMPAIGN

1. The return of Gay's The Word's books and records and the personal possessions of its directors and staff; the release of any material detained at point of entry; no further detention of imports to Gay's The Word or other importers.

2. No charges brought as a result of the Customs action.

3. Compensation for lost revenues due to the action.

4. To increase public awareness of the Customs action and of HM Customs and Excise powers generally, and to mobilize opposition to both, within the gay and lesbian community and among the non-gay community.

5. To put the action against Gay's The Word firmly in the context of overall police and Government actions against the civil liberties of lesbians and gay men.

6. To lobby for the laws governing HM Customs and Excise to be brought into line with accepted principles of civil liberties and natural justice.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Write letters. (The information packet lists a number of people/organizations to write to. None of which are exactly appropriate for us on this side of the Atlantic. An update in the next FBN will provide that info at the time you're more likely to have a minute to write a letter!)

Contact Gay's The Word Bookshop, 66 Marchmont Street, London WC1; tel 01-278-7654. Linda Semple and Paud Hegarty and Defend Gay's The Word Campaign, 38 Mount Pleasant, London WC1.

Donations: Checks, postal orders, payable to Defend Gay's The Word Campaign (or DGTWC)

Posters, leaflets, information pack, available from Gay's The Word Bookshop, 66 Marchmont St, London WC1.

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Nancy Bereano, whom you may know as the editor of The Crossing Press Feminist Series has started her own feminist publishing company, Firebrand Books! Hooray & Congratulations! Firebrand's address is 141 The Commons, Ithaca, NY 14850. Send cards, letters, orders (books listed elsewhere herein) and donations of any small fortunes you are interested in investing in feminist publishing!

N E W B O O K S T O R E S ! A Woman's Place, 154 E. Grand Ave., Escondido, Ca. 92025. They've been open about 8 months. And opening soon will be Sister Spirit in San Jose. Until they get a storefront, write to Sister Spirit at PO Box 3045, San Jose, CA 95156.

CHANGING BOOKSTORES: Sister Spirit, in Billings, Montana is now a mail order bookstore. The time and money costs of keeping a storefront open were wearing everyone out! Their new address is PO Box 21244, Billings, 59104.

MOVING BOOKSTORES: Page One Books is now at 966 N. Lake Ave., Pasadena, CA 91104. Phone 818-798-8694.



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME: Bookpeople's letter saying they'd distribute Women Who Loved Women arrived the day after Tee sent fliers to all the bookstores on the FBN list saying to order it from Inland. So the news is that it is now at both the essential distributors. Tee is a feminist publisher that prefers to do all of her distribution via distributors.



I N L A N D now carries all of Zed Press's women's titles and a lot of the rest of their list, as well. (Which I think I suggested to Zed when they were in the USA at the ABA last year. It's always a pleasure to see one's bright ideas working!) They are selling very well and the only problem is keeping them in stock. (That ocean certainly does get in the way!) Inland also has the Pulp Press titles including The Promise, a collection of short stories by Canadian writer Wanda Blynn Campbell, the Sara Steele Calendar & the Emily Dickinson Book of Days and is the bookstore distributor carrying Trivia (magazine). You can place standing orders with either Trivia or Inland. Inland's minimum is only 2 copies.

HELLO? ARE YOU THERE? Have gotten mail returned from Rainbows of Life in Ft. Wayne, Indiana and the Uncommon Reader in Massachusetts. If you know of new addresses or even of closings of these stores, could you let us know? Thanks.



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BEST SELLERS, ANYONE?

A Lesbian Connection reader asked in LC what the 10 favorite lesbian novels were. Two stores sent responses that are printed below.

Lioness Books, in Sacramento compiled their list from their 1983 sales.

- 1. Color Purple, Alice Walker. Washington Square Press
- 2. Curious Wine, Katherine V. Forrest. Naiad.

3. Southern Discomfort, Rita Mae Brown. Bantam.

- 4. Beebo Brinker, Ann Bannon. Naiad.
- 5. Odd Girl Out, Ann Bannon. Naiad.
- 6. I Am A Woman, Ann Bannon. Naiad.
- Tie: Journey To A Woman, Ann Bannon. Naiad. Sudden Death, Rita Mae Brown. Bantam.
- 8. Tie: The Journey, Ann Cameron. Avon. Woman In The Shadows, Ann Bannon. Naiad.

9. Tie: Zami: A New Spelling Of My Name, Audre Lorde. Crossing Press.

Between Friends, Gilian Hanscombe. Alyson.

10. Tie: Coming Out Stories, ed. Julia Stanley & Susan Wolfe. Persephone.

Rubyfruit Jungle, Rita Mae Brown, Bantam,

A Different Light, a gay bookstore in Hollywood sent the following list based on owners best sense of what ADL's lesbian customers buy month after month, rather than on numbers actually sold. The books marked with * are really popular books in the last 12 months, which may slow down eventually. The books aren't in any particular order.

The Well of Loneliness, Radcliffe Hall. Avon. Rubyfruit Jungle, Rita Mae Brown, Bantam. Patience and Sarah, Isabelle Miller. Fawcett. *Curlous Wine, Katherine V. Forrest. Naiad. Cytherea's Breath, Sarah Aldrich. Naiad. Faultline, Sheila Taylor. Naiad. *The Winged Dancer, Camarin Grae. Blazon Books. Lesblan Fiction, ed. Elly Bulkin. Gay Presses of NY.

Nice Jewish Girls, ed Evelyn Torton Beck. Crossing. Last Summer at Bluefish Cove, Jane Chambers. JH Press.

BOOKS SEIZED AT CUSTOMS

E D I N B U R G H -- Customs and Excise have detained a shipment of books bound for Lavender Menace Bookshop -- including copies of Sinister Wisdom, one of the oldest and best-known lesbian magazines in existence. Most of the other titles detained were also lesbian.

Sinister Wisdom, formerly edited by Adrienne Rich and Michelle Cliff, has published such lesbian and feminist writers as Marge Piercy, Joanna Russ, and Marion Zimmer Bradley. One of the issues detained, A Gathering of Spirit, was written and edited entirely by Native American Women. Another contained a graphic of Greenham Common by a UK feminist artist.

The shipment also included ten copies of Common Lives, Lesbian Lives, a magazine devoted to true stories by ordinary lesbians; The Lesbian Inciter; Lesbian Crossroads, by Ruth Baetz; The Fiery Fountains, an autobiography by writer Margaret Anderson; and two gay men's books, The Butch Manual (previously released by Customs) and Moritz!

The books were impounded on 24 August at Prestwick Airport, where they had been sent to arrive in time for an Edinburgh Festival Fringe reading. Customs did not indicate when they might decide to release the books, valued at 250 pounds, or seize them.

> --Press Release from Lavender Menace Edinburgh's Lesbian & Gay Community Bookstore 11A Forth Street Edinburgh EH1 3LE September 7, 1984



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15



There is a translation revolution going on in American publishing today. Dozens of authors from countries as diverse as Colombia, Japan and Czechoslovakia are being published and read with increasing interest and growing acclaim. This revolution has, however, left out a significant proportion of the world's writers..

Wamen

The censorship of women's writing has many forms and occurs internationally as well as at home. While much of women's lost literary heritage has been finding its way back into print English speaking readers still know little of what women from other countries are writing and publishing today, much less what they wrote a hundred years ago.

. The Seal Press has begun the Women in Translation series to help change that. We recognize our need as women and as readers to make high-quality fiction essays and autobiography in other languages available in English. We will be publishing two to four translations a year We've begun with an anthology of Norwegian women s fiction. An **Everyday Story**, and will continue with **Early Spring**, the memoirs of Danish author Tove Ditlevsen. An exciting collection of short stories by Norway's Cora Sandel will follow in the fall of 1985.

We invite you to join us in this process of exploration and discovery as we continue to publish excellent women's writing from around the world.

An Everyday Story: Norwegian Women's Fiction. Edited by Katherine Hanson. Norway's tradition of storytelling comes alive in this important anthology of women's fiction, most of which has never before appeared in English. From magical folktales and impassioned stories by the contemporaries of Eliot and Sand, to the work of today's exciting young writers, **An Everyday Story** captures the essence of many generations of women--mother, daughter, grandmother, sister. Twenty-four authors translated by ten noted women translators from England and the US with an



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introduction and biographical notes on each author. \$8.95 paper. \$16 95 cloth. Available now.

Early Spring, Tove Ditlevsen. Translated by Tlina Nunnally. Tove Ditlevsen was one of Denmark's best loved and most important women writers of the twentieth century. As a poet short-story writer and novelist she brought the voice of a young and sensitive working-class woman into Danish literature for the first time. It is in her memoirs, however, that Ditlevsen deals most surely and lyrically with what it meant to grow up in a crowed apartment in Copenhagen during the thirties a time of economic depression and The first two volumes of her political unrest autobiography. Childhood and Youth, are here published together as Early Spring -- a portrait of the artist as a young girl. Tiina Nunnally is a free-lance translator and interpreter who has also published critical articles on Danish women writers. She is currently at work on the third volume of the memoirs. \$7.95 paperback, \$14.95 cloth. Available Spring 1985.

Cora Sandel:Selected Short Stories, Translated by Barbara Wilson, was the author of several translated novels, including Alberta Alone, a trilogy of novels about the struggle to live and write as a woman, and Krane's Cafe (trans. Elizabeth Rokkan; University of Ohio Press, 1984). But she was also a master of the short story with echoes of Jean Rhys and Katherine Mansfield in her depictions of women's lives. The stories in the collection are culled from her five books and are considered among her best; they deal, in a surprisingly contemporary way, with childhood, the tensions of marriage, the life of an artist. the loneliness and independence of the single woman, the fate of refugees during WW II in neutral Sweden. Barbara Wilson is the author of several volumes of short stories and two novel: She was awarded the Van de Bovencamp award by the Columbia Translation Center in 1984 for her work in progress or Sandel's short stories. Available Fall 1985.

--excerpted from a flier by Seal Press

Bestsellers by and about ZORA NEALE HURSTON

NEW

Dust Tracks on a Road

An Autobiography Foreword by Robert E. Hemenway Contains previously expurgated material. Cloth, \$22.95; Paper, \$8.95.

Their Eyes Were Watching God

Foreword by Sherley Anne Williams "There is no book more important to me than this one." – Alice Walker. Paper, \$4.95.



Moses, Man of the Mountain Introduction by Blyden Jackson

"An allegory relevant to the oppressive circumstances black people encounter in any age." – Robert E. Hemenway. Paper, \$6.95.

NEW

Zora Neale Hurston A Literary Biography Robert E. Hemenway Foreword by Alice Walker

"In Hemenway's rich and informative biography, Hurston emerges in all her complexity." – Mel Watkins, *New York Times*. Illustrated. Cloth, \$19.95; Paper, \$10.95.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS PRESS

54 E. Gregory Drive Champaign, IL 61820

Seal press also received a grant for \$12,000 from the Norwegian Cultural Council to publish An Everyday Story. (They do things like that in countries that don't spend the bulk of their budgets building bombs). Seal also received funds from various sources to bring two feminist Norwegian writers and have them speak in several cities.

-- Thank to FPN for that info.

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Village Voice Ad Supplement

This is the true story of a stroke of genius and a lot of hard work. Sometime last winter, Karyn London, Womanbooks, started thinking about an ad in The VIIIage Volce. An insert? But placement was a problem (we'll get to the money problem in a minute), so she decided that what she wanted was to buy the center fold -- the center four pages of a VV Literary Supplement. How to pay for it? Sell small sections "mini-ads", in blocks that would list the title, reproduce the cover, and include a paragraph about the book, to publishers.

That was the stroke of genius. The hard work part added up to "more or less full-time" for three to four months.

A special advertising



supplement

Arrangements and reservations were made with VV. The ad was roughly designed. It would be four-pages, the center-fold four pages, for maximum visibility and would be an effective "pull-out" section that readers could save. The ad would be titled: Womanbooks Buying Guide: Books By, For, and About Women, which would both PR Womanbooks, and would lend "credibility by association" to the books advertised. The advertising blocks would be arranged by subjects, ie feminist theory, politics, mothers and children, sexuality, women's studies, third world women, women of color, women and violence, lesbian writings, art, history, fiction, calendars, lives, literary criticism, etc. And there would be an mail-order form on the back, with information for phoning in orders with a MC or Visa card.



A brochure was designed that would function as a both and information sheet/sales aid and as a form for placing the actual ad copy. Right down to space to type the ad copy, and a blank to check of the publisher was supplying the photograph of the book or if they were sending copies of the books to be photographed at \$35 @.



The arrangements with VV included (for a fee) typesetting and layout, that there would be a 10,000 copy overrun of the ad (at no additional cost) that Womanbooks could use as a mailer to their mailing list, and use as an instore give-away as well. And that the ad would run in the first edition of the VV Literary Supplement that would go out for national distribution, the same edition that would be given away free of charge to attendees of the "New York is Book Country" fair. This has to be one of the largest book ads ever received by the VV (and with the possibility of repeats.) The VV's circulation before going national was 560,000, so it would be excellent exposure for Womanbooks and all the participating publishers.

November 1984

All of which added up to a very attractive opportunity for publishers. And so Karen went to ABA as a sales rep -selling the ads -- instead as a book buyer.

Seventy three blocks were available for \$225 per publisher, per unit. The terms were that all ads were to be paid in advance, publishers names would not be listed, and no co-op money was to be used, since this ad would give the publisher and endorsement-by-association by being in the Womanbooks ad, and because it would be an extremely effective ad. Womanbooks reserved the right to reject inappropriate or offensive advertising.

6AA

And it worked. Wonderfully! The ad itself is beautiful, and is a testament to what effective advertising can be. It's esthetic, attractive, irresistible to anyone remotely interested in women's books, and was paid for entirely by the publishers. Publishers from Harper and Row to Kitchen Table, Crossing Press, and University of Texas got an exceptionally effective at at a fraction of the cost they would have paid for any comparable ad. The ad format can be repeated two or three, or four times a year with new titles as they come out. Karyn's next plan (after recovery) is to do something similar in feminist print media...the same layout could be fun in multiple magazines, could be used by different stores, could be....

An essential part of the success seems to me to be the careful and thoughtful planning, to make the ad as effective and attractive to the publishers as possible. The brochure that went out to the publishers is an ad in itself.

If you'd like a copy of the ad, send a SASE to Womanbooks, 201 W. 92 St, NY, NY 10025.



Another success: Pandora Book Peddlers/New Jersey, has a full page ad in MS. It's on page 104 of the November issue.

WOMANBOOKS FOR SALE OR RENT?

Karyn London, co-founder and proprietor of Womanbooks, inspired in part by the success of the supplement to the Village Voice book section (see elsewhere in this issue), has decided that now is the time to move on to other things -- all the things she always wanted to do to enhance and support independent and feminist bookselling and publishing and can't do in the time that's left over after managing a feminist bookstore.

Which is wonderful. But it does leave this question of what to do with the bookstore. Karyn is looking for someone with a lot of serious feminist bookstore experience to take over the store. Terms? Price? Transition plans? Karyn says that all depends on the person. Her primary goal is to find someone who is capable of taking over Womanbooks. Her best fantasy is to have it settled by the end of Womanbook's fiscal year which is January 31. So if you have EVER had dreams about feminist bookselling in the Big Apple, now is the time to move on it. Call Karyn at Womanbooks. 212-873-4121



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SUSANNA STURGIS

First of all, a few omissions from the f/sf "starter set" published in the last issue of FBN :

The Kin of Ata Are Walting For You, by Dorothy Bryant, Random House \$5.95 (trade). Your basic classic, which may explain why I forgot it. Lammas sells it out of general fiction as well as f/sf.

I, Vampire, by Jody Scott, Ace, \$2.50. A sort of sequel to the hilarious but OP Passing for Human, this one is narrated by the 700-year-old (female) vampire Sterling O'Blivion and features the return of the extra-terrestrial dolphin-like Benaroya, currently passing as Virginia Woolf.

The Last Warrior Queen, by Mary Mackey, Berkeley, \$2.75. Drawing on Sumerian legends, among other things, this speculates what form a women-ruled society might have taken in ancient times.



And now for the new stuff, arranged by publisher:

From Ace:

9/84 First and Final Rites, by Shariann Lewitt, \$2.75. Well-handled "scimitar and sorcery" with Persian overtones, strong women characters playing a variety of roles, and a persuasive magical/spiritual component.

From Ballantine (Del Rey):

10/84 Moreta: Dragonlady of Pern, by Anne McCaffrey, \$3.50. Some of the history behind McCaffrey's two Pern trilogies. I'm halfway through and loving it -- Moreta is a most attractive hero.

From Berkeley:

9/84 Starslik, by Sydney J. Van Scyoc, \$5.95 (trade). Third of the trilogy that began with Darkchild and Bluesong --this woman is really good.

CIENCE FICTIO

From DAW (NAL):

9/84 Forty Thousand in Gehenna, by C.J. Cherryh, \$3.50. A convincing saga of a colony evolving toward culturehood. Try it if you already have a core f/sf readership.

10/84 City of Sorcery, by Marion Zimmer Bradley, \$3.50. Newest in the Darkover series, featuring several of the same characters as Thendara House --a "must" adventure novel with all women adventurers.

11/84 The Snares of Ibex, by Jo Clayton, \$2.95. The most recent in the "Diadem" series, which has been of the heterosexual strong-woman-with-no-peers variety -- but in her newer work, Clayton has been moving toward more complex women characters in varied relationships with each other. This one might be worth looking at.

1/85 Chanur's Venture, by C. J. Cherryh, \$2.95. Sequel to the competent, intriguing Pride of Chanur, which featured a starship crewed by all-female members of a feline race. Again, mostly for the f/sf market.

2/85 Changer's Moon, by Jo Clayton (price n/a). Conclusion of the "Duel of Sorcery" trilogy (Moongather and Moonscatter -- a don't miss.

From Pocket:

10/84 Sumperluminal, by Vonda Mcintyre, \$2.95. Set in outer space and under the sea, a fascinating exploration of Characters who will not fit into the roles assigned them. Two of the tree focal characters are women. McIntyre is the author of the popular Dreamsnake (Dell).



From St. Martin's

(Announced 8/84, received 10/84) The Silver Horse, by Elizabeth A. Lynn, \$9.95 (cloth). Something of a change in tone for, Lynn, this fantasy story features two (female) best friends of 11 or so and should go as a "young adult" novel as well as f/sf -- if you can sell hardcovers.

12/84 Extra(Ordinary) People, by Joanna Russ, \$4.95 (trade paper). Previously available in cloth only.

2/85 Brightness Falls From the Air, by James Tiptree, Jr. (real name: Alice Sheldon). \$14.95 (cloth only). From the Tor imprint. Tiptree is a wonderful writer, but this one will be for the hardcore, hard<u>cover</u> science fiction crowd.



Sudie Rakusin/Goddesses and Amazons

WILD TREES PRESS

Wild Trees Press is a new publishing company formed in 1984 by Alice Walker and Robert Allen (former editor of The Black Scholar. Their commitment is to "publish what we love" and to bring out works that evidence high literary quality and social insight. Walker calls Wild Trees' first book A Piece of Mine, a collection of short stories by J. California Cooper, "Wise and exhilarating." It its strong folk flavor, Cooper's work reminds us of Langston Hughes and Zora Neale Hurston. Like theirs, her style is deceptively simple and direct, and the vale of tears in which some of her characters reside is never so deep that a rich chuckle at the foolish person's foolishness can not be heard." Also available from Wild Trees are an eight photographic note cards and a four-color 20 x 30 inch poster featuring Alice Walker. Wild Trees Press. PO Box 378, Navarro, CA 95463.



WRITING WANTED

A group of southern women now living in the San Francisco neighborhood are putting together an Southern Women's Anthology of short stories, poems, essays, nonfiction, illustrations, and photos illustrating the following themes: growing up southern, staying in or leaving the south, southern traditions/heritage, prejudice against southerners, ethnic/cultural diversity in the south, chronicles of southern women's resistance to economic exploitation, political repression, racism, and visions of the future of the south. For writers' and artists' guidelines write The Southern Women's Anthology, c/o Nola Hadley, 561 El Dorado, Oakland, Ca 94611.

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SISTER SPIRIT A South Bay Women's Community Project

Sisterspirit is an ambitious project going on in San Their intention is not only to open the classic lose. feminist bookstore/coffeehouse selling new and used books, records, journals and magazines, lending library, performance space, meeting room & reading area, child care space, bulletin boards, et al, but also to publish a monthly newsletter, calendar of events and a South Bay women's yellow pages. If their newsletter is indicative of the rest of their efforts, they are extremely well organized. What follows are some excerpts from their September newsletter:

SUCCESSES SUMMER

SisterSpirit came together in April 1984. In these past four months we have accomplished much. We incorporated and received state tax exempt status June 28, and we are presently in the process of filing for federal tax exempt status. We have expanded from the original four core members to a group consisting of three collectives (Core, Fundraising, and Outreach). We have submitted two grants to San Francisco foundations - The Women's Foundation and Vanguard Foundation.

Our greatest success though has been the weekly summer coffeehouse which has run every Friday night (with two exceptions) since May 29. Because this was a donated space, we were able to run it only through August 24. It was a sample of the women's programming we wish to bring to San Jose through the women's bookstore/coffeehouse. The summer coffeehouse's programming illustrated a commitment to multi-cultural presentations. The greatest success of the coffeehouse was you! The summer coffeehouse depended completely on donated baked goods and space and volunteers energy and time. Without your efforts the coffeehouse would not have been as successful. Likewise the support of the

Sisterspirit women's coffeehouse was far beyond any expectations which demonstrated the need and desire for such a place in San Jose. Below is the summer coffeehouse budget.



INCOME

Contributions Income from 9 coffeehouses

	1017.99
\$1	450.61

\$585.61

\$ 432.62

Coffeehouse supplies s	\$206.44
Records to sell	112.61
Fliers	211.83
Bulk mail stamps	56.90
(2) Grant writing	
workshops	65.90
Incorporation costs	91.89
Business cards	48.79
Checking account costs	42.05
Women's Unity Day	
table rental	12.50
Outreach Costs	16.50
\$	865.41

EXPENSES

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Money in bank

BEBEBEBEBEBEBEBEBE

BOOKS AND RECORDS AT 10% OFF

We are now taking orders for women's music albums, tapes and books. You can purchase all of these at a discount from regular retail prices. To obtain a free catalog of over 100 women's music listings and 600 women's books, write to us at Sisterspirit with a self-addressed legal sized envelope with at least .37 postage.

All albums and tapes are \$7.50. You can pick up your orders at Sisterspirit functions or arrange to pick them up at the homes of core collective members.

In sisterhood,

Marilyn Cook Fran Kasper Mary Jeffries Karen Hester Amy Caffrey

Sisterspirit Core Collective

(And on the back of the page, along with the listings of books and records available, is a form for donating money, time, and for getting on the mailing list.)



BOOKPEOPLE

Announces Special Holiday Ordering Hours

For your convenience during the busy holiday season, Bookpeople is expanding business hours.

Starting November 12, our Order Department will be open **one hour earlier** on weekdays for **telephone orders** from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Pacific Time)

We will also be open for **telephone** orders on Saturdays (November 17, 24, December 1, 8, and 15) from 8 a.m. to noon.

In California call toll-free: 800-624-4466 In the continental U.S. call toll-free: 800-227-1516 In Alaska & Hawaii call collect: 415-549-3030 Please have **your account number** ready when ordering.

Remember UPS orders placed by noon PST are shipped the same day.

There's no per title minimum and order of 10 or more calendars or books (may be combined) earn the discount.

Along with our regular weekday warehouse hours (9-5), Bookpeople will be open on **Sundays** (November 25, December 2, 9, and 16) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Bookpeople will be closed for Thanksgiving, November 22, but will be open for business on Friday, November 23.

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Did You Know? Ms Magazine has finally developed a way to get your books in MS. For only about \$1000, you can run an ad that looks like a book review, and then readers can order the books from Ms Mailorder. Volcano Press is trying it with Menopause, Naturally. Hope it works, but it isn't exactly cheap!

NWSA will be in Seattle this year. June 19-23 at U. of Washington. Won't overlap with ALA this year, which will make things easier and crazier. Jacquelyn Marie will be in charge of the small press book display. For more info



write: Jacquelyn Marie, Reference Librarian, McHenry Library, UCSC, Santa Cruz, CA 95064.

Lonnie Barbach's Pleasures: Women Write Erotica has had it's movie option picked up. Don't know by who, but it's something to give thought, (or fantasy?) to. Penthouse has picked up an expert. Strange bedfellows and all that,

Women and Children First celebrated her fifth birthday on November 10. W&CF celebrated all day with story readings and singing for children, music, Make It Mime Feminist Mime Troupe and ... Ta Da Ta Dum De Dum! The veteran actresses of the Women & Children First Players presenting another original, hilarious skit on Life In A Feminist Bookstore Along with food and drink, and raffles with lots of prizes.

(WIP Conference organizers: do you think you could import this excellent entertainment for the WIP conference? I don't see how we can do without it!)

November programs at W&CF included a reading by Barbara Wilson (Murder in the Collective) (My girlfriend wants to know if that's a documentary or a novel), workshops in making your own electrical repairs, basic carpentry and plumbing skills, herbal first aid, the birthday party, a Saturday morning story reading for 4-8 year olds, and another one with stories and rhymes for pre-schoolers, and a special pre-holiday women-only shopping night highlighted by a reading from Bernice by Georgia Jo Ressmeyer (Metis Press.)

I heard this at a COSMEP meeting and it's true: The Post Office will print your return address on prestamped envelopes for the modest fee of \$9.85 per 500 envelopes (that includes the printing AND the envelopes) plus the value of the postage. And as I recall, they mailed the envelopes to me for free. Sure saves time and energy. You can get regular or window envelopes in 6 3/4" size or standard business size. Non profits can get precancelled bulkrate stamped envelopes as well. Minimum order is 500. Ask at your local PO or write or phone the US Postal Service, US Stamped Envelope Agency, Williamsburg, PA 16693-0500. 814-832-3229. You need PS Form 3203 to order them on. (When they say "Service", Susanna, they mean Services-for-Businesses, not people. But this is the only one I've ever found that does us any favors.)

A Different Light, a bookstore serving gay and lesbian readers in Los Angeles received and commendation, in the form of a proclamation from the Senate of the State of California, for their valued contribution to the community.



A Thousand Pieces of Gold (Dell and Design Enterprises), the fictionalized autobiography of a Chinese woman in the 1800's who was brought to the US as a slave after the Emancipation Proclamation, as been optioned for the silver screen by BBZ Films Ltd. If BBZ exercises this option, author Ruthanne Lum McCunn will get 3 1/2 % of the final approved shooting budget to a maximum of \$125,000.

Lifestyle Bookstore & Gifts celebrated their first birthday with a book review and discussion of Claire Morgan's The Price of Salt in conjunction with Ishtar -- The Tampa Womyn Writer's Guild.



book in November was Murder in the Collective, with 400 copies going out to bookstores in a two week period.

Always wanted to get into selling software, but finding no good feminist titles? Fear no more. Now available for the Apple IIe are the first two titles from MicroEd's Women In History series: Women in Ancient Greece and Rome and Women in Medieval/Renaissance Europe. Suggested retail price is \$79.95. If you want to plunge right into this field, call or write MicroEd, PO Box 444005, Eden Prairie, MN 55344. 612-944-8750.



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FROM OUR OWN PRESSES

Bearing Witness/Sobrevivlendo: An Anthology of Writing and Art by Native American/Latina Women. Special issue of Calyx (PO Box B, Corvallis, OR 97339), \$4.50 130p. A collection of poetry, prose and art work by 44 Native American and Latina women. Two years in the making, this issue was edited by six women who were spread geographically throughout Oregon, Washington, Montana, California, Iowa and Oklahoma. Which only shows what challenges we can and will surmount to get the work out! Contributors include Wendy Rose, Paula Gunn Allen, Jo Cochran, Beth Brant, Cherrie Moraga, Linda Hogan... as well as women who have never 'before published. It is a rich and wonderful collection that you can't be without. Even if you don't normally carry Calyx, order copies of this issue. Standard bookstore discount.



W.I.M. Publications (A Black-owned, woman-owned general and specialty press), announces a whole series of new books after a number of years of publishing and distributing the 'work of SDiane Bogus:

I, Lilian, Here, I. Lillian Randolph. "A rare achievement in destroying stereotypical thinking, this woman's sympathies as a white in a racist world are not those usually expressed. She is not sorry or ashamed of being white or for marrying a man of color -- she is rather proud and mature and deeper for the experience. She speaks out about being white like a kid pleased to acknowledge her presence on the first day of school. I Lillian Here is that kind of courageous, expectant, prepared utterance.

A Voice Sometimes Sane. Dorothy Love. "Mystic, Lesbian, Feminist Poetry. She's no stranger to readers of Sinister Wisdom and Essence.

Intro to Fine, Adele Sebastian. Dead at 27 of lupus, this collection spans ten years of the writings of this Black writer and musician.

Verses in the Wind, Mary Brewster. "Anti-war, Pro-Human, Christian Poems. December, 1984

A Small Pain, Flyin' Thunda Cloud. Flyin' Thunda Cloud is a rdoc (that's "radical dyke of color") for the uninitiated. The publishers asks that readers who live comfortable lives and have genteel sensibilities please not buy this book. Readers of Common Lives/Lesbian Lives, Azalea, Lesbian Connection, and Lesbian Inciter will know much of her work. December 1984 publication date.

Also from WIM: Cheryl Coleman, midwest jazz, folk-rock artist known on the midwest feminist and lesblan coffeehouse circles (and performing partner of the illustrious SDiane Bogus), has a new cassette tape Take Back the Night featuring her work on a twelve-string, and electric guitars, soft love songs to hard rock. \$7.00

The above books are all short runs, 25-35 page chapbooks, \$6 @, 40% discount to bookstores.



Women Who Loved Women. Tee Corinne, Pearlchild, \$7.95 paper. What book dares this bold title? A collection of posters (reduced to book size) of 75+ women who "loved women" (Yes, Virginia, I do think that means sexually). The posters were conceived with Tee discovered a Xerox machine that could do enlargements of photos. Enlargement followed enlargement, followed by an urge to clarify the enlargements with conte, crayola and pastels...that grew into a collection of 85 posters of women, sometimes several of the same woman at different times in her life or with different lovers, that were exhibited at Valencia Rose in San Francisco and Ollie's in Oakland. How do you make an art exhibit travel? Turn it into a book. Hence, Women Who Loved Women. You'll find "everyone" here, from Marlene Dietrich to Qui Jin, from Gladys Bentley to Janet Flanner, and of course Natalie Clifford Barney, Eleanor Roosevelt, and maybe a few women you hadn't known loved women. Each woman's image is accompanied by a reference to guide you to more information about her and her affections. Having seen the original show, I wish that the reproduction was clearer. But I don't think I'd trade the better grade of paper that would require for the low price tag. One gives a little to get a little, etc. Flipping through this book is like playing in a lesbian family photo album. This is a brilliant strategy for releasing a lot of copyrighted images directly into the lesbian domain. Shelve this book in History, as well as Lesbian. And remind customers that books cited that are OP can likely be found using interlibrary loan. (Distributed by Inland and BP. Please order from distributors.)



The National Women's History Project publishes a 48 page catalogue that is chock full of unexpected and too little known history resources for teaching women's history in the schools. Catalogues are .20 ⁽³⁾ for 5-25 copies, and

will sell from the history section. Or they'll send you one for free if you'd just like to browse through it for the books and posters reviewed. A great resource. NWHP, PO Box 3716, Santa Rosa, CA 95402.

You should have in hand by now: Women-Centered Pregnancy and Birth and The Absence of the Dead is Their Way of Appearing from Cleis Press. AT BP, Inland, or better yet, order direct from the Cleis Office nearest you: PO Box



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8933, Pittsburgh, PA 15221 or PO Box 14684, San Francisco, CA 94114.

History of Women for Children in a standard coloring book format, presents a pretty solid history of women for pre-school through fourth graders. It is clear and direct ("Even through men women still did important work for their group, MEN HAD GAINED POWER BY TAKING IT AWAY FROM WOMEN") and doesn't bother to gloss over the fact that men beat their wives and it was legal, etc. Multi-cultural and multi-racial images. It is a good introduction for young children and a solid plea for a more humane world. One wonders why this book didn't appear years ago! \$4.95. Avail B & T, or direct from the publisher/author Vivian Sheldon Epstein, 212 South Dexter St., #26, Denver, CO 80222.

11:

The Political Life of American Jewish Women, Susan Welch, Ph.D and Fred Ullrich. Biblio Press (PO Box 22, Fresh Meadows, NY 11365) \$5.95 75pp. "Is there a gender gap among Jews? This monograph examines the way Jewish women participate in politics and their beliefs about some important political issues. Uses survey data from 1972 to 1982 to compare Jewish women to Jewish men and to Protestant and Catholic women to compare similarities and differences. Several Jewish women important in 20th century American politics are highlighted. And coming in the spring of 1985 will be Miriams's Well: Rituals for Jewish Women Around the Year by Penina V. Adelman. "A compilation of new womancentered Jewish rituals designed for women's groups, based on Rosh Hodesh gatherings for all the months of the Jewish Year. Significant women's occasions are marked. Many of the stories, poems and songs based on ancient and modern sources included here have been used in rituals with Jewish

women's groups in the Northeast USA by women of all ages. A guide to other new women's rituals and sources for enhancing their use is provided in an appendix.

Aural Sex & Verbal Intercourse, Isadora Alman, Down There Press (PO Box 2086, Burlingame, CA 94010) \$8.50. This is a casual, off-the-cuff history of the San Francisco Sex Information Switchboard and the true-life experiences of a volunteer as she goes through training and staffing the phones. Flippant, but information filled. Not much on lesbians. I had to note, except an anti-separatism response to a call that did not make me feel humorous. Not sure who the intended audience is, future volunteers or people looking for snippets of information, or the future funding It's a better read than sources of SFSI. Whatever. Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex.

Diana Lucifera, Marilyn Krysl, Shameless Hussy Press (PO Box 3092, Berkeley, CA 94707) \$2.95. A long prose poem of a woman regaining her power. Written 1978? Probably at RP.

Gathering Ground, edited by Jo Cochran, J. T. Stewart and Mayumi Tsutakawa. Seal Press, (312 S. Washington, Seattle, Wa 98104) \$6.95. BP & Inland. Gathering Ground is



Margaret A. Davidson/Gathering Ground

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a collection of writings and art work by women of color who live in the Pacific Northwest. From the very front cover, a painting in browns, ochres and red against greys and green, of three women embraced, there is a sense of gathering in, of gathering together of who "we" (the "we" of the editors) are, of experience, both their own, and their foremothers and birth mothers, into ground on which a woman can walk with pride. Again and again, as I read this book, I had that (now) familiar sense of relief that comes of finding something essential, something I needed to know, said out loud -- written down so clearly that it can never again be denied or forgotten. Already in it's second printing, this book is both essential and a gift.

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And from Naiad Press and hot off the presses: We Too Are Drifting, another novel in Naiad's great series of reprints. Originally published in 1935, set in San Francisco and exquisite. In addition to the novel, there will be photo's of Wilhelm and an introduction that tells all that is currently known about Wilhelm's life. It's a lovely novel. Would that she had followed with dozen's more. She only did one other that reached print Torchlight to Valhalla, and Naiad will be publishing that, too, though no date has been set.

And in January, Naiad will do two by Jane Rule: A Hot Eyed Moderate -- Essays and Inland Passage and Other Stories. \$7.95 paper and \$13.95 cloth. What can I say? JR has quite the following and the books walk off the shelf and out the door. It's been a long time since there's been any new JR books and the fans have been getting hungry. Naiad dearly loves bookstores that order direct, most especially those big first orders. Their address is PO Box 10543, Tallahassee, Florida 32302.



Womanbooks has been at it again: The Lesbian Catalog Supplement to the Lesbian Catalog Four (Fall/Winter 1983-84) is now out and about. It's a six page booklet. Don't know what the price is for the supplement, but my guess is that it comes free with the catalogue (\$1 @, 40% for bulk orders.) And that if you have copies of the 83-84 catalogue and write Womanbooks and tell them how many inserts you need, they'll send them for a very reasonable cost. It's an incredible collection of lesbian-books-in-print to have to sell off the shelf. Also a superb resource for bookstores that are just building their collections. The catalogue serves as a mail-order tool for Womanbooks, but unlike most mail order catalogues, this one includes the publishers of the books to make it helpful to other booksellers.

The other superb catalogue in the industry in the Ladyslipper Catalog of Records and Tapes by Women. The 1985 edition is out. If you haven't already gotten it in the

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mail, drop everything and write for it right now! Sixty some pages of women's music. I used to keep a copy by the front desk as a resource for answering questions. 150,000 copies in print. Also available on tape from the Womyn's Braille Press, PO Box 8475, Minneapolis, MN 55408. Order from Ladyslipper, Inc. PO Box 3130, Durham, NC 27705. Don't know if the catalogues are still available for resale in bookstores, but I think it's be a great idea. Sell 'em right out of the record bins.

Murder in the Collective, Barbara Wilson. Seal Press. \$7.95 paper. A feminist murder mystery with a sense of humor as Wilson continues to explore the dynamics of working in the movement, of best intentions juxtaposed against the real world. A little politics, a little romance, a little o sex in the interest of "more responsible actions" (maybe this is a documentary after all?) as Our Heroine slogs through the daily business of untangling the complexities of race, sex, class and imperialism in the daily business of running a print shop and picking up the bodies on the darkroom floor. Just the thing to read after a hard day at the feminist business.



Places of Interest to Women: The 1985 Women's Travel Guide*USA*Canada*Caribbean. Ferrari Publications (PO Box35575, Phoenix, AZ 85069) \$6.00. "Women" is a euphemism. This is one of the two essential guidebooks for Lesbians (The other being Gala's Guide, which also covers Europe). Includes listings of bars, bookstores, restaurants, clubs, & services including gay and lesbian AA meetings (there's one of each in my old home town!) and women's centers with lesbian programs and/or that welcome lesbians. Essential.



Fall books from The Women's Press Canada: Good Morning Franny, Good Night Franny "A Joyous tale of a marvelously typical eight-year-old who happens to use a wheel chair. Ideal for all five to eight year olds, this beautifully illustrated picture book is fun to read and a subtle but effective learning tool. \$4.95. Full Color.

If He Comes Back He's Mine: A Mother's Story of Child Abuse. A true story, told by a woman who abused her child. Without excuse or self-pity, Elizabeth Camden recounts the story of her own childhood, a teenaged love affair, the birth of a son and the pain he suffered at her hands. It is a story of pain, love, and courage. With one in ten children the victim of abuse, it is also a story that has to be told. \$7.95

Not an Easy Choice: A Feminist Re-examines Abortion, Kathleen McDonnell. "If most Canadians admit they support a woman's right to an abortion, why does the controversy still rate? Are there issues that the pro-choice movement hasn't addresses--issues that remain confused and unresolved that have prevented a clear victory? Using responses from women who have had abortions she describes the often conflicting

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needs and emotions experienced prior to and after aborting. The author also attempts to unravel the ethical debates on abortion, examines the constituency and strategy of the anti-choice movement, evaluates the arguments regarding mens rights in abortion decisions and explores the larger issues of reproductive rights." \$8.95

Labour Pains: Women's Work in Crisis, Pat Armstrong. "A stunning analysis of current economic patterns. Armstrong explains why women's employment will deteriorate both absolutely and in relation to men. Her thoughtful and comprehensively detailed arguments herald a warning for the future--that the working women of Canada will likely emerge from this crisis in a more uncertain position than before." \$9.95

Baker's Dozen: Stories by Women. "Using humor, fantasy, myth and satire, thirteen authors tell of creative ways women have found to deal with the varieties of oppression we know so well. Stories delve into the intricacies and contradictions of relationships both lesbian and heterosexual. Personal responses to political realities provide a focus for other writers. Themes such as adolescence, the search for independence, black women's struggles, activism and violence against women are also addressed." \$7.95

Love's Sweet Return: The Harlequin Story, Margaret Ann Jensen. "Examines the phenomenon of romance fiction, focusing specifically on one of the most successful book publishers in the world, the Canadian-based Harlequin Enterprises. Jensen details the rise of the company, examines the Harlequin formula and evaluates the growth and impact of both Harlequin and its competition. She also addresses recent changes in the content of Harlequins. Jensen's interviews with readers and her portraits of Harlequin authors offer some startling insights into a major component of popular culture today." (Haven't seen this book, yet, but I wonder if there's anything useful her for feminist publishers. One of my wilder fantasies is to start The 1985 Sara Steele Calendar! A new collection of Sara Steele's stunning watercolors to brighten 1985... the most gorgeous calendar on the market today.

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a Harlequin-type publishing house that slowly subverts it's readership to wild and passionate feminism.) \$8.95

The Women's Press books are available in the USA from BP and Inland.

The Annotated Guide to Women's Periodicals in the US and Canada lists over 250 publications from across the US & Canada. Each publication is briefly reviewed by category and indexed by title and geographically. It's a 52 page, perfect bound booklet. Subs are \$12/ind (2 issues) and \$20/inst. & Lib. \$6.50/ind. (single copy), \$10. Inst. Edited by Terry Mehlman. Also includes French language

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publications. Order from Annotated Guide, c/o NSIWS, Box E-94, Earlham College, Richmond, IN 47374.

Living Our Visions: Building Feminist Community, Donna Hawxhurst and Sue Morrow. Fourth World (110 W. Geneva Drive, Tempe, AZ 85282) \$6.50 paper. "Part of the growing body of feminist literature dealing with the specifics of making our feminist visions a reality. Addresses: the feminist utopian visions that we harbor; feminism as a major force in the transformation of our personal, social, and environmental existence; the untapped, dynamic power of feminist groups, organizations and communities; the practical aspects of transforming feminist ideology into

Appalachia 1985 Simple Lifestyle Calendar

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

Retail \$4.75 40% Discount

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ASPI PUBLICATIONS P.O. Box 298 Livingston, KY 40445 (606) 453-2105 feminist reality; living our visions now in our daily lives as individual women, in relationships, and in community. Feminist process guidelines section includes: Creating feminist groups and organizations; demystification of process; empowerment and advocacy; honesty, safety and trust; responsibility; communication; consensus; anger and conflict resolution; celebration and play. The book grows out of the authors experiences as feminist theoreticians, consultants, educators and activists over a ten year period. 40% discount to bookstores. No minimum order as a support gesture to small bookstores. Returns in saleable condition accepted.



WOMEN AND WORDS: THE ANTHOLOGY

A celebration! Stories, essays and poems by 80 Canadian women from all walks of life display a diverse and confident affirmation of feminism. 287 pp \$10.95 (Can.) pb 5^{1/2} × 8^{1/2}

EARTH WITCH by Anne Cameron A powerful book of poems about one woman's escape from deadening housewifery to a new world of liberating artistic creation and love between women. 69 pp \$5.95 (Can.) pb 5¹/₄ × 8¹/₂



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Even the Paperbacks are Cheaper at Daedalus!

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MAGAZINES

Radiance: A Publication for Large Women. The publisher says it better than I can: "Radiance was created with the hope of bringing large women support, encouragement, humor, information, and just plain delight with themselves, their bodies and their lives!" The first issue is 40 pages, following issues will be larger as more of a network is Radiance is looking for distributors and also formed. Bookstore terms not sent, but the subscription writers. rate breaks down to 2.50 per issue. It's a quarterly. This first issue reflects a bay area focus, but I think it will be of national interest, anyway. Articles focus on selflove and self-acceptance, the book list includes Shadow on a Tightrope and The Obsession. Order from Radiance, PO Box 31703, Oakland, Ca 94604.

Maize: A Lesbian Country Magazine. a thirty page magazine for lesbians who live in the country or wish they did. Which is a lot of potential readership! Articles in #2 looked at Life and Death on the Farm (raising sheep), feminism and the dairy goat industry, homeopathy for dykes, ideas, announcements. I learned that that damned weed burdock is really the Japanese vegetable gabo, gone independent (read that "wild") and that the solution to the problem was to eat it. Recipes included. Maize reminds me of all that was best about the now-defunct and fondly remembered Country Women, right down to the hominess and excellent graphics and layout. \$3.00. Order from Word Weavers, PO Box 8742, Minneapolis, MN 55408.



Feminist Clip Art is a brilliant idea. It's 'clipart', that wonder of a copyright free source of images that can be cut out and pasted-down on posters, fliers, periodicals etc. Very strong on non-traditional images and women of color. I think that what is hardest is beginning -- hard to start out with a diverse enough collection of images to fulfill all the needs that appear the moment this item is in hand. (ie no images of women & books suitable for FBN). The other difficulty is that it is expensive to reproduce images on a paper quality that works for reproduction. But it's certainly an attempt to fill a need! First issue is 16 pages of images, retail price is \$25, \$15 to bookstores, and \$10 for 5+ copies. Subscriptions are \$75/year for four issues. Jewels Graphics, 3921 Webster St., Oakland, CA 94609.



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Sage: A Scholarly Journal on Black Women. edited by Patricia Bell Scott (co-author But Some of Us Are Brave) and Beverly Guy-Sheftall (co-author Sturdy Black Bridges). An interdisciplinary forum for the discussion of issues relating to Black women. Each issued includes feature articles, critical essays, in-depth interviews, book reviews, research reports, etc. Themes for the first four Issues are education, mother-daughter relationships, health, and black feminist theory. \$8.00/issue, 40% discount to bookstores. No returns. (Hopefully that will change to allow a smoother flow of the magazine through the bookstores.) Sage, PO Box 42741, Atlanta, Ga 30311.



Women Writing in America: (Trying to Understand What It Means to be a Feminist) is a special issue of Contact/II edited by Rochelle Ratner. It came out in January, but will be "current" for a long time to come. Includes essays on the persons and writings of H.D., Judy Grahn, Denise Levertov, Audre Lorde, Adrienne Rich, Diane DiPrima, Diane Wakoski, Susan Sherman, Susan Fromberg-Schaeffer, Leslie Marmon Silko, Carolyn Forche, Muriel Rukeyser.... Need I say more? \$4.00 Also from Contact/II is a special issue called Women Writing On. With wonderful photographs of many of these women for those of us who like to gaze upon, as well as listen to.... Also reviews of many of the finest collections of women's poetry. \$6.00 40% discount to bookstores. Order from Contact II Publications, Box 451, Bowing Green, New York, NY 10004.





Telewoman is a national lesbian networking newsletter with an emphasis on resources and contacts for women who write poetry and fiction, women in the arts and photography, women whose spiritual perspectives are central in their everyday lives. Book reviews, emphasis on graphics and cover art by lesbians links between country and city lesbians." Telewoman has always thought of herself as a bay area publication, but recently did a head count of the subscribers and found that 68% of the circulation live outside the bay area and decided to go national, since they already were. \$2.00/issue. 40% to bookstores. Write for free sample copy. Free sample 3 month subscription on request. Telewoman, PO Box 2306, Pleasant Hill, Ca 94523.

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JOURNAL: Goddesses and Amazons is an illustrated journal that features Sudie Rakusin's drawings of the same, sometimes interspersed with a bit of information, a few more contemporary images and some wonderful woman-creatures that



must come out of Sudie's own mind. I'm quite infatuated with the mer-dyke with her arm around a dolphin, myself. Lots of wonderful drawings and lots of room to write in, as well. One of the pleasures of this journal is the high quality paper it's printed on. You've probably seen her work in SW[, [OOB[, [CL/LL[, [The Inciter[, and [Big Mama Rag[. This is the second edition, a little different from the first: a purple cover instead of gray, each copy comes shrink-wrapped to arrive in immaculate condition, and there's a discount for bookstores built into the new price. \$14.95, 40% discount to bookstores. One free copy will be shipped when 15+ are ordered to be used as a display copy. Dispora will be distributing them, or order direct fro Sudie Rakusin, FO Box 88, Brooke, VA 22430.

Finally Real is Sylvia Kohan's long-time-coming first album. First of many, here's hoping. This recording really does it to me. Some combination of Kohan's voice and the things she does with it, partly I'll listen to anything with Mary Watkins on planos and synthesizers, but mix that with the genius that is Watkin's arranging and I'm off the deep end. Dancing Cat Records, PO Box 639, Santa Cruz, CA 95061 or your local women's music distributor.

We Are Among You --Lesbians with Disabilities. Prepared and presented by Kim, Candi, Pat, Mari, Alison. An informative and emotional presentation by five Minneapolis Lesbians iwth chronic and permanent disabilities. These Lesbians take the risks to share of themselves in these personal stories about disabilities, illnesses, hopitals, social services, families, Lesbian families, hopes, dreams, needs, and the Lesbain community. Recorded live at A Woman's Coffeehouse in Minneapolis. Two tapes, two hours. For wimmin only. \$8.50.

But the Dreams They Come Lyrics and music by Barbara Jensen. Introducing Barbara Jensen, a creative singersongwriter. She touches on subjects infrequently heard about in song--death, being working class, being Jewish, addictions, the world of dreams, and even Lesbian love. For wimmin only. \$7.25 60 min.

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CARDS: The very popular "If you can walk you can dance, If you can talk, you can sing" Zimbabwe card, and another, "The more sweat in peace, The less blood in war." Graphics feature third world women in traditional dress and are some of the most joyous cards around. They sell at \$1.00 @ (easily). 40% discount. Write for a free sample if you haven't seen them. Burning Spear Publications, PO Box 27205, Oakland, Ca 94602.

MORE CARDS: Wacky line drawings of fantastic and sweet creatures. Brochure and sample cards available. Retail is \$.80 @, 50% discount. Lune Beams, 225 Merry St., Madison, WI 53704. Twenty Plus acoustic and electric guitar by Maribeth Shriner. Maribeth Shriner has been writing and perfecting these solo instrumental guitar songs for over twenty years. Side one: intricate and upbeat tunes on 12 string acustic guitar. Side two: healing, soothing, electric guitar music. For wimmin only \$7.25. 60 min.

Radical Rose Recordings, a Lesbian cassette project founded in 9982, has released three new tapes, bringing the total to 13 tapes released: (PO Box 8122, Minneapolis, MN55408. Distribution terms not sent.)

CALENDARS

OOPS! Corrections! I incorrectly reported the returns policy on the Sara Steele Calendar (distributed by Ladyslipper) in the last issue. The correct policy is that it must be returned by January 15th.

Fetons la Femme! is a poster calendar featuring line drawings of 32 contemporary French-speaking women leaders in fields as varied as diplomacy, fashion design and literature from France, Canada, Africa and elsewhere. 2'x3', printed on heavy pale green paper. Entries include names and birthdays of famous people of the French-speaking world, and also the dates of important professional meetings for language teachers. Bulk rates clear. Retail is \$6.75, but \$5@ for 5 and \$4 @ for 40+. Bookstore terms probably lie somewhere in between. Order from ACTFL Materials Center, PO Box 408, Hastings on Hudson, NY 10706 Can't Kill the Spirit 1985 Peace Calendar is from the Syracuse Cultural Workers Project. \$6.75. A beautiful and woman-strong calendar with people's history dates, lunar cycles, holidays, resource pages, and wonderful graphics.



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CALENDARS



Avail. BP, Inland, women's music distributors or direct. Syracuse Cultural Workers Project also has some wonderful cards and posters, including the very popular multi-cultural International Women's Day poster and a Seneca Women's Peace Encampment poster, so you might want to write for their catalogue even if you get the calendars at your handiest distributor. Box 5357, Syracuse, NY 13217.

The War Resisters League Peace Calendar and Appointment Book: **How Shall We Live Together?** features work by Susan Griffin, Chief Seattle, Linda Hogan & Grace Paley. 5 1/4" x 8 1/4", a page a week for jotting down appointments, etc. They do have bookstore rates but didn't send them. \$6.00 @, War Resisters League, 339 Lafayette St., NYC 10012.

Bo-Tree Rides Again! with their In Praise of Women Artists wall calendar \$7.95 (which includes Karen Sjöholm's Woman Secrets painting) and their small, spiral bound datebook Contemporary Women Artists, \$.6.95. They also have one called A Woman's Daybook that I haven't yet seen. It will be graphically excellent, well designed, et al, though not necessarily on the cutting edge of radical feminist thinking. All should do very well. Avail BP, Inland, and direct. For direct orders, the minimum is 36 units, assorted, with a minimum of 6 per title. 58% discount for non-returnable. 50% returnable (up to 20% of order.) Bo-Tree Productions, 1137 San Antonio Road, Suite E, Palo Alto, Ca. 94303. Toll free: 800-421-9448 (In California 415-967-1817).

The Emily Dickinson Book of Days. "From the great corpus of Emily Dickinson's poetry we have chosen a poem for each weak of the year -- a poem appropriate to its time, a poem to lift one's spirits or set one ruminating. Each poem is enclosed in a graceful line drawing by Donald Lynch. The calendar, a spiral-bound desk diary with a new spread for each week, is printed in deep blue and black on a heavy snow white stock." 5 1/2" by 8 1/2" \$9.95. Cahill and Company. 145 Palisade St., Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522. Distributed by Inland.

And last but hardly least: Everywoman's Almanac 1985 THE classic of classics of feminist calendars. It's both an appointment calendar and a handbook. This year's edition focuses on women's interest and activism against the nuclear threat. Monthly interviews explore many of the questions raised. Artists and scientists present their positions, teenagers their feelings, a Hiroshima victim and a woman involved in the peace movement provide a historical perspective. Other interviews discuss nuclear technology, civil disobedience and women's activism. \$7.95. Sturdy binding survives the year in backpacks, jean pockets, purses and what-all as it goes everywhere with it's owner. The Women's Press, 16 Baldwin St., Toronto, M5T 1L2. In the USA order from BP and Inland.

1985!

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The Land Before Her: Fantasy and Experience of the American Frontiers, 1690-1860, Annette Kolodny. University of North Carolina, \$9.95 paper, \$20.00 cloth. Given that there was little place for women in the myth of the westering male, Kolodny examines the women's writings about the frontier to discover how women constructed their one mythology. Says Kolodny in her introduction: "For myself, I have long ceased to lament the absence of adventurous conquest in women's fantasies before 1860 and have come now to regret men's incapacity to fantasize tending the garden. For, given the choice, I would have had women's fantasies take the nation west rather than the psychosexual dramas of men intent on possessing a virgin continent. In the women's fantasies, at least, the garden implied home and community, not privatized erotic mastery." Looks good!

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Creating Rosie the Riveter: Class, Gender and Propaganda during World War II, Maureen Honey. University of Massachusetts Press. \$20.00 cloth. How did the strong. competent image of Rosie the Riveter become transformed into the childlike, naive, self-abnegating women of post-WW II, ushering in one of the most reactionary periods for women in modern American history? This book looks at the federal government's propaganda campaigns both during and after the war as expressed in middle class Saturday Evening Post and the most popular confessional magazine aimed at workingclass women True Story to document the creation and destruction of operating and functional images of women. I've been waiting for this explanation for a very long time. Also from U. of Mass, and perhaps the book we needed at the beginning of the year when 1984 was in the windows of every bookstore in town is Daphne Patai's The Orwell Mystique: A



Study in Male Ideology which points out that one can think of Orwell as decent, fair-minded and honest only if one ignores his proccupation with male power, traditional gender roles and his consistently denigrating portrayal of women, his attitude toward the working class, his frequent recourse to masculine initiation rites, his treatment of sexuality, his homophobia and anti-feminism. Thank-you! \$14.95 paper, \$30.00 cloth.

Japanese Women, Takie Sugiyama Lebra. Universityof Hawaii. \$18.95 cloth. A wealth of data gathered during lengthy fieldwork and exhaustive interviews with women of varying ages in contemporary Japan. "Lebra concludes that Japanese wives, who are in charge of all household decisions, including financial ones, enjoy an authority and autonomy, and therefore fulfillment, not experienced by American career women." Also from U. of Hawaii: Notable Women of Hawaii, ed Barbara Bennett Peterson. \$27.50 cloth.

AND ON PUBLISHER'S ROW

Pleasures: Women Write Erotica, Lonnie Barbach, Doubleday, cloth \$14.95. Barbach, you may recall, wrote For Yourself: The Fulfillment of Female Sexuality, one of the best books on the whole sexuality shelf. This is her response to the question "Why is there so little erotica written to appeal to women's desires?" Barbach has collected 31 stories, a few of which I've seen from the pens of Tee Corinne, Susan Griffin, Signe Hammer, Deena Metzger, and others. A daring, exciting, and long overdue first. May become a cult book as feminist readers dive into the sexual fantasies/erotica of their favorite writers? Already in its second printing. (gee whiz, do you think that if book sales prove that there's a market for decent erotica that more will be published?!!? I mean, what a really radical notion That women want to read woman-based erotica. I mean, I think these people might be onto samething!)

The Land Before Her

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FROMTHESMALLPRESSES

Women and Words: les femmes et les mots: An Anthology of Canadian Women's Writing, edited by the Women & Words Committee, Harbour Publishing (PO Box 219, Madeira Park, BC, Canada VON 2H0.) \$9.95 paper. In June of 1984, 800 women from across Canada -- writers, editors, critics, publishers, feminist bookstore workers, librarians -- and everyone with a passion for women's writing -- gathered in Vancouver for the first national Women And Words/Les Femmes et Les Mots Conference. Among other things that conference had quite an impact of FBN. And I think probably on every woman present. It was awesome. In the months preceding the conference, this anthology of Canadian women's writings was prepared and is finally available. It include work by well-known writers Marian Engel, Nicole Brossard, Jane Rule, and Louky Bersianik as well as work from many newer writers. It is a book that strives to be representative of all the women writing in Canada today and so includes a very diverse collection of cultural, linguistic, educational, geographical and racial backgrounds. 1-4 books, 35%, 5-49 40%, 50+42%, etc. library discount is 10%. Harbour also publishes Ann Cameron's (Daughters of Copper Woman and The Journey) poetry collection Earth Witch. \$5.95, which you may want to pick up at the same time,



A Piece of Mine, Short Stories by J. California Cooper. Forward by Alice Walker. Wild Tress Press (PO Box 378, Navarro, CA 95463.) \$7.95 paper. This is the first book from Wild Trees. In the forward, Walker writes of "She-Who-Listens-to-Other-Women in literature and life and about what listening means.... Cooper creates vividly the voice of the sister-witness that all of us, if we are lucky, and if we are loved, have in our lives. She is the woman you trust with your story as It is happening to you; she is the woman from whom you hide nothing. She is on your side. If you fall, she is the one to take the massage to your mother and your children. It will be the right one. Or, as Janie says to Pheoby (in Their Eyes Were Watching God), 'You can tell 'em what Ah say if you wants to. Dats just de same as me 'cause mah tongue is in mah friend's mouf.' " And what a collection of stories this makes! FBN is several hours late to the printers because once I opened it, I couldn't put it down. I "one-more-story-ed it right through dinner. The stories revolve around the struggles and foibles of Black women and men in a small town community. Cooper is a playwright with 17 plays to her credit, many of which have



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been produced and performed on the stage, public television, radio and college campuses. In 1978 she was named Black Playwright of the Year for her play, "Strangers". This is her first collection of short stories. And the cover of the book is perfect. If there's an award anywhere for graphic brilliance on the part of first-time publishers, it belongs to Wild Trees! \$7.95 paper, and available now. Order your first copies from Wild Trees and pick up some of their cards and posters while you're at it. Assume standard discount. Wild Trees Press, PO Box 378, Navarro, CA 95463.



Rainbow Roun Mah Shoulder, Linda Brown Bragg. Carolina Wren Press (300 Barclay Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.) \$6.00 paper. "This novel, the odyssey of a Black woman healer, won the Carolina Wren/North Carolina Cultural Arts Coalition award for best booklength manuscript by a minority writer in North Carolina. The heroine of Rainbow, Rebecca Florice, takes us with her through her life in a way that evokes subtly, yet both powerfully and bearably, all that the black part of our nation has lived through, mostly in silence. Bragg writes out of the tradition of Zora Neale Hurston, leaving no stone of real human experience untouched; none unenlightened. As a result, Rainbow, does much more than add to our 'up close' understanding of the 'Black experience.' It deepens our awareness of what it is to be human." Discount information not sent. Assume standard bookstore, as Carolina Wren has been publishing for quite a while.

Hags and Heroes: A Feminist Approach to Jungian Psychotherapy with Couples, Polly Young-Eisendrath. Inner City Books (Box 1271, Station Q, Toronto, Canada M4T 2P4.) \$14.00 paper. "Why do relationships fail? Why do partners once so comfortable with each other often wind up at odds? What effect do traditional attitudes toward woman have on marriage? Are lasting, long-term relationships between men and women even possible? The focus of this book is on understanding how individual complexes interfere with harmonious relationships. The emphasis is on revaluing the feminine principle and re-assessing the nature of female authority, in individual attitudes, in relationships and on a broader, collective level. 40% to bookstores, no minimum. 10% to libraries.

Cry Amandla!: South African Women and the Question of Power, June Goodwin. Africana Publishing Company (a division of Holmes and Meier, IUB Building, 30 Irving Place, NY, NY 10003.) "A unique look at apartheid, in conversations with black and white South African women across the political and social spectrum about the thing that matters most in this torn nation: White domination of the majority blacks, and the blacks' cry for 'Amandla!' (power). From the most right-wing of Afrikaners, who believes apartheid is God's will, to a black revolutionary and friend of Steve Biko, who details her detentions, torture, and changing political consciousness, Cry Amandla! captures the feeling, and the unfeeling, heart of South Africa."



Women & Taxes, Lois Leynse and Dennis Kamensky. Winning Publications (6825 Amour Drive, Oakland, CA 94611.) \$5.95 paper. A basic common-sense approach to taxes that covers the basic ways to save money on taxes, emphasizes the tax advantages of women setting up our own businesses and buying real estate, and also gives an over-all view and perspective on the IRS and income taxes. Stresses that the primary purpose of the IRS is to stimulate the economy, and that the IRS rewards risk taking and penalizes the cautious, conservative approach to money that most women take. Will probably be useful to most women with incomes over \$15,000. Wish there was a sticker that could be attached saying "Save some money on your taxes and put it in your movement." Dist: BP, Inland, The Distributors.

The Two of Us: Affirming, Celebrating and Symbolizing

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The Feminist Bookstore News



Gay and Lesbian Relationships, Larry J. Uhrig. Alyson Press, (40 Plympton St., Boston, MA 02118) \$6.95 paper. One thing I always like about Alyson Press is the diversity of work they publish. If there could be a basic, practical, essentially feminist, traditional book on the subject of gay and lesbian relationships and marriages, this book, written by an MCC clergyman, would be it. It will probably provoke many a knee-jerk reaction from lesbian feminists who have had it up to here with the patriarchal crap surrounding the very idea of marriage, and will probably walk quietly off the lesbian relationships shelf. Because it is a basic, practical book on gay and lesbian relationships, albeit fairly Christian based, where nothing else exists. BP. Inland.



Mermaids in the Basement:Poems for Women, Carolyn Kizer. Copper Canyon Press (PO Box 271, Port Townsend, WA 98368.) \$7.00 paper, \$14.00 cloth. "Carolyn Kizer has been an example and a light for poets; her work is luminous and shimmering with strength and surety. Especially important for women, Kizer displayed the energy and intelligence of a feminist long before it became fashionable. Through her work, often touched by an oriental influence, one senses an urgent and fundamental concern. Previous to this publication, Kizer's work has been unavailable for some time." "I'm so happy to have Carolyn Kizer's poems for women. My women's studies students have lived with illegal xeroxed copies long enough. This is a book we can teach many times over." -Sandra McPherson. BP, Inland.





Sudie Rakusin/Goddesses and Amazons



You Have No Country!: Workers' Struggle Against War, collected writings of Mary E. Marcy, a leading figure in the Left Wing of the Socialist Party during WWI. Marcy was managing editor of the Internationalist Socialist Review, the most popular and influential revolutionary journal of the period. Collected here are articles detailing Marcy's penetrating analysis of the social/economic causes of war. Largely because of the articles in this book, the magazine was suppressed by the US government in 1918. Charles H. Kerr Publishing, 1740 Greenleaf Ave, #7, Chicago, IL 60626. \$4.50 paper, \$14.94 cloth.



Pleasure and Danger: Exploring Female Sexuality, edited by Carole S. Vance. Routledge & Kegan Paul. \$11.95 paper,

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\$25.00 cloth. This book brings together papers and talks given at the controversial conference "Toward a Politics of Sexuality" held at Barnard College in 1982, that set of a set of controversies, articles, et al, in our serene and homogeneous community, as you may well recall. Says RKP: "This book goes to the heard of the matter: sexuality is at once the site of women's pleasure and exploration as well as oppression and fear. Pleasure and Danger unreservedly presents a spectrum of feminist views which have tended to be glossed over by the media and legal community." (And us?) I liked Barbara Ehrenreich's comment: "Pleasure and Danger is a brave and challenging book in the best tradition of feminist exploration, it invites the reader to her own discoveries." And while you're ordering, pick up a copy of Face Value: The Politics of Beauty, by Robin Lakoff and Raquel Scherr. \$25.00, cloth.

And last, but not least, I somehow managed to let the last issue slip by without even a mention of Judy Grahn's Another Mother Tongue, and Mary Daly's Pure Lust, both of which you are no doubt are already stocking, selling, promoting, recommending, et al. Daly is Daly is Daly, which is enough said at this late date. Grahn's book, on the other hand, I can't resist commenting on. I think that it is one of the books of the decade. It's impact is going to be felt with a power that is matched only by the publication of The First Sex on the book-scarce era of pre-feminist scholarship. As The First Sex raised a storm of controversy, and overthrew (forever?) all the old concepts of women's status during the past of this planet, so will Another Mother Tongue redefine what it means to be gay and lesbian and what our roles and functions actually are in the whole of civilization. Ten years from now, perhaps sooner, there will be a generation of gay and lesbian people who will have never lived without these concepts, even as there are now feminists who can't imagine a past and a present not filled with Amazons and Goddesses. Grahn has blown the collective consciousness more than once in the past, with work like The Psychoanalysis of Edward the Dyke and The Common Woman Poems, but she has outdone even herself with this one. If history has any justice, Grahn will be remembered as "Another Mother of Us All". Beacon Press is to be commended for publishing this work. Rumor has it that Beacon is considering publishing a series of experimental feminist fiction, including novels by Judy Grahn, Monique Wittig, and I certainly hope they do it.



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