
Feminist Bookstore News





The Children's Books Issue

January/February 1993

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Volume 15 Number 5

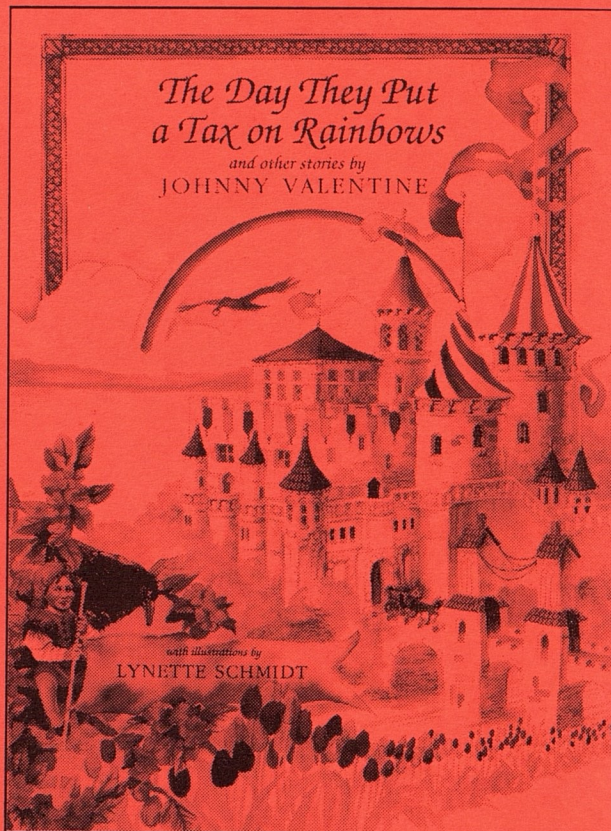
Am 1/193

The Day They Put a Tax on Rainbows

by Johnny Valentine,
illustrated by Lynette Schmidt

Three brothers use their unique talents to discover hidden treasure ... a girl is washed off her boat during a storm and discovers a kingdom beneath the sea ... and a young boy saves his village from a future without rainbows. These three new fairy tales feature the adventures of kids who happen to have lesbian and gay parents. Ages 5 to 10.

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ISBN 1-55583-201-6.



By the same author and illustrator:

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• "One of the outstanding children's books of the season." —Robert Hale, in *The Horn Book Magazine*

• "Many alternative families and progressive parents will be delighted to find this collection on library shelves." —*Booklist*

• "Five artfully crafted stories about brave

children who take a stand, make a difference, save their 'world,' and often teach adults a lesson in the process. The illustrations are bright and beautiful and depict children of all races." —*Deneuve*

• "Finally, an exciting book full of imagination, action, and drama that incorporates lesbian and gay parents without focusing on the 'lesbian/gay issue.' Highly recommended for all families!" —*The Purple Crayon*

Order direct (1-800-8-ALYSON) or from InBook, Bookpeople, Inland, and other wholesalers.

ALYSON PUBLICATIONS • 40 PLYMPTON STREET • BOSTON, MA 02118

NOTES FROM THE COMPUTER TABLE

Welcome to FBN's first-ever Children's Books Issue. My personal thanks and appreciation to Ann Morse and Cill Janeway who took the idea and ran with it. Their enthusiasm brought the issue into existence. All three of us send our thanks to the women who suggested that we do a kids' books issue and to everyone who sent ideas, information, suggestions, book lists, and raves. You sent even more information than we could use! In the end we decided to focus on the issues and practice of selling kids' books rather than on specific titles or topical lists. Even at that we feel that we've just scratched the surface of the many issues related to children's bookselling.

This issue includes some of Linda Bubon's tried-and-true tips for selling children's books. While our section on evaluating children's books for bias is specific to books for/about Indian children, the skills apply to all of the books in the section. Discussions of cultural appropriation and/or exclusion came up again and again in the course of this issue (see also the letters column). The publisher's column looks at the ways that independent and small press titles are excluded by the Children's Book Council and at some of the effects of that exclusion. We're also delighted to have the CCBC's list of people-of-color owned presses that do children's books. We hope you find the articles useful and we're eager for your feedback and your suggestions for issues and topics to cover next time.

It's been an intense two months. There was the thrill of "winning" an election followed by a wonderful wave of hope. And then there was the horrible news of Audre Lorde's death. After the rumors that circulated last year, we didn't want to believe it was true. We are never ready for these deaths, never ready to relinquish those who have led us and inspired us. And so we gather together to mourn and rage. There have been memorials for Audre Lorde all over the

country. At the service here, a wonderful gathering of hundreds of people from many different communities, Cherríe Moraga spoke of the way that Audre is bringing us together, even in her death. Two women from Germany came and spoke of Audre's impact on Afro-German women during the time she spent in Germany. We publish their words in this issue as our eulogy to Audre Lorde. As we go to press we've heard of yet another memorial — January 18th at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. And we continue to hear of many projects, ideas and changes inspired by or wrought by Audre Lorde. Who is collecting these?

And yet, even in the face of death, the hope and the work continues. FBN's new, updated List of Women's Bookstores includes thirteen new feminist

FBN Deadlines

Spring Announcements
March/April
January 27

ABA Special Issue
May/June
March 24

bookstores for a record breaking total of 115 feminist bookstores in the U.S. and Canada. That's thirteen new stores in six months! I don't know of any other six month period that has seen the start of so many stores since the beginning of the feminist bookstore movement. This issue also includes Kathy Sharp's financial survey of feminist bookstores. It's a wonderful piece marred only by the small sample. But we're both hoping that the limitations of this first study will inspire everyone to respond to the 1992 survey. Watch for the questionnaire in the next issue!

Many thanks to everyone who worked on book lists for *The American Bookseller's* Bookseller's Choice feature on feminist books. It's one of those projects made much richer by having many participants, rather than just a few opinions. The initial tallies are being conducted even as I write this column. I don't know yet when it will run but *AB* has announced it as an upcoming feature.

I'd also like to thank all of the feminist booksellers who have adopted a publisher (or several) for FBN's On Publishers' Row column. I wouldn't say that many hands make *light* work — but it's wonderful to spread the job around and to have so many perspectives and voices in the column. If your line was busy, if your store was closed, or if you weren't in the day I called, fear not! We still have a list of publishers that need to be adopted. If you'd like to sign up to annotate forth-



Rasheeda Haneef (*Name Calling*, Well Versed Publications)

coming titles from any of the following publishers (or even just talk about doing one), give me a call!

Abingdon, Addison Wesley, Allen & Unwin, Atlantic Monthly, Basil Blackwell, Braziller/Persea, Brunner/Mazel, CompCare, Contemporary, Carroll & Graft, Donald Fine, David Godine, Doubleday, Dutton (paper), Four Walls Eight Windows, Fulcrum, G.K. Hall, Garland, Greenwood, Guilford, HBJ, Heinemann Educational, Jossey-Bass, M.E. Sharpe, Markus Wiener, Macmillan, McGraw Hill, Morrow, New Press, Norton, Paul & Co. (U.K. publishers distributed in the U.S.), Prentice Hall, the Random House Group (RH, Large Print, Times, Reference, Villard, Vintage), Russell Sage, Spring Publications, Springer Publishing, Twayne, Walker & Co., and Westview.

FBN is also still looking for a new mysteries columnist. Anyone interested?

I seem to be coming to the end of my first mid-life crisis. It started last December when Debra Debondt (formerly production coordinator for *Spinsters/Aunt Lute*) called looking for someone to do desktop publishing a day or two a week at the software company where she works. All those corporate job dreams (buying a house, retirement plans, not to mention the corporate pay-scale) came to the surface and I decided to give it a whirl. It was a chance, after twenty years of movement jobs, to try life in the mainstream work world without having to leave FBN first. I'm glad I tried it. It was a wonderful experience — I loved working on the fancy computers, playing with the programs and doing the production. I like knowing that I can work in that world and that this avenue is an option. But once it got clear to me that it was a choice, I found that it was a choice I didn't want to make. It lacked one crucial "benefit" — my heart wasn't in the work. It was a great experience and one that I'll cherish for a long time, but I've given notice and will be returning to FBN full time in January. I loved the pay, my savings account is much happier, and I even put some money into a retirement account. The home-owning dreams will have to wait — maybe until my next lifetime. In the meantime, I'm going to be back at home, full time, at FBN. My deep thanks to Ann and to Cill for doing all of the back up that made it possible for me to get this out of my system!

Yours in spreading the words,
Carol Seajay

FBN

Editor & Publisher
Carol Seajay

Assistant Editor
Ann Morse

Advertising/Production
Cill Janeway

Columnists

Art Books Tee Corinne
Canadian Books NEC Penny Goldsmith
Gay Men's Literature Richard Labonte
Mainstream Publishers Sandi Torkildson
Science Fiction Susanna Sturgis
University Presses Ann Christophersen
Young Adult Books Christine Jenkins

Proofreading
Pat Kelso

Cover Art

Fourth International Feminist Book Fair

Feminist Bookstore News

456 14th Street Suite 6

PO Box 882554

San Francisco CA 94188

415-626-1556 FAX: 626-8970

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 book-sellers 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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Eulogy for Audre Lorde

February 18, 1934 - November 17, 1992

All across the country women and men have been gathering to mourn Audre Lorde's death, to celebrate her life, to honor what we learned from her, and to recommit our lives to the work and vision we shared with her.

Yvonne Kettels and Yara-Collette Lemke Muniz de Faria, two Afro-German women, were able to join those of us who gathered in San Francisco. They spoke of their particular relationships with Audre Lorde and of the ways she inspired Afro-German women and brought an entire community together out of silence. Audre Lorde so often pulled activism out of silence. The story that Yara and Yvonne told that night is only one of many such stories. But its themes are being repeated everywhere as we gather to mourn Audre Lorde's death, rage at the years stolen from her life, and shoulder her legacy. Below are Yvonne and Yara's words about Audre Lorde's impact on their lives and on the lives of Afro-German women.

Yara: It is an honor for me to be here tonight, to celebrate the life and work of Audre Lorde; and I am especially happy that this memorial is, among others, organized by Aché.

The first time I met Audre was some years ago after one of her powerful speeches in Berlin. We were seated opposite each other in a restaurant, sharing a big plate of fish, talking about Yemanha and cowry shells.

It was then that she told me about Aché and her dream of it coming together with its German sistah-journal, *Afrekete*; her dream of a coming together of Black Americans and [Black] Germans.

Though her dream has not yet come true, a start has been made, otherwise we would not all be here together tonight, to honor and celebrate Audre Lorde.

Yvonne: I recall the first time I met you — about five years ago — in Berlin at a breakfast gathering for sisters and brothers.... We were so few.

Back then I wasn't able to speak to you because my English wasn't developed enough. I guess I was too shy. But we communicated anyway with our

hands and feet, connecting as sisters. I wonder how many of you here in the U.S. realize what a great influence Audre had on us, the Afro-German women/lesbians and brothers. Did you know that there were strong connections between Audre and Germany?

She was the light in our eyes, rising like the sun, giving warmth and love, sharing her world, her experience, her knowledge, incomparable, unforgettable, strong.

A Eulogy for Audre Lorde From Afro-German Women

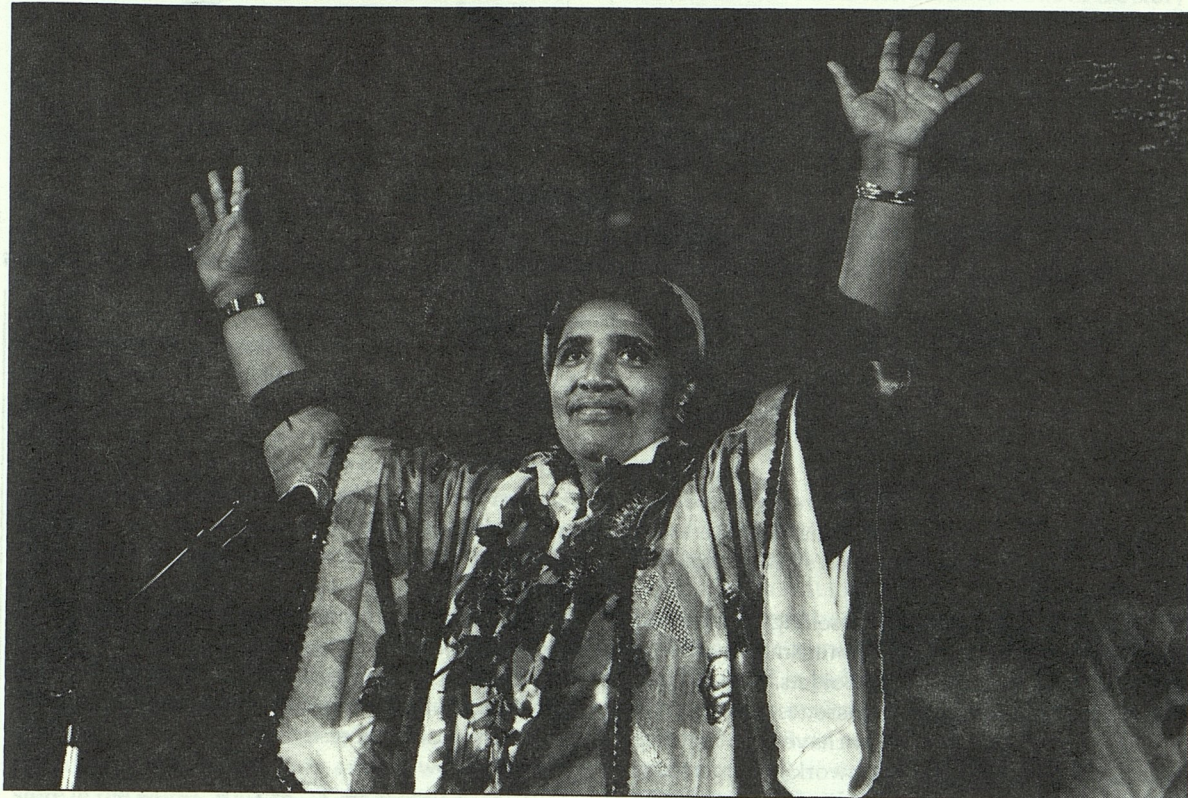
Audre Lorde, the great Black poet and feminist, is dead. Her death hit us hard, even though we knew about her health situation. It is difficult to describe in words what Audre meant for us, Afro-German, Black women/lesbians.... And what she will mean to us way beyond her death.

She was our sister, mother, companion in struggle. She brought us on our way. With her inspiring power and love she gave us faith and courage to move out of our isolation, to come together and fight against racism, sexism, and homophobia.

She led us toward our self-confidence, taught us to use our own experiences and skills to make change happen. Her engagement for Black women worldwide and her encouragement to write and publish a book about ourselves, which turned out to be *Farbe bekennen (Showing Our Colours)*, changed our lives. Audre Lorde brought us Afro-German, Black women/lesbians and men together. She helped us to articulate our oppression so we could fight it.

Audre believed in our growing power, in the power of formerly silent Afro-German women and men, young and old, to create and unite change countrywide. In our power to bring about international change with other Afro-Europeans, Afro-Asians and Afro-Americans — all the people the world didn't hear much of. Her life's work is a bequest to us.

Some of us met Audre at events or in private conversations. Her strong personality and voice gave



Audre Lorde at the I Am Your Sister Conference in Boston in October, 1990. Photo by Jean Weisinger.

us the power to demand our rights and dignity in this society. Her death is a great loss. But especially in these times of increasingly violent racism in Germany, she will continue to give us courage and faith to move on.

To honor Audre Lorde and her life's work, the Afro-German women in Munich will name their community center after her biomythography, *Zami*.

We also want, at this time, to acknowledge her friend, companion and lover, Gloria I. Joseph who was also very important within the Black German movement, and Audre's children Beth and Jonathan. We want to thank them for their support, because they had to do without Audre a lot when she was with us.

With all the things Audre left for us we will continue fighting along with all people, who want to create a future together.

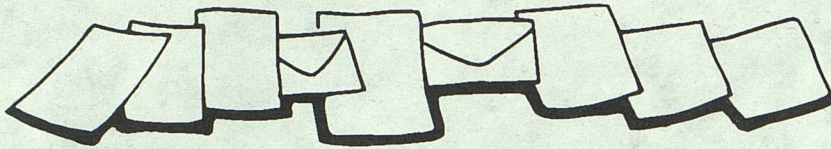
We want to end with the words Audre gave us in her preface of *Farbe bekennen (Showing our Colours)*:

"Women of minorities, companions in struggle.... We are greeting you!"

May Ayim, Katharina Oguntoye, Ajoke Sobanjo, Guy St. Luis, Kim Everett, Ina Roder, Peggy, Peppa Gabriel, Abenaa Adomako, Muna El-Khawad, Elisabeth Abraham, Elke Jank, Eva V. Pirch, Ria Cheato, Judy Gummich, Jasmin, Gabriela Willbold, Tina Campt, Ika Huegel, Helga Emde, Marion Kraft, Katja Kinder, Zariama Harat, Patricia Saad, Nicola Laure Al-Samarei, Farida Corinna, Marian Gottbrath, Sarah Schnier, Natalie Asfaha, Yvonne Kettels, and Yara-Colette Lemke Muniz de Faria.

Showing Our Colours: Afro-German Women Speak Out, edited by Mary Opitz, Katharina Oguntoye and Dagmar Schultz, translated by Anne V. Adams. Foreword by Audre Lorde. \$13.95 pb, University of Massachusetts Press, 0-87023-760-8.

LETTERS



Jagori Collective
B-5 Housing Coop Society
South Extention 1
Near Kotla Road
New Delhi, India 110 049

Dear Friends,

We are a feminist group who have been involved in documentation, trainings, distribution of literature and networking with other women's groups around the country since 1984.

One of our activities has been selling literature on issues related to women and feminism. We have a small collection of books and booklets. We also sell some posters, audio and video cassettes.

Over the past few months, we have been thinking about expanding this area of our work and opening a full fledged feminist bookshop. We are particularly interested in having books by third world women, black women and other women of color.

Presently we have only about 100-150 books which are a rather haphazard selection. We want to devote some energy into this area as Delhi would have a market for books on gender and feminism. We are already established as a feminist group and thus it would not be a completely new venture.

We of course need a lot of help in this endeavor! Could you please send us your list of publications and also let us know the terms in which you usually carry out business transactions. Do you deal in second hand books? Are there any distributors in India whom you are presently dealing with?

We would also appreciate any information which you feel might be useful for us.

Eagerly awaiting your reply.

Sincerely,

Kalpana

For Jagori Collective

Lilith
Rua XV, Novembro 420
Loja 3, Galeria Schaffer
CEP 80020 Curitiba
Parana Brazil

Dear FBN,

First of all I want to say I received both FBNs you sent me. Thanks a lot. It means two things: that you didn't forget me and that the post office in Brazil is still working.

Things here are not very easy. We had an impeachment process against our President for corruption, stealing and involvement with drugs. It was really incredible. Now we have a new one who doesn't seem very much interested in drugs or in Brazilian politics.



My bookshop is surviving all this. There is an enormous economical crisis here, nobody has money, the inflation rate is around 35% a month, and books became a rather luxurious product. Feminists in Brazil are seen as elitists: "Once the whole country is sinking how can we be worried only with women?" Only with women...

My bookshop Lilith is the only feminist bookstore in Brazil. I have approximately 2,000 titles, 90% in Portuguese, and the rest in Spanish, English, German, Italian, and French.

In September Lilith celebrated its first year. I invited a well-known Brazilian feminist writer to come to my city to give a small lecture. Rose Marie Muraro is a writer with ten titles. She is quite loved by her readers. It was a good promotion for the bookshop although I sold only 15 books (by Muraro) on the lecture day.

On the average I sell one book a day. Of course this is not enough to pay the rent and taxes; I am in the red for three months. I don't have any subsidy from anybody, not even from feminist Brazil. Actually I don't know what to do. Sometimes I think to sell the whole stock (2500 books = 17 thousand dollars), sometimes I think that I should persist and give more time for people to get used to the proposal, and sometimes I think I want to go to USA and work (instead of being an owner) in a women's bookstore. If anyone is interested in buying the whole stock please let me know. Of course the business could be done through an international feminist agency. What do I sell here? I sell mostly feminism, sexuality, poetry, Brazilian literature. Lesbian books in Brazil are nonexistent. Actually the word lesbian is rarely pronounced. Some women are beginning to ask for books about ecofeminism, but there is almost nothing here.

It is always nice to get news from you. Anything you can send could be a great help. In Amsterdam a woman from USA (Linda Bryant from Charis Bookstore) proposed to send some books as a kind of help. I thought it was a wonderful idea. Anything is always welcome (buttons, T-shirts, books, and so on).

I actually received a very nice letter from her proposing a kind of network among women's bookstore in the world. You can count on me. Of course my contribution can't be material, but I can give a very good mood and lots of positive energy from the powerful Brazilian sun.

In sisterhood,
um abraço,
Bebeti Gurgel



Full Circle
2205 Silver SE
Albuquerque NM 87106

Dear FBN,

We've been at the center of controversy, nothing new in that. So here are the summaries of our situation.

A feminist periodical is edited here in Albuquerque (no, not *Lesbian Ethics*, although it's published here). In its most recent volume it printed a short story that we found clearly racist. We returned the issue with a note explaining why. Whoops. Now we are

censors. End of discussion of racism. One of the story's staunch supporters is a nationally known liberal writer who has used her considerable influence to try to damage us with her friends. Since she was a personal friend of many of us here, it has been painful. But the good news is that most of our community has been very supportive and willing to use this situation as a springboard for some very much needed community discussions of the effects of racism on the lives of all of us. But, frankly, it hurts to have PEN New Mexico support the story and vote, with a board that has *no* representative of the victimized race, that that story was not racist. Admittedly, many white people failed to "get" it but that should come as no surprise to any of us. (Insert a long sigh here.)



The hardest part of this has been the serious damage done to one of our staff who suffered racist death threats that forced her to drop the last class she needed to complete her M.A. The author, who has suffered nothing worse than a loss of respect and being named in public as racist, has garnered much sympathy as a victim of an attack. Since when is telling the truth an attack? Who is *really* under attack here? Anyway, if anyone wants specifics give us a call. Fortunately the periodical is willing to learn from the experience even though the author and her prestigious friends are not.

And speaking of not learning from one's mistakes, William Kennedy Smith is also "under attack" by the lunatic fringe of the feminists (also centered at...you guessed it, Full Circle Books). Yes, friends, you too can make *Hard Copy* and the AP wire. Simply let your store be used for a meeting of women who want to discuss how to deal with encounters with alleged rapists. And carry the T-shirt that says, "Thelma and Louise...meet William K. Smith." The worst that has happened so far is having to talk to the aggressive Mr. Smith. Oh well... As one woman said, "New Mexico is tired of being sent other states' toxic waste." Hopefully, he'll leave when his residency in medical school is over. Hopefully he won't be a gynecologist.

Happy sisterhood and joyous revolution.
The censorial lunatic fringe of feminism,
Mary Morell



Genêt

A Biography of Janet Flanner
Brenda Wineapple

"A triumph. . . . How Brenda Wineapple understood Genêt and her times is almost uncanny. She writes of them with clarity and accuracy in a style that is almost startling in its simplicity."—Kay Boyle.

"Wineapple has written a wonderfully perceptive and moving biography of Janet Flanner. I hated to finish it."—May Sarton.

The daughter of an Indianapolis mortician, Janet Flanner really began to live at the age of thirty, when she fled to Paris with her female lover. That was in 1921, a few years before she signed on as Paris correspondent for the *New Yorker*, taking the pseudonym Genêt. \$14.95

Available at bookstores.

N

University of Nebraska Press
901 N 17 • Lincoln, NE 68588-0520 • 800-755-1105

Dreams and Swords
828 East 64th St.
Indianapolis IN 46220

Dear FBN women,

We have some wonderful news. Last month, at Indiana's annual gay and lesbian recognition banquet, Dreams and Swords received the 1992 Hoosier Business Service Award. It was awarded to us for our "outstanding service to the gay and lesbian community of Indiana." Owner Harriet Clare was thrilled to accept the award. It was a well deserved pat on the back for all the years Harriet and her bookstore have survived here in the Bible Belt (we were 10 last March!). It all started in 1980, when Harriet recognized the need for a feminist bookstore, and hauled boxes of books every Friday to Labyris, a much missed *real* women's bar, for "bookstore night." But then that's another story...

Things here at Dreams and Swords are going much better than the last time we spoke with you. Business has improved so we're hopeful that the holiday season won't be as poor as last year. And conference year season just won't quit this year! Usually, this late in the year, conference season has wrapped up and we are looking toward holiday sales, but this year we find ourselves still hauling books to a number of places every week. Also, many groups plan to have conferences throughout the winter, which is not usually the case here in Indiana. We are tired from the hectic pace of selling out "in the field," but as you know, conference sales allow many bookstores like us to keep the doors open.



Well, that is the news from here. As always, we look forward to reading each and every issue of FBN. Thanks for being a lifeline in the world of feminist/lesbian/gay bookstores. We couldn't do it without you.

Katelyn

P.S. Voter registration was a great success and though Indiana was the only state in this region to go for Bush, it mobilized the community. If nothing else, many folks who said, "Oh, I never vote because it doesn't do any good anyway," were educated during the impromptu discussions created by that statement.

— News & Responses from Publishers —

Daphne Brasell
PO Box 12214
Thorndon, Wellington 1
New Zealand

Dear FBN,

It was wonderful to see a letter from Gail from the Feminist Bookshop in Sydney in your September/-October issue commenting enthusiastically on the New Zealand feminist novel *The Word Burners* by Beryl Fletcher. Gail quite correctly mentioned that the novel is distributed in Australia by Spinifex Press. She was misinformed however about the book's publisher. The novel is in fact published by Daphne Brasell Associates Press (PO Box 12214, Thorndon Wellington New Zealand).

Beryl Fletcher has recently won the best first book award in the South East Asia and South Pacific Division of the Commonwealth Writers Prize for 1992, for *The Word Burners*. Daphne Brasell Associates Press intends publishing her second novel, *The Iron Mouth*, in 1993.

Distribution rights in the United States are currently being negotiated for *The Word Burners*. We will supply further information on this when the details are finalised.

Sincerely,
Daphne Brasell



Giant Ass Publishing
PO Box 214
New Haven CT 06592

Dear FBN,

A representative of The Inland Book Company, Dennis Mahoney, advised our Giant Ass Headquarters that approximately a week to ten days ago Canadian Customs in Toronto stopped a shipment bound for various women's and gay bookstores. Seized from the shipment were 40 copies of *Hothead Paisan: Homicidal Lesbian Terrorist*, a comic zine, issues #1-7.

A first it was thought to be a fluke as Inland has been shipping *Hothead* to Canada for a year and a half without incident. Mahoney's contacts at Toronto Women's Bookstore told him that they filed a formal complaint against the seizure. The unofficial, official word from Customs is that they find *Hothead #7* to be "sexually degrading." (Say what???) And they have

declared *Hothead #1* and #2 "Banned at all points of entry."

An interesting point is that *Hothead #2* deals with the issue of censorship where *Hothead* is accused of being too violent. And we can at least see the logic of that, but "sexually degrading?" To whom, we wonder. Frightened heterosexual nitwits, perhaps? Can you say "white and uptight?"



Diane DiMassa

At last word we were told that Little Sisters (Bookstore) in Vancouver received all *their* boxes. We assume that the fact that they have taken Customs to court against past seizure harassments might have something to do with it.

Stacy Sheehan

Federation of Women's Health Centers
3401 Folsom Blvd. Suite A
Sacramento, CA 95816.

Dear Friends,

Recent controversy over our new book, *A Woman's Book of Choices*, has prompted us and the Federation of Feminist Women's Health Centers to write you. *Choices* empowers a woman to take control of her reproductive life and survive in a world defined by men. Its message—that women can and will take control—is vital and, understandably controversial.

The section of the book that caused the controversy is "faking rape." The authors recount how this desperate maneuver was used in pre-Roe days to get abortions, and discuss how it may be used again if abortion becomes restricted.

We strongly believe that women's stories from the past, present, and future should not be censored. It is our premise that women become stronger by sharing their stories. Conversely, we believe that barriers to sharing our experiences—whatever they may be—interfere with our ability to take control over our lives. We are the women who, after *Roe vs. Wade* legalized abortion, established clinics across the country—havens for women whose lives would be drastically changed by an unintended pregnancy—and fought for less traumatic abortion procedures. As providers of women's health in our own women's clinics, and writers, we are the caretakers of tens of thousands of women's stories about their desperation to take control over their reproduction. These stories—and women's lives—are the motivation for our work.

This conflict over one paragraph in the book threatens to obscure the message of the book. In our work and in our personal lives, we have witnessed and experienced violence against women. We know full well how the legal system chews up and spits out

victims. Because of our experiences, we are understanding of the concerns about the "faking rape" section of our book. But we do not believe that censoring women's stories of how they survived is the answer.

We believe that we stand on common ground with all who struggle to give women more control over their lives. We welcome your response and believe it is important to have dialogue on these issues. Please address any written correspondence to the authors in care of the Federation of Feminist Women's Health Centers, 3401 Folsom Blvd. Suite A, Sacramento, CA 95816, or call 916-737-0260.

In Sisterhood,

Rebecca Chalker, Women's health author and editor

Carol Downer,

Founding Director, Federation of Feminist Women's Health Centers

Shauna Heckert, Executive Director,

Federation of Feminist Women's Health Centers

"A Safe Place To Sleep is a detective story, a love story, and a book that deals sensitively and well with the trauma of remembering incest and its impact on the women who love each other. Well done!"

Genevieve Beenen, Wild Iris Bookstore, Claremont, CA

"I thought it was very touching - I read it in 2 days!"

Mary Ellen Kavanaugh, My Sisters' Words, Syracuse, NY

"Normally, this type of story doesn't pique my interest, but it was written so sensitively, I was engrossed the entire time. The manner in which it was written makes it an easy read rather than something that will re-traumatize women."

Kathi Engblom, Grapevine Books, Reno, NV

"It's moved into the top 5 best-selling lesbian fiction titles in our store.

It'd be #1 if I had time to handsell it. I wish I did!"

Kasha Songer, Book Garden, Denver, CO

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— Cultural Appropriation —

Chrystos
9551 So. Beach
Brainbridge Island WA 98110

Dear Ladyslipper Women,

I try to be patient and understanding but I'm really angry with you concerning the catalogue I just received. I would be very glad to order (quite extensively) from you, but not until you print an apology, retraction or in some way repair the damage you cause in the following ways.

The issue of appropriation is a raging fire in Indian Country. It is absolutely *not* acceptable to list a "white" anthropologist (and they really should be busy apologizing, for by definition it is a racist "science" — studying caucasians is called "sociology") in the Native section, no matter how wonderful she is or how many people adopted her father (which is a custom *completely* misunderstood by euroimmigrants). She does *not* speak for our spirituality. We must be given the right and respect that every other feminist takes for granted — the necessity to speak about ourselves *for* ourselves. Would you dare to list a man (even one of your "mehn") as explaining feminism so comprehensively that he was a *must* (your emphasis)?

To list Lynne D. Crow (for whom I must state I have no animosity) under Native Americans in your "Especially Recommended New Titles," when she is an euroimmigrant, while eliminating the knock-down-powerful new release of Buffy Sainte Marie is a racist crime. I've been driving to Canada to get copies of "Coincidence & Likely Stories" (which I often give as gifts), which has only been available in Canyon Records (Phoenix) (which is Indian run), as far as I know.



The *reason* that genocide against my people continues (including land theft, violations of treaties, uninvestigated murders, harassment of our political organizations, imprisonment of our leaders and the abuse of our young people so that we have the highest teenage suicide rate in the world) is that "...many white women (lacking connection to their own roots, appalled by their own culture's racism, seeking to distance themselves from their cultural history) are drawn to more Earth-based cultures." (your quote)

Euroimmigrants are responsible to us for the continuing mess of the last miserable 500 years. You *cannot* escape your culture like you'd throw out clothes that bore you. You *cannot* distance yourself from our mutual history. It is exactly the ability to be distant from the reality of others which defines racism and *makes it possible*. I encourage you to read Andrea White's fine article, "Our Spirituality is Not For Sale," reprinted in many places, including *Ms.* magazine. I've enclosed my broadside, "Shame On," on the subject of spiritual theft.



We do not "owe" euroimmigrants anything (which is a completely colonizer view of other people — how to get the most good stuff out of them — which is also the basis for sexism). We *especially* don't need to teach them how to be "empowered" when they have more wealth and "power" than any other group of people on earth. Having less than "white" men or being at their mercy as prey, does not make any "white" woman understand me instantly and it certainly does not force her to understand my struggles enough to share them. My life is community based — it is not a private quest for a "nicer" life or "nicer" spirituality or more "exotic" trappings for colonizer behavior. I use quotes around the word "white" because it is important to me to indicate that the term itself is bogus, a very recent historical invention. Twenty years of struggle inside of feminism have eroded my hope that it can be a force for change. As long as euroimmigrant women are more comfortable listening to each other discuss us, we are living colonization inside so-called feminism.

Thousands and thousands of euroimmigrants continue to feed off of us like vultures — as social workers, anthropologists, experts, messiahs, managers and thieves, while claiming to "help us." Does this remind you of all the men who have been claiming to "help" women? We don't need help. We need to be recognized as the sovereign Nations that we are. We need at least *one* treaty that we signed with this country to be honored. We need euroimmigrant women to fight their own people when they want to build a golf course on our graves. We don't need to explain our-

selves to euroimmigrants who don't even understand their own histories or herstories of racism and genocide. Whose grave is your house built on? Most of us are more poverty-stricken than any feminist pretending to be poor because it's "hip." We barely survive in *our own land*. Why doesn't anybody want our shacks, our hunger, horrible health care, hopelessness or our pollution-cause illnesses? Same old story/shit: tourists come buying the pretty baskets/pretty religion. Tourism is colonizer behavior. Spirituality never exists without responsibility to the community from which it comes. It isn't a shopping mall commodity.

Move over. We speak English. Buffy Sainte Marie has far more important and especially recommended things to say on her new album than *any* anthropologist. It also doesn't escape my mean eye that all the albums featured on the back cover are those of euroimmigrants.

I hope you will not dismiss this letter as an angry rant. It is angry but after 500 years of Columbus clones, it's overdue. I'm mailing copies to others because I want this issue to breach the indifferent wall of feminism, which has still not embraced treaty rights as part of a national agenda after 20 years of our work.

With hope,

Chrystos, Menominee Nation

(Author of *Not Vanishing* and *Dream On*)



Ladyslipper

PO Box 3124

Durham NC 27715

Dear Chrystos,

Thank you for your letter. It sparked many evenings of discussion here at Ladyslipper, about racism, cultural appropriation, anger, oppression, responsibility and more, and gave many of us an opportunity to think more deeply about the topics and hopefully understand more deeply.

I'm the catalog editor and director of Ladyslipper, and, while Sue Brown authored the Lynne D. Crow annotation and made an initial decision about its category (see letter on page 14), the responsibility was mine ultimately. I made the editorial decision to proceed to press with the title in the Native American Section, and I pulled together the "Especially Recommended" list of titles.

I agree that because the issue and reality of appropriation is so large, it was a mistake to place the tape in the Native American section in our Fall Catalog, and apologize to you for that. It should probably be in the Women's Spirituality section, and in future catalogs that is where it will appear. When your letter arrived, the inside 48 pages of our holiday Catalog had been printed the day before (which included Women's Spirituality and Spoken sections, the only other possible categories for it). Our choices were to leave it in the Native American section or to omit it entirely. We chose the latter, a difficult decision because we feel it's a very unique and important tape, but feel that to be insensitive to the issue and give the appearance that we condone "white" women coming off as experts on Native spirituality would be more harmful.

I do offer the following information, in hopes that it will help your understanding (at least of our decision-making process) too.

First, I want to talk a bit about the Lynne D. Crow tape itself. I don't know whether the content of it even makes any difference to you, or if the insult of it appearing in the section is the main issue to you...but as I read your letter, I think you have possibly jumped to some incorrect conclusions about what Lynne says or where we consider her areas of expertise to lie, logical though they may be in light of the history of appropriation.

Lynne does not purport to be an expert on Native spirituality. When she realized she did not really belong in the circle of the Native tribe who treated her like family, she became an anthropologist in an effort to understand what shapes a people, specifically her own people, and to understand who *her* people are. The message of her tape, primarily for anyone descended from immigrants to North America, is:

"Look to your own heritage, and find what is earth-based in it. Find out who "your people were, who their tribes were, thousands of year before they were oppressed and enslaved by the imperialism that emanated from the militarily enforced Christianity of the Roman Empire. Understand that oppression and see how they perpetuated it when they arrived on the shores of North America. You cannot adopt a culture and spirituality (Native American) that is not yours. Understand it to what extent you can, respect it, but find your own."

She also explores the "people-lessness" of the North American immigrants, how for the first time historically people emigrated as individuals rather than as groups (forming a political rather than a cultural entity), and the lost-ness and emptiness that ensued. This is part of understanding the underlying cause of why anyone would try to appropriate another's culture (as well as their land, and material goods).



An analysis like that isn't the only necessary component of understanding and un-learning racism and cultural appropriation but can be a part of the healing that makes change possible.

We felt that it was a critical message for "white" women looking in our Native American section for "spirituality," as well as useful for anyone interested in the subject of appropriation of Native culture; that's why the placement made initial sense.

Second, there's the seemingly simple question of categories... in reality, often complex. The words "Native American" at the beginning of a section could mean Native American Artists, or Native American Music, or Native American Subjects...all three very different, and used by us differently for different categories. For instance, our European section includes U.S. women, probably of varying heritages and many not of Eastern European descent, singing Eastern European music. I realize this example carries a very different history, but I mention it to show the lack of purity in how we categorize. Many Jewish artists are not in the "Jewish" section, but rather in "Women's Music," or "Classical," etc.

Now to our Especially Recommended titles list: I understand why you were appalled to see Lynne D. Crow and not Buffy Sainte Marie on that list — the two things together deliver a message which was not well-thought out and I apologize for that too. I offer some explanation of the components of that decision. We *do* highly recommend Lynne's tape, for the above-mentioned reasons — it would have been better for it to be in another section. And, we have a general guideline of focusing more attention on independently produced albums than major label titles when there is a choice, both because that is where we want to give our primary support, and because of the near-impossible



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— Belles Lettres

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economics of major labels for us and for the stores we distribute to. Buffy Sainte Marie's album is on a major label (and, I was surprised, but not surprised, to learn that you've had trouble finding it — money is a big deal to them, accessibility is not). In this case, as in others from time to time I'm sure, we gave too much weight to that consideration above others.

I'm glad that in spite of your anger, or perhaps because of it (and I could write another page on the various ways various women reading your letter responded to that alone) you signed your letter "With hope." I'm hopeful too, because I think that in spite of the layers of shit, and in spite of the insidiousness of racism and appropriation among "white" women, the lesbian-feminist community as a whole (though not all members, admittedly) at least has the sometime goal of uncovering and unlearning the layers, even when it's painful and humiliating and embarrassing and awful. And I *do* think it's important that we *all* be "empowered" in true ways (in my mind a radically different state than wielding "power" in false ways such as with money or weapons or dominance or privilege), which will only come when we can view ourselves and our own histories, and others and their

histories, in relationship to the bigger perspectives and bigger truth — and I thank you for your part in bringing some of that truth.

Best,
Laurie Fuchs



c/o Ladyslipper
PO Box 3124
Durham NC 27715

Dear Chrystos,

I am the author of the Lynne Dusenberry Crow review in the Ladyslipper catalog, and felt compelled to answer your letter. I first thank you for expending the effort involved in sharing such anger, and offer regrets that my choice to include Lynne's tape in the Native American music section wasn't completely thought out...

I agree that "white" appropriation of Native culture and spirituality is extremely insidious and destructive, and believe that, unfortunately, it will continue in the Lesbian community (not to mention in *See Letters, page 102.*

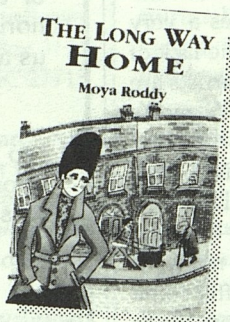
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News News News

The Case Is On! Eventually... Little Sisters V. The Crown

The "good news" is that the judge hearing the Little Sisters V. Canada Customs trial has decided to hear the case and has dismissed The Crown's last minute motion to dismiss the case.

Negotiations for a new court date are currently in process. Little Sisters — ready and expecting to go to court last September — has requested the earliest possible court date. The Crown, however, is trying to push the date until the fall of 1993. While there is some genuine difficulty scheduling a trial of this magnitude — it is expected that the trial will require a minimum of 30 court days — there is also a strong feeling that The Crown is using every delaying tactic available. It is believed that, when the case does go to court, The Crown will argue that Customs' practices (will) have changed since the 1992 Butler decision and that Little Sisters will then have no case.

In the meantime, Little Sisters is experiencing a significant decline in Customs harassment. The only recent seizures have been of magazines (*Homoture*, a 'zine from San Francisco, and *The Big Ad*, one of the "hairy bear" gay men's magazines).

No books have been seized since the trial was originally scheduled to begin. "We're getting books we've never gotten before. They're even letting books through that are on the banned lists," reported one jubilant staff member. "They seem to be quite unnerved by our persistence."

The Crown, meantime, seems to be extending the breadth of its seizures to include other stores. As we go to press we're receiving reports that copies of *Hot-head Paisan* destined for The Toronto Women's Bookstore have been seized. (See letter from Giant Ass Publishing on page 9.)

Naiad Press Celebrates Twenty Years

On January 1, 1993, Naiad Press, the oldest and largest lesbian publishing company in the world, will celebrate its twentieth birthday. In those years, Naiad has published over 190 books. Twenty-four new lesbian titles are scheduled for 1993.

Naiad now has six full-time employees and, via contract work, provides primary income for eleven other women in addition to the authors who receive royalties for their work.



Back Row: Alex Jaeger, Rita Reese, Terra Russell
Front Row: Donna McBride, Barbara Grier, Candis Creekmore

Barbara Grier and Donna J. McBride who, along with Anyda Marchant and Muriel Crawford are the founders of Naiad Press, have continued to pursue the Naiad dream: that someday any woman, any place, can recognize her lesbianism and be able to walk into a bookstore and pick up a book that says to her, "Yes, you are a lesbian and you are wonderful."

Barbara's predictions on the eve of Naiad's twentieth birthday? "I believe that the next four years will be a time of enormous civil rights gain for lesbians and

gay men. I have worked in this movement for over forty years now, and the next four will see the biggest improvement. We are now the last minority group unfairly legislated against in the United States. That will stop and we will be able to give back to our country the wealth and joy of our incredible talent as lesbians and gay men."

Other Women-In-Print organizations celebrating 20 years this year include Sisterhood Bookstore (Los Angeles), Lammass Women's Books (Washington, DC), and Full Circle (Albuquerque).

U.S. Customs Returns Books to Glad Day

Glad Day (Boston) is celebrating the return of two shipments of books and periodicals seized last spring by U.S. Customs while en route to the store from Spain and Italy. The shipments, confiscated in April and May 1992, included over 65 items comprising nine different titles. The titles were confiscated on the grounds that they violated obscenity provisions of the U.S. Code.

In an agreement signed October 15 between Glad Day and the U.S. Attorney's office in Boston, the government agreed to return all but three publications. Those publications, Spanish magazines that Glad Day receives on standing order from a Barcelona supplier, included "sexually explicit hard-core material" for the first time. Glad Day has said it had knowledge of the magazines' change in content since new issues are automatically shipped to the store when they become available. After consulting with its attorney, Glad Day decided to forego a claim on these three magazines, but insisted that all other titles be returned since "no hard-core materials had been ordered, nor [were] any anticipated in the shipment."

With these materials released, Glad Day agreed to drop its countersuit charging that its First and Fifth Amendment Constitutional rights had been violated and the case was dismissed. In a release announcing the outcome of the case, Glad Day said the book community and other First Amendment advocates sent numerous letters of support and protest, which store attorneys believe contributed to the U.S. Attorney's decision to release the publications. — *Info from Newswire*

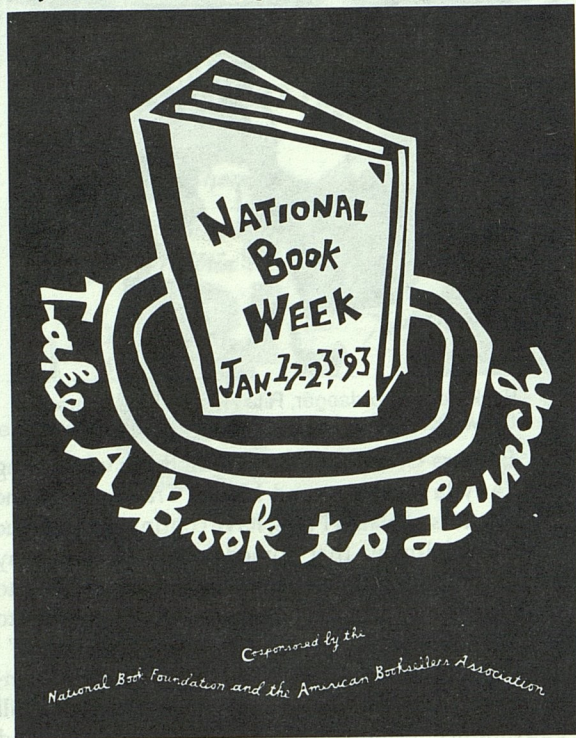
Plans for 1994 International Feminist Book Fair Moving Along

Plans for the 1994 International Feminist Book Fair are proceeding apace. The Australian committee has been awarded a \$120,000 grant to be used for setting up an office and proceeding with the plans for the Sixth IFBF. The mailing lists and data bases for the International Feminist Book Fairs have officially been passed to the Australian organizers for the 1994 IFBF.

Quantas has promised to provide cut-price group-flights from all over the world.

The Fair is tentatively scheduled for the last weekend in July and will be coordinated with several other women's studies and feminist conferences so that women can travel to Australia for at least two major events rather than one.

The address for the 1994 Sixth International Feminist Book Fair is PO Box 212, North Melbourne, Victoria 3051, Australia. Their telephone and fax number is: 61-3-329-6088.



1993 Feminist Book Fortnight/U.K.

In Britain, plans for the 1993 Feminist Book Fortnight are well underway. For more information or to offer assistance, contact Chris George at *Everywoman*, 34 Islington Green, London N1 8DU, U.K. Phone: 071-359-5496.

Sex Is OK Gay Sex Is Not

The printer of Madonna's new book *Sex* has been accused of hypocrisy and homophobia by two publishers whose gay-themed books it had refused to handle.

R.R. Donnelley, one of the largest book manufacturers in the U.S., defended its involvement in the steamy Madonna book. "We can't reject work just because people might find it controversial," spokesperson Jim Ratcliffe told a reporter as the metal-jacketed book clanked off press.

But, according to Sasha Alyson of Alyson Publications, Donnelley refused to print an Alyson novel "...and flatly told me they would not print any new books from us that had gay subject matter." A year ago, when Alyson had trouble finding a printer for *Gay Sex: A Manual for Men Who Love Men*, Alyson re-approached Donnelley hoping the policy might have changed. "We were turned down again," said Alyson. "So naturally, when I learned they were printing Madonna's *Sex*, I was astounded. Even by election year standards, this is a startling level of hypocrisy."

Donnelley also refused to print Beacon Press' *Gay Ideas: Outing and Other Controversies* by University of Illinois professor Richard Mohr. "It seems to me that R.R. Donnelley's morals are up for sale," commented Mohr. "The print run on my book was nowhere near as large as Madonna's. I'm sure that when Donnelley figured out how much money they would make, their concern about 'employee sensibilities' went right out the window."

But Donnelley is not the only hypocrite. Canada Customs, despite the fact that Madonna's *Sex* flaunts

all of the conventions for which it seizes gay and lesbian books, let the Warner title into Canada without batting an eyelash. Perhaps the question here is the size and the international clout of the publisher and the resources of the Canadian chain stores that ordered the book.



Feminist Press, Eighth Mountain Join Consortium

As of January 1, Consortium will be the exclusive U.S. distributor of Feminist Press/CUNY, Eighth Mountain Press and Theatre Communications Group.

Consortium Book Sales and Distribution was recently purchased by William Brinton, the publisher of Mercury House in San Francisco. Located in St. Paul, Minnesota, Consortium represents Mercury House as well as a number of other fine publishers including Capra, Coffee House, Copper Canyon, Graywolf, NewSage, Readers International, Serpent's Tail and Sun & Moon Press. Randall Beek, formerly of Bookpeople, is the new CEO at Consortium.

Consortium maintains reciprocal distribution arrangements with Inland and Bookpeople, hence Feminist Press titles will once again be available through Inland and will continue to be available from Bookpeople. Eighth Mountain and Theatre Communications titles will now be available from all three distributors.

Consortium, 287 East Sixth Street #365, Saint Paul MN 55101. 612-221-9035; fax: 612-221-0124. ○

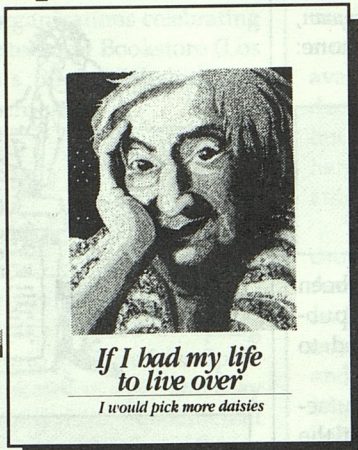
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This wonderful, thought-provoking book is a collection of poetry, essays and photographs that addresses women and the decisive moments that shape their lives.

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Beautifully written portraits . . . —Candace Atkins, Register-Pajaronian

Here's a full-bodied collection of stories and poems that touches on every aspect of women moving on in life. —Laurel Speer, Editor, Small Press Review



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NEWS FROM THE BOOKSTORES

Compiled by Carol Seajay

Many booksellers that I've talked to have spoken of holding Audre Lorde memorials and other events, of creating special displays of Audre's works, of creating "altars" of flowers, candles, photos, and books. Our grief is deep and our rage is strong. We are the ones who are grieving and our bookstores are the first places many women turned in their grief and anger. If we had the power to give Audre a week of life for each woman who called or came in and said "Say it isn't true!" Audre would have lived a long life indeed.

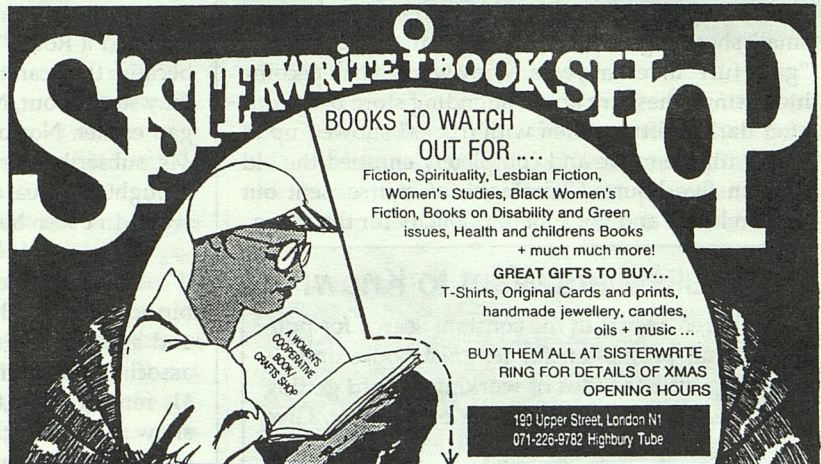
Some of the most exciting bookstore news in this issue is on page 54, the first report from Kathy Sharp's (Amazon) financial survey. Seven stores responded to last spring's questionnaire. I'm hoping that a *hundred* and seven stores will respond next spring. This kind of information is invaluable.

Sales are up, sales are down. The recession continues to impact sales in areas with high unemployment and mail-order everywhere..... Has Clinton's election and the optimism it brings generated the kind of hope that rings up good holiday sales? Unemployment is still soaring in some areas (California, for instance, has recently broken the 10% mark). The entire economy seems to be holding its breath (as I write this) to see how hope and unemployment intersect at the December cash register.

The figures I've heard are all over the map — the recession related "downs" range from 5% to 30%. Second stores (usually "gay and lesbian" stores) opening within a mile or two or three of an established store

that sells lesbian and or lesbian and gay books also takes a sales-bite. (No surprise, eh?)

And sales are up: Alison Cunningham at Golden Thread (New Haven) writes, "I'm feeling a bit of a lift here as business is a tad better than last year." My Sisters' Words (Syracuse) reports that total sales by the end of October had surpassed all of 1991's sales. Aradia (Flagstaff) also says that 1992 has been a very good year. "We've had our best October in 13 years. Textbook sales were down, but other books are up. Other stores in town are holding steady or are down 5-10%, so it's not that it's a good bookselling climate — it's *our* books that are selling. Voter registration is up 20% here — that's the bookselling climate here."



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All of this is making me think that it's time to do some serious data collection on sales figures over the last three or four years so that we can all get a realistic picture of what's going on. What do you say?

Brigit Books' November calendar featured their annual Women's Arts and Crafts Fair, a free lecture, a workshop, a brunch with Kay Hagen, and tickets for a Mary Daly talk. Brigit Books also has a new "Women Unlimited Catalog" of books and sidelines.

My Sisters' Words celebrated its fifth anniversary the first weekend in October. The store was newly painted, a new display for the middle of the store was built, new signs were made, and parking was added in back. A huge crowd turned out for the party. Unlike many stores, My Sisters Words doesn't do a birthday sale. Thanks to highly skilled buying, My Sisters' Words does very few returns, choosing instead to do a progressive sale of the "dogs" each January. Books are initially put out at 20% discount, and then the discount is increased to 40%, then 60%, then 80%.

ClaireLight moved from their tiny shopping mall to a store right in the heart of downtown foot-traffic (and rent!). The new store is double the size of the old store, has big windows that go all around the store and is much more visible than the previous store. "Foot traffic is incredible," they report, "And women pour in at lunch time from all of the offices in the area." They're also seeing a lot of people who never made it to the old store. Sales are up "a couple hundred dollars a day." The old store was a "destination" location in a small shopping center in an area that had become "gang turf" in recent years. Many women had become increasingly hesitant about attending store programs after dark. "Fifty women with trucks" showed up to help with the move and completely emptied the old store in five hours. ClaireLight, of course, sent out press releases and got a lot of publicity for the move.

Booksellers Want to Know:

Karen Merry, in the constant search for publicity and promotion for feminist bookstores, is mulling over the idea of working toward getting feminist booksellers on *Oprah* or *Donahue*. Give her a call and tell her what you think.... 619-563-1981.

Carolyn Haneisen from the newly opened Lady Iris in Portsmouth NH called asking if we knew who distributes those great "cow-girl" tee-shirts. I've seen two versions — both feature a row of women in various garb facing the camera — but I don't know who distributes them or how booksellers can get them. If you know, please give her a call — and us, too! Lady Iris: 603-436-3634; 10 Ladd St., 03801. Thanks! ○

Bookwoman (Austin) celebrated National Coming Out Day by holding "Yoko Ono Day at Bookwoman" to honor Yoko Ono's wacky and wonderful contribution to the world.. It was an afternoon of performances, conceptual pieces, reenactments and songs, featuring Girls in the Nose, Les Nez, Nancy Dean, Susan Post and many more. Prizes for the best Yoko look alike. "If you can't dress up all the way, at least wear your wrap-around sunglasses." "Don't forget Yoko's famous phrase, 'The part that doesn't fit is me.'"



A Room of One's Own (Madison) reported a 100-person turnout for a Robin Morgan appearance the first week the book was out. When ARO regretfully declined a Robin Morgan booking late in November because they can't accommodate crowds after the holiday stock is out, Norton rightly decided to send Morgan earlier. Norton also sent invitations to all of the Ms. subscribers in the area. It was a great event and brought in a great crowd of regulars and "some people we hadn't seen before."

Paradigm (San Diego) is planning a combined birthday bash and Gloria Steinem event. With the help and support of their local neighborhood merchant's association, they're closing off the street on February 11, renting 800-1,000 chairs and setting up a major show that will include music by local musician Deborah Lee Johnson, a speech by Gloria Steinem (followed by a book signing in the store) and dancing the street until 11:00 pm to music by Pam & Maggie. There will be a \$2-3 admission charge. The neighborhood business association is fronting the money for the event as well as helping to get the necessary permits and permissions. Because the merchants association has an excellent publicity program in place (PSA's, etc.). Paradigm hopes to increase their visibility significantly and to bring a number of new customers to the store and to the neighborhood.



The Sisterwrite Collective

Sisterwrite
190 Upper St.
London N1 England

Dear FBN,

This letter is by way of an update about what has been happening at Sisterwrite Bookshop over the past 14 years of our existence. Sisterwrite was set up by three lesbian feminists, and has always served as a resource for women since the days when the Feminist Library was situated on the third floor. Today Sisterwrite continues this function as part of the service for women, along with stocking the most comprehensive range of Women's books anywhere.

The face of feminism in Britain has changed tremendously over the last 20 years — it has become a more diverse, representative and dynamic movement. As the first feminist bookshop in Britain we have reflected these many changes through our staffing policies. We are a multi-racial collective with a predominately Black workforce. Our selection of books and periodicals are wide ranging with an ever-increasing stock of lesbian and Black women's titles, as well as health, psychology, women's studies and liter-

ary criticism amongst others. We specialise in stocking specialist titles difficult to find anywhere. Our crafts section continues to grow with the increased demand for crafts made by women, and provide a much needed space for women to exhibit and sell their work.

In the last few years mainstream booksellers have profited from, without investing in, feminism and women's writing and creativity. This has meant becoming ever more inventive in our drive to encourage women to buy from our shop, to let women know that there is an ocean of new and established women's work waiting to be read, beyond the scope of the mainstream booksellers "women's section."

This year Sisterwrite held a Feminist Book Month, featuring discussions, and showcasing new talents. Jacky Kay, Caroline Natzler and Elizabeth Carola held our first creative writing workshops which were extremely successful. Susan Faludi read from her controversial book *Backlash* to packed audiences of women. Within the last month we have had prominent writers such as Andrea Dworkin and Nawal el-Saadawi discussing their work and debat-

ing important questions about women today. As always Sisterwrite will continue to invest in new talent as well as draw support from established writers.

Next year Sisterwrite celebrates its 15th year in business. From the initial years, when there were few women's publishers in Britain, and most of our stock came from the USA, to the current boom in Women's writing, Sisterwrite has consistently adapted and changed to the demands of a changing market. We now have more Black women using the shop as well as women who would never, ordinarily, have visited

a Feminist bookshop. For the present collective, attracting women from diverse backgrounds continues to be as important as ensuring that the diversity of our stock reflects the exciting changes in Feminism. Sisterwrite continues to be at the forefront of the Women's Movement.

In Sisterhood,

The Sisterwrite Collective: Sheila Auguste, Yvette Ellis, Ferha Farooqui, Samantha Lewis, Sakthi Suriyaprakasam, Fatma Mengal. ○

— Sisterspirit: History & Volunteers —

By Loretta
Sisterspirit/San Jose

The bookstore side of Sisterspirit was born in 1984 as a mail-order business. For two years Amy and Karen ran the bookstore from their homes while Sisterspirit coffeehouses were held in Jonah's Whale in San Jose.

In June of 1986, Sisterspirit was big enough and financially solvent enough to rent space in the newly formed DeFrank Gay and Lesbian Community Center. Rose told me that when they moved in, Sisterspirit had two whole boxes of books. Less than a year later I joined Sis and took over tracking the inventory. At that time Sis had 500 titles. Sis started with half a dozen volunteers in 1984. By the time I got there in March 1987, there were twenty of us. In October of 1990, we moved to our current location. We had twenty-five volunteers and 1,200 titles in our inventory. Today, in 1992, we have 35 volunteers and 2,100 titles.

This is the kind of growth most profit-making companies would kill for, yet we are a nonprofit organization made up of volunteers — women from our local lesbian community who stepped forward, created a successful business, and became a vital part of our San Jose/Santa Clara Valley lesbian/women's community and culture.

Our intent has never been to make lots of money. We have grown so fast for two reasons: First, there is the community that comes to the bookstore. The need for books, music and other materials that reflect our lives helps our store's inventory to grow

in leaps and bounds; no matter how many books we buy it seems can can always use a few more.

The second reason for our success is our volunteers. People like Rose, Margie, Clarice, Janis and many, many others who have faithfully done their part to keep the bookstore open and running for years. These women come to Sisterspirit with no special skills or training and have become a vital and integral part of running a successful bookstore.

As I've said, Sisterspirit has done a lot of growing these last eight years. However we are not even close to becoming the bookstore we could be.

The key to continued growth right now is to be open more hours. I know many of you have complained about how little we are open, but this is always a problem when you work with an all-volunteer staff. All of us have day or night jobs just like you and until the day we can afford to hire permanent staff members, we need more volunteers. With more volunteers we could be open more hours. If we are open more hours, then we would make more money which we could then invest in a larger inventory.

As you can see, it all boils down to you. If you like books, people, or are looking for a place to volunteer, please come talk to any one of us in the bookstore. A bookstore shift is usually two to three hours every two weeks. All you have to bring is a little common sense and a willingness to learn; we'll teach you the rest. It's easy. It's fun and you'll help a vital part of our community to continue to survive and grow.

— Reprinted from the *Sisterspirit Newsletter*. ○

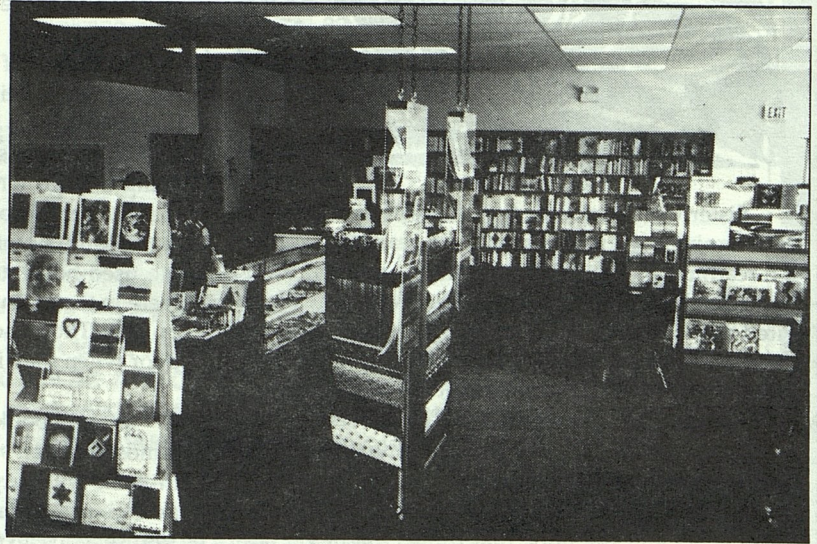
I happened to call River Artz (Pandora, Kalamazoo) as she was unpacking bumperstickers. Favorites there are *Towanda!* (made very popular by a Pandora customer who works in the neighborhood and tends to leave her car with *Towanda!* bumpersticker, parked in front of the store), *These are not hot flashes — they're power surges*, and *Life's a witch and then you fly!*

A Woman's Prerogative (Ferndale/Detroit) created quite a splash when they opened in the fall. As part of their festivities they planned six programs in their first month, one of which looked at Women and the Media and included two panelists from the local public radio station. The radio station published a photo of the event in their program guide (with the bookstore's name and location in the caption) — and sent it to their 20,000 subscribers. The program guide is also published in the local alternative paper — circulation 100,000. I think we're talking a friends-for-life situation here... Detroit, I might add, is a town that has been desperate for a women's bookstore for years and it's great to see women in the media celebrating the store's opening in every way they can.

On the first Thursday of every month New Words (Cambridge) is offering a New Words Tour around the store. "We've heard from customers and friends that our carefully conceived shelving system occasionally borders on the byzantine, so we've decided to publicly reveal the organizing principles of our unique sections. If you've ever had trouble finding the book you want — or if you have questions about what, where and how we arrange the store — join us for this brief (20 minutes) but fascinating tour of New Words." (from New Words' Newsletter.)

A Different Drummer (Laguna Beach) is opening a "satellite store" in a lesbian and gay counseling center at the other end of Orange County. The staff at the Christopher Street Counseling Center wanted certain books to be readily available to their clients and

approached A Different Drummer with the idea. The counseling center will provide the space, the fixtures and a sales person during the hours that the counseling center is open. The bookstore will provide the initial inventory, and do the ordering and bookkeeping. Advertising will be shared. Initially the satellite store will stock primarily non-fiction lesbian and gay titles with sections on lesbian and gay psychology, self-help, death and dying, and recovery titles as well as specific titles requested by various therapists. 60% of the net income will go to the bookstore, 40% will go to the counseling center. The experiment will be evaluated after a year — and if sales support the idea, A Different Drummer will open a store in the neighborhood in their own facility. The grand opening of the new store will be in January. It will be announced via fliers in the counseling center's statements as well as in local media.



ClaireLight in their new home.

A Different Drummer will also be hosting a Gloria Steinem reading and signing in February. They invited another woman-owned bookstore to join them and will be using the theater at a nearby college. They're *very* excited....

Mail-order bookstore For Women Only is relocating to the Susan B. Anthony Memorial UnRest Home, lesbian land in Ohio. Bookstore owner Diann Bowman is also helping to start a cooperative bookstore

library in Columbiana and at the new location at the same time. The mail order service is now breaking even, as a result of cutting advertising expenses — which has also slowed sales significantly. Once the move is finished, Diann plans to take the bookstore “on the road in Ohio” and get sales rolling again.



Courtesy of Vrolijk.

Sisterhood Bookstore (Los Angeles) celebrated its 20th anniversary with a marathon reading. “We had ten readings on Saturday and ten on Sunday,” Sisterhood Bookstore co-founder Adele Wallace. “We invited authors who had read here over the years, and even *we* were amazed with the diversity of perspectives, areas of endeavor, ethnicities, sexualities that came together for the reading. The diversity really reflected what we do and the community we serve. The whole event felt wonderful — it felt like a family thing. There was this sense that we’ve survived all of these years and the hope that things might get a bit better.”

As women who opened a feminist bookstore when there were very few feminist bookstores in the world, Sisterhood’s founders have taken on a challenge that may be equally difficult: opening a general bookstore at a time when some think general bookstores are an endangered species. The new store, Books on the Edge, opened December 3. “Sisterhood will always be our first love...” The new store will be in Santa Monica in the space briefly tenanted by the Revolution feminist bookstore.

Telephone harassment: At least two stores have received threatening and harassing phone calls this fall. At one store the caller has called only once (to date) and left a threatening message on an answering machine. In the other store the caller calls during business hours and yells obscenities. “Fucking feminists” seems to be an irresistible alliteration. Are other stores getting these kinds of calls? We’re looking for a pattern here. Both communities are experiencing other kinds of right-wing madness and/or general vandalism. Drive by shotgun & pellet gun blasts directed at both Planned Parenthood and general department stores with large windows in one case, the purchase of property and other klan activity within 50-100 miles of the other. I’m hearing a lot of appropriate concern expressed that, since the religious right and the white-supremacist right are losing face over the abortion issue, they will turn their attacks on gay and lesbian targets. Stay in touch over this one.

Break-ins: A Room of One’s Own and many other stores in their neighborhood with older-style locks on their back doors were broken into the same night. It seems that one style of locks can be sheared off by using a large wrench. Newer locks are designed so that the band around the lock turns without breaking in the same situation. The thieves took petty cash and the used-book fund — the small bits of money that were in the main part of the store and could be found quickly. They also took the time to flip the latch on the door when they left to keep it from blowing open.

It’s still Books In Print season. We’ve matched-up almost a dozen stores that need a used copy of books in print with larger stores that have a 1991-1992 set and we’re still getting requests for more. If you have a 1991 set you can pass on to another store or if you need a set, give us a call. We’ll keep matching as long as the calls keep coming. At last count we had more requests than copies, so don’t wait — call now! Our answering machine is standing by! 415-626-1556. Or drop us a post-card at PO Box 882554, San Francisco CA 94188. — And don’t forget to send us your news! ○



Bookpeople recommends



Books that Feminists of the future need now!

Among our best-selling children's books are:

BOOK OF BLACK HEROES II: Great Women in the Struggle Toyomi Igus, ed.

Just Us, \$10.95 (0-940975-26-2)

FLOWERING WOMAN: Moontime for Kory Mary Dillon

Sunlight, \$7.95 (0-945086-13-X)

PERIOD, updated Jo Ann Gardner-Loulan

Volcano, \$9.95 (0-912078-88-X)

CREATIVE JOURNAL FOR TEENS Lucia Capacchione

Newcastle, \$12.95 (0-87877-175-1)

THINGS I LIKE ABOUT GRANDMA Francine Haskins

Children's Book, \$13.95 (0-89239-107-3)

Cascade Pass has a great series by Judith Love Cohen to encourage girls to consider careers in the sciences. Interviews with accomplished women in historically male-dominated professions will get the feminists of the future thinking now! Black and white illustrations. **\$6.00 each:**

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Taking Care of Business:

Maintaining a Successful Children's Section

By Ann Morse with Linda Bubon,
Women and Children First

The December rush is over, the dust has settled and it's pretty easy to see which books sold and which remained glued to the shelves. This makes it an excellent time to reassess the market for your children's books. Did your customers buy up all the baby books? The books for preschoolers? For school-age children? For young adults? Most likely, given the recent baby boom, you probably sold primarily preschool titles. But keep an eye on it — that market will likely shift as those children grow.

Carefully gauging your market is one of many tips that Linda Bubon shares with booksellers interested in selling children's books. Bubon works at Women and Children First, the U.S. feminist bookstore with the largest children's section.

Linda also advises booksellers on the importance of being particularly selective when ordering hardcover children's books. "We are less selective about paperbacks than hardcovers," Linda says, "but because of the wealth of children's books out there you have to be very, very selective about what you carry in terms of hardcover picture books because it's very easy to overbuy. We do it all the time."

To maintain a small, successful children's section, Linda suggests sticking with classics (nursery rhymes, *Paper Bag Princess*, *Goodnight Moon*, etc.) and trying a few new titles by well-known authors each season. "Look for books with great stories, great illustrations

and great use of language," Linda says. "There are too many books out there that have it all for you to have to settle for less."

If you're selecting books for the preschool market, look for very simple stories with the "Three R's": rhythm, rhyme and repetition. "The best preschooler books have at least two of these three qualities," Linda says.



Vamos Mujeres Colombia

Suitable books for this age are short, literal and pair only a few sentences with each picture. Words on a page don't mean much to preschoolers, so pictures need to be explicit. To judge a book on this account try reading it by looking at the pictures. If you can't tell what's going on, then the book may be for five-year-olds and up. Interactive books are especially wonderful for one- to three-year-olds.

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titles in WCF's slow-moving YA section are those books dealing with self-help issues.

(For suggestions on specific titles and how to choose non-racist books, see elsewhere in this issue.)

Adequate display space is crucial to good sales. WCF displays about 40 hardcover titles, all face out, on the shelves in its children's section. None of the books overlap, none are spine out. Linda says the store has found it more profitable to display fewer titles cover out, than more titles spine out. "Your sales will be better if you give them more display space. Let those covers show all the way." The store keeps additional hardcover books in a well-organized overstock, from which staff members handsell titles. Linda has found customers will ask for books they don't see on display, "And besides, saying to a customer, 'I think I have something in the back that would be perfect for your child,' can make a customer feel special." WCF generally puts newer titles on display and keeps classics in overstock.

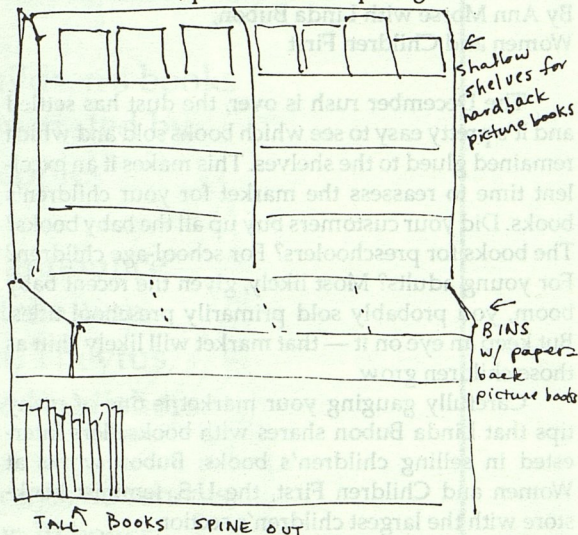
Racks and dumps help to expand display space in the children's section, as do specially built bins that allow customers to flip through oversize paperbacks

Resist buying too many elaborate, beautifully illustrated fairy tale books for preschoolers, Linda advises. Save them for older readers. Children four to five years and up love wild fantasies, fairy tales, myths, tall tales and funny poetry. Because of their predictability, rhyming books are important for emerging readers. Also, when selecting titles for this older group, don't forget to look for good size print. At this age, children are still developing their focusing abilities. If you want to sell young adult books, Linda's advice is to go for paperbacks. The fastest-moving

in much the same way as they might flip through a record bin. The bins keep all the books together, allow customers to see the covers and keep the titles from flopping around. (See Linda's drawing of the bins below.)

WCF groups titles by age as well as by fiction, non-fiction, pop-up books, board books and more. "Keeping like books together really helps sales," Linda says. The store also has a "cultural history section" featuring multicultural books for kids.

Women and Children First designed their section not only to sell books, but also to entertain kids while their parents shop. The section, which is carpeted for crawlers, features toys, a play corner, a little house that children can sit in and even a tiny toy piano. "Kids say, 'Let's go to the store with the piano,'" Linda says. "If kids are content, parents can shop longer."



Another key to selling children's books is finding out as much as possible about the child. How old is she? What are her interests? Is she read to often? Linda suggests choosing shorter books for children rarely read to, longer ones for children used to listening to stories.

The best way to sell children's books is to read them to the customer. If Linda can't read the book with the customer, she'll encourage the customer to read it for herself. WCF tries to provide summaries of longer books (sometimes on bookmarks stuck into the books), but staffers also try to read the customer a funny or touching selection from the book.

Linda is not afraid to be honest with customers or to discourage them from buying books that aren't age appropriate. "If they pick up a book I don't like, I say so. If a customer picks out a book of fairy tales for a baby I say, 'Why don't you save the fairy tales until later,' and I suggest a book of poetry or a cardboard book the baby can chew on." Her honesty impresses customers and brings them back for more suggestions.

To help train and familiarize staff members with children's books, the store holds a sales meeting each fall during which each worker picks out three books from different age groups and presents them to the rest of the store. Linda also spends one or two hours with new staff members talking about the section and teaching them how to select age-appropriate books.

One benefit to working the section is that the books are so easy to learn, Linda says. She encourages staff members to take them home and read them, or catch up on new titles as they come into the store.

Women and Children First also promotes its children's section through a weekly story time held from 10:30 to 11 a.m. Wednesdays before the store opens. Though holding the story time on a weekday prohibits many working parents from attending, Linda found that most parents are too busy on Saturday and Sunday mornings to come to story time. Initially, the store advertised the weekly event in a free literary calendar, but now that they've built up a regular audience of between 8 and 30 children, they've found they no longer need to advertise. They do promote the event by passing out bookmarks with the store's name and story time hours on the front and a list of 10 great read-aloud stories on the back.



Linda encourages parents with two-year-olds to attend story time, and she limits her readings to several short rhyming tales and several interactive books. "It does generate business, it really helps weekday business and lets people know you're there," Linda says. "It's a great thing to do and it promotes early literacy."

Other promotions to consider are school book fairs, bazaars and discounts for not-for-profits buying children's books (WCF gives 10% off with a minimum \$100 purchase). WCF also has thought about inviting students, parents and teachers from a school for a special evening sale and giving 10% of the sales back to the school for its library.



One of WCF's most successful promotions was a children's concert held during its grand reopening. One of its least successful was a lecture series on parenting topics.

Though Women and Children First's children's section takes up 25 percent of the store, it represents only 10 to 20 percent of the store's sales. Why then does WCF continue selling kids' books?

"We're extremely committed to selling books for all ages," Linda says. "It's a very joyful part of the business and a way of really supporting women who have children." ○



Judy Horacek, from *Life On The Edge*.



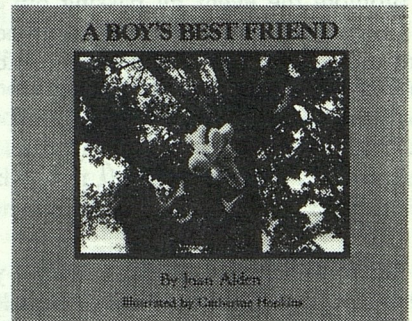
A BOY'S BEST FRIEND

by Joan Alden, illustrated with hand-tinted photos by Catherine Hopkins

\$12.95, cloth. ISBN 1-55583-203-2

32 pages.

Will, a seven-year-old asthma sufferer, has proclaimed that he wants nothing at all for his birthday if he can't have a dog. His birthday arrives — and almost ends — without a gift. But at the last hour, Will's two moms present him with LeDogg, who teaches Will that to be different is to be distinctive. Ages 5 to 8.

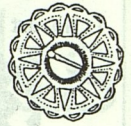


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How To Tell The Difference



It's a joy to be able to alert booksellers to two powerful books that will aid you in your search for non-exploitative children's titles on Native Americans. **Through Indian Eyes: The Native Experience in Books for Children** and **How To Tell the Difference: A Checklist for Evaluating Children's Books for Anti-Indian Bias** were written in part because, given that "the realities of Native lifeways are almost completely unknown to outsiders, it is often very difficult for them to evaluate children's books about American Indians."

Through Indian Eyes and *How to Tell the Difference* offer many of the tools you need to choose non-racist, undistorted books about the lives and histories of Native Americans. And, though specific to Native Americans, the ideas and guidelines in the two books apply to all titles in your store. None of us here at FBN will ever look at children's books the same way after reading these two titles.

Through Indian Eyes (\$24.95 pb, 0-86571-213-1), edited by Beverly Slapin and Doris Seale, is a moving testament to the belief that what children read *does* affect them; that *all* children have a right to read books that do not impart destructive, racially biased ideas or give them feelings of shame and worthlessness. In addition to nine essays on the effects of negative stereotyping and derogatory images on children, *Through Indian Eyes* includes poetry, art and stories by Native American writers; an extensive resource section, including a bibliography; and more than 100 reviews critiquing children's books on Native Americans and articulating precisely why a book's plot, language and/or illustrations are racist or not. Reading through these excellent reviews is a bit like attending a consciousness raising session with friends you trust to tell you the absolute truth about things that most people are afraid to talk about.

How to Tell the Difference (\$7.95 pb, 0-86571-214-X), by Beverly Slapin, Doris Seale and Rosemary Gonzalez, is both included as a chapter in *Through Indian Eyes* and printed as a separate guide. It looks at offensive illustrations, loaded language, distortions of history, presentations of lifestyles, values and the role of women, and examines the book's effects on a child's self-esteem and the backgrounds of authors/illustrators. The authors give examples for each issue they raise.

Look at Picture Books
In "ABC" books, is "I" for "Indian"?



Indian

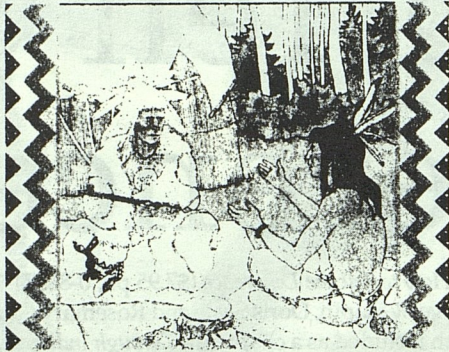
The Indian wears bright colors.
He likes to live outdoors.

If we had the money, we'd send copies of these books to every feminist and alternative store in the country. If we had a *lot* of money, we'd send copies to every children's book buyer, editor and librarian as well.

On the following page are a few excerpts from *How to Tell the Difference*. Both books, originally published by Oyate, are now published by New Society Publishers, PO Box 582, Santa Cruz CA 95061. Distributed by Book-people, Inland and others. (— AM/CS) →→→

Look for Stereotypes

Is the art a mishmash of "generic Indian" designs?



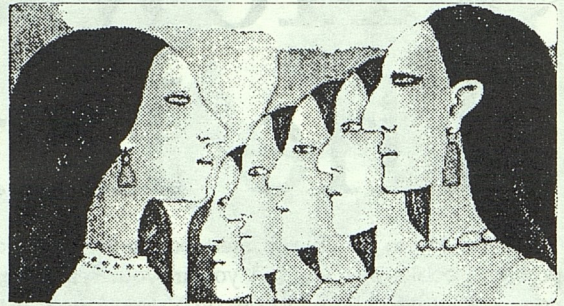
Or

Is attention paid to accurate, appropriate design and color; are clothes, dress, houses drawn with careful attention to detail?



Look for Tokenism

Are Native people depicted as stereotypically alike, or do they look just like whites with brown faces?



Or

Are Native people depicted as genuine individuals?



Look at the author's or illustrator's background

Is the background of the author or illustrator devoid of the qualities that enable them to write about Native peoples in an accurate, respectful manner? Is there an ethnocentric bias which leads to distortions or omissions?

Betty Baker, the author who delighted many young readers with Little Runner of the Longhouse,...writes, "I love the Southwest, its history, and the people who once roamed its haunting countryside." ...only through Betty Baker's imagination could it have become such a delightful story about Indians old and young, wise and frolicsome, stubborn and willing.

Or—Is there anything in the author's and illustrator's background that qualifies them to write about Native peoples? Do their perspectives strengthen the work?

Ellen White, whose Salish name is Kwulasulwut, which means "Many Stars," lives in Nanaimo, British Columbia, where she teaches Native Studies and the Coast Salish language... The cover painting and illustrations for this book are by Nootkan artist Vincent Smith, from Nuchatlitz on Nootka Island.

Young Adult Books With Lesbian/Gay Themes

By Christine Jenkins

The list of YA novels that include lesbian/gay characters and themes continues to grow. Here are the most recent additions, plus two nonfiction books written for teens seeking information about lesbian/gay identity and issues.

Fiction

Witch Baby by Francesca Lia Block. \$13.95 cl, 0-06-020547-4, HarperCollins, 1991. 103 pages.

Witch Baby, who in *Weetzie Bat* (\$3.50 pb, 0-06-447068-7) was adopted as a baby by a loving and unconventional family (comprised of two couples — one straight and one gay), leaves home to search for her biological parents.

Cherokee Bat and the Goat Guys by Francesca Lia Block. \$13.95 cl, 0-06-020269-6. HarperCollins, 1992. 116 pp.

In this book, Block's third novel about Weetzie Bat and her family, Cherokee Bat, Witch Baby, Raphael, and Angel Juan form a rock band that brings them success, disaster and maturity.

Lark in the Morning by Nancy Garden. \$14.95 cl, 0-374-34338-1. Farrar Straus Giroux, 1991. 288 pages.

A young lesbian befriends two runaway children and helps them find a safe home.

Two Weeks with the Queen by Morris Gleitzman. \$14.95 cl, 0-399-22249-9. Putnam and Grosset, 1991. 144 pages.

Two unlikely friends — Colin, a boy whose brother has cancer, and Ted, a man whose lover is dying of AIDS — meet in a hospital and help each other through their mutual losses.

The Drowning of Stephen Jones by Bette Greene. \$16 cl, 0-553-07437-7. Bantam, 1992.

The author draws upon a true incident of gaybashing that turns into murder to create a bleak

picture of small town homophobia nurtured by a fundamentalist church. While the denouement uses the very stereotypes the book decries to punish the villains, this could be useful in stimulating discussion about the many costs of homophobia.



Jackie Urbanovic in *Alternative Library Literature*, 1984/1985.

Rumors and Whispers by Marilyn Levy. \$3.95 pb, 0-449-70327-4. Fawcett Juniper/Ballantine, 1990. 153 pages.

Sarah is a talented art student who must find support among her friends when her father disowns her older brother for being gay.

Getting It Right by Jessi Maguire. \$3.50 pb, 0-8041-0847-1. Ivy/Ballantine, 1991. 186 pages.

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(209) 296-3445
Fax (209) 296-4515

This is one of a series featuring a diverse group of talented and somewhat rebellious teens who are students at Norwell ("Nowhere") High. This title's plot includes a gay teen coming out and being accepted by the group. A recommended series (six titles as of the end of 1992) whose covers feature eye-catching black-and-white photos of alienated youth.

The Method by Paul Robert Walker. \$14.95 cl, 0-15-200528-4. Gulliver/HBJ, 1990. 184 pages.

Albie becomes a member of his school's drama club and makes several good friends. When one of them, Mitch, comes out to him, their friendship is made stronger.

Bad Boy by Diana Wieler. \$15 cl, 0-385-30415-3. Delacorte, 1992.

An award-winning Canadian YA novel about A.J., a 16-year-old hockey hellion, who must shed some of his own homophobia when his much admired friend and teammate Tully comes out to him.

The Dear One by Jacqueline Woodson. \$14 cl, 0-385-30416-1. Delacorte, 1991, 145 pages.

Afeni is a young and self-assured African-American teen whose home life is disrupted when the pregnant teenage daughter of her mother's best friend moves in. Among the adults in Afeni's extended family is a supportive lesbian couple.



Jane Ray (*Mother Gave A Shout*)

Nonfiction

When Someone You Know is Gay by Susan Cohen and Daniel Cohen. \$13.95 cl, 0-87131-567-X. M. Evans, 1989. 170 pages.

A thoughtful and informative book written for teens who have a gay friend or relative.

Understanding Sexual Identity: A Book for Gay Teens and Their Friends, by Janice Rench. \$11.95 cl, 0-8225-0044-2. Lerner, 1990. 56 pages.

This helpful guide, written in a question and answer format, is for teens trying to understand a lesbian or gay identity and includes chapters on families, religion, coming out, sexual health and resources. ○

Kids Raves

Compiled by Ann Morse

The children's section at Baltimore's Thirty-First Street Bookstore has been an integral part of the store since it opened 19 years ago, and manager Jennie Boyd-Bull is happy to talk with booksellers about how to organize their children's book section. Thirty-First Street divides their fiction children's books into categories called "Read to me," "Read with me," "I can read," "Reading alone" and YA books. Children's books also are grouped in sections titled "Exploring the world," "Exploring the arts," "Uppity girls," "Folk and fairy tales," "Special issues," "Activities," and "Other languages." There are also nature, ecology and biography/history/religion sections and a YA health and sexuality section that's shelved separately from the YA fiction section. The store also offers children's cassettes. To the delight of children, there's a play space in the store with boxes of blocks, stuffed animals, a rocking horse, cushions, tons of posters and scratch paper in addition to books (seconds or promotional copies) that the kids can read. For more information, contact Jennie at 410-243-3131.

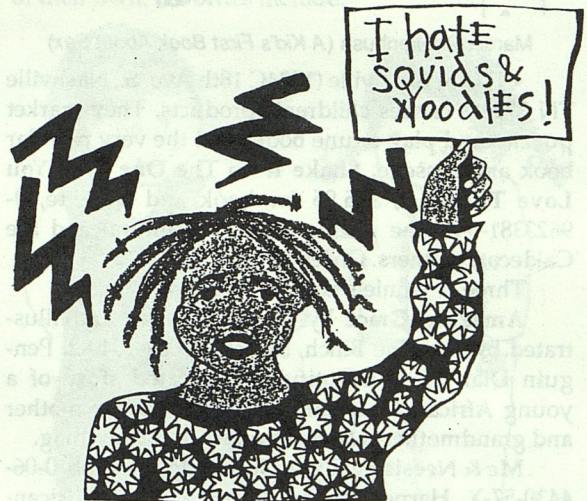
The following are some of Jennie's favorite children's book publishers and children's books:

- Just Us Books (301 Main St., Suite 22-24, Orange NJ 07050) is the African-American owned publisher of Afro-Bets Books, especially **Great Women in the Struggle: Book of Black Heroes, Volume 2**, \$10.95 pb, 0-940975-26-2. Distributed by Inland and Ingram.

- The Children's Book Press (6400 Hollis St., Emeryville CA 94608) publishes multicultural and bilingual books and cassettes for children, in particular **The Woman Who Outshone the Sun**, \$13.95 cl, 0-89239-101-4. Children's Book Inland.

- The Children's Press is a large Chicago-based press that publishes an inexpensive series of paper-

back books for children. They publish many multicultural books and have a good environmental and biography series with strong women. Their Rookie Readers Series at \$2.95 each are for multicultural beginning readers for ages 4 to 7. For example **Katie Can** and **Messy Bessey**. The books feature urban settings and have vocabulary listed in the back. Children's Press, 5440 N. Cumberland Ave., Chicago IL 60656.

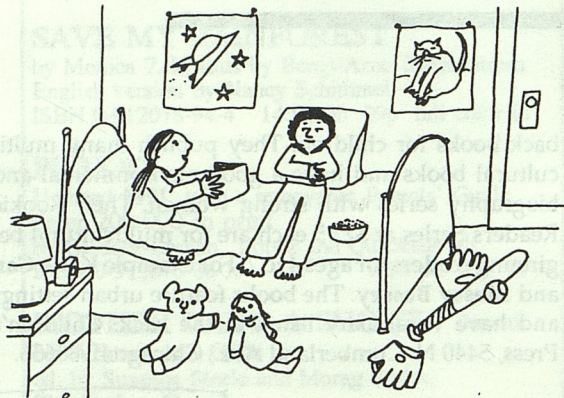


Sherry Guppy (*Why Me?* by Lillian Allen)

- Firefly Books (250 Sparks Ave., Willowdale ONT Canada M2H 2S4), in particular the Annick imprint, publishes excellent multicultural paperback books for children. Their Talk-About-Books series of board books are all multicultural photograph books for \$4.95. It is especially difficult to find multicultural books for infants and this is one of the best series available. Inland.

- The Children's Small Press Collection, based in Ann Arbor, Michigan is a wholesaler of hard-to-find

good books and music for children. They always exhibit at ABA and Jennie always does a front list order there. They have good terms and a good range of special issue books. For example, **A Kid's First Book About Sex**, Yes Press, \$5.50 pb, 0-919964-67-2. They also carry YA titles. Children's Small Press Collection, 719 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor MI 48104.



Marcia Quackenbush (*A Kid's First Book About Sex*)

• JTG of Nashville (1024C 18th Ave. S., Nashville TN 37212) carries children's products. They market puzzles and play-a-tune books and the very popular book and cassette, **Shake It To The One That You Love The Best**, \$15.95 for book and cassette, 0-9623381-3-3. The puzzles are multicultural and are Caldecott winners. Order direct.

Three of Jennie's favorite titles are:

Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman and illustrated by Caroline Binch, \$14 cl, 0-8037-1040-2. Penguin Dial, 1991. Beautifully illustrated story of a young African-American girl with a loving mother and grandmother who learns she can do anything.

Me & Neesie by Eliose Greenfield, \$4.95 pb, 0-06-4430-57-X. Harper Trophy. About a young African-American girl and her imaginary friend.

I Like Me! by Nancy Carlson, \$3.99 pb, 0-14-050819-8. Puffin Penguin. The story of a little pig whose best friend is herself. — *Jennie Boyd-Bull*

Brigit Books, St. Petersburg, FL

We have a little playstore/house for children to play in with a book and toys inside. The children don't say in there too long (they prefer the greeting card spinners), but they ask to come here because of it and their parents like the idea.

One of my favorite books is **The Way to Start a Day**, a Caldecott Honor Book and ALA Notable Book by Byrd Baylor. It's a multicultural view of how different people celebrate the dawn: cave people, Peruvian Indians, Japanese, etc. A beautiful book. \$3.95, 689-71054-2. Macmillan.

Phoenix Books, Kansas City, MO

It's wonderful to see the kinds of books that are being written for children today. Books that reflect different cultures, that acknowledge how the family has changed, that empower children to tell the truth and claim their feelings. All the books we wish we'd had as children! Phoenix Books has made a commitment to stock books for children and parents that reflect the real world and teach acceptance, empowerment and a world vision that includes everyone. We stock our parenting books in the children's section and try to make the connection between healthy parenting and happy kids.

Some of our favorite titles include the wonderfully feminist fairy tale **Paper Bag Princess** by Robert N. Munsch; the bittersweet story about the loss of a beloved pet, **I'll Always Love You** by Hans Wilhelm; **Period**, by JoAnn Gardner-Loulan, Bonnie Lopez and Marcia Quackenbush, the book we all wish our mothers had given to us when we were growing up; and of course, the incredible Alyson Wonderland books — in particular **Heather Has Two Mommies**, by Leslea Newman, and **Daddy's Roommate**, by Michael Willhoite — that show lesbian and gay parents living loving lives together with their children.

Many therapists count on us to inform them about the latest titles for children dealing with sexual and physical abuse. To that end we have a printed bibliography, broken down by category, that we make available to them free of charge. And whenever we sell at conferences we always take books from our children's and parenting section along.



Our Mother's Gardens, Mankato, MN

The women at Our Mother's Gardens in Mankato, MN sent along a list of some of their favorite

children's titles:

Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold.

Mama, Do You Love Me? by Barbara Joosse.

High Rise Glorious Skittle Skat Roarious Sky Pie Angel Food Cake, by Nancy Willard. Features beautiful illustrations of multicultural angels.

Everybody Needs a Rock by Byrd Baylor.

Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge by Mem Fox.



Handmade Alphabet by Laura Rankin. A manual alphabet with all different colors and ages of hands.

Daydreamers by Eloise Greenfield.

Tusk Tusk by David McKee. About racism.

Everyone's Mandala Coloring Book by Monique Mandali.

The Stonecutter by Gerald McDermott. A Japanese folktale about power and abuse of it.

Just Enough is Plenty by Barbara Goldin. A Hanukkah story also about abundance.

I Like Me by Nancy Carlson. Deals with self-esteem.

Fish is Fish by Leo Lionni. About egocentrism and diversity.

What is God? by Eton Boritzer.

Darkness and the Butterfly by Ann Grifalconi. A girl who is afraid of the dark learns from a wise woman.

Noelle's Brown Book by Noelle Lamperti. About the wonders of brown and pride in who we are. (Available from Bookslinger.)

Bird talk/Bineshiinh Dibaajmowin by Lenore Keeshig-Tobias. Bilingual Ojibway-English. (Available from Bookslinger.)

Valley Women Books and Gifts, Fresno, CA

Valley Women Books and Gifts is a very unique bookstore located in Fresno, California's bohemian "tower district". Specializing in feminist literature, women's issues, recovery, lesbian and gay subject matter, culturally diverse titles and children's books, makes the bookstore unlike any other in California's central valley. Even though our "children's section" is not the largest in town, it certainly holds the most interest. Held within a very safe, secure and comfortable corner of the store, our "children's corner" comes complete with large pillows, soft cuddly critters and many books to help children through the rough spots in life. While mom and dad browse through the stacks of recovery books, children can find a little recovery of their own. Favorites include:



Carol Deach (*It's My Body*)

Kid's First Book About Sex

Divorce Happens To The Nicest Kids

What Am I Doing In A Step-Family?

Alex, The Kid With AIDS

All About Asthma

Do I Have A Daddy?

It's My Body

Growing Up Female in a Multicultural World . . .

Children's Favorites from *The Feminist Press*

**MY MOTHER THE MAIL
CARRIER/
MI MAMA LA CARTERA**

Inez Maury
Spanish translation by Norah
Alemany
Illustrated by Lady McCrady

Five-year-old Lupita charms us in English and Spanish with her tales of life in the city with her single, independent mother who loves her job and her child.

32 pages / ages 4-9 / b&w illustrations
ISBN 0-935312-23-4, \$7.95 paper

**THE MER-CHILD
A Legend for Children and Other
Adults**

Robin Morgan
Illustrated by Jesse Spicer Zerner

This enchanting story of the friendship that develops between two outsiders—the lonely Mer-Child and the Little Girl, ostracized because of her race and because her legs are paralyzed—creates a wondrous celebration of our common capacity to love.

64 pages / ages 6-adult / b&w illustrations
ISBN 1-55861-053-7, \$17.95 cloth
ISBN 1-55861-054-5, \$8.95 paper

THE PRINCESS AND THE ADMIRAL
Charlotte Pomerantz
Illustrated by Tony Chen

Young Princess Mat Mat shows us that girls can be strong, decisive leaders as she uses her knowledge of the tides to defeat a powerful admiral and his fleet.

"A glorious reading experience. Chen's pictures are equally enjoyable."—*Publishers Weekly*

48 pages / ages 5-10 / b&w illustrations
ISBN 1-55861-060-X, \$17.95 cloth
ISBN 1-55861-061-8, \$8.95 paper

All Feminist Press at The City University of New York titles are distributed to the trade by Consortium Book Sales & Distribution, Inc., 1045 Westgate Drive, St. Paul, MN 55114. (800) 283-3572

- Remember The Secret
- Love You Forever
- Liking Myself
- The Mouse, The Monster And Me
- Me First And The Gimme Gimmes
- Double Dip Feelings
- A Very Touching Book

The *It's O.K. Press* series of coloring books: i.e., *It's O.K. To Be Shy* and *Sometimes It's O.K. To Tell Secrets*.

In *Our Neighborhood* book series: i.e., *Maria's Grandma Gets Mixed Up* and *Brian Was Adopted*
Something Bad Happened, a series of six creative books for healing Post-Traumatic Stress, published by the Bureau for At-Risk Youth.

Add to that long list, which is just a sampling of the wonderful books to help children understand and deal with their feelings, *Valley Women Books* and *Gifts* also carries some terrific bestsellers that seem to capture everyone's imagination.

- The Giving Tree
- Keepers Of The Earth
- Finding The Green Stone
- Starbright
- Where The Sidewalk Ends

And of course, books to help our youth appreciate and care for our precious environment, as well as books written for minority youth about their race, cultural achievements and heritage.

As far as advice for helping a child pick out a book, unless there is a specific difficulty going on within the family, our best advice is just to let the child browse through the books, pick them up, look at them, and choose the one or ones they like best. Amazingly, we have found that children are very good at picking out what they like and will be more apt to read it and appreciate it if allowed to do the selecting.

Choosing a book to help a child through a difficult emotion or difficult time may seem to be a bit tricky. However, with a little investigation and skimming, the books speak for themselves. Here again, given the chance, provided the child can read, they will do a great job of choosing the books they need at the time when they need them the most.

— Carrell Halley

Inklings, Houston, TX

If you sell *It's My Body* or other books about good touch/bad touch secrets, consider adding my favorite

of this small genre: **A Very Touching Book** by Jan Hindman, published by AlexAndria Assoc. (\$11.95), available from Womontyme. This is a really upbeat, attractive, reassuring book that's easy to handsell to individuals and organizations that work with abuse.

— Pokey Anderson



Kris Kovick (*How Would You Feel If Your Dad Was Gay?*)

Circle Shop, Gardiner, ME

The Whale In Lowell's Cove, Written and Illustrated by Jane W. Robinson. I'm partial to this book because it's a local favorite about a whale that got caught in a seine net in a cove near Harpswell, Maine. The book not only tells the story of how the whale got caught and how it was freed, but offers a bunch of "whale facts" on just about every page. That Robinson illustrated the book herself with wonderful detail and dexterity is a treat in itself. — *Jahneene M. Nickerson*

Dreams and Swords, Indianapolis, IN

Here are a few of my favorite things from the wonderful world of kids' books. My favorite of all is: **Pish Posh, Said Hieronymus Bosch** by Nancy Willard. The full-page illustrations by Leo and Diane Dillon are intricate, colorful, and bizarre; very true to the style of Bosch himself. They are the perfect accompaniment for Willard's imaginative verses describing

the plight of a housekeeper driven wild by the imagination of one of the most bizarre painters who ever lived. One short example: "I'm quitting your service, I've had quite enough of your three-legged thistles asleep in my wash, of scrubbing the millstone you use for a dish, and riding to shops on a pickle-winged fish." This treasure is \$18.95 from HBJ.

Another gem from Nancy Willard is **A Visit To William Blake's Inn**. This is a story in verse about life in an Inn run by William Blake. In magical and whimsical poems she describes the staff, two mighty dragons that brew and bake, two angels that wash and shake the featherbeds, and a rabbit who shows visitors to their rooms, and the guest, including the Man in the Marmalade Hat, and two sunflowers who demand a room with a view. \$3.95 HBJ.

Bringing Back The Animals by Teresa Kennedy and illustrated by Sue Williams beautifully describes in words and pictures several of the world's endangered animals. The information is interesting and accurate, and the paintings have just the right balance of whimsy and majesty, making both kids and their grown-ups want to read this one again and again. What I like so much about this one is that it offers suggestions of things ordinary folks can do to help these magnificent creatures survive. It also has a list of resources for kids who want to get involved, and best of all, a portion of the proceeds are donated to Friends of the Earth.



Leslie Trawin (*The Generous Jefferson Bartleby Jones*)

One last one I want to mention is **God's Paintbrush** by Sandy Sasso. Sasso is the second woman to be ordained as a rabbi, and the first rabbi who is also a mother. Through fantasy and imagination, the book

invites children of *all* faiths and backgrounds to encounter God through moments in their own lives. Each verse is followed by a question designed to foster sharing by kids and grown-ups:

Sometimes I imagine that
when it gets very dark at night,
the flowers, trees, mountains
and oceans are afraid.

I wonder if God made
the stars for them
to go to bed with
and the moon
to be their nightlight?

When are you afraid?
What makes you feel better?

Women and Children First, Chicago, IL

Draw Me A Star by Eric Carle. A beautiful, simple and profound book about the artistic imagination. This is my favorite Eric Carle since **The Very Hungry Caterpillar**. Suitable for 2 1/2 or 3 up to 7. Strong adult appeal and short enough to read with a customer (my favorite sales technique). Putnam, \$15.95.

— Linda Bubon

Minnesota Women's Press Bookshop

We're ecstatic about four new children's books — and we especially encourage every adult to read them:

Maya and the Town that Loved a Tree, art by Kiki and story by Kathryn Shaw. Carries the message of the

importance of loving each other and the earth. Rizzoli Publications, \$14.95.

The King's Equal, Katherine Paterson. A fairy tale as it should be. The prince must find a princess who is his equal: however, he must also be equal to her. Possible? Yes, and wonderfully illustrated by Russian artist Vladimir Bagin. HarperCollins, \$17.

Two new books by Ursula K. LeGuin: **Fish Soup** is perfect for teaching gender equity. Thinking Man and Writing Woman, a young girl and a young boy, flying mice, friendship and acceptance. Illustrated by Patrick Wynne. Atheneum, \$13.95.

A Ride on the Red Mare's Back. The Swedish horse carved in Dalarna comes to life as a young girl rescues her brother from the trolls. Paintings by Julie Downing, Orchard Books, \$15.95.

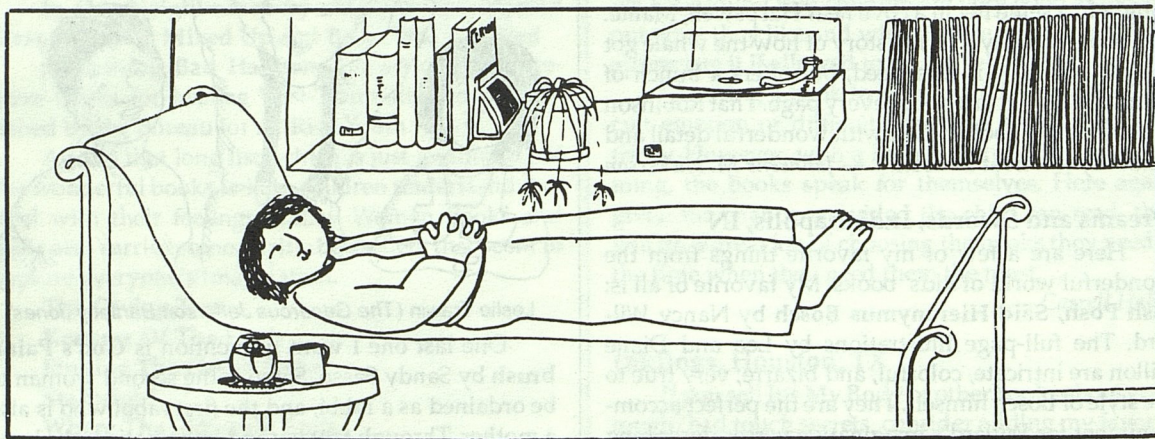
Also check out **Elizabeth and Larry** by Marilyn Sadler, illustrated by Roger Bollen, Simon & Schuster, \$4.95, and **Night Noises** by Mem Fox, illustrated by Terry Denion, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, \$4.95. Be prepared to laugh a lot.

Rubyfruit Books, Tallahassee, FL

As for one of our favorite current books, it is **Masai and I** by Virginia Kroll, illustrations by Nancy Carpenter \$13.95.

Linda is a young girl learning about East Africa and she feels a kinship with the tall, proud people there called the Masai. The beautiful full-color pictures depict her as she lovingly imagines how her daily life would be if she lived in Africa with the Masai. ○

Marcia Quakenbush (*Period*)





Kids Bestsellers

Phoenix Books

Kansas City, MO

1. **A Very Touching Book**, Jan Hindman, Alexandria Assoc., 1985, \$11.95.
2. **Brother Eagle, Sister Sky**, Susan Jeffers, Dial Books, 1991, \$15.
3. **Father Gander's Nursery Rhymes: Nonracist, Nonsexist, Nonviolent Rhymes for Kids of All Kinds**, Douglas W. Larche, Advocacy Press, 1985, \$14.95.
4. **Dinosaur's Divorce**, Laurene Brown and Marc Brown, Little Press, 1988, \$5.95.
5. **Heather Has Two Mommies**, Leslea Newman, Alyson Wonderland, 1989, \$7.95.
6. **Daddy's Roommate**, Michael Willhoite, Alyson Wonderland, 1990, \$8.95.
7. **Paper Bag Princess**, Robert N. Munsch, Annick Press, 1980, \$4.95.
8. **Mama, Do You Love Me?**, Barbara M. Josse, Chronicle Books, 1991, \$12.95.
9. **Make A Joyful Sound: Poems for Children by African-American Poets**, edited by Deborah Slier, Checkerboard Press, 1991, \$12.95.
10. **Period**, JoAnn Gardner-Loulan, Bonnie Lopez, Marcia Quackenbush, Volcano Press, 1991, \$9.95.

Women and Children First

Chicago, IL

All-time bestsellers

1. **Paper Bag Princess**, Munsch, \$4.95.
2. **Goodnight Moon**, Brown, \$3.95 pb.
3. **Pat the Bunny**, Kunhardt, \$6.95.
4. **If You're Afraid of the Dark**, Edens, \$4.95.
5. **Father Gander's Nursery Rhymes**, Larche, \$15.95.
6. **Goodnight Moon**, Brown, \$12 cl.

7. **How Many Bugs in a Box?**, Carter, \$11.95.
8. **Love You Forever**, Munsch, \$4.95.
8. **Moo Baa Lalala**, Boynton, \$3.95 (board book).
9. **Very Hungry Caterpillar**, Carle, \$4.95 (mini).
10. **Where the Wild Things Are**, Sendak, \$4.95.
11. **The Runaway Bunny**, Brown, \$3.95.



Marcia Quackenbush (*Period*)

1992 bestsellers

1. **Paper Bag Princess**, Munsch, \$4.95.
2. **On the Day You Were Born**, Frasier, \$13.95.
3. **Goodnight Moon**, Brown, \$6.95 (board book).
4. **Love You Forever**, Munsch, \$4.95.
5. **Princess Smartypants**, Cole, \$5.95.
6. **Goodnight Moon**, Brown, \$3.95 pb.
7. **Father Gander's Nursery Rhymes**, Larche, \$15.95.
8. **Moo Baa Lalala**, Boynton, \$3.95 (board book).
8. **Animal Babies**, McNaught, \$2.25.
9. **I Like Me**, Carlson, \$3.99.



The Moonlight Hide & Seek Club in the Pollution Solution

Rosamund Elwin & Michele Paule
Illustrated by Cheryl Henhawke

The talented team who brought us *Asha's Mums* returns with this lively, imaginative tale. While playing moonlight hide-and-seek, one moonlight club member notices the moon "twisting and turning like a restless puppet." Screeching their game to a halt, they race to the playfield and find the rest of the neighbourhood grabbing hold of a big sheet. The moon is falling!

What happens next leads the moonlight club and the entire community to the pollution solution.

Includes information for children on ways to recycle and save energy.

\$6.95 pb **0-88961-173-4**

9. *If You're Afraid of the Dark*, Edens, \$4.95.
10. *Face Painting Book*, Heinser, \$16.95.
10. *Wheels on the Bus*, Ziefert, \$2.25.
10. *Where The Wild Things Are*, Sendak, \$4.95.

Dreams and Swords Indianapolis, IN

General titles

1. *Love You Forever*, Munsch, \$4.95. (Not really a kids' book, but every "big kid" should have it.)
2. *Pish Posh*, Said Hieronymous Bosch, Willard, \$18.95.
3. *Way to Start a Day*, Baylor, \$3.95.
4. *Paper Bag Princess*, Munsch, \$4.95.
5. *Golly Sisters Go West*, Byars, \$3.50.
6. *Positively Mother Goose*, Loomans, \$14.95.
7. *Where's Mommy's Truck?*, Ziefert, \$5.95.
8. *Where's Daddy's Car?*, Ziefert, \$5.95.
9. *I Saw You in the Bathtub*, Schwartz, \$3.50.
10. *Big Sister, Little Sister*, Zolotow, \$4.50.

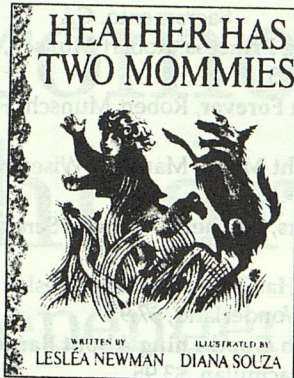


Jane Ray (*Mother Gave a Shout*)

Issue-related titles

1. *It's My Body*, Freeman, \$3.95.
2. *Putting On the Brakes*, Quinn, \$8.95. (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.)
3. *Dinosaur's Divorce*, Brown, \$4.95.
4. *Kid's First Book About Sex*, Blank, \$5.50.
5. *The Trouble With Secrets*, Johnson, \$3.95.
6. *Mouse, Monster and Me*, Palmer, \$4.95.
7. *Getting To Know Your Feelings*, Dombrower, \$4.95.

8. **Liking Myself**, Palmer, \$4.95.
9. **Heather Has Two Mommies**, Newman, \$7.95.
10. **It Happens to Boys, Too...**, Satullo, \$9.95.



Choices

Santa Barbara, CA

1. **Paper Bag Princess**, Munsch. (Good for grown-ups, too.) (BP)
2. **Mighty Mountain and the Three Strong Women**, Irene Hedlund. (BP)
3. **The River That Gave Gifts**, Humphreys. (BP)
4. **You Can Be A Woman ...** architect, engineer, etc. Series in English and Spanish. Judith Love Cohen and David Katz. (BP)
5. **What It's Like to be Me**, edited by Helen Exley and written and illustrated by children with disabilities.
6. **Come Sit By Me**, Margaret Merrifield and Heather Collins. (A story book about AIDS and HIV for small children, ages 4 to 8, and their caregivers.) (BP)

A Room of One's Own

Madison, WI

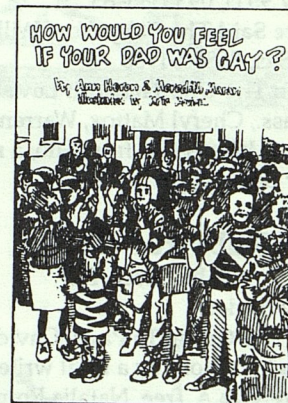
Paperbacks

1. **Princess Smartypants**, Babette Cole, Putnam, \$5.95 pb, 0399217797.
2. **Paper Bag Princess**, Robert Munsch, Firefly/-Inland, \$4.95pb, 0920236162.
3. **Book Of Black Heroes: Great Women**, T. Igus, Just Books/Inland, \$10.95 pb, 0940975262.
4. **Catwings**, Ursula LeGuin, Scholastic, \$2.95 pb, 0590428330.

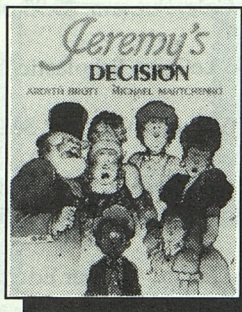
5. **Prince Cinders**, Babette Cole, Putnam, \$5.95 pb, 0399218823.
6. **Catwings Return**, Ursula LeGuin, Scholastic, \$2.50 pb, 0590428322.
7. **Love You Forever**, Robert Munsch, Firefly, \$4.95 pb, 0920668372.
8. **Alexander & The Terrible Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day**, Judith Viorst, Macmillan, \$3.95, 0689711735.
9. **If You're Afraid Of The Dark...**, Copper Edens, Green Tiger- Simon & Schuster, \$4.95, 067176053X.
10. **Mommies At Work**, Eve Merriam, Simon & Schuster, \$2.50 pb, 0671732757.

Hardbacks

1. **On The Day You Were Born**, Debra Frasier, HBJ, \$13.95 cl, 0152579958.
2. **Big Book For Peace**, Ann Durell ed., Viking, \$17.50 cl, 0525446052.
3. **Father Gander's Nursery Rhymes**, D. Larche, Advocacy Press/Inland, \$15.95 cl, 0911655123.
4. **Whisper From The Woods**, Victoria Wirth, Simon & Schuster, \$17.00 cl, 0671747908.



5. **Duke Who Outlawed Jelly Beans**, J. Valentine, Alyson, \$12.95 cl, 1555831990.
6. **Mama Do You Love Me?**, Barbara Jooose, Chronicle, \$12.95 cl, 087701759X.
7. **Goodnight Moon Board Book**, Margaret Wise Brown, Harper Collins, \$6.95 cl, 0694003611.
8. **Mother Gave A Shout**, S. Steele, Volcano Press/Inland, \$14.95 cl, 0912078901.



FROM CANADA
**A
 gender-fair
 story**
**Jeremy's
 Decision**

A young boy's true interests are ignored and is constantly pressured to become a musical conductor like his father. The grand finale finds the grown boy a paleontologist and his sister the famous musical conductor.

A story of celebrating who we are. A powerful message for everyone —parents, relatives, boys and GIRLS!

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SEND FOR OUR FREE COLOR CATALOG

9. **Old Turtle**, Wood & Chee, Pfeifer-Hamilton/-Inland, \$17.95 cl, 0938586483.
10. **More More Said The Baby**, Vera Williams, Morrow, \$13.95 cl, 0688091733
10. **Shake It To The One That You Love The Most**, Book & Cass., Cheryl Mattox, Warren-Mattox Productions. We get this from Silo, a music distributor or Bookpeople.

Rubyfruit Books

Tallahassee, FL

Titles for early readers

1. **The Cows Are Going To Paris**, David Kirby (picturebook with a story by a local writer).
2. **Once There Was A Tree**, Natalia Romanov.
3. **On The Day You Were Born**, Debra Frasier.
4. **Do Not Open**, Brinton Turkle.
5. **The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses**, Paul Goble.

Titles for grades 3 to 6

1. **The Talking Earth**, Jean George.
2. **My Name Is Not Angelica**, Scott O'Dell.
3. **Catwings**, Ursula LeGuin.
4. **The Maid Of The North**, Ethel Phelps.

5. **From The Mixed Up Files Of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler**, E.L. Konigsburg.

Lioness

Sacramento, CA

1. **Paper Bag Princess**, Robert Munsch, Annick Press, \$4.95.
2. **Love You Forever**, Robert Munsch, Firefly Books, \$4.95.
3. **Goodnight Moon**, Margaret Wise Brown, Harper, \$3.95.
4. **Squeakers**, Stephen Cosgrove, Serendipity Press, \$2.95.
5. **Heather Has Two Mommies**, Leslea Newman, Alyson Wonderland, \$7.95.
6. **The Tenth Good Thing About Barney**, Judith Viorst, Macmillan, \$3.95.
7. **Princess Smartypants**, Babette Cole, Putnam, \$5.95.
8. **Just Us Women**, Jeannette Caines, Harper, \$4.95.
9. **Father Gander's Nursery Rhymes**, Father Gander, Advocacy Press, \$15.95.
10. **Kid's First Book About Sex**, Joni Blank & Marcia Quakenbush, Yes Press, \$5.50.

So the gallant knight packed his mobile phone, his portable fax & his laptop & set off in search of the fierce dragon



horacek

Judy Horacek (*Life On The Edge*)

Publisher's Column:

Promoting Children's Books Independent Presses & the CBC

By Ruth Gottstein
Volcano Press

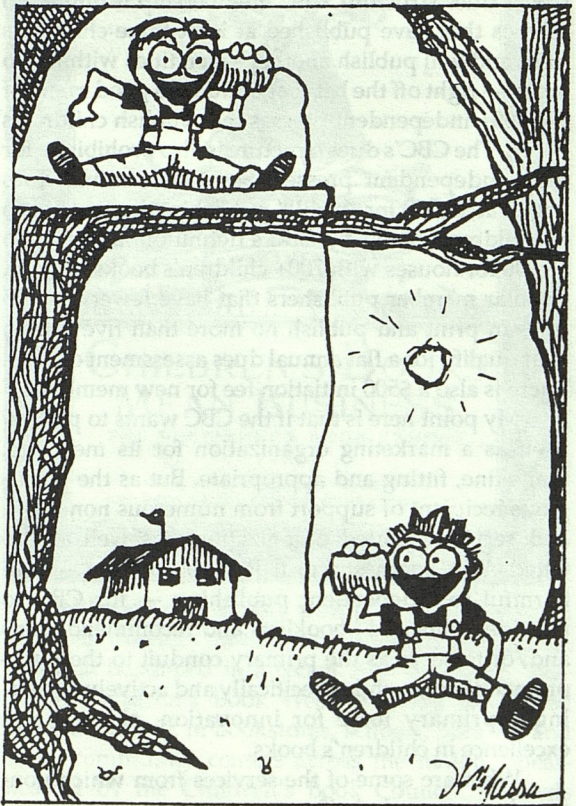
In winter of 1991 I wrote an article for *Small Press* magazine analyzing the structure and ubiquitous nature of the Children's Book Council. This article was the result of my constantly encountering CBC in my efforts to market and promote Volcano Press's children's books. There appeared to be some "inner loop" I couldn't penetrate.

I had been discovering that one of the important aspects of selling children's books was the need to reach the professional organizations that publish "recommended" lists. These validations, I learned, are critically important to a book's success. I also learned that the Children's Book Council, a marketing association composed of approximately 65 dues-paying members, represents all the major children's book publishers in the United States. Many of these companies are international corporations who own ten or more imprints (Penguin, for example).

I discovered that CBC is actually composed of two separate groups, so closely intertwined that, to the book world and the general public, they appear to be one. The first group is the marketing association.

The second group consists of interlocking "liaison" committees with highly respected professional organizations; these prestigious groups include the American Library Association/Association Library Service to Children, the American Booksellers Association, the International Reading Association, the Na-

tional Science Teachers Association, the National Council of Teachers of English, and the National Council for Social Studies.



Diane DiMassa

In other words, CBC is a marketing organization made up of the biggest children's book publishers in the country, in conjunction with the most important professional groups serving literacy.

So far, so good. The concept of professional organizations joining with book publishers to promote children's books is an excellent idea and a wonderful practice.

Many, if not most, small and independent presses are barred from CBC participation by CBC's membership requirements and/or by CBC's dues structure.

Except for one thing. Many, if not most, small and independent presses are barred from CBC participation by CBC's membership requirements and/or by CBC's dues structure. CBC membership is limited to presses that have published at least three children's titles and will publish another seven titles within two years — right off the bat that excludes a good many of the 400+ independent presses that publish children's books. The CBC's dues structure is also prohibitive for most independent presses. For 1991, annual dues began at \$1,070 for "small" publishing houses (up to 50 children's books by CBC's definition) and rose to \$8,930 for houses with 700+ children's books in print. Regular member publishers that have fewer than 25 titles in print and publish no more than five titles a year qualify for a flat annual dues assessment of \$625. There is also a \$500 initiation fee for new members.

My point here is that if the CBC wants to portray itself as a marketing organization for its members, that's fine, fitting and appropriate. But as the prestigious recipient of support from numerous non-profit and service-oriented organizations (as well as donated ABA booth space) it is inappropriate — and harmful to independent publishing — for CBC to provide "unbiased" booklists and recommendations and/or to serve as the primary conduit to these recommendations while specifically and actively excluding a primary force for innovation, change, and excellence in children's books.

What are some of the services from which non-members are excluded?

Many of the "liaison" organizations publish highly respected lists of books for children that are very widely used for school and library acquisitions. The International Reading Association publishes the *Children's Choice* list. This booklet contains the "winners" of a selection of new titles that are read by children in 2,000 U.S. school systems who vote for their favorite titles. But participation in the *Children's Choice* project is only open to CBC members. *The Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies* list (published by the National Council for Social Studies and sold in bulk to schools and other markets) and the *Outstanding Science Trade Books for Children* list (prepared by the National Science Teachers Association) are theoretically open to all publishers, though publishers who are not CBC members must apply through CBC. Each of these lists included only three non-CBC member titles, out of 160 and 107 titles, respectively.

The problem with the seamless control of the CBC and its professional allies, the joint-liaison committees, is that they completely dominate the dissemination of what are deemed to be "good children's books" to librarians, schools, bookstores, and the general public. The independent publisher does not have access to the process by which books are submitted to the above-named professional groups for accreditation, since this access mainly takes place via CBC. The American Library Association provides the one exception to this trend. Publishers do not have to be members of the CBC to be included in the ALA's *Notable Children's Books* list.

The ABA/CBC liaison committee sponsors both the catalog *Children's Books Mean Business* and the exhibit of the same name at the annual ABA Convention. But, only CBC members are allowed to participate.

ABA members and exhibitors will be interested to know that the ABA/CBC liaison committee sponsors both the catalog *Children's Books Mean Business* and the exhibit of the same name at the annual ABA Convention. This exhibit occupies a prime location that domi-

nates the entrance to the children's book section. The aggregate value of the multiple stands (if paid for) is around \$20,000. The prominence leads most booksellers to assume that the exhibit represents a special selection of quality books and/or of quality books published by ABA exhibitors. But, in fact, only CBC members are allowed to participate in this special exhibit and catalog. An ethical question is whether this space, donated by ABA, should be indirectly underwritten from the booth rental fees paid by small press exhibitors whose titles are excluded from the exhibit and catalog because they are not CBC members.

In October, I met in New York with Paula Quint, President of the Children's Book Council. Her subsequent letter follows:

The Children's Book Council, Inc.
568 Broadway Suite 404
New York NY 10012
212-966-1990

Dear Ruth,

When the CBC Board met earlier this week, I reported on the conversation you and I had on October 13 regarding Children's Book Council membership for "small presses."

The Board agreed with you that both small presses and CBC would benefit from small press participation, but felt it would be an abrogation of its fiduciary responsibility to increase Council expenses by adding members whose dues would be less than the cost of processing and servicing their memberships. This is a particularly sensitive issue in a year when the Council anticipates a deficit. It also seems an inopportune time to devote the energies of an already overextended staff to the considerable task of identifying and surveying small presses.

The Board strongly expressed its willingness to entertain any thoughtful membership implementation plan received from small publishers. It is hoped there will be a constructive response to Jean Feiwel's September 21 letter to *Small Press Magazine* when it appears. Evidence of significant grass roots interest and suggestions for a workable approach would be compelling factors in the Board's further discussion of small press membership.

Ruth, I recognize this is not as philanthropic a response as you might desire, but I know from our

conversation that you are appreciative of the economic restraints on as modest an activity as the Council.

I do want you to know that I was pleased to have the opportunity to talk with you. I have tentative plans to attend ABA and ALA this year, so perhaps we will have another chance to speak together. I would like that.

Sincerely,
Paula Quint
President



Although courteously worded, the answer is, "it all comes down to money." Is this the same organization that headlined in a recent *ABA Newswire*, "National Children's Book Week is being celebrated November 16-22 in bookstores, schools, libraries and other community centers across the nation. Spearheaded by the Children's Book Council...proceeds from the sales of CBC's Book Week materials support

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its projects to promote literacy and encourage young people to read." To read whose books? To fund whose projects?

Because of its self-reflecting nature, CBC is insensitive to vital issues of the times — multicultural materials and, indeed, full representation, does not seem to be a focus of the CBC. For example, the cover of the 1991 *Children's Books Mean Business* catalog published jointly with the ABA features a little Caucasian girl and her baby brother reading a book with images from *Treasure Island*, *Humpty Dumpty* and other "classics" of the (very) traditional canon. The 1992 ABA/CBC exhibit catalog offers no improvement: it features the elitist figure of an anthropomorphic, male figure of a mouse, towering over tiny figures representing, apparently, the masses).

Another example of multicultural insensitivity is a pamphlet published by the CBC entitled *Illustrating Children's Books*. Its drawings include one white male, multiple white boys, an anthropomorphic male pig and four genderless animals.

More examples: CBC's recent Book Week kit on Columbus and the 500th anniversary (which was offered for sale to the 40,000 people who have paid a

one-time fee of \$45 to be on CBC's mailing list) was a totally one-sided presentation with no mention that many groups in the U.S. don't find this event to be cause for celebration. Examination of this flier with its white male image of the world on the front, does not include a single multicultural figure.

This is not atypical of the image that the CBC presents to the world — and to the readers of children's books.

Its recent bookmark, created by Maira Kalman, depicts the world as white, middle-class, male and vaguely British-looking.

Especially disturbing to me was an "objective" article on environmental issues, in the January-June 1992 "CBC Features" in which young people are told "...the scary image of billions of people dying from a pound of plutonium is unrealistic." I read this at the same time that Mayumi Oda, artist/author of *Goddesses*, is fighting to prevent the shipment of plutonium from France to Japan. As she said to me, "I can't afford the luxury of being an artist today, while such things are happening."

As Kathleen T. Horning of the Cooperative Children's Book Center wrote in ALA's *Booklist*, "More and more high-quality children's books are being published by small presses. Frequently these offer perspectives or provide information not usually found in children's books from mainstream publishers. Bilingual books, third-world folk tales, and stories about children with disabilities are only a few examples of the kind of materials routinely available from small presses."

Because of its self-reflecting nature, CBC is insensitive to vital issues of the times — multicultural materials and, indeed, full representation does not seem to be a focus of the CBC.

Independent presses have taken the lead in publishing children's books that are multicultural, that challenge racism, incorporate feminist issues, include children with gay parents, the disabled, and raise environmental and peace issues.

And yet all of the books from the 400 or so independent presses that publish children's books are

being systematically excluded not only from the CBC, but also from the evaluative and promotional work being done on behalf of children's books by the CBC-affiliated professional organizations. Do the members of these organizations — or the thousands of book buyers who rely on their recommendations and opinions — know this? I think not.

If you are an ABA member or exhibitor, ask that independent publishers' books be included in the CBC stand at the next ABA.

How can we change this?

If you are an ABA member or exhibitor, tell ABA your reservations and concern about how your dollars are being used. A possible good contact might be newly-appointed associate executive director Melissa Mytinger, who has just moved east from the Northern California Booksellers Association. Valerie Lewis (Hicklebee's, 1378 Lincoln Avenue, San Jose CA 95125; 408-292-8880) is Co-chair of the ABA's Children's Issues and ABA/CBC Committee. Ask that independent publishers' books be included in the CBC stand at the next ABA and in the next ABA/CBC catalog.

Write to any of the above-mentioned professional organizations with whom you have contact, expressing your concern about the exclusion of independent publishers from their CBC activities. And express your concern to members of these organizations. When the members of these organizations protest the policies that exclude the independent press, the policies will change.

Write to CBC itself. The president is Jean Feiwel, of Scholastic books.

And send me copies c/o Volcano Press. I do believe change can occur, and there is every reason for it to happen in this case.

Editor's note: Other ABA/CBC liaison committee members include Judi Baxter (formerly of Judi's Bookstore, PO Box 1747, Twin Falls ID 83303); Jody Fickes (Adventures for Kids, 3457 Telegraph, Ventura CA 93003: 805-650-9688); Gary Odom (Bedford Falls Toy Shop and Bookstore, 625 S. Sharon Amity Road, Charlotte NC

28211; 704-365-8697); Barbara Bond Thomas (Toad Hall, 1206 W. 38th St., Austin TX 78705; 512-323-2665); and Clifford Wohl (Rabbit Hill Children's Bookstore, 1235 Broadway, Hewlett NY 11557: 516-295-3216). ABA's Staff Liaison is Michelle Lisman (ABA, 560 White Plains Rd., Tarrytown NY 10591; 800-637-0037 ext. 217). The Executive Committee Liaison is Joyce Meskis (Tattered Cover, 1536 Wynkoop St., Denver CO 80202; 303-322-1965 ext. 2710).

"Malice in Wonderland" was published in the Winter 1992 issue of Small Press: The Magazine of Independent Publishing. Each issue since has included a running commentary on the article in the letters column. Small Press is published quarterly. Subscriptions are \$29/year (+\$10/Canada). Small Press, Colonial Hill/RFD#1, Mt. Kisco NY 10549.



Maira Kalman, bookmark for the CBC.

For a copy of the detailed article which appeared in *Small Press*, entitled "Malice in Wonderland," which contains the questionnaires I sent out, CBC's membership list, and information on two other organizations that evaluate children's books, write, fax or call Ruth at Volcano Press, Box 270, Volcano CA 95689. 209-296-3445; fax 209-296-4515.

Presses to Watch out For

People of Color Owned Presses Publishing Kids Books

The following list of small presses owned and operated by people of color and publishing children's books was compiled by the Cooperative Children's Book Center, University of Wisconsin, Madison.

African-American Presses:

Africa World Press, PO Box 1892, Trenton NJ 08607; 609-695-3766.

African American Images, 9204 Commercial, Suite 308, Chicago IL 60617; 312-375-9682.

Afro-Am Publishing Co, 819 Wabash Ave., Room 610, Chicago IL 60605; 312-922-1147.



Black Butterfly/Writers & Readers, 625 Broadway, Suite 903, New York NY 10012; 212-491-3869.

Charill Publishers, 4468 San Francisco Ave., PO Box 150124, St. Louis MO 63115; 314-382-4998.

Creative Press Works, PO Box 280556, Memphis TN 38128; 901-382-8246.

Desmond A. Reid/Theo Gaus, Ltd., PO Box 1168, Brooklyn NY 11202; 718-625-4651.

Gumbs & Thomas, 142 W. 72nd St., Suite 9, New York NY 10023; 212-870-0969.

Just Us Books, 301 Main St., Suite 22-24, Orange NJ 07050; 201-672-7701.

New Day Press, Karamu House, 2355 E. 89th St., Cleveland OH 44106; 216-795-7070.

Sister Vision Press, PO Box 217, Station E, Toronto ONT M6H 4E2 Canada; 416-532-9868.

Third World Press, PO Box 730, Chicago IL 60619; 312-651-0700.

Warren-Mattox Productions, 3817 San Pablo Dam Road #336, El Sobrante CA 94803; 510-223-7089.

Well-Versed Publications, 427 Bloor St. W #109 Toronto, Ont. Canada M5S 1X7. 416-922-5602.

Winston-Derek Publishers, Pennywell Drive, PO Box 90883, Nashville TN 37209; 615-356-7384.

American Indian Presses:

Akwesasne Notes, Mohawk Nation, PO Box 196, Rooseveltown NY 13683; 518-358-9531. (All nations)

Anishinabe Reading Materials, Indian Education Department, Central Administration Building, Lake Avenue & Second Street, Duluth MN 55802. (Ojibwe)

Choctaw Heritage Press, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Route 7, Box 21, Philadelphia MS 39350; 601-656-5251. (Choctaw)

Cross Cultural Education Center, PO Box 92, Well-ing OK 74471. (Cherokee)

Daybreak Star, PO Box 99100, Seattle WA 98199; 206-285-4425. (All nations)

Indian Country Communications, Route 2, Box 2900-A, Hayward WI 54843. (Ojibwe)

Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, PO Box 217, Cass Lake MN 56633. (Ojibwe)

Oyate, 2702 Mathews, Berkeley CA 94702; 510-848-6700. (Distributes children's books from Native-owned presses.)

Pemmican Publications, Unit #2-1635 Burrows Ave., Winnipeg MAN Canada R2X 0T1; 204-589-6346. (Metis)

Rough Rock Press, RRDS, Box 217, Chinle AZ 86503. (Navajo)

Theytus Books Ltd., PO Box 218, Penticon BC Canada V2A 6K3; 604-493-7181. (Okanagan; All Nations)

Waapoone Publishing, Lakefield ONT Canada K0L 2H0. (Ojibwe)

Asian-American Presses:

Asia Resource Center, PO Box 15275, Washington DC 20003; 202-547-1114.

Bess Press, PO Box 22388, Honolulu HI 96822; 808-734-7159.

China Books, 2929 24th St., San Francisco CA 94110.
Creative Arts Book Co., 833 Bancroft Way, Berkeley CA 94710.

Design Enterprises of San Francisco, PO Box 14695, San Francisco CA 94114; 415-282-8813.

Heian International, PO Box 1013, Union City CA 94587; 415-471-8440.

Japanese American Curriculum Project, PO Box 367, San Mateo CA 94401; 415-343-9408. (Also distributes Asian-American books from small and large presses.)

Mina Press, PO Box 162, Berkeley CA 94701; 510-845-8098.

Press Pacifica, PO Box 47, Kailua HI 96734.

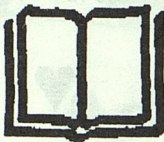
San Francisco Studies Center, 1095 Market St., Suite 601, San Francisco CA 94103; 415-626-1650.

Latino Presses:

Arte Publico, University of Houston, Houston TX 77004; 713-749-4768.

Latin American Literary Review Press, 2300 Palmer St., Pittsburgh CA 15218.

Victory Publishing, 3504 Oak Drive, Menlo Park CA 94025; 415-323-1650.



Small presses committed to publishing multicultural literature:

A.R.T.S., 32 Market St., New York NY 10002; 212-962-8231.

Annick Press, 15 Patricia Ave., Willowdale ONT Canada M2M 1H9; 416-221-4802.

Children's Book Press, 6400 Hollis St., Emeryville CA 94608.

Fifth House, 620 Duchess St., Saskatoon SAS Canada S7K 0R1.

Lollipop Power/Carolina Wren, PO Box 277, Carboro NC 27510; 919-933-9679.

New Seed Press, PO Box 9488, Berkeley CA 94709; 510-540-7556.

Open Hand Publishing, PO box 22048, Seattle WA 98122; 206-323-3868.

Volcano Press, PO Box 270, Volcano CA 95989; 209-296-3445.

Women's Press/Canada, #233-517 College St., Toronto ONT Canada M6G 4A2. ○

Additional Resources:

Diann Bowoman of the mail order bookstore For Women Only has compiled a catalog of books for children and teens that focuses on women authors, female characters and alternative role models along with anti-racist, multicultural, and earth-loving themes. She'd be glad to send this catalog to other booksellers as a resource list for the cost of mailing (\$2). "Keep in mind," she writes, "that this catalog is now a year and a half old and there are many more great children's and teen books since then. I hope to do an update next summer on my 'year off.'" For a copy of the catalog, send \$2 to For Women Only, 4471 Signal Road, Columbiana OH 44408.

The Gay & Lesbian Parents' Coalition International offers an annotated bibliography, "Books for Children with Gay and Lesbian Parents." It includes over 70 titles of picture books geared to kids from birth to age 10. Send a SASE and \$1 to GLPCI, PO Box 50360, Washington DC 20091; 202-583-8029.

Margie Carter, a collective member at Seattle's Red and Black Books, won a Lucile Micheels Pannell Award for her work creating a multicultural children's book kit. For a copy of list of the more than 60 books that comprise the kit, see FBN 15#2 (August 1992), page 10.

Oyate, an organization of Native Elders, artists, activists, educators and writers specializing in children's books written and illustrated by Native peoples, is now providing U.S. distribution for Pemmican, Theytus and Fifth House Publishers. For information and a bibliography of children's books contact Oyate, 2702 Mathews St., Berkeley CA 94702; 510-848-6700.

The University of Wisconsin has added the bibliography "Brave, Active & Resourceful Females in Picture Books" (11 pages, 1992) to its series *Wisconsin Bibliographies in Women's Studies*. One free copy of the list, selected and annotated by Claudia Morrow, is available by request from Phyllis Holman Weisbad, Acting Women's Studies Librarian, 430 Memorial Library, 728 State St., Madison WI 53706. ○

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A Ghost in My Mirror, Marie-Francine Hébert

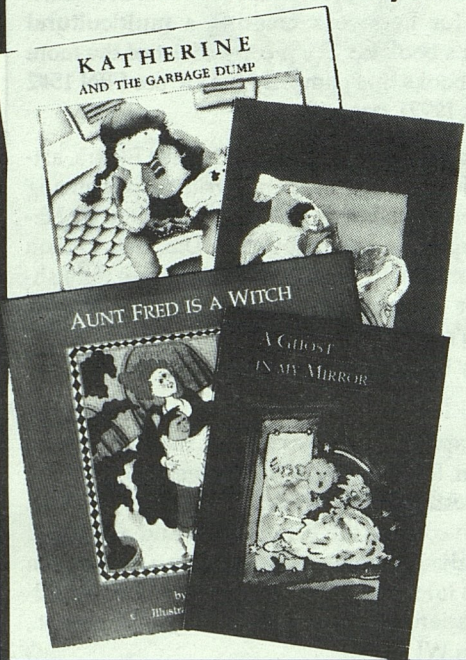
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January/February 1993

Profit & Loss Statement for Feminist Bookstores by Sales Volume for 1991

Based on Percentage of Sales

Description	Sales of \$125,000 - 175,000 Number of stores = 3			Sales of 175,001 - 250,000 Number of stores = 2			Sales of \$250,001 - 550,000 Number of stores = 2		
	Average %	Low Range %	High Range %	Average %	Low Range %	High Range %	Average %	Low Range %	High Range %
Total Sales	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Cost of Goods Sold	64.60	64.03	69.19	61.93	57.78	63.67	59.80	59.68	59.93
Gross Margin	35.40	35.97	30.81	38.07	40.33	36.33	40.20	40.32	40.07
EXPENSES									
Payroll Expenses	12.83	11.47	9.05	19.85	21.58	18.44	22.87	26.19	19.03
Health Insurance	0.31	1.04	0.00	0.59	1.32	0.00	1.73	1.79	1.65
Rent	6.48	6.02	6.53	3.98	3.42	4.44	3.76	3.33	4.25
Advertising	1.82	2.13	1.01	1.97	1/68	2.20	1.78	2.14	1.35
Telephone	1.06	0.79	0.54	1.29	0.66	1.81	0.46	0.46	0.45
Prof. Services	0.29	0.00	0.50	0.12	0.00	0.22	0.49	0.06	1.00
Office Supplies	0.88	0.00	1.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.29	0.00	0.61
General Supplies	0.06	0.20	0.00	0.78	0.42	1.08	0.37	0.00	0.79
Depreciation	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.77	1.71	0.00	0.79	1.00	0.55
Travel, Conferences	1.12	0.98	1.24	0.36	0.22	0.48	0.26	0.23	0.29
Insurance	0.49	0.26	0.48	0.51	1.13	0.00	0.59	0.37	0.85
Cr. Card Serv. Chg	0.50	0.98	0.00	0.83	0.69	0.95	0.79	0.94	0.61
Dues & Subs.	0.39	0.65	0.25	0.14	0.32	0.00	0.26	0.40	0.10
Postage	0.81	2.05	0.57	0.79	1.47	0.24	0.53	0.36	0.72
Printing	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.29	0.00	0.23	0.00	0.49
Taxes	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.39	0.00	0.11	0.19	0.02
Other Operating Exp	3.44	7.59	2.30	4.05	5.54	2.84	3.51	3.29	3.77
Total Operating Exp.	30.90	34.15	23.60	36.35	40.84	32.71	38.81	40.76	36.55
Operating Income	4.50	1.82	7.21	1.72	-0.62	3.62	1.39	-0.45	3.51
Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.74	1.16	0.39	1.23	0.91	1.59
Other Expenses	0.05	0.00	0.12	0.11	0.25	0.00	0.14	0.27	
Net Income	4.46	1.82	7.09	2.35	0.29	4.02	2.48	0.20	5.11

Note: The High & Low Ranges are based on net income not sales volume.

1991 Feminist Bookstore Financial Survey

By Kathy Sharp
Amazon Bookstore

Reading the *ABACUS Financial Profile* from the ABA I found myself wanting a feminist bookstore comparison. Comparing general independents to feminist bookstores doesn't help us get a fair analysis.

Thanks to all of you who did respond to the financial survey questionnaire. We had a total of 7 respondents. I'm hopeful that after tax season 1992 you will have your financial information more easily available and will be interested in responding to the second financial survey. With more stores responding we can get a better overview of the feminist bookstore industry. We'll send you a new questionnaire in March.

The high and low range is set based on Net Income (the bottom line).

Looking at the Profit and Loss Statement (Income Statement), key percentages to review in specific sales volume categories are: cost of goods sold, gross mar-

Respondents by Sales Volume	Number of Stores	Average Annual Sales
125,000 - 175,000	3	157,158
175,001 - 250,000	2	195,793
250,001 - 550,000	2	510,378

gin, payroll and health insurance, total operating expenses, net income and, on the Financial Profile Table, the number of inventory turns per year.

The sales volume categories are interesting to look at because there are differences in regards to gross margin, payroll, and total operating expenses based on our sales volume. I hope you'll find this information helpful, aside from interesting. It's a starting point, and without getting bogged down in too much information, I hope that we can learn from each other.

Kathy Sharp, Amazon Bookstore, 1612 Harmon Pl., Minneapolis MN 55403. 612-338-6560. ○

Responses by Sales Volume

Sales Volume	Total Sq. Feet	Selling Sq. Feet	Total # of Workers	Total # Part Timers	Total # Full Timers	# of Managers*	Years in Business	# of Inventory Turns/Yr
125,000 - 175,000	1600	900	4	11	3	1	3	3.23
125,000 - 175,000	1786	1686	3	2	1	1	3	2.34
125,000 - 175,000	1300	900	2	-	2	-	14	1.79
175,001 - 250,000	1600	1300	10	9	1	1	19	2.68
175,001 - 250,000	2500	2200	5	3	2	2	11	1.48
250,001 - 550,000	1700	1200	11	6	5	2	21	3.42
250,001 - 550,000	1617	1191	7	4	3	2	19	3.95

* Managers are also included in Number of Full Timers.

Vrouwenboekhandels van Nederland: Women's Bookstores in the Netherlands

By Shelley Anderson

There are eight women's bookstores in the Netherlands: the oldest, Savannah Bay in the medieval city of Utrecht, is almost 18 years old. The next oldest is Xantippe, which celebrated its 17th birthday in November 1992. Caroline van Essen has worked with Xantippe for 12 of those 17 years. She is now the foreign book buyer for the shop, which was named after the sharp-tongued wife of Socrates.

"She was supposed to be a very strong woman, maybe a little bitchy," van Essen says of Xantippe, "and someone you have to respect." You have to respect the perseverance of the bookstore workers also. The shop, located along Prinsengracht canal in Amsterdam, is in the strongest financial position of all the Dutch women's bookstores, according to van Essen.

"We have the advantage," she said, "of being in the capital, where there are lots of universities and women's studies." Sales to universities amount to 50% of the store's total business, which comes to about Dfl. 400,000 (approximately \$250,000) annually. "We don't have much competition," van Essen said. "The academic bookshops call us. We try to keep all the British books on gender in stock." The store carries books on anthropology, migrant women, theology, psychology and history of women, both the latest releases and many older titles.

In all, the store carries between 15,000 to 20,000 titles. Almost 60% of all the books are foreign, mostly from the USA and Britain, though there is a small collection of German, French and Spanish books. While non-fiction is important, fiction is not ignored. Among the books from the USA, "Naiad Press sells

very well," van Essen said. "Two of Katherine Forrest's books have been translated into Dutch. Rita Mae Brown still sells, and Lee Lynch, Joan Nestle and Jane Rule." Amy Tan, Alice Walker (who has spoken to sold-out audiences twice in Amsterdam) and Toni Morrison are also popular American writers, she said.



Xantippe, courtesy of *Women Going Places*.

The store produces a catalogue of new books in stock twice a year, which goes to about 1,600 subscribers. It carries few sidelines — some small pink enamel triangles and double-women's symbols, T-shirts and postcards — though their magazine section is extensive. *Opzij*, the Dutch feminist magazine, rubs shoulders with *The Women's Review of Books*; while *On Our Backs* sits next to *Lust en Gratie*, a lesbian literary magazine. A

bulletin board carries news of community events, while a stack of petitions and a booklet on female genital mutilation is on the counter. Xantippe has joined with numerous Black and immigrant women's groups in campaigning against a Dutch government proposal to legalize cliterectomies in the Netherlands.

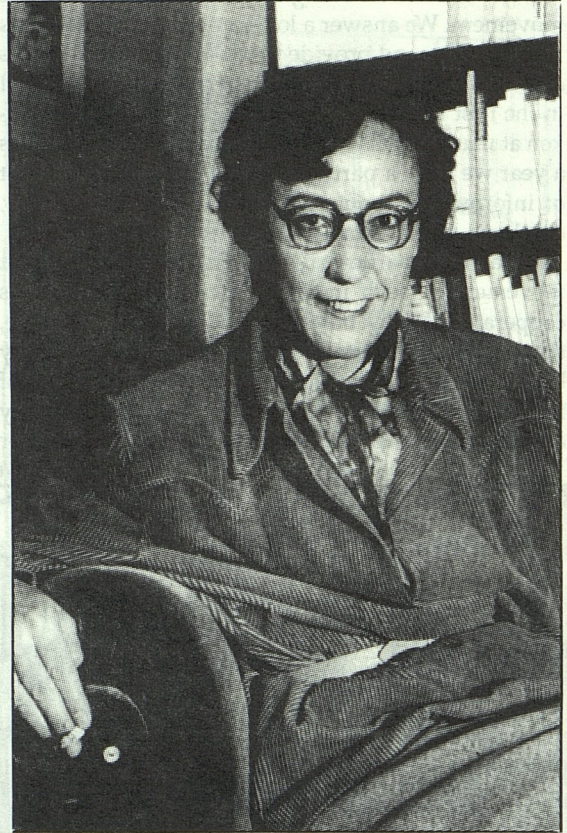
It is quite a change from 17 years ago. "Xantippe started as a collective by 12 women students, who were dissatisfied with the regular bookshops," van Essen said. "There were no sections for women's studies then. The students collected all the books important for women, which amounted to a few shelves. They were all volunteers and had no money, so the publishers, sympathetic feminist publishers, gave them free stock and were paid when the books were sold. It worked for about two years like this, until there was enough profit to set up as an official bookshop." Three women now run the store, two of them full-time paid workers.

Contact with the other seven women's bookshops in the country is difficult, van Essen said. "Several years ago there was a meeting once a year, but the differences are so much. There is no women's bookstore bulletin. I think it could be useful but I can't see it happening by women in the bookshops. There is already too much work to do — an extra magazine would be too much," she said.

Bookselling is big business in Amsterdam — there are almost 100 bookstores in the city, many of them specializing in rare, out-of-print or second-hand books. Almost directly across the canal from Xantippe is Antiquariaat Lorelei, which sells second-hand books by and about women. It may be the largest second-hand women's bookstore in Europe. Antiquariaat Lorelei began over seven years ago when owner Nicoline Meiners' book collection began to crowd her out of her own apartment. Inside the shop, in a beautiful wooden cabinet owned by her great grandmother, is Meiners' collection of 19th-century feminist tracts, from the Dutch and British suffrage movements. Lorelei is also home to a monthly salon where Dutch women writers and historians present their work.

Like Lorelei, the nearby Vrouwenindruk ("Women's Impression") sells second-hand books. While Vrouwenindruk also sells books in many languages, German, French and Swedish among them, most of the 15,000 books are either Dutch or English. An interesting sideline is Vrouwenindruk's own postcard series on Dutch women writers. The postcards include por-

traits or photographs of writers such as the late Anna Blaman, a lesbian writer credited with helping to create the modern Dutch novel, Betje Wolff (1738-1804) and Aagje Deken (1741-1804). Wolff and Deken were romantic friends (*zielvriendschap*, or "soul friendship", in Dutch) who lived and wrote together for the last 27 years of their lives. They were also buried together.



Anna Blaman, postcard published by Vrouwenindruk.

Friendship between women, romantic and otherwise, is still alive as the success of Boekhandel Vrolijk (*vrolijk* means 'happy' in Dutch), on Paleisstraat, can testify. Vrolijk is one of Europe's few gay and lesbian bookstores, as co-managers Erik Marcus, a gay man, and Anneke Reynders, a lesbian, emphasize. The store began eight years ago, said Jolan van Herwaarden, a volunteer who has worked at the store for almost two years. "It's worked out really well, because it began without a penny," van Herwaarden said. "It started with six books. The gay and lesbian studies depart-

ments at Utrecht and Amsterdam universities publish a cultural magazine called *Homologie*. Readers wanted copies of the books reviewed, so the editors started a mail order business."

Vrolijk is run by a non-profit foundation. The bookstore's ties with the lesbian and gay movement are very strong. "I love books," said van Herwaarden, "but I wouldn't be doing this if it wasn't part of the movement. We answer a lot of questions for travelers who come in, and provide books at many conferences and lectures. Erik (the co-manager) was very involved in the first lesbian and gay film festival and has spoken at many panels on gay culture. Six or seven times a year we have a party for a new book. We give a lot of information about safe sex and we sell KY jelly, condoms, dental dams and gloves."

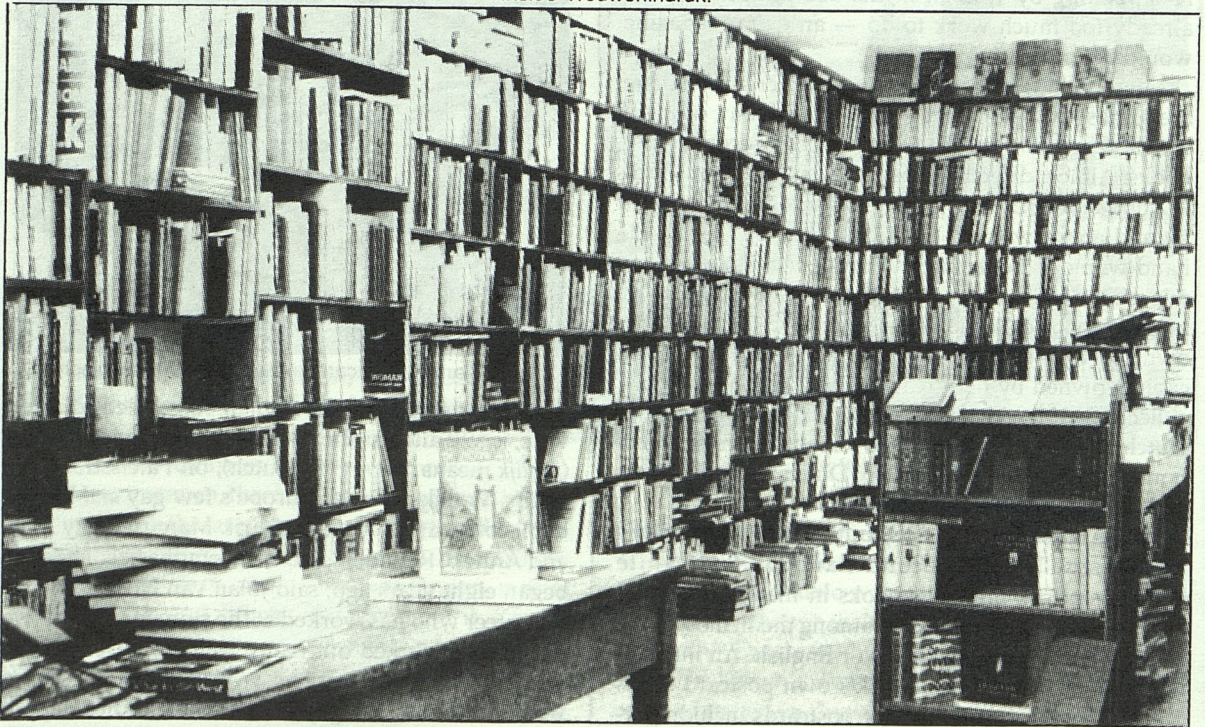
Van Herwaarden says there is no women-in-print movement as such in the Netherlands, but there is cooperation: Vrolijk buys books in bulk with Xantippe, the women's bookstore, and with a number of gay bookstores in neighboring Germany. "It is a network of friends," van Herwaarden said. "Erik goes to Germany and exchanges information on running a store, or

where to buy rare books." Vrolijk also buys remainders and distributes them to the stores in Germany.

The store now has three full-time paid workers and over 6,000 titles. A little less than half of the titles are foreign. "Lesbians in Holland do read a lot of books from America and the U.K. Naiad Press sells well, and books on lesbian parenting and relationships," van Herwaarden said. While there are many talented lesbian writers in the Netherlands, the small market for Dutch-language books makes getting in print very difficult. "There are very few real Dutch lesbian books. I love my language, and I think it is really important that Dutch lesbians have a voice, which we don't really have now," she said. "We need to make the voices of lesbians more available."

Shelley Anderson lives in The Netherlands where she edits the Bulletin of the International Lesbian Information Service (ILIS). She has traveled in more than 20 countries and is actively involved in both international lesbian organizing and the international peace movement. She's the author of Out in the World: International Lesbian Organizing, Firebrand Sparks pamphlet #4. ○

Inside Vrouwenindruk.



Store Newsletters II: Getting the Word Out

By Jennifer Croft

Producing a Store Newsletter

You're trying to publish a store newsletter, and the fun part's over — you've written all the articles, book reviews and announcements, and now it's time to figure out how to get hundreds (or even thousands) of newsletters out to your loyal customers. Read on for tips on how to produce these copies in the least amount of time, for the least amount of money....

Creating Camera-Ready Artwork

Once all your copy is gathered, you need to put it in a format that's clear and easy to read. If you own a computer, doing it all yourself might seem tempting. Be warned that this route will take a lot of time and patience, and that the finished product will probably look inferior to most of what's being produced today. To equip yourself, make sure your word processing program can print in multiple columns (a one-column format, in which lines of type extend across the entire page, is extremely difficult to read). Use a letter-quality laser printer, and visit your local art supply store to pick up a T-square for paste-up and rubber cement, spray mount, or a waxer and wax.

A much easier and more accurate option is desktop publishing. For all intents and purposes, it has replaced traditional typesetting, which is now virtually obsolete because of its high price and inflexibility. Today, graphic artists everywhere are springing up — in printshops and in homes — and it would be wise to work with one of them. For starters, they might be able to do a better job of page layout and design than you can do, and better still, they'll save you hours and hours of frustration. The price per one-sided page can vary from \$10 to \$40, depending on the amount of copy, the complexity of the design, and the artists' whims.



Jewels Graphics/Sarita Johnson

Printing/Copying

Once you've created or acquired camera-ready artwork, it's time to make some production decisions. For runs of 300 copies or less, photocopying is an inexpensive alternative to printing. If you have access to a high quality copier (one that will fill in solids, but not leave gray shadows and specks of toner across the page), great, do it yourself. If not, pay the 3 to 10 cents each to have it run off at a copy or print shop. To spruce up the look of your newsletter, use quality textured or colored paper. The extra \$5 or so you spend on paper will be worth \$1,000 in looks.

For longer runs, printing is less expensive and

Newsletter Production Schedule

Use this form to help set the deadlines you'll have to meet to assure your newsletter goes out on time. Start at the bottom of the form and work your way up. You can use this schedule two ways: First, to figure how long the entire production cycle will take. Second, to figure schedules for each issue you plan to produce.

Tasks	Start date	Deadline
Information deadline (set dates for events, have books gathered to review, etc.)		
Writing deadline		
Elements deadline (ads, photos, illustrations, etc.)		
Graphic artist deadline (copy finished and camera-ready, everything pasted-up and ready to go to the printer)		
Printing deadline (newsletters back from printing, folded and ready to go)		
Distribution deadline (newsletters in store, available for distribution in community, ready to be mailed first class or bulk rate)		
Readers have copies in hand		

produces higher quality. When looking for a print shop, price shop. Printing prices can vary dramatically from business to business, often with little justification. If you're already committed to supporting a certain printer, call other shops anyway, and then ask your printer to match one of your lower bids. Offer to make up the difference in price with a free ad or acknowledgment in the newsletter.

Before you call for price quotes, you'll need to make the following decisions:

- *Size of printed piece:* Common choices are 8.5" by 11", 8.5" by 14" (overpriced for the size), and 11" by 17".

- *Size of folded piece:* Typically, the finished newsletter is either folded in half or in thirds. Little or no price difference between the two.

- *Type of paper:* A 60# offset paper is the best choice for newsletters. Don't go with anything thinner or the printing will bleed through. If you've got lots of money,

select a 70# or 80# linen paper, but expect to pay 20 percent or 30 percent more for the expensive stock.

All of the above papers are available in recycled stock, but not all recycled papers are environmentally equal. Most contain different amounts of recycled content, always shown as a percentage of the recycled fiber weight in relation to the total fiber weight in the paper. In the last few years, many paper manufacturers jumped on the politically correct bandwagon by repositioning paper that's always been 25 percent recycled.

And if you think the term "recycled paper" means that the paper contains post-consumer waste, unfortunately you're wrong. Because the Environmental Protection Agency doesn't specify that a certain percentage of the waste paper must be consumer waste, the entire 25 percent (or 10 percent or 50 percent) could have come from recovered materials that never left the mill. To truly be environmentally re-

sponsible, ask your printer about the total recycled percentage and the post-consumer waste percentage, and then ask for comparisons with other papers.

- *Color of paper:* Charging significantly more for colored paper is a printer's favorite scam. Color seems like something customers will pay more for and unsuspecting ones often do. Get your newsletter quoted on white paper; once you've gotten the quote, ask your printer to match the price but print on colored stock. Don't feel bad doing it — with most types of paper, the wholesale price for white is almost identical to that of gray, cream, and ivory. In defense of honest printers, if the color of the paper is extremely bright, the cost difference will be legitimately greater because the treatment process is so much more involved (and worse for the environment!).

- *Color of ink:* Many print shops now offer standard colored inks on certain days at no extra charge (for example, Monday is blue, Tuesday is green, etc.). If yours doesn't, expect to pay \$15-\$45 for an ink wash-up charge. When you bring in your job, ask if any of the printer's other customers will be running in similar color that week. If they are, the printer may split the ink charge between the two of you.

- *Paper or metal plate:* Request that your newsletter be quoted on paper plates, not metal. Metal plates are incredibly expensive and only necessary for long runs (10,000 copies or more) or high quality runs (gloss paper, lots of photos, two-color printing with touching colors, etc.). For all other jobs, they are an unnecessary expense.

- *Photos:* After you've already gotten your base quote, ask how much extra it will be for each photo you include in your newsletter. Black and white photos will, by far, reproduce the best, but quality 35mm color ones will do. Don't worry about the size or the background in your picture. The printer will make a halftone (85 line screen, if they ask) and in the process can reduce, enlarge, or crop the photo. A reasonable charge is \$5-\$10 per photo.

- *Self-mailer or enveloped:* Stuffing a newsletter, which could easily have been a self-mailer, into an envelope is a classic waste of time, money, and the earth's resources. The only reason to do it, and it may be a very valid one, is to protect sensitive customers. However, all but the extremely sensitive should be satisfied with receiving a newsletter that's stapled or tabbed firmly shut.

Newsletter Budget Form

Use this form to help calculate the total cost (in time and money) of producing a newsletter.

Item	Time	Money
Writing		
Creating artwork*		
Photos or illustrations		
Printing or photocopying		
Folding		
Stapling or tabbing closed		
Preparing mailing		
Cost of postage		
Totals		

* Creating camera-ready artwork yourself or hiring a graphic artist to do it.

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The Eighth Mountain Press

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The Eighth Mountain Press, publisher of exceptional poetry, fiction, and non-fiction (such as the new *A Journey of One's Own: Uncommon Advice for the Independent Woman Traveler*).

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Preparing the Mailing

After your newsletters come back from the printer, the drudge work begins: the mailing. When you're ready to prepare the mailing, do yourself a favor and do it all at once. Whether the mailing is small or large, don't try to squeeze it in between the hundred other tasks you do every day. You'll hate doing it and it'll seem like it takes a week. Instead, set aside time afterhours, gather a few friends, play some music (everyone will work faster to the beat of a song), and go to it. Figure 300-600 mailing labels per hour per person.

If you're sending more than 200 newsletters (the minimum per mailing, required by the post office), you might consider sending bulk rate instead of first class. Current average bulk rate prices are 17 cents each, a substantial savings, particularly when you consider that this is the price for up to 3.5 ounces or the equiva-

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 97
A Feminist Bookstore

lent of the average twelve-page newsletter! The other advantage to bulk rate is that you can have your permit number imprinted on each newsletter, which saves you the time of licking and attaching stamps.

The drawback to bulk rate is the cost of the permit (\$75 to set up, and \$75 per year to keep active) and the fact that it's a daunting task (especially if your mailing labels aren't in zip code order). Basically, the post office extends the discount because you're doing the vast majority of their sorting work. Also, bulk rate can often be unpredictable. Sometimes, the newsletters arrive in your customer's homes just days after you mail them; other times, it takes weeks. For more information on the intricacies of it, contact your local post office. As an alternative to the expense of first-class and the work of bulk rate, look for a sheltered workshop that could fold, label, seal, sort, and deliver your mailing to the post office.

...

Jennifer S. Croft has produced newsletters for 300 small businesses and non-profit organizations. She has recently formed a new lesbian press, Our Power Press, to publish her own first novel, A Safe Place To Sleep, and other lesbian fiction/mysteries. ○



How to Use Your Local Newspaper to Promote Your Bookstore

By Susanna J. Sturgis

Tollie Miller's "Invasion of the Chains: Independent Booksellers Fight Back" (October 1992) and Judith Rosen's "Press Releases: Some Informal Jottings" (November/December 1992) provoked this addendum, which focuses on promoting not special events but your bookstore and, by extension, feminist publishing. It's based on what I've learned as arts and community editor for *The Martha's Vineyard Times* and applies particularly to the smaller newspapers, often weeklies, that serve small towns, suburbs, and urban neighborhoods.

Although it is located in a seasonal resort whose population ranges from 12,000 in the dead of winter to as many as 100,000 in midsummer — with a parallel fluctuation in the number of events to cover — *The Times* is not unlike other small papers. The staff numbers 18, half of whom are part-time and most of whom wear more than one hat.

My editorial responsibilities include almost everything that is neither general news nor advertising. I also do some proofreading, some typesetting, and some news writing. Virtually every press release that enters the office crosses my desk first, from announcements of upcoming events to birth, death, and marriage notices. I screen, edit, decide what goes into the

paper and when, choose which events to preview and/or review and what organizations or individuals to feature, and assign a writer (which may well be me), illustrator, and/or photographer to do each story.

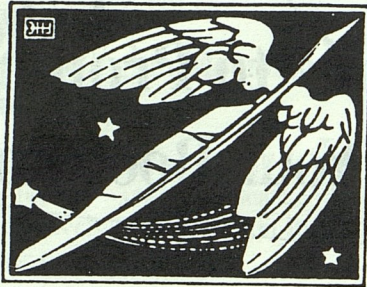
I can't overemphasize how heavily I depend on you who formally or informally, for pay or for love, do publicity for community groups and businesses. Without you, my awareness of what goes on in this community is much diminished. You help me do my job better. Needless to say, I don't forget the people who feed me promising leads and reliable information. So what can you do?

Start by becoming familiar with the newspapers circulating in your area. What are their regular features? Look for book reviews, arts and business sections, personal profiles, neighborhood or town news columns, and individual milestones or achievements.

Think about your store — its staff, customers, suppliers, inventory (books, music, crafts, etc.) — as a source of stories. Think small ("A.B. is the new music buyer at Everywoman's Bookstore" or "C.D. of Everywoman's Bookstore recently attended the American Booksellers Association convention in Anaheim, Calif.") as well as big ("A book purchased at Everywoman's Bookstore gave E.F. the courage to leave an abusive marriage").

Introduce yourself and your store to the editor(s)

who handle community events, business news, and/or features. Call first; you don't want to walk in when the editor is on deadline. You are primarily looking for information at this point, like deadlines, how material should be submitted (fax, phone, or letter, and how about photos?), and the appropriate contact people. Unless you are a very large advertiser, avoid the "this is what I want you to do for me" approach. You are also letting the editor know that you are a potential source of information about women's books, music, local resources, the local retail scene, feminist issues, you name it.



Find out whether and how the newspaper uses freelance writers. About half the stories in my sections are written by me and two other staff members. The rest are done by about 20 freelancers, some regular (like the six town news writers, whose columns appear every week) and most occasional (the health, gardening, and veterinary columns; reviews of cultural events; and feature stories of all kinds).

Consider how your store's interests and the editor's needs might coincide. Are there any capable writers among your staff or clientele who might be willing to contribute an occasional book review? Query first, and don't be discouraged if the editor suggests that you submit a review "on spec" — without prior commitment. Call new books to the editor's attention. One local bookstore regularly lends books to *The Times'* main reviewer — who (since he also covers the political and business scene) regularly calls that store's owner for comment on relevant issues.

A few weeks ahead of Children's Book Week or Jewish Book Month or International Women's Day or Black History Month or National Lesbian and Gay Book Month, query your editor to see if she might be interested in an annotated bibliography or tie-in feature.

Are there local writers or musicians whose self-produced books or cassettes you carry? How about craftswomen? Would your editor be interested in either

doing or seeing a story, perhaps in connection with a local concert, craft fair, or the holiday shopping season?

As you build alliances in your community, keep in mind that newspapers are often more willing to give free publicity to nonprofit groups than to for-profit businesses. If a local Girl Scout troop visits your store, if you address the high school's multicultural club, if your store collects supplies for a local women's shelter, or your window display spotlights an adult literacy program, write a couple of paragraphs about it and submit it — with a good photograph if you can.

On the business side, send the paper short (1-2 paragraph) press releases about new hires, promotions, awards received by staff members, store anniversaries (especially if you're throwing a party/sale), etc. If you make major changes — adding jewelry to your stock, or expanding your selling space — let the paper know.

Okay, now you're bubbling over with ideas. Now reread Judith Rosen's excellent advice: "Don't be a nudge." Don't start peppering your editorial contact(s) with press releases, phone calls, news items, or book recommendations. What you're trying to develop is a long-term relationship, not a quick fling.

Do send your editor invitations to in- and out-of-store events; if there's an admission charge, offer two complimentary tickets. (The paper's policy may require her to decline freebies, but even so she'll probably appreciate the thought.) If you publish a newsletter, ask if she'd like to be on the mailing list. And — absolutely, without fail — if she follows through on a story idea, runs a review, or otherwise extends herself, call or write to say thank you. When appropriate, write a letter to the editor praising a specific story or the paper's general commitments.

Finally, a word about advertising. Most community newspapers are small businesses, facing many of the same challenges as your store. Without sufficient ad revenue, issue size declines, worn-out equipment doesn't get replaced, staff hours are cut and positions eliminated. If you've never advertised, *consider it*. Talk it over with an ad sales rep. The paper may offer options that would benefit your store without blowing your budget, like a holiday gift catalog or business directory.

That goes double if the newspaper is one that goes out of its way to cover issues important to women, that provides an open forum for community discussion. As with any other institution — if your area would be poorer without it, support it! ○

But Can She Type?

Meet Me Up Front

By Nett Hart

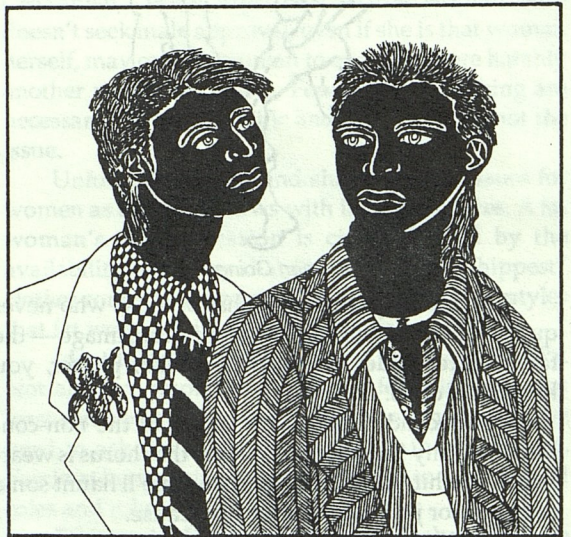
The body politic in feminism puts much emphasis on politics beginning in the body: our ability to self-determine childbearing or not, the style of our healthcare, the occasions and partners of our labor, the geography of place. Our bodies are our politics. Feminism has resonance with women who are not alienated from our bodies, our selves in a misogynist society. Reclaiming our bodies we take seriously our needs and desires in the private and the public realm. So the question of dress, of how we come to present ourselves, must be a topic for discussion among feminists.

Are women more self-determined in our dress, do we have more control over how we present our bodies, after 25 years of second wave feminism?

Clothing, hair, adornment, and personal care are political: they have been used to demarcate gender, sexuality, ethnicity, class, age, body size and shape, ableness, and loyalties on the left-right spectrum. Tell me quickly now, who wears rainbow tie-dye, who kente, who Birkenstocks? One article of dress is worth a dozen position papers. Or is it?

Dress is colonized. Those who have a sense of ownership of another's body — even by the hour — exert a tendency to mark this territory by clothing: the waitress uniform, the corporate "wife," the cosmetic franchisee, the political cell. Because dress *means* something it can be used to *say* something and that something can be "I'm one of you," "I'm your better," or "I'm in your face."

So what becomes of the uncooperative female, the feminist, the dyke, the self-defined woman when she moves into the rooms of power, when feminist businesses go mainstream, when she evaluates whether she *likes* wearing flannel shirts?



Sudie Rakusin

Is feminist sensibility equivalent to a timeless value for sensible, utilitarian clothing or is it interactive with the changing values and proprieties around it? Is there a progression from bloomers to doubleknit pantsuits to the range of clothing a woman may now wear or is there evidence of backlash in the current fashions and dress codes — written or not? In other words, are women more self-determined in our dress, do we have more control over how we present our bodies, after 25 years of second wave feminism?

To be sure, there are factors other than the development of feminism which have played into a less identifiable feminist coding of dress: the hard econ-

omy, the re-polarization of wealth and poverty, the price and availability of oil and its effects on synthetic fibers, as well as changes directly resulting from feminism: the enlargement of women's public work, the range of choices in available clothing, animal rights, health and safety. Do the signs that feminists can no longer be identified by dress signify that feminism has said what it needed to say in dress? Some would smugly say so. Others would point out that the departure from an identifiable standard began long ago.



From *Women Going Places*.

The first departure was that of those who never quite fit in, even with the counter-culture image — the taller, fatter, older, younger, disabled, poorer, you know, lots of us.

The second departure was that of the non-conformist to any "standards." Tell her the chorus is wearing white shirts and black jeans and she'll flaunt some raging color just 'cause or for Just Cause.

The third departure was the I'm-not-one-of-them for reasons of class (upper or lower), for fear of being labeled, or self-hatred taking the form of internalized misogyny, internalized homophobia.

If the autonomy of self-determination of women over our bodies is so complete that our clothing choices are no longer political, as some claim, then how come Barbies come with party dresses and evening gowns but not with coveralls for working on their cars, or hardhats and construction clothes? (Why are there still Barbies?) How come gender is rigidly defined in children's clothing? How come women's clothes still tend to cost more than comparable men's clothing and "discount" stores sell shoddy work to the poor at prices equivalent to the better quality available downtown?

And if feminism has made such gains in the self-determination of women over our bodies in dress shouldn't that autonomy be reflected in other body issues, or why were we sweating *Roe vs. Wade*? Why doesn't women's health care take the lives of women seriously? Why are so many women's bodies homeless and hungry? Has feminism redressed anything?

The most coercive dress codes pervade our work life, little surprise here. Most women know that when dress is meant to present one as a sexual object, she can refuse to suit up, but not all have the economic options to say "no." When dress is used to deny individualism or create a corporate image, the fact is usually known at the time one enlists or otherwise consigns oneself so there appears to be a choice even though this, too, is often economic or the only employment available in the field.

But what about feminist employers? Can a women's bookstore manager declare a dress code? Can T-shirts or buttons that offend some be restricted? What if there is a clash between "feminist style" of the second and third waves? Is anything a feminist wears an expression of her feminism? Is the right of an individual woman to make her statement negotiable with the "right" of an employer/manager/corporation to establish its own tone for an organization?

But what about feminist employers? Can a women's bookstore manager declare a dress code? What if there is a clash between "feminist style" of the second and third waves?

Of course, feminists can fall back to the same coded meanings dress has been used for and interview and hire only "people like us," but that's exactly the kind of barriers we've fought against elsewhere from the exclusive men's clubs to the trades. It's probably not even in our omniscience to determine whether a woman's dress reflects poor self-esteem or internalized misogyny.

There's also the rampant tendency to perpetuate classism by determining what is "appropriate." Privilege is the only generator of the ability to establish the

standards, whether those standards are of the formerly fashionable downward mobility of class-privileged women or the newer "professional" look. A woman in a designer sweatsuit is deemed more appropriately dressed than a woman in new painter's pants. We may have to admit that there was a "feminist fashion sensibility" for only the duration that middle- and upper-class women dressed the way that working and poor women have always dressed and that the pressure toward conformity may have submerged significant differences in who *could* shed those denims and flannels.

Having failed to eradicate classism (so far) in the wake of feminist induced career opportunities for some women, we need to look at the way class has been recodified by dress in the feminist community. Some are marked for success, even in their casual clothes, even in the feminist community. It's not that poor and working class women don't care about their appearance or even the age and condition of their attire. (I am reminded of a dyke's reaction to my really swell jeans when she found out they were not "professionally distressed before purchase" but rather worn smooth by my farm work!!) For clothes to mean something about feminism we have to eliminate the class bias that has come with the territory. Enforcement of what is appropriate has always been more rigid among the less privileged, both by more privileged women but also among ourselves. One means to elim-



inate class oppression is to allow all women the self-definition and self-determination of our own bodies. But we must be aware that the first to use that privilege will be those most familiar with privilege, and that it may be employed at the expense of less privi-

leged women, as in when a less privileged woman tries to "succeed" by creating a professional image only to have more privileged associates "test" her with ragged or dirty clothing. Ultimately a woman's dress should reflect only herself, but in lock-step amerika we are far from that ideal.

Identifying a feminist by how she looks is risky.

Heterosexism is also alive and virulent in 1992. While one feminist may be self-expressing in the clothes of the dominant female, she may question the self-expression of a woman who looks too dyke. ("Mannish," she'd say!) Fear of the woman who doesn't seek male approval, even if she is that woman herself, may cause a woman to evaluate more harshly another woman's choices. Few items of clothing are necessarily gender-specific and those few are not the issue.

Unfortunately, size and shape are still issues for women as choice narrows with increasing sizes. A fat woman's self-expression is circumscribed by the availability of clothes that fit. Some of the "hippest" clothes come in limited sizes even when they are styles that fat women might find more comfortable.

Identifying a feminist by how she looks is risky. Not all have smoldering bras. As feminism — or at least some of it — becomes a mainstream agenda, we need to ask the meaning we encode in our choices. Feminist leadership has the option not to wear the old roles and robes.

Fashion in FBN! Feminism will always be an embodied theory, an en fleshed ideal. There is no feminism that does not take seriously the integrity of the body, the female whole unto herself. Just as dress has been politicized to enforce misogyny, so feminism moves the question away from the coded options of the patriarchy to a new point of reference. I have something to say in my body about this new world we are creating. Body politic. Our self-expression has meaning and every woman needs the autonomy to consciously say what she means and then be taken seriously.

• • •

This sprang from a conversation with Rebecca Gaspard, but I dress myself. ○

BACK TO PRESS

AND OTHER GOOD NEWS

Back to Press

Heyday Books has sent three books back to press: *No Rooms of Their Own: Women Writers of Early California* is in its second printing for 10,000 now in print; *To The American Indian: Reminiscences of a Yurok Woman* had a second printing for a total of 10,000 in print; and *Stickeen* went back to press for a second time with a run of 5,000 for a total of 12,000 in print.



Cleis Press writes that *Queer and Pleasant Danger: Writing Out My Life* by Louise Rafkin has gone back to press after four weeks in print. The second printing was 3,500 copies for a total of 6,500 in print. *Good Sex: Real Stories from Real People* by Julia Hutton went back to press in November for a second printing of 3,500 copies for a total of 9,000 copies in print.

Out of the Bishop's Closet by Antonio A. Feliz, is returning in a paperback second edition from Alamo Square Press.

Rising Tide's *Edge of Passion* has gone back to press for a second printing of 5,000 copies.

Rights

Seal Press has sold rights for Ellen Hart's *Stage Fright* to Frauenoffensive in Germany. *Trouble in Transylvania* (due out Fall 1993) has been sold to Virago, which will also reissue *Murder in the Collec-*

tive and *Sisters of the Road*, the latter of which has been out of print in England for almost three years. *She's a Rebel* will be coming out in England in January 1993 with Blandford Press, a division of Cassell specializing in music and popular culture. Seal also has sold *The Dog Collar Murders* to Tammi in Finland. Tammi published *Sisters of the Road* last year and the book went on to become a book of the month club main selection. Finally, Estro in Italy has bought *The Dog Collar Murders*.

Awards and Other Good News

Eloise Klein Healy, author of *Artemis in Echo Park* (Firebrand), has won the \$3,000 first prize in the 1992 Los Angeles Poetry Contest for a group of five poems from the book.

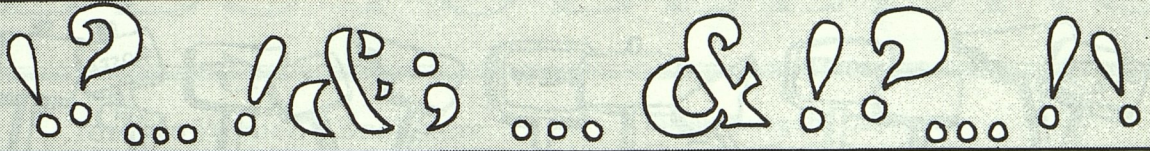
The winners of the 42nd annual National Book Awards are Mary Oliver for *New and Selected Poems* and Paul Monette for his nonfiction work *Becoming a Man: Half a Life Story* and Cormac McCarthy for his novel *All the Pretty Horses*.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Educational Fund recently awarded *Journey of the Sparrows* (Lodestar Books) the Jane Addams Children's Book Award. The story follows the journey of a teenage girl who flees El Salvador.

Three titles from Heyday Books have won awards: *The Maidu Indian Myths and Stories of Hanc'Ibyjim*, edited and translated by William Shipley, won a 1992 Benjamin Franklin Award; *To the American Indian: Reminiscences of a Yurok Woman*, by Lucy Thompson, earned a 1992 American Book Award from the Before Columbus Foundation; and *No Rooms of Their Own: Women Writers of Early California*, edited by Ida Rae Egli, received a 1992 Western Books Exhibition award.

Leslea Newman's story "Remember That" has been selected as one of three winners of *Highlights for Children's* 13th annual fiction context. ○

TRIVIA

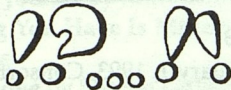


By Carol Seajay

Kudos to *Publishers Weekly* for Editor-in-Chief Nora Rawlinson's superb editorial on both the impact of chain superstore expansion and for calling chain stores on their strategy of moving into areas that are already served by one or several bookstores — with the apparent intent of driving these bookstores out of business. That's the November 23 issue in case you missed it.

The brilliant classic of the second wave of the feminist movement, *The Dialectic of Sex*, will go back into print on March 29. Morrow/Quill editor Andrew Dutter sent a letter to all of the feminist bookstores saying that seeing the book — listed as op on the 20 Most Influential Women's Books of the Last 20 Years list that ran in *PW's* article on feminist bookstores last May — spurred them to action. Well done!

It's gay pride time: This year we get to claim two of the three Nation Book Award winners. Paul Monette, of course, (*Becoming a Man: Half a Life Story*) and, thanks to her brave tribute to "my first reader, and the light of my life, Molly Malone Cook," Mary Oliver (*Selected Poems*). Not that we're counting, of course.



Speaking of which, everyone is gearing up for the March on Washington in April. Naiad's decision to sponsor a Naiad contingent inspires me to think about having a whole Women In Print contingent that could host the banners of all the women's bookstores, publishers, and periodicals. It seems to me that a strong and viable Women-In-Print movement is one of finest

achievements over the last twenty-something years — and this might be an excellent way to make it visible. Does anyone want to take this on?

Speaking of good times, is anyone else still chuckling over Aunt Lute's Fall catalog? I loved the "For Hours of Fun Match These Blurbs With the Staff Photos on the Previous Page" section. I'm still laughing over "I can't believe she picked the burrito." Women in Print economics in a wrap-up!



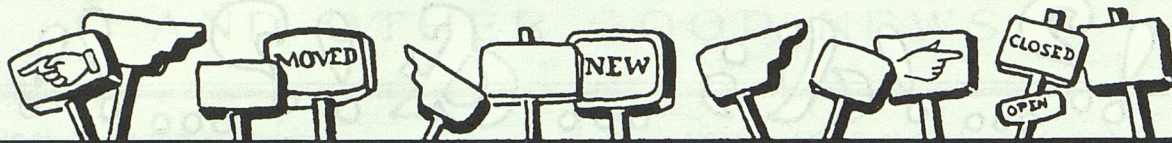
I love seeing the Specialty Bookselling pages in *American Bookseller*. Right up front, too! But I can't help but wonder — if the best of the articles from the specialty newsletters are going to be reprinted in *American Bookseller* for all the ABA members to read, why are those of us in "specialty" segments paying \$25/year to get the specialty newsletter — and why are we paying extra to finance a service that benefits the entire membership? The Bookseller News section has been moved to the front of the magazine, too — and seems to be featuring news of the bookstores rather than promo-projects from the publishers. Yes!

This year's Miami Book Fair included, for the first time I believe, a panel on lesbian literature. Subtitled "Similarity & Difference" it featured Blanche McCrary Boyd, Jewelle Gomez, Lillian Faderman and Diane Salvatore and was moderated by Barbara Grier. I'd love to get my hands on a tape of that!

Speaking of Bookfairs, the Third Annual San Francisco Bay Area Book Festival was an outrageous success. It was great having a lesbian/gay/feminist aisle and presence, traffic was excellent (45,000 attendees)

See *Trivia*, page 74.

THEY WENT THAT-A-WAY



New Stores

Teresa Interwicz and Donna Taylor are starting "Family Treasures," a mail-order business "featuring books and sidelines for our 'extended' family." They'd love to hear from anyone interested in having their books or products featured in their catalog. Send information to 1124 Kiowa Dr. West, Lake Kiowa TX 76240.

Martha Cabrera is the owner of Textures, a lesbian-feminist bookstore in San Antonio. Send greetings to her at Textures, 5309 McCullough, San Antonio TX 78212; 210-828-2011.



Linda Weiss will launch "Heartland Books," a catalog offering lesbian and feminist literature, in early '93. She'd like to receive catalogs from publishers, so send your information to her at PO Box 1105, East Corinth VT 05040; 802-439-5280.

Martha Iosbaker-Pascoe runs Earth and Sky, "an alternative awareness store" at 36 Grand N.E., Grand Rapids MI 49503.

Donna Reynolds-Spangler plans to open a feminist bookstore. Contact her at 314 Lyons Ave., Morehead KY 40351; 606-784-2803.

Crossroads Market Bookstores has a second store in Houston at 16 W. Alabama, Houston TX 77006; 713-942-0147.

A new gay and lesbian bookstore has opened in Cincinnati. George Vanover and Gary Allgeier are co-owners of Pink Pyramid at 36A West Court St., Cincinnati OH 45202; 513-621-PINK.

New Spirit Books is the name of a store we've heard of at #1 S. Broadway, Nyack NY 10960. We think the contact person is Gail Shepherd.

Carolyn Haneisen plans to open a bookstore to be called Lady Iris. Until she has a store location, write

her at 609 State St. #1, Portsmouth NH 03801.

Susan West and Karen Vernon are hoping to open a lesbian bookstore in spring 1993. They would love to hear from publishers and distributors. Contact them at 4223-G Edith Lane, Greensboro NC 27409. In the wake of the passage of Colorado's anti-gay initiative, West and Vernon want to contribute to the building of a strong lesbian community in North Carolina. They hope their store can be a safe place for lesbians both in and out of the closet.

Bruce Ground, founder and former owner of Tomes and Treasures in Tampa, FL, has moved to Orlando and opened Out and About Books, a gay and lesbian store with a small section of African-American and Native American titles and sidelines. Ground is very happy with the move and says sales at Out and About are at the same levels after five months as they were after four years in Tampa. Out and About Books is at 930 N. Mills Ave., Orlando FL 32803; 407-896-0204.

Mary Blake will expand the children's, women's and lesbian and gay sections of A Novel Experience bookstore at 52 Broadway in Saranac Lake NY (518-891-1242). Send her your support and catalogs.



Books Move

Starting January 1, 1993, Consortium Book Sales and Distribution will be the exclusive distributor of the Feminist Press, Eighth Mountain Press and TCG (Theatre Communications Group) Books.

Publishers Move

A reminder that Spinsters Ink has moved from San Francisco to PO Box 300170, Minneapolis MN 55403; 612-377-0287.

BESTSELLERS

Toronto Women's Bookstore

Toronto, ONT

1. **Kitchen God's Wife** by Amy Tan (Ballantine)
2. **Black Looks** by bell hooks (Between-The-Lines Toronto)
3. **Women Who Run With The Wolves** by Clarissa Pinkola Estes (Random)
4. **Trauma & Recovery** by Judith Herman (Harper-Collins)
5. **Possessing The Secret Of Joy** by Alice Walker (HBJ)
6. **Radical Feminist Therapy** by Bonnie Burston (Sage)
7. **Getting Wet: Tales Of Lesbian Seductions** by Carol Allain (Women's Press/Canada)
8. **Written On The Body** by Jeanette Winterson (Random)
9. **The Faraway Hills Are Green** by Shelagh Conway (Women's Press/Canada)
10. **Gin Guo: Voices Of Chinese Canadian Women** (Women's Press/Canada)

Inklings

Houston, TX
Fall 1992

Paperback

1. **Backlash** by Susan Faludi
2. **Crazy For Loving** by Jaye Maiman
3. **Dead Certain** by Claire McNab
4. **Deaths Of Jocasta** by J.M. Redmann
5. **Everything You Have Is Mine** by Sandra Scoppetone
6. **Faces Of Love** by Sharon Gilligan
7. **Fried Green Tomatoes** by Fannie Flagg
8. **Molly Ivins Can't Say That** by Molly Ivins
9. **Odd Girls & Twilight Lovers** by Lillian Faderman
10. **Two Mujeres** by Sara Levi Calderon

Hardback

1. **Chorus of Stones** by Susan Griffin
2. **Maybe The Moon** by Armistead Maupin

3. **Silent Passage** by Gail Sheehy
4. **Undersong** by Audre Lorde
5. **Waiting To Exhale** by Terry McMillan



© P.C.

Paula Clayton

Lunaria

Northampton, MA
September

1. **Murder In The English Department** by Valerie Miner (sale \$3.98)
2. **All Good Women** by Valerie Miner (sale \$6.98)
3. **Odd Girls & Twilight Lovers** by Lillian Faderman
4. **Women's Glibber: State Of The Art Women's Humor** edited by Roz Warren
5. **Everything You Have Is Mine** by Sandra Scoppetone
6. **Fried Green Tomatoes At The Whistlestop Cafe** by Fannie Flagg
7. **Voyages Out 2: Lesbian Short Fiction** by Julie Blackwoman and Nona Caspers
8. **Morton River Valley** by Lee Lynch
9. **Berrigan** by Vicki McConnell (sale \$4.98)
10. **Willful Virgin: Essays In Feminism** by Marilyn Frye

WRITING WANTED



Women's Press/Canada seeks submissions for two anthologies (a fiction and poetry anthology, and a non-fiction anthology) on lesbian and bisexual women's experiences of and resistance to heterosexism and homophobia/lesbophobia. Send submissions to "Resist," Women's Press/Canada, #233-517 College St., Toronto ONT M6G 4A2.

Adventure Press is accepting feminist cartoons for a booklet called "Getting It: A 5-Minute Guide for Men Who Don't." The booklet is being published for Women's Economic Ventures, a Santa Barbara non-profit agency creating economic equality for women. Send cartoons and a SASE to Adventure Press, 5121 Depot St., Santa Maria CA 93454.

The Claremont Graduate School has established the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award, which bears a \$50,000 prize (Claremont says this is the largest single poetry prize awarded in the U.S.), and is currently accepting nominations. For eligibility guidelines, write to: Dean Murray Schwartz, The Claremont Graduate School, 160 East Tenth St., Claremont CA 91711.

Still Waters Press invites 24-page manuscripts for its fourth annual Women's Words Chapbook Competition. Reading fee: \$10. Send with SASE to Still Waters Press, 112 W. Duerer St., Galloway NJ 08201. Deadline: February 28, 1993.

Hikané: The Capable Woman, "a disabled wimmin's magazine for lesbians and our wimmin friends," seeks writings and art work by women with disabilities. Send work to *Hikané*, PO Box 841, Great Barrington MA 01230.

Alyson Publications (40 Plympton St., Boston MA 02118) is seeking personal stories from lesbian and gay teenagers (under 20 years of age) for *Two Teenagers in Twenty*. ○

Clairelight

Santa Rosa, CA

September

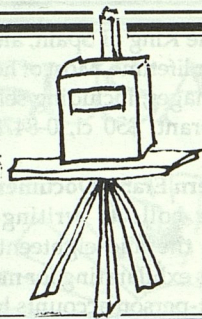
1. **Revolution From Within** by Gloria Steinem, Little, Brown & Co., \$22.95
2. **A Question Of Choice** by Sarah Weddington, G.P. Putnam's Sons, \$21.95
3. **Myths & Mysteries Of Same Sex Love** by Carol Downing, Continuum, \$14.95
4. **Women Who Run With The Wolves** by Clarissa Estes, Ballantine Books, \$20
5. **Bailey's Cafe** by Gloria Naylor, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, \$19.95
6. **A Tiger's Heart** by Lauren Wright Douglas, Naiad Press, \$9.95
7. **The Feminine Face Of God** by Sherry Anderson and Patricia Hopkins, Bantam Books, \$12
8. **The Persistent Desire** edited by Joan Nestle, Alyson Publications, \$14.95
9. **The Revolution Of Little Girls** by Blanche Boyd, Random House, \$10
10. **Everything You Have Is Mine** by Sandra Scoppettone, Ballantine Books, \$3.99
11. **Ferrari's Places For Women** edited by Marianne Ferrari, Ferrari Publications, \$10
12. **Internal Affairs** by Kay Leigh Hagan, Harper-Collins, \$12.95
13. **Visionary Voices** edited by Penny Rosenwasser, Aunt Lute Books, \$8.95

Blackboard

African-American Bestsellers

Fiction

1. **Waiting To Exhale** by Terry McMillan, Viking Penguin, \$22, 0-670-83980-9
2. **Disappearing Acts** by Terry McMillan, Pocket Books, \$8.95, 0-671-70843-0
3. **Your Blues Ain't Like Mine** by Bebe Moore Campbell, G.P. Putnam's Sons, \$22.95, 0-399-13746-7
4. **Erotique Noire/Black Erotica** edited by Miriam DeCosta-Willis, Reginald Martin, and Roseann P. Bell, Doubleday / Anchor Books, \$27.50 cl, 0-385-42308-X; \$14 pb, 0-385-42309-8
5. **Bailey's Cafe** by Gloria Naylor, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, \$19.95, 0-15-110450-6 ○



ART BOOKS

By Tee Corinne

Family Portraits in Changing Times by Helen Nestor seems to tap into the new, generous, inclusive mood signalled by Clinton's election. Judith Stacey refers in the introduction to the "seismic shift of...the 'postmodern family revolution'", which broadens the definition of family to include "blended families, matrilineal families, adoptive families, gay families, single-father families, female breadwinner and homemaker father families, physically disabled adoptive-parent families, cohabiting parent families, in vitro-generated families, and many more." This book documents these new families in images of breathtaking clarity and psychological depth. The text is transcribed from interviews of the individuals photographed and is moving, poignant, funny and loving. Several of the families were re-photographed eleven years after the initial images were made and both images are published. Open it anywhere and it will draw you in, give you a feeling that you know these people. They are our friends and neighbors. \$22.95 pb, 0-939165-15-5; \$39.95 cl, 0-939165-16-3, NewSage Press, dist. by BP, IN, Consortium and Pipeline.

Frida Kahlo: The Camera Seduced, memoir by Elena Poniatowska, essay by Carla Stellweg, is a sure-to-be-popular collection of photographs of the Mexican painter of German/Jewish, Indian/Spanish descent (1907-1954) whose haunting, searching, revealing self-portraits have only become available in the last decade. This photographic history both enriches and reveals the myths that surround her work and life. Bisexual, Communist, wife of one of Mexico's most famous muralists, Kahlo moved in international political and artistic circles and was photographed extensively. A wonderful, entertaining, touching, inspiring collection. \$18.95 pb, 0-8118-0215-9; \$29.95 cl, 0-8118-0238-8, Chronicle Books.

Frida Kahlo by Hayden Herrera (Kahlo's primary biographer) is a large format book with gorgeous illustrations, suitable for framing. The brief text and reasonable price make this an excellent introduction to Kahlo's work. \$7.95 pb, 0-8478-1517-X, Rizzoli.

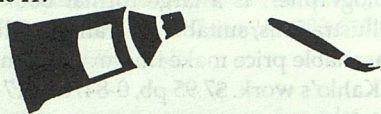


From *Family Portraits in Changing Times*.

In the same series and having the same large size and glorious color plates as the Herrera *Frida Kahlo* is **Mary Cassatt** by Nancy Mowll Mathews. Cassatt (1844-1926) was an American-born artist who lived in France as an adult and was active in the Impressionist movement and strongly influenced by Japanese print-making. Her images are both strong and beautiful. \$7.95 pb, 0-8478-1611-7, Rizzoli.

Angry Graphics: Protest Posters of the Reagan/Bush Era by Karrie Jacobs & Steven Heller is a brilliant collection of elegant, quirky, dramatic images. The

breadth of coverage is noticeable: Esther Hernandez' "Sun-mad raisins unnaturally grown with insecticides, miticides, herbicides, fungicides," anti-war, AIDS, pro-choice, anti-homelessness, a dynamite image that starts with Ronald Reagan holding a "smile" face and ends with him as a Frankenstein, "I am a lezzie, butch, pervert, girlfriend, bulldagger, sister dyke, and proud!" and much much more. The images are visually arresting and provocative. The text and captions are excellent. This book would also make a terrific text for a course on contemporary ethics. \$17.95 pb, 0-87905-469-7, dist. by BP and IN, Gibbs-Smith, POB 667, Layton, UT 84041.



Dancers by Annie Leibovitz is a particularly contemporary view of classical and modern dancers and choreographers, shown behind the scenes or in unusual situations like a group swimming in the nude photographed underwater. Leibovitz made her reputation photographing rock stars for *Rolling Stone* and reportedly can talk anyone into doing almost anything in front of her camera. The effect is often intimate, sometimes shocking. \$15.95 pb, 1-56098-208-X, Smithsonian.

Mabel Lucie Attwell by Chris Beetles documents the life and work of a popular British illustrator (1979-1964) who reached the peak of her popularity around 1929 with images of cute children (sometimes with slightly racy overtones) drawn for the appreciation of adults and marketed primarily as postcards and plaques. \$22.95 pb, 1-85145-365-2, dist. by Trafalgar Square, North Pomfret, VT 05053, Pavilion.

New in paper is **Streetwise**, photographs by Mary Ellen Mark, intro by John Irving, a document of and tribute to the street children in Seattle, Washington. A pithy and heartbreaking look at an "All American City" with child prostitution, drugs, violence, and the kind of caring that people do for each other when they are down and out together. \$24.95 pb, 0-89381-487-3, Aperture.

Of special interest to librarians is **Sofonisba Anguissola: The First Great Woman Artist of the Renaissance** by Ilya Sandra Perlingieri, an elegant and informative book rich with text and color reproductions. Anguissola (1532-1625) studied with Michelan-

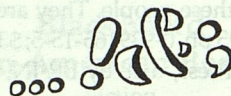
gelo, was the court painter for the King of Spain, and was internationally famous in her lifetime. Most of her work was portraiture and the images, including self-portraits, are haunting and vibrant. \$50 cl, 0-8478-1544-7, Rizzoli.

Women Artists in the Modern Era: A Documentary History by Susan Waller collects writings, mostly by women artists, from the mid-eighteenth century to the mid-twentieth. It is exhilarating for me, as an artist, to read so many first-person accounts by approximately 40 women artists from the U.S., Britain and France. Useful introductory essays are provided for each entry. \$47.50 cl, 0-8108-2405-1, Scarecrow Press.

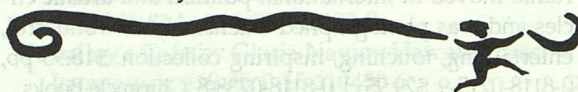
Line Vautrin, Sculptor, Jeweller, Magician by Line Vautrin and Patrick Mauries is one of those beautifully produced books where I wish they had spent a little less on lush color reproductions and given us more black and white images of the artist at different periods in her life, and a detailed chronology. Vautrin was born in the 19-teens and has spent most (all?) of her life in France. Most of the work pictured is jewelry, odd, unusual, very creative. \$35 cl, 0-500-01537-6, dist. by W. W. Norton, Thames and Hudson. ○

Trivia, continued from page 69.

and the events were well attended. We considered breaking down a few walls to accommodate all of the people who wanted to hear Susan Faludi and Naomi Wolf but decided to be more polite. I'm just waiting for anyone to *dare* to say they are last year's news. Just waiting.



And last but not least, kudos and thanks to the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association members who went on record against and actively fought to defeat Oregon's Measure 9. PNBW and the Oregon Coalition for Free Expression went on record against the Measure in the voter information pamphlet, arguing that the measure threatened to ban such great works as Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*, Stephen Crane's *The Red Badge of Courage*, and Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tales. ○



SUSANNA STURGIS

ON

SCIENCE FICTION



After I read in the *Boston Globe* that Audre Lorde had died, I drove around gray, drizzly Martha's Vineyard listening to the "Radio Profile" created with such eloquence and love by Jennifer Abod, Angela Bowen, and others. How different my life, my understanding, my commitments would have been had I never read *The Cancer Journals* or *Zami* or all the essays in *Sister Outsider*, never heard Audre read "Afterimages" out loud in Washington, D.C.

Where I live, few know of Audre Lorde or her work. I played the tape again for my girlfriend. As we sat in her kitchen, listening to that rich, passionate, persuasive voice, I thought: Blessings on all who do the work of keeping her work available, on tape and in print, so that her influence may continue to deepen and expand, to reach those who still don't know her name.

And on all of us — booksellers, editors, publishers, reviewers, readers — who keep alive the work of women writers, living and dead.



A note to feminist and other independent publishers: To encourage audience cross-over, I review noteworthy f/sf for gay or feminist publications. I'd love to make this a two-way street by bringing good feminist-press novels and story collections to the attention of f/sf audiences, both in reviews and at conventions. Unfortunately, I'm not getting advance warning — never mind review copies — of the serious contenders, books like *Mrs. Vargas and the Dead Naturalist*, *Killing Color*, and *Running Fiercely Toward a High Thin Sound*. Send review copies (or, even better, advance galleys) to me, P.O. Box 39, West Tisbury MA 02575.

This column would carry a detailed recommendation of Elisabeth Vonarburg's *In the Mothers' Land* (\$5.99 pb, 0-553-29962-X, Bantam Spectra) if I hadn't lost it in the encroaching papers of either my or my girlfriend's house. Before that happened, I was totally engrossed. Better luck next time.



At MagiCon, the 1992 World Science Fiction Convention, Lois McMaster Bujold's *Barrayer* (\$4.99 pb, 0-671-72083-X, Baen Books) won the Hugo Award for best novel; Nancy Kress's "Beggars in Spain" was honored as best novella.

BAEN BOOKS

The Ship Who Fought, by Anne McCaffrey and S. M. Stirling (\$19 cl, 0-671-97742-3), continues the symbiotic human mind/machine body link of McCaffrey's *The Ship Who Sang*, *PartnerShip* (with Margaret Ball), and *The Ship Who Searched* (with Mercedes Lackey. S. M. (Steve) Stirling, the author in his own right of intriguing (albeit, for the non-military fan, somewhat grueling) military sf novels, is also the co-author, with Shirley Meier and/or Karen Wehrstein, of several "Fifth Millennium" novels: *The Sharpest Edge*, *The Cage*, etc. Apr.

BALLANTINE/DEL REY

The Ragged World, by Judith Moffett (\$3.99 pb, 0-345-37500-9). The impending release of the sequel (*Time, Like an Ever-Rolling Stream*, \$21.95 cl, 0-312-08323-8, St. Martin's Press) put this on the top of my heap, and a good thing too. Starting before the present day and moving into the near future, this follows the crossing paths of several well-realized characters who

are drawn together by their contact with the Hefn, aliens who — after a nuclear plant melts down — come among humans with a disturbing message: no children will be born until the human race gets its ecological act together. A major theme, explored always in human scale, is the impact of vast events on individual lives: a college professor devotes her existence to surviving AIDS, a boy whose best friend died after the meltdown can find no reason to live, etc.

Ammonite, by Nicola Griffin (\$4.99 pb, 0-345-37891-1), won a mostly favorable review in *Locus* for this one, which is set on an all-female planet that is home to several different societies. Looks like a must-carry to me; more when I get my hands on it. Feb.



BALLANTINE

The Vanished Child, by Sarah Smith (\$20 cl, 0-345-37350-2), does not seem at first glance to be a natural for feminist bookstores, except that the principal female character is a musically gifted young woman being pressured by her fiance to give up her piano studies. This well-written and -designed novel, set in early 20th century Boston, New Hampshire, and Switzerland, explores the reverberating effects of severe abuse on an upper-class boy and his family. Keep an eye out for the as-yet-unannounced paperback. (No, it's not *f* or *sf*, though scientists figure prominently in its pages; Boston-area author Sarah Smith, however, also writes *sf* and is the author of *King of Space*, a hypertext novel for the Macintosh.)

MACMILLAN

A box of good stuff for kids and YAs arrived when this column was already past due; based on a quick skim, these look especially interesting. In **On All Hallows' Eve**, by Grace Chetwin (\$3.95 pb, 0-689-71617-6, Aladdin Books), an English girl recently and unwillingly transplanted to Long Island, U.S.A., finds herself, her sister, and two friends in a witch world where the old Celtic gods and customs still rule.

E. W. (Edmund Wilson) Hildick's young sleuths, styled "the McGurk organization," take on the task of rescuing 13-year-old Hester Bidgood from charges of witchcraft — in 1692 — in **The Case of the Weeping Witch** (\$13.95 cl, 0-02-743785-X).

Tamora Pierce's **Wild Magic: The Immortals** (\$16.95 cl, 0-689-31761-1, Atheneum) features a young orphan girl, adept with bow and arrow, whose special gifts with animals lead the way into first a job and then some supernatural adventures. This novel connects with Pierce's popular *Song of the Lioness Quartet* (*Alanna: The First Adventure*, *In the Hand of the Goddess*, *The Woman Who Rides like a Man*, and *Lioness Rampant*), a fantasy series with a woman protagonist.

ST. MARTIN'S PRESS

Seven Kinds of Death, by Kate Wilhelm (\$18.95 cl, 0-312-08290-8), isn't *sf* either, though its author has a long and sterling reputation in the field. Characters are the major asset of this mystery, which I thoroughly enjoyed. A New York editor is murdered during a reception at a small, unusual artists' colony in semi-rural Pennsylvania. The husband-and-wife detectives, Charlie Meiklejohn and Constance Leidl, are compelling not only for their ingenious sleuthing but for their long and still-passionate relationship. ○



Courtesy of *ILIS Newsletter*.

GAY MEN'S LIT

FOR FEMINIST BOOKSTORES

By Richard Labonte
A Different Light Bookstore, San Francisco, CA

If any trend stands out about books published for our bookstores through 1992, it's the high number of studies of gay and/or lesbian politics and culture. In the gay male area, consider these quite varied titles (many of them mentioned in previous columns): *Heartlands* by Darrell Yates Rist, *Making History* by Eric Marcus, *Out In The World* by Neil Miller, *A Member of the Family* ed. by John Preston, *Gay Ideas: Outing and Other Controversies* by Richard Mohr, *Making Trouble: Essays on Gay History, Politics and the University* by John D'Emilio, *Communists Cowboys and Queers: The Politics of Masculinity in the Work of Arthur Miller and Tennessee Williams* by David Saran, *Arresting Images* by Steven Dubin, *Homosexuality in Renaissance and Enlightenment England* by Claude Summers, *The Homoerotic Photograph* by Allan Ellenzweig, *Laws of Desire: Questions of Homosexuality in Spanish Writing and Film* by Pal Julian Smith, and *Male Homosexuality in Islam* ed. by Arno Schmidt.

Those are just the titles which came to mind immediately: there are as many more.



And the wave of books by us, about us, shows no sign of abating; one of the most exciting books of 1993 is National Public Radio correspondent Frank Browning's highly analytical and intensely personal *The Culture of Desire: Paradox and Perversity in the Lives of Gay Men Today* (Crown, \$20 cl, 0-517-58192-2).

Another interesting non-fiction title due early in 1993 is Robert Hopcke's *Same-Sex Love & the Path to*

Wholeness (Shambhala, \$14 pb, 0-87773-651-0), an integration of spiritual belief and sexual honesty. Hopcke is the author of *Men's Dreams, Men's Healing* (\$13 pb, 0-87773-561-1) and *Jung, Jungians and Homosexuality* (\$14 pb, 0-87773-585-9), two works deeply rooted in his work as a Jungian therapist.



And an early entrant in the best-title derby for 1993 goes to Wayne Koestenberg for his witty, personal and instructive study of the genetic link between many homosexual males and most operas. It's called *The Queen's Throat: Opera, Homosexuality and the Mystery of Desire* (Simon & Schuster, \$22 cl, 0-671-75457-2).

Two other non-fiction books to consider this spring are British author Derek Jarman's AIDS-based memoir *At Your Own Risk* (Viking, \$19.95 cl, 0-87951-473-6), and Patricia Morrisroe's no-hold-barred biography of the controversial photographer *Mapplethorpe* (Random House, \$27.50 cl, 0-394-57650-0).

And, for boys into dolls, there is the be-all and end-all look at the lives of Barbie and Ken. It's *Mondo Barbie*, by Paul Ebersole (St. Martin's, \$12.95 pb, 0-312-08848-5), just the book for the gay man in our lives.

It's mere coincidence that this column's backlist survey of religion titles comes in the post-Christmas issue of FBN: no synchronicity was intended. But over the years, I've found that the religion section is one of the most stable in our store, with more of the new titles than in any other section becoming strong and steady sellers.

Here are the top 10 titles with a particularly strong gay male component — though in a section like religion, most books have a cross-gender appeal:

Coming Out Within by Craig O'Neill & Kathleen Ritter (HarperSanFrancisco, \$10 pb, 0-06-250706-0), an integration of religious affinity with gay self-identity; **Taking a Chance on God** (Beacon, \$11.95 pb, 0-8070-7903-X) and **The Church & the Homosexual** (\$12.95 pb, 0-8070-7901-4) by John McNeill, a Jesuit priest who develops a theological framework supporting the presence of gays within the Catholic church; **Peculiar People: Mormons and Same-Sex Orientation** ed. by Ron Schow, Wayne Schow & Marybeth Raynes (Signature, \$24.95 cl, 1-56085-014-4, available from Ingram); John Boswell's **Christianity, Social Tolerance & Homosexuality** (University of Chicago, \$18.95 pb, 0-226-06711-4), certainly the classic of the religion shelf, a book so venerable I can remember when it cost \$9.95; **Rescuing the Bible From Fundamentalism** by John Shelby Spong

(HarperCollins, \$10 pb, 0-06-067518-7), a powerful defense against the ranting of the Christian right, and **Living in Sin** (\$9.95 pb, -067507-1), which includes a cogent argument for gays in the Episcopalian priesthood; **Just As I Am** by the Rev. Robert Williams (Crown, \$19 cl, 0-517-58539-1), subtitled "a practical guide to being out, proud and Christian"; **In God's Image** by San Francisco priest the Rev. Robert Warren Cromey (Alamo Square Press, \$9.95 pb, 0-9624751-2-2); and **Homosexuality & Religion** ed. by Richard Hasbany (Harrington Park, \$14.95 pb, 0-918393-66-3), a collection of insightful academic assessments of gays and their churches.



There are also some individual authors whose works are worth ordering: Malcolm Boyd's titles include **Amazing Grace** (co-edited with Nancy L. Wilson), about the work of the MCC and other churches (Crossing Press, \$10.95 pb, 0-89594-479-0); **Are You Running With Me, Jesus?**, a book of prayer and reflection; a new edition of **Take Off the Masks**, due in the spring from HarperSanFrancisco (\$12 pb, 0-06-060863-3); and a remarkable collection of essays and insights, **Edges, Boundaries and Connections** (Broken Moon, \$12.95 pb, 0-913089-36-2), including 12 refreshing guides for living and three moving ceremonies for an AIDS memorial; three books by Chris Glaser are **Coming Out to God: Prayers for Lesbians & Gay Men, Their Families & Friends** (WSP, \$8.99 pb, 0-664-25176-5), **Come Home! Reclaiming Spirituality and Community as Gay Men and Lesbians** (HarperCollins, \$10.95 pb, 0-06-063124-4), and **Uncommon Calling: A Gay Man's Struggle to Serve the Church** (\$11.95 pb, 0-06-063122-8), all from a Presbyterian perspective.

Two other titles round out the suggestions: **Don't Be Afraid Anymore** by the Rev. Troy Perry with Thomas L.R. Swicegood, an autobiography which tells of the founding of the Metropolitan Community Church (St. Martin's, \$12.95 pb, 0-312-06954-5); and **Dirt, Greed & Sex: Sexual Ethics in the New Testament and Their Implications for Today** by L. William Countryman, a provocative and gay-inclusive study of the church's attitudes towards sexuality (Fortress, \$12.95 pb, 0-8006-2476-9).

Kids Books

The theme this issue is children's books, so I thought I'd slip in mention of a few favorite titles of my own for boys — my nephew, once 3 years old and now 11, has been receiving some of these year-by-year:

Losing Uncle Tim by MaryKate Jordan (Albert Whitman, \$12.95 cl, 0-8075-4756-5) is several years old now, but still a wonderful way to reach youngsters with the word about AIDS; **Derek the Knitting Dinosaur** by Mary Blackwood (Lerner, \$5.95 pb, 0-87614-540-3) is a little fable about living life the way you want to; and of course there is **Oliver Button Is A Sissy** by Tommi DePaola (HBJ, \$4.95 pb, 0-15-668140-4).

For slightly older folks, three of my favorites are **Jack** by A.M. Homes (Vintage, \$10 pb, 0-679-73221-7), in which a boy learns his dad is gay; **The Arizona Kid** by Ron Koertge (Avon, \$3.50 pb, 0-380-70776-4), in which a young boy learns his uncle is gay; and **Night Kites** by M.E. Kerr (HarperKeypoint, \$3.50 pb, 0-06-447035-0), in which a young boy learns his perfect big brother is gay, and has AIDS. What these books have in common is that it's the older characters who are gay, and who earn the trust, respect and love of the younger characters — it's a theme very important to gay men as they come out to their nephews or their sons. ○

Two of the finest gay authors died of AIDS late in 1992: Melvin Dixon, author of the novels **Trouble the Water and Vanishing Rooms**, as well as a book of poems, **Change of Territory and Ride Out the Wilderness: Geography and Identity in Afro-American Literature**, a book of literary criticism, had many fine books left to write as he illuminated the lives of Black gay men and their relations to white brothers; and Richard Hall, a pioneer and an elder whose books just got better and better, author of the short story collections **Fidelities, Couplings and Letter From a Great Uncle**, the novels **Family Fictions** and **The Butter-scotch Prince** and the drama collection **Three Plays for a Gay Theatre**.

Years-end are a convenient time to look back: here, for list-lovers, are the gay bestsellers from Jan. 1 to Nov. 30 at A Different Light in SF. A lot of the hardcover titles from earlier in the year are due soon for softcover, and I've indicated those for your ordering convenience.

In absolute numbers, these are the books which sold best at A Different Light from Jan. 1 to Nov. 30 — 10 in each of several categories.

Fiction Hardcovers:

Maybe the **Moon** by Armistead Maupin, **The Easy Way Out** by Stephen McCauley, **The Dreyfuss Affair** by Peter Lefcourt, **Ready to Catch Him Should He Fall** by Neil Bartlett, **28 Barbary Lane** by Armistead Maupin, **A Matter of Life & Sex** by Oscar Moore, **Back to Barbary Lane** by Armistead Maupin, **Two Halves of New Haven** by Martin Shecter, **Hello Darling, Are You Working?** by Rupert Everett, **The Hidden Law** by Michael Nava.

And if December sales were included, I bet Anne Rice's **Tale of the Body Thief** would be somewhere near the top of the 10.



Nonfiction Hardcovers:

Becoming a Man by Paul Monette, **Making History** by Eric Marcus, **A Member of the Family** ed. by John Preston, **My Gorgeous Life** by Dame Edna Everage (well, mostly nonfiction . . .), **Memories That Smell Like Gasoline** by David Wojnarowicz, **Double**

Life: Director George Cukor by Peter McGilligan, **Bag of Toys** by David France, **Vested Interest** by Marjorie Garber, **Keith Haring: Authorized Biography** by John Gruen, **Honor Bound** by Joseph Steffan.

And, with December's projected sales included, contenders would be **Gay Ideas: Outing and Other Controversies** by Richard Mohr, **The Homoerotic Photo** by Allan Ellenzweig, **Heartlands: A Gay Man's Odyssey Across America** by Darrell Yates-Rist, and **The New Joy of Gay Sex** by Felice Picano and Dr. Charles Silverstein.



Tomie dePaola (*Oliver Button Is A Sissy*)

Fiction Softcovers:

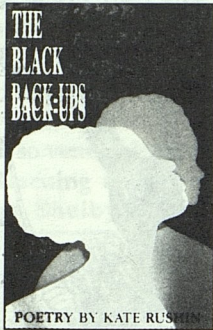
Howtown by Michael Nava, **Men on Men** 4 ed. by George Stambolian, **Flesh & The Word** ed. by John Preston, **Ceremonies** by Essex Hemphill, **Dancing on Tisha B'av** by Lev Raphael, **O Beautiful** by Jesse Green, **Halfway Home** by Paul Monette, **A Body to Dye For** by Grant Michaels, **Goldenboy** by Michael Nava, **A Country of Old Men** by Joseph Hansen.

Include December and likely substitutions would be **Spontaneous Combustion** by David Feinberg, **Putting on the Ritz** by Joe Keenan, **The Man Who Fell in Love With the Moon** by Tom Spanbauer, **Slaves of the Empire** by Aaron Travis and **Mr. Benson** by John Preston.

See *Gay Lit.*, page 103.

Firebrand Books Are Warming Up the Spring 1993 Reading Season

THE BLACK BACK-UPS Poetry by Kate Rushin



The *Black Back-Ups* is Kate Rushin's long-anticipated first collection of poetry. In it she captures the faces, voices, feelings, words, and stories of her African-American family, people in the neighborhood and town where she grew up. These are proud, self-possessed people. People raised by a generation born in bondage in the 19th century. People who were no longer Southern and rural, but who would never be urban and completely Northern.

Spanning work written over the past 20 years, *The Black Back-Ups* uses the image of African-Americans who sing background vocals for white entertainers as a metaphor for all those pushed into the shadows—particularly women—as well as the people in the author's life who have helped sustain her. As much as anything else, these poems are an evocation and exploration of home.

The author of the poem that gave the classic anthology *This Bridge Called My Back* its title, Kate Rushin's work has been widely anthologized. She is presently attending graduate school after many years on the Boston literary and political scene.

\$ 8.95 paper
\$18.95 cloth
5½ x 8½

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ISBN 1-56341-026-5
96 pages



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STONE BUTCH BLUES by Leslie Feinberg

Woman or man? That's the question that rages like a storm around Jess Goldberg, clouding her life and her identity. *Stone*

Butch Blues is a powerful, provocative, and deeply moving piece of writing—the story of Jess's coming to terms with the tempest of who she is.

Growing up differently gendered in a blue collar town in the 1950s. Coming out as a butch in the bars and factories of the prefeminist '60s. Deciding to pass as a man in order to survive when she is left without a job or a community in the early '70s.

Years later, after struggling with isolation and political upheaval, when the effects of the male hormones she has been taking wear off, Jess is brought full circle. She must finally learn to accept the complexities of being a transgendered person in a world demanding simple explanations.

Probing, passionate, and eye-opening, *Stone Butch Blues* is a must read: an account of a he-she emerging whole, weathering the turbulence.

Leslie Feinberg is a journalist and a typesetter by trade. This is her first novel.

\$ 9.95
\$20.95
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ISBN 1-56341-029-X
ISBN 1-56341-030-3
288 pages

FROM OUR OWN PRESSES



Compiled by Carol Seajay

ASTARTE SHELL PRESS

Girl to Woman: A Gathering of Images by Susan Hauser is an eloquent memoir of growing up in northern Minnesota. In language that is meditative, hilarious, grief-filled and evocative, Hauser writes of childhood memories of nature, family, fantasy and fear; and of a woman's political and personal life rooted in the rich context of family and nature. In powerful and memorable images, her essays and poetry celebrate and mourn the seasons of a white woman's life and always evoke a profound spiritual connection to the Minnesota land. Her poetry collection *Meant to be Read Aloud* received a 1989 Minnesota Book Award. \$10.95 pb, 0-0624626-4-0. Astarte Shell Press, PO Box 10453, Portland ME 04104.

— Astarte Shell Press

CLEIS PRESS

January will see a literary coup for Cleis Press with publication of Cristina Peri Rossi's **A Forbidden Passion**. Peri Rossi is an internationally acclaimed writer whose work has interested Cleis for a number

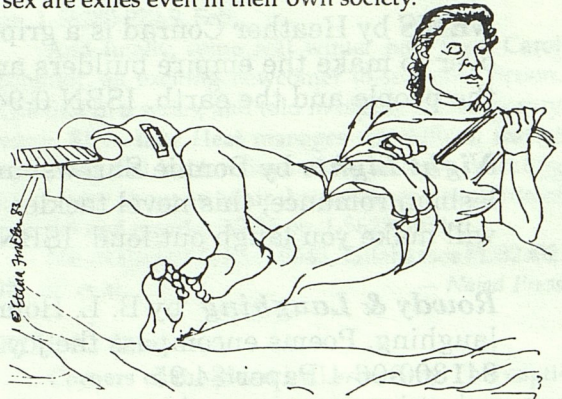
Bookpeople (BP) and Inland (IN) distribute small press books to bookstores. "BP" or "IN" at the end of an annotation means that the books are available from that distributor. Both distributors stock a wide range of titles and publishers of interest to feminist bookstores. If you are a new store or don't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

of years. Her fiction appeared in Alicia Partnoy's *You Can't Drown the Fire: Latin American Women Writing in Exile* along with Nobel laureate Rigoberta Menchú.

Cleis Press sees acquisition of Peri Rossi's short story collection as a boost to their small but growing collection of widely praised translations of important world fiction by women. — Plus, the gals at Cleis "knew" that Cristina Peri Rossi was a lesbian. Called a "gender bender" by the VLS, Peri Rossi greeted the news of her publication by a U.S. women's press as an occasion to meet a new circle of readers as a lesbian author. "Women," she says, "simply because of their sex are exiles even in their own society."



From *Women Travelling Places*.

In **A Forbidden Passion** Peri Rossi takes a biting — but ultimately tender — look at men and women struggling against destiny: lost travelers, unknown lovers, heroes forgotten by history. Peri Rossi's fiction, essays and poetry have been translated into English, German, Dutch, Italian, Portuguese, French, Hebrew, Swedish and Polish. A respected feminist writer in Latin America and Europe, she was forced into exile from her native Uruguay in 1972 and now lives in Spain. \$9.95 pb, 0-939416-68-9. Feb. InBook, IN, BP. — Cleis Press

BOOKS
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Mega by B. L. Holmes. Charged with saving the Earth from further destruction, a group of psychics and scientists enlist the aid of lesbian Kerek Leight to help them in their task. This science fiction novel is set against a future of giant cities and vast pollution. (Finalist in 1992 Lambda Literary Awards science fiction category.) ISBN 0-941300-19-6 Paper \$8.95

Hodag Winter by Deborah Wiese. A first grade teacher is fired because she is a lesbian. She and her lover and friends fight back. ISBN 0-941300-18-8 Paper \$8.95

Singin' the Sun Up by Ocala Wings. Communicating with dolphins gives this lesbian love story a New Age twist. ISBN 0-941300-20-X Paper \$8.95

NEWS by Heather Conrad is a gripping novel of a women's computer takeover to make the empire builders and the money makers stop destroying the people and the earth. ISBN 0-941300-04-8 Paper \$9.95

Night Lights by Bonnie Shrewsbury Arthur. More than your traditional lesbian romance, this novel tackles various issues—with a light touch that will make you laugh out loud. ISBN 0-941300-05-6 Paper \$8.95

Rowdy & Laughing by B. L. Holmes. She's not gay, she's rowdy and laughing. Poems encompass the joy of life and being in love. ISBN 0-941300-06-4 Paper \$4.95

Senior Citizen by B. L. Holmes. A musical comedy, this funny and touching play explores the dual themes of rejection of the aged and gays/lesbians. ISBN 0-941300-22-6 Paper \$8.95



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FROM INSIDE

The first volume of *From Inside: An Anthology of Writing by Incarcerated Women* by residents at the Volunteers of America Regional Corrections Center (VOARCC), is now available from Inland. Keep an eye out for the second volume which is currently in the publishing process. Editor and publisher Deborah Stein collected the entries as part of her weekly creative writing workshops with the women at VOARCC. "Their stories are a powerful blend of pain and discouragement with resourcefulness, freedom and growth. Their strength of will is remarkable, revealing the spirits of women with limited choices and freedoms." — And they give those of us on the outside a rare chance to hear their voices. Stein has a unique relationship with incarcerated women — she was born in the Alderson Federal Prison Camp for Women and lived there as an infant while her birthmother was an inmate. Published by Deborah Stein, 232 West Franklin Ave. #302, Minneapolis MN 55404. \$6.00 saddle-stitched, no ISBN. Distributed by Inland. — CS



NAIAD PRESS

Four powerhouse books — the most attractive mid-winter package ever offered by Naiad Press — are guaranteed to heat up your sales and cure the post-Christmas doldrums.

Point any customer to the long-awaited paperback release of Katherine V. Forrest's Lambda Literary Award winning *Murder by Tradition*. Each entry in the acclaimed Kate Delafield series has proven to be an enduring sales leader. Recommend this powerful odyssey of the capture and trial of a gaybashing killer to all your gay as well as lesbian customers. \$9.95 pb, 1-56280-002-7.

Another eagerly awaited paperback release is the much-discussed sensational, sizzling *Love, Zena*

Beth. This highly literate novel, by Lambda-nominee Diane Salvatore (*Benediction*), is a selection of the Book-of-the-Month Club. The story chronicles a young woman's affair with a world-famous lesbian writer who has just ended an affair with a world-famous sports star. Need we say more? \$9.95 pb, 1-56280-030-2, Feb.



And what more can anyone say about Isabel Miller? Simply tell every lesbian reader who walks in your door, especially those hungry for high quality fiction, that the title story in *A Dooryard Full of Flowers* is from the never-finished sequel to *Patience and Sarah*. This outstanding collection will sell itself. \$9.95 pb, 1-56280-029-9, Feb.

And finally, some real winter heat from Carol Schmidt, an exciting newcomer to suspense fiction. The first in a series, and told in highly contemporary voice, *Silverlake Heat* manages the difficult feat of capturing real lesbian lives while telling a crackling good story about an affair that becomes a cauldron of passion and murder. \$9.95 pb, 1-56280-031-0.

Naiad Press, PO Box 10543, Tallahassee FL 32302.
IN, BP, et al. — *Naiad Press*

RISING TIDE

Corners of the Heart by Leslie Grey. This captivating novel of love and suspense introduces two unforgettable characters whose diverse paths have finally led them to each other. Beautiful French-born Chris Benet wanders into Katya Michaels' life quite by accident and is immediately captivated. But their budding love is shadowed by a baffling mystery which they must solve. The tension and the danger mount as they work together to outwit the menace that threatens Deer Falls. Vivid, sensitive writing and an intriguing plot are the hallmarks of this exciting new writer. \$9.95 pb, 0-9628938-3-8.

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This captivating novel of love and suspense introduces two unforgettable characters whose diverse paths have finally led them to each other. It is Spring, season of promise, when beautiful, French-born Chris Benet wanders into Katya Michaels' life. But their budding love is shadowed by a baffling mystery which they must solve. You will read with bated breath as they work together to outwit the menace that threatens Deer Falls; your heart will pound as the story races to its heart-stopping climax. Vivid, sensitive writing and an intriguing plot are the hallmarks of this exciting new writer.

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5 Kivy Street Huntington Sta. NY 11746 (516) 427-1289

Love Spell by Karen Williams. A deliciously erotic and humorous love story with a magical twist. When Kate Gallagher, a reluctantly single veterinarian, meets the mysterious and alluring Allegra one enchanted evening, it is instant fireworks. But as Kate gradually discovers, they live in two very different worlds, and Allegra's life is shrouded in mystery, which Kate longs to penetrate. A masterful blend of fantasy and reality, this whimsical story will delight your imagination and warm your heart. Here is a writer of style as well as substance. \$9.95 pb, 0-9628938-2-X.

Available now at very generous discounts from the publisher: 45% for 10-24 books; 50% for 25+, non-returnable. Toll-free ordering: 800-648-5333. Rising Tide Press, 5 Kivy St., Huntington Sta. NY 11746. Also available from IN, BP, Bookslinger and the distributors.

—*Rising Tide*

SCARLET PRESS

Scarlet Press is a new British feminist publisher that released its first books shortly before the Amsterdam International Feminist Book Fair. They have now set up U.S. distribution and most of their titles will be available through Inland in early 1993. Scarlet Press

writes, "Our first six months of trading has been very positive despite the recession."

Titles en route to Inland include two pamphlets from Scarlet's "Lesbians Talk" pamphlet series, **Queer Notions** by Cherry Smyth and **Safer Sex** by Sue O'Sullivan and Pratibha Parmar.



"The 1990s has produced a new political radicalism within the lesbian and gay communities, with the emergence of activist groups such as OutRage, ACT UP and Queer Nation and their 'We're here, we're queer, get used to it!' agenda. **Queer Notions** looks at queer politics and asks: Does the new defiance signify a meaningful shift in ideology, or is it merely the wishful thinking of a few white gay men? Are queer politics and feminism in any way compatible? What does queer mean for lesbians and who is setting the agenda? Is queer a positive alliance or a watering down of lesbian strength? Is there a queer aesthetic? Cherry Smyth describes the development of the new politics and discusses its implications with an interna-



tional group of activists and their critics." \$8.50, 1-85727-025-8.

"In **Safer Sex** Sue O'Sullivan and Pratibha Parmar look at the way the need for safer sex has revolutionised sexual practice and its discussion within the gay male community and at the hotly contested debates regarding the need for safer sex in the lesbian community — debates which run far deeper than the issue of safer sex itself. They look at the need for safer sex, at what the discussion has revealed about lesbian sexual practices in general, at the research on woman-to-woman transmission, and at the question, 'Are lesbian AIDS activists merely servicing gay men or can we formulate a common agenda?' " \$8.50, 1-85727-020-7.

Women Talk Sex ed. by Pearlie McNeill, Bea Freeman, and Jenny Newman "explores the changing attitudes toward women's sexuality from the 1960s to the AIDS crisis. Issues covered include lesbian identity, bisexuality, sexual repression, arranged marriage, masturbation, celibacy, disability, sexual abuse and transsexuality. The contributors encompass diverse race, class, age and gender identities. An introduction places the stories within a social and historical context." \$15.50 pb, 1-85727-000-2; \$45 cl, -010-X.

Because You Want to Write: A Workbook for Women by Pearlie McNeill is "a practical, self-help guide aimed at the new writer and those wishing to develop their writing skills. It includes extensive analyses of women's writing, showing how women have expanded the boundaries of various genres to their own ends. A valuable source book for teachers of writing and literature. Areas considered include autobiography, diaries, short stories and novels in all their forms, as well as a section on how to approach publishers. Packed with ideas, exercises and strategies to help with the nuts and bolts of writing: language, imagery, character, plot, narrative, dialogue, and humour." \$17.95 pb, 1-85727-030-4; \$49.95 cl, -035-5.

Scarlet Press titles **Superwomen and the Double Burden** and **The European Women's Almanac** will be

published in the U.S. and Canada by Second Story Press and Columbia University Press, respectively.

1993 titles will include **Women and Bisexuality** by Sue George, **How to Cure Addiction** by Anne McManus, **The Midwife's Tale: An Oral History from Handwomen to Professional Midwife** by Nicky Leap and Billie Hunter, **How to be Butch in a Petticoat — Lesbian Culture in the 18th Century** by Emma Donaghue, **The Good, the Bad and the Gorgeous: Lesbianism within Popular Culture** edited by Diane Hamer and, in the Lesbians Talk Issues Pamphlet Series, **Working with Men** by Linda Semple and **Making Black Waves** by Valerie Mason-John and Anne Kambatta.



Scarlet Press, 5 Montague Road, London E8 2HN, U.K. Telephone: 071-241-3702. Distributed in the U.K. by Pluto, distributed in the U.S. by Inland.

SPINIFEX

Just to clear up any confusion we may have caused, Spinifex' title **Nothing Mat(t)ers: A Feminist Critique of Postmodernism** by Somer Brodrribb is distributed in the U.S. by New York University Press and in Canada by Lorimer. It was the second best-selling title on NYU's September list. \$15.00 pb, 0-875559-07-8; \$45 cl, -10-8.

WOMEN GOING PLACES

Women Going Places is out! 700+ pages chock full of women's gathering places and networks, bookstores and bars, and everything in between in Europe, Australia & New Zealand, Africa, The Middle East, Asia and the Pacific Islands, South and Central America, The Caribbean, as well as Canada and the U.S. **Women Going Places** includes feminist, lesbian, and lesbian-gay resources — everything for the well rounded woman. The first edition is dedicated "to

NOW AVAILABLE FROM *Third Side Press*

Enter Password: Recovery

Elly Bulkin

This autobiographical book about transforming the self through language details with uncommon courage the author's experiences with trashing in the feminist community, facing memories of childhood sexual abuse, exploring Jewish identity, and ending a long-term relationship.

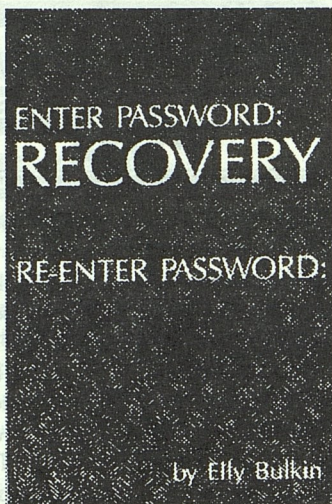
"... one of the most exciting books I've held in my hands in a long time.
... a rich and challenging book, one that will inspire a lot of healing."

Carol Seajay, *Feminist Bookstore News*

"Enter Password: Recovery breaks new ground in form, content, and language, reminding us that the only real censors are ourselves."

Jyl Lynn Felman, *Lambda Book Report*

ELLY BULKIN is editor of *Lesbian Fiction: An Anthology*, coauthor with Minnie Bruce Pratt and Barbara Smith of *Yours in Struggle: Three Feminist Perspectives on Anti-Semitism and Racism*, a founding editor of *Conditions*, and an editor of *Bridges*.



1-879427-10-9 \$7.95

Originally self-published under the Turtle Books imprint, *Enter Password: Recovery* has found a new home at Third Side Press. Like all Third Side Press books, it is available through Bookpeople, bookslinger, and Inland, or direct from the publisher. Discounts (good on mixed titles): 40% on 10-59; 43% on 60+. Free freight on orders of 20+. Third Side Press, 2250 W. Farragut, Chicago, IL 60625-1802; phone 312/271-3029; fax 312/271-0459.

Sandy Horn — now retired but never to be forgotten — for bringing us two decades of *Gaia's Guide*." \$14.95 pb, 0-9519630-0-7. Women Going Places, 141 Praed St., London W2 1RL, U.K. Distributed in Canada and the U.S. by Inland and Bookpeople.

THE WOMEN'S PRESS/CANADA

Title change: *Jin Guo: Voices of Chinese Canadian Women* was previously announced as *Listen...Voices of Chinese Canadian Women*. "These voices are the first to chart the journeys of Chinese Canadian women. They tell the stories of their lives and in so doing create a rich and varied history." \$19.95 pb, 0-88961-147-5.



THE WOMEN'S PRESS/U.K.

Val Wilmer is an internationally known photographer and one of the few British writers on jazz and the lives of jazz musicians to be recognized on both sides of the Atlantic. In her autobiography, *Mama Said There'd Be Days Like This: My Life in the Jazz World* she tells of her first encounters with music, her struggle

to establish herself as a professional jazz commentator in an otherwise all-male world, and her journeys from Harlem to rural Mississippi in search of the cultural and historical roots of the music, as well as her own conflicts in coming to terms with her identity as a writer, a photographer, and a lesbian. \$16.95 pb, 0-7043-4120-4. Distributed in the U.S. by InBook.

PERIODICALS

The Beltane Papers: A Journal of Women's Mysteries is publishing again in a new format that picks up where the original *Beltane Papers* and *Octava* left off. Bookstore terms not sent. Write to The Beltane Papers, PO Box 781, Bellingham WA 98227.

Hikané — *The Capable Woman: Disabled Wimmin's Magazine for Lesbians & Our Wimmin Friends* is available from PO Box 841, Great Barrington MA 01230. "Hikané" is a word from ancient Greek which means 1) sufficient, and 2) the capable woman. *Hikané: The Capable Woman* exists to facilitate networking and communication among disable wimmin and to provide a forum for us to share our ideas and experiences. We exist for the empowerment and enjoyment of disabled wimmin and our non-disabled wimmin allies." — *Hikané* ○

FROM THE SMALL PRESSES

By Ann Morse

Everywoman called Debbie Taylor's novel **The Children Who Sleep by the River** a "poetic and beautiful account of the lives of Black women in rural Zimbabwe — birth, life, work, magic and politics are powerfully interwoven." Taylor tells her story through the shifting viewpoint of four generations of village women: young Beauty; her soon-to-be-born daughter Tendai; Beauty's mother Miriam, the midwife and healer; and Miriam's dead aunt Eustina. Part of Interlink's series *Emerging Voices: New International Fiction* series. \$9.95 pb, 0-940793-96-2. Interlink Books, 99 Seventh Ave., Brooklyn NY 11215. IN.

Readers International has published the first English translation of **Solitude**, a novel written in 1905 by Catalonian author Caterina Albert i Paradís (who wrote under the male pen name Víctor Catalá). **Solitude**, which the publishers call the most important Catalan novel to appear before the Spanish Civil War, is the tragic story of a young woman "locked in the narrow peasant society and stark mountain landscapes of Catalonia." Through a series of sinister and violent

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.

events, she learns to define her own vision of the world. \$11.95 pb, 0-930523-92-X. Readers International, PO Box 959, Columbia LA 71418. Consortium. BP, IN.



June Huber in *The Gumboot Geese*.

Though not a small press book we wanted to make sure to mention Marie G. Lee's young adult novel **Finding My Voice**. It's Ellen Sung's last year in high school in rural Minnesota. In addition to trying to get into college, earn a letter in gymnastics, find a boyfriend, and live up to her parents' expectations, she's also learning to fight the racism that comes with being the only Korean — in fact the only Asian — student in a small school. \$13.95 cl, 0-395-62134-8. Houghton Mifflin Company, 215 Park Ave. South, New York NY 10003.

Spiral 7 is a wonderful collection of essays, prose, poetry and art and craft work by lesbians in Aotearoa/New Zealand. A great addition to any sec-

tion of works by women from the South. 0-908896-24-7. Published by Spiral in association with and distributed by Daphne Brasell, PO Box 12214, Thorndon, Wellington, New Zealand.



Irene Beltrán Hernández, author of *Across the Great River*, has written another coming-of-age story, **Heartbeat Drumbeat**. Set in the Southwest, **Heartbeat Drumbeat** follows Morgana Cruz, the daughter of a Navajo mother and Mexican-American father, as she searches for her sense of self. \$9.50 pb, 1-55885-052-X. Arte Publico Press, University of Houston, 4800 Calhoun 2-L, Houston TX 77204. BP, IN.

A Quebec bestseller, Anne Dandurand's **The Cracks** follows a young woman in Montreal as she survives an abortion, struggles with her writing, encounters male lovers and forms friendships with women. \$11.95 pb, 0-920544-93-2. Canadian poet Di Brandt writes of the mercurial relationships between daughters and mothers, and of women living in a world of violence in **Mother, Not Mother**. 88 pages. \$11.95 pb, 0-920544-91-6. Mercury Press, 137 Birmingham St., Stratford ONT N5A 2T1 Canada. IN.

Harbour has published two new works by Anne Cameron: **The Gumboot Geese**, a children's book about the lives of two sets of geese, one wild, the other tame (\$9.95 pb, 1-55017-063-5); and **A Whole Brass Band**, the story of Jean Pritchard, supermarket cashier and news junkie, and her family: three teenagers, an ex-husband and a poker-playing mother. The title comes from Jean's declaration that "...if bullshit were music, (her family would be) a whole brass band." \$16.95 pb, 1-55017-075-9. Harbour Publishing, PO Box 219, Madeira Park BC Canada V0N 2H0. BP, IN.

Milkweed has published the paperback edition of Bapsi Sidhwa's novel **The Crow Eaters**, first published in the U.S. in hardcover by St. Martin's (1983). **The Crow Eaters** is Sidhwa's novel of a Parsee family in India at the turn of the century. Sidhwa is also the author of the acclaimed *Cracking India* and *The Bride*. \$13 pb, 0-915943-78-6. Milkweed Editions, PO Box 3226, Minneapolis MN 55403. BP, IN.

Helen Garvey has written a comprehensive, full-color cartoon-style introduction to the immune system called **The Immune System: Your Magic Doctor**. The book, which is based on a film, portrays the immune system as a fortress protected by an army and provides needed information for teaching children about diseases ranging from allergies and colds to cancer and AIDS. \$10 pb, 0-918828-10-4; \$15 cl, -09-0. Shire Press, 26873 Hester Creek Road, Los Gatos CA 95030. BP, Pacific Pipeline and Quality Books.

The Graywolf Annual Nine: Stories from the New Europe features 16 short stories, including seven by women, by writers from areas including Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Ireland, Spain, Iceland and Ireland. \$11 pb, 1-55597-169-5.

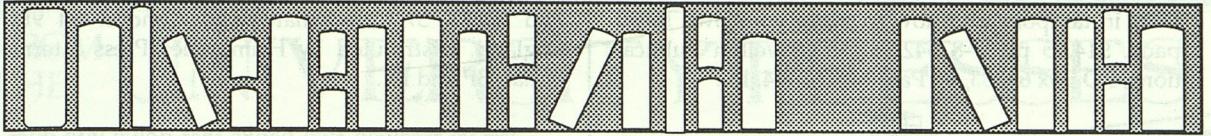
In **The Secret of Cartwheels**, author Patricia Henley presents 11 short stories about the land and lives of women and men in the American west. \$11 pb, 1-55597-168-7. Also from Graywolf is the paperback edition of Linda Gregg's collection of poetry, **Sacraments of Desire**. \$10 pb, 1-55597-173-3. Graywolf Press, 2402 University Ave., Suite 203, St. Paul MN 55114. BP, IN, Bookslinger.

Lucia Cordell Getsi's poems in **Intensive Care** track the progression of the nearly fatal illness of Getsi's daughter, who was stricken and totally paralyzed for months by the rare Guillain-Barré Syndrome. \$8.95 pb, 0-89823-141-8. New Rivers Press, 420 North Fifth St., Suite 910, Minneapolis MN 55401. BP, Talman, Bookslinger.



In John L. Myers' mystery **Holy Family**, David Harriman must clear his name when the handsome young heir who seduces him one night is found dead the next morning. **Holy Family** won the Lambda Rising first-novel contest. \$8.95 pb, 1-55583-200-8. Alyson Publications, 40 Plympton St., Boston MA 02118. INB-ook, IN, BP and others.

Seeking to reclaim Mohawk warrior Tekonwatonti/Molly Brant (1735-1795) from obscurity, poet Maurice Kenny has written **Tekonwatonti/Molly Brant: Poems of War**. Kenny, a Mohawk, says he wrote



the collection of poems to "shed light on Molly Brant, assure her prominence in the starry filament and to right some historical inaccuracies or lies into a semblance of at least poetic truth, if not recorded fact." \$12 pb, 1-877727-20-2. White Pine Press, 76 Center St., Fredonia NY 14063. BP, IN.



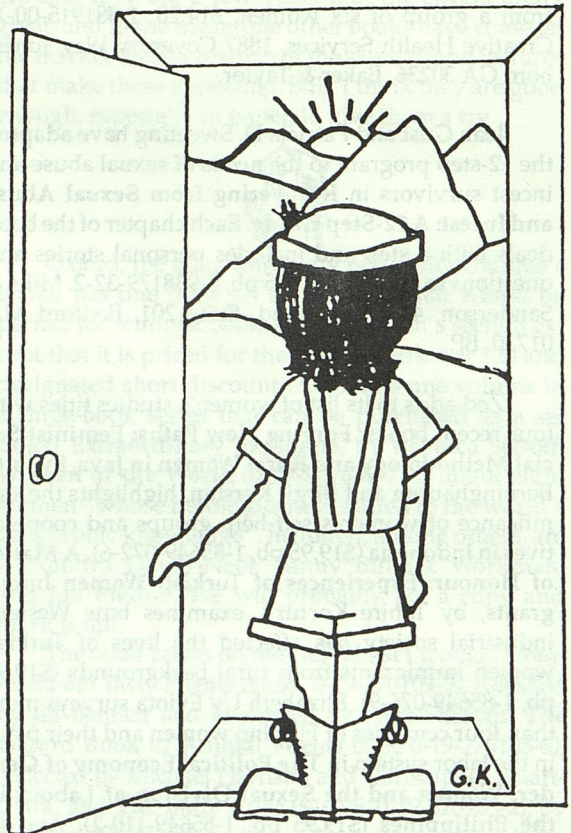
Trafalgar Square is distributing two new books that might interest booksellers: Lachlan MacKinnon's biography **The Lives of Elsa Triolet**, an examination of Triolet's life from birth in a middle-class Jewish family to her involvement in the French Resistance and her prolific writing career (\$39.95 cl, 0-7011-3065-2) and **Mother Without a Mask**, Patricia Holton's story of the time she, an American, spent in the United Arab Emirates and the relationships she developed with a Sheikha and the women in her family. \$29.95 cl, 1-85626-028-3. Published by Chatto & Windus and distributed in the U.S. by Trafalgar Square (North Pomfret VT 05053).

Celebrating the Land: Women's Nature Writings 1850-1991 offers selections from nature writing by 20 women who have explored the American landscape during the past two centuries. Featured in the anthology are Rachel Carson, Annie Dillard and Leslie Marmon Silko as well as Isabella Bird and Mary Austin. Edited by Karen Knowles. \$12.95 pb, 0-87358-545-3. Northland Publishing, PO Box 1389, Flagstaff AZ 86002. BP, IN.

Suffragists, abolitionists, pioneers, stagecoach robbers and crossdressing warriors are among the 150 19th century American women profiled by Autumn Stephens in the collection **Wild Women**. Includes 50 black-and-white photos. The book's subtitle, *Crusaders, Curmudgeons, and Completely Corsetless Ladies in the Otherwise Virtuous Victorian Era*, is a good example of the author's abundant (and sometimes annoying) use of alliteration. \$13.95 pb, 0-943233-36-4. Conari Press,

1144 65th St., Suite B, Emeryville CA 94608. BP, IN.

Rictor Norton's **Mother Clap's Molly House: The Gay Subculture in England 1700-1830** is "the first comprehensive chronicle of the English gay community at its 18th-century roots," according to publishers GMP. Norton devotes one of 16 chapters to lesbians of that time. \$24.95, 0-85449-188-0. GMP, PO Box 247, London England N17 9QR. InBook.



Gladys Elaine Kelepouris, in *Recovering from Sexual Abuse and Incest: A Twelve-Step Guide*.

In **Sister Moon Lodge**, Kisma K. Stepanich explores the power and mystery of menstruation as well as practical and political matters such as chemicals

used in tampons and how to make your own bleed pads. \$14.95 pb, 0-87542-767-7. Llewellyn Publications, PO Box 64383, St. Paul MN 55164. IN.



Breast Cancer: A Patient Guide by Patricia Anderson, a registered nurse and breast cancer survivor, is a comprehensive guide that begins with information on cancer and emotions surrounding diagnosis and moves through issues surrounding surgery, personal appearance and breast reconstruction, chemotherapy, hormone and radiation therapy, and diet and research. Includes testimonies throughout the book from a group of six women. \$14.20, 1-881915-00-X. Creative Health Services, 1887 Coventry Way, Jonesboro GA 30236. Baker & Taylor.

Jean Gust and Patricia D. Sweeting have adapted the 12-step program to the needs of sexual abuse and incest survivors in **Recovering from Sexual Abuse and Incest: A 12-Step Guide**. Each chapter of the book deals with a step and includes personal stories and questions to consider. \$9.95 pb, 0-938179-32-2. Mills & Sanderson, 41 North Road, Suite 201, Bedford MA 01730. BP.

Zed adds to its list of women's studies titles with four recent books: **Forging New Paths: Feminist Social Methodology and Rural Women in Java**, by Jutta Berninghausen and Birgit Kerstan, highlights the significance of women's self-help groups and cooperatives in Indonesia (\$19.95 pb, 1-85649-072-6). **A Matter of Honour: Experiences of Turkish Women Immigrants**, by Tahire Kocturk, examines how Western industrial society has affected the lives of Turkish women immigrants from rural backgrounds (\$19.95 pb, 1-85649-076-9). Elizabeth Uy Eviota surveys more than four centuries of Filipino women and their place in the labor system in **The Political Economy of Gender: Women and the Sexual Division of Labour in the Philippines** (\$19.95 pb, 1-85649-110-2). And finally, **Women and Literacy**, Zed's sixth title in its Women and World Development Series, looks at women and illiteracy around the world and offers strategies for the eradication of illiteracy. Text prepared by Marcela Ballara (\$15.95 pb, 0-866232-981-7).

Zed Books, 57 Caledonian Road, London N1 9BU England. Distributed by Humanities Press International, BP and IN.

We've received two books that delve into questions of religion and feminism: Rev. Denise D. Tracy and contributors review the history of feminism within Unitarian Universalism in the collection **Well-springs: Sources in Unitarian Universalism**. \$14.95 pb, 0-9621832-4-5. Delphi Resources, 421 South Clinton Ave., Oak Park IL 60302. BP, IN.

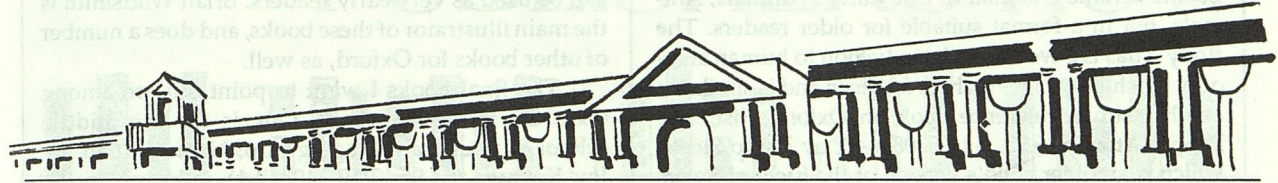
Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing has issued an expanded third edition of the 1974 title *All We're Meant to Be*. **All We're Meant to Be: Biblical Feminism for Today**, by Letha Dawson Scanzoni and Nancy A. Hardesty, discusses the roles of women in society, home and the church. Elisabeth Schussler Fiorenza says "this landmark work of evangelical feminism provides a much-needed counterargument to the anti-feminist rhetoric of Christian right-wing fundamentalism." \$14.95 pb, 0-8020-0654-6. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 255 Jefferson Ave. SE, Grand Rapids MI 49503.

Gale Research has issued a reference book as hefty in price as pages. This \$75, 795-page hardback **Women's Information Directory** includes names, addresses and descriptions of nearly 10,800 women's agencies, institutions, programs, publications and other resources in the United States. \$75, 0-8103-8422-1. Gale Research, 835 Penobscot Building, Detroit MI 48226.



Helping Teens Stop Violence by Allan Creighton and Paul Kivel is a multicultural guide to assist counselors, educators and parents in becoming allies for teens and to help them recognize the violence around them and find a way to stop it. Along the way, the resource tackles sexism, racism, adultism and heterosexism. Creighton and Kivel founded the Oakland Men's Project, an organization dedicated to helping women and men of all ages work together to resist, prevent and change violent and abusive situations. \$10.95 pb, 0-89793-116-5. Hunter House, 2200 Central Ave., Suite 202, Alameda CA 94501-4451. BP, IN. ○

FROM THE UNIVERSITY PRESSES



By Ann Christophersen

I usually approach this column wondering how in the world I will be able to cover the many titles from numerous presses that I want feminist booksellers to know about. Not the case this book time! In keeping with the focus on the first-ever FBN children's book issue, I am covering the children's books from the university presses. Since only two of these presses publish children's books and since each puts out only a few titles I would recommend, the list is blissfully brief. But those few are good ones, so read on.

We see a rep from Cambridge erratically, so I am not confident I can be thorough in presenting its offerings, particularly of books published in the last few years. But there are three titles we have carried for a while which sell, albeit slowly. They are specialized and have, consequently, a limited market, but deserve a place in any feminist children's section. They are **Votes for Women** (\$7.50, Atkinson, 0-521-21044X), **Coal Mining Women** (\$5.50, John, 0-521-278724) and **Women as Healers** (\$5.95, Bourdillon, 0-521-310903). All are paperback with archival photographs, suitable for middle school-aged children, British in focus, and have brown covers. Try to overlook the brown covers: there's nothing else out there like them in content.

The other books in Cambridge we have carried and sold are ones in the "legends" series, which includes **Legends on Earth, Air, Fire, and Water** (Hadley, 0-521-263115), **Legends of the Sun and Moon** (Hadley, 0-521-25227X), **Legends of Journeys** (Norris, 0-521-321816) and **Legends of the Animal World** (Kerven, 0-521-305764). They are available in cloth at \$11.95 and at least one, **Legends of the Sun and Moon**, is now out in paper. What I like about these books is that the themes are unusual and interesting,

the stories, suitable for four- to seven-year-olds, are brief and well-told, they are international in scope, and the illustrations are quite good. The drawbacks are that they are a few years old, the covers aren't great, and in the meantime other books have come on the market that have some of the same strong features that make these appealing. Still, I think they are good enough, especially in paper, to give them a try.



Oxford, the other university press with children's books, has one book on its front list that would be perfect for feminist bookstores' children's section except that it is priced for the library market at \$20 and designated short discount (30%). It is one volume in a three-book series that can be purchased as a set called **Extraordinary Explorers**, by Rebecca Steffoff. **Women of the World** (0-19-507687-7) is about eight women "whose heroic journeys added to the world's geographic knowledge". Included, among others, are Alexandra David-Neel, Fanny Bullock Workman, and Ida Pfeiffer. We will probably get a copy and mark it up.

The other books on the Fall '92 list I would recommend are **Tasty Poems** (\$9.95, 0-19-276109-9), collected by Jill Bennett and illustrated by Nick Sharratt. **The Oxford Book of Animal Poems** (\$19, 0-19-276105-6), collected by Michael Harrison and Christopher Stuart-Clark, and **The Body Atlas** (\$16.95, 0-19-520963-x), by Dr. Mark Crocker, which is really not a new book but a new edition of an old one. **Tasty Poems**, one in a series that includes **Noisy Poems**, which we have sold well over the years, is organized around the subject of food and boasts lively verse and illustrations. **The Oxford Book of Animal Poems** is done by the same people who

brought us the poetry anthology, **Peace and War** (\$9.95, 0-19-276071-8), a good collection appropriate for adults as well as sophisticated young adults. The animal poems volume is similar to Eric Carle's **Animals, Animals**, but in a format suitable for older readers. The **Body Atlas** is a well-done introduction to human anatomy for children ages eight to fourteen and is similar to another strong reference book on Oxford's list, **The People Atlas** (\$16.95, 0-19-520846-3), by Philip Steele, which is an older child's version of the Richard Spiers book, **People**.



Some other books that are just good general books for young children are **Round and Round the Garden** (\$5.95 pb, Williams, 0-192-72132-1) and the **Cat in the Mat** series. The former, by far our bestselling Oxford title, is a great selection of interactive games set to simple verse to play with toddlers and three- and four-year-olds. "Five Fat Sausages" is a favorite, along with such standards as the "Ency, Weency Spider." The **Cat on the Mat** series includes twenty-four books reasonably priced at \$2.95 each. Some of them are wordless and fill a niche for people who want

books that children can use to make up their own stories, using illustrations as a guide. The rest of them have colorful illustrations and a very simple text and can be used as very early readers. Brian Wildsmith is the main illustrator of these books, and does a number of other books for Oxford, as well.

The final books I want to point out are among Oxford's most important. One is for the middle school to young adult age group. **Naomi' Road**, by Joy Kogawa (\$4.95, 0-19-540547-1), is based on the adult novel, *Obasan*, and tells the story of Naomi Nakene and her Japanese-Canadian family during the 1940's, when Canada was at war with Japan. Naomi, her older brother, and their aunt are sent to an internment camp, and we see the effects of war through her eyes and experience. It is a beautifully written book, one we would all want to carry and sell, I think. The other two are for younger children, ages four to seven, or so, and are among the very few books I know about that feature interracial families. One is **Wait and See**, by Tony Bradman (\$10.95, 0-19-520644-4), the other, **Nancy No-Size**, by Mary Hoffman (0-19-520596-0).

What did I tell you? Blessedly brief. But I hope enough to interest you in the good books from these presses that you might otherwise overlook. ○

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- Women's Studies Teacher
- Librarian
- Writer
- Bookseller
- Publisher
- Periodical
- Craftswoman
- Other _____

Bookstores, Publishers and Periodicals — Is your focus primarily:

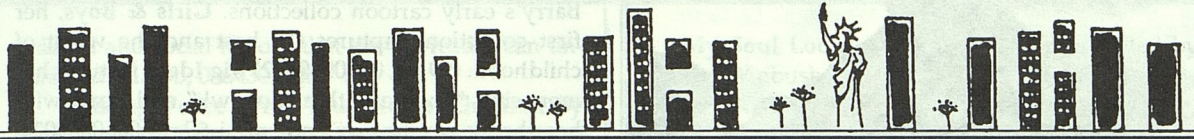
- Feminist
- Lesbian
- Lesbian & Gay
- Gay
- Alternative/political
- General independent

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- Co-owned and run by women and men
- Owned and operated by men

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- Gay men's titles
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AND ON PUBLISHER'S ROW



By Sandi Torkildson with M. E. Kavanaugh

HARPER COLLINS

Survivors, practitioners, coroners, cops and children of women who died talk about the horrors of illegal abortion in **The Worst Of Times** by Patricia Miller, a longtime abortion rights activist who spearheaded the passage of America's first liberal abortion law in Colorado in 1967. This haunting record of the years when abortion was illegal makes a powerful and clear assertion that the issue is not whether we will have abortions but what kind of abortions we will have. \$22 cl, 0060190345.

Genie by Russ Rymer is the story of an abused girl who was locked in a closed room and strapped to a chair by a deranged father. When she was discovered she was a teenager who had to learn to walk, how to chew, and how to talk. Scientists became her new caretakers and companions. She fell into a seething scientific debate over how the human brain acquires language and what does it mean to be human. Rymer relates the discovery, emergence and eventual disappearance of a woman who changed American science and the lives of the scientists as well. \$20 cl, 0060169109.

One Dark Body by Charlotte Watson Sherman is a poignant coming-of-age novel by the author of the short story collection *Killing Color* (Calyx). In this story of intergenerational conflicts and traditions, Raisin, a twelve-year-old girl whose mother abandoned her at birth, must deal with her mother, who has returned to reclaim her and put to rest the ghosts of her past. We also find the story of Sin-Sin, the fatherless fourteen-year-old son of the local school-teacher. Sin-Sin forms a relationship with the local folk-healer who teaches him the traditions of his heritage. \$20 cl, 0060169249, 2/93.

Freud's Women by Lisa Appignanesi and John Forrester is the story of the women in Freud's life and how his relationships with them influenced the development of psychoanalysis and the course of contemporary feminism. Freud has affected the modern world views on women and he has been vilified for his theories of the feminine and for his elevation of personal prejudice to the level of universality. This book tells the stories of the extraordinary women who touched Freud's life, from his daughter Anna to the socialist/feminist Helene Deutsch and Princess Marie Bonaparte. \$30 cl, 0465025633.

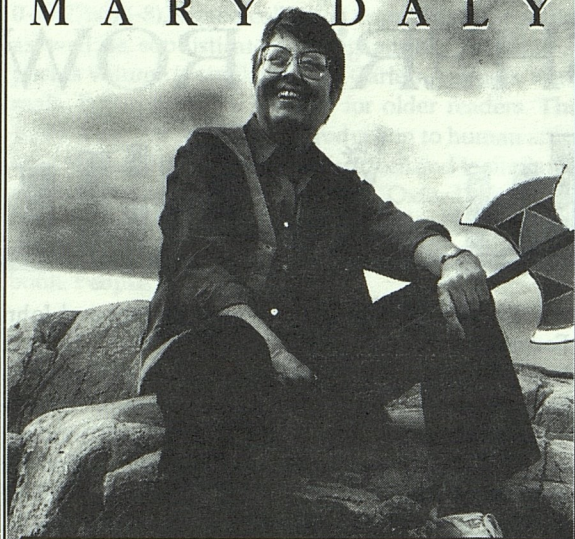


Harper is doing a new edition of **The Lover** by Marguerite Duras to tie in with the release of the French movie in the U.S. Available now. \$10 pb, 0060975210.

Double Stitch, ed. by Patricia Bell-Scott et al., is a collection of writings by America's leading Black feminists exploring the richness and complexity of the mother-daughter relationship. Included are poems, stories, and essays by Alice Walker, bell hooks, June Jordan, Audre Lorde, and Sonia Sanchez that deal with the love and support of the mother-daughter relationship but also unromanticizes the struggles of poverty, sexism, racism, incest, alcoholism and self-identity in a white patriarchal society. \$12, 0060975032.

Vested Interests: Cross-dressing & Cultural Anxiety by Marjorie Garber is an examination of transvestism ranging from Shakespeare and Mark Twain to Oscar Wilde and Peter Pan. Garber claims that "there can be no culture without the transvestite." She examines the nature and importance of

M A R Y D A L Y



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cross-dressing and society’s fascination with it. This is both a provocative and entertaining view of society’s obsession with the power of clothes. \$17.50 pb, 0060975245.

Harper Perennial will reissue two of Lynda Barry’s early cartoon collections. **Girls & Boys**, her first collection, captures the best and the worst of childhood. (\$9 pb, 0060969032) **Big Ideas** features her menacing “Poodle with a Mohawk” and deals with heartbreak, sex, history, and ennui. \$9 pb, 0060969024.

The Unmade Bed edited by Laura Chester is an anthology of erotic and romantic writing on married life and love that includes such writers as Laurie Colwin, Joan Chase, Alice Adams and Joy Williams. These writings, both fiction and poetry, describe passion, conflict, familiarity and disillusionment. Male writers are also included in this collection. \$11 pb, 0060923660.

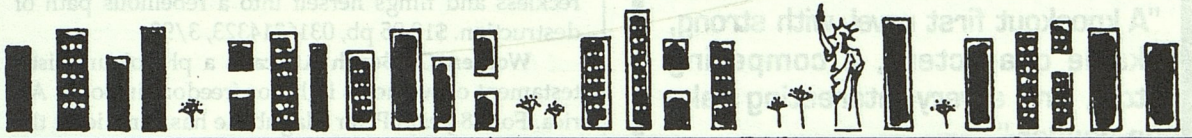
A new title that looks at women and depression, **Silencing The Self** by Dana Crowley Jack, examines the roots of female depression. Looking at the importance of relationships in women’s lives, Jack reframes the major concepts of depression by listening to women’s own perspectives on their depression. Jack shows how to achieve connections to others without losing oneself and gives a voice to the rage that runs deep in depressed women. \$10 pb, 006097527X.

Harper will do new editions of two books by Betty Smith. **A Tree Grows In Brooklyn** is the story of Fanie Nolan who lives with her family in the Williamsburg slums of Brooklyn. I have not reread this book, but it was one of my favorite books as a teenager (\$6.50 pb, 0060801263). They will also reissue **Joy In The Morning** by the same author. \$6 pb, 0060803681.



Crazy Time by Abigail Trafford is another reissue; I believe the mass market paper edition is out of print. This is a common-sense and compassionate guide to divorce based on the author’s personal experience and extensive interviews with hundreds of divorced women and men. \$10 pb, 0060923091.

An excellent introduction to African history from the earliest emergence of hominids 3.5 million years ago to the present day is available in **The African Experience** by Roland Oliver. Oliver, a professor of African History at the University of London, offers an economic,



political and social history that the lay reader can understand. \$15 pb, 0064302180.

Making Peace With Your Adult Children by Shauna Smith helps families break the old cycle of pain and mend the complicated bonds between parents and adult children. She shows parents and children how to communicate more sensitively and honestly, and overcome old patterns of blame, resentment and defensiveness that often happen in families with recovery issues. \$13 pb, 0060975253, 2/93.



1959 by Thulandi Davis is a powerful coming of age story set against the beginnings of the civil rights movement. This is the story of Willie Tarrant and a Southern Black community. In 1959 Billie Holiday dies, Willie has her first date, and her father begins to worry about integration when eight Black college students go into the local Woolworth's and sit down at the lunch counter. This debut novel by an acclaimed playwright, journalist and poet received reviews this past year that compared her book to *Sula* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. \$10 pb, 0060975296, 2/93.

Winner of the 1991 PEN/Jerard Fund Award, **Talking To High Monks In The Snow** by Lydia Minatoya, captures one Asian-American woman's search for cultural identity. This humorous, poignant and unsentimental journey takes Minatoya from her isolated childhood in upstate New York in the '50s to Japan, China and Nepal in search of an understanding of her Asian heritage and its place in her American identity. \$11 pb, 0060923725, 2/93.

Love In Black And White by Mark and Gail Mathabane is the revealing story of an interracial relationship. Their story is a story of prevailing over racism and racial violence and what it means to break an intransigent taboo. They not only had to overcome the disapproval of society and their families but their own prejudices and self-doubts. \$11 pb, 0060923717, 2/93.

My Soul Looks Back, 'Less I Forget edited by Dorothy Winbush Riley is a collection of quotations by people of color. Published in time for Black History Month, this collection contains more than 7,000 quotations on more than 450 subjects. This one-volume reference features, in chronological order, quotes on a diverse range of subjects collected from literature, radio, TV, magazines, speeches and conversation. \$15 pb, 0062731688, 2/93, 416pp..

One of my favorite books of 1991 will be out in paperback soon. **The Overworked American** by Juliet Schor presents the astonishing news that in the past twenty years the average American has seen his or her working hours increase by the equivalent of one month a year and that is true for men, women, professionals and low-paid workers in all fields. This challenges the experts who blame the decline of American's economic power on the "lazy" worker. Why are we choosing money over time, or are we even the ones doing the choosing? Schor shows how employers preference for longer hours, the supply of labor and unemployment and the addictive nature of consumption form a seamless web in which long hours are the outcome. \$12 pb, 046505434x, 2/93.

Embattled Paradise by Arlene Skolnick probes and challenges our assumptions about the past, present and future of the family in America. Skolnick criticizes the "culture of nostalgia" that clouds current debates on the family. She also offers a plan for reconstructing the American family dream. \$14 pb, 0465019242, 2/93.



LITTLE, BROWN & COMPANY

I'll Be Leaving You Always is a new mystery by Sandra Scoppettone featuring private investigator Lauren Laurano. Scoppettone's first mystery with Lauren Laurano, *Everything You Have Is Mine* is a current bestseller in our lesbian section. When Lauren's best friend Megan Harbaugh is murdered in

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her small West Village jewelry store, Lauren must deal with the loss of her friend. One of Megan's former husbands hires Lauren to investigate the murder and in the process Lauren uncovers many surprises about her friend and herself. Little, Brown is offering galley copies to specialty bookstores for preferred customers. Make sure to ask for some. \$19.95 cl, 0316776475, 2/93.

Gloria Steinem's bestseller, *Revolution From Within* will be out in paper in January. In this book Steinem connects the external feminist revolution to a necessary internal revolution of spirit and consciousness and links it with her own struggle for self-esteem. Renewing her commitment to social and political change, Steinem shows the need for inner strength and sustenance in the long distance battle. (\$11.95 pb, 0316812471)

Net Of Jewels, a new novel by Ellen Gilchrist tells the story of headstrong Rhoda Manning whose life seems to be blessed. Her daddy is very rich, she is newly slim and her friends adore her. Home for the summer in Dunleith, Alabama, Rhoda begins to question her comfortable, secure existence and suspects life may be more complex than she has guessed. She strains against the confines of her world and becomes

reckless and flings herself into a rebellious path of destruction. \$10.95 pb, 0316314323, 3/92.

Women Of South Africa is a photojournalist's testament of women's fight for freedom in South Africa. For 38 years Peter Magubane has chronicled the historical and everyday events of life under apartheid. He has photographed political milestones like the 1940's bus boycotts, the 1956 march on Pretoria and the release of Nelson Mandela in 1990. He also has recorded the daily life of a woman learning of her son's needless death and the struggles of a new mother earning a pittance as a potato picker. These 100 photographs with text by Carol Lazar bring us both the political and private lives of women who have been at the forefront in the fight to abolish apartheid. \$24.95 pb, 0821219340, 2/93; \$40 cl, 0821219286.

NORTON

Lost Star, The Search For Amelia Earhart by Randall Brink, a pilot experienced in the ways of the Washington bureaucracy, pieces together the truth about Earhart's doomed last flight. He believes the Roosevelt administration planned to turn Earhart's flight into an espionage mission. After ten years of research, suits against a reluctant government, interviews with witnesses now willing to talk, he has unearthed evidence about the circumstances of her last flight. \$22.95 cl, 0393026833, 3/93.

May Sarton: Among The Usual Days edited by Susan Sherman is a collection of excerpts from Sarton's unpublished journals and letters spanning more than 60 years. The passages, arranged by subject, document Sarton's lifelong passions of writing, drama, gardening and travel. This collection reveals some of the incidents that have had a profound effect on Sarton's creative and intellectual development and record her growth from a precocious teenager to a courageous woman and writer. The text is accompanied by 172 photographs. \$29.95 cl, 0393034518, 3/93.



The memoirs of Anna Larina, the 78-year-old widow of Russian revolutionist and theoretician Nikolai Bukharin, offer us a new understanding of Soviet history. *This I Cannot Forget* by Anna Larina is both a family saga of personal tragedy, survival and

of cancer, but in that short time she left behind a rich heritage. Carter studies Hansberry's cultural and political views and examines the relationship between the artist and her artistic goals. It isn't clear if this book will include her relationships with other women. \$11 pb, 0452011051, 2/93.



Wise Children by Angela Carter is a novel about Dora and Nora Chance, The Lucky Chances, once a famous song-and-dance team of the British music halls. The Chance sisters are the illegitimate and unacknowledged daughters of Sir Melchior Hazard, a great Shakespearean actor. Hazard's legitimate offsprings are a flourishing dynasty of respectable actors while Dora and Nora have lived for 75 years on the tawdry side of the Thames. This funny and bawdy family saga is narrated by Dora through all the tangled tales of the Hazards and the Chances right up to the sensational present-day climax at Sir Melchior's one-hundredth birthday party. \$10 pb, 014017530x.

Life Force by Fay Weldon is a novel about the glorious pleasure of sex and the havoc it can wreak when we succumb to it. Mr. Leslie Beck has been involved with four women who like to think of each other as friends. Three are married, one is not, some are more innocent than others, but all their old desires and rivalries surface when Leslie reappears two decades later. \$10 pb, 0140159142, 2/92.

Blanche On The Lam by Barbara Neely is a mystery involving an African-American middle-aged housekeeper who becomes a reluctant sleuth. When murder disrupts the wealthy household she works for, Blanche would just as soon stay out of the mess, but finds herself the number one suspect. Using her wit and intelligence and her old-girl network among domestic workers, she works undercover to find the real killer. (\$4.95 pb, 0140174397, 2/92)

The selected early stories of Nadine Gordimer are collected together for the first time in paperback in **Why Haven't You Written?** These stories are set against the vivid beauty of South Africa, the failed liberalism of the 1950s and the years of increased repression that followed. These are stories also of human separation and entanglement, of love and freedom, of presence and loss, written with the touch of a

genius. I first discovered Gordimer by reading her short stories and still think that is what she does best and far better than anyone else. \$10 pb, 0140061401, 2/93.

RANDOM HOUSE: Random, Times Books, Turtle Bay, Villard and Vintage

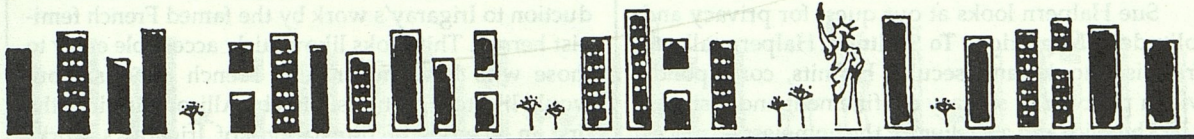
Fraud, a new novel by Anita Brookner, is the portrait of Anna Durrant, the saintly, ever-cheerful daughter who has devoted the best years of her life to caring for her ailing mother. Anna has been missing for months by the time the police are called in. Where has she gone and why? Anna is a woman who realizes all too late that her own eagerness to do good has masked the fundamental dishonesty of her relationships. This is a novel that explores misplaced altruism, selflessness, self-delusion and redemption. \$21 pb, 0679416064.

A Closed Eye by Anita Brookner explores the self-inflicted paradoxes in the life of Harriet Lytton, a woman whose powers of submissiveness and self-denial are suddenly tested by the prospect of sexual awakening. \$11 pb, 0679743405.

One Way Home by Susan Pepper Robbins is the novel of a feisty single mother who struggles to raise her two sons and escape the unwanted attentions of her ex. Ruth has once more found a new job, a new apartment in a new town and enrolled her boys in a new school when her ex-husband discovers their new address and begins paying the boys surreptitious daytime visits while she is at work. Will she ever be able to have a normal life and do normal things, like go out on a date? This is an engaging often funny look at one single mother's life. \$17 cl, 0679414045.



How the trauma of the past threatens to destroy a woman's present life is the subject of Kathryn Harrison's new novel, **Exposure**. Ann Rogers appears to be an attractive, successful young woman, a talented photographer who creates happy memories for others by videotaping wedding and splicing together scenes of smiling faces. However she cannot edit her own memories of a childhood career as her father's model and muse, the subject of his celebrated series of controversial photographs. Ann escapes into a secret



life of hiding in bathrooms, taking speed, and shoplifting. \$19 cl, 0679409424, 2/93.

Blood Music by Jessie Prichard Hunter is a novel about a 24-year-old housewife in New Jersey who slowly discovers that her husband may be a murderer. Zelly Wyche is riveted by the news of a slasher who rapes and murders young blond women. At first her fascination is tempered by caution, then denial and then shock as she can no longer rationalize her husband's odd hours and bizarre changes in behavior. She evolves from a passive, accepting wife to a woman who must face and act upon the knowledge that her husband is a stranger, capable of murder. \$20 cl, 0679418245, 2/93.



The Resilient Self by Steven and Sybil Wolin is a guide to self-empowerment for adult children of dysfunctional families. This book addresses itself to the character traits displayed by children from troubled families and shows how these characteristics allow individuals to cope with the damaging effects of their childhoods. \$20 cl, 0394583574, 3/93.

Mona Simpson's new novel, **The Lost Father**, takes her heroine Mayan Atassi, from her first novel *Anywhere But Here*, on a search for her father. As a child she waited for her father to come back. Now twenty-eight-years-old, Mayan sets out to find him, eroding her savings, ruining her career and walking on the edge of madness in a search that spans two continents and takes on the eerie simulacrum of religious devotion. \$12 pb, 0679733035.

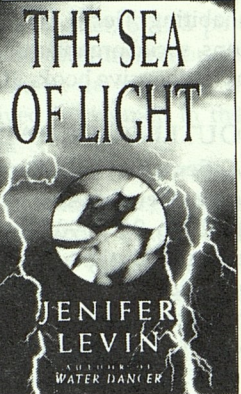
The Narrative Of Sojourner Truth edited by Margaret Washington is an important document in the literature of African-American women. This is the eloquent autobiography of a woman who became a pioneer in the struggles for racial and sexual equality. This narrative bears witness to Sojourner Truth's thirty years as a slave and to the spiritual revelations that turned her into a passionate abolitionist, \$9, 679-74-035-X, 2/93.

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Sue Halpern looks at our quest for privacy and solitude in **Migrations To Solitude**. Halpern talks to Trappist monks and secular hermits, corresponds with a prisoner in solitary confinement and visits an AIDS hospice and a shelter for the homeless — places where privacy is the first thing to go. She asks why we long for solitude but dread loneliness, why we count on privacy as a basic right but allow laws, technology and life-styles to chip away at it. This is a guide not just to the routes to solitude but to the selves we discover only when we arrive there. \$10 pb, 0679742417, 2/93.



America In 1492 edited by Alvin Josephy, Jr., the chairman of the National Museum of the American Indian, includes essays by fifteen scholars that present a detailed portrait of the civilizations that flourished in the Americas on the eve of Columbus' arrival. These essays explore societies ranging from the hunter-gatherers of the Arctic to the Inca empire and the tribes inhabiting Tierra del Fuego. Their languages, religions, social organization and art are discussed in this comprehensive book. \$17 pb, 0679743375, 2/93

ROUTLEDGE CHAPMAN HALL

Secrets of Life, Secrets of Death: Essays On Language, Gender And Science by Evelyn Fox Keller, \$15.95 pb 0-415-905-25-7. Keller's work has always been to investigate questions about the study of science and its traditional presentation as a male field. This latest collection of her essays concentrates on the role of language in science.

Making Trouble: Essays on Gay History, Politics And The University by John D'Emilio, \$15.95 pb 0-415-90510-9. A highly respected historian, D'Emilio (*Intimate Matters: A History Of Sexuality In America*) here makes three separate presentations: one, an analysis of lesbian/gay history in the U.S.; two, a study of the emergence of gay studies in the university; three, a look at the lesbian/gay liberation movement. This will be a pleasure to anyone interested in lesbian/gay lifestyle from a historical perspective.

Je, Tu, Nous: Towards A Culture Of Difference by Luce Irigaray, \$13.95 pb 0-415-90582-6. If French feminism is big in your town, stock up on this intro-

duction to Irigaray's work by the famed French feminist herself. This looks like a fairly accessible entry to those who have never read French feminism but would like to. This translation by Allison Martin is the first in a series of translations of Irigaray's works which RCH will be doing over the next two years. Also available this season — **Elemental Passions** (#13.95 pb 0-415-90692-X), Irigaray's investigations into the nature of gender, language and identity.

Feminist Epistemologies, Linda Alcoff and Linda Potter, eds., \$15.95 pb 0-415-90451-X. The original essays pulled together here probe the difference gender makes by reframing old questions through a feminist lens. The answers to such questions as who is the subject of knowledge and how does the social position of the knower affect production of knowledge, etc. will forever change the field of philosophy.

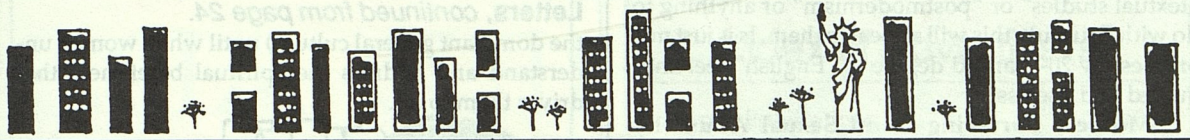
Materialist Feminism & The Politics Of Discourse by Rosemary Hennessy, \$14.95 pb 0-415-90480-3. Hennessy provides a powerful account of how to create feminist theory that appropriates the best of materialism and postmodernism. Her discussion of how to strengthen feminist standpoint epistemology as a critical practice is especially useful. A good addition to a collection strong in Marxism/feminism.

Female Nude by Lynda Nead, \$15.95 pb 0-415-02678-4. Intended as a general survey of the meanings and values of the female body within patriarchal cultures, this book offers a framework for analyzing the image of the nude woman in Western art.

An Ethic Of Care: Feminist & Interdisciplinary Perspectives, Mary Jeanne Larrabee, ed., \$15.95 pb 0-415-90568-0. This is a collection of essays which continues to debate the questions in moral philosophy begun in Carol Gilligan's *In A Different Voice*.



Radical Ecology: The Search For A Livable World by Carolyn Merchant \$14.95 pb 0-415-90650-4 responds to the profound awareness of environmental crisis which prevails in the closing decade of the twentieth century. In this provocative and readable study, Merchant (*Death Of Nature*), examines the major philosophical, ethical, scientific, and economic roots of environmental problems and examines the ways that



radical ecologists can transform science and society in order to sustain life on this planet.

Women In Movement by Sheila Rowbotham, \$15.95 pb 0-415-90652-0. This history of women's movements since the late 1800s will work well as a text or for a reading/study group. Themes for discussion head each section and promote a thoughtful reading of the movement presented within that section. On the whole, the book describes economic, social and political ideas which have inspired women to organize.



From Mammy To Miss America & Beyond: Cultural Images & The Shaping Of the US Social Policy by Karen Sue Jewell, \$15.95 pb 0-415-04253-4. A vastly detailed look at the ways in which African-American women are kept in a socially and economically depressed status. Jewell argues that mass media plays an important role in maintaining a social hierarchy of discrimination.

Fat Chance: The Myth Of Dieting Explained by Jane Ogden, \$12.95 pb 0-415-07371-5. A compact book with useful information about why dieting doesn't work. I had a tough time categorizing this one; it's certainly not "pop-psych" material, nor is it academic. The author is British and the language difference has put off a few potential customers.

In Gender Consciousness & Politics by Susan Tolleson Rinehart, \$16.96 pb 0-415-90685-7, argues that gender conscious women identify with other women and judge political actions on the basis of their consequences for women, and explicates this fact through the sustained analysis of data from 1972 through 1988. Critics of the book claim it adds considerable richness to our understanding of women's political behavior in the last two decades.

Black Women And White Women In The Professions: Occupational Segregation By Race And Gender 1960-1980 by Natalie Sokoloff, \$16.95 pb 0-415-90609-1. The title says it all.

Sexual Sameness: Textual Differences In Lesbian And Gay Writing edited by Joseph Bristow, \$16.95 pb 0-415-06937-8, examines the differing textual strategies men and women writers have developed to celebrate same sex living and loving. The majority of the essays deal with gay men's writing (fancy that!), but the introduction and the two essays on lesbian literature are good. A bit academic but a sure bet for serious students of literature.

Decisions Without Hierarchy: Feminist Interventions In Organization Theory & Practice by Kathleen Iannello, \$14.95 pb 0-415-90429-3. Bringing feminist and organization theory together with feminist organizational practice, Iannello provides an insightful analysis that both illustrates and explains the successes and challenges facing non-hierarchical organizations.

Shopping Around: Feminine Culture And The Pursuit Of Pleasure by Hilary Radner, \$14.95 pb 0-415-90540-0. If you have a popular culture section, this should do well. The book looks at the nature of the pleasure offered to and derived by women in their encounters with popular culture.

Women Making Meaning: New Feminist Directions In Communication, Lana Rakow, ed., \$15.95 pb 0-415-90630-X. Not another book about women in the communication field. The essays are varied and lively and this has sold well here. Another good suggestion for a reading group.



Classical Monologue: Women, Michael Early and Phillipa Keil, eds., \$9.95 pb 0-87830-033-3. This is a great book to have on the shelf for those high school drama teachers looking for strong female monologues.

Struggle For Pedagogies: Critical And Feminist Discourses As Regimes Of Truth by Jennifer Gore, \$14.95 pb 0-415-90564-8. Truth be told, I just don't even comprehend what the catalog says!!! I do know, however, that if you are selling to a crowd that does

"textual studies" or "postmodernism" or anything to do with Foucault, this will appeal to them. Is it just me, or does my 20-year-old degree in "English" feel antiquated and useless???

Mothers Surviving Child Sexual Abuse by Carol-Ann Hooper, \$17.95 pb, 0-415-07188-7. This will be a useful tool for therapists and those involved in child protection policy as well as students and teachers in Social Work and Social Policy.

Beyond Homosexuality: Fragments of Lesbian And Gay Experience by Ken Plummer, ed., \$15.95 pb, 0-415-06421-X. The 19 essays here by international activists and academics document and analyze the dramatic changes in lesbian/gay experience over the past 20 years. Areas of exploration include: growth of lesbian/gay studies, new patterns of lesbian sexuality, the relationship between lesbians and gay men, the debate over lesbian motherhood, the rise of renewed political campaigning in the face of a "backlash," and the impact of AIDS.

The Interpretation Of The Flesh: Freud's Theory of Femininity by Teresa Brennan, \$15.95 pb, 0-415-07449-5. A must for stores with an academic audience interested in the debates on psychoanalysis and feminism.
— M. E. Kavanaugh
My Sisters Words ○

Letters, continued from page 24.

the dominant general culture) until white women understand and address the spiritual bereft-ness that drives them to it...



That's why I appreciated Lynne's work so much; she is a white woman who speaks from her own experience, seems to have a genuine, long-term intimate relationship with the elders of the Salish tribe (perhaps I *am* completely misunderstanding the relationship she details in her material, I don't know, but the reciprocity seemed authentic), and who speaks specifically to whites about their desires to escape their identities and try on someone else's... I certainly think she's in a more genuine position to teach anti-racism and anti-appropriation to white women due to her experiences.

I continue to believe that Lynne's tape is an important learning tool for women on a spiritual path; putting it in the Native American section was an insensitivity on my part, for which I appreciate your input, and apologize.

Sincerely,
Sue Brown (Subie) ○

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- Children
- Other _____
- Back issues available — \$6 each or \$30/year. Check enclosed.

Tomie dePaola (*Oliver Button Is A Sissy*)

Gay Lit., continued from page 79.

Nonfiction Softcovers:

Growing Up Gay in a Dysfunctional Family by Rik Isensee, **Homophobia: How We All Pay the Price** by Warren Blumenfeld, **Gay Sex: A Manual for Men** by Jack Hart, **Early Care for HIV 2nd Edition** by Ron Baker, **Brother to Brother** ed. by Essex Hemphill, **Leatherfolk** ed. by Mark Thompson, **Guide to Living With HIV Infection** by John Bartlett, **Borrowed Time** by Paul Monette, **Intimacy Between Men** by John Driggs, **Hometowns** ed. by John Preston.



And doing well as December started: **The Golden Boy** by James Melson, **Marky Mark & the Funky Bunch** featuring many photos of white rapper Marky Mark, **Low Life in High Heels** by Holly Woodlawn, and **Learning the Ropes** by Race Bannon.

Since these rankings are based on sales figures starting Jan. 1, 1992, most of the hardcovers are due in paper early in 1993, and some are already available. Given that they all sold strongly (the bottom ranking in hardcover fiction is 257 units, and in hardcover nonfiction is 212 units), all would be probable good sellers for a gay male shelf. ○

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Gay Men's Bestsellers

Crossroads Market

Dallas, TX

Fiction

1. **Maybe The Moon** by Armistead Maupin (HarperCollins, \$22)
2. **Tale Of The Body Thief** by Anne Rice (Knopf, \$24)
3. **Men On Men 4** edited by George Stambolian (Plume, \$12)
4. **Tales Of The City** by Armistead Maupin (HarperCollins, \$11)
5. **Hidden Law** by Michael Nava (HarperCollins, \$19)

Don't forget to send your bestsellers to FBN, PO Box 882554, San Francisco CA 94188. ○

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BOOKSTORES FOR SALE

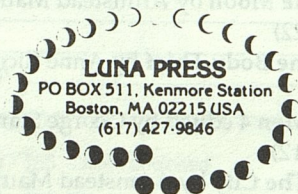
L'Androgyne, Montreal's gay/lesbian/feminist bookstore. Established 19 years, fully computerized, great location and lease. 1992 sales will top ¼ of a million, 25% over 1991. Reason for sale: wish to do reality check before second half of life is too far along. Lawrence Boyle, 3636 St. Laurent, Montreal QUE Canada H2X 2V4; 514-842-4765.

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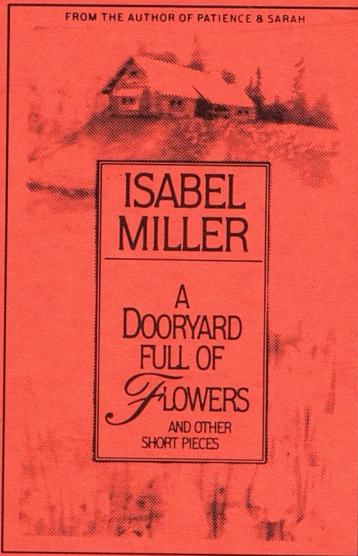
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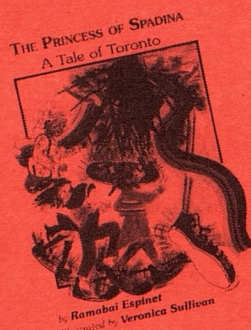
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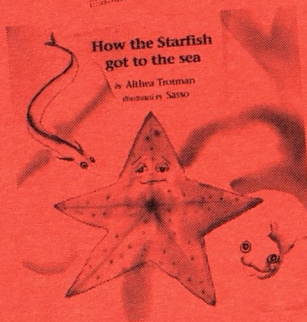
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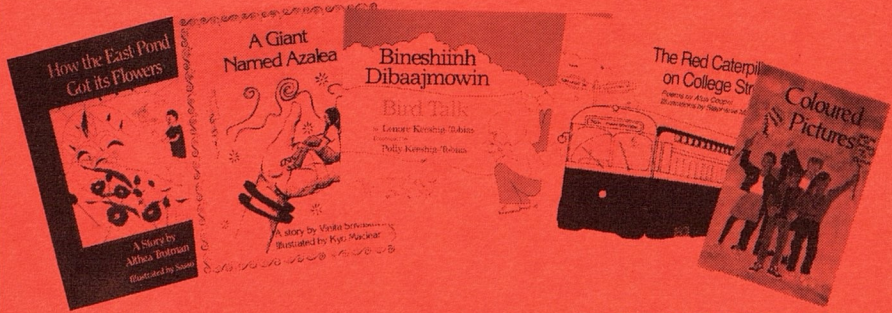
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