
Feminist Bookstore News



IN THIS ISSUE

Letters	2
Century Book Club Folds	10
Iowa City Women's Press Closes	12
They Went That-A-Way	18
Trivia	20
Remainders	21
Fantasy/Science Fiction	22
From Our Own Presses	26
Sidelines	31
Periodicals	32
From the Small Presses	33
University Presses	41
On Publisher's Row	65

Volume 8 Number 4

Femina Serial am F32978
December/January 1986

1/30/86

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

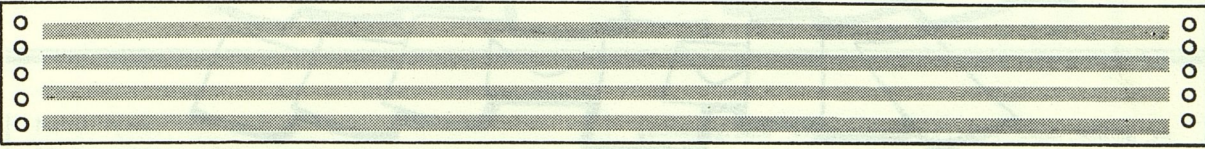
layout and paste-up services available at a nominal fee. Contact FBN at P.O. Box 882554, San Francisco, California 94188 or (415) 431-2093 during regular office hours, Pacific Standard Time.

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.

c 1985 **Feminist Bookstore News**
ISSN No. 0741-6555

NOTES FROM THE COMPUTER TABLE



Working on this issue felt like an over-term pregnancy. It went on and on (and on) and for no apparent reason. But it did result in a big lusty issue! More than that -- there were articles that I couldn't shoe-horn into this issue, so the next issue is half written already. Apologies to anyone whose information was delayed. This is also the first time I've done all of the lay-out and paste-up. I'm sure it will go much more quickly next time! (That's sheer bravado speaking.)

Did you get the last issue (Volume 8 Number 2/3 with a gold cover)? I had five or six complaints from subscribers who didn't receive the copy mailed to them via bulk rate, so this issue is going out first class to everyone as sort of a test. Bulk rate is economical, but it's not worth it if the PO is eating the issues. My worst fantasy is that there's a bag of FBN's sitting in the post office somewhere that will be unearthed in about twenty years.... Meanwhile, let me know if you didn't get yours and I'll send you another. If I don't get feedback on this one I'll go back to bulk rate.

The hardest part of the issue to prepare was the article about the Iowa City Women's Press closing. Not hard to write, hard to take in and comprehend, and it's not exactly news that's a joy to share. Thanks to Lorna Campbell and all the women at ICWP who worked on the article. Thanks, too, to the women of the **Lesbian Land** book whose illustrations grace these pages. **Lesbian Land** was the last book printed by ICWP, and it was somehow comforting to work these images into the issue that

talks about the decision to end the press.

The next issue will look at Customs-Censorship in Canada and New Zealand. If you've had problems importing books into these countries (or others) please send the information for this issue. Also publishers: If you're having books seized at customs (and they've bothered to let you know) please let us know, too. It's not an issue that we can afford to neglect.



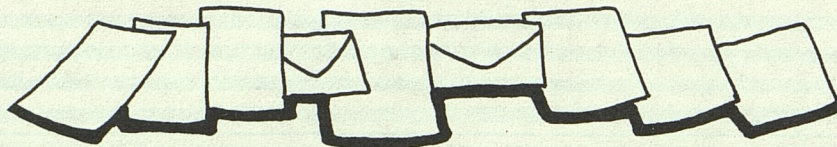
Are you renting or selling VCR tapes in your store? There's some interest and tapes that are relevant are beginning to appear. I'd like to do an article and would appreciate talking with any stores with any experience at all.

Thanks to Susan Buie for graphic assistance and back up, Mary Angela Collins for consultation, Pat Kelso for most of the proofreading and Karen Brungardt, coach for the issue. And to Daffodil for offering to guest edit the issue when times were rough. And to everyone out there who is referring people to FBN for mailing lists, for promotion, for advertising....

Yours in spreading the words,

Carol Seajay

LETTERS



Full Circle Books
2205 Silver SE
Albuquerque, NM 87106
September 2, 1985

Dear FBN,

I'm enclosing a letter I sent a publisher about a sexual abuse prevention book. We specialize in childhood sexual assault books and I'm afraid people who are not deeply in the field might not realize the problems that are surfacing in the glut of books being churned out to capture \$ from the "fad" value of childhood sexual assault prevention. So I would like other feminist bookstores to be aware of the problems I have seen in this book rather than have some accidentally order them.

Many thanks for being there,
Mary A. Morell

To: Alternatives to Sexual Abuse
1225 NW Murray Rd, Ste 214
Portland OR 97229

Re: **Alice Doesn't Babysit Anymore**
by Kevin McGovern

We will not order this book for 3 reasons:

1. Although there is a brief definition of babysitter that implies that anyone other than a parent that cares for a child is a babysitter, the person portrayed is an adolescent girl. No study I have read presents a shred of evidence that this is a high risk situation. I do not appreciate a young

girl taking the blame for what is typically done by male relatives. We find this book misleading in a way that blames women for what mostly men do.

2. The tone of the sexual scenes strikes many people (including three therapists who are also mothers) as lascivious. There is a completely unnecessary lengthy-ness and detail to the sexual games being described. We carry over a dozen books for children aimed at prevention. This is the **only** one that lingers so lovingly on the graphic details of sexual abuse. One wonders why.

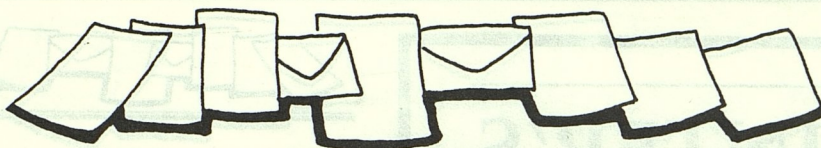
3. It is not the child's obligation to say "No" when it may very well put the child at risk of serious physical abuse. There is absolutely no acknowledgement that saying "No" to someone who is trying to abuse a child is not only not smart, but could be dangerous. Unfortunately this is a common failing in this type of book.

We find this book misleading, exploitive and dangerous. We will recommend to our associates that they purchase **A Very Touching Book** or, for younger children, **Red Flag, Green Flag**. If you would like your review copy returned, please send 69%.

Mary A. Morell
Full Circle Books



SUSUN WEED



Nalad Press
 PO Box 10543
 Tallahassee, FL 32302
 September 30, 1985

Dear Feminist Bookstores News,

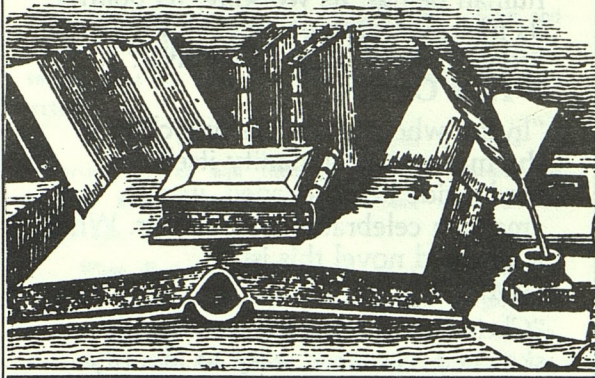
Nalad Press is happy to announce that Pat Shannon, who has been with Nalad Press for one year as of November 1, 1985, has been named Office and Fulfillment Manager at Nalad Press. As such Pat will be the most likely liaison with the bookstores who call us (or write us). Later on Pat will do some traveling for Nalad...sharing her excellent personality with others.

Women ought to be encouraged to encourage the Feminist Press to bring out Jo Sinclair's magnificent Lesbian masterpiece, **Wasteland**, which first came out from Harper in 1946 and which has been out of print since its last paperback incarnation in 1961. If **The Changlings** is seen as relevant, then **The Wasteland** is essential. The novel's heroine is one of those strong silent irresistible dykes whose chore in life is to handle the problems created by the weak and irresponsible males around her...In this case the Jewish heroine is acting as the family's oldest son... (someone will do a thesis someday on the Gale Wilhelm, Jo Sinclair, Maureen Duffy'ish heroines of our genre).

Lastly, will we all give much attention to the need for publishers. We are strangling on books we cannot publish at Nalad Press. I pray for relief daily from the problem...and a few publishers have come about...the new **TOUGH DOVE**...the increased visibility of **NEW VICTORIA** and hallelujah **FIREBRAND**..but it is not enough and there must be more...bookstore women are the obvious logical folk to hear from women who are interested in

publishing..and we are always more than willing to help by talking to potential publishers. An article on beginning a publishing company will be appearing in **Small Press** in their January issue on (very briefly) how to begin. Much of the time when women come to you to ask where to send their books, you might be being kind to them to suggest that if it remains even remotely possible they consider becoming a publishing company....

Barbara Grier



Category Six Books
 1029 East Eleventh Avenue
 Denver, Colorado 80218
 August 31, 1985

Dear Carol & FBN,

We were inadvertently included in a regional Christmas advertising insert with other Mountain-Plains Booksellers Association stores last year. It was a **nightmare**. Lots of irate people demanding to know why we didn't have the advertised books in stock. (Naturally, we didn't have a single advertised title.) We didn't find it at all "painless" to turn those inquiries to an invitation

WINTER'S EDGE

*A Novel
by Valerie Miner*

"A poet of the city, the everyday urban life, she gives us its beat, its struggling human beings, its worklife, its politics, its interrelationships; best of all, its old women on the edge of survival."

—Tillie Olsen

"In the whole novel we live close to the marrow of humanity itself, its sordid side never evaded, its rich amalgam celebrated with fervor. What a splendid novel this is!"

—May Sarton

"Chrissie and Margaret are sharply sketched, eccentric, easy to identify with and fully drawn as characters. It was a pleasure to get to know them."

—Marge Piercy

\$7.95 paper, 184 pages

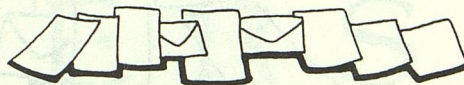
ISBN: 0-89594-175-9



The Crossing Press

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Tel. (607) 387-6217 or 387-5988



to browse. In general, people were very irate about the whole thing--. So, on our unfortunate experience, we don't recommend signing up for those inserts. On the other hand, perhaps someone else had a positive experience. All we had was slammed-down telephones and slammed front door. Most of these people did not want to browse -- they just wanted the specific advertised title *Right Now*. In addition we were swamped with calls that we were not prepared to deal with. So, if any of you try this -- be ready!

All the best,

Neil

(Ed. note: So much for that idea from the last FBN. Thanks, Neil, for writing about Category Six's experience with the inserts. --Carol.)

Stepping Stones

621 Hawthorne Avenue

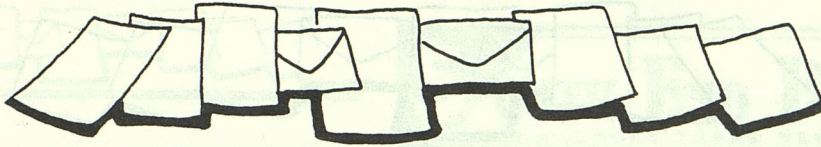
Palo Alto, CA 94301

September 26, 1985

Dear FBN,

Thanks for the mention of Stepping Stones in the last issue of FBN. I didn't realize the announcement of my opening would catch the deadline, or I would have sent more complete information. Most importantly, the address given in FBN (621 Hawthorne) is Stepping Stones' mailing address. The store is at 226 Hamilton Avenue, in the Artifactory coop.

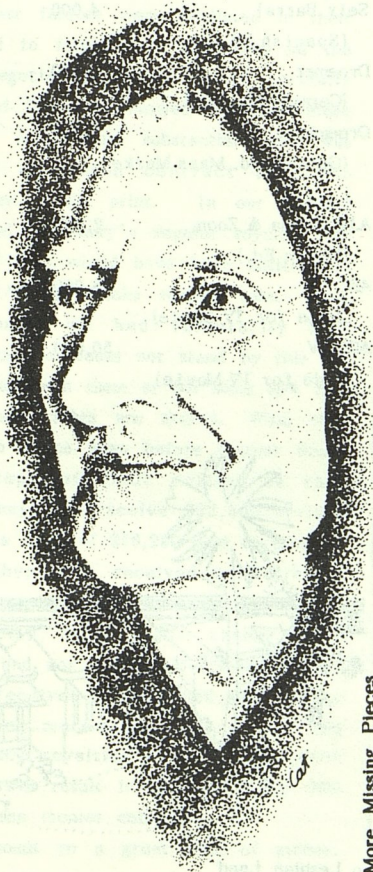
The store is a tiny one, but a "stepping stone," I hope, to a full-scale feminist bookstore. For now, the book selection is limited to women's art (especially quilting), lives and work (especially peace work). I also have an extensive line of cards, posters, calendars, rubber stamps and



related items. The enclosed flier tells a bit more. (See elsewhere in this issue.)

I was also pleased to see the announcement I sent you featured as a graphic in the last issue, and would like to give credit to the very talented artist, Becky Fischbach. Becky would love to do more work for feminist projects. She can be reached at 737 Live Oak, Menlo Park, CA 94025, 415-326-1235.

Thanks for your good work,
Nancy Olsen



More Missing Pieces

LNBS: Donna McBride

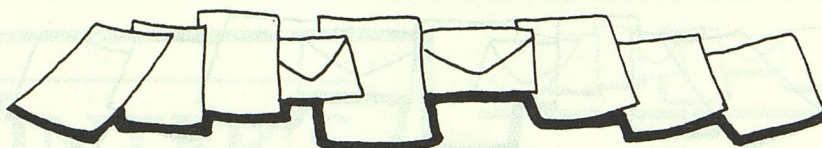
Naiad Press
PO Box 10543
Tallahassee, FL 32302
September 23, 1985

Dear Women of **Off Our Backs** and **Feminist Bookstores News**,

I have for months listened to Nancy Manahan and Rosemary Curb say vile and vicious things about and to Barbara Grier. It is only with Nancy's latest letter that I have decided to "break my own silence".

In this letter Nancy accuses Barbara of distorting figures and then proceeds to distort the figures herself so that they come out to her advantage.

When Barbara originally set up the Promotional Tour for Rosemary and Nancy she was able to get many of the expenses offset by the TV and Radio stations. Because of this the out of pocket expenses were very small. Naiad agreed to pay all these other travel expenses excluding food. Two \$1000 advances were paid to each of them in April and May to help them defray costs. In early August they sent us receipts for their travel expenses and on August 25, 1985 we sent checks to them as follows, \$1434.17 to Nancy and \$2109.72 to Rosemary. It should be pointed out that while Naiad Press was footing the bill for their travel, they were going all over the country saying terrible things about Barbara on both a personal and professional level. It should also be pointed out that Nancy and Rosemary agreed in writing to stop bad mouthing Barbara and Naiad Press. It appears they have chosen not to honor that agreement.

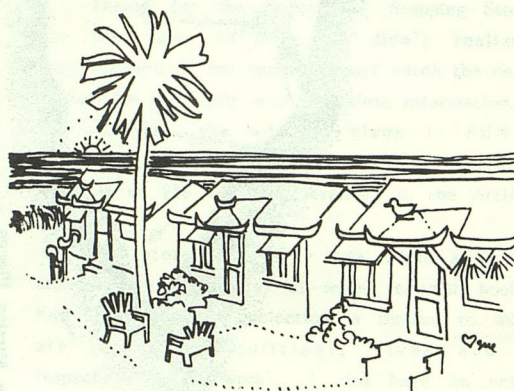


So much misinformation surrounding the subsidiary rights sales of the book **Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence** has appeared in the press it seems essential to set the record straight on all aspects of it.

First of all, the sales in themselves were remarkable. No small press before to my knowledge ever so successfully managed to sell rights to a small press book to so many countries and into so many languages. The sum total of advances surrounding the subsidiary rights to this book come to \$198,900 as of September 23, 1985. This money will be paid over about a two year period of time. These are advances only and do not take into account the sales of the books beyond the advanced amounts. In countries like England and Australia the book can be reasonably expected to be a best seller as it has been in the U.S. It is not unlikely or unexpected that the book will recoup its advances and eventually pay royalties. It is also more than expected that the Warner Books mass market sale in the U.S. will generate income above the advance paid for the rights.

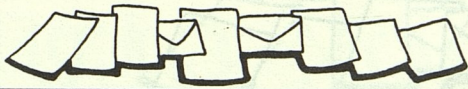
Below is a list of the sales and the amounts of all subsidiary sales. I have not bothered to list those serializations or subsidiary sales where rights were granted without monetary compensation. THESE MONIES EITHER HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE SPLIT EVENLY WITH ROSEMARY CURB AND NANCY MANAHAN. This means that they will receive at the very least \$49,725 EACH for subsidiary rights alone. This does not consider or include the royalties they will receive from the sale of Nalad's edition. Remember that these monies will not reach them all at once, they will be paid to them over the next two years in their regular six month royalty periods just as soon as they are paid to us.

Ms Magazine	\$ 350	Lump Sum
Forum Magazine	2000	Lump Sum
Philadelphia Gay News	50	Lump Sum
Warner Books	65,000	Installments
Columbus Books	20,000	Installments
(British & Irish Editions)		
Bantam/Australia	15,000	Installments
(Australia & N.Z.)		
Tullio Pironti Editore	10,000	Lump Sum
(Italian Ed.)		
Seix Barral	4,000	Lump Sum (?)
(Spanish Ed.)		
Droemer	3,500	Lump Sum (?)
(German Ed. QFB)		
Droemer	1,500	Lump Sum
(German Ed. Mass Market		
		(4 yrs. after first ed.)
A.W. Bruna & Zoon	2,500	Installments
(Dutch Ed.)		
ABC TV	25,000	Lump Sum
(Made for TV Movie)		
ABC TV	50,000	Lump Sum
(Made for TV Movie)		
		(On Production Start Date)



in Lesbian Land

SUE WILLIAMS



Now, as I pointed out above, this gives Rosemary and Nancy together a total of \$99,450.00 in subsidiary rights alone.

We worked out a good faith mediation of our contract with Rosemary and Nancy. In that mediation we gained nothing, but gave up a good deal including future serialization rights which kept the Lesbian Community from reaching the lives of all the thousands of Lesbians we may safely assume read **Cosmopolitan Magazine** when Rosemary and Nancy (who wholly approved of the sale) refused to grant permission because the contributor in question objected. Two other factors were mediated in their behalf. We agreed to forego the 10% costs on the subsidiary rights negotiations which would normally have been deducted from the monies received before the 50% split. A much more substantial point was included in the mediation contract that has heretofore not seen public print. In our original contract Nancy and Rosemary's regular royalty rate of 16% is all that they would have been entitled to receive from the Warner Books edition sale. Even before the mediation we had voluntarily told Rosemary and Nancy we would not stand by this but would share the money with them at the same 50% rate their other subsidiary rights are shared. What that means in hard cash terms even before Warner Books sells a single copy of their edition is that Rosemary and Nancy will receive \$32,500 divided between them, or a total of \$16,250 paid to them in two installments (they have received one already) one in 1985 and one in 1986. If we had chosen to deal on a strictly legal basis rather than generously, if we had not made this offer to them, they would have received instead \$10,400 divided between them. Even more importantly, after the advance is "met" any royalties received from the Warner Books sale will result in their receiving 50% instead of 16% of the monies collected.

This could amount to a great deal of money.

SOUTH END PRESS

ANNOUNCES THREE NEW BOOKS

JUNE JORDAN
ON CALL



POLITICAL ESSAYS

ON CALL

Political essays by June Jordan

June Jordan's new book of essays travels the spectrum of political thought: from apartheid in South Africa to the contras in Nicaragua; from U.S. aid to Israel to U.S. cutbacks of social services; from Black English to Black U.S. citizens in the third world. Throughout her work, Jordan's voice can be heard. She is indeed, *on call*—ready to offer her physical presence, emotional support, and political guidance to a movement toward change.

\$8.00

NOT AN EASY CHOICE

A Feminist Re-examines Abortion by Kathleen McDonnell

If most Americans admit that they support a woman's right to abortion, why does the controversy rage? Kathleen McDonnell unravels the ethical debates surrounding the abortion issue, examines the constituency and strategy of the pro-choice movement placing these issues in the context of rapidly changing reprototechnology and reproductive rights.

\$8.00

SEX & GERMS

The Politics of AIDS by Cindy Patton

From an analysis of the ethical crisis triggered by AIDS research, to the New Right and its response, Cindy Patton looks beyond the one-dimensional, homophobic reporting in the popular media to analyze the social as well as the personal consequences of the disease and of the epidemic of fear and reaction surrounding its spread. Patton explores not only the biology of AIDS but also its effect on lesbian and gay communities.

\$9.00



Bookstore Discounts:

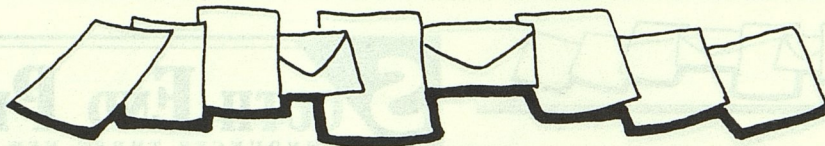
- 1 book—no discount
- 1 book prepaid—30%
- 2-4 books—20%
- 5-9 books—30%
- 10-19 books—40%
- 30-49 books—42%
- 50-59 books—44%
- 60-69 books—46%
- 70-99 books—48%
- 100 plus—50%

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For complete terms and
catalogue of over 100 books
write to:

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Example, suppose the Warner Books edition really doesn't sell well at all and only 500,000 copies are sold. The additional money to Rosemary and Nancy will be \$20,510 each. But let's suppose the book is a modest best seller and sells 2 million copies, the additional money to each of them will be \$121,235. Thus, Barbara's \$125,000 figure becomes a distinct reality.

All this does not take into account the regular royalties they will be paid for the sale of the Nalad Press edition of the book.

Rosemary requested during mediation that Nalad Press pay something to the contributors. The lawyer handling the mediation suggested that perhaps Rosemary and Nancy would instead do this from the money they received from the concessions Nalad had made.

It must be pointed out too that in cases where anthologies are the published material, the usual structure of the agreement is that the publisher works with the editors and that the editors work with the contributors. This is not only not unique to this book, it is the case in almost every anthology. Any monies that are paid to the contributors (and originally in this anthology no such provision was included as is also very normal) come directly to them from the editors and not from the publisher.

On a more personal note I would like to add some things. When Barbara Deming died I was asked about her by a local newspaper. The reply I gave was that she was one of the most difficult persons I have ever had to deal with but that I was not speaking from a point of view of criticizing her, but only to say that this was a description of a person who got things done. A person who was easy to get along with would never go to jail, would never have accomplished what she did.

After living with Barbara Grier for 14 years no one knows better than I that she is sometimes arrogant, sometimes thoughtless. No one knows better than I her deep commitment to women in this movement but more so to those who have not yet found us. No one knows better than I that she would never knowingly harm innocent women. To accuse her of such is unjust.

Donna J. McBride
Nalad Press

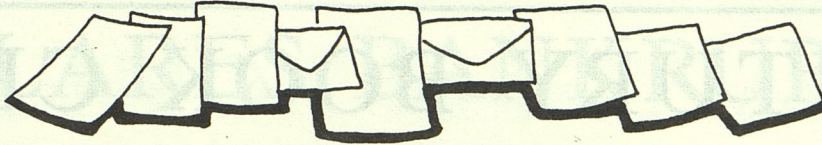
Response: Nancy Manahan

Dear Women of Off Our Backs and Feminist Bookstore News,

I appreciate Donna McBride's disclosure of the finances of **Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence**. I stand corrected on one item. Both Rosemary and I are entitled to receive \$4,972.50 extra as a result of our contract renegotiation, rather than \$4,875.00 extra. My figure did not take into account the tree serialization sales.

Our major financial disagreement concerns the Warner Books sale. In March, April, and early May, 1985, whenever Barbara Grier talked to me about the \$65,000 sale of paperback rights to Warner Books, she calculated Rosemary's and my share at the same rate as other subsidiary sales: 45%. When discussing potential Warner Book sales beyond the advance, she also estimated our share at 45%.

It wasn't until May 24, 1985, that Barbara told me she had just discovered something about Nalad's contract with us. She said that paperback rights were not specified in the subsidiary clause and therefore might be construed as belonging in the Nalad Press royalties clause, in which case Rosemary



and I would be entitled to only 16% (8% each) of the Warner Books payments to Naiad, rather than 45%. She acknowledged that paperback rights were not mentioned in the royalties clause.

Two days later, in the mediation session between Barbara and Donna, and Rosemary and me, our lawyer announced that one of the changes Barbara and Donna were willing to make in the contract was to specify that paperback rights be listed under subsidiary rights. Since that is standard in publishing contracts, it seemed to Rosemary and me a correction of an oversight in the original contract rather than a generous concession.

(Barbara and Donna's agreeing to pay us 50% of subsidiary sales rather than 45% was a generous concession.)

Thus, Donna's statement, "In our original contract Nancy and Rosemary's regular royalty rate of 16% is all that they would have been entitled to receive from the Warner Books edition sale" is inaccurate. So is her statement that "Even before the mediation we had voluntarily told Rosemary and Nancy we would not stand by this but would share the money with them at the same 50% rate their other subsidiary rights are shared (actually 45%, since Naiad was planning to take 10% off the top for expenses leaving 90% to divide with us). May 24 was the first I had heard that Naiad might not pay us 45%; by Barbara's own description, it had just occurred to her. So Donna's calculations of our each receiving \$121,235 extra as a result of our being entitled to 50% rather than 16% of the Warner Books advance and sales (based on Donna's projection of their selling 2 million copies) is specious. Rosemary and I could receive \$125,000 over the years IF the Warner Books edition is the bestseller Donna projects. But that would not be "extra" nor would it be the result of changes in the contract as Barbara

Grier announced at NWSA in June. More to the point, Warner Books itself projects selling only 200,000 copies of **Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence** before it is backlisted, perhaps 500,000 during the life of the book. Donna's figures are anything but "a distinct reality."

I reiterate what Donna says in her final paragraph about Barbara Grier's "deep commitment to women in this movement" especially "to those who have not yet found us." I, too, believe that Barbara "would never knowingly harm innocent women." Barbara and Donna have been generous during the entire process of publishing and promoting **Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence**. One recent example is their donation of two cartons of the book to the October 18, 1985, fundraiser in Tucson for Sr. Pat O'Donnell. (See elsewhere in **FBN** for information about Pat's being fired after her story appeared in **Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence**.)

I hope that Barbara and Donna make a good profit on the book. They deserve it. I hope that Rosemary and I recoup our out-of-pocket expenses and receive compensation for our time. We -- and all lesbian writers and editors -- deserve it. I hope that we soon can give some of our royalties to the contributors to **Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence**. They deserve it. And I hope, despite our differences and disagreements, that we all can lay aside suspicion and rancor and work together to help make it possible for all lesbians to tell the truth about our lives.

Sincerely,
Nancy Manahan



CENTURY BOOK CLUB

"What we've achieved is that we proved that a gay and lesbian bookclub can work. That there's interest and response. We had an incredibly high response rate -- 18% -- to our mailings. (The Literary Guild, by contrast, gets 1.37% response.) And we're growing. We have 600 requests to join the club that we haven't even been able to put on the computer -- and that's with no ads in 4 months. We were making money, that isn't the problem at all."

--Mark Bernard, Century Book Club

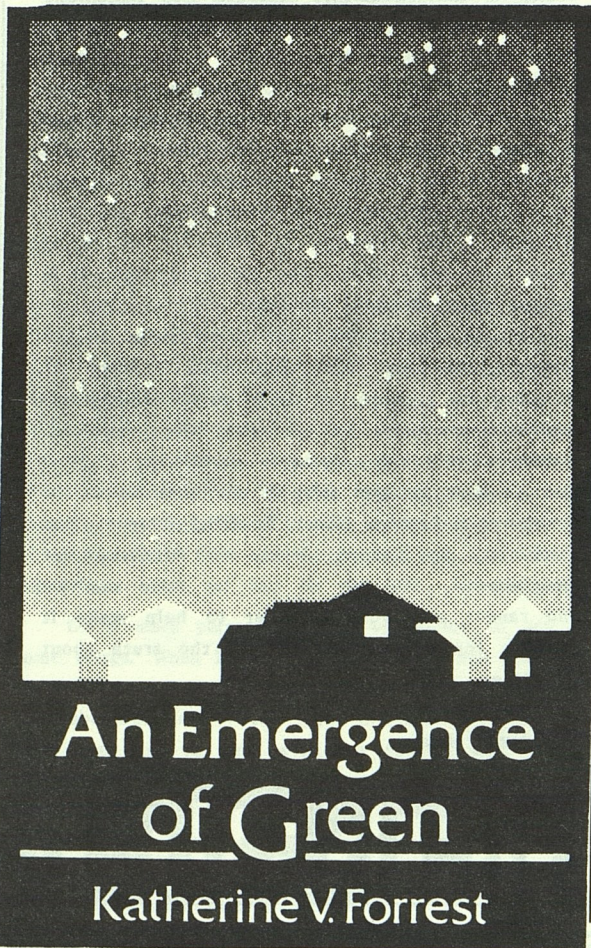
The problem was that a significant part of CBC's investment capital, \$300,000, never arrived. One investor defaulted at the last minute after running into financial problems elsewhere and didn't have the money when the time came. "One thing I've learned out of all this is to get your operating capital up front. Promises don't do anything."

Ironically, frustratingly, CBC was achieving all its goals in terms of membership, in terms of growth projections and books sold. It was meeting or exceeding all their projections and the business plan was checking off right on schedule. But when the money failed to arrive, the bookclubs member recruitment strategies had to change from low cost bulk mailings to last minute, quick-but-very-expensive display ads. CBC tried to pay overhead and salaries and expansion from the income being generated by the book sales -- and it was just too soon to pull that off.



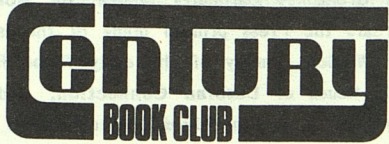
And so CBC filed full bankruptcy in November. All the assets of the club will be liquidated and used to pay the creditors some percentage of the money owed.

So once again, another otherwise well planned and carefully executed book-venture goes down the tubes to undercapitalization. The good news is that the closing had been done carefully and responsibly: the mailing list isn't for sale and won't be, in keeping with promises of confidentiality, though it may be possible to do a bulk mailing to the CBC list through Mark Bernard. Arrangements were made with



DECLARES BANKRUPTCY

feminist and small press publishers to minimize the impact of CBC's bankruptcy as far as possible. All the publishers I talked to were both satisfied with and very appreciative of CBC's efforts and concern for their welfare.



Advice? "If I had it to do over again -- I'd do a lesbian book club. The publishers were wonderful to deal with as were the customers. It's a different market than the men's market -- more tasteful and less skin. We had a much higher response rate from

the lesbian side. And contrary to what we'd heard, we encountered no hardback resistance. The hardcover special edition of **Lesbian Nuns** sold very well for us, as did the *Jane Rules*. Interestingly, about 40% of our **Lesbian Nuns** sales went to men -- it was a great cross-over book for us."

More advice? "To pick up mail order customers, do ads in your area, but not in the gay and lesbian press. Focus on tasteful little ads in the straight press. We always had excellent response to **MS ads**."

"I still think it's a great idea. It would have worked for us if we had had the money to make it through our projection period. I think that direct mail is THE answer. And since we did so well, others will follow. There are already two other clubs waiting in the wings."

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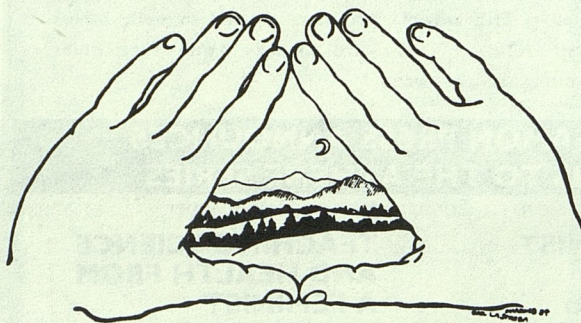
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IOWA CITY WOMEN'S

The bad news travels around the country: the Iowa City Women's Press closed. Bankruptcy was the word I first heard. Money, the clear reason, even if the bankruptcy rumor wasn't wholly accurate. "Yes, but.... Iowa City!?" Iowa City Women's Press, born of vision and compelling necessity, had survived and printed against all financial odds for 12 years. One of the oldest surviving women-in-print institutions, and one that consistently raised the consciousness of the rest of the print movement about the importance and necessity of owning and running our own printing presses: "Freedom of the press belongs to she-who owns the press." And only to her.



in Lesbian Land

OAK LA STREGA

In 1971, the Iowa City based *Ain't I A Woman* did a special issue on self-help and the radical new ideas being pioneered by the women's health movement. Their "regular" printer refused to print the issue. Educational diagrams of women's genitalia and photos of women using speculums examining their own cervixes(!) and of healthy os's weren't things that could be printed. It was clear that if "we" wanted a clear path to being able to publish and disseminate this and the other kinds of lesbian and feminist material, we'd have to find a way to print it ourselves. And so some women sat down to think about how to do that and opened the Iowa City Women's Press the next year.

Conceived of primarily as a place for printing lesbian work and for making a safe and sane work place for lesbians, the press started by printing *The Greasy Thumb: Automechanics Manual for Women* and *Against the Grain: A Carpentry Manual for Women*. Over the years the Press printed many of the issues of *Sinister Wisdom*, many of the early Nalad Press titles, early issues of *Lesbian Connection*, and all of the issues of *Common Lives/Lesbian Lives* and *Maize*, as well as *Narratives: Poems in a Tradition of Black Women*, *Shadow on a Tightrope*, and *Saturday Night in the Prime of Life*. *Lesbian Land* was the last book off the press. Aunt Lute Book Company, the publisher started by two of the Press's founders with the intention of having the books printed by the press, had to have its two most recent books printed elsewhere.

Is this the end of an era? Are the dreams we birthed then no longer possible? Does the press closing represent a settling of visions? Revisions? And what exactly did happen? The women of the Iowa City Women's Press will be writing more fully about these questions over time. In the meantime, the following interview with Lorna Campbell looks at some of the questions about the Press's closing.

FBN: When our dreams stop working we need to talk about it and write about it and not try to make even our failures disappear because that's the only way to make our other dreams work -- to learn what we can on the way.

Lorna: I think that's a real good point. None of us on the Press are writers, but I think there are women here that will help us write about these issues and the history and impact of the Press. We've also talked about taping our experiences.

PRESS CLOSES

FBN: In the meantime, though, I think women are still going to want to know what happened, or why this decision was made now, as opposed to a year ago, or next year.... And the specifics of what happened. Are you up for talking about any of that?

Lorna: Sure.

FBN: OK. What happened?

Lorna: I think that basically we were all good workers. But none of us were managers. In the work of trying to keep up with the production part, we were trying to solve the Press's financial problems by trying to do more production. And also by making decisions about trying to increase the size of the presses we had so that we could run faster and more efficiently.



Making Washai

Card from Helaine Victoria Press

I don't think we managed well in the process of trying to figure those things out. I think we lacked the skill of knowing who to talk to and how to find out the kind of things we needed to know. I think it's sort of like math anxiety: there's a section of being in business that was murky for a lot of us.

FBN: I think that happens in some of the bookstores, too.

Lorna: Yes. And as you are aware, I'm sure, there have been financial problems in keeping the press



Otomi Bark Papermaking

Card from Helaine Victoria Press

going for a long time. We did invest in another press, went into debt more and tried to deal with our work situation as well. We tried to stick to a forty hour week (though we didn't succeed) and to fight burnout that way. We didn't get paid a lot. It wasn't the lowest pay in the world, but it wasn't a lot. I think we made about five dollars and twenty cents an hour. And we were trying to work out some of those classic kinds of work situations. We were trying to be able to stay and not get burned out.

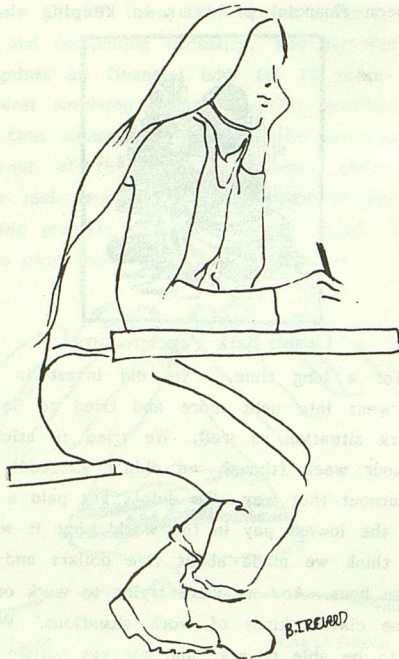
But with the tax burden, workers comp, insurance and all that, the finances consistently got worse. We were more in debt and couldn't pay bills. That's pretty much always been a problem, but somehow or another, we've always been able to figure out a way to pull in some money here or there, to somehow be able to feel that we were staying a little more in control of it. Then somehow it went through a period of time where it escalated a lot.

Then we took on more jobs. We started bidding for some city jobs and continued to make an effort to keep our rates as low as we could for lesbians. But I think it was pretty late in the game when we started getting concerned.

FBN: And that's why you were getting more and more deeply in debt?

Lorna: Yes. As one accountant said: "When you see a customer coming in the door, pay them a dollar and send them away, and you'll be better off."

FBN: Ouch.



Young Gay and Proud!

Lorna: Yeah. Our pricing schedule and the amount of time each job took, given the type of equipment we had, was just feeding the situation. We were definitely going into the hole more than we were coming out.

So we had looked at different kinds of things like taking a really big loan. It appeared that we would have to upgrade a lot to be competitive. About 75% of our work is books. The printers that we're competing with had lower prices than we did -- way lower.

FBN: All those good old Michigan jobbers.

Lorna: Right. And Rose in Florida that Naiad is using.

We were in a position where we would have to raise our prices and our primary market is one that we're trying very hard to treat fairly. We're committed to making printing accessible and our prices were already higher than anyone else, so we were in a real bind.

It appeared that we would have had to restructure and revamp the entire operation. What it would have taken was a much more automated shop. It would have taken a little more of a skill level than we had just in terms of production skills let alone in terms of running the business! It would have taken marketing not only in the lesbian and women's community and I think it would have been necessary to do more local general marketing as well. And speaking for myself, I didn't feel that I had the energy, the skills, the motivation, whatever, to make the kind of leap that would have been necessary to move us into a more viable situation. It looked as though we would have had to go so much more mainstream. It would have been much more intense.

We had various meetings and drew in lesbians with certain skills in looking at these kinds of things and talked to various women. They seemed to be somewhat in agreement. Various ones suggested that we declare bankruptcy, just in terms of looking at the balance sheet.

FBN: Did the other women at the press also feel that it was the wrong leap for them to make at this point in their lives?

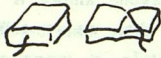
Lorna: I think that would be true for the others, too.

FBN: In some situations, that's the right decision. Just because the leap is there doesn't mean that we **always** have to do it.

Lorna: Right. It's also that we would have had to be so much more mainstream. And that's not why I was involved in the Press. In fact, it is because it was

such an alternative situation that I was involved with the press and worked there. (Lorna co-founded the bindery, A Fine Bind, at the Press. -ed.)

And it's all a vicious cycle. I think we have this training in business phobia -- like the math phobia I mentioned earlier. I think that some can be more business like and still accomplish what they want to accomplish. For me, I liked being much more exclusive. What I liked was doing work that was much more specifically by and for lesbians. It's really hard now: the idea that now I'm going to have to go out into the world and find a job... What a choice! How much more mainstream can you get!?!



But what happened is that the (financial) hole that we were in became such a burden. As I said, we originally started out to do reorganization, oh, about six months before we closed. The idea was that we were going to put in this extra energy to learn how to run a business, to figure out what we had to do and really make a go if it. It was clear that we really had to do it immediately.

And it was essentially in that process that we found out how much we weren't paying attention to. And that process started us toward figuring out that going out of business was the decision that we had to make. And it turns out that this isn't unusual. The more I hear about this kind of thing, the more I realize that this kind of thing happens in businesses: that you make the effort to make it work and in that effort you find out that it's just more than you expect. Or that it's just not possible.

FBN: Or you find out that your best efforts are digging you in deeper and deeper.

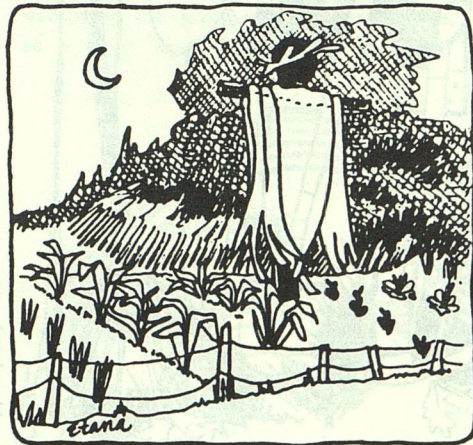
Lorna: Yes.

FBN: So at that point people started saying, "Well, bankruptcy?"

Lorna: Right. And we went through a process of investigating that and thinking that was what the press had to do. The bindery was never in that situation because it owned its own equipment. It had more of its assets clear. But the Press's debts had accumulated over a period of years. We owed the bank, oh, thirty-some thousand dollars. Plus all our other debtors. We had two or three paper companies we owed money for so long that the debts turned into loans. We could get nothing on account, we had to get everything COD. The marketplace works against you in that situation: you pay more. When you're buying smaller quantities you pay more, and when you're doing COD you pay more and it was all a part of the whole debt problem.

Then in the process of looking at it all, our lawyers told us that being a corporation --and because some really good work was done in establishing the corporation-- we could just go out of business and that the corporation would be able to deal with the financial responsibility and that we as individuals would not be held responsible. That's something that corporations do: they dissolve and they leave debts. And so that's what we ended up doing. The bank took over everything and they sold the equipment at a very minimum price to one large printer.

FBN: So did you declare bankruptcy, or are you dissolving?



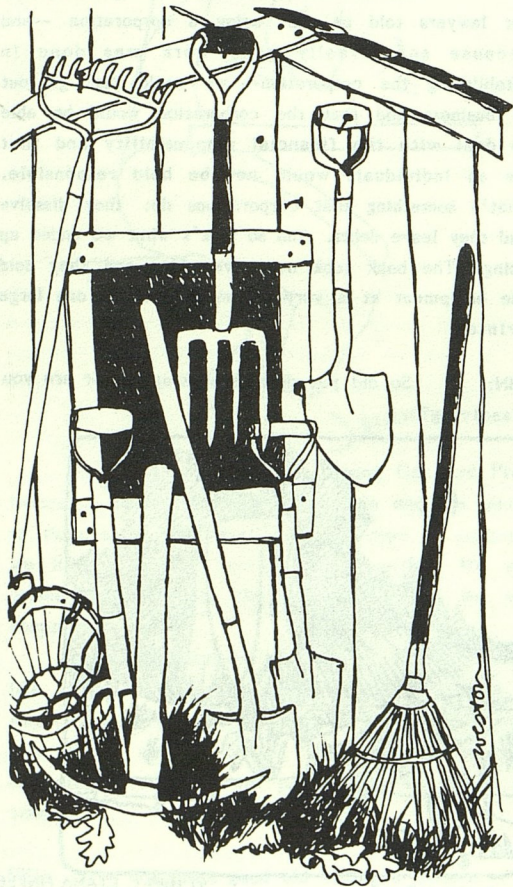
in Lesbian Land

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Lorna: We're dissolving. It's a long range thing because you have to continue to take care of certain kinds of business for about a year.

The Bindery still owes taxes. The Press came out pretty well with that because the bank was willing to let the accounts receivable take care of the taxes. The bank is losing money. But they're getting more than some other people!

We felt bad about the bank getting everything because that left some dykes not able to get back some of their investment or money that was owed them. We had no choice about where the money went when the bank took over the assets, but that's how it is when the bank has a lien on your equipment.



JENNIFER WESTON

in Lesbian Land

Different ones of us had different amounts of fear that we were somehow going to end up being liable for thousands and thousands of dollars. That was some of the scariest stuff. It definitely brought out some difficult dynamics. But I, personally, am really pleased with how we dealt with it as a group. We did a mediation to work through some of our fears and to let out some of the interpersonal stuff that was going on so that we wouldn't carry all the fears and the feelings with us. I think we did very well with that, and the mediation was a very smart thing to do. I don't think there's a lot of guilt left over, there's definitely some, but I think that everyone knows it evolved over the years. But I think that we've talked enough about those things that it's a manageable amount of concern that we're each carrying in having had this not work. What we've tried to focus on is all the years we had control over our workplace, all the money we generated and all the books we produced.

FBN: I'm glad to hear that. To leave something like this feeling positive, and to carry the perspective that for the power we put into the world for all these years that it wasn't such a big price to pay is so important. It's essential to go that extra way, to do that extra bit of mediations or whatever to really appreciate the work we've done and the impact we've made in the world.

Lorna: It's really been heartening to hear from so many women that were emotionally involved with the existence of the press. It's just amazing. It doesn't matter if there's been any communication or any direct use or anything. It's very interesting to see what we seem to represent. And how significant our just being there has been. There's this kind of spirit among women from just knowing we've been there for the last 12 years.

FBN: Which is most of this phase of the women's movement!

Lorna: Yes, isn't that interesting!? Yes, and there's so many things like the women's bookstore



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in Lesbian Land

here in town closed and some tradeswomen here are struggling really hard. I sense this larger cycle of where money is going.

FBN: And where people's energy and commitment is going, and how far the visions that we had then took us. And now there are these choices that face us, like the one you've just made, about going mainstream or staying alternative, or lesbian focussed or ...

Lorna: Now I'm working with **Common Lives** and it's very important for me to be working with something that's ongoing. I guess you just pull into those areas when you have to. There's a lot of drop out in terms of doing active things but I think that there are things to pull into that continue to exist.

I'm not sure how to say this, but I think the political nature of the women involved in the press changed. Sometimes, for some women, it was a great opportunity to work with lesbians and in the women's movement. Sometimes, for some women, it was just a job. And sometimes the work, the lesbian political work became almost a burden in some women's minds. It was hard to be able to deal with the press as anything but a business sometimes, and then to have to see that we weren't going to be able to make it because we're dealing with a very poor population and with trying to give breaks to our

community, it was very hard. So I think that there were different attitudes at different times. And women came in at totally different times. And the attitudes definitely changed from the beginning group's attitudes over the years. Obviously they would. And probably some of the changes came out of how we developed along with the dynamic of the movement.

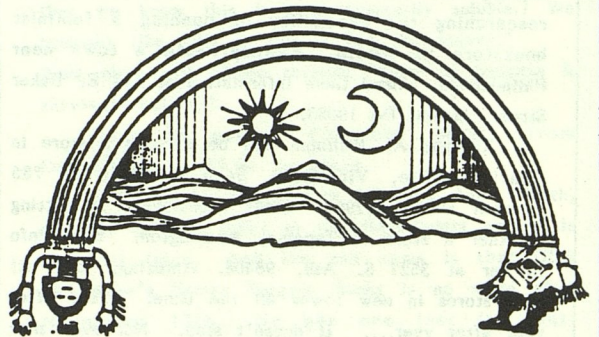
And I think about personal dynamics and communications and how we worked together and the level at which we'd evolved our skills at being able to work together and sustain each other instead of feel burdened. And all of that. Working collectively can become very very burdensome. I don't think that we as a collective -- though I think we did very well -- I don't think that we or very many others have that one down at all.

FBN: What else should I ask you?

Lorna: Every time I talk through this again I get clearer and get closer to being able to let it go.

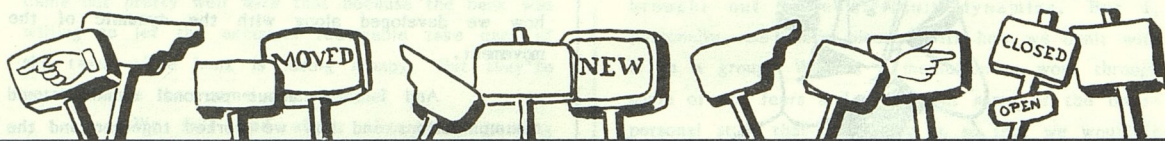
FBN: I think it's really important to take the time to thank the women who've made the press work all these years and to acknowledge all the work they've done and to recognize how very important that work has been.

Lorna: Yes. If we listed all the women who've worked at the press over all these years, it would be a really long and wonderful list!



from Lesbian Land

THEY WENT THAT-A-WAY



MORE NEW BOOKSTORES! In India it's The Woman's Bookplace! First women's bookstore on the subcontinent! Write to Judy Streelekha, Woman's Bookplace, No. 67 M.G. Road IIFloor, Blumoon Complex, Bangalore, India.

A Different Drummer -- "A Unique Bookstore for Women and Other Thinkers" -- will be open by the time you read this at 1027 N. Pacific Coast Highway, Suite A in Laguna Beach, California, 92651. (Mailing address: PO Box 4744, Laguna Beach, CA 92652.) 714-497-6699. If you're in the area, watch for their grand opening party in December. The women there are Carroll Leslie and Barbara Strauss. This Different Drummer is unrelated to any other stores by that name.

In Denver there's a new women's bookstore called **The Book Garden** at 2625 East 12th Avenue, (four blocks east of York), 80206. 303-399-2004. Barbara M. Szlavko is planning to open **Womansline** Books in London, Ontario in June of 1986. Send her information at 52 Regina Street, London, Ontario, Canada, N5Y 3B7. And Dottie Kunzig and ? Meindl are researching the possibility of opening a feminist bookstore in **Media, Pennsylvania** a town near Philadelphia. Send them information at 123 E. Baker Street, Media, PA 19063.

Xarepha A. Prillman will be opening a store in Charlottesville, Virginia. Send her info at 785 Foordon Drive, 22901. Linda Stosalovich is putting together a store in Tacoma, Washington. Send info to her at 3527 S. Ash, 98408. Amazing, isn't it! New stores in new towns all the time. Year after year after year.... It doesn't stop. Nor even slow down.

Behjat Shirazi is working on opening a bookstore somewhere in the Orange County - San Diego area. Send her information at #2 Autumn Hill Lane, Laguna Hills CA 92653.

FAR OUT! Or rather far north! Gina Duval and two other women are starting a feminist bookstore in the Fargo-Moorhead area of North Dakota. Send them info c/o Gina Duval, 807 Park Drive, Fargo, ND 58103.

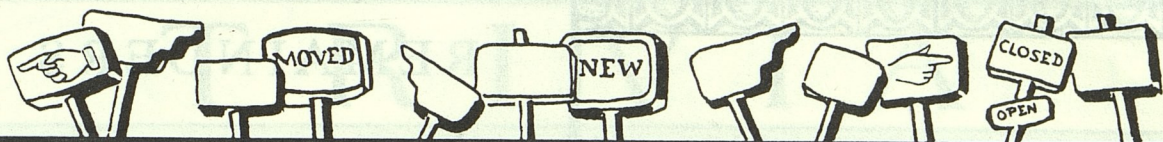


the
Book Garden
a women's store

MOVED: New Earth Books & Records' new address is 3535D Broadway, Kansas City, Missouri 64111. Phone: 816-931-5794. Their old address was 2 W. 39th St, 64111. The Feminist Press has affiliated with The City University of New York. Their address is 311 East 94th Street, NY, NY 10128. (212) 360-5790. Frog In The Well and The Feminist PUBLISHERS News have moved to San Francisco -- 25A Buena Vista Terrace, 94117. This isn't exactly news, but The Book Co-op from East Lansing is now in Lansing. New address is 2011 E. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48912.

Sister Spirit Bookstore is defunct...but the inventory and spirit live on at Barjon's Books, 2718 Third Ave. No., Billings, Montana 59101. Word is that Plainswoman Bookstore in Iowa City has closed.

WIM Publications is now at Box 137 2215-R Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Mariel Rae



and Kate Anne are the new publishers for **The Lesbian Inciter**. LI's new address is 2215-R Market St. #307, San Francisco, CA 94144. They're planning to return to bi-monthly publishing just as quickly as possible. They're also in the planning stages of another newsmagazine to be called **Together** for lesbian partners, lovers, & families of choice.

Martita Midence is the new owner of Womanbooks in NYC. Congratulations to Martita! May she, Womanbooks and her staff (is it true that Womanbooks is a home for lost bookstore workers?) thrive!

Bad news: Lez Press has apparently decided not to become a publisher after all. Does anyone know

the fate of their announced title **Psappha** by Peggy Ullman Bell? It's About Time, the infamous Seattle collective bookstore closed last June, hoping to reopen this fall near the women's gym (a large space trying to get a lot of women's businesses in one place), all depending on fund-raising and recruiting new collective members. Are you there IAT? If you need to reach IAT, try writing them at 104 NE 52nd, Seattle, WA 98105.

LOST IN THE BOOKS COLUMNS: Horrible things can happen during paste up. One slip of the exacto knife and a book is cut off from her publisher forever! In **The Feminine: Women and Words/Les Femmes et Les Mots**, **Touch To My Tongue** (from page 49 of the last issue), and **Open is Broken** (reviewed on page 50) are all from Longspoon Press, c/o the Department of English, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E5.

Trout Gulch Press is now offering 40% discount to bookstores on their **The Magic Circle** (see FBN 8:2/3, p. 58). No minimum. PO box 20904, Castro Valley, CA 94546.

And HELP! If you're the bookstore that renewed for a two year subscription and didn't put your name on the form -- please let me know it was you. Comments were: Like best? "News -- Community." Least? "Format passable. And not frequent enough (but we know this is not necessarily soluble.) We basically like FBN so this is hard to answer." Want more of? "More reviews. More on business & survival skills."

Back in print: **Chamber Music** from Dutton/Obelisk. \$7.94 paperback.

PME Bargain Books is at 386 Park Ave., South, not 836 as was listed in the Reminders article in the last issue. And the sad news is that Dick McLeester's Better Bargain Books is no more after November 15th. He has one last list out.

--CS



in Lesbian Land

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Ariadnes Thread ed Lyn Lifshin. \$3.98 cloth. Journal and diary excerpts from contemporary women both well-read and lesser known.

Collected Lyrics and Collected Sonnets, Edna St. Vincent Millay. \$2.98 each, cloth.

The Golden Notebook, Doris Lessing, \$5.98 cloth. Nice reissue including a new introduction by the author.

The Hearts of Men, Barbara Ehrenreich, \$2.98 cloth.

In Constant Flight, Elizabeth Tallent, \$1.98 cloth. A collection of short stories about love by a talented new writer. (No pun intended.)

Letters from Amelia: An Intimate Portrait of Amelia Earhart, Jean Backus, \$2.98 cloth. A collection of never-before-published letters and photos from Amelia to her mother.

Women at War: Five Heroines Who Defied the Nazis and Survived, Kevin Sims, \$2.98 cloth. Oral histories told by five resistors.

Ann Dwyer

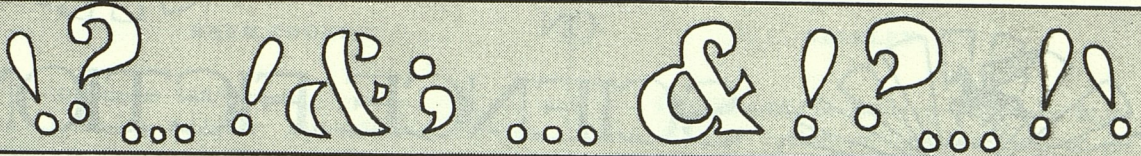
WRITING WANTED



Cleis Press will read nonfiction prose manuscripts through February 1, 1986 for 1986-87 publication. They're interested in single-author titles, anthologies and translations. Send manuscripts to Felice Newman, Co-Editor, Cleis Press, PO Box 8933, Pittsburgh, PA 15221. Forthcoming from Cleis: Alicia Partnoy's account of her disappearance and survival in Argentina.

Sage, A Scholarly Journal on Black Women is soliciting manuscripts for the Spring 1986 issue on Black Women as Workers. Deadline is January 1, 1986. PO Box 42741, Atlanta, GA 30311-0741.

TRIVIA



From the Full Circle News & Reviews (Albuquerque): "Banned Books Week is September 7-14. We are currently fighting a New Mexico law that makes it a crime to have "accessible" to minors pictures or books which could be "harmful." Since Eagle Forum (Phyllis Schlafley's group) finds harmful any reading which disturbs children (including *The Diary of Anne Frank*; anything about drugs or suicide; Judy Blume's *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret*; and so on), we expect to be a prime target of the law. We would probably not lose a case against us, but we certainly don't have the \$30,000 it would take to defend ourselves. There are no easy answers to the violence called pornography, but censorship by the government is almost sure to do more harm than good to feminist causes."



Marcia Rowley wrote the profile of Crazy Ladies Bookstore in the June issue of FBN. Thanks Marcia! Networking does indeed work in mysterious ways.

The Naiad Press Movie Tie-In trade paperback edition of *Desert of the Heart* is out! (\$7.95) Look for the movie in 20 (or maybe 40?) major cities in January. Quality Paperback Book Club is looking at it as of this writing. I hear that the movie version emphasizes the positive ending and spells out that the women will stay together....and that Jane Rule **LIKES** the movie version.

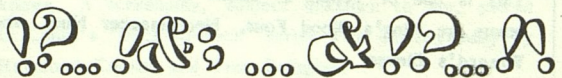
American Women in Jazz, 1900 to the Present is no longer available from the publisher but you can get it from the author. Order from Sally Placksin, c/o New York JazzTour, 2 King Street, NY, NY 10012. 40% off \$9.95 cover price, minimum order is 5 copies, please pre-pay first time orders. This is another in that long series of excellent books about women going quickly out of print. Lets hear it for women regaining control of their work by buying back rights and inventory when publishers decide to call it quits on important books. Copies will be autographed as well.

Quality Books distributes small press books to libraries. Adult non-fiction only -- no poetry or children's books. It's basically a consignment 55% discount deal. They select titles they expect to sell 500+ copies. Write for their Book Information Form and submit it with books for consideration.

Sasha Alyson will coordinate "gay and lesbian row" at ABA 1986 and also a Friday evening party. Publishers who would like to exhibit on the row and/or cosponsor the party should contact Sasha at Alyson Publications, 40 Plympton St., Boston MA 02118. 617-542-5679. Booths are likely to run \$500-700. Party sponsorship \$100.

A new book category: The Friday Night Book. (Stock up for the weekend.) Thanks to Pat Shannon of Naiad who says "**For Keeps** is selling so fast because it's a Friday night book."

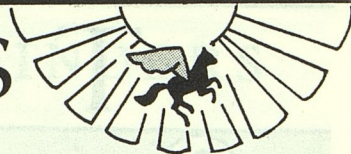
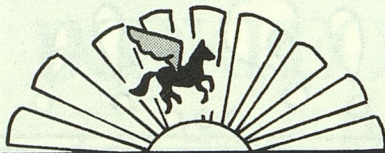
--CS



SUSANNA STURGIS

ON

SCIENCE FICTION



Now that I'm off in the country with nothing (!!) to do but write, I actually have time to read some of my favorite books before they become unavailable. So, nestled among the publisher-by-publisher listings below you will find some capsule reviews of previously published books that I either liked, disliked, or missed the first time around.

In the "our own periodical" department, **Webs Inviolate** has a preview issue out and expects to have its first regular issue in print around the first of the year. **Webs** is a "Lesbian Fantasy and Science Fiction Journal contributing to our lesbian dreaming process." Editor-publisher Vivienne Louise is offering 60/40 bookstore terms; she also writes that returns are okay. \$2.50. For more information, write **Webs Inviolate**, PO Box 11469, Oakland, CA 94611-1469.



ACE

9/85 **The Song of Mavin Manyshaped**, by Sheri S. Tepper, \$2.75. A well-told and good-humored fantasy. Mavin, a shapeshifter who is just coming of age, rescues her elder sister and herself from sexual servitude and has many adventures in the process. This is one of Tepper's "Books of the True Game"; others are **King's Blood Four**, **Necromancer Nine**, and **Wizard's Eleven**.

10/85 **The World Wreckers**, by Marion Zimmer Bradley, \$2.95. A reissue of one of the less-than-outstanding Darkover novels. **World Wreckers**, an intergalactic concern that destabilizes entire planets for a substantial fee, moves in on Darkover.

12/85 **Marianne, the Magus, and the Manticore**, by Sheri S. Tepper, price not known. Tepper tells a good story (see above), and Marianne has to be a girl, right?

1/86 **Wizard of the Pigeons**, Megan Lindholm, price not known. Male protagonist; Lindholm is the author of a good fantasy trilogy that began with **Harpy's Flight**.

ARBOR HOUSE

Spring/Summer '86 **Dorthea Dreams**, by Suzy McKee Charnas, cloth, price not set. For details, see Charnas's letter in the last FBN; she calls it a "mainstream novel with a strong fantasy element."

AVON

11/85 **The Dispossessed**, by Ursula K. LeGuin, reissue. One of the basics.





BAEN BOOKS

(Distributed S&S/Pocket)

Previously Published: **Allen Stars**, Elizabeth Mitchell, ed., \$2.95. Three novellas, two by male writers, one by C. J. Chryh, all enthusiastically praised in early reviews.

BALLANTINE/DEL REY

Previously published: **The Atlas of Pern**, Karen Wynn Fonsted, \$9.95. For fans of Anne MacCaffrey's two Pern trilogies, "Dragonriders" and "Harper Hall."

12/85 **Killashandra**, Anne MacCaffrey, \$16.95 (cloth). Set a year after **Crystal Singer** (reissued this month at \$3.95), this is the further adventures of precocious crystal singer Killashandra Ree. The earlier book was popular enough to suggest that the hardcover might be worth trying.

BANTAM

10/85 **Ram Song**, by Sharon Webb, \$2.95. Webb is getting a lot of favorable reviews. I haven't read her yet, mainly because I had her confused with Sharon Green, who writes that amazon-warrior-for-male-audience stuff.

Previously published: **The Book of Kells**, by R. A. MacAvoy, \$3.50. A marvelous novel that you can get lost in, set in Ireland now and a thousand years ago. A twentieth century artist who doesn't quite fit, a scholar of Celtic history and horsewoman, a tenth-century bard, and a young woman whose family has been killed off by Viking raiders, all on quest together. The interactions among the four evolve convincingly, getting me involved on both sides of two heterosexual romances, and there's a strong pagan undercurrent, too.

BERKLEY

9/85 **Starsilk**, by Sydney J. Van Scyoc, \$2.95. Now in mass market pb, the conclusion of the excellent trilogy that began with **Darkchild** and **Bluesong**.

10/85 **Moon-Flash**, by Patricia A. McKillip, \$2.75. Not previously noted either for feminist themes for female characters, McKillip's newest features (says the publisher) a "young woman in a tribal culture on an Earthlike planet."

11/85 **Demon** by John Varley, \$3.50. New in mass market. You know what I think of John Varley. I just saw a color picture of the guy decked out in the most outrageous Hawaiian shirt of all time. Anyone who could pull that off has to be good.

12/85 **The Sardonyx Net**, by Elizabeth A. Lynn, reissue. Her best, very different in tone from the popular "Chronicles of Tornor" trilogy. One reviewer actually thought that Lynn was soft on slavery -- that's what happens when the good and bad guys don't come dressed in the expected hats.

BLUEJAY BOOKS

(Distributed by St. Martin's)

Previously published: **Downtime**, by Cynthia Felice, \$15.95 (cloth). You aren't going to sell this in hardcover, but it's a very good adventure story with several idiosyncratic (in other words, "cussed") characters that I liked very much. Watch for it in paper.

CAPRA

10.85 **King Dog**, by Ursula K. LeGuin, price not known. A screenplay, subject unknown to me, paired in Capra's "Back-to-Back" series with **Dostoyevsky** by Raymond Carver and Tess Gallagher.



CROWN (AND HARMONY)

9/85 **The Silver Metal Lover**, adapted and illustrated by Trina Robbins, \$6.95. A comic book style adaptation of Tanith Lee's novel of the same name (being reissued in trade paperback by DAW, see below.)

Fall 85 **The Human Shore**, by Pamela Sargent, \$16.95 (cloth). According to the publisher, "suspense/romance set in a future where women control technology, religion, and the economy, and 'primitive' men fight for their very survival." Why do the danger lights start flashing whenever I read a blurb like that? I'd wait and see -- like maybe until the paperback comes out.

1/86 **The Mammoth Hunters**, by Jean Auel, \$19.95 (cloth). Probably the megabook of the winter for all categories.

DAW BOOKS

(Distributed by NAL.)

9/85 **The Silver Metal Lover**, by Tanith Lee, \$6.95. Introducing DAW's new trade paperback line is this 1982 romance between a 16-year-old poor little rich girl and a handsome robot who is being recalled because he seems to have developed a human soul. Yeah, I know, I didn't touch it for two years until a friend told me to read it, but it's very good.

10/85 **Cuckoo's Egg**, by C. J. Cherryh, \$3.50. Male protagonist, not a hot prospect for a feminist bookstore unless you have a few hardcore Cherryh fans among your clientele. Reissued in conjunction, though, is **Serpent's Reach** (\$3.50), which has a strong female hero and is Cherryh at her best, exploring interactions among members of very different species.

11/85 **Days of Grass**, by Tanith Lee, \$3.50. When Esther dares venture above ground on her terrified home world, she is taken as captive to a mysterious

city on another planet. Hard to tell about this, but Lee is not a schlocky writer.

12/85 **Free Amazons of Darkover**, Marion Zimmer Bradley, ed., \$2.95. It looks as if MZB has collected Darkover fans' stories into a volume of their own. A good bet.

1/86 **The Kif Strike Back**, by C. J. Cherryh, \$2.95. Remember when **Chanur's Venture** stopped short in the middle of a chase scene? This is what comes next.

Forthcoming, Fall 86: **The Dark Brothers**, by Marion Zimmer Bradley. A Darkover novel in **hardcover**. This cloth bit **really** has gone too far.

Jo Clayton's last (about ninth?) Diadem novel in trade paper. Just in time, too, since **Snares of IbeX** made me think that Claydon was losing interest in Aleytis's adventures.

Previously Published: **Warrior Woman**, by Marion Zimmer Bradley, \$2.95. I hope none of you bought dumps of this on my say-so; it's a major disappointment. This tale of the gladiator Zadiyek ("Dreaded Woman") doesn't have enough plot or character development for a tertiary subplot in a Darkover novel. There is "significant lesbian content," as they say, but even that can't save it.

DOUBLEDAY

11/85 **Byte Beautiful**, by James Tiptree, Jr., \$12.95 (cloth). Stories, some never before collected, some long out of print. The September issue of the sf magazine **Locus** featured an interesting article about Tiptree (Alice Sheldon) and said that she is now working on a number of projects. Heading the article was a photograph of the lady at work, and what should appear prominently in the foreground but a copy of Joanna Russ's **On Strike Against God**.



THE FEMINIST PRESS

Fall 85? **Swastika Night**, by Katherine Burdekin, \$8.95. First published under a pseudonym in 1939, this novel is "about the world after Hitler's victory when women are relegated to slavish roles."

FROMM INTERNATIONAL

(Distributed by Kampmann & Co.)

10/85 **Kallo Cain**, by Karin Boyle, \$7.95. A "dystopian sf novel" first published in Sweden in 1940.

HARPER & ROW

Previously published: **Always Coming Home**, by Ursula K. LeGuin, \$25 paper, \$50 cloth, both slipcased with cassette tape. It's not just a novel set in a future society, it is that future society, plus a near-present-day anthropologist's discovery of it. I'm wallowing in it.

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

10/85 **The Bronze King**, by Suzy McKee Charnas, \$12.95 (cloth). Once again, see the author's description in the last FBN. Sounds wonderful, cloth or not, and she's working on a second novel about the same heroine.

SEAL PRESS

11/85 **Egalla's Daughters**, by Gerd Brantenberg, \$8.95 paper, \$15.95 cloth. This "anti-utopian feminist novel", first published in Norway in 1977, got a very enthusiastic review in **Publishers Weekly!** I think I'm going to faint. Congratulations, Seal!

TOR BOOKS

(Distributed by St. Martin's)

(Why do I get the impression that Tor is the up-and-comer for excellent sf by women?)

11/85 **First Battle**, by Melisa C. Michaels, \$2.95. A new author to me. Publisher's PR quotes an enthusiastic review of her earlier **Skirmish**: "Pugnacious John Wayne returned as a woman -- with sensitivity. This writer thinks. I love it." Worth investigating.

Magic in Ithkar II, Andre Norton & Robert Adams, eds., \$6.95. A second fantasy anthology; most likely a significant number of the contributors are women.

Forthcoming, no date: **Brightness Falls From the Air**, by James Tiptree, Jr., paperback. **Raves** greeted the hardcover last winter.

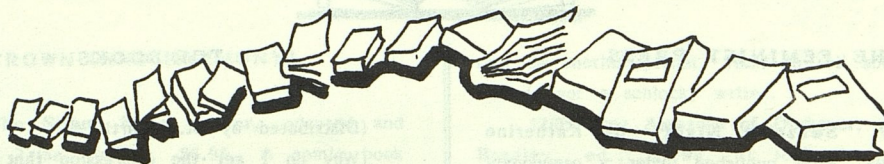
The Vampire Tapestry, by Suzy McKee Charnas, probably mass market.

Previously Published: **The Door Into Fire**, by Diane Duane, \$2.95. The best fantasy novel I've read in ages, maybe ever. The people are real, the fantasy magickal and spiritual systems are wholly persuasive, and the story is engrossing. The only drawback from a feminist bookstore's point of view is that the two main characters are both men (and they're lovers -- maybe it's not such a drawback after all?), but there's a major woman character who takes center stage in volume two, **The Door Into Shadow** (\$2.95). And the author tells us we can expect two more: **The Door Into Sunset**, maybe this winter, and **The Door into Starlight**, in the indefinite future. Yes yes yes!!

And that's it for a while anyway.



FROM OUR OWN PRESSES



Aunt Lute Press does it again with two groundbreaking books: **Are We There Yet** is a continuing history of the Chicago lesbian newspaper **Lavender Woman** covering the years 1971 to 1976 edited by Michal Brody. It's a montage of interviews and reprints of selected articles framed by Brody's opening and closing essays. The first book-length herstory of one aspect of the women in print movement?!! I think we're collectively desperate for this information and perspective. Let it be only the beginning of remembering and reflecting and insight.

LAVENDER WOMAN



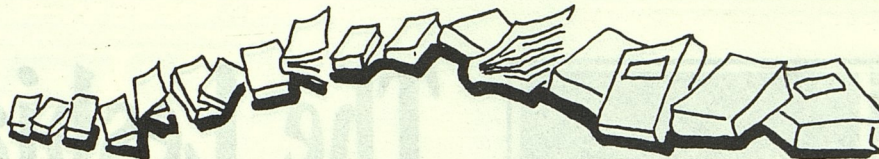
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Places, Please!, edited by Kate McDermott, is an anthology of lesbian plays. Not only for the theater crowd, most of the seven plays included here are very readable to even those of us who haven't read a play since high school English. **Places, Please!** gives us another place to stand to look at lesbian experience and lesbian reality. Both books are \$8.95, paper. BP, IN, and Aunt Lute, PO Box 2568, Iowa City, Iowa 52244. 40% for 5+.

In Seal Press's New Leaf Series: **Chain Chain Change: For Black Women Dealing With Physical and Emotional Abuse** by Evelyn C. White and Mejour Sola. **Que Mal Acompanada: For the Latina in an Abusive Relationship** by Myrna M. Zambrano. **Chain Chain Change** looks at the experience of being abused within the context of black culture, helps to define abuse, discusses stereotypes and cultural assumptions and provides information and suggestions for women considering making changes in their lives. 4.95 paper. "Mejour Sola Que Mal Acompanada" is an old Mexican saying telling women they are better off alone than in bad company. **Mejour Sola** covers issues of concern to Hispanic women: the role of the family and the church and cultural traditions, coping when family and friends may be several thousand miles away and across borders, and also addresses the special problems of undocumented women and immigrants, women with few resources and women with little or no English. Complete Spanish and English text in one binding. \$7.95 paper. Both books will be widely read by women working in the battered women's movement and by the women in the communities they



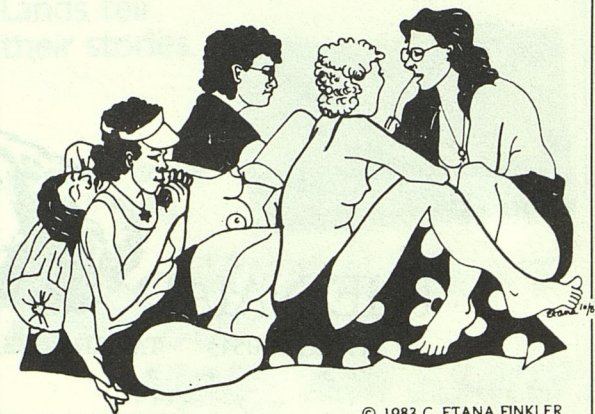
address. The challenge will be getting the books into the hands of the women who need them most. Seal Press, 312 S. Washington, Seattle, WA 98104. Standard bookstore terms. BP and IN.

Two new books from Alicejamesbooks, a writer's cooperative with an emphasis on publishing poetry by women: In **Night Watches: Inventions on the Life of Maria Mitchell** poet Carole Oles speaks in the voice of America's first woman astronomer and the times in which she worked and triumphed and creates a dialogue between the astronomer and our own time. Fanny Howe's **Robeson Street** takes the urban edge around Boston where Olmsted's chain of parks, zoo and meadow wind among tenements and basilicas as its setting. Here nature is a memory, and the anonymous poor explore the shadow area between material and transcendent experience. Alicejamesbooks, 138 Mr. Auburn St., Cambridge MA 02138. IN.

The Annotated Guide to Women's Periodicals lists over 250 publications in the US, Canada, Mexico, Central and South America. Each publication is briefly reviewed by category and indexed by title and geographically. 150 pages, perfect bound. 2 issues a year. \$12.00 to individuals, \$20 to institutions and libraries. Bookstore terms not sent. Annotated Guide, Box E-94, Earlham College, Richmond, IN 47374.

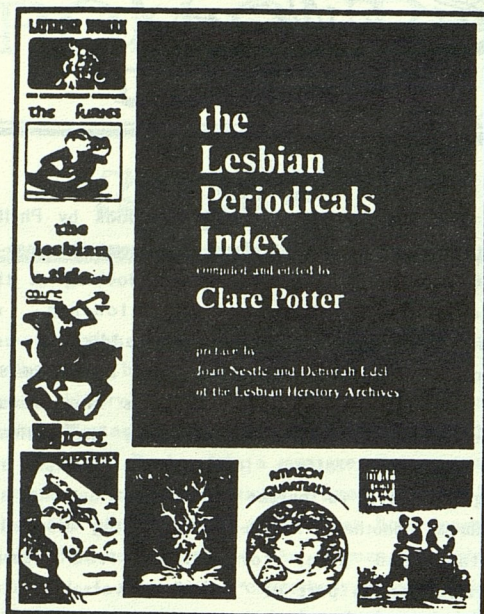
Coming out December 7 -- **Lesbian Reflections**, an anthology of stories, poetry and photographs by, for and about lesbians. Available from Irene Reti, PO Box 7467, Santa Cruz, CA 95061. \$6.00. Also available: **Lesbian Words: A Santa Cruz Anthology** (\$4.95) and **To Live With the Weeds**, lesbian-feminist poetry by D. A. Clarke (\$4.00). Bookstores receive 40% discount on all titles.

The Lesbian Relationship Handbook by Phyllis Jean Kinheart Athey and Mary Jo Kinheart Osterman is a 56 page saddle stitched booklet looking at the process of beginning a relationship, at communication, centeredness vs addictive and permeable boundary relationships, sex and sexuality, and rituals and ceremonies. It takes into account some of the ways active homophobia or "just" silence can negatively affect lesbian relationships and suggests ways to pursue outside validations and feedback. Another strength is suggesting discussing endings and plans for exiting from sexual relationships as part of "entry" conversations. In 56 pages it doesn't quite live up to the title, but the authors plan to expand this material into a full-size book and want feedback on this pamphlet and input on the book. \$5.50, "bulk rates available" but weren't sent. Kinheart, Inc., 2214 Ridge Ave., Evanston, IL 60201.



in Lesbian Land

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The Lesbian Periodicals Index

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THE NAIAD

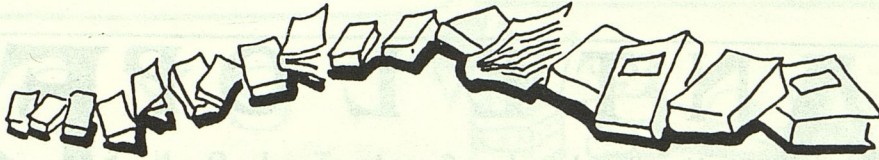


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"Not every feminist reads **Ms** magazine or dresses for success. **My Story's On! Ordinary Women/Extraordinary Lives**, an anthology edited by Paula Ross contains the voices of women too often overlooked by mainstream women's movement literature. The 76 contributors to **My Story's On!**, through their fiction, poetry and essays, talk about their lives as waitresses, grandmothers, beauticians and secretaries. They are fat women, women in wheelchairs and barrios, they are working class and middle class, Asian, Black, Chicana, Native, Puerto Rican and white. They are physically challenged, they are incarcerated, they are very young and very old. And they all embrace Feminism, a genuinely diverse and representative feminism, on their own turf, on their own terms. 220 pgs \$8.00. Common Differences Press, PO Box 6504, Albany, CA 94706. Prepaid, 43% + free shipping, any quantity; 40% 5+ copies. Currently available from publisher only. Prepaid orders make check payable to: Feminist Study Action Guide. Individual orders \$8.00 + \$1.72 p/h." FBN hasn't seen it yet, but can hardly wait!




Publishing event of the season: **The Lesbian Periodicals Index**, Compiled and edited by Clare Potter. Nalad Press. More than an author/subject index to 40+ magazines spanning 1947 to 1982, this is a plot to stir up interest in the lesbian periodicals of our immediate history to the point where someone will microfilm them all and distribute the microfilm copies to a multitude of libraries and thus preserve them. "Guaranteed to loose money,"

Barbara Grier says of this book, "And fortunately we are able to do it now. It's literally the biggest book we've ever published." 432 pages, 8 1/2 x 11. \$29.95. 53% discount to bookstores until January 1. Print run will be 2,000 copies.

Also from Nalad in January: **An Emergence of Green** is all the things one expects from a Katherine V. Forrest novel: tightly written prose, torrid sex scenes, drama and passion, and very rapid movement past the cash register. I was surprised to find Forrest writing a comingout novel as her fourth book. Surprised to find this much attentionconflict with a male character from a Nalad Press book. \$8.95 paper.



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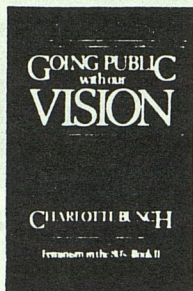
P U B L I C A T I O N S

Feminism in the '80s Series by Charlotte Bunch



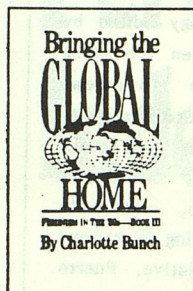
Political theorist Charlotte Bunch discusses the rise of global feminism, the Right Wing, and the challenges of radical feminism today.

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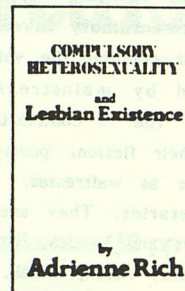
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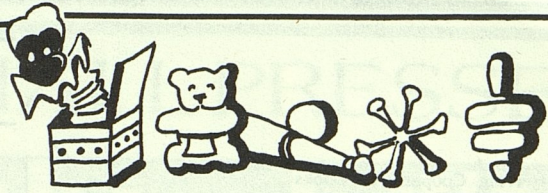
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TOYS



Ladyslipper's Tenth Anniversary Catalog! I always feel like I should throw a party when their new catalog comes -- do a little celebrating of eighty pages of women's music that is indexed, cross referenced, is the ultimate in bookstore research tools AND encourages readers to order the records they find therein through their local store and then makes it easy for the store to special order the disks. The catalog wholesales for 10¢ (suggested retail - 25¢). It sells best out of the record bins. Combined with a note that you'll gladly order any of the records in the catalog, it's the cheapest stock expansion yet seen in small stores. Write NOW for a catalog and wholesale price list if you don't already have it in hand. Ladyslipper, PO Box 3124, Durham, NC 27705.

SpiritSong, yet another facet of Mary Watkins talent is out on the Redwood label. A collection of Watkin's piano compositions growing out of her jazz and classical studies with, I swear, a touch of church music. Serenity. Healing. Vitality. Excitement. Confidence. If FBN had a Record of the Year award, it would settle in right here. Thank you Mary Watkins!

The poster from the COMING TOGETHER Women's Sexuality Conference (Toronto 1985) is available to women's, gay, and lesbian stores. Called **Heart in Hand**, it's printed in warm grey and black on high quality glossy paper. The photo features a woman's hands in the international women's symbol softened slightly to form a heart resting over her mound of pubic hair. Her hands are veined and experienced. \$6.50/Canadian. \$5.00@/US. 40% discount for 2-10 posters, 50% for 11+. (Postage paid if order is prepaid.) Cyndra MacDowall, 1 Mallory Gdns., Apt. #32, Toronto, Canada, MfV 2A6.

Brazen Jewish Humor: Greeting cards with chutzpah. Five photo assortment of the voluptuous women in the buff. Envelopes included. This year's cards should be off the press by the time you read this. Quality should be even better this year than last. Irresistible. Cards are \$1.00 & \$1.25, 40% for 2 dozen+. Order from A Woman's Touch, 759 West 25th St., Eugene OR 97405. While you're ordering, pick up copies of **Wemoon Almanac**, a moon calendar conceived, written and drawn from a cross-cultural, earth-loving, wemoon-centered point of view. It comes from wemoon living on the land. The wemoon who worked on it are from different language cultures. Gives basic tools for working with natural resources. Daily agenda, lunar calendar, & planetary guide. 224 pgs. \$6.89, 40% for 3+. And/or pick up a few copies of **A Woman's Touch**.



MAGAZINES



Red Herring Cooperative Books

1558 Argyle St.

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Canada

Dear FBN,

A very exciting project is happening here in Halifax. A local Nova Scotian artist-cartoonist has designed some wonderful feminist greeting cards and 'political' Christmas cards, which Red Herring Cooperative Bookstore is promoting and distributing. We would be happy to provide any bookstore, organization or individual with these cards. They sell for \$3.95 for a set of 4 cards, all different images with the inside left blank. The feminist cards are a separate set from the political Christmas cards.



This project was undertaken because we found a demand for cards that addressed the issues that so many of us are involved in. Dawna Galligher was able to address those issues through her much appreciated artwork and Red Herring decided we'd like to promote it.

We hope the readers of Feminist Bookstore News will be interested in supporting this venture. We can fill orders of over 20 sets for \$1.95 per set; 6-20 sets for \$2.95 per set and individual orders of 1-5 sets for \$3.95 per set. We ask for an inclusion of 10% to cover postage and handling and that orders under \$20.00 be prepaid. All larger orders require a \$20.00 deposit.

To receive a promotional flyer or to place orders contact Red Herring at the address above or phone 902-422-5087 and leave a message.

Most Sincerely,

Beverly Rach for Red Herring

The Spring 1985 *Sage: A Scholarly Journal on Black Women* is a wonderful issue on Women as Writers. \$8, PO Box 4271, Atlanta, GA 30311.

Solution #5794 to the great sex magazines debate: carry as many as you can find and bury what you dislike under the diversity. Consider the possibilities: **Eidos -- Erotic Entertainment for Women**. Erotic to some, pornographic to others, mostly very tasteful in content, some of the ads are borderline. Needs more fiction. The focus is on information and advice/educational columns. Primarily heterosexual assumption. Photos and illustrations are fairly evenly divided between men and women, mostly "soft" and artful. Slick paper, nicely produced and getting better. \$2.95, 40% discount. Terms: net 10 days with all unsold issues 100% returnable within 90 days following the next issue. Brush Hill Press, Inc., PO Box 96, Boston MA 02137.



Georgia Douglas Johnson

Sage: A Scholarly Journal on Black Women

FROM THE SMALL PRESSES

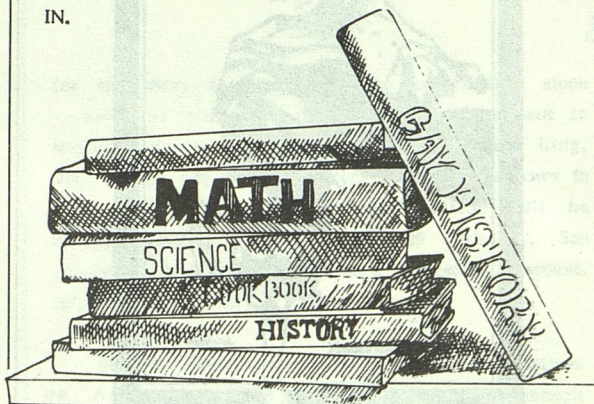


New, improved and revised: **It's My Body** by Lory Freeman, illustrated by Carol Deach. The purpose of the book is to teach pre-schoolers to resist uncomfortable touch by teaching children that their bodies are their own and to notice the difference between when it feels good to share their bodies (i.e., a hug or holding hands) and when it doesn't (being held too tightly, tickled too hard) and to refuse to share their bodies if someone wants to touch them in a place or way that makes them feel uncomfortable by saying "Don't touch me! I don't like it!" and to say "No, I won't touch you. I don't like it!" to anyone who wants them to touch any place or way that feels uncomfortable. In previous editions of the book all the people doing the "uncomfortable touching" were women. Several feminist bookstores wrote to publisher complaining of this and the new edition has rebalanced the male and female characters. Specifically, the adult to whom the child says "No, I won't touch you" is an adult male. Why do books about preventing childhood sexual abuse have such a hard time with the fact that most childhood sexual abuse is done by men and that the children must be given images of saying no to men who are improperly touching them? \$3.00 paper. Parenting Press, 7750 31st Avenue NE, Seattle WA 98115. BP & IN.

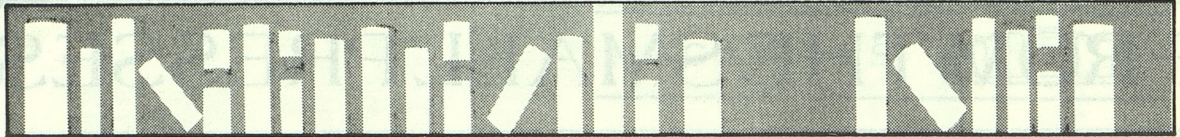
Waitresses: American's Unsung Heroine, Leon Elder and Lin Rolens. Capra Press, \$8.95 paper. Photos and quickie interviews catch snippets of what must be the world's second oldest and most underrated profession.

Natural Magic, Doreen Vallente. Deals with the magic of herbs and flowers, the four elements, numbers, colors, amulets, talismans, reading cards, dreams, sex magic, spells and more. Vallente's earlier work includes **An ABC of Witchcraft** and **Witchcraft for Tomorrow**. \$12.95 cloth, Phoenix Publishing, PO Box 10, Custer, WA 98240. Also from Phoenix is Marion Weinstein's **Positive Magic** that has done well in a number of feminist stores.

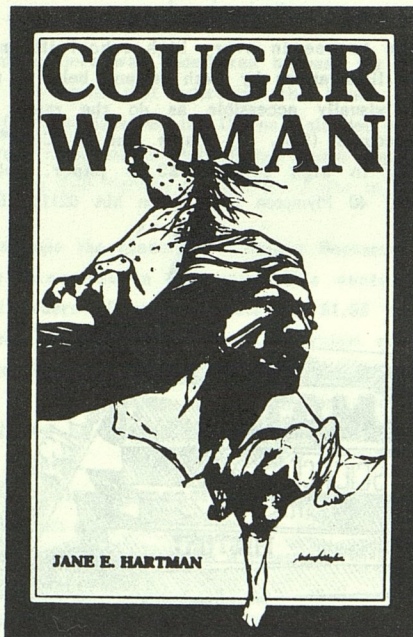
Young, Gay and Proud! is out in a new revised edition, this one including information about AIDS for young people. An excellent and useful book FBN would like to see in every high school library in the land. Illustrations by Beth Ireland help to make the book visually accessible as do the many first person accounts (i.e., "I Came Out in Class") of being gay in high school. \$3.95 paper. Alyson Publications, 40 Plympton St., Boston MA 02118. BP & IN.



Beth Ireland in *Young Gay and Proud!*



Cougar Woman by Jane E. Hartman is a fictionalization of the life of a Plains Indian woman who rode as a warrior and achieved all the dangerous feats necessary to be hailed as a war leader. Particularly interesting are her medicine quest and her friendships with Dreaming Boy and Small Eagle. And the obvious assumption that she would take a wife. \$8.95 paper. **Hoku and the Sacred Stones** is a smaller book telling the story of a Pueblo medicine woman and visionary. The story tells of both her visions and her exploitation by her own people. \$4.95 paper. **Cougar Woman** is published by Sun Stone Press, PO Box 2321, Sante Fe NM 87504. **Hoku** by New Age Press, P O Box 1216, Black Mountain NC 28711. Both are distributed by New Leaf Books and hopefully will be picked up by Inland and Bookpeople as well.



Sole Survivor, Ruthanne Lum McCunn. This is a slightly fictionalized re-creation of Poon Lim's 133 days "lost at sea" after the ship he served on was torpedoed in 1942. Not only does it tell of the racism experienced by the Chinese on British and American ships, of the ship that changed its course to rescue the man on the life-raft -- and then turned away when they saw he was Chinese, leaving Poon to drift for 125 additional days...it creates another image of what it means to be a hero -- an image of intelligence, thoughtfulness, patience, resourcefulness and commitment to family and tradition. And all in the context of a fast reading, high tension, deeply moving irresistible story. I picked it up because I had been so impressed by McCunn's **Thousand Pieces of Gold**, the life story of a Chinese woman who was a slave in the US until 1875. But I became so engrossed in the story, so tense with concern, that I couldn't put it down. I caught myself holding my breath when Poon slipped from the raft, found my muscles aching from the tension of the story. (Went out for dinner later, and turned down all the seafood in the place out of Poon's hunger for vegetables!) Shelve it next to McCunn's **Thousand Pieces of Gold** or in the "For the Men in Your Life" section. Published by Design Enterprises, PO Box 14695, San Francisco CA 94114. \$6.95 paper, \$14.95 cloth. BP & other distributors.



Joe Jones is Anne Lamott's new novel. I liked Lamott's **Hard Laughter**. I think that **Rosie** is a brilliant novel and breaks new ground in telling the story of a girl growing up in an alcoholic family. **Joe Jones** is harder. I read it as Louise's story, a sort of "why did I get tangled up with this guy,

anyway" story, but, for a multitude of reasons, I find it hard to care about Joe Jones, the alleged main character. Jessie, the old woman owner of Jessie's Cafe in which the story is set is another matter. She and Willie, her gay grandson and pastry chef, Louise, Jessie's best friend Georgia, and the cast of restaurant regulars that make up the rest of the story, on the other hand, become family immediately. I like it for the old women characters, for its definition of family through changes and death, for being a book about surviving the end of a bad(?) relationship, and especially for its wit and humor: it's just that the plot doesn't satisfy. But stock it for the old women characters, for another definition of family, maybe put it in the "after the relationship ends" section, and for Lamott's fans like me who will read each of her next ten novels looking for one as striking as *Rosie*. \$15.50 cloth. North Point Press, 850 Talbot Ave., Berkeley, CA 94706. BP, IN.



Escape from Billy's Bar-B-Que by JoAnne Brasil is the fall title from Wild Trees Press. I haven't read it yet, but have certainly had my appetite whetted by Jean Pauline at Modern Times who heard pre-publications readings. It's a wryly humorous novel about the late 60's coming of age of a working class, southern white woman. Alice Walker says: "To those who have wanted to dismantle racial pigeonholes and leap over social barriers in a single bound, this book will offer special insight and encouragement." Be prepared to sell a lot of these. \$8.95 paper, \$14.95 cloth. BP, IN, Publishers Group West and Bookslinger or direct from Wild Trees, PO Box 378, Navarro, CA 95463.

Chinese Women Writers. This is a collection of Chinese short stories written by women about women from the 1920's and 1930's. I would buy this book



Dee Lambert-Shafer in Hoku and the Sacred Stones

for the short biographies of the contributors alone -- awesome testimony to women's commitment to writing our lives. Includes stories by Ding Ling, Xiao Hong, and several writers previously unknown in the west. \$9.95 paper (cloth edition will be available soon), China Books, 2929 24th St., San Francisco, CA 94110. Standard bookstore discount. BP, IN, Ingram, B&T.

Women, Class and History: Feminist Perspectives on Australia 1788-1978 edited by Elizabeth Windschuttle includes a wealth of information and

An Emerging Female System in a White Male Society

Women's Reality

Anne Wilson Schaeff
with a new preface by the author

Women's Reality is a book that *had* to be written. Women (and men) all across the country are saying it's a book that *must* be read!

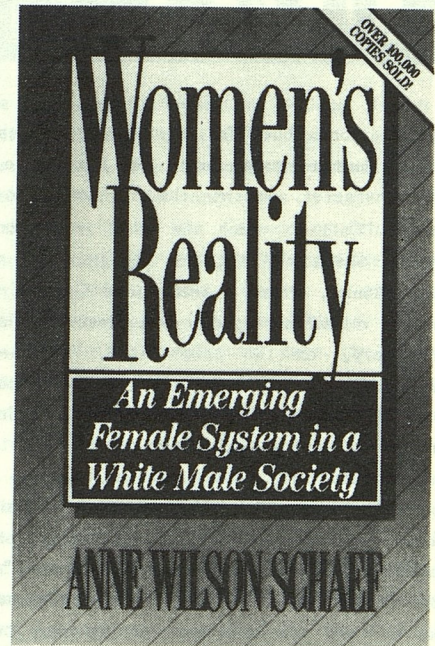
"Women who struggle to put into words their sense of being 'a woman in a man's world' find their voice in Schaeff's superb book"

—Elizabeth Dodson Gray, author of
Patriarchy as a Conceptual Trap

PB #8618

180 pp.

\$7.95



Ethics and Spirituality

Women's Consciousness, Women's Conscience

A Reader in Feminist Ethics
edited by Barbara Hilker Andolsen,
Christine E. Gudorf, and Mary D. Pellauer

Contributors include Margaret Farley, Judith Plaskow, Elisabeth Schussler Fiorenza, Rosemary Radford Ruether, Carol S. Robb, Nancy Bancroft, Ruth L. Smith, Janice Raymond, and Starhawk.
HB #8540 340 pp. \$24.95

A Time to Weep, A Time to Sing

Faith Journeys of Women Scholars of Religion
edited by Mary Jo Meadow and
Carole A. Rayburn

Contributors include Carol P. Christ, Christine Downing, Felicitas D. Goodman, Rita M. Gross, Barbara Hargrove, J. Bardarah McCandless, L. Rebecca Propst, Kathryn Allen Rabuzzi, Ellen M. Umansky.
PB #8532 168 pp. \$8.95

Available at bookstores or from

The Winston • Seabury Press

600 First Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN 55403

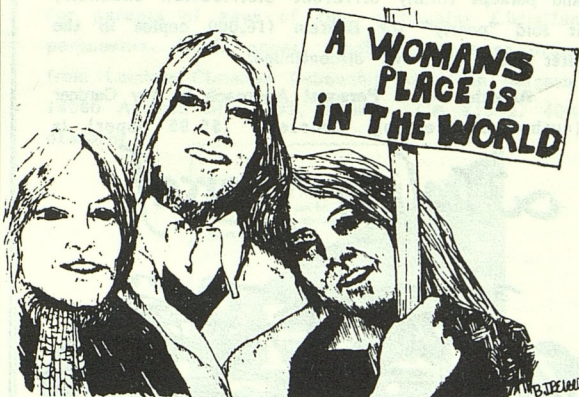


contemporary feminist research on the history of women in Australia and elsewhere, explores the influence of Charles Darwin on women's roles and examines the domestic lives of women writers and looks at women as both radical and conservative women, the special nature of the exploitation of aboriginal women and more. \$10.95. Available in the US from the International Scholarly Book Services, PO Box 1632, Beaverton OR 97975. Terms not sent.

Remember Me: Women & Their Friendship Quilts is a women's history centering on a collection of "friendship quilts," quilts assembled of quilted blocks made by friends and family members (including men). Linda Otto Lipsett has researched the lives of the women who owned the quilts and written a social history of each woman's life and times, travels and travails by visiting their home places, interviewing their surviving family members and created a beautiful and loving book to commemorate their lives and work. Over a hundred photos, mostly color. \$19.95 paper, \$29.95 cloth. Standard bookstore discount. The Quilt Digest Press, 955 14th Street, San Francisco CA 94114. (See Vol. 8 #1 for other books from Quilt Digest.)

Educating the New Jewish Woman: A Dynamic Approach, Irene Fine, explores the phenomenon of adult education of the modern Jewish woman, examining her particular motivations, learning capabilities and objectives and the process by which to best encourage her to achieve them. It also looks briefly at the experience of the Women's Institute for Continuing Jewish Education and some of their discoveries and successes. \$8.95 paper, WICJE, 4079 54th St., San Diego CA 92105.

Dearest Goddess, Eso Benjamins. A collection of 100 Latvian women's folk poems (quick conversations) with the goddess from the days before war overtook their lands and brought Christianity -- and after, as women continued to address their goddess with the daily concerns of life. I.E., "Alas, even an evil man/prays to God/and the Dearest Goddess, alas, to fool/a good woman/into becoming/his wife." Current Nine Publishing. \$7.50 paper, PO Box 6089, Arlington, VA 22206.



Beth Ireland in *Young Gay and Proud!*

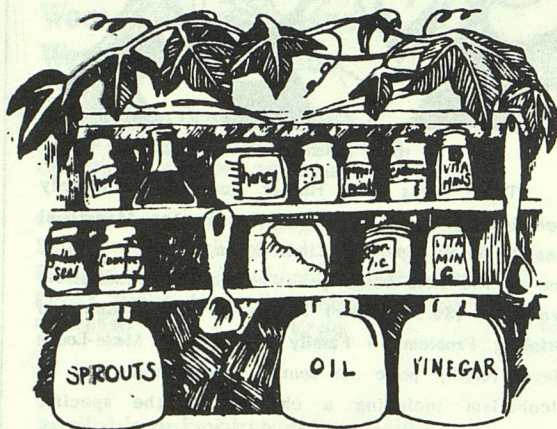
Three books from Hunter House: **Exclusively Female: A Nutrition Guide for Better Menstrual Health** (\$4.50 paper) by Linda Ojeda, **Once a Month**, one of the first books published on the premenstrual syndrome (\$6.95 paper) by Katharina Dalton, and **Drinking Problems = Family Problems** by Marie-Louise Meyer (cloth, price not sent), a solid basic text on alcoholism including a chapter on the specific effects of alcohol on women, and its impact on families by the Director of the London Council on Alcoholism. Hunter House Inc., PO Box 1302, Claremont CA 91711.



From Healing Yourself Press: Likely you are familiar with **Healing Yourself**, a 64 page, yellow covered bestseller (dog-eared from use in most homes) about preventative medicine and home remedies using herbs, vitamins, nutrition and acupressure. The first volume of an expanded version (that ran to 800 pages in three volumes) was published by Bantam a few years ago, but thanks to ineffective publicity, a cover visually unrelated to the previous book and NO mention of her earlier work, and perhaps totally different distribution channels, it sold "poorly" for Bantam (16,000 copies in the first year) and was discontinued.

Abortion -- A Personal Approach by Joy Gardner (author of **Healing Yourself**) (\$5.95 paper) is

Healing Yourself

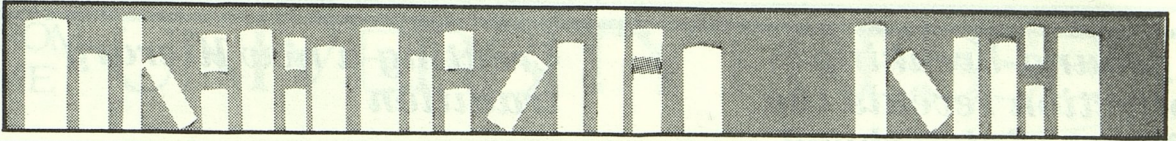


Joy Gardner Seventh Revised Edition \$4.00

another 60 page wonder. It walks a woman and her particular friends through the many questions and issues of abortion: options, feelings, decision making, and medical and herbal information. Gardner includes full and responsible information about herbal "home remedies" that are effective about 50% of the time if used within the first 8 weeks after the last menstrual period. She stresses the importance of providing as much information as possible so as to allow women to make their own informed decisions. She also includes a section on Dangerous Abortants, including information and warning on abortants that have been found to be unsafe, an approach that I found helpful, given that information about these herbs does travel along various networks oftentimes without this clarifying information. Especially useful, and probably still controversial in some circles, is her assumption that the decision to have an abortion will include some sorrow and grief for many women, and her inclusion of dealing with those many feelings as part of the abortion process.

All three books, as well as Mary Anderson's **Colour Healing** (\$2.75/\$3.60-Canada) and Jim Terral's **The Hazards of Uranium Exploration** (\$2.00) are available from Healing Yourself, RR # 1, Winlaw, British Columbia, V0G 2J0. 40% for 6-49 books, 50% for 50+, 55% for 100+. **Healing Yourself** and **Abortion** are also available from BP, Inland, Baker & Taylor, and Airlift in London.

Maternal Legacy: A Mother-Daughter Anthology, a series of explorations of women's experiences as mothers and daughters, in poetry, short fiction and essays. Compiled by the editors of **Vintage 45**, a quarterly journal for women. A wide variety of views and experiences on a topic still too rarely

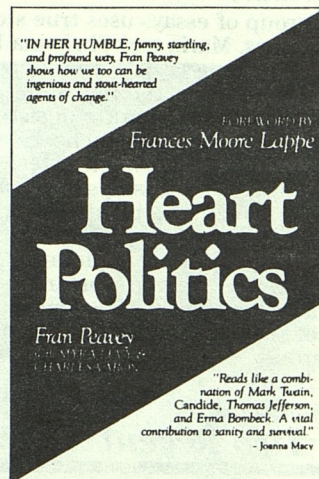


discussed. \$7.95 paper. Published by Vintage 45, PO Box 266, Orinda CA 94563. Available from BP, IN, & The Distributors. 40% discount, + postage, pre-paid only.

Publicity for Books and Authors, Peggy Glenn. This is a nitty-gritty do-it-yourself handbook for small publishers and authors who've learned that they'd best do some of the work themselves if they want to get their books out into the world. Contains practical information (you've got to use a good typewriter to get good publicity), strategies, info on the smaller time radio-show and talk-show circuits, basics of book design, a section on credit and collections that would have saved me a telephone argument I'd read it a week sooner, and more and more and more. A well organized compilation of experience gleaned from Glenn's experiences publishing and promoting her own **Word Processing Profits at Home**, **How to Start/Run a Successful Home Typing Business** and **Don't Get Burned: A Family Fire-Safety Guide**. Highly recommended. \$12.95 from Aames-Allen Publishing. AAP prefers orders to go through distributors: BP, B&T, Ingram and Publishers Group West.

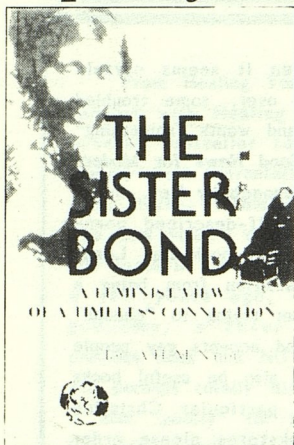
Para Publishing offers **Is There A Book Inside You: How to Successfully Author a Book Alone or Through Collaboration** by Dan Poynter and Mindy Bingham. Mindy Bingham is the Girls Club director who wrote the enormously popular teen guides **Choices: A Young Woman's Journal for Self-awareness and Personal Planning** and **Challenges**, the boys version. She uses her experience with both books to illustrate the points she is making in the new book. Para Publishing, PO Box 4232, Santa Barbara, CA 93140. All available at BP.

It's inevitable: just when it seems certain that the era of Christianity is over, some troubled soul walks into the bookstore and wants "something" about the Bible and being gay. **Good News for Modern Gays: A Pro-Gay Biblical Approach** by Rev. Sylvia Pennington fills the bill. A self-described born-again Christian, Pennington's earlier book **But Lord, They're Gay** describes her transition from being a member of an evangelistic team trying to "change" gay people to a belief that God accepts gay people "just as they are." Both may also be useful books for parents of gays of that particular Christian persuasion. \$8.00 paper. Bookstores please order from Lambda Christian Fellowship c/o Jean Bergson, 14060 Astoria St. #205, Sylmar, CA 91342. 40% discount.



Compassionate politics, the politics of connections between people, and learning to laugh at it all in order to keep going -- that's Fran Peavey's **Heart Politics** from New Society Publishers. 4722 Baltimore Ave, Philadelphia PA 19143 and distributors. \$9.95 paper.

A ground-breaking collection reveals the impact of sisterhood



"The relationship between sisters, like that between mothers and daughters, comes to us shrouded in silence and ignorance. Like mothers and daughters, sisters are by definition a woman-to-woman dyad and, as such, may well constitute a threat within patriarchy."

—Toni A.H. McNaron
(from the Introduction)

THE SISTER BOND

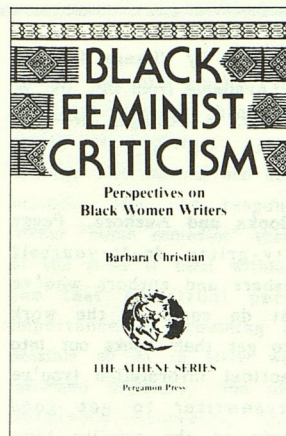
A Feminist View of a Timeless Connection
edited by **Toni A.H. McNaron**

This powerful group of essays uses true stories of blood sisters such as, Maria and Christina Rossetti, Virginia Woolf and Vanessa Bell, and Florence and Parthenope Nightingale, as the first step toward understanding the intricate nature of sisterhood. "How little we know and how much we feel" about that deep turbulent bond between sisters that precludes and outlasts friendships, courtships, and even marriages. This complex bond, with its profound emotional and psychological boundaries, is for the first time opened to scholarly exploration. Since our culture has always treated woman-to-woman relationships as taboo, discourse on mother-daughter, sister-sister and lesbian relationships has long been overdue.

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Creating a new literary tradition



"... A much needed literary and historical perspective on individual authors and black women's literature as a whole."

—Paula Giddings,
The New York Times Book Review

BLACK FEMINIST CRITICISM

Perspectives on Black Women Writers
by **Barbara Christian**

"Looking to words to make these voices seem alive" Barbara Christian enriches us with an illuminating collection of her essays on black women writers, such as Audre Lorde, Paule Marshall, Ntozake Shange and Alice Walker. In addition, she explores her own development as a black feminist critic. She has found that the critic validates the experiences of the writer and, especially in the case of the black feminist critic, she must know what the writer is trying to say by understanding the traditions upon which the writing is based. The writing of contemporary black women emphasizes the centrality of the self. Their books are based upon what they themselves have been hoping to read, while creating opportunity out of the constraints placed upon black women in the 20th Century.

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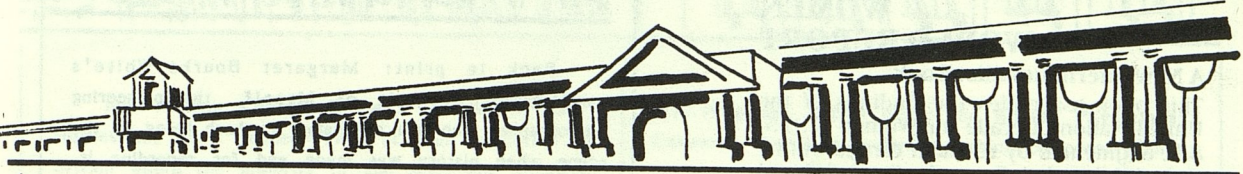
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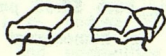
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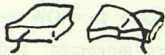
FROM THE UNIVERSITY PRESSES



Sexism and the War System by Betty Reardon is a "penetrating analysis of the fundamental relationship between sexism and militarism. The author draws on leading works in feminist and peace literature, exploring the common social and psychological structures that give rise to all forms of violence -- from wife battering and rape, to exploitation of the Third World, to threat of nuclear annihilation." Teachers College Press. \$10.95 paper, 17.95 cloth.



Dialogue on Comparable Worth is out in paperback from ILR Press (Cornell University, Box 1000, Ithaca, NY 14853). Unfortunately it's still a needed book.



No Evil Star: Selected Essays, Interviews, and Prose: Anne Sexton, edited by Steven E. Colburn, \$8.95 from the University of Michigan Poets on Poetry series. "Collects the best of Anne Sexton's prose and traces her development as a literary artist. Begins with Sexton's experiences in Robert Lowell's classroom at Boston University in 1958 and closes with a 1974 interview in which Sexton discusses teaching her own students the craft of poetry...."

The Enclosed Garden, Jean E. Friedman, looks at the development of the southern women's reform movement and considers the ways the church-directed, kin-dominated society delayed the development of women's autonomy in the south. She compares the experiences of black women and white women as revealed in church records, personal letters and slave narratives. Dream analysis is used to explore women's struggles to resolve internal conflict about families and church. \$19.95 cloth, University of North Carolina Press, PO Box 2288, Chapel Hill NC 27514.



Lugenia Burns Hope

Sage: A Scholarly Journal on Black Women

An indispensable
reference combining comprehensive,
up-to-date statistics with essays by
leading women writers

WOMEN A WORLD REPORT

A New Internationalist Book

This book assembles the findings of the United Nations Decade for Women (1975-85), augmented by research carried out by Oxford University's Centre for Cross-Cultural Research on Women. In addition, the book includes a series of 10 personal reports by women about women—among them, Anita Desai, Marilyn French, and Angela Davis. \$18.95



The earliest documentation of lesbianism
in modern Western history

IMMODEST ACTS

The Life of a Lesbian Nun in Renaissance Italy

JUDITH C. BROWN. So unmentionable a crime was lesbian sexuality in premodern times that there are only a few sketchy references to the subject: perhaps a dozen in over 1500 years. This is why Judith Brown's accidental discovery of the fascinating and richly documented story of Sister Benedetta Carlini is so important. Here retold with the style of a novelist, the story illuminates an entire area of women's studies. \$14.95



The first book to examine not only the history
of female physicians but also the relation
of the medical profession to women

SYMPATHY AND SCIENCE

Women in American Medicine

REGINA MARKELL MORANTZ-SANCHEZ. "A fascinating history of women's struggles to become doctors in America."—Rosalind Rosenberg, Barnard College \$24.95

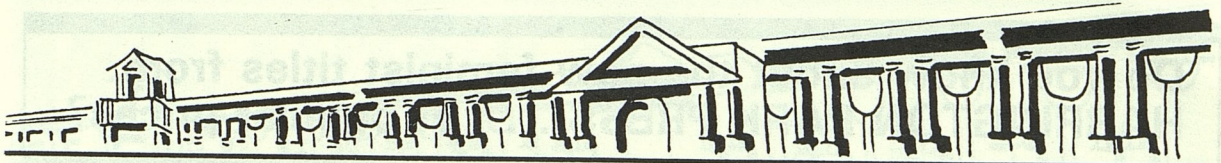
Oxford University Press

200 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016

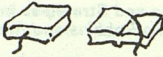


Back in print: Margaret Bourke-White's autobiography **Portrait of Myself**, the pioneering photographer who had a passion for both being on the scene when history was made and for recording it. Her life, as she tells it, is fascinating and inspiring reading, perhaps the best true-life tale I've read since **Tracks**. The text is laced with her photographs, many of which changed the way Americans thought about ourselves and the world. \$9.95 paper. **All in the Day's Work**, the autobiography Ida M. Tarbell, the foremost muckraker of her time, setter of standards for investigative reporting and lifelong writer. New introduction by Linda Simon, biographer of Alice B. Toklas. \$8.95 paper. G. K. Hall, 70 Lincoln St., Boston MA 02111. Also from G. K. Hall: **Women & Analysis: Dialogues on Psychoanalytic Views of Femininity**, and **Mothers and Sons** by Carol Klein, both \$8.95 paper. Klein's book includes a chapter on homosexual sons and lesbian mothers.

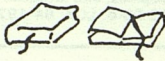
From Twayne books comes **Controversy and Coalition: A New Feminist Movement**, Myra Marx Ferree and Beth B. Hess, a look at the last twenty years of feminist organizing. Probably aimed at class room use, it gives more space to NOW newsletters than to the women's bookstore movement and acknowledges six women's publishers and takes much of its info on feminist periodicals from 1982 **Ulrich's**. Which is to say that feminist periodicals registered in the mainstream media banks don't exist? One small press title and no feminist press titles are included in the selected bibliography. Not exactly a history of the grass roots women's movement. Eerie to have so much of the present and past erased already. Twayne Books are distributed by G. K. Hall (above) and usually carry a 20% discount.



New Futures: Changing Women's Education by Mary Hughes and Mary Kennedy looks at adult education in Britain where the majority of the staff and students are women and details some exciting innovations including the education of minority women, the setting up of women's education centers, working with childminders and unwaged women and establishing "The Changing Experiences of Women" course at the



Open University. \$12.50 paper, \$22.50 cloth. And in paperback (at last!) is Andrea Freud Loewenstein's **This Place**, vivid and compelling novel portraying four women's lives inside and outside a women's prison, their relationships with one another, the prison, and the larger world. A lot of reading for \$6.95. Routledge & Kegan Paul.



Women, Drinking, and Pregnancy, Moira Plant, "presents a comprehensive and critical review of the international evidence surrounding the important debate on the fetal alcohol syndrome and provides an account of her detailed study of the drinking habits and pregnancies of over 1,000 women." Includes a 40 page bibliography. \$32.00 cloth. Also from Tavistock: **Women, Health, and Healing** that includes information on athletics, hidden providers and occupational health not generally included elsewhere

(\$12.95 paper, \$29.95 cloth) and **Women Physicians: Careers, Status and Power**, which compares women physicians in the US, England and the Soviet Union, and notes that while women have successful medical careers, women are still kept from the power and authority to set standards and make changes (\$9.95 paper, \$22.00 cloth.) Tavistock titles are distributed in the US by Methuen,

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AND MARY KENNEDY**

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Sue Gronewold

Vivid account of how prostitution was just one part of an economic system in which women and young girls were regularly bought, sold, traded, pawned, or adopted as slaves, brides, or foster children.
\$6.95 soft. ISBN: 0-918393-15-9. LC#: 85-7672. 1985.

THE EMPIRE OF THE MOTHER

American Writing About Domesticity, 1830-1860
Mary P. Ryan

Intellectually sparkling essays that have thoughtful and extraordinary things to say about various aspects of social history, intellectual history, and nineteenth-century history in the context of the 19th century's "cult of domesticity."
\$7.95 soft. ISBN: 0-918393-18-3. LC#: 85-5818. 1985.

HEALTH AND THE FEMALE ADOLESCENT

Edited by Sharon Golub

Professionals cover all the key current topics on female adolescent health. Up-to-date and non-sexist information on the health problems adolescent females commonly encounter and ways in which to prevent or treat them.
\$8.95 soft. ISBN: 0-918393-05-1. LC#: 84-19772. 1985.

HEALTH NEEDS OF WOMEN AS THEY AGE

Edited by Sharon Golub and Rita Jackaway Freedman

Professionals provide facts on how women age, the state of health services for older women, the latest treatments for the specific health concerns of women as they age, and how to help prevent certain health problems associated with aging.
\$7.95 soft. ISBN: 0-918393-23-X. LC#: 85-7642. 1985.

LESBIANS IN LITERATURE AND HISTORY

Edited by Monika Kehoe

Valuable new volume on women and homosexuality focusing on lesbian history, literature, and sexuality.
\$9.95 soft. ISBN: 0-918393-21-3. LC#: 84-19804. Spring 1986.

LIFTING THE CURSE OF MENSTRUATION

A Feminist Appraisal of the Influence of Menstruation on Women's Lives

Edited by Sharon Golub

Highly informative book on a subject of much importance to all women. The authoritative professionals in this book answer many questions about menstruation, and examine, from a feminist perspective, its effects on women's lives.
\$7.95 soft. ISBN: 0-918393-06-X. LC#: 84-19804. 1985.

THE MARRIAGE BARGAIN

Women and Dowries in European History
Marion A. Kaplan

Eye-opening historical essays that shed light on the social significance of the institution of the dowry. Addresses important issues of women's status, their roles in the family, the family economy, and the economy at large.
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Comprehensive feminist appraisal of the problems of sex differences and sexist treatment of women's mental health problems. Relevant, up-to-date and factual evidence on their causes and treatments.
\$8.95 soft. ISBN: 0-918393-13-2. LC#: 84-22454. 1985.

YOUNG GIRLS

A Portrait of Adolescence

Gisela Konopka

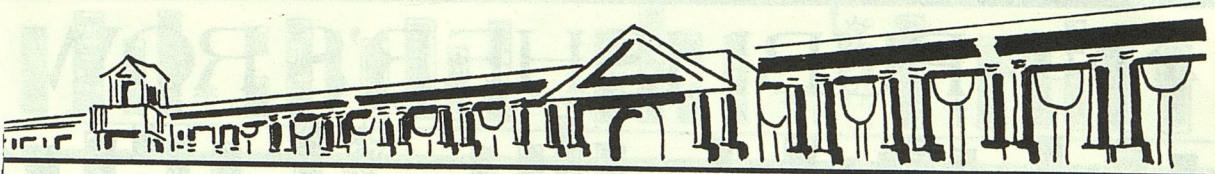
Candid interviews with American adolescent girls from a variety of social, economic, and ethnic backgrounds reveal a wide range of emotions, aspirations, philosophies, and attitudes.
\$6.95 soft. ISBN: 0-918393-08-6. LC#: 84-19755. 1985.

For additional information, contact Kim LaBarre at (607) 722-7041.

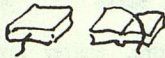
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New titles from Harrington Park Press, the beginning of an avalanche of feminist and gay academic publishing at affordable paperback prices? Could this be the beginning of a trend? Might inexpensively priced academic titles sell books in quantity enough to create a bottom line equal to or exceeding the bottom line of expensive academic cloth and paperback titles that sell fewer copies?

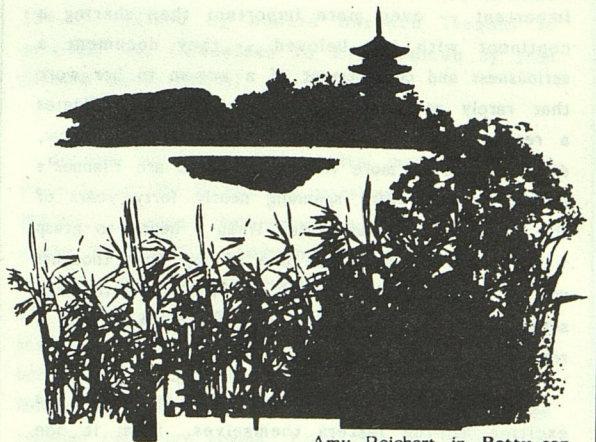


The question gets more and more important as university presses take on more and more feminist publishing. Harrington's titles: **Women and Mental Health**, a comprehensive feminist appraisal of the problems of sex differences and sexist treatment of women's mental health problems, \$8.95. **Health and the Female Adolescent**, \$8.95 paper. **Beautiful Merchandise: Prostitution in China: 1860-1936**, \$6.96. **The Empire of the Mother: American Writing about Domesticity 1830-1860**, \$7.95. **A New Song: Celibate Women in the First Three Christian Centuries**, \$7.95. Most of these titles are reprints from **Women and History** (journal) and are vividly and interestingly written.

Also from Harrington Park Press: **Gay and Sober: Directions for Counseling and Therapy** is now available in trade paperback. Previously published as **Alcoholism and Homosexuality** and as Volume 7 Number 4 of the **Journal of Homosexuality**, "a landmark in the fields of alcoholism and homosexuality, enormously informative and well organized, numerous practical and useful suggestions and guidelines on the treatment options available for gay people with alcohol problems." \$7.95 paper. **Health Needs of Women as They Age** looks at some of

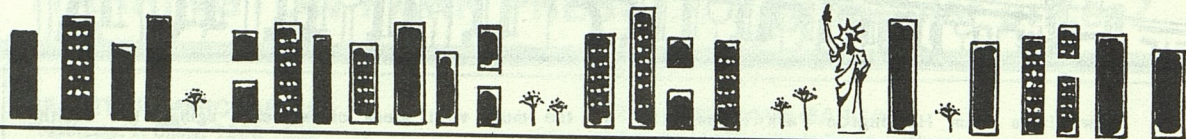
the most vital areas of women's aging, the health services available (and how effective or harmful they are!) Includes information on Alzheimer's disease, hypertension in women, osteoporosis, and common eye problems. **With Compassion Toward Some: Homosexuality and Social Work in America**, \$6.95 paper. **Gay Personality and Sexual Labeling**, \$6.95. **Two Lives to Lead: Bisexuality in Men and Women**, \$8.95. Harrington Park Press books are distributed by Inland, Carrier Pigeon, and Baker & Taylor. For direct orders they maintain two discount schedules -- Returnable: 30% for 2 books, 35% for 3, 40% for 5, 45% for 10+. Nonreturnable: 33% for 2, 38% for 3, 43% for 5, 48% for 5+. 75 Griswold St., Binghamton, NY 13904.

Nuns are the pop topic of the publishing year. Next one up to bat is **The Nun, the Infidel, and the Superman**, focuses on the friendships between Abbess Dame Laurentia McLachlan, Bernard Shaw and Sydney Cockerell. \$14.95 cloth. University of Chicago.



Amy Reichert in Betty-san

AND ON PUBLISHER'S ROW



The FBN Non-Fiction Book of the Year has to go to **Darlinghissima: Letters to a Friend**, Janet Flanner's letters to her lover Natalia Danesi Murray. Flanner, better known as Genêt to a public that generally assumed that Genêt was male, wrote her Letters from Paris column in the New Yorker and was one of the most influential journalists of the century, interpreting the people and events of Europe to American readers from 1925 to 1975. But it turns out that there's another side to the cool intelligence of the columns, a Flanner that is impassioned, tender, loving and sometimes lonely. Her anger at men and their inventions of war and war's machinery makes lesbian separatist rage of this era mundane in comparison. As letters, as commentary on the events and people of the time covered by the letters, they are insightful, witty, scathing. Irresistible reading. As the journal-in-letters of a woman to whom her work was vitally important -- even more important than sharing a continent with her beloved -- they document a seriousness and commitment of a woman to her work that rarely sees the light of print, that validates a reality many of us think we are inventing anew, daily. But even more than this, these are Flanner's letters to her lover, spanning nearly forty years of their life on two continents. When I began to grasp what I held in my hands one of my first thoughts was: "Where was this when I was first trying to make sense of my life as a young lesbian?" And soon I realized: It was still being written.

Natalia Murray's commentary is nearly as exciting as the letters themselves, from it one

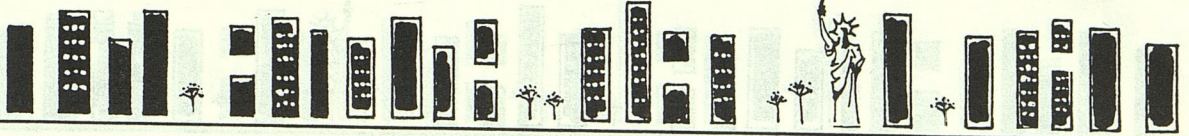
imagines her letters, begins to grasp the qualities of their interactions, the ways that, even an ocean apart for most of their 38 years, they were vitally important to one another. To Murray, for her decision to share these letters, we owe immense gratitude.

Of their meeting, Murray says: "When we met (when Janet returned to the USA for the duration of WW II) we were two independent working women, passionately involved in the political and historical events of the day, as well as in the events of our private lives." Murray was then thirty-eight. Janet Flanner, forty-eight.

"In rereading [the letters]...I realized how unique our relationship was, worth sharing with the world not only for the value of the letters per se, but also as a demonstration of how two women surmounted obstacles, trying to lead their personal and professional lives with dignity and feeling. I hope my grandchildren and other young men and women like them, born in a freer, more liberated society...will understand and value our experience and efforts to be, above all, decent human beings."

As a "young" woman of Murray's grandchildren's generation, I read these letters as a very generous gift, I read them with wonder. I read them with delight. I feel the world grow larger with each decade's letters as I go. Thank-you Natalia, for your wisdom and generosity.

Darlinghissima: Letters to a Friend. Janet Flanner. Edited and with Commentary by Natalia Danesi Murray. Random House. \$24.95, cloth. CS



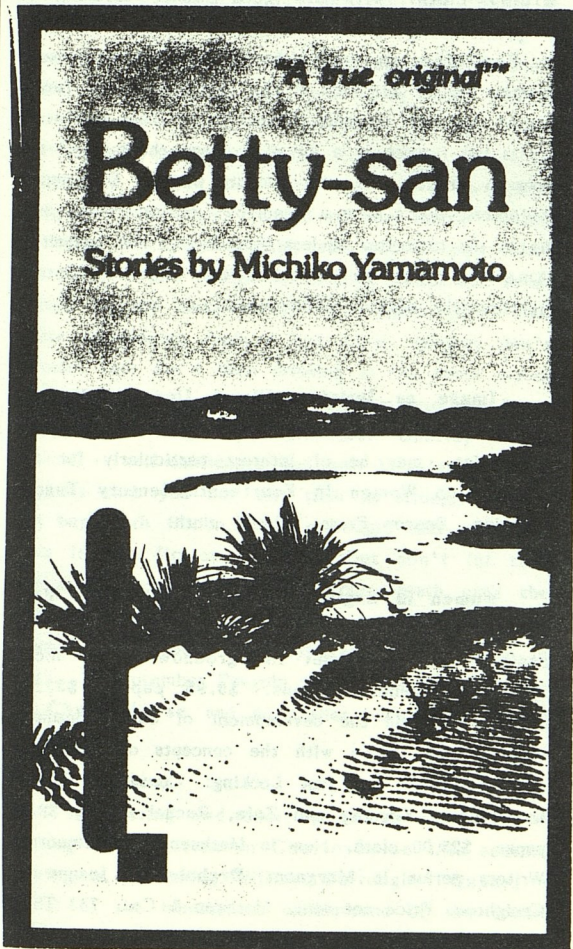
Betty-san, four stories by Michiko Yamamoto, Kodansha International (distributed by Harper & Row), \$4.95 paper. Excellent and moving stories. Three of the four follow the lives of Japanese women who have moved to Australia following their husbands, western and Japanese. Exceptionally fine

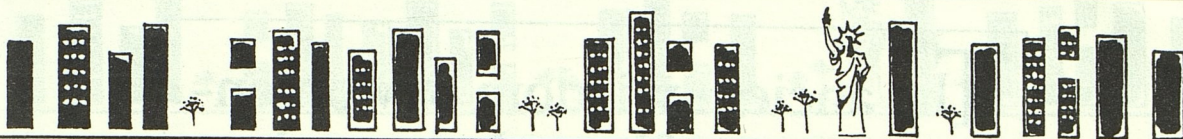
stories of being "The Other" in any situation. A rare chance to see what contemporary Japanese women are writing and feeling.



Harper and Row's fall list included Lillian B. Rubins's **Just Friends: The Role of Friendship in Our Lives** (\$15.95 cloth) and the paperback of her **Intimate Strangers: Men and Women Together** (\$5.95). It's the quality and wholeness that draws me to her work: i.e., in researching **Just Friends**, Rubin takes care to study working class people's friendships and friendships among gay men and women, rather than studying the upper middle class and declaring that to be reality. Order also **Worlds of Pain: Life in the Working-Class Family** and **Women of a Certain Age: The Midlife Search for Self** if you don't already know them. Also in paperback: **Child Support**: (\$6.95) a complete, up-to-date, authoritative guide to collecting child support, unfortunately a much needed book, and **Pleasures: Women Write Erotica** (\$6.95) edited by Lonnie Barbach (sequel in progress) and **Goddesses in Everywoman** by Jean Shinoda Bolen (\$7.95).

It must be Ella Leffland revival month. Greywolf Press (avall. BP & IN) has re-released **Mrs. Munck** (\$8.00), a novel that details a powerful woman's early humiliation and her later well-planned revenge, and **Last Courtesies** (\$8.50), a collection of stories pervaded by a sense of isolation, an inability to communicate or to interpret feeling brilliantly communicated. Meanwhile on Publishers Row, Harper and Row (Perennial Fiction Library) has reissued two more novels, **Love Out of Season** and





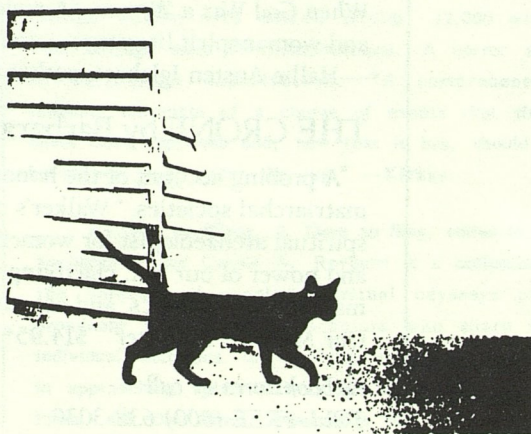
Charleyhorse, a novel by Cecil Dawkins. \$15.95, cloth, Viking Penguin. I hoped all the way through this one, hoped that the twists of plot would find conclusion as rich and satisfactory as the writing promised. Could this end without compromise? Without going trite? PW compared Dawkins' storytelling with Flannery O'Connor's and for once FBN and PW are in accord. This is a mother and daughter tale, a classic, ingenious and familiar alcoholic mother, Belle, and a daughter Charlene/Charley "born wanting what she wasn't supposed to want: horses, spring calving, flying and driving combine", currently running a spread half the size of a township. Tempered with Lady ("friend of the family" denies Belle of her peacekeeping and housekeeping roles) and Juan, in the background tending horses and farm. Family of the contemporary sort. Belle, in a twist while recovering from a car crash (please don't mention that she'd been drinking at the time) moves the town's new second grade teacher into the house to teach Charley some manners. Charley learns instead -- self-confidence and self-knowledge. FBN suggests that you buy this title as strongly as you can buy cloth fiction, then quadruple that order for your lesbian fiction section. (But don't let that advice stop you from holding your breath until the last paragraph. Whose story is this, anyway?) Pandora will publish **Charleyhorse** in the spring in cloth. In September Penguin will do the US paperback of **Charleyhorse** and an earlier novel **The Quiet Enemy**.

Interesting and exciting things coming from Viking? In addition to **Charleyhorse** this season, Viking is publishing William Burroughs' **Queer**, a novel of the homosexual underground of the forties and fifties written in 1951 and unpublished until

now (\$14.95 cloth). Penguin will reissue newly designed paperback editions of **Junky** and **Exterminatory!**. They will publish four additional Burroughs titles over the next five years. Primarily of interest to stores with a gay male clientele, but perhaps this bodes well for getting more early lesbian and feminist work back into print?

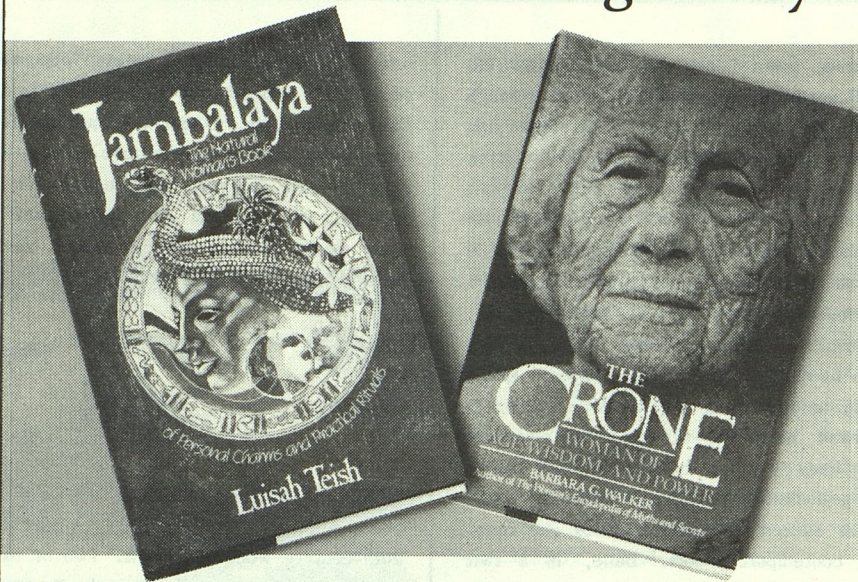


Penguin Books is, of course, now doing the USA editions of the Virago Press re-issues of 19th- and 20th-century women's novels. Two of the recent books are M. J. Farrell/Molly Keane's **Devoted Ladies** and **The Rising Tide**, both of which portray lesbian relationships in the early part of this century. Very upper class, very butch-femme. Both A*** rated in **The Lesbian in Literature**.



Amy Reichert in **Betty-san**

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—Hallie Austen Iglehart, author of *Womanspirit* \$17.95*

THE CRONE by Barbara G. Walker

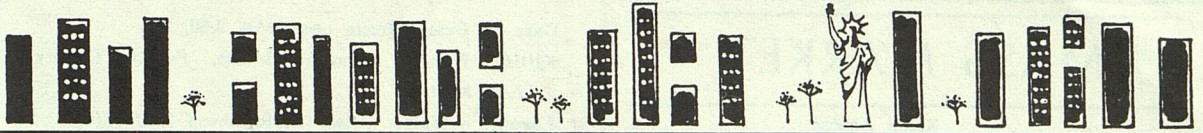
A probing account of the honored place of older women in ancient matriarchal societies. "Walker's chosen task has been to serve as a spiritual archaeologist for women, unearthing the ancient wisdom and power of our sex, clarifying what has been long obscured by male scholars, clerics, and scientists."—Judith Arcana, author of *Our Mother's Daughter* \$14.95*

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The Women's Computer Literacy Handbook by Deborah Brecher (the mind behind the National Women's Mailing List) looks at computers from a holistic, feminist perspective using women's framework of reference for explanations and analogies. It includes a lot of information not generally included in introductory computer books in the belief that given the education and understanding of the computer systems they use, women will be in a much stronger position to lobby for safety protections and more humane use of computer technology. All this and it's well written, too. The information is clear and direct, the analogies are woman based and Billie Miracle's illustrations are close to brilliant, flawed only by crowding on the page. (The price you pay for mass distribution.) Usage of female pronouns and the assumption that the computer repair person, et al are women helps the reader project herself into this arena usually devoid of the female pronoun. The book is dedicated to Ada Lovelace, the world's first

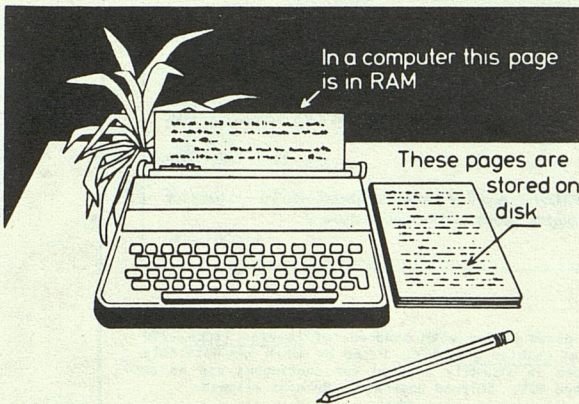
programmer (interesting how most computer books manage to omit her contributions...) and I was surprised to find that the first computer language I tried to learn (COBAL) was developed by Grace Hopper. Why do you suppose no one told me that in 1970? I especially enjoyed reading the section about what information is and isn't collected by the NWML with regard to protecting people's privacy. NAL/Plume \$9.95 paper. Don't miss it.



From Warner Books on one of those impressive production schedules: **The Aids Epidemic**. Subtitled **How You Can Protect Yourself and Your Family -- Why You Must**, this book looks hysterical enough to find a place in the most homophobic supermarket shelves and news stands, and then is intelligent enough on the inside to help quell the homophobia and convince readers that AIDS is everyone's issue.

Nightmare: Women and the Dalkon Shield, Susan Perry and Jim Dawson, Macmillan, \$16.95 cloth. 2.2 million women used dalkon shields, 12,000 women filed damage suits for complications. A horror story of deliberate exploitation. "A comprehensive, readable chronicle of a course of events that should never have happened and, now that it has, should not be allowed back under the rug." --Kirkus.

A Time to Weep, A Time to Sing, edited by Mary Jo Meadow and Carole A. Rayburn is a collection of the unique and ongoing spiritual odysseys of 18 prominent women religion scholars who share their individual solutions to the problems they encounter in approaching spirituality. \$10.95 paper. Winston Press, 430 Oak Grove, Minneapolis MN 55403.



THE WOMEN'S COMPUTER LITERACY HANDBOOK

MASS MARKET

Karen Axness
A Room of One's Own Bookstore

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- * **Moon-Flash**, Patricia A. McKillip, Berkeley 2.75, SF.
- * **One Writer's Beginnings**, Eudora Welty, Warner 3.50, Bio.
- To the High Redoubt**, Chelsea Quinn Yarbro, Popular Library 3.50. SF.
- Shock Value**, Karin Berne, Popular Library 2.95, Myst.
- Words of Advice**, Fay Weldon, Ballantine 3.50, Fic.
- Margaret Mead: A Life**, Jane Howard, Fawcett 4.95, Bio.
- Ladykiller**, Lillian O'Donnell, Fawcett 2.95, Myst.

November

- Parachutes and Kisses**, Erica Jong, NAL 4.95, Fic.
- The Threshold**, Marlys Millhiser, Fawcett 3.95, Fic.
- Jerusalem Inn**, Martha Grimes, Dell 3.50, Myst.

- Days of Grass**, Tanith Lee, DAW 3.50, SF.
- Killing Wonder**, Dorothy Bryant, Popular Library 2.95 Myst.

- * **Foreign Affairs**, Alison Lurie, Avon 3.50, Fic.
- Marianne, the Magus, and the Manticore**, Ace 2.75, SF.
- Remember Me**, Fay Weldon, Ballantine 3.50, Fic.
- The Time of Her Life**, Robb Forman Dew, Ballantine 3.50 Fic.

December

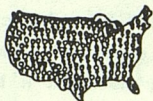
- A Little Love**, Virginia Hamilton, Berkley 2.50, YA.
- The Sardonyx Net**, Elizabeth A. Lynn, Berkley 3.50, SF (reissue).
- Madame Sousatzka**, Bernice Rubens, Warner 3.50, Fic.
- Courageous Acts & Everyday Rebellions**, Gloria Steinem, NAL 4.50, NF.
- The Color Purple**, Alice Walker, Pocket 3.95, Fic. (Movie Tie-in Edition).
- Free Amazons of Darkover**, edited by M.Z. Bradley, DAW 2.95, SF.

* Karen recommends highly.

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