
Feminist Bookstore News

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Volume 8 Number 2·3

Femina Serial am F32978
September 1985

10/17/85

THE FEMINIST BOOKSTORE NEWS is published six times a year, on or about the first of January, March, May, July, September, and November. Deadline for articles, copy, letters, ads, etc., is the fifteenth of the preceding month unless other arrangements are made. Signed articles are the responsibility of the authors; no editing is done on such work. FBN is compiled and published by Carol Seajay. Subscriptions are \$35.00 per year. (Sliding scale available to feminist bookstores.) Make checks payable to FEMINIST BOOKSTORE NEWS. Send subscriptions, correspondence, news, letters, ads and articles to FBN, P.O. Box 882554, San Francisco, California 94188. may be reached by telephone during regular office hours (Pacific Standard Time) at (415) 431-2093.

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

ADVERTISING RATES are \$200 per full page, \$125 per half page. Inside back cover is \$225. Camera ready copy or

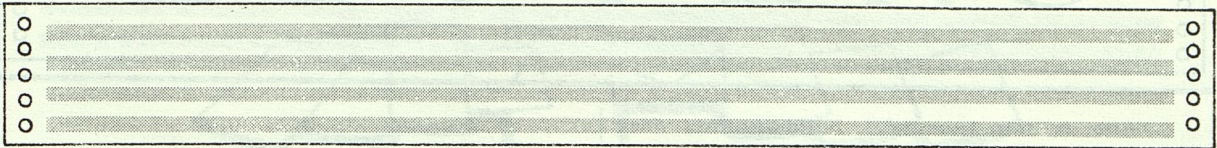
layout and paste-up services available at a nominal fee. Contact FBN at P.O. Box 882554, San Francisco, California 94188 or (415) 431-2093 during regular office hours, Pacific Standard Time.

BOOKS FOR REVIEW AND BOOK ANNOUNCEMENTS may be sent to FBN at P.O. Box 882554, San Francisco, California 94188. Feminist publishers are invited to write their own (short!) blurbs for listings. FBN believes that you know more clearly than we do why you choose to publish a particular book. Books published by the feminist press are listed in FBN only when FBN hears about them, so DO remember to send announcements. Pre-publication announcements facilitate early orders. All publishers should include bookstore terms. Please also include distributors who (will) carry the title for the benefit of small stores that order primarily from distributors. If you prefer that bookstores order directly from you, please include that information as well.

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

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ISSN No. 0741-6555

NOTES FROM THE COMPUTER TABLE



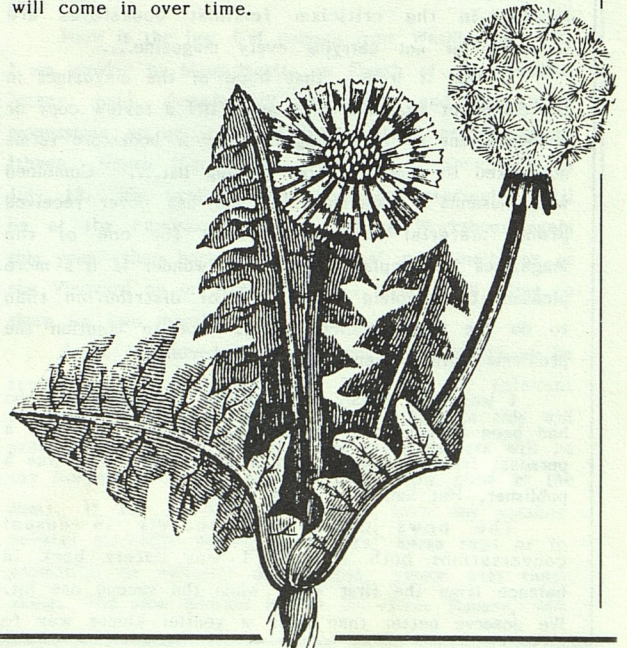
This issue is a little later than planned -- or earlier, depending how you look at it. The original plan was to do a summer calendar issue that would come out Aug. 7 that would cover ABA and WIP in detail. Then the fall issue would come out Sept. 15th with late-breaking calendars and all the rest. It was a great plan. But slow response to mailers for the calendar issue, combined with the sheer reality of spending 15 out of 20 working days in June doing the spring alphabet (ABA, WIP, NWSA) and the amount of follow-up work that follows a woman home from these events resulted in a decision to combine the two issues. A fringe benefit is that this will put FBN back on it's proper publishing schedule (Sept., Nov., Jan., Mar., May, and July) without squeezing an extra issue in somewhere.

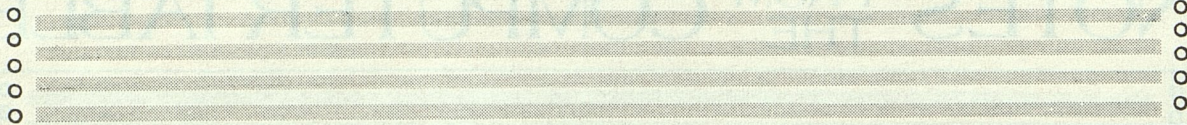
I sat back at the end of June, puzzled by this accumulation of paperwork around my desk and counted up the accomplishments of the five months of full-time work on FBN: three full issues, the development of an ad rate card and an advertising packet, the ad campaign for the sidelines issue including the development of a 1000-name mailing list for the same (a wild success!), the development of a calendar issue ad campaign, 1984 taxes, and learning a computer program to do them on, and attending the conferences. Plus general and miscellaneous networking, computer studies and a good start on writing a novel.

Suddenly I understood why the next issue wasn't going to be ready to go to the printers by the time I left on vacation! So I declared it all a wild success, decided to combine the summer and fall issues and added a week to my vacation. I'm home again, had

a wonderful time, and am watching the issue fall into place as I write this. My apologies to the women who wrote articles for the summer deadline, only to have them appear a month later than expected.

This issue has most of the WIP Conference coverage in it. I'm assuming that everyone who's interested has read the reports in OOB, etc., and so FBN is not going to repeat that. I am trying to include as many of the formal statements as possible and all the letters received. As was true at WIP, a disproportionate amount of energy and time/space went to the Naiad Press/Lesbian Nuns controversy, leaving a lot of other issues less well tended. I'd like to see (more) workshop reports, myself, and hopefully they will come in over time.





Also in this issue: "If It Makes You Feel Comfortable, Look Twice", an article/letter by Susanna Sturgis taking issue with an article in GCN criticizing feminist bookstores for not selling (more) of the (s/m) sex magazines. Hopefully GCN will run it as well, but I publish it here as part of an ongoing discussion and validation of the processes of feminist bookstore workers in making these decisions as well as ongoing discussion of the great sex-magazines/sex-issues debate. I wish I had a report on the Selling Sex Books workshop at WIP. The verbal reports I heard were that most of the stores had carefully considered positions on what they did and didn't sell. That stores that didn't sell the sex magazines (or that sold some but not others) made subscription and/or sample copy information available on request. What was remarkable was the degree of respect present for one another's differing positions, a respect seemingly lacking in the criticism feminist bookstores are receiving for not carrying every magazine...

I find it ironic that none of the magazines in the complaint zone has ever sent FBN a review copy or announcement of their magazine and/or bookstore terms nor asked to rent the FBN mailing list.... Combined with Susanna's comment that she has never received promo material nor trade terms for one of the magazines in complaint makes me wonder if it's more pleasant to complain about lack of distribution than to do the basic publicity work. Not to mention the problems with content.

I learned at NWSA of the deaths of two women who had been important in my life and work. One was a personal friend I hadn't seen in some time, one was a publisher, Pat Smith of Press Gang.

The news came unexpectedly in casual conversations both times. I was barely back in balance from the first shock when the second one hit. We deserve better than this: a gentler kinder way to

More Missing Pieces



tell each other these things. One that is more respectful and honoring of women's lives and work. I think that it is time for us and the rest of the feminist press to begin running obituaries and memorial articles. Or to invent something better. Yes? Hopefully Nancy Pollak's piece about Pat is a good beginning in that exploration.

Enjoy the issue. I hope you find it helpful, insightful and inspiring of response. Deadline for the next issue is October 15th. Keep those letters, columns, book reviews, and articles coming!

Yours in spreading the words,

Carol Seajay

LETTERS



Women's Book, Gift, & Music Centre
Gladstone Rd
Highgate Hill, QLD 4101
Australia

Dear Friends,

We are very interested in importing secondhand (pre-used) books in bulk from American sources. These books need to be suitable for sale in a Women's Bookshop, preferably with a feminist slant and good condition. We are interested in both fiction and non-fiction, particularly lesbian fiction/non-fiction. We are writing in the hope that you may be able to give us some contact addresses and phone numbers of possible suppliers. Or perhaps you could pass this on to some other group with the necessary information contacts.

Thank you for your assistance.

Regards,
Anne Maguire

Alternatives Corner, Inc.
374 Woodfield Rd.
West Hempstead, NY 11552

Dear FBN,

Well, we did it -- Alternatives Corner is now a corporation owned by the community of Lesbians. We sold 100 shares at \$250 per share to buy 1/2 the partnership and gave the other partner 50 shares. Things are still pretty tight as we also got the bills, so until we get a positive cash flow, please

accept \$15 for this years FBN subscription. We feel it is vital to our network. Right now we need all the info we can get our hands on so send any relevant literature to us.

Thanks

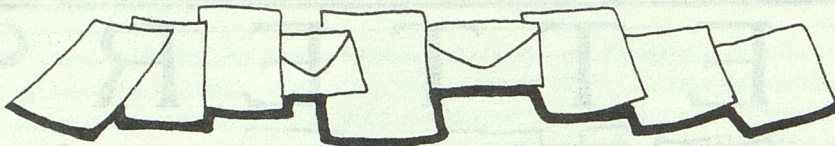
Pat Cohen

Lammas Bookstore
321 Seventh St. SE
Washington, DC 20003

Dear FBN,

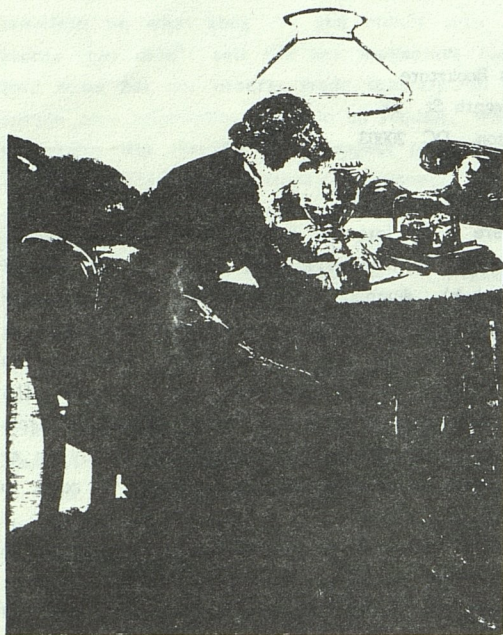
Here is the last f/sf column from Washington, DC. I am moving to Massachusetts on Fourth of July weekend (crazy, huh), dumping all my worldly and otherworldy possessions at my parents' house, then proceeding to Ithaca, where I'm giving a reading at Smedley's on July 12. My first feminist bookstore reading!! I'll be at the Feminist Women's Writing Workshops again this year, then back to my parents' and finally on to the Vineyard on or about August 1. Then I'm going to sleep for two months.

As I mentioned in my column, I'm going to be trying to get on review and PR lists for relevant publishers. Who knows how easy or impossible this will prove to be -- I expect that the mass-markets will be the hardest (though DAW has been very good in the past). If you or any FBN readers have any possible helpful contacts among publishers' sales reps or in promotion or editorial departments, please pass them along. The new address is Box 39, West Tisbury, MA



02575. Since my mother works at Beacon Press, I think I can manage regular access to PW.

Although the **Lammas Little Review** will be going into indefinite hibernation with my departure, I will be continuing to do feminist-press reviews for different publications, including **off our backs**. I'd love to stay/get on the mailing list for any and all feminist and feministically inclined publishers -- my areas of review interest are fiction, science fiction (naturally), grass-roots (nonacademic) theory and nonfiction, and feminist/pagan spirituality.



As you might expect, the pace at Lammas has not slacked off in the least. June is probably the busiest month of the year after December: We have out-of-store sales almost every weekend (International Conference of Lesbian and Gay Jews, Gay Pride, and Sisterfire in

that order). Also this month Mary and I are training my replacement, Donna Niles, who will become Lammas's official bookie on July 1. The training process is bringing back the total confusedness I felt as I took over four years ago, when the store's inventory and gross sales were less than half of their current level -- and also how incredibly much I have learned and done since then.

My major accomplishment of the spring, however, is the completion of my first book **Leaving the Island: Writings on Love and Change**, which is now in search of a publisher. I am staying off post-partum depression by working on four (nonfiction) writing projects at once, getting ready for a reading next week, performing in two choruses, and freaking out about moving. My current post-publication fantasy involves hijacking a little pick-up truck and driving around the country hanging out in bookstores and giving readings. (Watch out, world, etc., etc.)

That's about it for the moment -- I'm running out of steam and I promised to give Mary and Donna their first word-processing lesson today!

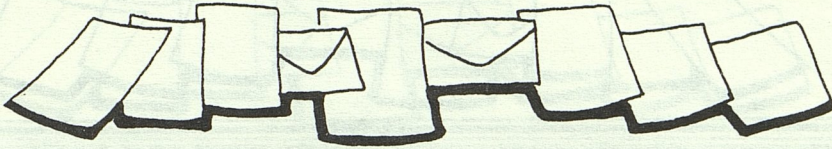
Best,
Susanna J. Sturgis

Helaine Victoria Press
4080 Dynasty Lane
Martinsville, IN 46151
July 28, 1985

AN OPEN LETTER SUBMITTED FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF FBN

Dear Carol,

I am writing in reference to the Spring issue of FBN in which Helaine Victoria Press was listed under "Toys". Helaine Victoria Press has been publishing "women from history" postcards since 1973 and is a



nonprofit educational organization committed to making women's history accessible to a wide audience, using a nonbook format. Our work is not frivolous as "Toys" heading connotes. We uncover new research and new images of significant women and historical events. We began publishing and promoting images of women on postcards long before other publishers started using the postcard format, let alone to specifically portray women. When there were virtually no images of women available, we existed.

Of the seven cards described in the submission we sent, five of which you included, three were researched by Sue Levi Elwell, a rabbinical student and Jewish women's history scholar at the Hebrew Union College, the Mary McLeod Bethune research was submitted by the Bethune Archives, Emma Tenayuca by Vicki Leighty from Helaine Victoria Press which utilized oral history interviews she conducted with Tenayuca as part of the research. And I researched two of the cards. Some of the photos and histories will not be found anywhere else. We have traditionally spent long hours looking for the unique, for the pictures that have not been seen before and the life stories that accompany them. We are serious women's history scholars, feminist publishers and printers, and do not see ourselves as the producers of "Toys".

I often feel like we are struggling to be recognized as a "real" women's press. It isn't an accident or chance that originally Nancy Poore and I chose the postcard/nonbook format to publicize women's history. We are a feminist press, one of the few that's been around for 12 years and publishes **only** women's history. We are a viable women's press and our materials are not to be dismissed as "toys".

Historians and many periodicals as well as the community recognize our worth. Our cards have appeared as covers of journals, frontispieces of books and

inside periodicals (usually credited, but not always). FBN is an important link for us to the bookstores and I look forward in the future for FBN to view us as a part of the women's press community and list Helaine Victoria under "From Our Own Presses".

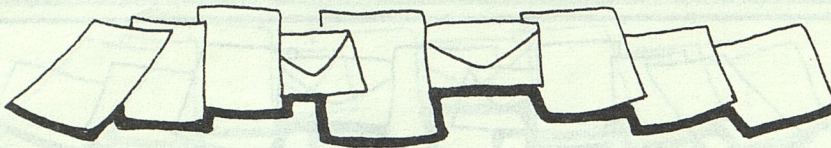
Bread & Roses,
Jocelyn Cohen

FBN RESPONDS: It was certainly not my intent to trivialize Helaine Victoria Press's work by listing the cards in the "Toys" section. My apology to Jocelyn Cohen and any of Helaine Victoria's researchers who felt trivialized by the placement of the listing and I will be glad to list their work in "From Our Own Presses" in the future.

The "Toys" column in FBN generally includes all the "sidelines" items in the magazine. In the bookstores, the postcards are generally sold out of the card racks: listing the postcards in the "Toys" section reflected the placement of the cards in the stores, rather than the history and politics of the publisher. In hindsight, that seems inappropriate in a print format, no matter how practical the placement may be in the bookstores. A reasonable mistake for a magazine that thinks it's a bookstore and forgets that it's a print form, but not one I want to repeat!

It also makes me reconsider the heading for the column. "Toys" can sound more trivializing than humorous, and may not be the best heading for the work of women musicians, artists, craftswomen, card publishers, et al. Maybe it's time to switch the heading to "Sidelines" which we'll try as soon as we can get a new headline typeset and designed.

Thanks, Jocelyn, for writing about it.
--Carol



Century Book Club
1560 North La Brea Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90028
July 16, 1985

Feminist Book Review
PO Box 882554
San Francisco, CA 94188

Dear Editor:

The unfortunate tendency of the lesbian/feminist community to view issues in terms of absolutes has surfaced yet again in the controversy surrounding publisher Barbara Grier's decision to sell serial rights of **Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence to Forum**.

It is frightening that the outcry against Ms. Grier's action caused her, however briefly, to consider retiring. Does anyone really think that a woman who as fought for 32 years to support, nurture and sustain lesbian literature would sacrifice a lifetime commitment for \$2,000?

Although **Forum** is owned by **Penthouse**, they are not interchangeable; **Forum** has a history of supporting lesbian and feminist causes (whether we want that support is another issue). Ms. Grier has stated that her "number one goal is the dissemination of material about lesbians to lesbians." This has to include the women whose subscriptions to **Ms.** and occasional peeks at **Forum** are the closest they've come to stepping out of the closet.

Was Ms. Grier's action appropriate? I leave that decision to those who are better than I at judging others. What makes me uneasy is the sense of deja vu I get from all the rhetoric about "good taste" and "right to privacy" and "offensive material": the same phrases are being used by the Catholic Church in its

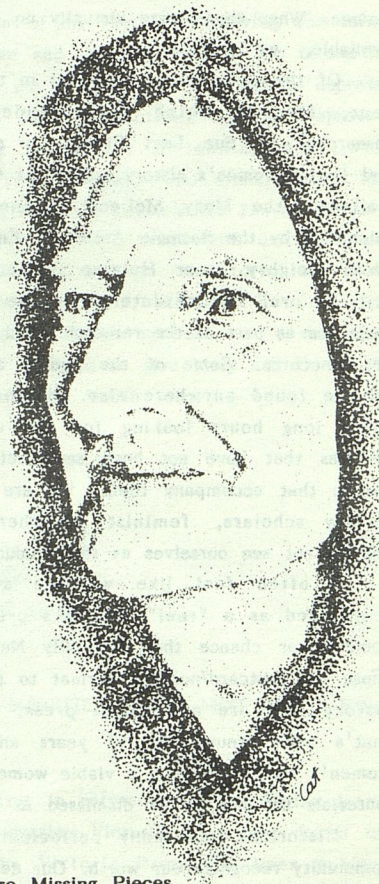
attempt to ban or discredit **Lesbian Nuns**.

As one of the book's coauthors, Rosemary Curb, stated, "even before pub date, we felt the effect of censorship. The prejudice against the book is a prejudice against enlightenment." (**Publishers Weekly** 6/21/85)

Any attempt to circumvent any book's distribution, no matter how well-intentioned, must not be tolerated.

Sincerely,

Mary Gabriel



More Missing Pieces

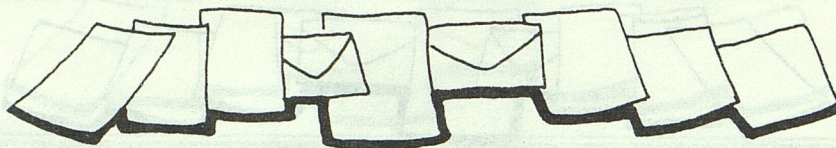


Daedalus Books
 2260 25th Place, NE
 Washington, DC 20018
 June 24, 1985

Dear friends and associates of the Women in Print Movement,

I truly believe from experience that one of the most telling characteristics of an oppressed group is that members of that group spend a great deal of time oppressing each other. This seems especially true of the Women in Print movement. It's rather embarrassing to admit, but I can't think of one Women in Print gathering where some one person, group, or business had not offended some other person, group, or business to the extent that a great deal of time and energy was spent in dealing with that one conflict. In tone it reminds me of the constant haggings of neighborhood women from my childhood around children, husbands, money and food. The issues in the Women in Print movement have varied from year to year, depending on whatever the common acceptable politic is at the time. Some issues are "hot" one year and forgotten the next, not because anything has really been defined; the mob has merely moved on. I remember the conference when it was politically incorrect to publish a book with the commercial press, and I remember the woman who was publicly attacked because she had done so. At that same conference it was considered politically correct to only use women printers (never mind that there weren't any women-owned presses at the time that had large enough presses to publish and bind books). At that particular conference a friend of mine decided that the next issue would probably be around women controlling the making of paper. So she (who will remain anonymous and therefore, above reproach) noting

the abundance of the right materials around her combined grass and grasshoppers to make rough paper. I thought she was an absolute whiz, but then she was attacked by a group of women who thought it politically incorrect and a direct attack on nature to combine grasshoppers with grass in a blender. Another year a woman appeared at Women in Print and actually stated that she worked in a gay bookstore with (gasp) men. That really didn't go over well, either. I have always had the greatest empathy for all those women who have blurted out all those PI statements because I'm secretly thinking to myself "there but for the grace of God go I." And I'm not even supposed to be thinking this because God should be Goddess. These sessions are labeled struggle, criticism/self-criticism sessions, etc., but from my viewpoint it seems that a lot of times women are simply being trashed. I think of the issues and women that have been politically incorrect over the years and attacked as such. What I see are many issues that just don't matter as much anymore, and many issues that haven't been dealt with at all (racism). And I see that a lot of those women who have been attacked are just those women in my mind who over the years have been the most committed, so committed to the concept of Women in Print that they have dared to be different, dared to make mistakes, dared to be outspoken, dared to not tow the current acceptable lines, dared to take incredible financial risk, and dared to be successful in their endeavors. The attacks on these women have always bothered me, and I've become more suspect over the years on what was the true intent of the attacker. Perhaps I've become more paranoid or more psych-babbly as I've gotten older, but I now try to take a closer look at what real motives might be disguised by rhetoric. For some reason there seems to be a lack of direct confrontation. Whatever happened to the old "one on one" fight where someone would deal directly



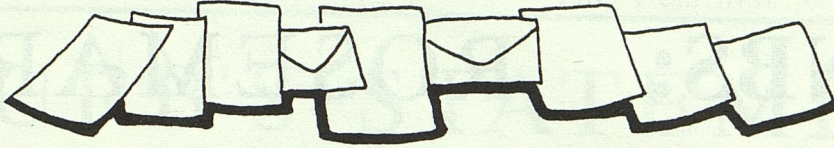
with the person they disagreed with? It seems to me that something's amiss when instead of dealing directly with the group or person that we disagree with, we feel compelled to immediately get together with a group of women and write a number of ethical statements which we then proceed to distribute widely.

I'm having a hard time feeling that I want to be a part of this Women in Print movement. We don't fight fair, and we simplify our disagreements to the point that there is only a black and a white, a good and a bad side to be on. There is little room or tolerance for real, ongoing debate. We are a mercurial movement with few real loyalties and no sense of debt or gratitude. We have attacked and at times destroyed the best of those amongst us including many of our natural leaders. Our history is revisionist in nature. We forget arguments, failures, successes, and even our associates of past years. We change events in the retelling. We have little respect for those who have gone before us, and many of our associates whom we attacked when they were alive have become our saints after their deaths. We don't remember the hours associates have given us in teaching us what they already know, knowledge painfully gained, and certainly we don't feel a sense of gratitude. Most of the time we don't care about this knowledge. We enjoy remaking that wheel, again, and again, and again. If we are going to break silence, then let us talk about these issues too. Let us not remain quiet while women who have given years of their lives to the Women in Print movement and to women in general are soundly trashed in front of our eyes by other women who oversimplify difficult issues. When we speak of dimensions of the heart let us remember that women we have worked with over the years and who have worked for all of us merit our listening to their side of an issue.



Kitchen Table Press Catalogue

This year at the Women in Print Conference Naiad Press was attacked, which prompted me to break my silence. There are a number of issues being discussed around the stupendous success of **Lesbian Nuns**. Some of those issues are pornography, the ethics of publishing, the business of publishing, money, and just about everything else we've been talking about over the past fifteen years or so. I'm not quite sure why Naiad Press is getting all the heat, but I suspect it has something to do with being the most successful sitting duck. Actually, the real reason I wanted to write this is that I wanted to talk about Gene Damon. I'm not sure how many other women my age (32) and younger remember her. I know her because when I came out sixteen years ago there wasn't a Women in Print movement and little to read which cast a positive light on lesbianism. Fortunately, a friend of mine had back issues of the **Ladder**, which I read over and over



again. What is most amazing is that the magazine had been published throughout the fifties and the sixties. I often wonder how many lives besides mine were changed and saved because of this literate lifeline? And how many of our publications of the early seventies looked to the **Ladder** for their roots and inspiration? Gene Damon wrote many articles for that magazine and later became its editor, and as it turned out Gene Damon was only a pen name for Barbara Grier. I met Barbara Grier in the early seventies and have been both a friend and business associate of hers for about a dozen years. In 1973 she and Donna McBride took the amazing risk of starting a lesbian/feminist publishing company called Naiad Press. They supported the press and themselves for many years by working straight jobs. They have worked eighty-hour weeks for all those years with little financial gain. Not only have they run Naiad, but they have also spent hours in person and on the phone giving free consultation to women starting their own presses. They have had the nerve to take their lesbian/feminist titles and promote them in such a way to make them available not only to one small circle of women but to the masses of women across this country. Any profit that was made was put back into the press to publish other titles, and it should be remembered that not every book was financially successful. I don't think I need to go into the history of Naiad Press for that is public fact, but think of what would not be in print if there was no Naiad Press. Think of the financial and personal risks that the women of Naiad Press have faced. How many of us would take the risk to be personally liable for thousands of dollars to be able to reprint lesbian novels from the fifties and sixties? How many of us would have been willing to have taken an even larger monetary risk on such a taboo subject as lesbian nuns? There are absolutely no givens, no guarantees in this publishing business.

What if **Lesbian Nuns** has bombed? Instead of the public debate around what Naiad should do with its profits from **Lesbian Nuns** there would have been silence. Would we be interested in discussing how we should help Naiad Press recover from a loss? Would anyone care? No. If **Lesbian Nuns** had not been successful it would have been up to Barbara and Donna themselves to recover financially. I'm sorry but I won't sit back and cheer those naive, narrow-minded statements that were presented at Women in Print in Berkeley called "Statement on Feminist Publishing Ethics From the 1985 Women in Print Conference" and "1985 Women in Print Publishing Accords." I do not agree with those simplistic papers and with the attack on Naiad Press. In my mind Barbara Grier's and Donna McBride's moral and spiritual commitment to women are exemplary. Even if they made mistakes around the publication and serialization of **Lesbian Nuns**, and I hesitate to say this because I don't know what right I have to be the judge, they have the **right** to make a mistake. If other women think that they've made a mistake then that can be a part of public debate, but it is no one's right to question their commitment to women or to try to put them out of business. There is always room for discussion, and as far as I know Barbara Grier is no shrinking violet when it comes to lively debate. I'm sure that she and others of us have a lot to say about the issues surrounding **Lesbian Nuns**, the business of publishing and feminist publishing ethics in general.

Sincerely,

Helaine Harris



LNBS: ROSEMARY

In response to questions and statements in feminist publications about promotion and serialization of **Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence** (hereafter LN), which I edited with Nancy Manahan, I offer this statement, originally written 6/7/85 for July OOB, revised 6/12/85 and distributed at NWSA and June/July appearances, condensed 7/27/85 for Aug./Sept. OOB, and now further abridged 8/27/85 to less than half of my June statement with some July additions for Oct. OOB etc. I am deleting information included in Nancy Manahan's 8/19/85 letter to OOB. If I were making a new statement today, I would mute the rage out of which I have been speaking since late April. I would also address specific questions raised in letters, reviews, and editorials in OOB and other feminist publications since June. Let this document record for history what I have been saying from April through August and how I was feeling in May and June especially. By the end of August exhaustion and frustration have cooled my white heat of fury; I am now simply burned out.

In the beginning was silence. Then our silence became words, and the words appeared in print as the transmutation of years of pain. The fruition of LN feels "incarnational." My grief and fury at the desecration of my three-year labor of love seems unspeakable. I feel like a mother who after an exhausting painful labor gives birth and then feels the baby ripped from her arms and raped before her eyes.

I am pleased that more people than I had ever imagined are reading our book and finding our statements about our transformations a personal inspiration for empowerment and growth. I am disturbed, however, by any attempt to sensationalize our lives or to objectify us as freaks or sexual perverts. I think that reprinting sexually explicit portions of three stories with a titillating introduction of **Forum** magazine has that effect and

that not only the contributors to the book but the entire Lesbian feminist community have been harmed.

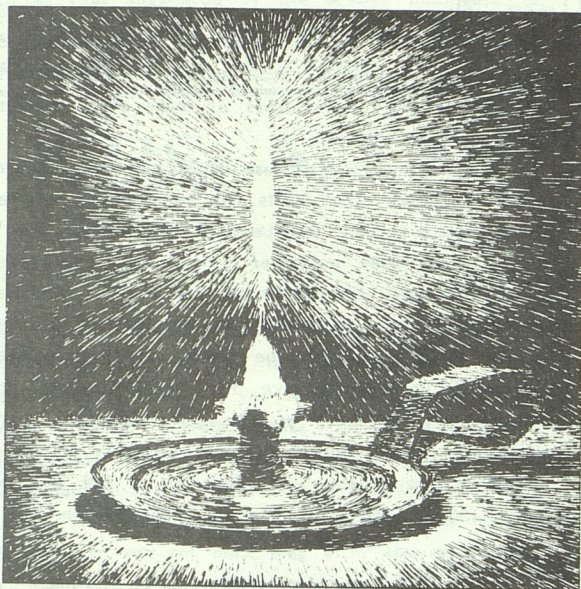
I claim responsibility for my ignorance back in Summer 1983 when I signed Naiad Press's standard contract. NP already had almost two years of proprietary rights over LN, since Barbara Grier had announced at several gatherings Naiad Press's plans for publishing the book. I felt that we had a "common law marriage" and that I really had no choice but to sign the contract. I didn't consider another publisher, not only because no other publisher approached me, but also because it would have seemed disloyal to Barbara Grier and Naiad Press to do so. That our collective autobiography would be published seemed amazing.

I compared the NP document to a standard book contract and satisfied myself that they looked similar. Since I didn't understand legal language, it was presumptuous of me to assume that I knew what I was doing, but Nancy's confidence encouraged me. Nor did it seem appropriate to hire an attorney and/or agent to scrutinize every phrase of the NP contract. Such adversarial posturing would have seemed unsisterly to say the least. Furthermore, BG dictated the contributors' release of rights form, while actually giving us no contractual power to protect the contributors' interests.

It would never have occurred to me to say to BG at contact signing time, "You would never sell pieces to this book to the male pornography market, would you?" First, I assumed that anyone who calls herself "feminist" fully understand the history of women's oppression and the connection between pornography and violence against women. Because such consciousness has been a part of my daily life ever since I started a shelter for battered women in Joplin, Missouri, in 1977, I never thought to question another sister's

CURB'S STATEMENT

consciousness. Second, our contract clearly states regarding other rights, such as translation, serial rights, abridgment, etc.: "The Publisher undertakes to inform the Editors whenever a proposal for such an arrangement is offered and to consult with the Editors in regard to the terms of such proposal." Even without such a statement in the contract I couldn't imagine a feminist publisher using or selling a book not only against the wishes of the writers but in direct violation of the stated purpose of the book.



I assumed that nobody could misread the manuscript which I mailed off to Nalad early in July 1984 before leaving for almost two months in Australia. I thought it was very special material - more sensitive and vulnerable than fiction -- and I assumed it would be treated as such. I couldn't imagine that anyone could miss feeling how fragile our lives, how painful our struggle for language. I assumed that LN would be promoted, distributed, and marketed the way books from NP and other small feminist presses always are. I also assumed that I

would be consulted and that my wishes would be respected regarding promotion of the book. I realize now that I should have been more "confrontational" regarding every stage of production.

At NWSA in June 1984 BG bragged about what a success LN would be. I think now that we had different notions of "success." LN addresses the same women's studies audience that reads *The Lesbian Path*, ed. M. Cruikshank; *The Coming Out Stories*, ed. J. Penelope and S. Wold; *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color*, ed. C. Moraga and G. Anzaldua; and *Nice Jewish Girls: A Lesbian Anthology*, ed. E. T. Beck. I hoped that it would be as valuable as these books had been for me and other women's studies scholars.

I learned about the excerpts having been sold to *Forum* about the same time all the contributors did in early March in the 2/15/85 *Publishers Weekly* reprint which BG send out. BG had sold the pieces in January while I was in England on a theatre tour. with my Winter Term class. Actually *Forum* was the last thing I noticed amidst the flood of promotional materials from NP, since I had no idea what *Forum* was until mid-March when Nancy went out and bought a copy of *Forum* and we looked at it together in shock and disbelief. Two weeks before the book was published, I wanted to emphasize the positive value of the book rather than go screaming to the media with "Lesbian Writer Denounces Lesbian Publisher" even before the book was out. My anger and not the book itself would have gotten press attention.

When the book was launched the last weekend in March in Alabama I wanted to emphasize the women's studies and consciousness raising value of the book as a whole in order to counter all the sexualizing and sensationalizing already suggested. I pushed down my own accelerating fury. Furthermore, I was grappling



Emily Dickinson's Book of Days

with the charge that my condemnation of the **Forum** sale stemmed from my classist and elitist assumptions about Lesbian readers, more of whom read **Forum** than **OOB** I was told. Not everyone has the privilege of feminist consciousness raising and women's studies I chided myself.

Needing some way to stop what felt like a forest fire of subsidiary sales late in April, I began talking to a Lesbian feminist attorney in Washington, DC. I knew that there was now way I could repair past damage, but I hoped to prevent future misrepresentation of our lives. My hope that we could avoid making a public spectacle of our disagreement was evaporating.

In May BG announced to me and to the press simultaneously that she had received offers from movie producers and had verbally agreed to an ABC-TV movie. I tried to stop her. She informed me that the movie contract was her business alone. Can we expect a major TV network to respect our vulnerability and treat our lives accurately?

The day after the movie contract meeting in Los Angeles, I met with a Lesbian feminist attorney in San

Francisco. She mediated our disagreement in a meeting in her office the following Sunday morning, May 26, 1985. I said that our obvious difference in basic values and our inability to communicate made my association with NP feel like a bad marriage and I wanted a divorce. I said that NP promotion and sale to **Forum** sexualized our lives and trivialized our strength.

On behalf of NP, BG and Donna McBride conceded veto power to the editors over certain other rights, such as serialization. Thus there will never be another **Forum**. But NP did not agree to give any money directly to contributors. Of course, they have no legal obligation, but I would like some moral restitution for the damage which BG's mistake cost so many of us. Perhaps NP could sponsor a weekend rural retreat for LN contributors or make some concrete effort to heal our pain.

In her June press release BG stated that "changes in the contract allot funds that normally would be Naiad Press's income to Rosemary and Nancy." That's absurd. No other publisher I consulted considered taking 10% off the top before calculating royalties for subsidiary sales to be NP's normal income. In most of her interviews with the press, BG has inflated figures in order to give NP credibility in the mainstream publishing world. For example, many newspaper articles quote her announcement of 90,000 or 100,000 copies of the first press run of LN and now report 150,000 copies in print. That's also absurd.

Nancy has sent a detailed financial statement to LN contributors declaring what money we have received and anticipate over the next few years. It is far less than anyone reading BG's statements to the press would imagine. Most readers probably know that when a book sells well, it's the publisher not the writers who make most money. Over the next few years, NP will probably make seven or eight dollars for every one Nancy or Rosemary receive. Working on LN was a labor of love. We hadn't expected to be able to reimburse ourselves for expenses over the past four years and pay ourselves for our work. Now that looks likely.

From the beginning of work on LN, Nancy and I hoped that contributors would receive some money directly from NP. When BG told us NP would not do this, Nancy and I decided to give some of our money to contributors, even though we must pay income tax on all royalties.

This statement is not an attack on BG or an attempt to damage NP. I am grateful for the work which BG, Donna McBride, and other women connected with NP have done in producing and promoting Lesbian literature. I state our differences in values and methods in an effort to articulate my feelings since many questions have been asked me in the feminist press during the past months.

Finally let me discourage any boycott of NP or LN such as that suggested by the orange enclosure in CC/LL (#15/16). The book itself is not "guilty." A Lesbian boycott of LN will have little effect on NP,

but it will immediately harm women's bookstores -- possibly even forcing smaller ones out of business. As a woman who has never had the privilege of living in or near a city with a women's bookstore, I urge us to beware (of) destroying ourselves. We must nurture our resources if we hope to have them.

If you are concerned about feminist ethics in publishing, help educate future writers and publishers about their rights and responsibilities. If you wish to criticize BG, do so in a published letter. But remember that BG is our sister. Our real enemy is global patriarchy, represented in the US by the racist, classist, homophobic, woman-hating Reagan war-machine. Let's stop lateral animosity. It weakens our collective struggle for Lesbian and women's liberation. Let's put our anger-fueled political action where it belongs.

LNBS: NANCY MANAHAN

August 19, 1985

Dear Feminist Bookstore Women

Although I have said this at appearances around the country, I have not yet stated in print that I am deeply grieved by Naiad Press' sale of four pieces from **Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence** to **Forum**. I was not consulted. I was not a part of the decision-making process. Had I been consulted, I would have opposed the sale. It was not until long after the sale that I even learned what sort of magazine **Forum** is.

However, I see now that Barbara Grier's **Forum** decision is consistent with her values (i.e., to let as many lesbians as possible know about lesbian books in general and Naiad Press in particular), as she herself has subsequently explained. I am one of the lesbians Barbara reached fifteen years ago with **The Lesbian in Literature**. Her outreach and risk-taking helped me discover not only my literary sisters and foremothers, but my identity as well. I am particularly grateful to Barbara for offering to

publish a book of "convent lesbian stories" before a single word existed on paper, and for urging Rosemary and me to collaborate on the project. I believe that in selling to **Forum**, Barbara made a terrible mistake, but I understand her motivations. I wish I had been more assertive in ensuring that Rosemary's and my values were better represented in the promotion and distribution of our book.

Since taking a more adversarial stance, we have renegotiated our contract with Naiad, giving us veto power over any future serializations. Already we have prevented one serialization; a contributor did not want her story sold to **Cosmopolitan**, so Rosemary and I refused permission.

We also have won some protection for contributors whose privacy has been threatened by the mainstream success of **Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence**. Contributors are able to change their names and identifying biographical information in the Warner Books mass market paperback release of LNBS, scheduled for April 1986. Rosemary and I are paying for these

changes (typesetting, stripping, and photographing). Naiad is paying for an otherwise unneeded and unscheduled fifth printing, the version Warner Books will use.

There has been a great deal of misinformation and speculation about the finances of LNBS. At the June 19 National Women's Studies Association session for LNBS, for example, Naiad Press announced that, as a result of our contract renegotiations, Rosemary and I would each receive \$125,000 extra. That is nonsense. The only financial gain resulting from our renegotiation is that Naiad will split subsidiary rights with Rosemary and me 50/50 rather than deducting their expenses -- which Barbara Grier had arbitrarily set at 10% -- off the top. Given all subsidiary sales negotiated so far, that will amount to \$4,875 each for Rosemary and me. If there are other subsidiary sales, or if Warner Books sells more than their advance, that figure would be higher, but it's a far cry from \$4,875 to the \$125,000 she announced.

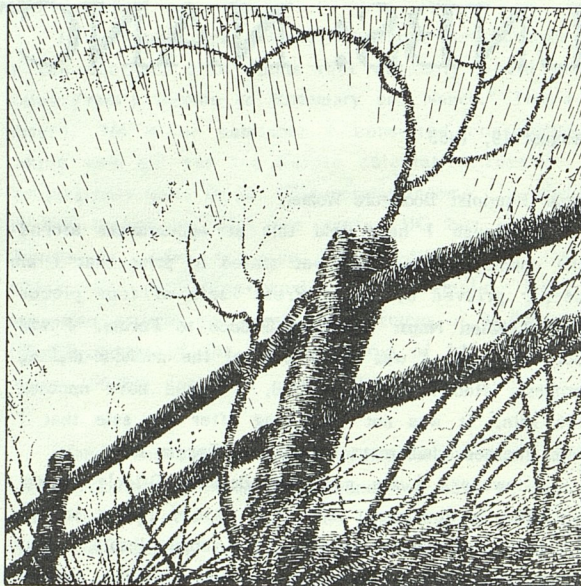
Another misleading figure is that "six-figure sum" reported in the press as the price Warner Books paid for mass market publication rights to LNBS. The purchase price, actually an advance on royalties, is \$65,000, one half payable to Naiad this year and one half payable next year.

To date, Rosemary and I have received from Naiad Press \$1,000 each in April and in May (to help defray our travel expenses), \$6,125 in June at the NWSA Conference, and \$8 650 in July. The April, May and June payments represent our 1/8th of the \$65,000 Warner Books advance. We should receive the other 1/8th next year after Warner brings out LNBS. July's payment represents our 1/4 of ABC's \$25,000 plus our 1/4 of serialization sales. If ABC actually produces a film based on LNBS, Naiad will receive an additional \$50 000, of which Rosemary and I each would get one fourth.

Rosemary and I, as we have been since 1981, are paying our book expenses out of our pockets. Barbara Grier has agreed that Naiad will reimburse us for post-publication publicity travel and for lodging on the one occasion we didn't stay with friends or bookstore women. We have large telephone bills, lawyers' fees, mailing costs, incidentals such as

duplicating Barbara Grier's and Rosemary's statements on the **Forum** sale for each bookstore appearance or lecture, plus our usual living expenses. Meanwhile, I have not been drawing a paycheck from my carpet and upholstery cleaning business. Gemini cannot support both my partner and me when I am on the road and working on the book full time.

I share this information to give you a clearer picture of our financial situation: continual large expenses with relatively small income so far. Can we expect more? Rosemary and I each will receive 8% royalties from Naiad, but only after all costs of publishing, distribution, and promotion have been paid. I do not know when we will begin receiving those royalties or how much they will be. We will also receive our 1/4 of foreign sales, six so far (negotiated, not paid) ranging from \$20,000 (British rights) to \$2,500 (Dutch rights). Our share will be \$13,750.



During our May 21, 1985, meeting with ABC's Steve Maier (a vice president) and Chad Hoffman (in charge of the project), Rosemary and I learned that ABC plans to create a fictional character based on the themes of LNBS rather than use any one story from the book. They indicated that the picture would probably be titled

"Breaking Silence" and, if all goes smoothly, might be aired in a year and a half. Production time could be much longer than that.

ABC has offered Rosemary and me \$2,000 each to work as consultants on the film. If they produce a film, they would pay us an additional \$3,000 apiece. We are still negotiating with them. Dalene Young has been chosen as the script-writer.

As you can see, we're not talking about vast wealth. Considering that we didn't expect to make money on the book, these figures are astounding. But considering our work for the past four years and our expenses over that time and at present, it isn't much.

I made a full financial disclosure to the contributors in late July and solicited their input on

the best method of giving the forty-nine of them some of our royalties. Since the money is slow in coming, we have time to consider alternatives and, I hope, come up with a good plan.

Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence is like a living growing being with a process all its own which unfolds daily. It takes a great deal of energy and commitment to be as preoccupied with its existence as I am, and it presents me with extremely joyful and painful experiences. Amidst the turmoil and controversy, it's easy to lose sight of the immense power and beauty of the book itself. But I know that despite the wounds we've suffered, our book is making a big difference in the lives of many, many women.

In loving sisterhood, Nancy Manahan

LNBS: NAIAD PRESS

Naiad Press chose to make its statement in the form of an interview of Barbara Grier by Gail Dixon, a lesbian feminist from Tallahassee who works occasionally for Naiad.

GD: Why grant this interview at all?

BG: On Sunday, May 26, 1985, at the behest of Rosemary Curb, five of us met at the offices of San Francisco attorney, Barbara Price, to work out a mediation of some of the terms of the contract between the Naiad Press, Inc. and Rosemary Curb and Nancy Manahan. In addition to Barbara Price, Rosemary, Nancy, Donna J. McBride and I were at that meeting. A number of items were worked out granting various levels of control over the book to Rosemary and Nancy that had previously been held entirely by The Naiad Press. In addition to that, we were able to make changes in the contract to allot funds that normally would be Naiad Press's income to Rosemary and Nancy for whatever purposes they may feel appropriate in the future.

GD: What do you mean by future? We have all read

that you have made a fortune from this book.

BG: Publishing income is always a very long term arrangement. We will see little of the money from this book before August, 1985, and much of the money you have read about from subsidiary rights sales to foreign countries will not come to us for many months and in some cases, many years. A book is a long, long term investment and the bigger and more important the book, the longer it takes for the money to come in to us. We have, indeed, never suffered so severe a cash flow deficit as we have now...and as we will have until much later this year.

GD: You knew this book would be a best-seller, you told me so yourself in the fall of 1984. Why, knowing that, did you sell the excerpts from the book to **Forum Magazine**? Was money a factor?

BG: Best-seller in our terms has meant incredibly (for us) successful books like **Outlander**, **Faultline**, and **Curious Wine**. We had no idea at all until it got rolling...near the end of January, 1985, that the book was going to skyrocket. This was long after we sold the excerpts to **Forum** and months before the controversy. We made no secret of the sale, announced

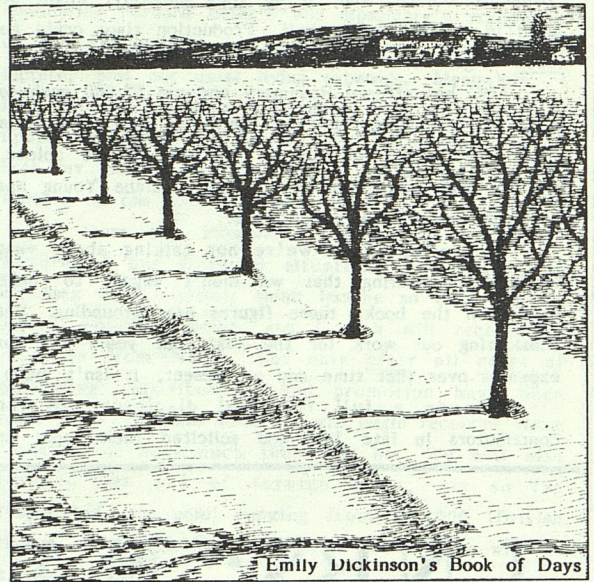
it in **Publishers Weekly** and in a national mailing of our own. **Forum Magazine** is not without a history of publishing material by lesbians and feminists, the most recent of whom is Germaine Greer. We received a total of \$2,400 for serial rights: \$2,000 from **Forum**; \$350 from **MS**; and \$50 from **Philadelphia Gay News** -- a drop in the bucket. We also told everyone...it was a long time later that a handful of women began to object in the feminist press and by then, it would not have been within our ability to change it no matter what we did.

GD: What do you mean change it? You have repeatedly said you thought the sale was a good idea. Have you changed your mind because of the political pressure?

BG: No, of course not. We really do believe that our number one goal is the dissemination of material about Lesbians to Lesbians. We have been doing this...me for 32 years as many women know, and Donna for 14 years, and our record, our position on this issue is known and has been in print hundreds of times throughout the years. We felt that we would reach a whole different audience of women with **Forum**, just as we felt that we would reach a different audience with **MS**, **Sojourner**, **Christopher Street**, **Philadelphia Gay News**, **Bridges**, etc...all the periodicals to whom we sold or gave serialization rights to a total of 10 pieces from the book, although some of these will never be used (as is usual with serial rights...they often do not ever appear). Women read all kinds of magazines.

GD: When you asked me to do this, you said you were going to be apologizing, and this doesn't sound like an apology. To whom are you apologizing and for what?

BG: I am deeply sorry that we sold the pieces of **Forum** for ONE reason. I am deeply sorry to have hurt the women involved. I have never knowingly before in my life done something that caused such a degree of pain to such a substantial group of women. I feel particularly devastated by the pain to the women whose pieces were actually sold, and secondly to the other women in the book and Rosemary and Nancy. I also



realize that there is almost nothing I can do beyond apologizing. One thing that came out in the mediation that I referred to that was very important to Rosemary and to Nancy, but that had not occurred to me as being important at all, was the fact that since I had sold serialization rights before for many pieces from many books (**Faultline** springs notably to mind) it did not dawn on me that **Forum** would edit or condense them in the way that was done. The contract between **Forum** and **Nalad** specifies their right to do that (but so do all such contracts and it had never been done before). I very clearly knew and still believe that nothing in the book is sensational at all, and it did not occur to me that it was possible to skew the tone of the book in this way. In that I am admitting candidly to having been stupid. But again, I insist, I did not do this with evil intent.

GD: Are you distressed?

BG: Are you nuts? Of course I am distressed. I have never been attacked before. It is not something one welcomes. I had even seriously considered stopping publishing...fortunately there are cooler heads at **Nalad Press** (reference to Donna) and we will not do that. Too many women, too much work, we cannot

afford to quit. Nothing would be gained but to do much more damage.

GD: How do you feel about the book, **Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence**?

BG: I have said repeatedly, I believe it is the most important or at least one of the most important Lesbian/feminist documents to appear in the years from 1969 until now. I am incredibly proud of publishing it.

GD: What, if anything, do you feel you cannot address?

BG: Probably the most distressing thing to be faced with and be unable to respond to is the view expressed by a few women that they felt the book would be read only by a select few women. We even heard from one woman who thought only nuns and ex-nuns should be allowed to read the book. These responses defy logic. How could anyone then afford to publish the book? It would cost hundreds of dollars a copy. Much more importantly, why would we want to restrict so important a message to a few when the women who read it will, almost certainly, be greatly benefited? Women have risen up rejoicing to learn that this vital, wonderful book will be read by women in their own languages in Germany, Italy, Spain...and in English in the United Kingdom and in Australia and New Zealand. It is even very likely that the book will appear in all the Western European languages eventually. It's difficult to mix this overwhelming rejoicing with the fact that some women believe it is a book for only a handful.

GD: Why about the movie rights being sold to ABC-TV? And will Rosemary and Nancy have any say in this?

BG: After Rosemary and Nancy appeared for a full week on KABC-TV in Los Angeles on the evening news, and after the major article appeared in the Los Angeles Times, many independent producers in Hollywood and ABC-TV approached us. We chose ABC-TV because of its track record with movies such as **Consenting Adult** and **Something About Amelia** and because a made-for-TV movie has the restrictions built into it that (because of the audience they serve) no independent movie producer would be likely to adhere to. Realistically, given the importance of the book, I might esthetically

have preferred a major motion picture treatment of the book...but with a TV movie there is far less opportunity for sensationalism. Rosemary and Nancy were asked to be consultants to the movie by ABC-TV and they are negotiating a contract with ABC-TV at this time.

GD: Can you tell yet what effect the book is having on Naiad Press?

BG: Only a little. We are still working around the clock as you know. We have been overwhelmed by unsolicited manuscripts and our mailing list is growing at an enormous rate, but these are inevitable reactions to the publicity about the book and the interviews with Rosemary and Nancy in several hundred movement and mainstream periodicals as well as the ever increasing television and radio coverage. We will probably not do anthologies at all in the future. In fact, I would run screaming into the night if someone approached me about an anthology (and some have by mail). Implicit in your question is if we have changed because of the book and/or the controversy. Basically we have not. We would, of course, not consider selling anything to **Forum** or any magazine that might fall within the same category. In my head as I say this, though, I hear the terrifying drum beat of censorship. I personally fear that aspect of our movement more than any single facet and feel that it may be the final blow to coalition among Lesbian/feminists, but that is the stuff of another article.

GD: Where will this interview be disseminated?

BG: As you know, Gall, we are doing this today to beat the layout deadline at **Off Our Backs**, whose staff has graciously consented to run it if we get it to them by Saturday, June 8, 1985 in their July 1985 issue. Beyond that, we intend to mail this out to about 2500 women next week, our entire personal friends mailing list, our entire "core" bookstore list, all of the contributors to the book, and the entire review media (about 300 publications) with whom we are in constant touch. Later this summer we may include it with our summer mailing to our entire mailing list. We will also be giving it out at the NWSA Conference later this month.

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"1985 WIP PUBLISHERS ACCORDS"

As publishers of feminist and lesbian feminist literature we wish to acknowledge that we will abide by the following statement of our responsibilities:

1) We believe our responsibilities should be first dictated by our individual and collective political commitments and only secondarily by our business requirements. We also acknowledge the differences and diversity of our political commitments and urge readers and writers to acknowledge those differences.

2) We believe that publishers should view themselves as representatives of the women's works they produce and that this relationship is representational and not adversarial. From this belief, the following statements apply:

A) We should assume a responsibility in relieving the inexperience of our writers in the publishing world.

B) We should not assume that our authors, editors, and contributors have monetary or familiar access to lawyers well-versed in publishing or author law (which

is not the same as a good feminist lawyer). We should make written information and lawyer consultation available to them before the signing of contracts.

C) Our responsibility is always towards good communication and dialogue and truthful sharing of information as soon as it becomes available. We should above all not see the contract as the end of our responsibility to authors, editors or contributors.

3) As caretakers of the integrity of our authors' and contributors' works we have the following contractual responsibilities:

A) To incorporate consent clauses on all subsidiary rights (including foreign rights) sales. Such consent or refusal can not be unreasonably delayed or withheld by the writer or artist.

B) That we agree to set up mediation and arbitration procedures in the event of a breakdown of contracts.

* I put this title in quotations to emphasize that this is a statement of the four women who wrote it, and of the women who signed it later. It IS NOT A WIP STATEMENT in that it was not moved nor voted on nor passed by the WIP conference as a whole nor was it a statement of the publishers caucus at the WIP Conference. Nor was it even taken to the publishers caucus for discussion. After it was read, one of the conference organizers, a publisher, asked why it hadn't been taken to the publishers caucus, (as per conference structure). The response "We did, but no one was there." came as a rude shock to the women who were sitting in the publishers caucus that morning.

It was written by the first four signers, read at the closing session with a number of other statements, women were then invited to sign it at the end of the session. This would be fine procedure for any statement anyone wished to make, except that in titling the statement "1985 Women In Print Publishers

Accords" the authors are implying that it is a statement of the WIP conference as a whole, which it is not. Implying by its title that this is a statement of the 1985 Women In Print Conference is at the least disrespectful of the publishers present at the conference who chose not to sign the statement and is a dishonest representation of the statement. Specifically 30 publishers were present at WIP according to the post-WIP mailing. Representatives of 9 publishers signed the statement.

This concern becomes even more important as it is circulated with the illusion that it is a WIP statement. I.E., the lesbian caucus at NWSA, I understand from one of the organizers, passed one of these statements believing that it was the statement of the 1985 WIP Conference and represented the stated politics of the women gathered at WIP. They believed that they were following the lead of the 1985 WIP gathering.

4) We also have the following non-contractual responsibilities:

A) If we have reason to believe that advertising copy, book jacket copy or other promotional material varies greatly from the intent of the editor's or author's work, we shall first discuss and come to agreement with those affected.

B) If we believe that a subsidiary right sale will allow marketing or a presentation geared differently from the author's or editor's intent, we have a responsibility to inform them at the time of negotiations with them for consent of sale.

C) In the case of anthologies, we will obtain the contributor's consent (to be granted within a reasonable period of time) for rights to sell her work out of the original context intended, whether that is stated in the editor-contributor contract or not. If consent is refused, that work will not be sold.

D) In the case of subsidiary rights, the publishers will aggressively seek serial outlets for the work that they feel is in keeping with the spirit of the original work.

E) In the event of windfall profit, all parties will share proportionately in the resulting success.

Signed:

(authors of the statement)

Joan Pinkvoss, Aunt Lute Book Company

Sherilyn Thomas, Spinsters Ink

Marjory Larney, Acacia Books

Paula Moseley, Acacia Books

and others:

Simone Fattal, The Post-Apollo Press

Zelta Waletcky, Diaspora Distribution

Elana Dykewomon, Diaspora Distribution

Celeste West, Booklegger Press

Margarita Donnelly, Calyx Books

Jahnet Hewsick, The Book Women

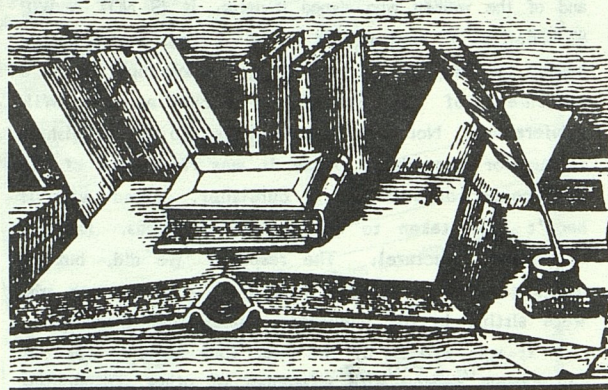
Frederique Delacoste, Cleis Press

Felice Newman, Cleis Press

"FEMINIST PUBLISHING ETHICS -- 1985 WIP CONFERENCE"

Every story told by a woman about her life is a breaking of silence -- the silence imposed on us because we are women. In opposing patriarchy and joining together as feminists we commit ourselves -- the heart and souls of our lives -- to the liberation of women. This commitment is a spiritual and moral contract by which we as feminists freely and joyously find ourselves to work for the freedom of all women. This feminist contract can not be contained and defined merely by legal clauses, no matter how elegant and explicit. This is a contract whose unwritten clauses are inexpressible because they speak of the dimensions of the heart.

How can we define women's spirit, trust and caring? In our women gatherings we experience the energy, love and caring of women together in strength. Most often, in our day-to-day survival we experience the opposite -- where the feminist commitment is absent. And certainly these are not found on the pages of "Forum" magazine. What is in "Forum" magazine is woman hating -- commercial exploitation of women as sex objects for the gratification of men and to the benefit of the pornographic industry.



* Again this title is in quotations to emphasize that it is a statement of the women who wrote it and signed it and that it was not passed by the WIP conference as a whole despite the possibly misleading title.

BOOKSELLERS' CAUCUS STATEMENT - WIP

Whatever one's opinion of the content of "Forum", one of the primary issues remaining from the sale of excerpts from *Lesbian Nuns* to "Forum" magazine is one of consent. Contributors to anthologies should always have the right to approve and consent to all uses of their work outside the original edition for which the work was intended. This includes reproduction in media other than print.

At the very least, we should aspire to three common practices of mainstream publishers: inform authors well in advance of planned or unplanned publicity; offer those affected the choice of refusal, anonymity, use of a pen name or use of their own name; and require authors' consent for serial rights sales.

Editors and publishers have a further obligation to fairly distribute proceeds from the sale of contributors' work. In the situation with *Lesbian Nuns*, where publishers' revenues will far exceed \$100,000, there is a direct obligation to fairly share the proceeds with contributors, legal contracts notwithstanding.

While in future situations contractual agreements may avoid some of these problems, such agreements can never wholly replace trust, good communication and ethical behavior on a business and personal level.

We share in the grief of betrayal, sorrow and suffering expressed by the contributors to *Lesbian Nuns*, those who have spoken publicly and those unable to speak. We commit ourselves to never sell the rights of any woman's work under contract to us to any pornographic media, without the consent of the women involved. We ask women in print media to continue to evolve and be accountable to these principles and ethics of feminism. We affirm that there are other ways to do business, to effectively sell books, and to reach a wide audience, without exploiting the work of women writers. We affirm that strong and healthy publishing houses and other women's media need not depend on the tools that have been used to hurt women, rather can be solidly based in our own feminist beliefs and values.

Marjorie Larney and Paula Moseley, Acacia Books

Jean Swallow, writer and editor

Sherilyn Thomas, Spinsters Ink;

Joan Pinkvoss, Aunt Lute Book Company

(See page 29 for addition signers.)

The Booksellers' Caucus thanks the WIP organizers for providing this forum. Many of us learned a lot and found useful suggestions/guidelines to leave here with.

We feel the conference was limited in scope by the participants who are not representative of the communities we come from. We are members of communities which include women of color, differently-abled/disabled women, and women over 50. These women unfortunately are present in too small numbers.

We regret that the conference did not open with women introducing themselves and the groups they represent so that we may know who we are.

We regret that the conference did not have more panels that addressed the needs of women of color and that that fact kept women away. We regret that the general panels here did not have women of color on them.

We will take the initiative for the next conference to seek out feminist booksellers, sales reps, distributors, women in print in our communities and tell them about the conference in a move to expand our visions of who we are.

We suggest caucusing at the beginning of the conference. We suggest a space for gathering where women's emotional needs can be met.

We endorse the anti-censorship resolution and suggest the WIP endorse it as a whole.*

We urge that the next WIP organizing committee be representative of the communities we come from. We urge that panels and workshops be representative of the communities we come from.

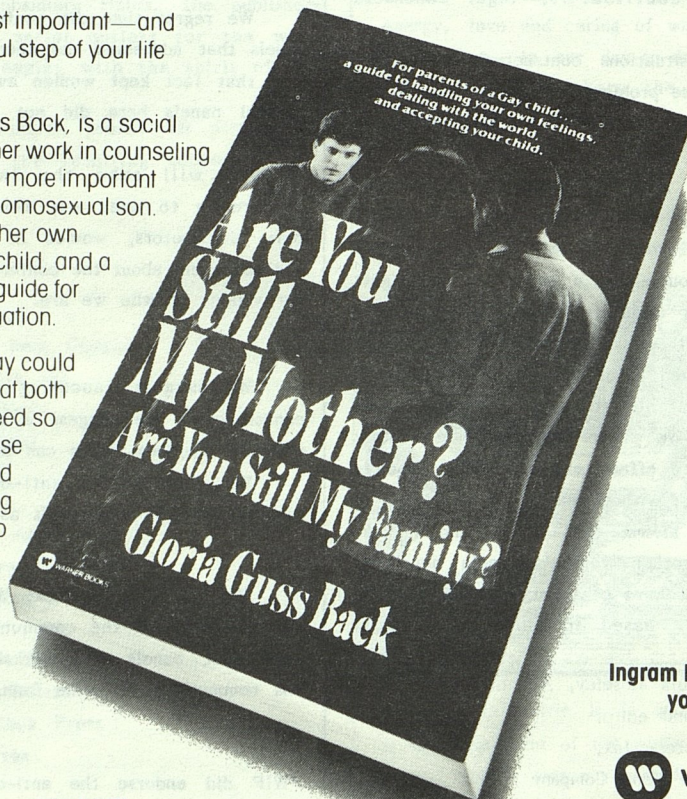
*WIP did endorse the anti-censorship resolution.

Coming Out Is One Of The Hardest Things You'll Ever Do.

Before you take the most important—and perhaps the most painful step of your life—**Read This Book.**

Its author, Gloria Guss Back, is a social worker well-known for her work in counseling the families of gays, but more important she is a mother with a homosexual son. This book is a record of her own experiences with a gay child, and a warm, compassionate guide for other parents in this situation.

The fact that you're gay could destroy the family ties that both you and your parents need so much. This book can ease much of the pressure and prove that though coming out is difficult, it can also lead to new growth and understanding. Read this book—give it to your parents—**pass it on to your friends.**



**Make Coming Out
And Coming Home
Easier For Those
You Love**

**Available through
Ingram Book Company and
your local distributor.**

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TOUGH DOVE

Tough Dove Books is a new women's publishing house with an emphasis on producing "planetary healing tools from a feminist perspective." This means provocative visionary writings by women. Tough Dove is a collective of three lesbians; we plan to publish one or two quality titles a year with the first, **It's Time: A Nuclear Novel** by Jana Bluejay available September 1, 1985 and **Stone Clinking** by Nancy Tyler Glenn available March 10, 1986. A new feminist tarot deck is also imminent. Our distributors are Bookpeople, Inland and Giovanni's Room. From us booksellers receive 40% on 5 or more copies, FOB origin, and please pay net 30 days. We plan to rechannel profits into just causes. Contact: Denise Sheffield, Tough Dove Books, PO Box 548, Little River, CA 95456.

HELLO?

Does anyone have any copies of Out of Print title **The Best Way in the World for a Woman?** I need 6. Also, does anyone one have one copy of **Journey?** PLZ!
--Karen Carlisle, Alaska Women's Bookstore, Women's Building, 111 West 9th Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501.

WRITING WANTED



The Phoenix seeks submissions for an issue on "The Native American Today." "The editors wish to see work that is honest and avoids stereotypic thinking. Indians and non-Indians are invited to submit work for this issue." Poetry, fiction (under 3,000 words), essays and literary criticism, previously unpublished only. Deadline: December 31, 1985. Payment in copies, reporting time three months. SASE. \$100 will be awarded for the best poem and \$100 for the best prose. Send work to Joan Shaddox Isom, Editor, **The Phoenix** Division of Arts & Letters, Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, OK 74464.

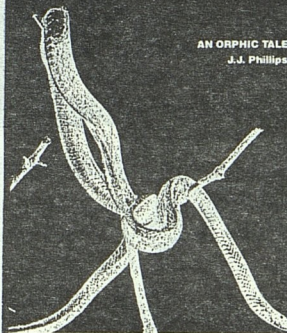
IN MEMORIAM: PAT SMITH

I met Pat Smith at the Northwest Women in Print Conference in 1983. A member of the Press Gang Collective, she was a woman of amazing vitality. She contributed news and information to FBN. Pat "wrote" and designed the Class Consciousness poster (pensive woman leaning on a fence, the words read "Class consciousness is knowing which side of the fence you're on. Class analysis is figuring out who is there with you.") She was one of those women that it's a pleasure to meet at last.

Pat was riding her motorcycle home from a Press Gang Meeting when she was run over by a drunk driver and killed. Her death was a horrible shock and loss to her collective, her many friends, and those of us who are her co-workers around the movement.
--Carol

Pat was a woman who taught other women any number

MOJO HAND



Finally Back in Print!

"I read **MOJO HAND** shortly after it was published and liked it tremendously. Today, while putting the finishing touches on my own novel, I picked it up again and found it just as real and humorous and solid as when I first read it."

Alice Walker

192 pages
\$6.95

Mojo Hand: An Orphic Tale
by J. J. Phillips

distributed by PGW, L-S, Bookpeople

City Miner Books
P.O. Box 176, Berkeley, CA 94701

of skills, some of substance, some of style -- often a combination of the two. She had a rap on how to market feminist books to transnational bookstore chains: know your titles, discounts and seasons, present your promotional campaign in a convincing manner, and get Press Gang to pay your dry-cleaning bills if it's dry-cleaning that gives you the courage



to chat up that buyer in the first place. She saw clearly the balancing acts of a feminist publisher: the need to make a book understandable to more than the "converted"; the recognition that blithe disregard for things financial wouldn't, in the long run, serve our movement well; the fact that volunteer work, a cornerstone of our trade, was often monotonous and we had to spread the creative tasks around.

She had a wonderful sense of humour, noting on occasion that the economic status of feminism would be greatly enhanced if we declared ourselves a religion.

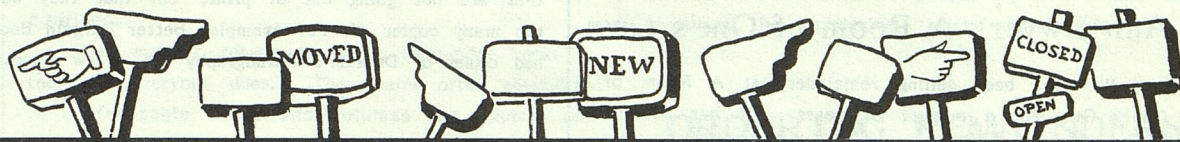
Pat came to Press Gang in its early days and worked in the collective for over 10 years. She had an amazing range of talents and an amazing distinctive way of doing things. As a printer, graphic designer, writer, editor and general cheerleader for the Press she was an inspiration to many. As a collective member Pat was both incorrigible and faithful, being hopelessly late for a meeting one day and working past midnight the next. She reveled in a good fierce debate and could make you mad and make you think at the same time (or shortly afterwards).

Pat's political commitments were far-reaching. She helped found the Vancouver Women's Bookstore, fought for lesbian rights in feminist groups and was active with the Chilean resistance movement. And she knew how to have a good time. Pat was thoroughly versed in motorcycles and gardening and was renowned as a source of unusual information and very funny stories.

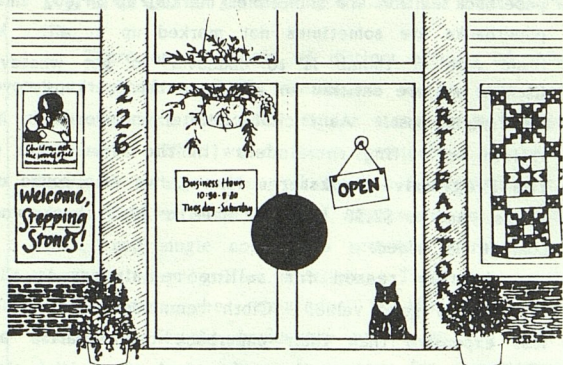
When Pat died, some of the women in her life organized a memorial gathering that was attended by over 300 people. It was an extraordinary event. We told stories and cried and sang some of Pat's favourite songs and mourned our loss. We're still doing it. Pat was a rare woman; she made our lives and our endeavours more interesting and worthy.

Nancy Pollak
Press Gang

THEY WENT THAT-A-WAY



New and Forthcoming Bookstores: Pat Vogelsang and friends are opening **The Multi-Cultural Women's Market**, a soon-to-be bookstore in Milwaukee. They've been researching the idea for a year. At the moment they're running it out of their home and are doing mail order. Milwaukee's been hungry for a feminist bookstore since the closing of Sister Moon. Write them at 2014 E. Lafayette Pl., Milwaukee, WI 53202. Martha Grossman is considering the possibility of opening a feminist bookstore in Miami. Write to her at



please drop in

8350 S.W. 65th Ave. #1 Miami, FL 33143. Dell Kelleher is working on opening a store in the Clearwater, Florida area. Send her information at 401 Le Beau St., Clearwater, FL 33515. Barbara Anshutz and Deborah Trent have had to put their plans to open a women's bookstore in Denver on hold for a year while they (continue to) pursue financial backing. It will be called Woman's Word when the time comes... Stepping Stones is opening September 8 at 621 Hawthorne Ave. Palo Alto, CA 94301 and will sell both books and

crafts.

OOPS! The correct phone number for Health Comm, publishers of **Treatment Options for Breast Cancer**, an audio program listed under Health Education in the Sidelines Issue is 213-457-1502. If you tried to call them and couldn't get through, please try again. Their tape retails for \$14.95, bookstore terms not sent. PO Box 5475, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403.

MOVES, MOVING, MOVED: Fan the Flames Feminist Bookstore is now at 65 S. 4th St., Columbus, OH 43215

Books move around too: **It's Time: A Nuclear Novel**, originally scheduled for fall from Spinsters Ink will be available from Tough Dove Books instead. See Our Own Presses for details.

The best laid plans of feminists and publishers also can go astray. The women of would-be-Aphra Press decided not to go into publishing after all.

Several Romaine Brooks drawings are available on notecards and post cards from the National Museum of American Art. The Smithsonian Institute, Washington, DC. Thanks to Tee Corinne who keeps an eye out for such things.

There are only a few copies of Ishtar's **A World of Light: A Portrait of May Sarton** (book and tape), left for bookstores to order. Books are \$8.95, cassette tape is \$6.95 and the packaged set is \$15.50. 40% for 3+. Ishtar Enterprises, PO Box 51, Patterson, NY 12563.

Methuen bought Routledge Kegan Paul, and what is that going to mean for RKP's feminist books and the Pandora Books?

SELLING REMAINDERS

Ann Dwyer A Room of One's Own

We have been selling remainders at A Room of One's Own for a number of years. It has been a success in a number of ways. One, we are able to sell books once again that would otherwise be unavailable. We make customers happy, and provide them with inexpensive books. We receive higher discounts than with general books -- usually between 45 and 50% -- and the returns department (that's me) does not have to deal with overstock problems. If remainders do not sell, they can be marked down to 50% off an already-low price and sooner or later they will go away.

There are a number of types of books being sold by remainder companies. True remainder books are sold by a publisher to a remainder house, usually when the paperback has come out or is in the works. Sometimes, however, cloth books from a couple of seasons earlier that disappeared into the void of never-been-paperbacked show up.

A couple of companies sell special edition books. These are often reproduced from an earlier edition, sometimes cheaply, sometimes not. Their prices tend not to be quite as low as remainders, usually about half the original price. Unlike true remainders, these are reprinted according to demand, so ordering them is not a now-or-never proposition.

Another type, stocked by only a couple of companies, is hurt books. Although I have not dealt with them much, in general their condition seems to be no worse than books we receive "new" from some publishers. We got copies of one book in such good condition that I was not able to ascertain what was hurt about them.

An additional source for remainders is publishing houses themselves. Feminist Press had such a sale a few months back, a number of their bibliographies were available at a fraction of their original cost. Temple University Press is another company that remains its own books. Publishers also sell copies of books

that are not going out of print, but that they have too many copies of. For example, Better Bargain Books had copies of Dworkin's *Pornography* for a few months.

WHY SELL REMAINDERS?

There are a number of reasons to consider carrying remainder books if you do not already do so. Fifty percent discounts are nice, even when the shipping eats up a considerable portion of it. On that note, we mark everything up fifty cents per book to cover shipping, with a couple of exceptions. Ten-pound art books that have been reduced in price by 75% or more already are sometimes marked up \$1.00, cloth books that are a fraction of the cost of their paperback edition are sometimes marked up \$1.00, small paperbacks are sometimes not marked up at all. My basic rule of thumb is to endeavor to get whatever discount we are entitled to and have the markups cover the freight cost. As Dick McLeester mentioned in his article on selling remainders (in the first issue of *The Progressive Bookstores News*), we also round off prices, and a \$2.98 book becomes a \$3.50 book when postage is added.

Another reason for selling remainders is that they are a good value. Cloth remainders are usually less expensive than their paperback counterparts, and we often sell more of them than both the initial cloth



Shifra

IDEAS AND EXPERIENCE

copies at full price and the paperback edition combined.

Yet another reason to carry remainder books is that not everyone does. The chains often specialize in coffee-table books and volumes and volumes and volumes about Chuck and Di and the little princes. But there are also some real quality books collecting dust and waiting to be picked up by specialized stores that are better equipped to market them.

Remember that great first novel by -----? The one that got such good reviews three or four years ago but vanished and was forgotten? Odds are good that it will show up sooner or later in a remainder catalog.

MARKETING REMAINDERS

There are a couple of distinct schools of thought about placement of remainders within the store: integrate them into your regular stock or put them by themselves. What we do is a combination of the two. There is a big table and several bookcases we use around the entrance way of the store for stacks of books, and single copies are scattered throughout the store in appropriate sections. This is especially helpful when the remainder is the only edition available. If the books are priced on the spine as well as the front cover, it is easy for a customer to see that they are often less expensive than the paperbacks.

Perhaps the most effective way of calling attention to a particular book is at the point of sale. When a customer comes to the register with a paperback copy of a book that we have remainders of, I point out to them that they can get a cloth copy for less than the paperback. It is a good opportunity to let them know that all the books in that area of the store are inexpensive. If you have the space to give the remainders their own area, even for a while, it will get customers acquainted with them and help to

diminish the resistance people have to what they assume to be prohibitively priced cloth books.

ORDERING REMAINDERS

Ordering remainder books is as much of a guessing game as ordering anything else, with a couple of differences that make it even more interesting -- they usually cannot be returned (even if they can, don't -- it's too expensive) and there are often no second chances to get more of something that sells well. Generally, order conservatively books you are uncertain about, and get lots of copies of things you know will sell well. Lots is defined by the volume of your sales, the amount of money you have to spend, and the amount of storage space you have. Something I think will sell well I order 25-75 copies of. I also order many books in twos and threes. To avoid disappointment, order as soon as possible after receiving information about the books.

Remainders are made available in seasons, much like other publishing houses. Some companies send monthly new release fliers as well as bi-annual catalogs. Other companies, however, publish no catalog and ordering from them is quite a challenge.. Most of those that don't have a catalog do have some kind of computer print-out or list.

There are a number of remainder companies to do business with. There are a couple, however, that would be good to start with. Daedalus Books in Washington DC has an extensive catalog of feminist and scholarly books. Their catalog annotations are honest and staff seem familiar with the books. Booksellers looking to buy the latest work on roller disco will be disappointed with their selection, but to the rest of us they are a blessing.

A relative newcomer in the remainder business is long-time progressive bookseller Dick McLeester and his company Better Bargain Books. His selection,

like that of Daedalus, is a lot of things we stock already, as well as books that have been unavailable for years. (Addresses appear at the end of this article.)

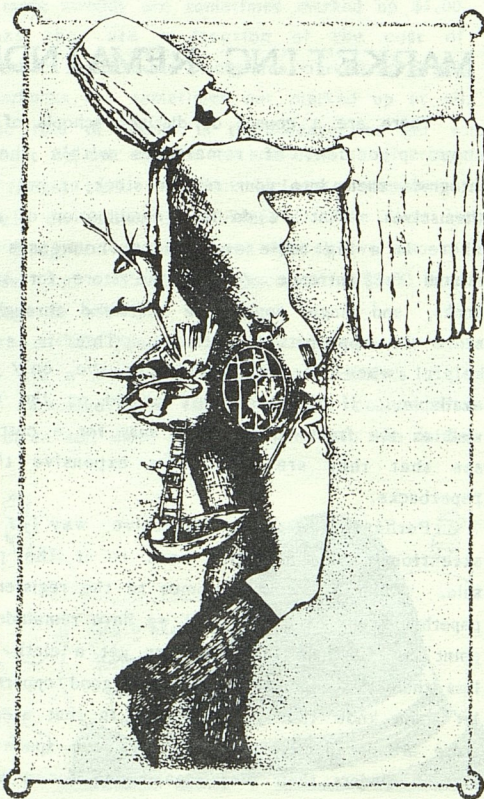
One problem that has come up with remainder sales is royalties. Authors receive no compensation after their books are sold to remainder houses, and the remaindered cloth copies cut into royalty-paying paperback sales. I have heard of some stores setting aside a portion of the sale price to pay individual authors, but in most cases this is not done. As this is a continuing problem, we can hope that author's contracts will reflect this in the future and assure them at least minimum compensation when their books are remaindered.

And what article on selling remainders in a feminist bookstore would be complete without a tribute to William F. Buckley, Jr.? Seriously, the inauguration of the Buckley-Little Catalog is a boon for authors, readers, and booksellers. Begun two years ago by William F. Buckley and Stuart W. Little, it is a clearing house for authors to remainder their own books. The second edition, published a few months ago, lists more than 800 titles. Authors, including Marge Piercy, Maxine Kumin, Sheila Ballantyne, and many others will often autograph copies, and the retail is generally the original cloth price. Booksellers using STOP forms get a 40% discount. The first 5000 copies of the catalog were free for the asking. I suspect that they have been depleted, but you can write to Buckley-Little Catalog, PO Box 512, Canal Street Station, NY NY 10013. If the free copies are gone, booksellers can purchase one for \$2.50 (prepaid). I think this is a fabulous project that deserves support. There is now a real alternative for authors who choose to determine the fate of their books in the throw-away world of contemporary publishing.

The following is a list of remainder companies that publish catalogs or print-outs of some kind:

- Daedalus Books, 2260 25th Pl.NE, Washington, DC 20018.
Better Bargain Books, c/o Food For Thought, 67 N. Pleasant St., Boston, MA 01002.
Outlet, One Park Ave, NY NY 10016.
Bookthrift, 45 W. 36th St., NY NY 10018.
WH Smith, 112 Madison Ave., NY NY 10016.
Book Sales, Inc., 110 Enterprise Ave., Seacaucus NJ 07094.
Bookworld Promotions, 87-93 Christie St., Newark NJ 07105.
Lescron, 80 Arch St. PO Drawer 70, Johnson City NY 13790.
PME Bargain Books, 836 Park Ave. South, NY NY 10016.

Illustration by Fave Kickosway from the Coffee House Press 1986 Calendar



LIST HIGHLIGHTS

Better Bargain Books

(All prices are net, discount varies book by book)

Pornography (Dworkin)	1.50 pb
Praisesong For the Widow	2.70 cl
Handbook of Non-Sexist Writing	1.75 cl
Women and Philosophy	.90 pb
Every Mothers Son	2.70 cl
Civil Wars (June Jordan)	1.80 cl
Yonnondio (trade paperback)	1.40 pb

(Also available for thirty cents is Dick's article from the Progressive Booksellers Newsletter called "Offering Bargain Books in Alternative Shops.)

Daedalus

(All prices listed are retail, 50% discount.)

From the Summer List:

Conditions Volumes 6,7,8,9	1.00 ea
Gay/Lesbian Almanac	9.98 cl
	4.98 pb
Heartwomen	3.98 cl
Lesbian Woman	1.98 cl
New Women of Wonder	1.00 pb
More Women of Wonder	1.00 pb
Imaginary Crimes	2.98 cl
Last Warrior Queen	2.98 cl
Me Again:	1.98 cl

Uncollected Writings of Stevie Smith
and literally hundreds more

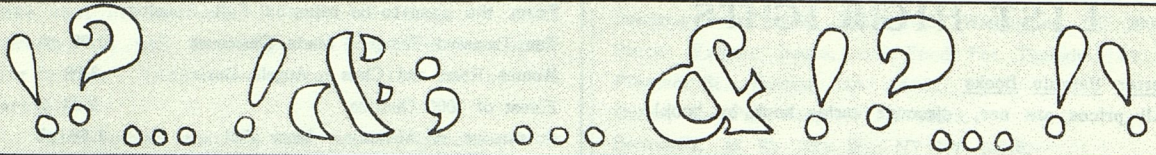


From the soon-to-be-released Fall Catalog:

Ten Thousand Things - Maria Dermout	1.98 pb
Women Race and Class - Angela Davis	3.98 cl
Forest of 1000 Demons	2.98 cl
Persistence of Memory - Mary Fell	1.98 pb
Dancing in the Dark - Janet Hobhouse	2.98 cl
Taking it Like a Woman - Ann Oakley	2.98 cl
Sister Age - MFK Fisher	3.98 cl
Time After Time - Molly Keane	2.98 cl
Sentimental Agents - Doris Lessing	2.98 cl
Stone Paper Knife - Marge Piercy	1.98 pb
If the Old Could	
- Jane Somers (Doris Lessing)	4.98 cl
Domestick Beings - June Sprigg	4.98 cl
Understanding Women: A Feminist Psycho- analytic Approach- Luise Eichenbaum & Susie Orbach	2.98 cl
The Lizard's Tail - Luisa Valenzuela	2.98 cl
(Valenzuela is an excellent Argentinian writer)	
A Daughter's Geography - Ntozake Shange	1.98 cl
Sassafrass, Cypress & Indigo - Shange	3.98 cl
Pitch Dark - Renata Adler	2.98 cl

Judith Barrington, Ruth Gundle-The Eighth Mountain Press, Carole Spearin McCauley Jeffner Allen, Tiana Arruda, Cookie Hunt-Out and About, Carolyn Shafer-Tearose Press Karen Carlisle Alaska Women's Bookstore, Marilyn Frye-Tearose Press, Karen Umminger, Gail Wallat, Merle Hoffman Michal Brody-Iowa City Women's Press, Kristine Hoover, Jill Benderly, Dawn Oftedahl, Pam Mitchell, Anne Harbaugh-Mother Kali s Books, L Wellings Stern, Catherine Harris-Peralandra Books, Lise Weil-Triva, Louise Rafkin, Edwina Franchild-Womyn s Braille Press, Margarita Donnelly-Calyx Books, Lisa Domitrovich-Calyx Books, Celeste West-Booklegger Press, Kit Quan, Carol D. Fields-Old Wives Tales Bookstore, Chris Johnson-Metis Press, Nancy Poore-Metis Press, Barbara Wilson-Seal Press, Faith Conlon-Seal Press, Sally Brunsman-Seal Press, Felice Newman-Cleis Press.

TRIVIA



Not to be confused: Crossing Press is continuing to publish new books in their feminist series and to reprint backlist books. See The Small Press section for their new fall titles. Likely you've seen the new cover on the second printing of **Folly**, 5000 copies in that run for a total of 10,000 copies in print, I believe. Next book back to press will be Joanna Russ's **On Strike Against God**. Also scheduled for reprint are **Lesbian Images**, **Zami**, **Triangles**, **The Work of A Common Woman**, and **Mother, Sister, Daughter, Lover**. **Desert of the Heart** (the movie, not the book!) has been bought by Goldwin for distribution. It will be opening as a major movie in 20 American cities in

etc. It has already won a Bronze Leopard (Best Actress) at the Locarno Festival in Switzerland. I don't follow these things, myself, but I understand this to be **The Big Time**.

Naiad Press will be going back to press with a trade edition bearing a "See the movie -- Read the book" banner across the cover. They've been planning a trade edition for some time and expect to get this off the press by early November. Hopefully before they run out of the mass market copies. Price will be \$7.95.

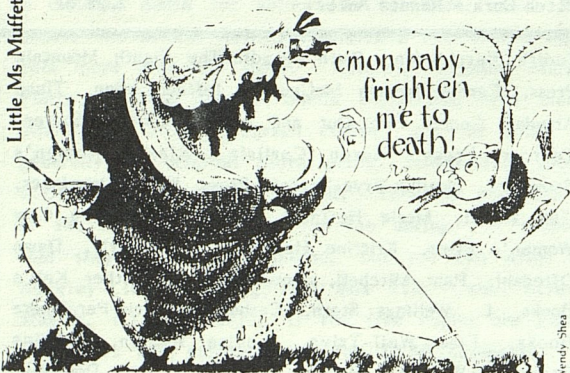
Alyson Press is for sale. **Bay Windows** has been sold to South End Press.

Moving? Amazon Books in Minneapolis reports that their new space is almost double the old space, and has heat AND air-conditioning that actually work, and for just about the same rent. Mother Kali's is looking for the same in Eugene. If you're thinking about, planning, and/or dreading moving, you might give Linda Boubon at Women and Children First (1967 N. Halsted St, Chicago, IL 60614) a call. They're just settling in from their move, clearly a very successful one and Linda's glad to pass on what they learned.

From the Humanspace Newsletter: "We had some excitement here when Nancy Manahan, editor of **Lesbian Nuns**, and her mother made their only AZ appearance at Humanspace. Anonymous threats to the store...AZ is **conservative**...but no disruptions, and a very supportive crowd "

The National Women's Studies Association convention will be held June 11-15, 1986 at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign and will

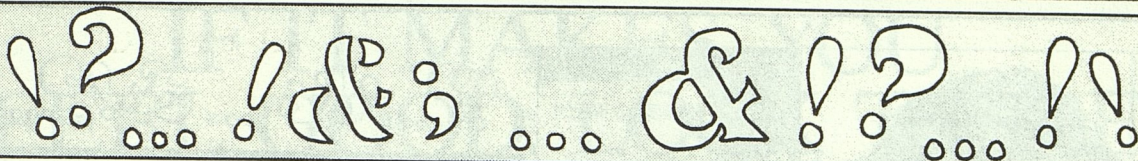
Little Ms Muffet



Wendy Shea

Rapunzel's Revenge

January, 1986. **Leanna**, I'm told, opened in 8 cities, was successful, and then "reopened" in 28 cities, so **Desert** is projected to be a bigger and more fully mainstreamed film than **Leanna** was. Until then it will be touring the film festivals: Toronto, Deauville,



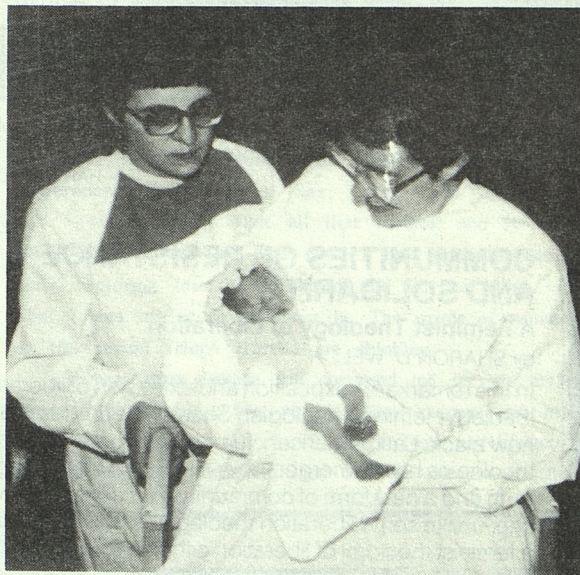
not conflict with the Second International Book Fair in Oslo which will be held June 21-27. Theme for this NWSA will be Women Working for Change: Health, Cultures and Societies.

D.C. Girls Make Good! You might have noticed the Womanist Prose (and Some Poetry) article in the back of the June **American Bookseller**, a very loose interview with bookstore workers Susanna Sturgis and Jennifer Krebs of Lammis and Old Wives Tales describing bestsellers in feminist bookstores. Susanna writes to say that she did NOT say that it was a lesbian feminist who was murdered in Barbara Wilson's **Murder in the Collective**. The unsigned article quotes the joke "Is it fiction or is it documentary?" then 'explains' "that's because a member of a lesbian/feminist collective is murdered in the book, an occurrence not altogether surprising to real-life women who have found memberships in collectives to be 'sometimes a frustrating experience'". This real-life woman has found collective work to be "sometimes frustrating" (she understated) but I'd still find murder to be **very** surprising. As I'm sure Jeremy, the murdered male character would be very surprised to learn that he was a lesbian. Ah well, the mixed blessings of free mainstream publicity.

Yes it's true, Ann Bannon is working on a book about the later life of Beebe Brinker called **Applehood and Mother Pie**. Not yet finished, and no pub date yet. I'd like a book on the later life of a feminist bookstore worker, too, but maybe it isn't time yet.

OOPS! Sorry for the confusion in the last issue: Lambda Passages and Humpers are the same store with branches in both Ft. Lauderdale and Miami. They carry gay, lesbian and feminist books. They're open and selling and report that they've had no further harassment.

Annalaura Artz Iffland was born to Diana Iffland and River/Kathy Artz (Pandora Bookstore, Kalamazoo, Michigan) eight weeks early on June 28. She weighed 3 pounds 10 ounces at birth and gained two pounds in her first four weeks.



Seal Press, by the way, is going to be republishing Wilson's earlier novel **Ambitious Women** this fall. New color cover, promo, etc. **Murder** has sold 8000 copies since it came out. **Ambitious Women** has sold 2500 copies in about three times the time. Is the difference a color cover? A lighter image vs the heaviness of the first cover? Being caught in the change-over in editorship of the first publisher? First novel vs. second? Both are serious discussions of life and work in the feminist movement -- maybe people want to read that as part of a murder mystery but not a novel? Sales figures may give some hints to the answers to these questions. Barbara is planning to follow up **Murder** with two more murder mysteries --



"A passionate and poetic book, which strikes a new chord in theology . . ."
— HARVEY COX

COMMUNITIES OF RESISTANCE AND SOLIDARITY

A Feminist Theology of Liberation

by SHARON D. WELCH

In this remarkable exposition and extension of liberation theology, feminist theologian Sharon Welch describes how black, Latin American, feminist and other liberation theologies have emerged from a new understanding of truth and a new form of community. Her analysis of why she, unlike some liberation theologians, will not ground a feminist theology of liberation either in scripture or the person of Jesus Christ is an original and compelling contribution. *Communities of Resistance and Solidarity* is a timely work for all students of theological method, liberation theology, and feminist studies.

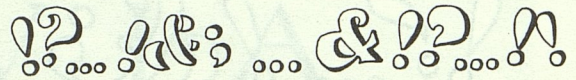
"Sharon Welch contributes to a vital conversation, namely, in what sense feminist liberation theologians . . . must acknowledge both the relativist insights of their truth claims and the ethically normative value of their work."—CARTER HEYWARD

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discussing the politics and issues of our lives.

News from Naiad: Naiad has just signed contracts for a western, a ghost story, and a Regency-style romance. Just goes to show that there are ever more genres available to lesbian writers. Barbara also points out that *Not Now But Now* (MFK Fisher, reissued by North Point Press) is a lesbian novel and should be shelved as such, or at least that one of the four sections is clearly lesbian. A very daring novel for its 1947 publication, though I think that readers with no sense of history may argue the point. And what can we do about this lack of historical perspective that is rearing its ugly head among "contemporary" lesbian feminists? Anyone up for a history of lesbian publishing? How about some historical novels that convey the info in a painless fashion? Can lesbian historical novels (set in the last 10-15 years) become a new genre?

Theresa, from Lioness Books in Sacramento recommends keeping a copy of *The Lesbian In Literature* under the counter and routinely checking titles as they come in for possible shelving in the lesbian section.

Winston Press reports that *Women's Reality* by Anne Wilson Schaefer has gone into its eighth printing (this one is 25,000 copies) bringing the total books in print to 125,000. Since it was first published in 1981, sales have increased each year with no sign of slowing down. New cover and a new preface by the author with this printing. Schaefer's new book *The Disease of Co-dependency* will be available in January.

Margarita Donnelly of *Calyx*, Sue Heinemann and Lucy Lippard of *Heresies*, and Susan Sherman of *Ikon* received Editor's Grants from The Coordinating Council of Literary Magazines. The Grants of \$3500 are given to recognize excellence and innovation in the editing of literary magazines in the US.

IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL GOOD: LOOK TWICE

Susanna J. Sturgis

Janice Irvine's recent article "Women's Bookstores Reject Sex Magazines" (*Gay Community News*, June 8, 1985) would have been more accurately titled "Why Women's Bookstores MUST Carry Lesbian Sex Magazines." For four years I have been book and periodical buyer for a feminist bookstore, continually making decisions about what to order and what to pass over. I don't make these decisions carelessly, and when my judgement of a book's content is involved, I do not make them in isolation. I -- and, I imagine, most feminist-bookstore workers -- know that the issues involved in a feminist bookstore's deciding what and what not to carry are maddeningly complex.

In marked contrast, Irvine seems to be offering me a place in one of two categories. Either I can be a censorious, knee-jerk, unadventurous prude, or I can be a bold rebel on the cutting edge of sexual change, moving, as Irvine put it, "into the daring, kinky or raunchy realms of sex." I am neither. I cannot set myself up as a community censor, nor can I act as if the convictions of my mind and heart make no difference.

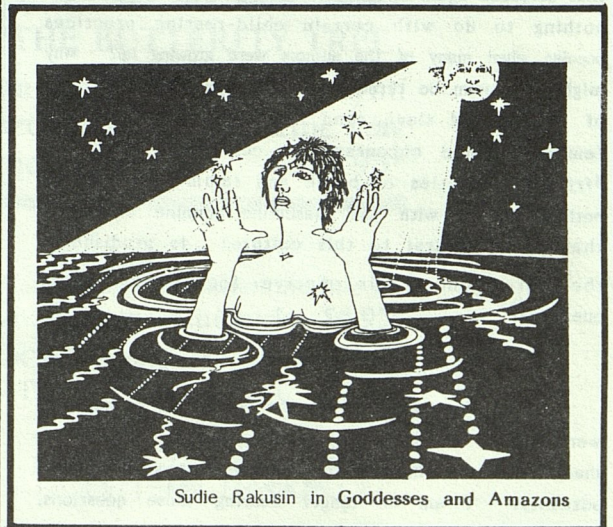
The store where I work carries the Samois anthology *Coming to Power*. It carries three of the periodicals mentioned in Irvine's article: *On Our Backs*, *Outrageous Women*, and *Bad Attitude*. I have never received promotional material or trade terms for *The Power Exchange*; I assumed that its publisher was not interested in distributing through feminist bookstores. Most of these decisions I initiated; all of them I support. As with other issues on which lesbians and feminists passionately disagree, some customers are happy with the store's policy and others are not.

Like the decisions of the Toronto Women's Bookstore staff, mine are not "carved in stone."

Hardly a day does by that I do not reconsider the decisions I have made, perhaps because of a customer's comment, perhaps because a new issue of one of these magazines comes in with a story or image I find especially offensive, or perhaps just because. Each time, I have decided against cancelling the store's standing order. Why?

At gut level my reason has little to do either with censorship or with my own political convictions. It has to do with my personal experience several years ago, first when I heard of lesbian sadomasochism, then as I avidly read accounts from the Barnard sexuality conference, the *Heresies Sex Issue*, and everything else I could find. What all that turmoil and ferment showed me above all was that I had done precious little exploring into what turned me on, or why, or what I was willing to do about it. The words of women on the sexual fringe started me thinking.

Perhaps these women will commend me for my anti-censorship stance, for my adventurousness or my "tolerance of diversity." I don't feel particularly adventurous, or principled, and I often wonder if this



Sudie Rakusin in *Goddesses and Amazons*

tolerance I show isn't really a weak-kneed attempt to duck the issues involved. By choosing to keep **On Our Backs**, et al., on the shelves, I am shutting out the understandable objections of women who find anti-feminist and abhorrent the magazines' Nazi-like images, frilly female images, and images of sexual abuse. I am shutting out my own objections.

What I object to is not sexually explicit materials -- hell, no. I've been writing and enjoying my own for twenty years. What I object to is the apparent assumption on the part of the self-styled sexual outlaws and other "outrageous women" that these materials, simply because they are sexually explicit, should be exempt from the critical review to which a feminist is expected to subject everything else. Amy Hoffman advises, "If it makes you uncomfortable, it's a good reason to look twice." I fully agree. But if it makes you feel **comfortable**, or if it turns you on? Surely these are good reasons too.

Does the fascination with spanking, for instance, that surfaces again and again in **Coming to Power** have nothing to do with certain child-rearing practices popular when many of the authors were growing up? Why might a woman be turned on by fantasies or role plays of master and slave, and is this something that a feminist should encourage or celebrate? Do the "fringe" polarities of butch and femme really have nothing to do with the masculine/feminine dichotomy that is so central to this culture? Is prudishness the only conceivable motive for asking these questions?

A few years ago, it was the outrageous women who were asking the hard, necessary questions, prompting many of us to challenge our assumptions about female sexuality. I am no longer hearing those questions. What I do hear is a definite resistance to any

questions or answers that might imply a limit to "if it feels good, do it." Out on the sexual fringe, it seems, outrageousness is by definition progressive. If it shocks feminists, particularly anti-pornography feminist, then it's on the right track.

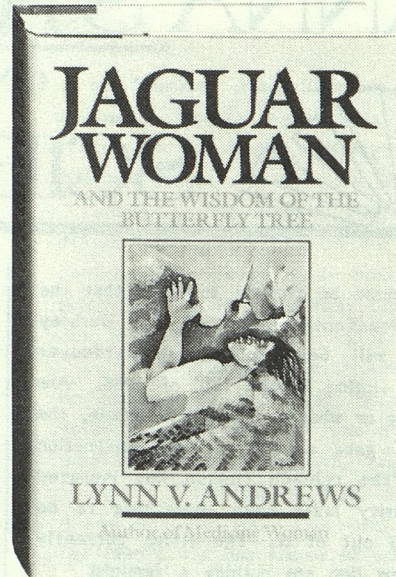
"My enemy's enemy is my friend" may be justification enough for wartime alliances, but it's hardly a promising foundation for feminist explorations of female sexuality. What's more, and as many of us seem to trouble remembering, a woman is not an empty simply because she asks hard questions and will not settle for simplistic answers. Unfortunately, many of our "discussions" now take place at such a high decibel level that complexities are inaudible.

In her extremely important essay "Pornography and the Doubleness of Sex for Women," Joanna Russ suggests, borrowing from Wilhelm Reich, that "when classic forms of sexual suppression...first begin to disappear, what you get is not freedom but a lot of very nasty behavior in which the pre-existing violence begins to be visible, *along with* (italics in original) some genuinely progressive behavior and events."¹

Because the nasty and the progressive are not so easily distinguished at first glance as the more vociferous on both sides would have us believe, I will continue to err -- if err it is -- on the side of free wheeling discussion. For the time being I stand with any feminist-bookstore worker who chooses to stock the lesbian sex magazines **and** I stand with any who decides that the unquestioning celebration of certain "raunchy" behaviors is incompatible with the feminist commitments of her store. I suspect that the time is coming when I will be unable to stand in both these places at once.

1. In Joanna Russ, **Magic Mommas, Trembling Sisters, Puritans & Perverts**, Trumansburg, NY: The Crossing Press, 1985.

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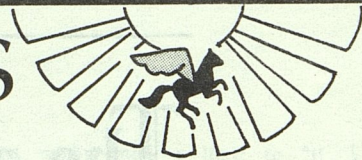
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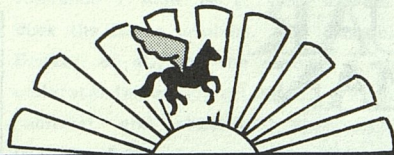
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ON

SCIENCE FICTION



You will of course be thrilled to learn that the "Ace Science Fiction/Fantasy arm of the Berkley Publishing Group" will begin publishing hardcover fantasy and science fiction in the fall of 1986. Are my prejudices showing or what? In the PW article, the arm's editor-in-chief gave as part of her explanation the opinion that "the science fiction has matured substantially." Maturity must have something to do with money. I feel out of it. The titles currently scheduled for the new line are nothing a feminist bookstore needs to know about, but keep in mind that Ace/Berkley paperback authors currently include Elizabeth A. Lynn, Phyllis Ann Karr, Ursula K. LeGuin, and John Varley.

SF³, the marvelous folks in Madison, Wisconsin, who bring us WisCon (the annual f/sf convention with probably more and better feminist programming than any other) and the fanzine *Aurora*, also publishes the *Mad Moose Gazette*, WisCon's official newszine. In the current issue is advance word of two forthcoming novels from Suzette Haden Elgin, author of the Ozark Fantasy Trilogy (*Twelve Fair Kingdoms*, *The Grand Jubilee*, and *And Then There'll Be Fireworks*, all in paper from Berkley) and *Native Tongue* (DAW Books). In one, *Yonder Comes the Other End of Time*, the trilogy's Responsible of Brightwater meets the (male) protagonist of several of Haden's other books, Coyote Jones. The other, due in 1986, is a sequel to *Native Tongue* -- in other words, don't miss. Publisher info wasn't given, so Watch This Space.

From Barbara Wilson at Seal Press there's word of a forthcoming "sex-role reversal novel" (sounds sf-related to me!) by Norwegian lesbian writer Gerd

Brantenberg. It's called *Egalia's Daughters* and will be available from Seal in the fall.

If any of you do anything with boxed sets (prop up sagging bookshelves?), you may be interested in the following: Anne McCaffrey's "Dragonriders of Pern" (*Dragonflight*, *Dragonquest*, and *The White Dragon*, \$8.95, Ballantine/Del Rey); Ursula K. LeGuin's Earthsea trilogy (*A Wizard of Earthsea*, *The Tombs of Atuan*, and *The Furthest Shore*, Bantam, \$8.85)/ R. A. MacAvoy's Damiano trilogy (*Damiano*, *Damiano's Lute*, and *Raphael*, Bantam, \$8.45); four C. J. Cherryh (selection unspecified, DAW Books, \$11.15); and five of Marlon Zimmer Bradley's Darkover books (selection unspecified, but *The Shattered Chain* is usually included, DAW Books, \$17.40).



Future fantasy/science fiction columns will be coming from West Tisbury, Massachusetts, far from the nearest feminist and science fiction bookstores and even farther from the Lammas resource files. I'm going to be doing my best to get myself onto the PR/review lists for as many f/sf publishers as possible. You know from experience how difficult this can be, even for feminist periodicals and bookstores that have been in business for more than a decade. If any of you have sympathetic contacts in the publishers' promotion or editorial departments, would you let me know? I anticipate problems particularly with the mass markets (Ace/Berkley, Baen/S&S, Bantam, Popular, Warner, etc.)



but will be delighted with any leads.

Of course, I'll be ESPECIALLY delighted to hear about forthcoming f/sf titles from feminist and other independent presses. As of August 1, my address will be Box 39, West Tisbury, Mass. 02575. Leads, comments, feedback, and other suggestions are always welcome.

ACADEMY CHICAGO

10/85 -- **The Best of Marion Zimmer Bradley**, paper \$5.95, cloth \$14.95. "A definitive collection of stories," says the publisher of this, the first in its new series that features "collected work by outstanding women science fiction writers, both well-known and unfairly neglected."

The Best of Margaret St. Clair, paper \$4.95, cloth \$14.95. St. Clair's fiction, both long and short, has long been hard to find; I've read only her early 1960s novel **Sign of the Labrys**, which jumped off the shelf at me in a second-hand bookstore a few years ago. This collection includes her own intro, "Thoughts from my Seventies," which should be interesting.

BAEN BOOKS (S&S)

6/85 -- **A Princess of the Chameln**, Cherry Wilder, \$2.95. First of a projected trilogy, this follows the familiar theme of the usurped princess whose exile is a time of self-reflection and coming-into-her-own. Wilder's previous novels have been generally well-received, but based on the hype, I'd say this could go either way. Solicit advice from a local fan.

BANTAM

8/85 -- **The Book of Kells**, by R. A. MacAvoy, \$3.50. Roberta MacAvoy is one of the hottest new science fiction writers around. I loved her **Tea With the Black Dragon**, and several customers are great fans

of her "Damiano" trilogy (**Damiano**, **Damiano's Lute**, and **Raphael**). Bantam says this is about "a young artist transported to tenth century Ireland"; a reliable informed source says that the artist is male.

9/85 -- **The Dream Years**, by Lisa Goldstein, \$14.95 (cloth only). You're not going to buy this in hardcover, but keep it in mind for future paperback publication. Goldstein's first novel was the excellent **The Red Magician** (Pocket, \$2.95).

Stars in My Pocket Like Grains of Sand, by Samuel R. Delany, \$3.95. See FBN Vol. 6 No. 6 for details; it's a must if you have a significant gay male or serious sf clientele, otherwise wait and see.

Infinity's Web, by Sheila Finch, \$2.95. A new author to me. This novel deals with a woman in the 1990's who has visions of other worlds where other women are "trying to deal with the same experience in a variety of ways." Sounds intriguing, although PW gave it a pretty negative review; you know how PW is on anything that sounds remotely feminist.

10/85 -- **Venus of Dreams**, by Pamela Sargent, \$3.95. I know nothing about this beyond the publisher's blurb about a "generation-spanning" epic of the "struggle to colonize the planet Venus." Exercise caution! Sargent edited the "Women of Wonder" anthology series in the 1970's.

12/85 -- **The Splendor and Misery of Bodies, of Cities**, by Samuel R. Delany, \$16.95 (cloth only). Concluding volume of **Stars in My Pocket** (above); probably the same quality, and for the same readership (affluent and/or fanatical sections, that is).

DAW BOOKS (NAL)

8/85 -- **Changer's Moon**, by Jo Clayton, \$3.50. Long-awaited conclusion to the "Duel of Sorcery" trilogy, which began with **Moongather** and **Moonscatter** (which DAW is promoting at the same time, \$3.50 each). PW didn't like this, either, and though I definitely did, it's very much the conclusion of a trilogy. In



other words, advise your customers to read volumes one and two first.

9/85 -- **Angel with the Sword**, by C. J. Chryh, \$15.95. DAW is apparently getting into the hardcover market too. Set in "a city of canals, smugglers, and cutthroat politics," this novel includes one independent young female protagonist and sounds like a good bet -- when it comes out in paperback.

Warrior Woman, by Marion Zimmer Bradley, \$2.95. Poor MZB: feminist enough to provoke continual snipes from the likes of PW, while the lesbian-feminists of fandom are forever after her to develop the lesbian relationships of her major characters. However, she doesn't need the sympathy; she continues as prolific as ever. The "warrior woman" of the title is a gladiator and her story deals with "a community of women working together to free themselves from an oppressive patriarchal society." Give it a try. (In conjunction with this release, DAW is featuring three of Bradley's Darkover novels in September; **Sharra's Exile** and two of the series best, **Stormqueen!** and **The Heritage of Hastur**, all paperback and all \$3.95. Floor dumps -- all four titles mixed (\$124.20) and **Warrior Woman** only (\$106.20), 36 total copies each -- are also available.)

GREENWILLOW (MORROW)

Already available -- **The Hero and The Crown**, by Robin McKinley. (Price? I assume it's cloth only.) A Newbery award winner, this YA fantasy novel is set in Damar, the mythical kingdom that will be familiar to readers of McKinley's **The Blue Sword**, which I enjoyed. The protagonist is a young woman.

HARPER AND ROW

9/85 -- **Always Coming Home**, by Ursula K. LeGuin. \$25.00 (cloth with illustrations and music cassette). Harper doesn't publish sf, you say? If anyone is

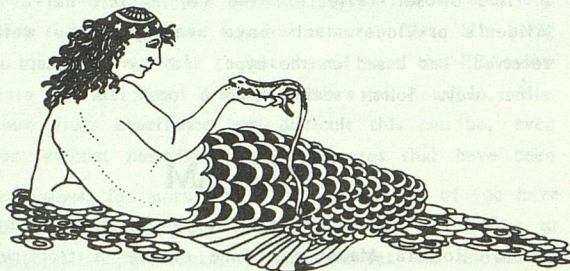
thinking of offering me a bribe, this is high on my wish-list. It's set in a far future society, in a valley of the American west coast, and is the story of Stone Telling, a woman born of two antagonistic peoples, and her journey to "seek her peace" among them.

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

2/86 -- **The Handmaid's Tale**, by Margaret Atwood, (price not set). By no means only for the f/sf crowd, Atwood's next novel is said to be "a futuristic work set in a time when life in America is lived under a repressive, god-fearing government" where abortion among the healthy is punishable by death.

MCGRAW HILL

7/85 -- **The Cosmic Dancers: Exploring the Science of Science Fiction**, by Amit Goswami with Maggie Goswami, \$7.95. The **Washington Post** review of the cloth edition called this "medley of physics, philosophy, history of science, psychology, and science fiction" "brave and delightful." Worth a try if you're carrying any books about sf, or if your customers are showing interest in the "new age" physic/spirituality books.



Sudie Rakusin in *Goddesses and Amazons*



PHANTASIA PRESS

5/85 -- **The Kif Strike Back**, by C. J. Cherryh, \$17.00 (cloth only). This, I assume, is the sequel to **Chanur's Venture**, which was mentioned in my last column. If past experience is a guide, it will be out in paper from DAW within the year. Phantasia is an independent press specializing in f/sf; the address in 13101 Lincoln St., Huntington Woods, Michigan 48070.

TAPLINGER

Available now: **The New Gulliver**, by Esme Dodderidge, \$3.95. Thanks to the spring 1985 newsletter from Smedley's Bookshop for this one. Reviewer Natalie M. Kazmierski commends this novel of a "hidden society" where women hold power and men do the work they are biologically suited for, i.e., heavy lifting. "Despite the fantasy setting," she says,

THE PERILS OF CHARNAS

An open letter to feminist bookstores and their patrons from author Suzy McKee Charnas.

This afternoon I stopped at my local women's bookstore, Full Circle Books, and was told that some one had just this morning phoned them to ask, WHERE THE HELL IS VOLUME THREE? Or words to that effect. On being told that this projected novel is (as I had recently told the Full Circle people) still in typescript and incomplete, the caller suggested that what I've done so far be xeroxed and circulated from the bookstore for a fee collected from each reader. A flattering and gratifying request, but alas, Vol. 3 is only a fragment still, not ready (nor fit) to be ready

"there is nothing mythic about this book."

TOUGH DOVE BOOKS

9/85 -- **It's Time**, by Jana Bluejay, \$7.95. Don't know much about this except that it's an anti-nuclear novel and Tough Dove Books is one of "our own presses." The address is PO Box 548, Little River, CA 95456; 5+ gets you 40%.

WARNER

10/85 -- **To the High Redoubt**, by Chelsea Quinn Yarbro, \$3.50. The publisher calls this "a brilliant heroic fantasy about a soldier of fortune who forms an unlikely alliance with a psychic blind slave girl to combat the powerful evil being known as The Bundi." Sounds pretty awful. doesn't it? Yarbro is a lot better than that, however. Again, consult your local fantasy fan sometime around pub date.

by anybody but me. (If you are wondering what I'm talking about, Vol. 3 is the proposed final book of a future-fantasy trilogy that began -- quite inadvertently -- in 1974 with **Walk to the end of the World** and continued five years later with **Motherlines**. Both these books are currently out of print and will remain so until I finish Vol. 3 and sell the whole trilogy for what I hope will be big bucks.)

It occurred to me that since there does seem to be some ongoing interest in Vol. 3 even after so long a delay, I owe it to readers of the first two books to let them know the status of the third one. Carol's newsletter offers a made-to-order means of accomplishing this. So that's the bad news, folks: no Vol. 3 yet.

However, there is also good news. First, a Young-Adult fantasy novel of mine called **The Bronze King** is due out in hardback from Houghton Mifflin in October, 1985. This is an urban fantasy set in present-day New York, and it was written partly in response to a recurrent pattern in fantasy novels for young people: the boys learn to be brave, resourceful, and physically tough, while the girls -- invariably their little sisters -- don't learn anything. They merely contribute, as some crucial stage, their natural softness and sensitivity, or else they steadfastly endure. And then we get back to the real action as the boys take on the heavy work. In one vile recent example, what the girl "learned" while her brother was out studying with Merlin was to cook and keep house nicely while her mother was away. Isn't that nifty? It's worst in books from England, for some reason.

Anyway, if you want to know what I've done about this, you must read **The Bronze King** (which is intended, as they say, for children of all ages). I can tell you that it's about a school-girl named Tina, a street-musician, a kraken, three Princes of Darkness, and the great and very ugly equestrian statue of King Jagiello of Poland that stands in Central Park.

Second, you may recall a book of mine called **The Vampire Tapestry** which has been out of print for a couple of years, though not for want of demand. (A California friend tells me that in a certain SF bookstore in Berkeley when a copy of this book come in for the used book shelves, it doesn't go there. It goes to the person whose name is next on the waiting-list for it.) With great pleasure I can now report that **The Vampire Tapestry** will be reissued in paperback by Tor Books sometime in the middle of next winter.

Third, at some point in the spring of 1986 (no pub. date yet) a new novel of mine will be published

in hardback by Arbor House. It's called **Dorothea Dreams** and it's in the **Tapestry** vein (if I may say so) rather than that of **Motherlines**: it's a mainstream novel with a strong fantasy element, in this case addressing the question, if reincarnation were a fact, what would it be for? The story is set in modern-day New Mexico (mainly Taos, and the north.) It concerns a painter in her fifties, her British lover, a local Spanish family whose kids get in trouble with the law, and a ghost from the time of the Revolution in France. A love story, a ghost story, a story about art and a life lived in art -- and not entirely fictional, as it happens.

So you can see, it isn't that I haven't been working. I have. One caveat: none of these three books is intended to be considered specifically gay literature; I wouldn't want anybody to order them on the understanding that they were and then be disappointed. But they are good books, by a woman writ, and they all concern aspects of women's experience, women's dreams, and women's hopes -- all that good stuff that keeps us alive and warm in these parlous times.

Lastly, as to work now in progress: a new Y-A book about the heroine of **The Bronze King**, and -- what else? --Vol. 3, of course.

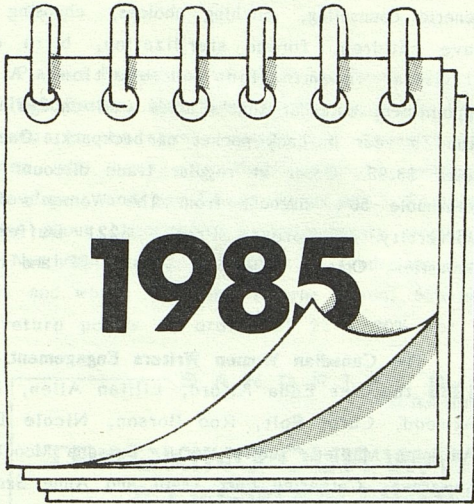
Suzy McKee Charnas



CALENDARS

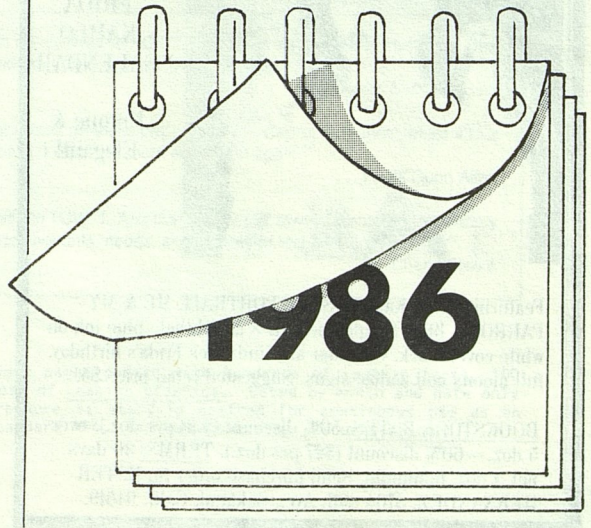
CALENDARS

CALENDARS



private railroad car to escape the rekindled anger of her husband Jack Gee who had earlier that evening caught her in a compromising situation with Marie, a ballet-tap dancer traveling and performing with her show." A lot of the information focuses on the lesbians-to-print movement, making it particularly fascinating to those of us in the book trades. This calendar is structured so that it may be used in any year. It's a good calendar to keep in stock year around. \$10.50. 40% bookstore discount. No minimum. Sandpiper Books, PO Box 268139.

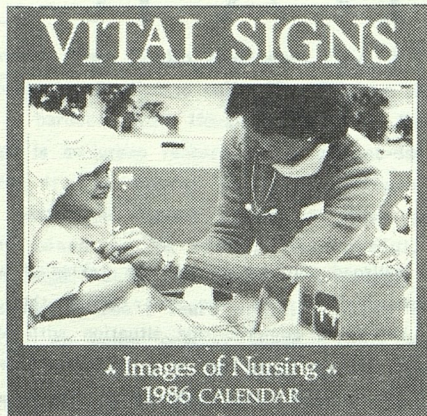
The 1986 Frida Kahlo Calendar is a very handsome poster calendar featuring Frida Kahlo's self portrait "Me and My Parrots" in blue ink on white cover stock



You can lead a publisher to publicity, but....
FBN sent calendar issue announcements to 200 calendar publishers and got responses from about 15 of them. So this seems like an oddly barren list of calendars that isn't reflective of the choices out there.

✓ **Tracking Our Way Through Time: A Lesbian Herstory Calendar/Journal.** Edited by Janet S. Soule. A labor of love and lesbian history, each day features a tidbit of lesbian lore and often a graphic or photo as well. I.E. Feb. 10th: "Ada Russell, after years of denying Amy Lowell's pleas to dedicate some of her work publicly to their love, finally gives her consent. Delighted, Amy writes in her monumental biography of Keats for all the world to see, 'To A.D.R., this, and all my books, A.L.'" And Feb. 11th: "Bessie Smith and her entourage slip quietly out of Detroit via her

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with the months arranged in two rows across the bottom of the poster. Retails for \$5.00. 50% discount for 1-4 3704 30th Ave., Oakland, CA 94619.

✓ The Women's Press - Canada does it again with their 1986 **Everywoman's Almanac** (by the Everyday Collective.) This year's calendar looks at sex education, reproductive technology, infertility, genetic counseling, birthing choices, choosing not to have children, forced sterilization, birth control, artificial insemination and abortion. A sturdy appointment calendar that's made well enough to withstand a year in back pocket or backpack. One of the best. \$8.95. Order at regular trade discount or non-returnable 50% discount from The Women's Press, c/o University of Toronto Press, 5221 Dufferin St., Downsview, Ontario, M3H 5T8. Also at BP and Inland.

The Canadian Women Writers Engagement Calendar

1986 features Edna Alford, Lillian Allen, Margaret Atwood, Carol Bolt, Roo Borson, Nicole Brossard, Antonine Maillet, Judith Merrill, Susanna Moodie, Susan Musgrave, Catharine Parr Traill and Anne Szumigalski. Edited by Adele Wiseman. Each month features a picture, two pages of excerpt, a biography, a monthly overview page, and weekly pages. Cover is mylar-laminated. Green ink on white with spiral binding. \$9.95 (Canadian) 50% non-returnable. Yewdewit Books, PO Box 228, Stn. P, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2S7. Inland.

The Jewish Calendar 5746/1985-86

highlights Jewish women's achievements in and contributions to the arts, scholarship, government and social service, the health professions, and religious life throughout Jewish History. Co-editors for this year's calendar include Drorah Setel and Sue Levi Elwell, feminist historians specializing in Jewish women's history. Their collaboration with the editors of this calendar marks a first in making Jewish women's stories and Jewish women's art available to a wide readership. \$6.95. Universe Books, 381 Park Ave. South, NY NY 10016.



1986
FRIDA
KAHLO
CALENDAR

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Elegant!

Featuring Frida Kahlo's SELF PORTRAIT, ME & MY PARROTS. 1952. Single sheet. 17x22. phthalo blue ink on white cover stock. Calendar also indicates Frida's birthday, full moons and zodiac signs. Suggested retail price \$5.

BOOKSTORE RATES: 50% discount (\$30 per doz.): over 5 doz. — 60% discount (\$27 per doz.). **TERMS:** 30 days net. 1 doz. minimum. Send purchase order to: ESTER HERNANDEZ. 3704 39th Ave., Oakland, Calif. 94619.

Probably the most elegant calendar of the year: **The Medieval Woman: An Illuminated Book of Days** researched and edited by Sally Fox. Published by the New York Graphic Society. Distributed by Little Brown. The illuminations in the book are taken from manuscripts produced primarily in the years 1300-1550. They portray women in a variety of occupations from mining (!) and masonry to surgery (performing a cesarean section) to writing and painting. Reproduced with the care and quality that medieval manuscripts require. \$12.95 cloth. 7" x 6".

copies. \$8.95, spiral bound. 196 Speedwell Ave. Morristown, NJ 07960.

And from the Family Planning Council of Western Massachusetts comes the 1986 Woman's Health Calendar **Women of Yesterday**. This wall calendar focuses primarily on black, white and American Indian women in medicine showing their participation as researchers, physicians, nurses and midwives. Proceeds from this calendar go to support health care in rural Western Massachusetts. \$7.00 retail. Bookstore terms not sent.

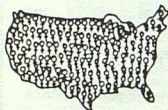
Planned Parenthood of Northeast New Jersey offers the **1986 Eastern Her Story Weekly Engagement Calendar**. "Celebrates the spunk, vision and diversity of the women who have, by their example, encouraged achievement and excellence in us all." Features 53 stories about historical and contemporary women from the Northeastern US. Primarily a fundraiser for PP. Black and white. 45% with returns option, 55% with a no return policy on orders of 25+. 30% for 11-24

Cahill & Company is once again doing their **Emily Dickinson's Book of Days**, a spiral bound weekly calendar. Each week faces a short poem and illustration. Rose ink this year instead of blue. Cahill's Christmas Stock Plan offers January Billing, 50% discount, up to 25% returns. 145 Palsade St., Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522.

SANDPIPER BOOKS PRESENTS

P.O. Box 268139 Chicago, IL 60626-8139

TRACKING OUR WAY THROUGH TIME:
A LESBIAN HERSTORY CALENDAR/JOURNAL



♀ "Janet Soule has given us visibility in TOWTT...it gives us a special sense of...the warmth and humor of self-identified women loving women."

Del Martin & Phyllis Lyon

♀ "I found many pieces of myself on these pages, saw the pieces form themselves into a design, a dykely wholeness. I return to them again and again."

Paula Gunn Allen

♀ "Lesbians are everywhere in TOWTT. And that's what I've always wanted—to have my days filled with the words, thoughts, deeds, and images of lesbians..."

Cheryl Clarke

A perfect Lesbian gift, TOWTT is 260 spiral-bound pages packed with hundreds of Lesbian facts, 100 Lesbian photos, dozens of Lesbian quotes, and lots of Lesbian graphics. Dated by month and date only (so it is never out of date!), this 6"x9" treasure is sturdily crafted for continuous use as an engagement calendar and/or journal. \$10.50. Standard 40%. Shipped bookrate. Returns allowed.

Carry it on

1986 PEACE CALENDAR

Syracuse Cultural Workers



"Maggie & Caria - Lesbos, Greece" by Jan Phillips

Our 15th edition and the most exciting yet!!!
14x11 folded. By mail \$8.75; 3/\$21; 5/\$33.

SCW, Box 6367, Syracuse, N.Y. 13217, (315) 474-1132.

"We love your calendar."
- Sisterhood Bookstore, Los Angeles

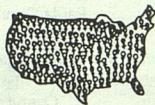
If **Carry It On: 1986 Peace Calendar** from Syracuse Cultural Workers is half as lovely -- and it will be -- as last year's it will do very well. See ad for ordering information.

Crossing Press offers two women's calendars this year: Their classic **Women Writers Desk Calendar**, each month has a photograph of the writer plus two pages of her writings. Writers this year are Ursula K. Leguin, Maya Angelou, Margaret Laurence, Emma Goldman, Annie Dillard, Jean Rhys, H.D., Meridel LeSueur, Audre Lorde, and Gabriela Mistral. \$7.95 spiral bound. And **Dressing Up: Photographs by Women**. "Part feminist critique, part anthropological survey, part photographic tour de force, with a full measure of humor and fantasy. From nose-ring to negligee, business suit to body paint, nun's habit to nylon stockings, the way we dress can signify our economic status, ethnic affiliation, erotic potential, esthetic choice and spiritual ideal. Photos by contemporary fashion and art photographers." 45% for 5+ returnable, 50% non-returnable. The Crossing Press, PO Box 640, Trumansburg, NY 14886.

SANDPIPER BOOKS PRESENTS

P.O. Box 268139 Chicago, IL 60626-8139

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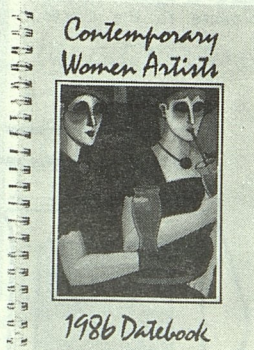
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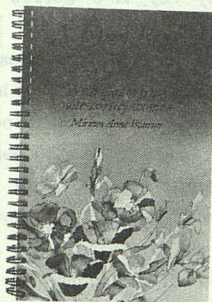
Bo-Tree Honors Women in Art

FINE CALENDARS FOR 1986



Contemporary Women Artists Engagement Calendar/1986

This purse-sized book is an attractive and practical way to organize appointments. 35 color reproductions of art represent a broad range of style and media. 112 pages, 5 x 7, spiral bound, \$6.95



A Day Book/1986

With Quotes from Noteworthy Women

Excerpts of writings, letters and journals from women past and present dignify the variety of work in which women partake. Brilliant watercolor illustrations by Lynn Larson bring the writings to life and make it a very special tribute indeed. 126 pages, 6 x 9, spiral bound, \$9.95

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Ever'woman's Calendar 1986

Lunar Calendar 1986

Women Writers Desk Calendar 1986

Woman's Daybook Engagement 1986

Sara Steele Calendar 1986

In Praise of Women Artists
Calendar 1986

Contemporary Women Artists
Datebook 1986

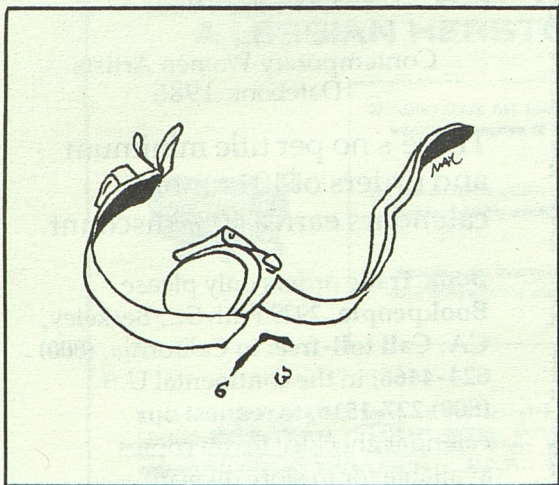
There's no per title minimum
and orders of 10 or more
calendars earn a 40% discount.

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

COMPUTER CHIPS

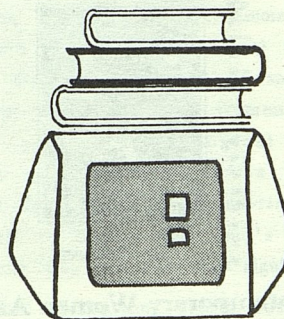
The Coffee House Press (used to be The Toothpaste Press) 1986 Calendar features drawings and prose by Faye Kicknosway. Says Coffee House about this calendar: "We feel this calendar is different from most literary calendars; they usually feature writer's birthdays. And this calendar is different from may feminist calendars; they present important feminist history dates of photographs of women. This calendar features original stories by author/artist Faye Kicknosway, which create a stunning portrait of a young woman. Kicknosway's drawings are re-visions of the ways women have been portrayed in calendar art and "serious" art through the ages." Definitely a redefinition of the "Calendar Cutie" concept. Wall calendar. \$9.95. 40% for 10+. PO Box 546, West Branch, Iowa 52358. At distributors.

Other calendars you may want to consider: Bear & Co.'s *Calendar of Holy Women*, *The '86 Lunar Calendar: Dedicated to the Goddess in Her Many Images*, *The Sara Steele Calendar*, *The Hug Therapy Calendar*, and *Great Writers on Peace*.



(The Trivia of the computerized book world.)

Women and Children First in Chicago has a new IBM-XT running Booklog. Watch these pages for reports of their response to the system.



A note from Neil Woodward at Category Six in Denver: "Don't know if you saw the 7/12 issue of *Publishers Weekly*, page 38 "Ingram Distributes Booklog System." They say it's \$8,000 for software. I immediately called Jean Fishbeck, who is sending a correction to *PW*. The 8K **includes hardware**. I told her I'd let you know in case there are any other panicked (to put it mildly) booksellers who are planning to use **Booklog**, had budgeted \$1950, and then saw *PW*. Everything's OK after all." Aha! That explains that, and back to the computer fantasies and plans!

Get it on disk: Laser Search Library Book Access. Has more info than all six volumes of BIP with a semi-annual update. Merged data base integrating the Ingram and Library Corporations's ANY-BOOK data bases. 1,275,000 titles plus the ability to add other titles. (How many feminist presses?) Needs its own 10 mg hard disk to function. Yours for only \$320. Plus the extra 10 mg hard disk to run it on. More a library tool than a bookstore tool, it looks like, but I'm still waiting....



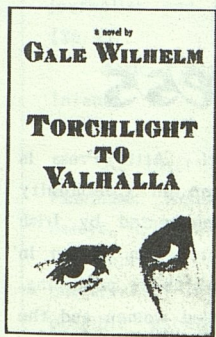
For Keeps
by Elizabeth Nonas

144 pp. ISBN: 0-930044-71-1
\$7.95



**Spring Forward/
Fall Back**
by Sheila Ortiz Taylor

288 pp.
ISBN: 0-930044-70-3
\$7.95



**Torchlight
to Valhalla**
by Gale Wilhelm

160 pp.
ISBN: 0-930044-68-1
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FROM OUR OWN PRESSES




Firebrand's celebrates its second publishing season with three more titles! **The Land of Look Behind**, Poetry and Prose by Michelle Cliff. "In vivid, lyrical language, at times influenced by the reggae beat of her native Jamaica, Michelle Cliff maps her personal geography of color. The ground she covers includes an interior travelogue through assimilation, as well as encounters with the absolute color lines of South Africa and bleached tones of Western Europe. This exciting collection exploring racism's insidiousness charts new territory as Cliff expands her terrain. Like the "honest, appealing narrative" (PW) of her powerful novel **Abeng**, Cliff's words continue to move us. \$6.95 paper. \$13.95 cloth.

My Mama's Dead Squirrel: Lesbian Essays on Southern Culture by Mab Segrest. Introduction by Adrienne Rich. "Essayist and activist Mab Segrest gives us a down-home critical look at the South she lives in, struggles with, and loves. Born white in a small Alabama town, where her family on both sides has lived for four generations, Segrest finds her way out and back again through the women's literary tradition (Carson McCullers, Flannery O'Conner, Lillian Smith) she claims as her heritage. Her writing is filled with the irreverence, wit, and pride that characterize much of Southern Storytelling." \$8.95 paper. \$17.95 cloth.

The Sun Is Not Merciful: Short Stories by Anna Lee Walters. "Anna Lee Walters' stories speak with the personal power and authority of a woman firmly grounded in her tradition and community, a Pawnee/Otoe woman from the Southwest who is enabled by her deep roots to let her imagination soar. Her words are

sometimes harsh, sometimes poignant, but always informed by a clarity that sheds light on Native American survival -- and our own. Walters is a respected Indian writer. This book should win her the attention she deserves from a larger feminist audience." \$6.95 paper. \$13.95 cloth. Books are due in mid-October. Firebrand requests that booksellers order via Bookpeople and Inland. If you aren't on Firebrand's mailing list, write to Nancy Bereano, Firebrand Books, 141 The Commons, Ithaca, NY 14850.

*New Irish
Feminist Imprint*

 **Attic Press**

A new Irish Feminist Publisher! Attic Press is the result of the 1984-85 'Women in Community Publishing Course' designed and implemented by Irish Feminist Information. Their goal is to train women in non-traditional areas -- one of which is publishing. The course included eighteen unemployed women and the result, to date, is a collection of nine books and a calendar.

Rapunzel's Revenge begins with a gathering of princesses and heroines who meet at Snow White's to discuss the shortage of intelligent princes. Cinderella has had it with the lunatic with the foot fetish, Snow White has had it with the Seven Little Chauvinists and thinks, now that they're no longer in



competition for men's approval, that she can win her stepmother to their side. The re-writes on fairy tales take it from there.... Shelf it in humor as well. \$6.50 paper.

Personally Speaking: Women's Thoughts on Women's Issues looks at aging, sexuality, youth culture, depression, woman writing and more. \$8.95 paper. **Missing Pieces** (\$4.00) and **More Missing Pieces** (\$5.95) are collections of short biographic sketches of Irish women you won't likely find in the text books. Recalls to me the Diana Press book **Women Remembered**.

Also available: **Did your Granny Have a Hammer: A History of the Irish Suffrage Movement** (\$6.95), **Who Owns Ireland, Who Owns You** (\$5.95), **Smashing Times** The lives of active and militant Irish suffragettes. (Odd that my Grandmother never told me suffragette tales along with her Irish fairy tales....) \$8.50, and **The Best of Nell**, a selection of the writings of Irish journalist and television personality Nell McCafferty (\$6.95).

Attic Press books are available in the US from Inland.

At last! And worth waiting for! In the **Feminine: Women and Words/Les Femmes et Les Mots** essays, articles and talks from the Women And Words conference in Vancouver in 1983 -- the most exciting conference I've attended on women and writing with the possible exception of the first Women In Print Conference. Sections include: The Social Context for Women's Writing with essays on violence, class, subversion and women's culture. Writing Against Double Colonization with essays by Indian, Black and ethnic writers. Writing and Motherhood. Constructing and De-constructing: Feminist Critical Theory with essays on feminist criticism, myth, the Muse, Quebec and English Canadian writing, bias in reviewing,

Personally SPEAKING...

Women's Thoughts on Women's Issues



EDITED BY
Liz Steiner-Scott

children's literature. Writing in the **Feminine: Language and Form** with essays on "The Lesbian Writer as Liberator", "Tender My Skin", and "The Translator as She". **Getting Women Heard: Collective Action in Publishing and Theatre**. \$9.50. Essential to women with a passion about women's words and writings.

While you're ordering, you might also pick up a few copies of **Touch to My Tongue** by Daphne Marlatt and



Ambitious Women, novel by Barbara Wilson. Our own lives and times. Two women start a print shop, make a living, make love, take care of kids, fight back against battering, grand juries, stay friends and other miracles of life in the feminist zone. Pub date Sept. 6, 1985. 50% discount to feminist stores until Oct. 30. Republished by Seal Press. Bright red cover this time with white lettering. 312 S. Washington, Seattle WA 98104.



Open is Broken by Betsy Warland (both \$7.00). Joy Parks says it better than I can: "Until the publication of **Open is Broken** and **Touch to My Tongue**, English readers had to be content with the innovations of such American women as Mary Daly and Adrienne Rich. This sad state of affairs in lesbian culture has finally changed. By writing out of the body, speaking openly of a powerful female sexuality, and paralleling the historical muteness of women with the growing constraints of patriarchal language that limited the naming of authentic female experience, Marlatt and Warland have broken the taboos and reclaimed a powerful language that names female experience, not as something marginal from the universal, but as central and essential." Backlist poetry is also on sale.... get their brochure when you order. 40% discount to bookstores. Prices are Canadian Dollars. Longspoon Press, c/o Department of English, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E5, Canada.

Coming Soon: **Soul Snatcher**, more high drama from Camarin Grae and Blazon Books. "She stole my soul and I want it back!" \$8.95. 1934 W. Belle Plaine, Chicago, IL 60613.

It's Time: A Nuclear Novel by Jana Bluejay takes fantasy one step further -- into the realm of reality. Through the journeys of two women forced to leave their utopian refuge, and three others escaping an increasingly repressive society, this insightful book explores issues of non-violence, social change, ecological destruction and women's personal powers. The worlds of magic and political activity collide, creating a re-envisioning of revolutionary magnitude. 206 pgs. \$7.95 Tough Dove Books, PO Box 548, Little River, CA 95456. 40% for 5+ books, or please use BP or Inland.

When the Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Poorer, What Happens to Women and Children?, written by the Economic Literacy Project, a multi-racial, multi-class women's organization committed to winning concrete economic victories particularly for poor women and people of color. Brochure from Women for Economic Justice, 145 Tremont St., Boston MA 02111. \$1.00, 25% for 2-50 copies, 50% for 51-100.

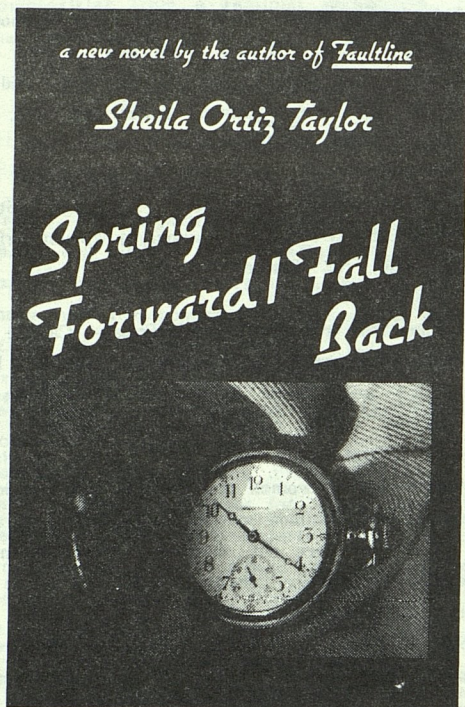


Pen Names of Women Writers, Alice Kahler Marshall. A skeleton key to the literary identities of 2650 women novelists, poets, diarists, playwrights, journalists and miscellaneous writers from 1600 to the present. Marshall uncovers more than 4000 pseudonyms used by women who published under a *nomme de plume*. Her discerning text, amplified by two centuries of illustrations by famous artists, throws new light on women's shifting motives for writing anonymously. Fully cross-referenced. 192 pages. Paper. \$7.95. Order from The Book Store, 108 East 4th Ave., Olympia, WA 98501.



Lesbian Land, edited by Joyce Cheney. Includes stories and photos from thirty different lesbian establishments from Oregon to Florida. Says the brochure: "Our feet on the ground, our heads in the clouds, our hands on each other." Sounds good to me. September pub date. \$15.00. From Word Weavers, PO Box 8742, Minneapolis, MN 55408.

To read lesbian literature, one would think that everyone fell in love and the relationships never ended. Fine fantasy, hardly reality, and not what you want to read in the first week following.... Elisabeth Nonas's **For Keeps** will be a good read a few weeks later -- though not until one is ready to face a happily ever after ending, but it's a good reminder that we do survive the end of the world -- regularly. I'd rewrite this book replacing the BMW's with Toyota's for wider appeal, myself, but there we are. Another book with erotic intentions, and girl do we need them!



The Nalad release I'm waiting for is **Torchlight to Valhalla**, Gale Wilhelm's second novel. First published in the 1930's? Do I have that right? Between Nalad's publication of **We too are Drifting** and now, **The Grier**, with a little help from the Nalad Net, has found Wilhelm -- and the book will include a biographic introduction by Wilhelm herself, a current photo, and her and her lover's favorite photo of her as a younger woman.... Not to mention 160 pages of Gale Wilhelm prose....

Also out in November will be the trade edition of **Desert of the Heart**. All \$7.95. All the others have early September pub dates.

Nalad Press's fall list: **Spring Forward/Fall Back** is Sheila Ortiz Taylor's long awaited second novel. Zany, crazy, tender, hopeful. For all her fans and for every woman who fell in love with her English teacher.... Topaz Wilson reappears in **The Daily Planet**.

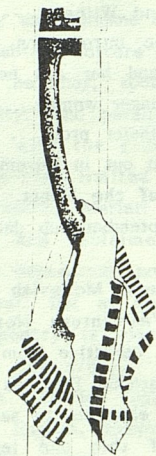
Stoner McTavish by Sara Dreher is a Lesbian Mystery/Adventure Novel. "Follow Stoner, one reluctant detective from Boston's Beacon Hill to Grand Teton National Park as she battles villainy, terror, and the elements to save the woman of her dreams." Parts of this one left me unconvinced. But I certainly envied 31-year-old Stoner for her raft of womanfriends over 60. \$7.95. Paper. New Victoria Publishers.

Also from New Victoria is a revised edition of **Radical Feminists of Heterodoxy** by Judith Schwarz. "There was a club called Heterodoxy (Greenwich



Village, 1912-1940) for unorthodox women, women who did things and did them openly.... Now a second edition with newly uncovered information about these dynamic women, including much revealing evidence about the Lesbian relationships of many club members." \$8.95. Paper. New Victoria Publishers, 7 Bank St. Lebanon, NH 03766.

From Lollipop Power: **I Like You to Make Jokes With Me, But I Don't Want You to Touch Me**, Ellen Bass's story of a little girl who learns, with a little help from Mom, to say exactly that to the man who works in the grocery store. A wonderful and empowering book. A friend found the story a couple years ago and came into the bookstore and read it to me while I was unpacking books one day. Sure wish I'd



I Like You To Make Jokes With Me, But...

had this book in hand thirty years ago is all I can say. It's been published in a couple places previously, but I'm glad to see it in a book by itself. With a little help from bookstore workers, may it find its way into the hands of all the currently little boys and girls who need it. \$3.75. PO Box 1171, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

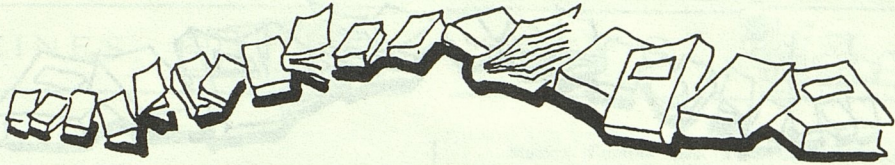
Tales of Ms Magic: Queen of the Fairy Godmothers by Antoinette Wills. "If you would like to read some stories where the prince won't be charming, and the princess has to choose between power and love, buy this book. These are fairy tales for our times, fairy tales for grownups, fairy tales for you which your daughter may also appreciate." 71 pgs. Staple Stitched. \$4.95 Order from Wallingford Women Writers, 4532 First Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98105.

Coming Soon from The Women's Press -- Canada: **No Safe Place: Violence Against Women & Children**. Looks like a good solid reader looking at the problems of rape, incest, sexual harassment, pornography, wife assault and child abuse while arguing that the issues of violence against women and children are connected, all stemming from common sources. Explains why these types of violence are not aberrations from the norm, but instead are totally consistent with the values and structures of our society. \$9.95 paper.

Sex, Power, & Pleasure. "With wit and verve, Marianna Valverde delves thoroughly into the dramatic changes that are occurring in women's sexuality, arguing convincingly that women are not simply victims of society's conditioning. \$8.95 paper. Fall '85.

For the kids: **My Grandma the Monster**. Turns out that Grandma likes to play monster, too, and that older people have much to offer young readers. \$3.95.

Jennifer Has Two Daddies, both of whom she can love.



By the author of **Good Times, Bad Times -- Mummy and Me**. \$4.95. Both paper, both due in Oct.

Not an Easy Choice: A Feminist Re-examines Abortion by Kathleen McDonnell. "If most Canadians admit they support a woman's right to abortion, why does the controversy still rage?" Kathleen McDonnell proposes that it isn't as simple a question as we've tried to make it. This is a book to focus on the complexities from a feminist perspective. It's more than time. \$8.95 paper.



Helping Ourselves: A Handbook for Women Starting Groups. An organizing handbook for self-help groups! \$8.95, coll binding. **No Immediate Danger? Prognosis for a Radioactive Earth** by Rosalie Bertell. Bertell shows how governments have kept secret the damaging effects of man-made radiation. Following a detailed examination of the biological effects of this radiation on both humans and environment, she concludes that the accumulated genetic damage is heading us toward species distinction. Unless we fight back. Includes her hopes for radical change and takes heart from the peace movements -- and particularly the women's movement -- around the world. \$12.95 paper. Order from University of Toronto Press, 52201 Dufferin St., Downsview, Ontario M3H 5T8, Bookpeople or Inland.

Hot, amazing and wonderful. Even the anti-politicos are liking it: **The Things That Divide Us**, Seal Press's most recent release. One of the most exciting short story collections I've ever held in my hands, the stories in **Things That Divide Us** take the reader right to the edge of the knife and let her see from both sides of the pain. One story is worth a thousand pages of rhetoric and all of the stories

satisfy. \$7.95 paper. Order from Seal, 312 S. Washington, Seattle, WA 98104, BP or Inland. Display it well, talk it over the counter. I put my money on this one as sleeper of the year.

Trying to be an Honest Woman, poems by Judith Barrington. The printer (not a feminist, can you tell?) kept referring to this book as "Trying to Make a Woman Honest." Grahn says: "In **Trying to be an Honest Woman**, Judith Barrington examines the landscape of the Northwest Coast to see who she is in it. The poems are lively, full of good stories, excellent detail and just the right amount of wit." To which I will add that the clarity and sense of fresh air in her work inspires my own. I took this book out to dinner with myself one night, for the good company of it and walking home I found myself with the opening lines of a piece I'd had difficulty facing. I was up all night writing it and can only say that the inspiration came from the clear breeze that blows inside these words. \$6.95 paper. Standard bookstore terms. Eighth Mountain Press, 624 SE 29th Ave., Portland OR 97214, or try BP and IN.



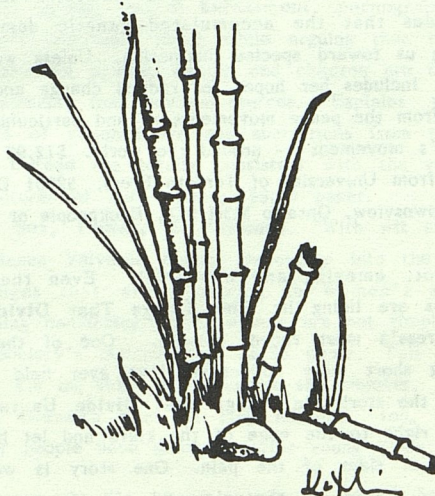
The Changlings, Jo Sinclair/Ruth Seid. Written and rewritten five times between her graduation from high school in 1930 and it's original publication in 1955, this is the most xeroxed book in my library and a delight and a relief to have back in print. Set in the working class neighborhood of a midwestern city, racism and anti-Semitism are seen through the eyes of two teen-age girls, one Jewish, one black who forge a friendship in love and in rage. As an exploration and expose of racism, the book is stunning. And on top of that, it is surely a lesbian novel, written in that



same fifties code as **The Pearl Bastard**, with many of the same keys: the heroine is known by her "boyish" last name -- Vincent. Both girls are leaders of gangs. The friendship forms when Clara offers Vincent her knife for protection against the gang that has turned on their girl-leader. There's a frail boy/older friend/faggot?.... And given even slightly less resistance from all the forces of society, Vincent and Clara would surely grow up to be lovers.... Never mind that there are undeniably lesbian characters in Seid's later books. Hopefully Feminist Press will be inspired by the success of this book to publish some of her other work. Seid acquired her pen-name, by the way, to sell stories to **Esquire** who would only buy stories from men. \$8.95 paper. The Feminist Press, BP, IN, etc.

Two new books from Pandora Press: In **A Wealth of Experience: The Lives of Older Women** edited by Susan Hemmings, 18 women between the ages of 40 and 65 talk about the ways the women's movement has influenced their lives, about their memories of WW II, of the problems they faced with contraception and unwanted pregnancy, of racism, or politics and the peace movement. \$8.95 paper. In **The Patient Patients**, Helen Roberts looks at the relationship between women and their doctors. Women go to their doctors more often and take more medicine than do men. Why? \$8.95 paper. Pandora Press is distributed by Routledge Kegan Paul. While you're ordering, you might want to pick up **Gendered Subjects: The Dynamics of Feminist Teaching**. The contributors are primarily faculty members in US colleges and universities. The collection reflects a variety of teaching experience, and addresses classroom dynamics, teaching in non-traditional settings, the importance of multi-cultural and sexual preference issues and more.

Kitchen Table publishes again with **A Comrade Is As Precious As A Rice Seedling** poetry by Mila Aguilar. Audre Lorde says it better than I can: "The poetry of Mila Aguilar does what poetry is supposed to do, evoke the experiences out of which the poems come, so tellingly that there is no choice but to feel the weight of that commitment from which the words draw their power. This is the kind of poetry I need around me.... Read these poems carefully, many times. And remember Mila Aguilar, 32, Journalist, Activist, Mother Poet, on August 6, 1984 was arrested, charged with "subversion and conspiracy to commit rebellion", and placed into solitary confinement in prison somewhere in Manila. For writing these poems." Know, too, that for all that the Filipino courts say there is no legal grounds for her imprisonment, neither do they have the power to free her. And remember to be glad that Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press is there to publish her words and circulate them to the world. \$4.50 paper. Kitchen Table, PO Box 2753, NY NY 10185, BP and Inland.



A Comrade Is As Precious As A Rice Seedling

MAGAZINES



The Backlash Times: Feminists Fighting Pornography is interested in being carried by women's bookstores. 24 page quarterly, newsprint, news of the anti-pornography movement and reprints of ads/images/"cartoons" of pornographic images of women from the daily papers, etc.. Reading the Spring issue I learned that the British Broadcasting Corporation had decided to quit broadcasting beauty pageants finding them "an anachronism in this day and age of equality and verging on the offensive." \$1.00 per copy, 50% discount with the postage costs of mailing returns to be deducted from their 50%. Feminists Fighting Pornography, PO Box 6731, Yorkville Station, NY, NY 10128.

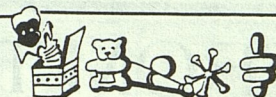


Shifra is a new Jewish feminist magazine produced by a collective of women in England. No US distributor as yet, but it looks hopeful. I especially enjoyed articles in both issues about early women rabbis. Other articles debate politics, reconsider The Shiva, discuss being Black and Jewish, tell histories. **Shifra** was a Jewish woman whose surname is unknown. Active in the Warsaw Ghetto resistance, she chronicled the suffering of her people. She was caught by the Nazis on the Aryan side of the city, tortured and murdered in 1943. Subs are available for \$23.00 from **Shifra**, Box No. 2, Cookridge Street, Leeds 1, England.



shalom

TOYS



Musica Femina has a second cassette tape out, **More Flute and Guitar Music by Women**. A wonderful range and variety of music, playing even now as I work on this column. Love it! I, too, wish they'd do records, but the cost difference between doing a record and a tape is twenty-some thousand dollars, so I guess I'll have to be content for awhile with the more limited saleability of the cassettes. \$8.50 from Lilac Recordings, 1236 SE 34th, Portland, OR 97214, Ladyslipper or your local distributor.

Banjo and acoustical guitar cut loose in **West**

Virginia Woman and Annie Oakley Rides Again! The second is a collection of songs especially for women written and performed by Karen Mackay, the first is authentic mountain music. Both produced and recorded by West Virginia Woman Records, PO Box 3174, Madison, WI 53704. Distributed by Ladyslipper Records, PO Box 3124, Durham, NC 27705.

Judy Gahn announces the formation of Common Woman Crafts, a fun way to make poetry and gay/lesbian culture accessible to us all. CWC is a new and growing concern looking for artists, calligraphers, designers, distributors backers and investors to design and produce notecards, broadsides, mugs, wall hangings & needlecraft kits, cassettes and items as yet undreamed.... The first item off the presses will be an emerald green t-shirt featuring the cover of **Another Mother Tongue**. "The ultimate in dress t-shirts." Expensive but elegant -- 100% cotton top-quality t-shirt with four color printing to create a t-shirt as close to the cover of the book as possible. Price is tentatively \$8.00 wholesale/ \$13.00 retail. (Could be less, depends on the size of the first printing, so order now!) S, M, Lg, and X-Lg shirts will be ready for shipping mid-October for Xmas sales. Min order-2 dozen shirts. Order from CWC, Kris Brandenburger, 5332 College Ave. Suite 200A, Oakland, CA 94618. (415) 652-6860.

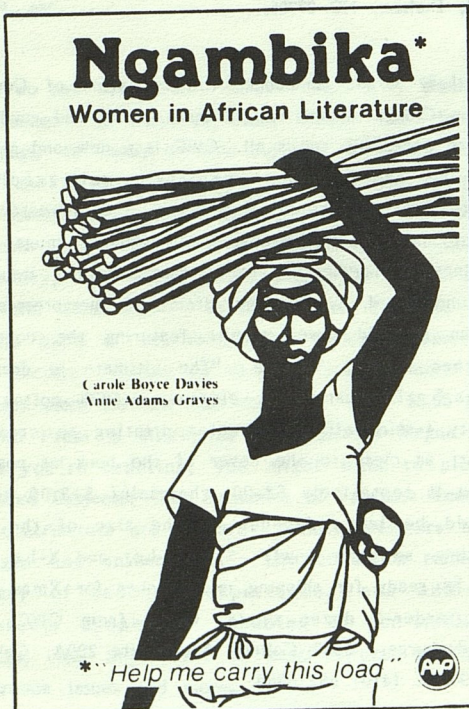
FROM THE SMALL PRESSES



Ngambika: Studies of Women in African Literature

edited by Carole Boyce Davies and Anne Adams Graves. "Ngambika" is a Tshiluba (Central Africa) phrase whose closest English rendition is "Help Me To Balance This Load". An African woman who has to carry a heavy load often asks another woman to help her lift it onto her head while she finds the correct posture and balance to shoulder the weight herself. In most cases, the load is within her capability so she balances it herself without assistance. This balancing process is the symbolic representation of the balance between

woman's emancipation and the commitment to total Africa liberation that is at the core of this book. The criticism in **Ngambika** is concerned with expanding and augmenting the interpretation of the whole body of African literary creativity. It is a concerted attempt to redress the relative inattention to women in Africa literary scholarship. Towards this end, the editorial and ideological orientation here is not just around the works of women writers (and critics) but around **African** writers ranging from Buchi Emecheta and Wole Soyinka to Mariama Ba and Ngugi wa Thiong'o. \$9.95 paper, \$29.95 cloth. 40% for 6+, 20% for 1-5. Africa World Press, PO Box 1892, Trenton, NJ 08608.



The Crossing Press Feminist Series is doing two books this fall: **Winter's Edge**, a novel by Valerie Miner and **Crystal Visions: Nine Meditations for Personal and Planetary Peace** by Diane Mariechild. **Winter's Edge** you may have heard of -- it was published in England a year or so ago, to good reviews by Methuen and some stores may have been importing it. Other stores have likely had travelers coming in and asking for it, not understanding why there hasn't (until now) been as US publication. FBN hasn't understood why it's taken so long either, but here it is at last. It's the story of two older women, long time friends living in the San Francisco Tenderloin. Chrissie waits tables, Margaret supplements social security working a split shift in a newstand and the two argue local politics, one of many differences in a series of agreeing and disagreeing that such friendships are built on. The local flower vendor and the cop on the beat fall in love. In a talk at the writing workshop I attended, Miner argued that



Winter's Edge is a lesbian novel, presenting friendship and intimacy between women via a lesbian perspective. Others will argue that, since the characters don't perceive themselves as lesbian, it isn't. In either case, it is a novel about women, older and self-sufficient, whose lives we rarely see in print and will be well read.

I haven't seen **Crystal Visions** but the editor says "This is a beautiful little book (with drawings by Lynn E. Alden) and I'm sure many women will find it useful." Being by Diane Marlechild, there's sure to be a lot of interest.



Also of interest to feminist bookstores will be Marcia Hutchinson's **Transforming Body Image: Learning to Love the Body You Have** (\$8.95 paper, \$24.95 cloth) and possibly Ira Wood's **The Kitchen Man**, a novel about "the feminist man who is smart and sexy and who has a unique capacity for intimacy." Wood, long known in literary circles as Marge Piercy's sig'other, may well find a readership among her fans as well. \$16.95 cloth.

Margaretdaughters has two books coming out this fall: **Feminism for the Health of It** by Wilma Scott Heide contains critical analyses of social and political issues woven with unique wit and humor. \$8.95. Paper. **A Feminist Legacy: The Ethics of Wilma Scott Heide and Company** by Eleanor Humes Haney includes Wilma's biography, a history of NOW prior to and during Wilma's presidency, the ethics exemplified by Wilma and her company of friends and colleagues, and 9 rare photos that Wilma selected for the book before her death. \$12.95. Paper. 40% for 5+ books. Margaretdaughters, PO Box 70, Buffalo, NY 14222.

The Mother's Book: How to Survive the Incest of Your Child. Carolyn M. Byerly. "Mothers face their own personal traumas when they learn their children have been molested by someone in the family.... Now, in **The Mother's Book**, mothers tell how they found support, survived reporting, made personal choices, handled cultural and religious questions, parented their sexually abused children, and gained new perspectives on their lives." An excellent and needed book! 64 pgs. Published by Kendall/Hunt under sponsorship of The Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs. All books are being distributed by WCSAP, 110 E. 5th #214, Olympia, WA 98501. Price is \$4.80, prepaid, 10% for 25-50, 15% for 51+. Bookstores are welcome to mark the book up as seems appropriate. (WCSAP recommends a 6.95 retail.)

Betrayal, Merikay (Silver) McLeod. In 1972, McLeod, an assistant book editor for the Seventh Day Adventist Pacific Press asked for equal pay. Silver vs Pacific Press won \$600,000 in back pay for the women of the press, enhanced the fair wage opportunities for tens of thousands of other women across the US and has been cited in 40+ subsequent employment related lawsuits. "(A) very moving, very honest, very haunting, and well written. I couldn't put it down. The book shows us what the pursuit of sweet justice feels like, day after day; and tells us what the price of survival is for women. Merikay is one of the heroines." --Phyllis Chesler. \$10.00 paper. 30% for 5-9, 40% for 10+. Mars Hill Publications, PO Box 362, Loma Linda, CA 92354.

We're all still debating what is pornography and what isn't. But while that decision is still in the making, there's one piece of pornography that I hope all the feminist stores will carry from now until the end of the AIDS crisis and that's **Hot Living**, Alyson Press's collection of erotic stories featuring safe



sex for gay men. A brilliant response to the complaint that "safe sex is boring", this is a collection of 17 stories that create exciting, enjoyable and desirable sexual imagery around the safe sex guidelines. I think it's a stroke of genius. Some things that feminist stores can do are to stock the book, display it well, put it on Christmas suggestions lists as a perfect and loving gift for gay men friends. Royalties from **Hot Living** will go to the Gay Men's Health Crisis in NY. \$7.95 paper.



Spunk. If you don't have it, drop everything and order it. Selected Short Stories of Zora Neale Hurston. Thanks be for someone's research. I didn't know these existed to be published, but here they are, a collection of Hurston at her outrageous best. Yours to enjoy for a quick call to BP or IN. Turtle Island

Foundation, 2845 Buena Vista Way, Berkeley, CA 94708. \$8.95 paper.

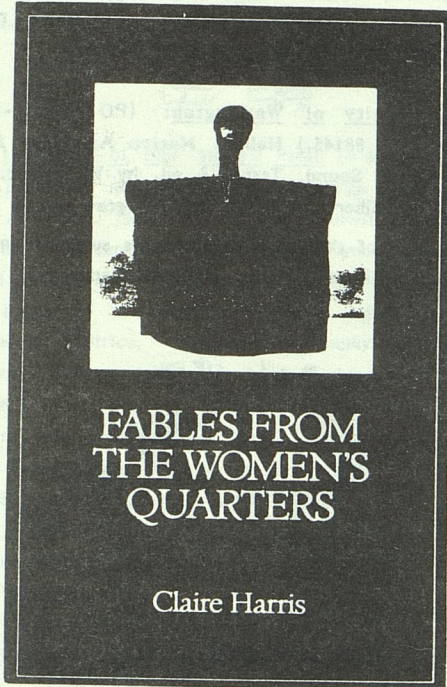
It's the season of Gertrude Stein: a lot of reprints (see Beacon Press) and now **Murder is Murder is Murder**, a Gertrude Stein -- Alice B. Toklas mystery novel from the fantasies and pen of Samuel M. Steward. No socially redeeming value at all -- except fun. \$6.95 paper.

The Magic Circle is a simplified Tarot-like deck of cards with a pattern for laying them out and a booklet for interpretation that is supposed to give the user positive insight and self discovery. I suppose they all do if they're used well, but this one didn't move me. Bookstore terms aren't good -- you have to order 1000+ to get 40%. You might try one or two if it shows up at distributors. Published by Trout Gulch Press, PO Box 20904, Castro Valley, CA 94546.

Curbstone Press is a new one to me with two interesting books: a collection of short stories by Tove Ditlevsen (**Early Spring**/Seal Press) titled **Complete Freedom**, that explores such themes as anti-Semitism, greed and father/son relationships. \$7.00 paper. The other is a collection of poetry, **Native Dancer** by Sara Miles. It includes **Talking Nicaragua**. \$5.00 paper. 40% for 3+ books, Curbstone Press, 321 Jackson St., Willimantic, CT 06226, also BP & IN.

Alternative Press Publishers of Children's Books: A Directory, Second Edition, edited by Wendy Osterwell. Lists 150 alternative presses in the USA & Canada publishing children's books, with addresses, bookstore terms, and distributors used. Includes Lollipop Power, Metis, New Victoria Press, New Seed, and Mother Courage. \$8.00 paper from the Cooperative Children's Book Center, 4290 Helen C. White Hall, UW-Madison, 600 North Park St., Madison, WI 53706.

Williams-Wallace Publishers is a Canadian publishing company with a primary commitment to publishing books by and about Canadians of color. Among their books are Makeda Silvera's **Silenced**, talks with working class West Indian women about their lives



and struggles as Domestic Workers in Canada. She's an editor of **Fireweed**, and some of this work has appeared there. \$7.95 paper. **Fables from the Women's Quarters** is Claire Harris's poetry. Spanning continents and cultures, it pays tribute to all the women who are now part of the fabric which makes up family. She's lived and studied in Ireland, Jamaica and Nigeria. Her work makes use of images from these many countries and is richly footnoted to bring the reader in to the cultures she portrays. \$6.95 paper.

Chronicles of the Hostile Sun was written during

Dionne Brand's ten-month sojourn in Free Grenada. The work chronicles a second cultural offensive against imperialism. \$7.95 paper. **Growing Up Black in Canada**, Carol Talbot is a very readable mix of personal anecdote and social commentary, demanding and claiming a history of Black people in Canada. \$8.95 paper.

Bitter Sweet Taste of Maple, a short novel by Tecia Werbowski is set in Montreal and centers around the lives of twelve women, post war immigrants, who work in a social service agency. Their expectations on arrival are high yet they find themselves on a collision course as their expectations and their reality are in harsh conflict. \$12.95 cloth. I hope it gets attention on the south side of the border as well as the north. Williams-Wallace Publishers, PO Box 6943, Station A, Toronto, Canada M5T 1R4. Standard Bookstore terms. All prices Canadian.

The World of Burmese Women Mi Mi Kiang asks why no women's movement has developed in Burma and concludes that Burmese women are less differentiated against and oppressed than elsewhere, that women's role in Burma is in many ways equal to that of men and that Burmese women have remained relatively untouched by Western ideas of materialism and individualism. \$12.95 paper. Zed Press, Biblio Distribution, 81 Adams Dr., Totowa NJ 07512. Also at Inland.

Love and Solitude: Selected Poems 1916-1923 Edith Sodergran. Swedish-English bilingual edition. Published to rave reviews by Carolyn Kizer, Susan Griffin and Mary Mackey. ("The poignant beauty of Edith Sodergran -- in her art as in her person -- is unforgettable. This is a poet to be read over and over again, with awe at her magic, and with the tenderness one feels towards an intimate friend." -- Carolyn Kizer.) Just in time for the growing interest in work from Scandinavian women writers. \$6.95 Fjord Press, PO Box 16501, Seattle, WA 98116. Try distributors as well.

FROM THE UNIVERSITY PRESSES



MIDWEST AND WEST COAST

Compiled by Rose Katz
A Room of One's Own

Ohio University: **Good-by Son & Other Stories** \$8.95 paper. Oct. Trade discount. Janet Lewis' only collection of short fiction. Orig. published in 1946.

Novel of the Future. \$10.95x paper. Fall '85. In this reprint of the 1968 edition, Anais Nin "explores the act of creation in literature, film, art and dance to arrive at a new synthesis for the young artist struggling against the sterility...of much of modern fiction.

Dimity Convictions: The American Woman in the 19th Century Barbara Welter. \$10.95x paper. Reissue of 1976 ed. Fall '85. "Feminism is seen as a long-range liberating and liberalizing force which permeated every area of American life in the 19th century and was related to all other expressions of progress and 'reform'." 40% on texts available through rep. Order from Harper and Row. (Does not combine with H&R)

Wayne State University Press. (The Leonard N. Simons Bldg., 5959 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48202.) **Women's Voices from Latin America: Interviews with Six Contemporary Authors,** Evelyn Picon Garfield. Nov. '85. \$18.95 cloth. "In this collection of interview with Armonia Somers, Griselda Gambaro, Julieta Campos, Elvira Orphee, Luisa Valenzuela, and the now deceased Marta Traba, Garfield provides a thorough picture of their lives, careers, and creative expressions."

University of Wisconsin Press. (114 N. Murray St., Madison, WI 53715.) **A Death of One's Own,** Gerda Lerner. \$7.95 paper. Trade disc. Nov. '85. The

notable women's historian chronicles her husband's terminal illness and its effect on relationships, careers, and individual emotions. This is a reissue, first published in 1978.

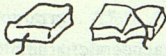
University of Washington: (PO Box c-50096, Seattle, WA 98145.) **Haboo: Native American Stories from Puget Sound,** Trans. & ed. by Vi Hilbert. \$9.95 paper. Vi Hilbert, A Skagit Indian, grew up at a time when many of the old social patterns survived and when everyone still spoke the ancestral language. As an



Helaine Victoria Press Postcard



adult, when she realized that native language and culture were being forgotten, she began to record and translate as much of the Lushootseed oral tradition as possible. In the preface to her collection of 33 stories, Vi Hilbert describes the storytellers, many of them relatives and older friends with special knowledge of the old ways.



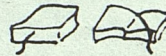
University of New Mexico Press (Albuquerque, NM 87131.) **Movers and Shakers**, Mabel Dodge Luhan. \$14.95 paper. Trade. Nov. '85. This absorbing eyewitness account of Greenwich Village in the years just before WW I is a treasure trove of anecdotes and documents that brings to life one of the most turbulent periods of radical politics, art, and philosophy in American history. Her circle of friends included Isadora Duncan, Emma Goldman and Alexander Berkman, Margaret Sanger, Bill Haywood, her lover John Reed, and many other "movers and shakers" of the time.

Filaree: A Novel of American Life, Marguerite Nobel, \$8.95 paper. Nov. '85. This moving novel of pioneer life in Arizona is based on the life of Nobel's mother.

Louisiana State University Press: (Baton Rouge, 70893.) **The Bone People**, Keri Hulme. \$17.95 cloth. Trade discount. Oct. '85. This first novel was originally published by Spiral, a New Zealand feminist collective. The author, a Maori, writes of the relationships between the three main characters -- a painter of mixed heritage in self-exile, a mute boy who is the sole survivor of a shipwreck, and a Maori factory worker who becomes the boy's foster father. As the three struggle with their mixed heritages and charged relationships, the bonds between them loosen and tighten, break and reform. The elements of destruction and anger are counteracted by elements of

love and unity that ultimately endure. This novel calls up the bones of Maori ancestors in the form of myths and dreams and projects the possible hope for the future.

University of California Press (2120 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 94720.) **To The Storm: The Odyssey of a Revolutionary Chinese Woman**, Yue Daiyun & Carolyn Wakemen. \$17.95 cloth. Oct. '85. Trade. Yue Daiyun, born in 1931, tells her own story, from Communist Party branch leader to political exile. When her husband became one of the trusted circle around Jiang Qing and the Gang of Four, the family was catapulted into national prominence, then plunged into national disgrace. Though filled with suffering and upheaval, Yue's story is not a tragic one, for it expresses the passion of revolutionary commitment perennially renewed.



Contemporary Chicana Poetry: A Critical Approach to an Emerging Literature, Martha Ester Sanchez. \$25.95 cloth. Oct. '85. Trade. This is the first book-length study of the works of four contemporary Chicana poets -- Alma Villanueva, Lorna Dee Cervantes, Lucha Corpi, and Bernice Zamore. Sanchez provides detailed analyses to show each writer's conflicting relationships to her three identities of "woman", "Chicana", and "poet", arguing that Chicana poetry is a poetry of conflict and struggle.

Abortion and the Politics of Motherhood, Kristin Luker. \$7.95 paper. Sept. '85. Using California with its liberalized abortion law as a case history, Kristin Luker examines the issues, people, and beliefs on both sides of the abortion conflict. She argues that moral positions on abortion are ultimately tied to views on sexual behavior, the care of children,



family life, technology, and the importance of the individual.

Mothers and Such: Views of American Women and Why They Changed: Maxine L. Margolis. \$9.95 paper. Sept. '85. Trade. Margolis examines the history of the changing roles of middle-class American women. Her conclusion that "what we have come to think of as inevitable and biologically necessary is in great measure a consequence of our society's particular social and economic system."

Indiana University Press: Conjuring: Black Women, Fiction, and Literary Tradition ed. Marjorie Pryse and Hortense J. Spillers. \$10.95 paper. "Black women have been writing and publishing fiction for more than a century, yet little is known of their



literary history, their influence on each other, the significance of their work, or their contribution to the American literary tradition. Conjuring is a symbol of the magic involved in the act of writing as well as an oath to be taken to continue the work of illuminating women's lives."

Soviet Sisterhood, ed Barbara Holland. \$10.95 paper. July '85. "A group of British scholars interested in the academic study of women in the USSR and its implications for feminism, document the continuing inequalities that Soviet women face at work and in the home."

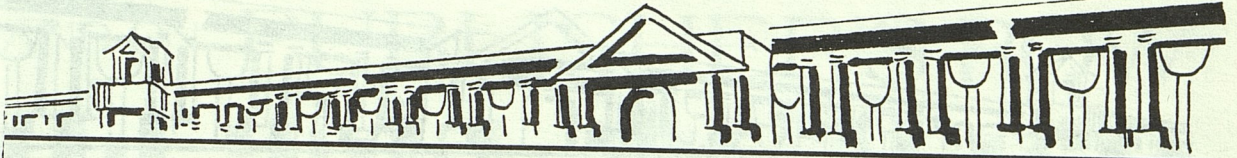
Provision: A Reader from 19th Century American Women, ed. Judith Fetterly. \$12.95 paper. Sept. '85. A fiction anthology of 16 writers, with a biographical portrait of each author, a critical analysis of the selection, and a selected bibliography.

Indiana Univ. Press has several other titles of interest this season, but all in the \$27.60-29.95 range!

Virginia Woolf & Bloomsbury: A Centenary Celebration, ed. by Jane Marcus. \$24.95 cloth. Nov. '85. British & American critics discuss intellectual history, family, and textual studies, as well as critical analyses of the texts.

University of Chicago Press (11030 S. Langley Ave., Chicago, IL 60628. **Women, the Family and Peasant Revolution in China**, Kay Ann Johnson. \$10.95 paper. Sept. '85. Johnson "contends that although the Chinese Communist Party has always ostensibly favored women's rights and family reform, it has rarely pushed for such reforms. In reality, its policies often have reinforced the traditional role of women to further its predominant economic and military aims."

University of Oklahoma Press (order through Harper and Row.) **Mountain Charley: Or the adventures**



of Mrs. E. J. Guerin, Who Was Thirteen Years In Male Attire, by Mrs. E. J. Guerin. \$4.95 paper. Sept. '85. Trade discount. "Married at 12, widowed at 15, Mountain Charley donned male clothing in order to make an honest living -- as river boatman, railroad brakeman, miner, rancher, trader, and bartender. She made two trips to California in the 1850's, the second time as head of a wagon train. Only twice was her true sex discovered, both times after gunfights." "Whatever it lacks in literary polish, it more than makes up for in incredible stories..."

Compiled by Carol Seajay

Immodest Acts: The Life of a Lesbian Nun in Renaissance Italy, Judith C. Brown. Yes, you did read that correctly. Brown happened upon a collection of documents by chance while leafing through an inventory of documents in the State Archive of Florence. The entry read "Papers relating to the trial against Sister Benedetta Carlini of Vellano, abbess of the Theatine nuns of Pescia who pretended to be a mystic, but who was discovered to be a woman of ill repute." Ill repute? The final investigation revealed that Benedetta and her companion Sister Bartolomea Crivella were lovers for a number of years. The Nunzio's investigating committee concluded that the devil made her do it, but the fact stands. Brown has written up her research and investigations in a form that is almost as readable as a novel, including a lot of information on the customs of the time and place as well as the options available to women at that time. One of about a dozen references to lesbianism over a 1500 year period, and one of the most richly documented, it's a chapter in lesbian history we've been waiting for. The cover is a masterpiece, too. It's taken from a painting of the period, showing two

nuns: the one in front has her hands folded, as if in prayer, the other, looking considerably less innocent, stands behind with one hand on the other's breast.... I can hardly wait for the poster. Not to mention a movie. Oxford University Press. \$14.95 cloth.

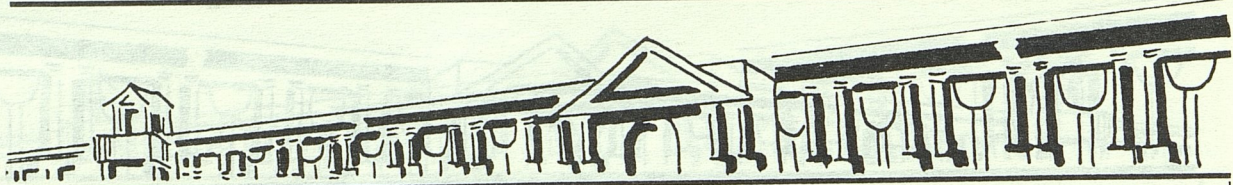
IMMODEST ACTS



The Life of a Lesbian Nun
in Renaissance Italy

JUDITH C. BROWN

Harrington Park Press, the "new" imprint of Haworth Press focusing on gay and feminist books has some wonderful books in its first lists, all of which



are paperback, reasonably priced with a tendency toward the academic.

A Guide to Psychotherapy with Gay and Lesbian Clients, edited by John C. Gonsiorek. Roughly a third of the articles are lesbian-specific and several other articles apply to both lesbians and gay men, i.e., "Developmental Stages of the Coming Out Process." An excellent book that will be read by the gay therapeutic community and some of their clients as well. \$8.95.

Women Changing Therapy: New Assessments, Values and Strategies in Feminist Therapy, edited by Joan Hamerman Robbins and Rachel Josefowitz Siegel. Includes articles dealing with Hispanic Women ("Stress and Mental Health Issues"), Black Women ("A Tradition of Self-Reliant Strength"), Women in Interracial Relationships, Lesbian Perspectives, "Therapists Coping with Sexual Assault", Incest, and "Lesbian Mothers' Custody Fears." A lot of needed information. \$7.95

Philosophy and Homosexuality, edited by Noretta Koertge (*Who Was That Masked Woman?*) A reprint of an issue of the *Journal of Homosexuality*, this book is aimed at philosophers of science, and all of us who carry an academic interest in "The Nature and Causes of Homosexuality" from a gay liberation perspective. \$6.95.

Other books on their list include **Therapeutic Issues with Lesbian Clients: A Special Issue of Women & Therapy**, **Lifting the Curse of Menstruation: A Feminist Appraisal of the Influence of Menstruation on Women's Lives** and **Gay and Sober: Directions for Counseling & Therapy**. Available from Inland, Carrier Pigeon, and Baker & Taylor or direct from Harrington Park Press, 28 East 22 St., New York, NY 10010. 3 books gets 35%, 5 get 40%, and 45% for 10+ books. Order direct to get on their mailing list.

Meanwhile, Harrington's parent company Haworth

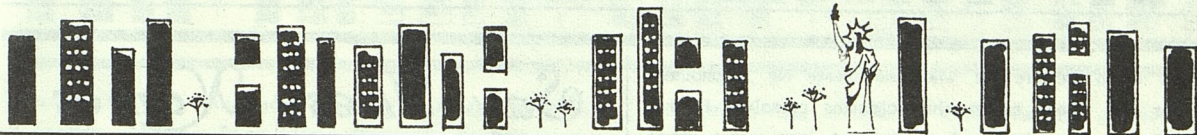
Press offers **The Marriage Bargain: Women and Dowries in European History**, a collection of studies that attempts to shed light on the nature, quality, and social significance of dowries and hopes to provide a conceptual feminist framework for approaching this little-studied area of women's history. \$22.95 cloth from Haworth or \$6.95 paper from Harrington. A nifty way of simultaneously providing cloth for the libraries and paperbacks for the bookstores and students.

Seeing Through the Sun, poetry by Linda Hogan. You likely know her work from **That's What She Said: Contemporary Poetry and Fiction by Native American Women** or from her other books of poetry. I always learn from her work and rest in the clarity of her images. University of Massachusetts Press. \$6.95 paper, \$16.00 cloth.

Women Workers in Fifteen Countries edited by Jennie Farley. A look at situations of women working under a variety of economic systems, the reports confirm the universality of pay inequities, subordination, job segregation, insufficient child care options, etc. Looks at a variety of European, Asian and USA situations. Ironically, for a book whose publication was timed to coincide with the UN Decade for Women Conference in Nairobi, none of the studies considers women working in Africa or South or Central America. \$9.95 paper, \$24.00 cloth. ILR Press, Cornell University, Box 10000, Ithaca NY 14853.

Dignity: Lower Income Women Tell of Their Lives and Struggles, Oral Histories Compiled by Fran Leeper Buss. A wonderfully readable collection of first person true-life adventure stories for all of us who are hungry for the lives of working-class and poor women. Includes stories of Black, Indian, Chicana, Japanese, and white women, rural and urban, with photos. It's a delight to hold in my hands and should be well read. \$10.95 paper, \$22.00 cloth. University of Michigan Press.

AND ON PUBLISHER'S ROW



Women's Spirit Bonding, edited by Janet Kalven and Mary I. Buckley grew out of an ecumenical feminist conference in the summer of 1982. It defines feminism as an all-encompassing perspective on the whole of reality and explores a range of survival issues: the growing impoverishment of women, violence against women, racism as a barrier to women's bonding, homophobia and heterosexism as barriers to women's bonding, the relationship of patriarchy to war and peace, and the resources for liberation offered by various religious traditions. \$12.95. Paper. Pilgrim Press. 132 West 31st St, NY NY 10001.

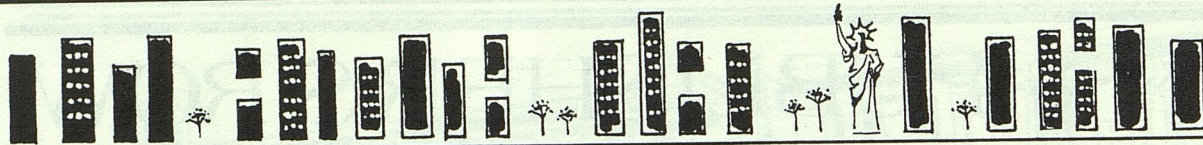
And finally in paperback! Aug. NAL **Other Women** Lisa Alther. You can read NAL's entire publicity blurb without also figuring out that it is also an excellent lesbian novel. Nice of NAL to send FBN a press release, but we wouldn't have known if we hadn't already known, etc. and what good is that? It is also an excellent novel of the client/therapist relationship and very revealing as such, of lesbian mothering, or sorting out relationships and that old experiment in non-mogamy.

Women Against Censorship, edited by Varda Burstyn. I hope this book is as exciting and thorough going as the flier about it: "Arguing that censorship will only perpetuate the very conditions that endanger women in the first place, the contributors are unanimous in their conclusion: that the same laws regulating the availability of pornographic materials can just as easily be applied to non-sexist sexual material, literary and educational, as well as to lesbian and gay writings. (It) addresses strategies

getting at the causes of violence and sexism." An end of simplistic solutions for complex problems? \$8.95 paper. Published by Salem House and distributed in the US by Merrimack, 47 Pelham Rd, Salem NH 03079.

Beacon Press continues in a run of extremely fine and intelligent feminist publishing offering reprints of two by Gertrude Stein: **Lectures in America** (paper \$10.95) and **Picasso: The Complete Writings** (paper \$7.95) of Stein on Picasso and herself. Some will read it out of interest in Picasso and an equal number will read Stein on Picasso to learn about Stein. Some will like that and some will not. Some like Stein and some do not. Stein likes Stein however and our foremothers create us rather than us them if we are





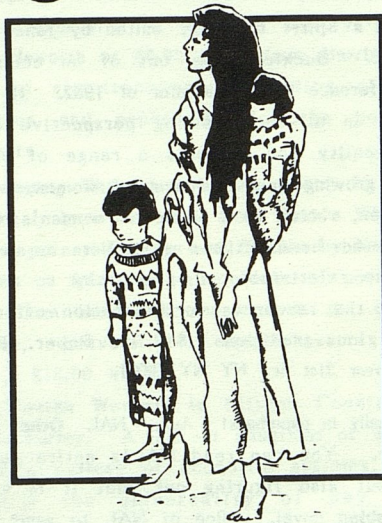
honest which we are not when we create our foremothers in our own image rather than creating ourselves in our own image after having been created from some other image an image of the mothers who went before. Enough? Never enough Stein, often too many poor imitations.

Also in the reprint department, Beacon offers the Monique Wittig's classic among lesbians and feminists **Les Guerilleres** (\$7.95 paper). Having this back in print should reduce the out-of-print requests by 10%. Now if someone will just be daring enough to reprint **The First Sex.... Pure Lust and Another Mother Tongue**, I know you know, are out in paper.

Also from Beacon: **The Lecherous Professor: Sexual Harassment on Campus**, affordable paper at \$8.95 that should be given out at orientations for new college students. Unfortunately many of them will need it. **Making the Connections: Essays in Feminist Social Ethics** (\$22.95 cloth) will be of interest both to women looking at the question of feminist ethics and liberation theologians. **The Feminine Soul: The Fate of an Ideal** (\$22.95 cloth) traces the origins of a more spiritual and therefore superior woman's soul to 19th-century German Romanticism then quotes Rich, De Beauvoir, Daly and the French feminist theorists to explore and support her contention that this is an asset to the full enfranchisement of women. The debate continues.

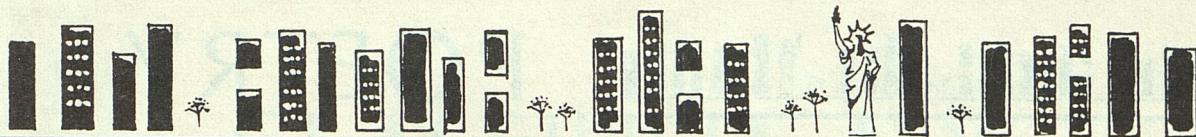
Say These Names (Remember Them), a novel by Betty Sue Cummings. This was one of the finds of the ABA. It tells a version of the Seminole Wars, from the perspective of a Miccosukee Indian woman who comes of age as the wars rage around her, that I haven't seen in print. It is a story of awesome heroism, the kind that is required for survival in such times. But even more, it's a women's perspective and experience of these brutal wars and of any war. The daillness of

Say These Names (Remember Them)



caring for children, the fury of standing by powerless as babies die to war hunger. A woman remembering the culture her grandmother taught her that she is watching disintegrate year by year. And it is an awesome tale of resistance and determination. Published in cloth at \$14.95 by Pineapple Press, PO Box 314, Englewood, FL 33533. With a little encouragement about how it will help sales, the publisher will likely do a paperback edition this fall. Also available at B&T.

Women's Consciousness, Women's Conscience: A Reader in Feminist Ethics. Ethics begins to feel like the theoretical approach for the season. Begins with an experiential approach, beginning with the social injustice of unpaid household labor, goes on to



women in the "cutback economy", class, violence against women, "Feminismo Hispano", anti-Semitism, then goes on to Female Friendship and Feminist Ethics (Janice Raymond), Ethics and Justice in Goddess Religion (Starhawk) and includes work by June Jordan, Rosemary Ruether and Judith Plaskow. \$24.95 cloth. Winston Press, 430 Oak Grove, Minneapolis, MN 55403.

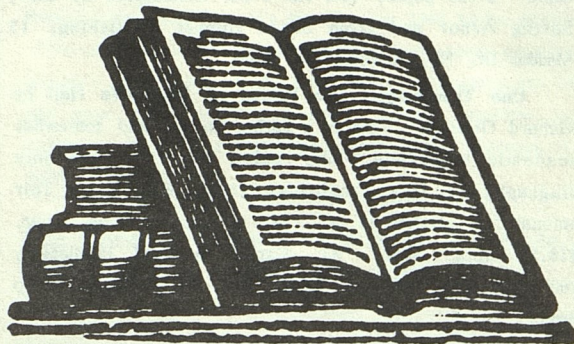
Pergamon Press, as part of its Athene Series has published **Educating for Peace: A Feminist Perspective** by Brigit Brock-Utne, a Norwegian feminist particularly interested in peace studies. Five sections address: What is Peace? Peace Activities Started and Led by Women, Peace Education, Science Higher Education and Peace Research, and Feminism as the Starting Point for Effective Disarmament. A very exciting book. \$10.95 paper. Pergamon Press, Maxwell House, Fairview Park, Elmsford, NY 10523.

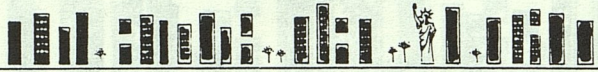
Two new books by Lenore Walker: **The Battered Woman Syndrome**, a followup to her well-known book **The Battered Woman** answers questions raised by her previous research. \$21.95 cloth. **Handbook of Feminist Therapy** edited with Lynne Rosewater discusses psychotherapy with a wide range of clientele including older women, women with limited incomes, lesbian couples as well as topics such as stepparenting, conflicts over fees and spirituality. \$34.95 cloth. Forthcoming from the same publisher is **The Physical and Mental Health of Aged Women**. \$22.95 cloth. Springer Publishing Company, 536 Broadway, NY NY 10012. Bookstore terms not sent.

Are You Still My Mother: Are You Still My Family

Gloria Guss Back. A book for parents who have gay children. Written by a mother of a gay son (who had to ask, finally, "Are you still my mother?") who reacted classically to her son's attempts to tell her he was gay. She eventually looked for a group or a class for

gay parents and eventually began running groups for parents of gays herself. The first part tells of her own reactions and process following her son's coming out to her. It's followed by excerpts from interviews with other parents of gays about their reactions to their children coming out and their current relations, and then by parallel comments from gay men and lesbians about their relationships with their families and family reactions. These vignettes range from total acceptance to horror stories and effectively serve the reader by providing a place to identify before going on to describe a "typical" parents' group making their way through the six week workshop for families of gay people. Included along the way are various consciousness raising tools: lists of famous gay people in history, statements from various (positive) religious groups, the APA, bibliography, contact addresses and suggestions for people coming out to their parents and for parents whose kids have just come out to them. She is adamant that there is no known cause of homo- or heterosexuality and that there is no success in attempts to "change" a gay son or daughter. The final suggestion is that parents form a parents of gays support group and the book can serve as an outline for that process. It addresses parents





of both gay men and lesbians, and unlike the other books written for parents of gays, it includes cultural changes that gay liberation and feminism have fought for and won. We've needed this book. \$7.95 paper.

Dance of Anger: A Woman's Guide to Changing the Patterns of Intimate Relationships by Harriet Goldhor Lerner. Turns out that anger is useful. This book could also be titled **Anger Effectiveness Training**. Focuses on how to use the insights that are the fruit of anger to clarify what we want or need in a particular situation and to empower ourselves. Particularly useful in our communities will be the sections on getting out of the over- and under-functioning ruts. \$14.95 cloth. Harper & Row. October.

Communities of Resistance and Solidarity: A Feminist Theology of Liberation, Sharon D. Welch. Both a feminist theology of liberation and new way of doing theology. Looks like a very solid and insightful -- and useful -- book. \$7.95 paper. Orbis Books, Maryknoll, NY 10545.

Women of the Word is a collection of contemporary sermons by women clergy living and working in the south. First collection of women's sermons that I've seen. \$7.95 paper. 40% for 1-24. Distributed by B&T, Spring Arbor and from Susan Hunter Publishing, 15 Maddox Dr. NE, Atlanta, GA 30309.

Una Troubridge: The Friend of Radclyffe Hall by Richard Ormrod. This is a rather formal and somewhat academic biography, but, being the first and only biography of Una Troubridge there will be a fair amount of interest in it. Lots of detail. Good cover. \$18.50 cloth. Sept. '85. Carroll & Graf Publishers, 260 Fifth Ave., NY NY 10001. Dist. by Publishers Group West.

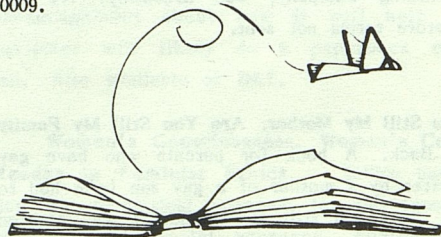
POETRY

The Indian Never Had A Horse, poetry by the author of **Sitt Marie-Rose**. "The poems come from Albuquerque, Beirut, Damascus, the Amazon Basin, the air over Hiroshima, the burial grounds both honored and dishonored all over the world. Etel Adnan is betting her own discrete rhythms against the rivers of blood that wind their way through this century." \$9.95 paper. Post-Apollo Press, 35 Marie St., Sausalito, CA 94965 and distributors.

Kiss the Skin Off, a new collection of poetry by Lyn Lifshin, editor of **Ariadne's Thread** and **Tangled Vines**. \$6.50 paper. Cherry Valley Editions, 3510 Olympic St., Silver Spring, MD 20906 and/or try distributors.

The Winter House, a collection of feminist/lesbian poetry by Yarrow Morgan is first book from Laughing Crone Press, a three-woman venture in Minneapolis. Yarrow co-edited **Voices in the Night** published by Cleis Press. Terms not sent. Laughing Crone Press, 1517 Spruce Pl. #102, Mpls, MN 55403.

Two new books from Working Cultures: **Survival in Prehistory**, by Gabrielle Simon Edgcomb, poetry both lyric and analytic and **Working Cultures 1984**, an anthology of poetry and graphic arts from Washington DC's growing community of artist-activists. \$6.50 and \$6.00. Also still available is **Working Cultures 1978**, \$3.50. Working Cultures, 2039 New Hampshire Ave. #702, Washington, DC 20009.



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Off Our Backs! -- Celebrating 15 years of radical feminist journalism! News Review, Analysis --- \$11 a year, 11 issues. Bookstore terms: \$1 per issue, you keep 40 cents, and send us 60 cents for each copy sold. 1841 Columbia Rd. NW, #212, Washington DC 20009.

For more than twelve years, **Gay Community News** has been the premier newsweekly of lesbian & gay liberation. News, features, analysis, interviews, reviews and a monthly Book Review Supplement. Non profit feminist. \$1.00 cover price. For more info, contact Marketing Dept., GCN 167 Tremont Street, Boston MA 02111.

Women's Review of Books, published monthly/ subscriptions \$14.00, single copy price \$1.50. A must for any feminist bookstore! In-depth reviews of current books in all fields. Trade terms: 60/40 split, shipped UPS, return mastheads for credit. Inquiries to Women's Review, Wellesley Center for Research on Women, Wellesley MA 02181.

Frontiers bridges the gap between feminist academic journals and "slicks" by presenting interesting, accessible articles and personal essays, reviews, photographs, poetry, and short fiction in each issue. Outreach to community, non-university feminists is our goal, along with publishing a journal of substance. Past theme issues still available are: Mothers and Daughters; Chicanas; Women's Oral History Two; Women, Alcohol, and Drugs; Lesbian History; Feminism in the Non-Western World; Women and Peace; Women on the Western Frontier. \$8.00. Forty percent discount to bookstores (no returns, please). **Frontiers**, Women's Studies, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309.

The **New Amazon Tarot Deck** is available now. It contains 83 black and white images, plus 3 blanks, created by 23 woman-identified artist contributors. Also order **Witches Heal: Lesbian Herbal Self-Sufficiency** by Billie Potts. For ordering information send SASE to Hecuba's Daughters Inc., PO Box 488, Bearsville, NY 12409.

Plexus West Coast Women's Press - the 1984 Media Alliance "Community Journalism Award" recipient and oldest surviving women's publication of the west coast! Retailers get 35¢ per issue sold billed quarterly. Direct Inquiries and orders to Kelly, Box FBN/Plexus 545 Athol Oakland, CA 94606. (415) 451 2585.

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