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# Feminist Bookstore

## News

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*Ann S.*  
*5/29/86*



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

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.

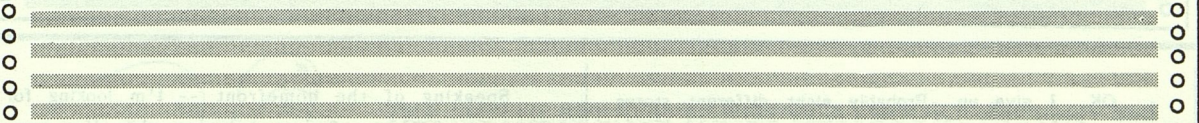
BOOKS FOR REVIEW AND BOOK ANNOUNCEMENTS may be sent to FBN at P.O. Box 882554, San Francisco, California 94188. Feminist publishers are invited to write their own (short!) blurbs for listings. FBN believes that you know more clearly than we do why you choose to publish a particular book. Books published 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



Just when I was beginning to think this magazine was working financially, along came a major glitch in the cash-flow and there was no (and I do mean NO) money to print this issue. Which lead to six weeks of major contemplation of finances, some business consultation with the Briarpatch small business people, some fundraising, and some time to do a few other small projects -- taxes, mailings to bookstores on the sidelines issue, work on the (forthcoming) Feminist Bookstores List, and time to do several "little projects" -- like sending copies of FBN off for review in library journals, etc., hiring an ad sales rep, and doing a mailing to some new (to FBN) small presses that have books of interest to feminist bookstores.

And sitting on a nearly completed issue that was itching to go to print. And here it is! Thanks to a wonderful gift from Anyda Marchant and Muriel Crawford -- payment of this issue's printing bill. What really makes this magazine work is women's belief in one another's work.

Meanwhile, ads are beginning to come in for the sidelines issue, so FBN should be OK for awhile. Many and deep thanks to the bookstore women who circulated the ad fliers to craftswomen. Also for circulating FBN subscription forms. If each bookstore found five new FBN subscribers -- or if each FBN subscriber found 2 1/2 new subscribers, FBN would be on solid financial ground for at least the next year. You'll note that there's a tear-out subscription blank in this issue -- please pass it on to someone you know who could use the information and networking that FBN provides.

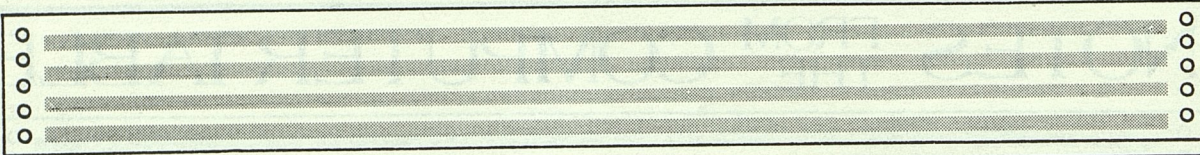
Lots of comments on the last issue -- a LOT of women appreciated the Iowa City Press interview, the issue looked good, even the ads were informative, etc., but all the comments ended in consensus: not enough gossip in the issue. Apologies! May there never be such a dry FBN again!

If you know of sidelines vendors who haven't yet sent in their information, it may not be too late. Looks like I'll be finishing layout after ABA, so they may be able to get listings and ads in as late as June 3rd or 4th. But they should call before mailing ads, to make sure there's room.



from *Period./Periodo.*





OK, I give up. Probably eight different stores have requested a murder mysteries column that will cover who's publishing what of interested to feminist bookstores. (See -- I do read those evaluations.) So clearly there's a need. I HATE murder mysteries. I don't understand them as a form of escapism. (Character assassination is so much more refined a sport! How about a nice character assassination column instead?) No? No. OK. Hating the genre, I obviously can't write it. Can you? If someone wants to do the column, it will happen. The pay-off is satisfaction, helping sister-booksellers and your own personal subscription to FBN. Give me a call....

FBN goes to OSLO! Pretty amazing to me, but I/FBN am/are off to the Second International Feminist Bookfair in Oslo. I'm particularly interested working on ways to make non-American books more readily available to US feminist bookstores, so my agenda is to talk about distribution systems, to make contacts with European feminist publishers and booksellers, and to create channels of information that will lead to more news of the international feminist bookscene in FBN. So far this trip looks like time in Oslo, Amsterdam (landing site of the Cheap Flight), Paris and London. How, you may be asking, is she going to finance this? I'm asking that question, too. So far the answer is charge cards -- Feminist networking IS why the goddess invented charge cards, isn't it? (Hmmm. Yes. I do think there's a problem in that last sentence. Grammatical? Financial? Logical? Something. Well, I'll worry about that when I get back.)

Meanwhile, FBN 8#5 is off to print, I'm off to the ABA (yep, charge cards ride again!), and will get the sidelines issue out before I leave for Oslo in mid-June. The next issue will be the September/October issue, so if you have anything pressing, get it in quick!

Speaking of the homefront -- I'm looking for someone to sublet my 2-room apartment while I'm gone. June 16 to August 1, or August 7, or August 14? It's in the North Mission and comes equipped with library, avocado tree and cat. \$325/month. If you're interested in subletting it -- or know someone who might be, give me a call at 415-431-2093.

# # #

What with everyone running off to see *The Color Purple* and *Desert Hearts*, and all the people reading the books, are you having tormented, demented midnight thoughts like: "Our Work is Done." and "Success at last" and "It's over and the work's all done!"

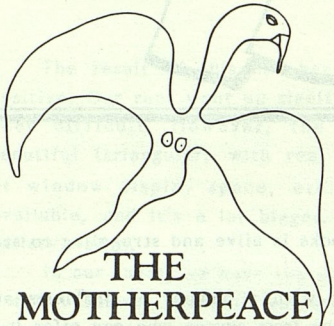
Are you having midnight doubts about the need for your work? Do you wake up wondering why you're running a women's bookstore anyway, now that *The Color Purple* is playing all over town and everyone is picking it up (along with *Lesbian Nuns*) in the supermarket, anyway, and what is it that you're doing in your understaffed/underpaid bookstore anyway? Just for sanity, keep these chilling facts in mind: even as the #1 book on the NYT Bestseller list, even with 3 million paperback copies in print, (even with every other woman on the bus gazing into a copy of *The Color Purple*), remember that romance writers like Danielle Steel routinely list 60 million copies of their books in print. I mean, three million copies isn't bad, but we still have a ways to go, so don't declare success yet, and fold up shop for the gentler, easier life of almost anything else. We still have a lotta work to do....

Yours in financial wizardry and a fast next issue,

Carol Seajay



# W I N G B O W P R E S S



## THE MOTHERPEACE TAROT PLAYBOOK

**THE MOTHERPEACE TAROT PLAYBOOK:** Astrology and the Tarot (*Vicki Noble & Jonathan Tenney*) Two ancient sciences blend in the synthesis of "Sacred Play": the journey to self-understanding through guided exercises in astrology and the Motherpeace system of Tarot. Vicki Noble's many readers are eagerly awaiting the *Motherpeace Tarot Playbook*, a work sure to carry on the tradition of the *Motherpeace Tarot Deck* and *Motherpeace: A Way to the Goddess* in the rapidly growing women's spirituality market. 206 pages, illustrated, plastic comb binding, 0-914728-53-9, \$9.95. July.

**WINGBOW PRESS** offers 45% discount for pre-publication orders of ten copies or more. To receive a *Motherpeace Tarot Playbook* coupon and other ordering information, call Bookpeople's order department (toll-free numbers at the bottom of this ad). Remember, this offer expires June 15, 1986 and you must use the coupon for the special discount!

**HEARTS OPEN WIDE** (*Pam Wellish & Susan Root, editors*)

Mothers and midwives relate their experiences of pregnancy and giving birth: a unique collection, and a must for every store's Health/Childbirth section. 224 pages, illustrated, 0-914728-54-7, \$9.95. September.

**Wingbow Press will be at Booth 125 at the ABA.**

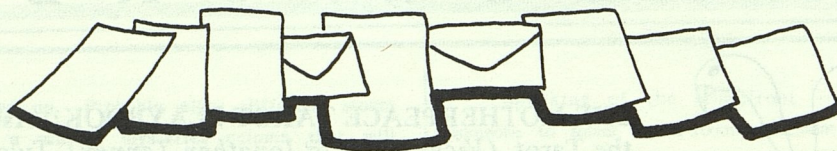
**BOOKPEOPLE** is the world's leading distributor of women's independent publishing. We offer the books and services that provide a valuable resource for women's bookselling throughout North America – and we can help you! For account information and catalogs, call Bookpeople's order department: (800) 624-4466 from California; (800) 227-1516 from the Continental U.S.; (415) 549-3030 from Canada.

*Bookpeople will be at Booth 1771-3 at the ABA.*

**BOOKPEOPLE / 2929 Fifth Street / Berkeley, California 94710**



# LETTERS



Dear FBN,

The interview with Lorna of Iowa City was both moving and useful. How I wish there had been something similar when Persephone crashed. I was also pleased to learn that Parenting Press has revised the illustrations in *It's My Body!* since I'm one of the people who wrote and told them that the first edition illustrations were so misleading that I only recommended the book with reservations. Hey, writing letters can help!

I saw *Color Purple* and, with a couple quibbles, loved it. Don't know about the Bay Area, but in the Northeast it seems to be the new touchstone of political correctness....

Susanna Sturgis  
PO Box 39  
West Tisbury, MA 02575

Dear Carol and FBN,

Re: *Coming to Power* debate -- very little flack. (Ed note: Full Circle shelves *CTP* in their Abuse Against Women section. See *Lesbian Connection* for letters of complaint and response.) Flack-ers still shop the store and are very nice. We try to answer all comments. It is amazing that 100% of the S/M dykes who have communicated with us are incest survivors. Perhaps child learns to confuse pleasure/pain. It is so in my case.

Mary  
Full Circle Books  
2205 Silver SE  
Albuquerque NM 87106

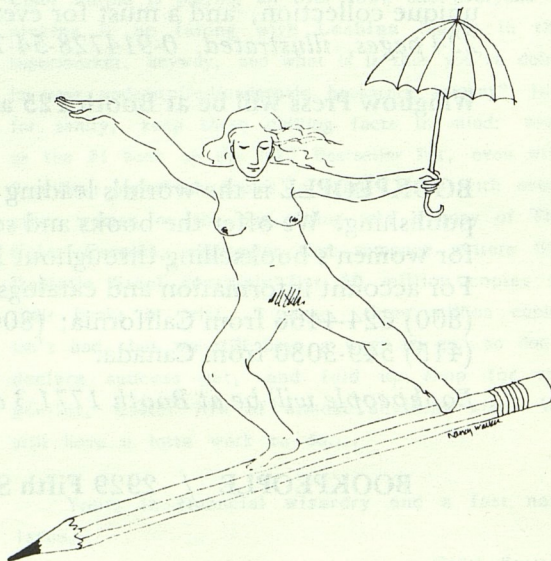
Dear Carol and FBN,

Wise Woman Books is alive and struggling to stay that way.

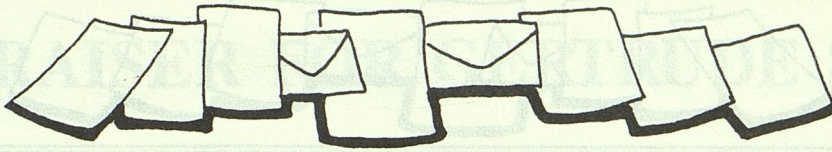
We are dealing with a number of problems and would welcome guidance from anyone who can offer it.

The first is, and has been for longer than I like to think about, the fact that I went into this ridiculously underfinanced. The store is still struggling with very old debts because of this.

The second is that about nine months ago we were asked to leave the space we were in when the building sold. We are pretty sure that the real reasons were political, as he has not been able to rent the space again. (We do get kind of a nasty feeling of triumph about this.)







The result of this has been both negative and positive. Our rent went up significantly, and that has been difficult. However, the new space is very beautiful (triangular, with real wood paneling, lots of window display space, etc.), there is parking available, and it's a lot bigger. We have also added gallery space.

In our favor, we have the wonderful retail space, a full basement, part of which is being rented to a feminist business, Glass Roots Crystal, as office space, truly incredible volunteers, and a growing women's community that is very supportive of us.

We are interested in doing fund-raisers, but we are a for-profit organization. Does anyone have suggestions? One thing we are looking at is producing concerts because no one is doing that up here. Sweet Honey was brought up at New Years for two short concerts which were packed mostly by people who had never heard of them.

Finally, I want to acknowledge Barbara Grier of Naiad publicly for being so supportive and helpful.

Enclosed is a few dollars which I hope will at least help off-set postage costs for FBN.

Thank you,  
Kathryn Baptista

Wise Woman Books  
652 Forest Ave.  
Portland ME 04101.

Dear FBN,

After eleven years as managers of the Toronto Women's Bookstore, Patti Kirk and Marie Prins have left the store to pursue other endeavors (including for Marie a second child, due in April). As the remaining staff at Toronto Women's Bookstore, we thank them for their hard work and wish them well.

Despite personnel changes, it's business as usual at TWB. We will of course stay in the same location,

performing the same services as before. The bookstore, though a much larger organization than when it was first started, remains incorporated as a non-profit business. Recent changes include the expansion of our Board of Directors to include community and staff representation. The staff are working on a transition from manager-run day-to-day operations to a more collective format. We now have an equalized pay structure. We have also installed a new accounts payable system (sorry for any delayed payments!)

We consider the central role of the bookstore to be the sharing and distribution of information on all issues of concern to women. We hope that TWB can be an exemplary workplace, one which furnishes adequate financial and health provisions to the women who work here and which operates as an organization where work and responsibility are distributed evenly.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the women and men who have supported TWB over the years. We are all working hard and we're excited about the future, but we'll continue to need your support through this transition time.

We welcome any suggestions or queries you may have.

In Solidarity,  
the TWB Staff:

Sharon Fernandez  
Jude Johnston  
Beth McAuley  
Marilyn McCallum  
Wendy Wine  
73 Harbord Street  
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1G4



**Toronto Women's Bookstore**

73 Harbord Street · Toronto · Ontario · M5S 1G4





Dear FBN,

Here's information on the Second International Feminist Bookfair in Oslo. You might be on the mailing list and have already received this information, but I thought I'd send it along in case you hadn't.

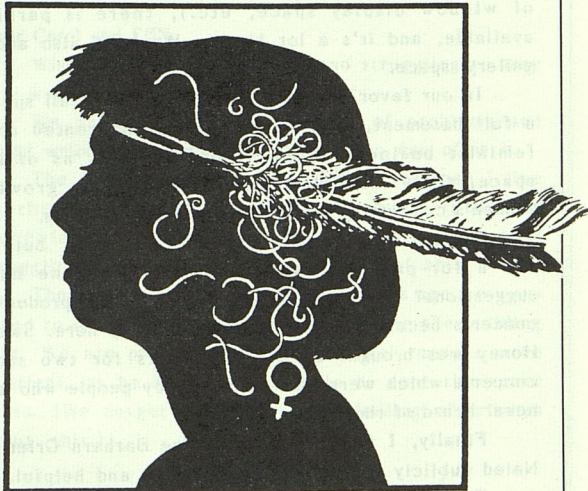
I have just returned from the frozen north, which actually was very invigorating. I worked on translation and on my own next murder mystery, which will be out next fall. It's called **Sisters of the Road** by the way. It's about teenage prostitution -- it's a bit more somber than **Murder** but still has lots of jokes.

The trip was just generally wonderful, the best I've had. Frankfurt (International Bookfair) was quite amazing -- like Disneyland, only books. Much more exciting than ABA -- and there turned out to be lots of people I knew. Of course publishers were very interested in our translation series and it was easy to feel in a wheeler-dealer mood (everyone was) but I think I did find some interesting stuff. Only time and sample translations will tell.

Gerd Brantenberg (**Egalia's Daughters**) is going to be coming to the States in late March/April to do readings. We'll be in the Bay Area April 7-12. She's also going to Portland, Eugene, Minneapolis, Madison, Chicago, Toronto and the east coast. She's very funny and has famous lesbian charisma. As Susan Griffin said recently to (Seal Press collective member) Sally Brunzman recalling Gerd at the London book fair, "She's one of those lesbians who's so...so lesbian." Hmm.

We're moving March 1. To wonderful light and airy offices under the Seattle Women's Gym and Lesbian Resource Center. Our dank dark warehouse will stay where it is. I expect things to be a bit confusing for a while. But there are many advantages (2 lines, phones!) (Fresh air!) so that will pull us through. New address is 500 East Pike, Seattle WA 98122.

## 2nd INTERNATIONAL FEMINIST



## BOOK FAIR OSLO / 1986

More news? **Cora Sandel** has been our surprise bestseller this winter.... Rightswise we've sold **Things That Divide Us** to Sheba in England and **Early Spring** to the Women's Press. Women's Press is also putting out **Valley of the Moon**. And most satisfactorily, sales of **Ambitious Women** have definitely increased with the new cover. We've sold 1,200 in five months, compared to Spinsters' sales of about 200 in January to August of 1985. Covers do help!

Barbara Wilson

Seal Press

312 S. Washington

Seattle WA 98104



# FUNDRAISER FOR GERTRUDE STEIN

The Gertrude Stein Memorial Bookshop is an all-volunteer, nonprofit store run by a collective of 10 women, with help from a loosely-knit group of 10-20 "friends of the bookshop." We began as a floating bookstore in 1983 with a loan of \$1000 from one of our members to establish an inventory. In November 1984 we moved into our current space, a really charming three-room storefront with built-in shelves, display case and an enclosed courtyard out back. Thanks to lots of nest-building energy on the part of our friends, the store is well-furnished and very comfortable. During the opening month we did a fundraising drive and raised about \$1500. Since then we have received a loan of \$1000. So you can see our equity is really sweat equity.

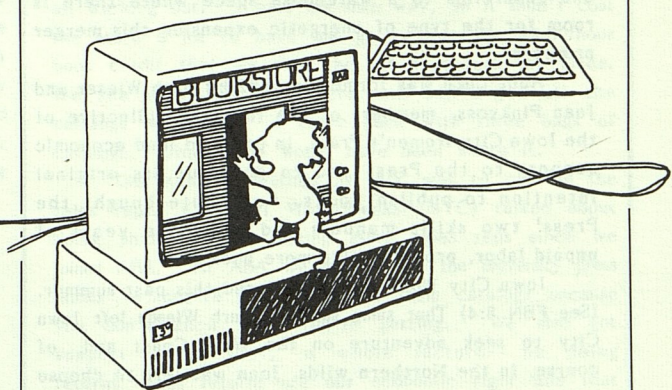
We received a grant from our local Lambda Foundation to produce a Gertrude Stein poster, celebrating our first anniversary in the store and, of course, Gertrude herself who was born in Pittsburgh. With the help of Elaine Gill at The Crossing Press we tracked down permission to reprint a photograph of Gertrude Stein by Carl Van Vechten. The photograph we chose is rarely seen: Gertrude relaxing in a chaise lounge with her dogs Pepe and Basket, at Bilignin, 1934. The posters are designed by a lesbian graphic artist, printed in two colors on quality stock, 18 x 24. We are selling them for \$10 (including postage and sales tax).

We'd like to offer these to women booksellers, editors and publishers as a way of asking support and encouragement for our little store, as well as a way of making our contribution to women's culture. We have no immediate plans to wholesale the poster to other stores, and we're not sure that other stores would want to carry a poster with our store's name on it. But if anyone has any interest in that, please do contact us.

Individual orders for posters may be sent to the above address (write: "poster" on the outside of

the envelope). Recently we expanded our hours (we are still only open 15 hours per week) and have been doing a lot of programming in the store (including a visit from May Sarton). Our obvious goal is to not be all-volunteer (!) and to expand our hours and our presence in the city. It will take a lot of fundraising to reach that goal.

Felice Newman for the  
Gertrude Stein Memorial Bookshop Collective  
1003 East Carson Street  
Pittsburgh PA 15203



BOOKLOG

One unsolicited rave review on Booklog from Neil at Category Six in Denver: "We've got Booklog up and going. It's absolutely marvelous. It's fantastic. It's amazing how little time it really takes to post the sales. Took us three months to enter the data and we've been flying ever since. It was really worth the investment and we'd recommend it to anyone who wants to do it. How did we finance it? We got a huge tax return. I discovered that our accountant had computed our taxes on the retail value of our inventory instead of the wholesale value...needless to say we have a new accountant! And a huge tax refund. And Booklog."



# AUNT LUTE / SPINSTERS INK MERGE

Joan Pinkvoss  
& Sherry Thomas

## HISTORY

1895 and 1986 have seen, and will see, enormous changes for both Spinsters and Aunt Lute.

Sherry Thomas acquired Spinsters Ink in 1982 from its founders, Maureen Brady and Judith McDaniel. In three years, with staunch support from several other women, she build a list of five books into seventeen titles, greatly diversifying the issues and voices represented. In 1985, Spinsters also began producing the work of contemporary women artists in the form of notecards and covers for blank books. Then, in November of 1985, Spinsters moved her offices, books and paperclips to a warehouse space where there is room for the type of energetic expansion this merger promises.

Aunt Lute was formed in 1982 by Barb Wieser and Joan Pinkvoss, members of the founding collective of the Iowa City Women's Press, in order to lend economic support to the Press and to continue its original intention to publish books. Aunt Lute bought the Press' two skills manuals and, in three years of unpaid labor, produced five more books.

Iowa City Women's Press closed this past summer. (See FBN 8:4) That same summer, Barb Wieser left Iowa City to seek adventure on the West Coast and, of course, in the Northern wilds. Joan was left to choose between keeping her electrical company and giving up Aunt Lute or keeping Aunt Lute and starving to death in Iowa's fading economy. Luckily, Sherry, expanding in giant steps, needed another fulltime woman to share Spinsters' fate. And so the merger was born.

## WHY WE'RE EXCITED

This merger is a consolidation in the best sense of the word. It brings together two successful feminist and lesbian-feminist publishing businesses--strong in editorial skills and each with a clear vision of its goals. It brings together a complement of books -- many of them groundbreaking, all of the intent on increasing the quality of women's lives. And, finally, the merger consolidates a commitment to pursuing vital books for diverse women's communities

in years to come. We hope you will share in the excitement we feel at turning another page in Women in Print history. We welcome your thoughts and invite you to come visit us in our new, cheery warehouse.

## ABA

Those of you attending the ABA in New Orleans will have a chance to talk with both Joan and Sherry about the new company and our future directions. We expect to have 28 books in print by the Fall and look forward to discussing our new titles with you.

## FOR THOSE NOT NEW ORLEANS BOUND

Just as Spinsters did last year, we will be extending our ABA special discounts to those who will not be able to make the convention. We will be mailing those rates to you in May, on a one-time order form, return due by June 15.

We are eager to work with bookstores in the most effective and mutually advantageous way. We missed not having meetings this year between bookstores and publishers at the 1985 WIP and hope we can begin to have more direct contact.

## USEFUL INFORMATION

Spinsters mailing address will remain PO Box 410687, San Francisco CA 94141. Deliveries and returns should be shipped to 223 Mississippi, SF 94107.

As of July 1, all Aunt Lute mail and deliveries should bypass Iowa (not without some sadness) and come to the above addresses. All correspondence for Aunt Lute or Spinsters should be addressed to Spinsters/Aunt Lute Book Company.

Our discounts: BOOKS: STOP orders -- 40%. 2-4 books -- 20%. 5-49 books -- 40%. 50+ books -- 45%. Textbook Orders -- 20%.

NOTECARDS AND BLANK BOOKS: 2-4 dozen cards or 2-4 journals or 2-4 combination cards and journals -- 20%. 5+ dozen cards or 5+ journals or 5+ combination cards and journals -- 50%.

COMBINED BOOK/NOTECARD/BLANK BOOK ORDERS: Minimum 10 books will bring a 20% card/journal order to 50%.

Invoices unpaid 90 days after invoice date will be charged at 100% retail.



# ABA CONVENTION 1986

The Big Bash and Bookselling Party is in New Orleans this year. Gay and Feminist Row will be 10 booths long this year with Alyson, Gay Men's Press, Knights and Naiad, Firebrand and Calyx identified as gay and lesbian presses on one end, Spinsters, Seal and Cleis (with FBN tucked into one corner) on the other end identified as feminist presses. Booth numbers are 3059-3068, so drop by and check in with homebase when you get there.

The annual gay and feminist publishing party will be Friday evening at Pino's Club, 621 Elysian Fields Ave. (Last minute news: Pino's is now called The Obsession. New ownership but the party goes on as planned. 7-10 pm. The bar will be closed to regular patrons until 9pm.)(Literary freaks: that's across the street from the house where Tennessee Williams set **A Streetcar Named Desire**. Friday night is traditionally the time for the Progressive Booksellers meeting, and hopefully the two events will be staggered this year. There will also be a Friday afternoon picnic (bring

Mary Morrell/Full Circle Books is organizing a meeting for feminist bookstore workers. The current plan is to get Cajun food to go, enough to feed us all, then meet back at Mary's hotel where we'll have at least two rooms and enough space to relax and talk. Check the FBN table for details when you get there.

Is ABA worth the effort and the bother? Anne at Mother Kali's (Eugene) thinks so. About ABA in San Francisco she said: "It was totally worth it. I learned so much I'd not have known any other way. Maybe I did go wild with the 50% discounts, but it's all working out. I paid my own way, so it didn't cost the store a lot to have me go -- just the \$3.00/hour book credit that we paid the sub that took my place. We see very few reps here and don't get all the catalogs we need. I came back with three bags of catalogs. That alone would have been worth it.

"One thing I learned at WIP was to call up the sales reps. Kirio (of Womanbooks/ NYC) talked about doing that. We're seeing more sales reps since we joined ABA. At ABA we got to see the university press books -- they're hard to select from catalogs because you don't know what you're getting. We also got support -- in fact, a whole lecture-- on doing returns: that returns are our economic right and that it's just another part of doing business wisely. At ABA we could get right in the little cubby holes and look at the books. There were people to talk to and get help from. Especially at the university presses. And meeting other women -- that makes all the difference. And it helped to talk about how you separate the nuts and bolts and the political."

Where to stay? Sasha's mailing about ABA mentioned The Frenchman (\$60, regular double), the Ursuline Guesthouse, similar but smaller, and Landmark Motor Hotel, smaller and cheaper and extra people are free in a room.

## AMERICAN BOOKSELLERS ASSOCIATION

your own food) at 1:00 pm at the end of the St. Charles Street Car Line (it's the only street car in New Orleans) across the street from Tulane University. A chance to get acquainted before the madness officially begins.

FBN will be sharing space with Cleis Press, booth #3060. I'll be working the floor most of the time (selling ads, rather than buying books, what a switch!) but will be in and out of the booth and very eager to talk to you.



# GAY AND LESBIAN BOOKS FIGHT

by Jenny Rankine  
in **Broadsheet**

Lesbians and feminists take for granted the rows of lesbian books in women's bookshops, our freedom to read and buy (when we can afford them) the latest lesbian releases from overseas on sexuality, debates about pornography, relationships and aspects of lesbian lifestyles.

But this freedom is illusory. Despite improved awareness of lesbian rights, despite liberal distaste for censorship, imported lesbian and gay books are still being seized by customs and judged indecent by the Indecent Publications Tribunal.

Benton Ross, the country's largest importer of lesbian and gay books, has had about 34 books seized by customs since the middle of 1984. The first was **Flame, a Life on the Game**. This supposedly autobiographical novel about a gay male hustler is not explicit about sex. The Tribunal rules that it was "honest in its presentation although...it could give offense, therefore it is indecent in the hands of persons under the age of 18."

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

Then in August 1984, Benton Ross' first shipment of books from Alyson, an east coast American gay and lesbian publishing group, arrived at the Auckland docks. About 20 titles were seized and held. Fourteen to the Tribunal. These were **Coming to Power**, writings and graphics on lesbian sadomasochism (S/M), edited by members of SAMOIS (A San Francisco lesbian feminist S/M group); **A Different Love**, a gay male romance by Clay Larkin; **I Once Had a Master**, one man's journey through the S/M world, by John Preston;

and **Coming Out Right**, a handbook for the gay male by Wes Muchmore and William Hanson.

In August this year (1985), Benton Ross heard that all the books had been declared indecent. The Tribunal said about **Coming to Power** that "some of the stories are well written but many are crude and lacking in any redeeming features." The gay male books were indecent simply because they "glamorize homosexuality".

Customs officers came to Benton Ross' warehouse and took all the copies of the books, but Helen Ross says they have decided to appeal the judgement to the High Court. This can take a year or more and is very expensive. They will appeal about **A Different Love** and **Coming Out Right** because "it's harder to appeal about S/M books. "Our philosophy," she says, "is that homosexual literature shouldn't be subjected to any greater scrutiny than heterosexual literature, and shouldn't be discriminated against. We're not appealing for commercial reasons, because any of these books would only sell to a very limited market in New Zealand."

While this was happening, in February 1985, customs officers went through Benton Ross' first shipment from Naiad Press, an American lesbian publisher best known for its lesbian romances. Thirteen titles were seized, as well as **Lesbian Sex** from Spinsters Ink. Two of them, **Yantras of Womanlove**, a book of photographs of women making love by Tee





# CUSTOMS TO ENTER NEW ZEALAND

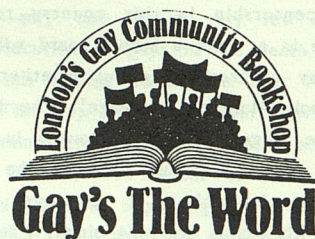
Corinne, and *Curious Wine*, a lesbian romance by Katherine Forrest, were sent to the Tribunal. The other 12 were returned. The Tribunal decided the books were not indecent, but its written decision is interesting: "The Controller (of Customs) submitted that although *Curious Wine* was a well written novel, the frequency of sexual activity was enough to warrant an age restriction.... We feel that the (Customs) Department's concern may arise not so much with the content of the publication, ...but by the fact that the story concerns a lesbian relationship between two women, and the book has been published by what appears to be a group associated with women's interests."

About *Yantras of Womanlove*, the Tribunal said: "Although some of the photographs are very frank, it does not appear to us that they are designed to cater to any prurient interest...." On at least two previous occasions the Tribunal has held that an impressionistic or fantastic presentation of nudity could lessen the effect of a sexual display which in other modes of presentation could be indecent.... The only difficulty we had with (*Yantras*) was whether or not an age restriction should be placed on it. The Controller (of Customs) urged us to do so on the ground that although there was an abstract presentation, the subject matter of women indulging in lesbian acts was still obvious.... We do not think the book is likely to appeal to young readers because of the manner of presentation. The likelihood of corruption is small if no restriction is placed on it."

Obviously the indecency laws are male controlled and heterosexist -- they assume that heterosexuality is the only norm and lesbian and gay sexuality is, in itself, perverted. This will continue to restrict our choice of imported books and deny us access to books like *Coming to Power*, that are controversial in the US lesbian communities.

Similar heterosexist censorship is happening in England where eight directors and one staff member of London's Gay's the Word bookshop will stand trial for conspiring to import "indecent or obscene" material from Giovanni's Room, a Philadelphia-based distributor of gay books.

## DEFEND



## CAMPAIGN

In April 1984, 15 customs officers raided the bookshop and carted off more books. In other seizures the number of impounded books reached 3000. The shop staff face two years in prison and fines for this "offense". Homosexuality and lesbianism are specifically mentioned in customs guidelines in England for determining materials that might be deemed pornographic. Literary observers see this trial as a landmark test case for literary censorship, and public feeling has been largely in favor of the bookshop.

Distributors and bookshops in New Zealand committed to lesbian and gay books may have to fight a similar battle for our right to decide for ourselves what is oppressive and liberating for us.

-- from *Broadsheet*, a 14 year old feminist magazine. PO Box 68-026, Auckland, NZ.



# FLACK FROM CANADIAN CUSTOMS

James McPhee  
Glad Day Bookshop  
Toronto

General Publishing's decision on September 19th to withdraw from circulation the book **The Joy of Gay Sex**, which has been available in this country since 1977, raises serious questions about the rights and freedoms of all Canadians.

Most censorship in this country takes place quietly. One in a while a school board will be faced with a noisy controversy about whether or not a particular book (Margaret Laurence's **The Diviners** is our favourite target) should be taught in classes or available in school libraries. But for the most part censorship is invisible. It involves quasi-legal procedures with which everyone simply "cooperates".

That's what seems to be happening in **The Joy of Gay Sex** case. None of the people involved seem eager to discuss the situation, but the story goes like this:

Two women are said to have bought a copy of **The Joy of Gay Sex** at a W. H. Smith store and subsequently to have complained to "the police" in Toronto. Carl Copp of RCMP/Customs and Ted Bean of Project P (that's the joint OPP and Metro Toronto police unit on pornography) visited Ted Davies, vice president of W. H. Smith, told him about the complaint, and found out that General Publishing was the Canadian distributor. Copp and Bean noted that the book was on the Customs list of banned importations (about which more later). General decided to withdraw the book from circulation and prepared a letter to Canadian booksellers asking them to ship all copies back for full credit. General also phoned Coles' branch The World's Biggest Bookstore in Toronto on September 19th, and Coles immediately removed the book from their shelves. When asked for an explanation by a CBC

radio producer, the president of General, Jack Stoddart, had "no comment".

**The Joy of Gay Sex** has been sold in Canada since 1977. It has never been prosecuted. On April 30, 1980, acting on what they said was a complaint, Winnipeg police told Coles and Classics (now merged with W. H. Smith) in Winnipeg to stop selling the book. The stores refused, saying they were willing to defend the book in court. The case was dropped.

Over the years Canada Customs has maintained a secret list, updated monthly, of banned books and magazines. This list has never been available to the public. The current list contains 112 single-spaced pages of titles classified as:

1. Treasonable or Seditious (for example: "CIA Confidential Memo Concerning Earl of Dysart Fronts")
2. Obscene (for example: "New Boy on the Force" and "Nun in Bondage")
3. Hate Propaganda (for example: "Political Secrets -- 12 Underground Facts of the Watergate Affair")





# RETROACTIVE CENSORSHIP???

There is no indication of when the individual titles were placed on the list, though **The Joy of Gay Sex** was listed sometime prior to March 14, 1985. It should be emphasized the the Customs list bears no relationship to Criminal Code prosecutions of books or magazines. Since material on the list is preemptively banned from Canada, it never gets into a Canadian court.

And now, in the case of **The Joy of Gay Sex**, we are faced with a new problem: **retroactive** censorship. A book which has been admissible for years suddenly finds itself on the list. And the list is secret, remember.

What are distributors, booksellers, and perhaps most importantly **Librarians** to do? We think the answer is simple: **PAY NO ATTENTION WHATSOEVER**. The secret Customs list has no legal standing within Canada. It is an arbitrary list of titles that Customs staff feel offend their own guidelines. Books on this list have not been judged obscene by Canadian courts. Furthermore, if Canadian booksellers and distributors have material which was imported legally, they are protected by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms from prosecution on the basis of retroactive censorship.

## MORE ON CANADIAN CENSORSHIP

"In the last 15 years, as a bookseller in Canada, Glad Day has never been free of censorship hassles but the escalation of harassment and seizures during the past six months threatens the very existence of this bookstore and the right of our community to a very vital part of its cultural base."

--Glad Day Books

Ironically the crackdown in censorship in Canada is due in part to the concern about violence against women and sexual exploitation of children.

Word is that two of the Avon Flame young adult titles dealing with male homosexuality have been banned **Independence Day** by B. A. Ecker and **Another Runner In The Night** by Robert Grant.

Another book detained by Customs and released with the warning that certain pages could be considered obscene is **The Men With The Pink Triangle** by Heinz Heger, one of the very few accounts of Hitler's persecution of gays in the death camps.

As of this writing, **S&M: The Last Taboo** (Grove Press) and **The Gay Spirit** by David Looovis are being held by Customs pending the outcome of an appeal. If the appeal is lost, 325 copies of these books will be destroyed and the importing store (Glad Day in this case) must still pay the American supplier. In Canada, as in England, the "war against pornography" looks a lot more like an economic war against gay booksellers.

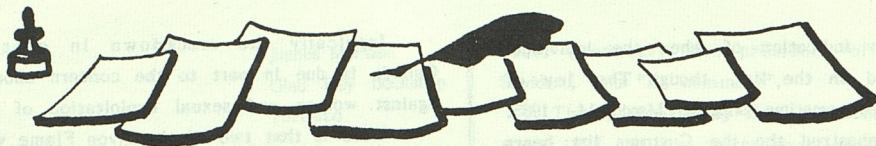
For more information write to Glad Day Books (598 Yonge St, Toronto, Ontario) and ask for their Censorship Bulletins. To protest, write to Elmer Mackay, MP, PC, Minister of Revenue, Customs and Excise (Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, Ontario K1A OA6), to The Prime Minister (Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A OA6), to the Canadian Booksellers Association (49 Laing St., Toronto, Ontario, M4L 2N4) and/or Jack Stoddart, President, General Publishing (34 Lesmill Road, Don Mills, Ontario, M3B 2T6.)

I have to wonder why it is that gay men's bookstores are taking the brunt of the censorship harassment. Granted they generally stock considerably more sexually explicit material than feminist bookstores do, but I also suspect that customs officials don't care to do battle with the well organized and more socially acceptable (?) feminist movement.

--CS



# WRITING WANTED



Granite Press will be publishing an anthology of poetry for peace by Central American women. Poets living in Central American as well as poets living in exile are invited to contribute. Poems in Spanish selected for the anthology will be rendered in English by aware and conscientious translators striving for accurate and literary translations. Copyright on poems published in the anthology will revert to the author. Payment to poets and translators will be 10 copies of the book and discount for additional copies. Deadline for submissions is May 1, 1986. The bilingual anthology will be available spring 1987. Contact: Zoe Anglesey, 285 East Third St., NY NY 10009.


Cleis Press is looking for contributions for an anthology by women who have worked or are now working in the sex industry. Topics range from how you got into the work, health issues, cooperation among women, isolation, racism, organizing, daily life, et. al.. Fiction or non-fiction. Women w/o writing experience are welcome to contribute. Deadline: May 15. Contact Carole Bennett or Frederique Delacoste, Cleis Press, PO Box 14684, San Francisco, CA 94114.

**Sing Heavenly Muse!** is looking for work for a special Lunar Issue on all aspects of the moon: Hope madness, death and rebirth, the moon as goddess. Deadline May 5. PO Box 13299, Minneapolis, MN 55414.

**Hurricane Alice**, a feminist review of culture, books, and art, seeks book reviewers. Payment is in book copy and copies of the issue in which your review is published. Write Book Review Editor, Hurricane Alice, 207 Lind Hall, 207 Church St. SE, Minneapolis MN 55455. Include your areas of interest.

Naiad Press wants to publish biographies -- collective biographies, autobiographies, one subject biographies and collections. Two basic requisites: explicit lesbian subjects and some life achievement that sets the woman apart from her peers. Send proposal outline (not completed manuscripts) with SASE to Barbara Grier, Naiad Press, PO Box 10543, Tallahassee FL 32302.

**Words**  
to the  
**wise**  
a writer's guide to feminist and  
lesbian periodicals & publishers



Firebrand  
Books  
*I write  
just like  
a woman.*

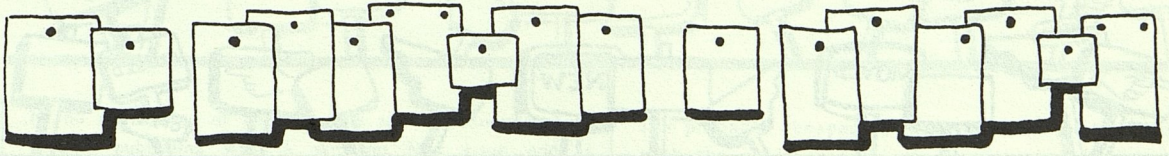
**by Andrea Fleck Clardy**

Firebrand Sparks Pamphlet #1

Caroljean Pint is looking for material exploring friendships between lesbians who are not lovers for a book of literature/discussions/trivia about lesbian friends for publication in 1986-87. Discuss play, work, growing-up, coming-out, betrayal, humor, aging, raising children, affection, etc., et al. Send life stories, drawings/graphics, photos, headlines, taped conversations, essays, poems, songs, prayers, etc. to Caroljean Pint, 1050 Title Insurance Building, 400 Second Avenue South, Minneapolis MN 55401.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

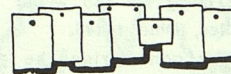


New Zealander Keri Hulme won Britain's prestigious Booker Award for **The Bone People**, a novel about a Maori boy and a crazy(?) woman artist and the regeneration of Maori spirituality. Rejected by New Zealand and British publishers, it was finally published by Aspiral, a New Zealand feminist publishing collective. She also won the Mobil-sponsored Pegasus Prize for Literature and the 1984 New Zealand Book Award. With 30,000 copies in print, it's the most successful novel in New Zealand's publishing history. **The Bone People** is available in the US from Louisiana State University Press. Penguin will do the US paperback.

Volcano Press' **Menopause, Naturally: Preparing for the second half of Life** by Sadja Greenwood received a 1985 Book of the Year award from the American Journal of Nursing and a Medical Self Care Book Award as well! Nothing like a little recognition for a book whose topic was silenced until quite recently. Volcano also announces the first annual update to the book: **The PMZ** (Post Menopausal Zest) **Newsletter**. It includes new information on hysterectomy, ovarian removal, androgen replacement and an update on osteoporosis. Single copies for a SASE. Bookstores can order copies in lots of 50 for \$2.50 (cost of postage) and are welcome to charge a quarter each to recover costs. Volcano Press, 330 Ellis Street, San Francisco CA 94102.

**Egalia's Daughters**, Norwegian lesbian novel by Gerd Brantenberg and being published in the US by Seal Press (and hopefully in your hands by the time you are reading this) has already sold 90,000 copies in Scandinavia and 100,000 in Western Europe, and has translations in four languages.

If there are bookstores who would like to market African women's crafts directly in their stores, contact Karen, Alaska Women's Bookstore, 111 W. 9th Ave., Anchorage, AK 99503. You can help women with income generating projects so they can buy land and protect it from the trans-nationals. This is the form women's self-determination is taking. Mostly Kenyan women now, but have other contacts.

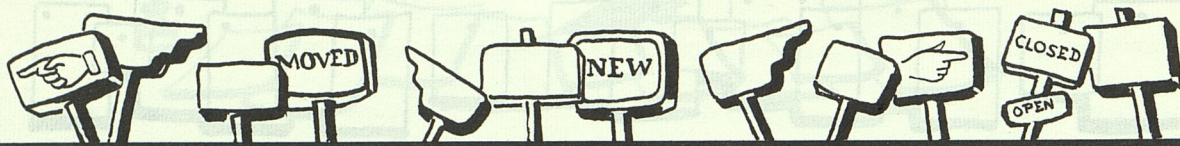


Need a program? Lavender Horizon's presents **Woman-Loving Woman**, a 25 minute slide/tape presentation exploring popular misconceptions about lesbians and points out how society's acting on those misconceptions oppress lesbians socially, economically and politically. It portrays the richness of lesbian culture and documents the enormous contributions that lesbians of all ages, races and classes make to society. Produced by Patricia A. Gozemba and Marilyn L. Humphries. Rents for \$45. Maybe they'd consider a rental based on attendance for small bookstores? Lavender Horizons, 17 Sutton Ave., Salem MA 01970.

Patt Saliba is compiling information to put together an anthology on the experiences of the lovers and companions of nuns and ex-nuns. She's looking for someone to distribute and/or publish the book. And probably is still open to receiving more stories. Contact her at 550 Glamis Ave., San Antonio, TX 78223.



# THEY WENT THAT-A-WAY



Claire Sapiro will be opening Clairelight Women's Books in Santa Rosa in May. Santa Rosa hasn't had a women's bookstore since Rising Woman closed a number of years ago. Mooneyan Grosch, mainstay of A Woman's Place Bookstore in Phoenix for many years will be managing Clairelight. Send information and customers to 1110 Petaluma Hill Road Suite 5, Santa Rosa CA 95404. 707-575-8879.

Shelly Hurd will be opening a women's bookstore in Youngstown, Ohio in June. She's particularly interested in doing video tape rentals and would like to hear from anyone doing it. (So would I!) Write her c/o PO Box 2345, Niles, Ohio 44446.

Patrice Wynne is considering the possibility of opening a women's spirituality centered bookstore in the bay area and is currently doing a mail order service via The Womanspirit Catalogue (see Trivia). Send her info at 1442A Walnut St. #184, Berkeley CA 94709. Jan Nunes is also considering the possibilities of opening a women's bookstore. More info later, but you could send her info at 9731 Royal Palm Blvd., Garden Grove, CA 92641.

More new stores: Jan Patton is the woman at The Uprising, 3125 E. 7th Street in Long Beach CA 90804. In Dallas, the new store is Crossroads Market, 3930 Cedar Springs, 75219.

Womankind Books is now doing mail order only. Their new address is 5 Kivy Street, Huntington Station NY 11746. Mother Kali's Books is now in their beautiful new space: 1070 Lawrence St., Eugene OR 97401.

Small Press Distribution (SPD) has moved to 1814 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, CA 94702. The move doubles their square footage. Phone # stays the same (415-549-3336) but don't expect them to answer between February 23 and March 10th -- they're closing down for the move. How sane!

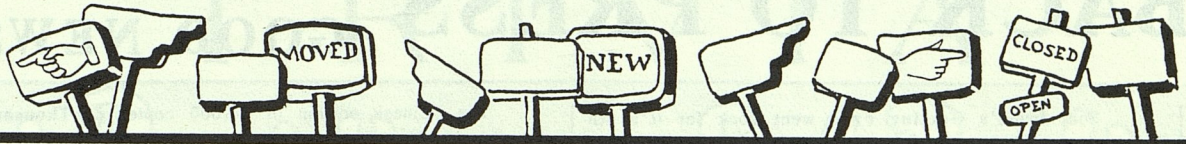
Bookstores for sale or rent: Faubourg Marigny, THE New Orleans bookstore selling books by/for gay men, lesbians and feminists is for sale for \$6700 with the inventory negotiable. FM is located in the French Quarter. Word has reached FBN that Chapter 1, Copies II in Colorado Springs is available for purchase. New Leaf Books in Rockland Maine is also for sale. Asking \$27,500 or best offer. Perfect for back-to-the-land-bibliophiles. (438 Main St. 04841.)

Bad news: **Motherroot Journal** has discontinued publication. Due to sudden financial crisis there will



Sudie Rakusin/Goddesses and Amazons





be no April issue of **Plexus**. The staff is committed to resume publishing with a skeleton May issue and is doing emergency fund-raising. The goal is to have **Plexus** self-sufficient and fully operational by late summer. This is the first time in 12 years that **Plexus** has had to suspend publication. Donations to **Plexus**, which are not tax deductible (as women's newspapers are generally not eligible for tax exempt status due to governmental regulations), may be sent to **Plexus** at 545 Athol Ave., Oakland CA 94606.

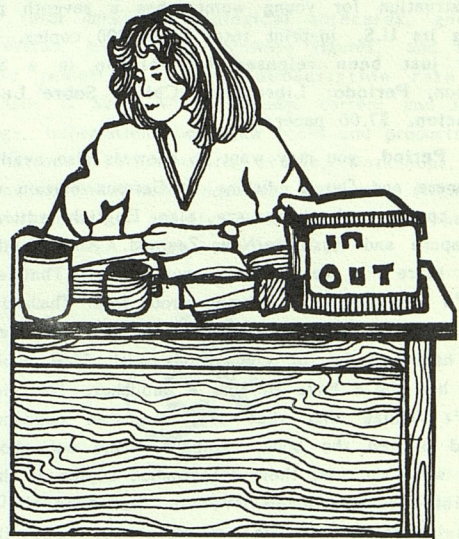
Books move around, too. Firebrand Books has taken on two Long Haul Press books: **Yours in Struggle: Three Feminist Perspectives on Anti-Semitism and Racism** by Elly Bulkin, Minnie Bruce Pratt and Barbara Smith, and **The Women Who Hate Me**, Poetry by Dorothy Allison. In **Yours in Struggle**, a white Christian-raised Southerner, an Afro-American, and an Ashkenazi Jew take on the complicated, often difficult, but absolutely essential task of talking with each other -- a step in making coalition work possible. In **The Women Who Hate Me**, the author writes of her poor white Southern roots, her lusty love of women, her uncompromising stance. Allison's work always reminds me that truth is a better bargain than passing. BP and IN.

Spinsters Ink has moved. New office is at 223 Mississippi St., San Francisco CA 94107. Send mail to PO Box 410687, San Francisco CA 94141. For returns, use the Mississippi St. address. These will be the addresses for Aunt Lute Book Company after July 1.

Attic Press is now at 44 East Essex Street, Dublin 2, Ireland (01) 716367. FBN would love more news of feminist booking in Ireland, too. Please send!

Good news: Valerie Miner's **Murder in the Eng. Department**, though now Out of Print in the St. Martins Press cloth edition, is available in paperback from The Women's Press (England). Given the exchange rate

it's probably cheaper to order it from England (even with the extra postage) than it was to get it in the US edition. Bookstores should order from Macdonald and Evans Distributors, Estover Road, Plymouth, Devon PL6 7PS, England. Price is £3.95. Macdonald Evans carries a lot of other books of interest to feminist bookstores that aren't available here, so ask for a catalog with your order. Don't know what the current policy is, but I usually paid their bills with our



regular checks in US dollars, calling the bank or checking the paper to determine the exchange rate on the day of payment. For booksellers too new to remember **Murder**, it's the tale of what happens when a misogynist professor -- already accused of sexual harassment -- shows up dead. And the feminist professor in the next office has to solve the murder or take the rap. Very much about women's loyalties and a great read. Unfortunately, St. Martins published it in cloth and never did a paperback, so a lot of women have never seen it.

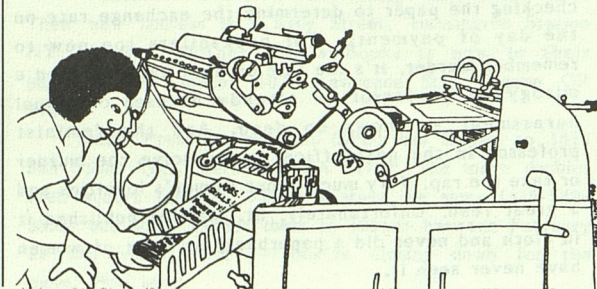


# BACK TO PRESS AND OTHER GOOD NEWS

Seal Press's **Getting Free** went back for its 6th printing last fall. Currently there are 32,000 copies in print. Twenty New York publishers turned the book down before Seal Press took it on....

Volcano Press announces the fourth printing of Sandra Butler's classic book on incest **Conspiracy of Silence: The Trauma of Incest** making 21,000 copies of the Volcano edition in print. **Learning to Live Without Violence: A Handbook for Men** also goes back for its fourth printing raising its in-print total to 21,000 copies. **Period**, the classic cartoon-format book on menstruation for young women has a seventh printing bring its U.S. in-print total to 62,000 copies. It has also just been released by Volcano in a Spanish edition, **Periodo: Libro Para Chicas Sobre La Menstruacion**. \$7.00 paper.

**Period**, you may want to know is also available in Japanese and Dutch editions, a German edition will be out soon, and there are also English editions in Singapore and Australia/New Zealand. And, wildest of all, there's a very slick, neat pirated Thai edition. How'd that happen? A woman wrote from Thailand asking permission to do a translation. Volcano said yes but, not having a lot of connections with Thai publishers, told her she'd have to find a publisher. She did, but didn't realize that the very interested publisher she found pirated the book. Volcano found out about the book when she sent them autographed copies of the Thai edition/her translation. Volcano has filed the proper (and generally useless) complaints. But in the meantime, think of the benefit to young Thai girls....



The Chinese edition of 80,000 copies of **Thousand Pieces of Gold** sold out in the first week, so back to press for them....TPOG is available in the US from PB and IN. French rights have just been sold.... While we're in the internationals, **Outlander** has German and French editions now.

Ruthanne Lum McCunn's **Sole Survivor** is being published in Chinese by the Guangdong Peoples Publishing House in China and is currently being translated into Mongolian.

Metis Press's **Bernice** went back to press four months after publication.

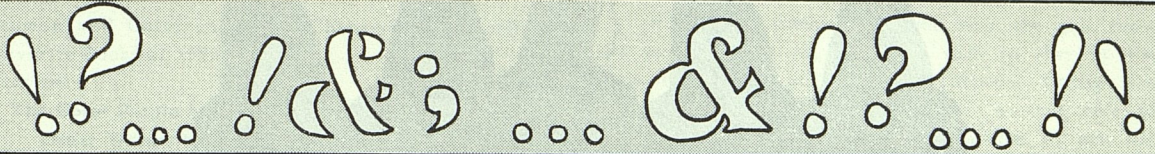
**The Price of Salt** is going back to press with a new cover. Second run is 12,000, making a total of 22,000 copies in print. **Toothpick House** goes back for a second printing of 10,000 copies making 18,000 copies in print. **Curious Wine** is up for its fourth printing, this one of 12,000 copies making a total of 40,000 copies in print. **Daughters of a Coral Dawn** will have also been reprinted. Naiad Press is particularly pleased that the second printings of all these books are bigger than their first printings.

Faber and Faber is in the 4th revised edition of Derek Jones' **Everywoman: A Gynaecological Guide for Life**. This edition takes on PMS, herpes and toxic shock. It maintains its racy position on oral sex (it's OK to do, and even pleasurable as long as you're doing it to him at the same time.) And carefully explains the concept of female homosexuality, that it is not inborn, but rather something that well meaning, but erring parents (particularly the mothers) do to their children unconsciously before explaining that female homosexuals (sic) form happy, stable monogamous relationships and shouldn't be discriminated against. A useful book for women still too terrified to read **Our Bodies Ourselves**. \$8.95 paper. Four million mixed blessings in print.

**Daughters of Copper Woman** now has 50,000 copies in print. Yea Press Gang!



# TRIVIA



Teaser of the month: Which of the ten (five?) best-selling lesbian authors has a new novel (finally) only a signature away from contract and with which publisher? If pen reaches paper before FBN goes to print, I'll fill in the blank, otherwise, stay tuned for the next issue....

Kali for Women, the feminist publisher in India is exploring the possibility of co-publishing their books both in the US and UK. The arrangement they suggest is that they typeset and print the books in India (as costs there are far lower than in the US or UK) and supply either folded and collated sheets or bound copies. If you're interested, contact Urvashi Butalia or Ritu Menon at Kali, N 84 Panchshila Park, New Delhi 110 017.

Don't miss (or if you did, go back and find it) Barbara Grier's "A Couple Dozen Do's and Don't's for Starting a Publishing House" in **Small Press Magazine**. (Vol. 3 No. 2, Nov.-Dec. 1985) It's a gem. Not only for the guidance and suggestions for anyone even thinking about setting up a publishing house, but also for Grier's unique and charming way of cramming enormous amounts of work into a few innocuous sentences. Surely of interest to anyone working in this corner of the booktrade. For copies you might send a couple dollars to The Small Press, RR Bowkar Co., 205 East 42nd Street, New York NY 10017. Or send Barbara a SASE.

Publishers who wish to list their titles in Dustbooks' **Small Press Record of Books in Print** send author, title, size (width x height), no. pp, binding, price, pub. date, suggestions for subject index, ISBN, and a 10 word descriptive comment to Dustbooks, PO Box 100, Paradise, CA 95969.

**The Womanspirit Catalogue** is a mail order catalog of products which celebrate the spirit, creativity, and vision of women from a variety of different cultures and spiritual perspectives. Catalogue products -- selected for their healing quality and beauty of design -- include books, music, teaching tapes, tarot decks, mythological notecards, goddess art, symbol jewelry, earthenware figures, and hand-beaded jewelry. Catalog subscription rate for individuals is \$2.00 which includes current and future catalogs, information about new books and products and notification of Womanspirit events, workshops, and conferences. Wholesale inquiries welcome. (Discount for bookstores is usually 20%.) 1442-A Walnut St. #184, Berkeley CA 94709. 415-548-4172.

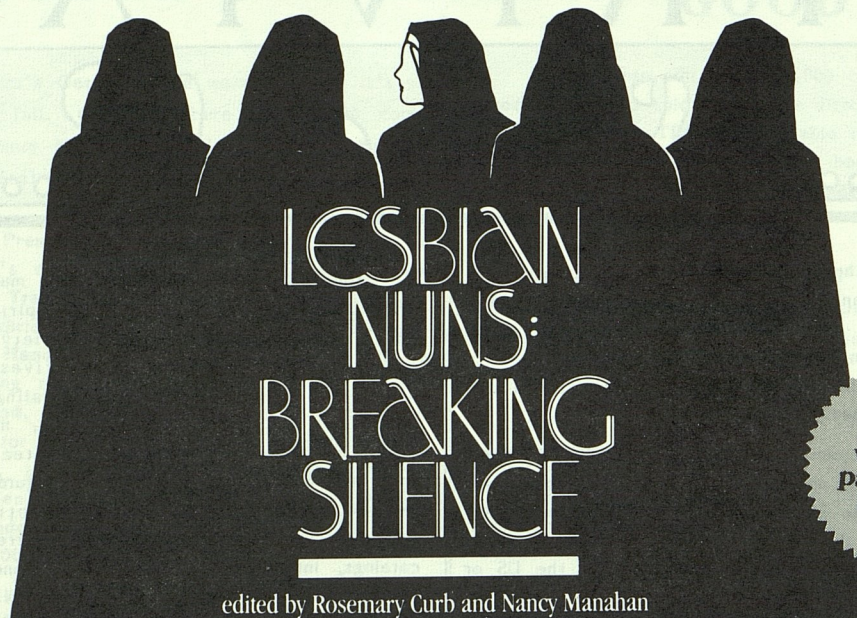


Olivia Records and Products catalog. If you aren't on Olivia's mailing list to individuals you might find it interesting to get it. The most recent mailing was a slick and lovely catalog offering everything from Olivia Records to vitamins including books, watches, and engraved 14K rings as well as tarot cards, postcards and greeting cards.... at 15% to 30% discount to Olivia members. Yet another survival strategy from women's music.

It wasn't so long ago, but it took four phone calls for a writer to confirm that Daughters and Diana Press both brought their first books out in 1973.



## After a thousand years, the silence is broken



Available  
wherever  
paperbacks  
are sold

edited by Rosemary Curb and Nancy Manahan

This is more than a remarkable book. It is unique. It marks the first occasion on which the question of Lesbianism within the convent is fully explored in the frank and often painful words of those who have been, and in some cases, still are, torn by the contradictions of vows of chastity and the demands of their sexuality.

Written and edited by two courageous women, both former nuns and both Lesbians, here are moving, true stories of courage, struggle and change. *Lesbian Nuns* carries the reader into the most intimate workings of the hearts and minds of fifty-one women. Most have left their orders, some have left their Church, seeking spiritual pathways elsewhere.

A few have remained within the convent to try to resolve their conflicts while upholding their vows.

But all are human, emotional beings and their stories reach out and touch the humanity in all of us.

The book shatters myths, quiets rumors, replaces centuries of scandalized whisperings with outspoken, first-hand fact. For homosexuals and heterosexuals; for Catholics and non-Catholics, this book is enormously rewarding. Read it.

"...a rare, serious discussion of life in the convent..." —*Providence Journal-Bulletin*

"...rare glimpses into both the inner turmoil and ecstasy of religious women who found themselves involved in forbidden 'particular friendships'..." —*Knight-Ridder Newspapers*

"...admirably sincere...sure to provoke controversy and arouse strong reactions..."

—*Publishers Weekly*

"...it is of defining interest for anyone who has grappled with the difficulties of wedding spiritual self and secular self."

—*Philadelphia Inquirer*

Finally in  
paperback from



**WARNER  
BOOKS**

A Warner Communications Company



## BESTSELLERS

## NEED A VACATION?

Women and Children First (Chicago)'s Best-selling Favorite Books of 1985:

Fiction:

- The Color Purple** by Alice Walker.
- Other Women** by Lisa Alther.
- Foreign Affairs** by Alison Lurie.
- Winter's Edge** by Valerie Miner.
- Their Eyes Were Watching God** by Zora Neale Hurston.

Non-Fiction:

- Another Mother Tongue** by Judy Grahn.
- The Drama of the Gifted Child** by Alice Miller.
- Goddesses in Everywoman** by Jean Shinoda Bolen.
- Intimate Strangers** by Lillian Rubin.

From Spinsters Books & Webbery (Lawrence KS) reprinted from **Lesbian Connection**:

1985 Bestselling Lesbian Novels:

1. **Moll Cutpurse** by Ellen Galford. Firebrand.
2. **Murder in the Collective** by Barbara Wilson. Seal.
3. **Mohawk Trail** by Beth Brant. Firebrand.
4. **The Color Purple** by Alice Walker. Washington Square Press.
5. **Patience and Sarah** by Isabel Miller. Fawcett.\*
6. **Price of Salt** by Clair Morgan. Naiad.
7. **Paz** by Camarin Grae. Blazon Books.
8. **Folly** by Maureen Brady. Crossing Press.
9. **Curious Wine** by Katherine V. Forrester. Naiad.
10. **Winged Dancer** Camarin Grae. Blazon.

All-Time Top Selling Lesbian Novels:

1. **The Color Purple** Alice Walker. Washington Square Press.
2. **Folly** by Maureen Brady. Crossing.
3. **The Journey** by Anne Cameron. Avon (OP).
4. **Rubyfruit Jungle** by Rita Mae Brown. Bantam. \*
5. **Patience & Sarah** by Isabel Miller. Fawcett. \*
6. **Happy Endings Are All Alike** by Sandra Scoppettone. Dell.
7. **Wanderground** by Sally Gearhart. Alyson Pub.
8. **Who Was That Masked Woman** by Noretta Koertge. St. Martin's.

If you are planning to come near the gulf coast this next year or so, you may wish to stay at the Naiad Press house at the Gulf of Mexico. Through the generosity of one of our supporters, we are able to have this place and to make it available to any and all of the people we work with in whatever field (that is, bookstore personnel, writers of future works we may publish, artists, illustrators, distributors, other publishers with likely publishing programs and so on). What this will involve is a **free** place to stay without any rental cost or utility cost so that the expense to the staying person is your food and getting yourself here and home (and if you fly you would need a rental vehicle here, this is rural, very rural, north Florida and there is nothing resembling public transportation.) Availability is simply a matter of your applying to us by writing or telephoning and saying what long weekend of one week period from this day forward you would like to be at the beach house. There is a much more detailed sheet of information about the place. There is also a much detailed list of things that cannot be done at the place....

In the meantime it is enough to tell you that it sits facing the Gulf of Mexico...a few moments casual stroll to the water and that the activities most highly recommended are shelling, walking the beach, fishing, watching the sunrise and sunset, sitting on the screened-in porch, lying on the decking or landing in the sun and similar strenuous ways to pass the time. For company there are sea birds and shore life and whoever you bring with you. Up to four women may stay very, very comfortably.

Barbara Grier & Donna McBride

9. **Curious Wine**, Katherine V. Forrester. Naiad.
10. **Well of Loneliness**, Radclyffe Hall. Avon.

\* Originally published by a feminist publisher.

Bestseller lists seem to be akin to **Gossip** -- what's selling well, where. Everyone wants to know. Got a list to share? Or a paragraph or a comment on what's selling (or isn't) and why? Know of books you could sell if only someone would write or publish them? OP titles you'd like to see back in print?



# REMAINDERS

As is the case with the rest of the publishing world, remainder houses have all put out their catalogues within the last month or so. Daedalus has a first rate selection of remainders, as usual. Highlighting their list is a huge selection of Doubleday's Virago reprints. Almost all of the first couple years of Doubleday's Viragos are now available. Helaine reports that quantities are adequate for those who order right away, but be forewarned that they have not appeared in a Daedalus catalog yet and that they will go quickly once the rest of the world knows that they are available. They list for 1.98 each, 50% discount. **The Beth Book**, about a girl growing up, is one of my favorites in the series. **Little Otterleys** is funny social satire/commentary. **That's How It Was** is one of the more contemporary of the series, it concerns a working-class mother and daughter in England during WW II. Karen recommends **Ordinary Families** and **Told By An Idiot**. I won't list the rest of them as booksellers should already have the insert in the last FBN that lists them all. If you haven't already ordered, call Helaine at 202-526-0558, 2260 25th Place NE, Washington DC 20018.

Daedalus also has back issues of both **Conditions** and **Sinister Wisdom**. They had Conditions 5, 6, 7, 8, & 9 at \$1.00 each; SW's # 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26 also \$1.00 each.

Some of the other highlights of Daedalus's spring offerings are:

- At Seventy**, May Sarton, 2.95.
- I Change Worlds**, the Seal Press biography of Anna Strong, 2.98.
- Rosa Luxembourg**, Paul Frolich's Monthly Review biography, 1.98.
- The Ivory Swing** by Canadian writer Janette Hospital, 1.98.
- Diane Arbus** - Bosworth's biography, 6.98.
- Cities and the Wealth of Nations**, 2.98.
- Eve and the New Jerusalem**, 2.95.
- The Words to Say It**, Marie Cardinal, acclaimed psychological fiction, 2.98.
- Letters of Jean Rhys**, 3.98.

Highlights of Outlet's spring list include:

- Portable Dorothy Parker**, 6.98.
- Colette: Complete Claudine**, 6.98.
- Illustrated Lark Rise to Candleford**, a beautiful book, 7.98.
- Cannibal Galaxy**, Cynthia Ozick, 1.98.
- Sudden Death**, Rita Mae tackles tennis, 2.98.
- Stand We At Last**, "feminist saga" by Zoe Fairbarns, 3.98.
- Mr. Bedford and the Muses**, Gail Godwin short stories, 3.98.
- Compass Rose**, LeGuin, 3.98.



Among Bookthrift's spring offerings are:

- Fly Away Home**, Marge Piercy, 3.98.
- Two Bit Culture: The Paperbacking of America**, 2.98.
- The Time of Her Life**, Robb Dew, 2.98.
- Julian May's The Adversary, The Golden Torc, Many Colored Land**, each 2.98.
- In Banks We Trust**, Lernoux 3.98.
- Handbook for Visitors from Outer Space**, 2.98.
- A Space of Her Own**, a collection of women-authored sf short stories, \$3.98.

In the next issue I will take a look at some of the other companies -- PME, BookSales, and anyone else who has remainders worth reading.

We at AROOO are not intentionally taking up such a huge portion of space in FBN. We'd gladly share our space with anyone who would like to collaborate.

--Ann Dwyer



# GRANITE PRESS PENOBSCOT MAINE

The oldest new-publisher-on-the-block is Bea Gate's Granite Press. A long time letterpress, Granite's entered trade publishing with a collection of poetry by Grace Paley **Leaning Forward** last October.

"I started Granite Press in the early seventies --someone offered me a box of unsorted letter press type saying 'If you can sort this, you can have it.' So I started with my own book. It took me two and a half years to do it --. Because I had so little type I had to break it down after every two pages. --That was the beginning."

"I bought my first press from a 75 year old woman. She and her husband had run a mom and pop shop. She was the printer and he'd done the typesetting."

In classic feminist print tradition, Granite Press has moved a number of times -- building or converting each new shop. ("There's got to be a whole series of stories on moving presses, moving equipment, finding spaces -- . There's nothing like an electric wench for moving a press! Push a button and it drags it across the floor.) For a long time Granite functioned more fully as a letter-press print shop than a publisher, publishing fine letter press books on the side.

The current shop is in Penobscot Maine. The letterpress in one side of the shop, and, in wild technological contrast, there's a computer in the office side of the shop. We use the computer for marketing, accounting, and some layout. It will pay for itself in eight mailings.

The computer is one result of a major reevaluation and re-focusing of Granite's aims and priorities: "We did do some wonderful books -- but letterpress books go primarily to libraries and collectors. The libraries are OK, but no one sees the ones that go to collectors. We wanted the books to reach more people, so we've changed our focus to trade paperbacks. We reevaluated and decided that

content was our first priority. Our main thrust now is to get poetry and short fiction by feminists and lesbians out into the world. Sometimes we'll do a letter press edition, too. --We did with Grace Paley's book."

Granite Press continues to put a strong focus on book design. "It's important that the books are a whole thing. -- That something happens to you when you pick it up, as well as what happens to you when you read it. You can put out a typewritten page, too, but it has a different feel if it's **designed**."



Granite's Spring 1986 book is a collection of work by Joan Larkin, **A Long Sound**. "It's her first

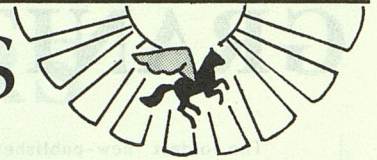
-- continued on page 27.



# SUSANNA STURGIS

ON

# SCIENCE FICTION



The major fantasy and science fiction publishers have come through nicely; I am now surrounded by files and piles of relevant press releases and books, respectively. These are supplemented by information gleaned from **PW**, **Locus** ("the newspaper of the science fiction field"), and occasional ventures into bookstores. If you find something that slipped through the cracks, do let me know!

As a small experiment, I've included this month a few feminist-oriented women and science titles, all in paperback. This practice will continue as space allows, unless large numbers of you take violent exception or I forget.

Ursula K. LeGuin's genre-busting marvel **Always Coming Home** was one of three nominees for The American Book Award in fiction. Heya! My review of said marvel appeared in the February **Women's Review of Books**, which even put my name and Ursula's likeness on the front page. Heya again!!



Addition to the marvelous news dept.: The most galling of my four-year sojourn in feminist-bookstore-dom was that Joanna Russ' **The Female Man** (1975) was OP the entire time. Well, fans, semi-official and generally reliable sources confirm that the wait is almost over: Beacon Press will be bringing **FM** back into print, probably this fall. For details and exultations, watch this space.

It should be noted that a British edition of **FM** is currently available from The Women's Press (London). Whether it can be obtained without major hair-tearings and belly aches is another matter.

The Women's Press, by the way, has undertaken an ambitious and altogether wonderful women's sf series, which includes both original works and reprints of classics. Among the latter are pioneer Naomi Mitchison's **Memoirs of a Spacewoman** and Jody Scott's contemporary but OP-in-the-U.S **Passing for Human** (the hysterically funny predecessor of **I, Vampire**). Among the former are the anthology **Dispatches From the Frontiers of the Female Mind** and Jane Palmer's **The Planet Dweller**, both of which I enjoyed very much.

Once again, availability is the question. I hear conflicting reports: Are they or are they not available from Merrimack Publishers Circle? They should be. For more information, contact Merrimack (458 Boston Street, Topsfield MA 01983) and/or The Women's Press (as of March 1: Attention: Mary Hemming, Sales Director, 34 Great Sutton Street, London EC1V 0DX). I will endeavor to do the same and pass the word along next issue.

The November 1985 issue of **Hot Wire**, "the journal of women's music and culture," included Christine Kulyk's survey of sf and an article by Suzette Haden Elgin, f/sf author (**Native Tongue**, **Yonder Comes the Other End of Time** -- see DAW) and linguist extraordinary. The article is about Láadan, the women's language Elgin has developed. **A First Dictionary and Grammar of Láadan** is available from SF3, Box 1524, Madison WI 53701. (\$8.00 spiral bound. 40% for 5+.) An accompanying cassette tape is available for \$3.00 (cost) from Elgin, Route 4, Box 192-E, Huntsville, AR 72740. (No wholesale terms available.)

And now, on with this issue's picks:





## ARBOR HOUSE

2/86 **A door into Ocean**, by Jean Sloncsewski, \$17.95 cloth. You probably can't sell this at that price, but keep your eye out for the paperback. The novel pits the patriarchal, capitalist planet Valedon against its watery moon Shora, which is an all-women's society. Naturally PW whined about the book's "rigid ideological structure" but still managed to praise "the full-blooded characters who negotiate between the two cultures."

4/86 **Dorothea Dreams** by Suzy McKee Charnas, \$16.95 cloth. The SF newspaper *Locus* gave this a rave review and described it as "almost entirely in a mainstream mode" albeit with occult/fantasy elements. The main character is "a reclusive middle-aged artist who spent many years as housewife and mother before breaking away to achieve one dream, development of a talent which has now brought her a measure of fame."

## BAEN BOOKS

5/86 **I, Martha Adams** by Pauline Glen Winslow, \$3.95. This "novel of Russian conquest and one American's response" looks like a must to avoid. The Moonie *Washington Times* loved it, and the *Washington Post* said, "if Jeane Kirkpatrick were to write a Harlequin, this might be it." Oh, brother.

6/86 **A Choice of Destinies**, by Melissa Scott, price not set. Scott wrote the well-received **Five-Twelfths of Heaven** (also Baen).

## BALLANTINE

**Pillar of the Sky**, by Cecilia Holland, \$9.95 trade paper. Set in the time of the raising of Stonehenge. By the author of **Floating Worlds** and a number of historical novels.

## BALLANTINE/DEL REY

3/86 **Nerilka's Story: A Pern Adventure** by Anne McCaffrey, \$12.95 cloth. Nerilka was a minor character in McCaffrey's very good **Moreta: Dragonlady of Pern**. PW "In form, this is basically a Victorian gothic in which a governess tames and marries the gruff master of the house." For hardcore, hardcover Pern fans.

## BANTAM

1/86 **Things Invisible to See**, Nancy Willard, \$3.50. Not noticeably feminist, or even inclined to female protagonists, but this real-life fantasy novel is so well done that I include it anyway. Recommend it to softball players and baseball fans!

2/86 **Venus of Dreams**, Pamela Sargent, \$3.95. Previously announced. Generally good reviews have greeted this "first volume in a saga of a family's struggle to survive on the plane Venus." One female protagonist, two male.

3/86 **Dragonsong**, Anne McCaffrey, \$3.50. Reissue of the first of the Harper Hall trilogy, which parallels and occasionally intertwines with the *Dragonrider* series. **Dragonsinger** and **Dragondrums** will be rereleased in April and May respectively.

**The Complete Nebula Award-Winning Fiction**, by Samuel R. Delany, \$4.95. Includes the short novels **Babel-17** (female protagonist) and **A Fabulous Formless Darkness** (formerly **The Einstein Intersection**), an acclaimed novella, a short story, and an afterward. Delany is one of the best and pro-feminist on top if it; give it a try if you have some hard-core sf and/or gay male customers.

7/86 **The Dream Years**, Lisa Goldstein, price not set. First paperback publication of the well-reviewed second novel by the author of **The Red Magician**.

**Fire Watch**, Connie Willis, price not set. First paperback publication.



## BERKLEY

3/86 **White Mare, Red Stallion**, Diana Paxson, \$2.95. Paxson is part of the Marion Zimmer Bradley group and a regular explorer of pagan themes and traditions. This fantasy novel is about "an isolate group of Scottish horse worshippers and their practice of magic."





4/86 **The Hero and the Crown**, Robin McKinley, \$2.95. A Newbery Award winner, this YA novel is a prequel to McKinley's **The Blue Sword**. A well-written novel with an intriguing and powerful heroine.

5/86 **The Dancers of Arun**, Elizabeth A. Lynn, price not set. Reissue. Of course you're already carrying this, the second volume in the Chronicles of Tornor. Was it really unavailable? **Watchtower**, volume one, was scheduled for reissue in March.

**Brisingamen**, Diana Paxson, price not set. Reissue. Freyja's necklace Brisingamen resurfaces in modern San Francisco, and the feuds of various old Nordic gods follow close behind. Very well done, of particular interest to pagan types.

#### BLUEJAY BOOKS

(Distributed by St. Martins Press)

**The Silver Horse**, Elizabeth A. Lynn, \$7.95 trade paper. A first YA, and thoroughly enjoyable novel for us proverbial children of all ages by the excellent, and lesbian-feminist, F/sf writer.

#### CORNELL UNIVERSITY PRESS

6/86 **The Science Question in Feminism**, Sandra Harding, \$9.95 trade paper. "The first comprehensive survey of feminists' criticisms of science."

#### DAW BOOKS (NAL)

2/86 **Yonder Comes The Other End of Time**, Suzette Haden Elgin, \$2.95. I don't quite get the title, but the book is a delight, especially for fans of Elgin's Ozark Fantasy Trilogy (Berkley, last I heard). Maverick Tri-Galactic Intelligence Service agent Coyote Jones meets Responsible of Brightwater and the grannies and magicians of Ozark and has a hard time explaining the consequences to his boss.

**Sentience**, Terry A. Adams, \$3.50. Is Terry Adams a boy or a girl? Is this book worth buying? Hard to tell. The key character is a woman telepath, in a society where telepaths are deemed "not quite human."

4/86 **Drinker of Souls**, Jo Clayton, \$3.50. "On a quest to avenger her family, Brann is possessed by two demons in need of a channel to seize the life force on

which they thrive." Clayton is the author of the *Duel of Sorcery* trilogy (a basic for feminist sf collections) and the too-long-drawn-out *Daidem* series. Cast the I Ching and order accordingly.

5/86 **Visible Light**, C. J. Cherryh, \$3.50. A collection of fantasy and sf stories by a good, prolific, but not particularly feminist (woman) writer.

#### DELL

2/86 **Conscience Place**, Joyce Thompson, \$3.50. Pits the male authorities against Alice, the administrator of the "place," where genetically damaged children of parents exposed to nuclear radiation are sent immediately after birth. The boys want to use the place as a laboratory. PW said the book "never falters in its vision or language."

#### METHUEN

3/86 **Women, Feminism, and Biology**, Linda Birke, \$11.95 trade paper.

#### NAL/SIGNET

**Jerusalem Fire**, R(ebecca) M. Meluch, \$3.50. What to do with excellent woman-authored novels that aren't thematically well-suited to the feminist book trade? Indulge me a moment. Meluch's characters live, breathe, crack, grow, and contradict themselves in altogether human fashion. This one takes a look at savior behavior on an intergalactic level. If you carry any gay-interest sf, you should be carrying her recently reissued first novel **Sovereign** (a frequent re-read of mine). Also reissued: **Wind Dancers** and **Wind Child**, which explore the ethics of colonizing and exploiting "uninhabited" worlds. All from NAL/Signet.

3/86 **The Sharpest Edge**, S. M. Stirling and Shirley Meier, \$2.95. This could be total schlock; I confess, I've never heard of either author. But the publisher's blurb (don't we all take publisher's blurbs at face value?) says that "it's up to Shkai'ra and Megan to ensure the beginning of a new age, or suffer the end of civilization" and the cover depicts two women. Feel lucky? Try it out.



TOR

**The Exile Waiting**, Vonda McIntyre, \$2.95. Reprint of the excellent and long OP 1975 novel by the feminist author of **Dreamsnake**, **Superluminal**, and a flock of Star Trek novels.

2/86 **Wings of Flame**, Nancy Springer, \$2.95. Enjoyable, well-written but (surprise) very heterosexual fantasy novel of a hostage prince and an outcast girl who save the country neither of them loves from malevolent magic.

3/86 **Phoenix in the Ashes**, Joan D. Vinge, \$2.95. Six novelettes by the author of the popular **Snow Queen**. Says **PW** (that reliably unreliable commentator on feminist issues), "Vinge displays an undisguised contemporary discontent about relations between men and women." I'd buy a few on that alone.

**Last War**, Melisa C. Michaels, \$2.95. Michaels tells a good story. This continues the space operatic adventures of the Skyrider, the shuttle pilot heroine who also starred in **Skirmish** and **First Battle**, which I read in a couple of hours and thoroughly enjoyed.

**Dervish Daughter**, Sheri S. Tepper, \$2.95. "Jinian, strange child of the Dervishes, travels with her forbidden love Peter to the site of the deadly crystals -- and into the realm of a terrifying secret." Tepper is a very good storyteller who does justice by her women characters. Worth a try.

4/86 **Brightness Falls from the Air**, James Tiptree, Jr. (Alice Sheldon), \$3.50. First paperback publication of a hardcover that won unqualified raves a winter ago. On the basis of that and Tiptree/Sheldon's consistent excellence, I'd call it a pick of the spring.

YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS

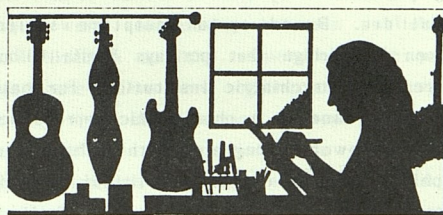
2/86 **Reflections on Gender and Science**, by Evelyn Fox Keller, \$6.95.



Granite Press con'd from pg. 23.

book in eight years. It's very powerful. Raw, and powerful. The content is a lot about alcoholism and recovery, about sensuality and self love, about parenting and lesbianism. Especially powerful is the sequence called "The Blackout Sonnets."

In 1987, Granite will do a bilingual anthology of Central American Poetry (see Writing Wanted.)

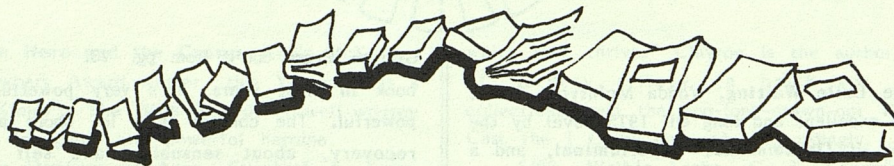


"How did you find yourself with a collection of poetry by Grace Paley?" FBN asked in closing. "It was a long, organic process. I studied with Grace in an MFA program. I asked her if she'd like to do a broadside of one of her poems. Well, she's about the busiest person in the world, and she was very shy about her poems. Several months later she brought in some poems, and we did a broadside in 1983. Later I asked her about doing a chapbook, and we worked on it for a couple years -- gathering the material. Poems kept showing up. They were in Vermont, in NYC, in friend's houses... And eventually it turned out to be a book, not a chapbook. ....The poems have an interesting relationship with the stories. They are a lot about how Grace thinks -- she's such an incredible listener and interpreter of voices. In her poems you find the sources of her other work. And you also find delight and sadness that aren't in her stories in the same way."

--**Leaning Forward**, poems by Grace Paley, \$8.95. **A Long Sound**, by Joan Larkin, \$8.95, April 17th, \$8.95. The Granite Press, Box 7, Penobscot, ME 04476. BP, IN, Bookslinger, B&T.



# FROM OUR OWN PRESSES

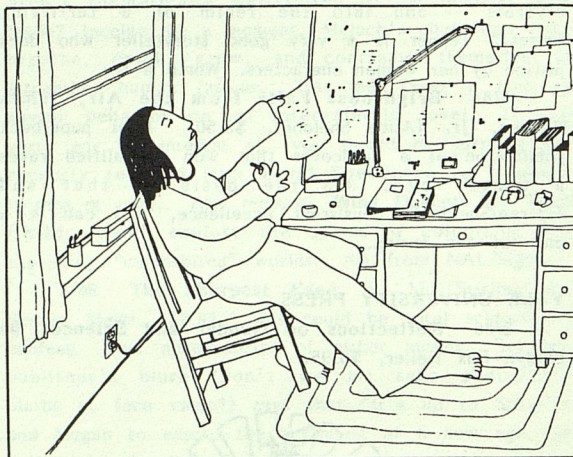


Just off the Press Gang Press: **Still Sane**, a moving personal story and a remarkable work of political art. Based on a sculpture series by Persimmon Blackbridge that portrays Sheila Gilhooly's three years in psychiatric institutions for being a lesbian, **Still Sane** is a photographic reproduction of this powerful work integrated with Gilhooly's autobiographical writings. It is a political analysis of the psychiatric oppression of women. **Still Sane** documents one woman's defiance of a mental illness system which defines lesbianism as a sickness to be treated with drugging, shock treatment, isolation, and other abuse. Available from Bookpeople and Inland in the US, from University of Toronto in Canada, and from Giovanni's Room for overseas orders. For those who love the book enough to want to see more, Women in Focus has released a 60 minute color video of **Still Sane**. Write to them for rental and sales info at: WIF, 456 W. Broadway, Vancouver BC Canada V5Y 1R3. (Last minute note: The book is gorgeous! A wonderful merging of lesbian art, true-story telling, feminist publishing and fine women's printing! Don't miss it!)

Nine new color postcards from Helaine Victoria Press honor women labor activists and trade unionists. The cards feature Jewish, Black, Chicana, and Asian organizers, farm workers, child laborers and garment workers. Each card includes a photograph and researched caption and comes in a folio with bibliography. Printed in black, red and blue. \$6.00 set. Helaine Victoria Press, 4080 Dynasty Lane, Martinsville IN 46151.

Onlywomen Press in England offers **Incidents Involving Warmth**, by Anna Livia and **Gossip**, a new journal of lesbian feminist ethics. **Incidents**: "Take Anna Livia's wit and sharpen it against the following: A woman confined to a home for the aged and her bike-riding, dyke granddaughter scrape past their mutual distrust. Young Black women put up with the blunt blundering of white friends and lovers. Chronic desperation about London housing is broached with humor, tenacity and even a touch of homicidal glee. These love stories present no romances, no sunsets or starry eyes but instead offer a forthright, often funny view of the real situations that constitute lesbian lives." \$7.95.

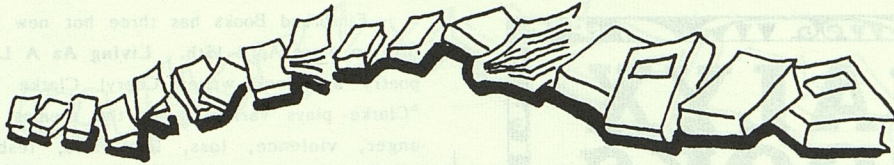
**Gossip**: essential information; fast communication; opinions, advice, theory, row material for



from *Period./Periodo*.

Rosita: "Escribo mejores poesías cuando estoy menstruando."





building civilization. Ethics: responsible, liberating, creative standards to live by. And so -- **Gossip.** It only makes sense. The first issue should arrive at Inland by the time you read this. The first issue includes: Why dykes get pregnant \* Lesbians and property \* Illness and disability in the lesbian community \* The liberal takeover of the women's liberation movement. \$4.00. Onlywomen Press books (and magazines) are distributed in the US by Inland.

Tough Dove's spring book is **Womonseed: A Vision** by Sunlight. "As the sun goes down on the longest day in the year 1999 the women who birthed Womonseed gather in a meadow to sing their songs and tell their stories: accounts of their diverse origins and struggles in the 'former world,' their journeys to this land, and the growth of their own culture created out of love, vision, and the power of their thoughts. Stories of the fire and the drought, as well as the inner journeys they each make. Their stories suggest paths we might take to our own visions of a better world." \$7.95. May. 40% for 5+. In the fall Tough Dove will publish **A Poet's Tarot**, a two-sided deck that empowers through both words and images. Price will be low for increased access to all women -- around \$9.95. "Cup of Savoring -- IX Bowls -- Like a banquet laid before me, I will savor each course in its turn; each turn of this course/like a chart I love to sail." Tough Dove's first book **It's Time** will become **A Nuclear Fable** with its next printing. Tough Dove Books, PO Box 548, Little River CA 95456. BP and IN.

Crones' Own Press is a woman-owned, feminist publishing house which offers the writings of mid-life to older women to readers of all ages. Since the inception in 1981, publisher Elizabeth Freeman has

worked to make Crones' Own Press a unique opportunity for women writers. Choosing to focus on the work of women frequently overlooked by the mainstream, she has created a truly feminist business which not only respects the writing, but also the writers. By giving artistic control to the author, as well as setting up a unique work relationship between publisher and writer, Elizabeth and the women who are published through Crone's Own work together on every aspect of the book, from the selection of type to the cover design, with the author involved in every phase of the publication process. The end result is a series of books offered with pride to all women. Crones' Own Press welcomes all enquiries, comments and suggestions.



**Seven Windows**, a highly readable collection of short stories by F. Zarod Rominski, reaches back thorough five centuries of women's lives with vision and humor. My favorite was the old woman daring to light the Hollowmas bonfire, but I rather liked the backroom poker games, too. A lot of woman-loving in a lot of forms and times. \$7.95 paper. Crone's Own also has two books of poetry: Margaret Budicki's **Splinters**, and **Pacific Soul** by Bonnie Davidson, \$4.75 each. You might try shelving them in your older women's sections. 40% for 4+ books. Crone's Own Press, 310 Driver Street, Durham NC 27703.



# CALYX BOOKS BY WOMEN

## WOMEN AND AGING:

**AN ANTHOLOGY** - The largest proportion of the aging population is composed of women who have been ignored not only by society and the media but also by feminists. This anthology provides art, poetry, fiction, essays, interviews, reviews, and a bibliography by women on age and ageism. Paperback. 264 pp., 45 pp. art. ISBN: 0-934971-00-5. \$12.00. Available February, 1986.

## THE RIVERHOUSE STORIES:

**How Pubah S. Queen and Lazy Larue Save the World** by Andrea Carlisle. Pubah is an electrician, Lazy, a writer. The two may seem unlikely candidates to save the world but anything is possible as Pubah ponders solar powered inventions and Lazy dreams of ballooning over Ursula LeGuin's house. THE RIVERHOUSE STORIES are wacky, whimsical recountings of two women's lives on the river: lives that include ducks, spiders and muskrats; friends, neighbors, godchildren; work, dreams and love for each other. Paperback, 150+ pp., illus., ISBN: 0-934971-00-5. \$7.95. Available Spring, 1986.

## THE WHITE JUNK OF LOVE,

**AGAIN** by Sibyl James. Transliterations of 16th century French poet Louise Labé's sonnets into Northwest poet Sibyl James' contemporary voice. Labé's work surfaces with new life in its obsessive struggle with passion and eroticism. Poetry. Paperback, 75 pp., ISBN: 0-934971-03-x. \$6.95. Available Spring, 1986.

Please add \$1 for shipping

*Calyx* BOOKS

P.O. Box B Dept N. Corvallis, OR 97339



Firebrand Books has three hot new books coming off the press April 15th. **Living As A Lesbian**, more poetry by Black writer Cheryl Clarke (**Narratives.**) "Clarke plays variations on the themes of blackness, anger, violence, loss, loneliness, lesbianism, and sex -- wanting it, fearing it, getting it. The images are strong, the impact stunning." \$6.95 paper. \$14.95 cloth. Clarke has a strong readership.

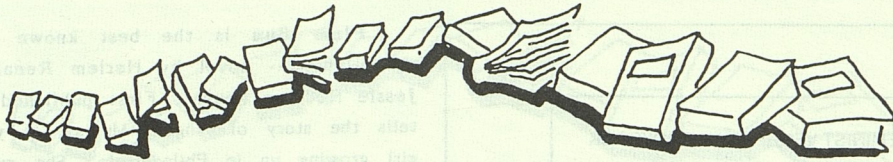
**Tender Warriors**, a novel by Rachel deVries, is "a deeply moving, thoughtful story of an Italian-American working-class family caught in their struggles with each other and the world. This is a novel about outsiders -- white and Black, gay and straight, drugged and drug-free, down-and-out or on the the way up -- fighting for survival and the space to be tender. Rose -- daughter, sister, nurse, photographer, lesbian -- narrates the story." Should have a strong cover as well -- Duo tone photo/collage in black, browns and golds against a Catholic blue background. \$7.95 paper, \$16.95 cloth.

**Words to the Wise**, compiled by Andrea Fleck Clardy is a writer's guide to feminist and lesbian periodicals and publishers. The ultimate catalog for everywoman who's wanted to know where to send it once she's written it. 100+ publishers and periodicals. I think it will be a resource for booksellers as well -- all those addresses in one handy pamphlet. Keep one at the order desk. This is the first in a series of informational/political pamphlets on the Firebrand Sparks imprint. \$3.95 paper. Includes a button declaring "I write just like a woman."

All available April 15th. Order Firebrand titles from Bookpeople and Inland. Retail sales only go to Firebrand at 141 The Commons, Ithaca NY 148550.

Back in print, for a while now, is **The Lesbian Path**, a collection of vignettes of lesbian lives, edited by Margaret Cruikshank. This is a revised, enlarged edition including an interview with May Sarton and work by Beth Brant, Elsa Gidlow, Judy Grahn and Jane Rule. Sells steadily along with Peg's **New Lesbian Writing**. Both published by Grey Fox, distributed by BP and IN. \$8.95 and 7.95 respectively.



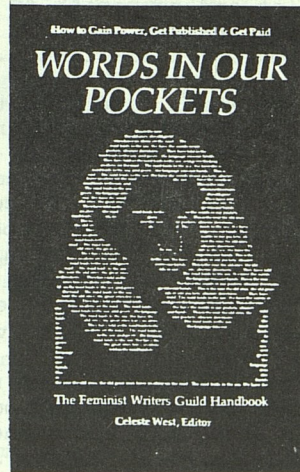


At last! **Words In Our Pockets: The Feminist Writers Guild Handbook.** How to Gain Power, Get Published & Get Paid! Starting with editor Celeste West's impassioned and inspiring introduction, the book tours feminist lives in establishment publishing, women's publishing, life in the genres and ends in the community of the book and our support systems. There's something for everywomanwriter here, including my local cat who was delighted to see her mother (Bright Eyes) included in the acknowledgements. 350 tightly printed pages that discuss everything from Persephone Press to script writing to starting your own support group to multi-lingual writing to feminist censorship to working for mainstream publishers. Originally conceived at the first Feminist Writers Guild meeting to "share what we know about the publishing system", it's an awesome collection of what we have learned and a testimony to what we've achieved. Already I don't know how I lived without it for this long. Where's Volume II?!? Yours truly has an article on running a women's bookstore. Have to admit that it was written about 1977 and probably applies more to today's smaller and middle-sized bookstores than the larger stores. It was updated a bit for the book in 1983, the last year that I worked there, though a glitch somewhere along the way dated it 1984, to the dismay of someone. Ah well. Co-published by Booklegger Press and Dustbooks. \$9.95 paper. Order from BP for standard trade discounts or get 50% discount on **prepaid** orders from Booklegger, 555 29th St., SF CA 94131.


This is a bumper-spring for Booklegger! Second book in as many months is a lesbian first -- a full-life lesbian autobiography. And this isn't just any autobio -- this **Elsa: I Come With My Songs**, the life of longtime poet Elsa Gidlow. Many readers will remember Elsa from the film **Word is Out**. Others will

know her from **Sapphic Songs: Seven to Seventy** and the later version, **SS: Eight to Eighty**. Elsa takes us from a childhood of immigrant Canadian poverty, through a hunger for knowledge, poetry, and the goddess, through her invention and creation of "Sapphism" (even her mother called her "Sappho"), through earning a living with little education and much dignity, through moves to New York and San Francisco, through her constant commitment to her writing and into an older age ... and through all of the lovers.... And with an incredible dignity. Wonderful photos and one of the best covers in the dykedom. If this isn't one of the best-selling books of 1986 I'll eat my copy -- all 400 pages. \$10.95 paper. \$17.95 cloth. Booklegger Press, 555 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131 or Bookpeople.

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- Finding Your Way Around Establishment Publishing
- Women's Publishing • The Community of the Book

**Bookpeople**  \$9.95 per copy



A FEMINIST VEGETARIAN COOKBOOK



The  
Second Seasonal  
Political  
Palate

BY THE BLOODROOT COLLECTIVE

The Second Seasonal Political Palate  
continuation and companion to  
The Political Palate  
by the Bloodroot Collective...

How do three women find time to run a restaurant, a bookstore, a garden (and did someone say a guesthouse as well?) is beyond me. But to write, edit, design and publish not one but two cookbooks as well! Sprinkle these cookbooks with quotes from the current feminist literature, serve an analysis of feminism in the eighties, ethical vegetarianism, and collectivity and work as an appetizer, and finish with a bibliography that would do nicely as a small catalog of feminist books and you have a meal that fills the soul. And the body, as well. Enjoy.

... Carol Seajay in FBN

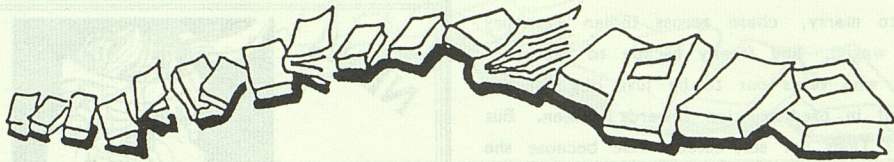
Each \$10.95. 40% for 5+, prepaid orders earn 43%. From Sanguinaria Publishing, 85 Ferris St., Bridgeport, CT 06605.

**Plum Bun** is the best known -- and long unavailable -- novel by Harlem Renaissance writer Jessie Redmon Fauset. First published in 1929, it tells the story of Angela Murray, a young Mulatto girl growing up in Philadelphia. She moves to New York after her parents die and decides to sweep aside the racism she believes to be the only obstacle to a life of opportunity by changing her name and living as a white woman. She discovers that there are difficulties for women as well as for blacks, that the trials and tribulations of love and marriage are not the best salvation, and eventually finds fulfillment in her own creativity. \$8.95 paper. Distributed by RKP/Methuen.

**Lesbian Letters**, Christine Heron Stockton. Coming out as a debutante to coming out as a lesbian. This is a collection of letters written over time to and from family and friends including coming out letters, keeping contacts with old friends, explaining the baby to the folks back home as well as the familiar-to-lesbian experiences of closeting, fending off the born-again, and coming to peace with one's self. For lesbians, our families and friends. \$8.95 paper. Published by Heron Press, distributed by Publishers Group West, PO Box 8843, Emeryville, CA 94662. 40% for 10-24, 41% for 25-74, etc. Also BP and IN.

**A Feminist Dictionary** -- clearly is a book that starts with women as the center of the word. Cheris Kramer and Paula Treichler have collected wit and wisdom and words into this volume. I might like its herstorical perspective best -- quoting feminist publications of the late 60's and early 70's -- and women from the much earlier waves of feminism. Or maybe I like skimming through and finding new (to me) words, like "Lucy Stoner". That "Tomboy" is a witch word. And how did we ever get along without "Um's" and "Witz's"?! Pandora Press/Methuen. \$12.95 paper, \$28.95 cloth. Also by the same women and Beth Stafford is **For Alma Mater: Theory and Practice in Feminist Scholarship** from University of Illinois Press. Twenty-six women scholars comment on the nature, objectives and difficulties of their commitment to feminist scholarship. \$32.50 cloth, but





it should be in paperback next fall. (Not to be confused with **Alma Mater**, Beacon Press's new title on the design and experience in women's colleges from their nineteenth-century beginnings to the 1930's by Helen Lefkowitz Horowitz. \$12.95 paper.

**Periodo. Libro Para Chicas Sobre La Menstruacion** -- which is to say **Period.**, that wonderful and humorous book and menstruation for young women, is out in Spanish. \$7.00 paper. Volcano Press, 330 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA 94102. Try BP and IN.

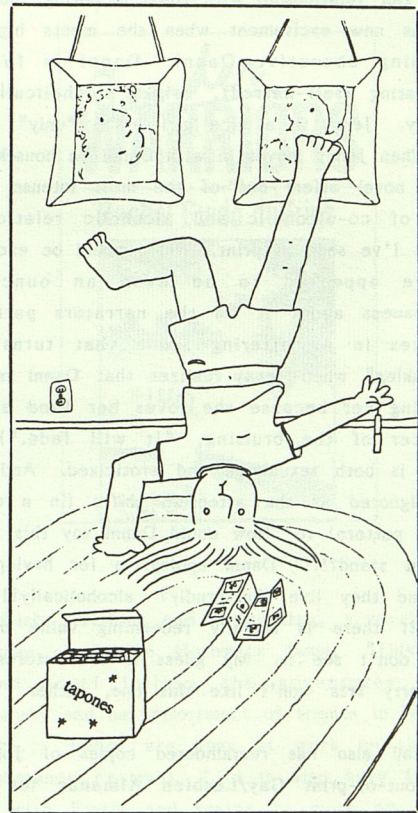
Naiad has a very mixed list this spring: a western, a 1928 reprint and a couple romances. Mixed in content, that is. The good news first:

**Pembrooke Park** by Michelle Martin is just what Naiad is most famous for -- lesbian romances. This one is done in the classic Regency Romance style, set in Olde England. Includes scandalous women riding astride (!) on horseback wearing harem pants (!) from Baghdad, gay men, disapproving brothers and everything else closet regency romance readers could want. Also true to and revealing of the great gay upper class British tradition of front marriages. This will be Naiad's big book at ABA and Michelle will be there signing books. \$7.95 paper. May 5.

**Surplus**, by Sylvia Stevenson, is that other thing that Naiad is famous for -- reprinting classic lesbian novels. "Published in England four years before **The Well of Loneliness**, and later published in the US by D. Appleton & Company it received very respectable reviews. Sally Wraith takes her place in that panoply of lesbian heroines of great nobility, women whose goodness makes them seem to rise above the crowd around them. In addition to being a love story, it is also a feminist novel in its portrayal of the heroine's resistance to the expectations of her day. What she says and does regarding this as she

makes her way along her chosen path in an age and time that rejects her with an intensity that is difficult to imagine today, makes **Surplus** and inspiring and joyous novel." \$7.95 paper. May.

**The Long Trail** (Penny Hayes) is lesbian romance in the classic western novel format. I think that the women get rescued a few times too many, myself, but they pull out of a few tight situations on their own, too. Blanche the banker's daughter falls for Teresa Stark the saloon gal and they elope on the day



from **Period./Periodo.**



Blanche was to marry, chase across Indian Territory in a covered wagon, and finally escape to Blanche's father's sister who turns out to be just like Blanche -- in build and in predisposition towards women. But is Blanche PC? Does her self-esteem rise because she comes into her own or because she loses weight walking beside the wagon after years of forced inactivity? The answer in this novel is probably "yes". PC or PI, Blanche is a lesbian heroine of substance and **The Long Trail** helps to break that silence. \$8.95. March.

**Horizon of the Heart**, by two women writing as Shelley Smith, on the other hand, terrified me. **Iris** was bad enough. This is worse. FBN capsule summary: Ex-model Jenny has grown tired of objectification and abuse by men and decides to look for the same in women. Her relationship with Anne is boring, but her life gains new excitement when she meets big-time advertising executive Danni. Danni is full of lesbian-hating (self-hatred), drinks alcoholically (& constantly. Jenny is a nice girl --she "only" drinks wine.) When Jenny moves in with Danni as housekeeper the the novel offers one of the most intense case-studies of co-alcoholic and alcoholic relationship dynamics I've seen in print. Which could be excellent if there appeared to be even an ounce of consciousness about it on the narrators part. It culminates in a battering scene that turns into "love-making" when Jenny realizes that Danni is only brutalizing her because she loves her (and as she says later of the bruising, "It will fade.") The violence is both sexualized and eroticized. And then largely ignored as the attention shifts (in a classic diversion pattern) to "How could Danni say this was a one night stand?!!!" Danni apologizes for having said that, and they live (batteredly? alcoholically?) ever after. If there is socially redeeming value in this one, I don't see it. My guess is that stores that don't carry **Iris** won't like this one, either. \$7.95. March.

Naiad also has remaindered copies of Jonathan Katz's out-of-print **Gay/Lesbian Almanac** for \$4.95 (50% discount to bookstores.)

**NEW!**



**THE LITTLE SCHOOL**  
Tales of Disappearance & Survival in Argentina

Alicia Partnoy

5 1/2 x 8 1/2 . 120 pages. 7.95 illus

Alicia Partnoy was among the 30,000 Argentines who "disappeared" when a military junta came to power. She is one of the few who lived to tell about it. Her testimony on human rights abuse helped to bring about the convictions of four junta generals in Buenos Aires. **THE LITTLE SCHOOL** is a beautifully written and illustrated chronicle of imprisonment and resistance.

"Yes they really do take us away and they torture us and they steal our children and kill our sisters and beat our brothers... **THE LITTLE SCHOOL** is a long soft freedom love song." ☆ BERNICE JOHNSON REAGON

**WITH THE POWER OF EACH BREATH**  
A Disabled Women's Anthology  
ed. Susan Browne, Debra Connors & Nanci Stern

5 1/2 x 8 1/2 352 pages. 9.95

**WITH THE POWER OF EACH BREATH** bridges the gap separating disabled women from one another and from non-disabled women. A work of joy, pride and celebration, this book is a must for every trade bookstore in every city... "WITH THE POWER OF EACH BREATH helps free us from our isolation, and enables us to dream and work together..." ☆ Elana Dykewomen. COMING UP!

**LONG WAY HOME**  
The Odyssey of a Lesbian Mother & Her Children  
Jeanne Jullion

5 1/2 x 8 1/2 272 pages. 8.95

The "headiest times" of the gay movement in a portrait you won't want to miss! "From adventurous border crossings and grueling cross examinations. Jullion's story is full of humor, sex and exotic locale... a riveting narrative."

☆SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

**VOICES IN THE NIGHT**  
Women Speaking About Incest  
ed. Toni McNaron & Yarrow Morgan

5 1/2 x 8 1/2 187 pages. 8.95

**VOICES IN THE NIGHT** is the simple, powerful telling of a story that needs to be told. This is the silence - breaking anthology that has become a survival tool for all women who live with the huge reality of incest.

**CLEIS PRESS - A Women's Publishing Company**

The ninth edition of **The Battered Women's Directory** by Betsy Warrior is now out. 100 pages of Shelters and services in the US and abroad, plus articles on battered women and related subjects. 17 pages of international publications and films. \$12.00. Bookstore terms not received. Order from Terry Mehlman, Box #-94, Earlham College, Richmond IN 47374.





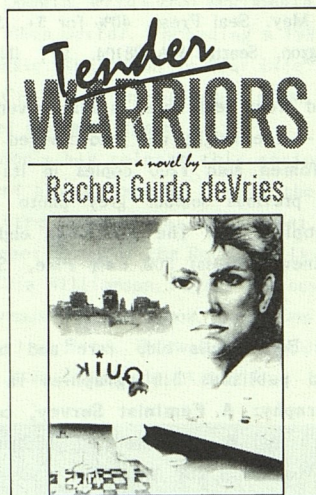
**The Little School: Tales of Disappearance and Survival in Argentina**, Alicia Partnoy. Partnoy was among the 30,000 Argentines who "disappeared" after a military junta came to power in 1976, and is one of the few who lived to tell about it. Her testimony helped to bring about the recent convictions of four junta generals in Buenos Aires. The book is a writer's chronicle of imprisonment in a concentration camp near Bahia Blanca, which the military cynically named "La Escuelita" ("The Little School.") Her performance is included in the Redwood's Sisterfire Album and has been performed by Ronnie Gilbert and Sweet Honey in the Rock. \$7.95 paper, \$15.95 cloth. April. Available from Cleis Press East (PO Box 8933, Pittsburgh PA 15221) or Cleis West (PO Box 14684, San Francisco CA 94144), BP, IN, B&T, Quality Books & New Leaf. All Cleis Press titles are available on tape from the Womyn's Braille Press (PO Box 8485, Minneapolis MN 55408.)

Bobbeh Meisehs Press now offers **The Rivka Poems**, Judith Stein's poems to her grandmother in bound format, \$2.50, staple stitched. Bobbeh Meisehs' other two bound titles, **A Jewish Lesbian Chanukah** and **A New Haggadah** are now available from Inland instead of Diaspora Distribution. **The Rivka Poems** and other short pieces must be ordered directly from Bobbeh Meisehs, 137 Tremont St., Cambridge MA 02139.

Seal Press's unexpected best-seller this winter has been **Cora Sandel: Selected Short Stories** translated by Barbara Wilson. This collection brings together Sandel's most important work from the 1920's to 1940's. Ironic wit and lyric intensity. The stories are infused with both a warm tenderness towards the oppressed and a chilling anger towards the unjust and powerful. A classic writer now being

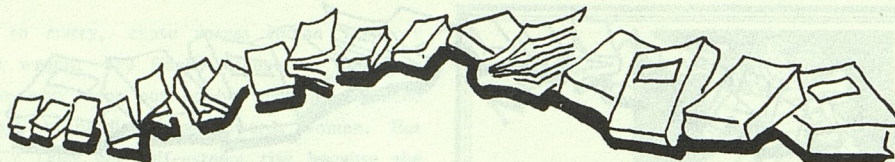
rediscovered for her contemporary voice, Sandel brings a strong feminist sensibility to her tales of women on the edge of society. \$8.95 paper, \$16.95 cloth.

Newest in Seal's translation series is **Two Women in One**, a novel by Nawal el-Saadawi, best known in the US for her book on Arab women **The Hidden Face of Eve**. **Two Women** tells the story and inner life of a young Egyptian woman, Bahiah Shaheen, as she struggles for independence and self-identity. First US edition. Cloth \$14.95.



**Girls, Visions and Everything**, a novel by Sara Schulman of **Sophie Horowitz** fame. "This spirited second novel follows the adventures of Lila Futuransky and her assortment of friends in NY's East Village... (who) are busy at work on the Worst Performance Festival. Lila is also busy falling in love with Emily and trying to work on a novel.





Outside the summer is getting hotter as the impending disaster of Reagan's reelection draws near...." A bit of punk sensibility in feminist publishing? Long overdue. \$8.95 paper. June.

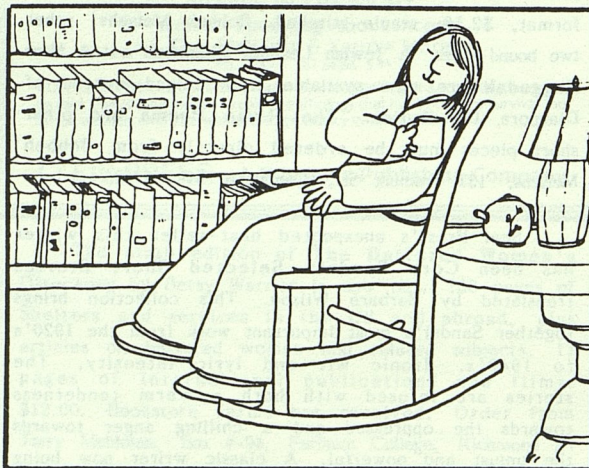
**Mommy and Daddy Are Fighting** is the newest title in Seal's New Leaf Series. For children living in homes where physical abuse occurs between parents, this book is designed to open up discussion with children about family violence. \$6.95. April. Seal also offers a paperback edition of **Every Mother's Son: The Role of Mothers in the Making of Men**, by Judith Arcana. Can boys be brought up in non-sexist ways? 10.95. May. Seal Press. 40% for 5+. Seal Press, 312 S. Washington, Seattle WA 98104. BP, IN, etc.

The word from Seal Press is that covers do make a difference -- the bright new red-covered edition of **Ambitious Women** sold 1200 copies in its first five months. The previous somber grey photo cover sold about 200 copies over the preceding eight months. Seal Press, (new address) 500 East Pike, Seattle WA 98122.

Boudicca Books sells old, rare and out-of-print books -- and publishes bibliographies in pamphlet form. **Pornography: A Feminist Survey**, compiled by Margaret Smith and Barbara Waisberg (Editors of **The Pornography Workshop for Women** -- See FBN 7:6), serves as an introductory reading guide on pornography that places differing points of view in context. It annotates 50 books and articles and sorts them into four themes: sexuality, social construction of perception, perspectives on pornography and control of pornography. Arranged by theme. \$4.50. While you've there, pick up a copy of **New Visions: Feminist Books on Women and Mental Health**, \$2.00. 40% to bookstores. Boudicca Books, PO Box 901, Station K, Toronto, Ontario, M4P 2H2.

The essential annual is out and in hand: **1986 Index Directory of Women's Media**. Bigger and better and richer than ever. Anyone who wants to think that feminist activism is on the wane, please compare this year's issue with previous issues and clean up your misconceptions. Lists women-owned periodicals (490), presses & publishers (114), women's bookstores (80), columns, radio shows, video, film, distributors and everything else having to do with feminist publishing and communications. A bargain at \$12.00. 40% for 3+. Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press pays postage on pre-paid orders. 3306 Ross Place NW, Washington DC 20008.

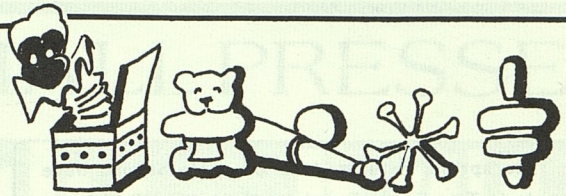
Just arrived, too late for the deadline, but I couldn't resist slipping it in anyway: **Women and Aging** the first book from Calyx Books. A gorgeous and glorious celebration of older women and becoming one. As beautiful and rich with photographs and artwork among the poetry and prose as any issue of **Calyx**. Absolutely **not** to be missed. \$12.00 paper. Calyx Books, PO Box B, Corvallis OR 97339. Try BP & IN.



from *Period./Periodo.*



# TOYS



New card series from Spinsters Ink: Four cards and six postcards span many years of the work of artist and researcher Karen Sjöholm. The cards are taken from Sjöholm's larger-than-life color pastels. (I mean to tell you, these are awesome works of women's art!) My own favorite is *Two Women and Child*, which says more than forty books about lesbian families. *Woman Secrets* -- an older woman talking to a young girl is probably the best known -- I think it was in one of the Bo-Tree calendars this year. *Eternal Garden* (she predicted) will sell like hotcakes. Wonderful color and irresistible. If you haven't received the flier from Spinsters/Aunt Lute write them at PO Box 410687, SF, CA 94141 and order. Treat yourselves and your customers to this women's work. Print freaks also "know" Sjöholm's work -- you've met her between the lines of **Another Mother Tongue** and **Queen of Wands** as a researcher. The information she's uncovered about women of many cultures and many times is layered into her work and always teaches me more about our communities.

**Something Comes Along** is a new cassette from Naomi Littlebear Morena. The first time I saw/heard Naomi (Littlebear) Morena at work she was directing a women's choir at the Portland Women's Music Festival in 1976. I think I'll always remember the joy on the faces of the women she was directing. Later she recorded with Izquierda, and performed around the country with "The Dyketones". The Syracuse Cultural Workers' calendar "You Can't Kill the Spirit" was named for one of her songs. **Something Comes Along** includes that song, with more recent work. As always, the work has that wonderful quality of being very quiet -- and very powerful at the same time. Produced

on a \$700 budget and not to be missed in the mass of more financially privileged voices. Available from Ladyslipper Records or from Moon Cat Records, 3737 SE Salmon, Portland, OR 97214.

**MORE RECORDS:** Ladyslippers spring records were Debbie Fier's **Firelight**, a strong instrumental recording, and Beth York's **Transformations**, both of which have been the background music for this issue. Order from Ladyslipper, of course, PO Box 3124, Durham NC 27705.

Alix Dobkin, with Carol MacDonald & Witch, put out **Never Been Better**, including a 1986 version of Alix's classic "The Woman in Your Life" and the long punk "Boy Girl Rap". On the Women's Wax Works label, distributed by Ladyslipper.

Redwood's big release this spring is the hot **Sisterfire!** album. Recorded live at the third annual DC Sisterfire (urban!) music festival, it includes cuts by Sweet Honey in the Rock, Holly Near, Ronnie Gilbert, Cris Williamson, Alicia Partnoy, Cathy Fink, Alexis Deveaux, Amparo Ochoa, Jane Sapp and the Reel World String Band. Redwood Records, 476 West MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, CA 94609.





The spring release from Olivia's Second Wave Records is Tret Fure's **Terminal Hold**. Kate Wolf has a new one, **Poet's Heart** on Kaleidoscope Records (PO Box O, El Cerrito, CA 94530). Icebergg Records has two spring records on the feminist circuits: Judy Gorman-Jacobs' **If Dreams Were Thunder** and Ann Reed's **Room & Board**. 297 E. Buffalo St. Suite 501, Milwaukee, WI 53202.



### WOMAN SECRETS

And last, but not least, The Vancouver Folk Music Festival has just released a new Rosalie Sorrels album, **Live -- Then Came The Children**. A delightful compendium of Rosalie's bad attitudes, fine songs and droll stories. I always save up Rosalie's albums for occasions of major grouches and useless irritations, play a side or to, and end up laughing. This album includes a long complicated story about how Sorrel's life was ruined for ever by the girl next door, Malvina Reynold's "Rosie, Are You

Pregnant Again," and more of Sorrel's wry specialty, realistic parenting songs. VFMF, 3271 Main St., Vancouver BC Canada V5V 3M6.

On the spoken recording side, the Watershed Foundation (AKA Poet's Audio Center) has an eight page catalog of poets and writers, including Carolyn Forché, May Sarton, H.D., Adrienne Rich, Marge Piercy, Ntozake Shange, Olga Broumas, Gwendolyn Brooks, Margaret Atwood, Carolyn Kizer, Audre Lorde, this list goes on for pages! Many of them come boxed for store display and are available from Inland. You might try displaying the catalog in your record bins with an offer to special order. (Colette!, Anais Nin, May Swenson, Patti Smith...) Poet's Audio Center, PO Box 50145, Washington DC 20004.

## MAGAZINES



**The Lesbian Inciter** is up and running and publishing regularly again. Three issues out in this new series, with her new editors in her new California home. "LI is established and maintained by and for lesbians -- a lesbian space to celebrate and strengthen ourselves as Lesbians." The new issues cover lesbian news, look at invisible lesbian nurses, interview Sally Gearhart, include work by Julia Penelope, SDiane Bogus, Susan Cavin, Sarah Lucia Hoagland, look at ethics, AIDS, and the babyboom and more. Cover price is \$1.50. Subs are \$10 and \$15/year. Standard Bookstore terms. Write for a copy if you haven't seen the new **Inciter** yet. The Lesbian Inciter, 2215-R Market Street, #307, San Francisco, CA 94114.

**Connexions: An International Women's Quarterly** has a special 64 page special issue devoted to the Nairobi Conference. Order from People's Translation Service, 4228 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, Ca 94609.



# FROM THE SMALL PRESSES

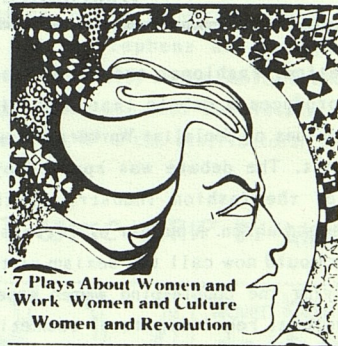
**This Is My Own: Letters to Wes & Other Writings on Japanese Canadians 1941-1948**, Muriel Kitagawa, "It's a real eye opener. By now most people know that North Americans of Japanese descent were forced from their west coast homes during the war, and we know the historical facts. This book fills in the blanks: it's a personal, domestic look at what women's lives were like during the uprooting. Muriel was the mother of four young children in 1942 -- two of them newborn twins. She had to pack her family's belongings, deal with the confusing bureaucratic tangle, keep everyone fed and otherwise nurtured, and figure out how many diapers she'd need for a cross-country trip. Muriel was also a fiery journalist, a loyal citizen, and woman who was politically ahead of her time." Includes a section of her unpublished autobiography about growing up Nisei. \$12.95 paper, \$24.95 cloth. Talon Books, 1019 East Cordova #201, Vancouver BC V6A 1M8. BP, IN, and U. of Toronto.

South End Press is republishing **Common Differences: Conflicts in Black & White Feminist Perspectives** by Gloria Joseph & Jill Lewis. The new edition will include an update section on the impact of the politics of **Common Differences** on its readers and on the women's movement. \$9.00 paper, \$25.00 cloth. **Common Differences** was originally published by Doubleday in 1981. Also on the way from South End is **Playbook** -- Seven plays about women and work, women and culture, women and revolution. Edited by Maxine Klein, Lydia Sargent and Howard Zinn. Includes an adaptation of **Daughter of Earth**, "The Furies of Mother Jones", a jazz musical comedy with a feisty

waitress, a satire on feminism as seen in the media, and plays on the horrors of nuclear and chemical dumping and an eighties dis-topia play "New Rise of the Master Race." \$10 paper, \$30 cloth. South End Press 116 St. Botolph St., Boston MA 02115. BP and IN.

## PLAYBOOK

Maxine Klein, Lydia Sargent & Howard Zinn



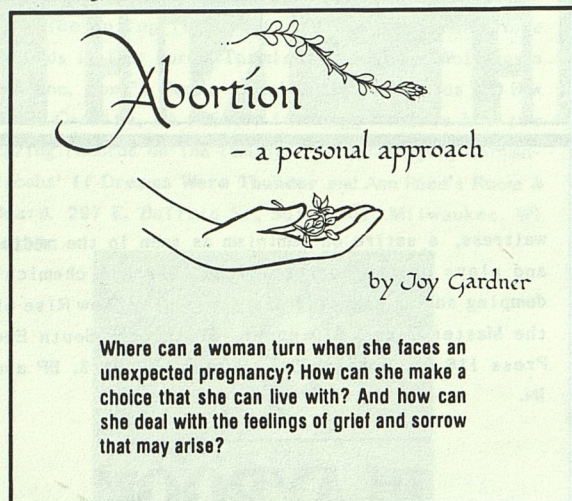
**The Paper Midwife: A Guide to Responsible Homebirth** by Ingrid and Paul Johnson looks like an excellent contribution to the field. \$6.95 paper. First published in New Zealand, available in the US from ISBS, 5602 NE Hassalo St., Portland OR 97213. While you're ordering, you might want to pick up a copy of Anna Zuckerman's **Antarctica**, a basic travelogue (with gorgeous photos) of Antarctica. Not feminist in the particular, but rather in the sense of documenting women travelers. \$12.95 paper.



HEALING YOURSELF PRESS  
SELF-HELP BOOKS BY JOY GARDNER

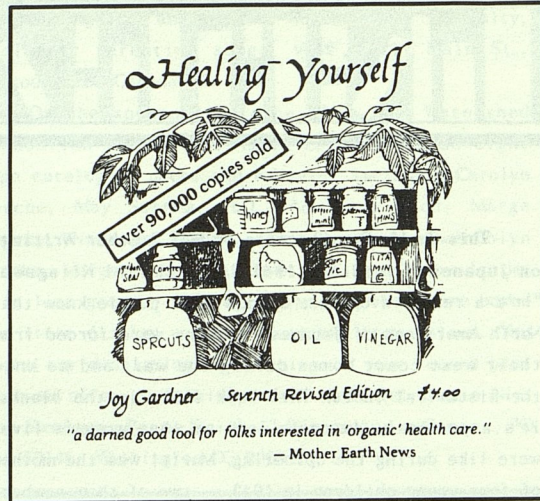
*Newly Released*

*And the Classic*



Abortion  
- a personal approach  
by Joy Gardner

Where can a woman turn when she faces an unexpected pregnancy? How can she make a choice that she can live with? And how can she deal with the feelings of grief and sorrow that may arise?



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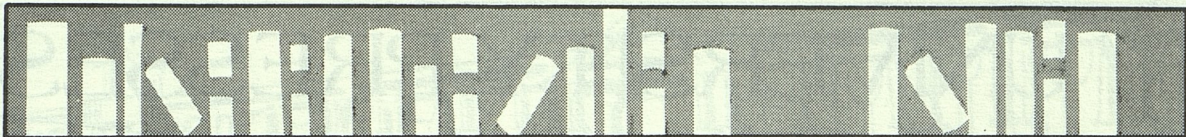
**Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women** reproduces a debate that took place in the 1954-1955 issues of Socialist Workers Party newspaper **The Militant**. The debate was sparked by a lively critique of the fashion industry by the paper's editor Joseph Hansen. A number of letters responded to what we would now call the sexism of the letter, and clarifying the double-bind women experienced -- and the societal requirements of cosmetic usage to gain and keep employment and financial security (in the form of husbands). The book continues with several other articles that relate less specifically to the exploitation of women via cosmetics and more to the process of developing a standard for considering such questions via a socialist analysis, including Evelyn Reed's essay on **The Woman Question** and the Marxist Method. \$4.95 paper. Pathfinder

**Changing Woman and Her Sisters**. Jungian analyst Sheila Moon looks at Navajo and Pueblo myths dealing with feminine deities, tells parts of their myths and

then provides a Jungian analysis of their functions as archetypes useful to all contemporary women, i.e., Snapping Vagina's relationship to alcoholism and co-dependency. \$10.50 paperback and \$14.00 cloth. Also available is an autobiographical work **Dreams of A Woman** detailing Moon's inner journey and dreams. 40% - no minimum. Guild for Psychological Studies Publishing House, 2230 Divisadero Street, San Francisco CA 94115. BP.

**Living Outside Inside** is a collection of articles, essays and letters by Susan Hannaford revolving around the subject of disability, including her own first hand insights into the adverse social position of disabled people in contemporary society. She documents the parallels between women's treatment and that of disabled people, a double disadvantage for disabled women. The pieces, written over a period of two years were collected after her death in 1985. They range from powerful personal accounts to more academic studies of living situations for disabled





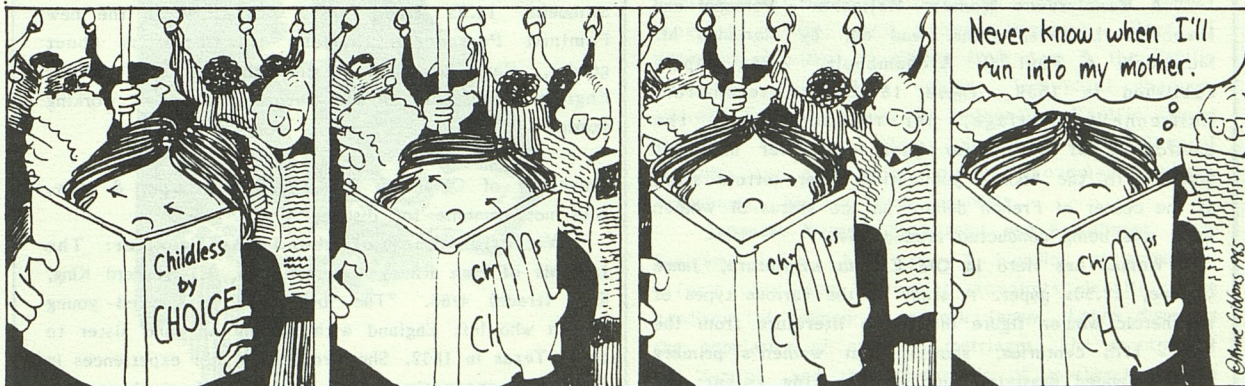
people to notes for talks. The collection makes for a strong and moving book. \$6.95 paper. Canterbury Press.

Also available from Canterbury Press are two novels by the same writer (using Marie Hanson as a pen name) **Three Women** and **Gringos Do Go to Heaven**. **Three Women** looks at the lives of a mother, her daughter, and the child her daughter gives up for adoption. It explores the issues of abortion, marriage, rape, mental health, aging, and class differences. **Gringos Do** covers the travels of an extraordinary woman through Mexico, Central and South America. Both \$7.95 paper. Canterbury Press is a small publishing company formed in 1985. It is run by its two founders whose aim is to promote works of a high literary standard, works which, at the same time, offer something of a social, political and cultural insight. Canterbury Press, PO Box 2151C, Berkeley CA 94702. Bookstores and libraries please order from Bookpeople.

**Existential Folktales** is the first book from Cayuse Press, a new S. F. Bay Area publishing cooperative. Members of the cooperative meet regularly to read and critique their work and each member is responsible for the publication of her or his book in all phases from copy editing to distribution. Margaret Switzer's **Existential Folktales** retells the standard fairy tales in contemporary terms expanding on the real theme of each. I immediately turned to "Political Idealism" (aka The Three Little Pigs) and loved it. Overachievement (The Gallant Tailor) was equally fine. More of feminist assumption than explicitly feminist literature, perhaps, but a great addition to the fiction shelf. Cayuse's future publishing plans include **Longing**, a novel by Maria Espinosa, **Borrowed Rites** by Judith Stephens and another novel, **Visualizations** by Molly Dwyer Sabin. Freedom of the press belongs to she who owns the presses! **Folktales** is available from BP & the distributors. \$7.00 paper.

# Long Overdue

A FEMINIST COMIC STRIP BY ANNE GIBBONS



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FROM THE UNIVERSITY PRESSES



Compiled by Rose Katz, AROOO

University of Massachusetts Press (Box 429, Amherst, MA 01004.)

**Women and European Politics: Contemporary Feminism and Public Policy**, Joni Lovenduski, 10.95x paper. (Cloth also available). A comprehensive country-country survey of the changing political and economic history of women in Eastern and Western Europe of the last two centuries. Lovenduski is keenly aware of the unique situation for the women in each country discussed, as well as the diversions created among women due to differing social class and ethnic background.

Syracuse University Press (1600 Jamesville Ave., Syracuse NY 13210.)

**Women in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance: Literary and Historical Perspectives**, ed. Mary Beth Rose, 12.50x. The contributors cover the repression of women in literature written by men, the role of women in society and the Church, status of women, and participation of women in literary culture.

**A Renaissance Women: Helisenne's Personal and Invective Letters**, trans. and ed. by Marianna M. Mustacchi & Paul J. Archambault, 7.95x paper. Published in 1539, these 18 letters reconstruct Helisenne's marriage, her ill-fated love, the publication of an earlier book, and her husbands hostility to the book's publication. Her letters stand at the center of French debate on the status of women as it was being conducted around 1540.

**Woman has Hero in Old English Literature**, Jance Chance, 12.50x paper. A study of the various types of the heroic women figure in English literature from the 7th - 11th centuries, showing that women's primary role demanded passivity and peacemaking talent; an ideal fulfilled by the archetype of the Virgin Mary.

Howard University Press (79 Garden St., Cambridge MA 02138. Short discount books are 40% through months of publication.)

**The Female Body in Western Culture: Contemporary Perspectives**, ed. Susan Rubin Suleiman, 9.95x paper. 4/86. Twenty-three essays covering wide subject areas deal with questions of power and powerlessness, voice and silence, subjecthood and objectification.

**Gender Politics**, Ethel Klein, 7.95 paper (trade) 3/86. Focuses on the common concerns that mobilize women to become politically active, and how these concerns shape political activism. Now in paper.

University of Minnesota Press (2037 University Ave SE, Minneapolis MN 55414. Dist. B & T.)

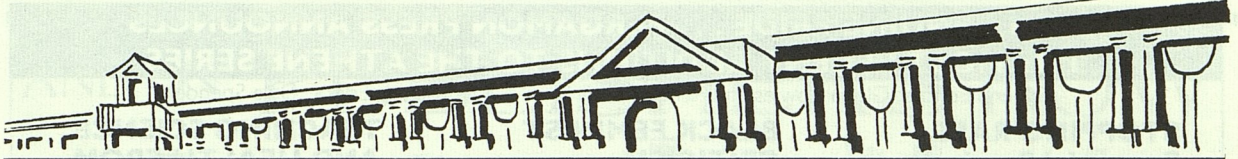
**The Newly Born Woman**, Helene Cixous and Catherine Clement, trans. by Betsy Wing. 12.95 paper (trade) 6/86. Published in France in 1975 and now translated for the first time into English, **The Newly Born Woman** offers connections between sexuality and textuality, exploring the ways in which woman's sexuality shapes her language and her writing.

**Victorian Writing and Working Women**, Julia Swindells, 14.95 (trade) 3/86. First book in the new Feminist Perspective Series, this book is about gender, class and labor relations in the 19th century English novel and in the autobiographies of working women.

University of Oklahoma Press (dist by Harper & Row, does not combine for discount.)

**Victorian Lady of the Texas Frontier: The Journals of Ann Raney Coleman**, ed. C. Richard King, 6.95 (trade) 4/86. "The journal of a spirited young woman who left England with her mother and sister to go to Texas in 1832. She wrote down her experiences in a clear, energetic style, painting her characters sharply and with decided opinions about them all."

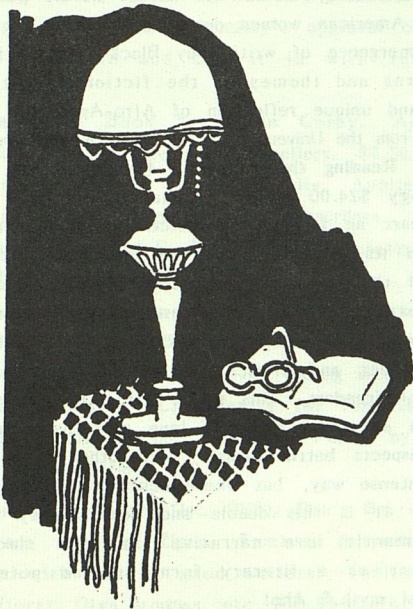




University of California Press (2120 Berkeley Way, Berkeley CA 94720.)

**Russian Factory Women: Workplace and Society 1880-1914**, Rose L. Glickman, 9.95 paper (trade). "Following women from the countryside into Russia's workshops and factories and describing their daily lives at work, in the family, and in society, the author suggests that women's habits, aspirations, and expectations were scarcely altered in the transition from agrarian to industrial life."

**Caring: A Feminine Approach to Ethics and Moral Education**, Nel Noddings, 8.95 paper. "Noddings builds a compelling philosophical argument for an ethic based on natural caring, which contrasts with the traditional one discussed largely in masculine terms in principles and propositions. She does not imply that logic is to be discarded or is alien to women, but rather presents an alternative view that begins with longing for goodness and not with moral reasoning."



**Hard Choices: How Women Decide about Work, Career, and Motherhood**, Kathleen Gerson, 9.95 paper. 6/86. Analyzing the experiences of middle-class and working class women who were young adults in the 1970's, Gerson concludes that women's adult choices are neither the outcome of predispositions instilled in early childhood or passive reactions to external coercion, but rather are decisions made in response to often unanticipated constraints and opportunities.

University of Tennessee Press (293 Communications Building, Knoxville TN 37996.)

**Russian and Polish Women's Fiction**, trans. and ed. Helena Goscilo, 14.95x. "These 11 stories offer diverse perspectives on Russian and Polish women, their values and their ways of life from the 19th century to the present. Goscilo provides an introductory survey of Polish and Russian women's history and biographies of the authors."

University of Hawaii (2840 Kolowalu St, Honolulu 96822.)

**Women In Asia and the Pacific: Towards an East-West Dialogue**, Madeleine J. Goodman, ed, 17.50x pb (short) 360 pages. Edited by the director of Women's Studies at U of H, this collection of 12 articles represents contributors from a variety of cultures and with a broad spectrum of views on feminism. Part I focuses on theory and criticism, examining gender identity, race, and ethnic identity. Part II interprets the lives of women from Asia & the Pacific in terms of feminist values. Individual chapters address feminist issues in Indonesia, Pacific Island Nations, China, & India and the interaction of feminist and nationalist political movements in the Philippines, Vietnam and Indonesia.

**Japanese Women: Constraint and Fulfillment**, Takie Sugiyama Lebra, 9.50x pb. A blending of statistical information and personal accounts detailing the condition of women in modern Japan. Lebra discusses the popularity of arranged marriages, the sanctity of the family, and the relationship of mother-in-law to new bride.



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UK: Headington Hill Hall, Oxford OX3 0BW, England

**The Rani of Jhansi: A Study in Female Heroism in India**, Joyce Lebra-Chapman, 25.00x cloth. The story of Rani Lakshmbai, national hero of India. The young widow of the Maharaja of Jhansi fought in the Great Rebellion of 1857 (the beginning of the struggle for independence from the British) and died valorously in battle. "The author achieves both a balanced and vivid portrait of an unusual woman and a fascinating exploration of mythmaking and images of female heroism in India."

**Stopping Rape** is Pauline Bart and Patricia O'Brien. How do you avoid being raped? "Fight Back", says Pauline Bart. This is a study of women who successfully avoided rape by fighting back. Academic and essential. \$10.95 paper, 24.95 cloth. Pergamon Press.

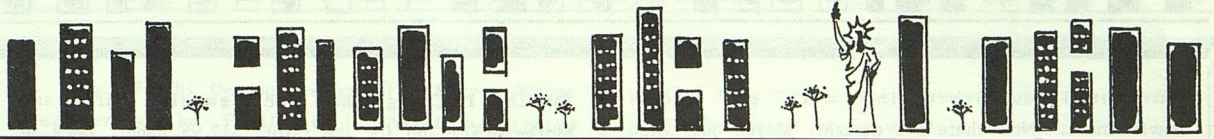
**Rape** is the catalog of an art exhibition of mostly women's artwork focused on rape. Features essays by feminist art critic Arlene Raven. Color photos, \$5.00 copy, bookstore terms not sent. Ohio State University, University Gallery of Fine Art, 128 North Oval Mall, Columbus OH 43210.

**Prologue: The Novels of Black American Women 1891-1965**, Carole McAlpine Watson. \$27.95 Greenwood Press. Looking at 58 of the 64 novels published by Black American women during this period, it discusses the emergence of writing by Black women, the major concerns and themes of the fiction and its special role and unique reflection of Afro-American culture.

From the University of Michigan Women and Culture Series: **Reading the Romantic Heroine: Text, History, Ideology** \$24.00 cloth. "Romantic literature holds at its heart an intense contradiction, which can perhaps explain its seduction. On the one hand, it provides one of the few accepted outlets through which women can express their anger and revolt against their situation in a patriarchal order. On the other hand, it idealizes and eroticizes women's powerlessness and lack of freedom. This study read(s) that contradiction into a series of romantic love narratives, where the two aspects battle against each other in a more or less intense way, but where neither wins out over the other. It is this double and contradictory attraction of romantic love narrative that has made it so resilient as a literary form and so potent as a cultural myth." Aha!



## AND ON PUBLISHER'S ROW



News from Mary at Full Circle Books: "**Charley-horse** from Viking has done **really** well for us. Our rep did not tell us it had a strong lesbian rancher as the main character. That is, it's done well since we discovered that and reshelved it in the right place.

**From Winston Press: Adult Children of Alcoholics** by Patty McConnell. A workbook for healing that offers specific steps in so many areas of dysfunction. \$8.35. (Also we recommend **Repeat After Me** a more general workbook, excellent for anyone trying to learn new patterns. From M.A.C. Publishers, 1850 High St., Denver CO 80218.) **Co-Dependence** by Anne Wilson Schaefer, author of **Women's Realities**. This is a must! She discusses society's approval of this form of addiction and ties it in with feminist theory. \$7.43.

**The Love Book** by Karen Casey. Another affirmations book. These are big sellers. \$7.50. **Fat is a Family Affair** by Judi Hollis. Applies the alcohol recovery process to eating disorders. \$6.50. **Hero Within** by Carol S. Pearson. "Six archetypes we live by." \$8.35.

**Fierce Tenderness** by Mary Hunt. "A feminist theology of friendship." \$18.95 cloth. **Sophia** by Susan Cady, Marion Ronan, and Hal Taussig seems to be an attempt to "save" Christianity for feminists by discussing Sophia. \$13.00. **Teaching Peace** by Ruth Fletcher. Lesson plans. \$13.00

From Methuen, Inc. (Inc. RKP). **Don't Bet on the Prince** ed. by Jack Zipes. Feminist fairytales and criticism with lots of good writers: Tanith Lee, Judith Viorst, Olga Broumas, etc. \$18.95 cloth.

**El Monte** by Lydia Cabrera. "Monumental.... Afro-Cuban traditions..., rituals, folk medicine." Photographs; index. \$35.00 cloth.

**Sex Class & Culture** by Lillian Robinson. Essays. \$12.95.

**Women, Power & Subversion** by Judith Lowder Newton. British fiction from 1778-1860. \$11.95.

**Women, Feminism & Biology** by Lynda Birke. Very interesting. "A person's biology is

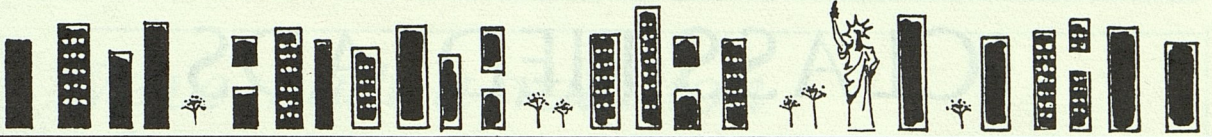


Kathy Lenhart in The Kwan Yin Book of Changes









Hot off the Beacon Presses: **The Sacred Hoop: Recovering the Feminine in American Indian Traditions**, a collection of essays by Paula Gunn Allen that begin with the premise that the physical and cultural genocide of American Indian tribes was and is inspired by patriarchal fear of gynocracy. Then goes on to discuss the women-centered cultures, explore a range of female deities, American Indian women's history, the honored place of lesbians in Indian culture, contemporary Indian literature, and the ways women of Native America are rebuilding traditions and recovering heritage. Will probably be one of the major non-fiction books of the year, if readers can find their way through the \$24.95 cloth price. (Dist. by Harper and Row.)

**Women and Change in Latin America**, ed. by June Nash and Helen Safa looks at women's roles in development and change in Latin America. The book's premise is that quality of life, not production for profit, is the standard to be used when looking at change in Latin America. Somewhat academic, but it also reads like a feminist tourbook of women's lives as migrant workers in Venezuela, as market women in the Andes, as heads of households in Jamaica, as factory workers in Brazil, as small commodities producers, as farmers. It also looks at Latin women's experiences in the USA, and under the right wing governments, and in Cuba. \$14.95 paper, \$29.95 cloth. Bergin and Garvey, 670 Amherst Rd., South Hadley, MA 01075. BP and IN.

**Going Solo: Single Mothers by Choice**, Jean Renvoize. \$19.95 cloth. An excellent and practical book on decision making and the daily realities of single mothering by choice, based on meetings with women and their children in Britain, Holland and the US. She discusses why a growing number of women are

making this choice, the societal implications, and all in the context of the women's movement. Turns out that all the women who made a deliberate choice to "go solo" have loving, joyful and rewarding experiences of motherhood -- leaving the inevitable questions: Are a woman and her child better off without a man? Is a stable unit of two better than a broken unit of three? Lesbian inclusive.



Kathy Lenhart in *The Kwan Yin Book of Changes*

**Making A Difference: Feminist Literary Criticism** ed Gayle Greene and Coppelia Kahn, Methuen 10.95 paper, 19.95 cloth. A much more interesting book than most -- it includes studies of black women writers, French theories of the feminine, psychoanalysis and feminism, and Bonnie Zimmerman's article on lesbian feminist criticism. Also from Methuen, **Women, Power & Subversion: Social Strategies in British Fiction 1778-1860**, Judith Lowder Newton, 11.95 paper.



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## MASS MARKETS 1986

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- Outrageous Acts & Everyday Rebellions**, Gloria Steinem, NAL 4.50 NF.  
**\*Rope of Gold**, Josephine Herbst, Warner 4.50 F.  
**Dragonsbane**, Barbara Hambly, Ballantine 3.50 SF.

### February

- Moments on Maple Avenue**, Louise Kapp Howe, Warner 3.95 NF.  
**Spring Sonata**, Bernice, Warner, 4.95 F.  
**The Upper Room**, Mary Monroe, Ballantine 3.95 F.  
**Salvador Witness: The Life and Calling of Jean Donovan**, Anna Carrigan Ballantine 3.95 Bio.

### March

- "Dearest Amanda..." An Executive's Advice to Her Daughter**, Eliza G. C. Collins, Berkley 3.95 NF.  
**Lesbian Nuns**, Rosemary Curb & Nancy Manahan, Warner 3.95 Lesbian/NF.  
**Stalker**, Liza Cody, Warner 3.95 Myst.  
**Bright River Trilogy**, Annie Greene, Ballantine 3.95 F.  
**The Wicked Enchantment**, Margot Benary-Isbert, Ace 2.75 SF/YA.

### April

- \*The Hero and the Crown**, Robin McKinley, Berkley, 2.95 SF.  
**The Sorcerer's Lady**, Paula Volsky, ACE 2.95 SF.  
**The Wild Hunt of the Ghost Hounds**, Penelope Lively, Ace 2.95 SF/YA.  
**The Ivory Dagger**, Patricia Wentworth, Bantam, 2.95 Myst.  
**\*Crazy Quilt**, Jocelyn Riley, Bantam, 2.50. YA.  
**A Hawk of Silver**, Mary Gentle, NAL 2.95 SF/YA.

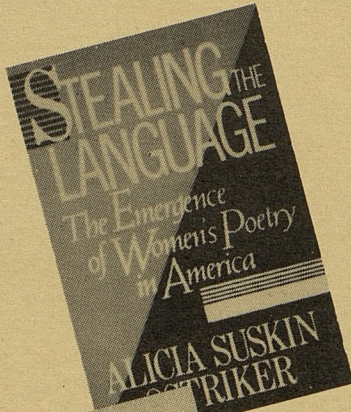
### May

- Merlin's Book**, Jane Yolen, Ace 2.95 SF.  
**\*The Dancers of Arun**, Elizabeth A. Lynn, Berkeley 2.95 SF (reissue).  
**The Lilacs are Blooming in Warsaw**, Alice Parizeau, NAL 3.95 F.  
**Eating Right to Live Sober**, Katherine Ketcham & L. Ann Mueller, MD, NAL 3.95 NF.  
**Scared to Death**, Anne Morice, Bantam, 2.95 Myst.  
**Triad**, Sheila Finch, Bantam 3.50 SF.  
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