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# Feminist Bookstore News



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Women and Travel Issue

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January/February 1994

Volume 16 Number 5

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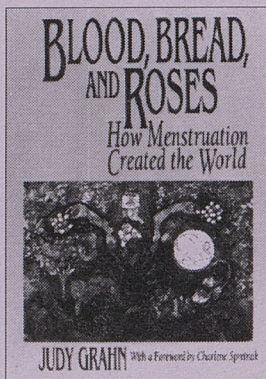
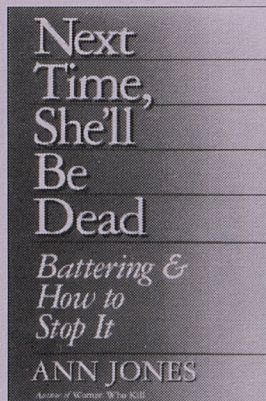
# The Beacon Approach

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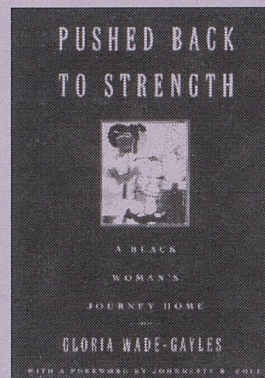
JUDY GRAHN  
FOREWORD BY  
CHARLENE SPRETNAK

"*Blood, Bread, and Roses*, an extraordinary demonstration of the creativity that woman flesh is heir to, offers insights into the human condition that no human, pre-, post- or nonmenstrual, will want to go without."—*San Francisco Bay Guardian*

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## **PUSHED BACK TO STRENGTH** A Black Woman's Journey Home

GLORIA WADE-GAYLES  
FOREWORD BY  
JOHNNETTA B. COLE



"Recalling her path from a stint as a CORE volunteer to a career as an academic, Wade-Gayles shares a bitter-sweet portrait of how our people survived then and must continue to survive now."—*Essence*

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## **CITY WOMEN**

EDITED BY LIZ HERON

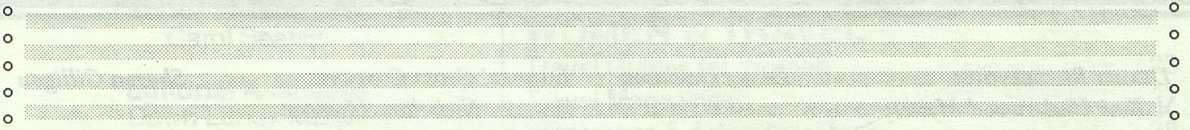
Some of the twentieth century's best women writers illuminate the life of the world's great cities. With stories by Toni Morrison, Dorothy Parker, Ann Petry, Christa Wolf, Virginia Woolf and others.

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# NOTES FROM THE COMPUTER TABLE



Welcome to the Women and Travel issue! It started as a wild idea at eight o'clock one morning. But, thanks to some brilliant suggestions from friends and supporters and a lot of hard work, that eight a.m. idea turned into an exciting look at the state of women's travel and adventure writing. Special thanks to all of the women who wrote articles and prepared book lists during the hectic pre-holiday weeks! We had such a good time with this issue that we're thinking about doing a second Women and Travel issue next January. What do you think?

You've probably already found the inserts for this issue — a copy of *Sojourner's* wonderful article on feminist bookstores and the Lammies Ballot. I wanted to reprint the *Sojourner* article in FBN but this ready-to-take-to-the-copy-shop version was even better. Copy thousands and put them on your front counter! Stuff them in customers' bags! If you want to reprint the article in your newsletter or in your local paper, call *Soj* for an official OK.

We usually reprint the Lammies Ballot in FBN, but then people have to tear up the magazine to send it in — and somehow it doesn't get done. Booksellers (and other FBN subscribers) have a unique perspective on lesbian and gay literature — one that needs to be heard as the nominees are selected. You don't have to nominate in every category — just do the categories that evoke passionate feelings. While you're at the copy shop you could reproduce a stack of ballots and set them on your front counter.

Please join me in welcoming Susan Buie to FBN's staff. Susan has taken on all the ad manager and administrative assistant tasks. She's a long-time member of our local book community and has worked in bookstores (A Different Light-SF), done fulfillment for feminist publishers (Aunt Lute),

organized conferences, made a video, done a lot of writing and reads with a passion. She's planning to go to graduate school in the fall, so we'll hire for this position again in the summer. It was a brilliant hire at a strategic moment, if I do say so myself!

FBN made the *New York Times*! We were quoted in an op ed piece on December 4. I think this is a first.

It's been a wonderful, hectic fall. As soon as I hired Susan, I set out for Boston for the *Women's Review of Books* Tenth Anniversary conference, Women Reviewing Women, then flew back via Houston and Denver, visiting bookstores in all three cities. It was the kind of trip that's re-energizing and inspiring.

I'm working on an article on bookstore advertising budgets. How much do you spend? What percent of your budget goes to advertising? Where do you spend it? What works? What are your most successful ads? Call me and fill me in.

Yours in spreading the words,  
Carol Seajay ○

## FBN Deadlines

Spring Announcements

March-April 1994

January 21

ABA '94 Issue

May-June 1994

March 18

## EXCITING LESBIAN FICTION WITH A BOLD NEW LOOK

**DEADLY RENDEZVOUS:**  
*A Toni Underwood Mystery*  
ISBN 1-883061-02-4  
Pb; 4-color cover; Avail. 2/94; Price: \$9.99

*Diane Davidson*

Lieutenant Toni Underwood is the classic soft-hearted cop with the hard-boiled attitude, and she is baffled by her newest case—a string of brutal murders, in the middle of the desert, bodies dumped on the Interstate. As Toni and her partner Sally search for clues, they unravel a sinister network of corruption, drugs and murder.

Set in picturesque Palm Springs, California, this chilling, fast-paced mystery takes many unexpected twists and turns and finally reveals the dark side of the human mind, as well as the enduring love between two women. A suspenseful, explosive, action-packed whodunit.

**HEARTSTONE AND SABER**  
ISBN 1-883061-00-8  
Pb; 4-color cover; Avail. 2/94; Price: \$10.99

*Jacqui Singleton*

You can almost hear the sabers clash in this rousing tale of good and evil and passionate love, of warrior queens, white witches and sorcerers.

After the devastating raid on her village, Elayna and her brother are captured and nearly sold into slavery. Saved from this terrible fate by the imperious warrior queen, Cydell Ra Sadiin, Elayna is brought to the palace to serve her. The two are immediate foes.

But these two powerful women are destined to join forces. And so, when rumblings of war reach the palace, Cydell, ruler of Mauldar, and Elayna, the Fair Witch of Avoreed, journey to Windsom Keep to combat the dark menace which threatens. But along the way they must first conquer the wild magik of their passionate dreams, learn the secrets of the heartstone, and accept the deep and rapturous love that will transcend the powers of evil.

**DANGER! CROSS CURRENTS:**  
*An Alix Nicholson Mystery*  
ISBN 1-883061-01-6  
Pb; 4-color cover; Avail. 2/94; Price: \$9.99

*Sharon Gilligan*

In this exciting sequel to *Danger in High Places*, freelance photographer Alix Nicholson is teaching photography at Pacific Arts, a college idyllically located on California's North Coast. But as she quickly discovers, there are ugly goings-on beneath the surface beauty of her surroundings.

When her landlady, a real estate developer, turns up dead, and the police arrest Leah Claire, the woman's much younger lover, Alix is rapidly drawn into a complex web of intrigue and murder.

As she frantically searches for a way to free Leah, Alix unexpectedly finds herself at the dawn of a new romance ... and on the brink of her own destruction. A satisfying, well-crafted mystery.

**WARRIORS OF ISIS**  
ISBN 1-883061-03-2  
Pb; 4-color cover; Avail. 3/94; Price: \$10.99

*Jean Stewart*

Fans of *Return to Isis* and *Isis Rising* will relish this third book in the series. Whit, Kali, Lilith and company return in another lusty tale of high adventure and passionate romance among the Freeland Warriors. The evil sorceress, Arinna Sojourner, has evaded capture and now threatens the very survival of the new colony of Isis. As Whit and Kali prepare to do battle with a seemingly unbeatable foe, Danu makes her own plans to avenge a beloved friend's death at Arinna's hands. Eventually, high in the Cascade Mountains, they will face Arinna's terrifying magical powers.

Once again, Stewart weaves a rich tapestry of an all-women's society in the twenty-first century, bursting with life—lovers, villains, heroines, and a peril so great it forges a bond between all the diverse women of this unforgettable place called Isis.



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## SALMONBERRIES

Starring k.d. lang, superstar lesbian recording artist in her screen debut. Directed by Percy Adlon (Bagdad Cafe) and also starring Rosel Zech. Voted "Artist of the Decade," k.d. sings the movie's theme song, the hauntingly beautiful Barefoot. Photographed amidst the breathtaking beauty of the Arctic, *Salmonberries* is a memorable love story.

Cast away at the ends of the world, somewhere between the snowy heavens and the polar sea, two women trying to find their past lives find each other and the present instead.

94 min. VHS only. \$69.95



## CLAIRE OF THE MOON

*A "Desert Hearts" for the '90's!*

Satirist Claire Jabrowski and Dr. Noel Benedict, find themselves as a veritable "odd couple" while sharing a cabin at a writer's retreat in the Pacific Northwest.

Sensual, provocative, and deeply intimate, this is a movie where women find each other, and in the process, discover a new path to themselves. 102 min. VHS only. 89.95



**LAST CALL AT MAUD'S** An exciting look at Maud's — a romantic, notorious lesbian bar in San Francisco from its opening to its closing — lesbian life from World War II to today. Starring, Del Martin & Phyllis Lyon, Judy Grahn, Joann Loulan, and more. 77 minutes. VHS only. \$39.95

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# LETTERS



FBN received a copy of the following letter...

Mama Bears Bookstore  
6536 Telegraph Ave.  
Oakland, CA 94609

Penguin USA  
375 Hudson Street  
New York NY 1001

Dear Sales Department

Two days ago, I purchased a book under your ROC imprint called *Larissa* by Emily Devenport (ISBN 0-451-45276-3). In many cases, I'll read a book and then recommend to our book buyer to purchase it through one of our distributors.

What concerns me about this particular book is the cover. The author clearly describes the main character as a Black woman ("...He pulled out three IDs. Two were for white people, one man and one woman. But the third was for a black girl who even looked a bit like me." Devenport, page 33.) The cover, however, shows a woman with clearly European features and skin tone.

As a bookseller, I know my customers look at the covers of the books before they make a purchase. We talk about titles, plots, and characters both before and after purchasing. And one thing I do know is that I would get many complaints about this book for the cover alone and not the content.

It really is a matter of truth in advertising. Had the character been of mixed race, then maybe you could justify the cover but when one parent's face is described as "smooth, chocolate brown surface" (page 11) and the other is described as having "night black skin" (page 16), it does not add up to what you see on the front.

I hope that in bringing this to your attention, your staff will make better choices in the future before choosing both the cover and the artist before

publishing a book; if anything, someone should read the galley before it goes to print.

Sincerely,  
Jacqueline A. Gross



Inland Book Company  
InBook/Womensource/Inland Distribution  
P.O. Box 120261  
East Haven CT 06512

Dear FBN,

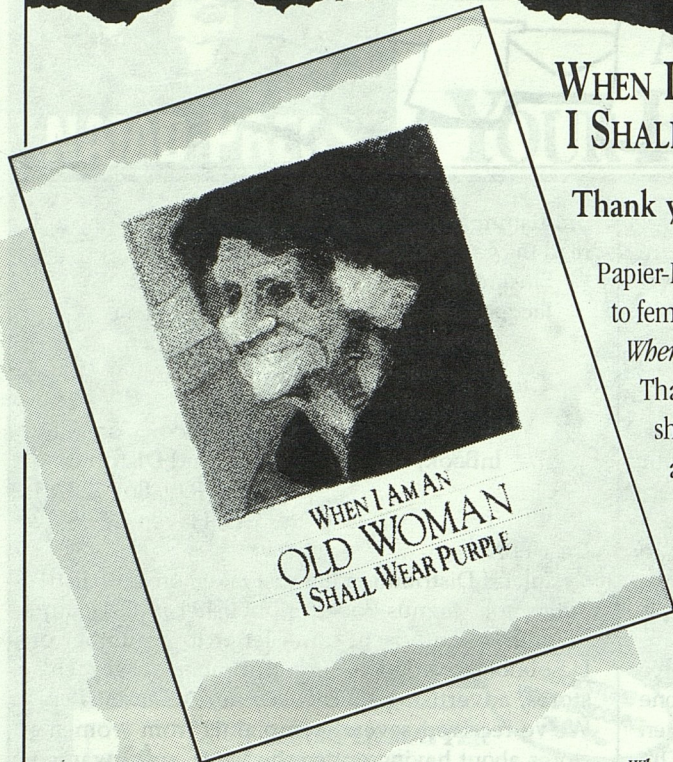
Inland Distribution has just taken on U.S. distribution for Magnus Books, a publisher in Germany. Magnus recently sent out a letter to a number of U.S. bookstores, including a number of women's stores, advertising their first title, *A Look at Boys*. We've received several complaints from women's stores about having gotten the letter, and I wanted to reassure women's stores that we had nothing to do with the creation of this letter or who it was mailed to. I also wanted to reassure you that, in spite of what the title might suggest, this is in fact a perfectly harmless book of photographs. The models are all adult men, and they are all clothed, in non-posed and non-suggestive situations. We do carry some male pictorial stuff which is pretty suggestive, but this book is definitely not one of them. We do not carry titles which could be construed as child pornography, and have in fact refused to distribute a couple of titles from publishers when we felt they crossed that line.

I hope this helps clear up the situation.

Best Wishes,  
Kiriyo Spooner  
Womensource Sales Coordinator  
Inland Distribution Sales Manager

○

# 1,000,000 copies sold!



## WHEN I AM AN OLD WOMAN I SHALL WEAR PURPLE

Thank you, feminist bookstores!

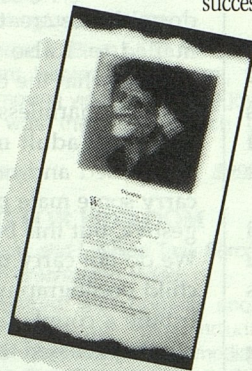
Papier-Mache Press extends our warmest appreciation to feminist bookstores for the phenomenal success of *When I Am an Old Woman I Shall Wear Purple*. Thanks to your support, this collection of poetry, short fiction, and photography about the gift of aging has sold more than one million copies.

As part of our celebration we're honored that Jenny Joseph, the noted British author of the title poem "Warning...When I Am an Old Woman I Shall Wear Purple" will be joining editor Sandra Haldeman Martz in an eight-city tour.

*When I Am an Old Woman I Shall Wear Purple*, the successful companion volume *If I Had My Life to Live Over I Would Pick More Daisies*, and other books are available through Inland, Bookpeople, Pacific Pipeline, Baker & Taylor, and Ingram.

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# News News News

## 6th International Feminist Book Fair

Plans for the 6th International Feminist Book Fair July 27-31, 1994 are proceeding rapidly. Further funding has been received, staff that had been laid off due to the gap between committed funds and received funds have been rehired. Bloomsbury, a woman-owned conference service has been hired to handle the trade fair services, brochures are in the mail to international exhibitors and a newsletter providing an update on the 6th IFBF is being printed. All things going well, both should be included in the envelope with this issue of FBN. Contact Mev Miller, the Canadian/U.S. representative, to book stands.

Regarding travel to and within Australia: Qantas (one of the corporate sponsors for the Fair) has decided not to offer an overall international discount — there are simply too many locations to cover. But they have provided an international code J2EP88 — which should get international travelers a special discount price. Ask your travel agent to try it. I tried it with Qantas in December and just got the regular 21 day advance discount fare, but I might have been too early. Qantas *is* providing a flat 45% discount rate for visitors traveling within Australia. Quote code VCVEFODB. ○

## The Balkan Women's Book Drive Project

The Balkan Women's Empowerment Project book drive (BWEP), launched in July from Women and Children First Bookstore in Chicago, and joined by feminist bookstores across the U.S. and Canada, shipped 1,500 books to Croatia in response to

*Continued on page 8*

## Amendment 2 Overturned by Colorado Judge

The Colorado lesbian, gay and feminist communities celebrated wildly on December 14 when Denver District Court Judge Jeffrey Bayless ruled that Amendment 2, Colorado's constitutional amendment designed to prohibit laws that protect lesbians and gay men from discrimination, is unconstitutional.

The long awaited decision came a year after Colorado voters passed the anti-gay amendment 53% to 47%. The decision will undoubtedly be appealed to the Colorado State Supreme Court, which has already indicated that it would declare the Amendment unconstitutional if the case was brought to them. Immediately after the Amendment was passed, gay rights activists filed a preliminary injunction to prevent its implementation during the appeals process. This injunction was appealed to State Supreme Court which upheld the injunction and ruled that the amendment appeared to violate the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution and that the state had to prove that barring gay rights laws served a "compelling interest" — a very difficult standard to prove.

During the extraordinary two-week long trial the state argued that the amendment was necessary to protect Colorado from "militant gay aggression," that removal of Amendment 2 would undermine the state's ability to enforce existing civil rights protections, violate the right to religious freedom, harm the tradition family, and cause psychological and emotional damage to children.

Judge Bayless ruled against the arguments on almost every count. He was not satisfied the "militant gay aggression endangers the state's political

*Continued on page 8*

**Colorado...** *continued from page 7*

functions," that the presence of gay rights ordinances has increased the costs or impaired the enforcement of other civil rights statutes, that there was any connection between protecting the family and barring gay rights laws and, finally, dismissed the argument that the amendment protected the well-being of children by citing testimony that most pedophiles are heterosexual, not homosexual.

Colorado activists, confident that the ruling will stand through appeals to the Colorado Supreme Court, the NGLTF, and both feminist bookstores in Colorado are calling for an end to the Colorado boycott which cost the state an estimated \$120 million in lost tourism and convention revenues alone. The boycott is generally held to have been a very effective civil rights organizing tool that sent a message to the country that it doesn't pay to discriminate against gays and lesbians.

Both feminist bookstores were planning parties the day the Amendment was overturned.

The Book Garden's Kasha Songer cheered, "Now we know what it's like to survive a boycott. I think we did it gracefully — by making the store a welcoming place for everyone — and by continuing to stay active and aware. I won't say that the boycott didn't hurt the store — it did. But it also achieved its purpose — and it was worth it. Now the national community needs to learn from our experience and learn how to boycott better. The point is to boycott the parts of the state that oppress us — not the lesbian and gay community. In their zealotry to do the right thing some people actually considered withholding lesbian and gay supportive books and other items from the lesbian and gay community. People under siege, as we have been, need support."

Abaton Books, the feminist bookstore in Colorado Springs, was already setting up for a big art show opening, and enjoyed turning the event into a massive party and celebration. "It's a happy day here," Abaton owner Tamara Bartlett added, "and it's going to be a wonderful party. We need to celebrate. And it's time to dig in and remember that the Coalition for Family Values isn't going to quit. They're a lot more organized and they have a lot more money than we do — and they aren't done yet." Tamara's comments on the boycott: "It's been

awfully lonely in this state and we're really looking forward to some company! Although we've had a lot more support from the straight community than ever before, and although the whole thing generated a lot more support and activism in the lesbian and gay communities, tourists are a big part of our business and the boycott hurt us. I hope that the organizations that put so much energy into calling the boycott put half as much energy into telling people it's OK to go to Colorado again."

It seems likely. The latest t-shirt out of Colorado features mountain peaks with rainbow colored slopes, pink triangles and reads "Visit Colorado — Annoy a Bigot." ○

**Balkan Women's ...** *continued from page 7*

requests by Croatia women for information on subjects such as rape, recovery, domestic violence, and women and war. Woman and Children First staffer and BWEP co-founder Aimee Wielechowski traveled to Zagreb in September with Susan Soric to take the first 100 books and to work on fundraising for a women's center to aid women in recovering from the effects of the war.

The new women's center has been named "Nona," which means grandmother in the local dialect of the Croatia coastal region called Dalmatia, and connotes warmth, security, and a "home away from home" for women whose lives have been brutalized by the war. Nona's doors are scheduled to open in December 15 to local Croatia residents and women from the more than 80 refugee camps in the Zagreb area.

Women in the states, and especially those who have participated in the book drives or other fundraising activities are encouraged to send or fax notes of greeting, support or congratulation. The women at Nona are eager to establish contact with women in the states and elsewhere who have been supportive.

Bookstores that participated in the first phase of the book drive include Amazon, The Book Garden, Crone's Harvest, Different Drummer Bookshoppe, Inklings, Iris Books, Jane Addams Book Shop, Meristem, Mother Kali's, Prairie Moon, Rising Moon, A Room of One's Own, Southern Sisters, Thirtyfirst Street Bookstore as well as Women and Children First and Illinois NOW in Champaign.

Bookstores that still have books they've collected may either ship books directly to Nona (address below) or forward them to Chicago for transport.

BWEP also plans to launch a Phase Two Book Drive for "friends of Nona" to keep Nona's library up to date. Under Phase Two, bookstores would sign up to organize an event or pass the hat at other events to collect money to send new books to Nona. (BWEP shot video footage for a mini-documentary on Nona and the Women's Movement in Zagreb that would make a good centerpiece for an event — but they're still looking for someone to edit the footage.) The stores on the list would rotate. Each store's turn to send books would come up (depending on how many stores decided to participate) once every year or two. For more information, call or fax Aimee Wielechowski at 1-312-907-9576 or write BWEP, 4516 N. Ashland Ave 2W, Chicago IL 60640.

To contact Nona directly, write to NONA Multiemedijski Zenski Centar, Draskoviceva 47, Zagreb, Croatia 41000. Phone: 011-38541-417-764. Fax: 011-38541-417-764. ○

## Canada Customs Continues to Censor

On October 12, Glad Day Bookshop received a preliminary detention notice from Canada Customs for three boxes of books from Smith Mark Publishers including 100 copies of David Leavitt's *A Place I've Never Been*. Fifteen copies of Stephen Beachy's *The Whistling Song* had been detained on October 8 at the Fort Erie Customs checkpoint.

On October 13 an article on the detention appeared in *The Globe and Mail*. The following morning the detained shipment arrived at Glad Day in record time and intact.

The *Globe and Mail* editorial read, in part:

"Canada Customs is slipping. In September, the federal department was awarded the rare honour of a resolution of condemnation by International PEN...for its frequent habit of seizing imported books and periodicals at the border and its systematic harassment of the bookstores that sell them. But now we find that David Leavitt, the acclaimed American author whose book *A Place I've Never Been* is among the long list of the impounded, will

be permitted to *read aloud* from this subversive work at Toronto's International Festival of Authors, with all that might mean for public morals, national security, etc. Why was not Mr. Leavitt himself confiscated at the border to prevent this outrage?"

The editorial then went on to describe the absurdity of having a parallel legal system for imported books, "an extraordinary labyrinth of double standards within double standards..." that large bookstores are "strangely exempt" from Customs scrutiny, that "book shops like Glad Day that cater to tastes outside the mainstream — at least as defined by Canada Customs — can expect to find roughly 75% of their shipments delayed, destroyed or otherwise tampered with by Customs officials."

The fact that only imported books are being scrutinized for being "harmful" — and only those destined for small or minority booksellers face this treatment, the lack of due process and the issue of prior restraint are all addressed in the editorial. It concludes:

"But the overarching issue is simply freedom of speech. It is an offense to a free people that it should be held prisoner within its borders, allowed only such reading materials as its government jailers will permit to enter. An offense, and an international embarrassment."

\*\*\*

In October Canada Customs also detained a number of copies of Marguerite Duras' *The Man Sitting in the Corridor* bound for the Trent University Bookstore. It was scheduled to be used as a course textbook and was released upon press coverage.

Meanwhile, Glad Day Bookshop's shipment of the Sept./Oct. issue of *On Our Backs* — 350 copies — have been detained and apparently seized en route to its distributor Doormouse Distribution Co. on Oct. 18. It was classified under Memorandum D9-1-1 as "fisting" and "degradation" despite the fact that no category for the former exists. Also, the K27 form indicates that one magazine was held, rather than the 350 copies shipped — which is taken to mean that Customs didn't bother to inspect the shipment but rather seized it based on the title, as is their practice.

Additional titles that have been detained since July that have not previously been reported in FBN include *Behind Closed Doors* by Robbi Sommers

(detained en route to Women's Bookstop), *Butch* by Jay Rayn (detained then released en route to Little Sisters), *City of Mazes and Other Tales of Obsession* (detained en route to Bold Print), *Daughters of Darkness: Lesbian Vampire Stories* (detained en route to This Ain't the Rosedale Library), *Lesbian Culture: An Anthology* (detained then released en route to Woman to Woman Books, *Outrage: Australian Gay and Lesbian Short Story Anthology* (detained en route to L'Androgyne Bookstore and Borderline Books), *Sister/Stranger: Lesbians Loving Across the Lines* (detained en route to Glad Day, Woman to Woman, and Bold Print), and *Wanting Women: An Anthology of Erotic Lesbian Poetry* (detained en route to Vancouver Women's Books.

Information from *The Globe and Mail* and *CensorStop News*, (PO Box 888 Station F, Toronto ONT, Canada M4Y 2N9). ○

## International PEN/Women Writers' Committee

On November 9, 1991, the Assembly of International PEN voted to establish an International PEN Women Writers' Committee (IPWWC) to enable women writers to know one another's work and act together to defend [women's] human rights. The aim of the Committee is to amplify the voices of women internationally by encouraging translation, initiating cultural development projects, and resisting censorship. IPWWC now has members in forty countries and publishes a biannual newsletter *Network/Le Réseau/La Red*.

The Committee's human rights work centers on the question "Do the cultural factors that suppress women's voices add up to a historic pattern of gender-based censorship?" Their answer is a firm "Yes!" Methods of silencing women cited range from illiteracy on one end of the spectrum to intimidation and violence at the other. IPWWC seeks to understand the ways women writers encounter censorship and works to defend them, in consultation with the Writers in Prison Committee of International PEN. IPWWC cases include:

**The Five Croatia Witches:** These five non-nationalist women writers, Slavenka Drakulic, Rada

Ivekovic, Vesna Kesic, Jelena Lovric, and Dubravka Ugresic, were called "witches" by the far-right Croatia press because of their opposition to war, their feminist opinions, and their access to foreign media. The IPWWC did solidarity work, publicized the case inside PEN and in the international press, and prepared a casebook on the struggle.

**Elaine Potiguara** is a Brazilian Indian poet and advocate for the rights of indigenous peoples, founder of the women's organization Grumin, and editor of its paper, which exposed the environmental pollution and social degradation caused by local industries in her tribal area. These retaliated with a campaign branding her a thief and prostitute. IPWWC helped Potiguara make contact with feminist and human rights circles and nominated her for the Hellman/Hammett awards given by the Fund for Free Expression. When her phone was cut off and her funding endangered, we organized international letters of support to protect her.

**Taslima Nasrin** is a Bangladeshi poet, novelist, and journalist, author of a number of books criticizing Muslim fundamentalism and the oppression of women. Her most recent novel, *Laija (The Shame)* describes the suffering of a Hindu family attacked by Muslims following the December 1992 destruction of the Bahri mosque in Ayodhya, India. Though the book won critical acclaim, selling fifty thousand copies in six months, Muslim extremists considered it blasphemous, and in July the government banned the book. The Council of Soldiers for Islam has issued a call for Nasrin's death and put a price of \$1250 on her head. Despite her peril, Nasrin has been unable to get sustained or consistent police protection. IPWWC is organizing a campaign calling on Bangladesh to protect Nasrin, prosecute those who have sought her death, lift the ban on her book, and restore her passport, which was confiscated last January.

IPWWC is also forming a task force of writers and researchers in Africa, South Asia, and the Middle East to coordinate information on the impact of Islamic fundamentalism on women writers and to generate ways to defend writers under attack. IPWWC also plans to gather materials on Christian, Hindu and Jewish fundamentalism.

In the arena of cultural development, IPWWC recognize that women writers are key fighters for

the emancipation of women in the developing world. IPWWC seeks to amplify [women's] voices and increase [women's] opportunities to be heard. International aid programs that marginalize culture and neglect the struggle over ideas are unlikely to bring lasting improvement to women; IPWWC hopes to encourage experts to integrate culture into their plans for development and democratization, and support local female agents of change, including women writers. IPWWC wishes to facilitate the growth of regional cultural industries that empower women, such as women's presses; encouraging translation; and draw attention to the achievements of women writers, North and South.

IPWWC's first major cultural development project was a Women's Publishing Workshop that took place at the Frankfurt Book Fair and brought twenty women writers and editors from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Central Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East to meet with their counterparts in Europe and North America. The objective was to increase the visibility of work from the developing world within international publishing, and to network in order to strengthen regional publishing industries. The Workshop was funded by UNESCO's World Decade for Cultural Development and German government agencies.

The IPWWC Travel Fellowship program originated with a UNESCO travel grant to bring a woman writer from the South to the U.S. The award is designed to draw attention to the work of distinguished women writers who are already known in their own country but have not yet won the recognition they deserve in the U.S. The first travel award went to Ama Ata Aidoo of Ghana. Dubravka Ugresic of Croatia has been designated for the second. IPWWC is currently seeking another source of funds for this program. One of the long term goals of the program is to make U.S. culture more open to literature from the developing world.

Future programs under discussion include a Latin American Women Writers' Workshop focusing on literary themes, censorship, and self-censorship, to be held in Mexico in 1994, and a publishing module including discussion of technology transfer from North to South, to be used at conferences beginning with the 6th International Feminist Book Fair in Australia in 1994.

Meredith Tax of PEN American Center is Chair of the IPWWC; Maria Arrillaga of Puerto Rican PEN is Secretary. Advisors include Ama Ata Aidoo (Ghana), Paula Giddings and Grace Paley (U.S.), Alicia Partnoy (Argentina), Ninotchka Rosca (Philippines), and Monika van Paemel (Belgium).

International Pen Women Writers' Committee, 532 W. 111th St. #75, New York NY 10025. 212-866-4283; fax 212-932-0678. ○

### Introducing Women's WORLD: World Organization for Rights Literature, and Development

Women's WORLD is a new U.S. nonprofit that was inspired by, and grew out of the Women Writers' Committee of Pen International (IPWWC). IPWWC's work and growth have strained the resources of an organization run on volunteer work alone. Having an independent nonprofit with its own financial base will enable smoother and quicker response and will make it possible to expand the work from individual human rights cases into an investigation of gender-based censorship. Funds will be administered by PEN American Center until Women's WORLD gets nonprofit status.

As an independent Non-Governmental Organization based in the U.S., Women's WORLD will be able to help IPWWC respond to attacks on the human rights of women writers in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Central Europe. At the same time, it will be able to initiate affirmative programs that go beyond the mandate of PEN, to attack the root of these violations in systemic gender bias, the leading cause of poverty in the developing world. Women's WORLD will encourage policy makers to identify, support and work through female agents of change, because neither democratization nor development can be real without the full participation of women.

Among such agents of change are women writers. In many places women writers are the only voice of millions of other women who cannot yet read and write. Because women writers criticize both traditional and new forms of oppression, they become the focus of many contradictions, often

being marginalized, sometimes banned, imprisoned, exiled or killed. They need and deserve international support.

Women's WORLD bases its strategy on mutual aid and networking between women writers, using the resources of the North to empower women elsewhere. This approach is modeled on the strategy of successful Women in Development programs. The long-term goal is to give more international weight to women's voices and enable them to be heard on both "women's issues" and on issues of economic development, national identity, and war and peace.

Women's WORLD has four main program areas, each emphasizing a different aspect of women's human rights. The latter three are still at the research stage.

- Human Rights for Women Writers addresses individual cases by advocacy, public education, networking to mobilize the resources of the women's movement, quiet diplomacy, and finding means of support for women's human rights activists in developing countries.

- Gender-Based Censorship is a program to investigate and address the silencing of half the human race.

- Alternative Models in Publishing (AMP) is a

development project that will mobilize the resources and advisors necessary to establish women-owned small presses in the developing world.

- Voices of Women (VOW) is a reproductive rights project that will bring together writers, activists, and community women to produce health and sex education literature that accurately represents the experience and needs of the women involved, in a context of scientific and human rights information.

The founders of Women's WORLD have been working on the Women's Committee of PEN American Center since it began in 1986 and, in 1991, were instrumental in starting the Women's Writers' Committee of International Pen (IPWWC). Founders include Meredith Tax, initiator and Chair of IPWWC, Ninotchka Rosca, an activist in the democratic movement in the Philippines and a founder of the Survivors' Committee of Amnesty International, and Paula Giddings, a prominent spokeswoman for African-American women and Treasurer of the Authors' Guild. They are bringing together a board of advisors. For further information on Women's WORLD, contact Meredith Tax, 532 West 111th St. #75, New York NY 10025, 212-866-4283; fax 212-932-0678. ○

# SUBSCRIBE!

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# NEWS FROM THE BOOKSTORES

Compiled by Carol Seajay

I was lucky enough to be in Boston for the grand debut program in New Words' reading space in November. The space itself is elegant and understated — and the event was spectacular: Alison Bechdel and Diane DiMassa with slideshows about their work and Mabel Maney with slides of her non-print work and reading from *The Case of the Not-So-Nice Nurse*. Every bookstore celebration should be blessed with so much laughter, vision, insight and politic. The readings for the rest of the month looked so good that I just wanted to stay: Cynthia Enloe with her new book *The Morning After: Sexual Politics at the End of the Cold War* and Patricia Powell, reading from her novel *Me Dying Trial*. Powell was a student of New Words' former collective member Kate Rushin during Kate's high school teaching days. In addition to a great series to initiate the new reading space, the program also felt like a celebration of generations in feminist booking.

New Words has also extended their hours to 8 pm on weeknights, installed lighting for their exterior sign (so they can be found during those evening hours) and put in track lighting inside to brighten the store.



Linda Bryant writes, "In November, Charis (Atlanta) had another visit with Alice Walker, though this time it was not in our store. The National Black Women's Health Project, along with Women Make Movies, sponsored (and benefited from) the local screening of *Warrior Marks*. We were involved in selling tickets and doing a mailing and otherwise promoting the event and then we sold books and did the booksigning at the screening.

"It was frustrating to be involved in something so important, but not to be in charge of any of the

details or the major publicity — some things were not handled in ways that we have learned over the years work with any major author event. Nonetheless, we had a wonderful time.

"The film was incredibly moving and important; Alice and Pratibha Parmar, the filmmaker and co-author of the book *Warrior Marks* were brilliant in the discussion afterward. They were also very laid back and charming at the signing. Please be sure to read the acknowledgments and you'll see one of the many ways that our particular community feels connected to Alice.

"In November, we had our visit with the Kay Hagan Hothead Express. She was wonderful! I wish I had her on tape about the importance of the independent feminist bookstores!"



Book-Woman (Austin) threw a big Madonna Madness Madonna-thon to celebrate Book-Woman staffer Kay Turner's new book *I Dream of Madonna: Women's Dreams of the Goddess of Pop*. Other Book-Woman events included a 25% discount on all children's books over the Children's Book Week weekend and the Second Annual Virgin day to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (both very big in Texas) and the Feast of the Fabulous Female in All of Us (very big at Book-Woman) on December 12. The store was filled with "a holiday-of-our-own" spirit as well as festive crafts and goddess paraphernalia: pocket alters, Virgin T-shirts, cards, women's spirituality books, jewelry, and other gifts for the Season. "Come for the cake and special Immaculate moments throughout the day."

HerBody, a bookstore specializing in women's health books, that opened adjacent to a gynecologist's office in Beverly Hills is opening two addi-

# Taking the Bookstore to the Book Festival



Forty thousand people — including 5,000 elementary school kids — participated in the First Annual Rocky Mountain Book Festival.

The Book Garden decided to do the show in a big way and set up a Book Garden-like booth to give festival goers a good “sense” of the Book Garden. Kasha Songer and crew rented a U-Haul, bought nine new bookcases for the show, (spent 6 hours putting them together), and sold the bookcases after the show (“Two went to a rep, two were traded for an antique table for the store, two went home as employee perks — it was fun!”) “We definitely made our expenses,” Kasha reported, “and came out way ahead if you count all the people who are now familiar with the Book Garden who had never come by before. Here in Amendment 2-Land that counts for a lot!”





tional stores. The new stores will be at 8721 Beverly Blvd., West Hollywood CA 90048 (310-659-7407) and 73-260 El Paseo Blvd. Suite 2C, Palm Desert CA 92260 (619-779-9005). All three of the stores are "small" but feature hundreds of titles addressing women's health issues. The official grand openings will be in January but both of the new stores are already open and selling books.



Crazy Ladies in Cincinnati sponsored a pre-election "No on 3 Volunteer Day. (3 was the anti-gay rights proposition.) Despite the rain, over 100 energetic volunteers assembled No on 3 yard signs, distributed No on 3 leaflets, and wrote No on 3 postcards. The No on 3 campaign headquarters was

in the women's building which also houses Crazy Ladies.

Alison Cunningham from Golden Thread (New Haven) writes, "Business is picking up here (finally!) We had a great send-off party for 'Hothead Paisan' before she embarked on her world tour. Great fun with about 50 local fans turning out to wish her well!... Despite the fact that we are next door to a women's health clinic which is picketed *every day* (joined by a screaming man who holds court for several hours every Thursday and a mass that is held on the sidewalk once a month...), we continue to subtly place "choice" posters in the windows or, more radically, put the homicidal lesbian terrorist in the window with her bombs aimed at the the people who harass women need to use the clinic!

(TOP LEFT) A tasteful sprinkling of sidelines helped to set off the books and vice versa.

(BOTTOM LEFT) Nine publishers participated in our booth, paying \$50 each for one shelf. We did only one publisher per bookcase. Kasha is setting up the (free) literature table that featured catalogs from participating publishers and other freebies.

(BELOW) We call in all of our part-timers to do something this large. Sitting at the sales desk is Barb Donily. Photos by Dorothy Holland who flew in to help with the Bookfest.



## EDUCATING OUR COMMUNITIES

*Feminist bookstores have been working diligently at educating women about the current state of book-selling and the role they can play in creating the future of bookselling. This is another in a series of pieces FBN has been reprinting from feminist bookstore publications.* —CS

From the 31st Street Bookstore newsletter:

With the upcoming holiday season, many people will be looking to buy books, CDs and tapes, cards, jewelry, t-shirts and so on for family, friends, lovers, and children. Money is tight for many of us, and it's tempting to spend it at one of the big bookstore chains like Borders or Encore, with their deep discounts.

But it's these chains that threaten the very survival of small, independent bookstores. In city after city, they have driven the independents out of business. They can do that because of their size and sales volume — the publishers offer the chains big discounts that they don't extend to the little stores with smaller sales.

Don't worry — we're not about to close up shop. We've been here for 20 years, and we're planning to stay around. But it's no secret that the opening of Borders in Towson last December, just in time for holiday shopping, hurt us. It's during November and December that most businesses make the extra money that cushions them for the next 10 months. Usually, that happens for us. Last year, with the new Borders giant just up the road, it didn't.

Now it's that time of year again. If you like the idea that our bookstore and other independent, alternative small businesses exist, please help all of us stay healthy and strong.

*Sisterhood Bookstore (Los Angeles) did postcard mailing for the holidays. The postcard doubles as a \$5 gift certificate good with a \$25 minimum purchase (valid through December, 1993) that read:*

Imagine a world without Sisterhood Bookstore — or any other independent bookstore. Imagine a world of only chain book outlets where corporate executives decide what gets on

the shelves — the K-Mart approach. A grim thought? It could happen. Independent booksellers are struggling.

For more than twenty years Sisterhood Bookstore has been at the center of the women's community. We are among the oldest women's bookstores in the United States. Please help us keep our political and literary diversity alive and **KICKING**. A good holiday season would keep us healthy. We hope you will shop at Sisterhood for holiday gifts. And to encourage you in our direction, please consider this card a \$5.00 gift certificate toward your holiday purchase.

*From My Sisters' Words' Holiday Newsletter's letter to customers:*

Thank you once again for your incredible support. I think we've survived the arrival of major competition for independent bookstores in this town, and it has happened because we have all thought about and made conscious choices about how we spend our money. Thank you especially for reminding me that this bookstore is a vital resource in our community. Sometimes when I'm panicked about just "making a living," I forget that what I am doing is very nurturing and important for all of us. I can keep doing it as long as I can get a nurturing salary for both myself and Kay out of this. That is my goal for 1994.

— Mary Ellen

*The following article was published in Women's Express, Baltimore's Monthly Feminist Forum, under the headline "Support Women's Bookstores" and was written by 31st Street Bookstore.*

There's an ad, put out by the Feminist Bookstore Network, with a border that says, "Women's bookstores support women..." The line circles around a list of women's bookstores, inviting you to enter the circle of mutual support.

To me, it sums up the 31st Street Bookstore Cooperative's reason for being — to support women by offering books and sidelines exclusive-

*Continued on page 18*

Mid-Atlantic feminist bookstores are planning a regional conference in January. We'll have the report next issue!

Wednesday December 1 was Member Appreciation Night at Amazon (Minneapolis). Everyone was welcome to shop but members received an additional 20% on all regular price books. Memberships cost \$20 and give members a 10% discount on books for a year.

A Room of One's Own is putting its accounting on Peachtree. They're excited about the program and will report back later on how they like it.

Word from Gloria Greenfield at the Vancouver Women's Bookstore is that their bookstore is now up on Book Manager, a Canadian bookstore inventory program. They've also put in new shelving. The store is now a workers' co-op and has begun paying salaries.

Meristem (Nashville) has added "Member of the Feminist Bookstore Network" to their stationary and business cares.

Thirtyfirst Street launched two book drives this fall. The first was to send four boxes of feminist books to Nona, the new women's center in Zagreb (see News). Two weeks later Thirtyfirst Street helped kick off the Towson State Women's Studies faculty book collection drive for women prisoners. The occasion was the bookstore's annual reception for area Women's Studies faculty and staff. By the end of the day, a good start had been made toward filling the shelves of the sparsely stocked prison library at Jessup.



Thirtyfirst, chronically suffering like many feminist bookstores from being undercapitalized, has also just launched a \$10,000 fundraising drive to help remedy that situation.

Thirtyfirst Street has spruced up with new paint on the storefront and new ceiling panels inside. Two coats of paint are scheduled for the front room. Other changes include a major rearrangement of stock, lots of new cards, expanded sidelines. Books on women of color have been moved to the front room. One of the interior rooms is now

devoted to women and health. Thirtyfirst Street also does an annual holiday raffle — the prize is a basket full of books and audiotapes valued at over \$100. Raffle tickets are \$1 each.

My Sisters' Words (Syracuse) has also rearranged sections in the store. There's now a Men's section within Women's Studies. Lesbian Non-fiction has now called Lesbian and Gay Studies to accommodate the kinds of books coming out now.

They are also buying and selling used books and have just begun taking debit cards (ATM cards). "It's cheaper for us than credit cards and eliminates the bounced check problem."



Brigit Books (St. Petersburg), Lioness (Sacramento) and Thirtyfirst Street all sponsored holiday crafts fairs this year. Boadecia's Books (Kensington CA — just north of Berkeley) sponsored a Pottery Show and Tea Party in December. They also advertise that the tea pot is on every night in December — "come to Boadecia's to chill out, warm out or wind down. We will have the tea pot on each night in December... Starting November 26."

Amazon did a Holiday Gift-Giving Guide in place of their December newsletter. The regular Staff Raves column featured books that staff members would likely give for the holidays; the new music column was extended to a full page and included a new holiday music section, another section featured new videos, and two pages were given over to crafts and other sidelines — plus, of course, a lengthy "hot off the press" feature.

Sales are all over the place as we go to press. Some of the stores that saw slow sales during the early fall reported that sales were picking up. Almost everyone, general bookstores and feminist bookstores alike, reported that holiday sales got off to a very slow start with sales in some stores not picking up until December 9th or 10th. Women and Children First reported that sales were very good — not quite as good as last year just after the *Tribune* ran a huge article about their neighborhood that featured Women and Children First promi-

nently — but right up there with their best expectations. Pokey Anderson called from Inklings as we went to press to say that December 16th was their third highest Thursday ever. By the time you read this all the sales reports will be in. Give me a call and tell me how it went for the season and for the year as soon as you get your figures.



Here's an idea to plant in your best customers' minds: When I was at OutWrite I heard Judith Katz (*Running Fiercely Toward a High Thin Sound*) describe a wonderful strategy for getting friends and acquaintances into feminist bookstores. She was in her local feminist bookstore one day to buy a

gift for a friend she'd been trying to get into the bookstore for some time. The store was temporarily out of stock on the book she wanted "but would have it in again on Monday." Judith paid for the book and made arrangements for her friend to pick it up at the store when the book arrived — and then gave the friend a card saying that the book was waiting for her at the bookstore. Not only did the friend finally make it to the bookstore, she found some other books she needed — and has been back several times. ○



## Educating Our Communities ...

*Continued from page 16*

ly for women and their children, and by providing a safe space for us. Yet the Bookstore can't continue to do this without the continuing strong support of women.

With the upcoming holiday season, many women will be looking to buy books, CDs and tapes, cards, jewelry, T-shirts, and so on for their friends, lovers, and children. Money is tight for many of us, and it's tempting to spend it at one of the big bookstore chains like Borders or Encore, with their deep discounts.

But it's these chains that threaten the very survival of small, independent bookstores like 31st Street. In city after city, they have driven the independents out of business. They can do that because of their size and sales volume — the publishers offer the chains big discounts that they don't extend to the little stores with smaller sales. It's like a race in which all the contestants don't start out at the same point.

Don't worry — 31st Street is not about to close up shop. We've been here for 20 years, and we're planning to stay around. But it's no secret that the opening of Borders in Towson last December, just in time for holiday shopping, hurt us. It's during November and December that most businesses make the extra money that cushions them for the next ten months. Usually, that

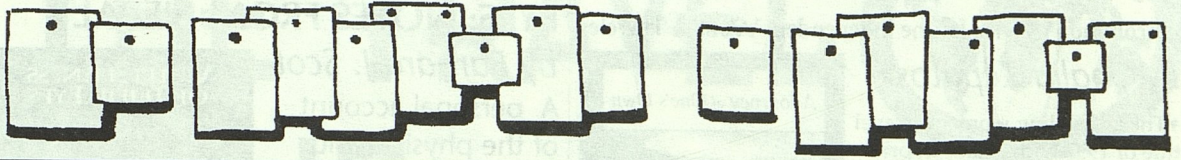
happens for 31st Street. Last year, with the new Borders giant just up the road, it didn't.

Now it's fast approaching that time of year again. If you like the idea that 31st Street and other independent, alternative small businesses exist, please help all of us stay healthy and strong. At 31st Street, we may not have the sheer volume of books that the big boys have, or the large subsidized discounts (though we do offer a 10% discount on hardcovers and another 10% on all books with our Bookwoman discount card). But we do have the kinds of items — feminist, lesbian, and multicultural children's materials — that they don't have. And we offer personalized service (special orders, ticket sales, community bulletin boards, etc.) that they don't — as well as other non-mainstream features such as a women's art wall, lesbian Sunday brunches, and a Sunday holiday crafts fair where local craftswomen can sell their wares. More, we offer something intangible that doesn't carry a price tag. It's a feeling of community, which is not a part of most retail business environments.

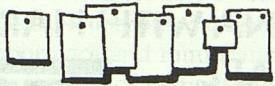
So when you're thinking about where to spend your money for gifts for those you love, think of us, and of all the other independent businesses that offer something different. We support women — and we hope women will continue to support us.

— Carol Ehrlich  
for the 31st Street Bookstore Cooperative ○

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



Now is the time for all good booksellers to come to the aid of their literature.... Nominations for the 6th Annual Lambda Literary Awards are due by Monday, February 7. This year's categories are Lesbian Fiction, Gay Men's Fiction, Lesbian Studies (read that "non-fiction"), Gay Men's Studies, Lesbian & Gay Anthologies, Lesbian Biography/Autobiography, Gay Men's Biography/Autobiography, Lesbian Mystery, Gay Men's Mystery, Lesbian and Gay Humor, Lesbian & Gay Science Fiction/Fantasy, Gay and Lesbian Drama,

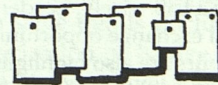


Lesbian Poetry, Gay Men's Poetry, Gay & Lesbian Small Press Book Award and Children/Young Adult. Nominations must have a 1993 copyright date and have been published in the United States. If all goes according to plan, nomination ballots will be included with this issue. Otherwise, write your nominations on any piece of paper and send to Lambda Literary Awards, 1625 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington DC 20009. Or Fax your vote: 202-462-7257. You may send in as many nomination forms as you want.

The National Women's Studies Association will meet June 15-19, 1994 at Iowa State University in Ames. The theme will be Teaching, Theory and Action: Women Working in a Global Perspective. Accommodations include air-conditioned rooms on campus for \$12.50. For information about exhibiting contact Kris Anderson (515-294-3373) or Wendy Kolmar (201-408-5959) or write to NWSA '94, 105 Landscape Architecture, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011.

Stores that publish bibliographies on various topics may want to send copies to *Feminist Collections'* "Items of Note" column for announcements of their availability to the feminist library community. *Feminist Collections* is published by the office of the Women's Studies Librarian for the University of Wisconsin System. Send copies and cost and/or particulars such as SASE to Linda Shult, Feminist Collections, Women's Studies Librarian, 430 Memorial Library, 728 State St., Madison WI 53706.

Spinifex Press (Australia) is now represented by Michele Karlsberg Publicity Services in the U.S. Promotion for Sheila Jeffreys' *The Lesbian Heresy*, Susan Hawthorne's *The Falling Woman*, Rose Zwi's *Safe Houses*, and Lariane Fonseca's *If Passion Were A Flower* is now underway. Both Sheila Jeffreys and Susan Hawthorne will be visiting the U.S. in 1994. Booksellers interested in obtaining in-store promotional materials, a recent catalog, or any other information should contact Michele at 585 N. Railroad Ave., Penthouse, Staten Island NY 10304. Phone/fax 718-351-9599.



Doubleday is promoting the new Margaret Atwood title and encouraging book groups with its publication of *The Book Group Companion to Margaret Atwood's The Robber Bride*, the first in a series of publications in a campaign to support booksellers' involvement with reading groups. Margaret Atwood's novel was chosen to lead off the campaign, according to Marly Rusoff, "because she

*Continued on page 34*

# TRAVEL BOOKS FOR WOMEN FROM TWO FEMINIST PRESSES

## A JOURNEY OF ONE'S OWN

Uncommon Advice for the Independent Woman Traveler

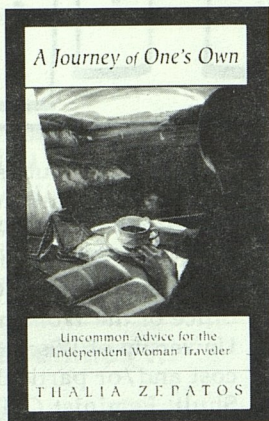
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—Pamela Robin Brandt, *New York Daily News* (co-author *Are You Two...Together?*)



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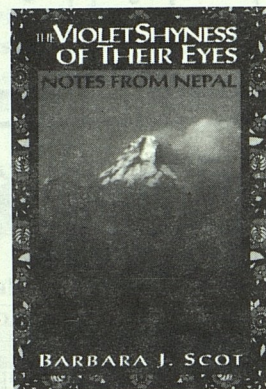
## THE VIOLET SHYNESS OF THEIR EYES: NOTES FROM NEPAL

by *Barbara J. Scot*

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# THE TRAVEL ISSUE



Welcome to FBN's Women & Travel Issue! Many thanks to all who contributed the ideas and articles that turned the issue into a reality.

We were intrigued, as we began this project, to discover the range of feminist bookstores' responses to the idea of a travel section. New Words provided us with a travel section bestseller list and many good ideas. Thirtyfirst Street offers a good look at the importance and ramifications of having a travel section — and of getting out of the bookstore and into the wilderness. Many stores sell the lesbian travel guides but don't have a special section for women's travel and adventure books.

The consensus among the booksellers who have travel sections is that creating a travel section creates (or discovers) a market. Stay-at-homes like reading travel adventure as much (or more) than women who travel. Travel writing is a growing genre — and travel books are affordable when long trips are not.

Regardless of reason, women's travel books are selling. Travel guides for women suddenly interest U.S. publishers. Virago's travel guides for women are being re-written for American readers and are being published in the States by Ulysses and Book Passage. The Feminist Press will be releasing the first translations from Frauenoffensive's series in 1994.

Highlights of the issue include:

- Suggested titles for a Travel and Adventure Section
- Women's adventure and travel books
- Wilderness trips, writing and women's culture

- Brief histories of the most popular women's travel guides and the new women's travel series
- A look at travel magazines
- Articles on publishing travel books from Seal Press and Eighth Mountain Press
- Unconventional "travel assistance" from University Presses
- Travel bestsellers
- Gay Lit and From the Small Presses also feature travel titles.

Most of the books featured in this issue are contemporary travel books. We made a decision not to pursue historic travel literature this time out. Much of the historic travel literature promotes an intense "us" versus "them" mystique — Africa, for example, is presented as the extreme Other, the "dark continent," enigmatic and wild and is, in practice if not intent, colonialist literature. Unfortunately, too much of what's currently being sold as travel literature follows the same trends (including the silencing and romanticization of Native peoples). But a great deal of the historic travel literature is also by women who daringly broke through the conventions of their times and heroically explored universes generally forbidden to women. As always, the contradictions are challenging, exciting, and consciousness-raising. How do we encourage our customers to read historic work with contemporary consciousness?

Happy reading!  
— DLM and CS

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# TRAVEL GUIDES FOR WOMEN



## WGP Continues Gaia's Tradition

By Zoé

*Women Going Places...* to travel or not to travel... but what was the question? It all began nearly twenty odd years ago, really, with a wonderfully eccentric visionary named Sandy Horn who started *GAIA's Guide*, opening doors to women's ventures across America and later, the world. The first ever guide for women seeking the company of... other women. How long ago it seems, or does it? Then again all good things must come to an end, or must they? *GAIA* retired in 1991/92, saying "Th-th-th-th-that's all folks..." But was it? Yes and no.

To quote Sally Miller Gearhart, *Women Going Places: The Complete Guide to International Travel* is "the undisputed sequel to Sandy Horn's *GAIA's Guide*, this book carries on the spirit of our ever expanding horizons. If we are to develop the International Network of Women that so many of us envision (The Global Wanderground?) then this book is a 'must' for the suitcase of every woman-loving-woman." *Women Going Places* has over 700 pages of entries: Women's Enterprises, Women's Festivals, Women Tour Operators, Women's Hotels and B&Bs, Women's Centers, Women's Bookstores,

Women's Bars, Women's Fitness/Defense Studios, Women's Health & Counseling Centers, Doctors, Lawyers, etc., etc. And to quote Janice Perry, comedienne extraordinaire: "This guide is required reading for any woman going anywhere... who else



anticipates my needs before I do?" Hats off to Sandy Horn. But, the spirit continues. The 2nd Edition of *Women Going Places* is due out Spring of 1994. Get there in style.

Zoé is the publisher and editor of Women Going Places. She is the compelling force behind the success of this "Complete Guide to International Travel." Women Going Places, 141 Praed Street, London W2 1RL, UK. Distributed in the U.S. and Canada by Inland.

—DLM ○

## 12 Years Publishing of Lesbian Guide

By Marianne Ferrari, publisher

Feminist life and lesbian life have come a long way since we started publishing the *Places of Interest to Women* travel guide in 1981. At that time, all that existed was the beginnings of a network of women's bookstores, a few women's festivals, and a few women's bars.



Now, we live in a well-upholstered world, which not only has numerous women's bookstores and nightclubs, but a panoply of local organizations. Our roster of women's festivals worldwide now numbers 28, and is still growing.

In fact, a woman can now choose whether to go on an all-women's Caribbean cruise, a safari in Africa, or a writing retreat in New Mexico. These are only some of the truly incredible diversity of

vacation options which are now available. And these days, a women's bed and breakfast might be noteworthy because of its gourmet breakfast, or its lovely decor, but no longer simply because it exists.

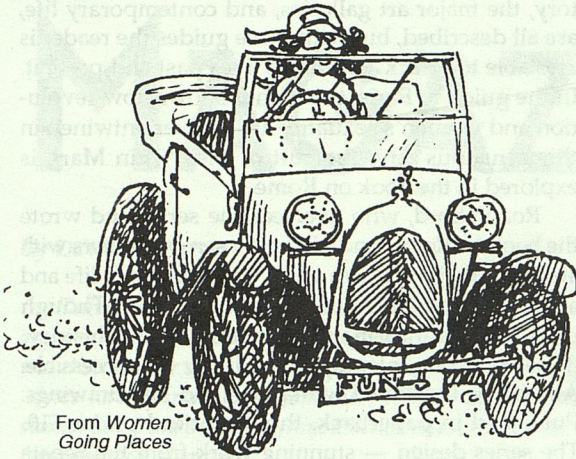
I am detail-oriented, a good quality for a keeper of lists, and I've had to become more so, as the volume of detail we handle has increased each year. From the start, we have operated under one absolute rule: No matter how successful we become, we will keep the information accurate and current with the same zeal we demonstrated in our very first edition.

Three of the four travel guides we publish are of interest to women. Ferrari's *Places For Women* (originally entitled *Places of Interest to Women*) is the comprehensive women's guide I've been discussing above. In addition to being a trustworthy reference for listings of bars, retail stores and organizations, it is also a comprehensive source for information on women's tours, cruises, special events and outdoor adventure trips. Last year, the tours section contained 99 pages, illustrated with photos and describing available cruises, worldwide tours, canoeing, rafting, skiing, scuba diving, horse packing, women's festivals, lesbian/gay rodeos, writing retreats in remote areas, and myriad other options for women travelers. The calendar at the end of the section makes it possible to see what kinds of trips are available on specific dates.

*Inn Places*, whose 1994 edition was just published, provides detailed descriptions and factual information about women's, gay/lesbian and gay-friendly inns, B&Bs and hotels worldwide, including a special camping and RV section. This book also includes a Special Women's Index, where you can find women's accommodations in any city or area.

In 1993, Ferrari's *Places of Interest* completely redefined the gay and lesbian guide format. We contacted the gay and lesbian press around the world and asked each to contribute feature articles about gay and lesbian life in its area. Geographically placed throughout the listings are 73 articles covering lesbian and gay life in places as far-flung as South Africa, Finland and Ireland, and as near as St. Louis, New York and Los Angeles. Never before have so many voices been combined in one place to enlighten a lesbian or gay traveler about potential destinations.

The combination of articles and accurate listings with the incredible tours and events section, makes this book a truly useful vacation planner for lesbians and gays. People can now read the vacation planner at home to plan a trip, then carry the pocket-size women's or men's guides as a reference for the road. ○



From *Women Going Places*

## Frauenoffensive's Feminist Travel Series

German feminist publisher Frauenoffensive has been publishing a series of feminist travel books since 1988. Titles include *Italy for Women*, *Greece for Women*, etc. and cover Denmark/Iceland/ Greenland, The U.K., Holland, South America, China, and Africa. Forthcoming titles include *Australia for Women* and *India for Women*.

The books differ from the Virago series in that countries (or even larger areas), rather than cities are the focus. The goal is to provide useful information for women, including political and social history and context, cultural information, walking tours of interest to women as well as local resources such as women's bookstores, lesbian bars, rape crisis centers and understanding of and access to the various forms of the local feminist movement.

The good news for English-readers is that The Feminist Press and Pandora Press will be bringing out English language editions of these books beginning in 1995.

A special edition, *Australia for Women*, is in the works and should be available in good time for the International Feminist Book Fair in Australia. It will be published in Australia by Spinifex and it's unclear as we go to press if Spinifex or The Feminist Press will have U.S. rights. Word is that an edition on India is in the early stages, be published in India by Kali for Women. The Feminist Press will have the U.S. edition. —CS ○

## Virago's Guides for Women Travelers

*"Cities, like dreams, are made of desires and fears"*

— Italo Calvino

By Lennie Goodings

Virago/London

The big city. Behind its facades, around every corner, in street cafes, lie surprise, excitement, delight — and for women, potential harassment and even danger. Cultural taboos and physical vulnerability have always made it more difficult for women to travel on their own or with other women. The traditional response to this problem has been to recommend that women cocoon themselves in expensive, safe hotels and see the city on a guided tour — strictly by day.

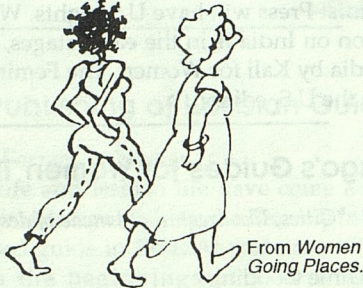
Enter Virago Women's Travel Guides, for women traveling alone, for women traveling with their families and for business women — in fact, for any woman who travels with curiosity, interest and enthusiasm.

As the publishers of intrepid 19th century women travelers such as Isabella Bird, Mary Kingsley and Isabelle Eberhardt, we were instantly receptive to a letter from one Ros Belford, who outlined her idea to commission a series of women's guides to the major cities.

Ros Belford, now the series editor, is the author of five *Rough Guides* and *Holiday Which?* books. Aged 30 and a passionate traveler, who has been traveling alone and with friends since she was 18, she believes that "if women are armed with the right advice and information, they can go virtually anywhere, and delve as deeply into a city as they want." A series deal was struck with her agent Vivienne Schuster and off we went.

An initial cast around the Virago office of 20 women revealed these guides to be much needed. All of us could quote holiday tales ranging from the

hilarious to the harrowing. More research revealed that existing travel books are general when it comes to information of particular relevance to women, and most perpetuate the myth that solo women should beware the big city.



From *Women Going Places*.

The far more admirable *Women Travel* (Harrap Columbus) is excellent, but its scope is very broad, aiming to cover the world, and it consists of personal accounts of travel. No one has done in-depth work for women on the major cities. Everyone we bounced the idea off — the buyers and the marketing people at Stanfords, other travel publishers, general and feminist book shops, foreign publishers and friends — came back with a positive response. It was becoming clear that this was one of those big ideas.

As the mother of a young child (with a highly developed radar system letting me know when we are not wanted) I was especially delighted with the intention to include special sections for children that would list welcoming hotels and restaurants, places to go and things to do. The fact that business travel for women is on the increase has not been properly reflected in guides, so our guides will provide relevant facts for those women too. The Random Century European representatives, who carry our list, are only the first women to warm to this innovation.

Specific information is the key. These guides take women through the streets, public transport systems, and the maze of local customs and rules. They recommend hotels and describe the neighbourhoods in which they're located, and suggest restaurants and bars where women alone or with another woman will feel welcome and comfortable.

They warn readers of the local dress code, and enlighten them on the local code for *amour*. Should you be invited to see Florence by night from the Piazzale Michelangelo, for example, you'll know what you're in for...

But the guides go beyond practical matters. They provide a window on women's lives in each country. As well as describing the attitudes to women in that society — for it is only through understanding a woman's "place" in each city that women travelers can understand their own experiences — these guide books also look at culture from a woman's point of view. The more traditional history, the major art galleries, and contemporary life, are all described, but with these guides the reader is also able to "track" women's lives past and present. In the guide to Paris, the author shows how revolution and women's sexuality are forever entwined in this sensuous city; the cult of the Virgin Mary is explored in the book on Rome.

Ros Belford, who oversees the series and wrote the book on Rome, and I have chosen the writers with an eye to their ability to write well about city life and art as well as their ability to travel well. Though packed with information, anecdotes and history, these books are intended to be lively and accessible. All will be illustrated with maps and line drawings. Published in paperback, they're priced under £10. The series design — stunning work from the Senate — centres on a woman's eye, each showing a detail from a painting of an eye which reflects that city.

The series was launched with guide books to Rome, New York, Paris and Amsterdam — the most popular cities visited by British travelers. This year we continue the series with guides to London, Amsterdam and San Francisco to be published in March. Two additional titles are scheduled for 1995. We expect to have great fun, and a few bon voyages...

RDR Books has recently acquired U.S. rights to the Virago woman's travel guides, effective spring 1994 with the release of guides to San Francisco, Amsterdam and London. The Virago travel guides were formerly published by Ulysses Press in the U.S. but are now part of RDR's imprint, Book Passage Press, a joint venture between RDR Books and The Book Passage (Bookstore) in Corte Madera, California. —DLM ○



# TRAVEL MAGAZINES ♀

By Dawn L. Martin

*Travel magazines are certainly a helpful resource for anyone thinking about going anywhere. They enhance a travel section or spice up a magazine rack. The following 'zines have particularly feminist, lesbian and/or gay slants. Some are available from distributors, others direct from the publisher only.*

**SHE Travels: A Magazine Dedicated to Women and Travel** has just published its introductory issue which focuses on women's travel writing. **SHE Travels'** goal is to "inspire women to challenge conventional definitions of travel and share their insights with other women." The 'zine is rather short, so far — 18 pages, but provides a wealth of information leaning more on the philosophical side of women's travel, than the practical. This first issue included an in-depth discussion on the benefits of owning a Moss Outland 4-Season Tent, a history of women and travel, a review of



*Wayward Women: A Guide to Women Travelers* by Jane Robinson (Oxford University Press), and a recipe for Party Beef Brisket. ISSN 1195-6119. SHE Travels, Box 6142, Whitehorse Yukon CANADA Y1A 5L7.

**Out & About: Essential Information for the Gay Traveler** caught my eye as a good, solid and, most importantly, honest magazine with a lot of information and no distracting photos of happy westerners taking snapshots of a native woman squatting by the river. **Out & About** is not afraid of



controversy. The cover story of the issue I read was about Palm Springs, but the editor's letter acknowledges his "mixed feelings about Palm Springs as a cover story." He goes on to say that he "doesn't find Palm Springs a compelling destination." Nevertheless, the traveler is given guest houses ratings in great detail, an interesting article on sex and travel entitled "Playing Safe When You Meet a Stranger," information on what gay publications you should pick up in the Palm Springs area. An article about the Colorado Boycott did more than encourage people to boycott — it listed a number of useful and affirmative things travelers and stay-at-homes could do to fight Amendment Two. There's also a gay and lesbian travel calendar that is pretty international and includes a variety of trips for women. This particular issue of **Out & About**, however, seemed to have more information for gay men. Both the editor and the publisher are men, though there are a couple of women on the production staff.

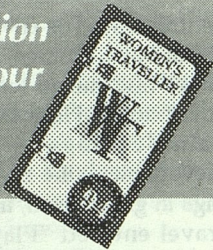
# WOMEN'S TRAVELLER



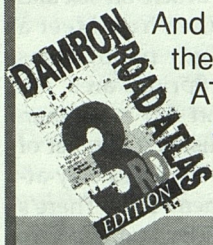
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ISSN 1066-7776. Out & About, 542 Chapel Street,  
New Haven CA 06511. Distributed by Inland.

**Our World: International Gay & Lesbian Travel** is a glossy 'zine that provides an abundance of information, well worth the \$4.95 that customers will pay. In the issue I looked at, there was a wonderful article about Florida that included information about several lesbian/gay friendly and predominately gay resorts; Florida is a huge state, but **Our World** manages to cover a wide area from Key West to Tampa, from Miami to Daytona Beach, and most everywhere in between. There's also a lovely article entitled "Fahrenheit: Where the Girls Are" that gives a pretty complete guide to finding women's guest houses, bars/dance clubs, restaurants, publications and other entertainment. This was the kind of information I needed at the last ABA! Good information is given about other desti-



nations, as well. The 'zine also offers a Women's Travel Hotline for destinations like the Caribbean, Malaysia, India and Egypt, that gives brief descriptions of women-only trips. ISSN 1044-6699. Our World, 1044 North Nova Road, Suite 251, Daytona Beach FL 32117. Distributed by Inland.

Wander Women is a travel and adventure networking organization for women over 40. They publish a quarterly newsletter called **Journal 'n Footnotes**, an informational source for a myriad of travel aspects. The newsletter also provides a forum for women to share their travel experiences. The twelve-page journal seeks to inspire women to pursue new adventures and travel experiences. Membership in the organization is \$29 per year and entitles women to receive the membership directory, the newsletter, many travel and adventure discounts and opportunities to meet other traveling women. For a sample copy, send \$1 to cover postage and handling to Wander Women, 136 N. Grand Ave., #237, West Covina CA 91791.

Graphics by Diane DiMassa. O

## WILDERNESS &amp; ADVENTURE BOOKS

# WOMEN FORGE NEW TERRITORY



By Barb Wieser  
Amazon Bookstore

There aren't a lot of wilderness adventure books written by women about women, but the few that are out there are worth stocking. Seal Press has published several good books in their outdoor women series. I especially recommend two of the books that they picked up from the now defunct Bergamot Books — but I'm a bit prejudiced being the former publisher of Bergamot Books and co-editor of one of the titles.



**Rivers Running Free: Stories of Adventurous Women** edited by Judith Niemi and Barbara Wieser is a one-of-a-kind collection of mostly canoe stories from 1900 to the present. You'll find all sorts of women in this book, from the Arctic explorer to the

suburban mom out for her first weekend trip away from the husband. I grew to love all of these women while putting together the anthology. \$14.95 pb, 1-878067-22-2, Seal.

**Down the Wild River North** by Constance Helmericks is a reissue of a book first published in 1965, shortened from the original 500 pages to a more readable 300. **Down the Wild River North** is the first-hand account of a single mother who takes her two teenaged daughters on a two-summer 3000-mile canoe trip through the Canadian Arctic. \$12.95 pb, 1-878067-28-1, Seal.

**Uncommon Waters: Women Write About Fishing** edited by Holly Norris. According to publisher Barbara Wilson, this book is one of Seal's best selling titles in the series. And no wonder—where else can you read about women and fishing in the same book? There are famous writers included — Margaret Atwood, Audre Lorde, Linda Hogan — and not-so-famous. "A wonderful literary answer to why women have gone and will always go fishing." \$14.95 pb, 1-878067-10-9, Seal.

**Leading Out: Women Climbers Reaching for the Top** edited by Rachel da Silva is another one-of-a-kind collection from Seal. The only other book about the history of women climbing that I know about is written by a man — really! I know this book was a long time in the making, and the result is worth the wait — a wide-ranging anthology that

covers everything from writings by climbing foremothers to modern-day scalers of the world's highest peak. And much of the writing is of high quality, a frequent shortcoming of anthologies. I particularly liked Maureen O'Neill's piece, "Queen of All She Surveys," written about her long-time climbing companion who died in a fall two years ago. \$16.95, 1-878067-20-6, Seal.



One of my current favorites in the women adventure genre is **Polar Dream: The Heroic Saga of the First Solo Journey by a Woman and Her Dog to the Pole** by Helen Thayer. This book is not particularly

well-written — it's of the I-did-this and then-I-did-that school of adventure writing — but what a story! **Polar Dream** is what you can recommend to a customer who wants a gift for someone turning 50 who thinks her life is over. Helen Thayer, at the age of 53, skied 300 miles to the magnetic North Pole, alone, pulling a 200-pound sled, battling storms, 40 degrees below zero, polar bears, and her own self-discipline. Not a laid back kind of gal. \$22 cl, 671-79386-1, Simon & Schuster.

Another book on that same topic (inspiring older women) that is well-written and funny is **Shooting the Boh: A Woman's Voyage Down the Wildest River in Borneo** by Tracy Johnston. This is the tale of journalist Johnston's rafting trip on a previously unrafted river in central Borneo. The trip organizers had assumed that they could hire local people for guides — only to find that the people who lived along the river refused to navigate it under any circumstances and thought the entire idea was insane and would lead to a watery death. Obviously the crew did make it out since Johnston survived to tell the story, but it was *the* "trip from hell," complete with swarming bees, unrunnable rapids, flood waters that rise 20 feet in four hours, and the author's first hot flash there in the heat of the rain forest. But through it all she keeps her sense of humor — at least in the telling of the tale — and that's what makes this book so enjoyable. \$11 pb, 679-74010-4, Vintage.

A book I'm just starting to read that looks interesting is **Beyond the Limits: A Woman's Triumph on Everest** by Stacy Allison with Peter Carlin. **Beyond the Limits** is the story of the first American

woman to reach the summit of Mt. Everest; but what really caught my eye about the book is that it is also the story of her leaving an abusive marriage. I'm always a little leery of climbing books — the conquering mentality jars my wilderness sensibilities — but despite the jacket cover claiming just that, so far **Beyond the Limits** has been a thoughtful and absorbing story of a woman infused with a passion for climbing who's trying to find herself along the way. I'm distressed, though, by her lack of attention and sensitivity to the Nepali people and culture she encountered along the way. \$21.95 cl, 0-316-03468-1, Little Brown.

Of course, the all-time classic women's climbing book is **Annapurna: A Woman's Place** by Arlene Blum. First published in 1980, this book thankfully continues to remain in print. It vividly tells the story of the 1978 American Women's Himalayan Expedition, an expedition in which two of the women died. I read this book many years ago, but I don't think I'll ever forget the scenes on the high slopes of Annapurna. \$16 pb, 0-87156-806-3, Sierra Club Books.



None of the mass market publishers have had much interest in women adventure books, but Dell has decided to be adventurous themselves and publish **Arctic Daughter: A Wilderness Journey** by Jean Aspen. Aspen is one of the teenaged daughters in *Down the Wild River North* — but now an adult off on her own adventures, this time with a husband in tow. They paddle up a river in Alaska intending to build a cabin and "live off the land." They barely survive, but it makes for an absorbing story along with Aspen's appreciation for the beauty of the northern wilderness. \$5.99 pb, 0-440-212291, Dell.

### And just off the press:

**The Violet Shyness of Their Eyes: Notes from Nepal** by Barbara J. Scot. No, this isn't another trekking book about Nepal. Instead it is the experience of an American woman as a volunteer teacher in Nepal and what she learns about herself and "her county" in the process. A beautifully written memoir by a woman who understands the gift of living in another culture. \$12.95 pb, 0-934971-35-8. Calyx. ○



Making Journeys

# WOMEN AND THE OUTDOORS

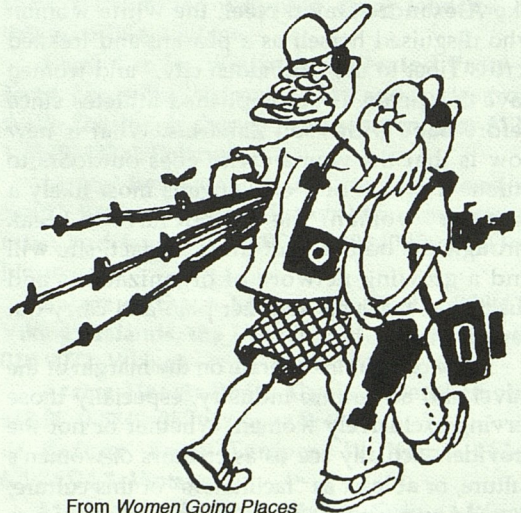


By Jennie Boyd Bull  
31st Street Bookstore/Baltimore MD

As a bookstore manager, life is sedentary, with major outdoor time limited to Mondays off. So, in September 1993 I went on a trip with Her Wild Song, Wilderness Trips for Women. Fourteen of us women spent a week backpacking along the Appalachian Trail through the 100-mile wilderness in Maine, ending at the top of Mt. Katahdin. The beauty, silence and majesty of the wilderness and the warmth, light and gentleness of the women combined with my own internal goals and joys to create an unforgettable experience that gave me a renewed self-confidence and trust in my body and my abilities. So, it is with excitement that I share these resources about women outdoors, wilderness trips and adventure travels for women.

Several years ago, 31st Street Bookstore created an "ecofeminism" section, with theory, memoirs and fiction about women and nature. Within the past year it has expanded to include a Women Outdoors section focusing of women's wilderness travel and adventure books, including classic, current resources, and a growing genre of "spiritual

quest" travel books by women. Some of these are listed here, by category. If you want to make information about groups like Her Wild Song available



From *Women Going Places*

in your store, consult Ferrari's *Places of Interest to Women*, "Tour Operators" and "Outdoor Adventures" sections. *Woodswomen News*, a free quarterly tabloid published by one of the larger groups, also includes

resources other than their own trips. Write *Woodswomen*, 25 West Diamond Lake Rd., Minneapolis MN 55419 or call 612-822-3809. *Sojourner*, Boston's excellent newspaper, has a large "Travel and Adventure" advertising section. The groups listed are all happy to send their materials for posting on your travel bulletin board. 31st

Street's board is located near the women outdoors books and also includes information on women's music festivals (another kind of outdoors!). We also have a resource notebook with travel brochures and bed and breakfast information.

So... stock the books, post the brochures, help the customers with travel plans, and maybe some-

## WOMEN'S MOVEMENT MOVES OUT

By Anne Dellenbaugh

A group of women raft the Grand Canyon; a woman sails along the coast of Nova Scotia; another woman teaches others how to mush dogs across a frozen lake. Women are scaling mountains and precipitous rock-face; we are skiing, biking, running, practicing Zen-style archery, riding the luge and much more. And whatever we do, we write about it. Someone among us will have the urge to tell, to let other women know that this is possible, that they, too, can dive with the fish, or fly with geese.

There have always been women adventurers, like Alexandra David Neel, the white woman who disguised herself as a peasant and trekked across Tibet to the "forbidden city," and women have competed as accomplished athletes since before Babe Didrikson Zaharias. What is new now is that the woman who goes outdoors to pursue a dream or a challenge is most likely a "regular" woman. She did not have to break through the odds to get there. In fact, she will find a growing network of organizations and businesses that will help her plan and carry out her adventure.

These companies operate on the margin of the travel and adventure industry, especially those serving exclusively women. Whether or not the providers actually see us as creators of women's culture, or at least as "facilitators" of this culture, I would suggest that this is exactly what we are. Besides opening up new areas of exploration for women, we offer women a place to come together for a week or so, just to be. After one memo-

orable trip this past winter in which a woman told her story of escape from a battering husband just months before, I came to understand the potential "consciousness-raising" factor on a women's wilderness trip.

Many women who seek an outdoor adventure are creating for themselves a way to move through some kind of change in their lives. (Here I am reflecting what I have seen in my own work, not any official study, or the like.) They come on a trip, or take up a new sport in much the same way they might have, at another time, joined a women's group. They are changing the structure of their world, beginning in a very concrete, physical way. This is, of course, not always true, and there is much to be said for the "fun factor" on these adventures. Paraphrasing Emma Goldman, if you can't laugh on an outing, choose another one. But even if we are laughing our heads off, or dancing (or hiking) 'til our feet ache, this is still a revolution.

And community and women's bookstores are very much a part of the network. What I am getting at here is a plug for commitment on the part of women's bookstores to be a center for this new part of women's culture. The movement of women into the outdoors is exactly that: a vital piece of women's movement — spirited, compelling and transformative. So, I conclude with a plea: please stock the books listed at the end of this article; please have a place where information and brochures from women's businesses and outdoor companies can be posted or displayed. Please help us to "spread the word" about this part of the women's movement. ○

day soon you too will get away from your desk to a wilderness journey — and even get to write about it.

## Resources

**The Outdoor Woman: A Handbook to Adventure**, Patricia Hubbard and Stan Weiss. Comprehensive introduction for women, describing a wide range of activities. \$14.95, 0-94236136-9, Mastermedia Books.

**Ferrari's Places of Interest for Women**. \$12, 0-94258644-1.

**A Journey of One's Own: Uncommon Advice for the Independent Woman Traveler**, Thalia Zapatos. Includes a listing of Adventure Travel organizations and other resources. \$14.95, 0-93337720-7, Eighth Mountain.

**Going Off the Beaten Path: Untraditional Travel Guide to the U.S.**, Mary Dymond Davis. \$15.95, 1-8796001-2, Noble Press.

**Eco Vacations: Enjoy Yourself and Save the Earth**, Evelyn Kaye. A very thorough guide. \$19.95, 0-962623111-3, Blue Penguin.

**Bike Tripping**, Tom Cuthbertson. "The book about how to have good trips on a bike." \$7.95, 0-89815123-6, Ten Speed Press.



## Classics

Seal Press' Women Outdoors series is in a league all its own. They have reprinted several classics and published anthologies of women and sports never before available (see article elsewhere).

**Down the Wild River North**, Constance Helmericks. \$12.95.

**The Curve of Time**, M. Wylie Blanchet. \$12.95.

**Rivers Running Free: Stories of Adventurous Women**, Judith Niemi and Barbara Wieser, eds. \$14.95.

**Uncommon Waters: Women Write About Fishing**, Holly Morris, ed. \$14.95.

**Water's Edge: Women Who Push the Limits in Rowing, Kayaking and Canoeing**, Linda Lewis. \$14.95.

**Leading Out: Women Climbers Reaching for the Top**, Rachel da Silva, ed. \$16.95.

**My Journey to Lhasa**, Alexandra David-Neel. New edition. \$14, 0-80705903-X, Beacon Press.

**Annappurna: A Woman's Place**, Arlene Blum. \$16, 0-87156806-3, Sierra Club Books.

**Women Climbing: 200 Years of Achievement**, Bill Birkett and Bill Peascod. Biographies of 13 women climbers and stats. \$14.95, 0-87386240-x, The Mountaineers, Seattle WA.

**Passionate Quests: Five Modern Women Travelers**, Sonia Melchett. Derula Murphy, bicyclist; Monica Kristensen, Arctic trekker; Clare Francis, ocean sailing; Christina Dodwell, horseback; and Elaine Brook, mountain climbing. \$13.95, 0-57112946-3, Faber and Faber.

**Maiden Voyages: Writings of Women Travelers**, Mary Morris, ed. Over 50 women, both past and contemporary, including many well known authors and adventurers. A wonderful resource! \$14, 0-67974030-9, Vintage.

**Beyond Black Bear Lake** (\$8.95, 0-39330539-2, WW Norton), **Woodswoman** (\$10.95, 0-14015334-9, Penguin) and **Mama Poc** (\$10.95, 0-39330800-6, Norton) all by Anne LaBastille, legendary ecologist.

## Current Writing

**Shooting the Boh: A Woman's Voyage Down the Wildest River in Borneo**, Tracy Johnston. \$11, 0-679-74010-4, Vintage.

**Land Circle: Writings Collected From the Land**, Linda Hasselstrom. Essays and poetry from a South Dakota rancher and environmentalist. \$12.95, 1-55591142-0, Fulcrum.

**Living By Water: Essays on Life, Land and Spirit**, Brenda Peterson. Essays by an environmentalist and feminist. \$9.95, 0-88240400-8, Alaska Northwest.

**Solace of Open Spaces** (\$9 pb, 014-008-1135, Viking). **Islands, the Universe, Home** (\$11 pb, 014-010-9072, Viking).

**Arctic Heart: Poem Cycle**, Gretel Ehrlich. \$12.95, 0-88496357-8, Capra Press.

**Refuge**, Terry Tempest Williams. \$11, 0-67974024-4, Vintage.

**Mother Earth: Through the Eyes of Women Photographers and Writers**, Judith Boice, ed. There's also a calendar and postcard set of this beautiful picture book. \$20 pb, 0-87156566-0, Sierra Club Books.

**The Fruitful Darkness: Reconnecting with the Body of the Earth**, Joan Halifax. A Buddhist deep ecologist writes of her spiritual journeys. \$18 cl, 0-06250369-3, Harper.

**Living with the Land: Communities Restoring the Earth**, Christine Meyer and Faith Moosang. Anthology from New Catalyst Bioregional Series. \$9.95, 1-55092-193-2, New Society Publishers. Also **Circles of Strength: Community Alternatives to Alienation**, Helen Forsey, ed., from same series. \$9.95.

**Amazon Dream**, Roberta Allen. A woman's journey into the Peruvian Amazon. \$9.95 pb, 0-87286270-4, City Lights.



## Fiction

**Sisters of the Earth**, Lorraine Anderson, ed. Superb anthology of women's writings about nature. \$13, 0-67973382-5, Vintage.

**With a Fly's Eye, Whale's Wit and Woman's Heart** (\$9.95, 0-93941625-5) and **And a Deer's Ear, Eagle's Song and Bear's Grace** (\$9.95, 0-93941639-5) both by Theresa Corrigan and Stephanie Hoppe, eds. Cleis Press. Anthologies of Animals and Women.

**Beyond the Mountain**, Elizabeth Arthur. A woman's internal challenges as part of a women's mountain climbing expedition in Nepal. \$11, 1-55597171-7, Graywolf Press.

**The Fifth Sacred Thing**, Starhawk. Well written futuristic novel with strong environmental, bioregional, nonviolent and feminist perspective. \$21.95, 0-553-09522-6, Bantam.

**Mundane's World**, Judy Grahn. In this classic, now available directly from Judy, each of the natural elements is given its own voice. Creative! \$10.95, Crossing Press. ○

What to do with all those travel fliers we get sent? I keep a large notebook with plastic pages and slip the fliers in. I date them so women know if the information is current. Customers seem to appreciate this service.

— Patty Callaghan  
Bright Books ○

## New Words' Travel Section Bestsellers

1. **1994 Places for Women**, Ferrari, \$12.00.
2. **Inn Places '93**, Ferrari, \$14.95.
3. **1993 Women Going Places**, Women Going Places, \$14.00.
4. **1993 Women's Traveller**, \$10.00.
5. **1993 Women's Places of Interest**, Ferrari, \$10.00.
6. **Journey of One's Own**, Eighth Mountain Press, \$14.95.
7. **Are You Two Together?**, Random House, \$18.00.
8. **Curve of Time**, Seal Press, \$12.95.
9. **Annapurna, A Woman's Place**, Sierra Club Books, \$16.00.
10. **Passionate Quests**, Faber & Faber, \$13.95.

## Announcements ... *Continued from page 19*

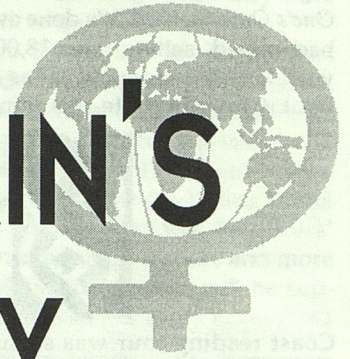
always has a subtext, an eye toward political and social issues. You can read the book for pure pleasure or for its more political meanings."

The readers' guide includes a list of Atwood's books, a brief biography, the text of her address to the ABA convention in May, a translation of the Brothers Grimm fable "the Robber Bridegroom, related poems by Atwood, and a list of suggested discussion topics for any groups that don't start talking the minute two or women who've read the book walk into the same room....

The guides are the brainchild of Doubleday associate publisher Marly Rusoff, a former bookseller, and this one, at least, is published as a Nan Talese/Doubleday book. Booksellers can use co-op money to purchase the 32-page guides for \$.50 each and then may either give them away with book purchase or sell them at any price they choose. Minimum order is 10 copies. Plexiglas stands that read "Recommended for Reading Groups" and display a discreet Doubleday logo are available for \$7. To order, contact your sales rep or Doubleday's co-op advertising department. If you don't have co-op funds available, send a check along with your order to The Robber Bride, Doubleday Marketing, 1540 Broadway, NY NY 10036. Include your account number and your Doubleday sales rep's name if you have one. ○

## Publishers' Columns

# 8TH MOUNTAIN'S TRAVEL STORY



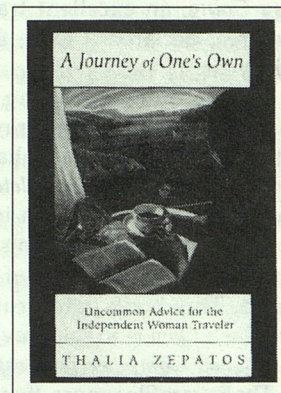
By Ruth Grundle

I had always envisioned the Eighth Mountain Press as being a feminist literary press and, indeed, the first eleven titles I published were either poetry, fiction or essays. But at some point, as the press blossomed and I quit my part-time job teaching sex discrimination at the law school to work full time at the press, I realized that Eighth Mountain had either to become a nonprofit corporation or to add a line of nonliterary nonfiction books to its list. I decided to do the latter and pondered many possible subjects — I wanted to publish books that were needed, that didn't already exist in *any* form and that interested me, of course. I didn't think of travel books.

Not long after that, I found out that Thalia Zepatos — whom I had known here in Portland through political circles for over a decade — was writing a book “for the independent woman traveler.” I discovered this when I tracked her down in Mexico to see if she would be interested in collaborating on a book about women and politics that I was considering publishing. She wasn't, but she told me about her book-in-progress. When she sent me the proposal (which expertly analyzed the market, the possibilities for promotion, and the surprising gap that this book would fill) right away, I could see that this was *it*. Travel books for women. A wonderfully alluring topic, a huge market, and possibilities for publishing very feminist books that could “cross over” into a larger-than-feminist audi-

ence. I loved the book, needless to say, even in its embryo stages.

But there was a hitch. She already had an agent and the proposal was circulating among New York publishers. I told her over a bad phone connection that I was *very* interested and to call me if she didn't make a deal with the big guys. I waited patiently for many months until the phone call



came. Two major publishers had wanted it — but one would take it only without the travel stories and the other would take it only if it were for men as well as women. Neither of those was the book Thalia wanted to write, so *A Journey of One's Own* became an Eighth Mountain book and the press was launched on its nonfiction specialty.

It's been an unusually happy small press story from the beginning. Thalia and I love working

together. And right from the start, *A Journey of One's Own* took off. It's done every bit as well as we had hoped, selling over 18,000 copies in its first year. It will be coming out as a Quality Paperback Book Club alternate this winter. A 25-city West



Coast reading tour was so successful that many stores asked her to come back again, within months of the first reading. Standing-room-only crowds bought every book in the store at several readings (at Elliot Bay in Seattle, Thalia even sold her reading copy to a desperate woman who was leaving the next day for parts unknown). It's been reviewed in most of the major newspapers, and recommended by as diverse groups as American Express, *Glamour*, *U.S. News and World Report* and *Travel Holiday*. Pamela Robin Brandt (co-author of *Are You Two...Together?*), reviewing it for *Newsday*, declared it to be "The best women's travel resource we've seen, ever." *Easy Going*, an excellent travel book store in the Bay Area, declared it to be their best-selling book of the year.

From this auspicious beginning, Eighth Mountain now plans to publish one travel title a year. For 1994, it is another book by Thalia Zepatos, *Adventures in Good Company: The Complete Guide to Women's Tours and Outdoor Trips* — an indispensable resource for any woman who wants to travel within the structure and convenience of a professionally led group. This book is to group travel what *A Journey of One's Own* is to solo travel.

*Adventures in Good Company* is, first of all, a resource guide: Thalia profiles more than 80 companies world-wide that offer trips for women, ranging from Lois Lane Expeditions to the WOMBATS (Women's Mountain Bike and Tea Society). She provides full information on their philosophy, number of years in business, qualifications of group leaders, types of trips offered, and typical cost, in an easy-to-use format. Travel programs tailored to lesbians, women and children, physically challenged women, large women and older women are

noted. Over 300 trips are described. Among those that intrigued me the most are: dog sledding under the full moon in the Arctic, riding the range and bringing in the cattle on an all-women's cattle ranch, and sailing to Tahiti.

But it is more than a complete listing of companies. Thalia has demystified, with her familiar warmth, humor and expertise, the burgeoning world of organized travel options for women. Chapters on bicycling, canoeing, sailing, rock climbing, kayaking, trekking, etc., encourage the reader to be adventurous and help her to choose a trip wisely. Leadership development programs, cultural exchange opportunities, meditation and educational tours are also highlighted.

Just as *A Journey of One's Own* is a unique addition to the travel book genre, combining advice, information, stories, resources, ideas and encouragement and emphasizing the "how" rather than the "where," so is *Adventures in Good Company* a unique addition to books about adventure trips. It, too, offers a rich mix of women's stories, information, advice and encouragement. And as a *feminist* book about group travel and adventure trips, it addresses women at every level of physical fitness and physical daring. Information is given to help



women who are older, overweight, or out of condition choose an activity that they can enjoy. The physical demands of each kind of trip are clearly explained and suggestions for getting in shape ahead of time are also provided. Trips for women and their children, for the physically challenged, for girls, etc., are listed. Thalia doesn't assume that you have to be young, in perfect health and fitness, or already skilled at the activity to enjoy an adventurous trip in the outdoors. She gives as much attention to the philosophy of the organization as to the destination of the trip.

We all know that women prefer to learn new outdoor skills, such as rock climbing, kayaking and sailing in the safe and supportive atmosphere of a

group of women. Any group experience — whether it's trekking Nepal with Sherpani women or cultural exchanges with Masai women, or rafting down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon — is more intimate, more freeing, in an all-women's group. Yet, until now, there has not been any resource for a woman who wants to take such a trip, to find out about what's available. So we expect *Adventures in Good Company* to do very well. Already the Today Show is planning to do a story on women's travel that centers on Thalia and both her books. They will be filming some trips from

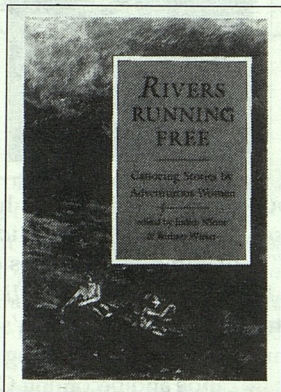
*Adventures* between now and May when they have scheduled the segment to air.

Which leads me to the second, but shorter part of this article: If you don't yet have a special section or shelf in your store for travel books, I would urge you to set one up right away. That's where book buyers are accustomed to look for travel books. There are enough out there now (including travel writing, guides, and sports books like Seal Press' wonderful series) to make a good section, and more are coming. Eighth Mountain, at least, will be supplying you with a very special one every year. ○

## Seal Press' Sports and Outdoors Series

By Holly Morris

In 1991 Seal Press launched an exciting new line of books that celebrates the achievements and experiences of women athletes and adventurers. The Women in Sports and the Outdoors Series now includes six titles and several more projects are underway. We are proud to be expanding the boundaries of the traditional outdoor and adventure travel genres, and helping to create new avenues for feminist writing. Made up of literary anthologies, personal memoirs and fascinating pro-



files of great female athletes, this groundbreaking series testifies to the large numbers of women who are enjoying and excelling in areas once considered the domain of men.

The glossy climbing magazines and numerous books that are published each year about rock climbing and mountaineering do not reflect the 40% of all climbers who are women. The omission of women's voice in climbing literature inspired *Leading Out: Women Climbers Reaching for the Top* edited by Seal Press co-founder and climber Rachel da Silva. *Leading Out* show us that "daring" can apply to the women who bucked convention in the 1800s by stashing their skirts under the nearest bush to make "manless" ascents in their bloomers, or daring can apply to today's women "rock jocks" who make heartpounding ascents up sheer mountain walls.

Sporting nun and noblewoman Dame Juliana Berners plucked her horse's tail, tied the first known fly fishing patterns and in 1421, penned the first writing on the subject of sport fishing. But women's writing has been absent from the huge canon of fishing literature that has developed in the five centuries since Dame Juliana's achievement. *Uncommon Waters: Women Write About Fishing*, edited by Holly Morris, has helped to remedy that by validating and celebrating the 18 million-plus women who fish nationwide. This premier anthology captures the meditative moments and bracing adventures of such noted writer/anglers as Tess Gallagher, Lorian Hemingway, Joan Wulff and Keri Hulme.

*Rivers Running Free: Canoeing Stories by Adventurous Women*, edited by Barbara Wieser of

Amazon Bookstore and Judith Niemi, is a spirited collection that spans a century of women's canoeing adventures. From tales of defiant ladies in long skirts sneaking through the canals of upstate New



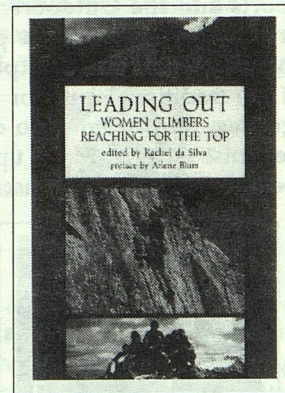
York in the 1920s, to contemporary back country wilderness expeditions, the stories in *Rivers Running Free* record the influence canoeing has had on women's lives and the personal boundaries it inspires us to explore and push beyond.

In 1993 we published two outdoor adventure books by mothers who, with their children, answered the call of the wild. A long-time Canadian classic, *The Curve of Time* by Muriel Wylie Blanchet is a lyrically written account of a woman who packed her five children onto a twenty-five-foot boat and explored the coastal waters of British Columbia in the 1920s and 1930s. With remarkably high spirits, Wylie Blanchet saw her family through exciting and sometimes perilous adventures and instilled in her children a deep respect for the native cultures of a region and a wonderment about the nature world.

Bored with her suburban life in Arizona after having homesteaded in the Arctic years earlier, Connie Helmericks announced one day in 1965 to her two teenaged daughters "I think, at last, we are going North." *Down the Wild River North* is Helmericks' memoir of her family's extraordinary Arctic adventure in a 20-foot canoe. The threesome navigated rapids and floating tree jams on the often flooded rivers, lived bugs, wind and mud, and reveled in the wondrous landscape and the invigorating freedoms that life in the wilderness offers.

The Seal Series also explores the worlds of high-level competition and team sports. In *Water's Edge: Women Who Push the Limits in Rowing, Kayaking and Canoeing* Linda Lewis profiles ten remarkable women who broke down barriers in sports, such as Ernestine Bayer, who founded the Philadelphia Girls Rowing Club in 1938 and still rows today at age 84.

This spring on baseball's traditional Opening Day, April 4, Seal is proud to publish *When Women Played Hardball* by Susan Johnson (author of *Staying Power: Long Term Lesbian Relationships*). This book celebrates a wonderful but short-lived era in the 1940s and 1950s in which more than 500 women participated in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League and proved beyond doubt that women can play hardball. A girlhood fan of the Rockford (Illinois) Peaches, the author returned to her home town to meet and talk with her heroines. Together they recall the sensational 1950 championship series between the Peaches and the Fort Wayne (Indiana) Daisies. As "Tiby" Eisen, leadoff batter and center fielder for the Daisies from 1944-1952 says, "We played ball just like the big boys, we



broke up double plays with spikes held high and we stole bases in our skirts. We did whatever it took to win." Illustrated with photos and memorabilia, *When Women Played Hardball* celebrates a unique chapter in sports and women's history.

Women are scaling rock, finessing trout, exploring the Arctic by canoe and becoming Olympic champions. Their stories — our stories — can now be heard in these inspiring and entertaining new books. Whether you're an armchair adventurer or a sports enthusiast, these books will expand your world. ○



# UNCONVENTIONAL TRAVEL ASSISTANCE

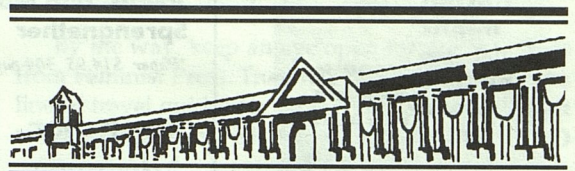
## From University Presses

Compiled by Mev Miller  
(With inspiration from Kris Hoover)

When I discovered this issue of *FBN* would be focusing on travel, my initial thought was "Well, this will be a short column!!" After all, travel is generally not a big topic for university presses. Then my mind went on a tangent, as it often wants to do. Sometimes when women travel, they try to read something about the place where they are going. It's not enough to know where the most comfortable hotel is located or where to get a good breakfast. Adventurous travelers want to know the history and political background of the places to which they are traveling. Keeping that in mind, these are some new and current titles you may want to suggest to your customers to accompany their *Places of Interest*.



A number of titles focus on history and culture. **Mother Russia** by Joanna Hubbs is now available in paperback from Indiana University Press. Using historical, mythological, and literary materials, Hubbs explores why the feminine myth of "Mother Russia" is so strong in Russian culture (\$12.95 pb, 0-253-20842-4). For those traveling to Egypt, **Women in Ancient Egypt** by Gay Robins may prove helpful in deciding where to visit. Through archaeological information, Robins offers a look at women nearly 5,000 years ago in Egyptian culture thus providing a new perspective on the history and culture of mod-

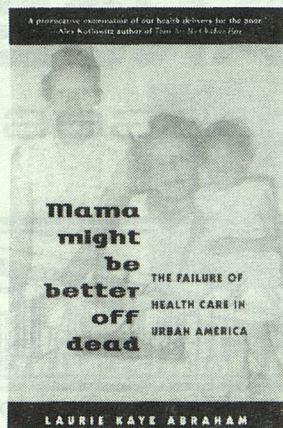


ern Egypt (\$18.95 pb, 0-674-95469-6, Harvard). Of more current interest would be **Writing Women's Worlds: Bedouin Stories** by Lila Abu-Lughod. These are contemporary stories that draw on anthropological and feminist insights into the experience of living in an Egyptian Bedouin community (\$12 pb, 0-520-08304-0, Nov., University of California). **Women in Middle Eastern History** edited by Nikki Keddie and Bath Baron may offer more than any traveler would want to know about Middle Eastern history and the shift in boundaries related to sex and gender (\$16.95 pb, 0-300-05697-4, Yale).

For those traveling to Minnesota (to visit me or Amazon Bookstore??), there are two titles to keep in mind. **Portage Lake: Memories of an Ojibwa Childhood** by Maude Kegg (edited and transcribed by John Nichols) is not to be missed. This is a bilingual (Ojibwa/English) collection of stories recorded by Nichols between 1971-1986. They are lyrical stories and memories of building wigwams, boiling maple sap into sugar, and harvesting turtles and wild rice. They provide a fascinating view of traditional Anishinaabe life (\$16.95 pb, 0-8166-2415-1, University of Minnesota Press).

**What This Awl Means: Feminist Archaeology at a Wahpeton Dakota Village** by Janet Spector is a

# CHICAGO



## Mama Might be Better Off Dead

*The Failure of Health Care in Urban America*

**Laurie Kaye Abraham**

"Goes to the heart of today's problem. . . . Powerful . . . deeply searching."—Victor Cohn, *The New Republic*

Cloth \$22.50 288 pages

## Feminist Morality

*Transforming Culture, Society, and Politics*

**Virginia Held**

*With a Foreword by Catharine R. Stimpson*

\*Paper \$17.95 298 pages  
*Women in Culture and Society series*

## Revising the Word and the World

*Essays in Feminist Literary Criticism*

**Edited by Vève A. Clark, Ruth-Ellen B. Joeres, and Madelon Sprengnether**

\*Paper \$14.95 304 pages

## Improper Advances

*Rape and Heterosexual Conflict in Ontario, 1880-1929*

**Karen Dubinsky**

This book expands the terms of current debates about sexuality and sexual violence by offering an historical perspective to the question of why men rape women.

\*Paper \$14.95 256 pages

## Marguerite Yourcenar

*Inventing a Life*

**Josyane Savigneau**

*Translated by Joan E. Howard*

"A scrupulously accurate, never inflated account of Yourcenar."—Edmund White, *New York Times Book Review*

Cloth \$25.00 576 pages illus.

## Women Strike for Peace

*Traditional Motherhood and Radical Politics in the 1960s*

**Amy Swerdlow**

*With a Foreword by Catharine R. Stimpson*

In the only historical account of this ground-breaking movement, Swerdlow—a founding member of WSP—records an important chapter in American politics and women's studies.

\*Paper \$19.95 400 pages  
*Women in Culture and Society series*

Now in Paper

## Throughout Your Generations Forever

*Sacrifice, Religion, and Paternity*

**Nancy Jay**

*With a Foreword by Karen E. Fields*

Feminist study of relations between sacrifice, gender, and social organization.

Paper \$13.95 222 pages illus.  
*Winner of the American Academy of Religion's 1993 Award for Excellence*

\*Cloth edition available



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS 5801 S. Ellis Ave., Chicago, IL 60637

pioneering work focusing on a 19th-century Eastern Dakota (Sioux) planting village near present-day Minneapolis. Because it is a local author writing on a local topic of interest, we at Amazon have sold quite a few copies of this title. But it is interesting and accessible for anyone curious about archaeology (\$15.95 pb, 0-87351-278-2, Minnesota Historical Society).



If your traveler's are interested in political climates and international discourse, a few titles come immediately to mind. Cynthia Enloe's new book, **The Morning After: Sexual Politics at the End of the Cold War** provides thought provoking observations for any woman interested in international travel. Enloe focuses on the inextricable connections between militarism, sexuality, gender roles, and domestic life in such countries as Russia, Estonia, El Salvador and Japan (\$15 pb, 0-520-08336-9, University of California). Also, don't forget Enloe's earlier book **Bananas, Beaches, and Bases** (\$14 pb, 0-520-06985-4, University of California).

Similar to Enloe, J. Ann Tickner's new book, **Gender in International Relations** extends and applies a variety of contemporary feminist perspectives to the phenomenon of international relationships (\$14.50 pb, 0-231-07539-1, Columbia University). For those traveling to Europe, **The European Women's Almanac** by Paula Snyder may be something to drag along. Although it is an interesting sourcebook of information on women's rights and status in Europe, the cloth edition is too heavy to pack and is best left at home (\$35 cl, 0-231-08064-6, Columbia University).

For those embarking on an Olivia cruise, it might be a revelation to look at **Working Miracles: Women's Lives in the English-Speaking Caribbean** by Olive Senior. Senior is one of Jamaica's foremost writers and portrays the effects of plantation society on present-day men and women (\$14.95 pb, 0-253-328885-1, Indiana University).

But for those of us who can only afford to stay home and dream of exciting travel adventures, two titles may offer us a kind of cheap thrill. **Gender on Ice: American Ideologies of Polar Expeditions** by

Lisa Bloom focuses on the conquest of the North Pole. She explores how explorations of the North Pole have shaped the U.S. ideologies of masculine identity, colonialism, and patriotism. This contributes to the on-going exclusion of women and people of color from national discourse and identity (\$14.95 pb, 0-8166-2093-8, University of Minnesota Press).

Finally, for something less heady and more fun, turn to **Cowgirls of the Rodeo: Pioneer Professional Athletes** by Mary Lou LeCompte. Though it may not appeal to animal rights activists, it will appeal to those who are interested in women and sports, western and rodeo history (\$22.50 cl, 0-252-02029-4, University of Illinois).

By the way, keep an eye open for the new titles from Feminist Press. They will be starting their own line of travel guides for women in 1994. Can't wait to see what they have in store! ○



## Inadvertently Omitted from the University Press Issue...

### INDIANA UNIVERSITY PRESS

In **Menopause: A Midlife Passage** edited by Joan Callahan, essayists from various walks of life present female-defined perspectives on menopause and the passage to new physical, social, and cultural development. "An anything but trendy approach to a very trendy topic. Essays by scholarly women who have thought through society's position on menopause and menopausal woman and don't like what they see: older women denied positive portrayals in mainstream media, menopause treated by the medical establishment as if it were a disease rather than a natural occurrence, and devaluation of older women." — *Booklist*. "Smart, useful, funny." — NPR. \$12.95 pb, 0-253-20817-3; \$29.95 cl, -31312-0.



**Mother With Child: Transformation Through Childbirth** by Kathryn Allen Rabuzzi (*The Sacred and the Feminine* and *Motherself*) contends that childbearing has been denigrated, denied, and devalued. **Transformation through Childbirth** is intended to help women rename, re-ritualize, reinterpret, and reframe childbearing for themselves and their partners. "Rabuzzi rejects the status quo, presenting viable, often spiritual, alternatives to prevailing high-tech, patriarchal models of childbirth." — *Booklist*. \$14.95 pb, 0-253-20827-0; \$29.95 cl, -34769-6.

**Women in the Civil Rights Movement: Trailblazers and Torchbearers, 1941-1965** edited by Vicki L. Crawford, Jacqueline Anne Rouse, and Barbara Woods "helps break the gender line that restricted women in civil rights history to the back-

ground and backstage roles, and places them in front, behind, and in the middle of the Southern movement that re-made America. . . . It is an invaluable resource which helps set history straight." — Julian Bond. \$12.95 pb, 0-253-20832-7.



**Dirty Looks: Women, Pornography, Power** edited by Pamela Church Gibson and Roma Gibson. Although alternately fascinated, disgusted, or enraged by pornography, women and men may have good reasons to resist the rush toward moral outrage. This collection argues that the issues are both more complex and more interesting than the censorship lobby allows. Includes essays by Linda Williams and Lynne Segal, and two essays on porn performer Annie Sprinkle. "This informative book of essays takes a firm stand against both the Christian right and anti-pornography feminists as its authors argue for a less dogmatic, more contextual approach to understanding pornography and erotica. The essays present a readable and accessible case for a deeper understanding of the place of porn in contemporary culture and society." — *Publishers Weekly*. \$18.95 pb, 0-85170-404-2; \$40 cl, -403-4.

**The Less Noble Sex: Scientific, Religious, and Philosophical Conceptions of Woman's Nature** by Nancy Tuana provides a framework for understanding the persistence of the Western patriarchal view of woman as inferior. Tuana examines beliefs that were accepted *a priori* as evidence of women's inferiority and studies early theories of woman's nature to illustrate the way scientific literature was influenced by — and in turn affected — religious and philosophical tenets. \$12.95 pb, 0-253-20830-0; \$29.95 cl, -36098-6.

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## The Hothead Chronicles

# DISPATCHES FROM THE ROAD

By Kay Leigh Hagan

*The continuing saga of my cross-country quest: to promote **Fugitive Information**, to educate communities with feminist bookstores about the importance of supporting them, not the superstores, and to discover the mysterious alchemy of what makes a book sell. As previously pledged, I plan to visit one hundred feminist stores. We rejoin the Hothead Express in Oregon...*

October 1993. I take off for Portland, Oregon, where Brooks and Katherine of *Widdershins Books* welcome me to their astonishing new store. On one of Portland's rose-laden residential circles, this biblio-sanctuary has a distinctive atmosphere and great style. The focus is rare and out-of-print books by and about women (though they stock certain new titles) and the store feels like a sacred space — calm, contemplative, serene. A coffee bar in the back dispenses the essential lattes while I peruse the stacks: I am particularly enchanted by the rare books actually printed by women, a passion of Brooks. I do worry about retail viability: Can a bookstore with such a specific focus thrive? Will people value and support this precious service to our movement? For now, make it a point to get there, for it is a soul-edifying experience to have our heritage so honored.

While in Portland, I cruise the main bohemian drag of Hawthorne Street, dropping in on *It's My Pleasure*, a store filled with books, toys, and all things

pleasurable for lesbians. The more intimate accoutrements are discreetly displayed in a private back room, with an ingenious customer service: I can select the sex-toy of my choice, list it on a handy clipboard note pad, and give my order to the clerk, who puts it right in the bag. This thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated by shy-types such as the Mystery Shopper. A new women's bookstore, called *In Other Words*, due to open this month, is filled with con-



From *Dykes To Watch Out For* #175

struction workers so I apprise their bold location, directly across the street from one of Powell's satellite stores. Will this proximity to Powell's (for the uninitiated: a wildly successful independent store that occupies a full city block, mixes new & used titles, and has several branch stores) prove to be genius or insanity? What I do know is that Portland is one lucky city, with a special bookstore like *Widdershins*, a general women's bookshop, and a

lesbian pleasure store, too! I make time to visit *Catbird Seat Books*, a downtown independent, and *Laughing Horse Books*, "resources for radicals, activists, queers, heretics, visionaries, and feminists," where they offered the very classy gesture of a free book of my choice in exchange for my reading and signing. The Mystery Shopper really hopes this idea catches on in the feminist bookstore network!



Later this month in North Carolina, I move on to Durham, to the lovely old Victorian-style *Southern Sisters Bookstore*. Cookie confesses to feeling, oh, perhaps just a tinge of the dreaded burn-out, but after my talk is so utterly inspired, she shoos us out the door to begin the Feminist Christmas display that has leapt full-blown from her knotted brow. "Think how perfect a little book like MacKinnon's *Only Words* will be as a stocking stuffer!" she muses. I do manage to steal a little time in Southern Sisters great women's crafts room, always filled with treasures.

Up through the mountains to *Malaprops*, a wonderful general/feminist bookstore in Asheville, Eموke takes me to the downstairs cafe away from the bustling customer activity in the bookstore. *Malaprops* is one of my favorite bookstores specifically because of their bold, intelligent, broad-based buying savvy combined with their inventive section groupings that always ignite my curiosity. I shell out a bundle for the startling new book *Frauen*, as Eموke displays a certain reckless *savoir faire* by teaching me how to make an origami box at the register, her adept and nonplussed staff ringing up sales all around us. I regret missing the upcoming women's poetry reading, a regular feature called "A Cafe of One's Own" produced by the brilliant

poet and cafe manager Laura Hope-Gill. *Malaprops* is clearly a center for women's energy in Asheville. A last stop in North Carolina is the *Rainbow* in Winston-Salem, another lively, successful, scrappy independent with a full-service restaurant, a used books branch called *Again and Again*, and a great atmosphere. Though I intended this tour to focus strictly on feminist stores, the pressing threat of the superstores to independents of all specialties is becoming more and more apparent to me. Every bookseller tells me the same thing: the supes are right down the road, aggressively pressing in. Welcome to the "books as widgets" era.

A westward jag to Cincinnati to the venerable *Crazy Ladies* where we discuss the essential need for understanding 'zines or at least hiring someone who does! This younger generation, how to appeal to them? The community is feverishly working to defeat an anti-gay referendum, and a modest crowd shows up for my talk to relish the safe haven of *Crazy Ladies'* back room. The Mystery Shopper is delighted with the CL gift-certificate honorarium and chooses the elegant new cookbook *A Taste of Heaven and Earth*.



**November.** After getting the news that *Publishers Weekly* has recommended *Fugitive Information* as one of the best books of 1993, I head out for one more city: Atlanta. *Charis Books & More* is my alma mater, where I cut my feminist teeth selling books from 1980-84, and I am happy to have the chance to say goodbye to the triangular storefront they have called home for nineteen years. A packed house of many old friends cheers me on, and Linda takes me on a tour of the beautiful new

*Continued on page 68*

Bombay

# Vacha: Giving Voice to Women's Words

By Shelley Anderson

"We are in a third phase of feminism in India," said Sonal Shukla, a founder of Vacha, the women's library and cultural center in Bombay. "In the 19th century, reformers won rights such as education for women and the right of widows to remarry. Then came the national movement, and more and more women became politicized and fought for independence. But after independence, women went back to the home. In the 1970s another women's movement emerged, beginning with the United Nations International Decade for Women."

Shukla knows the history of the women's movement in India very well, because she has been an active participant in making that history. So has Vacha, a collection of over 2,200 books and periodicals by and about women. Named after the Hindu goddess of speech and verbal expression, Vacha began in 1987 as both a lending library and a community resource center. The first library of its kind in this city of over 10 million people, the collection is now housed in part of Shukla's small home in the Vile Parle section of Bombay.

The house itself has seen a good deal of Indian feminist history. Shukla points to her living room and says with pride, "The women's center started here in 1981 for battered women. Because of that I

got even more involved. I gave up my job to work on the issues. Two years before, the Supreme Court had reversed the conviction of two police men who had raped a 14-year-old tribal girl named Mathura. The Court said that, because Mathura wasn't a virgin and there were no scratch marks on the men,



Sonal Shukla

Photo by Shelley Anderson

she must have consented! This enraged women. Two of us made 50 copies of a letter criticizing the reversal, and passed it on to friends. We called for a meeting — and 49 women showed up. From that

came the Forum Against the Oppression of Women, which still continues.

"Later in the 1980s the media lost interest in the women's movement. The government began to appropriate our languages, so feminism became confused with state planning. We thought if we started a library and cultural center we could offset this negative media image. A library looks so innocent! We pooled our own books and started with a collection of 400 books. We have never charged any fees or fines."

The library grew by donations, especially from Western feminists. It now publishes a biannual newsletter and booklist, and is an important resource for both Indian and foreign women interested in India's feminist movement. While most of Vacha's books are in English, there is a large collection of books in Gujarati, the main language of the neighboring state of Gujarat (Bombay is located in Maharashtra state, where the main language is Marathi). English and Hindi are the official languages of India, and the languages of the educated class. But how accessible is a women's library at all in a country where over 70 percent of the female population cannot read or write in any of India's 122 languages?

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*Named after the Hindu goddess of speech and verbal expression, Vacha began in 1987 as a lending library and a community resource center.*

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"Most women are literacy deprived and don't know how to read," agrees Shukla, who worked in community education before she became involved in the women's movement. "So we started a cultural center, too. We have produced a major street theatre program on the Chipko movement. (Author's note: in the 1970s, tribal women in the Himalayan foothills began a massive civil disobedience campaign to stop the destruction of their forests by loggers. They embraced ("chipko") the trees and refused to leave until the loggers did. The highly successful campaign spread throughout the foothills and resulted in a logging moratorium.) Urban slum dwellers are very interested in Chipko,

as many of them are first generation migrants from rural areas. We have made ballads about 'the brave and the courageous' Chipko women, and about the anti-rape movement. We train community workers in the use of cultural media," in how to use traditional dance, song and performance to get across social messages, Shukla said. On sale at Vacha are cassettes of women's folk songs, in addition to copies of *Anandi Gopal*, a novel by S.J. Joshi about India's first woman doctor.

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*"Most women are literacy deprived and don't know how to read, so we started a cultural center, too."*

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At least 50 women per month use Vacha's lending library, borrowing everything from novels by Erica Jong to books like *The Issues at Stake*, a history of the contemporary women's movement by Nandita Gandhi and Nandita Shah, published by the feminist press Kali for Women. Students come to read *Manushi*, the Indian feminist magazine, while 30 or more women regularly attend the monthly study circle. "Reading is a lonely activity," said Shukla. "Many women want to discuss what they read and meet other women." Other women attend the periodic talks on women's issues held at Vacha, or telephone the library for questions about legal rights or upcoming events for women. The library has supported women candidates for public office (in 1990, the state government ruled that 30 percent of all local government seats must be reserved for women candidates), and been involved in collecting and distributing food and clothes to victims of communal riots. Shukla is proud of the fact that Vacha volunteers and users include Hindus, Moslems and Buddhists.

Vacha started as a collective of five, then seven women, Shukla said. "The original founders are mostly gone. There were no major fights," she says, "just too little time to work on both jobs and Vacha." If plans to expand the library succeed, volunteers and collective members may have even less time. Vacha needs new quarters to house the growing collections. But finding a suitable place — and

*Continued on page 56*



## SOME NEW AND FORTHCOMING TITLES

## POETRY RAVES

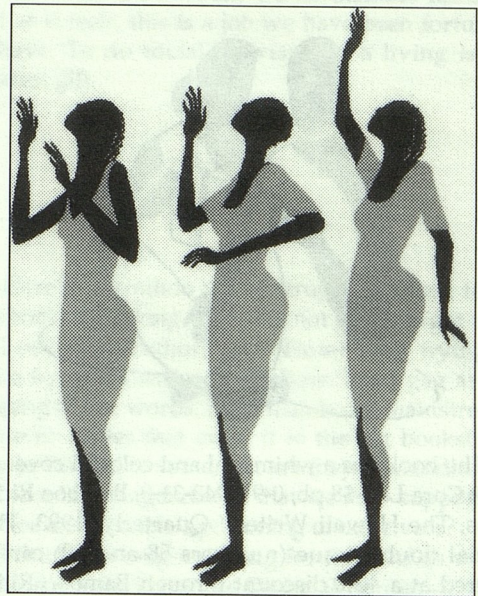
By Catalina Cariaga

Each December, residents of Berkeley and Oakland, California look forward to Radio KPFA's (FM 94.1, Berkeley) Annual Crafts Fair. For over twenty years, crafts people from the Bay Area have displayed their work for sale as gifts for the holidays and New Year. *Poetry Flash, A Poetry Review and Literary Calendar*, is always a participant. Instead of hand-crafts, editor Joyce Jenkins hand picks a special collection of new books — little jewels that ordinarily would not be getting the attention they deserve in the frenzy of the commercial push for the gift-giving season. *Poetry Flash* offers a 10% discount on over seventy-five titles and the proceeds benefit our not-for-profit literary cause; throughout the day we have local writers present to sign books. Of course we also have a couple of big selling books to cover the cost of stocking the smaller titles: last year Mollie Katzen's *Moosewood Cookbook* sold like hotcakes; this year, Wavy Gravy's *Something Good for a Change: Random Notes on Peace Thru Living*, and his personal appearance got a lot of attention and generated a lot of extra sales from our exhibition table. The atmosphere is always festive, with the munching on holiday cookies and the distinctive sound of laughter coming from Radio KPFA's feminist, writer and personality Jennifer Stone (*Stone's Throw: Selected Essays and Telegraph Avenue Then*, Regent Press) situated in a booth across the aisle.

*Catalina Cariaga is a poet and contributing editor for Poetry Flash. Her work has appeared most recently in Dissident Song: A Contemporary Asian American Anthology, and is forthcoming in ONTHEBUS and ZZZZYVA.*

Here are a few books of specific interest to feminist bookstores:

**Our Feet Walk the Sky: Women of the South Asian Diaspora** is the culmination of a vision by the Women of South Asian Descent Collective. The



*We Are The Young Magicians* by Ruth Forman, Beacon Press

various and rich regions of India, Sri Lanka and the countries of South Asia are often overlooked in "Asian" literature anthologies; this book contributes to a greater understanding of what is possible in print. A thick book that stands out on a shelf, it includes scholarly essays on race, culture and gender, short stories, poems, as well as unconventional creative writings such as journal entries and

prose meditations. \$12.95 pb, 1-879960-32 X, Aunt Lute, 372 pages.

**Saturday Night at the Pahala Theatre** by Lois-Ann Yamanaka is a wacky and tender book of poems by a Japanese American from Hawaii. Most distinctive is her use of her local community's dialect of English in Hawaii. Yamanaka has a wonderfully musical ear for language and the keen ability to capture it on paper for her readers:

he going to cut across your backyard  
 from the papaya tree side  
 when you whistle the Filipino love call,  
 then take you when you leave your house  
 for buy jar mayonnaise for your madda  
 from the superette.

(From "Kala Gave Me Anykine Advice Especially About Filipinos When I Moved to Pahala")



The book has a whimsical and colorful cover by artist Cora Lee. \$8 pb, 0-910043-31-0, Bamboo Ridge Press, The Hawaii Writers' Quarterly, 1993. This special double issue (numbers 58 and 59) can be ordered at a 40% discount through Bamboo Ridge Press, PO Box 61781, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96839; Tel. 808-599-4823.

**It's Not Quiet Anymore: New York from the Institute of American Indian Arts**, a quality anthology of poems by twenty-three Native Americans poets. Here is a short poem by Heather Ahtone:

she dies speaking a language  
 i forgot to learn  
 before she said goodbye  
 when i could might have understood

why she faced the sun  
 when we laid her to rest  
 on the hill next to her mother.

\$10 pb, 1-8813996-8, Institute of American Indian Arts, 252 pages. This book is the fifth in an annual series which can be ordered by writing to the Creative Writing Program, Institute of American Indian Arts, PO Box 2000, Santa Fe NM 87504.

**Full Moon on the Reservation**, by Gloria Bird was chosen for the North American Native Author First Book Award. Bird grew up in the Yakima Valley in Washington State and survived the reservation missions and the BIA boarding school systems — to write heartrending and generous verse. \$9.95 pb, 0912678-86-0, Greenfield Review Press.

**We Are the Young Musicians** by 24-year-old African American poet Ruth Forman was chosen winner of the Barnard New Women Poets Series. Sonia Sanchez says of this book, "This is blue black womanish poetry alerting us to past and future herstories." The introduction is by Cherrie Moraga; the cover art is eye-catching in black, white and gold. \$9 pb, 0-8070-6821-7, Beacon Press.

**Unraveling Words & the Weaving of Water** by Cecilia Vicuna is a book of poems collected from three of Vicuna's five books of poetry in Spanish translated into English in a bi-lingual edition by Eliot Weinberger and Suzanne Levine. Vicuna is a Chilean poet, filmmaker and performance artist who draws on influences of the oral traditions of the High Andes which meet with modern linguistics and ecological concerns of the rain forests. Photos of her installations and performance art with text are also included in the book. \$12 pb, 1-55597-166-0, Graywolf Press.

**when new time folds up**, by Kathleen Fraser is praised by poet Susan Howe as, "at the height of her powers...sensitive to marks and traces, the sounds of voices, of cries." The pages have an airy "post modern" sensibility, and the text is both classic and lyrically fresh. \$11pb, 0-925904-14-7, Chax Press, PO Box 19178, Minneapolis MN 55419.

**What Is Found There: Notebooks on Poetry and Politics** is a collection of twenty-three essays by the distinguished poet, Adrienne Rich. Rich explores the spectrum of the poetic process from the personal to the political from her own experience with literature

*Continued on page 52*



# CANADIAN CONTENT

By Renée Albrecht  
The Women's Bookstop  
Hamilton, Ontario

As I read the Canadian Content section (last issue) I began to feel choked up. In her article Joan Turner is expressing the sad, tired and fearful waves I try to deny in myself.

People come along and ask how we are and we smile and say "We're great. We're hanging in." Big smile.

After nearly ten years we have to work harder than ever. This fall Women's Bookstop fell behind in payments to several suppliers. Hopefully the holiday season will save us. Lots of books will be returned and ordering will happen less frequently. No extra books on the shelves until things pick up.

I agree that we Canadian feminist bookstores should strengthen our network. I'm uncomfortable with promoting big name American authors just so we can get publicity. There are many radical feminist authors in Canada who we would do well to support.



Recently Hamilton had Starhawk for an evening. The turnout was wonderful. I have never had an easier time getting women out (except for Anne Cameron some years ago). I was glad that Women's Bookstop could be seen as having the clout to bring the famous author. However, I would have sat at the feet of Donna Reed all night. Donna is the Canadian filmmaker responsible for the National Film Board's Women's Spirituality film series. Donna traveled with Starhawk recently as the two promoted the last film in the series. Such

love of doing work for women is rare but Donna is full of that warmth. She actually twinkles.

But yes, this work for women can feel like a burden. We all need to break from it now and then. Taking a long break seems difficult when you are running a women's bookstore, but without the break we get so tired that we must get out.

Yet what work would we do instead? As difficult as it feels, this is a job we have been fortunate to have. To do social activism for a living is the greatest gift.



Here in Hamilton we've struggled to sell feminist books for a long time. It is not going to get easier. I see some authors like Naomi Wolf trying to make feminism easier to swallow. But I gag at the twisting of our words. Feminism is not mainstream. Those few titles that make it to the big bookstores may be helpful to some, but are they demanding an end to military agendas or that we stop supporting Proctor and Gamble's poisoning of our rivers?

I think the toughest thing for those of us working in this field is not the financial burden, it's our intellectual burden. Every day we read books written by the brightest women on this planet. We are so aware of the bullshit the mainstream spoons down the public's throat.... This knowing, knowing, knowing is exhausting, but knowledge is loud — knowledge is the hardest noise to silence.

Here's to all of us who have ever worked in a woman's bookstore.

Take good care.

Renée



# SHORT RAVES

Staff Raves from Amazon's *News & Notes*.

**Elsa: I Come With My Songs**, Elsa Gidlow. I recently took time away from my leaning tower of books-to-read books, to re-read this delightful lesbian autobiography. Enough said. \$10.95.

—Donna

**The Earth House**, Jeanne DuPrau. Beautifully written. **The Earth House** tells the story of two women and their relationship to each other and each with herself. DuPrau writes of the quest for spirituality and meaning in life, about living responsibly in the environment, about cancer, death, and grief. She reflects on the richness of life and the complex intermingling of spirituality with everyday living with an intimacy rarely found. A hopeful, amazing book. \$8.50.

—Mev

**The Sea of Light**, Jenifer Levin. A wonderful book for women who love sports and understand the way working your body can bring clarity to your life. The book centers on a college swim team and three women who use that team, the sport, and each other to overcome traumas in their lives. I've never read a book before that captures the way women find truth through athletics and using their bodies. This book is a must for anyone who likes to watch or play women's sports. \$21.00.

—Jenny

For those of you lusting after women adventure stories and maybe feeling you're getting just a little too old for those wild trips of your youth—read **Polar Dream** by Helen Thayer (\$22.00) or **Shooting the Boh** by Tracy Johnston (\$11.00), both written by "menopausal women." The quality of the writing varies—**Shooting the Boh** is definitely the better book—but their stories are absolutely hair-raising. I kept my partner awake many a night reading these books, saying things like "oh my god, you won't believe this...noooo, she didn't really do that..."

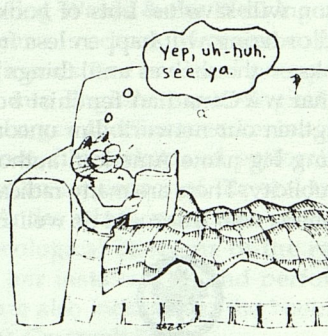
—Barb

**Home Movies**, Paula Martinac. A touching, well-written story of a woman struggling with the death of her sister and a beloved uncle who died of AIDS. Sad and funny—it made me laugh and cry—what more can you ask of a novel?

—Jo

**Transforming a Rape Culture**, Emilie Buchwald, Pamela Fletcher, and Martha Roth. I am part-way through this ground-breaking work, and still trucking. The editors have done an excellent job of putting together writers, activists, educators and philosophers who articulate clearly not only the problem of rape and violence in this culture, but visions for radical transformation. A powerful reading experience and valuable resource.

—Jaila



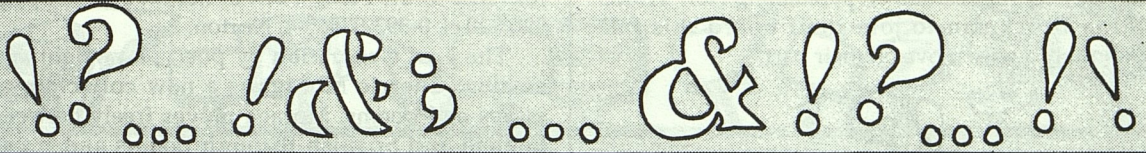
**Dreaming in Cuba** by Christina Garcia. This beautifully painted novel focuses on three generations of Cuban women and their perspectives on Cuba and the Cuban Revolution. Garcia's writing is so compelling and magical I couldn't put the book down, and I missed the characters when I wasn't reading it. \$10.

—Jenny

**Spawn of Dykes to Watch Out For** by Alison Bechdel. I'm so excited that a new Alison Bechdel book is out! Among other hot news, Toni and Clarice are having their baby. Read the book to find out the dramatic results. \$8.95.

—Kath O

# T R I V I A



In a culture gone visual, movies are the big word this fall. Movie tie-ins abound even for feminist bookstores. Ten years ago I used to look at the movie tie-in features in *PW* and laugh. This fall we've seen *The Joy Luck Club*, *Household Saints*, *House of the Spirits*, as well as *The Age of Innocence* and *Even Cowgirls Get the Blues*. January 10, 11 and 12 it's *Tales of the City* in three two-hour segments on PBS' American Playhouse. *Salmonberries* and *Forbidden Love* are on video (see *From Our Own Presses*) and are moving well where they're available.



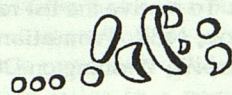
But the really powerful movie/book tie-in is Alice Walker's *Warrior Marks*. Walker and filmmaker Pratibha Parmar's book/film combination brilliantly move the issues of genital mutilation to a centerstage position that will create the public awareness and energy necessary to generate change. It was great that Walker got a Pulitzer for *The Color Purple* but there should also be awards of equal prestige for brilliant political organizing and education.

Sales are up: in Toni Morrison titles. According to *PW*, booksellers ordered 48,000 copies of Toni Morrison titles the day after her Nobel was announced. I suspect that, because feminist bookstores have been doing our job well for years, many of our customers simply turned to their own bookshelves to pick up copies of Morrison's work to (re)read, rather than running out to a bookstore to "discover" her, as happened in many other bookstores.

Sales are "up" 6.7% during the first three quarters of 1993, according to the U.S. Bureau of the Census' Current Retail Trade Branch (as reported in

*Newswire*). What these reports never mention is that, thanks to the chain superstore madness, there are also a lot more bookstores now than there were a year ago. (Barnes and Noble alone has added 50 new stores for a total of 958 stores in the first 9 months of 1993.) Unfortunately, nobody seems to be counting but my money says that if you divided the 1993 sales by the total number of bookstores and compared that to the 1992 sales divided by the number of bookstores in 1992, you'd see a marked decline in average sales per store — a statistic that would reflect bookstore reality much more accurately than "Sales are up 6%."

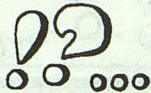
Christmas sales got off to a slow start almost everywhere. It's December 15th as I write this and stores are reporting that sales are "picking up" but, among all the booksellers I've talked to, exactly one reported that December 1-15 sales were above all of the last three Decembers.



At the 1993 ABA Membership Meeting, Jennie Boyd Bull (Thirtyfirst Street Bookstore) put forward a motion that "ABA develop and implement in 1993 a national promotional and advertising campaign in major media educating the American public about the necessity and importance of independent and specialty bookstores to the preservation of free speech, First Amendment rights, and diversity in the U.S. This campaign will include materials for in-store use by member stores." The motion was approved with great enthusiasm but ABA has yet to implement it. In October the ABA Board of Directors reviewed proposals from two advertising agencies and rejected them both as inappropriate. A task force

of board members was created to implement the resolution at that meeting and new proposals will be reviewed at the February board meeting.

Congratulations to the New England Booksellers Association on persuading New Words' Gilda Bruckman to join their board this fall! Definitely a wise move on their part.



NCIBA also scored a coup this fall: They've created a t-shirt that features the Tom Tomorrow cartoon that compares independent and chain bookstores over the caption "Northern California Independent Booksellers Association for a Better Tomorrow" that's being worn in all the finest bookstores in Northern California....

ABFFE is distributing the conference report from the National Coalition Against Censorship's conference "The Sex Panic: Women, Censorship and Pornography." Copies are free to ABA bookstore members. (One per store). To get a free copy write or fax ABFFE (560 White Plains Road, Tarrytown NY 10580; fax 914-631-8391). Requests should be marked "NCAC Booklet."

Other great send-fors: National Public Radio now does a bi-weekly listing of all books and authors appearing on NPR programs including Morning Edition, All Things Considered and Weekend Edition. To receive the list regularly, contact Alan Simpson, NPR, Promotion and Public Affairs, 2025 M St. NW, Washington DC 20036; 202-822-2309.

AWMAC (The Association of Women's Music and Culture) has put together a database that lists up-coming women's music events around the country and now publishes it in print form. One of the primary purposes of collecting and distributing this information is to reduce the likelihood of double billings. Feminist bookstores that produce large (and small) events may also find the database/calendar to be very helpful. Avoiding one double booking per year could easily pay for a year's subscription. Subscriptions to the calendar are \$45/year (\$35 for AWMAC members). Order from AWMAC Calendar, 219 Allen, Lansing MI 48912. Memberships are \$25 per year. —CS ○

## Poetry ... continued from page 48

as well as with examples from other poets. (In the chapter entitled, "The Space for Poetry" she makes reference to the *Poetry Flash* in her footnote on page 39!) \$20 cl, 0-393-03565-4, Norton.

**The Last Generation** by poet, playwright and essayist Cherrie Moraga is a new collection of essays and poems. Moraga moves freely between English and Spanish through poems and prose which are highly politicized and intensely personal. Moraga writes of her role as a lesbian activist/writer in the Chicano community that, "I am the last generation put on this planet to remember and record." \$30 cl, 0-89608-467-1; \$14 pb, 0-689608-466-3, South End Press.



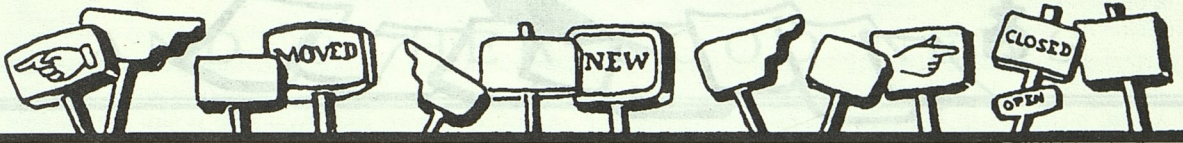
Laura Irene Wayne

## FORTHCOMING:

**Dictee** by the late Korean American poet Theresa Hak Kung Cha will be issued in its long awaited third printing by Third Woman Press in Berkeley in January of 1994. Cha's text which defies the genres of poetry, fiction, history and autobiography, still retains its enigmatic quality since its first publication in 1983. Cha, like Cecilia Vicuna, was a filmmaker and artist in New York City. **Dictee** is a stunningly visual book, and Cha uses English, French, and Chinese calligraphy in locating her post-colonial predicament as a Korean American woman and artist. Third Woman Press, Berkeley CA. Books can be ordered at a 40% discount through the University Bookstore, 2625 Durant, Berkeley CA 94720.

My New Year's resolution is to read many if not all of these books in the coming months. ○

# THEY WENT THAT-A-WAY



By Dawn L. Martin

## New Stores

Denise Sallee is the owner of Raven in the Grove, "a women's bookstore and gallery" featuring "a wonderful selection of books and magazines reflecting the colorful diversity of women's lives." She carries a unique selection of handcrafted gifts and also has a gallery space that will honor women artists. Send greetings to 505 Lighthouse Avenue Suite 103, Pacific Grove CA 93950.

Catherine Tetrick has opened In Other Words. The grand opening of this feminist bookstore was celebrated in November with an appearance by Nicole Conn. Warm wishes can be sent to 3734 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Portland OR 97214.

Outwrite Books is a new gay and lesbian bookstore in Atlanta. Besides offering books and periodicals, Outwrite also has a coffeehouse. The owner, Philip Rafshoon, hopes to make his store a community center for gays and lesbians in the area. Contact Philip at 931 Monroe Dr., Atlanta GA 30308.

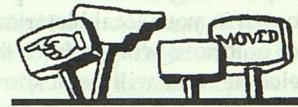
## New Distribution Arrangements

Press Gang (Vancouver BC, Canada) and Spinifex Press (No. Melbourne, Australia) will be distributed by InBook in the U.S. as of January 1, 1994. Press Gang is now distributed by General in Canada.

## New Addresses

Regrettably, Cheryl Underhill's Sappho's Garden bookstore will not be able to open. Her mail was mistakenly forwarded to her family address and in the process she was "outed" to many family members. Please check your mailing lists and if you show Cheryl's zip as 77640 in Port Arthur, Texas, please remove it. Her current address is 5725 So.

Martin Luther King Parkway #46, Beaumont, Texas 77705. She says she loves getting the mail, but that since her plans don't include opening a bookstore in the foreseeable future, publishers may want to remove her from their bookstore lists completely. Cheryl and FBN thank you for your attention to solving this problem.



## Moved

Press Gang Publishers have moved to a new office. Their new address is #101 - 225 East 17th Ave., Vancouver, BC V5V 1A6, Canada. Their new phone number is 604-876-7787. The new fax number is 604-876-7892.

## New Catalogs

Heartland Books has come out with a lovely "catalog for lesbians who love to read." The catalog is on glossy paper and gives descriptions of current lesbian titles in a variety of genres: romance & mystery, sf/f, erotica, sexuality, humor, health and recovery and much much more. Customers can order by phone or mail. Heartland Books is located at Taplin Hill Road, East Corinth VT 05040.

## Anniversaries

People Like Us Books, Chicago's gay and lesbian bookstore, celebrated its five year anniversary on November 12th. To celebrate this anniversary, People Like Us gave away shopping sprees, t-shirts, knapsacks and a grand prize worth \$250 in People Like Us merchandise. We extend our warm wishes to Chicago! ○

# WRITING WANTED



Compiled by Dawn L. Martin

Kiriyo Spooner wants information on historical women in your area for a travel guidebook to women's history in the U.S. Do you know of a local statue, a commemorative plaque, a famous woman's birthplace or grave? Seen important material about women in your local historical museum? Heard tales of notorious women from the past? All leads are welcome, and will be acknowledged in the book. Please send to: Kiriyo Spooner, 2 Meadow Place, East Haven CT 06512.

Submissions for an anthology on U.S. Women of Color and AIDS are wanted. The editors welcome personal narratives, journal entries, and political essays by women of color who are living with HIV and AIDS, care-givers of women with AIDS and women who are working in AIDS as activists, advocates, professionals, community organizers, health care and social service providers. Poetry, artwork, and black and white photographs are welcome. Kitchen Table Women of Color Press will publish the anthology. Send inquiries to Anthology Editors c/o T. Gardner, 129 West 20th Street, New York NY 10011.

Fiction and poems by women wanted on all aspects of women's friendship — from girlhood on — for the anthology *Girlfriends*. *Girlfriends* will be published by The Crossing Press. Payment plus copies. Write to Amber Coverdale Sumrall, 434 Pennsylvania Ave., Santa Cruz CA 95062. Deadline: April 30, 1994.

Wild Impatience Publishing is dedicated to nurturing the talents of young lesbian and gay writers

by publishing their works and sharing experiences. Any fiction manuscripts of interest to young lesbian and gay readers will be considered. Please send to Wild Impatience Publishing, PO Box 295, Lloyd FL 32337. Deadline: April 15, 1994.

Poetry, fiction, oral histories and autobiographies are wanted for a feminist anthology written by and for women with chronic illness. Topics may include: religion, race, culture, body image, disability identity, relationships, class, age, healing, sexual orientation, et al. The anthology will be edited by Laurel Fain and Pella Schafer. They have both recently been diagnosed with chronic illnesses (lupus and interstitial cystitis). For more information write to Anthology, PO Box 492, Santa Cruz CA 95061.



To everyone whose life has been affected by HIV... Spirit Maps: A Learning Project is interested in knowing your responses to this question: What have you learned about life lately? All responses will be exhibited (anonymously if you wish, and completely uncensored) as part of a major installation by artists Philip Blackburn and Donald Engstrom to be shown at Intermedia Arts Gallery, Minnesota in April. For details write to Spirit Maps, PO Box 80788, Minneapolis MN 55408 or call (612) 825-5532.

Please send slides or artwork, any medium, for possible inclusion in *No More Nice Girls: A Women's Festival* to be held at ABC No Rio in New York City, March 1994. There will be an exhibition

*Continued on page 63*



# BACK TO PRESS

## AND OTHER GOOD NEWS

Compiled by Dawn L. Martin

Down There Press has announced the reprinting of the following titles: *Good Vibrations: The Complete Guide to Vibrators* goes into its eighth printing; 5,000 copies bring its in-print total to 34,000. *The Playbook for Kids About Sex* rises to 12,000 copies in print after a fourth printing of 3,000. *The Playbook for Women About Sex* reaches 12,500 in print with its fourth printing of 3,500 copies.



Seal Press sold out the first print run (6,000) of the cloth edition of Barbara Wilson's *Troubles in Transylvania* two months after publication and has sent the book back for a 2,000 copy second printing.

Cleis Press' *The Case of the Not-So-Nice-Nurse: A Nancy Clue Mystery* by Mabel Maney went back to press in October for a second printing of 5,000 copies, bringing the total number in print to 11,000. The first printing of 6,000 copies rolled off the presses in September and sold out in less than six weeks. *Daughters of Darkness* went back December 13th for a second printing of 5,000 bringing the number of copies to 10,000. *Hothead Paisan: Homicidal Lesbian Terrorist* will go back to press in January.

ILR Press at Cornell University has announced that *Holding the Line: Women in the Great Arizona Mine Strike of 1983* by Barbara Kingsolver (1989) is back at press. This will be their fifth printing, bringing the total copies in print to well over 8,500.

Academy Chicago Publishers has sent four books back to press: *Victorian Lady Travellers* by Dorothy Middleton, *Female Friends* by Fay Weldon, *Life Among the Savages* by Shirley Jackson, *Lucrezia Floriani* by George Sand.

By the end of 1993 Naiad Press will have reprinted twenty-four titles and printed twenty-four new books. Reprint totals are over 108,000 copies, averaging 4,500 copies per title. The twenty-four new titles accounted for over 210,000 individual copies averaging out to a first print run of 8,750 per book.

### Reissues

*Turning the Wheel: American Women Creating the New Buddhism* by Sandy Boucher has just been reissued in a new revised expanded paperback edition from Beacon Press.

*I Like You to Make Jokes With Me, But I Don't Want You to Touch Me* by Ellen Bass, illustrated by Margo Lemieux is back in print. Recommended for children ages three through ten, the book was first published in 1985 to help teach young children how to feel safe and strong. The Spanish version *Me Gusta Que Bromees Conmigo Pero No Quiero Que Me Toques* is translated by Maria A. Salgado. Both editions are published by Lollipop Power Books, 120 Morris Street, Durham, North Carolina 27701.



### Rights

Silver Moon Books (U.K.) has acquired the British rights to *Crazy for Loving* by Jaye Maiman and *Under the Southern Cross* by Claire McNab. Both titles were first published by Naiad Press.

Down There Press is pleased that their sex information and self-awareness books are now available to a wider audience than ever before. Translation rights to three titles have been sold to overseas publishers. *Good Vibrations: The Complete Guide to Vibrators* is now available in a non-exclusive German mail order edition. Trade rights are still available. *Anal Pleasure and Health* will be published by Arci Gay in an Italian edition. Taro Jiro, Ltd. has acquired Japanese rights to *The Playbook for Kids About Sex*.

## Awards

New Victoria Publishers was honored by the Vermont Book Publishers Association. They received a Special Merit Award for the publication of *A Perilous Advantage: The Best of Natalie Clifford Barney*, edited and translated by Anna Livia. Considerations in the judging were book content and packaging, aesthetic appeal, depth of knowledge, clarity of presentation and writing style.



The cover of Hisaye Yamamoto's *Seventeen Syllables and Other Stories*, published by Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press, has been awarded First Place in the Quality Trade Paperback category by the New York Book Show and the Bookbinder's Guild of New York. The winning design is Kitchen Table's first full four-color cover and features a photograph by Mitzi Trumbo from the American Playhouse/PBS film, "Hot Summer Winds," which is based on Yamamoto's *Seventeen Syllables*.

The National Book Foundation presented its prestigious National Book Awards November 17 at the Plaza Hotel in New York City. E. Annie Proulx won the National Book Award for fiction for *The Shipping News*, while Gore Vidal was awarded the prize for nonfiction for *United States: Essays 1952-1992*. Proulx was also awarded the Irish Times International Fiction Prize in November (as well for *The Shipping News*).

The Lannan foundation has increased the individual cash prizes for its 1993 literary awards and fellowships from \$40,000 to \$50,000, for a total of \$500,000 in annual prizes to writers. Among this

year's winners there are two women: Denise Levertov who received the poetry award and Carole Maso who received a fiction fellowship.

## Other Good News

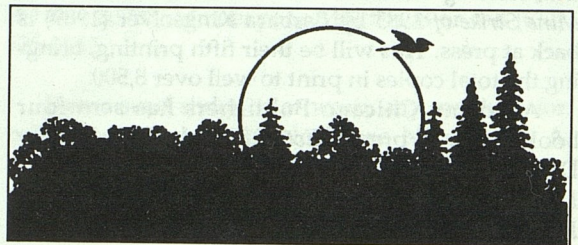
Excerpts from *Changes: A Love Story*, a novel by Ama Ata Aidoo (published by The Feminist Press in New York) will run in *Ms.* and *Essence*. Ama Ata Aidoo was born in Ghana and is the author *Our Sister Killjoy* or *Reflections from a Black-Eyed Squint*, a volume of short stories; *No Sweetness Here*, a play and a volume of poetry, *Talking to Sometime*. ○

## Vacha ... Continued from page 46

the money for it — is a major problem. "It is too expensive to rent — Bombay has the highest rising property rates in the world," Shukla said. "In 1990 the collective decided to register as a trust, but agreed not to apply for foreign grants. This year (1993) we realized we can't do without foreign grants. In order to receive foreign funds, we must have clearance from the police because, as one policeman said, 'You may be a terrorist agency!'" Shukla said. Shukla is not worried about securing police clearance because as she said, "They don't take women seriously — which is good. They are conservative and traditional, so they will see the library as some good work that ladies are doing." Books and women may seem an innocent connection to some, but Shukla and the women of Vacha know the explosive power of women's words, and are determined to share that power.

Vacha no longer has the space for donations of books. But information about foundations that might support the library and cultural center would be appreciated.

Vacha, 5 Bhavana Apts., Opp. Golden Tobacco, S.V. Road, Vile Parle (W), Bombay Maharashtra 400 056, India. ○



# BESTSELLERS

## 31st Street

Baltimore, MD

Bestselling Fiction 1993

1. **Pigs in Heaven**, Barbara Kingsolver, \$22.00 cl.
2. **The Fifth Sacred Thing**, Starhawk, \$21.95 cl.
3. **Stone Butch Blues**, Leslie Feinberg, \$10.95.
4. **Alma Rose**, Edith Forbes, \$10.95.
5. **Bastard Out of Carolina**, Dorothy Allison, \$10.00.
6. **Bailey's Cafe**, Gloria Naylor, \$11.00.
7. **Sea of Light**, Jenifer Levin, \$21.00 cl.
8. **Venus Envy**, Rita Mae Brown, \$21.95 cl.
9. **Empathy**, Sarah Schulman, \$10.00.
10. **Your Blues Ain't Like Mine**, Bebe Moore Campbell, \$12.00.



Judy Horacek

## New Words

Cambridge, MA

### Women, Politics, & Society (Paperback)

1. **Backlash**, Susan Faludi.
2. **Sister Outsider**, Audre Lorde.
3. **Sisters of the Yam**, bell hooks.
4. **Revolution From Within**, Gloria Steinem.
5. **The Morning After**, Cynthia Enloe.
6. **Facts About Women**, WAC.
7. **The Beauty Myth**, Naomi Wolf.
8. **You Just Don't Understand**, Deborah Tannen.
9. **The Mismeasure of Woman**, Carol Tavris.
10. **White Women, Race Matters**, Ruth Frankenberg.

### Biographies and Autobiographies

1. **Eleanor Roosevelt**, Vol. 1, Blanche Wiesen Cook.

2. **I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings**, Maya Angelou.
3. **Zami**, Audre Lorde.
4. **Written By Herself**, Jill Ker Conway.
5. **Gertrude & Alice**, Diana Souhami.
6. **Catholic Girls**, Amber Sumrall and Patrice Vecchione.
7. **Refuge**, Terry Tempest Williams.
8. **Coming Into the End Zone**, Doris Grumbach.
9. **Lakota Woman**, Mary Crow Dog.
10. **Celia, A Slave**, Melton A. McLaurin.



## Herland Book-Cafe

Santa Cruz, CA

October

### Fiction

1. **Orlando**, Virginia Woolf.
2. **Bastard Out of Carolina**, Dorothy Allison.
3. **OtherWorld**, Sarah Dreher.
4. **The Bean Trees**, Barbara Kingsolver.
5. **The Fifth Sacred Thing**, Starhawk.

### Nonfiction

1. **Women Who Run With the Wolves**, Clarissa Pinkola Estes.
2. **Cultural Etiquette**, Market Wimmin.
3. **Woman's Comfort Book**, Jennifer Louden.
4. **Wild Mind: Living the Writer's Life**, Natalie Goldberg.
5. **Ferrari's Places for Women**, Ferrari.

November

### Fiction

1. **Spawn of Dykes to Watch Out For**, Alison Bechdel.
2. **Bastard Out of Carolina**, Dorothy Allison.

3. **The Fifth Sacred Thing**, Starhawk.
4. **OtherWorld**, Sarah Dreher.
5. **The Bean Trees**, Barbara Kingsolver.

**Nonfiction**

1. **Warrior Marks**, Alice Walker.
2. **Fountain of Age**, Betty Freidan.
3. **Blood, Bread and Roses**, Judy Grahn.
4. **Women Who Run With the Wolves**, Clarissa Pinkola Estes.
5. **On Women Turning 50**, Catherine Rountree.



**Blackboard**

African-American Bestsellers  
December

**Hardcover Fiction**

1. **Ugly Ways** by Tina McElroy Ansa, Harcourt Brace, \$19.95, 0-15-192553-4.
2. **Her Own Place** by Dori Sanders, Algonquin of Chapel Hill, \$16.95, 1-56512-027-2.
3. **A Lesson Before Dying** by Ernest J. Gaines, Knopf, \$21, 0-679-41477-0.
4. **Free Enterprise** by Michelle Cliff, Dutton, \$19, 0-525-93704-8.
5. **Home Repairs: A Novel** by Trey Ellis, Simon & Schuster, \$21, 0-671-76924-3.

**Hardcover Nonfiction**

1. **What Black People Should Do Now** by Ralph Wiley, One World/Ballantine, \$22, 0-345-38045-2.
2. **Wouldn't Take Nothing For My Journey Now** by Maya Angelou, Random House, \$17, 0-679-42743-0.
3. **Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years** by Sara and A. Elizabeth Delany with Amy Hill Hearth, Kodonsha, \$20, 1-56836-010-X.
4. **In The Company Of My Sisters: Black Women And Self-esteem** by Julia A. Boyd, Dutton, \$18, 0-525-93708-0.
5. **Wild Women Don't Wear No Blues: Black Women Writers On Love, Men & Sex** edited by Marita Golden, Doubleday, \$22.50, 0-385-42400-0.

**Textures**

San Antonio, TX  
November

1. **Under My Skin**, Jaye Maiman, \$10.95.
2. **Romantic Naiad**, eds. Forrest & Grier, \$14.95.
3. **Lesbian Sex**, JoAnn Loulan, \$12.95.
4. **k.d. lang: Carrying the Torch**, William Robertson, \$9.95.
5. **The Case of the Not So Nice Nurse**, Mable Maney, \$9.95.
6. **Stay Tuned**, Rhonda Dickson, \$9.95.
7. **Isis Rising**, Jean Stewart, \$9.95.
8. **The Fifth Sacred Thing**, Starhawk, \$21.95.
9. **Love Spell**, Karen Williams, \$9.95.
10. **Corners of the Heart**, Leslie Grey, \$9.95.



**Phoenix Books**

Kansas City, MO  
November

1. **Daughters of Darkness**, ed. by Pam Keesey.
2. **Under My Skin**, Jaye Maiman.
3. **Romantic Naiad**, eds. Katherine V. Forrest/Barbara Grier.
4. **We-Moon Calendar**.
5. **Lady Lobo**, Kristen Garrett.
6. **Other Side of Silence**, Joan M. Drury.
7. **Spawn of Dykes to Watch Out For**, Alison Bechdel.
8. **Claire of the Moon**, Nicole Conn.
9. **Having Our Say**, Sarah and Elizabeth Delaney.
10. **I Sit Listening to the Wind**, Judith Duerk.



**Silver Moon**

London, England  
Bestsellers in 1993

**Wild Swans, Three Daughters of China**, Jung Chang, £7.99. The unforgettable story of three generations of women, this bestseller is mesmerising,

*Continued on page 60*

Books From Canada:

# BORDER CROSSING



By Jana Williams and Dorothy Seaton

Where has the year gone???? We didn't read nearly the number of books we'd meant to — and here's a whole column's-worth more!

## Coach House Press

**The Girl Wants To** edited by Lynn Crosbie. An astonishing new collection of work predominantly by young women writers. This volume contains erotica, cartoons, drawings, poetry, plays and even song lyrics. \$19.95 pb, 0-88910-462-X.

**Good Bones** is by Margaret Atwood. Need I say more? \$9.95 pb, 0-88910-431-X.

Two by Duras: **The Slut of the Normandy Coast & The Atlantic Man**. \$9.95 pb, 0-88910-441-7. 50 Prince Arthur Ave. Suite 107, Toronto ONT M5R 1B5. IN.



## Douglas & McIntyre

**On the Edge** by Lindalee Tracey. This is a journey into the heart of poverty in Canada by an award-winning film writer, director and journalist. \$16.95 pb, 1-55054-126-9.

**Bloodlines** by Myrna Kostash, a second generation Ukrainian-Canadian, is the story of the author's re-discovery of her Eastern European roots. \$26.95 cl, 1-55054-110-2.

**The Emily Carr Omnibus**, with an introduction by Doris Shadbolt, is the first complete collection of all of Carr's writings under one cover. \$45 cl, 1-55054-031-9. 1615 Venables St., Vancouver BC V5L 2H1. IN.

## Fifth House

**Firing the Heather, the Life and Times of Nellie McClung** by Marilyn Davis and Mary

Hallett. This is the first major biography of the writer, political activist and politician who had a profound impact on Canada at the beginning of the twentieth century. Davis and Hallett have both been professors at the University of Saskatchewan. \$26.95 cl, 1-895618-20-7.

**The Last Sigh** by Jacqueline Dumas. A new novel, set in Spain, is about grief, loneliness, friendship and the nature of love, personal responsibility and power. \$14.95 pb, 1-895618-21-5. 620 Duchess St., Saskatoon SK S7K 0R1. IN.

## Formac

**A Victorian Lady's Album** edited by Della Stanley. This beautiful book tells the story of a sensitive, observant young Victorian woman and the world in which she lived. \$24.95 cl, 0-88789-231-1. 5502 Atlantic St., Halifax NS B3H 1G4. IN.

## Harbour Publishing

**Grace** by S.P. Lewis is the biography of Grace Woodsworth MacInnes. She was British Columbia's first woman Member of Parliament and the founding mother of the New Democrat party. She fought tirelessly for the rights of women, consumers and low-income Canadians. Lewis is a radio news reporter who founded the environment news service. \$32.95 cl 1-55017-094-5.



**Some Become Flowers: Living With the Dying at Home** by Sharon Brown is the story of her mother's death. It conveys Sharon and her two young daughters' last days at home with Betty, the dying woman. \$14.95 pb, 1-55017-087-2. Box 219, Madeira Park BC V0N 2H0. IN.

## Lorimer Publishing

**Canadian Women's Issues**, Volume II. Covers the last twenty-five years and is part of a two volume collection of essays and documents detailing the women's movement and issues in Canada. \$39.95 cl, 1-55028-428-2; \$24.95 pb, -429-0. Egerton Ryerson Memorial Building, 35 Britain St., Toronto ONT M5A 1R7. IN.

## Polestar Press

**The Alaska Highway Two-step** by Caroline Woodward. I don't want to muscle into Nan Cinnater's territory, but just in case she missed this sweet little mystery from Polestar... For anyone's who traveled the "Highway" or owned a VW camper van and wanted to travel the highway — this book's for you. The story is engaging, the characters compelling and it was all I could do not to take the book and jump in my van and *drive* about half-way through this story. Evocative. \$14.95 pb, 0-919591-72-8.



**Imperfect Moments**, by Candis Graham, is her second collection of stories. You'll want this fine sequel. \$14.95 pb, 0-919591-47-7.

**The Last Chance Cafe** by Anita Roberts. Anita works as a self-defense instructor in Vancouver and this is her first collection of short stories. \$14.95 pb, 0-919591-80-9. 2758 Charles St., Vancouver BC V5K 3A7. IN.

## Talon Books

**The Angel of Solitude** by Marie-Claire Blais. A translation from the French about the lives of eight young lesbians. \$14.95 pb, 0-88922-337-8. 201-1019 E Cordova, Vancouver BC V6A 1M8. IN.

*Dorothy Seaton is a former international-calibre fencer. She is currently finishing her Ph.D in Literary Criticism at the University of British Columbia, having received her Master's at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia.*

*Jana Williams has just finished work on her third novel, Diamond Runners. She and Dorothy Seaton are currently collaborating on a lesbian screenplay.* ○

## Bestsellers ... Continued from page 58

and like all great stories of survival, no matter what tragedies and horrors are encountered along the way, it is an uplifting book.

**Intimacy & Solitude Self-Therapy Book**, £7.99. The follow-up to the immensely successful *Intimacy & Solitude*.

**Women Who Run With the Wolves**, Clarissa Pinkola Estes, £9.99. Subtitled 'Contacting the Power of the Wild Woman' this book has been massively popular on both sides of the Atlantic. The author shows how feminine wildness is both a positive and a necessary quality for women to carry and cultivate.

**Backlash**, Susan Faludi, £6.99. This international bestseller from Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Susan Faludi charts the backlash against women and fights back against the anti-feminists who would have us believe either everything is our fault — or that everything is fine and we can shut up now.

**Under the Southern Cross**, Clair McNab, £6.99. It has been a great year for Silver Moon Books. We published six books — the most we have ever brought out in one year. This passionate romance set against the majestic landscape of Australia from the hugely popular Claire McNab just romped off the shelves.

**Daughters of the House**, Michele Roberts, £5.99. Shortlisted for the 1992 Booker Prize and winner of the WH Smith Literary Award, this stunning novel from Michele Roberts investigates secrets and lies that linger in the very walls of the solid, old Normandy house in which Therese and Leonie grow up after the war.

**Revolution From Within, A Book of Self-Esteem**, Gloria Steinem, £5.99. Revealing her own long quest for self-esteem, she explores the nature of this quality, showing how crippling a lack of it can be, and how recapturing it can transform lives.

**The Secret History**, Donna Tartt, £5.99. It is almost impossible to believe that this is a first novel. Hypnotic, powerful and gripping to the last page, it is a real treat. I recommend missing out the *Epilogue*: the book stands without it.

**Written on the Body**, Jeanette Winterson, £4.99. **Written on the Body** is a love story, the narrator a vulnerable and subversive Lothario, gender undeclared. A fine novel from this controversial writer. ○

## SUSANNA STURGIS



ON

## SCIENCE FICTION



So travel is the theme, is it? Fantasy and science fiction are full of journeys, but I can't think of many that provide the nitty-gritty info, like train schedules, plane fares, good places to eat and stay and basic phrases in the native tongue.

On the other hand... of the books mentioned below: **Dancing Jack** features a riverboat journey and a couple of arduous overland hikes, and **Better in the Dark** will be handy if you're planning a visit to 10th century Saxony, and **An Eye for Dark Places** will take you through another looking-glass.



Here are a few essentials for an f and sf travel section, in no particular order: Ursula K. Le Guin's **Always Coming Home** (with recipes and songs and much information about local customs) and **The Left Hand of Darkness** (sledge pulling in Winter); James Tiptree Jr.'s **Brightness Falls from the Air** (a package tour of epic proportions); Eleanor Arnason's **A Woman of the Iron People** (more ecologically sensitive travel); Suzy McKee Charnas' **Walk to the End of the World** (if running for your life can be called tourism); Ellen Kushner's **Thomas the Rhymer** (did he ever return?); Tanya Huff's **The Fire's Stone** (traveling with a drunk, a thief, and a petulant wizard can broaden your horizons); Melissa Scott's **Dreamships** (leave the piloting to me); Pilar de Ovalle's **Calabria Falling** (see the kingdom before you take it over); and Connie Willis' **Doomsday Book** (an educational tour of the 14th century).

That should whet the appetite. By the way, I've seen in my real-time travels several stickers advising "Visit Scenic Darkover," sometimes followed by graf-

fiti that says "Terrans Stay Home" — does anyone have current word on the political situation there?

Where women readers and writers of f/sf gather, the subject of cover art is sure to come up, closely followed by its less flamboyant cousin, back-cover copy. J.F. Rivkin, author of the sword-and-sorcery series that started with *Silverglass*, used to lead panel discussions on the subject. The cover of *Silverglass* was a classic big-haired, big-breasted, scantily clad female swordswoman; J.F.'s cartoon parody appeared in these pages a year or so ago.

Almost a decade ago, artist Hannah Shapero wrote about the subtler stereotypes that reigned on f/sf book covers, e.g., blue-eyed blondes were frail, blondes with brown eyes were strong, most brunettes were villains, and all redheads were psychic. All were inevitably of European descent.

Jacqueline Gross of Mama Bears Bookstore in Oakland, California forwarded a copy of the letter she wrote to Penguin in October 1993 about the cover of Emily Devenport's *Larissa*, on which a main character clearly described as "a black girl" was depicted in the cover art as white. Good idea! And it is the publisher you should write to, not the author. Only authors with mega-clout get control over their covers; most count themselves lucky to be consulted at all.



Cover art and copy is chosen primarily to sell the book, not to illustrate or describe the text. Reaching a book's audience(s) seems to be secondary. Characters who are black, gay, lesbian, etc., etc., are widely believed to limit, rather than

expand, a book's audience. I just pulled off the shelf the hardcover copy of Maureen F. McHugh's Tiptree and Lammy award-winning *China Mountain Zhang*. Could you guess from the dust jacket that the title character is homosexual? Yes, perhaps — by correctly interpreting the reference to "decadent double lives." The accompanying press release was comparatively explicit, comparing the book to "the best works of Samuel R. Delany," a dead giveaway.

Of course, you have to know that Delany is out, gay, and a master explorer of sexual politics and economics.

So anyone looking for feminist content or lesbian characters learns to read between the lines. Blurbs by, or comparisons to the work of, Marion Zimmer Bradley, Ursula K. Le Guin (especially *The Left Hand of Darkness*), Elizabeth A. Lynn or Joanna Russ, among others, are good clues.



There are encouraging signs that things are changing. Covers are, as a whole, far less ludicrous than they used to be. The cover copy for Flynn Connolly's *The Rising of the Moon* (Del Rey) is explicit about the book's feminist themes. And quotes from *Feminist Bookstore News* and *Lambda Book Report* are sometimes found on covers, press releases, or ads for mainstream f/sf titles.

So keep writing to the publishers. Let them know why their covers don't work with your customers. And meanwhile continue to do what independent booksellers do best: help your readers find books they will like, in spite of those covers.

Okay, so it's fact, not fiction, and this next author is a guy, but if you're as intrigued as I by the realities and implications of computer technology, not to mention new threats to freedom of communication, you might want to pick up Bruce Sterling's **The Hacker Crackdown: Law and Disorder on the Electronic Frontier**, just released in paperback. Sterling is an eminent novelist and editor closely associated with cyberpunk (hi-tech sf with an attitude). \$5.99, 0-553-56370-X, Bantam.

## AEGINA PRESS

**Provoking the Power**, by Lynn Parkin Atkinson. This parable of economic avarice and ecological threat features characters with such allegorical names as Magnificent Moneyed and Freda Roam. Unfortunately, the writing rarely rises to the occasion, a fatal flaw when tackling such an epic theme. \$10 pb, 1-56002-157-8. Aegina Press, 59 Oak Lane, Spring Valley, Huntington, WV 25704.



## BALLANTINE BOOKS

**The Vampire Companion**, by Katherine Ramsland. I know that Anne Rice's *Vampire Chronicles* has many feminist fans — whether they fix their cravings in feminist bookstores is another question. This is "the official guide" and concordance to *The Chronicles*, written by Anne Rice's biographer. \$29.95 cl, 0-345-37922-5.

## BALLANTINE/DEL REY

**Chimera**, by Mary Rosenblum. A dazzling second novel that draws into the virtual reality (VR) nets several compelling, complex characters: Jewel Martina, haunted by her dirt-poor past and determined to make it as a deal broker on the nets; David Chen, who chose his VR art over family privilege; David's self-destructive artist lover, Flander; Susana, a brilliant adolescent VR hacker, and more. Engrossing, principled, compassionate, vivid — a hell of a book (\$4.99, 0-345-38528-4). While you're at it, pick up Rosenblum's first novel, **Drylands**, set in a 21st century U.S. where drought is the primary political reality. Here, too, the focus is on individuals who must choose between power and justice, honesty and fear (\$4.50, 0-345-38038-X).

**The Persistence of Memory**, by Karen Ripley. This begins The Slow World trilogy, in which a young horsewoman has disturbing memories of coming from another world. It has a YA feel to it and owes as much to the western as to f/sf. \$4.99, 0-345-38120-3.

## BANTAM/SPECTRA

**Daggerspell**, by Katharine Kerr. A revised edition of the first of Kerr's popular Deverry novels,



among the best series to come out of fantasy's broad Celtic/medieval territory. A key character is Jill, the magically gifted daughter of a mercenary. Good stuff. \$5.50, 0-553-56521-4.

### CIRCLET PRESS

**SexMagick**, ed. by Cecilia Tan. S. N. (Shariann) Lewitt's "Pipe Dreams" is hands-down the best written of these half-dozen tales by "women conjuring erotic fantasy," but for some reason awkward language rarely stands in the way of a turn-on. Each describes a ritual of some sort, fertile ground for sexual energy. Keep 'em coming, Circlet! \$5.95, 0-9633970-4-4. Circlet Press, P.O. Box 15143, Boston MA 02215, or from Inland.

### DAW BOOKS

**Dancing Jack**, by Laurie J. Marks. In a land broken by plague, the farmer Ash searches for her lost kin and encounters a tightening circle of ghosts from her own buried past. The focus here is not on the kings, queens, and rebels but on the folk caught up in their plans. Most of the major characters are women, and a strong undercurrent is Ash's long-unrequited relationship with steamboat pilot, Rys. A fine adventure with memorable characters, and a must-carry for feminist bookstores. Marks wrote the Children of Triad trilogy (*Delan the Mislaid*, *The Moonbane Mage*, and *Ara's Field*), which deals with difference, intolerance, and a race of ungendered beings. \$4.99, 0-88677-578-7.



### LITTLE, BROWN

**An Eye for Dark Places**, by Norma Marder. In a future England, changed yet recognizable, Sephyon Berg-Benson confronts a "feminine mystique" sort of dilemma: if her life is so fine, why does she feel empty, restless, and tired? And why does she see those strange hands that her husband can't? Like her mythic near-namesake, Sephyon's life is changed by a journey into an unexpected underworld. Though set in the future and published in 1993, this well-written first novel is close kin to *The Women's Room* and similarly heterosexual in its assumptions. \$19.95 cl, 0-316-47302-2.

### TOR BOOKS

**Better in the Dark**, by Chelsea Quinn Yarbro. This newest novel about Count Saint-Germain finds the charismatic vampire shipwrecked on the coast of 10th century Saxony and saved by Ranegonda, left guardian of her brother's fortress when he turned monk. \$23.95 cl, 0-312-85504-4.

**Snow White and Rose Red**, by Patricia C. Wrede. Reprint (with new ISBN) of a fine retelling of the classic fairy tale, set in Elizabethan England where trafficking with faerie might attract a charge of witchcraft. There's more substance to this than the "romantic and charming" cover blurb suggests and, like others in Terri Windling's fairy tale series (like Pamela Dean's *Tam Lin* and Kara Dalkey's *The Nightengale*), well worth carrying. \$4.99, 0-812-53497-2.

**Finder**, by Emma Bull. If I could push the deadline back a week, I'd drop everything and read this, Emma Bull's fourth novel. Her first, *War for the Oaks*, is already a classic; the third, *Bone Dance*, may well become so. The editors describe this as "a terrific story that manages in the process to be an urban fantasy, a police procedural, a bildungsroman, and a medical thriller, with a showstopper of an ending." Set in Bordertown, on the edge of Fairie, this is the tale of a young man with a gift for finding things and a (female) cop who needs his help on a case. More later! \$21.95 cl, 0-312-85418-8, Feb. ○

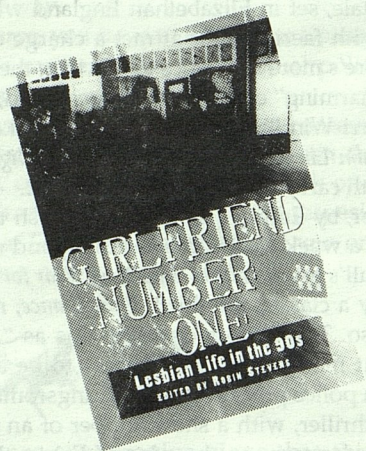
### Writing Wanted ... *Continued from page 54*

as well as workshops, readings, panel discussions, etc. The organizers are also accepting proposals for workshops and panels, poetry, journal excerpts and other writing for readings. Spiral Arts is a multicultural, artist-run organization dedicated to bringing experimental art to public spaces and non-traditional audiences. Contact: Spiral Arts, PO Box 20119, Columbus Circle Station, New York NY 10023 or call Nicole Demerin at 718-721-1434.

The Theater Offensive is a queer theater production company in Boston and is presenting a series of performance works by a Latino/Latina queers. They are seeking queer Latino/Latina Playwrights and Performers. For more information contact: José Fernandez or Abe Rybeck at The Theater Offensive, Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St. #408, Boston MA 02116. ○

*Forget Chanel No. 5 — Buy her...*

# GIRLFRIEND NUMBER ONE



## Girlfriend Number One: Lesbian Life in the 90s edited by Robin Stevens

Red Dora's Bearded Lady Café in San Francisco is where the postmodern meets the feminist, where Pop Tarts mingle with pesto eggs, and the cultural influences are as likely Charlie's Angels and Joan Didion as Audre Lorde and Susie Bright.

Red Dora's is also a performance space where writers and humorists have found enthusiastic audiences of like-minded girlfriends raised on feminism, television and bad music. These girlfriends are angry enough to change the world and smart enough to have fun in the meantime...

A lavishly illustrated gift book in stores for Valentine's Day, **Girlfriend Number One** is a night out at Red Dora's, capturing that grrrl slacker world in stories, cartoons and graphics.

*"Girlfriend Number One  
rips the covers off  
lesbian chic to reveal  
unchecked dyke reality..."*  
—SUSIE BRIGHT

*"Until I read  
Girlfriend Number One  
I didn't know I'd ever been  
on a lesbian date—  
honest honest honest!!!"*  
— JANE DELYNN

*Carla Tomaso Δ Mary Wings Δ Erika Lopez  
Joan Hilty Δ Masha Gessen Δ Achy Obejas  
Kris Kovick Δ Mabel Maney Δ Robin Stevens*

ISBN: 0-939416-80-8 \$12.95

7 x 10; 160 pages

FEBRUARY 1, 1994

Call Felice Newman for your reading copy.

(412) 937-1555

# CLEIS PRESS



# HUMOR

## RAVES & RECOMMENDATIONS

By Roz Warren

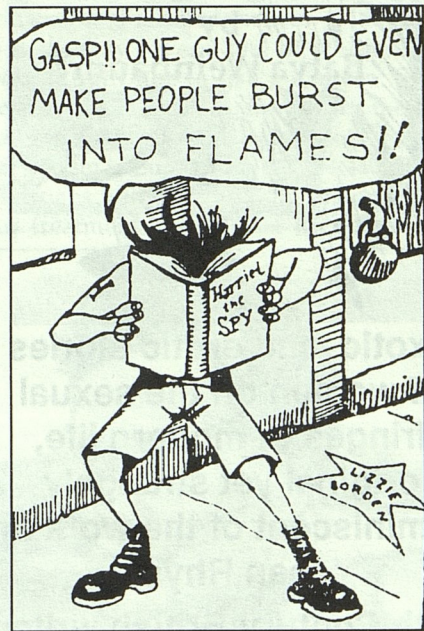
On the subject of travel, there's Lisa and Michael Cader's **But I Wouldn't Want To Live There! Wicked Wisdom From Seasoned Travelers**, a lively collection of travel quotes by folks like Erma Bombeck who says, "There is nothing more miserable in this world than to arrive in paradise looking like your passport picture," and Dave Barry who says, "A hundred years ago it could take you the better part of a year to get from New York to California; whereas today, because of equipment problems at O'Hare [Airport], you can't get there at all." \$12.95, 1-56138-280-9, Running Press.

Women humorists Alison Power and Meredith Anthony have teamed up with male humorists Larry Light and Richard Cagan to produce **101 Reasons Why We're Doomed**, a surprisingly political "list book" detailing what's wrong with contemporary life. It includes satire on socio-political realities like funding for medical research and the Tailhook scandal: "Medical research on AIDS, M.S. and cancer depends primarily on the fund-raising skills of Elizabeth Taylor, Jerry Lewis and Ronald McDonald" and "The U.S. Military overwhelmingly feels that gay recruits would endanger its macho culture — the same culture that brought us Tailhook..." The authors also get in a good swipe at Linda McCartney. She's "permitted to sing without fear before millions," the authors note, "while Salman Rushdie would be blown away if he left his safe house for a Slurpee." \$7.50, 0-380-77188-8, Avon Books.

If you were hoping this season would bring us yet another cat humor book, you're in luck. **Catmas Carols**, written by Laurie Loughlin and illustrated by Amy Ross is a charming collection of kitty ditties that rewrites traditional Christmas carols so that they're feline centered ("Oh come all ye furlful..." It

will probably sell well; we cat people just can't seem to get enough of this stuff. \$6.95, 0-8118-0237-X, Chronicle Books.

About as far away from silly kitty toons as you can get is John Callahan's fourth collection of single panel cartoons about politics, life, organized religion, and disability. In **The Night They Say Was Made for Love**, Callahan makes fun of everything from

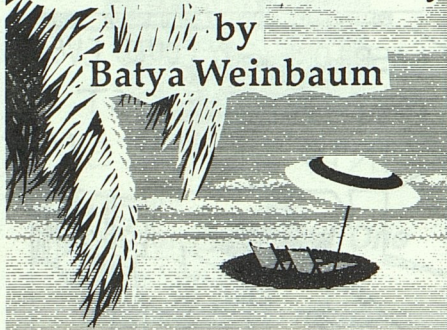


weapons in elementary schools (A teacher asks her class "Who knows George Washington's birthday? Let's see a show of guns!") to feminist bookstores ("This is a feminist bookstore!" a grim-faced cashier informs a customer. "There is no humor section!"). Is he laughing with us or laughing at us? You decide... \$9, 0-688-126480-0, William Morrow.

Available in November

**THE  
ISLAND**  
of  
*FLOATING*  
**WOMEN**

a collection of stories by  
by  
**Batya Weinbaum**



**Exotic and erotic stories  
of women on the sexual  
fringes of modern life,  
original yet strangely  
reminiscent of the work of  
Jean Rhys,**

**19th Century British writer**

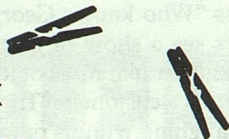
**\$9.95**

**176 p.**

**paperback**

**ISBN: 1-878533-10-X**

**Clothespin Fever Press**



**Hothead Paisan: Homicidal Lesbian Terrorist** (\$12.95, 0-939416-73-5, Cleis) is already in second printing(!) so be sure to stock enough copies of the 12th **Hothead 'Zine** (\$3.50, Giant Ass, distributed by Inland) for all Hothead's new (and old) fans.



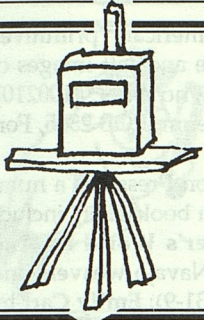
Michael Willhoite's **Members of the Tribe: Caricatures of Gay Men and Lesbians** is a stunning collection of Willhoite's enchanting line drawings of men and women of interest to the gay and lesbian community, enhanced by the artist's well informed and often quite wicked prose descriptions. Willhoite's weekly caricature is one of many good reasons to read *The Washington Blade*. \$24.95, cl, 1-55583-238-5, Alyson.

Cartoonist Carol Lay, featured in the *Twisted Sister* anthology, finally has her own collection. **Now, Endsville** contains a wealth of Lay's hip and darkly comic multi-panel work. \$9.95, 0-87816-235-6.

Finally, at the very top of the list of terrific new humor books is Molly Ivin's second collection of essays about politics and popular culture, **Nothin' But Good Times Ahead**. How can you not love a writer who calls Camille Paglia "a crassly egocentric, raving twit"? And can back up this assertion with a beautifully written, well-researched and extremely funny essay? Ivins also covers George Bush "(the Education President who spent more on military bonds than on Head Start programs)," book tours, "(The extent to which the entire process is humiliating depends on one's sensitivity.)" and meeting the queen of England ("It was like talking to one of those animatronic figures at Disneyland."). \$23, 0-679-41915-2, Random House.

The advice Ivins leaves her readers with is worth repeating here: "Hang in there, keep fightin' for freedom, raise more hell, and don't forget to laugh, too."

*Roz Warren is the editor of Women's Glib, Women's Glibber, Kitty Libber, Mothers! (Cartoons by Women), What is This Thing Called Sex? and the upcoming Glibquips: Funny Words by Funny Women (all from Crossing Press). She is also the founder of Laugh Lines Press. If you'd like Roz to present her crowd-pleasing feminist cartoon slide show at your store, please drop her a line at Box 259, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004.* ○



# ART BOOKS

By Tee A. Corinne

I've read recently about how frequently rich lovers played major roles in the early careers of gay male artists. I wish that supporting women's art could become more fashionable, glamorous, and essential to individual and cultural well being. It's coming, but oh, so slowly!

However, some exceptional books have arrived lately, so at least some publishers are putting their money and their vision to work for us.

**Panoramas of the Far East**, photographs by Lois Conner, is the newest in the "photographers at work" series which is remarkably gender balanced. Conner, born in 1951, uses an odd, elongated format to create images of exceptional beauty. Her photos of landscapes, city scenes, and rural dwellings all have a sense of magic about them. They are contemplative and complex at the same time. \$15.95 pb, 1-56098-331-0, Smithsonian Institute Press.

**Red Women on the Silver Screen: Soviet Women and Cinema from the Beginning to the End of the Communist Era**, ed. by Lynne Attwood, is a lucid, engaging study which includes a lively overview of the period followed by eight essays including "The Hydra of the Soviet Cinema: The Metamorphoses of the Soviet Film Heroine," "The Mythologization of Soviet Woman," and "From Film School to Film Studio: Women and Cinematography in the Era of Perestroika." \$24.95 pb, 0-04-440561-8, HarperSanFrancisco.

I do try to keep my enthusiasm for quilt history books in check, but **Kansas Quilts & Quilters** by Brackman, Chinn, Davis, Thompson, Farley, and Hornback is a treasure of photographs, quilt repro-

ductions and commentary including "African American Quiltmaking Traditions: Some Assumptions Reviewed," "Rocky Road to Kansas," and "Kansas Quilting Groups: Surviving the Pressures of Change." \$22.50 pb, 0-7006-0585-1; \$40 cl, 0-7006-0584-3.

**Tina Modotti: Photographer and Revolutionary** by Margaret Hooks is the long awaited biography of a fascinating and talented woman. Modotti (1896-1942) had many lovers, one of whom, Edward Weston, taught her to use a camera. She was involved in radical politics, framed for the murder of a lover, forced into exile, and worked undercover against fascism in Europe. \$40 cl, 0-04-440879-X.

Librarians will be especially interested in the serious treatment given **Irene Rice Pereira: Her**



*Red Women of the Silver Screen*, ed. by Lynn Attwood

**Paintings and Philosophy** by Karen A. Bearor (2 appendices and 50 pages of notes in a 324 page book). Pereira (1902-1971) was an abstract artist active in the NY art world of the 40s and 50s whose work reflects her interest in the theories of Carl Jung. \$34.95 cl, 0-292-73858-7, University of Texas Press.

**Women's Work: Textile Art from the Bauhaus** by Sigrid Wrotman Weltge is a handsome and informative volume which focuses on the women artisans of the innovative German school of design called the Bauhaus (1919-1933). \$40 cl, 0-8118-0466-6.



From *The World of Frida Kahlo*

Another exceptional (and expensive) book is **Glasgow Girls: Women in Art and Design 1880-1920**, ed. by Jude Burkhauser, motivational and inspirational as well as beautifully designed and filled with interesting information about a fertile period in the history of Art Nouveau. \$60 cl, 0-86241-332-2X. Dist. by Red Ochre Press, 705 Adriatic Ave., N. Cape May, N.J. 08204.

Not new, but available, reasonably priced, and interesting, are four volumes from the Amon Carter Museum. **Of Night & Day** by Nell Dorr, quotes by men and women with graceful, mysterious photographs (\$10 cl, no ISBN, #702640). **Carlotta Corpron: Designer with Light** contains elegant, beautiful images of plant forms, shells, buildings, and patterns of light (\$9.95 pb, 0-292-71065-8). **Liliane De Cock** produced stark photographs of western landscapes and buildings (\$7.95 pb, 0-87100-038-5). **Aunt Clara, The Paintings of Clara McDonald Williamson** by Donald and Margaret

Vogel, details the work of an American "primitive" who started painting late in life and left images of great warmth and charm (\$14 cl, no ISBN, #100210). All from the Amon Carter Museum, POB 2365, Fort Worth, TX 76113-2365.

The University of Washington Press has a number of titles of interest to women booksellers including: **Reflections of the Weaver's World** by Ann Lane Hedlund with photos of Navajo weavers and their work (\$29.95 pb, 0-295-97231-9); **Emily Carr** by Doris Shadbolt about the provocative Canadian spinster landscape painter, 1871-1945 (\$19.95 pb, 0-295-97003-0); **After Ninety**, Imogen Cunningham's remarkable images of people over ninety, photographed when she was over ninety herself (\$19.95 pb, 0-295-95673-9); **Alma Lavenson, Photographs** by Susan Ehrens which evoke a sense of "other places, other times" by a West Coast photographer, 1897-1989 (\$24.95 pb, 0-8263-1238-1 and \$50 cl, 0-8263-1237-3); and **The World of Frida Kahlo, The Blue House**, ed. by Erika Billeter (\$40, 0-295-97328-5).

**Clyde Connell: The Art and Life of a Louisiana Woman** by Charlotte Moser is a beautifully illustrated book about the unusual sculptures constructed by a Southern "lady" who became a civil rights activist in the 1950s and turned to sculpture in her sixties (\$17.95 pb, 0-292-71141-7, University of Texas Press). ○

**Hothead Chronicles...** *Continued from page 44*  
house they will move into in January — a few walls down, and they'll have much more square footage, much more light, and stable mortgage payments. The best thing is its just behind the original store.

After stuffing just a few more books in my suitcase (the new Adrienne Rich, the latest Crescent Dragonwagon cookbook, *The Dairy Hollow House Soup & Bread Cookbook*), I blaze a trail home to sort through what I've learned this fall: press releases don't work if they aren't sent out, maniacal tours without publicity don't necessarily sell books, good industry press is okay but consumer press is better, the Second and Third Waves are converging, and feminist bookstores are (surprise!) the soul of our movement. Next tour stops: Lansing MI and Los Angeles in mid-winter.

**Progress Report:** Seventeen stores down. Eighty-three to go. *Fugitive Information* orders as of November 24: 5970. ○



# MYSTERIES



By Nan Cinnater  
Now Voyager, Provincetown, Mass.

Do you all know about Sisters in Crime, the women mystery writers' organization? They do a nice job of promoting books by their members and women's mysteries in general. (Yes, they did lend their name and *imprimatur* to the anthology series edited by Michelle Wallace, now on volume 5: **Sisters in Crime 5**, \$4.99, 0-425-13506-3, Berkley). They also publish a semi-annual pamphlet listing members' books in print and forthcoming books. The Fall 1993 edition is 34 pages long — a useful resource. The publicity committee will send you the first copy free; others are available at \$2 each with discounts for larger orders. Apparently bookstores, libraries and reviewers can get on the publicity list simply by contacting: Rowan Mountain Literary Associates, P.O. Box 10111, Blacksburg VA 24062-10111; 703-961-3315.

If you have a serious mystery section, it's probably worth it to get on the list. We find that member-authors make good use of it. In addition to the books-in-print pamphlet, we receive lots of publication announcements for mysteries (especially paperback originals and first mysteries) that we might otherwise miss.

Sisters in Crime also puts out a fun poster/map of the U.S. that shows where members' fictional detectives are located. You'll find Jane Lawless in Minneapolis and Pam Nilsen in Seattle, for instance. That's available for \$5 from the same address.

A couple of issues back, I wrote that the first novel featuring herbalist China Bayles would be coming "soon" in paper and I finally have details: **Thyme of Death** by Susan Wittig Albert (\$4.99, 0-425-14098-9, Feb., Berkley). This is the beginning of

a nifty series with a generally progressive/New Age slant and lots of herbal lore worked in.

In the now-it-can-be-told department, Fawcett has let us know that A.J. Orde, author of a series about interior designer Jason Lynx, is also B.J. Oliphant, author of the Shirley McClintock mysteries. And most impressive, she's really SF wondermeister Sheri S. Tepper! This is the chief reason to get **Death for Old Time's Sake** by A.J. Orde, third in a series begun with *Death and the Dog Walker*. This one involves the murder of an anti-abortion activist, so it may be of topical interest as well. \$4.50, 0-449-22193-8, Fawcett.



Mysterious Press is re-issuing Ellis Peters' medieval mysteries featuring Brother Cadfael; and the very first in the series is **A Morbid Taste for Bones** (\$4.99, 0-446-40015-7, Feb.), followed by **One Corpse Too Many** (\$5.50, 0-446-40051-3, March). A new Brother Cadfael mystery also appears in paper in March: **The Holy Thief** (\$5.50, 0-446-40363-6). If you have medieval mystery fans, you may want to pick up **Death and the Chapman** by Kate Sedley. This is the first in a series (\$4.50, 0-06-104319-2, April, Harper). The second, **The Plymouth Cloak**, will be coming in paper from Harper this summer, and the third, **The Weaver's Tale** is due from St. Martin's in April. The hero, Roger the Chapman, is a young peddler who travels around fifteenth century England. Sedley is an English medieval schol-

ar, so we can assume she gets her history right (\$20.95, 0-312-10474-X).

Readers prize Peters for her elegant writing as much as for her attention to history. Therefore, finding a match for Brother Cadfael is difficult. I was hoping to find Brother C.'s match in Sister Frevisse, the fifteenth-century English nun in Margaret Frazer's **The Outlaw's Tale** (\$4.50 0-515-11335-2, Feb.), **The Novice's Tale** (\$4.50, 0-515-10900-2, Jove) and **The Servant's Tale**. I was somewhat disappointed. Still, it's high time for a medieval series featuring a woman, and Sister Frevisse will have to do until a more inspired sleuth comes along.



Like Peters, the two women who comprise the writing team known as Emma Lathen are the acknowledged masters of their specialty — in this case, financial mysteries. Lathen's sly wit enlivens the otherwise dull world of white men in suits, and the series has devoted fans. In **East is East** Wall St. wiz John Putnam Thatcher investigates a murder in Japan (\$4.99, 0-06-104296-X, March, Harper). Meanwhile, Otto Penzler Books is re-issuing the very first Thatcher mystery, **Banking on Death** (\$6.95, 1-883402-06-9).

If you have room to carry the classics (e.g., Christie), then you should consider carrying the Inspector Alleyn mysteries by Ngaio Marsh. (Ngaio is pronounced to rhyme with high-ho; the "g" is silent). They've just been featured on the PBS Mystery Series, and they're among the best of the golden age British whodunits. Alleyn's wife, a strong-minded painter named Troy, is a thoroughly modern, Thirties-style feminist. She's featured prominently in **Final Curtain** (\$3.50, 0-515-08757-2, Jove, Jan.).

In February we'll have a second paperback from Celestine Sibley, author of **Ah, Sweet Mystery**, featuring widowed Atlanta reporter Kate Mulcay (\$4.50, 0-06-109083-2, Harper). In **Straight As an Arrow** Kate visits an island off the coast of Florida to help out an old friend. These are attractively

cozy, and they're written by a forty-year newspaper veteran from Atlanta (\$4.50, 0-06-109190-1, Harper).

**Tales of Obsession** gives no editor's credit that I can find, but it includes stories of psychological suspense from P.D. James, Ruth Rendell, Joan Hess, Patricia Highsmith (whose names all appear on the cover), and Nancy Pickard, as well as some men. Rendell and Highsmith are perhaps the all-time top writers of this sub-genre, and the others are no slouches. Should be great. \$4.99, 0-451-17998-6, Feb., Signet.

Lydia Adamson, who has perpetrated one of the cute cat series (*Cat of a Different Color*, et al.), is beginning a new series about a woman vet in midwestern farm country. The first title in the series is **Dr. Nightingale Comes Home**. Literary value aside, if the big-eared, sly-eyed goat on the cover doesn't sell this book, I'll eat it. \$3.99, 0-451-17872-6, Feb., Signet.

March brings the latest Carlotta Carlyle mystery in paper: **Snapshot** by Linda Barnes, packaged with impressive cover blurbs from the *N.Y. Times* and other papers, and a new Sue Grafton. Here Carlotta has two cases involving little girls, one of whom is her "little sister," Paolina. \$4.99, 0-440-21220-0, Dell.

Also in March, there's **Heading Uptown** by Marissa Piesman, third in a comic series about a thirty-something, single, Jewish, Legal Services attorney who's hard to dislike, in spite of the politically incorrect pitfalls looming all around her. Mostly Piesman manages to avoid them, turning her heroine's ambivalence about weight, for instance, into moderately feminist insights into thin obsession. The mother is a great character, and there are uncannily accurate observations about the ways New York is different from any other place. If Woody Allen were a woman, he might write like this. \$4.99, 0-440-21161-1, Dell.



**Sacred Ground** by Mercedes Lackey is a hard call, as it could very easily be the kind of rip-off of Native American spiritual traditions that Native women have been protesting. (I haven't read an

*Continued on Page 90*



# Women's Music

# HOT NEW RELEASES

By Cathy Andrews  
Goldenrod Distribution/Lansing MI

These new releases may help keep the winter doldrums away.

**Hot Corn in the Fire/Casselberry-Dupree.** After a seven year wait, the second album from this fabulous duo is at the manufacturing stage and should be ready very early in '94. One of the best things about C-D is their versatility, and the ease with which they perform songs from a variety of styles. The styles on the new album include African, reggae, folk, gospel, and more. There may be two kinds of market for this album: their long-time fans, who have maintained their enthusiasm while waiting for a new release, and listeners who came to women's music after *City Down* had peaked. Ladyslipper 204; Tape & CD

**Opera For The Masses/The Derivative Duo.** This Seattle-based duo has turned opera on its ear and given us unabashedly lesbian and feminist parodies. Most are tunes that even non-opera lovers will recognize, and the subject matter covers a wide spectrum. Who might have imagined The Toreador Song from Bizet's *Carmen* turned into an Ode to Grethe Cammermeyer? Others include *Coming Out* Mozart, *PMS Aria*, and the *Barbie Doll Song*. This release is building a promising sales pattern in women's and gay/lesbian stores (as well as opera society gift shops). Derivative Duo 101; Tape & CD

**Like I Said/Ani DiFranco.** There's a phenomenon building in the person of Ani DiFranco. Her music is thrilling an audience that is primarily young and radical, the same crowd that women's music producers across the country are bemoaning for their lack of interest in the "usual" performers. Ani's music may be a bit intense for regular in-store play in the peaceful confines of most bookstores,

and it may not appeal to the taste of those responsible for stocking music. There is a large and ever growing fan base that is hungry for everything from this talented young woman, however. Her newest release is made up of 15 songs from her first two albums, re-recorded in her current "in concert" style. Requests from her fans prompted this recording. Righteous 5; Tape & CD

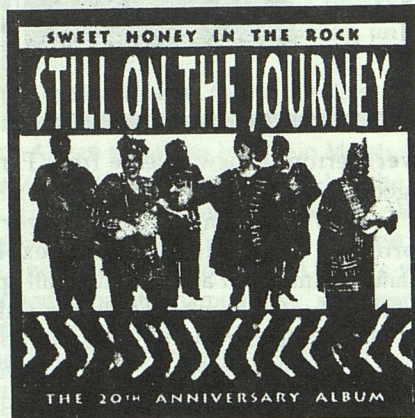


**Driver/Ferron.** A new release from Ferron is always good news, especially when it will be available at "normal" wholesale pricing. *Driver* holds much promise, filled with ten songs exploring change and commitment and meaning, all spun as part of the web of the universe that is uniquely Ferron's. Plans are being laid for a big promo push, including an announcement to her huge mailing list. This release is definitely due in the first quarter of '94, and may be ready as early as January. Cherrywood 8; Tape & CD

**Borderlands/Libana.** While many listeners are familiar with the popular chant/circle song albums from Libana (*A Circle Is Cast and Fire Within*), fewer are familiar with the "world music" this group per-

forms. In all cases, their music revolves around women's music in perhaps its oldest sense: music that was sung to accompany work, to celebrate rites of passage, to carry a political and often subversive message. This tradition of music sung only by women, with and for other women, often includes harmonic patterns and rhythms that are unfamiliar (musically) to western ears accustomed to pop music. This newest release is perhaps Libana's finest among their world music releases. Vocally flawless, these listener-friendly songs cover a wide stylistic and geographic range. Included are songs from eastern Europe, Argentina, North Africa, and the Middle East. Libana says that this album "invokes the soul of the global village," and they are right. Shanachie 67003; Tape & CD

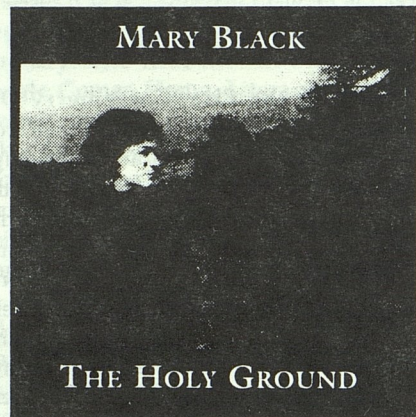
**A Woman's Heart**/Various Artists. This album rushed to the top of the charts on its release in Ireland, and has become the best selling album ever. It spent 25 weeks at #1. A first listen makes it clear why this is a special album. Six women — Mary Black, her sister Frances Black, Maura O'Connell, Dolores Keane, Sharon Shannon, Eleanor McEvoy — span the range from traditional to contemporary. All are fabulous vocalists, except for Shannon, who is a wiz on the accordion. Almost every track is a stand-out in its own right, but special mention should go to the title track, written and sung by Eleanor McEvoy,



Mary Black's previously unreleased "Sonny," and "Wall of Tears" by Frances Black. While this is an import, there is now a US importer who has been able to make this available to distributors at a very reasonable price. Dara 10011; Tape & CD

## News Updates

The release of the movie "Even Cowgirls Get The Blues" has been delayed until this spring, but the soundtrack was released in early November. Given that it was written by k.d. lang and longtime collaborator Ben Mink, and given that k.d. is perhaps the current "most visible lesbian" in the U.S., sales have been strong overall. With any luck at all the actual release of the film should provide another burst of sales activity months after the album's initial release.



Until the last couple of decades, lyrics were treated as sacrosanct, and were not changed if the singer was of a different sex than the songwriter. In some cases this left women singing about loving women, and men singing about loving men. You can hear these gems on oldies stations from time to time. Columbia, one of the majors, has started a new label called Art Deco, and one of their first releases is a collection called **Can't Help Lovin' That Man**. This compilation features men singing to other men. There are several other titles available, featuring singers from the 1920s, '30s and '40s, including one that highlights great women vocalists who were often overshadowed by their male counterparts. The label is marketing the discs through a sophisticated advertising campaign, and has identified the gay market as one of the primary ones they would like to tap into.

After years of ignoring bookstores as a market, several of the largest labels have begun to do pro-

*Continued on page 99*

# GAY MEN'S LIT FOR FEMINIST BOOKSTORES

By Richard Labonte  
A Different Light Bookstore, San Francisco

The theme this issue is travel: the single best gay book I can recommend which fits that theme is Lars Eighner's **Travels With Lizbeth: Three Years on the Road and on the Streets** (\$19.95 cl, 0-312-09926-6, St. Martin's).

True, it's the account of an essentially homeless man's wanderings over the course of more than three years, through the streets of Austin, Texas, and along the freeways and highways to and from Southern California, and it provides a poignant, wry insider's look at the life of a man who "fell through the cracks" when he lost his job and used up his friends.

But Eighner, a gay writer since the 1970s, and one of the few — John Preston, Steve Saylor are two others — to pull off the feat of blending good writing with good erotica, is too perceptive and acute a writer to dwell simply on himself.

So his book about a man and his dog and their travels is also "travel writing" at its very best: critic Phillip Lopate compared him to Orwell and Ackerley. Author Sarah Bird compared him to Voltaire's *Candide*, and I think he's as good, in an effective askew way, as Jan Morris.



**Travels with Lizbeth** has also received unprecedented review attention, unusual for a book from St. Martin's, a publisher notorious for under-promoting its own books. Reviews include front-page rave in the *New York Times*, a National Public Radio interview, and more.

(Speaking of notorious: at the recent fourth annual San Francisco Bay Area Book Festival,

where St. Martin's had a booth, there were no copies on hand of a debut mystery by one of its authors, Randye Lordon, though she was featured on one of the three lesbian/gay-interest panels at the Festival — and had paid her own way to attend after St. Martin's turned down a Festival request! And although there was a panel at the Festival featuring writing by and about the homeless, St. Martin's was equally unwilling to bring in Eighner. It's wonderful that books from Lordon, Nisa Donnelly, Denise Ohio and many each year by and about lesbians and gays, are being published by St. Martin's; but it must be frustrating for their editors, to say nothing of their writers, how little post-publication support the books receive).



Oops. Sorry for the rant.

In other travel news, New York looms large this year, what with Stonewall 25 and the Gay Games and all: watch your Inland or Bookpeople catalogues for at least three NYC guides due this spring: **Betty & Pansy's Severe Queer Review of New York City**, the **Detour** guide for NYC, and, from Gay Men's Press in Britain, a new New York guide with a view from abroad.

They'll all join the **Northeast Edition** of the venerable Gayellow Pages as books focusing on the nation's largest city — and, for at least the months of June and July, its queerest (a perfect case-in-point where "queer" substitutes finely for the much more awkward construction of lesbianist and gayest, and the longer one of most lesbian and most gay). All four guides are produced by men, but each includes a look at lesbian venues.

In terms of travel writing, there are a few books, some old and some new, that I'd like to suggest.

Two are from San Francisco writer Herbert Gold, whose most recent book is **Bohemia: Where Art, Angst, Love & Strong Coffee Meet**, a splendid graze through the coffee houses, cafes and places where poets hang out (\$11 pb, 0-671-88608-8, April, Simon & Schuster); an earlier title is **Best Nightmare on Earth**, a particularly timely look at the people and politics of Haiti, written by a visitor who loves the country and explains its tumultuous times (\$12 pb, 0-671-75516-1, Simon & Schuster).

All of the available Jan Morris titles do very well at A Different Light, and her literary lyric interpretations of the cities she visits also sell, when cross-shelved, from our TransGender section: her reputation as a male-to-female transsexual boosts her sales among both women and men, and any stores comfortable with the issue of sex change might do well with her books. The ones in print are:

**Destinations: Essays From Rolling Stone** (\$9.95 pb, 0-19-503069-9, Oxford); **The Great Port: A Passage Through New York** (\$8.95 pb, 0-19-503576-3, Oxford); **Hong Kong** (\$13 pb, 0-679-72486-9, Vintage); **Journeys** (\$8.95 pb, 0-19-505606-9, Oxford); **Last Letters From Hav** (\$6.95 pb, 0-394-75564-2, Random House); **Locations** (\$8.95 pb, 0-19-283136-4, Oxford); **Manhattan '45** (\$9.95 pb, 0-19-506664-2, Oxford); **O Canada: Travels in an Unknown Country** (\$20 cl, 0-06-018328-4, HarperCollins); **Sydney** (\$22.50, 0-394-55098-6, Random House); and **The Venetian Empire: A Sea Voyage** (\$9.95 pb, 0-14-011994-9, Penguin).



And, **Pleasures of a Tangled Life** is more focused on herself than on her travels, though it's still a book written by someone who obviously loves to roam the world. **Pleasure** is Morris' retrospective on the act, rather than the sites or the sights, of travel (0-679-73131-8, Vintage). While you're at it, might as well also stock **Conundrum**, the account of her transsexual experience (\$8.95 pb, 0-8050-0361-4, Henry Holt).

Though not exactly a travel guide, and is pricey, this title is a valuable book for travelers (and those of us who dream about traveling): **The Third Pink Book: A Global View of Lesbian and Gay**

**Liberation and Oppression** by Aart Hendriks, Rob Tielman & Evert van der Veen of the International Lesbian & Gay Association (ILGA), a country-by-country survey of lesbian and gay rights and wrongs, with nearly two dozen specific essays on policies and politics in countries ranging from Canada to China (\$29.95 cl, 0-87975-831-7, Prometheus).



Two more titles to consider come from elderly American expatriate Julian Green, who has been living in Paris for many decades, and through his writing evokes a haunting, soul-stirring sense of that city. The most direct book is **Paris**, a traveling-in-place memoir (\$13.95 pb, 0-7145-2949-4, Marion Boyar). And for a wonderful read, about people and places, **The Distant Lands** is also by Green (\$24.95 cl, 0-7145-2909-5).BP

Most of the titles I've suggested over the past months have been gay-interest books for women's bookstores which might want to stock a gay section; there are also a few titles we stock in our "Changing Men" section I'd like to mention here — though you won't find any of those "manly men" books by the likes of Robert Bly and Sam Keen listed here.

**Boyhood: Growing Up Male, A Multicultural Anthology** by Franklin Abbott, is a collection of essays by both gay men and non-gay men on memories of and reflections on their childhood, and is a fine attempt to explore through personal remembrance how it is that gender roles are developed (\$12.95 pb, 0-89594-581-9, Crossing Press). Abbott is also the editor of **New Men, New Minds** (\$10.95 pb, -219-4) and **Men and Intimacy** (\$12.95 pb, -407-3). BP and IN.

**Male Order: Unwrapping Masculinity** edited by Rowena Chapman and Jonathan Rutherford is more scholarly but in the end a no less personal collection of essays using popular culture as a springboard for a discussion of masculinity (\$19.95 pb, 0-85315-690-5, Lawrence & Wishart).

**The Prince and the King: Healing the Father-Son Wound** by Michael Gurian (\$13.95 pb, 0-87477-742-9, Jeremy Tarcher/Perigee) and **Father-Son Healing: An Adult Son's Guide** by Joseph Ilardo

(\$12.95 pb, 1-879237-47-4, New Harbinger) are two single-author books whose substance is obvious from their titles; the first is our best-seller, but the second is used by at least two therapists in town as a reference for their clients.

**The Secret Lore of Gardening: Patterns of Male Intimacy** by Graham Jackson is a Jungian perspective on the psychology of homoerotic relationships among straight men, between gay men and straight men, and definitely between gay men (Inner City Books, \$16 pb, 0-919123-53-8).

**Discovering Men: Critical Studies On Men and Masculinities** by David Morgan takes the tack that the very idea of "men's studies" must be examined critically (\$16.95 pb, 0-415-07622-6, Routledge).

**King Warrior Magician Lover: Rediscovering the Archetypes of the Mature Masculine** by Robert Moore & Douglas Gillette is another Jungian look at manhood and maleness, "one rooted not in domination but in creativity," according to the *New Age Journal* (\$10 pb, 0-06-250606-4, Harper San Francisco).

**Fatherjournal: Five Years of Awakening to Fatherhood** by David Steinberg (\$4.95 pb, 0-87818-034-2) and **For Men Against Sexism: A Book of Readings** edited by Jon Snodgrass (\$9.95 pb, -031-8) are two 1977 titles from Times Change Press which are superbly prescient in how they addressed issues still being worked out a generation later by too many men. Both books are available from Times Change Press, POB 2510, Novato CA 94948, 805-646-8595; and Inland has carried both books intermittently.



**The End of Manhood: A Book for Men of Conscience** by John Stoltenberg comes with praise from Gloria Steinem: "practical . . . compassionate . . . I hope Robert Bly reads it and discovers the real men's movement," from Naomi Wolf: "a brave beacon to a new world beyond sexism," and Essex Hemphill: "bravely interrogates masculinity and patriarchy." Look for the paperback in mid-1994 (\$21 cl, 0-525-93630-0, Dutton).

There's an exciting new series of 30 books coming from the British publisher Cassell, with the first five titles due at InBook in January. A Different

Light/SF has imported a couple of these titles already, and they've sold well, at prices \$3 or \$4 higher than listed here.

The two titles with strong co-gender interest are **Broadcasting It!** by Keith Howes, an encyclopedia of lesbian and gay appearances in British broadcasting (TV, radio, film shown on TV) from 1923 to 1993 (\$27.95 pb, 0-304-32702-5); **Coming Out of the Blue: British Police Officers Talk About Their Lives In "The Job" As Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals** by Marc Burke has a pretty self-explanatory title (\$14.95 pb, 0-304-32714-X).



**Speaking of Sex: The Limits of Language** by Antony Grey sounds from the publisher description like a heavy semiotic consideration of the sexual vocabulary (\$13.95 pb, 0-304-32698-4).

And there are two AIDS-related titles: **How Can You Write a Poem When You Are Dying of AIDS**, an anthology edited by John Harold (\$10.95 pb, 0-304-32904-5); and **Positive Lives: Responses to HIV, a Photodocumentary** produced by the Terrence Higgins Trust, an extraordinary collaboration among patients, photographers, lovers and friends (\$29.95 cl, -32846-4). Cassell c/o PCS Processing Inc., 360 W 31st Street, New York NY 10001.

Even though this is supposed to be a column about gay-interest titles for women's bookstores, this month I'd like to inaugurate a new feature, a gay boy's favorite lesbian title: **The Complete Garbo Talks** by Garbo (author of the novel *Rusty*).

The essays in this hand-made collection are among the wittiest I've ever read, and certainly this book tops my list for 1993 (though copyright 1991) of "I'll-just-look-at-a-page-or-two-my-goodness-I've-finished-the-book" titles. Garbo's squint at the world makes so much sense, provides so much entertainment, is so unpretentious . . . is just so plain good. The self-published effort is worth buying (\$9.95 pb, 1-881152-03-0) from Big Breakfast Publishing, POB 02394, Columbus OH 43202. ○





# Kitchen Table

Women of Color Press

*Help keep Kitchen Table alive  
for the next generation of feminists of color*

Dear Book Lover,

When *Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press* was started by Audre Lorde and Barbara Smith in 1980, its founders pledged that it would become an institution. **Thirteen years later Kitchen Table is still alive and continues to be the *only* U. S. publisher for women of color.** But in these hard economic times, **there is no guarantee that Kitchen Table will be always be here, unless the women's community nationwide takes an active part in securing its future.**

As you know, the Press has published award winning classics like *This Bridge Called My Back*, *Home Girls*, and *Cuentos*, but you may not know that it has always functioned as a service organization and political support network for feminists and lesbians of color as well.

Recently the Press' first full four-color cover for *Seventeen Syllables* was awarded First Place in the highly competitive New York Book Show. Most of the other winners were multi-national corporations with unlimited budgets, art departments, and state of the art equipment. **Kitchen Table won with two people on staff and without even an office copying machine or laser printer.**

If it were not for publisher Barbara Smith's years of leadership and unsalaried work the Press would not have survived. Because we are women who cherish Kitchen Table we believe it is time for the Press' existence not to be dependent upon individual sacrifice. We want the Press to grow and to gain access to the material and technological resources that would make it possible to sustain the quality work that has made its reputation. That means that we have made a commitment to raising the necessary funds to accomplish these goals.

**We the undersigned take responsibility for preserving Kitchen Table and the work that has given so many of us the strength, the vision, and the hope to fight for our lives and the lives of those we love. We urge you to join us. For just as we are responsible for our own liberation, we understand that Kitchen Table Press' survival depends on us.**

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Dorothy Abbott, Tania Abdulhad, Mary Ader, Cathy Cohen, Gloria DeSole, Bea Gates, Jaime Grant, Naomi Jaffe, Joo Hyun Kang, Laura Kaplan, Andrea Lockett, Judith McDaniel, Helen Quan, Vickie Smith

**Yes! I want to join my sisters in ensuring the future of KTP. Please accept my contribution.**

\$1,000    \$500    \$250    \$100    \$50    \$35    Other \_\_\_\_\_

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Latham, NY 12110

# FROM OUR OWN PRESSES



Compiled by Carol Seajay  
with the help of the feminist presses.

Not news by now, but Naiad Press started shipping copies of the k.d. lang video **Salmonberries** on December 9. I assume that Naiad got word to all the stores in time for Christmas orders. The video was out in Europe last summer — it's been available in Canada for a while and now, finally, legitimate copies in the U.S. \$69.95 from Naiad. 30% bookstore discount.

**Forbidden Love: The Unashamed Stories of Lesbian Lives**, the smash hit of the San Francisco Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, is on sale from the National Film Board of Canada for \$19.95 until March 31, 1994 when the price goes up to \$34.95. The film offers a portrait of lesbian life, sexuality and survival during the 1950s and 60s by interweaving interviews with ten lesbians who vividly and passionately recall that part of their lives with dramatizations of scenes from the era's pulp novels that fade into the steamy cover paintings.... It's wonderful! Any bookstore that rents videos will want one or two — and then once women have seen it,

*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.*

they'll want to buy it. Directed by Aerlyn Weissman & Lynne Fernie. Produced by Margaret Pettigrew and Ginny Stikeman. 85 minutes, closed captioned. The offer I saw said "Offer valid in Canada only." If you have a Canadian mailing address, I guess you're in. Others take the risk of having their orders



*Men! Ha!* by Stephanie H. Piro

returned. Easiest deal is to pay by visa or master-charge so the GST taxes can be added. 40% discount for 10+. Order from the National Film Board of Canada, Women's Marketing D-5, PO Box 6100 Station A, Montreal PQ H3C 3H5 or fax 514-496-2573, Attn: Women's Marketing. **Forbidden Love** should be available in the U.S. for home viewing and bookstore sales in June from Women Make Movies.

Wolfe Video's newest release is **Et L'Amour** created by Ponygirl Productions "to give women (and those who find woman to woman experience erotic) a unique short film to titillate, arouse and suggest a romantic interlude between consenting adults. An erotic appetizer, a steamy emotional teaser." Lesbian erotic video is hard to do — or maybe my problem continues to be that I'm over 40 and like it, and prefer to do it rather than watch it. But it will definitely rent well (and sell?) to those who are renting in the genre. Production quality is better

## NEW FROM SPINFEX

### *The Lesbian Heresy*

Sheila Jeffreys

"Controversial, outrageous, heretical"

"The backlash against feminism has been documented powerfully by Naomi Wolf and Susan Faludi ... Within the lesbian community, too, there has been a parallel backlash."

*Lesbian Heresy* addresses this backlash and will cause quite a stir amongst feminist, lesbian, gay, queer and heterosexual readers.

1-875559-17-5 \$17.95



### *Safe Houses*

Rose Zwi

"A tangled web of love and betrayal set in South Africa"

An historical novel, *Safe Houses* tells the story of three families - black and Jewish - who are inextricably bound by love and hate, hope and betrayal - and their attempt to survive an evil political system that indiscriminately devours both the guilty and the innocent.

1-875559-21-3 \$13.95

### *Feminist Fables*

Suniti Namjoshi

"A feminist classic to read over and over"

The fable is deftly brought up to date in the work of Suniti Namjoshi - from its sources in Greek and Sanskrit mythology, Namjoshi works instead with contemporary situations.

1-875559-19-1 \$12.95

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Tel: 203-467 4257

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Michele Karlsberg: 1-718-351 9599

Spinifex Press, PO Box 212, North Melbourne, Vic,  
Australia. Tel 03 329 6088, Fax 03 329 9238.

than most. \$24.95, 23 minutes. Wolfe Video, PO Box 64, New Almaden CA 95042. 408-268-6782.

"100 Simple Things You Can Do To End Patriarchy," a poster that adorns many a dyke refrigerator, is now available in French, Spanish, and Grade 2 Braille as well as English. \$5 ea. "Come Out Now — Ask me how!" bumperstickers for recruiters, \$1. 40% bookstore discount. Free shipping with prepayment. Word Weavers, PO Box 8742., Minneapolis MN 55408.



**Whose Daughter Are You: Exploring Identity Issues of Lesbians Who Are Adopted** offers findings of an exploratory study that interviewed 13 self-selected, self-identified lesbians who were adopted as infants or young children. Issues explored included the coming-out process, managing relationships with partners, conducting relationships with both adoptive and (if found) birth families, and searching or not searching for the birth family. The study also explored the dual yet separate elements which contributed to an identity: being adopted and being a lesbian. Thesis-bound. \$8 plus \$2 shipping & handling. 40% bookstore discount for 2+. The author is also at work on a book on international adoption, partly autobiographical, about being Korean and adopted by a white U.S. family. She raises issues of racism in international adoptions and other political issues and analysis. Most (all?) of the work in print on these issues are written by adoptive parents and social workers, rather than from the experience of those who were adopted. Order from author/publisher Mi Ok Song Bruining, 2316 Vance St., Bronx NY 10469. 718-653-0613.

**In Honorable Discharge... Memoirs of an Army Dyke** Donna Jackson writes about her years in the military, culminating with her pre- Gulf War discharge for telling her commanding officers that she was a lesbian. Actually, the military didn't care much that she was a lesbian — she was told ("off the record, of course") that she would be deployed to Saudia Arabia for the course of the war, and *then* discharged for being a lesbian. She was discharged — honorably — for refusing to accept that hypocrisy. **Honorable Discharge** is a "bare all/tell





all" book "that reads like a trashy novel" and faithfully describes her eight years in the military from the young age of 17 until her discharge at 25 and — briefly — covers the two years since her discharge. \$14.95 pb, 0-9639855-0-7. 250+ pgs. Published by The Christie Stefin Company (Donna & her lover, co-publishers of *Dyke Review*), 584 Castro St. #456, San Francisco CA 94114. 50% discount to bookstores for first order. Distributed by Alamo Square and BP. Jan.

The Women's Studies Librarian of the University of Wisconsin System offers a new, updated core bibliography **The History of Women and Science, Health and Technology** which may be useful to booksellers. Single copies are available free while supplies last from The Women's Studies Librarian, University of Wisconsin System, 430 Memorial Library, 728 State St., Madison WI 53706.

### ASTARTE SHELL PRESS

**Reflections Of A Healing Heart** by Linda Estela. Mollie is dependable, helpful, fun-loving. One night she sits in her bathroom and very purposefully uses a razor blade on her wrists. As a psychiatric nurse, she is appalled the next morning to wake up in a locked hospital ward. Her journey of healing takes her into memories of deeply-hidden childhood abuse, and reconnects her with the fiery power of the artwork she had abandoned because it brought her too close to the truth. \$10.95 pb, 0-9624626-8-3.

We are also pleased that **The Rest Of The Deer: An Intuitive Study Of Intuition** by Margaret Blanchard, is currently available through Inland, Bookpeople and New Leaf. \$14.95, 0-9624627-7-5.

Astarte Shell Press, PO Box 10453, Portland ME 04104; 207-828-1992.

### LAUGH LINES PRESS

Laugh Lines Press finds nothing patriarchal too sacred to laugh at. The newest title, **Men! Ha!**, tack-

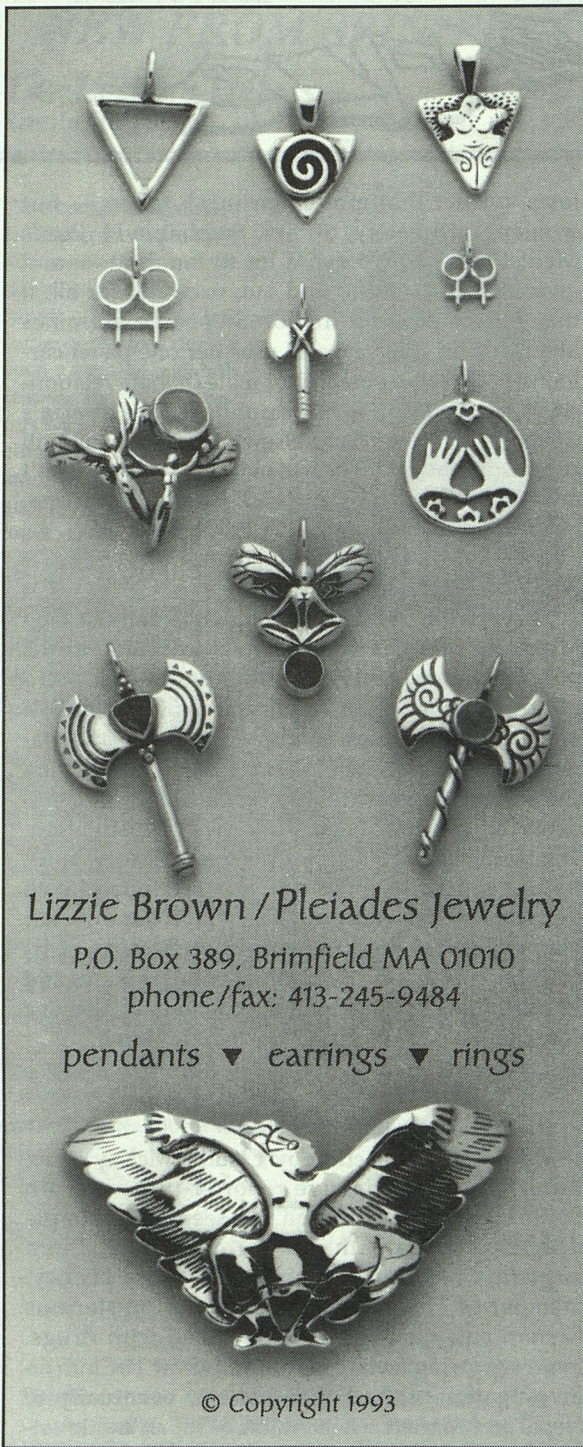
les a subject that most men think taboo — but women, fortunately, do not. Stephanie H. Piro's **Men! Ha!** gives women a lot to laugh at — and gives men a chance to find out, once and for all, if they have a sense of humor. Stephanie examines life, love and romance and uses her one-panel cartoons to chart the parabola of male/female relationships. Her work has been published in *Woman's Glibber*, *Ms*, *Glamour* and elsewhere. This book will cheer her fans and win her many new ones. Don't miss it. \$7.50, pb, 0-9632526-2-3. Laugh Lines Press, PO Box 259, Bala Cynwyd PA 19004. BP & IN.

### NEW VICTORIA PRESS

**Everywhere House** by long-time activist Jane Myerding presents a mystery set in Seattle in the politically-charged 1970s. The brutal murder of a philosophy professor implicates Barb Randall, a member of The Furies, an ultra-radical lesbian separatist collective. Drawn to Barb's plight and fearing she will not be treated fairly by the authorities, student Terry Barber begins her own investigation. She unearths Barb's secret personal history, infiltrates a sinister religious cult, and precipitates both political and personal struggles within her own lesbian collective. We liked this book because of its discussion of feminist and leftist political issues and its recounting of a fascinating time in our collective consciousness. \$9.95 pb, 0-934678-42-1. March.



**The Kali Connection** by Claudia McKay introduces us to investigative reporter-turned-sleuth Lynn Evans. Reporting on the seemingly simple drug-overdose death of a former addict, Lynn meets the beautiful and enigmatic Marta Hanley, member of The Kalimaya Society, a mysterious Eastern cult rumored to be involved with drugs. Lynn's growing feelings for Marta draw her into an investigation of the Kalimayas and eventually to Nepal and Marta's true mission. With an exotic set-



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ting, a complex emotional relationship, and some third-world politics, this mystery makes for very interesting reading. \$9.95 pb, 0-934678-54-5. March.

**Lesbomania** by Jorjet Harper, the Molly Ivins of the lesbian beat, is a collection of her very amusing columns which appear in numerous lesbian and gay publications. Topics range from two lesbian, nearly monogamous penguins, to guilt about not going to Michigan, to her lesbian version of West Side Story. It kept us laughing through the whole manuscript—always a good sign. \$9.95 pb, 0-34678-53-7. May.

New Victoria Press, PO Box 27, Norwich VT 05055; 802-649-5297.

— New Victoria Press

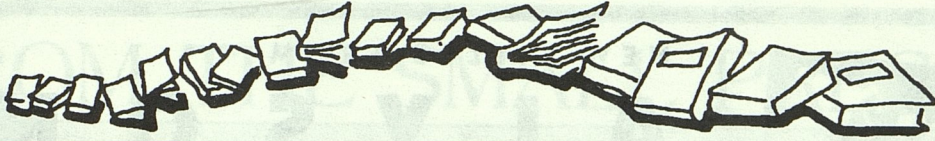


### PLAIN VIEW PRESS

Texas feminist literary publisher Plain View Press announces the publication of **Embracing the Fall** by Margo LaGuttuta with art by Christine Reising, a collection of poetry which has burst out of creative process, out of a way of living in the world of everyday things — a license plate that says 3374 MEN, eating pears, and moving to Muskegon. There is passion, art, humor and a woman's vision in these fragile and powerful poems. \$11.95 pb, 0-911051-71-6. Plain View Press, PO Box 33311, Austin TX 78764. Distributed by Inland.

### SPINIFEX

Two new Spinifex titles have shipped to the U.S. and should arrive at InBook in late January or early Feb. Set in South Africa, **Safe Houses** by Rose Zwi tells the story of three families — Black and Jewish — who are inextricably bound by love and hate, hope and betrayal. Linked by a common past, but separated by betrayal, Ruth and Lola are drawn into the struggle against apartheid, but still feel inadequate and marginal — it is difficult to find solutions when one is part of the problem. When their children meet and fall in love they are determined not to join the spiral of love, jealousy, and betrayal that swallowed their parents. But can their love and hope survive an evil political system that indiscriminately devours both the guilty and the



innocent? Rose Zwi was born in Mexico, has lived in London and Israel, but spent most of her life in South Africa. Her previous novels include *The Umbrella Tree*, *Another Year in Africa*, *The Inverted Pyramid* and *Exiles*. She emigrated to Australia in 1988. \$13.95 pb, 1-875559-21-3.

Spinifex has also just shipped their edition of Suniti Namjoshi's **Feminist Fables**, an indispensable feminist classic that combines Greek and Sanskrit mythology with some of the most wicked and powerful satire in contemporary feminism. \$12.95 pb, 1-875559-19-1.

Titles announced previously that are already at InBook include *The Lesbian Heresy* by Sheila Jeffreys, *The Falling Woman* by Susan Hawthorne, *If Passion Were a Flower* photographs by Lariane Fonseca (at a new reduced price of \$39.95 for this glorious, full-color photography book), and *Life on the Edge* cartoons by Judy Horacek, Spinifex Press, 504 Queensberry ST., PO Box 212, North Melbourne Vic 3051, Australia. Booksellers interested in obtaining in-store promotional materials, a recent catalog or other information may also contact Spinifex's U.S. publicist, Michele Karlsberg, 585 N. Railroad Ave. Penthouse, Staten Island NY 10305. Phone/fax 718-351-9599. Distributed in the U.S. by InBook.



## VIRAGO

Three titles recently released in the U.S. include two books in the Virago Modern Classics Series and... a cat book.

Into the cat craze comes **Minka and Curdy**, Antonia White's (*Frost in May*) enchanting story of a writer and the two kittens who come to disrupt her work.... First published in 1957 and followed in 1970 by *Living With Minka and Curdy*. \$10.95 pb, 1-85381-552-7.

Rose Macaulay's **The World My Wilderness**, a somewhat autobiographical coming-of-age novel about a girl "allowed to run wild" in post WWII France who, for her misdeeds and others', is then

returned to the formality of English social life... "Macaulay's most sophisticated novel explores brilliantly the spiritual dilemmas of the post-war world." \$10.95 pb, 1-86068-340-0.

Elizabeth Von Arnim wrote 23 novels including **The Solitary Summer**. "Here, with the pleasing astringency for which she is noted, Elizabeth von Arnim returns to the heroine and garden she immortalized in *The Enchanted April* (recently dramatized in Britain on screen and for the BBC)." "A witty, lyrical account of a rejuvenating summer. Descriptions of magnificent larkspurs and burning nasturtiums give way to those of cooling forest walks — and of clambering up the mud bank when the miller is not in view." \$10.95 pb, 1-85381-553-5.

Trafalgar also has Hutchinson's **La Pasionaria: The Spanish Firebrand**, a biography of Dolores

*Continued on page 98*

# PRESS GANG

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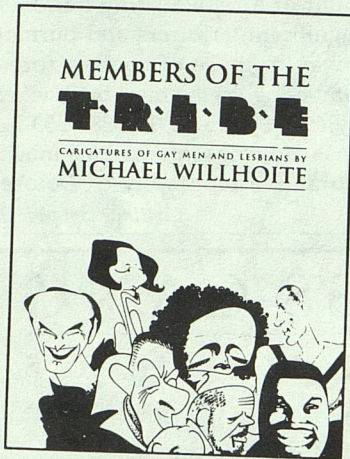


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# FROM THE SMALL PRESSES



By Dawn L. Martin

First, some travel-related small press titles...

**Road Magic** by Susan Foss is the autobiographical tale of a 23-year-old secretary who quits her job and takes to the road on a motorcycle for thirteen years. This first book of a projected trilogy reveals the adventurous Foss' travels in North America with her dog, Commanche. In journal-like entries Foss writes of the "beauty of our land..., the kindness given freely from our people, the wild and free moods of nature." \$9.95 pb, 1-883557-01-1. Road Magic, PO Box 1743, Woodward OK 73802. 1-800-700-ROAD.

Running Press has several helpful travel tools: **A Traveler's Diary: A Companion To Your Journeys** is a blank book to document your travel experiences. Includes quotations from various writers, explorers and actors. \$11.95 cl, 0-89471-783-9. **A Traveler's Journal: A Personal Notebook for Travels Real and Imaginary** is a paperback journal that includes quotations from both famous women and men — unfortunately a lot more men than women... \$5.95 pb, 0-89471-185-7. The Running

*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.*

**Press World Atlas: Miniature Edition** is a pocket sized atlas complete with an index. \$4.95 cl, 1-56138-250-7. The Running Press, 125 South Twenty-Second St., Philadelphia PA 19103. BP.



From *The Story of a Single Woman* by Uno Chiyo.

**One Particular Harbor: The Outrageous True Adventures of One Woman with Multiple Sclerosis Living in the Alaskan Wilderness** is by Janet Lee James. The story takes place against the backdrop of the Alaskan wilderness, where James lived in the cabin she'd always dreamed of (no water or electricity), worked as a cook on an ancient two masted schooner and mushed sled dogs on weekends. "Her tastes for black humor, cold beer, and handsome men result in numerous entertaining tales that leave an unflinching account of the progressively worsening MS symptoms that eventually confine James to an electric wheelchair." \$13.95 pb, 1-879360-30-6. The Noble Press, 213 W. Institute Place Suite 508, Chicago IL 60610. BP and IN.

**The Independent Woman's Guide to Europe** by Linda White is a unique resource that provides a good deal of information about travelling across Europe. The author appears to be biting off a bit more than she can chew, however, attempting to tackle Europe in its entirety. The most useful and in depth sections are: Accommodations, Transportation and Shopping. This guide would probably best serve the Euro-rail traveller who has never visited the continent before. \$13.95 pb, 1-55591-087-4. Fulcrum Publishing, 350 Indiana Street, Suite 350, Golden CO 80401. BP and IN.

One last note of travel interest... Book Passage Press is releasing an anthology of essays about travel writers' worst trips titled **I Should Have Stayed Home**. Many of the contributors are women: Jan Morris, Barbara Kingsolver, Mary Morris, Marcia Muller, Mary Mackey and Helen Gurley Brown are some well-known names. The royalties received from this book will be donated to Oxfam America, the international relief organization. May 1994.

Also coming out in May is **A Kind of Grace**, a collection of essays from great women's sportswriters. This anthology will be published under RDR Books' women's series imprint, Zenobia Press.



Author Jamie Fuller gives us a fictional diary, based on close readings of Dickinson's writings and contemporary materials. **The Diary of Emily Dickinson** is a dramatic achievement by Fuller, one that re-creates the persona of Dickinson in a very believable way. \$18 cl, 1-56279-048-X. Mercury House, 201 Filbert St. # 400, San Francisco CA 94133. Distributed by Consortium, BP, IN.

The heroine of Monika Maron's **Silent Close No. 6** (translated from the German by David N. Marinelli) is a disaffected journalist hired by a retired East German high official to transcribe his memoirs — which we read through the critical eyes of the woman who is transcribing them and commenting on his life. Maron's first novel, *Flight of Ashes*, explored the subtleties of self-censorship by writers and journalists under East European Communism. **Silent Close** won the Heinrich von Kleist Prize in 1992. \$11.95 pb, 0-930523-94-6; \$19.95

cl - 93-8. Readers International, PO Box 959, Columbia LA 71418. Distributed by Consortium. IN.

Marcia Pally's **Sex & Sensibility** challenges the belief that television is a direct cause of violent behavior. In these excerpts on television violence, Pally asks important questions and, in an evocative and extensively researched text, challenges what is believed to be the intellectually correct thinking that has bred the current hysteria about television violence. \$13 pb, 0-88001-364-8, June. The Ecco Press, 100 West Broad St., Hopewell NJ 08525. Distributed by W.W. Norton and IN.

**Enough is Enough: Weekly Meditations for Living Dysfunctionally** by visual and performance artist Karen Finley is a wonderfully hysterical book. It "reveals how to parlay such key dysfunctional skills as procrastination, whining, lying, hating, complaining, faking, ignoring, 'self-centering,' bragging and exaggerating power, attention and glory." This is a book that customers will buy for themselves and come back for more copies to share with friends. Finley was catapulted into controversy in 1990 when she became one of four performance artists whose NEA funding was cut off after two conservative columnists vilified her solo performance, *We Keep Our Victims Ready*. \$14 cl, 0-671-87182-X. Poseidon Press, 1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York NY 10020.

Four Walls Eight Windows has published the long-awaited **Parable of the Sower** by Octavia E. Butler. **Parable** takes place in California in the year 2025, "where small walled communities must protect themselves from hordes of desperate scavengers and roaming bands of... people addicted to a drug that activates an orgasmic desire to burn, rape and murder." After one community is overrun by these bandits, an 18-year-old Black woman sets out on foot along the dangerous coastal highway. She suffers from a hereditary trait called "hyperempathy," which causes her to feel others' pain as well as her own. Butler is one of a few African American women writing science fiction. Her work has won many prizes. \$19.95 cl, 0-941423-99-9. Four Walls Eight Windows, PO Box 548, Village Station, New York, NY 10014. BP, IN.

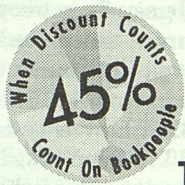
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 **POLESTAR**

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**Just Whistle a Valentine** by C.D. Wright is an extraordinary volume of poetry that ventures into a new dimension by her sheer nerve to create other realms of expression. The recurring figure of "the body" encourages a myth/mystery-making on the part of the reader. A decidedly feminist experience, a collection in defiance! Wright is the author of six previous collections of poetry that include most recently *String Light* for which she won the 1992 Poetry Center Award. **Just Whistle** includes six photographs by Deborah Luster. \$14 pb, 0-932716-32-6. Kelsey St. Press, 2718 Ninth St., Berkeley CA 94709. Distributed by Small Press Distribution and Inland.

Evelyn Williams has written a miraculous book which chronicles her experience as both a Black woman coming of age in America and as the attorney for Black Liberation Army member Assata Shakur in **Inadmissible Evidence**. Williams is most noted for her six-year defense of her revolutionary niece. **Inadmissible Evidence** sheds light on the injustice through which Shakur was eventually convicted of the murder of a New Jersey State trooper and sentenced to life plus 30 years. A much needed addition to the genre of books that illuminates the truth about the Black experience in America. \$12.95 pb, 1-55652-184-7; \$22.95 cl, 183-9. Lawrence Hill Books, 611 Broadway, Ste. 530. New York, NY 10012. Distributed by Independent Publishers Group. IN.

Two new anthologies have been published by Collier Books. **Modern Women Writers: Profiles of Their Lives and Works From the 1870s to the Present** edited by Elaine Showalter, Lea Beachler and A. Walton Litz provides intelligently written, insightful essays that analyze 32 women writers' lives and works. Generally writers one may study in English or creative writing programs: Elizabeth Bishop, Gwendolyn Brooks, Willa Cather, Emily Dickinson, Hilda Doolittle and Toni Morrison are some favorites. \$15 pb, 0-02-082025-9. **African American Writers: Profiles of Their Lives and Works from the 1700s to the Present** edited by Valerie Smith, Lea Baechler, and A. Walton Litz is an anthology of writings that gives bibliographic and critical information about 28 authors' lives and works. \$15 pb, 0-02-082125-5. 866 Third Avenue, NY NY 10022.





Xi Xi is Hong Kong's "foremost woman writer," and one of the few Chinese women to be translated into English. **My City: A Hong Kong Story** is set in the 1970s and illustrates the hopes and fears of the younger generation. \$11.95 pb, 962-7255-11-4. Renditions Paperbacks, Research Centre for Translation, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin N.T. Hong Kong. Distributed in the U.S. by Cheng & Tsui, Inland and Small Press Distribution.



As Naomi Mitchison turns 95 in her native Scotland, Soho Press returns to print her historical novel, **The Corn King and the Spring Queen** as part of the ongoing Hera Series of classic historical fiction by and about women. First published in 1931, the critics agree this is Mitchison's masterwork. The story takes place centuries before Christianity and offers an intimate rendering of heroic women. \$17 pb, 0-939149-99-0. Soho Press, 853 Broadway, New York NY 10003. IN.

Lynne Rienner has published two new titles of feminist interest: Barbara Callaway and Lucy Creevey's **The Heritage of Islam: Women, Religion, & Politics in West Africa** is a scholarly and informative look at how Muslim culture is affecting several African countries. The authors investigate how Islam has played a role in changing the roles of women and provide a wide ranging analysis of how Islam works in different societies.. A must read for any student of Islamic religion. 1-55587-414-2.

**Educated and Ignorant: Ultraorthodox Jewish Women and Their World**, Tamara El-Or's dissertation, looks at the lives of "ultraorthodox" Jewish women in Israel and reflects the author's desire both to tell their stories and to find meaning in their lives. This translation includes comments and clarifications for the English-language reader. \$17.95 pb,

1-55587-396-0; \$39.95 cl, -393-6. Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc., 1800 30th Street #314, Boulder CO 80301.

Dorothy Bryant's new novel **Anita, Anita** tells the story of Anita Ribeiro de Duarte, "the fiery Brazilian girl who left her husband" to fight beside her lover, Giuseppe Garibaldi, in South America and Italy. Bryant uses biographies, Garibaldi's memoirs, and many other sources to recreate their passionate love and the events that brought them together. The historical novel is by far Bryant's most ambitious work. She succeeds in unearthing a warrior woman from a forgotten history. \$20 cl, 931688-17-5; \$12.95 pb, 931688-18-3. Ata Books, 1928 Stuart Street, Berkeley CA 94703. BP, IN.

**Superstars: Twelve Lesbians Who Changed the World** by Dell Richards (*Lesbian Lists*) takes you into the world of women who have helped define the world. Richards includes women like Alice Hampton, whose courage led her to social reform, and her sister Edith, who opened the world's eyes anew to the glory that was Greece. In this book Richards expands the definition of "lesbian" to include "cross-dressers, romantic friends and spinsters as well as the modern version of a lesbian." \$11.95 pb, 0-88184-955-3. Carroll & Graf, 260 Fifth Ave., New York NY 10001. Publishers Group West, BP, IN.



The revised and updated **Coming Out to Parents: A Two-Way Survival Guide for Lesbians and Gay Men and Their Parents** by Mary V. Borhek has been published by The Pilgrim Press. It addresses Jewish and Christian attitudes toward homosexuality and helps both parents and children to understand and respond to the realities — and harmful interpretations and misinterpretations — often found in various religious traditions. It grapples with the effect of AIDS on the coming-out

process. The previous edition helped thousands of lesbians and gay men to reveal their true selves to their parents and helped the parents to understand and to learn to fully accept and love their children. \$14.95 pb, 0-8298-0957-0. 700 Prospect Avenue East, Cleveland OH 44115. BP.

Laurel King (*Women of Power*) offers a fresh, revealing look at women who live uninhibited and unrepressed in a repressed society in **A Whistling Woman Is Up to No Good: Finding Your Wild Woman**. The book is a culmination of many interviews with women who "have learned to express their wild natures." Includes anecdotes of female figures such as Gloria Steinem, Anita Hill, Georgia O'Keefe and Billie Holiday. \$12.95 pb, 0-89087-696-7. Celestial Arts, PO Box 7123, Berkeley CA 94707. BP, IN.

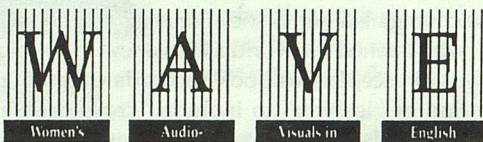
Ancient City Press has published **Women of New Mexico: Depression Era Images** edited by Marta Weigle. **Women of New Mexico** is a fascinating photo-journalistic take on women's lives during the Depression. The 86 photos are the work of the

Farm Security Administration photographers who were hired by the U.S. government to "take pictures of the land and its people... which may endure to help the people of tomorrow understand the people of today, so they can carry on more intelligently." The book also includes 25 excerpts from written text provided by the WPA New Mexico Writer's Project. An important work. \$29.95 cl, 0-941270-55-6; \$17.95 pb, 0-941270-54-8. PO Box 5401, Santa Fe NM 87502. BP.

**The Body of Love** edited by FBN's Art Books columnist Tee Corinne (*Dreams Of the Woman Who Loved Sex, The Sparkling Lavender Dust Of Lust*) is a wonderfully diverse new erotic anthology. But what's most striking about this collection of erotica is its intent of being both communicative and aesthetically pleasing. Includes some of the best writers I've seen: Sally Bellerose, Chea Villanueva, and Doris Davenport's stories, for instance, stand out as funny, true-to-life creative utterances. 0-934411-52-2. Banned Books, Edward-William Publishing, #292 PO Box 33280, Austin TX 78764. IN & BP.

Catalan Communications has published a comic book, entitled **Hearts of Sand** written by Philippe Paringaux, illustrated by Jacques Loustal. We assume that this was published in Spain (Catalan?) and then translated for the not-yet-developed American market for minimal-reader adult books. There are some very problematic aspects of **Hearts of Sand** — stereotypes abound. Goodness and innocence (?) belongs to the fair of skin, evil — take a guess. The "innocent victim" is named "Baby" (!!) She's kidnapped by North African terrorists and taken into the desert; there's a vicious rape scene... In fact the only redeeming quality is that Baby is having an extended affair with a woman, Eva, who rescues her in the end. \$13.95 pb, 0-87416-134-7. 43 East 19th St., New York NY 10003. IN.

After surveying over 500 women and conducting 100 in-depth interviews of women's attitudes toward their female co-workers, Carolyn Duff and Barbara Cohen have uncovered and published some informative results in **When Women Work Together: Using Our Strengths to Overcome Our Challenges**. The authors document how the very

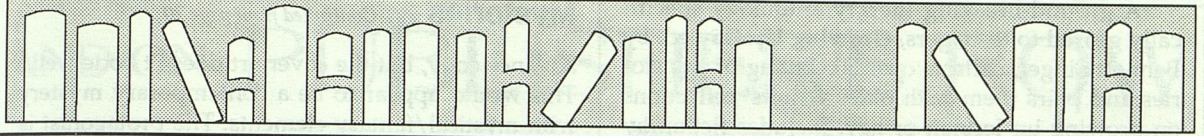


#### A Guide to Nonprint Resources in Women's Studies

- A listing of 800 audiovisual titles produced between 1985-1990; annotated; indexed by subject and title; ordering information.
- Cost is \$2 (check payable to University of Wisconsin-Madison) from: Women's Studies Librarian, 430 Memorial Library, 728 State St., Madison, WI 53706.

Also available, on a single joint subscription: *Feminist Collections* (4hr.), *Feminist Periodicals* (4hr.), and *New Books on Women & Feminism* (2hr.). 1994 subscription rates: \$25 (indiv.); \$46 (inst.)

Women's Studies Librarian, 430 Memorial Library  
728 State St., Madison, WI 53706; 608-263-5754



attributes that give women advantages in the business world can also be causes for downfall. A good resource for any woman majoring in business or any woman already working in the corporate world. \$12.95 pb, 0-943233-53-4. Conari Press, 1144 65th St. Suite B, Emeryville CA 94608. BP.



Denise Ohio (author of *The Finer Grain*, published by Naiad and *End of the Empire*) has written an ambitious new novel entitled **Blue** which tells the stories of several economically disenfranchised women in America. We witness Rickshaw Jones as she deals with the death of her twin sister and as she faces "the [racial] stereotypes that trouble America... the identity formed by her music and her love for women." As the story stretches from the civil rights movement to the 1980s, Denise Ohio invokes a use of memory reminiscent of Toni Morrison's *Beloved*. \$12 pb, 0-929701-30-5. McPherson & Co., PO Box 1126, Kingston NY 12401. BP, IN.

Rita Dove, Pulitzer Prize winner and current U.S. Poet Laureate, ventures into a third genre of writing with **The Darker Face of the Earth**, a verse play set on a Southern plantation just before the Civil War. The play deals with many themes including incest, love, abandonment and racism. Dove is the author of a collection of short stories and most recently, a novel, *Through the Ivory Gate*. A good selection for students of drama or African American literature. \$10.95 pb, 0-934257-74-4. Story Line Press, Three Oaks Farm, Brownsville OR 97327.

**The Book of Medicines**, a collection of poetry by Linda Hogan (*Mean Spirit*, *Seeing Through the Sun*, *Red Clay* and *Savings*), draws upon Native American wisdom and female spirituality, offering truth and healing for a dying world. **The Book of Medicines** attempts to explain what is inexplicable — from that

struggle comes the poems' beauty. \$11.95 pb, 1-56689-010-1. Coffee House Press, 27 North 4th Street Ste. 400, Minneapolis MN 55401. BP.

Zed Books has published Maria Mies and Vandana Shiva's **Ecofeminism** which brings together the academic worlds of social science and physics. **Ecofeminism** provides the historical and analytical background for what many women instinctively know — that there exist linkages between patriarchal oppression and the destruction of nature. The authors also give thorough analyses of "indigenous knowledge, globalization, and the concepts of freedom and self-determination." \$19.95 pb, 1-85649-156-0; \$55 cl, -155-2. 7 Cuthia St., London U.K. NI 9JF. BP, IN.

As many writers have acknowledged, short stories are probably the most difficult form of writing to accomplish. Annie Saumont's **I'm No Truck: Sixteen Stories**, however, is a collection that surpasses "accomplished." It is well-crafted, deceptively simple, good writing. From the very first line of each story the reader wants to discover not only the plot of the story but its essence. *Kirkus Reviews* writes that **I'm No Truck** is "A notable debut... echo[ing] the terseness of a Samuel Beckett." \$21.95 cl, 0-7145-2949-4. Marion Boyars Publishers, 24 Lacy Road, London U.K. SW15 1NL. InBook.



**The Story of a Single Woman** by Uno Chiyo, translated by Rebecca Copeland is an autobiographical novel that explores the significance of one woman's "scandalous" life in 1920s Japan. This is the third book available in English by one of Japan's most significant writers of this century. \$18.95 pb, 0-7206-0878-3. Dufour Editions, PO Box 449, Chester Springs PA 19425.

A ground-breaking literary anthology specifically geared to teenagers, **Growing Up Gay** ed. by Bennett Singer, collects over 50 coming of age stories and pairs them with older writers' reflections on growing up lesbian or gay. Includes fiction by James Baldwin, Rita Mae Brown and David Leavitt and autobiographical essays by Audre Lorde, Quentin Crisp and Martina Navratilova. Bennett Singer was an associate producer for the acclaimed PBS series *Eyes on the Prize*. \$21.95 cl, 1-56584-102-6. The New Press, New York. Distributed by Norton. IN.

In an effort to "imagine a world in which masculinity is free of violence" and "in which women's lives can be free of fear," Gill Hague and Ellen Malos analyze social policy in **Domestic Violence: Action for Change**. The book is written in close cooperation with the Women's Aid federations (U.K.) and the refuge movement. It charts recent changes in the fields of law, policing, housing and social attitudes. A New Clarion Press title. \$18.95 pb, 1-873797-06-0. Paul & Company, c/o PCS Data Processing, Inc., 360 West 31 Street, New York NY 10001.

**Family Web: A Story of India** by Sarah Hobson is back in print. It is an English woman's study of a family of 26 in southern India. Working as a documentary filmmaker, Hobson recorded the family's way of life and grappled with her own role as an observer with western attitudes. Hobson is now 46. At 23, she disguised herself as a boy and traveled through Iran, recording the culture, religion and art of its people (*Through Iran in Disguise*). \$14 pb, 0-89733-050-1. Academy Chicago, 363 West Erie St., Chicago IL 60610.

**An American Brat** by Bapsi Sidhwa (*Cracking India* and *The Crow Eaters*) tells the story of sixteen year old Pakistani girl, Feroza Ginwalla, who is sent to America in an effort to reverse the conservative views that have been imposed on her by fundamentalism. Through Feroza's eyes we experience what is good in both cultures as she learns to question what is not. \$21.95 cl, 0-915943-73-5. Milkweed Editions, 430 First Avenue North Suite 400, Minneapolis MN 55401. IN, BP. ○

## Mysteries ... *Continued from page 70*

advance copy, but the cover art doesn't bode well.) This would appear to be a contemporary mystery with mystical/fantasy elements. The protagonist is Jennifer Taldeer, an Osage private investigator and shaman-in-training who also works to return stolen Native American artifacts to their tribal owners. The mystical element comes in when desecration of burial grounds "have roused the powerful spirit guardians of the dead" — per catalogue copy — and Taldeer must use her shamanic powers to protect the innocent. Lackey lives in Oklahoma, but has no other qualifications that I know of to write about Osage life and traditions. \$23.95, 0-312-85281-9, March, Tor.



Some hardcovers of interest from St. Martin's:

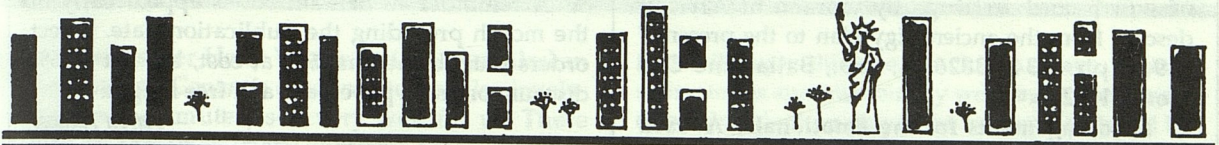
**Death Among the Dons** by Janel Neel aspires to be a contemporary *Gaudy Night*. The sleuth is a policeman's wife, working part-time at a troubled London women's college torn by the debate over going co-ed. This appears to be a variation in a British series which usually features the husband (*Death's Bright Angel*, *Death on Site*, and *Death of a Partner*, all in print in paper from Pocket). The series is unknown to me, but the critical quotes assembled for the catalogue were impressive. \$19.95, 0-312-10450-2, Jan.

**Shattered Rhythms** by Phillis Knight, sequel to *Switching the Odds*, features a lesbian private eye from Maine who's a rock/blues/jazz fanatic. In this one she investigates trouble in the band of a legendary jazz guitarist. \$20.95, 0-312-10548-7, March.

**The Beekeeper's Apprentice** by Laurie R. King introduces fifteen-year-old Mary Russell, *protégée* of the retired, now beekeeping Sherlock Holmes. This could be a Sherlockian's delight. \$21.95, 0-312-10423-5, Feb.

**Dead to Rights** by Anna Maxes is a first novel about a woman investigator for a college athletic association, looking into a suspicious death on a high-ranking college women's softball team. Go, girl! \$20.95, 0-312-10449-9, Feb. ○

# AND ON PUBLISHER'S ROW



Compiled by Karen Axness, Linda Bryant, Dorothy Holland, Audrey May and Sandi Torkildson.

## ANCHOR BOOKS

**The Furies** by Janet Hobhouse. Novel with a family of strong, powerful women. Now in paper. \$11 pb, 0-385-47054-1, Feb.

**Conversations: Straight Talk With America's Sister President** by Johnnetta B. Cole. Cole was the first Black woman president of Spelman College, a liberal arts college for Black women. Here she gives suggestions to help Black women (and all of us) break down the walls that hold us back. "Straight" in the title means "direct" or "clear," not "het." \$9 pb, 0-385-41160-X, March.

**Minding the Body: Women Writers on Body & Soul**, ed. by Patricia Foster. I think the cover on this one is inappropriate and exploitive (what's new?), but the book itself looks very interesting. Margaret Atwood, Naomi Wolf and others contribute to discussion of the psychological and political aspects of a woman's body in today's culture. \$20, 0-385-47022-3, May.

—Dorothy Holland

*The Book Garden/Denver CO*

## BALLANTINE PUBLISHING GROUP

(Hardcover and Trade Paperback)

Still no word on when **Women Who Run With the Wolves** will be out in paperback.

Marge Piercy's new novel, **The Longings of Women** is the story of three women whose lives intersect at a moment of crisis. At 464 pages it should please many fans. \$22 cl, 0-449-90907-7, March, Fawcett Columbine.

**Crossing the Border** by Kim Chernin, subtitled "An Erotic Journey," examines the events in her life

that changed her understanding of herself: leaving her husband and child, her relationships with men and women. The catalog copy says "it will be must reading for feminists, the lesbian audience..." \$22 cl, 0-449-90522-5, March, Fawcett Columbine.

In **The Sound of a Silver Horn**, Kathleen Noble explores the female hero's journey through the daily lives of women. She believes the journey begins with a summons to awakening, continues with struggles of initiation, and ends with transcendence of past patterns. Noble uses case histories of 35 women to demonstrate her theory. \$20 cl, 0-449-90588-8, March, Fawcett Columbine.



**Feminine Ingenuity** by Anne L. McDonald details 200 years of inventions by women, from the brown paper grocery bag to Liquid Paper. \$14 pb, 0-345-38314-1, March, Ballantine.

For stores with large New Age collections, Marianne Williamson's **A Woman's Worth** is coming out in paperback (\$10 pb, 0-345-38657-4, April, Ballantine). **My Love Affair With England** is Susan Allen Toth's traveler's memoir, a love letter to Great Britain. \$10 pb, 0-345-38565-9, April, Ballantine.

**Daughters of the House** by Indrani Aikath-Gyaltsen is her first novel and set in rural India. **Daughters** is now making its first appearance in trade paperback. Well received in hardcover, it concerns an extended family of women and the unwelcome arrival of a man. \$10 pb, 0-345-38655-8, Jan., Ballantine One World.

**I, Tituba, Black Witch of Salem** by Maryse Conde is an historical but fictional novel of the life

of the only black victim of the Salem witch trials. \$10 pb, 0-345-38420-2, Jan., Ballantine One World.

Finally in paperback, **Daughters of Africa** edited by Margaret Busby, "an international anthology of words and writings by women of African descent from the ancient Egyptian to the present." \$19.95 pb, 0-345-38268-4, Feb., Ballantine One World, 1152pp.

**Encouragements for the Emotionally Abused Woman** by Beverly Engel is a companion volume of support and reassurance to the author's previous book *The Emotionally Abused Woman*. Organized to follow the path of recovery, it contains encouraging reminders and therapeutic information for the stages of recognition of abuse, escape, and healing. \$9 pb, 0-449-90878-X, March, Fawcett Columbine.

**Thinking Out Loud** by Anna Quindler is a collection of her columns from *The New York Times* (\$12 pb, 0-449-90905-0, April, Fawcett Columbine). Her earlier collection **Living Out Loud** will make its first appearance in trade paperback. \$12 pb, 0-449-90912-3, April, Fawcett Columbine. It was previously available in mass market.



## BANTAM

(Trade Paperback)

**Proud to Be** by Amy E. Dear is a collection of daily meditations and affirmations for lesbians and gay men. The author lectures nationally on issues of lesbian and gay pride. The meditations range from personal concerns to community issues and include recovery and family relationships as well as activism and discrimination. \$8.95 pb, 0-553-37282-3, Feb.

Natalie Goldberg's spiritual memoir **Long Quiet Highway**, which details her awakening from a suburban childhood, was very well-received in hardback. \$10.95, 0-553-37315-3, March.

**Six Practical Lessons for an Easier Childbirth** by Elisabeth Bing is the third revised edition of this classic book on the Lamaze method for pregnant women and their partners. \$9.95, 0-553-37369-2, March.

**Meeting the Madwoman** by Linda Schierse Leonard, a Jungian analyst, explores the Madwoman in myth, literature, film, dreams, and the lives of his-

torical and contemporary women, providing practical insights on working through potentially destructive behavior to more creative lives. \$12.95 pb, 0-553-37318-8, April.

A reminder — Bantam books appear early in the month preceding the publication date. Direct orders must be at least \$50 at cost, but get a 46% discount on trade paperback and free freight.

— Karen Axness

*A Room Of One's Own/Maison WI*



## DELACORTE PRESS

**I Could Do Anything If I Only Knew What It Was: How to Discover What You Really Want and How to Get It** by Barbara Sher with Barbara Smith. Sher is the author of *Wishcraft: How to Get What You Really Want* which is a staple for most stores. The book is designed to help readers create goals based on their own desires. Looks good to me, although being in cloth may be a disadvantage. \$19.95 cl, 0-385-30788-8, April.

**Debating Affirmative Action: Race, Gender, Ethnicity & the Politics of Inclusion**, ed. by Nicolaus Mill. Looks like a good source for information on both sides of this current issue. \$10.95 pb, 0-385-31221-0, April.

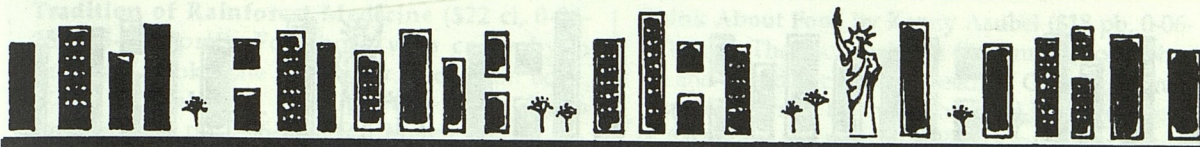
**Hot and Bothered: Sex & Love in the Nineties** by Wendy Dennis. "Letting loose in the bedroom without compromising feminist principles" says the book jacket. No mention of Lesbian sexuality that I can find, although for straights, it looks good. \$9.95 pb, 0-440-50580-1, April.

Coming in paper this March is **Leaving Cold Sassy** by Olive Ann Burns. \$8.95 pb, 0-385-31220-2.

## DOUBLEDAY

**Wild Cat** by Karen Kijewski (pronounced Key-EV-ski). The fifth Kat Colorado mystery. Kijewski says Kat is "strong, independent, resourceful" with a "commitment to making the world a better place." Her books sell well for us in paper, probably worth a try in cloth. \$19.95 cl, 0-385-46851-2, Feb.

**Ruffly Speaking: A Dog Lover's Mystery** by Susan Conant. "The bizarre behavior of a hearing guide dog and the accidental poisoning death of a



local bookseller Holly Winter and her two Alaskan malamutes." Conant's other mysteries (also involving the malamutes) sell very well for us. There must be some dog lovers out there. \$18.95 cl, 0-385-47037-1, March.

**Just As I Am** by E. Lynn Harris. Gay Black men finding love in the face of racism, homophobia and AIDS. Promotional material calls it a sweeping romance. \$21.95 cl, 0-385-46969-1, March.

**Deadly Allies II: The Private Eye Writers of America and Sisters in Crime**, ed. by Robert Randisi & Susan Dunlap. *The first Deadly Allies* sold well for us. Includes Joan Hess, Susan Dunlap, Carolyn Hart and others. Includes some male writers. \$18.95 cl, 0-385-42468-X, April.

**Bulletproof Diva, or How I Invented Multiculturalism** by Lisa Jones is subtitled, "Tales of Race, Sex, and Hair." Jones writes the popular "Skin Trade" column for the *Village Voice*. The list of topics sounds great: "Genitalia and the Paycheck," "Too Black, Too Female." \$20 cl, 0-385-47122-X, April.

**Everything A Working Mother Needs To Know (About Pregnancy Rights, Maternity Leave, and Making Her Career Work for Her)** by Anne Cicero Weisberg & Carol A. Buckler. Designed to give women the personal, legal and financial tools we need to keep it together. \$14.95 pb, 0-385-75741-8, Feb.

Anchor/Doubleday is doing a Gay Pride Promotion — of the seven books featured, two are by women. A reprint of *The Well of Loneliness* is one, and the other is *House Rules*, by Heather Lewis (\$21.95 cl, 0-385-47210-2, April). Catalog blurb says it's a novel about "a world where the border between pleasure and pain has become blurred beyond distinction." Not my idea of the ideal books for Gay Pride. Come on publishers!

## FABER & FABER

**Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend: Women Writers on Baseball**, ed. by Elinor Nauen. Baseball

fans will enjoy this one. "Includes essays, poems, short stories and memoirs by women on the subject of baseball, both as played by men and watched by women and as played by women." \$22.95 cl, 0-571-19819-8, Feb.

**Infinite Riches: Modern Short Stories**, ed. by Lynn Knight. Features Willa Cather, Colette, Tillie Olsen and more. Looks good. \$14.95 pb, 0-571-19824-4.

**Love & Loss: Stories of the Heart**, ed. by Georgina Hammick. Twenty-one stories by women writers of this century: Elizabeth Bowen, Alice Munro, Dorothy Parker, and others. Also looks good. \$12.95 pb, 0-571-19825-2.

**Examining Myself: One Woman's Story of Breast Cancer Treatment & Recovery** by Musa Mayer. I haven't seen this one, but the contents sound quite good: medical aspects from biopsy, diagnosis through mastectomy; also explores the psychological dimensions of breast cancer. \$19.95 cl, 0-571-19828-7.



## FOUR WALLS EIGHT WINDOWS

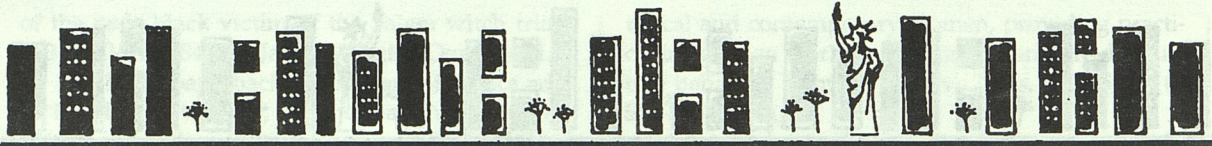
**Simple Passion**, by Annie Ernaux. This book tells the love affair between a woman and a married man. *A Woman's Story* by Ernaux has sold well. This one should, too. \$14.95 cl, 1-56858-0037.

—Dorothy Holland

*The Book Garden/Denver CO*

## HARPER SAN FRANCISCO

**Witchcraze: A New History of the European Witch Hunts** by Ann L. Barstow, looks like one we will all want to have. Described in the catalog as "a brilliant, authoritative feminist history that exposes an unrecognized holocaust — the ethnic cleansing of independent women in Reformation Europe," the book explores the use of sexual violence and death as a means of social control of women. The



author also ties in those earlier patterns to present-day social conditions in Bosnia and elsewhere. The cover is a chilling color drawing of two women hanging from a gibbet. This looks like a necessary book. The book will be advertised in the *NY Review of Books* and *Women's Review of Books* and will be an alternate selection in the BOTM and QPB book clubs. \$25 cl, 0-06-250049-X.



Finally! I feel like I've been waiting for years for this to come out in paperback. Marija Gimbutas' *Civilization of the Goddess* is "a fully illustrated, authoritative, and unequivocally stunning compilation of evidence showing the existence of a neolithic goddess-centered culture in pre-patriarchal Europe." 'Nuff said. Get it. The liner notes on the drawings alone are worth the price. \$30 pb, 0-06-250804-0.

Mary Daly's *Outercourse: The Be-Dazzling Journey...* is now available in paperback from HarperSF (\$13 pb, 0-06-250207-7), as is *Webster's First New Intergalactic Wickedary of the English Language* by Mary Daly and Jane Caputi. \$17 pb, 0-06-251037-1.

Another hardcover now in paper is Anne Wilson Schaef's *Beyond Therapy, Beyond Science: A New Model for Healing the Whole Person* (\$12 pb, 0-06-250833-4, Feb.). Irene O'Garden's *Fat Girl* now has a sequel—*The Fat Girl Companion* (\$10 pb, 0-06-250854-7, Feb.). For biography fans, Diana Souhami (author of *Gertrude and Alice* has written *Greta and Cecil*, a dual biography of actress Greta Garbo and photographer Cecil Beaton. The book promises to reveal, among other things, Garbo's relationships with women. \$22 cl, 0-06-250829-6.

HarperSF is coming out with a new edition of the popular and useful *Is the Homosexual My Neighbor? Revised and Updated: A Positive Christian Response* by Letha D. Scanzoni and lesbian feminist theologian Virginia R. Mollenkott (\$11 pb, 0-06-06708-9, Feb.). John Shelby Spong, icono-

clastic bishop of Newark and author of *Born of a Woman* and *Living in Sin* has a new book out just in time to get the fundamentalists frothing at Easter-tide. Entitled **Resurrection: Myth or Reality—A Bishop Rethinks the Origins of Christianity**, the book focuses on death and rebirth. May be useful for stores that sell Christian feminism (\$20 cl, 0-06-067346-2, March). Another title for a similar audience is *Ancient Magic: Coptic Texts of Ritual Power* edited by Marvin Meyer and Richard Smith. This book is "a collection of rites, spells, amulets, curses, and recipes of the early Coptic Christians that demonstrates that Christianity was a living folk religion resembling other primal religions." Of the spells listed, my favorites were "a curse to make a man tongue-tied" and "a woman's complaint about neglect." \$25 cl, 0-06-065578-X.

*Lilith* magazine editor Aviva Cantor has written a book entitled, **Jewish Women, Jewish Men: The Legacy of Patriarchy in Jewish Life** that should be out just in time for Passover. Cantor examines how every aspect of Jewish life has been affected by patriarchal values and by stereotypes of Jewish mothers; she also poses transformations possible through feminist values. \$30 cl, 0-06-061376-9, March.



Since it appeared in *Ms.* in the mid-70s, many of us have used our torn-out and xeroxed copies of **The Women's Haggadah** for our women's passover services. Written by E. M. Broner (author of *The Telling*, in which this haggadah figures prominently, and *A Weave of Women*, and Naomi Nimrod, **The Women's Haggadah** is now available in book form at a very reasonable price. This book is a feminist classic used by Jewish and non-Jewish women alike to celebrate our struggles and our various visions of liberation. \$10 pb, 0-06-061143-X, Feb.

A spirituality/healing/ecology title is **Sastun: One Woman's Apprenticeship with a Maya Healer and Their Efforts to Save the Vanishing**



**Tradition of Rainforest Medicine** (\$22 cl, 0-06-250255-7, April). For those who carry Lynn Andrews' books, she has a new meditation book, **Walk in Balance: Meditations with Lynn Andrews**. \$12 pb, 0-06-250009-0, March.

**Older Than Time: A Woman Travels Around the World in Search of the Wisdom That Comes With Age** by Allegra Taylor is what it sounds like: a collection of stories about strong, robust, wise old women from various cultures. \$10 pb, 1-85538-152-4.

**India's Bandit Queen: The Story of Phoolan Devi** by Mala Sen is the biography of an Indian woman who fought back against the strictures of sex and caste to refuse an arranged marriage, seek revenge for a rape and kidnaping, and eventually become India's most wanted "bandit" and a heroine to many. Devi's story is about to be made into a film. \$13 pb, 0-04-440888-9.



New spirituality books include **A Woman's Guide to Spiritual Renewal** (\$14 pb, 0-06-250882-2, March) by Nelly Kaufer and Carol Osmer-Newhouse and **A Woman's Spirit: More Meditations for Women** from the author of *Each Day a New Beginning* (\$10 pb, 0-06-255282-1, March). **Daughter of the Goddess: The Sacred Priestess** (\$14 pb, 1-85538-280-6) is by a self-proclaimed priestess of Isis, Naomi Ozaniec. The author surveys numerous religions and cultures across the globe to assess the role of the priestess. **Venus Rising: Rediscovering the Goddess and Her Planet** (\$15 pb, 1-85528-006-4, March) by Ronnie Gale Dreyer is an exploration into the various aspects of Venus on the zodiac. Images examined range from Sumerian Inanna to the Venus of the Renaissance painting.

**Welcome Home: Following Your Soul's Journey Home** (\$13 pb, 0-06-250267-0, Feb.) by Sandra Ingerman is a new book on shamanic journeying by the author of *Soul Retrieval*. Jamie Sams writes that this book "marks the Rite of Passage every Spirit must take to become healed."

Another ecology title and gift for our friends who garden is **Seeds of Change: The Passionate Story of the Growing Movement to Restore Biodiversity and Revolutionize the Way We**

**Think About Food** by Kenny Asubel (\$18 pb, 0-06-250008-2). The book includes 60 stunning color photos and a seed packet from Seeds of Change, a small company owned by the author and his wife. Seeds of Change is the topic of a PBS documentary to be aired in spring 1994.

Jennifer Loudon, author of *The Woman's Comfort Book*, has now written **The Couple's Comfort Book: A Creative Guide for Renewing Passion, Pleasure and Commitment** (\$14 pb, 0-06-250853-9). The sequel doesn't look as good as the first one but it may have some fun stuff. Another "maybe" is **Weddings by Design: A Guide to Non-Traditional Ceremonies** by Richard Leviton (\$14 pb, 0-006-251007-X). Says it offers "multicultural, nonpatriarchal and nonsexist options" (like lesbian serial monogamy, perhaps?) Along the same lines but probably more useful is **The Essential Guide to Lesbian and Gay Weddings** by Tess Ayers and Paul Brown (\$16 pb, 0-06-250271-9, Feb.).

— Audrey J. May  
Meristem/Memphis TN

## PENGUIN USA

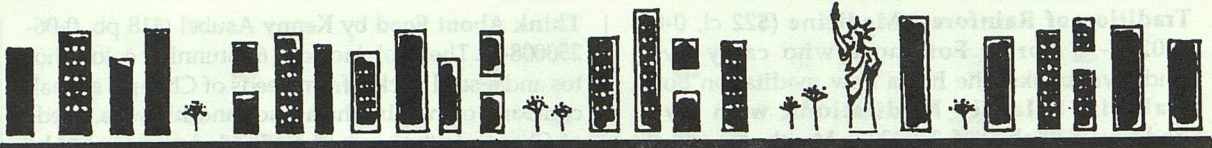
(paperbacks)

**At The Sign Of The Naked Waiter** by Amy Herrick is a coming-of-age novel that combines a sense of humor and a boundless imagination. It tells the tale of Sarah who encounters a naked, winged man, extraterrestrial sponges, rivalrous ghosts and enchanted frogs, and gods disguised as beggars on her path to adulthood. Sarah also searches to find a soulmate, confronts a friend's plunge into madness and faces the challenges of love, marriage and motherhood. \$9.95 pb, 0-14-023189-7.



A collection of short stories by Rebecca Goldstein, **Strange Attractors**, explores the interactions of thought and feeling, mind and heart, to reveal the deep mysteries between seemingly unrelated lives. Goldstein probes the relationship between female intellect and emotion and the influence of gender roles on women's lives. \$9.95 pb, 0-14-017246-7, Feb.

**Yoruba Girl Dancing** by Simi Bedford is the poignant and funny story of an African girl's trans-



ference into an upper-class English girl's school. Remi has grown up in Nigeria surrounded by tribal festivals, the love of parents, grandparents and a life that is a celebration of love, family and old rituals. At the age of six, she is sent to an English boarding school, the only Black girl in a school of upper-class white girls with very strange rituals. Remi navigates the labyrinth of race, caste, and culture, taking nothing lying down and emerges victorious and changed forever. \$9.95 pb, 0-14-023293-1, Feb.

A mix of virtual reality and feminism makes Sue Thomas' novel, **Correspondence**, a remarkable book. This story about a woman and a machine blurs the boundaries between virtual reality and real life and examines the interconnections between fantasy, desire and memory. The reader assumes the role of the narrator, a computer programmer who is a composer of the world's hopes and desires, to create a kind of virtual reality Disneyland. \$10.95 pb, 0-87951-529-5, Feb.

**Free** by Marsha Hunt, (author of *Joy*) paints a portrait of race relations in 1913 Germantown, Pennsylvania. This novel tells the story of the relationship formed between a young Englishman and a poor Black stableboy. In defiance of the limitations of race, class and social mores, they form a friendship against the backdrop of pre-World War I America. \$9.95 pb, 0-452-27061-8.



**This Little Light Of Mine** by Kay Mills is the biography of Fannie Lou Hamer, one of the most important figures of the Civil Rights movement. Fannie Lou Hamer rose from difficult circumstances to dedicate her life to battling racism and poverty. Her tireless struggle for equality and voting rights for Black people changed the lives of all Americans. Mills interviewed scores of friends, relatives and fellow protesters as well as Hamer herself for the inspiring testimony to the power of one spirited individual. \$12.95 pb, 0-452-27052-9, Feb.

## RANDOM HOUSE - Group I

**Chiquita's Cocoon** by Bettina Flores is addressed to Latina women who want to break out of cyclical poverty, large-family conditioning, religious repression and machismo. This book features vignettes about 200 women who Flores interviewed. The book also includes a self-help section to aid in self-awareness. English edition, 0-679-75044-4; Spanish edition, 0-679-75073-8, \$13.50 pb.



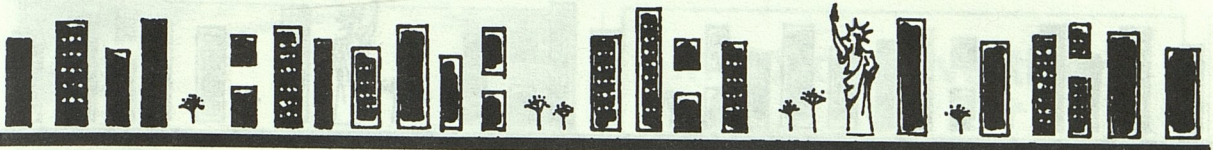
A collection of essays by Marion Winik, a nationally syndicated columnist and regular on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered," **Telling** is bold, shocking, frank and witty. The pieces in this collection cover breast-feeding in public, family pets, heroin, siblings, AIDS and the death of a father. \$18 cl, 0-679-42856-3, Feb.

**Mary Cassatt**, a new biography by Nancy M. Mathews, is the result of twenty years of research. Mathews resolves the paradoxes of Cassatt's life; she was a rich American aristocrat who preferred the company of struggling artists; she never married yet her portraits of mothers and children have made her world-renowned. \$26 cl, 0-394-58497-X, March

**The Wives Of Henry VIII** by Antonia Fraser rescues Henry's unfortunate wives from popular stereotypes and restores them to recognizable human dimensions. Fraser unravels the web that raised Henry's consorts to the throne and sometimes brought them to the chopping block. \$14 pb, 0-679-73001-X.

Anita Brookner's novel **Fraud** reconstructs the life of Anna Durrant who has disappeared from her London flat. Her disappearance goes unnoticed for four months. We get to know Anna through the eyes of her acquaintances and through a study of social, fiscal and moral frauds. \$11 pb, 0-679-74308-1.

**Truck Stop Rainbows** by Czech writer Iva Pekarkova is an exuberant novel of sex, hitchhiking, and social sabotage. The heroine, Fialka Jourova, is



a dedicated guerrilla photographer (who specializes in snapshots of environmental catastrophes) and a canny hitchhiker (who is an uninhibited seducer of truck drivers). Fialka finds herself torn between new freedoms and her desire to help the one friend she truly loves. \$11 pb, 0-679-74678-7.

Jeanette Winterson's latest novel, **Written on the Body**, is a love story told in the voice of a non-gender specific narrator who is in love with a married woman. However, I felt she was a woman from the beginning and wonder if anyone would think differently. \$11 pb, 0-679-74447-9, Feb.

**Technical Difficulties** by June Jordan, African American poet, activist, essayist and teacher, is a collection of essays on contemporary themes that include: searching for the American dream, the myths of race and class, poverty of American education and the testimony of Anita Hill. An additional essay on the 1992 Los Angeles rebellion that did not appear in the cloth edition is included in the paperback. \$12 pb, 0-679-74762-1, Feb.

The political and personal memoir of a woman who grew up during China's Cultural Revolution, **Red Azalea** is written by Anchee Min. Min is the actress who played the leading role in the political opera *Red Azalea* written by Madame Mao. As a young student and Red Guard member, Anchee



was asked to betray and publicly humiliate a beloved teacher. She was a prize student but not permitted to attend college. Instead, she was sent to the Red Fire Farm, where she endured grueling physical labor. She fell in love with her platoon leader and the two women lived in fear of exposure by a vindictive colleague. Min now lives in the U.S. with her husband and young daughter. \$22 cl, 0-679-42332-X, Feb.

The beautiful bright quilts of the Amish women of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania are collected in **Amish: The Art Of The Quilt** by Julie Silber. Eighty-

two full color photographs show off these works of practicality, simplicity and purity that reflect the essence of Amish principles. \$30 pb, 0-679-75142-4.

**Women Lawyers** by Mona Harrington looks at key issues holding women back in a predominantly male profession. Based on more than 100 interviews with women lawyers, this book gives a voice to the experiences of women lawyers: some have adapted to the cultural codes of big-firm law; others have opened new and alternative firms or taught in small public law schools, while still others have

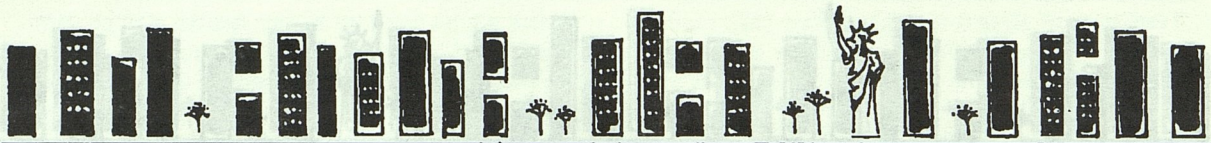


worked in prosecutors' offices and courtrooms. These women are devising new rules and legal theories to bring about change. \$24 cl, 0-394-58025-7.

A new novel by Wendy Law-Yone (author of *The Coffin Tree*) **Irrawaddy Tango** tells the story of a sharp-tongued, tango-dancing Asian girl who rises from village girlhood to become the wife of her country's dictator and, then, a leader of the guerrilla movement against him. \$23 cl, 0-679-42192-0.

**Life Estates** is a novel by Shelby Hearon that explores friendship and loss between two women in their mid-fifties, who have been friends since boarding school. Now widowed, living thousands of mile apart, a life-and-death crisis brings them together again. Widowhood has meant new freedom for Sarah who finds reward in owning a small business and sexual fulfillment with a man in his sixties; while for Harriet, widowhood means the loss of her role as a wife. She buys a gun for protection and attempts to gain the attention of a younger man. \$22 cl, 0-679-41539-4, Feb.

Penelope Leach presents an urgent and powerful argument for the creation of economic and social support systems for children in **Children First**. Leach sees our culture's paradox that spends millions of dollars on miracle science to help children be born and then turns its back as these children attempt growth and development. She pre-



sents specific steps by which we as individuals and as a society can fashion a new economic priority for all children. \$24 cl, 0-679-42133-5, Feb.

**The Heart That Bleeds** by journalist Alma Guillermoprieto is a collection of essays on Latin America. She writes about the communities of Mexico's garbage-pickers, the amiable young killers-for-hire in a Colombia terrorized by drug traffickers, the election of Violeta Chamorro as president of Nicaragua, the cocaine problems in Panama, and the legacy of the American invasion. \$23 cl, 0-679-42884-4, Feb. —*Sandi Torkildson*

*A Room of One's Own/Madison WI*



## RANDOM HOUSE - Group II

### RH - CROWN

**Women, Passion, and Celibacy** by Sally Cline. According to Cline, "through celibacy, a woman learns to take risks, to grow up, to make decisions, to live on her own, to value other women..." Sounds like a refreshing take on our culture's obsession with genital sex. \$20 cl, 0517597381, Feb.

**Friends For Life** by Meg Wolitzer. A novel of friendship among three women who have met at least once a month for 20 years - one is a lesbian, at least at this point in their lives. Wolitzer wrote *This is Your Life*, which was made into a film. \$20 cl, 0517595869, March.

**Grace Unfolding: Psychotherapy in the Spirit of the Tao-te-ching** by Greg Johnson and Ron Kurtz. Obviously not by women, but I have already had several requests for this book from regular customers who want it as soon as it comes in paper, so if you do much business with the psychotherapy community, you might want to try it. \$10 pb, 0517881306, March.

**New Woman's Diary: A Journal for Women in Search of Themselves** by Judith Finlayson. Sounds like a beautiful journal, interspersed with reflec-

tions and affirmations by and about women. \$16 cl, 0517592487, March.

### RH - KNOPF

**Irrawaddy Tango** by Wendy Law-Yone. A novel that moves from a fictitious Asian country to the US. Haven't read any of this, but when I asked my rep, he said to definitely order a couple. He's new to me, so I'll see if he's right — I think it will probably go better in paper. \$23 cl, 0679421920.

### RH - PANTHEON/SHOCKEN

**The Lives Of Michel Foucault** by David Macey. With our feminist and lesbian/gay scholars, anything serious about Foucault is important, though at this price, I will order one at a time. Written with the cooperation of Foucault's former lover, this book explores the philosopher's life and work. \$30 cl, 0679430741.

**Red Azalea** by Anchee Min. Sounds like an amazing book — a memoir that is both political and erotic about a woman growing up during China's Cultural Revolution. The excerpt in the catalogue makes me long to read it and learn more of this woman who now lives in the U.S. \$22 cl, 067942332X, Feb. —*Linda Bryant*

*Charis Books/Atlanta GA* ○

## Our Press... *continued from page 81*

Ibárruri by Robert Low. Known as *La Pasionaria* for her role in the Spanish Civil War, Ibárruri was both a leader and a symbol of the leftist forces that lost, finally, to fascism in Spain. The lived in exile in the Soviet Union for many years and finally returned to Spain with the end of the Franco regime in 1977. "A scrupulously fair portrait of this legendary figure offering fascinating insights into her personal as well as political life. Her story is at once inspiring and traumatic..." \$39.95 cl, 0-09-174572-1.

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### Music ... Continued from page 72

motional mailings to bookstores, aiming primarily at the feminist bookstores. This is little short of a miracle, given the fact that the majors have traditionally refused to provide promotional copies of their releases to anyone other than record store chains and radio stations. The mailing lists are built around the FBN list, plus other stores that marketing reps are aware of. Artists include Zap Mama, Djur Djura, Heidi and several others albums like *The Joy Luck Club Soundtrack*.

This is a good time to review your inventory with your distributor. While most stores trim their overall stock of music during the winter, keeping good selection of new titles and trying a select a few new artists can help keep customers checking the music racks to see what's new. This may also be a good time to begin building inventory on new genres that you might be ready to try. For example, if you have drums as a sideline and they sold well during the holidays, this is perfect timing to build or expand your drumming or chant section.

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- Heather Bishop/CD issue of **A Taste of the Blues**; March
- Mary Black/Re-Issue of **By the Time It Gets Dark**; First quarter
- Rory Block/**Angel of Mercy**; January
- Shawn Colvin/Title unknown; First half
- Susan Herrick/Title unknown; First half
- Mango Mango (formerly Mango Jam); Spring
- Loreena McKennitt/**The Mask & Mirror**; First quarter
- Carrie Newcomer/**An Angel At My Shoulder**; February

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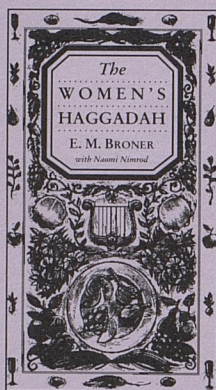
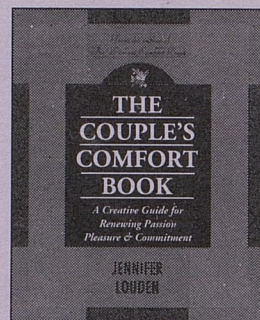


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# S·o·j·o·u·r·n·e·r

## The Women's Forum

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## *Feminist Bookstores: Part of an Ecosystem*

by Theresa Corrigan

Feminist bookstores have never been stronger. Numbering at least 135 in the United States and Canada, with combined gross sales in 1992 of \$35 million, feminist bookstores are a formidable grassroots industry. For over twenty years, feminist booksellers have balanced sound business practices with political commitment to their communities. The result has been, in most cases, thriving bookstores that, in addition to providing books, periodicals, music, and sidelines unavailable anywhere else, offer a multitude of community services such as bulletin boards, reading and community events, referrals to social services, and meeting places for women. Who among us hasn't gone to our local feminist bookstore to find a roommate, support group, therapist, woman carpenter, or tickets for the Sweet Honey in the Rock concert?

When Lioness Books in Sacramento, California, opened in 1981, our entire stock could fit on a few shelves; now we fill 2,500 square feet of store space with about 15,000 titles. Like all feminist bookstores, we have grown with the proliferation of feminist publishers, periodicals, authors, and most importantly, audience. In the early '70s, a few publish-

ers such as Daughters, Diana, the Women's Press Collective, and Shameless Hussy began publishing a few feminist and/or lesbian titles; we now have at least 154 feminist or lesbian presses publishing over 300 titles per year, along with 300 to 400 independent publishers producing feminist and lesbian books.

Having said all of that, I do not wish to paint an overly rosy picture of feminist bookstore land. Like all independent booksellers, we are facing tremendous predatory competition from the chains and superstores (huge chain stores carrying, on average, over 100,000 books in each location). Currently 40 percent of all books are sold by chains, primarily by Waldenbooks and Borders Bookstores (both owned by the K-Mart Corporation with revenues of \$39 billion last year), Barnes & Noble which also owns B. Dalton, and the Crown Book Corporation. However, industry spokespeople predict that the voracious proliferation of superstores (Barnes & Noble plans to open 150 new superstores by the end of 1993) could mean the end of many independent and specialty bookstores. *The Sacramento Bee*

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(November 16, 1992) quotes Lois Connelly, assistant director of investor relations at K-Mart, "We think superstores will become the dominant channel of book distribution within five years."

The marketing strategy of superstores is to move into a location well established by one or more independent or specialty bookstores, target the independent's customer base, and use a combination of discounting, publisher-sponsored advertising, big-name author appearances and, to many, questionable ethical practices to outsell their competitors.

A young man recently told me that you can never have too many bookstores in any community. Others add that the free enterprise system and competition are the backbone of excellence. That might be true if the playing field were level. The expertise and experience of feminist booksellers would provide the competitive edge. But the arena is not equitable. The superstores discount many titles at prices at or below what feminist bookstores pay wholesale. It doesn't take mathematical wizardry to figure out that a business cannot survive selling products at a loss. Nor are the chains taking a loss. They have special arrangements with publishers to purchase books wholesale at discounts independents can only dream of. According to the Federal Trade Commission, "Discrimination in prices and terms offered by major book publishers has created two categories of book retailers: favored book retailers (chains) and disfavored retailers (independents). Because disfavored retailers pay higher prices for their books and have limited access to publishers' co-op advertising funds (where the publisher pays the store's advertising costs to promote their titles), it is very difficult—often impossible—for disfavored retailers to compete." William Petrocelli, owner of Book Passage in Corte Madera, California, says that the price disparity between what chains and independents pay for books now appears to be 15 percent or higher.

Superstores also hope to entice customers away from feminist stores by offering readings by well-established authors, such as Gloria Steinem or Rita Mae Brown, whose original audiences were built in feminist stores. Mary Kay Blakely, contributing editor to *Ms.* magazine and author of *Wake Me When It's Over*, says that 70 percent of the sales of her books are in feminist bookstores, but her publisher ignored those stores when planning the tour for her first book. For her new book, she has chosen a publisher respectful of her wishes to include feminist stores in the promotion. "My career only stays alive because of feminist and women's bookstores," she says. "People like me stay in print because feminist bookstores are willing to carry backstock and to reorder." According to the *Chain Store Age Executive* journal, the chairman of Bookstop (a superstore in Texas and Florida) says that if a new release does not do well (in his stores) in its first few weeks, it is replaced. However, he adds, the classic

works stay forever. We all know what he means by "classic." And he doesn't mean 99 percent of the books carried by feminist bookstores.

The chains are also capitalizing on the lesbian and gay markets, having discovered that we buy so many books. However, the chains primarily stock mainstream press titles, so don't expect to find most of your favorite authors there. Few lesbian authors are published by the big houses. Mainstream publishers want a track record before they're willing to risk money. Most lesbian authors now published by the big houses, such as Dorothy Allison, Sarah Schulman, and Jeanette Winterson, established their track records through the feminist presses and bookstores. Most new authors don't have a prayer of being published by the mainstream houses, or if published, won't be sold by the chain stores.

When the mainstream houses do publish lesbian titles (which isn't often—of the 1993 Lammy nominations, mainstream presses published 65 percent of gay men's titles compared with 19 percent of the lesbian titles), they publish stories they think will play in Peoria. Victoria A. Brownworth, in "Desexing the Story," a recent article in the *Lambda Book Report*, describes what happens when lesbian authors go mainstream—the lesbian sexual content is absent, and lesbian characters are presented stereotypically as nonsexual friends or as obsessed and dangerous. She quotes a gay male editor at a mainstream house: "Who wants to read about two girls getting it on?" If mainstream publishers and chain stores do indeed damage the feminist bookselling and publishing industries, they will destroy the source of literature that reflects the richness and diversity of lesbian lives.

Carol Seajay, publisher of *Feminist Bookstore News* (the trade journal for feminist booksellers), describes the interrelationships among feminist bookstores, women's music labels, feminist and lesbian publishers, feminist periodicals, and authors as an ecosystem. When each part thrives, the entire system is healthy. When one part suffers, the rest feel the effect. Feminist publishers are dependent upon feminist bookstores to carry their books; the chains will only order those books they can get at discounts most feminist publishers cannot offer. Without feminist bookstores, one would probably never have encountered the works of Cherrie Moraga, Kitty Tsui, Chrystos, Katherine Forrest, Barbara Wilson, Jewelle Gomez, Dale Spender, or even the works of authors who are household names like Alice Walker, Gloria Naylor or Robin Morgan, whose writing was first promoted through feminist networks. Many first books are hand-sold by feminist booksellers. We know what is important to our political and literary movements, and we promote books as cultural and intellectual expressions, not merely as commodities.

Corporate America views books as just another commodity to be sold in mass quantities. Mary Morrell, co-owner of Full Circle in Albuquerque, New

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Mexico, says, "When price becomes more important than substance, we get cardboard tomatoes, cheap but tasteless. Then when we want real tomatoes, we have to pay through the nose." Morrell adds that the issue is difficult because women don't make the "big bucks" in society and cost is an important factor, but she compares women's communities to ethnic communities. "Ethnic communities that have supported their own businesses have created healthy endeavors that have reinvested in their own communities." Feminist bookstores reinvest in their communities every day through all the services they provide.

Feminist bookstores are a resource the chains can never be, according to Gilda Bruckman of New Words in Cambridge, Massachusetts. "We have twenty years of history about our communities and our movement; people come to us to make use of the knowledge we have acquired. We are consistent. For example, we don't suddenly alter our face for gay/lesbian book month; we are there for lesbian and bisexual women all the time." When asked how feminist booksellers are dealing with the competition from the chains, they all emphasize customer service, knowledge of the literature and their community resources, and dedication. Lammas in Washington, D.C., is not waiting for customers to come to them. "We are going to lesbian bars, women's studies instructors, and any place else to reach women," says Jane Troxell, the new co-owner. "We also organize special events for the community, such as self-defense classes, financial planning workshops, camping and rafting trips, and will soon exhibit the only existing lesbian dollhouse (based on *Heather Has Two Mommies*, by Leslea Newman)." She adds, laughing, "We may carry fewer of the mainstream bestsellers, but Crown doesn't have menstrual goddesses or Margie Adam tapes."

Pokey Anderson of Inkling in Houston, Texas, points out that "the demands on a feminist bookstore are high; as well as running a business, we do referrals, sell tickets, provide emotional support, listen, and lots of other things that can only exist if customers matronize the business. It's hard, sometimes, when you know someone buys lots of feminist books, but the only time they come in to the store is to post a flyer."

Tollie Miller from A Reader's Feast in Hartford, Connecticut, is going one step further in defending from the onslaught of the chains. Connecticut has the largest concentration of chain stores of any state, and

most of the independents are sorely feeling the results. A Reader's Feast, along with fifteen other independent bookstores from around the state, have organized the Connecticut Independent Bookseller's Day, during which local authors will read at each of the participating stores. The stores will pool money from the events to place ads in national media celebrating the diversity that independent bookstores bring to the intellectual environment of the country. They have even gotten financial support from some publishers. Miller echoes the sentiments of other feminist booksellers when she says, "We have a commitment

to carry and disseminate progressive ideas, not merely to sell commodities." She adds, "We do so much more than sell books; over the last ten years we have helped innumerable women through life crises, not by counseling them, but by empowering them about the choices they have."

Many people assume that one sale here or there won't make a difference. So what if someone buys *Backlash* or *Revolution From Within*

at a chain? The independent book business, unlike many others, operates on tiny profit margins. Most feminist bookstores are lucky to have a 1 to 3 percent yearly net profit. Some feminist bookstores have experienced a 10 percent or more decline in sales after a chain store has moved into the neighborhood. When a business operates on such small margins, it can ill afford even small fluctuations in sales.

To have intellectual, political and literary diversity, we must have diversity in the marketplace. Without feminist bookstores, the kinds of books you see at your local store will cease to exist for the most part. Every time each of us invests in a feminist bookstore, we are helping to protect the range of literature available: from lesbian and gay novels, to nonsexist, nonracist children's books, to goddess-centered books, to feminist theory. The future of progressive and quality publishing is in our hands—simply by making conscious decisions about where we spend our money.

Sally Owen, co-owner of Judith's Room in New York City, describes the potential effect of the superstores quite simply: "If people buy books at Barnes & Noble, small stores (including feminist stores) will go out of business, presses will suffer and books will disappear." This process she calls "economic censorship." "We are contributing to our own censorship by supporting the chains," she adds. "If we allow this to happen, Barnes & Noble (and the other chains) will decide what gets sold, what is in print, the size of

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*Every time each of us invests  
in a feminist bookstore, we are helping to  
protect the range of literature available:  
from lesbian and gay novels, to  
nonsexist, nonracist children's books,  
to goddess-centered books,  
to feminist theory.*

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the print runs, and ultimately what people have access to. The question is not who gets a piece of the pie; the pie itself will be drastically changed."

Now time for a parable. Twenty-five years ago, I first went into the Off Key, Sacramento's only women's bar, which was huge, grungy, and owned by a man, but ours to do with what we wanted. It had been there for as long as anyone could remember and hadn't changed much. The neutral cultural borderlands between the traditional gay women's world and the emerging lesbian/feminist one, populated with diesel dykes, hippie lesbians, politicians, butches, femmes, and an occasional queen, the Off Key was home to all of us. We had performances; marriages performed by the old preacher woman, Mama Lou; pool tournaments; birthday parties; and protest meetings.

Then four years later, some men from San Francisco opened a glitzy new bar about a mile away. The new bar had everything we thought we could want: a rotating glitter ball over the dance floor, a hard liquor license, a restaurant, a live DJ, and fancy everything. Most of us shifted loyalties and became regulars at the Hut. The Off Key did not survive, but we hardly noticed. Only a few weeks after the Off Key closed, the owners of the Hut put a sign on the front door, "Men are welcome. Women will be tolerated with three forms of ID." The harassment escalated with aggressive male bouncers, mandatory drink policies, and verbal abuse. We clearly were not wanted but had no place to go. Sacramento, by the way, hasn't had a successful women's bar since.

This experience taught me a valuable lesson about loyalty, not necessarily to a particular person or place, but to an alternative that I, as part of a community, had created. The Hut courted women only as long as we were needed to establish the business. I know that

the book industry (publishers and mainstream bookstores) will only court lesbian and feminist communities as long as it is in vogue and profitable.

An editor from Penguin, USA, spoke at the Publisher's Triangle meeting at the American Bookseller's Association convention this year. At one point, he said, "Let's face it folks, we're in this business to make money." That was his bottom line. This statement reflects the fundamental philosophical difference between the Off Key and the Hut, between feminist bookstores and chain stores. Feminist stores are not in the business to make money, but we need to make money to stay in business. Those of us who operate feminist bookstores are very smart women; if making money were our priority, we would all have chosen more lucrative means. We are in the business to educate, to end sexism, racism, homophobia, classism, ageism, and all the other inequities that threaten our society and survival, and to create a safe place for our sisters and brothers. We are in the business to change the world. That will never be profitable or in vogue. Feminist bookstores are in it for the long haul and proud to be part of a larger movement for social change.

*Author's note: For a complete list of names and addresses of feminist bookstores throughout the United States and Canada, send \$1.00 and a SASE to Feminist Bookstore News, P.O. Box 882554, San Francisco, CA 94188.*

*Theresa Corrigan owns and operates Lioness Books, teaches Women's Studies at California State University, Sacramento, and writes. She is the co-editor of a two volume anthology about women's relationships with other animals, published by Cleis Press.*

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