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# Feminist Bookstore News



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*Femina SERIAL am F32978*  
Volume 14 Number 4

November/December 1991

12-3-91



# CALYX BOOKS

## Award-winning Books by Women

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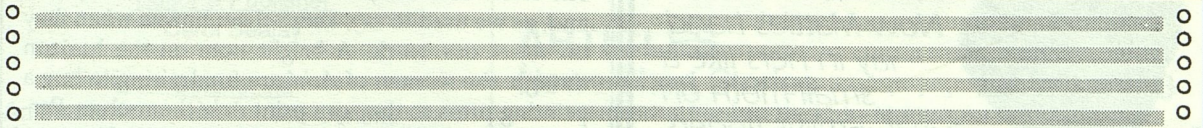
—Joy Harjo

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# NOTES FROM THE COMPUTER TABLE



This issue began in Boston as the clan gathered for my lover's parents' (is that parents-in-law? Given the legal status of lesbian relationships, I tend to think of them as my parent-outlaws) 60th wedding anniversary. It was a great excuse to drop in at a few bookstores, visit friends (including Paula Wallace, my co-conspirator in starting *Old Wives Tales* 15 years ago, and FBN's first and longest running columnist, Susanna J. Sturgis), and to take a few days of actual vacation on that sometimes far-away Atlantic coast.

One of the highlights of that trip was being in New Words the day collective member Kate Rushin learned that Firebrand will publish her first book, *The Black Back-Ups*. This is a collection of poetry that has been 15 years in the making — watch for it on Firebrand's Spring 1993 list.

Of course, being on the road at production time meant leaving lay-out and paste-up in Cill Janeway's and Ann Morse's capable hands. I practically had to memorize parts of Red Reddick's article on burnout to be able to let go and let them do it, but it was well worth the struggle. And of course Cill and Ann did an excellent job. Our printer, on the other hand, took twice as long as usual, so we're once again going to press almost before subscribers have received the last issue. We're still waiting to hear how booksellers felt about the new format for "From Our Own Presses" and for responses to the question posed in the last issue: "Is an 800 number for mail order worth the expense?"

This issue includes a two-part section on magazines for feminist bookstores: Laura Zimmerman's "What's New On the Magazine Scene" and Rachel Pepper's "Zines: What the Hell Are They?" If you're a "new" subscriber and don't have the January/February 1990 special issue on periodicals, drop us a card and \$5 and we'll send you a copy. Laura Zimmer-

man's article in that issue, "Stocking and Selling Periodicals," and the listings of feminist periodicals in the U.S. and Canada are excellent resources for any bookseller setting up or expanding a feminist periodicals section.

Other highlights in this issue include CALYX' insightful contribution to the publishers' column, "Financing the Publishing;" good news from the Australian Feminist Book Fortnight; and bad news about the increasing censorship feminist, lesbian, and gay publishers are facing at the printer — a problem that is gaining momentum at a time when there are no feminist or woman-owned printers in the U.S. who are able to print and bind books. Coincidence? I don't think so. The growth in the problem of censorship

## FBN Deadlines

University Press Issue  
January/February  
December 12

Spring Announcements  
March/April Issue  
February 10

Photo: © 1991 Simon Metz

*Now Mattie's hand  
lay in hers like a  
small moth on  
a leaf. Emily's fingers  
closed around it like  
a water lily at night...*

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RANDOM HOUSE

from printers has directly paralleled the decline in "competition" from woman-owned printers. Unfortunately, there's something about knowing that someone else wants the job that makes it more attractive and, as we used to say, keeps them honest when they do reject our work. A bright note on the horizon though: the women of *Aché* are fundraising to buy a printing press so they can print *Aché* themselves. Perhaps we're at the beginning of a third wave of feminist printers? (See "What's New On the Magazine Scene.")

We declared a temporary moratorium on the bestsellers column this issue. We've been running bestseller lists from the same stores over and over, which isn't fair to those stores (they'd like to see what's selling in other stores) and doesn't really represent the diversity of what's selling in feminist bookstores. I'm hoping that holding the column for an issue will inspire more booksellers to send their bestseller lists to FBN. If you miss the column, contribute! The other column we're working to revive is the "Short Raves" column. If there's a book you or your customers have loved that you'd like other booksellers to know about, jot down a few sentences (stealing them from your customers is fine!), the title, and the pertinent ordering information and send it in. Anything from a sentence to a paragraph is great!

Two corrections on recent issues: Page 29 of last issue's "Financial Survey of Radical Bookshops" *should* have read "Only in London have shops been able (not unable) to survive in significant numbers." We're sorry for the typo and the resultant confusion.

In the article about the troubles at The Women's Press/U.K., I mis-reported that Mary Hemming was now the Managing Director of The Women's Press, due to my misunderstanding of the Press' structure. Ros de Lanerolle had previously been Managing Director of both The Press and The Book Club. Now The Women's Press is jointly run by Publishing Director Kathy Gale and Sales Director Mary Hemming with Carole Spedding as Book Club Managing Director. Again I'd like to extend my thanks to the many women who assisted me in gathering and understanding the information for this difficult story. I regret any difficulties that my misunderstanding of the situation created.

Yours in spreading the words,  
Carol Seajay

# FBN

## Editor & Publisher

Carol Seajay

## Columnists

Art Books	Tee Corinne
Canadian Books NEC	Penny Goldsmith
Gay Men's Literature	Ed Hermance
Mainstream Publishers	Sandi Torkildson
Mysteries	Mary Lowry
Science Fiction	Susanna Sturgis
University Presses	Ann Christopherson
Young Adult Books	Christine Jenkins

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Courtesy of the ILIS Newsletter

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FEMINIST BOOKSTORE NEWS is the communications vehicle for the informal network of feminist bookstores. FBN reaches 350 feminist and feminist-inclined bookstores in the U.S. and Canada as well as feminist booksellers in England, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, India and Japan. Librarians, women's studies teachers, book reviewers, publishers and feminist bibliophiles comprise the remainder of the subscribers.

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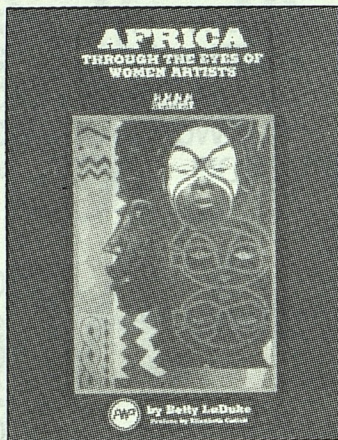
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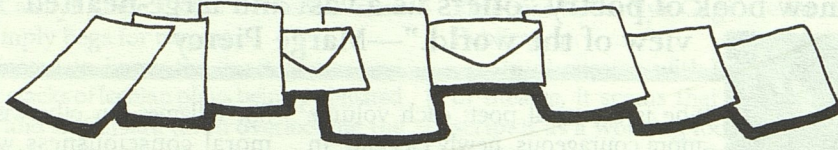
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# LETTERS



The Women's Press Ltd  
34 Great Sutton Street  
London EC1V 0DX  
fax: 071-608-1938

Dear Feminist Bookstore News,

We would like to correct misunderstandings which may arise out of recent Feminist Bookstore News coverage of events at The Women's Press earlier this year, and other articles about new developments in the UK feminist publishing scene.

Mr. Naim Attallah is, and always has been, the financial backer of The Women's Press since Stephanie Dowrick founded the company in 1977. That has always been known by all the women who have ever worked at The Press. He took over management briefly in March 1991, as a result of serious concerns about the company's financial situation. Seven of the twenty-two women working at The Women's Press (both part-time and full-time) at that time then resigned. Since then those who stayed, those who have joined since, and some of our authors, have been unacceptably attacked both privately and in public.

However, Mr. Attallah's management intervention lasted only a few days — indeed only until Stephanie Dowrick traveled back from Australia to work with women at The Press in interviewing and appointing new staff, including a new Publishing Director, and to help put in place new working practices. The company now enjoys a more open management structure being jointly run by Mary Hemming, Sales Director and Kathy Gale, Publishing Director. Carole Spedding is Managing Director of The Women's Press Book Club (a separate sister organisation), and continues her long-standing role as Editor of the popular Livewire Books for Teenagers list. Editorial decisions are, as before, taken at our office, with no involvement by Mr. Attallah.

The new structure of shared management at The Women's Press is already reaping rewards. The energies of the new, and highly committed team are strongly focused on publishing feminist fiction and nonfiction general trade titles by and for women in a professional, lively and responsive fashion. The original and valuable principles of The Press will, of course, continue to be maintained, and will be further supported by this powerful and professional publishing strategy.

Mary Hemming, Sales Director  
Kathy Gale, Publishing Director



Full Circle Books  
2205 Silver SE  
Albuquerque NM 87106

Dear FBN,

As a delighted playwright, I applaud Carolyn Gage's letter in the July/August issue. It was serious and thought-provoking. As a professional bookseller, however, I believe she has analyzed the problem (not enough lesbian theater) correctly but has missed the solution by a country mile. Theater is performance just as music is. Play scripts are not theater. They are not half as rich or textured as theater and do not sell for the same reason that most sheet music does not sell; the general audience has no idea how to read it.

If every single lesbian feminist publisher made a commitment to publish one play a year I would suggest they apply for group rates at the loony bin. Why? Because it would put many of them out of business within 4 years time. Enough books sell dreadfully — ones that publishers expect to do well — that only one I could think of could dream of

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## AN ATLAS OF THE DIFFICULT WORLD POEMS 1988-1991

affording to do a book a year that they know will bomb at the register.

Personally, I believe the solution to the problem is one of performance, not publication. The traditional performance spaces of the feminist community are the women's festivals. If every festival committed to making space for at least one afternoon of theater, a whole lot more women would see theater than would ever read the plays.

And video is not without its power in the women's community. Let us suppose a small theater company in Seattle produces one of Carolyn Gage's excellent plays. And let us further suppose they rent lights and do one performance in front of home video cameras. Are they going to produce a video that would compare with *Desert Hearts*? Of course not! But if they asked me to buy a copy for \$19.95 for rental I would. I know I could get the cost back plus a profit. I would be willing to rent it for \$2.00 and (after recovering the cost) send half to the production company as we do for *Lesbian Connection*. (Well, actually, we send Elsie all of the money).

What good would this do? It would get feminist theater in the hands of the general audience. It would,

if a tag at the end gave royalty information and addresses, promote the possibility of many, many small performances. It might even, eventually, make a tiny bit of money for the playwright, actresses, etc. that otherwise wouldn't have been made.

Furthermore, it could eventually create a market for the script. *Night Mother* did not sell until it already succeeded as theater. Jane Chambers' plays sold because people had seen them.



Do I have the energy to do this for my plays? Not a prayer. Producing and marketing are very different skills from writing. So I am doing what Sarah Dreher did, establishing my credentials as a novelist so that I might be able to persuade the readers to try a play. Check back in 5 or 6 years to see if it works.

Hopefully,

Mary Morell

P.S. The credit for the festival idea goes to my partner, Anne Frost.

P.P.S. Thanks again to Ms. Gage for raising this important issue.



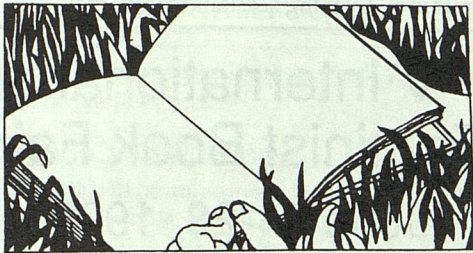
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PO Box 10543  
Tallahassee, FL 32302

Dear FBN,

I just read Carolyn Gage's letter in the last issue of FBN and it simply begs for response.

I'd be fascinated to know the exact names and publishers of the stacks of lesbian plays being published in Great Britain and in Canada (even overlooking the fact that if you will publish in that format, a play, a drama, you can get government funding to pay for the entire cost of doing so or very close to the entire cost).

Secondly, as someone who genuinely enjoys plays and someone who lives with someone who considers them prime reading, it would be nice indeed to be able to do lesbian plays at Naiad. However, plays can be published, but they cannot be sold in sufficient quantities to pay for the cost of printing them... except, as New Victoria has amply shown, if the plays are by someone who has achieved the "even the laundry lists will sell" status of a Sarah Dreher. If in some wild dream KVF were to write a play, of course I could publish and sell it.



Candice Moore, courtesy of Amazon Bookstore Newsletter

By the by, this is not a condition unique to lesbian and feminist publishers. In Naiad's experience, getting an author who excels at a genre that is less popular than novels works by mixing the genres. (Take a look at Lee Lynch's career mix of novels and short story collections.)

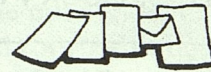
But before we imagine that this publishing handicap is unique to lesbian and feminist publishers, I offer this unique anecdote: For a 25 year period a distinguished WREM (White Rich European-heritage Males) publisher cajoled a novel at a time from his equally distinguished WREM author and "rewarded" him in between each novel with a published collection of short stories. The publisher Bennett Cerf of Random House. The author? John O'Hara. 'Nuff said.

Barbara Grier

New Victoria Publishers  
Box 27  
Norwich, VT 05055

Response to Carolyn Gage's letter on Play and Script Publication:

In discussion with Beth and from what I know of the theatre, it seems that the ultimate function of a script is as a working tool, a step towards the living production of a piece. From what I understand you sell scripts after performances to an audience freshly



familiar with your work. It seems that already, by self-publishing and finding a market in your audience or with groups of women in theatre, you are building a distribution network. What I would want to do is encourage you to pursue that approach. You have many of the building blocks in place. Perhaps it is time for women in U.S. theatre to begin to coordinate publications and form a new publishing concern. It seems to me you are reaching the point of power to do so, much like New Victoria, by being a printshop for ten years, took the step (with computers) of publishing novels.

Small presses in the U.S. tend to specialize according to readership distribution, especially since we are entirely self-funded, unlike many presses in Britain and Canada. We publish what we can sell. In our case, we know we can do novels, even though we are interested in non-fiction, historical pieces of which we have managed very few so far. Sarah Dreher's plays came about in book form, in part because we publish very successful mysteries by her. Even though her plays represent the best of her writing, this volume does not sell.

I hope, rather than seeing small lesbian/feminist presses as failing to recognize or take on the task of publishing scripts in book form, that instead it becomes clear that there is room for a new theatrically-oriented press, one which can begin as a desktop press, and which can print scripts in the size and length that actresses can work with or audiences buy for a more careful reading after a performance.

Yours sincerely,

ReBecca Béguin

Editor for New Victoria

○

# News News News

## Fifth International Feminist Book Fair

*This information for publishers interested in exhibiting at the Fifth International Feminist Bookfair in Amsterdam arrived just as we were going to press.*

AMSTERDAM: After the announcement of the Fifth International Feminist Book Fair we mailed last summer, more than 50 publishers from all over the world have confirmed their participation. We are now pleased to send registration and accommodation information.

### Registration

Registrations for booth rentals should be received before 1 January 1992. Registration forms are available directly from the Fifth International Book Fair committee at the address in the box.

### Stands

There are 100 stands (3 meters by 2 meters) available. Standard equipment per stand (provisional) includes 3 shelves (30x285 cm), 1 spot, a table, 3 chairs, and a 15-letter identification sign. Individual stands are f1,500 (approx. \$810).\* Corner stands are available at f 2,000 (\$1080).

There are 34 niches (2m and 1,20 or 2,30 m wide). Standard equipment includes 1 table, 1 chair, one or two sets of bookracks (depending on size) with 4 shelves, 1 spot, and a 15 letter identification sign. The larger niches (2,3 by 2m) are f1,000 (\$540).\* The smaller niches (1,2-1,3 by 2m) are f300 (\$162).

Collective stands are reserved for small publishers (fewer than 10 books per year). Display-Only stands are for publishers without representatives at the Fair. Place on display table f30 (\$16). Price per title in collective books (for small presses, under 10 books, only) f25 (\$13.50).

All prices are exclusive of 18.5% VAT (Value Added Tax). In most cases, VAT can be reclaimed. Details will be sent upon receipt of your registration. Only foreign publishers are allowed to sell books. The Fair won't charge a percentage of the proceeds for the organization.

Extra shelves and other facilities are available on request, at cost price.

### Admission to the Programme

Publishers who have rented a shared or collective stand or a niche are entitled to one free passe-partout. Rental of a full stand includes two free passe-partouts. Passholders have free admission to all regular day programmes. Evening sessions are not included.

## V International Feminist Book Fair June 24-28, 1992

(Note new address effective Nov.1)

Overtoom 270  
1054 JB Amsterdam  
The Netherlands

Tel: +31-20-638-1506 Fax: +31-20-638-0786

### Customs

Publishers should make their own shipping and customs arrangements. Books should arrive in Amsterdam before 18 June 1992. All costs are to be paid by the publisher. Our official customs broker is GELDERS AIR, Attn. Rob Braaksma, PO Box 7784, 1118 ZM Schiphol, the Netherlands. Fax: +32-20-653-4334. (Write directly to the Fair for specific information. Further details will be sent upon receipt of your

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registration.) Please note there is 6% VAT on books sold in The Netherlands.

## Promotion and Publicity

The Fair will be announced by bookshops, libraries, press and media. A full programme of the Fair will be distributed free of charge to exhibitors and sold to the public. Please send a catalogue of the books and/or journals you intend to bring to the Fair, and send us information about the authors you will bring to the Fair. The latter is vital for our programming.

## Accommodation

We have made reservations in hotels close to the Fair. If you would like us to make a reservation for you, please fill out the enclosed accommodation forms and return it to us as soon as possible. If you prefer alternatives (other hotels, youth hostels, private homes), please state so on the accommodation form. A list of youth hostels and hotels in all price brackets with addresses and telephone numbers will be sent to you on request. Some places in private homes are available at f20/night. Tourist class hotels are avail-

able for f126 (\$68)\* single or f154 (\$83)\* double per night. Three-star hotels for f159 (\$86) single or f219 (\$118) per night. Four star hotels for f230 (\$125) single or f275 (\$150) per night. All prices include breakfast.

## Schedule

The Fair will be held June 24-June 28. The first two days of the fair will be for women working in the book trades. The Fair will be open to the public for book sales June 26, 27, and 28 with a program of lectures, panel discussions, and workshops with women writers from all over the world. Simultaneous translations in Dutch, French, English and Spanish will be available. See FBN V14#2 (July/August 1991) for more information.

For more information and/or for registration forms, write to Hannie Van Herk, 5E Internationale Femistische Boekenbeurs, Overtoom 270, 1054 JB Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Fax: +31-20- 638-0786. Tel: +31-20-638-1506.

\* prices in brackets are at November rates, US\$1 = .54 Guilders. These are approximations and are subject to change with currency fluctuations.

## Multicultural Publishers Exchange Second Annual Conference

The Multicultural Publishers Exchange held its second annual conference in October in Madison, WI and took another step toward its goal of giving people of color a chance to be heard.

"We're off to a great start and many people have great visions," said conference attendee and MPE acting vice-president SDiane Bogus (Women in the Moon Publications).

During the event, publishers, booksellers, distributors and authors met to draft a mission statement (see proposed text below); attend workshops on topics including multicultural literature, marketing books, and publishing tips for small presses; and deal with financial issues such as attracting more corporate sponsors to help pay for the conference, and for MPE's bid for non-profit status.

Other events included keynote speeches by Bev Smith, Victor Villasenor, Shawn Wong and Dr. Evelyn Hu-DeHart; a reading by Bogus from her book *Chant of the Women of Magdalena*; the first MPE book awards; and a "phenomenal" display of multicultural children's books. (Anyone interested in purchasing books from that exhibit at a standard discount should contact the MPE.)

Attendance at this year's conference was 135, down 15 from last year's gathering. "The dynamic was different because there were fewer people, but the enthusiasm was the same," Bogus said.

According to *NewsWire*, MPE Executive Directory Charles Taylor attributed the dip in attendance "most definitely to the economy. We had thirty people call in who said they just couldn't make it due to poor sales. We have some small presses that are really hurting right now, but we've got a strong core of 250 members who are very committed to building this network."

Officers also were selected during the conference, including a president, Rennie Mau (The Media Bridge Connection, Sebastopol CA); acting vice-president, SDiane Bogus; secretary, Cheryl Hudson (Just Us Books, Orange NJ); treasurer, Daisy Jefferson (Creative Press Works, Memphis TN); and to the board of directors,

Wade Hudson, Linda Dudley, James Pebbles, P. Anna Johnson, Mack Morant and Kwaku Kushindana.

On the group's agenda for the coming year is choosing a site for the 1992 conference, seeking out corporate sponsors and raising funds for the Madison-based "incubator," a building that will serve as a resource hub for minority booksellers, publishers and distributors.

For more information, contact MPE, PO Box 9869, Madison WI 53715; or call 608-244-5633; fax 608-244-3255. .

## Northern California Chapter of The Publishing Triangle Formed

Various and sundry gay and lesbian book-fiends gathered on October 23 for the inaugural meeting of the Northern California Chapter of the Publishing Triangle. The Publishing Triangle is a national organization for lesbians and gay men working in the publishing industry located in New York City. The Northern California chapter is the first regional chapter to be formed.

The goals of the local organization are to create a social and professional network for women and men involved in both small press and mainstream publishing; to contribute to the literary life of Northern California by holding public and membership events and establishing an active presence at such events as the SF Bay Area Book Festival and the Lesbian/Gay Pride Festival; to involve members in publishing activities nationally and internationally; and to support the interests of chapter members in developing programs related to publishing.

The originating steering committee includes Frederique Delacoste/Cleis Press, Edisol Dotson/Putting Out Books, Bert Herrman/Alamo Square Press, Richard Labonté/A Different Light; Mark Salzwede/HarperCollinsSF, Amy Scholder/City Lights, and Carol Seajay/Feminist Bookstore News. For further information, contact any of the steering committee members. To be added to the mailing list to receive announcements of future meetings, write to Bert Herrman, Alamo Square Press, PO Box 14543, San Francisco CA 94114. ○

# NEWS FROM THE BOOKSTORES

Collected by Carol Seajay

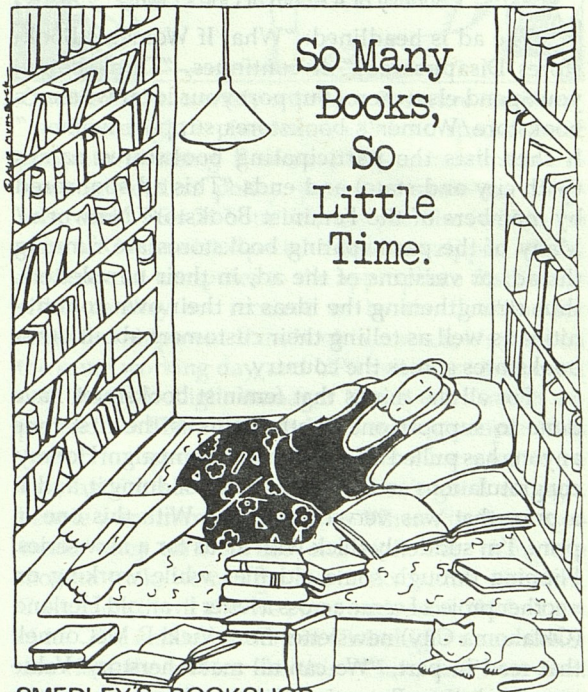
River Artz' Pandora Books for Open Minds, in Kalamazoo, just celebrated the store's tenth anniversary with a big party (with as many as 100 women in the store at a time) and a weekend-long 10%-off-everything sale. Festivities also included a run of special 10th-anniversary t-shirts and tank-dresses and an idea I hadn't heard before — refrigerator magnets with the bookstore's hours on them!

River said that she knew her customers were up to something — maybe flowers? — but they totally surprised her with a plane ticket to the V International Feminist Bookfair in Amsterdam next summer as their thanks for her years of work and for the bookstore. The women who did the fund-raising said the whole experience was a fundraiser's dream come true: Everyone they asked to contribute said yes, immediately!

River reports that Pandora has kept an even keel through the recession, that her community is experiencing an influx of new people moving from large cities to small towns and that's having a wonderful impact on the community. This is a time of more involvement, activism and politics, including everything from a new gay parents' group to increased support for the rape crisis center and a candidate survey of city commissioners running in Kalamazoo and other nearby towns regarding their positions on gay rights.

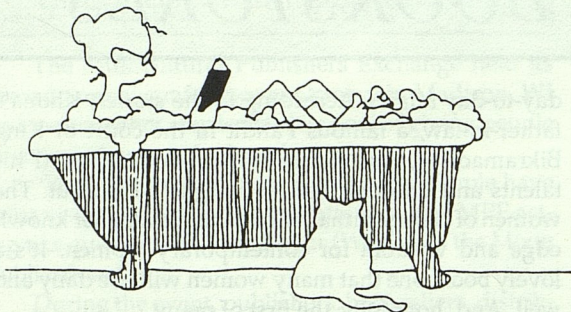
Lacking any similar such thing, the women of Narigrantha Prabartana, Feminist Bookstore in Bangladesh created and published a women's calendar/diary for women. The diary is based on the Bengali calendar year and includes descriptions of women's activities and events. The lives of rural women comprise the theme for this year's diary. It also introduces *Khona*, a very famous personality in Bengali myth who is know for her knowledge of astronomy and meteorology as well as her insight into

day-to-day affairs. According to the stories, Khona's father-in-law, a famous Pandit in the court of King Bikramaditya, feared that Khona would exceed his talents and ordered that her tongue be cut out. The women of Narigrantha Prabartana reclaim her knowledge and wisdom for contemporary women. It's a lovely book, one that many women will use daily and well. And, hopefully, the first of many.



Following out of conversations started at Feminist Bookstores Day in NYC, Rose Maloof went back to Lunaria (Northampton MA) and collected the advertising rates from a number of publications, determined how much it would cost to run ads in eight periodicals, designed an ad promoting feminist bookstores, and then invited the feminist bookstores to pool funds to finance the campaign. Forty-two book-

stores responded and the ad is running in *Hot Wire*, *Belles Lettres*, *off our backs*, *Gay Community News*, *Women's Review of Books*, *Lesbian Connection* and *Sojourner* this fall, and will run again in the spring in *Sojourner*, *Hot Wire* and *Lesbian Connection*.



Courtesy of A Room of One's Own

The ad is headlined: "What If Women's Bookstores Disappeared?" It continues, "Think before you spend elsewhere/Support your local women's bookstore/Women's bookstores support women." It then lists the participating bookstores names (with city and state) and ends "This ad sponsored by members of the Feminist Bookstore Network." Many of the participating bookstores are running the ad, or versions of the ad, in their newsletters, thus strengthening the ideas in their own communities as well as telling their customers about other bookstores across the country.

For all the things that feminist bookstores have done to support one another, this is the first time anyone has pulled off a national ad campaign. Hooray, congratulations and thanks to Rose for doing it, and at a price that was very economical! With this one in print, I'm suddenly thick with ideas for a new series: Flipping through some old files while working on another project I came across a letter in an old Herland (Oklahoma City) newsletter from Vicki P. McConnell that read in part, "We can all make herstory. Value your bookstore. Everytime you buy books, thank the Goddess you have that place. Remember the fires of the past, when books were burned, as were witches and lesbians. Value the voices of those who write for you, and the sisters who get these books into your hands. Maybe it starts when we value ourselves..." and I began thinking about a series of ads (inspired in part by GCN's fundraising ad series?) quoting lesbian authors and feminist heroines on the importance of

feminist bookstores — saying things like, "If it weren't for feminist bookstores, there wouldn't be a lesbian literature in this country!"

The Back Door Bookstore (West Palm Beach) is thriving in the city that initially refused to grant them a business license because city officials didn't comprehend the difference between a lesbian and gay bookstore and a porn shop. "We figured the whole fiasco gave us about a quarter of a million dollars worth of free advertising and gave us a two-year head start on the whole business. On National Coming Out day, the local radio station called us and sent a news reporter out. And the folks at city hall are *very* friendly these days." Now there's a study in turning a hassle into a publicity campaign!

Brigit Books (St. Petersburg) wastes no time when it comes to good ideas for effective bookstore promotion. In addition to holding their Fourth Women's Arts and Crafts Fair in November, Brigit's bought out the house for a performance by a lesbian theatre group scheduled for January. (That's one way to create an all woman audience!) Tickets will be sold in the store throughout December at a 20% discount as a New Year's gift to Brigit's customers. (And, presumably, a reminder to shop early and to shop at Brigit's!) This is all from Brigit Books' newsletter so we'll look forward to hearing how it turns out. Usually if one buys a large block of tickets, there's a discount involved, so this sounds like a very economical way to boost customer energy.

Brigit's also offers a "Frequent Buyer Card" for \$20 that gives the holder a 20% discount on all new book purchases for one year. Brigit's is promoting the cards as gifts, as well.

New Words now offers another take on the membership/discount card theme: a Frequent Reader Plan. For each purchase of \$10 (or more, in \$10 increments) customers get a stamp on their New Words Frequent Reader Card. When customers collect 10 stamps (\$100 or more in purchases) they get a 20% discount off their next purchase. Needless to say, customer response has been very positive. If we weren't talking Boston here, one might even say "ecstatic."

Card details: Stamps don't need to be on a single card. Any combination of cards with a total of 10 stamps

gets the 20% off the next purchase. The 20% is in addition to other discounts (e.g., New Words always discounts hardcovers by 10%). Except...the frequent-reader discount will *not* apply during New Words' annual birthday sale. Purchases made with gift certificates or credit slips don't accumulate stamps. Original stamped card(s) must be presented to redeem the stamps for the discount (i.e., photocopies or other reproductions are not acceptable). No compensation for lost cards. New Words took care to create a stamp and a card that would be difficult to counterfeit.

New Words also reports that August and September sales were up this year, surpassing both of the last two years and that customers were very enthusiastic about their Fall Newsletter — a great mix of new and forthcoming books from mainstream, feminist, and small presses, a wonderful column titled "The Collective reveals all... recent faves, raves and recommendations," as well as the announcement of their new Frequent Reader Plan. \*

## It's Books In Print Season.

The new 1991-92 Books In Print is out. We've been getting calls from stores that have a 1990-91 set they want to recycle or pass along to another store and calls from smaller stores that would be very happy to receive them. As we go to press, we have news of one more BIP than we have takers. So, if you need a set, call Mama Bears (510-428-9684).

If you have a set to pass on, or if you need a set and Mama Bears' set has already been given away, give us a call at FBN and we'll do our best to match everyone up. The usual deal is that the store that receives the used BIP pays the postage (or UPS, whichever is easier for the shipper). Some stores charge a small amount for the used BIP.

This is one of many ways that larger stores (including general independent stores) can help smaller stores in a big way for an insignificant cost — the price of a post card and a couple minutes boxing and addressing the books. If there's someone in particular the people requesting your used copy should ask for, be sure to tell FBN when you call or write.

FBN, 415-626-1556, PO Box 882554, SF CA 94188. ○

ClaireLight hired a staff member this summer who has serious experience in advertising and promotion — a hiring that has resulted in a number of new programs that complement ClaireLight's compendium of excellent promotion programs.



Candice Moore, courtesy of Amazon Bookstore Newsletter

ClaireLight is pioneering a 48-hour special-order program utilizing Bookpeople's no-minimum-on-electronic-orders policy, promised same-day shipment and UPS's 24-hour delivery promise (within the state of California). Special orders are zipped off via modem and computer to the appropriate distributor either as they are received or by the deadline for same-day shipment. If the book is in stock, it's shipped the same working day, and UPS delivers it the next day. As ClaireLight manager Moonyean Grosch explained to FBN, "We've been telling people 'two weeks' for special orders for years. That used to be fine, but in this day and age, it isn't good enough. People want immediate service. When they hear 'two weeks' they turn around and walk out. Using the modem trick, we can get the books within 48 hours. Customers like it and we plan to advertise the hell out of it!" The announcement in ClaireLight's newsletter describes the service like this: "New, faster service!! We now have the capability to get *any* title in print for you in just *two working days*!!! Come see us or give us a call; if we're out of it, or don't carry it, but our supplier does, you can have it in less than forty-eight hours." Once you get it down, it's no more effort than filling out a STOP form and it certainly makes customers happier!

ClaireLight is also offering new wrapping and delivery services to customers. Their newsletter an-

nouncement reads: "If you call us with your holiday gift book order, we will gift wrap and have it ready for you to pick up. (Additional 75¢ charge per book.) No waiting — call us with your request. Also, ship your books via UPS direct from ClaireLight! Your cost: UPS charges plus \$1.00 per package for this convenience." — A service that might sell as strongly in large cities with customers that want books — and want to support your store — but aren't going to drive or subway across town to do it on a weekly basis. Delivery might become almost as important as selection in the 90s.



Nasreen Ahmad, from the Bangladesh Women's Diary

Another major promotional move: ClaireLight is now advertising in the *Sonoma Express Book*, a book that promotes local businesses. Coupons in the book offer 2-meals-for-the-price-of- one coupons, discount cards for specific businesses, and the like. The cost of the book is \$30. ClaireLight's offer will be a 10% discount to card holders and, to promote ClaireLight's extensive children's section, a free book to customers who bring their child(ren) and buy a children's book. The free book will be *Make Your Own Calendar*, a Dover book that retails for \$2.50, but is available at 50% discount in quantity. And to remind customers to return, the November page of the calendar book will be stamped, "Time to go back to ClaireLight and buy your new calendar."

More holiday promotions: ClaireLight reminds customers in Fall newsletters about ClaireLight's Gift Registry and invites customers to come in and sign up for all the books, jewelry, and tapes they

desire and then to send friends and family in to check it out. "Great for birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays!"

ClaireLight also ran a 10% discount sale on all recovery books in October. Advance preventative for the December Madness season was my first thought, but the sale actually coincides with Sonoma County's annual lesbian and gay recovery conference.

Irene Zahava, owner of Smedley's (Ithaca), is starting a publishing company, Violet Ink, to publish *Quickies: Lesbian Short-Shorts*, (500 word pieces) and will be a cross between a pamphlet and a periodical that will be published annually. The first issue will come out in 1992. She's looking for "work that reflects the widest possible range of lesbian life and consciousness, written with the immediacy and urgency that the short-short form encourages." (See *Writing Wanted* for details.)

Red & Black (Seattle) got the loan they wanted for a computer inventory system and went up on Wordstock at the beginning of October. They hired Regis to come in to do the the initial inventory. Look for an update as soon as they surface again. They're also planning to put the accounting on computer. Amazon (Minneapolis) also went up on Wordstock this year.

And, of course, feminist bookstores have been very busy dealing with community energy all through Anita Hill's testimony and the Clarence Thomas hearings. You've all lived through all of it, so I won't recount much here except to report two of the most satisfyingly outlandish responses to the whole fiasco: Pokey Anderson wrote from Inklings (Houston) to report a campaign by feminists to mail pubic hairs to Clarence Thomas at the Supreme Court (which has been modified in California to send armpit hairs — presuming he can't tell the difference or has "no opinion" on the subject, anyway, and on her own proposal for a consitutional amendment requiring gender parity in Senate representation: that each state will still send two Senators, but that one must be male and one must be a woman. If we can demand and acheive gender parity for organizational committees, why not the U.S. Congress? ○



# Feminist and Gay Publishers Facing Censorship at the Printer



CALYX, Bay Press, Alyson, Sidewalk Revolution, Snake Power,...

Printers in large numbers are refusing to print books with gay male sexual imagery and are categorically suspicious of anything with the word "woman" in the title.

Publication of *How Do I Look?*, Bay Press' collection of essays and discussion on gay and lesbian film and video, was delayed for several months while twenty American printers refused to print the book. At issue are images used to illustrate three of the texts, including a series of reproductions in the book's margins of gay and lesbian safe-sex pornography produced by the Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York and reproductions of nudes by Robert Mapplethorpe. A fairly academic text, the book is clearly not pornographic in form or intent. Pornography is rather discussed as a system of representation — widespread in hetero- and homosexual communities — that is worthy of critical discussion. As we go to press, *How Do I Look?* is being printed by Gerhard Steidl in Göttingen, Germany. Additional printing and shipping costs were made possible by a grant from sculptor Richard Serra, making it possible to keep the book at the originally announced price of \$16.95.

Meanwhile, Alyson Publication's previously announced *Gay Sex: A Manual for Men Who Love Men* by Jack Hart has been rejected by eighteen commercial printers. *Gay Sex* combines a strong AIDS prevention emphasis with sex-positive text and illustrations. "The major objection is to the illustrations," said Sasha Alyson. "The illustrations are explicit, yes, but no more so than what appears in such mainstream books as *The Joy of Sex*."

"What we're learning," noted Alyson, "is that often the printers themselves have no problem with the book, but they're afraid of getting trouble from local communities. Many large printers locate their printing plants in small towns. They get a tax break in return for hiring local workers, but there's often a tacit understanding that they won't print material that would offend the community. Although a book like *Gay Sex* is not pornography under any legal definition, these printers take no chances where their tax breaks are concerned." *Gay Sex*, like *How Do I Look*, will likely be published in Europe, thus incurring further delays and expense.

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*"Freedom of the press belongs to she who owns the press — support women's presses, publishers, periodicals, typesetters and binderies."*

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With women's titles, just the word "woman" has been enough to panic a printer. Margarita Donnelly, of the 15-year-old feminist journal CALYX, writes, "We have also experienced another round of censorship — during Banned Books Week, no less. We had less expensive bids for our two new books and an issue of the Journal from Cushing Malloy in Ann Arbor. I had decided to switch our printing to them and save the money. I called and started setting things up. Then I was called from someone in their plant who wanted

# Students Forbidden to Breathe Deeply

## Some Parents Say It's Anti-Christian

We, as a community, may be experiencing difficulties with various printers in Michigan and elsewhere — but students in Michigan schools have it even worse.

According to the Associated Press, a deep-breathing exercise was eliminated from a model health class because some parents complained that it promotes mysticism and undermines Christianity.

Other stress management techniques will be substituted for "calm breathing," during which students take several deep breaths to relieve stress, according to Don Ben Sweeney, spokesman for the Michigan Model for Comprehensive Health Education.

"People will come and testify like mad that [deep breathing] creates out-of-body experiences and undermines Christianity," Sweeney said.

About 1 million Michigan students in kindergarten through eighth grade receive health education based on the model.

FBN awaits reports that Michigan high school sports programs and gym classes have also been banned as unChristian due to students' propensity for engaging in deep breathing following physical assertion. ○

to know what we publish in the Journal (the bid said, 'CALYX: A Journal of Art and Literature by Women'). He didn't ask about the books (interesting that the word "woman" triggered questions). When I said literature and art, he then wanted to know what kind of art? Then he asked if any of it could be considered "objectionable." I assured him we don't publish anything objectionable. I asked why he wanted to know. I was informed that their biggest clients are Christian Book Publishers and they didn't want to publish anything those publishers would object to and lose them. We had a long talk about censorship and the First Amendment. He wasn't even aware it was Banned Books Week and that he was practicing censorship. I

tried not to lose my cool. We are, of course, not publishing with them."

There have been a number of other disturbing rejections from printers over the last few years. Sidewalk Revolution Press' *Wanting Women: An Anthology of Erotic Lesbian Poetry* was refused by a Michigan printer that had previously printed books from lesbian publishers. (See FBN V13 #4, p. 13.) The first issue of *Snake Power: A Journal of Contemporary Female Shamanism* was already on the press when Kentucky publisher Metroweb refused to complete the job and also refused to refund the deposit. The situation was finally settled out of court for an amount that covered only the additional press costs and lawyer's fees. *Snake Power* had been rejected by two printers prior to contracting with Metroweb. (See FBN V12#6, p. 15.)

The chilling effect of these kinds of decisions from printers is even more dangerous and costly in terms of what will — and won't — make it into print, a responsibility few of the printers queried by these publishers have been willing to address or acknowledge.

While the sudden explosion of book-rejections over the last several years is clearly the result of the right's attempt to create a climate of censorship in this country, the early history of feminist and lesbian-feminist publishing included constant struggles to get work printed and constant rejections from printers.

In that early-seventies era, feminist magazines, newspapers and journals were constantly refused by printers over everything from lesbian-positive and dyke-proud images to photos, drawings, illustrations and even verbal descriptions of how to do a self-help exam. Pornography was available on every corner, but photos of a healthy os (the muscle at the mouth of one's uterus) and drawings of how to insert a speculum to do a self-exam were refused by printers all across the country.



Printing issues of local women's papers abroad wasn't an option. Certain issues of *Off Our Backs* were printed by pornography printers because no others would take the jobs. The anger engendered by this contributed directly to the founding of Diana Press, which was a job-shop printer before they began publishing books. Diana eventually achieved the capacity

to print, bind, and trim books. The *Iowa City Women's Press* was founded after (male-owned) printers refused to print the women's health issues of *Ain't I A Woman* newspaper. The Iowa City Women's Press printed books. Binding was done by the dyke-owned A Fine Bind, located in the same building, and a dyke-owned typesetting shop was eventually added. New Victoria Press, now publishing books, also started as a job-shop. During the late seventies and early eighties, women-owned print shops sprang up across the country. Tower, in NYC, aimed at owning a web press.

It was clear, in those days, that if women — lesbian and feminist alike — wanted to get our work into print, we had to own and run the presses that required. Feminist and lesbian publishers printed with these printers, despite the additional cost. Feminist and lesbian printers — the printing arm of the Women in Print movement — were an integral part of all the national and regional Women-In-Print conferences. Women's bookstores give out bookmarks that read "Freedom of the press belongs to she who owns the press — support women's presses, publishers, periodicals, typesetters and binderies."

But all of these presses closed for one simple reason: lack of access to capital to buy contemporary equipment. Lack of access to capital kept woman-owned printshops working on out-dated (affordable) equipment that made it impossible to do printing at competitive prices. Banks that made loans to male-owned printshops refused loans to purchase equipment to women-owned shops, and/or made loans only at higher interest rates than the loans they made to male-owned shops. Printer press manufacturers refused financing to the women's presses. The story is as old as financial discrimination against women. Of all the women's presses that were founded in the seventies and eighties, only Press Gang in Vancouver has survived and prints books, (both text and photography).

Maybe it's time to re-open the women's presses. Maybe, if the 90s are truly to be a time of coalition between gay men and lesbians, it's time to ground some of that mythical gay-male access to capital and put it in the hands of the dykes who know how to print. With contemporary equipment, we could print and bind our own books again — and be free of the delays and hassles we're currently encountering as printer after printer refuses to honor the first amendment and refuses to print our books. — CS ○

The following printing firms refused to print *Gay Sex: A Manual for Men Who Love Men* from Alyson Publications.

Thomson Shore  
Ann Arbor, MI

Offset Paperback  
Dallas, PA

Bertelsmann  
New York, NY

Semline  
Boston, MA

Edwards Brothers  
Ann Arbor, MI

Princeton Univ. Press\*  
Princeton, NJ

Haddon Craftsmen  
Scranton, PA

Maple-Vail  
Boston, MA

Cushing-Malloy  
Ann Arbor, MI

Braun-Brumfield  
Ann Arbor, MI

Bookcrafters  
Chelsea, MI

Banta  
Boston, MA

Boyd  
Albany, NY

Capital City  
Montpelier, VT

R.R. Donnelley  
Chelsea, MI

Hamilton  
Boston, MA

Bookmark  
North Bergen, NJ

McNaughton & Gun  
Saline, MI

\* Trim size too large for equipment to handle.

## Taking Care of Business:

# Why Did I Start It?

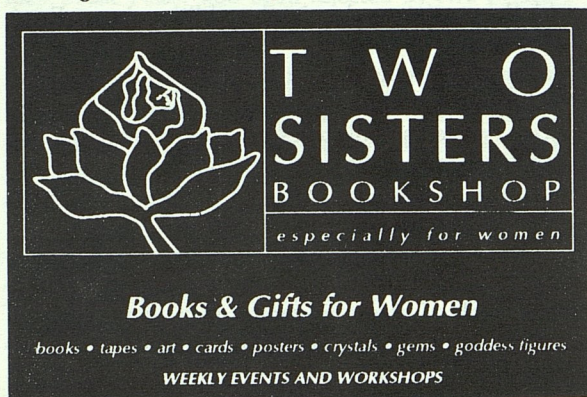
By Suzanne Unger  
Two Sisters/Mendo Park CA

Often I'm asked how and why I started the store. I opened the store in June 1988 because I wanted to work where I could be creative, wear comfortable clothes and no makeup and where there weren't rigid job roles and bosses. I wanted to act on my own judgment and intuition, not on a policy. And I wanted support from others. I didn't want to overwork. I wanted to laugh, cry and talk out loud about anything. Looking back I really didn't have the foggiest what all this was going to mean, but I did know that I could no longer work for anyone. I believe I had been literally killing myself trying to fit into a system that was toxic for me. So opening the store wasn't a dream, it was leaving a nightmare by taking a desperate leap of faith. Fortunately, my older sister was willing to share the start up. It worked, I got what I wanted and was it a process! (Still is!)

At first I was scared a lot and while I had minimal support from a few people close to me, you women customers were supportive beyond my belief. You would take piles of our bookmarks and newsletters to your support groups, book clubs, offices, everywhere. You even offered your own volunteer time and many other services. I would have tears in my heart, as my mouth hung open in disbelief. I had never experienced acceptance, sharing and support like this in my life.

A big challenge for me was to uncover my assumptions about "The Right Way To Do Business" so I could figure out how I wanted to do business. Some assumptions were concrete like the decision to not take credit cards. I had several reasons "why not," but I was still plagued by fears that I was making a terrible mistake. I also challenged conceptual assumptions

like, "They say it takes two to three years for a business to be profitable." I asked, why wait two years? Why not immediately? We were. This was fun and freeing work like tearing down prison walls.

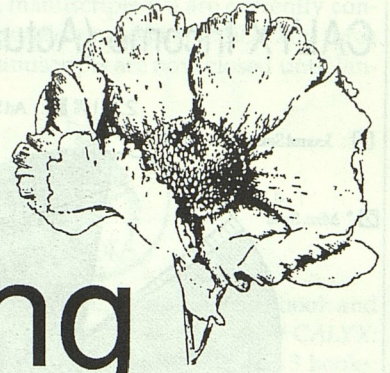


Learning to say "no" was a tough lesson. I look at gift items from vendors constantly and I used to be a wreck trying to say no without hurting their feelings. I would even buy something I didn't want rather than tell the truth. Worse yet, my truth would often hide from me so I didn't have to say it! After suffering from lies in much of my life (family and work environments) I wanted most of all to have a business with integrity. I wanted to be truthful with everyone, starting with me. It is so tempting to lie and blame when a customer's special order book isn't in, and the truth is, it came in last week and we missed it, put it back on the shelf and sold it! The rewards for telling the truth were such blessings. Whenever I came from truth no one got mad or hated me, in fact, I always felt a sense of ease and freedom. Yet I continued to crawl through this field for a long time, inch by inch. Now I am learning to ask for what I want.

See *Taking Care of Business*, page 40

Feminist Publishers' Column:

# Financing the Publishing



By Margarita Donnelly & Cheryl McLean  
CALYX Books & Journal

*The recent demise of some small press publishers (North Point Press, Breitenbush, and Women Artists' News, to name a few) has inspired us to write this section. The lack of understanding about publishing in general within the literary community has serious ramifications for small press health, feminist publishing, and the whole idea of "freedom of the press" during these difficult economic times.*

MD and CMcL

Freedom of the press belongs to those who own it. For the most part, those who "own it" are those who have money. CALYX (and most other feminist presses) are unusual phenomena in small press publishing. There are no wealthy benefactors behind CALYX' existence. No pot of gold. We began with no funds and have survived to celebrate our 15th anniversary despite a continual lack of funds and equipment.

Publishing is a tricky business. Publishers pay for printing costs up front, either paying the entire printing bill before the books are shipped, or part up front and the balance due 90 days after printing is completed, but it takes up to 18 months to receive sales

*Margarita Donnelly co-founded Calyx: A Journal of Art and Literature by Women in 1976. Calyx began publishing books in 1986 and now has 10 titles in print and has published 37 issues of the journal. Margarita is currently the Managing Editor. Cheryl McLean is the president of Calyx' Board and has served on the editorial collective since 1979. This article first appeared in the Calyx Newsletter in a slightly different form.*

revenue. At CALYX, it takes up to three years to pay off the total production costs of a new book.

Because of our commitment to keeping women's work in print, we also reprint books as they sell out. This is not the usual practice. Many presses (although not most feminist presses) let the books go out of print when they sell out of the original printing. Most government and arts grants will not pay for reprints. This adds to our cash-poor environment.

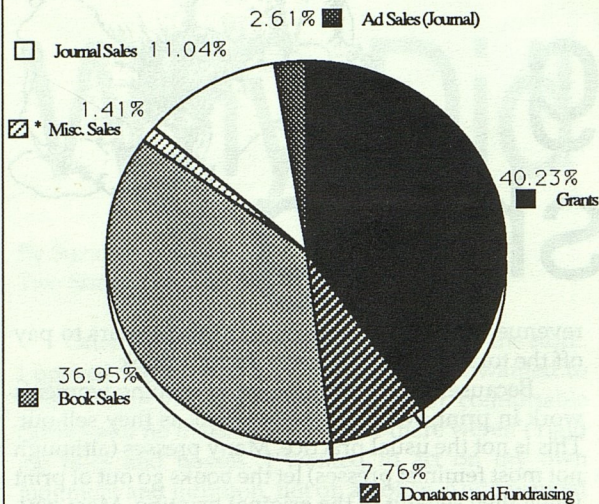


The major problem for small presses often becomes success: Books do better than expected, publishers run out when sales are at their peak, available funds are used up to pay for reprints, and then the press is out of money as they wait for revenue to come in over the next 18 months. For example, *The Forbidden Stitch*, sold out of its first printing during the first six months — well before we had enough return from bookstores and distributors to pay for the first printing bill, never mind the second! But of course, we couldn't wait six months to reprint it until the money came in from the first printing.... So it's rob Peter to pay Paul to keep the books in print. It's a vicious cycle.

## Some Facts About The Book Market

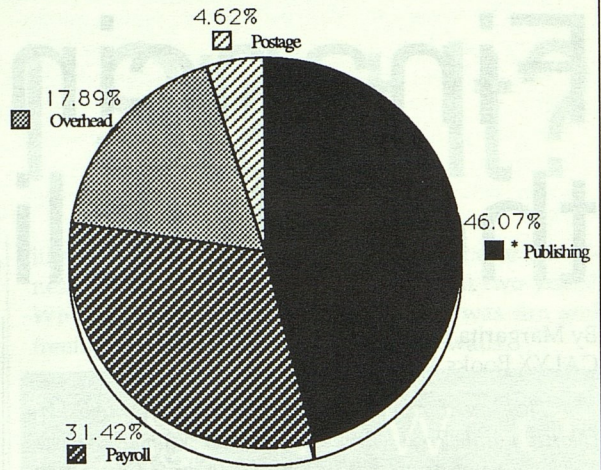
The standard bookstore discount is 40%. Book distributors take 12-15% commission above bookstore discounts, exclusive distributors take up to 27%, and magazine distributors get as much as 15%. The author

## CALYX Income (Actual Receipts)



\*Miscellaneous sales includes CALYX T-shirts, postcards, and other non-book products.

## CALYX Expenses



\*Publishing includes all costs directly related to publishing the Journal and CALYX books, including printing, design, production, promotion, author royalties, etc.

gets a royalty of 10% of the net receipts. The royalty increases to 15% if we sell over 15,000 copies of a book.

See the sidebars above and to the right for details of our expenses in producing books, where our income comes from, and where the money goes.

By the time CALYX sells a publication, here's how the money breaks out: A typical CALYX book brings in 48 cents to cover 87 cents worth of costs to CALYX. The 39 cent loss is subsidized by grants and donations. A typical CALYX Journal loses anywhere from 15 cents to 35 cents on each bookstore sale; again part (but not all) of these losses are funded through grants. Most magazines in this country are funded through ad sales or by wealthy benefactors.

The current recession is affecting small presses. When sales fell, bookstores started taking longer to pay bills. Our mid-year sales were 20% lower than expected, and our accounts receivable will take longer to come in than in normal years. We currently have a cash shortfall of \$15,000 in accounts payable.

## How Do We Do It?

CALYX' overhead is low. We have a small paid staff (a full-time managing editor, a half-time editorial coordinator, and a half-time office manager, the

equivalent of 2 full time staff), and a good deal of the work is done by volunteers. The staff and volunteers put in 190 hours per week in the offices. The editorial collectives and volunteers who read, copy-edit, and edit the manuscripts at home put in another 40 hours per week on the average.

If we had to pay full production costs, losses on each publication would be astronomical.

## Long-Term Planning

In 1990 CALYX was one of 42 national art groups (and the only publisher) accepted into the prestigious NEA Advancement Program. During Phase I (August 1990 to August 1991) NEA consultants worked with CALYX staff to develop a long-range plan and improve administrative development. The information in the sidebar was compiled as part of the research that went into developing the long-range plan. It was a revelation to us, too.

We know the Advancement Program is good for us. It is the best thing we have ever done. And it is the hardest thing we have ever done. It has over-extended us in ways none of us could ever have imagined. As we developed the plan we also initiated the first year of the plan *and* accomplished an enormous amount:

We consolidated publishing schedules; enhanced the Board of Directors by adding new members with financial expertise; developed a Board information recruitment packet; conducted monthly Board meetings; are rewriting organization bylaws; redesigned our catalogue; and installed a new software accounting program.

We have improved planning, budgeting, and staff development with the help of our local county Economic Development Offices and our NEA Advancement consultant; cut \$14,000 in expenses to produce a balanced budget for 1991; fund-raised to pay off the accounts payable (we have raised \$8,000 so far, \$14,000 yet to go); separated the journal and book editorial collectives, added new editors to the collectives, developed written descriptions and procedures for the editorial collectives; and attended the ABA Trade show in NYC in June as well as several regional trade shows.

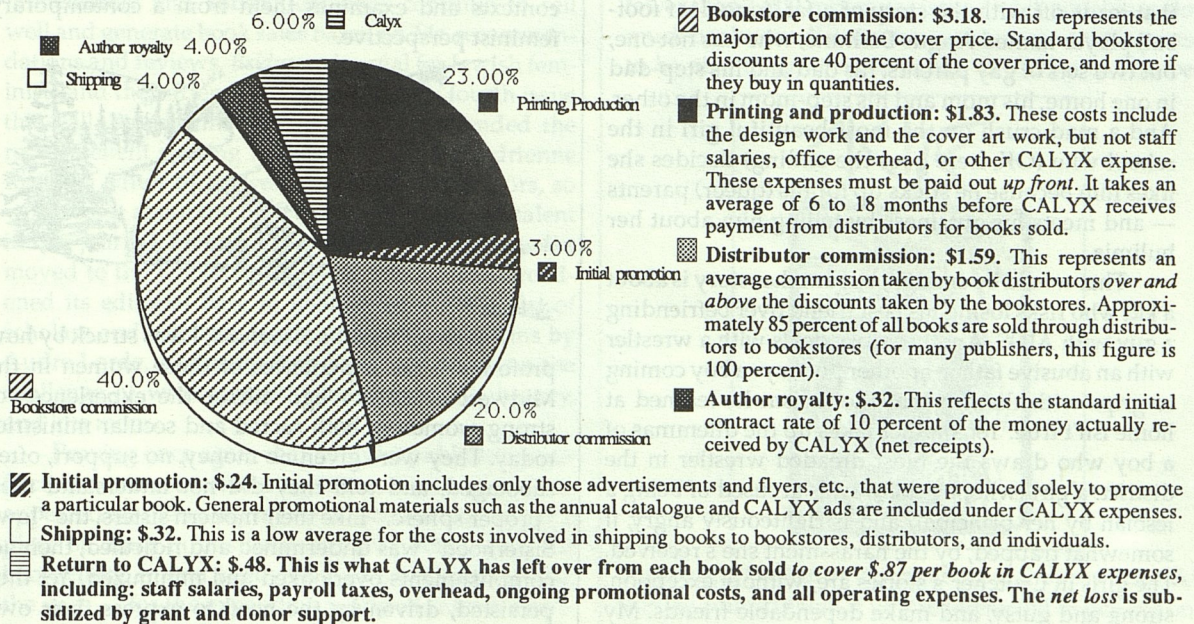
By the end of the year we will have read close to 4,500 submissions for CALYX from which we are only able to select about 100 works to publish in the journal.

From the 65 book manuscripts we are currently considering, we will be selecting three for 1993 and three for 1994. (Book manuscripts are now closed until January of 1993.)



All the while, of course, continuing our book and journal publishing. We published 2 issues of CALYX: *A Journal of Art and Literature by Women* and 3 books: *Idleness Is the Root of All Love*, poetry by Christa Reinig and *Ginseng and Other Tales from Manila* by Marianne Villanueva in June, *Black Candle*, poetry by Chitra Divakaruni in November; and reprinted *Women and Aging*. We also worked on *Killing Color*, short stories by Charlotte Watson Sherman, forthcoming in February 1992, and *Mrs. Vargus and the Dead Naturalist* by Kathleen Alcalá which will be out in June. ○

## Where the \$7.95 cover price goes when a CALYX book is sold



Because CALYX Journals and books are archival-quality publications, production costs are somewhat higher than for standard book publishing. FBN thanks Calyx Board President Cheryl McLean for redesigning these charts to fit FBN's page size.

# SHORT RAVES

## *Athletic Shorts* by Chris Crutcher

*Athletic Shorts* by Chris Crutcher, Greenwillow, \$13.95 cl. (Distributed to the trade by Morrow)

I don't read a lot of adolescent male fiction — I especially don't read fiction about straight boys playing high-school sports. And I certainly don't review it for FBN. Except once every 15 years. This once.

Tipped off by Sasha Alyson who, in one of those mid-aisle conversations at ABA, told me he'd heard that Greenwillow was doing a collection of short stories that included a football player with gay parents, I set off to investigate. What I found was *Athletic Shorts*, a collection of six stories (five of them based on characters from Crutcher's earlier novels) that leads off with the story of a fat, tone-deaf football player named Angus Bethune, who has not one, but two sets of gay parents: his dad and his step-dad in one home, his mom and his step-mom in the other. And a mad crush on the most beautiful girl in the school who (OK, here goes the ending) decides she likes him because he sticks up for his (queer) parents — and meets his gutsiness by telling him about her bulimia.

That would be enough, but another story is about a kid who risks losing his best friend over befriending a guy with AIDS. Another story deals with a wrestler with an abusive father, another portrays a boy coming to grips with the fact that the racism he learned at home isn't true. Yet another takes up the dilemmas of a boy who draws the most dreaded wrestler in the district: a girl (who, by the way, is accused of being a lesbian by her principal) and is righteously angry, if somewhat trapped, by the harassment she's received. The girls in Crutcher's stories are, without exception, strong and gutsy, and make dependable friends. My only criticism is that they all drop out of competitive sports. *Highly* recommended for all of your customers with teenage sons. — Carol Seajay ○

## *Prophetic Sisterhood: Liberal Women Ministers of the Frontier, 1880-1930* by Cynthia Grant Tucker

*Prophetic Sisterhood: Liberal Women Ministers of the Frontier, 1880-1930* by Cynthia Grant Tucker (Beacon, \$24.95, pb) is a group biography of some twenty Unitarian and Universalist women ministers who lived, taught and preached in the plains states of the U.S. in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This "Iowa Sisterhood" of ministers was tremendously influential in numerous communities, and yet their stories and their contributions were almost obliterated by callous neglect and deliberate disregard. Tucker conscientiously and diligently resurrects these women and their struggles within their social and historical contexts and examines them from a contemporary feminist perspective.



Reading *Prophetic Sisterhood*, I was struck by how profoundly the experiences of those women in the Midwest a century ago mirror the experiences of strong women in both sacred and secular ministries today. They were given no money, no support, often sabotaged, and told they did not understand their "proper sphere." Like their modern sisters, the "Iowa Sisterhood" was undermined and ridiculed, their accomplishments overlooked and minimized. Yet they persisted, driven by the need to express their own inner gifts, to support other women, to build a sense of collaborative community, and to bring a greater  
See *Short Raves*, page 108.





# What's New on the Magazine Scene?

By Laura Zimmerman  
New Words Bookstore, Cambridge MA

This is a brief update on what has happened in bookstore journal-sections since the last write-up on this subject in FBN's January/February 1990 issue. The new resurrected *Ms.* steals the headlines at New Words, where the first and second issues sold out immediately and subsequent ones continue to sell well and generate book sales based on *Ms.* recommendations and reviews. *Bridges*, a journal for Jewish feminists and their friends, will bring out its fourth issue this Fall. Approximately 1,000 people attended the recent benefit reading in Boston, featuring Adrienne Rich (an editor of *Bridges*) and local contributors, so word is out about the high quality of work and talent in this journal. *Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies* moved to the University of New Mexico and broadened its editorial base to include an exciting list of scholars and activists. Its first issue offers poems by Audre Lorde, stories by Beth Brant, an article on the challenge of writing multicultural women's history, and lots more.

Proving once again that feminist publications reflect, if not create, changing times, a new genre has appeared on the scene: the zines (see Rachel Pepper's piece on zines in this issue of FBN). Fortunately for booksellers, Inland keeps pace — sometimes setting the pace — for the expanding world of journal distribution. New Words orders 50 titles directly from Inland. That's almost half of our journal section, and though we sorely miss the 50 percent discount avail-

able directly from publications, we're thrilled to minimize the inevitable hassles of individual payments and shipments.

The following is a list of periodicals that we've added to our shelves in the last two years. We're still on the look-out for *Spare Rib* (any suggestions out there?), and eagerly waiting to receive *Aché: A Journal for Lesbians of African Descent*. *Aché* is still printing fewer than 1,000 copies per issue and is not able to do much bookstore distribution at this time. *Aché* expects to be able to print more copies in 1992 and will be



expanding bookstore distribution as they are able. Be sure to contact them if you're interested in getting on their data base "waiting list." The women of *Aché* are also raising money to buy an offset press and outfit a press room. In the meantime, subscriptions are \$10-

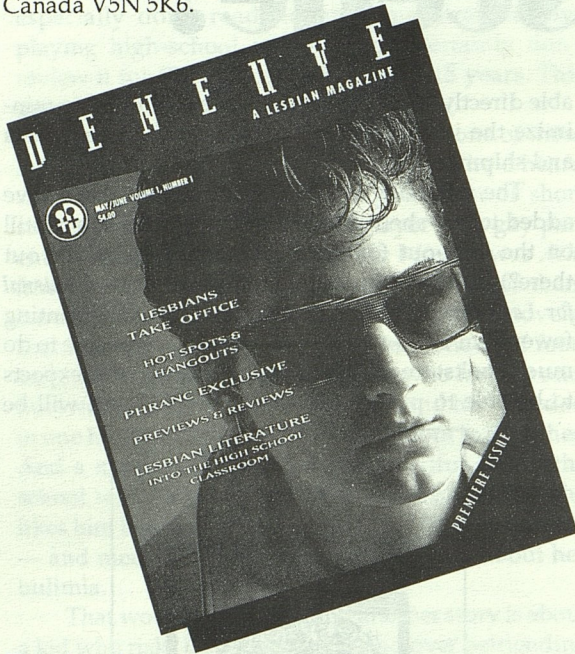
\$25/year. (Donations are always welcome.) *Aché*, PO Box 6071, Albany CA 94706; 510-849-2819.

### The Advocate

A glossy national magazine of lesbian and gay men. Published biweekly. \$2.95. 6922 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles CA 90028. Distributed by Inland.

### Aquelarre

A quarterly magazine, published bilingually (Spanish and English) on the feminist political movement, culture, and arts in Latin America and the Caribbean. \$6. PO Box 65535, Station F, Vancouver BC Canada V5N 5K6.



### Barricada

The monthly international publication of the Sandinista National Liberation Front. \$2.95. Dist. at: PO Box 41050, San Francisco CA 94141.

### Bridges

See above. \$7.50. PO Box 18437, Seattle WA 98118. IN and Bookpeople.

### Common Boundary

Published bimonthly for readers exploring the conjunction of psychotherapy and spirituality. \$3.95. 4304 East-West Highway, Bethesda MD 20814. IN, BP.

### Cultural Survival

Appears quarterly with in-depth articles and information on the physical and cultural survival of indigenous groups throughout the world. \$4. 53A Church St., Cambridge MA 02138. IN.

### Deneuve

A magazine that shares and explores the meaning of lesbian experience, just published its third issue. See review in this issue's From Our Own Presses column. \$4. FRS Enterprises, 2336 Market St. #15, San Francisco CA 94114. IN.

### Empathy

See review in this issue's From the Small Presses column.

### Feminists for Animal Rights

A semi-annual publication brimming with information for readers and activists. \$3. PO Box 10017, North Berkeley Station, Berkeley CA 94709.

### Frontiers, A Journal of Women's Studies

See above. \$11. University Press of Colorado, Niwot CO 80544. IN.

### Healthsharing, A Canadian Women's Health Quarterly

Includes articles and information of interest to women everywhere. \$3.50 14 Skey Lane, Toronto ONT Canada M6J 3S4. IN.

### Journal of the History of Sexuality

An academic (very) journal published quarterly. \$7.50. University of Chicago Press, 5720 S. Woodlawn, Chicago IL 60637.

### Kuumba

This poetry journal for Black lesbians and gay men published its first issue in Spring 1991. \$4.50. Black Publishing Co., Box 83912, Los Angeles CA 90083. IN.

### Listen Real Loud: News of Women's Liberation Worldwide

The journal of the Nationwide Women's Program of the American Friends Service Committee. \$2.50. AFSC, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia PA 19102. IN.

### Midwifery Today

A quarterly magazine, features articles, photography, interviews, etc. for the practicing midwife and lay woman. \$7.50. PO Box 2672, Eugene OR 97402.

### Ms.

The new resurrected *Ms.* is now ad-free and published bimonthly. \$4.95. One Times Square, New York NY 10036. IN.

### Teen Voices

A magazine for, by and about teenage and young adult women, focuses on life in the Boston area but covers topics of universal concern to this often unheard-from population. \$2. Women Express, Inc., PO Box 6009, JFK, Boston MA 02114.

### Visions

A Boston-based magazine of film, video, and performance arts with content emphasis on women and multiculturalism. \$2.50. BF/VE, 1126 Boylston St., Boston MA 02215. IN.

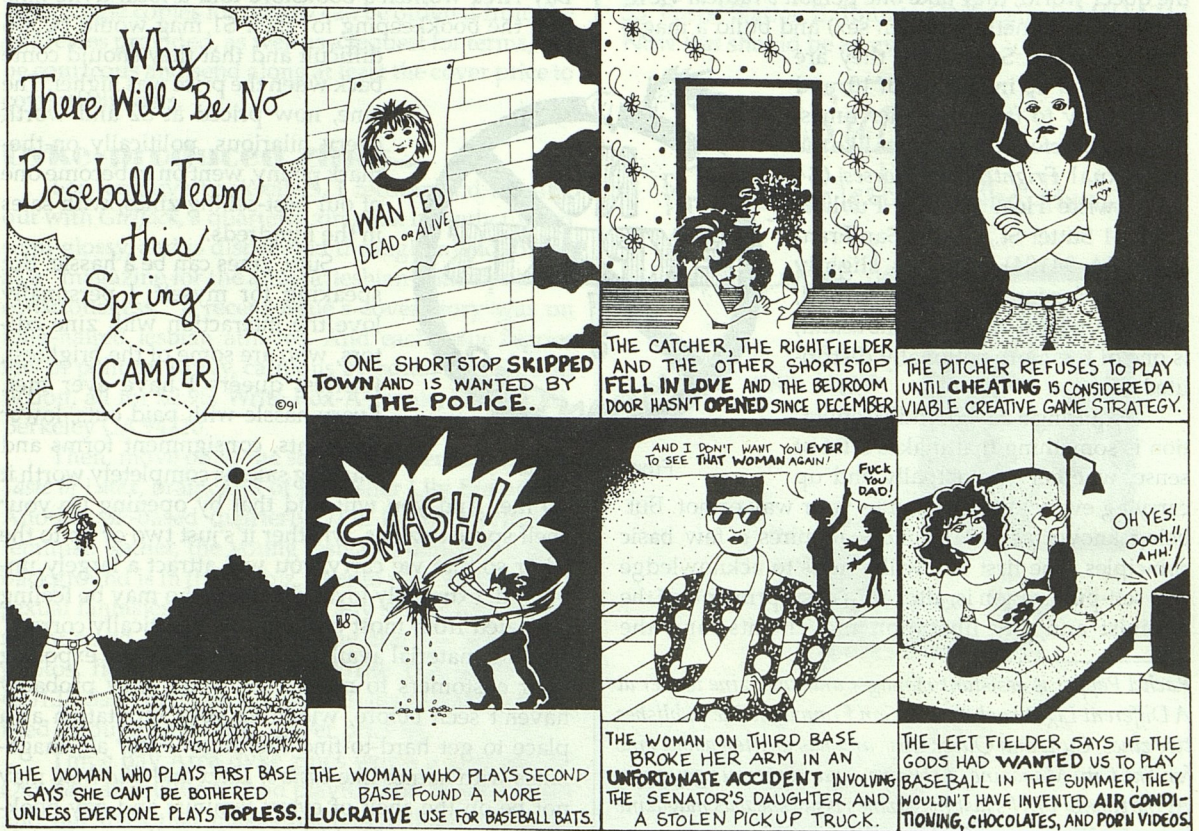
### Women's Recovery Network

A bimonthly newsletter that serves as a forum for women recovering from all forms of abuse. \$3.50. WebWords Press, Inc., PO Box 141554, Columbus OH 43214. IN.

### Women's Sports and Fitness


Your basic mainstream glossy magazine format, includes articles and info on this often neglected subject. \$2.95. Distributed by Ingram Periodicals. ○

Cartoon from Issue #5 of *GirlJock*. See review in zines article on the following page.



# ZINE NEWS

WHAT THE HELL ARE THEY ?



By Rachel Pepper

So what is a zine, anyway, and why should you carry them? Well, "zine" refers to self-published magazines, most often produced on photocopy machines and stapled together by hand. They are usually the brainchild of one person, sometimes two, but usually no more than three or four. And, often, especially in the queer world, they take one person's radical viewpoint about something (often sex) and build a magazine around it. Sometimes they are only printed up in batches of 10, and given away to friends. Other times, they might refer to magazines like the co-sexual *Frighten the Horses* (\$4 cover, write Heat Seeking Publications, 41 Sutter St., #1108, San Francisco CA 94104) which is slightly more professionally produced and, with a print run of several thousand, is one of the more nationally distributed zines.

Acquiring a zine friendly reputation is something that makes a lot of sense, whether you actually end up carrying every zine that comes your way or not. But being known as zine friendly requires a few basic principles. The first is a willingness to acknowledge that self-publication is, after all, a basic principle of the feminist and gay liberation movements, and the

*Rachel Pepper is assistant manager and chief zine tender at A Different Light bookstore in San Francisco. She publishes two zines, Cunt and Queer City, and has written about zine for The City Magazine, ArtPaper, and numerous gay rags. At the time of FBN's last magazines issue she was magazine buyer for Women and Children First in Chicago.*

second is to respect women who come in with something they have put together hoping you will stock it, no matter how rough it may look to you. Additionally, no matter how much trouble dealing with individual, often inexperienced, zine publishers may seem to experienced booksellers, you may be totally underestimating the product's potential, as well as not clueing in to a major publishing wave. Case in point — one Bay Area women's bookstore told a local dyke zine that the bookkeeping for their \$1 mag would be too

difficult and that they should come back when the price was higher. The zine, now priced at \$2 and worth every hilarious, politically on-the-mark penny, went on to become one of our best-selling zines, with sales in the hundreds.

Sure, zines can be a hassle. But speaking for myself, I personally love the interaction with zine editors, who are some of the brightest, feistiest queers I have ever met. Every hassle with paid outs, lower discounts, consignment forms and tracking sales is completely worth it

to me. And you will find that by opening up your shelf space to zines, whether it's just two or up to the 60 or so that we carry, you will attract a largely untapped, extremely loyal clientele who may be feeling alienated from most of the more "politically correct" reading material available. You will also be exposing your customers to magazines which they probably haven't seen before, widening your reputation as a place to get hard-to-find literature. After all, magazines with names like *Taste of Latex* and *Slut Mag* may not be on the shelf of every feminist and gay bookstore, but they should be on yours if you want to



From *Brat Attack*

attract a well-rounded clientele with a radical edge, as well as expose your regulars to what is definitely the current boom in queer magazine publishing.

Obviously, each bookstore will have a differing clientele, and every bookseller her or his personal limitations and interests. So here is a representative sampling of some of the better-selling, dyke-produced zines, as well as a look at some zines produced by lesbians and gay men together, and some men's zines, which should get you started on the road to zinedom. Although the major zine explosion seems to be centered in San Francisco, with Toronto, New York, L.A. and Chicago also producing a fair share, all of the zines mentioned below are open to national distribution, although they may expect a higher split than the traditional 60/40. Just keep in mind before you grumble that the costs of photocopying and printing are high, and that encouraging zine publishers is a way of ensuring that the freedom of expression we all make our living from continues into the next generation. Also, single copies for review can be ordered from the addresses provided, as well as a request for terms, but be courteous and send along at least the cover price to cover their costs.

### Dyke-produced zines...

For tentative booksellers, I recommend starting out with *Girllock*, a quarterly zine that recently turned semi-glossy, and is distributed through Inland. Billed as a "magazine for the athletic lesbian with a political consciousness," a recent issue's cover story was on long-haired lesbian athletes. And each issue carries lots of political savvy, cartoons by editor Roxxie, and fiction, all for \$2.95. Write Rox-A-Tronic, 2060 Third, Berkeley CA 94710.

Then, move on to the sexually adventurous with *Taste of Latex*, brainchild of publisher Lily Braindrop. Another SF-based quarterly, *TOL* is not specifically feminist. Rather, the young lesbian publisher, whose background is in the sex biz, likes to play with gender, sexual fantasies, and breaking any sexual taboos that might stand in her — or anyone else's — way. With photos, fiction, and features. Write *TOL* at PO Box 460122, San Francisco CA 94146. It may also be distributed through Last Gasp. Cover price \$4.

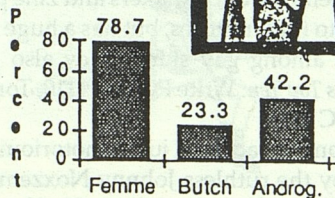
Three Bay Area dyke zines worth a look are *On Our Rag*, an intelligent and playful look at our mensas and our lives that makes me laugh aloud (\$2 cover

price, write to Box 21, 3543 18th St., San Francisco CA 94110), *Brat Attack*, a well-produced and informative zine for leather dykes (\$3 cover, PO Box 40754, San Francisco CA 94141-0754). From Chicago comes *Hot Lip*, a bargain at a buck, whose cover is marked 72 cents for women, \$1 for men (write Box 2614, 211 East Ohio, Chicago IL 60611) and *MadWoman*, whose rage is directed at men — in particular rapists and sexist creeps — and who also produces great stickers which they may give you a few of, too, if you cough up advance payment (\$4 cover, MadWoman, 1138 N. Wolcott 3R, Chicago IL 60622). And from LA don't miss *Screambox*, a dyke zine which is hard to get ahold of but, if you can, is worth it (Box 109-51, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood CA 90046).

And finally, in case these offerings just don't sound radical enough, consider the upcoming — Jena Von Brucker and GB Jones, part of the whole *JD's/Fifth Column* crew in Toronto (see below), are promising to release a zine called *Bitch Nation*. (PO Box 55, Postal Station E, Toronto ONT Canada M6H 4Z1.) Now *that* should be an event!

### Survey

Percentage of Lesbians who think  
JOANN LOWAN does  
her own hair



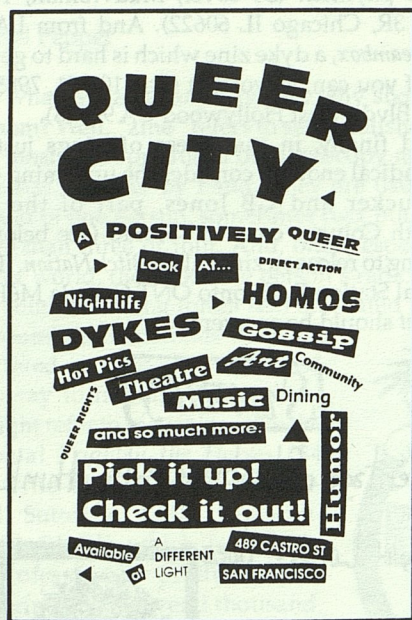
### Graph

From *On Our Rag*

## ...& queergirl/queerboy zines

The above were a few of the lesbian/feminist zines out there. The following are zines published by both gay men and lesbians together or men's zines that feminist booksellers may want to be aware of, whether or not they wish to carry them. Queer bookstores, however, may in particular want to take note of all mentioned.

One of the zines that started it all is *JD's* — short for juvenile delinquent — and is published periodi-



cally by filmmakers/musicians/punk personalities Bruce LaBruce and GB Jones in Toronto. Crammed with graphics and short features like "True Confession: I Was a Skinhead's Bootslave," as well as plugs for friends, fellow troublemakers and zine publishers, *JD's* is hard to find in stores, but has a huge following, particularly among gay skins. They also produce a cassette, *JD's Top Ten*. Write PO Box 1110, Toronto ONT Canada M5C 2K5.

Also from Canada and just as notorious is *Bimbox*, published by the ruthless Johnny Noxzema and Rex Boy, with help from women contributors, many of whom also work on *JD's*, or *Don't Tell Jane and Frankie*, a *JD's* spin-off of sorts. *Bimbox*, like *JD's*, is hard to get across the border from Canada, but it has been done, though they are quite selective over where their mag

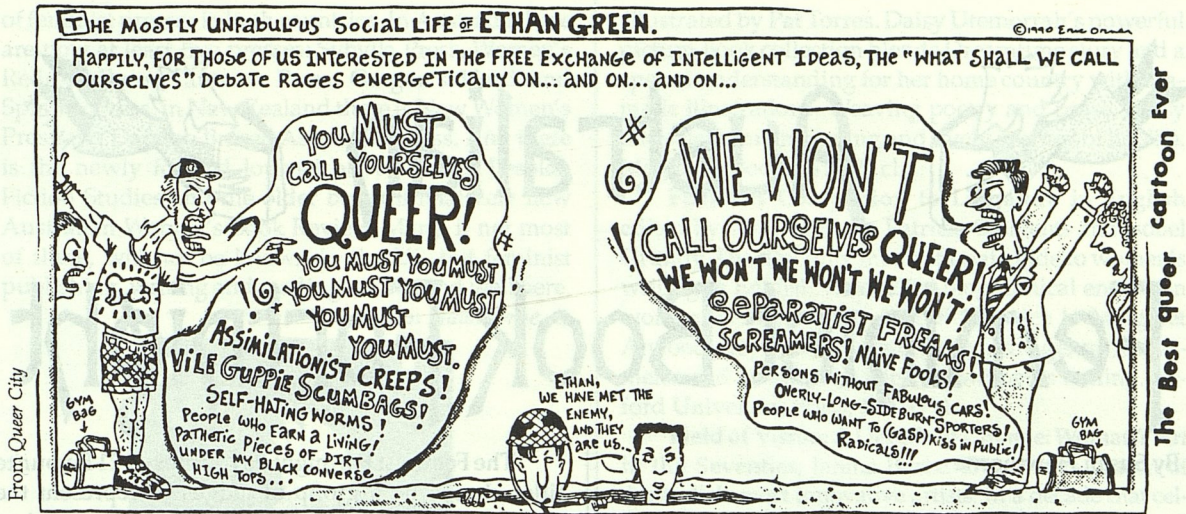
is carried (begging helps). *Bimbox* is known from its scathing attacks on "the gay and lesbian mainstream," and is most definitely "queer" not gay. It's also one of the funniest, most politically astute, and well-produced zines around, spawning many imitations amongst its followers. *Bimbox* also produces a publication called *SCAB*, short for the Society for the Complete Annihilation of Breeding. It's long on anti-hetero behavior, especially of the reproductive kind. Not for the weak at heart or stomach, but I love it. Write the *Bimbox* boys at 282 Parliament, #68, Toronto ONT Canada M5A 3A5. Send \$5 for a sample copy of *Bimbox*, \$2 for *SCAB*.

San Francisco, I would safely say, is easily the hotbed of zine publishing these days, and many of its talented editors are anxious for national distribution. A quick run-down of some: *DPN*, or *Diseased Pariah News*, has become the magazine for those looking for a magazine combining news, features, and humor — yes, humor — about HIV and AIDS. You may have seen the article in *Newsweek* several months ago about *DPN*. Unfortunately, one of the mag's editors, Tom Shearer, died soon after the article appeared, but fellow *DPN* founder Beowulf Thorne is still publishing. The zine is desk-top publishing at its low-budget best, and is one of our best-selling magazines at A Different Light. Write PO Box 31431, San Francisco CA 94131. Sample copies are \$2.

*Homoture*, now in its third issue, is another extremely "slick" (for a zine) mag with color laser copy, inserts, and a sister publication called *Piss Elegant*. Definitely queer boy sensibility stuff, and very open to mass distribution, as it's now available in 30 bookstores in 22 cities. Write PO Box 191781, San Francisco CA 94119-1781.

One of the main movers and shakers on the zine scene is my pal Sunah, who has worked for *Frighten the Horses* (see above) and is now publishing her own, called *Logomotive*. Queer fiction, graphics, and cartoons, including ones from Roxxie, publisher of *Girl Jock* (see above). The first issue of *Logomotive* also contains a straightforward article on zine publishing for beginners. Write Box 3101, Berkeley CA 94703. Sample copies are \$4.

Bookstores may also want to take note of *Anything That Moves*, the only magazine I know of specifically geared toward bisexuals. It's published by the Bay Area Bisexual Network and is a must for gay



bookstores to stock. Write BABN, 2404 California St., #24, San Francisco CA 94115, or call 415-564-BABN.

Since San Francisco is also my home, this is my chance to plug my two zines, *Queer City* and *Cunt*. *Cunt* is a twice-a-year dyke zine with graphics by artists like Zanne, Kris Kovick and Jennifer Camper, and lots of loud-mouthed dyke attitude, mostly by me. Issue two is currently available, and includes a piece of queer ennui, a tribute to raving feminists, some favorite PMS symptoms, a piece by two baby dykes reflecting on their place in our community, and an exhaustive listing of dyke zines and where to get 'em. *Cunt* #2 is published with a queer boy zine flip side called *Prick*. Bookstore terms 70/30, sample copy \$6 (includes postage). Write Queer City Productions, c/o A Different Light, 489 Castro St., San Francisco CA 94103. *Queer City* is an activist-oriented queerboy and queergirl zine written for like-minded souls in a city with no gay/lesbian guidebook or community center...so we tell you what you need to know. Write to the above address; also \$6.

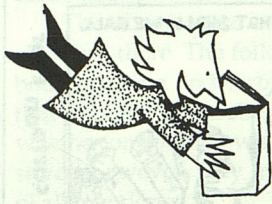
These are just a few of the many zines that pass before my eyes with titles ranging from *Queer Fuckers Magazine*, produced by Queer Nation Utah (write QFM, PO Box 346, Salt Lake City UT 84110); *Agony* (write 1805 E. Lafayette Place, Milwaukee WI 53202); *Brains/I.Q.*, for brainy fags and dykes (write A Different Light for information); *Whorezine*, a publication for queers in the sex industry (write 2300 Market St., Suite 19, San Francisco CA 94114); *Three Dollar Bill*, which is

trying to help fill the gap left by *Homocore* and whose first cover story was about dyke band Tribe 8 (write PO Box 190176, San Francisco CA 94119-0176); and comic book-style zines like *Adventures of Baby Dyke* (write Baby Dyke Comics, 4311 Crestheights Road, Baltimore MD 21215). (Editor's note: For an exhaustive listing of zines of all kinds check out Factsheet Five, PO Box 8026, Atlanta GA 30306. \$5/issue, first class mail; \$3.50/issue, bulk rate subscriptions.)

I could go on and on about the whole zine scene, but I think I've given you a good indication of what's out there. So welcome a few into your store, promote them a tiny bit, and watch them fly out the door. Before long, you too could earn the reputation of being "zine friendly," and find yourself pouring over the little critters as earnestly as I do. Have fun, and happy zine hunting!



(Figure from issue three of a self-proclaimed "dangerous little zine," *Hothead Paisan: Homocidal Lesbian Terrorist*, most recently "raved" in FBN V14#2. \$3. Diane DiMassa and Stacy Sheehan, *Giant Ass Publishing*, PO Box 214, New Haven CT 06592. Distributed by Inland.)



# Australian



# Feminist Book Fortnight

By Susan Hawthorne

Australia: The Australian Feminist Book Fortnight (AFBF) was first held in 1989 and is now a biennial event. It was set up with dual aims of firstly, promoting feminist writing, with particular emphasis on Australian and small press publications, and secondly by running a two-week national festival of writing events. This year there are over 200 events happening in every state capital as well as in numerous regional and rural areas.

This year is also a first in the initiation of the Victorian Indigenous Women Writers' Festival. This is an event organised by and for indigenous women and is the first of its kind. There are workshops on poetry, oral history, storytelling, journalism and much more.

The range of events around the country is enormous. Ranging from a forum by playwrights, discussions on feminist theory, readings by differently abled women as well as a host of readings, workshops, dinners, quiz nights, exhibitions, nights of song and poetry, dances, film and video nights, performance work, book launches, and displays of feminist books in libraries, schools and bookstores.

There are events for everyone: for those just beginning to write as well as the writer who lives (or attempts to) from her writing. There are events for young women and for older women; for women from non-English speaking backgrounds; for those who crave detective fiction as well as events for lesbians, for rural women, for women concerned with issues around the law, work, sexuality, autobiography or dreaming.

The Feminist Fortnight Favourites — 21 favourite titles chosen by a group of judges — represent the diversity of books available now. To be eligible they must have been published between July 1989 and June 1991 (with some leeway for small presses). Five of the books are by indigenous women of Australia and New Zealand (*Do Not Go Around the Edges*, *Ingelba and the Five Black Matriarchs*, *Take This Child*, *Women of the Centre* and *Tahuri*). Seven of the books are from small presses (*Angels of Power* — Spinifex Press, *Do Not Go Around the Edges* — Magabala Books, *Notes on My Madness* — Butterfly Books, *Pomegranates from the Underworld* — Pariah Press, *Tahuri* and *To Be So Old* — New Women's Press, NZ, and *Women of the Centre* — Pascoe Publishing).



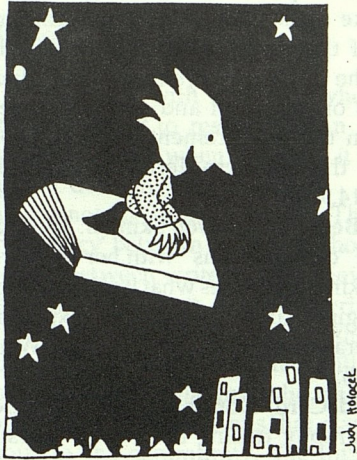
A lot of work goes into the organization of AFBF and this year the National Co-ordinator was Helen Grützner, a writer, journalist and broadcaster. This year has also seen cooperation between AFBF and the New Zealand version, the Listener Women's Book Week, which began on 13 September.

Both AFBF in Australia and Women's Book Week in New Zealand would not exist without the existence



of feminist presses in both countries. In Australia there are now at least five presses: Sybylla Press, Women's Redress Press, Tantrum Press, Gorgon's Head and Spinifex Press; in New Zealand there is New Women's Press and Daphne Brasell Associates Press. And there is the newly formed Journal of Australian Lesbian Fiction Studies and the older but still relatively new Australian Women's Book Review. Many, if not most of these, will not be known in the US, but feminist publishing, writing and reading is alive and well here.

— Susan Hawthorne ○



## Feminist Fortnight Favourites

### Twenty-one Titles

**Angels of Power and Other Reproductive Creations**, edited by Susan Hawthorne and Renate Klein. The first international anthology of drama, fiction and poetry on reproductive technology, IVF, genetic engineering and surrogate motherhood. The contributions display imagination, vision and a sense of humour. Spinifex Press, \$14.95 pb.\*

**The Beauty Myth**, Naomi Wolf. "A vivid and impassioned polemic, essential reading for the New Woman: word-of-warning to the glamorous, course enhancement for the feminist..." - Fay Weldon. The meaning of women's compulsive pursuit of beauty during an anti-feminist backlash. Chatto & Windus, \$29.95 cl.

**Do Not Go Around the Edges**, Daisy Utemorrah,

\*Prices in Australian dollars.

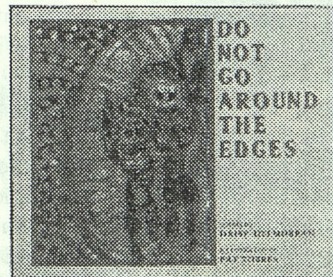
illustrated by Pat Torres. Daisy Utemorrah's powerful picture-book collection blends Dreamtime story and a special understanding for her home country with dramatic illustrations. Weaving poetry and prose, Daisy takes us on an intriguing and lively journey of her life. Magabala Books, \$14.95 cl.

**Feminist Companion to Literature in English** edited by Virginia Blain, Patricia Clements and Isobel Grundy. The first fully international guide to women's writing in English. Over 2700 biographical entries on women writers, from Julian of Norwich to Margaret Atwood. Key topic entries on important genres, movements and institutions affecting women's writing. Oxford University Press, \$49.95 cl.

**Field of Vision: A Decade of Change: Woman's Art in the Seventies**, Janine Burke. Documents sixteen of Australia's most innovative artists. In a decade that celebrated the women's movement, these artists produced their finest works. Provocative essays provide illuminating discussion of the seventies. Viking, \$40.00 cl.

**The Hidden Gender of Law**, Regina Graycar and Jenny Morgan. This is a law book and a book about the law, as important for those involved in day-to-day practice as it is for students of law and contemporary feminist philosophy. The Federation Press, \$45.00 pb.

**In This House**, Janet Shaw. Eighteen stories with a mordant edge, full of hidden things and quiet dangers. With a spare and uncompromising style, Janet Shaw unfolds the bizarre, the sometimes sinister and the dark humour which lies beneath ordinary domestic substances. William Heinemann Australia, \$14.95 pb.



**Ingelba and the Five Black Matriarchs**, Patsy Cohen and Margaret Somerville. Via collaboration with Margaret Somerville, Patsy Cohen's experiences, the stories of all the people spoken to, written records, photographs and their reflections have been stitched together to provide access to that world of meaning. Allen & Unwin, \$16.95 pb.

**Notes On My Madness**, Shirley Lewis. True story of one woman's search in the hippie communities of North Queensland in the 1970s, for self and the meaning of life. "Compelling reading" —*Weekend Australian*. Hair-raising account of male power and manipulation. Butterfly Books, \$12.95 pb.



**Pomegranates from the Underworld**, Catherine Bateson. A fresh and vigorous young talent, a voice down to earth, colloquial, jaunty, with a wide emotional range, a steady need to define understandings of love. Pariah Press, \$12.00 pb.

**Poppy**, Drusilla Modjeska. Following the threads of history and memory into imagination, Drusilla Modjeska teases out the story of her mother's life. McPhee Gribble, \$16.95 pb.

**Possession**, A. S. Byatt. A tour de force of wit and intelligence, romance and scholarship, this is both a contemporary and Victorian love story. Winner of the Booker Prize 1990. Vintage, \$14.95 pb, \$29.95 cl.

**Reaching Tin River**, Thea Astley. "Splendid boldness and risk-taking...[writing] with an energy and assurance few Australian writers know. Incisive and witty, the novel abounds with filmic comic vignettes, hilarious scenes and quick throwaway lines." — Helen Daniel, *The Age*. Winner of the 1990 NSW Premier's Award for Fiction. William Heinemann Australia, \$29.95 pb.

**Restoration**, Rose Tremain. Rose Tremain's award-winning novel is a masterful blend of history and imagination. Set at the time of King Charles II, Robert Merivel endures a painful fall from courtly grace before he can achieve spiritual and social restoration. Sceptre, \$12.95 pb.

**Sexing The Cherry**, Jeanette Winterson. Rich fantasy of seventeenth-century history, juggling perceptions of love and sex, lies and truths, and the twelve dancing princesses who lived happily ever after but not with their husbands. Vintage, \$12.95 pb.

**Tahuri**, Ngahua Te Awakotuku. Interconnected short stories which follow Tahuri, a young Maori woman, as she grows up and moves away from the security of early childhood. A journey of self-discovery, sexuality and self-worth. New Women's Press, \$11.95 pb.

**Take This Child**, Barbara Cummings. An account of the views of some of those who grew up under the dormitory system. Also includes detailed analysis of the social and political forces which resulted in the displacement of part-Aboriginal children in the Northern Territory. Aboriginal Studies Press, \$14.95 pb.

**To Be So Old**, Gwen Skinner. Through a moving series of "conversations" with her 99-year-old mother, Gwen Skinner explores what it means to be responsible for an aging parent, and also the experience of being "incarcerated" in a rest home. New Women's Press, \$13.95 pb.

**Wild Card**, Dorothy Hewett. An extraordinary autobiography tracing the author's first thirty-five years. In combining the passions of her life with her power as a writer, she has created a classic of people, place and political history. McPhee Gribble, \$14.95 pb.



**Women of the Centre** edited by Adele Pring. Ten Aboriginal women tell their stories. Extraordinary stories of survival in a land that wasn't harsh until the first white man declared the land uninhabited. Australian women to be reckoned with. Pascoe Publishing, \$14.95 pb.

**The Women Who Live on the Ground**, Lee Cataldi. Haunting poetry that draws images from urban life as well as Cataldi's experiences living and working with the Walpiri. This is a powerful collection to be read again and again. Penguin Books, \$9.99 pb. ○

But Can She Type?

# Unleashing Yourself on the World

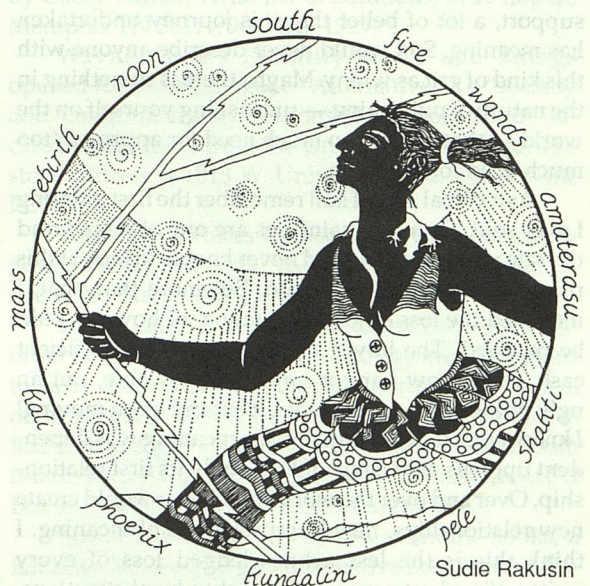
By Nett Hart

What is it with writers, anyhow? The writer invites us to respond to an idiosyncratic part of herself and when we hold it to close scrutiny as public domain, she gets pissed.

Publishing is not for the faint-hearted. There is an uncommon intimacy between writers of books and readers of books, between writers and reviewers, between writers and publishers, between writers and booksellers, between writers. The writer anticipates belonging to the community, that readers will identify with her work, but at the same time she is the Other, the self-avowed outsider for reasons that may or may not be obvious to the community. The intimacy of strangers leaves in its wake expressed and unexpressed tension cruising close to antagonism. Because I believe writers are not intrinsically whiny, I want to explore some dynamic aspects of these relationships.

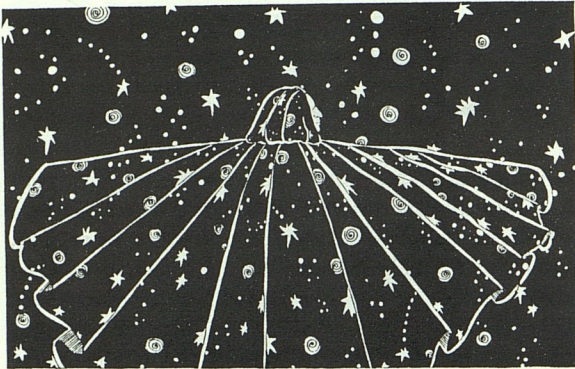
Because publishers are often (unfortunately, I think), the first readers, a lot of the rejection (and Rejection) happens here. Sometimes I think the pursuit of publishers by writers must be the original unrequited love affair from which all others are derived. In person and on paper, writers appropriately smitten with their own words hound publishers for attention, recognition, and access to the life of the published. This creates very unequal relationships. Writers often imagine anyone who can do the work of publishing to be an institution of far-reaching powers when, in fact, in feminist and other small press ventures, the corporate headquarters, warehouse and shipping plant may double as a living room. One feminist publisher puts it this way: "Accepting your book for publication means I will devote a year of my life — and all the disposable income I generate at my mainstream job — to get your

work in print. For this it has to be something I want to do." Typically she says this to a writer who submits a manuscript but has never read anything else she has published. Publishers are often writers — or used to be when they had time — and must remind themselves that it is love of writing and community that got them into this. Publishers who are not all powerful are also not omniscient. They make mistakes, including abusing the vulnerability of the submitting writer, but feminist publishing is not as unequal a match between writer and publisher as many writers believe.



Once a work has achieved print due to the steadfastness of all concerned, the publicists, bookbuyers, reviewers, and eventually booksellers and readers are expected to love this book as the author does, or at least to be "fair." Reviewers are seldom sensitive

enough. Publicists and buyers sabotage its debut. Bookstores shelve it spine out. Readers have the gall not to finish it. To make matters worse, the author who talks about her writing or characters as the only real thing to her, finds herself, socially, a persona non grata unless she Makes-It-Big.



Sudie Rakusin

As I noted earlier, I don't believe that writers are by nature whiners. It takes a lot of endurance to write a pamphlet or book, a lot of perseverance with little support, a lot of belief that this journey undertaken has meaning. So I would never describe anyone with this kind of grit as whiny. Maybe there is something in the nature of publishing — unleashing yourself on the world — that causes too much need for approval/too much need for attention.

As a visual artist I still remember the first painting I ever sold. Granted, paintings are one of a kind and the sale meant that I would never be able to look at this record of my inner life again. But more than that, I mourned the loss of its presentation, of how it would be received. The buyer, by dint of having sufficient cash, could now hang it anyway/anywhere, put an ugly frame on it, or even leave it behind upon moving! I knew what it *meant* and now its meaning was dependent upon its new context. I was only its first relationship. Over and over the work and viewer would create new relationships, new interpretations of meaning. I think this is the less acknowledged loss of every writer. Visual arts are understood to be abstractions, but words reveal how things really are, what is really being said, right? There is less interpretation and so greater expectation that the meaning a writer brings to a work is the meaning anyone else will receive. Of course, the reader always creates her own.

Writers are not different from other artists, fussing over the placement of a comma, waiting anxiously over the response their work will get. Making-It-Big is not about power, fame, or money. It is the fantasy that somehow she will communicate a universal truth, that something undeniable will be said about the human condition that will forever alter the cultural perception. How will that happen if its promulgation is blocked by a bulky publisher, a vengeful reviewer, or a cynical bookseller?

Writing is about truth, finding the truth of a character, ferreting out arcane wisdom from the sources, putting the pieces together in a paradigm that resonates with the writer's understanding of the world. This is truth hard won: lived experience, research, and introspection. Going to the center for this truth, it is easy to forget it has a context. Publishing — whether it is an afternoon at Kinkos or a ride to Random House — is putting that truth into a pool of truths, exposing the results of one's great search to the truths of everyone else. None of us wants to believe in this multiplicity of revelations.

So, who publishes? I don't mean who are the publishers. I mean who puts themselves into the world this way? I think it's Those Who Must and Those Who Can.

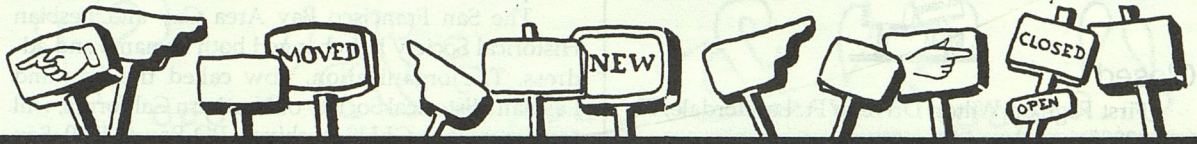
Those Who Must are writers who understand the nature of publishing to be dialogic, who write in a context of community and a need to communicate. They are cultural workers in the same tradition as event organizers, concert performers and producers, craftswomen, and feminist organization workers. The surname must come from the inner drive for communication, for an exchange of vitality. Unleashing yourself on the world is risky business but not a necessity for growth, integrity and clarity.

Publishing, like other art forms, also has roots in aristocracy and we are reminded that those most likely to devote themselves to putting their version of truth into the world are those with a certain sense of entitlement, of a self-consciousness. Because this will be true until the revolution and maybe even a few days after, it is best not to glorify the bravado of published writers among Those Who Can.

Writing is what any woman can do for herself and many women can do for our community. But it is one way among many of influencing the change we are

See Nett, page 107

# THEY WENT THAT-A-WAY



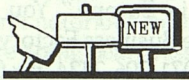
Compiled by Ann Morse

## New Stores

Word is that women are working toward opening feminist bookstores in both Nepal and Sri Lanka!! More information on these stores as soon as we receive it.

Kim Ashton has opened Cafe Haven, a bookstore and cafe, in Orem, UT. Located in the Happy Valley/Provo area (home to Brigham Young University), the cafe serves light foods and the bookstore carries books on self-awareness, spirituality, alternative lifestyles and children's books. The store also sells lesbian books and stocks some jewelry and music. Cafe Haven is geared toward women, but will welcome men, Ashton said. She hopes to create a quiet haven where both lesbians and straight Mormon homemakers can be at home. Cafe Haven, 1605 South State, Orem UT 84058; 801-221-9910.

Linda Harrington has opened "Author Author for the Serious Reader," a bookstore with an emphasis on women and "lifestyles." Send congratulations and catalogs to her at 89 Broadway Roundout, Kingston NY 12401; 914-339-1883/1889.



Joan Fuller and her business partner Daniel Newman will focus on lesbian and gay literature and recovery titles at Sisters' and Brothers' Bookstore in Albuquerque. Send information and greetings to the store at 4011 Silver SE, Albuquerque NM 87108; or to their post office box: PO Box 8768, Albuquerque NM 87198. Phone: 505-266-7317.

Sons & Daughters, a lesbian and gay bookstore, has opened a second outlet at 30715 Southfield Road, Southfield MI 48076; 313-645- 2210. The first store, a lesbian and gay bookstore/coffeehouse, is located at

962 Cherry St. SE, Grand Rapids MI 49506; 616-459-8877. Owners Dennis Komac and Jeff Swanson say that in addition to stocking books and periodicals, the new store will also offer "an ever-changing selection of gifts...unique holiday decorations, music, jewelry, calendars and greeting cards — virtually a mini-department store for lesbians and gay men!"



Solutions in Memphis is a recovery bookstore run by Cathy Turner. Write her at Solutions, 3145 Poplar, Memphis TN 38111; 901-452- 1999.

Wayne Cope's Plurality Books and Things opened for business inside "Alternatives," a "socially and environmentally responsible import shop" located three blocks from the University of Florida. The store address is 1013 W. University Ave., Gainesville FL 32601.

Visions and Voices bookstore has been bought by Susan Weller. The store will remain at the same address, 255 Harris Ave., Providence RI 02909.

Susan Laird is starting Berdache Books, a mail-order book service for lesbians and gay men. She plans to carry lesbian and gay books ("nothing too radical on either end," she says) as well as books of interest to lesbians and gay men. She'd love to hear from both interested members and publishers. Contact her at PO Box 9081, Pittsburgh PA 15224; 412-687-5563.

Susan Burns plans to open Cassandra Books, a feminist, lesbian and gay, alternative bookstore in Racine, WI. Contact her at Cassandra Books, PO Box 085905, Racine WI 53408; 414-632-6833.

Lavender Jade's is a feminist, lesbian and gay, alternative bookstore in Glens Falls, NY. Write Ryan Morrison at PO Box 3308, Glens Falls NY 12801; 518-798-3304.

Leslie and Susi have are starting a small retail business selling items with a lesbian/gay theme. Send information to The Pink Zone at 2319 N. 45th St. #177, Seattle WA 98103; 206-632-3948.



## Closed

First Page on Wilton Drive in Ft. Lauderdale, FL (zip 33305) has closed its doors.

The Great Catsby in Sante Fe (zip 87501) has gone out of business, although the newsletter, the *Catsby Connection*, will continue publishing at PO Box 22490, Sante Fe NM 87502.

## Moved

The Women's Book Exchange in Australia has moved from Perth to the more populated Melbourne, where response to the Exchange has been very enthusiastic. The Exchange, which specializes in second-hand books for and about women, now has an upstairs room as well as a shopfront window for display downstairs. Contact owner Janet Grace at The Women's Book Exchange, First Floor, 10 Smith St., Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia; 03-417-7989.



The Book Womb, Canada's traveling bookstore/book van has moved across the prairies and mountains of Western Canada to Victoria, BC. Operations are temporarily suspended while Jahnet Hewsick settles in and meets with Victoria's Everywoman's Bookstore to create a mutually satisfying relationship. Hew new address is Ste. A-2529 Vancouver BC, Victoria BC, V8T 4A6 Canada.

Food For Thought Alternative Bookstore has moved back across the state line to North Dakota. Scrap their old Minnesota address (zip 56560) and write to them at 314 10th St. N., Fargo ND 58102.

Sandra Zeidenstein writes that Chicory Blue Press has moved to 795 East St. North, Goshen CT 06756.

A reminder that Bookpeople has moved to 7900 Edgewater Drive, Oakland CA 94621. There's also a new phone number: 510-632-4700, fax 510-632-1281.

The San Francisco Bay Area Gay and Lesbian Historical Society has changed both its name and address. The organization, now called the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California, will receive mail at GLHS Archives, PO Box 424280, San Francisco CA 94142; 415-626-0980.

## New Staff

There are two new appointments at Attic Press. Grainne Healy has been named to the post of managing editor and Eleanor Ashe has been appointed to the board. Send best wishes to them at 4 Upper Mount St., Dublin 2, Ireland; 01-616128.



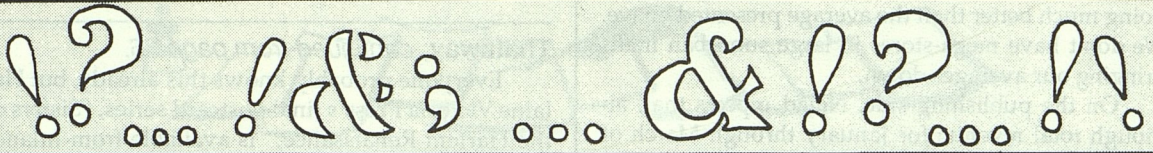
## Books Get Around, Too

*Gaia's Guide*, the international guide for traveling women edited by Sandy Horn, will cease publication with the 1991-92 edition. This 20-year-old institution will be followed by *Women Going Places*, a comprehensive women's travel guide, set to be launched May 1, 1992. The publishers promise *Women Going Places* will also provide "an opportunity for women to share information and resources important to our lives... The accuracy of the entries in it will be monitored and updated by women involved with women in every part of the world, and will bear witness to the enormous changes we are living through at this time, particularly here in Europe." You can reach *Women Going Places* at The Business Factory, 15 Norfolk Place, London W2 1QJ; 071-706-2434, fax 071-706-1942.

Koen Book Distributors has university press titles from a number of university presses at full discount. Contact them at 10 Twosome Drive, PO Box 600, Moorestown NJ 08057.

Those "Mighty Queer Packs" we raved about in the Sidelines Issue are now available from Inland. The wonderfully lesbian playing cards, featuring colorfully drawn Butches and Maids instead of Jokers and Kings, are made by New Zealander Paula Clayton. Send fan mail to 34 Wright St., Wellington 2, New Zealand; 06644-842-351. See *Thataway*, page 38

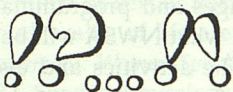
# TRIVIA



By Carol Seajay

Feminist publishers continue to open new doors and break old barriers. Cleis Press, with the purchase of the paperback rights to Linda Niemann's *Boomer: Railroad Memoirs*, is the first women's press to purchase paperback rights from a university press. Cleis describes the book as a woman's on-the-road spiritual autobiography. Although the book did "respectably well" in the cloth edition, FBN's bet is that paperback sales will be quadruple the cloth sales in the first year as Cleis gets the book to lesbian, bisexual, and the no-longer-drinking communities that won't have found the university press edition.

CALYX will be celebrating 15 years of feminist publishing with a big party in Corvallis, Oregon while this issue of FBN is at the printer. The journal has published over 2,000 women writers and artists in 15 years. Kind of makes you think....Seal Press is initiating a new series of biographies titled *Women Who Dared* that will feature easy-to-read biographies of pioneering women. The first book in the series will be *Getting the Real Story: Nellie Bly & Ida B. Wells*.... The *New York Times* isn't notorious for reviews of feminist books, but they are doing Seal Press' *She Who Was Lost is Remembered: Healing from Incest through Creativity*.... Red Sea Press has a wonderful new catalog listing 135 African-American Children's Books. Write to them at 15 Industry Court, Trenton NJ 08638, for a copy.



Down There Press sold the rights to *Herotica 2* to Plume (NAL/Penguin USA) rather than publishing the book themselves. So far, so good — until the cover arrived. The original mock-up of the cover was some-

what reminiscent of the Anais Nin erotica covers — except that the woman's hands are chained together. Plume has agreed to remove the chains.... Look for it on the April NAL list.

Paradigm Publishing is looking for someone to share their booth on the Feminist/Gay/Lesbian Row at ABA. If you're interested, call Brenda Hines or Deanna Leach at 619-234-7115.



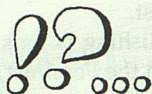
South End Press has taken the lead in organizing an aisle for political/independent publishers to give visibility to their work in the same way that the Feminist/Gay/Lesbian row has so successfully done for feminist, lesbian and gay books. For more information, contact South End Press, 116 Botolph St., Boston MA 02115.

ABA will be adding Gay and Lesbian Bookstores and Travel Bookstores to its series of newsletters for specialty bookstores. ABA is currently doing newsletters for African-American Bookstores and for Science Fiction bookstores, as well as a newsletter for the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression. Each newsletter costs \$25/year to subscribe. Watch for more information in the spring.

*Newswire* reports that retail sales in bookstores are up 6.2% in the first half of 1991 over the comparable period in 1990. Given that 5.1% of the growth is inflation, that leaves 1.1% as real growth in the industry at this stage of "recession recovery." Bookstore sales are, however, considerably stronger than sales in all retail establishments, which increased only 0.6%. When inflation is deducted from that "growth," over-

all retail sales show a loss of 4.2% for the same period. Anyone know of anyone who'd like to give FBN a grant to compile parallel statistics for feminist bookstores? Based on everything I'm hearing, I think we're doing much better than the average presented above. We don't have mega-stores in large suburban malls bringing our averages down.

On the publishing side, Naiad reports that, although total revenue for January through March of this year was down 10% from the year before, total revenue for January through July 1991 is up 15% over the same period last year; that sales from operations are up 10% and royalty income is also up 10% for the January-July period.



Now is the time for all good booksellers to nominate one another for the ABA Board of Directors. Feminists, radicals, trouble-makers, dykes, faggots, independents, politicians, and the clear-of-vision all urgently needed. (That's FBN's take — it may not be exactly ABA's vision of what is needed...) But seriously, feminist bookstore representation on that board is long overdue. To nominate, send the candidate's name, title, store name, address and phone, the candidate's home address, your reasons for nominating her or him, and your name, address and phone to Nominating Committee Chair Ann Nelson, Bunch of Grapes Bookstore, Box 1608, Vineyard Haven MA 02568. All candidates must be fulltime employees of ABA member bookstores. Nominations must be received by December 10.

ABA has funded, on a trial basis, a general legal information service to answer questions regarding federal antitrust trade regulations and employment law matters. The procedure is that questions may be faxed to Gary Senner of Sonnenschein, Nath & Rosenthal at 312-876-7934, along with your name, store name, store address, telephone number, store SAN and where you may be reached by phone for the next two working days. If you don't have a fax, phone ABA for a referral number. Questions regarding First Amendment or free expression issues should be directed to the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, not the general legal information service.

Watch for the "Gay & Lesbian Books in the 1990s" article in the November *American Bookseller* and the accompanying essay by Minnie Bruce Pratt.

— CS ○

### Thataway, continued from page 36.

Everyone probably knows this already, but Helaine Victoria Press's final postcard series, "Sisters of the Harlem Renaissance," is available from Inland. The 26-postcard set retails for \$9.95 (packaged like the press's "Women in Social Protest" series). Helaine Victoria Press, PO Box 1779, Martinsville IN 46151.

### Celebrations and Anniversaries

(Also see announcements in the News from the Bookstores column.)

Congratulations go out to Modern Times bookstore in San Francisco as it celebrates its 20th anniversary. As part of the long-term celebration, they'll be moving down the block to a new storefront two and a half (!) times the size of their current store. For now, send best wishes to Modern Times at 968 Valencia St., San Francisco CA 94110.

Montreal's feminist, lesbian and gay bookstore L'Androgyne recently had a party and an 18% off sale to celebrate their 18th anniversary. They're still at 3636 Boul. St-Laurent, Montreal QUE H2X 2V4 Canada.

And it's number 24 for Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookshop in New York City! Send anniversary congratulations to 15 Christopher St., New York NY 10014.



### NWSA Reappears

The National Women's Studies Association will hold a 1992 conference from June 19-23 in Austin, TX. The meeting will focus on deliberations about structural changes and programmatic emphasis — "indeed, about what NWSA will be for the foreseeable future." The activities and events familiar to past NWSA conference attendees also will be offered at the '92 conference, and the organization is initiating fundraising for limited income members. For more information, contact the NWSA at University of Maryland, College Park MD 20740. ○



# WRITING WANTED



Irene Zahava (Smedley's Bookshop, Ithaca NY) is seeking short- short stories (roughly 500 words or less) for a mini-anthology she will edit called *Quickies: Lesbian Short-shorts*. *Quickies* will be a cross between a pamphlet and a periodical, with the first issue coming out in 1992, and subsequent issues coming out at least once a year after that. Send submissions, a SASE, a SAS postcard, and a one- to two-line biography to 307 W. State St., Ithaca NY 14850; 607-273-4675.

Why do you garden? HerBooks has put out a call for contributions for an anthology to be titled *Down to Earth: A Lesbian Tradition in Gardening*. Send essays, poems, stories, narratives, line drawings, black and white photographs on topics such as gardening and health, disability, class and feminist ethics; gardening as lesbian art; the politics of gardening; and the history of women and gardening. HerBooks, PO Box 7467, Santa Cruz CA 95061. Deadline: August 1, 1992.

Submissions are sought for an anthology of writings and artwork by Asian/Pacific lesbians of the North American continent. Themes include identity, sexuality, politics/social constructs, relationships, work/professions/careers, life cycles, disabilities, and activities and interests. Send submissions to Anne Mi Ok Bruining, 41 Shaw Road, Little Compton RI 02837. Deadline: December 15, 1991.

Personal accounts of sexual harassment written by women from all walks of life are wanted for the book *Sexual Harassment: Women Speak Out*, to be published early 1992. Send submissions (any length), a one-line bio, a signed permission statement to edit and publish and a SASE to Dena Taylor/Amber Coverdale Sumrall, c/o The Crossing Press, PO Box 1048, Freedom CA 95019. Deadline: December 14, 1991.

Essays are wanted for *Sister and Brother: Lesbians and Gay Men Together*, an anthology to be edited by Joan Nestle and John Preston. Interested authors are strongly encouraged to query the editors before proceeding with their essays. Nestle and Preston hope to have commitments from authors on hand by February 1, 1992, and at least a first draft by May 1, 1992. For more information, contact John Preston, Box 5314, Portland ME 04101; phone 207-774-3865 or fax 207-874-4902.



Two lesbian sisters from Ottawa are accepting stories, essays, journal entries, letters and photos, written either individually or collectively with your lesbian sister(s), for an anthology called *Bloodlines: Writings by Lesbian Sisters* to be published by gynergy books. The editors also are looking for lesbian sisters interested in filling out a "Lesbian Sisters Questionnaire." For submissions, questionnaires or information, write Jan and Lynn Andrews, PO Box 4273, Station E, Ottawa ONT Canada K1S 5B3. Include SASE (outside Canada use International Reply Coupons). Deadline: January 31, 1992.

"Grandparent/Grandchild," an unpublished pamphlet for grandparents of gay and lesbian people, written by a mother of a gay son and a lesbian, needs the "voices" of grandparents to complete the manuscript for publication by a non-profit organization. Grandparents, please send your names and addresses to Betsy Janeway, RFD #1, Box 850, Contoocook NH 03229. She will send you her manuscript for your

quotable comments and stories of your experiences. Guarantee anonymity or full credit, your choice.

Erotic stories by and about lesbian, straight and bisexual women are sought for a third collection of *Herotica*, to be edited by Susie Bright and Joani Blank. Send typed, double-spaced "womanuscripts," along with your name, address and a SASE to Down There Press, c/o Good Vibrations, 1210 Valencia St., San Francisco CA 94110. Deadline: April 1, 1992.

Rites Magazine wants submissions from lesbians and gay men writing about looksism and body image. Send prose, poetry, fiction, non-fiction, drawings, photographs or anything else pertinent to Anne at *Rites Magazine*, PO Box 65, Station F, Toronto ONT M4Y 2L4; call 416-516-3363 or fax 416-531-6214.



The deadline for submissions to two books to be published by Queer Press — a lesbian and gay cartoon anthology and an anthology by two-spirited people of the the first Nations — has been extended to December 30, 1991. Send copies of your work, a brief bio and a SASE to Queer Press, PO Box 485 Station P, Toronto ONT Canada M5S 2T1.

The *Mid-American Review* is requesting essays for a forum on "Women's Positions in Contemporary Writing." Topics might include the existence of a distinctive feminist poetics, experimental forms, ecofeminism, the revision of women's positions as readers and the reinvention of a discourse of female sexuality. Articles should follow the MLA style sheet. Send submission, a SASE and biographical note of about 50 words to Gloria Still, Nonfiction Editor, *Mid-American Review*, 106 Hanna Hall, Department of English, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green OH 43403. Deadline: February 15, 1992.

## Contests

Spinsters Book Company is once again sponsoring its Lesbian Fiction Contest, which carries a cash prize of \$1,000 plus royalties. Manuscripts for the

contest must be submitted between January 1 and February 29, 1992. For guidelines, write Spinsters, PO Box 410687, San Francisco CA 94141; 415-558-9580.

The Mountaineers Books of Seattle is seeking entries for the 1992 Barbara Savage/*Miles From Nowhere* Memorial Award, a biennial prize for an outstanding unpublished manuscript about a true "personal journey of discovery undertaken in an outdoor arena." The award consists of a \$3,000 cash award, a \$12,000 guaranteed advance against royalties and publication by The Mountaineers. For guidelines, write The Mountaineers, 1011 SW Klickitat Way, Suite 107, Seattle WA 98134. Deadline: February 1, 1992. — AM ○

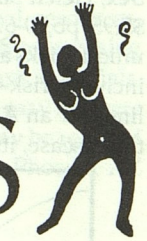
## *Taking Care of Business, continued from page 18.*

I tried hard to be perfect so the business would succeed. I felt like a personal failure every time I didn't have an item a customer asked for. What I did very early on (consistent with the rest of my life) is make everyone right and me wrong. I tell you this is a painful way to live and I had the same stress I had been trying to get away from in the "unreal world." I looked everywhere (outside me) for ways to run the business. I honed in on bestseller lists, considered our vendors' opinions to be nearly gospel and I felt faint when someone praised other bookstores and smug when they criticized them.

What I know now is that after I created the environment, the structure where I could be fully me, the obstacles to my freedom were no longer external. They were internal and I spent the first two and a half years locating, labeling, and dispelling many of them. So when asked about my business, I don't talk about bookkeeping, inventory systems, payroll, etc. That's the easy stuff and there are many good resources which I am willing to share. But the real business is the journey and the choices and no one can tell you what yours will be. Be willing, attentive and brave. Brave because it's hard and scary at times. Pay attention so you can experience fully the opportunities. And be willing to receive the joy and grace. There is much if you can hold it. I am learning to.

— Reprinted from *Two Sisters' Newsletter* ○

# Books on Women and AIDS



*Sarah Barbara Watstein is Associate Director for Public Services at Hunter College and the co-author of *Aids and Women: A Sourcebook*.*

By Sarah Barbara Watstein

In the early 1980s, women heard that they weren't vulnerable. We were told to relax. After all, AIDS wasn't widespread.

Today, most women are aware that they are extremely vulnerable. Most of us know that women are the current victims of the epidemic. Nonetheless, myths about women and AIDS persist. These myths perpetuate misleading information and half-truths. The media continues to disperse alarms and reassurances.

The following list offers core resources on women and AIDS. All of these titles are readily accessible. All are timely, informative and impelled by a deep concern for women's health and women's rights. Written in easy-to-understand language, most contain advice and recommendations about human sexual interactions that is offered in a sensitive and positive manner. These are books that will — if available — influence the risks women take and the choices we make.

**Women, AIDS, and Activism, ACT UP/New York Women and AIDS Book Group, South End, 1990.** \$8 pb, 0-89608-393-4; \$20 cl, -394-2. The result of a true collective process, this book fills in the gaps about women in the AIDS crisis — particularly from an activist perspective. Chapters explore the issues around the AIDS crisis as they affect women. Some of these issues are treatment and trials; race, women and AIDS; lesbians in the AIDS crisis, intravenous drug use, women, and HIV; prison issues; prostitution; pregnancy; heterosexual women and AIDS; and reproductive rights.

**A Woman's Guide to Sexual Health, Sue DeCotiis, Simon and Schuster (Pocket), 1989.** \$4.95 pb, 0-671-66011-X. This is a comprehensive guide to sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) for women. Most of the book is written in a question-and-answer format. AIDS is covered in a chapter on viral STDs.



Graphics on this page by T. Bernhard, from *Healing Wise* by Susan Weed

**Safe Sex in the Age of AIDS for Men and Women, The Institute for the Advanced Study of Human Sexuality, Citadel, 1986.** \$3.95, 0-8065-0996-1. The focus of this book is sexual management. Unsafe sex, possibly safe, and safe sex guidelines are discussed. The tone is both candid and positive. Negotiating safer sex and living by the guidelines merit separate chapters.

**The Real Truth about Women and AIDS: How to Eliminate the Risks Without Giving Up Love and Sex**, Helen Singer Kaplan, Simon and Schuster, 1987. \$5.95 pb, 0-671-65743-7. Kaplan examines women's unique risks and choices relative to AIDS. Information includes risk-reducing techniques for safe sex; guidelines for an AIDS-free relationship; facts and data on the disease, its symptoms and diagnosis.



**Women and AIDS: A Practical Guide for Those Who Help Others**, Bonnie Lester, Continuum, 1989. \$15.95, 0-8264-0501-0. Lester dispenses information, comfort, and hope for counselors who become involved not only with HIV-positive women, but with people who react to others who have AIDS. The book includes a primer for women about AIDS; discussion of women's concerns about heterosexual transmission and testing; advice about dealing with feelings and fears, and about talking to women and children about AIDS. Additional chapters address women and the media and AIDS in school.

**Canadian Women and AIDS: Beyond the Statistics/Les Femmes canadiennes et le SIDA**, Jacquie Manthorne, ed. \$15.95, 0-9691410-8-4. Material in this book includes stories by women with AIDS; articles on who is at risk; discussion of how we educate ourselves and others; and material on organizing our communities. 60% of the material is in English, 40% is French. All material is preceded by an abstract in the other language. Available from Les Editions Communiqué 'Elles, 3585 rue St-Urbain, Montreal QUE H2X 2N6 Canada.

**The Complete Guide to Safe Sex**, Ted McIlvenna ed., The Institute for Advanced Study of Human Sexuality, Specific Press, 1987. \$6.95, 0-930846-05-2. This is an authoritative, competent review of current available information about sex and AIDS. It offers advice and recommendations about human sexual interac-

tions and conveys strong sex-positive messages throughout. Of special note is a lengthy chapter on how to create a safe sex lifestyle. Specific Press, 1523 Franklin St., San Francisco CA 94109.

**Advice for Life: A Woman's Guide to AIDS Risks and Prevention**, Chris Norwood, Pantheon, 1987. \$5.95 pb, 0-394-75428-X. Norwood's advice focuses on how to protect ourselves, our lovers, and our future children. Background information on the disease is provided. Her goal is to reduce some of the fears surrounding the epidemic.

**Our Lives in the Balance: U.S. Women of Color and the AIDS Epidemic**, Kitchen Table/Women of Color Press, forthcoming. \$6.95 pb, 0-913175-21-8. The majority of women and children diagnosed in this country with AIDS or HIV+ are women and children of color. **Our Lives in the Balance** will be the first book to present the responses of women of color to this national health crisis. Projected contents feature conversations with women PWAs, caregivers and AIDS workers; political analysis of how AIDS is affecting women of color; discussion of the challenges that women of color AIDS workers face; safer sex guidelines; and AIDS resources listings. Projected text in English and Spanish.

**Inventing AIDS**, Cindy Patton, Routledge, Chapman and Hall, 1990. \$13.95 pb, 0-415-90256-8; \$42.50 cl, -90257-6. The six chapters in this book examine the construction of AIDS "victims," "volunteers," and "experts;" media, testing, and safe sex education; the formation of AIDS knowledge; "African AIDS;" teaching about AIDS; and power. Patton's work is infused with her experiences as an AIDS activist and feminist.

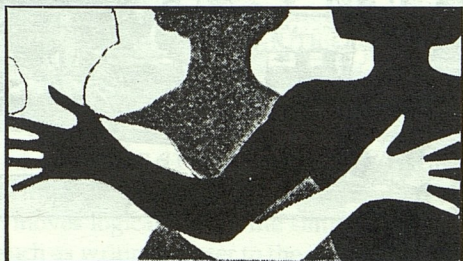
**Making It: A Woman's Guide to Sex in the Age of AIDS**, revised and updated, Cindy Patton and Janis Kelly, Firebrand Books, 1988. \$4.95 pb, 0-932379-32-X. Information about safe sex, pregnancy, testing and drug use is provided in English and Spanish in this guidebook. Cartoons, diagrams, and sidebars further enliven the text.

**Sex and Germs: The Politics of AIDS**, Cindy Patton, South End, 1985. \$9 pb, 0-89608-259-8; \$25 cl,

-260-1. In this book, Patton, a political activist and health care worker, synthesizes and catalyzes gay and lesbian political response to AIDS. Patton's feminism, as her activism, fuels her analysis.

**A Shallow Pool of Time: An HIV+ Woman Grapples with the AIDS Epidemic**, Fran Peavey, New Society Publishers, 1990. \$9.95 pb, 0-86571-167-4; \$34.95 cl, -166-6. Fran Peavey, a long-time activist and humorist, uses a diary format to present both her experience as an independent women living with AIDS and the ways AIDS has affected society.

**Women and AIDS**, Diane Richardson, Routledge, 1989. \$11.95 pb, 0-416-07151-7; \$29.95 cl, 0-415-90175-8. This book is targeted for "all women who are concerned about AIDS, as well as the women who already have AIDS or the virus which causes it." Richardson looks at AIDS in women, safer sex, lesbians and AIDS, living with AIDS, policies and prevention, and the challenges of AIDS.



**AIDS: The Women**, Ines Rieder and Patricia Ruppelt eds., Cleis Press, 1988. \$9.95 pb 0-939416-21-2; \$24.95 cl, -20-4. Rieder and Ruppelt have brought together personal accounts of women whose lives have been touched by AIDS. These include family, lovers and friends; women with AIDS/ARC and HIV-positive women; professional caregivers; lesbians facing AIDS; prostitutes; women AIDS educators; and women involved with AIDS prevention policies.

**AIDS & Women: A Sourcebook**, Sarah Barbara Watstein and Robert Anthony Laurich, Oryx, 1990. \$36.50, 0-89774-577-9. Fourteen chapters cover the available sources of information on AIDS transmission, prevention methods, the disease's effects on women and children, and women as AIDS caregivers. Preceding each chapter are topical summaries that provide practical advice and discuss current develop-

ments in AIDS treatment and research. Forty pages of statistical tables have the data most useful for general users and researchers. Appendixes supply names and addresses of organizations, audio-visual resources, and a glossary. Also included is an AIDS researching methodology with a listing of important materials. Author, title, and subject indexes make it easy to locate the exact information you want. Oryx may be reached at 4041 North Central at Indian School, Phoenix AZ 85012; 800-279-6799.

**Safe Encounters: How Women Can Say Yes to Pleasure and No to Unsafe Sex**, Beverly Whipple and Gina Ogden, McGraw, 1989. \$6.95 pb, 0-07-069519-9. Whipple and Ogden discuss how women can enjoy active, loving sex lives in safety and health. Questions about AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases are also addressed. There is a chapter on how to talk to children.

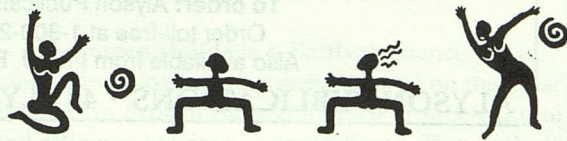
Finally for women who want to keep up with global issues, the publications of the Panos Institute are "must reads." An international information and policy studies institute, the Panos Institute is responsible for such pivotal works as **AIDS and the Third World**, published in 1987. Panos Institute, 1405 King St., Alexandria VA 22314.

In addition to the above resources, the following titles on women and AIDS are also suggested as additional background reading:

**Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS): Its Implications for Women and Children**, Karin G. Edstrom and Jonathan Mann, Population Council, 1987. Population Council, 1 Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, New York NY 10017.

**Matters of Life and Death: Women Speak about AIDS**, Ines Rieder, Virago, 1989.

**Women and AIDS Clinical Resource Guide, 2nd Edition**, San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Women's Health Outreach, 1987. SFAF, 333 Valencia St., 4th Floor, San Francisco CA 94103; PO Box 6182, San Francisco CA 94101. ○



# THE DUKE WHO OUTLAWED JELLY BEANS *and Other Stories*

by Johnny Valentine  
illustrations by Lynette Schmidt

After he outlawed jelly beans, the Duke issued another proclamation: "I had exactly one mother and one father, and I turned out so well, I think *all* children should have exactly one mother and one father. Any that don't ... why, we'll throw 'em in the dungeon."

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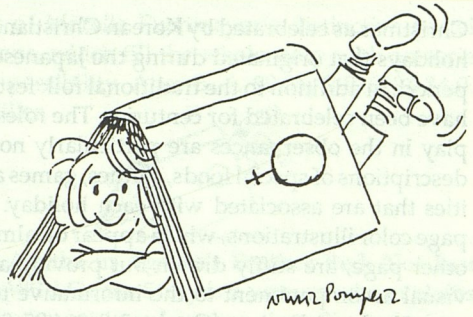


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*Kids' Books:*

# Making a Joyful Sound



By Kathleen T. Horning

## NONFICTION

**The Kid's Guide to Social Action: How to Solve the Social Problems You Choose — And Turn Creative Thinking into Positive Action** is the best small press book I've ever reviewed! This well-organized, attractively designed, and accessible handbook offers a wealth of information for kids who want to change things. Written by Barbara A. Lewis, a Salt Lake City elementary school teacher whose students have effected impressive social changes, this step-by-step guide moves logically from the simplest forms of action, such as writing a letter to the editor or circulating a petition, to the more sophisticated: lobbying the federal government, for instance. Along the way, Lewis illustrates each model of social action with the true story of child activists who successfully used the method to make a change. Her respect for the intelligence and potential of her audience is obvious. In every sense, the children's own ideas, issues and concerns are the focus. Generously illustrated with photographs, diagrams, sample documents, and blank forms for photocopying. The book also includes names and addresses of contact groups and US government offices,

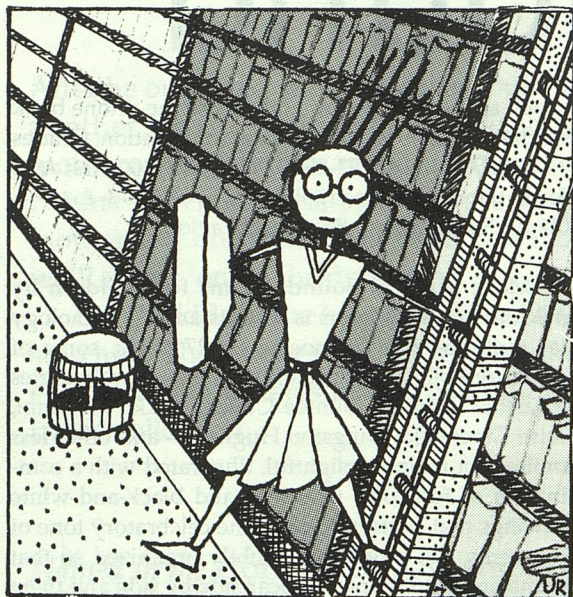
*This irregular column is written by Kathleen T. Horning, coordinator of the Alternative Press Collection at the Cooperative Children's Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison, editor of Alternative Press Publishers of Children's Books (3d ed.), and children's librarian at Madison Public Library.*

as well as instructions on how to use the phone book and the public library to get local information. Grades 3-8. \$14.95 pb, 0-915793-29-6. Free Spirit, 400 First Ave. North, Ste. 616, Minneapolis MN 55401. 20% for 1-4, 40% for 5-24. Ingram, Baker and Taylor.

**Make a Joyful Sound: Poems for Children by African-American Poets** is an outstanding anthology that pulls together 75 poems by 27 poets, some of whom are well-known in children's poetry anthologies — Lucille Clifton, Countee Cullen, Nikki Giovanni, Eloise Greenfield, Langston Hughes — and other less familiar but no less delightful. Illustrated with a combination of full-color paintings and black-and-white drawings that perfectly match the celebratory tone of the poems, the collection is subtly organized so that poems on related topics appear side by side and there is a logical progression to the subjects covered: individual identity, community, Africa, heroes and heroines, family, and feelings, thoughts and dreams. Overall, the book's impact is best expressed by the words of Mari Evans, one of the poets included in this volume: "Who/ can be born black/ and not/ sing/ the wonder of it/ the joy/ the challenge." Edited by Deborah Slier. Illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu. Ages 3-8. \$12.95, 1-56288-000-4. Checkerboard Press, 30 Vesey St., New York NY 10007.

**In Korean Holidays & Festivals** Frances M. Koh uses a chronological arrangement based on the lunar calendar to explain the significance of nine cultural and religious holidays in South Korea. They include

Christmas as celebrated by Korean Christians and two holidays that originated during the Japanese colonial period, in addition to the traditional folk festivals that have been celebrated for centuries. The roles children play in the observances are particularly noted, with descriptions of special foods, clothes, games and activities that are associated with each holiday. The full-page color illustrations, which appear on almost every other page, are stiffly drawn but provide a pleasant visual accompaniment to the informative text. Illustrated by Liz B. Dodson. Grades 2-5. \$14.95, 0-9606090-5-9. EastWest Press, PO Box 4204, Minneapolis MN 55414.



Ursula Roma

**The People Who Hugged the Trees: An Environmental Folk Tale**, Deborah Lee Rose's adaptation of a folktale from Rajasthan, India, is especially relevant to today's environmental concerns. Amrita Devi has a deep respect for the trees that protect her desert village from the hot sun and the sandstorms. When the Maharajah's men come to cut down the trees to build a fortress, Amrita leads her people in nonviolent resistance as each of the villagers embraces a tree to impede the axemen's work. Enraged by the news, the Maharajah himself comes with a troop of soldiers to fight the tree huggers, but they are stopped by a terrible sandstorm during which they learn firsthand the importance of the trees. Detailed full-page watercolor

paintings by Birgitta Säflund illustrate the legend, which inspired the Chipko ("Hug the Tree") Movement in modern India. Ages 4-8. \$12.95, 0-911797-80-7. Roberts Rinehart, PO Box 666, Niwot CO 80544. Bookpeople.

In **Zebra Talk** a young Grevy's zebra asks her mother, "What was it like when you were young like me?" In response her mother tells her about a time when thousands of zebras roamed the savannas in Africa, before the time of "men with guns." Alternating black and white spreads are cut to progressively shorter lengths for a layered effect so that upon reaching the wordless double-page spread at the center, one sees an impressive display of zebra stripes. Vanessa Vargo's spare text and unique artistry combine to make an eloquent plea for protecting an endangered species. Notes at the end of the book give factual information about the four zebra species. Ages 3-6. \$3.95 pb, 0-85953-395-6. Child's Play.

**Long Is a Dragon: Chinese Writing for Children**, an artful introduction to the Chinese writing system, begins with a brief description of its invention and how it has changed over time by showing the ancient pictographs for 10 animals next to stylized drawings of the animals and their modern character equivalents. After teaching the techniques for basic strokes, author Peggy Goldstein shows children how to draw 75 simple characters for basic vocabulary words, including the numbers 1 through 12. Each character is accompanied by a diagram that uses arrows and numbers to show stroke order and is labeled in English and phonetic Mandarin. A short narrative holds it all together, frequently placing the character in a cultural context. Grades 2-5. \$14.95, 0-8351-2375-8. China Books & Periodicals. Bookpeople and Inland.

As dawn breaks in the Amazonian rain forest, a bat ends its nocturnal hunting and a harpy eagle takes off from its perch in a kapok tree. The direct, descriptive text in **At Home in the Rain Forest** accompanies this lushly visual journey through the rain forest, making observations about the flora and fauna, as we move down from the emergent layer, through the upper and lower canopies, down through the busy understory to the ground layer. The text moves smoothly, stressing the interrelatedness of all life-

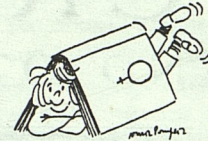


forms, but it is the vibrant full-color paintings that steal the show. A final full-page spread pulls the perspective back to encompass all the layers of the forest, showing the activities described in the previous pages occurring simultaneously. Written by Diane Willow, illustrated by Laura Jacques. Ages 4-8. \$14.95, 0-88106-485-8. Charlesbridge, 85 Main St., Watertown MA 02172.

## FICTION

Señora Amelia, the indulgent pet owner in Daniel Barbot's *A Bicycle for Rosaura*, does everything she can to make her pets happy. But when her handsome hen, Rosaura, ask for a bicycle for her birthday, the señora is at a loss. None of the bicycle stores in town has bikes for hens. Señora Amelia is just about to give up when a strange peddler comes to town, calling out that, in addition to repairing harmonicas and wind chimes, he can "make rollerskates for dogs and eyeglasses for cats." Can he customize a bike for a hen? You bet! This delightfully absurd story from Venezuela is made all the more humorous by the realistic

elements of Morella Fuenmayor's distinctive pastel illustrations, which fill the whole story with an eerie sense of possibility. Ages 3- 6. \$9.95, 0-916291-34-0. Kane/Miller.



The Agatha in *Agatha's Feather Bed: Not Just Another Wild Goose Story* is a weaver who explains to a young boy visiting her shop that silk comes from worms, wool from sheep, and linen from flax. "Everything comes from something," she tells him. That night, as she settles down into her new feather bed, her own words come back to haunt her when she looks out her window and sees six angry geese — featherless. To make amends, Agatha works for three days spinning and weaving coats for the geese, using her own long, white hair as thread. The richly detailed full-color illustrations are enclosed by geometric borders that contain tiny vignettes showing various products and their sources. Written by Carmen Agra Deedy, illustrated by Laura I. Seeley. Ages 4-7. \$14.95, 1-56145-008-1. Peachtree. ○



## ■ InVersions Writing by Dykes, Queers and Lesbians edited by Betsy Warland

Bold, diverse, defiant and affirming texts by twenty-four dyke/queer/lesbian writers from Canada, Quebec and the United States comprise this distinguished collection. Reflecting on their own work, these established writers raise challenging questions.

*InVersions* opens new vistas for dialogue among writers, (and readers) as each claims her many complexities as a human being.

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NON-FICTION 260 pages, 6 X 9, Paper, ISBN 0-88974-036-4 \$12.95 \*October 1991

## ■ Wiles of Girlhood by Joanne Arnott

*Wiles of Girlhood* is narrative poetry, skillfully delving into things unthinkable. "Wiles" are, from a young girl's point of view, those skills and abilities, sleight of mind or hand or heart that will permit her some degree of wholeness and strength. What emerges in *Wiles of Girlhood* is the courage and tenacity of a woman who, against many odds, has achieved and articulated an integrated, vital self.

POETRY 62 pages, 6 X 9, Paper, ISBN 0-88974-034-8 \$9.50 \*October 1991

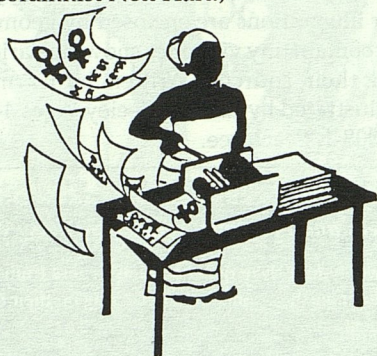
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# BACK TO PRESS

## AND OTHER GOOD NEWS

### Back To Press

For *Lesbian's Only*, the lesbian separatist anthology published in 1988 by Onlywomen, will reappear this year as the first title on Onlywomen's new non-fiction list, "Liaison." The anthology had an initial printing of 5,000, which sold out in 18 months. The new edition will have an initial run of 2,000. Onlywomen plans to "top up that run to at least another 5,000 very quickly." (Both the original and new covers are by FBN columnist Nett Hart!)



Seal Press's *The Black Women's Health Book*, edited by Evelyn C. White, has gone back to press for the third time with a run of 8,600 for a total of 28,000 copies in print.

Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press has reprinted three of its titles: *Cuentos: Stories by Latinas*, edited by Alma Gómez, Cherríe Moraga and Mariana Romo-Carmona, now has 14,000 copies in print after a fourth printing of 2,000; *Home Girls: A Black Feminist Anthology*, edited by Barbara Smith, has 25,000 copies in print after a fourth run of 4,000; and *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color*, edited by Cherríe Moraga and Gloria Anzaldúa, has a total of 75,000 copies after a seventh run of 10,000.

Lynne Finney sold rights for her book *Reach for the Rainbow: Advanced Healing for Survivors of Sexual Abuse* to Putnam Publishing. Putnam, which is making the

book their lead self-help title in 1992, paid its highest advance to date for a self-help book. Using the original cover, Putnam will do an initial printing of 20,000 trade paperbacks in February 1992. The new book will include eight new chapters, including "Am I Making It," "Cult Abuse," and chapters for loved ones and on massage and body work.

Banned Books will print 2,000 more copies of Tee Corinne's *Dreams of the Woman Who Loved Sex* for a total of 18,000 in print. *Riding Desire*, edited by Corinne, also will go back to press with a run of 2,000 for a total of 5,000.

*The Little School: Tales of Disappearance & Survival in Argentina*, written by Alicia Partnoy and published by Cleis Press, recently went back to press for a fourth printing.

Mary Ryan's *Whispers in the Wind*, published by Attic Press, has sold 30,000 copies in paperback.

Cleis Press's *Different Daughters: A Book by Mothers of Lesbians* edited by Louise Rafkin will go back to press for a sixth printing of 3,500 copies bringing the total in print to 23,500.

Earlier we reported that the Book of the Month Club doubled its order of Patricia Highsmith's *The Price of Salt* (Naiad) within two weeks of its initial advertising of the title for a total of 8,000 copies in print of the book club edition. Now we hear that BOMC sold those copies in eight weeks and has asked Naiad for 500 more copies. These copies will all be Naiad editions, a real bonus for the press as they (unlike the BOMC editions) include backlist ordering information at the end of each book.

### Rights

Lillian Faderman may be on the way to a bestseller with *Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers* (#8 in the *Village Voice* bestsellers list). Doubleday and Viking think so, anyway. When Columbia opened the bidding for the paperback rights with a \$75,000 floor,

Viking and Doubleday both bid \$150,000. The contract went to Viking, with Doubleday losing out on this title for the second time. There are a lot of rumors circulating about why Doubleday let it go in the first place. Our favorite, and probably the most credible, is that Doubleday wanted something a bit more sensational. A la *Invisible Lives: The Truth About Millions of Women-Loving Women* perhaps? They didn't get it and Faderman took the book to Columbia. FBN hopes that the Viking edition gets a bit of updating and correcting before it sees print. Especially the section that reports that more lesbian novels were published during the



Before Columbus Foundation

mid-'70s than were published in the latter-'70s. *Odd Girls* doesn't cover the incredible boom in lesbian publishing in the '80s at all, leaving the reader to believe that lesbian-owned small press publishing died out in the mid-'70s. Bookpeople and Windham Hill records, however, are (falsely) credited with being woman-oriented companies. (See pages 224, 225 and 347 if your blood pressure is too low.) Maybe a bit of Faderman's share of the advance could be invested in updating and fact checking.

And yes, this is on a standard 50/50 rights contract. Columbia will get half and Faderman will get half. To the best of our knowledge, this is the largest advance ever paid for a specifically lesbian book. Does anyone know differently?

## Awards

Five writers from a pool of 342 recently received grants from Astraea's Lesbian Writers Fund. The fiction writers who received awards were Mariana Romo-Carmona, Ana Maria Simo and Magdalena Zschokke, while the poets were Melinda Goodman and Yasmin V. Tambiah. The judges for this year's panel were Jewelle Gomez and Audre Lorde for poetry, and Gloria Anzuldúa and Sarah Schulman for

## American Book Awards

The Before Columbus Foundation, a non-profit educational and service organization dedicated to promoting and disseminating contemporary American multicultural literature, has announced the winners of the 12th annual American Book Awards:

Lucia Berlin for *Homesick: New & Selected Stories* (Black Sparrow)

Thomas Centolella for *Terra Firma* (Copper Canyon Press)

Mary Crow Dog with Richard Erdoes for *Lakota Woman* (Grove Weidenfeld)

Nora Marks Dauenhauer and Richard Dauenhauer, editors, for *Haa Tuwunaagu Yis, for Healing Our Spirit: Tlingit Oratory* (University of Washington Press)

Jessica Hagedorn for *Dogeaters* (Pantheon)

Joy Harjo for *In Mad Love and War* (Wesleyan University Press)

bell hooks for *Yearning: Race, Gender and Cultural Politics* (South End Press)

Deborah Keenan and Roseann Lloyd, editors, for *Looking for Home: Women Writing about Exile* (Milkweed Editions)

Meridel Le Sueur for *Harvest Song* (West End)

D.H. Melhem for *Heroism in the New Black Poetry* (University Press of Kentucky)

The Mill Hunk Herald for *Overtime: Punchin' Out with the Mill Hunk Herald* (West End Press) R. Baxter Miller for *The Art and Imagination of Langston Hughes* (University Press of Kentucky)

Alejandro Murguía for *Southern Front* (Bilingual Review/Press)

Charley Trujillo, editor, for *Soldados: Chicanos in Vietnam* (Chusma House Publications)

Karen Tei Yamashita for *Through the Arc of the Rain Forest* (Coffee House Press)

John Edgar Wideman for *Philadelphia Fire* (Henry Holt)

Bruce Wright for *Black Robes, White Justice* (Lyle Stuart)

The Editor/Publisher Award goes to Haki R. Madhubuti of Third World Press.

The Lifetime Achievement Award goes to Ernesto Cardenal. ○

fiction. The Board of Directors of the Astraea National Lesbian Action Foundation gave Audre Lorde the Sappho Award of Distinction this year. Astraea hopes to expand the Lesbian Writers Fund so that it can make more awards in the coming years. Contact Astraea at 666 Broadway, Suite 520, New York NY 10012.

Audre Lorde has been named the New York State Poet for 1991-1993 by the New York State Writers Institute. She will receive a \$10,000 honorarium and will be required to give two readings a year in the state.

Minnie Bruce Pratt has won the 1991 American Library Association Lesbian/Gay Book Award for her poetry collection *Crime Against Nature* (Firebrand Books).



For the record: As all of you probably know by now, Nadine Gordimer recently was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. The committee hailed Gordimer for her work's literary excellence and its benefit to humanity. She's the first woman to win the award in 25 years, and one of only seven women to win the award in its 90-year history.

Poet Mila D. Aguilar, author of *A Comrade is as Precious as a Rice Seedling* published by Kitchen Table:

Women of Color Press, has received the prestigious Freedom to Write Award from PEN Center USA West. Aguilar was imprisoned by the Marcos dictatorship from August 1984 to February 1986. Since her release from prison, Aguilar has founded the Institute for Filipino Cinema and is working on a video documentary about Filipino Americans.

The ballots are in and Naiad Press has won *Hot Wire* magazine's Sixth Annual Readers' Choice Award for an organization. Naiad was cited as "the oldest lesbian-feminist publishing house in the world (since 1973), for introducing lesbian writers to the public."

The National Book Foundation has announced the 15 finalists for the 1991 National Book Awards, six of whom are women. The only woman in the fiction category is Sandra Scofield, nominated for *Beyond Deserving* (The Permanent Press). In the nonfiction category are Melissa Fay Greene for *Praying for Sheetrock* (Addison-Wesley) and Diane Wood Middlebrook's controversial *Anne Sexton: A Biography* (Houghton Mifflin). The three women finalists on the poetry list are Linda McCarriston for *Eva-Mary* (TriQuarterly Books/Northwestern University), Adrienne Rich for *An Atlas of the Difficult World: Poems 1988-1991* (W.W. Norton & Company) and Marilyn Nelson for *The Homeplace* (Louisiana State University Press). — AM ○

## Visiting the Women's Library in Turkey

By Kadin Eserleri Kutuphanesi

While on holiday in Istanbul in July, I visited the Women's Library and Information Centre, housed in a beautiful eighteenth century Ottoman building near the centre of Istanbul. One of the founding members, Dr. Sirin Tekeli, a well-known political scientist who volunteers at the centre two days a week, spoke to me about the centre's aims.

The main purpose of this library, which is staffed entirely by volunteers, is to collect together in one place research materials, statistics, laws, journal articles, photographs, letters, diaries, memoirs, newspaper cuttings, conference papers, proceedings of seminars and books written about women, as well as the statutes and publications of women's organizations. Further objectives include the collection of works by Turkish female authors from Ottoman times to the present day; to transcribe and make available such works written in Arabic script, and to collect and

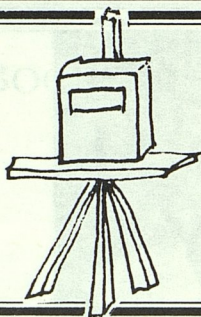
preserve contemporary documents for the benefit of future generations.

The library has raised money for these aims by publishing a beautiful diary illustrated by Turkish women artists (inspired by the diary published by the UK Women's Press); next year it will produce another one illustrated by women photographers.

There was a stunning exhibition of some of these photographs in the centre while I was there and they hope to expand this as well as organizing conferences and seminars on topics of interest to women. Several of the founders of the centre, leading social scientists, have contributed to a book (already published in German and Turkish) *Turkish Women in the 80s*, for which Dr Tekeli is hoping to find an English publisher.

There is obviously great interest and enthusiasm among Turkish feminists for the centre, which will take a vital role in the important debate here about the position of women in Turkey, a secular state where 90% of the population is Muslim.

— Reprinted from Wiplash. ○



# ART BOOKS

By Tee A. Corinne

I have a great temptation to give over my entire column to one book: **Stolen Glances: Lesbians take Photographs**, edited by Tessa Boffin and Jean Fraser. Being one of the photographers included in the book, I am not a truly disinterested reviewer. Having said that, I will go on to recommend it highly. It is one of those books which delineates a certain uncharted territory (British and American lesbian photos) and then offers you one interesting essay after another. Provocative, thought provoking, sometimes confrontational, it brings an intellectual focus to the study of lesbian imagery. Pandora/HarperSanFrancisco, \$23.00 pb, 0-04-440707-6.

Part of the reason I'm so tempted to focus all my attention on this book is because it is so beautifully directed toward the women's bookstore audience, not only because it is lesbian, but also because it is political, with a touch of polemics and a dash of sex.

Most of the books I received in the past two months seem directed away from feminism and accessibility: a \$75 book about an Italian woman painter whose work is described as "delightful and exuberant;" **Photography at the Dock, Essays on Photographic History, Institutions and Practices** by Abigail Solomon-Godeau (University of Minnesota Press, \$39.95, 0-8166-1913-1) with distanced, intellectualized arguments and convoluted language; another O'Keeffe book; an overpriced volume on Women in Renaissance and Baroque Prints, **Eva/Ave** by H. Diane Russell, National Gallery of Art/The Feminist Press, \$29.95 pb, 1-55861-040-5; a \$55 watercolorist's journal about Ireland. These are some of the books which have set my teeth on edge.

That isn't to say that there are no interesting books being published, just few that are interesting,

political and affordable. One which meets all of the above criteria is the newest in the Gallerie Women Artists' Monographs, **In My Country**. Caffyn Kelley has compiled a series of complex essays by a diverse group of Canadian women artists. The artwork is so good it makes me want to get back into my studio. The honesty and directness of the statements draw my attention, make me want to read more. Gallerie Publications, \$3.95 pb, 0-9693361-7-9, dist. by IN and BP and in Canada by CMPA.

Also of interest is **Varvara Stepanova** by Alexander Larentiev. Stepanova (1894-1958) was a prime mover of the Russian avant-garde who married an



By Tee Corinne, from *Stolen Glances*



"Celestial Bodies" by Jean Fraser, from *Stolen Glances*.

other inspired artist, Alexander Rodchenko. Her history has been overshadowed by his fame. She was multi-talented, prolific, and serious — perhaps driven is a more accurate word — and had a vision of art as making the world a better place in which to live. MIT press, \$19.95 pb, 0-262-62082-0.

I continue to have hopes for the Smithsonian series "Photographers at Work." The books are affordable and nicely presented, but they seem to be leaning toward glossy pablum in pretty colors, the illusion of relevance without the guts. **Friends and Relations** by Tina Barney "describes the private world of the privileged from the inside..." is the latest in the series, \$15.95 pb, 1-56098-048-6.



"This was taken at the penny arcade. At 12 I was sneaking around to the corner drug store to read lesbian paperback novels" (1955). From *Stolen Glances*.

Feminist librarians please note Rollie McKenna's **A Life in Photography**, a warm, charming and beautifully illustrated collection of famous people and some fascinating places. McKenna (b. 1918) took many of the best known portraits of Dylan Thomas and created telling images of Katherine Anne Porter, Eleanor Roosevelt, Louise Bogan and Laura Gilpin among many others. There is also a brief, heartbreaking section about her life with, and the death of, her woman companion of the 1970's and 1980's. This is a book with heart, soul and spirit. May it come out in paperback soon. Knopf, \$50 cl, 0-394-57394-3. ○

KISSING DOESN'T KILL: GREED AND INDIFFERENCE DO.



(Stolen Glances)

Books in Canada:

# BORDER CROSSING



By Penny Goldsmith

After a long hiatus due for the most part to a bodily collapse on the part of the columnist, I will try to catch you up on some Canadian titles of interest to your customers which you might have missed. I will also, as usual, be tagging new books just out from Canadian publishers.

First though, in the spirit of trying to maintain the idea that books more than one season old are still books, an introduction to a Canadian novelist who is back in the public eye due to a biography recently published about her. **By Heart: Elizabeth Smart: A Life** by Rosemary Sullivan (0-670-82629-4, Viking, \$29.95). The biography is for readers who want to know about yet another woman writer who had disappeared into the vortex of lost literature, hopefully to be pulled out by this account.

Elizabeth Smart wrote one small novel called **By Grand Central Station I Sat Down and Wept**, which has become her trademark. (0-586-02083-7, \$4.50, Panther Books, Granada Publishing, 8 Grafton St., London W1X 3LA.) It was originally published in 1945 and is the story of her love affair with poet George Barker. The writing is rich, intimate and powerful; the story is of a woman who falls in love with a married man, has four children by him and brings them up alone.

Other titles by Smart include a collection of poetry, **A Bonus** (0-905150-01-5, Polytantric Press, 21 Formosa

*Penny Goldsmith has been involved in the Canadian publishing world for almost twenty years. She has worked for various small publishers in both Ontario and, now, in British Columbia, which has been her home for the past fifteen years. She is the owner of Lazara Press, a literary publishing house in Vancouver, British Columbia which has been operating since 1982.*

St., London W9, England); and several prose, journal-like books including **The Assumption of Rogues & Rascals** (0-586-09040-1, \$7.95, published by Paladin and distributed by Harper-Collins), **Necessary Secrets: The Journals of Elizabeth Smart** (0-88879-180-1, \$14.95, Gilpin Publishing and Distribution, Box 597, Alliston, Ontario L0M 1A0), and **Autobiographies**, edited by Christina Burridge (0-919758-33-9, \$25.00, William Hofer/Tanks, 60 Powell Street, Vancouver, BC V6A 1E7) (The latter includes one of the most useful descriptions on "How To Mend a Broken Heart" that I have read!).



And while I'm still on the subject of letters and journals, University of British Columbia Press has just released the paperback version of **Dear Nan: Letters of Emily Carr, Nan Cheney and Humphrey Toms**, edited by Doreen Walker (0-7748-0390-8, \$24.95, US orders: UBC Press, PO Box 540, Point Roberts, WA 98281; for other orders, contact UBC Press, 6344 Memorial Road, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z2; 604-822-3846). The letters relate mostly to Carr and date from 1930 to 1945, the most prolific period of Carr's career both as a painter and a writer.

There's a new magazine out called *Ankur* which translates as "A New Beginning." It describes itself as "A quarterly magazine about art, literature, culture, social and political issues of concern to the Indo-Canadian community." The first issue includes poetry, short stories, reviews, photos and graphics and articles on institutionalized racism, female youth in the East Indian society and sex selection. The magazine retails at \$3.00 and can be ordered from PO Box 67681, Stn. O, Vancouver, BC V5W 3V2.

Fifth House is an innovative publishing company located at 620 Duchess St, Saskatoon Saskatchewan, S7K 0R1 whose books have been mentioned before in FBN (*Double Bond: An Anthology of Women's Fiction*, 0-920079-09-1). They are distributed in the States by Inland, Bookslinger and by University of Toronto Press.



Their latest offering is a book called **kôhkominawak otâcimowiniwâwa (Our Grandmothers' Lives As Told in Their Own Words)**, edited and translated by Freda Ahenakew and H.C. Wolfart (0-920079-81-4, \$18.95). This book is autobiographical narratives about the daily lives of women told by seven Cree women in their own language (both in the traditional syllabics and in a standard roman orthography) and in English translation.

Other titles from Fifth House which might be of interest: **Upstream** by Sharon Butala (0-920079-78-4 \$19.95), a novel about a young woman coming to terms with her French and Anglo Canadian heritage; and **The Word, The Voice, The Text: The Life of a Writer** by Anne Szumigalski (0-920079-65-2, \$16.95), a collection of reflections, autobiographical fragments, poems, arguments and memories.

Pottersfield Press is a publishing house in Halifax, Nova Scotia which publishes a number of Black writers. They are distributed in the States through Inland and Bookslinger and elsewhere through Nimbus Publishing, PO Box 9301, Station A, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3K 5N5, 902-455-4286, fax: 902-455-3652.

**Anna Leonowens: A Life Beyond The King and I** is the biography of Anna Harriett Leonowens, written by Leslie Smith Dow. It is the story of a determined Victorian woman with an astonishing vision. Maxine Tynes (author of *Woman Talking Woman* (0-919001-62-9)) has written a book of poetry for children called **Save the World For Me** (0-919001-70-X, \$8.95). Topics include gender stereotyping, overcoming racial prejudice, pollution and war. **Petticoat Doctors** (0-919001-60-2, \$11.95) by Enid Johnson MacLeod is the story of Annie Hamilton as the first woman doctor to graduate from Dalhousie University and the women who followed in her footsteps.

Mercury Press (an imprint of Aya Press) (Box 446, Stratford, Ontario, N5A 6T3, 519-273-7083) is a favourite of mine because of their beautiful and careful typographical and book design. This care spills over onto their choice of what they publish in their fiction, poetry and non-fiction lists. They're available from Inland and Bookslinger in the States, and from UTP in Canada.

A new novel by Veronica Ross (*Homecoming, Order in the Universe and Goodbye Summer*) called **Hannah B.** (0-920544-81-9, \$12.95) is on Mercury's new fiction list. It is a powerful and suspenseful novel of psychological intrigue as the heroine searches for the secrets of her own Jewish-German roots and identity.

Marlene Norbese Phillip, author of *Harriet's Daughter* (Women's Press/Canada) and three books of poetry, was recently made a Fellow in Poetry by the Guggenheim Foundation. Her new novel, **Looking for Livingston: An Odyssey of Silence** (0-920544-88-6, \$10.95) explodes Western assumptions about the "silence" of indigenous peoples. It is the story of a woman, traveling alone through time, Africa, and unnamed lands who listens to many peoples' stories and learns about their silence.

Other new titles from Mercury include **Seasons of Ordinary Time** (0-920544-85-1, \$12.95) by Robyn-Marie Butt, **The Edge of the World** (0-920544-79-7, \$11.95) by Carol Malyon and **The Man Who Painted Stalin** (0-920544-83-5, \$12.95), the long-awaited translation into English of noted Québec feminist writer France Théoret.

NeWest Press, from Edmonton Alberta (10359-82 Ave, Ste. 310, T6E 1Z9, 403-432-9427) has published a book of body-fictions by Beth Goobie. Called **Could I Have My Body Back Now, Please?**, it is a book of short stories and poems reflecting woman's body in a male culture, written as a response to working with physically and sexually abused children. 0-920897-09-6, \$10.95. Another recent release from NeWest is **Native Women of Western Canada: An Anthology** (0-920897-88-6, \$13.95). Their books can be ordered from UTP in both Canada and the States. Selected titles are available from Inland.

Harbour Publishing (of Anne Cameron fame) is releasing a new collection of Edith Iglauer's writing called **The Strangers Next Door** (1-55017-054-6, \$26.95). Iglauer has been a journalist for four decades and published in *The New Yorker* and *Harper's*. The book is a selection from Eleanor Roosevelt's press confer-



ences to the founding of Canada's first Inuit co-operative society. Harbour books are available from University of Toronto Press, Bookpeople or Inland.

Beach Holme Publishers (formerly Porcépic Books) at 4252 Commerce Circle, Victoria, BC V8Z 4M2, 604-727-6522 has just published **Blessings of the Blood** (0-88878-299-3, \$12.95), a book of menstrual lore and rituals for women. Celu Amberston, Cornwoman, the author, is of Cherokee and Celtic descent and has written three novels published by Theytus Books, *Renewal*, *The Prophecy of Manu*, and *Teoni's Giveaway* as well as a play, *The Potlatch of Siselah*. **Blessings of the Blood** grew out of Cornwoman's spiritual quest to find a deeper meaning to her bodily cycles. In the U.S., try Inland.

Tsar Publications, Box 6996, Stn. A, Toronto, Ontario M5W 1X7 has a collection of South Asian Canadian Women's Poetry called **Shakti's Words** (0-920661-14-9, \$10.95) of interest to feminist readers. Tsar's books are available in the States through Inland, Bookslinger and Baker & Taylor.

Moving up to the larger presses, HarperCollins has just published the latest novel from Vancouver author Maureen Moore. Called **The Illumination of Alice Mallory** (0-00-223667-2, \$19.95), it is a witty satire on modern relationships and social class. It's available from HarperCollins Canada at 1995 Markham Road, Scarborough, Ontario M1B 5M8, 416-321-2241, fax: 416-321-3033.



And in my usual habit (if one can have a habit after two columns) of ending with some Canadian murder mysteries you may not have heard of, here are two from Douglas & McIntyre by Gail Bowen. **Deadly Appearances** (0-88894-703-8, \$24.95) introduces Joanne Kilbourn, single mother and speech writer for a local progressive politician who is killed on the podium. The second book, **Murder at the Mendel** (0-88894-732-1, \$24.95) reunites Joanne with her former school friend and now artist, Sally Love, whose show depicting the private parts of all her sexual partners precipitates the inevitable scandal and then murder. They're both good reads for the mystery buff and bring onto the stage yet another woman detective who's actually quite an ordinary person who just wants to see that right wins out. ○

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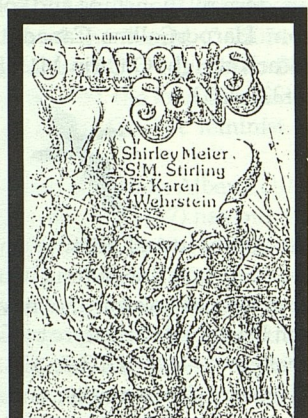
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## SUSANNA STURGIS



ON

## SCIENCE FICTION



James Tiptree Jr. Memorial Award Update: When you read this, not only will the holiday season be frying your sense of humor, but it will also be very close to the deadline for nominating short stories and novels for the very first annual Tiptree award. To qualify a work must be fantasy or science fiction, published in 1991, and explore/expand gender roles. Send nominations to Pat Murphy, 2238 23rd St., San Francisco, CA 94107.

The award will be presented at Wiscon, March 6-8, 1992, Madison, Wisconsin, where the whole thing was launched not even a year ago. **The Bakery Men Don't See** is at last a reality; it contains not only Pat Murphy's and Pamela Sargent's excellent Guest of Honor speeches from Wiscon '91 but also 68 tantalizing dessert recipes and baking-related stories by f/sf readers and writers. It can be ordered for \$11 (post-paid) from SF3, Box 1624, Madison, WI 53701. Convention info is available from the same address.



*Locus* in September featured a profile of Quebecois writer Elisabeth Vonarburg, in which she speculated (among other things) that Bantam picked up her first novel, **The Silent City**, "because it had this kind of tame exoticism about it. . . . The real theme is metamorphosis, the ability of a character to change, so the background is quite sketchy."

Her second, **The Maerland Chronicles** (in French, **Chronique de Pays du Mères**), is, she said, "a sort of non-sequel" to the first, set 500 years later. Press Porcépic is doing the Canadian English version; Bantam will do the U.S. one. She is now finishing her third novel, also for Bantam: **The Reluctant Travelers** (French: **Les Voyageurs Malgr Eux**).

More miscellaneous news: Suzette Haden Elgin has sold a third in the *Native Tongue* series to DAW; Anne McCaffrey's **Damia**, sequel to *The Rowan*, will appear from Putnam/Ace in July 1992; Lois McMaster Bujold's **The Vor Game** won the 1991 Hugo for best novel; among the nominees for 1991 World Fantasy Awards are **Thomas the Rhymer** by Ellen Kushner (novel), "Bones" by Pat Murphy (novella), and **The Start of the End of It All** by Carol Emshwiller (collection); and Vonda McIntyre sold a third novel in the *Starfarer* series to Bantam and with it the reprint rights to **Dreamsnake**.



Academy Chicago has released a second "best of" collection by Marion Zimmer Bradley: **Jamie and Other Stories**, in cloth. The first came out in 1985.

A new Judith Moffett novel is due from St. Martin's in May, called **Time, Like an Ever-Flowing Stream**, and the same month Sheri Tepper's **Side-show** is expected from Bantam Spectra. Both in cloth.

Finally, a plug for a novel I'm much too late getting to: **Modern Daughters and the Outlaw West**, by Melissa Kwasny (Spinsters Book Company, \$9.95, 0-933216-75-0). This tale of idiosyncratic wild women and matter-of-fact weirdness is what lesbian magic realism might look like, and the writing is *really good*.

## BAEN BOOKS

Until recently Baen's list was distinguished mostly by Elizabeth Moon, Aline Boucher Kaplan, and Melissa Scott's backlist (her first hardcover is coming next spring from Tor), but the coming

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Ellen Ratner, *The Other Side of the Family*

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 Distributed in the U.S. by Inland, Bookpeople  
 Secret Matter ISBN 0-93874-13-9 208 pages trade paper retail price \$10.00  
 Getting Life in Perspective ISBN 0-93874-17-1 224 pps trade paper retail price \$10.00

months promise much of interest to feminist readers. The initial reviews of *Flameweaver*, by Margaret Ball (\$4.99, 671-72095-3), make it sound as good as my first report last issue.

January brings *Bardic Voices* (\$4.99, -72099-6), by Mercedes Lackey. The protagonist of this new series is a young woman who seeks bardic training denied her because of her humble birth. Lackey seems to be spreading herself a little thin, in the manner of her main mentor, Marion Zimmer Bradley, but her tales and their heroes are appealing.

In February comes a trade paperback edition of Elizabeth Moon's excellent *Deed of Paksenarrion* trilogy (*Sheepfarmer's Daughter, Divided Allegiance, and Oath of Gold*). Moon brought both her own military service and her work in medieval studies to fully

imagine a woman warrior's training and life. (\$12, -72104-6) Reissued at the same time will be Moon's *Surrender None: The Legacy of Gird* (\$4.99, 69878-8), which explores the historical underpinnings of "Deed," and the unrelated sf novel *Lunar Activity* (\$3.50, -69870-2).

*PartnerShip*, by Anne McCaffrey and Margaret Ball (\$5.99, 72109-7), picks up from McCaffrey's venerable story *The Ship Who Sang*; about a young woman with massive birth defects who becomes the mind of a spaceship. It's due in March 1992.

Due in April is *The Meri*, by Maya Kaathryn Bohnhoff (\$4.99, -72115-1), in which the protagonist learns magic — confronting major sexism in the process — to avenge her parents' murder and finds herself with even larger choices to make. Bohnhoff's solid reputation as a short fiction writer is well deserved.

**BALLANTINE/DEL REY**

*Yvgenie*, by C. J. Cherryh (\$19 cl, 0-345-36784-7), is the third in the medieval Russian-inspired series that began with *Rusalka* and *Chernovog*. Less grim than the latter, one reviewer suggests, and with a mother and magically talented teenage daughter in the middle.

*The Rainbow Abyss*, by Barbara Hambly (\$5.99, -37101-1), begins the *Sun-Cross* trilogy, in which outlaw mages, in the style of penniless students, struggle to pursue their art. Hambly's *The Black Temple*, scheduled for February, sounds like part 2.



**BANTAM/SPECTRA**

*The Songkiller Saga II: Picking the Ballad's Bones*, by Elizabeth Scarborough (\$4.99, 0-553-29363-X). Like the first part of the saga, *Phantom Banjo*, this is a lighthearted contemporary fantasy with some serious digs at Big Music, which tries to stifle the folk-musical spirit. 12/91

**DAW BOOKS**

*Horse Fantastic*, ed. by Martin H. Greenberg and Rosalind M. Greenberg (\$4.50, 0-88677-504-3). A fun, undemanding fantasy anthology; 14 of the 17 tales are by women. A standout is Nancy Springer's "The Most Magical Thing about Rachel," narrated by the pinto

gelding who carries Rachel, the only adult in a riding class for handicapped children. 12/91

January is less than exciting, unless you have fans of either author in the neighborhood: **The Last of the Renshai** (\$5.99, -503-5), the 592-page beginning of a new fantasy trilogy by Mickey Zucker Reichert, author of *The Bifrost Guardians* series; and **Two-Bit Heroes** (\$4.99, -500-0), by Doris Egan, a sequel to her *The Gate of Ivory*.

**Sword and Sorceress IX**, edited by Marion Zimmer Bradley, is due in April.



## MACMILLAN

**Matthew's Dragon**, by Susan Cooper, illus. by Jos. A. Smith (\$13.95, McElderry Books, 0-689-50512-4). Marvelously drawn tale of a boy who goes flying with a dragon on a full moon night. Boy becomes as small as dragon, prompting some fascinating pictures: a huge black cat, for instance, racing along a path whose stones are now "as big as Matthew's head." A read-aloud book.

**The Secret World of Polly Flint**, by Helen Cresswell (\$3.95, Aladdin Books, -71532-3). Polly sees things that others don't, like the Time Gypsies dancing round the Maypole, and finds herself a secret kingdom. For late elementary kids.

And two, both from the Atheneum imprint, for YAs with (or without, yet) a taste for fantasy. In Tanith Lee's **Black Unicorn** (\$14.95 cl, -31575-9), Jaive the sorceress's daughter Tanaquil knows the unicorn has come for her, though her gifts are more mechanical than magical. Wicked good writing, with a rippling sense of humor. In Pamela F. Service's **Being of Two Minds** (\$13.95 cl, -31524-4), two 14-year-olds — one an American girl, the other the crown prince of Thulgaria — are subject to seizures in which they share each other's minds. When the prince is kidnapped, their secret connection turns lethal.

## OVERLOOK PRESS (VIKING)

**Unquenchable Fire**, by Rachel Pollack (\$22.95 cl, 0-87951-447-7). The characters and the backdrop in this near-future fantasy are more readily recognizable than the spiritual and political terrain; storytellers are national celebrities and no one bats an eye when

## Coming in March

# UNQUENCHABLE FIRE by Rachel Pollack

"Not only the best fantasy of the year, but possibly the best of the decade, and the best feminist novel of the decade. A real *tour de force*, full of wicked wit."

—*The New York Review of Science Fiction*

## The World Will Never Be The Same



Distributed to the Trade by Penguin USA  
Or Contact The Overlook Press (914) 679-6838

Jennifer Mazdan gets pregnant from a dream. Rules and dogma (spiritual correctness?) still thrive, however. A funny, innovative novel. 03/92

## TOR

Mercedes Lackey, according to one account, is now producing a novel every three months (you still want to be a full-time writer?). **Jinx High** (\$4.99, 0-312-52114-5), the third "Diana Tregarde investigation," came out in October.



## WARNER/QUESTAR

**Groundties**, by Jane Fancher (\$4.50, 0-446-36148-8). A first novel by a C. J. Cherryh protegee that, says one reviewer, "reads like Cherryh near her own top form." Pretty good, huh? This is sf, featuring a female admiral and a planet settled by Native Americans. The same reviewer notes with justifiable annoyance, however, that the book ends abruptly, as in "stay tuned for the sequel." ○



## Kiss and Tell

*Robbi Sommers*

So you thought the scorching bestseller *Pleasures* told it all. Wait till you meet the hot hot women...who *Kiss and Tell*.

Cathy is married, has "the big house, the fancy car, three kids and the dog." And now she's met the woman who'll give her what she's missing...

Marla will do anything to get into med school. Her handsome woman professor happens to have something in mind...

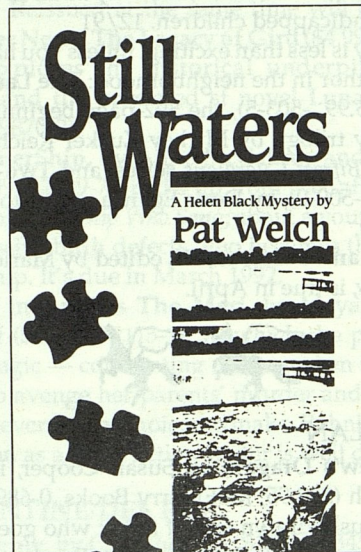
Need some new implements for your kitchen? Check out "The Joy of Cooking," a *very* different kitchen guide...

A woman cop, on a Harley. Could anything be more delicious? Well...yes.

And still more women...who *Kiss and Tell*.

ISBN 1-56280-005-1

\$8.95



## Still Waters

*Pat Welch*

**A HELEN BLACK MYSTERY**

From the author of the sensational best-seller, *Murder by the Book* — an unsettling new case for Private Investigator Helen Black.

Helen and Frieda are at a luxury lakeside resort for a weekend they hope will heal the growing rift between them. But the discovery of the body of a news reporter on the sandy beach changes everything. Because the victim is an old friend, the weekend suddenly turns into a murder investigation...

Secrets...The resort is in financial trouble. The hotel guests have their own deceptions. The angelic beauty of the owner's daughter masks deep needs...and threatens the fragile relationship between Helen and Frieda.

ISBN 0-941483-97-5

\$8.95



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# MYSTERIES

By Mary Lowry

A remark by one of my co-workers the other day brought me up short: you may not like that mystery, she said, but it sells. I begin to wonder if I'm losing touch with the general readership or is the writing getting to me as it seems to shift more to the right (reflecting the nation's shift?). There seems to be an upsurge in the romance/mystery category and I'm finding fewer mysteries by women authors in the catalogues. More established authors are being published in hard cover (a financial necessity, one editor assured me) and some of our stronger writers haven't published in a while. All in all, not a strong season coming up.

Example: Writing as Alice Story, Sarah Shankman came up with Sam(antha) Adams, a reporter who was firmly conscious of women's and class issues. Shankman wrote two solid books but seems to have lost it in **Now Let's Talk of Graves** (Pocket, \$4.50 pb, 671-68457-4), a book with a confused plot and less than believable characters. Shankman and Sam are distracted by romance and can't decide whether Sam's cohort in crime is the male in question or a woman whose job as an Emergency Medical Technician gives her access to the New Orleans streets. Confusion is one thing but it's infuriating when a case of wife battering ends up with an all-is-forgiven and I-love-you-truly denouement after the battering male finds religion. The issues are there as in previous novels but the message trivializes them by attempting a happy ending for everyone (except the reader).

On the cheery side, the first (that I've found) mysteries written by African-American women are here: **In the Game** by Nikki Baker and **Blanche on the Lam** by Barbara Neely. The first (that I read) is **Blanche on the Lam** by Barbara Neely (St. Martin's, \$16.95 cl, 312-06908-1, early February). Forty-year-old Blanche

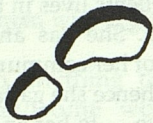
leaves New York City with her dead sister's children, whose complaints of harassment on the streets impel her to return to Farleigh, North Carolina where she was born. She decides that doing housework gives her more autonomy than her previous clerical jobs. Unhappily, Blanche finds that paychecks from her bosses come when they come and leave her own checks uncovered. Blanche is hauled into court and the system comes down hard on her. But fearing jail more than

anything, she escapes. Since in her experience one Black woman looks pretty much the same as another to her white employers, she goes into hiding by accepting a position in the country with a white family where old and new secrets have come to a boiling point. Blanche reads her clients lives in their rooms, in their moods and actions. She has an informal network among the women of her community, her mother and her friends, from whence she gathers facts and gossip to uncover and solve — to her and the reader's satisfaction — the mystery surrounding these people. Blanche is one of the strongest and most interesting amateur detectives I have read in a long time (a decade, at least). Her empathy with Mumsfield, a white male with Downs syndrome, and her ability to decode what he is saying, as well as her contact with her community, helps her understand the situation she has fallen into. Neely has a special voice; her point of view is unique. I first read this over a year ago in manuscript and have recently re-read it with all the initial enthusiasm of my first reading. If you only buy one cloth mystery a year, get this one. It's not "just" a mystery, it's a good novel that holds up to repeated readings.

**In the Game** (Naiad, \$8.95 pb, 1-562-80004-3), written by Nikki Baker, another African-American woman, was released in September and is quite different from *Blanche on the Lam*. Amateur detective Virginia Kelly works in Chicago's brokerage world. In her twenties, she in the fast lane of high finance, bars and volatile relationships. When murder disrupts her lesbian world the community is divided: Kelly wants an answer while others want to keep a low profile to protect their mainstream jobs. Kelly travels to Boston to try to find all the links in this tale of shifting lovers and financial shenanigans. The book is marred for me by a gratuitous outbreak of Irish bashing which disrupted the story and my connection to the narrator. The story line is a little scattered and patched together but some of the insights into the local lesbian world are pithy and she underlines the struggles of being Black in any white-dominated world.

#### RECENTLY NOTED:

**Backlash** by Paula Gosling. (Worldwide, \$3.50 pb, 373-26082-2.) Gosling's series features police Lt. John Stryker. Someone is killing cops and Stryker works with a seemingly cold woman FBI agent whose issues with men louse up her ability to work with Stryker's team. Naturally she falls into the arms of a man at the end, slightly hysterical and full of insight into her own behavior. Do I sound bitter? This won the John Creasy Award and another of Gosling's novels was made into a Sylvester Stallone film.

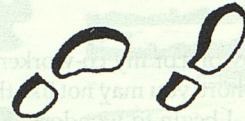


**Hal's Own Murder Case** by Lee Martin. (Worldwide, \$3.95 pb, 373-26087-3, December.) The author is a former policewoman whose Fort Worth police detective, Deb Ralston, is 8 1/2 months pregnant, but fights to solve a murder of which her teenage son, Hal, is accused. I haven't read this one but recall an earlier title by Martin that dealt with the tensions of work vs. family obligations. Police novels do tend to stress conventional law and order, though, and I wonder about the agility of a woman in late pregnancy.

**Deadly Promise** by Mignon F. Ballard. (Worldwide, \$3.95 pb, 373-26086.) Molly Stonehouse of Harmony, GA seeks her husband's killer. Haven't read this.

**Night Walker** by Jean Hager (Worldwide, \$3.95 pb, 373-26085-7, December) is billed as "An Oklahoma mystery featuring a male half-Cherokee chief." Hager is another romance author venturing into the crime field.

**Fowl Play** by Mary Daheim. (Avon, \$3.99 pb, 380-76296-X, November.) Daheim is a romance writer who has turned to the mystery market. Her first, *Just Desserts*, was about bed and breakfast owner Judith McGonigle. It was a rather unconvincing story with a forced romance but Daheim was clearly setting the scene for future books.



**Ritual Murder** by S.T. Haymon. (Bantam, \$4.50 pb, 553-29385-0, just released.) Earlier title, *Pregnant Virgin*, was Lesbianophobic so I've stopped reading Haymon's books. Set in Britain, it features male detective Inspector Jurnett.

**Face of a Stranger** by Anne Perry. (Jove, \$4.99, November.) Perry writes historical mysteries which aren't my cup of tea (with the exception of Ellis Peters) so I haven't read — letting my preferences run away with me again. They are also releasing *Betray the Night*, \$4.99. No ISBN's, sorry.

In fact two of Ellis Peters' books are coming from Mysterious Press soon. Sorry no date and no ISBN but **The Potter's Field** will be \$4.99 and **A Rare Benedictine** will be \$3.99, both in paper. The latter is a collection of short stories that provide background on Brother Cadfael, her engaging series detective. Peters is a consummate storyteller and her books are well-plotted with endearing characters. An established historian, she keeps her academic research firmly under control, moving the plot swiftly along, dropping clues so skillfully they are easy to overlook and giving a convincing portrait of medieval politics and daily life.

**Dead in the Water** by Julie Smith. (Ivy, \$4.99 pb, 804-10855-2, December.) Smith, author of *New Orleans Mourning*, has returned to her California sleuth, Rebecca Schwartz. Smith is a good plotter and writer, but I haven't read this so can't comment.

**Murder by the Book** by Jennifer Rowe. (Bantam, \$4.50 pb, 553-29373-7, January.) Rowe, an Australian, wrote *Grim Pickings*, a good read with interesting characters and a believable solution.



**The Players Come Again** by Amanda Cross. (Ballantine, \$5.99 pb, 345-36998-X, November.) I reviewed this one last year. Cross is a favorite with our customers.

**Death Flats** by T.J. MacGregor. (Ballantine, \$4.99 pb, 345-35678-X, December.) This is the sixth in the series featuring the team of Quin and McCleary. There is a violent element in MacGregor's early titles so I stopped reading her books. You're on your own with this one.

**A Really Cute Corpse** by Joan Hess. (Ballantine, \$3.99 pb, 345-36158, December.) Clare Mallory of Maggody stars in this really cute series by Hess. But I know folks who like her stuff.

**We Wish You a Merry Murder** by Valerie Wolzien. (Fawcett, \$3.99 pb, 449-14723-1, December.) Author of two previous mysteries uncovering death in the depth of suburban life.

I just read **Blind Trust** by Linda Grant (Ivy, \$3.95 pb, 8041-0791-2), which came out earlier this year. Grant creates an appealing character in San Francisco P.I. Catherine Saylor, who explores computer crime while she races with time to find a missing man and save millions for her clients (not to mention collecting a large fee to save her business). Good plotting and a welcome new detective. She also wrote *Random Access Murder* which I haven't read.

#### CORRECTING OLD IMPRESSIONS:

**Paws Before Dying** by Susan Conant (Diamond, \$3.50 pb, 1-55773-550-6) impressed me as favorably as her last, *A Bite of Death*, disappointed me. Her amateur detective Holly Winter, writer and columnist for a dog magazine, is back to investigate the death of teacher Rose Engelman. In this novel she finds anti-Semitism in the Newton neighborhood where she goes for dog obedience classes with her Malamute, Rowdy. When Rose is killed, ostensibly by lightning, Winter uncovers both anti-Semitism and neighborly hatred to show that murder, not accident, was involved. As the owner of a small terrier I take issue with Conant's forcefully expressed belief in the superiority of large dogs but forgive her this flaw for her funny and well-written forays into death in the competitive dog world.

**Gone to Death** by Jill McGowan. (Fawcett, \$3.99 pb, 449021966-6, December.) Haven't read but earlier title, *A Perfect Match*, featured Detective Inspector

## Melinda Goodman is a winner of the Astraea Foundation 1991 Lesbian Poetry Award

*"Soaring, sad, eloquent —  
Goodman's poems have a direct  
and telling effect upon me."*

—Audre Lorde

A former editor of *Conditions*, Goodman teaches poetry at Hunter College in Manhattan. Her book, **Middle Sister** (\$7.95) is available through Inland.

800-243-0138.

Lloyd and his assistant, Detective Sergeant Judy Hill. It's a very English sort of novel with country villages and all. A pleasant read.

**One Fell Sloop** by Susan Kenney. (Penguin, \$4.95 pb, 14-015406-X.) Roz Howard is a professor of English and an inveterate sleuth. Haven't read but past books have had good settings (*Gardens of Malice*) and fairly interesting plotting.

#### COMING EARLY IN 1992:

**The Body in the Kelp** by Katherine Hall Page. (Avon, \$4.50 pb, 380-71329-2, February.) Page's amateur detective Faith Fairchild (don't you hate that name?) goes on vacation. The second in the series about Faith, a displaced New Yorker and a former caterer, who lives in a small New England town where her husband is a minister.

To end with some good news, Patricia Cornwell's second mystery, **Body of Evidence**, featuring medical examiner Kay Scarpetta, is being released by Avon in March. No ISBN, no price yet. Cornwell is a good writer and Scarpetta a strong detective whose job never hardens her to the awfulness of violent death. ○

## TO KNOW:

### A Guide to Women's Magic and Spirituality

by Jade

The who, what, where . . . and **why** of the explosive women's spirituality movement clearly and lovingly explained by Jade, visionary, organizer, catalyst, teacher, Witch and co-publisher of *Of A Like Mind*.

A resource filled with insightful answers and information as valuable to a woman just finding Womanspirit as to a woman who's been Witching for years.

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## SHE CHANGES:

### A Goddess Myth for Modern Women

by Teresa Mark (August 1991)

A stunning tale of transformation and power that moves from behind the cloistered wall of a convent to a birthing center in the hills of Appalachia and tells the story of how one woman find the Goddess and thereby finds herself.

Literate, graceful and lyrically written, *She Changes* recounts the spiritual metamorphosis experienced by a woman claiming her own power and destiny.

**\$12.95 pb; ISBN: 1-878980-03-3**

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press**

## LOVING THE GODDESS WITHIN:

### Sex Magick for Women

by Nan Hawthorne

A beautifully written celebration of sex, sensuality and women, using ritual, dance, drama, myth and – above all – imagination to explore sexuality as a sacred connection to the beauty of creation and to the re-emerging Goddess.

The book encourages all women – whether partnered with women, men or alone – to explore the realities and joys of their own personal sexuality.

**\$13.95 pb; ISBN: 1-878980-01-7**

## THE EYE GODDESS

By O.G.S. Crawford (August 1991)

With a New Introduction

by Miriam Robbins-Dexter

A daring work of original scholarship, published by Cambridge University in 1957. It is the first cohesive study of the migration of the ancient Goddess's "eyes" and icons throughout the Neolithic world, including 48 pages of photographs and hundreds of line drawings.

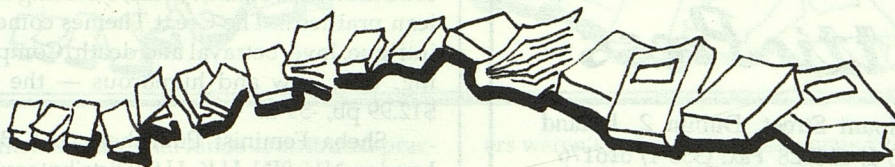
The new introduction updates the work and examines its value to feminists seeking to reclaim the historic foundation of women's spirituality.

**\$19.95 pb; ISBN: 1-878980-04-1**

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# FROM OUR OWN PRESSES



For last issue's *Our Press* column, we invited feminist publishers to write their own (short!) annotations for their fall titles. This month's column begins with three late Fall/early Winter entries from Naiad, Sheba, and The Women's Press/U.K.

## NAIAD PRESS

Booksellers, you'll want to stock up on two guaranteed bestsellers, follow-on books to two of Naiad Press' biggest-ever sellers and well-timed for hot Christmas sales.

Pat Welch's *Still Waters*, second in the Helen Black mystery series, follows Welch's *Murder by the Book*, Naiad's number one best seller in 1990. *Still Waters* should prove even stronger as Helen Black investigates the death of a lesbian reporter at a luxury lakeside resort, while uncovering layers within her own prickly relationship with lover Frieda. \$8.95 pb, 0-941483-97-5.

And just as hot will be Robbi Sommers' erotic short story collection *Kiss and Tell*, follow-on to the ever-popular *Pleasures*, number one in combined sales for 1989 and 1990 and now in its third big printing. These sizzling tales do not pale an iota from the tell-all

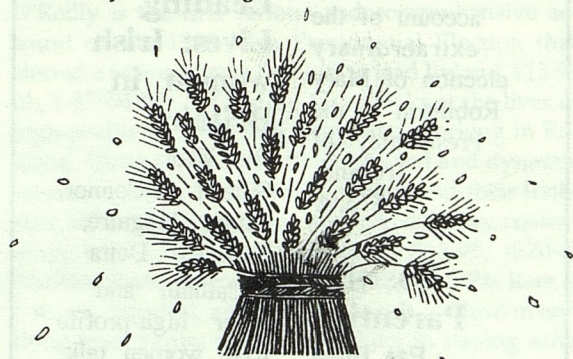
*Bookpeople (BP) and Inland (IN) distribute small press books to bookstores. "BP" or "IN" at the end of an annotation means that the books are available from that distributor. Both distributors stock a wide range of titles and publishers of interest to feminist bookstores. If you are a new store or don't already work with both distributors, drop everything and call for catalogs.*

*Inland Book Company, PO Box 120261, 140 Commerce St., East Haven CT 06512. Order number: 800-243-0138 (including Canada and Connecticut).*

*Bookpeople, 7900 Edgewater Dr, Oakland CA 94621. Phone: 800-999-4650.*

erotica of *Pleasures*, and brisk sales for *Kiss and Tell* should enhance sales for the earlier Sommers collection. \$8.95 pb, 1-56280-005-1.

The Naiad Press, PO Box 10543, Tallahassee FL 32302. Available from Inland, Bookpeople, Ingram, the distributors., etc. But Naiad prefers you order directly from us and we offer 50% and 45% discounts alternately to encourage this. — *Naiad Press*



Jane Ray,  
from *Mother Gave a Shout: Poems by Women and Girls*

## SHEBA PRESS

*The Flying Heart* by Claire Macquet. An exhilarating first collection of stories from Claire Macquet. Set in London, South Africa and India, these fascinating tales explore aspects of love from childhood to old age. Stories to tighten your breath as they quietly shock with their subtle exploration of the power of sex. An auspicious debut from a writer who dares to take risks! Macquet's first novel, *Looking for Ammu* will be published by Virago in 1992. \$11.95 pb, 0-907179-55-X.

*Wild Hearts: A Collection of Lesbian Melodrama* by the 'Wild Hearts' Group. Passionate, intriguing, bittersweet stories to capture your



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imagination. **Wild Hearts** is a stunning new collection of original melodrama. Lust in a lighthouse, seduction on a squash court, storming across American prairies.... The Great Themes come to life: sex, intrigue, love, betrayal and death. Compulsive reading, wild, raw and humorous — the perfect gift. \$12.99 pb, -59-2.

Sheba Feminist Publishers, 10A Bradbury St., London N16 8JN, U.K. U.S. Distributors: Bookpeople & Inland. —Becky Shaw/Publicity Worker/Sheba

**THE WOMEN'S PRESS/U.K.**

All of the following books will be going to Inland/Inbook as January 1992 titles, although they will have stock well in advance of that.

**Siege of Azadi Square** by Manny Shirazi (*Javady Alley*). A novel of contemporary Iran and four women's resistance to the terror they are subjected to under the regime of the ayatollahs. \$10.95 pb, 07043-4264-2.

**Not a Man to Match Her** by Wendy Webster. A feminist critique of the career, the policies and the packaging of Margaret Thatcher. \$10.95 pb, -4231-6.

**The New Gulliver or the Adventures of Lemuel Gulliver Jr. in Capovolta** by Esme Dodderidge. A superb satire on male domination and the double binds it imposes on women, and a fine adventure story. (Published in our science fiction series.) \$6.95 pb, -4099-2.

**Miss X or the Wolfwoman** by Christine Crow. A strikingly unusual but absolutely gripping novel about a schoolgirl's intense relationship with her headmistress. A highly "literary" and multi-leveled novel which maintains an extraordinary degree of tension. \$10.95 pb, -4259-X.

**Jump-Up-&-Kiss-Me.** Two stories from Grenada by Nellie Payne and Jean Buffong (introduction by Merle Collins). Two delightful fiction accounts of growing up on the Caribbean island of Grenada. \$10.95 pb, -4243-X.

**South of the Border** by Barbara Machin. A mystery story featuring two young South London investigators, one Black, one white. Subject of a TV series by the same name — I don't know if it's been shown in the USA. A story of trade union corruption and London street life. \$8.95 pb, -4227-8.

**Taking Reality by Surprise: Writing for Pleasure and Publication** edited by Susan Sellars. A big seller



for us. Over fifty writers of all kinds contributed practical exercises and articles on every aspect of writing, from getting started to finding a publisher. \$11.95 pb, -4267-7.

**In Search of Mr. McKenzie** by Isha McKenzie Mavinga and Thelma Perkins. This is the true story of two Black sisters, daughters of a Jewish refugee from Nazism placed separately in institutions as children, who met as adults and retraced their roots and especially their unknown father, the elusive 'Mr. McKenzie,' a Trinidadian activist. 16 pp b&w photos. \$10.95 pb, -4249-9.

The Women's Press, 34 Great Sutton St., London EC1V 0DX. Distributed in the U.S. by Inland and Bookpeople.

—Mary Hemming/*The Women's Press*/U.K.



## More Books From Our Own Presses

Compiled by Carol Seajay

### ATA BOOKS

Dorothy Bryant writes of ordinary people facing "ordinary" circumstances.... In **The Test** she gives us a day in the life of Pat, "a daughter of immigrants and a teacher of immigrants. She has a daughter and a son from a marriage she left twenty years ago. More than a year ago she lost her mother and she is still grieving with an intensity that surprises her, an intensity that magnifies pressures she feels from two sides: from her dependent, demanding eighty-year-old father and from the threat of AIDS facing her thirty-year-old son. In this day, Pat must see her father through *The Test*, the final appeal in his struggle to keep his driver's license. Comic and sad, agonizing and illuminating, infuriating and hilarious, this ordinary day in the lives of ordinary people becomes a test of endurance, of reality, of love." Ata Books is a testament to the success of one writer who realized that mainstream publish-

ers weren't going to do an adequate job of publishing, promoting and keeping her books in print and decided to do it herself. \$8.95 pb, 0-931688-16-7; \$16.95 cl, -15-9. Ata Books, 1928 Stuart St., Berkeley CA 94703. BP, IN, and other distributors.



### ATTIC PRESS

New Attic Press titles: **Candidate** by Emily O'Reilly is the first serious and comprehensive account of the 1990 Irish Presidential Election that elected a woman and a feminist to lead Ireland. \$13.99 pb, 1-85594-021-3. **Leading Lives** looks at the lives of high-profile Irish women living and working in England. Quite a collection of determined and dynamic women, proud of their achievements and their Irishness, talking about politics, religion, sexuality, censorship, repression and resistance. \$13.99, -020-5. **Positive Parenting: A Survival Guide** by Pat Rees is a warm, practical, and easy to consult guide to everything from nappy rash and teething to staying sane. \$15.99, -018-3.

Watch, too, for **Web of Punishment: An Investigation** by Carol Coulter, the first book to focus on the suffering and loneliness experienced by the families of Irish political prisoners in jails in Britain and Northern Ireland, a web of punishment that includes 100,000 people, their partners, children, parents, in-laws, sisters and brothers (\$13.99, -022-1), and **Belonging**, a novel by Clairr O'Connor, a rich and complex novel about the quest for self and identity that begins with Deirdre's return to Ireland from New York for her parents' funeral and her discovery of a strange legacy that raises questions about her origins (\$13.99, -014-0).

All these titles as well as *The Attic Guidebook & Diary 1992* (\$5.99, -028-0) should be at Inland by the time you read this. Attic Press, 4 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2, Ireland. Fax 353-1- 616176. BP & IN.

New from Third Side Press

# SOMEBODY TO LOVE

## A Guide to Loving the Body You Have

by LESLÉA  
NEWMAN



\$10.95 208pp. ISBN 1-879427-03-6

This healing guide provides insightful stories and writing activities to enable women to explore and conquer personal issues with body image and eating, to learn that—no matter what they've been told elsewhere—they have somebody to love, themselves.

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### BIG BREAKFAST PUBLISHING

I can't say I was in a good mood the day *Rusty* arrived. Or that I was predisposed to like much of anything — some days are like that, and that's life. But then *Rusty* showed up. *Rusty: How Me and Her Went to Colorado and Everything, Except Not Really*. By Garbo. Published by Big Breakfast Publishing. Which is to say, by herself, the author. It would be stretching things to say that my mood problem was solved when the book appeared, instead, I shifted gears into a self-published novel that just sings — all the way through. *Rusty* is a wonderfully unself-conscious novel about two young women moving out of high school and making that life shift from being poor to working-poor and independent; about being best friends and making it through the army (or not) and coming home to a small town on the fringe of Appalachia with its no-options-for-women reality. *Rusty's* the one with the ideas — getting work at the broom factory, joining the Army, moving to Colorado. She's also the one who finds a place to live away from their respective alcoholic mothers, finds girlfriends for lovers, and parties. Carol is the friend and this is a novel about the friendship between women, about standing for your friends, and finding

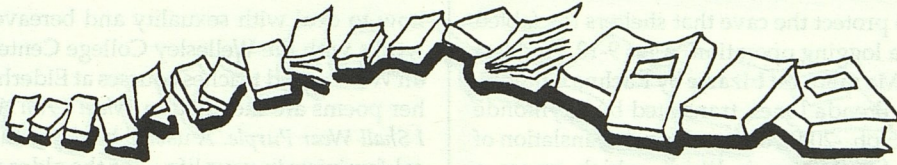
the ability — when it becomes necessary — to stand for yourself as well. It deals with codensity with the skill and subtlety with which *Death by the River* addresses alcoholism though I might like an ending that is a tad less abrupt. Hand *Rusty* to all of your customers who are starved for good working-class fiction and/or non-yuppie lesbian characters who have more than romance on their minds. I rank this novel as one of my five favorite books for 1991. Several publishers turned this novel down before Garbo took it into her head to publish it herself. Damned if I can figure out why. No one likes doing direct orders, but this one is worth it. Because she's self-publishing and doesn't have a lot of money, "Garbo" (Marion Garbo Todd — yes, it's her real name) is printing the book in lots of 500 and doesn't (yet) have enough copies to sell through distributors. Pay your bills as quickly as possible so she can accumulate enough money to print enough books to get it to a distributor. \$10.95 pb. 40% bookstore discount. No min. Net 60 days. Order by phone or mail. Big Breakfast Publishing, PO Box 02394, Columbus OH 43202. 614-263-2923.

### CALYX

*Idleness Is the Root of All Love*, by Christa Reinig, translated by Ilze Mueller and *Ginseng and Other Tales from Manila* by Marianne Villanueva were previously announced for Spring (FBN 14- 1, pg 67). The poems in *Idleness* follow two older lesbians through a year together in love and struggle. Reinig looks with pitiless eyes at her gynophobic society and imagines a past and future matriarchy while questioning the direction of the German women's movement. \$10.00 pb, 0-934971-21-8; \$18.95 cl, -22-6. Set in the Philippines, the stories in *Ginseng* reveal characters trapped in extremities of urban violence or the crushing poverty of the provinces. The reader comes away with new insights into human nature and the valor and courage of the Philippine people. \$8.95 pb, -19-6; \$16.95 cl, -20-X.



*Black Candle* by Chitra Divakaruni is "a remarkable poetry collection about the experiences of women from South Asia — women from remote Indian villages and immigrant women arriving in America. The poetry focuses on significant moments in their lives



while celebrating their passion and their pain." \$8.95 pb, -23-4; \$16.95 cl, -24-2.

**Killing Color** by Charlotte Watson Sherman will be published in January. "These stories are reminiscent of the writing of Zora Neale Hurston. They are words from the migratory mouths of rural dark folk transplanted from the periphery, the marginalized blank space, the shadowy edge of what some of us call history, words spring from these soft African lips on the pages of our imaginations, full blown." Her work has previously been published in *Gathering Ground*, *When I am an Old Woman I Shall Wear Purple*, and *Memories and Visions*. \$8.95 pb, - 17-X; \$16.95 cl, -18-8. Calyx Books, PO Box B, Corvallis OR 97339. BP, IN, etc.

### GYNERGY/RAGWEED

From gynergy's Fall list: **Each Small Step: Breaking the Chains of Abuse and Addiction** edited by Marilyn MacKinnon, was a project of the Women's Post Treatment Centre in Winnipeg. "This groundbreaking anthology contains personal narratives by women at various stages of recovery from the traumas of childhood sexual abuse and alcohol and chemical dependency. In compelling prose and poems, survivors confront their pain, fear, despair and anger — taking us on each small step toward healing. Articles by professionals active in treatment programs provide insight into the links between childhood abuse and drug addiction." gynergy is a feminist/lesbian press, so expect this book to be lesbian inclusive. \$9.95 pb, 0-921881-17-7.

**Fascination and Other Bar Stories** written by Jackie Manthorne (*Canadian Women and AIDS*). "When the sun sets and the heat rises in dim, smoky rooms filled with women intoxicated by each other, anything is possible. In this otherworld of lesbian bars, the baby dyke finds her fantasy, the image-proud butch loses her cool, ex-lovers are reunited and couples break apart. These are satisfying stories of the rituals of seduction and sexuality — fascinating fiction for lesbians." \$10.05 pb, -16-9.

**Tide Lines: Stories of Change by Lesbians** edited by Lee Fleming (*By Word of Mouth: Lesbians Write the Erotic*). "An intriguing collection by lesbian writers, the diverse stories in **Tide Lines** explore the many faces of change — instantaneous, over-a-lifetime, subtle or cataclysmic. In some stories, change makes a solitary appearance; in others, change arrives cloaked in mystery and reveals herself to many, like 'the perfect guest' who visits fourteen women at a solstice retreat and causes their wry re-examination of sexual ethics. Whatever the circumstances, none of the lesbians in these stories are ever quite the same again." \$10.95 pb, 15-0.



Ragweed offers three new children's books and an essential collection of poetry this Fall. **Lnu and Indians We're Called: Poems of Rita Joe** (*About Song of Eskasoni: More Poems of Rita Joe*). "This is Micmac poet Rita Joe's third collection of poetry, and it follows and expands upon the poet's desire to communicate gently with her own people and to reach out to the wider community of Canadians." Rita Joe was born in Whycocomagh, Cape Breton Island and now resides on the Eskasoni Reserve on the Bras d'Or Lakes. In 1990 she was awarded the Order of Canada. \$8.95 pb, 0-921556-22-5.

Children's titles include: **Mr. Sweetums Wears Pink** written by Charlotte Hutchinson, illustrated by Brenda Jones (\$5.95 pb)-18- 7) tells the tale of a well fed and well loved but unhappy cat whose three young people dress him in a frilly, frothy, fluffy pink ballet costume and take him — to his mortification — to a party. But in spite of himself, he discovers a hidden passion that changes his life — and now, Mr. Sweetums lives to dance. For the 5 to 8 set. **Bigfoot Sabotage** by Deirdre Kessler (\$6.95 pb, -19-5) tells of two brave youngsters, Maya and her brother Jake, who make tough decisions and take the law into their

own hands to protect the cave that shelters the fabled Bigfoot from a logging operation. Ages 9-12. And last but not least, *Ma mère est bizarre* by Rachna Gilmore, illustrated by Brenda Jones, translated by Raymonde Longval (\$5.95 pb, -20-9), offers a French translation of the beloved *My Mother is Weird*, which traces a mother's "bad day" through a child's observant eyes. Allegedly for the 5-8 set, but don't embarrass your customers by asking if they're buying it for a young friend or for themselves.... gynergy/Ragweed, PO Box 2023, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada C1A 7N7. In Canada, order gynergy and Ragweed titles from University of Toronto Press. In the U.S., from Inland, Bookslinger or Bookpeople. In the U.K., from Turnaround

### INSTITUTE ON WOMEN AND TECHNOLOGY

**RU 486: Misconceptions, Myths and Morals** by Renate Klein, Janice Raymond and Lynette Dumble offers an independent and feminist examination of the new "miracle drug" RU 486 — an examination that is urgently needed as most of the RU 486-positive information circulating is based on the studies performed by the drug manufacturers and most of the critical information circulating comes from anti-abortion groups far more interested in promoting their own agenda than they are in women's health. An urgently needed book. (Co-published with Australia feminist publisher Spinifex (see below). \$10.95 pb, 0-9630083-0-7. IWT, Room 3-405, Dept. of Urban Studies & Planning, MIT, Cambridge MA 02139. Distributed by Inland and Bookpeople.



### KIT/Knowledge, Ideas & Trends

KIT's latest offering is *Be An Outrageous Older Woman: A R\*A\*S\*P (Remarkable Aging Smart Person)* by Ruth Harriet Jacobs, Ph.D., "a comprehensive guide to the rest of your life." Based on her own experience and years of working with aging women, the book includes suggestions for finding economical housing, how to find friends and enjoy true belonging, how to interact with one's grown 'descendants,' how to handle health, economic and psychological matters, how to find laughter and comfort on a limited budget,

how to deal with sexuality and bereavement. Jacobs works with the Wellesley College Center for research on Women and teaches courses at Elderhostels. Two of her poems are included in *When I Am An Old Woman I Shall Wear Purple*. A useful book for the not-so-radical-feminists in your life — or the older women you'd like to see shifting a bit more clearly to the feminist side. \$14.95 pb, 1-879198-03-7. KIT, 1131-0 Tolland Turnpike Suite 175, Manchester CT 06040. BP & IN.

### LAZARA PRESS

Canadian feminist & literary publisher Lazara Press has added another component with a new legal monograph series. The series will be a forum for provocative and challenging papers and speeches which address current issues in the law. **With All of Who We Are: A Discussion of Oppression and Dominance** by Barbara Findlay was originally a speech to the National Association of Women and the Law. It grew out of the unlearning racism work that Findlay, a white, lesbian, feminist, survivor of abuse and mental hospitals, has done over the past four years. She begins, "Unless we can acknowledge and deal with both the ways we are oppressed and the ways we participate in oppression at the same time, we will never be able to move toward a world of justice, fairness, equality." \$3.50, 0-920999-18-2.

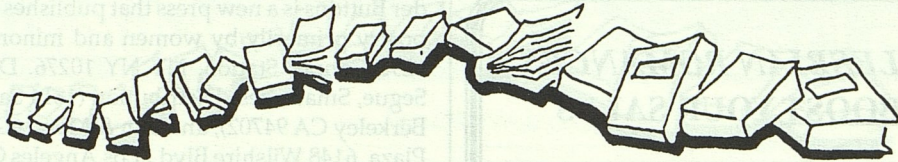
In **The Carriers of 'No': After the Land Claims Trial**, Leslie Hall Pinder (*Under the House, On Double Tracks*) takes her novelist's eye into the courtroom during the land claim trial of the Gitksan-Wet'suwet'en people. "As lawyers we don't have to take any responsibility to construct a world. We only have to destroy another's construction. We say no. We are the civilized, well-heeled, carriers of no. We thrive on it. Other races die." This piece was originally a speech to the BC Library Association. \$3.50, -20-4.

Both printed by Press Gang Printers. 40% for 5+ pamphlets. Lazara Press, Box 2269 VMPO, Vancouver BC V6B 3W2.

### SPINIFEX

Spinifex, the new Australian feminist publisher has three books out this season. Two of them, **Too Rich** and **The Spinifex Book of Women's Answers** are available in North American from Spinifex (via Bookpeople and Inland). **RU 486: Misconceptions, Myths and Morals** is published in the US by the Institute on Women and Technology (see above).





**Too Rich** by Melissa Chan, Spinifex's first foray into crime fiction, stars lesbian feminist film critic and detective Francesca Miles as she works her way through a case that involves one, then two dead men, two battered women, an incest survivor and more. In the end, it's the battered women's shelter that wins, not an ending seen in conventional crime fiction. Not the easiest read and, unfortunately, the price is a bit steep for a short mystery. \$12.95 pb, 1-875559-02-7.



**The Spinifex Book of Women's Answers** by Susan Hawthorne is an international quiz book that deals with the history and culture of women, a sort of Trivial Pursuit with a feminist assumption. Ideology: Q: Why were women made to cover their hair in church? A: Hair was magically controlled by the spirit world and unbinding hair could raise storms and control the spirit world. In order to prevent this women were ordered to cover their heads by St. Paul. Science & Spirit: Q: Seventy years before its 'discovery' Elizabeth Stone, working with lumberjacks in the North Woods of Wisconsin, used which antibiotic therapy? A: Penicillin. \$12.95 pb, -03-5

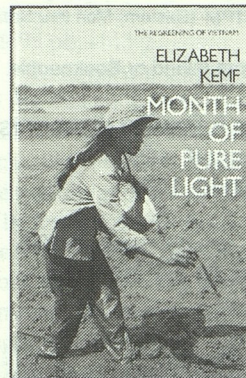
"Spinifex" turns out to be a drought-resistant Australian native grass that is traditionally grown by Aboriginal Australians as a means of regenerating the land. Regarding their choice of name, Spinifex publishers Susan Hawthorne and Renate Klein said, "We liked it because it had a nice Australian touch and has ecological ramifications because spinifex actually holds the earth together out in the desert. It has feminist reverberations as well, like spinning and spinster." *Angels of Power*, Spinifex' first title sold two thirds of its print run in the first six weeks. Spinifex plans to do 4-6 books/year. Future titles will include poetry, fiction, non-fiction and feminist theory by Dale Spender, Gillian Hanscombe, feminist lawyer Jocelyne Scutt and others. Spinifex Press, 504

Queensberry St., North Melbourne, Victoria 3051, Australia. Distributed in the U.S. by Bookpeople and Inland.

## TENDER BUTTONS

**Trimnings** by Harryette Mullen is a "book of prose poems inspired by Gertrude Stein's groundbreaking work *Tender Buttons*. Taking the cue from Stein's explorations in *Objects, Rooms, and Food*, and informed by recent feminist and semiotic theories, Mullen brilliantly extends the meditation to another area of everyday influence: how women's clothes construct notions of gender, race and body image. Traces of Black dialect and syntax, blues songs and other culturally specific allusions enter the text via the linguistic contributions of Afro-Americans to the English language." \$7.00 pb, 0-927920-02-6. Ten-

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der Buttons is a new press that publishes experimental poetry primarily by women and minorities. PO Box 1290 Cooper Station, NY NY 10276. Distributed by Segue, Small Press Distribution (1814 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley CA 94702), and Sun & Moon (Gertrude Stein Plaza, 6148 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles CA 90048). IN

### **VOLCANO**

Volcano has an awesome and wide-ranging Fall list. Hard to know where to begin but I'll start with the 20th(!) anniversary edition of the classic and too-long out-of-print *Lesbian/Woman* by Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon. *Lesbian/Woman* hit the press in 1972 in a trade paperback, and appeared in a mass market edition 6 months later. It was the first of the feminist-wave of lesbian-positive books to reach a wide audience, to present lesbian reality as perceived by lesbians, and a first lesbian history. This edition is actually a completely re-written book that offers a joyous ("We decided never to become martyrs to any cause — we always had a lot of fun.") and powerful report of the last twenty years of Lesbian emergence and triumphs. \$25.00 cl, 0-912078-91-X. Special thanks are due to Ruth Gottstein for seeing this all the way back to print.

*Mother Gave A Shout: Poems by Women and Girls* edited by Susanna Steele and Morag Styles, with full color cover and line drawings by Jane Ray, was originally published in the U.K. by A & C Black, Ltd. It includes work by Alice Walker, Judy Grahn, Marge Piercy, Elsa Gidlow, Susan Griffin, Charlotte Zolotow, Grace Nichols, Gwendolyn Brooks, Eve Merriam and a number of other women who should be messing in the minds of young women. Stock it as a gift item all year around. For women from 9 to 13 and all the way up. Gorgeous, full color posters of the cover are also available for display. Call or write to Volcano if you want one. \$14.95 cl, -90-1.

Volcano also has an audio cassette of *Learning to Live Without Violence*. The text is narrated by Adam Gottstein, with musical theme, "I Want a Gentle Man" by Meg Gottstein. The cassette may be used by itself or in conjunction with the book of the same title. Both are for men who are currently in counseling for violence, men who are violent and not yet getting help, and for men who fear they may become violent. Developed during many years of counseling men who batter, the third edition of this book explains how to



effectively control and channel anger and discusses the issues of drug and alcohol use, alienation, jealousy, and how to "let go" of a relationship if necessary. Contains a detailed description of how men can start their own support group. \$11.95, 90 minutes, -92-8.

Volcano also notes that their Spanish-language edition of *Período* is out of print, but that they have recently sold the Spanish language rights to a large Spanish publisher and will be stocking that edition as soon as it is available. Drop them a card if you want to be notified as soon as they have it in stock.

Volcano Press, PO Box 270, Volcano CA 95689. 209-296-3445, fax 209-296-4515. Distributed by Bookpeople, Inland, Ingram and B&T. **Learning to Live Without Violence** (book and cassette) must be ordered directly from Volcano.



Jane Ray, *Mother Gave a Shout*

## VIRAGO

Virago titles now available in the U.S. via Trafalgar Square:

**Surviving the Blues: Growing Up in the Thatcher Decade** edited by Joan Scanlon offers the stories of 18 young women who have come of age in an era of stark individualism, confrontation, unemployment and the resurrection of unthinkable prejudice. Coming to feminism, they encountered nostalgia for the early days of the Women's Liberation Movement just as the media were blithely announcing a

"post-feminist" era. Their individual stories have an immediacy and an urgency which fuel the need for feminism to "stop mourning the past and start listening to the future." \$13.95 pb, 1-85381-199-8.

**Judasland** by Jennifer Dawson (*The Upstairs People*), an "elegant and wicked comedy of Oxonian bad manners" tells the tale of the "perfect secretary" in the Sanctus Spiritus College, Oxford — who, of course, is ever so much more than the male academics will ever understand. \$11.95 pb, -144-0. **Wild Card: An Autobiography 1923-1958**. "In this extraordinary autobiography, Dorothy Hewett traces the personal and political metamorphoses of her first thirty-five years. A woman who challenged sexual and political conventions, Hewett is also one of Australia's most famous playwrights and poets. Hers is a life of extremes: the pleasures and purgatories of a woman who has tackled everything placed in her path with a searing honesty, energy and intellect. In combining the passions of her life with her power as a writer, she has created a classic of people, place and political history." \$29.95 pb, -143-2

**Tomorrow's Child: Reproductive Technologies in the 90s** by Lynda Birke, Susan Himmelweit, and Gail Vines recognizes feminist fears of reproductive technologies but argues that technological solutions are not always bad for women and that women have to be informed if they are to make choices. It discusses the technologies, their hazards and benefits, how they work and how they are likely to develop, ethical dilemmas, the assumptions made about fetuses, and suggest strategies by which women can take control. \$17.95 pb, -145-9.

Distributed in the U.S. by Trafalgar Square, N. Pomfret VT 05053.

## Sidelines


Now is the time for all good feminists to come to the support of Anita Hill — and every other woman who's been sexually harassed, raped or incested and been disbelieved when she told.

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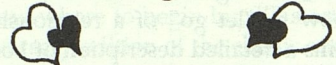
**For the Love  
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Public Service Printing has created a bumper-sticker that reads "**Impeach Thomas**" with "A Public Service for Women" in smaller print underneath. Cobalt blue with white letters. \$1.00. 40% bookstore discount. Prepayment please. Public Service Printing, 330 Broadway, Cambridge MA 02139.

The Woman's Political Alliance offers hot pink on white bumperstickers that read "**I Believe Anita Hill.**" (50¢ each, saleable for \$1.00 retail) and buttons that read "**I Believe Anita Hill**" and "**Me too, Anita!**" Buttons are black on hot pink. Bumperstickers are 50¢ each. Buttons are 50¢ each for 1-49; 35¢ for 50-99; 30¢ up to 199; and 25¢ for 200+. Minimum order is \$5.00. \$3.50 shipping on orders over \$20; \$2.50 for less. Women's Political Alliance, PO Box 470, Stillwater MN 55082. Amazon Bookstore sold 100 buttons and 25 bumperstickers the first two days they had them.



The **Women Climbing 1992 Engagement Calendar** was published by Women Climbers Northwest in memory of Hope Barnes and Kathy Phibbs, two women who died in a climbing accident last January. Both were nationally known outdoorswomen. Proceeds from the calendar will be used to finance a memorial project for the two women and to fund outdoor leadership scholarships for women. 54 color photos, 126 pages, a page a week. \$12.95,

spiral binding, 0-9630368-07-04. Women Climbers Northwest, PO Box 29573, Seattle WA 98102. 800-676-4041.

The **I Am Your Sister** (perpetual) calendar described in the Sidelines issue (page 43) is \$12.00 and is available at a 20% discount. It's a fundraiser to help alleviate the debt from the I Am Your Sister conference celebrating Audre Lorde's work and life. There is also now a video featuring parts of the conference. \$29.95, 20% discount to bookstores. It is also a benefit toward reducing conference debt. Order from I Am Your Sister, PO Box 269 Astor Station, Boston MA 02123.

Jennifer Abod has produced a series of three audio-tapes featuring Lorde's work. **Zami** features Audre Lorde reading from *Zami*. I haven't heard it but I'm told that "hearing Lorde read *Zami* is just heaven." Two-cassette set, \$15.00. **Sister Outsider** is a two-cassette set featuring selected readings from Lorde's non-fiction. \$15.00. The third tape is **Radio Profile of Audre Lorde**. \$15.00. 40% bookstore discount. Order from Profile Productions, 70 Abbottsford Rd., Brookline MA 02146. Also available from Inland.

"Not one false note" is what Barbara Macdonald (*Look Me in the Eye: Old Women, Aging and Ageism*) has to say about **West Coast Crones: A Glimpse Into the Lives of Nine Old Lesbians**. But maybe the women in the video say it better: "We are Old Lesbians inventing ways to live out our aging. We are Old Lesbians fighting our own internalized ageism and the ageism of a society which values women for the look of their



bodies in a bathing suit or their ability to reproduce. We do not represent or speak for the while Old Lesbian community. We are a support group of white, mostly middle-class Old Lesbians. We are political old Lesbians. One of the ways we practice our politics is by sharing with each other the stories of who we are." To which I can only add: Wolfe Video has done it again! An excellent video that only leaves the viewer wanting more equally fine videos that show the truth of women's lives. Produced and directed by Madeline Muir. 28 minutes, \$39.95. 30% bookstore discount. Wolfe Video, PO Box 64, New Almaden CA 95042. 408-268-6782.



FBN's favorite Homicidal Lesbian Terrorist Hothead Paisan is featured on t-shirts, postcards, and even a poster or two from Giant Ass Publishing. Six t-shirts advise "No Guilt" and "Don't Take Any Shit;" feature Hothead and her cat, Mother, dancing, and more. Photo postcards range from snuggling cats to guys wearing "Dyke" t-shirts, to dyke graffiti ("I am a lezzie butch pervert girlfriend bull dagger sister dyke and proud.") Drawings feature the best of Hothead from the *Hothead Paisan* zine and comic strip. The zine is available from Inland. Cards, t-shirts and posters from Giant Ass Publishing, PO Box 214, New Haven CT 06502.

Caillech Press offers a number of sayings from their booklet of feminist quotations *And Then She Said* in postcard form. Nine different cards available individually, or in sets of 6 or 9. Sayings include "Marriage is a great institution — but I'm not ready for an institution yet" — Mae West. "Ginger Rogers did everything Fred Astaire did, but she did it backwards and in high heels" — Faith Whittlesey. "Sex is like bridge. If you have a good hand, you don't need a partner." — Anonymous. The Wiminzwit Collection. Suggested retail is 50¢ per card. 9 card set retails for \$4.25. 50% discount for 25+

cards. Caillech Press, 482 Michigan St., St. Paul MN 55102. Also available from Inland and Bookpeople.

## Magazines

**Deneuve** is the "new" San Francisco-based lesbian magazine. The covers are full-color and slick. The look is young and hip. **Deneuve** is very popular in San Francisco and it should sell well in the rest of the country as well. In times past, women across the country read *Plexus* for a forecast of the events and trends that would hit their communities in the months and years to come. **Deneuve** will fill the same bill with its own take on lesbian news and politics, arts and entertainment, love, sex and friendship. Articles in the first three issues included teaching gay-themed books in high school English classes, a look at lesbians over 60, the components of a successful date, Julie Dubbs challenge to the CIA, a look at lesbians in elective offices, homophobia in women's sports, a wonderfully critical review of *Wish You Were Here*, celebrity profiles (Phranc, Martina, Casselberry & Dupré), travel features on European countries as well as Castro Street for women and a "Girls Guide to Valencia Street." Myself, I'd like to see some images of women that don't look like fashion models, aren't white, and some content that acknowledges lesbians over 35 without treating us like esoteric rarities. This is supposedly one of the nation's most richly diverse communities, after all. Look for this magazine to take off in all possible directions — including right out the door. \$4.00, bi-monthly, 40 pages and wrapped in an attractive glossy full-color cover. **Deneuve** (named for the editor/publisher's first lover). 2336 Market St. #15, San Francisco CA 94114. Also distributed by Inland. ○



Jane Ray, *Mother Gave a Shout*

# Books For "Matriots"



## Things Happen

Poems of Survival

*Emma Lou Thayne*

Thayne's poems chronicle the experiences of an elderly woman who is too vibrant for the rest home, a parent watching the last child leave home, a neighbor succumbing to AIDS. Thayne confronts the ephemeral experience of "travellers" in mortality by affirming the will to live, arguing that world transformation begins within individual lives.

Thayne is a lecturer, peace activist, and writer. She is author of *How Much for the Earth?* and *On Slim Unaccountable Bones*.

ISBN: 0-941214-88-5 Cloth. 80 pages. \$18.95.



## Only When I Laugh

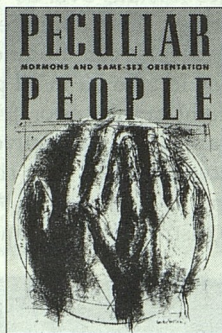
*Elouise Bell*

"Elouise Bell's essays are good news. Wry, wise, and entirely decent, they savor, with healing humor, feminist, the rescue of Planet Earth by matriots, and hometown meetings. Thinking laughter—that's the medicine Bell serves us."—Jo Gillikin, *Women's Studies Quarterly*

"A gentle reminder that in spite of different lifestyles and beliefs, [feminists] do share at least a few common experiences."—Valerie Sanders, *Feminisms*

Bell is a columnist for *Network* magazine and dean of honors education at Brigham Young University.

ISBN: 1-56085-013-2 Paper. 130 pages. \$9.95.



## Peculiar People

Mormons and Same-Sex Orientation

*Ron Schow, Wayne Schow & Marybeth Raynes*

"A Peculiar People." The title is worn as a badge of honor by Mormon faithful, proud of the tradition of persecution for being different. This title is ironic to lesbian and gay Mormons who currently suffer discrimination from within and without their church. *Peculiar People* chronicles their experience through survey information, sociological data, and personal perspectives of family, friends, and clergy.

Ron Schow teaches in the College of Health-Related Professions and Wayne Schow chairs the Department of English and Philosophy at Idaho State University. Marybeth Raynes is a licensed clinical therapist.

ISBN: 1-56085-012-4 Cloth. 387 pages. \$24.95.

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# FROM THE SMALL PRESSES

By Ann Morse

This issue's Small Press column features a number of exciting books — some new, some reprints — including fiction from Tee Corinne, Anne Cameron, Nicole Brossard, and a handful of important new writers; a reprint of Djuna Barnes' *Ladies Almanack*; poems by Lucille Clifton; an indispensable reference on women around the world from the United Nations; and a good introductory book for talking with children about AIDS. Also check out the review of *Empathy*, a new magazine dedicated to eradicating homophobia.

Banned Books leads off with a delightful and sure-to-sell-well novel from Tee Corinne, *The Sparkling Lavender Dust of Lust*. (We can't wait to hear customers' versions of that magical title!) Corinne paints a loving portrait of lesbian community as she follows the slowly intertwining lives of a multicultural group of San Francisco dykes: Clair, who at age 35, after caring for her aged parents and a friend with AIDS, finally starts to explore her own identity; Jo, a photographer whose own life is brought abruptly into

focus by the appearance of her daughter, whom she gave up for adoption; gym teacher/counselor Dell, a sober dyke, and her lover Lotimarie, a cancer survivor and publisher of *Queer Jazz Press*; Clair's ex-lover Gillian, who struggles against despair; and a host of other intriguing characters. Along the way Corinne touches on issues including racism, sexism, homophobia, addiction and recovery, incest, and suicide. Kelly Conway of *A Different Drummer Bookstore* (Laguna Beach, CA) said of this book, "Painful, joyous, warm, real, this novel works its way into the reader's

*Bookpeople (BP) and Inland (IN) distribute small press books to bookstores. "BP" or "IN" at the end of an annotation means that the books are available from that distributor. Both distributors stock a wide range of titles and publishers of interest to feminist bookstores. If you are a new store or don't already work with both distributors, drop everything and call for catalogs.*

*Inland Book Company, PO Box 120261, 140 Commerce St., East Haven CT 06512. Order number: 800-243-0138 (including Canada and Connecticut).*

*Bookpeople, 7900 Edgewater Dr, Oakland CA 94621. Phone: 800-999-4650.*



From *Africa: Through the Eyes of Women Artists* by Betty La Duke, Africa World Press.



# THE SPARKLING LAVENDER DUST OF LUST

COME MEET THE FASCINATING WOMEN OF TEE CORINNE'S IMAGINATION. HER POWERFUL NEW NOVEL IS SOMETHING VERY DIFFERENT FROM ANYTHING YOU'VE SEEN FROM TEE BEFORE. THIS THOROUGHLY MOVING STORY FOLLOWS THE LIVES OF SEVERAL WOMEN IN SAN FRANCISCO — THEIR PROBLEMS AND THEIR TRIUMPHS. ROSE FENNEL (MANAGING EDITOR, LAMBDA BOOK REPORT) SAID OF THE BOOK: TEE CORINNE TAKES TO THE NOVEL LIKE SPANDEX TAKES TO CURVACEOUS HIPS. SHE DOES FOR THE LESBIANS OF SAN FRANCISCO WHAT MAUPIN MAY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO HAD HE BEEN MORE FAMILIAR WITH THIS COMMUNITY. WE WANT MORE!

ISBN 0-934411-49-2, 124 pages, Paperback, \$8.95

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heart." We hope this slim 122-page book, a dyke tales-of-the-city, is just the first in a series. \$8.95 pb, 0-934411-49-2. Banned Books, PO Box 33280, Austin, TX 78764. BP, IN.



**A Persian Requiem**, by Simin Daneshvar, is the first published novel written by an Iranian woman, according to the novel's publisher George Braziller. Daneshvar chronicles the life of Zari, a woman trying to keep her family, traditions and values intact amid the British occupation of her small Persian town. "A Persian Requiem is a powerful indictment of the corrupting forces of colonialization, and a rare cultural document of the role of women in Persian society." George Braziller calls the book the most widely read Persian novel, and judging from the excerpts we've seen, this striking novel should get wide US readership. Translated by Roxanne Zand. (See also *Our Presses* for a review of *Siege of Azadi Square*, a novel of contemporary Iran by Manny Shirazi.) \$12.50 pb, 0-8076-1274-X; \$22.50 cl, -1273-1.

George Braziller, 60 Madison Ave., New York NY 10010.

From Lawrence Hill Books comes one of the few feminist testimonies from contemporary Africa, **The Abandoned Baobab: The Autobiography of a Senegalese Woman** by Ken Bugul, the pseudonym of Marietou M'Baye. This devastating, but finally affirming, account of M'Baye's life charts her struggle for identity as a Black woman in a white world. Abandoned as a child by her mother, M'Baye finds herself marginalized in her Senegalese village and so seeks refuge at a French missionary school. But instead of being comforted, she's isolated and alienated from her community by her colonial education. When she eventually earns a scholarship and attends university in Brussels, she discovers not "the promised land" she'd dreamed of, but a hell of racism, sexism, drugs, prostitution and near-suicide. Ultimately, M'Baye's outer and inner journey's lead her back to her native village — to reclaim her cultural heritage and her self. Includes a foreword by Nikki Giovanni. Translated from French by Marjolijn de Jager. Lawrence Hill Books, an imprint of Chicago Review Press, 230 Park Place, Suite



6A, Brooklyn NY 11238. Distributed by Independent Publishers Group.

Rowan Hanson, the center of Anne Cameron's latest novel **Kick the Can**, hasn't had an easy life: her mother died in childbirth; she's raised in a floating logging camp by her grandmother, who dies when Rowan's barely an adult; she supports herself by cooking on the BC Ferries. But Rowan's no quitter, and her strength pulls her through when her lover Jim turns out to be cheating her out of love and his ex-wife Sue out of child-support. Rowan and Sue, first as friends, later as lovers, go on to tackle poverty, alcoholism, abuse, the welfare system, the pleasures and perils of raising children. And when it's Rowan's turn to kick the can... well you'll just have to read the book to find out what kind of swing this heroine has. \$14.95 pb, 1-55017-013-9. Harbour Publishing, PO Box 219, Madeira Park BC Canada V0N 2H0. BP, IN.

Recovering from child sexual abuse, the politics of arts funding and censorship, and the mysterious workings of the creative process figure largely in Rochelle Ratner's much-talked-of-novel **The Lion's Share**. These are the issues that motivate Jana, a 34-year-old virgin obsessed with her work as a painter and gallery curator in New York's Soho. Just as she prepares to mount the biggest exhibition of her career, Jana meets Ed — a soft-hearted arts funder — and embarks on her first love affair. Can she get the lion's share of what she needs and wants from the art world and a relationship? Ratner, author of 11 books of poetry and the novel *Bobby's Girl*, is a founding editor of *The American Book Review*. \$10.95 pb, 0-918273-87-0. Coffee House Press, 27 North 4th St., Minneapolis MN 55401. BP, IN, and Bookslinger, 502 North Prior Ave., St. Paul MN 55104. IN.

Much to our delight Dalkey Archive Press has reissued Djuna Barnes's long-out-of-print **Ladies Almanack**, subtitled *showing their signs and their*

*tides; their moons and their changes; the seasons as it is with them; their eclipses and equinoxes; as well as a full record of diurnal and nocturnal distempers, written and illustrated by a lady of fashion*. Written by Barnes in 1928 while she tended her hospitalized lover Thelma Wood, **Ladies Almanack** lampoons (or celebrates, depending on which critics you read) the expatriate lesbian community in Paris. Written in an "archaic style," it describes the life of Dame Evangeline Musset, modeled after Natalie Clifford Barney (who was said to love the tale). About 1,000 copies were first printed in Paris in 1928. Harper and Row finally reissued it in 1972. Illustrated throughout by Barnes. \$9.95 pb, 0-916583-88-0. Dalkey Archive Press, 1817 79th Ave., Elmwood Park, IL 60635. IN.

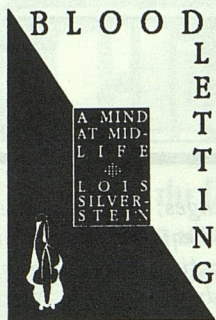


Through an intimate account of an Italian-Canadian woman's attempts to carry a pregnancy to term, novelist Mary Melfi explores the emotional trauma of infertility and its resulting marital conflicts in **Infertility Rites** (\$15 pb, 0-920717-51-9), one of four books published by Canada's Guernica Editions that will interest feminist booksellers. Other titles are:

**The Tangible Word**, which collects four previously published works by Quebec feminist writer France Theoret: *Bloody Mary*, *A Voice for Odile*, *Vertigoes* and *Of Necessity a Whore*. Poetry, fiction and theory overlap in these stories. "All reveal a writing which demonstrates the difficulty of being woman." \$15 pb, -56-X.

Guernica has published a new edition of Nicole Brossard's **Picture Theory**. Focusing on four women, this story of lesbian love "poses the question of what is a novel." Translated by Barbara Godard, who also translated Brossard's *Lovers*. \$15 pb, -22-5.

Guernica has also reissued acclaimed Canadian poet Dorothy Livesay's **The Woman I Am**. First published in 1977, this book of poems spans almost 50



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Susan Fernandez, *Rice University Press*

... a chilling, poetic journal of women's real life: inner experiences, felt emotion and relationship with the blood rituals and suffering of life and death. A remarkable and moving work.  
Eric Greenleaf, *Ph.D.*

... A superb and compelling picture...  
Nora W. Coffey, *Pres., HERS FDN.*

... Writing excellent... certainly a talented writer.  
Ellen Cole, *Co-Editor, Journal of Women & Therapy*

... A powerful work ... a great spiritual task accomplished articulately and spiritually.  
Judith W. Monroe, *WIDDERSHINS, Crone's Own Press*

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years (1926-1971) of Livesay's career. \$10 pb, -37-3. Guernica Editions, PO Box 633, Station NDG, Montreal QUE Canada H4A 3R1. 40%. IN, Bookslinger, Small Press Distribution and University of Toronto Press.

Nicole Brossard's readers will be delighted to learn that another Canadian press, Coach House Press, has translated and published her 1987 book **Mauve Desert**, a trinity of novels dealing with a woman's voyage of discovery through literature and the desert. In the first, "Mauve Desert," 15-year-old Melanie leaves her mother and her mother's lover Lorna in their Mauve Motel to drive across the Arizona desert. In the second, "A Book to Translate," Maude Laures reads and becomes obsessed with **Mauve Desert**, eventually searching for its author, characters and meaning. The third book, "Mauve, the Horizon," is Laures' translation of "Mauve Desert." Adding another layer to this Brossardian text is the translation of the entire book from the French by Susanne de Lotbiniere-Harwood. \$14.95 pb, 0-88910-389-5. Coach House Press, 401 (rear) Huron St., Toronto Canada M5S 2G5. InBook, IN.

Serpent's Tail will release three new titles in its "The Nineties" series in November: Mary Scott's **Nudists May Be Encountered**, wickedly humorous short stories about the myriad ways life can turn on you — a grammar-obsessed teacher corrects the misspelt graffiti on the street, and then adds some of her own when her husband confesses to having an affair; a fashion-conscious urbanite on vacation finds herself on a nudist beach; a civil servant is forced to redefine his job out of existence; a man driven by lust is literally taken for a walk by his penis (\$14.95 pb, 1-85242-173-8); Silvia Sanza's **Alex Wants to Call it Love**, a novel exploring death, love, work and writing set against the backdrop of modern Manhattan (\$13.95 pb, -214-9); and Margaret Wilkinson's **Ocean Avenue**, the story of a Jewish family as it travels between Brooklyn, Europe, Florida and Britain. "Affectionately funny in the telling." (\$14.95 pb, -195-9.) Serpent's Tail, 4 Blackstock Mews, London N4 2BT, and in the US at 401 West Broadway #2, New York NY 10012. BP, IN, Consortium.

Delphinium Books has launched its list with two promising titles by new writers. In **The Red Shirt** Lois Leardi spins hope out of the heart-rending story of a young woman's love and hate for her hard-drinking father. When Hannah's father dies of cancer and grief for his estranged wife Patience, a prostitute and incest survivor, Hannah herself breaks down and is hospitalized. There, she wears her father's red shirt until she is finally able to take the first step toward recovery. \$18.95 cl, 0-671-74259-0.



In the title story of **The Rabbi in the Attic and Other Stories**, by Eileen Pollack, a novice rabbi must learn to temper her enthusiasm for new ways with compassion for those who follow the old. Many of the dozen short stories in this striking book feature strong, intelligent women, characters who are struggling to understand what they have gained and lost by abandoning the passion and moral certainties of youth. In reviewing this book, critics repeatedly cite Pollack's "moral intelligence." \$19.95 cl, -74260-4. Delphinium Books, 29 East 9th St., New York NY 10003.



Jocelyn, a lawyer, must leave her husband Charles and their two teenage children to work in Ottawa for 10 months. Because of financial difficulties, Jock and Chas decide to write letters to each other instead of calling, and it's these letters that make up the text of **A Celibate Season**. The novel, written by Carol Shields and Blanche Howard (one writer as Jocelyn, the other as Charles), explores the current state of marriage and the changes in "traditional roles, rules and communication." The novel ends by affirming that "marriage is alive and kicking and even prospering in the 1990s." \$14.95 pb, 1-55050-024-4; \$26.95 cl, -025-2. Coteau Books, 401-2206 Dewdney Ave., Regina SAS Canada S4R 1H3. IN, Bookslinger.

R.A.(Ruth) Sasaki deftly weaves together the nine short stories in **The Loom and Other Stories** to create a nuanced portrait of three generations of Japanese-Americans in San Francisco. She writes of racism and the detention camps of WWII; of immigrant people's joys and heartbreaks; of Hiroshima and the haunting legacy of those who died; of coming of age and coming to terms. \$10 pb, 1-55597-157-1. Graywolf Press, 2402 University Ave., Suite 203, St. Paul MN 55114. BP, IN, Bookslinger.

If the 22 funny-sad short stories in Carol Malyon's **The Edge of the World** are as intriguing as Malyon's bio note (and they seem to be) then many readers will love them. Malyon is the 1991 winner of the Penny Dreadful Short Story Contest (what?) and an ex-bookseller (where?). In these short glimpses into other lives a woman contemplates the world through tinted sunglasses, the "perfect wife" leaves her family one week each year to live on the porch and commune with the magnolia blooming in her yard, a young girl listens as her dying mother shares secrets that change everything, a warring family drives other patrons in a restaurant to drink... \$11.95 pb, 0-920544-79-7. Mercury Press, Box 446, Stratford ONT Canada N5A 6T3. IN, Bookslinger.

Helicon Nine Editions has established an annual Willa Cather Fiction Prize for a previously unpublished manuscript, and given the first award to R.M. (Rose Marie) Kinder for her collection of 15 short stories **Sweet Angel Band and Other Stories**. Kinder, born in southern Missouri, writes of three generations of a Missouri family. She sets tales of a mother teaching her son the consequences of cruelty, a father killing his daughter's puppy, and a child's obsession with being baptized against the music of bluegrass and gospel and the reasonable voice of character Cora Leban. \$11.95 pb, 0-9627460-2-9. Helicon Nine Editions, PO Box 22412, Kansas City MO 64113. IN.



Fourteen short stories by acclaimed Brazilian writer Edla Van Steen have been collected and translated under the title **A Bag of Stories**. The characters in these selections, gleaned from her 1977 collection *Before the Dawn* and her 1985 collection *Forever After*, reflect Van Steen's diverse experiences as a writer, translator, award-winning film actress, radio announcer and promoter of painting and sculpture. As translator David George says in his introduction to this book, "Her stories are tightly structured and densely layered compositions packed with striking images, unexpected twists, and tantalizing puzzles." Several stories deal with the subversion of gender categories, the search for sexual identity and ethnic and literary roots. \$14.95 pb, 0-935480-54-4. Latin American Literary Review Press, 2300 Palmer St., Pittsburgh PA 15218. BP, IN, Bookslinger.

Make room on your poetry shelf — acclaimed poet Lucille Clifton now has a new book of poems out, **Quilting: Poems 1987- 1990**. This, Clifton's seventh book of poetry, again addresses the subjects and themes that resonate throughout her poetry: love, birth, death, children, family, community, history,

justice. "The materials of her lyrics and meditations are swatches from a wide-ranging fabric of personal and communal experiences: from slave plantations of the past to the cocaine slavery of the present; from the killing of trees in suburbia to her personal maturing sexuality as an African-American woman; from the birth of language to her own art and craft." \$9 pb, 0-918526-81-7; \$18 cl, -80-9. BOA Editions, 92 Park Ave., Brockport NY 14420. IN, Bookslinger, Small Press Distribution, Writers and Books (740 University Ave., Rochester NY 14607).



Copper Canyon Press has published all of Kay Boyle's poetry, including many revised, new and previously unpublished poems, as **Collected Poems of Kay Boyle**. The poems in this volume span Boyle's prolific and acclaimed career from about 1916 to 1990. \$10 pb, 1-55659-039-3; \$19 cl, -038-5. Copper Canyon Press, PO Box 271 Port Townsend WA 98368. BP, IN, Bookslinger.

Poet Mary Kratt draws upon and adapts letters, diaries and period writings to describe 25 nineteenth-century Carolina women in **The Only Thing I Fear is a Cow and a Drunken Man: Southern Voices 1828-1929**. The prose and poetry in this 77-page volume reveal the hidden lives of these teachers, slaves, farmwives, mill workers and landowners. \$10 pb, 0-932112-29-3. Carolina Wren Press, PO Box 277, Carboro NC 27510. 40% on prepaid orders of 1-4, and on all orders of 5+. Baker & Taylor.

"There is so much to say about the loss of a part of your body; there is even more when that part has been the lodestone of your identity," writes Lois Silverstein at the beginning of **Bloodletting: A Mind at Midlife**, her journal into illness, healing, aging and reconciliation. Through poems, journal entries and drawings, Silverstein chronicles the "archaeology of changes" she underwent as a result of a hysterectomy, menopause and, throughout her recovery, caring for her mother, who was battling cancer. "Slowly I saw that to survive this blast into the second half of my life, I could no longer be the person I was, either to myself, or to the woman who shaped me." \$12.95 pb, 0-

9603440-2-0. Red Shoes Press, 2314 Derby St., Berkeley CA 94705. 40% for 4+.

For the past decade, Thordis Simonsen, a writer, visual artist and long-time employee of the Tattered Cover Bookstore in Denver, CO, has spent part of every year living and learning in the rural village of Elika in Greece. She captures the spirit of the village and its people in her simply told, effecting autobiography **Dancing Girl: Themes and Improvisations in a Greek Village Setting**. In her own words, and those of the villagers, she reveals the rhythms and details of life in Elika — the soaring sound of a wedding song, the aches of olive picking, the soft texture and rich fragrance of fresh-tilled soil, the pungent tastes of a hard-earned meal, the pull of friendships "and the transforming power of the dark starlit night." Illustrated with 16 black and white photographs. \$12, 0-9629766-4-4. The Fundamental Note, PO Box 6107, Denver CO 80206. 40%, no minimum. BP.

For a sympathetic and stirring account of a social activist you might consider Vivian McGuckin Raineri's **The Red Angel: The Life and Times of Elaine Black Yoneda, 1906-1988**. Yoneda devoted more than 30 years to California left-wing politics, to peace work, labor and civil rights, women's equality and justice for World War II internees. Raineri draws upon interviews with Yoneda, publications of the International Labor Defense (of which Yoneda was an officer) and other "unabashedly 'Left' sources" to complete this portrait of a woman who, during the '30s, always carried a copy of the Bill of Rights in her purse, even though she could recite it from memory. \$9.95 pb, 0-7178-0686-3; \$19 cl, -0668-X. International Publishers, 239 West 23rd St., New York NY 10011. 20% for 1-2, 34% for 3-9, 40% for 10-49.



First published in Paris in 1925, **Pei Yu: Boy Actress** is a novel based on the life of a young man who rose to fame in Manchu Dynasty China as a singer and actor/actress — one who enacted the parts of women on the stage and who, off stage, "served the personal needs of the Chinese noblemen who maintained an



ethic of male/male love akin to Ancient Greece." Written by George Soulie de Morant, a Frenchman living in China during the early part of the century. Translated by Gerald Fabian and Guy Wernham. Illustrated with Art Nouveau drawings by Nemi Frost. \$19.95 cl, 09624751-3-0. Alamo Square Press, PO Box 14543, San Francisco, CA 94114. BP, IN.



**Critical Fictions: The Politics of Imaginative Writing** poses the questions what are the politics of literary production and how are they shaped by race, class, gender and culture — and then presents fascinating responses from a stunning array of novelists from around the world. The 41 stories and essays in this volume feature contributions from more than 14 men and 22 women, including Nawal El Saadawi, Jessica Hagedorn, Bessie Head, Bharati Mukherjee, Nadine Gordimer, bell hooks, Loretta Ngcobo, Sarah Schulman and a host of other wonderful writers. Edited by Philomena Mariani. \$14.95 pb, 0-941920-24-0. Another Bay Press title, **How Do I Look? Queer Film and Video** also is due Dec. 7. (See article in this issue about printers' refusals to print this book and see review of the title in FBN V14#2.) Bay Press, 115 West Denny Way, Seattle, WA 98119. InBook, IN, BP, Bookslinger and other distributors.

Hartmut Lutz, a writer and scholar at the University of Osnabruck in Germany, recorded conversations with 18 Canadian Native authors — 11 women and 7 men — for **Contemporary Challenges: Conversations with Canadian Native Authors**. Topics include their thoughts and concerns about writing, spirituality, the relationship between Natives and non-Natives (Lutz is a non-Native) and the question of appropriation of Native stories. (Also see the Canadian books column.) \$15.95 pb, 0-920079-75-X. Fifth House Publishers, 620 Duchess St., Saskatoon SASK Canada S7K 0R1. IN, Bookslinger.

Librarians, women's studies teachers, students and Rebecca West fans may be interested to learn of **Rebecca West: An Annotated Bibliography** by Joan Garrett Packer. The reference work includes an introduction and focuses on books, stories, essays and reviews by and about West. \$20 cl, 0-8240-5692-2. Garland Publishing, 136 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016.

Through interviews and black and white photographs Cathleen Rountree has captured the indomitable spirits of 18 women between the ages of 40 and 50 in **Coming Into Our Fullness: On Women Turning Forty**. Women included in this great gift book are Judy Chicago, Barbara Boxer, Linda Leonard, Barbara Hammer, Maxine Hong Kingston, Frances Moore Lappé, Deena Metzger, Susan Griffin, Gabrielle Roth, Arisika Razak, Natalie Goldberg, Mayumi Oda, Judy

## Multiple Personality Disorder from the Inside Out

In *Multiple Personality Disorder from the Inside Out*, 146 people who have MPD reveal the complex issues of diagnosis, therapy, and maintaining personal relationships. This is a compelling and practical volume for anyone interested in improving the support network for individuals with MPD.

"It's 1:00 a.m. and I can't put this book down. Everyone concerned with multiple personalities should have at least one copy." —Laura Davis, author of *Allies in Healing* and *The Courage to Heal*.

Edited by Barry M. Cohen, Esther Giller, and Lynn W. xxii, 245 pages, index, ISBN 0 9629164 0 4 \$14.95

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Available from Bookpeople and Inland.



Phillips, Cokie Roberts, Betsy Damon, Ina Meibach, Elena Featherston and Brooke Medicine Eagle. \$12.95 pb, 0-89594-517-7; \$24.95 cl, -518-5.

Shekkinah Mountainwater, one of the founding mothers of the women's spirituality movement, wrote **Ariadne's Thread: A Workbook of Goddess Magic** as a tool to guide women on a journey into themselves and the mysteries of the Goddess. The 13 chapters address rituals and spells, divination tools, how to make and use a lunar calendar, herbal magic and guided visualizations. \$12.95 pb, -475-8; \$24.95 cl, -476-6.



Another workbook designed to lead the reader on a journey of self-discovery is Caryn Lea Summers' **Circle of Health: Recovery Through the Medicine Wheel**, a self-help workbook combining art, mythology, symbols and psychology with the tools practiced in 12-step programs. \$10.95 pb, -483-9; 22.95 cl, -484-7.

Four women and six men share their spiritual journeys, sexual awakenings and confrontations with homophobia in **Amazing Grace: Stories of Lesbian and Gay Faith**, edited by Malcolm Boyd and Nancy L. Wilson. Send a copy to your favorite (or any!) clergyperson. \$10.95 pb, -479-0; \$22.95 cl, -480-4. Crossing Press, PO Box 1048, Freedom CA 95019. BP, IN, Bookslinger.

This issue's crop of small press titles includes a number of books on religion, including two interesting titles on lesbians and gays and religion: **Amazing Grace: Stories of Lesbian and Gay Faith** (see Crossing Press) and Signature Books' welcome addition **Peculiar People: Mormons and Same-Sex Orientation**. Edited by Ron Schow, Wayne Schow and Marybeth Raynes, this book offers a wide range of stories, essays and poems (church approved and not) by and about lesbian and gay Mormons, their families and friends, and the opinions of therapists, psychologists, researchers, doctors, church leaders and theologians. We hope the title achieves its goal of "creating a better climate of understanding and tolerance for homosexual people." \$24.95 cl, 1-56085-012-4. Signature Books, 350 S. 400 East, Suite G-4, Salt Lake City UT 84111. 20% for 1-4, 40% for 5+. Ingram, Gordon, Baker & Taylor.

Additional titles relating to religion include **After Patriarchy: Feminist Transformations of the World Religions**, edited by Paula M. Coeey, William R. Eakin and Jay B. McDaniel, which features eight essays that take a critical look at the intersection of feminism and religion and "reveal how far-reaching the transformations of world religions must be in order to retrieve a liberating core that will be emancipatory for all." \$16.95 pb, 0-88344-748-7. Orbis Books, Maryknoll NY 10545. BP, IN.

Also, 19 pioneering clergywomen share their experiences — both the joys as well as the racism and sexism encountered — within the Presbyterian Church in **Voices of Experience: Lifestories of Clergywomen in the Presbyterian Church (USA)**, edited by Alice Brasfield and Elisabeth Lunz. \$5.95 pb, 18091001. Presbyterian Publishing House, 100 Witherspoon St., Louisville KY 40202; 800-227-2872.

Roberta Kalechofsky has compiled 14 of her essays exploring aspects of the anti-vivisection and animal rights movements into **Autobiography of a Revolutionary: Essays on Animal and Human Rights**. Kalechofsky looks at these movements in relation to religion, experimentation on human beings, the women's movement, anti-slavery movement and pornography. \$11.95 pb, 0-916288-34-X. Micah Publications, 255 Humphrey St., Marblehead MA 01945.



Dismayed by "the Black child's impending educational decimation," scholars and authors Nathan Hare and Julia Hare of The Black Think Tank have published **The Hare Plan to Overhaul the Public Schools and Educate Every Black Man, Woman and Child**. The authors present this handbook, which examines problems, misconceptions and solutions, "to teachers, parents, leaders, educators and others who desire to save the black child and — arguably a quickly evaporating possibility — the public school system itself." \$10 pb, 0-9613086-4-8.

Also from The Black Think Tank is **Fire on Mount Zion: My Life and History as a Black Woman in America**, by Mabel B. Little with Nathan Hare and Julia Hare. Age 93 and still fighting for

justice when the book was published in 1990, Little shares the stories and lessons of her life growing up in Oklahoma. Her strength and character shine throughout. Illustrated with black and white photographs. \$10 pb, -1-4. The Black Think Tank, 1801 Bush St., Suite 127, San Francisco CA 94109. 20% for 1-4, 40% for 5+. Distributed by Lushena Books and Africa World Press.

Two excellent titles on women around the world come from United Nations Publications and Zed Books. **The World's Women 1970-1990: Trends and Statistics**, the most complete depiction so far of women's conditions and contributions across the world, includes statistical portraits and analysis of women and family life, leadership and decision-making, health and child-bearing, education and economic life. For anyone still in doubt, the data makes it

clear that although there have been some improvements for women over the past 20 years, the majority of women still lag far behind men in power, wealth and opportunity. We hope this crucial book provides more ammunition to raise awareness, prompt action and monitor progress. \$19.95 pb, 92-1-161313-2. United Nations. UNIPUB is a distributor of UN publications, 4611-F Assembly Drive, Lanham MD 20706. 25% for 1-4, 40% for 5-99.

From Zed Books comes another indispensable work, **Women and Disability**, a book combining information and analysis with personal accounts by women with disabilities from around the world. Chapters address issues including the stigma of disability, preventing disabilities, rehabilitation, education, employment, the human rights of women with disabilities, aging, care-giving, and taking action. Prepared by Esther Boylan, illustrated with black and

## From Wingbow Press: "A joyful and empowering experience"

**The Heart of the Goddess: Art, Myth and Meditations of the World's Sacred Feminine**, by Hallie Iglehart Austen; 175 pages, illustrated in color and black & white, \$24.95 (0-91478-69-5)

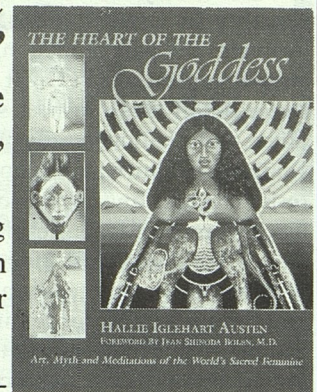
From the Ice Age to the present, from Crete to Hawaii: the values and living lessons of worldwide Goddess worship. This outstanding book's evocation of art, history and spirituality is sure to enrich the lives of all who encounter it. With a foreword by Jean Shinoda Bolen.

*Reading **The Heart of the Goddess** is a joyful and empowering experience.*—Diane Mariechlid

*Intuitive and practical, Hallie Iglehart Austen's work will nourish and heal its readers on many levels.*—Marija Gimbutas

*A beautiful book . . . an excellent source for information and inspiration from many cultures.*  
—Starhawk

**The Heart of the Goddess** and other Wingbow Press books are available through **Bookpeople; Inland Book Company; New Leaf; Moving Books; Samuel Weiser.**



white photographs. **Women and Disability** is the second book in the Women and World Development Series, a joint venture between Zed and the United Nations/NGO Group on Women and Development. \$15.95 pb, 0-86232-987-6; \$49.95 cl, -986-8. Zed Books, 57 Caledonian Road, London N1 9BU England. BP, IN, Humanities Press International.



Stores with men's sections might be interested in Helmut Barz's **For Men, Too: A Grateful Critique of Feminism**, a feminist studies/psychology title that arose from Barz's conviction that feminism is just as much a matter for men as for women. "I want to react, to respond as one male human, to the discovery — described for the most part by women — that the history of humanity over the past several thousand years has also been a history of the oppression of women by men." Barz is a German psychotherapist. \$12.95 pb, 0-933029-42-X. Chiron Publications, 400 Linden Ave., Wilmette IL 60091. BP, IN.

**In the Way of Women: Men's Resistance to Sex Equality in Organizations**, by Cynthia Cockburn, evaluates the part of men in feminist change in four large organizations in Great Britain: a large, private-sector, retail trade firm; a state and a government office; and a national trade union. Through these case studies, Cockburn shows how men often divert and resist changes and how women as a sex, but also Black women and men, lesbians and gays, and people with disabilities, must hide their 'difference' if they wish to claim a right to 'equality.' Cockburn also goes on to draw lessons for feminist alliances that might end the "white male monoculture of power and make organizations more democratic and responsible." \$16.95 pb, 0-87546-701-6. ILR Press, School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Cornell University, Ithaca NY 14851. IN.

Waterfront Books has published a valuable book to help adults and children discuss AIDS. **What's a Virus, Anyway?**, by David Fassler and Kelly McQueen, presents the very basic facts about AIDS in a non-sexist, non-judgmental way and clearly makes

the point that people with AIDS "are just like everyone else." Illustrated with children's drawings, it also encourages readers to add their own pictures, questions or comments about AIDS. In an introduction, the authors point out that because they have aimed the book at children in grades 1-5, it contains minimal information regarding the sexual transmission of AIDS. They have, however, included references on sexuality and sex education at the end of the book. Also published in a Spanish edition, **What's a Virus, Anyway?** won a Benjamin Franklin Award from the Publishers Marketing Association. \$8.95 pb, 0-914525-15-8. Waterfront Books, 98 Brookes Ave., Burlington VT 05401. BP, Talman.

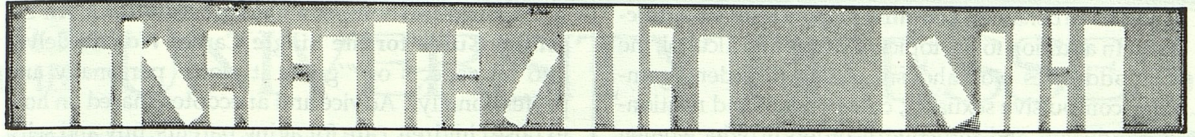
Pre-school educators and writers Carol Hilgartner Schlink and Barbara Metzger have teamed up to write **Elizabeth Cady Stanton: A Biography for Young Children**, aimed at four to eight year olds. Molly Yard said of this biography, "A beautifully written story about one of the great women of America." Black and white drawings by Janice Bond. \$6.95 pb, 0-87659-151-9; \$14.95 cl, -152-7. Gryphon House, Box 275, 3706 Otis St., Mt. Rainier MD 20712. 20% for 2-4, 40% for 5-49. BP, IN.

**You Can Be a Woman Engineer** was written by a woman electrical engineer (Judith Love Cohen) to encourage elementary aged girls to pursue a science career. It tells the story of Cohen's girlhood interest in rocket ships and stars and telescopes, and how she translated that interest, along with math skills, her precision ("I thought about baking a cake...I always followed a recipe carefully") and her ability to design things ("I thought about the costumes I sewed") into an engineering career. Illustrated by David Katz. Spiral-bound colored 8 by 10 paper. \$3.25, 1-880599-01-5. Cascade Pass, 10734 Jefferson Blvd., Suite 235, Culver City CA 90230.



Also, while we're writing of children's books, here's a reminder to look out for a book mentioned in an earlier issue of FBN, Holy Cow! Press's **The River Road: A Story of Abraham Lincoln**, the fifth and final volume in the Meridel Le Sueur Wilderness Book Se-





ries. Due out this November, this title is a new printing of the first edition published in 1954 by Alfred Knopf. It depicts 17-year-old Lincoln's journey by raft down the Mississippi to New Orleans to sell provisions. \$14.95 cl, 0-930100-37-9. Holy Cow! Press, PO Box 3170, Mount Royal Station, Duluth MN 55803. BP, Bookslinger, Talman.



The Jeremy of *Jeremy's Decision* loves dinosaurs, and he likes music all right, but he hates going to concerts with his father, mother and sister, Allegra. People are always asking him if he thinks he'll be a conductor like his father when he grows up. "I don't know" he always murmurs and goes back to reading his dinosaur books. That is, until a reporter interviewing Jeremy's father asks Jeremy about dinosaurs. Overcome with enthusiasm, Jeremy announces that he's going to be a paleontologist when he grows up, not a conductor. So years later, guess who dons a tuxedo and leads the orchestra — Allegra of course. Written by Ardyth Brott, illustrated by Michael Martchenko. \$12.95 cl, 0-916291-36-6. Kane/Miller Book Publishers, PO Box 529, Brooklyn NY 11231; 718-624-5120, fax 718-858-5452. 20% for 1-4, 40% for 5-24. Baker & Taylor, Ingram.

Readers who are therapists, counselors, social workers and psychologists in the family and divorce field are the targeted audience for *Women and Divorce/Men and Divorce: Gender Differences in Separation, Divorce and Remarriage*. Topics covered include gender differences in adjusting to divorce, in college students' attitudes toward divorce, and in adjusting to stepparenting; gender factors related to child support and to child-rearing practices after divorce; and cultural factors that relate to gender differences in adjustment to divorce. Edited by Sandra S. Volgy. \$14.95 pb, 1-56024-114-4; \$29.95 cl, -090-3.

From Haworth's imprint Harrington Park Press come two far less academic titles: Esther Nitzberg's *Hippocrates' Handmaidens: Women Married to Physicians*, a book of poetry and prose, based on interviews with more than 100 doctors' wives, that exposes the inequities in this particular relationship (\$24.95 pb, 0-918393-81-7; \$34.95 cl, 0-86656-880-8); and a new book by Sam Steward (*The Caravaggio Shawl, Dear Sammy: Letters from Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas*) titled *Understanding the Male Hustler*, an attempt to take a dispassionate look at all aspects of hustling through a largely imagined series of explicit and earthy talks between a well-known fictional hustler and the author (\$8.95 pb, -96-5). Haworth Press, 10 Alice St., Binghamton NY 13904. 25% for 1-4, 40% for 5-9, 45% for 10+. BP.

Editor Nan Van Den Bergh has created a book that offers a feminist perspective on both the cause and cure

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of addictive behavior, **Feminist Perspectives on Addictions**. In addition to the topics of drugs and alcohol, the book addresses workaholicism, eating disorders, gambling, compulsive sexuality, codependent and relationship addiction, and addictive disorders in older women and lesbians. Contributors include academics, students and practitioners in a variety of disciplines. Van Den Bergh acknowledges "a significant omission" in the book, the lack of a complete chapter on addiction as it applies to ethnic minority women. \$32.95 cl, 0-8261-7350-0. Springer Publishing Company, 536 Broadway, New York NY 10012. Any quantity, 20%.



From *Ladies Almanac*, by Djuna Barnes.

Conari Press has another title for your self-help section, Sue Patton Thoele's **The Courage to Be Yourself: A Woman's Guide to Growing Beyond Emotional Dependence**. Originally self-published in 1988, the new edition is revised and redesigned with a foreword by Dr. Louise Hart. Thoele offers tools to help women recognize and heal fear, change self-defeating behaviors and beliefs, become assertive and communicate effectively, and love ourselves. \$10.95 pb, 0-943233-25-9. Conari Press, 1339 61st St., Emeryville CA 94608.

Charlotte Thompson's **Single Solutions: An Essential Guide for the Single Career Woman** delves into all aspects of "'going it alone' personally and professionally." Advice and anecdotes shared on how to raise children, care for aging parents, buy and sell a car and house, manage finances, travel alone, entertain, make friends, handle fear... Includes resources and toll-free numbers. \$11.95 pb, 0-8283-1933-2. Branden Publishing Company, 17 Station St., PO Box 843, Brookline Village, Boston MA 02147. 43% for 5+. BP, Baker & Taylor, Ingram.



## Magazines

We were excited to finally see a copy of **Empathy**, An Interdisciplinary Journal for Persons Working to End Oppression on the Basis of Sexual Identities, a promising magazine exploring the causes of, manifestations of and antidotes to homophobia. The journal, published twice a year by the Gay and Lesbian Advocacy Research Project along with The Campaign to End Homophobia, is packed with essays, prose and poetry, research reports, reviews and photography, all divided into sections: media, oppressions, reflections, family, schools, challenging our thinking, international, military, religion and spirituality, reviews and resources, and poetry. The issue we saw (Volume 2, Number 2), while not necessarily beautiful to look at (has desk-top published stamped on it) *was* beautiful to read. Voices varied by class, race and age, and thoughtful articles covered topics including films in the AIDS era, reflections on race and sexuality, strategies to defeat anti-gay referenda, the story of a gay man in AA, coming out to children and talking about donor insemination, a survey of lesbian and gay college programs, the politics of language, lesbians in Yugoslavia, ROTC and discrimination... and that's only a fifth of the table of contents. Edited by James T. Sears, author of the wonderful *Growing Up Gay in the South: Race, Gender and Journeys of the Spirit* (Haworth). Expect the next issue of **Empathy** to be out in early December. \$7.50 a copy. 40% bookstore discount. Individual subscriptions \$10/year; institutional \$15/year. Make checks payable to Gay and Lesbian Advocacy Research Project and send to Empathy, PO Box 5085, Columbia SC 29250. ○

# FROM THE UNIVERSITY PRESSES



By Ann Christopherson  
Women & Children First, Chicago

In the last issue of FBN, my first one writing this column, I confessed to being less than totally organized, one feature of which was the absence of a number of fall/winter catalogues. Compensating for that, I commented on all the titles of interest from the catalogues I did have, including those with pub dates ranging from August through December. What I have decided to do in this issue is to include mention of noteworthy titles from the catalogues I have received since, covering approximately the same time period. By the time February rolls around I hope to have this down, so I am culling forthcoming titles from the lists and presenting those for your consideration, while perhaps continuing to highlight a few of the recently published titles. Once again, I enthusiastically ask for any suggestions you may have for making this column serve your purposes.

Most of the titles I mention will be paperbacks, since those are the ones most likely to sell. However, there are usually a few hardcover titles that many feminist stores will want to carry at least in ones and twos to accommodate those customers who need them — even at \$40.00. Published by Cornell in April but now listed with New York University Press, Joan Hoff's *Law, Gender, and Injustice: A Legal History of U.S. Women* (0-8147-3467-7, \$39.50) is one of those. The "Injustice" of the title reveals what is significant about her viewpoint: in 540 pages she argues that legal gains for women from 1620 to the present are problematic at best, that "equality based on liberal male ideology is no longer an adequate framework for improving women's legal status," and that we need a feminist jurisprudence. Columbia's *A Lure of Knowledge: Lesbian Sexuality and Theory*, by Judith Roof (0-231074-867), will not sell like *Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers*,

especially at \$40.00, but will sell a few copies. It sounds pretty theoretical but also grounded. For example, she "analyzes the rhetorical use of lesbian sexuality in a range of discourses, from the works of such authors as Anais Nin, Olga Broumas, Julia Kristeva...to films such as *Emmanuelle*, *Desert Hearts*, *Entre Nous*...to professional tennis." I say as long as tennis is one of the discourses, count me in. Hovering also in the price stratosphere *Women and Gender: A Feminist Psychology* (Rhonda K. Unger and Mary Crawford, Temple, 0-87722-897, December), at least a large book for its \$39.95 price, is a comprehensive survey of the psychology of women and calls for having a separate field of inquiry for female psychology.



Priced in the range of trade hardcovers, Caryl Rivers' new book, *More Joy Than Rage: Crossing Generations with the New Feminism* (University Press of New England, 0-87451-629, November, \$19.95) is a collection of twenty-six essays on the women's movement in the 70's and 80's. Two other competitively-priced titles I would think stores would want, both recently published by California, are the unsettling *Women of the Klan: Racism and Gender in the 1920's* (Kathleen M. Blee, 0-520-07263-4, \$24.95) and, in ironic contrast to the dynamic tension and hard-won shifting balance between feminism and Judaism Letty Cottin Pogrebin achieves in *Deborah, Golda, and Me*, we have the stories of women returning to orthodoxy in Lynn Davidman's *Tradition in a Rootless World: Women Turn to Orthodox Judaism* (0-520-07282-0, \$24.95). A longer call but a title worth considering is one coming in December from Virginia, *Neither Balloons Nor Bullets: Women Abolitionists during the*

# CHICAGO

## Bending the Law

*The Story of the Dalkon Shield  
Bankruptcy*

**Richard B. Sobol**

A design defect in the Dalkon Shield, an IUD manufactured by the A. H. Robins Company and sold to millions during the early 1970s, resulted in serious injuries to hundreds of thousands of women and in Robins filing for bankruptcy. Sobol looks at the strategies used by the court, the company, and the representatives of the victims in the quest to allocate the available funds.

*Cloth \$29.95 424 pages*



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## Sowing the Body

*Psychoanalysis and Ancient  
Representations of Women*

**Page duBois**

With a Foreword by Catharine R. Stimpson  
In this radical examination of women in classical Greece from the time of Homer to the time of Plato, duBois demonstrates how the female gender in the classical period was seen through an elaborate set of metaphors.

*Paper \$12.95 244 pages 13 halftones*

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5801 South Ellis Chicago, IL 60637

Civil War (Wendy Hamand Venet, 0-8139-1342-X, \$25.00), which sounds like its primary focus is tracing how women's work as activists on the abolition issue advanced the feminist movement. Finally, Iowa State has done what nobody else has done as far as I know — published a book on women vets. Entitled **Women in Veterinary Medicine: Profiles of Success** (0-8138-0668-2, \$27.95), it chronicles the lives of twenty women representing a broad professional spectrum.

Beginning the paperback list with titles that would go in our International section, a really interesting November entry from Massachusetts is **Showing Our Colors: Afro-German Women Speak Out** (May Opitz, et al., editors, 087023760-8, \$13.95). The editors are two Black women and one white and the experiences of fourteen African-Americans are presented in a variety of genres. **Latin American Women and the Search for Social Justice** (Francesca Miller, University Press of New England, 0-87451-558-0, \$16.95, January) is the first comprehensive history of women in Latin America and shows how Latin American feminism developed a character of its own and was not derivative of feminism elsewhere. **Women Analyze Women** (Elaine Hoffman Baruch and Lucienne J. Serrano, editors, New York, 0-8147-1170-7, \$12.95), interviews with prominent analysts and writers from France, England, and the U.S., is easily affordable now that it is in paper. Virginia's lead title, **The Romance of the Harem** (Anna Leonowens, edited by Susan Morgan, 0-8139-1328-4, \$12.95), indicts harem life while celebrating the women subjected to it. **The Pillow Book of Sei Shonagon** is available from Columbia (0-231-07337-2, \$12.00). Obscure, but one of those titles that makes me glad university presses exist, is **Women of the Praia: Work and Lives in a Portuguese Coastal Community** (Sally Cole, Princeton, 0-691-02862-1, \$12.95), an exercise in feminist anthropology. Finally, **Plotting Women: Gender and Representation in Mexico** (Jean Franco, Columbia, 0-231-06423-3, \$15.00) is about the common ground for feminist theory and Latin American culture.



Moving on to Women's Studies and Herstory, I think the biggest seller from the presses I looked at is Sheila Jeffreys' new book from New York, **Anticlimax: A Feminist Perspective on the Sexual Revolution** (0-



8147-4180-0, \$11.95). Sure to provoke thought and discussion, her argument is that the sexual liberation movement did not constitute any real gain for women but only continued the tradition of our oppression and an increased eroticization of power differences within the heterosexual, lesbian and gay communities. **Disorders of Desire: Sex and Gender in Modern American Sexology** (Janice M. Irvine, Temple, 0-87722-898-1, \$16.95) is the only thing I know of that considers gender in this field of inquiry. **Feminism Confronts Technology** (Judy Wajcman, Penn State, 0-271-00802-4, \$13.95) analyzes the influence of technology on the lives of women, focusing on the political struggles emerging around reproductive technology, as well as the technologies affecting domestic work, paid labor, and the environment. Two other titles in this category are **The Public Years of Sarah and Angelina Grimke** (Larry Ceplair, Columbia, 0-231-07621-5, \$13.50), a collection of the letters, essays, and speeches of these important feminist abolitionists, and **Charlotte Perkins Gilman: A Non-fiction Reader** (also Columbia, also Larry Ceplair, 0-231-07617-7, \$20.00).

Having gone on too long already, the rest will be primarily a simple listing. In Philosophy, some highlights are as follows: **The Irigaray Reader** (Margaret Whitford, editor, Blackwell, 0-631-170430-X, \$19.95); **Hipparchia's Choice: An Essay Concerning Women and Philosophy** (Michele Le Doeuff, Blackwell, 0-631-17641-1, \$19.95); **Transforming Knowledge** (Elizabeth Kamarck Minnich, Temple, 0-87722-880-9, \$18.95); **The Forms of Power: From Domination to Transformation** (Thomas E. Wartenberg, Temple, 0-87722-905-8, \$19.95); and a book that considers what democracy would look like if applied equally to men and women, **Engendering Democracy** (Anne Phillips, Penn State, 0-271-00784-2, \$13.95).

In Literary Criticism, the most interesting title I found is **Woman's Body, Woman's Word: Gender and Discourse in Arab-Islamic Writing** (Fedwa Malti-Douglas, Princeton, January, 0-691-01488-4, \$12.95). The other one I want to mention is **Sisters and**

**Strangers: An Introduction to Contemporary Feminist Fiction** (Patricia Duncker, Blackwell, December, 0-631-14493-5, \$19.95). And though not literary criticism or feminist focused, Julia Kristeva has a new book, **Language: The Unknown: An Initiation into Linguistics** (Columbia, 0-231-06107-2, \$15.00).



There are a few titles in Labor Studies or what we call "Work" at Women & Children First. My favorite is from Temple, **Dishing It Out: Power and Resistance among Waitresses in a New Jersey Restaurant** (Greta Foff Paules, January, 0-87722-888-2, \$16.95). Though specifically located, it sounds like the material applies to the restaurant business in general and the way women have fashioned it to suit themselves. Others include **Pay Equity: A Feminist Assessment** (Judy Fudge and Patricia McDermott, editors, Toronto, January, 0-8020-6878-2, \$22.50); **Domesticity and Dirt: Housewives and Domestic Servants in the United States, 1920-1945** (Phyllis Palmer, Temple, 0-87722-901-5, \$16.95); **Job Queues, Gender Queues: Explaining Women's Inroads into Male Occupations** (Barbara F. Reskin and Patricia A. Roos, Temple, 0-87722-744-6, \$18.95).

A Lesbian Studies book that sold well for us in hardcover that is available now in paper is **Identity Politics: Lesbian Politics and the Limits of Community** (Shane Phelan, Temple 0-87722-902-3, \$16.95), which "explores the tension between liberal ideals of individual rights and tolerance and communitarian ideals of solidarity" and does it in very practical terms. And to end, one entry in Film Studies: **Blackout: Reinventing Women for Wartime British Cinema** (Antonia Lant, Princeton, 0-691-00828-0, \$15.95). I would probably only order one or two of this book, like many of the other titles noted in this column. But I figure it's the breadth a store gets from covering the far reaches of feminist scholarship that makes it worth scrutinizing the university presses. ○

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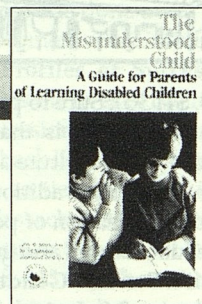
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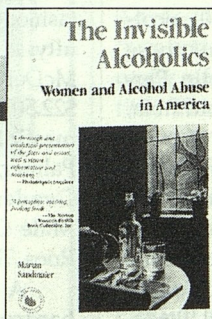
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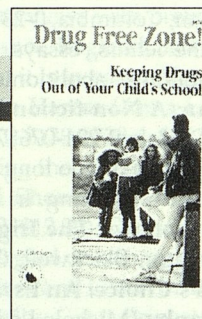
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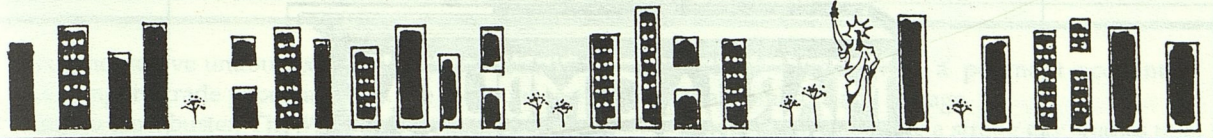
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## AND ON PUBLISHER'S ROW



Compiled by Sandi Torkildson and Shane Snowdon

### ADDISON-WESLEY

A-W's fall biggie is the National Book Award nominee **Praying for Sheetrock**, white Southern writer Melissa Fay Greene's first book (\$21.95 cl, 0-201-55048-2). It's vivid, almost novelistic re-creation of events in a mythical Georgia county in 1978, the year that "the Black people in this land of languid swamps banded together, challenged the white leadership, and brought McIntosh County into the twentieth century." Worried about a white author writing from the Black townspeople's point of view? Well, a rare blurb by Coretta Scott King calls the book "inspiring and absorbing."

It's also enthusiastically blurbed by psychoanalyst Robert Coles, whom many feminists grudgingly admire and who has a new Radcliffe Biography title coming out in January: **Anna Freud: The Dream of Psychoanalysis** (\$19.95 cl, -57707-0). The book's flawed by his reverence for both Anna and her father, but it offers a fascinating, intimate glimpse of the founder of child psychoanalysis, whom he knew well.



Speaking of good guys, Paul Ehrlich and Anne Ehrlich (who are married) have just produced the powerful **Healing the Planet: Strategies for Solving the Environmental Crisis** (\$22.95 cl, -55046-6). These longtime environmentalists are powerful thinkers and writers, and their book will be a winner if it even remotely lives up to its breathless publicity, which claims that they "survey all of the inter-connected problems that the earth faces, and then offer real alternatives to worldwide devastation." — SMS

### BALLANTINE

Ballantine, of all places, has produced some truly impressive fall titles—for example, the spirited autobiography of Gray Panther founder Maggie Kuhn, **No Stone Unturned** (\$18.00 cl, 0-345-37373-1). Another must is **Erotica: Women's Writing from Sappho to Margaret Atwood** edited by Margaret Reynolds with a foreword by Jeanette Winterson (\$20.00 cl, 0-449-90616-7). It offers work by a wide variety of lesbian, bisexual,

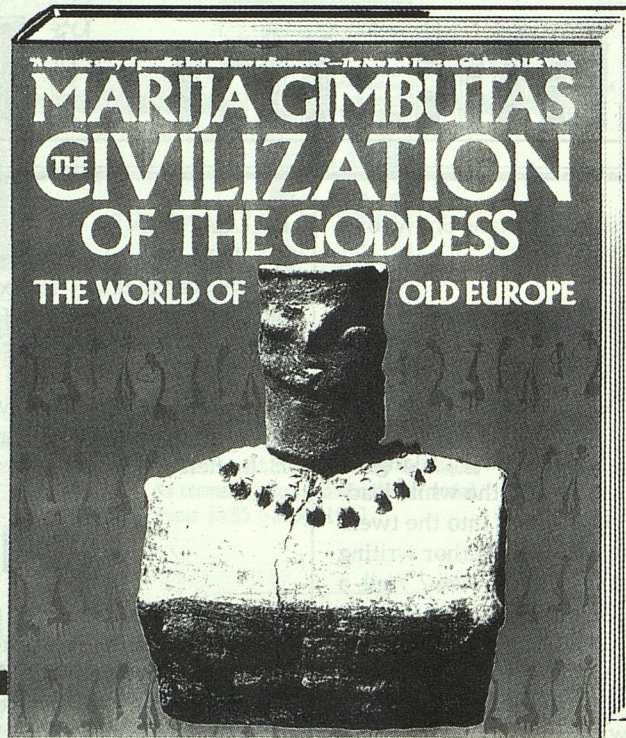


and het writers, renowned and obscure, including Colette, Anais Nin, Marguerite Duras, condemned witches, pulp novelists, and commercial porn authors.

December will bring the long-awaited paperback of Ruth Sidransky's deeply moving **In Silence: Growing Up Hearing in a Deaf World** (\$11.00, 0-345-37425-8). Written in a lyrical style designed to evoke ASL, it describes her experiences as the hearing child of deaf parents: "Her family's apartment was a warm, quiet enclave of love and security, but in the world outside—boisterous Jewish neighborhoods of New York City in the '30s and '40s—Ruth and her family had to endure the curious stares, the stigma of being 'freaks,' and the daily agony of trying to communicate."

September, as you probably know, brought a twentieth-anniversary edition of Frances Lappe's **Diet for a Small Planet** (\$14.00 pb, -37366-9). It also saw paperbacks of Dr. Miriam Stoppard's **Everywoman's Medical Handbook** (\$15.00, -37356-1), written from a patients' rights standpoint and organized in A-Z style, and Englishwoman Terri Apter's **Altered Loves: Mothers and Daughters During Adolescence** (\$10.00, 0-449-90631-0), which argues that teenage girls reconnect to their mothers through con-

# The true dawn of civilization



World-renowned archaeologist Marija Gimbutas presents the most comprehensive account yet written of the earliest Western civilization: the matrifocal, Goddess-centered culture of Neolithic Europe whose peaceful, earth-respecting values have much to teach us today. "A monumental, truly encyclopedic book, a work that can change history."—Riane Eisler, author of *The Chalice and the Blade*

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—*The New York Times* on Gimbutas's Life Work


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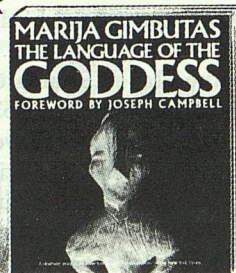
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42106-0, 12/91). It's a story collection, with settings ranging from late-'50s coffee bars to wild Canadian landscapes "both menacing and alluring." It is Atwood at her very best: deeply "rich, alarming, satisfying."

— SMS

## ANCHOR/DOUBLEDAY

The only fall/winter title I haven't already bubbled over here is the paperback of **Female Perversions: The Temptations of Emma Bovary** by psychoanalyst Louise Kaplan (\$14.00, 0-385-26234-5, 1/92). Though it's sometimes guilty of dressing up in fancy language some pretty familiar feminist insights, it's often original and powerful. The book uses the example of Flaubert's Emma Bovary to redefine perversions as strategies for repressing childhood trauma and disguising "cross-gender wishes," and goes on to point out a whole class of perversions unnoticed by the male-dominated social order: self-destructive "female behaviors" like "extreme submissiveness, kleptomaniac, feminine masquerades, delicate skin-cutting, compulsive hair-plucking, cosmetic surgery, and anorexia." Kaplan's ultimate point is that perversions support the misogynistic order they supposedly undermine by disguising and caricaturing gender stereotypes.

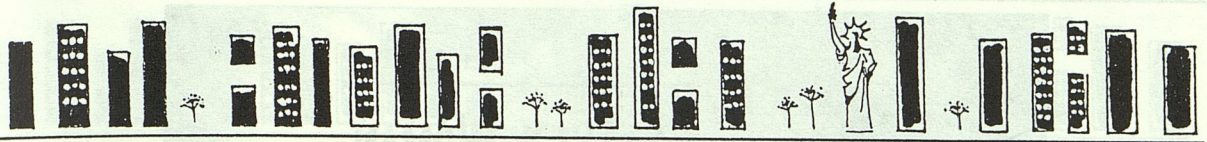
By way of reminder, the titles I previously enthused about are the paperback of Alice Miller's **Banished Knowledge: Facing Childhood Injuries** (\$10.00, -26762-2), the paperback of J. California Cooper's stunning narrative **Family** (\$9.00, -41172-3, 1/92), and the reissue of Cooper's well-loved story collection **A Piece of Mine** (\$8.50 pb, -42087-0, 1/92).

— SMS



## FABER & FABER

The pick of Faber's fall/winter crop is **Unending Dialogue: Voices from an AIDS Poetry Workshop** by feminist poet Rachel Hadas (\$15.95 cl, 0-571-12943-9, 1/92). Hadas runs a poetry workshop for people with AIDS at NYC's Gay Men's Health Crisis, and the book features 45 poems by workshop participants. It also includes writing by Hadas: an essay describing how she began the workshop and how it's affected her, some of the poems that have



emerged from her experiences there, and a prose commentary on the poems.

Another must is **Revenge: Short Stories by Women Writers** edited by English journalist Kate Saunders (\$19.95 cl, -12904-8). It promises to celebrate "the subtlety, insight, wit, and patience that women bring to acts of vengeance," whether "swift and shocking" or "painstaking and delicate," prompted by a romantic wrong or social injustice. Several of the stories were written especially for the collection, while others were penned by Louisa May Alcott, Elizabeth Gaskell, Elizabeth Bowen, Ellen Gilchrist, Muriel Spark, and Alice Walker, among others.

Stores with gay men's sections will definitely want to stock up on **The Faber Book of Gay Short Fiction** edited and with an intro by noted novelist Edmund White (\$24.95 cl, -14472-1). White's foreword, which notes the joint outsidership of gays and writers, is substantial and compelling, and the fiction presented gives a historical overview, "from the oblique beginnings of E.M. Forster and Ronald Firbank, through the mid-century fiction of Christopher Isherwood and Denton Welch, to the bolder fiction of the Americans—Gore Vidal, Tennessee Williams, William Burroughs, and James Baldwin." Other writers represented include Henry James, Paul Bowles, Armistead Maupin, Alan Hollinghurst, David Leavitt, and Allan Gurganus.



Faber has also published a fascinating chunk of women's history in **The Selected Letters of Somerville and Ross** edited by Gifford Lewis with a foreword by Molly Keane (\$14.95 pb, -15349-6). Cousins Edith Somerville and Violet "Ross" Martin grew up in poor Anglo-Irish families and went on to collaborate on numerous works of fiction, including one of the most celebrated novels of the nineteenth century. The letters between them, which span three decades, are

"lively, intimate, and full of close observation, recording aspects of Irish life previously unremarked by male writers" (no kidding). — SMS



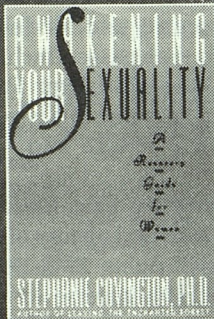
## HARPERCOLLINS

A new collection of romantic and erotic writing by some of the best contemporary American writers is due out for Valentine's Day. **The Unmade Bed** edited by Laura Chester (\$22.00 cl, 0060166096, 2/92) explores the many emotions and experiences that are associated with commitment and intimacy of marriage. These stories look at such topics as the conflict between security and infidelity, and the re-discovery of love as time passes. Included are stories by Sharon Olds, Tobias Wolff, Lynn Sharon Schwartz and Laurie Colwin. I assume this is very heterosexual since it deals with marriage and it does include writings by men.

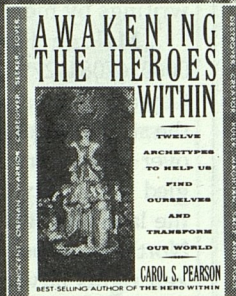
**Making History** by Eric Marcus (\$25.00 cl, 0060167084, 2/92) is an oral history of the struggle for Gay and Lesbian civil rights, 1945-1990. This book is the stories of remarkably diverse Americans from all over the country and all walks of life who have struggled for dignity, visibility and equal treatment under the law. Here are the stories of such people as Ann Northrop, a Boston debutante who became an outspoken rights advocate, Copy Berg, a Naval Academy graduate who fought his dismissal from the Navy and Episcopal Bishop John Shelby Spong, who has challenged the church by calling for the blessing of same-sex relationships.

**Feminist Art Criticism** edited by Arlene Raven (\$15.00 pb, 0064302164, 1/92) is an anthology of thirteen diverse essays on feminist art criticism. This accessible collection covers a broad scope of concerns, among which are spirituality, sexuality, the representation of women in art, and the interrelationship of theory and action. This collection was originally published by UMI press.

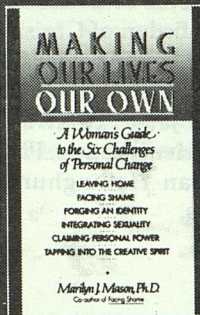
# FOR EVERY WOMAN WHO WANTS TO TAKE CHARGE OF HER LIFE



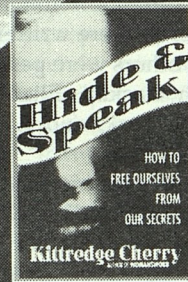
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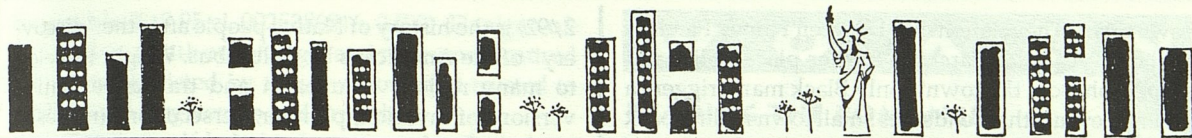
"Cherry shows that secrets are something to be honored — sometimes kept, sometimes revealed, but always respected for the light they shed on what makes us human." — David Crawford, author of *Easing the Ache*. Selected by the Book-of-the-Month Club.  
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A book for the mothers of adolescent daughters, **Don't Stop Loving Me** by Ann F. Caron (\$10.00 pb, 0060974028, 1/92) is a reassuring guide through this complex time in a girl's life. Caron covers such topics as female adolescent development of the body as well as the mind, issues of trust, dependency, sex and friends. Her advice is practical and thoughtful.

**Downshifting** by Amy Saltzman (\$10.00 pb, 0060921587, 2/92) looks at the slower track for successful professionals who are sick of the fast lane and want to take control of their careers rather than allowing their careers to control their lives. It looks at fulfillment and happiness as more than just job success.

From the author of *Women, Sex and Addiction* comes a new book that confronts the mystique of the 12-step program. **Many Roads, One Journey** by Charlotte Kasl (\$16.00 pb, 1559945478, 2/92) finds that while many people find 12-step programs invaluable, countless others find the focus on conformity, humility and personal failings counter to their need for self-affirmation in overcoming issues of childhood abuse, sexism, racism, poverty and homophobia. Kasl stresses the importance of individuals and groups finding their own sources of strength and offers a flexible 16-step alternative.



**Women Talk About Gynecological Surgery** by Amy Gross and Dee Ito (\$11.00 pb, 0060974567, 2/92) is a valuable resource for women who want to remain in control of their health. Based on interviews with women nationwide, it presents personal stories of women who have undergone gynecological operations from diagnosis to recovery. Included are a glossary of medical terminology, a section on patients' rights, insurance analysis and information that teaches women how to become active partners with their doctors in planning the course of treatment and recovery.

In **Giving Away Success**, Susan Schenkel (\$10.00 pb, 0060974605, 2/92) explains why women lack confidence in their abilities, how they have learned helplessness, why they are unable to mobilize themselves and yet fear failure and success. More than a self-help book, **Giving Away Success** examines the underlying causes of women's predisposition to stop short of success.



To celebrate the centenary of the birth of Edna St. Vincent Millay, HarperPerennial is publishing a new selection of her best and most popular poems, lyrics and sonnets. **Edna St. Vincent Millay: Selected Poems** (\$9.00 pb, 0060922885, 2/92) is a carefully chosen collection that demonstrates that the finest poetry can be accessible to ordinary readers.

HarperPerennial has a few good novels due out early in 1992. **Rima In The Weeds** is a first novel by Deirdre McNamer (\$10.00 pb, 0060922621, 2/92). This coming of age story is set in the American West and tells the story of Dorrie Vane who returns home with her baby to Madrid, Montana. In this small town perched on a prairie with hundreds of buried nuclear missiles, Dorrie must deal with the bitter memories of a disastrous love affair, her mother's mental illness, her father's Communist paranoia, and the adulation of her 10-year-old babysitter.

The first U.S. paperback edition of Penelope Lively's first novel, **The Road To Lichfield** (\$10.00 pb, 0060974613, 2/92) is a welcome addition for her fans. This is the story of Anne Linton, a forty-year-old wife of a lawyer, mother of two, who travels the road to Lichfield to a nursing home where her father lays dying and to the old family house. In Lichfield she encounters a schoolmaster and begins a passionate love affair. Lively explores the surprises of memory and identity that weave across generations even when the past is never fully known.

**Sweet Eyes** by Jonis Agee (\$11.00 pb, 0060974508, 2/92) is the story of an interracial love affair in a small

Iowa town. The relationship between Honey Parris, a white 33-year-old searching for her place in life and Jasper Johnson, the town's only Black man, triggers a chain of events that sends this small town reeling back to an unsolved murder from 15 years ago. Honey must face up to the hatred and violence beneath the surface and reconcile the past while struggling for her own identity. — ST

## HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

**A Voice Of One's Own** by Mickey Pearlman and Katherine Usher Henderson (\$8.95 pb, 0395599725, 1/92) is a collection of conversational profiles of 28 American women writers. Among them is Louise Erdrich talking about family myths, Diane Johnson on the role of memory in fiction, Gloria Naylor on the awakening of her ethnic identity and Amy Tan on the differences between male and female writers. Also included in this collection are conversations with M. F. K. Fisher, Marge Piercy, Anne Lamott and Mona Simpson.

The reissue of an earlier book that examined the destructive nature of male roles comes on the heels of the books by Robert Bly and Sam Keen. **A Choice Of Heroes** by Mark Gerzon (\$10.95 pb, 0395611520, 1/92) challenges the very concept of what it means to be a man and reflects on changes in the ideas of masculinity and heroism in our culture.

**The Caregiver's Guide** by Caroline Rob and Janet Reynolds (\$12.95 pb, 0395587808, 1/92) is a guide for people caring for aging parents or relatives. It is estimated that 80 percent of adult American women will at some point be taking care of an aging parent or relative. This book is a practical and completely up-to-date guide packed with medical information written by two geriatric nurses.



A new edition of Ann Petry's **The Street** (\$9.95 pb, 0395573807, 2/92) is due out. This is the story of a young Black women's struggle to live and raise her son by herself amid the violence, poverty and racism of Harlem in the late 1940's. This is a classic that should never go out of print.

**Stolen Continents; The Americas Through Indian Eyes** by Ronald Wright (\$22.95 cl, 0395565006,

2/92) is the history of Native people after the "discovery" of the Americas by Columbus. Wright traveled to many regions to unearth and transcribe Native versions of invasion, plunder, persecution, and resistance to European invasion. Through translation of texts, through paintings and in eye-witness accounts passed down through generations, **Stolen Continents** reveals the tragedy and also the perseverance of the Native American experience. — ST



## HYPERION

You say you've never heard of it? Well, Hyperion is the newly-formed publishing arm of the Walt Disney Co., and its fall list features what I believe to be the first illustrated version of the 12 Steps, Karen Greene's aptly titled **12 Steps/Illustrated** (\$12.95 cl, 1-56282-999-8, 10/91, 40pp, 28 5-color and 12 2-color illus). This gift edition combines the steps and Greene's own words with "inspirational quotes and affirmations from popular metaphysical teachings, all beautifully integrated into lush and colorful art." Illustrations also adorn **Amazing Grace** (\$15.95 cl, -998-X, 11/91, 64pp, 24 duotones), a gift edition that presents the complete song, its music, and a "candid introduction" by Judy Collins "revealing how, in the midst of troubled times, the hymn was able to lift her out of despair." — SMS

## MACMILLAN

**Gardens Are For Dreaming** (\$22.95 cl, 0684193671, 1/92) is a collection of letters that Jean Harris has written from prison to journalist Shana Alexander. Harris not only shared her intimate thoughts with Alexander but these letters draw a harrowing picture of prison life. Harris tells the tales of other inmates, their shredded lives and their bleak prospects for the future.

**Mother India** by Pranay Gupte (\$24.95 cl, 0684192969, 2/92) is a political biography of Indira Gandhi. This book covers the history of twentieth-century India and the life of the woman who left an indelible mark on India.

Beverly Flanigan offers a six-stage program for transcending the injuries inflicted by loved ones and achieving forgiveness in her book **Forgiving the Un-**

**forgivable** (\$19.95 cl, 0025386816, 2/92). Flanigan offers readers a path out of anger and resentment caused by injuries inflicted by those we love and trusted to healing and forgiveness and growth.

Another self-help book on a much-asked-about topic is **Shattered Assumption** by Ronnie Janoff-Bulman (\$22.95 cl, 0029160154, 2/92). This book looks at the effects of trauma on people's lives and constructs a framework for understanding the often paradoxical behavior of survivors. Drawn on fifteen years of research on survivors of trauma (sudden deaths, crippling accidents, earthquakes), this book seeks to understand what psychological trauma is and how best to cope with it.

**Rebel: A Biography Of Agnes Smedley** by Ruth Price (\$24.95 cl, 0029254523, 2/92) is to be published on the centenary of Smedley's birth. Smedley was a journalist, feminist and political activist whose radical awakening occurred in the coal fields of southern Colorado at the turn of the century. She continued her radical education in Greenwich Village, Weimar Germany, Stalinist Russia, and Mao's China. Ruth Price illuminates Smedley's complex life, her charisma and dramatic flair and her life of political risk taking.

— ST

## NORTON

A biography of Abby Kelley, a vocal and radical abolitionist and feminist, by Dorothy Sterling (the author of *We Are Your Sisters*) is due in November. **Ahead Of Her Time** (\$22.95 cl, 0393030261, 11/91) is the first full-scale biography of this young white woman, a loving wife and mother who became the chief money-raiser of the antislavery movement and was a foremother to the women's rights movement.



The Before Columbus Foundation is publishing two anthologies of muticultural, multi-ethnic and multiracial literature that reflect this country's true "mainstream." **The Before Columbus Foundation Fiction Anthology** edited by Ishmael Reed, et al., (\$12.95 pb, 0393308324, 1/92) includes selections from Kay Boyle, Toni Morrison, Sandra Cisneros, and Leslie Silko. **The Before Columbus Foundation Poetry Anthology** edited by Ishmael Reed, et al. (\$12.95,

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0393308332, 1/92) includes the work of over fifty poets, including Ai, Amiri Baraka and Leslie Scalapino. These anthologies are as various as the country itself and range in theme, subject matter and geographical origin as diverse as contemporary America.

**My Sister's Keeper** by Margaret Moorman (\$21.95 cl, 0393029875, 2/92) is the story of the author's sister's mental illness and the profound affects it had on her childhood and family. When her sister Sally was first hospitalized in 1959 for schizophrenia, her illness was hidden from neighbors and friends and denied in countless ways within the family. In this courageous and candid book, the reader learns of Margaret Moorman's difficult past, her fears that she too would become ill, her ambivalence about

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having a family of her own, and her longing for attention from her parents who were overwhelmed by her sister's disability. We also see Sally in periods when she is stabilized on medication and making strides toward independence and when she is marked by delusions, compulsions and paralyzing depression. This is an inspiring story for anyone who has been affected by the mental illness of a family member or close friend.

**The Now Women and the Old Men: Love, Sex and the Woman Question** by Ruth Brandon (\$12.95 pb, 0393308111, 2/92) is a portrait of an extraordinary group of men and women at the turn of the century in England. This group of progressive thinkers included Havelock Ellis, Olive Schreiner, Eleanor Marx, Sidney and Beatrice Webb, Margaret Sanger and H. G. Wells. Brandon examines the gulf between their principles and practice, particularly in their marriages and sexual relationships.

Renowned antinuclear activist, Helen Caldicott, M.D., looks at the race to save the planet as the ozone layer is being depleted, pollution is on the increase, and the U. S. is consuming 25% of the world energy resources for 5% of the world's population in her new book **If You Love This Planet** (\$10.95 pb, 0393308359, 3/92). She also gives us a prescription for cure and hope. We must use energy efficiently, organize politically and hold corporations and governments accountable for their actions.

A new novel by Filipina writer Ninotchka Rosca is a dark comedy of moral corruption and political intrigue in the Philippines. **Twice Blessed** (\$19.95 cl, 0393030911, 3/92) is the story of the twins, Hector and Katerina and their rise to power in the shifting alliances and corruption that dominate political life in their country.

— ST



**PENGUIN USA**

**To Herland And Beyond** by Ann J. Lane (\$12.95 pb, 0452010802) is a biography of a prominent social theorist, writer and early feminist Charlotte Perkins Gilman. Relying on personal documents, Lane offers an intimate and illuminating portrait of the complex woman who struggled with poverty, depression and social censure all her life.



**About Time: Exploring The Gay Past** by Martin Duberman (\$12.95 pb, 0452010810, 12/91) is a revised and expanded edition of this collection of rare documents of essays, speeches and writings about gay liberation covering the past two centuries. These articles cover such subjects as coming out, bisexuality in the ancient world, racism among gays, and radicalism and reform in the gay rights movement.



**A Scrambling After Circumstance** by Margaret-Love Denman (\$8.95 pb, 0140153993,) is a first novel by a new Southern voice. This haunting novel about Eula B. Carpenter, a bedridden rural Mississippi woman who would rather be on her farm planting than stuck in her daughter's trailer listening to her loutish son-in-law wolf down leftovers and her daughter's conversation which is limited to "food talk and bathroom talk." Eula's mind wanders through a life filled with disappointment and unexpected grace.

Using historical references and contemporary observation, Cherry Gilchrist portrays nine archetypes that represent different but equally important aspects of the feminine psyche in her book **The Circle Of Nine** (\$9.95 pb, 0140193065,). Gilchrist provides a guide to women for enhancing self-awareness through mythology.

The autobiography of ballerina, Suzanne Farrell, **Holding On To The Air** (\$10.95 pb, 0140157220, 12/91), is both a love story and a history of American ballet. Farrell, the daughter of a Cincinnati meat-packer, became one of ballet's greatest dancers. Farrell writes with frankness about her conflict with George Balanchine and their reconciliation that led to their unparalleled creative partnership.

The latest novel by Nadine Gordimer, **My Son's Story** (\$9.95 pb, 0140159754, 12/91), is the story told by a son about his father who he discovers has a relationship with a white activist. Will sees his father Sonny, a "colored" schoolteacher who is a hero in the struggle against apartheid, in a movie with a white woman. Based on what he knows and what he imagines, Will tells a story of the anguish and pain between family life and political action, the jealousy between father and son, and the power of apartheid in South Africa today.

**Bitter Herbs** by Marga Minco (\$11.95 pb, 0140108300, 12/91) is a personal account of a young Jewish girl's escape from the Nazis in 1940s Holland. As a young schoolgirl separated from her family, Minco chronicles her escape from the horrors of the Holocaust and her faith in human nature. — ST

## PENGUIN VIRAGO

**The Corner That Held Them** by Sylvia Townsend Warner (\$9.95 pb, 0140162143, 12/91) offers an ironic look at a hidden convent which shares the ambitions, pleasures, and jealousies of less spiritual environments. — ST

## RANDON HOUSE

A debut by a writer who has been compared to Jane Smiley and Jayne Anne Phillips looks interesting and since Phillips hasn't published in years we might as well have someone who writes as well as she does.

**As Much As I Know** by Susan Thames (\$18.00 cl, 0679404953, 1/92) is a collection of stories about the lives of ordinary people in small towns and nameless places. In one story a lonely woman struggles with her incestuous past as her teenage son leaves home. In another a woman anguishes as she returns to her childhood home with her own daughter. I look forward to this collection.

**The Girls In The Balcony** by Nan Robertson (\$22.00 cl, 039458452x, 2/92) is the infuriating and inspiring story of the fight for equal rights at the *New York Times*. This book tells the behind-the-scenes story of the sex discrimination suit that shook the newspaper to its liberal foundations in the early 1970s.



**Passions Of The Mind** by A. S. Byatt (\$25.00 cl, 0679405119, 1/92) is a collection of essays by the author of the much acclaimed *Possession*. These essays about literature open with a discussion of the ideas, images, and attitudes that are the foundation of her fiction. She writes about a vast array of women writers including Willa Cather, Sylvia Plath and Toni Morrison. She also explores the relationship between religion and narrative in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. — ST

## ROUTLEDGE

You know that history of female execution your customers have been requesting? It's finally here! **Death Comes to the Maiden: Sex and Execution 1431-1933** by Camille Naish (\$45.00 cl, 0-415-05585-7, 11/91) "reveals the sexual prejudices experienced by those condemned to die by hanging, burning, or decapitation," and "considers the symbolic aspects of female execution," too. Sorry, no counter display available.

**Beyond the Pale: White Women, Racism and History** by British journalist Vron Ware (\$16.95 pb, 0-86091-552-2, 12/91) claims to be "a major contribution to a growing body of anti-racist work which confronts the historical meanings of whiteness and tries to overcome the moralism that has so often infused anti-racism." Ware uses biography, autobiography, cultural analysis, and narratives of British history to argue that white femininity is a historically constructed category and that Black and white women can draw closer by "taking apart the different meanings of femininity and womanhood."

In **Helene Cixous: A Politics of Writing** (\$13.95 pb, 0-415-01334-8, 12/91), British professor Morag Shiach examines Cixous's fiction and drama, as well as her better-known theoretical and critical writings. She describes the French feminist's thought, clarifying its philosophical and historical context, and does close analysis of her creative work.



**Challenging Cancer: From Chaos to Control** by Israeli therapist Nira Kfir and English MD Maurice Slevin (\$15.95 pb, -06344-2, 12/91) does not focus on women exclusively, but ends with the inspiring story of Vicky Clement Jones, founder of BACUP, Britain's leading cancer support organization. Most of the rest of the book reports on the coping strategies of cancer patients, as revealed in group workshops.

bell hooks, Donna Haraway, and Michele Wallace are among the contributors to **Cultural Studies** edited by Lawrence Grossberg, Cary Nelson, and Paula Treichler (\$24.95 pb, -90345-9, 12/91), which is being touted as the most ambitious and broadly international collection on cultural studies ever published. Its essays address race and minority discourses, ethnicity

and postcolonialism, postmodernism, feminism, cultural policy, popular culture and other topics through explorations of such "forms of cultural production" as "rock music, Chicano art, detective novels, African-American writing, the AIDS epidemic, architecture, reproductive freedom, sati, Star Trek fandom, and New Age technology."

Julia Knight, author of **Women and the New German Cinema** (\$16.95 pb, 0-86091-568-9, 11/91), believes that there are proportionally more women directors in Germany than anywhere else and that they have been highly influential. Introducing the women who have been passed over in celebrations of male directors like Fassbinder and Wenders, she looks at "the principal characteristics of women's filmmaking," the influence of the women's movement on cinema, the notion of a "feminist aesthetic," and the so-called "post-feminist cinema." — SMS

## SIMON &amp; SCHUSTER

This fall brought a large crop of "women's titles" from S&S, most of them ho-hum. One of the best is **Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China** by Jung Chang (\$25.00 cl, 0-671-68546-5). It tells the story of Jung Chang herself (who left China in '78 after serving as a Red Guard), her mother (a communist denounced in the Cultural Revolution), and her grandmother (who lived in feudal society as concubine to a warlord). Jung Chang, now a Londoner, writes with moving simplicity and supplements her chronicle with 16 pages of photos.

Two October titles billed as feminist probably won't set your mouth to watering. Flora Davis's **Moving the Mountain: The Women's Movement in America Since 1960** (\$22.50 cl, -60207-1) has the usual problem of star orientation (with Steinem and Friedan on the cover), but does present some grassroots activists; Davis, a middle-roadish feminist, has written for *Reader's Digest* and *Mademoiselle*. Sexpert Nancy Friday, whose orientation is overwhelmingly heterosexual, has released **The Seduction of Eros: Women's Sexual Fantasies of Power, Self-Exploration, and Insatiable Lust** (\$21.50 cl, -64844-6). Like her earlier books, it combines transcripts of sexual fantasies (a few of them lesbian) with her interpretations of them. Her basic point? That while women 20 years ago tended to fantasize about seduction by dominant men, we

now visualize ourselves as "dominant, and often insatiable."

Moving right along, we have **The Rites of Man: Sex, Love & Death in the Making of the Male** by Rosalind Miles, the British women's studies prof who wrote *The Women's History of the World* (\$19.50 cl, -74492-5). It analyzes components of manhood, stages of men's lives, and male ordeals and rituals "to investigate the source of domestic violence and child abuse, and to reveal the exorbitant emotional price that men pay for their pursuit of dominance."



Speaking of which, don't miss **The Natural Inferiority of Women in the Words of the Masters** by businesswoman/Esalen teacher Tama Starr (\$15.50 cl, -74431-3), available in a 6-copy counter display. Compiled over two decades, it features 3,000 years of misogynistic quotations, from Confucius and Hindu proverbs to Leo Tolstoy and Lee Marvin. Though it's ultimately depressing rather than amusing, it will probably sell briskly.

October also brought Sue Hertz's **Caught in the Crossfire: A Year on Abortion's Front Line** (\$20.00 cl,

0-13-381914-0). Billed as "brave and even-handed," it describes the year that Hertz (who appears to be pro-choice) spent at Boston's largest abortion clinic—the year it was blockaded by Operation Rescue. Highly readable, the book draws on interviews with patients, police, and clinic staff.

S&S's fall self-help offerings include titles on breast cancer, child support, "feminine fusion," and AIDS. **The Race Is Run One Step at a Time: Every Woman's Guide to Taking Charge of Breast Cancer** (\$10.00 pb, 0-671-74804-1), authored by cancer survivor Nancy Brinker with Catherine McEvily Harris, offers clear information on detection, disease, support-gathering, and treatment options to women both diagnosed and at risk. **Child Support: How to Get What Your Child Needs and Deserves** by twice-divorced mother of five Carole Chambers (\$19.50 cl, -73449-0) "provides all the information a mother needs to design, enforce, and collect child-support payments," including sample forms and a state-by-state resource guide. **Feminine Fusion: The Power to Transform Strength with Sensitivity, Logic with Intuition, and Sexuality with Spirituality** (\$10.00 pb, -70844-9, 12/91) by (female) Chris Griscom, author of *Ecstasy Is a New Frequency*, appears to be aimed more at men than women with its

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emphasis on nurturing "the 'feminine' parts of one's personality."

Getting much attention, including a cover story in the Sunday insert *Parade*, is Niro Markoff Asistent's **Why I Survive AIDS** (\$10.00 pb, -68352-7, or \$19.50 cl, -74765-7), with a foreword by Elisabeth Kubler-Ross. A lecturer and workshop leader, Asistent describes the techniques she used to heal herself from "AIDS Related Complex," including journal-keeping, meditation, self-therapy, nutrition, exercise, and priority-setting.



Also of special interest to gay men will be **Growing Up Gay in a Dysfunctional Family: A Guide for Gay Men Reclaiming Their Lives** by San Francisco social worker Rik Isensee (\$12.00 pb, 0-13-346958-1, 12/91). Designed for men "suffering from substance abuse, addictive behavior, and low self-esteem," it outlines a step-by-step recovery process.

Gay customers may also find John Gruen's authorized biography **Keith Haring** a good buy at thirty bucks (-516113-4), since it includes 32 b/w and 104 color photos of the artist/activist's work. The bio includes candid interviews with Haring about his coming-out process and his impending death from AIDS.

S&S plans to open '92 with some strong releases, foremost among them Kate Millett's agonizing-yet-absolutely-fascinating **Sita** (\$11.00 pb, 0-671-73169-6, 1/92). Featuring a new intro, this reprint gives another generation of readers a chance to wince through Millett's obsession with the elusive Sita, detailed with amazing candor and power.

Just as brave and affecting is **Taking Back My Life** by Nancy Ziegenmeyer with Larkin Warren (\$19.50 cl, -73455-5, 1/92). Ziegenmeyer, the Iowan whose courageous decision to tell the story of her rape and recovery in a local newspaper brought her national attention, describes the assault, its impact on her, the frustrating trial that resulted, her determination to make her anger public, and her transformation into a well-known spokeswoman for rape survivors.

January will also bring five notable self-help titles, including a paperback of one of the first books on CFS/CFIDS, **Hope and Help for Chronic Fatigue Syndrome** by Karyn Feiden (\$10.00 -75944-2). Written in conjunction with the CFS/CFIDS network, it gives

advice on spotting early warning signs and symptoms, selecting a sensitive physician, choosing medication and therapies, and tracking research.

Another ground-breaking health title, **The Female Heart: The Truth About Women and Coronary Artery Disease** by cardiologist Marianne J. Legato and Carol Colman (\$20.50 cl, -76110-2, 1/92), shatters the myth that women are less susceptible to heart disease than men. It condemns the lack of research on women and heart ailments, profiles the high-risk woman, discusses the impact of stress, and goes over preventive diet and exercise strategies.

S&S will follow up its fall self-integration title with **Dance of the Selves: Uniting the Male and Female Within** by psychotherapist/lecturer Loretta Ferrier (\$11.00 pb, -72839-3, 1/92). Ferrier explores "how a dynamic pairing of logic and intuition can unleash your full creativity and happiness" delineating male and female archetypes like Attila the Hun, the Wimp, the Amazon, and Miss Sugar and Spice.

Finally, **Free Money for Day Care** by Laurie Blum (\$12.00 pb, -74590-5, 1/92) offers down-to-earth advice on finding money for family day care, child care centers, in-house care, and camp and summer programs. — SMS ○

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**Short Raves**, continued from page 22.

daily humanity both to their denomination and to the larger world.

Common to the lives of these diverse women was a commitment to their bonds to other women, expressed not only in their active mentorship of their younger sisters but often on life-long professional and domestic partnerships with other women. These women were also not restrained by traditional distinctions between the roles of minister/social reformer/counselor/philosopher. These were women of many talents and a burning desire to do what was necessary for their communities.

Though the book is academic in nature, I found it very *useful* in its examination of the struggle between the personal and public lives of these women — a struggle very akin to our *own* as we go about this “ministry” of developing and expanding women’s culture and community.

The author of *Prophetic Sisterhood* is a professor of English at Memphis State University and the author of two other biographies of nineteenth century women, *A Woman’s Ministry: Mary Collson’s Search for Reform* and *Kate Freeman Clark: A Painter Rediscovered*.

— Audrey May  
Meristem, Memphis, TN ○

**Nett**, continued from page 34.

seeking. Writers are cautioned not to elevate writing above other contributions to our culture for others. Nor must we place that burden upon writers.

Putting yourself in print is the queasy stomach combination of taking the leap into the world at the same time hoping to be well received. It’s a false intimacy. The writer does all the self-revealing, stands completely undressed and then pleads to know what we all think. This is a consumer culture that consumes its writers. It is a set-up. Writers, Readers, Publishers, Reviewers, Booksellers are all a community. The quality of our cultural expression and the importance of it in our lives is reflected in the engagement of all of us in creating community. Good art sets something in motion.

The best way to support the writer’s cultural work is to accept the writer’s truth as challenge, to put it into a context of community for our own growth, integrity, clarity. Writers need to know this is what

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they are doing: that in opening a dialogue they will hear the voices of others. We all need to be responsible for our response. From this polylogue we will receive more voices, different voices, voices that help us get on with it. This community of self-knowing women can make better cultural relationships, have fewer writer neuroses, and be energized by the movement we make.

— *Graphics in Nett’s column are from* *Awakening: An Almanac of Lesbian Lore and Vision by Nett Hart, Lee Lanning and other word weavers.* ○

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**Gaia's Guide-1991/92. Worldwide Lesbian Guide Book.** 16th edition. Mail order: \$16.00 — (inc. p. & p.) from: **Lambda Rising**, 1625 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington DC 20009. 800-621-6969. Gaia's Guide-1991/92 is also on sale in every Feminist-Lesbian-Gay-Alternative Bookstore in the world. In-store Price: \$12.95.

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