

Feminist Bookstore News

Virginia Woolf Talks to the Landlady



July/August 1995

Volume 18 Number 2

Femina Serial am F3278

WOMEN'S LIVES / WOMEN'S STORIES

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Mary Elene Wood

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NOTES FROM THE COMPUTER TABLE

The exciting story this issue has been the unfolding tale of the first amendment abuses and the arrest of three demonstrators at this year's ABA convention during the "No Newts" demonstration. Everytime we thought we had a handle on the story, more information would arrive from another direction. Charges against one of the arrestees (sales rep Sue Ostfield) have been dropped. The other two go to trial on July 26. The story starts on page 21 in our report on the ABA convention. The more detailed story about the arrests and the First Amendment abuses starts on page 27. The problems and challenges are many and varied.

That such flagrant First Amendment abuses occurred at ABA is both outrageous and embarrassing. That one arrest (for passing out leaflets) occurred even as ABA officials were insisting on Newt Gingrich's "right to speak" raises serious questions about whose First Amendment rights are valued at ABA. That equally absurd charges against the non-ABA registered arrestees were left to stand while ABA worked to have charges against the ABA exhibitor dropped underscores that question. If ABA participants can be arrested at McCormick Place, and taken to jail, will any of us be free to even attempt to voice our opinions at future conventions in Chicago or at *any* ABA conventions anywhere?

If private security guards and the Chicaco police are this eager to arrest and harass booksellers and publishers engaged in such "radical and dangerous" activities as holding up placards and passing out leaflets, one has to be very worried about next year's Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

Another convention note: FBN's booth was "broken into" Monday night after the convention ended. Several things were taken, including tapes of various workshops and meetings (but blank tapes were left in

the booth), our order file (which had notes but, hopefully, no orders in it), and a tape recorder. If other exhibitors or news media had similar experiences, we'd like to hear about it. We'll continue to follow the arrests and harassment stories from ABA. Please call us if you have any further information.

FBN's new e-mail address is Seajay@dnai.com. (or Seajay@hopf.dnai.com).

Beth asks me to remind you that we're always looking for booksellers to "adopt" various mainstream publishers and write announcements for their forthcoming books. If you're interested, give Beth a call.

Yours in spreading the words,
Carol Seajay

FBN Deadlines

Fall Announcements

August 4

November Issue

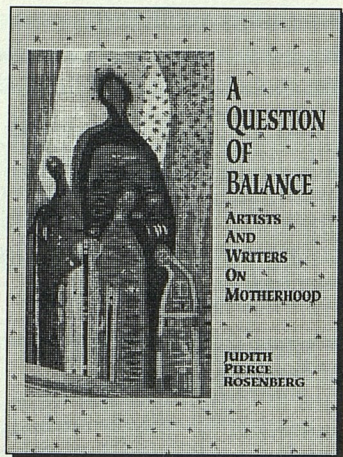
September 22

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In the Garden of Our Own Making, Barbara Sperber, Focusing on adoption, this poetry gift book is for adult children and their parents. 116 pages, 6 x 9, 5-color cover, ISBN 0-918949-69-6, paper, \$9.00. Pub. date: October 1995

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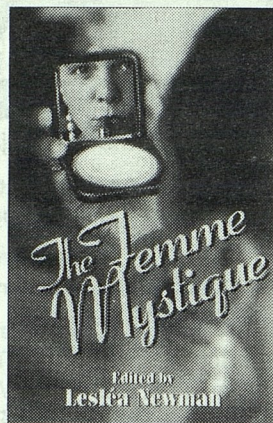
ALYSON

THE FEMME MYSTIQUE

Lesléa Newman, editor

A fascinating and insightful look at the world of femme identity within the lesbian community, written by femmes, former femmes, femme wanna-bes, femme admirers, and, of course, femmes fatales. Through poetry, essays, short fiction, and photography, *The Femme Mystique* explores what it means to be a femme and a lesbian in a society that often trivializes the feminine.

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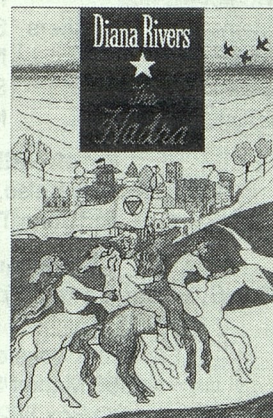


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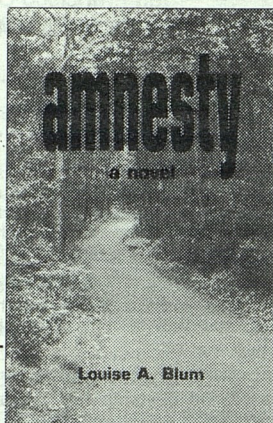


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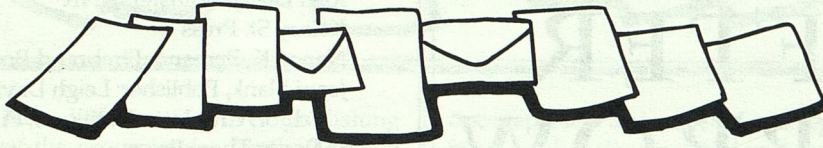
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LETTERS



Syracuse Cultural Workers
PO Box 6367
Syracuse NY 13217

Bernie Rath & Board of Directors
American Booksellers Association
828 South Broadway
Tarrytown NY 10591

Dear ABA Board of Directors,

We are appalled and angered at your decision to invite rightwinger and censorship advocate Newt Gingrich to speak at the 1995 ABA convention. As Speaker of the House, he has more than adequate media attention devoted to his pro-rich stances.

The United States does indeed have huge, huge problems to deal with, problems that are already eroding the quality of life and justice in this nation. Mr. Gingrich's solutions, however, will only exacerbate these problems while aiding those who need it the least — the wealthy and powerful.

The vast majority of booksellers and exhibitors do not support Gingrich's positions as evidenced by the fact that you found it necessary to bypass the very process your organization has established to select speakers. We are outraged that you chose to ignore your selection committee's decision and we congratulate those Chicago area booksellers who resigned rather than be a party to your choice.

Your approach to this whole thing reminds us of a values-poor advertising company that comes up with an incredibly racist, sexist, homophobic campaign and, if it sells the product, calls it a big success.

When the inevitable protests ensued, your response was repressive and outrageously inappropriate. And please don't blame it on GES — it is still your convention, isn't it? Two of our members were told

they could not hand out a leaflet (ABA does have an affiliate project called the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, doesn't it?!). One was "detained" and told she would have her badge taken away if she continued to leaflet. Others inside the lunchroom were dragged out while several people outside the room were arrested on absurd charges such as assaulting a police officer.

We strongly request ABA do everything in its power to see that all charges are dropped against *all* people who were exercising their first amendment rights. We also expect that you will notify all exhibitors and ABA members regarding the resolution of these arrests.



All of this is an embarrassment to the ABA, to the exhibitors and to the world of book publishing. At the least, an apology is in order. A quote from Dante is especially relevant in regard to your actions.

The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who, in times of great moral crisis, maintain their neutrality.

Sincerely,

Dik Cool & Amy E. Bartell,

for the Independent Political Publishers

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The women of Vietnam on
forty years of war

AFTER SORROW

AN AMERICAN AMONG
THE VIETNAMESE



LADY BORTON

FOREWORD BY GRACE PALEY

“Humane, angry, loving, smart, relentless,
sweet, brave, caring....”

• Tim O'Brien, author of *In the Lake of the Woods*

“Vivid and eloquent.... Rare for its honest,
straightforward look at the ordinary people
we fought and their accomplishments
and sufferings.”

• *Kirkus Reviews*

IN BOOKSTORES NOW FROM VIKING



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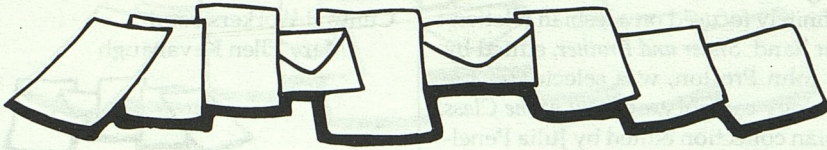
Lambda Book Report
1625 Connecticut Avenue NW
Washington DC 20009

Dear FBN,

Now that the Lambda Literary Awards are over, I wanted to write thanking you for your thoughtful Lammy piece in the May/June FBN. The item raises a number of points that I'd like to try to address.

We've tried to make the process of administering the awards as "neutral" as possible — not slanted toward any particular author or point of view about gay and lesbian life, nor toward any particular segment of the lesbian and gay publishing industry. As we look over the books nominated by Lambda Book Report readers and others, at the list of books chosen by the finalist committee, and the winners chosen by the panels of judges, we are, like you, interested in what the results tell us about trends and developments in the field.

Certainly, the FBN article highlights one such trend, the increased participation by corporate presses in publishing gay and lesbian books. FBN wonders if there is an inherent bias toward these corporate presses in selecting Lammy finalists. Looking over the people who served on this year's finalists committee, it seems highly unlikely that there was a personal bias toward mainstream presses among the committee members. If corporate presses have any advantage, we think it lies not in the process, but much deeper, in the economic conditions of publishing, in which presses with more money and distributional clout are able to outbid feminist presses for talented, experienced and well-known writers.



While we have little control over publishing trends, we do set the ground rules for the Lambda Literary Award process. The guideline we have tried to follow in determining nominees is gay and lesbian content; as FBN notes, "the author doesn't need to be gay or lesbian for a book to be nominated." In practice, it has not always been easy to determine whether a given book in fact meets this guideline. Two years ago, there was a firestorm of criticism when Dorothy Allison's *Bastard Out of Carolina* was not nominated for a LLA Lesbian Fiction Award. It didn't seem to draw much criticism, but last year's Lesbian Fiction Award winner, Jeanette Winterson's *Written on the Body*, deliberately obscured the sex of the narrator; it might be described as "meta-lesbian" fiction in that this deliberate ambiguity forces the reader to confront questions about gender and sexual identity, to ask, what difference does it make if the narrator is a woman? a man? Finally, this year's Lesbian Fiction winner again raises questions of content. Knowledgeable critics have raised the question of whether this book, which tells of gay men with AIDS and their relationship with their woman caregiver, has any "lesbian content" while author Rebecca Brown, in her moving acceptance speech, made it clear that she sees the dynamic of the book in the relationship between a lesbian woman and the gay men she cares for.



In cases such as these last two, we have made it a policy to defer to the judgment of the finalists committee and the LLA judges. Finalists committee members have on more than one occasion commented on the fitness of particular books to be nominated, while judges can, and do, use the lack of gay and/or lesbian content as a criterion for selecting LLA winners. While the resulting selection can't be called a consensus, it

does represent a considered and representative judgment, and is, in our opinion, better than trying to second-guess the process.



We were particularly interested in the comments about "co-genderizing" the Lambda Literary Awards categories. Over the past two years, we have increased the number of categories that include both men and women, so that currently eight of the eighteen awards are open to gay men and lesbians. The motives behind this were partly practical — such as avoiding a proliferation of awards — and partly, we felt, a reflection of what was actually happening in the literary marketplace. Two years ago, we were encouraged in moving in this direction after reviewing the results of voting on the existing co-gender categories, and seeing that it appeared that judges really were voting on the basis of literary merit — that is, men had no hesitation about voting for books written by women, and vice versa. The one change that we did make in this area was to expand the number of judges in each co-gender category from five to six, and make sure there was gender parity in the panels.

Does putting books in co-gender categories create a bias toward books with contributions by both men and women? This is a provocative question, and one that we'll run by the judges in our Lammy follow-up mailing. The results of this year's awards are mixed, but they are not inconsistent with the view that there isn't a bias. The Fiction Anthology winner was *Chloe Plus Olivia*, an all lesbian collection edited by Lillian Faderman, not the co-gender *High Risk 2*, edited by Amy Scholder and Ira Silverberg nor *Lavender Mansions*, edited by Irene Zahava. In Science Fiction, all the books nominated were written by women, although the lesbian content varied from book to

book; the winning book, *Trouble and Her Friends*, by Melissa Scott, definitely focused on a lesbian relationship. On the other hand, *Sister and Brother*, edited by Joan Nestle and John Preston, was selected in the Nonfiction Anthology category, not *Out of the Class Closet*, an all lesbian collection edited by Julia Penelope. Does this result indicate bias, or that the judges thought this was the best book in the field? I'd bet on the latter.

Again, we appreciate the thoughtful questions raised about this year's awards. Each year we try to refine the process, and comments like those in FBN help in this effort. It is our mission to recognize both lesbian and gay books, and we will continue to work to try to ensure a process that will achieve this aim.

Best wishes,
Jim Marks
Kanani Kauka



My Sisters' Words
304 N. McBride Street
Syracuse NY 13203

Hi all!

I imagine feminist bookstore owners/workers are chatting in Chicago even as I'm writing this note.

The First National Feminist Bookstore Week was great fun here. In addition to the enclosed pieces which appeared in the local press, we also had a six-minute piece on the evening news! My favorite part of the entire week was when a local poet read a poem she had written for Marge Piercy. Before reading it she said she wanted to dedicate it to the bookstore workers because we treated her so well every time she came into the store — whether she spent \$100 or just browsed. That sure felt good!

Our most rousing, successful event was the night Kay (my employee) and I read from our current favorite reads. It was a SRO crowd and folks are begging us to do it again. The least successful event was bringing in an out-of-town author. I've not been having success with bringing in out-of-towners. I have some theories about this and would like to open up discussion about it in some form.

Hope everyone there is well and that those who attended ABA had fun. Hope you got some NO

NEWTs buttons from Amy and Dik at the Syracuse Cultural Workers booth.

Mary Ellen Kavanaugh



Kay Gardner Trust Fund
PO Box 214
Zionsville IN 46077

Dear Caring Friends,

Kay Gardner has gifted us with the healing energy of her music for more than 20 years. Now she is in need of our help, both spiritually and financially. Kay was diagnosed with uterine cancer in January of this year and had major surgery on March 6. Happily, Kay is recuperating amazingly well. Her March 6 surgery was a complete success and she will require neither chemotherapy nor radiation therapy. Indeed, love and prayer do work! Magic is afoot!

However, as is true for so many women who are self-supporting artists (and do not qualify for any government assistance), Kay has no health nor disability insurance and no income until May, when she has some work scheduled.

A trust fund has been established to pay for Kay's substantial medical and living expenses during her recovery. \$24,000 is needed. Any excess monies will be used to "seed" a permanent fund to support other women like Kay who are our own cultural treasures. This fund has been a dream of Kay's for years, and she's looking forward to promoting this as soon as she recovers.

Please help in any way you can. Make checks payable to:

Kay Gardner Trust Fund, c/o Nancy VanArsdall,
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We welcome any offers for benefits and other fundraising ideas. Please write us at the above address.

In sisterhood,
Mary Gaul & Nancy VanArsdall, Trustees





Meristem Bookstore
930 S. Cooper
Memphis TN 38104

Jane Alexander
National Endowment for the Arts
The Nancy Hanks Center
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington DC 20506-0001

Dear Ms. Alexander,

In times of siege it is useful to hear words of encouragement and support from allies. Those of us in Memphis who heard your inspiring talk at the National Civil Rights Museum in October of last year know how deeply you know that the creative arts are the lifeblood of people everywhere. In particular, the creative visions of women and people of color must have continued support and nurturance if we are to come together as a nation which honors diversity and celebrates the circle of life.

I am sending you today a voice of hope and renewal: the voice of Selu, the Cherokee grandmother,

whose wisdom reminds us that we must cherish and respect one another and the Earth, in all our diversity and complexity and creativity. The book *Selu* is written by Marilou Awiakta, one of our most important voices today, for her vision is clear and her writing is stunning. The book, with a personalized inscription from the author, is a gift to you in gratitude for the work that you do for all of us every day. Those of us who work in the more than 100 feminist bookstores and who are part of the Feminist Bookstore Network in the U.S. and Canada can only do the work that we do because writers like Marilou do the work that they do. We are part of an extended web of creativity, each part supporting and enlarging the possibilities of the other.

Thanks so much for all that you do.

Yours in the web,

Audrey J. May



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News News News

John Miller Update

Here's the latest in the ongoing saga of John Walter Miller, the guy who caused Inland so much trouble ... As you may recall, Miller was arrested in Florida by the FBI on December 10, 1994, charged with twelve counts of fraud violating Federal Statute Title 18 U.S. Code Section 1341. FBN spoke with A.W. "Buddy" Bethea Jr., Florence, South Carolina U.S. Attorney presiding over the case, and he confirmed that Miller (a.k.a. Fred Stillman!) is charged with 12 counts of mail fraud in connection with the Stilley Plywood Company alleged "bust-out" scheme — a situation where a company comes in to take over a troubled business, collects money in the interim, fails to pay off debts, and walks away with the money (in other words, exactly what Miller did to Inland). Bethea also said that he knows about the Inland situation, but that he can't discuss anything not contained in the current indictment. Miller's initial court appearance was on January 3, 1995 and his trial is set for September 29, 1995. We'll keep you posted. —Beth Morgan

The Lammies: Winners, Fantasies & A Few Facts...

by Carol Seajay

I found myself re-writing the Lammies categories during slow moments at the banquet: I changed the Lesbian and Gay Small Press category to "Publishing What No Press Has Dared Before" and "Breaking Boundaries" just to clarify the purposes of the category and to give our small presses their due. I tried to comprehend the difference between Lesbian & Gay Anthologies/Nonfiction and Lesbian Studies and Gay Men's Studies, but gave up and moved on to create an award for Straight

Writers Who Do Good Gay Characters (then debated with myself about whether it should be one of the co-gender categories or not — are there enough straight people writing lesbian characters to get five nominees?). How about an award for dykes that write good gay men (Drum roll: And the winner is... Rebecca Brown!). Gay Men Who Write Good Lesbians? Gee, that's harder to fill...

But what's a lesbian book? For the second year in a row the "Lesbian Fiction" award went to a book with no visible lesbian content. Pretty strange! Last year's award went to *Written on the Body*, in which, while the narrator is of no identified gender, s/he definitely loves and makes love to a woman, forcing the reader to consider the (extremely likely) possibility that the narrator is a woman — so there's a lesbian presence if not a lesbian character. This year the award for Lesbian Fiction went to Rebecca Brown's excellent *Gifts of the Body*, a novel about a woman who caretakes gay men (and one woman who has a gay son) who are dying of AIDS. The narrator, while clearly a woman, is never identified as a lesbian — and, in fact, the reader learns very little of her life away from her clients.

Given that content (rather than author's sexuality) traditionally dictates categories such as science fiction and biography, I cannot understand why this book wasn't nominated for Gay Men's Fiction, except possibly a double standard when it comes to the high prestige awards, i.e., it's fine to diminish lesbian visibility by not having any lesbian characters in the lesbian fiction winner, but it is unthinkable to diminish gay male writers' visibility by having a lesbian writer competing for the Gay Men's Fiction prize? If content is the determining factor for category, how is it that the Lesbian Fiction winner is a novel about a woman with very little life of her own who spends all of her time taking care of men. Is this the 1950s? The 1800s? Am I on drugs? Having a flashback? If you have other explanations, fill me in!

Contrary to the concerns we expressed in the last issue of FBN, lesbian writers held their ground in this year's Lammies (except for Lesbian Fiction). In the eight co-gendered categories, six (and a half) of the awards went to lesbians. Looking a little further, four of the awards went to lesbian writers of primarily lesbian books, one award went to a gay (male) writer of a play primarily about gay men, one award went to a book that is about both lesbians and gay men edited by a lesbian and a gay man; the other two co-gender awards went to women whose books include both gay men and lesbians.

Three of this year's Lammies went to "co-gender" books: books that are about both lesbians and gay men. Is this enough to be a trend? Probably. If it is (and what's the fun of having awards if you can't make sweeping generalizations about them?), the rest of the story is that the way we get co-gender books is that lesbians (by a ratio of 3:1) write about gay men, rather than gay men writing about lesbians or it being an equally balanced give and take.

Twelve of the 18 Lammies went to corporate

publishers, four went to feminist presses (Firebrand, Press Gang, and two to Seal), and two to other small presses (Algonquin and Theatre Communications Group). The Harper imprints won five Lammies (with two going to the layoff-besieged HarperSF office), two went to Random House imprints, and one each to Norton, S&S, FS&G, Viking/Penguin and Tor/St. Martin's.

Looking at gender again, it's clear that feminist publishing is a route to Lammy success for lesbian writers (4 awards — or a third of the awards for which lesbian writers were eligible). Five of the corporate publishers' awards went to male writers of books about men, but only three of the corporate awards went to lesbians for books about lesbians. Three corporate publisher awards went to lesbians who also write about gay men, one went to a lesbian for a book that is exclusively about gay men, and one to a gay man who includes material about both lesbians and gay men.... Another way to read this is that, in corporate America, gay men get to write about gay men but lesbians double their chances of getting published "by the boys" if they write about gay men, rather than if they focus primarily on lesbians. That says a lot about sex discrimination and whose stories are (and aren't) valued in corporate America. It also makes a case for why we need a strong and vital lesbian/feminist press!

Interestingly enough, it was lesbian writers (exclusively) who showed up to receive awards. Of the nineteen awards given (18 books with 19 authors), only three of the Lammy winners were present to receive their awards: Dorothy Allison, Ellen Hart and Rebecca Brown. Feminist press authors lead with a 50% attendance rate for winning writers, neither of the other two small press winners were present, and only one of the 12 corporate press winners was present (8%).

If this year's Lammies are any indication, getting published by corporate publishers is increasingly important to the les/gay communities. But one has to wonder, how important is les/gay publishing to the corporate community? Why aren't our awards worth the cost of a plane ticket and the price of dinner to the publishers who are most able to afford the trip?

All of which helps clarify my frustration with the Lammies: I want awards that reflect the political and social content of our lives as well as our literary skills, because I believe that, even in this allegedly

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post-feminist, post-Stonewall era, these elements of our literature still cannot be successfully separated. Who publishes what, and what gets published where (or not at all), still has everything to do with who has the money and the power — that is, the politics of access.

Children/Young Adult

Two Teenagers in Twenty edited by Ann Heron (Alyson)

Lesbian & Gay Humor

The Dyke and the Dybbuk by Ellen Galford (Seal Press)

Lesbian & Gay Anthologies/Fiction

Chloe Plus Olivia by Lillian Faderman (Viking)

Lesbian & Gay Anthologies/Nonfiction

Sister and Brother edited by Joan Nestle and John Preston (HarperSanFrancisco)

Lesbian & Gay SF/Fantasy

Trouble and Her Friends by Melissa Scott (Tor)

Lesbian & Gay Drama

Angels in America: Perestroika by Tony Kushner (Theatre Communications Group)

Photography/Visual Arts

Family by Nancy Andrews (HarperSanFrancisco)

Lesbian & Gay Small Press

Her Tongue on My Theory by Kiss & Tell (Press Gang)

Lesbian Mystery

Small Sacrifice by Ellen Hart (Seal Press)

Gay Men's Mystery

Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil by John Berendt (Random House)

Lesbian Poetry

Winter Numbers by Marilyn Hacker (Norton)

Gay Men's Poetry

Collected Poems by Thom Gunn (FSG)

Lesbian Biography/Autobiography

Gertrude Stein: In Words and Pictures by Renate Stendhal (Algonquin Books)

Gay Men's Biography/Autobiography

My Own Country by Abraham Verghese (Simon & Schuster)

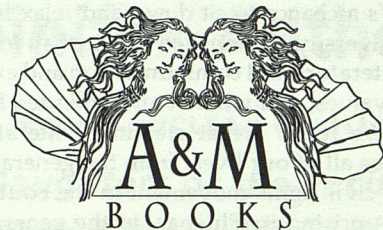
Lesbian Studies

Skin by Dorothy Allison (Firebrand)

Gay Men's Studies:

Gay New York by George Chauncey (BasicBooks)

Gay Mens Fiction



A&M Books, a new publisher of lesbian and feminist books, announces the publication of Sarah Aldridge's twelfth novel

AMANTHA

due out in August, 1995.

All of Sarah Aldridge's earlier novels are now available from A&M Books: *The Latecomer*, *Tottie*, *Cytherea's Breath*, *All True Lovers*, *The Nesting Place*, *Madame Aurora*, *Misfortune's Friend*, *Magdalena*, *Keep To Me Stranger*, *A Flight of Angels*, and *Michaela*.

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Folding Star by Alan Hollinghurst (Pantheon)

Lesbian Fiction:

Gifts of the Body by Rebecca Brown (HarperCollins)

Publishers Service Award

Barbara Smith

Editor's Choice Award

Memoir of a Race Traitor by Mab Segrest (South End Press)

Before Columbus Foundation's American Book Awards

The Before Columbus Foundation, which sponsors the American Book Awards, starts from the assumption that recognizing literary excellence demands a panoramic perspective. By BCF's standards, "multicultural" is the definition of American literature, not an appellation that applies to the odd strand of literature here and there.

In the chaos and madness of ABA, where "the world" centers on white guys in suits from NYC and their decisions about what should interest the rest of

us, attending BCF's book award party is always a relief. It's a chance to sit down and relax in a place where diversity is cherished rather than tokenized, where literature and communication and excellence are the values, and where I am reminded how successful we really are at creating a literature that celebrates all of our lives, from the generations before the civil rights movement in the South, to the current uprising in Chiapas, to the generations of the AIDS-sentenced and of crack babies. The winning books celebrate the lives of Irish, Italian, Indonesian, Chinese, Mexican, Black, Native (North) American and Native Equadorian, South Bronx city boys and yes, even feminists, in the times and places of "before" as well as now.

The welcome is warm. The message, even to late-comers (and who can help being late with the transit hassles at the convention center?), is "Come in, get something to eat and sit down. You've been on the convention floor all day so you need to eat. This is family, no one's feelings are going to be hurt if you eat while we talk." This is an evening of unadulterated celebration. The winners are announced in April so there are no "winners" and "losers" here. There is just the celebration of work well done. It's one of those rare ABA moments of truly feeling at home in a world where social change and political awareness are no less and no more important than breathing and eating. —CS

- Life Sentences* by Thomas Avena (Mercury House)
Brotherman: The Odyssey of Black Men in America by Herb Boyd and Robert L. Allen (One World/Ballentine)
Face of an Angel by Denise Chavez (Farrar, Straus & Giroux)
Speak Now Against the Day: The Generation Before the Civil Rights Movement in the South by John Egerton (Alfred A. Knopf)
The Light People by Gordon Henry, Jr. (University of Oklahoma Press)
The Winged Seed: A Remembrance by Li-Young Lee (Simon & Schuster)
I Am Becoming the Woman I've Wanted by Sandra Haldeman Martz (Papier-Mache Press)
Green Fires: Assault on Eden: A Novel of the Ecuadorian Rainforest by Marnie Mueller (Curbstone Press)
Banished Children of Eve by Peter Quinn (Viking)
Rocking the Babies by Linda Raymond (Viking)
Spidertown by Abraham Rodriguez, Jr. (Penguin)
Black Noise: Rap Music and Black Culture in Contemporary America by Tricia Rose (Wesleyan University Press)
Rebellion from the Roots: Indian Uprising in Chiapas by John Ross (Common Courage Press)
Crossing Ocean Parkway: Readings by an Italian American Daughter by Marianna De Marco Torgovnick (University of Chicago Press)

Children's Book Award

The Boy Who Swallowed Snakes by Lawrence Yep, Jean and Mou-Sien Tseng, Illustrators (Scholastic)

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Joanna Russ
 Nebula and Hugo award-winning Joanna Russ's classic essays on science fiction and feminism. Here she ranges from a consideration of the aesthetic of science fiction to a reading of the lesbian identity of Willa Cather. *To Write Like a Woman* includes essays on horror stories and the supernatural, feminist utopias, popular literature for women (the "modern gothic"), and the feminist education of graduate students in English.
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Criticism Award

Warriors, Conjurers and Priests: Defining African Centered Literary Criticism by Joyce Ann Joyce
(Third World Press)

Chicago Pioneers Award

Gwendolyn Brooks, James T. Farrell, Jack Conroy,
Richard Wright, Nelson Algren

Lifetime Achievement Award

Frederica de Laguna

**Just in Time for Beijing
*China for Women***

Thirty thousand women from around the world are expected to convene in Beijing in early September for the UN Conference on the Status of Women. For those delegates from North America, The Feminist Press has published *China for Women: Travel and Culture*. Like *Australia for Women*, the first volume in The Feminist Press Travel Series, *China for Women* delves deeply into the history and culture of Chinese women, as well as providing firsthand travel accounts and tips designed specifically to help women travelers make the most of their stay in China.

**News from
Astarte Shell Press**

Astarte Shell is expanding in two directions! They have three new professional volunteers in the areas of graphic design, accounting, grant writing and editing, which will both add richness to the press and take some of the burden off of other shoulders. Astarte Shell is also expanding its product line by producing two tapes of sound poems, "Touch Me" and "O Star," due out this fall. A sound poem is a poem written for a spoken chorus and reflects an ancient legacy of oral poetry. Both of these sound poems were written by Anne Witten, who before her death from cancer, had become an internationally recognized lesbian feminist poet in this tradition. Both are very moving, and "Touch Me" is extremely erotic! If any of you have had experience marketing sound poems, Astarte Shell would like to hear from you at 800-349-0941. ○

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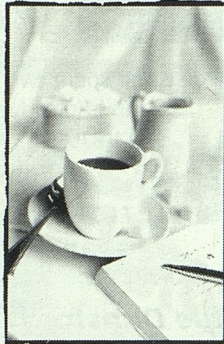
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T R I V I A

By Carol Seajay

Bras Cause Breast Cancer

It's a fact! Or at least there's research to prove it. According to *Dressed to Kill: The Link Between Breast Cancer and Bras* (see From the Small Presses), bras exert pressure on the lymphatic system, an internal network of vessels that flushes the body of wastes, including potentially carcinogenic substances. The theory is that constrictive bras (and show me one that isn't) cause the wastes to accumulate in the tissues of the breast.... Their 4600-woman study finds that women who wear bras 24 hours a day have a 113 fold increase in breast cancer incidence compared to women who wear bras less than 12 hours daily, and that women who don't wear bras at all have a 21-fold reduction in breast cancer incidence as compared to the general population. . .

OK, that's 30 lashes with an underwire bra for every journalist, writer, and talk-show host who's ever made a joke about bra-burning feminists. Burn those bras in good health!

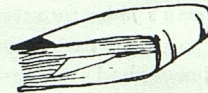
Censorship

Everyone expected the decision on the Little Sisters vs. Canada Customs trial to come down before the Court's summer recess. But despite a rumor that the decision had been seen by someone working for the judiciary, it still hasn't been made public. Earliest possibility for the announcement is now September. Maybe they'll delay in announcing the decision until October 11, the anniversary of the start of the trial? (Also, in the U.S., National Coming Out Day.) Little Sisters is unfazed. "All the better to generate publicity for the books," says Little Sisters manager Janine Fuller. Press Gang will publish *Restricted Entry: Censorship on Trial*, Fuller's account of the trial in November, and Cleis will publish *Forbidden Passages*, a collection of writings banned in Canada also in

November. Both books are fundraisers for the Little Sisters Defense Fund.

Not that Canada Customs has decided to stop seizing books for the duration or anything. Glad Day (Toronto) reports that Canada customs seized two audio-book versions of *Travels With Diane Hunter* on the grounds that the books contain "submission," "sex with pain" and a newish Canada Customs category, "other." The books were en route to Glad Day from Naiad Press. Glad Day has been importing this title in the print format since 1986. The seizure notice was dated May 11.

As I was writing this column, Nancy Bereano called to report another form of censorship: Given the sky-rocketing price of paper, she decided to solicit bids from several different printers for her Fall books — only to find that Thompson-Shore "declined to bid" on the books because "they were concerned about how people [at T-S] would react" to the list that included *Unnatural Dykes to Watch Out For*, *Oral Tradition*, *Horseshoe Sky*, and *Parker & Hulme: A Lesbian View*.

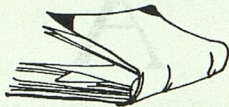


Miscellany

National Independent Bookstores Week will be celebrated November 5-12 this year. FBN keeps suggesting that ABA send the key information and some do-it-yourself tools to all the member bookstores but ABA requires that each bookstore write, phone or fax ABA to get a copy of the NIBW information kit. Time is short, so do it now! Address your NIBW kit request to Jill Perlstein, ABA, 828 S. Broadway, Tarrytown NY 10591. Phone: 800-637-0037 or 914-591-2665, ext. 283. Fax: 914-591-2720. Tell them FBN sent you!

Kudos to *Bookselling This Week* for publishing a (partial) list of bookstores that have closed their stores (or branches) that attributed their decision, in some

degree or other, to competition from larger corporate chain stores. Guess Judith's Room and Southern Sisters need to be added to that list.



This column has a lot of gripes in it — so I thought I'd balance that by listing a few of my favorite things:

- Women in Publishing (United Kingdom) gives two annual awards to honor women's contributions to feminist publishing. The Pandora Award goes to an individual, institution or company for personal achievement and the promotion of positive images of women in publishing, bookselling and related areas. The New Venture Award focuses specifically on new projects. To nominate someone for either of these awards, send your name and address, the name and address of the woman you are nominating, and the reasons why you think she should receive the award to Barbara Classen, 128 Bethnal Green Road, London E2 6DG (fax 44-71-729-6242) by September 29, 1995. The awards, along with the shortlist, will be presented at the WIP Christmas Party in December.

- Two years ago, at OutWrite, I was invited to speak on a panel about favorite "lost" gay and lesbian literature. One of the books I discussed was *Diana: A Strange Autobiography*, which I read as a teenager in the '60s, but that was first published in 1939. In 1974, while traveling in India, I found a second copy of the book (which I still have) with the widest possible hodge-podge of books displayed on a blanket by a street-seller. During my presentation I mourned that entire generations of lesbian readers had never had a chance to read the book. When it was over, Karla Jay told me that the book was scheduled for 1995 publication in her Cutting Edge: Lesbian Life and Literature series/New York University Press. And now it's out, with appropriate introductions, et al. Cherish that history and enjoy!

- And also in the Lesbian History Department, Naiad will publish Margaret Anderson's never-before-published novel *Forbidden Fires* in 1996. Even better than the text, the book will include thirty-some pages of photos of everyone who was anyone in the lesbian literati circles of ex-patriot Paris. ABA would be the perfect place to launch the book, since Anderson, having to choose between paying the rent and publishing her beloved *Little Review*, spent an entire

summer camped on the shores of Lake Michigan just outside Chicago. *Of course* she brought all the essential comforts of home — including a baby grand piano.

Paper Alternatives

Paper prices are skyrocketing. Some kinds of paper have gone up as much as 40% in the last year. Expect book prices to go up \$2- \$3 over the next year — just enough to wreck havoc with the price points. *Of course* the rise in paper prices is artificial, but no one seems to be making that charge publicly (where's the Federal Trade Commission when you need them?). One of the many contributing factors is the low value of the U.S. dollar on the world market, which means there's no longer any real competition from European paper manufacturers.

Of course there are alternatives to tree-pulp based paper: Vision Paper, in Albuquerque is making paper out of kenaf, a slender woody plant related to cotton and okra. Kenaf looks a bit like bamboo, grows to maturity (14-18 feet) in four months, and yields six to 10 tons per acre. Trees grown for paper take seven to 40 years to produce about a fifth of that yield.

And then there's good old hemp. (That's marijuana to the '70s generations.) It grows like a weed, produces a lot more paper-pulp per acre than trees and is totally illegal in the U.S. of A. California folklore has it that the prohibition against hemp came, not from the plant's "dangerous" hallucinogenic properties, but rather from the (very) influential Hearst family's desire to protect their timber and paper industry holdings....

Reader's Feast's Tollie Miller counsels booksellers to plan on a jump in the price of books, to consider how a rapid rise in book prices will affect your cash flow and plan for it, and to start the educational process now by warning your customers to be prepared for a jump in book prices.



Updates

The U.K.'s Feminist Book Fortnight seems to have evolved into the Feminist Book Festival. In the last issue of FBN we covered the Selected Twenty Titles, and since then have learned that the Feminist Book Festival also published a catalog of 90 feminist books

called *Dirty Words?* that plays on the concept of "feminism" as a dirty word and on the way that "the male culture names women dirty and calls Black dirty, and sex dirty" as well. It also includes a brief list of London and U.K. Feminist Book Festival events. 60,000 copies were distributed to bookshops, libraries, and community centres throughout Britain. I'd love to know how it was all organized and financed! For further information write to the Feminist Book Festival c/o Kiran Rao, 7 Park Close, London NW10 7DY.

More Investigations

Yep, that rumor that the Department of Justice's anti-trust division is looking at anti-competitive practices in the bookselling industry seems to be true. Mainstream media reported that the DOJ is investigating the possibility of collusion between Border's Waldenbooks division and Barnes & Noble's B. Dalton division in deciding which stores would be closed where. Both divisions have been served with subpoenas for store closing plans. B&N has closed 60 mall-type stores in the last two years, Borders has closed 50 Waldenbooks in the same period of time and plans to close at least 100 more.

But hey! What's a level playing field and who cares? Borders announced in May that Ann Arbor will be the site for Waldenbooks' new headquarters — and that it will receive a major incentive package from the Michigan Economic Growth Authority, a board created to promote job growth in the state. The deal? A 15-year tax break worth a projected \$7.7 million and \$1.5 million in job training funds, a figure that will be matched by Waldenbooks. (This information from the Book Passage's July-August newsletter, which also carried an excellent article titled "Trouble on Main Street: When Local Stores Go, What Goes With Them?")

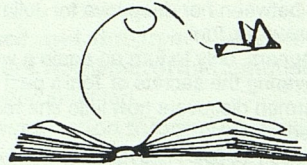
The March-April issue of the Book Passage's newsletter carried a superb story on the buying and selling of "bestseller" lists, using the *The New York Times* "bestseller" list as an example. The thesis of the article is that the lists are inaccurately weighted to reflect what is "selling" at chain stores and that corporate stores receive large promotional allowances from the publishers for specific books — with the understanding that the title will be reported as a bestseller — regardless of how it actually sells. Rumors are that the going price for "bestseller" promotion is \$9,000 per chain. These kinds of promotional allowances, which are not available to independent

stores, are part of the basis for the ABA lawsuit.

Call, write or fax The Book Passage for copies of both articles. 51 Tamal Vista Blvd., Corte Madera CA 94925; 415-927-0960; fax 415-924-3838.

Tired of ABA's romance with Newt Gingrich yet? Yeah, Newt, the one up for ethics committee investigation based on his \$4.5 million dollar advance from Harper — and the mysterious special legislation that gave Harper-owner Rupert Murdoch a similarly impressive tax break on the telecommunications side of his business. Gingrich isn't acknowledging anything, of course, but he has, albeit regretfully, declined the advance and will receive royalties(!), instead.

And yes, according to the *San Francisco Examiner*, Habitat for Humanity, the tie-in charity for ABA's NIBW promotion, is one of Newt's favorite causes.



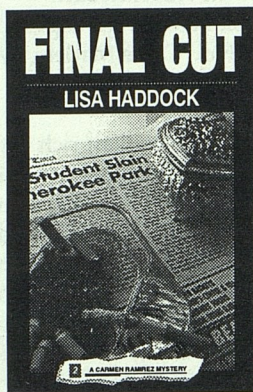
Beijing Update

Six of the Girls International Forum delegation to the UN's Women's Conference in Beijing are *New Moon* editors. The girls range in age from 10 to 16. Two of them have been nominated for delegate status. *New Moon* will publish articles about their experiences in Beijing.

Movies to Watch Out For

Leslie Feinberg's award-winning *Stone Butch Blues* is expected to go into production this Fall. Against the Tide will produce the film, Christine Vachon (producer of *Go Fish*) and Jelayne Miles will be co-producers, Jan Oxenberg (*Thank You and Goodnight*) will direct. Pamela Gray (the "Violations" episode of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*) will write the script.

Wesleyan/University Press of New England rushed *A Woman's View: How Hollywood Spoke to Women, 1930-1960* into paperback to get it to bookstores to coincide with a three month series of films, also titled "A Woman's View" to air in June, July, and August on Turner Classic Movies television network. The series features 120+ movies, original short-form pieces and exclusive interviews with leading women actors, directors and writers. It airs Wednesday and Friday evenings and Sunday afternoons. ○



Final Cut
A Carmen Ramirez
Mystery

by Lisa R. Haddock

Newspaper editor Carmen Ramirez and graduate student Julia Nichols seem like the perfect couple. But two years into their loving, committed relationship, temptation and trouble arrive in the form of, seductive Antoinette ("Toni") Stewart. Four years earlier,

Carmen and Toni were a little more than friends and a little less than lovers — until Toni devastated Carmen with an inexplicable act of betrayal. Carmen soon finds herself torn between her deep love for Julia and her intense passion for Toni.

Toni disappears, only to turn up again a week later — dead. Uncovering the secrets of Toni's past and present, Carmen discovers how little she really knew the murdered woman,

ISBN: 1-56280-088-4 \$10.95



The Beach Affair

by Barbara Johnson

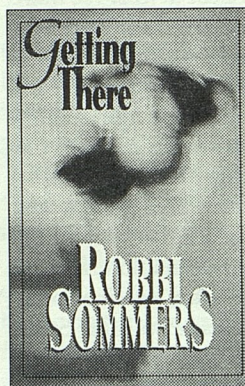
When former professional bodybuilder Candy Emerson is found dead in her Rehoboth Beach gym, the police rule it a tragic accident. But is it? Reluctant to pay a huge double indemnity claim to the beneficiaries, Candy's insurance company sends

novice investigator Colleen Fitzgerald to look into the case.

After the aerobics instructor gives Colleen a full-body workout that leaves her breathless, the investigator has a hard time keeping her mind on the case and her hands off Gillian. Blinded by her white-hot passion, could Colleen be overlooking a motive for murder???

Rave reviews for Barbara Johnson's debut novel, *Stonehurst*.

ISBN 1-56280-090-6 \$10.95



Getting There

by Robbi Sommers

"Just say the first word you think of."

I peered at the ice in my glass and imagined myself melting. The first word?" Surrender," I said.

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ABA '95 Convention Report

Things were quite calm at ABA until the FBN crew rode into town. Left to right: Jenn Tust, Carol Seajay, Beth Morgan. Thanks to Ten Speed Press for the use of their sheep.

By Carol Seajay

ABA-Chicago should have been the best ABA in years. Instead it was marred by major abuses of First Amendment rights and free speech violations (including three arrests); construction hassles and ineffective shuttle bus management that lead to 1½ - 2 hour waits for shuttles in exhaust-filled tunnels and halls; and a seemingly endless series of insults to booksellers in general, and to women and minorities in particular. Other than that, Mrs. Lincoln, it was a great show.

No Newts!

There was a marked lack of enthusiasm for ABA's decision to invite Newt Gingrich to speak at ABA. "No Newts" buttons (provided by Syracuse Cultural Workers) were among the hottest items on the floor. Word was that there would be a demonstration at the Monday "Power Lunch" where Newt was to speak and, when Monday arrived, about 150 or so ABA-registered booksellers and exhibitors and 300 or more people from the Chicago community turned out to protest Gingrich's policies and/or to protest his presence at ABA.

The McCormick Place security force, however, seemed to be unfamiliar with such concepts as the First Amendment. Sue Ostfield, an InBook rep, was arrested for passing out fliers, and many others



were harassed and threatened when they tried to distribute fliers. By the end of the demonstration three people had been arrested.

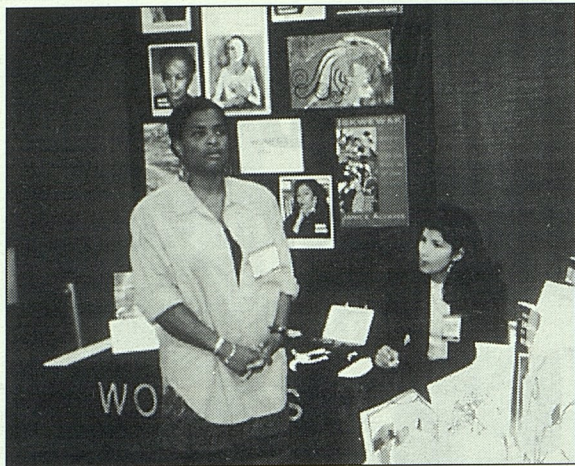
The demonstration to protest Gingrich's policies was organized by a coalition of groups including disability activists, unions, senior citizens, advocates for the elderly, advocates for homeless people, immigrants and, reportedly, the Chicago NOW. Many booksellers and ABA exhibitors also wanted ABA — and other booksellers — to know how angry they were about ABA being used as a platform to espouse Gingrich's policies and about the process by which the invitation was issued.

See "They Arrest Sales Reps, Don't They" elsewhere in this issue, for details.

Logistics

This year's convention was also marred by logistical problems that were exacerbated by poor planning.

Transportation problems were attributed to "construction problems" and to the 10,000+ people attending the Chicago Blues Festival which slowed traffic on Lake Shore Drive, the main artery leading to the Convention Center. But the real problems were rooted in planning that failed to take these situations into account. With 50% of the exhibit hall's access roads closed due to construction, it would have been wise to direct some of the cabs and shuttles to the other building and direct convention goers across the walkway to the desired building, rather than letting shuttle



busses and cabs back up for blocks on Lakeshore drive, engendering 15-30 minute delays in disembarking.

The most dangerous situation occurred Saturday evening when the show closed and booksellers and exhibitors left the floor and followed signs to shuttle busses and cabs. But instead of transportation, convention goers found themselves in a nightmare that, for some convention goers, lasted as long as two hours. A shortage of cabs and shuttle busses resulted in lines that snaked back into "entry" halls that were jammed shoulder to shoulder and were fed constantly by escalators pulling people off the convention floor and dumping them into what turned into holding pens, where exits were blocked by people waiting for busses and cabs. People couldn't get out the way they came in because of the flood of people who were still coming off the floor. Eventually the entire area was so packed with people that there was no place for people coming off the escalators to go, and people on the escalators were forced to "walk" up the moving escalators to keep from landing on the people below. One woman fell but was not seriously injured. Several people became sick from breathing exhaust fumes trapped in the entry tunnel.

It's hard to know what is more appalling: that this situation came into being in the first place or that neither Reed Exhibition staff nor McCormick Place staff were present and able to remedy the situation or even turn off the escalators.

As I came down the escalator I heard a woman near me whisper, "My God, what if there's a fire?" It was only then that I looked out and saw the crush of people below. I was, at the moment, traveling with a group of dykes from The Aisle. As we hit the bottom of the escalator we still had a choice: to move forward into the crowd, or to walk around behind the escalators and go out a door there. We turned, as if with one mind, and went out the door, to find ourselves at the underground cab stand — where there was a line stretching back into the morass we had just left and very few cabs outside. We looked for sunlight and started walking down the tunnel with no idea where we were going. We walked until we got to open sky, grass and and could breathe freely. Eventually we jay-walked across ten lanes of freeway traffic and caught cabs on the other side that took us back to the city. It seemed to be a much safer alternative than going back into the convention center.

Our cab driver showed us the print-out of upcoming conventions provided to cabbies — it listed the ABA as expecting 20,000 people, (rather than the 40,000 people who normally show up for ABA conventions), a fact that undoubtedly contributed to the dearth of cabs at the end of the day and may have, if this same number was provided to McCormick Place food services, contributed to the shortage of food services and consequent long lines on the convention floor all day Saturday.

ABA's Town Hall & the Membership Meeting

It's always easier to talk about logistics than politics.

A significant portion of the "Town Meeting" (which is designed for booksellers to express opinions in a place that is handily removed from the Membership meeting where binding motions can be passed to deal with problems) was given over to complaints and apologies for some of the appalling logistical conditions. Construction was blamed for the problems. The Chicago Blues Festival was blamed for slowing traffic on Lakeshore Boulevard (and thus extending the time for each bus' round trips to hotels). Reed Exhibition promised more food service in the days to come, and much better organization in the bus lines, an increased number of subway cars back to the city, and more. And indeed, the end-of-the-day exit ran much more smoothly the next two days. How much of that was due to improved services and the increased staff pressure, and how much was due to the fact that booksellers started leaving the convention center at 4:30 rather than risking another 6 PM fiasco, is an open question.

What is troubling is that these kinds of basic problems should not have happened in the first place. If half the access lanes are closed due to construction, build an alternate route or use the access routes to the other buildings, too. The Blues Festival is a Chicago tradition, not a surprise move. If it creates problems moving people out of McCormick Place, then more busses are needed. Cabbies found routes around the Blues Festival that resulted in minimal delays: give these routes to the shuttle bus drivers. If there is not adequate access to the building to get people out safely, the Fire Department, if no one else, ought not to allow more people to congregate than can be gotten out of the building safely. We're talking some pretty basic and essential levels of convention organizing

here. One shouldn't have to feel that one is risking their life to attend the ABA. It isn't an organizing strategy that will increase ABA attendance.

The second part of the Town Meeting was no less disturbing than the first, both for the issues that were raised and for the ones that weren't.

No one seems to be pleased that next year's ABA is scheduled for June 15-17, but booksellers' concerns were brushed off with "You can't go by what booksellers ask for, they all want something different" responses, which followed the "explanation" that the date was chosen because a corporate-publishers' council had advised ABA that its members didn't want to work over the Memorial Day weekend and suggested that some publishers might boycott if they didn't get their way. Booksellers in the meeting failed to see how their concerns (and their need to do ABA during a weekend to mitigate staffing problems) were less important to the ABA infrastructure than the needs of publishers.



An African American bookseller asked why the Blackboard Awards, which celebrate African American bookselling and literature, had been scheduled for presentation during the Newt Power Lunch. It was hard to tell from the response if no one at ABA had noticed that the Award was scheduled during that event or if it hadn't occurred to anyone that the people who turn out for that award would be offended by being forced to sit through Newt's speech. It was clear,

however, that nobody at ABA had noticed that all four of the authors that ABA put up for its World Wide Web grand opening were white men.... a situation that ABA promised to remedy in future programs, but without making any actual commitment to keep these kinds of situations from occurring, despite the fact that one bookseller specifically raised the issue that "insensitivity" seemed to be an ongoing theme at this meeting.



The issues that weren't raised were the executive director's decision to invite Newt Gingrich to speak at ABA despite the convention program committee's express statement that Gingrich would not be a suitable speaker at any ABA events; the ABA administration's failure (once again) to understand the difference between censorship and censure; and the fact that this committee — along with nine other "input" committees — have been disbanded indefinitely.

ABA's saving grace, at this point, seems to be the memberships' enthusiasm for the lawsuit. The membership passed the dues increase nearly unanimously as an expression of support for the lawsuit.

During the Q&A session it was confirmed that Barnes & Noble is a current member of ABA and "paid dues in February to reconfirm their their support for ABA's goals."

Feminist booksellers made it a point to wear our National Feminist Bookstore Week T-Shirts to the Membership & Board Meetings. Various Feminist Bookstore Network members raised questions regarding ABA's ongoing support for NIBW, ABA's World Wide Web promotion that featured four white male

authors — no women, no minorities — and other issues. In the "your so vain, I'll bet you think this note is about you" department, it was pointed out to us that at least one ABA administrator became very nervous as a note circulated among the feminist bookstore contingent during the discussion about raising dues. But, for once, rather than plotting the destruction of the ABA, we were organizing car pools to the Before Columbus Awards. Ah well, real life is rarely as exciting as paranoia...

National Independent Bookstore Week

The workshop on NIBW was illuminating, if not encouraging. Typical of ABA's other snafus at this convention, The Wallis Group, the PR firm that invented and implemented NIBW last year, was not informed until after they had arrived at ABA that their contract would not be renewed for NIBW '95. The ABA administration and board have decided, instead, to continue the program but to organize it in-house. ABA's Marketing Manager, Jill Perlstein, will be doing the primary organizing for the event with the aid of an outside PR firm as needed.

NIBW 1995 will be held November 5-12, the same dates as last year, which allows the posters and bookmarks to be recycled, as well as the design. The 1995 "week" will run Sunday to Sunday this year rather than Saturday to Saturday.

Feminist Bookstore Network's executive director met with the new organizer by phone prior to ABA to encourage ABA to utilize some of the approaches that Feminist Bookstore Network found to be most useful in organizing the very successful National Feminist Bookstore Week this spring. She also provided ABA with sample copies of the NFBW media kit and the mailings to bookstores. Despite FB-Network's strong encouragement, ABA has decided not to mail NIBW packets directly to the members, claiming that it isn't "cost effective." So members must, once again, request packets, a cumbersome procedure that slows planning for an event that, once again, has a very short lead time.

American Bookseller, however, will include slicks for NIBW bookmarks. Watch for them in the August issue.

And on the Floor...

The convention itself was satisfying. A record number of "booksellers" attended — 9,548, compared

to 8,500 in Los Angeles in '94, 5,400 in Miami in '93, and 6,500 in Anaheim in '92. True to promise, some corporate presses "downsized" their booths, but that didn't seem to affect their ability to do business with booksellers. Fewer editorial people attended this year's ABA, and that did seem to have a negative impact on the effectiveness of the convention. Booksellers from outside the midwest commented that the absence of their sales reps made it harder to meet the people in the booths that they needed to talk to.

The Aisle

The Gay/Lesbian/Feminist aisle was an ABA-sponsored section for the first time this year. The overhead signs were great and greatly increased our visibility, but our entire section (as well as the multicultural section and several others), were located behind a cement block wall in the furthest reaches of the hall, which significantly cut down on walk-by traffic. ABA owes us a good location next year.

This was the first year in recent memory that we didn't have an aisle meeting, which was unfortunate given that there were several issues that needed to be discussed, including the three no-shows that depreciated the image of the aisle, the sudden explosion in magazine exhibitors, and the changing policy regarding non-book oriented magazines and "skin" publications on the aisle.

Chicago

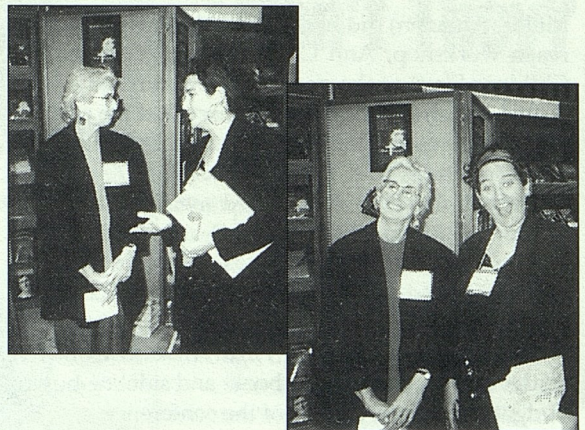
Chicago is a real city and offers all the things convention-bound booksellers need most: a tremendous variety of restaurants that serve real food, good hotels, decent transportation, community for everyone, a fiesty independent booksellers association and a wealth of bookstores, including feminist, gay, and Black bookstores. And it is surrounded by booksellers who got in their cars and drove to ABA in record numbers.

As a home-base city for ABA, Chicago is a good choice (or will be when the new convention center is finished). Time will tell if having a home-base city serves booksellers. Will large numbers of booksellers continue to turn out, or is this year's high attendance just a matter of it being ABA's first midwest appearance in years? Will "outlying" booksellers make the Chicago trip regularly or will an increasing part of the business shift to the regionals' trade shows? The Fem-

inist Bookstore Network is dealing with ABA's centralization by moving our strategic planning conference to different locations around the country, rather than relying on our pre-ABA conference to be our primary meeting with member stores.

ABA Promoting ABA

ABA seems to have done an excellent job of getting promotion for this convention — much of it in connection with Gingrich appearances and the anti-Newt demonstrations. *People Magazine* ran a six-page spread on the convention as Newt saw it, and CNN and C-Span broadcast Newt's Power Lunch speech. Whether booksellers or the bookselling trade will reap any benefits from this publicity remains to be seen.



Feminist Bookstores/Publishers Dinner

The Feminist Bookstores/Feminist Publishers Dinner, organized by Midge Stocker/Third Side Press, came off superbly this year. Over a hundred women, fairly equally divided between publishers and booksellers, filled the hall with a cheery roar of greetings and conversation. The dinner was served family style and was one of the best 100+ people dinners I've eaten in recent years! I did miss having some kind of program to tie it all together, or to move our vision or celebrate our unity. Did anyone sign up to organize this event for next year?

Feminist Bookstore Network Conference

Fifty-two women from 30 feminist bookstores gathered for this year's two-day FB-Network Conference. The first day focused on skill development: Mev

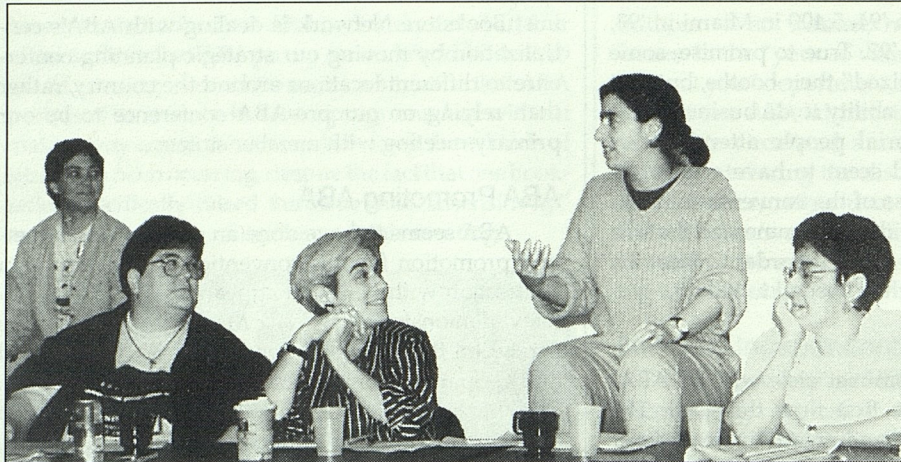


Photo page 21, Michele Karlsberg; pages 22, 23, & 25, Jenn Tust; page 26 by River Artz.

Next year's organizers are Jane Brooke (Lamas/DC) and River Artz (Pandora Books/Kalamazoo).

Hotels

FBN once again booked two blocks of hotel rooms, one in rock-bottom "clean, safe, and reasonably quiet" price

range, and one a bit nicer, but still under \$100/night category. Both seemed to work out well, for the most part, with the serious exception of not having any kind of public gathering space to hang out and do the kind of networking that happens best in a jacuzzi at the end of the day, etc. We'll try to remedy that in 1996!

Next Year

Next year's convention is likely to be hot and dusty. It is scheduled later in the summer than any time in recent memory (June 15-17) and the convention center will still be under construction. The new building, which will be big enough to house all of ABA under one roof, is scheduled for completion in 1997. ○

Miller (Amazon) did her superb Marketing and Outreach workshop, Ann Christophersen (Women and Children First) spoke on developing corporate sales, Patty Callaghan (Brigit Books) discussed the effective use of advertising dollars. Kasha Songer, President of The Mountains and Plains Booksellers Association (The Book Garden), ABA Board member Sandi Torkildson (A Room of One's Own) and Linda Bubon, organizer, Independent Booksellers of Chicago (W&CF) joined forces to discuss the benefits and rewards of working with local, regional, and national bookselling organizations. Barb Wieser's workshop on developing and using a book- and sideline-buying budget was one of the hits of the conference.

Breakout groups the next day covered customer service, coping with stress & burnout, author appearances and events. Technology workshops looked at ways to use the internet, bookweb, and CD-ROM technologies to our benefit, as well as ordering strategies for computerized and non-computerized stores.

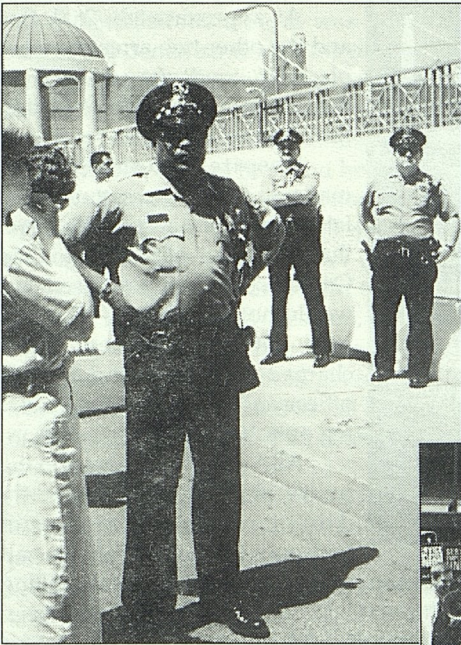
We also elected Jane Troxell and Amy Blake to the FB-Net Steering Committee. Mev Miller is the new alternate. Barb Szlavko (Canadian rep), Theresa Corrigan and Linda Bryant stay on the Steering Committee for a second year. In other FB-Net business we developed further plans for the joint catalog, Feminist Book Awards, National Feminist Bookstore Week, Feminist Bookstore Camp (now scheduled for January 19-25, 1996 in California), the Feminist Writers' Pledge, and other projects.

This year's conference was organized by Barb Wieser (Amazon) and Ann Christophersen (W&CF).





They Arrest Sales Reps, Don't They?



By Carol Seajay

Three people were arrested — two on *highly* implausible charges — while exercising basic First Amendment Rights at this year's ABA and many others were harassed during ABA's Newt Gingrich-centered "Power Lunch." Many other convention goers were prohibited from distributing leaflets, kept from attending the demonstration, threatened with arrest, detained, or otherwise harassed.

InBook Rep Sue Ostfield

Sue Ostfield, a commissioned sales rep for InBook, New Society, Samuel French Inc. and other publishers, was arrested, detained for six hours, harassed, booked, and charged with "assaulting a police officer."

Sue arrived at the East Building at about 12:00, saw Newt at the podium, but didn't see any demonstration anywhere in the building. Eventually she found demonstrators outside on the plaza (well away from The Lunch) and joined them, but on learning that demonstrators without ABA badges were being prevented from entering the building, she and Sue



Phillips (New Society Press) decided to take signs into the building so that people attending the Power Lunch could also see some aspect of the protest. They entered the lunchroom through the doors on the plaza.

Sue walked to the back of the room with a sign, that read "Where's the Peace Dividend? More \$ for Social Programs." Sue Phillips started leafletting tables. Security guard Steve Frost came up to Sue Ostfield, tore the sign out of her hands, and ripped it up. At that point Sue went outside and got more fliers.

The doors to the lunchroom were blocked when she returned so she stood in the hallway outside the lunchroom and started passing out fliers to people who were interested. The same security guard approached her and said, "If you hand out those fliers I'll arrest you for solicitation."

Sue refused to be intimidated and stated that she was exercising her First Amendment rights. He insisted that passing out fliers was "against McCormick Place policy." Someone walked by who seemed to want a flier, Sue extended one and then security guard



Frost and another guard, in Sue's words, "grabbed me and started dragging me away." Sue demanded to be released, but the two guards whisked her into an elevator and took her into a basement room in the security office that already held Craig Segal.

PW's Maureen O'Brien, who witnessed Sue's arrest, wrote in *PW's* June 26 issue, "We watched in amazement as two huge McCormick security guards roughly hauled Ostfield away from the scene while stunned conventioners shouted at the stop of their lungs, 'They are arresting booksellers!!!' ABA officials eventually appeared on the scene, but did little to help defuse the situation, accepting the security guards' story that the diminutive Ms. Ostfield had scratched one of them."

Sue was held at McCormick Place Security from approximately 12:30 until 2:00, when she and the other two arrestees were moved to a Chicago police station. The atmosphere in the room was consistently one of harassment that included security guards screaming "solicitation" at her. Frost responded to her requests to see a supervisor with "Read my badge, I am the supervisor." When Sue said that she had a sales meeting at 1:00, his response was "I'm gonna ruin your day."

Several people told FBN that they heard the security guard insist that Sue had scratched him but that no scratch was visible. This alleged (but not visible to the eye) scratch was apparently the grounds for the "assaulting an officer" charge that was filed against her.

At approximately 2:00, Sue and the other two arrestees were placed in handcuffs and taken to the Central District Police Station for booking.

Despite announcements made at ABA's press conference later that afternoon to the effect that registered ABA exhibitor Sue Ostfield "was being released and would not be charged," Sue was held until 6PM, booked, jailed, charged with assaulting a police officer and scheduled for a hearing on July 7.

ABA sent no observers to the police station and apparently didn't know about the arrest until Sue was allowed a phone call

later that afternoon and called ABA herself, telling them that she was still in custody and had been charged with assault. ABA eventually went to bat for Sue, hired lawyers, applied pressure where possible, and charges against Sue were dropped at a special early hearing on June 20. Procedures to have her record expunged cannot be initiated until 30 days after the hearing. As we go to press, Sue has yet to receive official notice that charges have been dropped.

Craig Segal — Trespassing With a Ticket

ABA did not, however, see fit to take up Craig Segal's case. Craig and nine other Chicago community members attended the Power Lunch "with the intention of engaging Mr. Gingrich in dialogue" regarding the effects of his proposed budget cuts and other policies on the lives of the elderly, the homeless, the disabled, children, immigrants and others.

"We sat at tables around the room and, one by one, got up and tried to engage Newt on the issues," Mr. Segal told FBN. Mr. Segal, a Chicago school teacher, was charged with describing how Newt's policies — such as the elimination of the hot lunch program — would affect his students, a discussion that was not, apparently, without impact, as Jonathan Kozol got up and walked out of the lunch in protest and then joined the demonstration.

When these protesters were removed from the room, most of them were pushed outside into the

main demonstration. Segal was separated from the rest of the demonstrators, dragged through "a maze of hallways" and sequestered in a small room. He feared being isolated and then beaten and assaulted and described the security guards as very abusive and sarcastic. His ID was held and he was not allowed to make calls, stand up, urinate, nor, eventually, to talk. When he asked what he was being charged with he was told "With making a fool of yourself."

Later, when it became clear that Craig was to be charged with Criminal Trespass, security guards refused to believe that Craig had a ticket to the Power Lunch or that anyone could get into the hall without a badge. They also refused to call ABA for verification of their analysis, a call that could have defused the situation immediately.

Mr. Segal was also handcuffed and taken to the Central District Police Station where he was booked, jailed, and charged with Criminal Trespass. He was released at 6:30PM after bond had been set. His hearing is scheduled for July 7.

Whether one favors Mr. Segal's action or disapproves, it is clearly inappropriate and absurd that anyone who paid \$27 for a ticket to an ABA event should be charged with trespassing. ABA and ABFFE's failure to take a stand against Mr. Segal's trespassing charge is reprehensible.

Tom Wilson

Tom Wilson, the third demonstrator who was arrested at ABA, works with ADAPT (American Disabled for Attendant Programs Today), a national disability rights group that engages in direct action. Mr. Wilson told FBN that before Gingrich's recent rise to power, Gingrich had promised to put forward legislation to advocate for personal assistants for disabled people who need them. ADAPT has previously coordinated a sit-in in the Speaker's office, during which 19 people were arrested, and a demonstration at the Speaker's home, at which no one was arrested because Mr. Gingrich's landlord, the Methodist Church, refused to press charges.

"The media may call us 'hecklers', but the demonstration definitely got word out that there are people who don't like Mr. Gingrich and his programs. This demonstration received unusually heavy press coverage so it was a definite success for us, though



STOP PRESS

July 7: Charges against Craig Segal and Tom Wilson were upheld at today's hearing and a jury trial has been scheduled for July 26, with a request for continuance. Craig and Tom will be tried as co-defendants and will be represented by Jeff Haas of The People's Law Office.

Donations to help defray legal costs may be sent to the People's Law Office, attn: Jeff Haas, 1180 N. Milwaukee, Chicago IL 60622. Phone: 312-235-0070.

we'd prefer that the media frame our issues a bit differently," Mr. Wilson told FBN. Contrary to rumors circulating at ABA, Mr. Wilson does not use a wheelchair and was not arrested for passing out leaflets.

At the end of the demonstration, after Mr. Gingrich left, Mr. Wilson and a number of other demonstrators formed a column lead by people in wheelchairs, with the intention of entering the building. Mr. Wilson told FBN that, as the column neared the designated door, a priest was shoved out the door and he [Tom] put his hands up to stop him. At the same time, Tom was pushed forward by the crowd into a security guard who grabbed him. Tom tried to shake off the guard but stopped resisting when a second security guard grabbed him on the other side and pulled him into the building. The two guards took him down an elevator and into a room behind the security office.

Mr. Wilson was taken to the Chicago police station with the others, booked and charged with Criminal Trespass and Battery. He was released later that afternoon. He is hopeful that charges will be dropped as "the whole thing was a bit of a circus."

Mr. Wilson also reported that none of the people in his group who use wheelchairs were arrested, but noted that one of his coworkers was taken down another hall by security guards during the attempt to enter McCormick Place. A friend wearing a suit was able to follow, and the coworker was released.

A Pattern of Harassment

The three arrests, distressing as they may be, were only part of a much larger pattern of harassment and



Booksellers Barb Dearth (left) and Linda Mowry, Prairie Moon Bookstore, holding "illegal" flyers.

First Amendment rights violations during the Power Lunch.

McCormick Place security repeatedly told booksellers and exhibitors that they could not leaflet in the wide entrance hallway to the lunch room. Leafletting, ABA members were told, was "against McCormick Place policy."

FBN staff were among those who were told they they could not leaflet, as were Graywolf's Publicity and Promotion Director Lisa Bullard and Graywolf Associate Director Gordon Thomas. Bullard and Thomas wanted to catch people going into the luncheon to give them pro-NEA postcards. "After about the first two seconds, a [security] guard came up to us and said we couldn't pass out our fliers," Lisa told FBN. "I explained that these were not sales fliers, that they were about the NEA, information that many of these people wanted but the guard said 'No way! Get out of here now!' and watched us until we left. Given how much ABA had to say about Gingrich's free speech rights, it was pretty ironic."

New Society Press' Sue Phillips, was told, while standing in the hallway holding a placard, to "put your sign down" by a McCormick Place security guard. When she explained that she had a right to stand peacefully and hold a sign, the security guard grabbed it out of her hands and ripped it up. Later, when she and Sue Ostfield returned to the hallway to pass out more leaflets (she had earlier passed out leaflets inside the lunchroom, but left when guards told her not to leaflet there), she was told, "If you pass out one more leaflet you're going to jail." After Sue Ostfield was hauled off, Sue Phillips was told, "We're gonna arrest you, too, honey."

Earlier that day, exhibitor Amy Bartell (Syracuse Cultural Workers) had her badge confiscated and was told that she'd be removed from the convention hall and arrested for littering(!) if she continued to give fliers to people who wanted them. Amy had been standing at the top of the escalator, asking people if they would like a leaflet when a McCormick Place security guard asked her to stop fliering. Amy explained that she wasn't fliering, but was rather asking each person if they wanted information about the Power Lunch and was giving the flier (titled "13 Myths Promoted by the Far Right to Support the 'Contract On America'") only to people who asked for it. The security guard continued to insist that she had to stop. When she asked on what grounds, he replied, "On the grounds that they have a rule at ABA that no one is allowed to disseminate information outside of their booth space," and explained that the hall would be a mess of litter if everyone passed out fliers. Then he told her that if she didn't cease handing out information, he'd have her removed from the conference and demanded that she give him her badge — which she did. He returned a short time later and confiscated the fliers before returning her badge and telling her that all protest had to take place outside the hall.

This same security guard had also appeared at the convention photocopy shop on Saturday when Amy went to pick up fliers about the upcoming demonstration. Amy's guess is that the clerk who took the order for the flier called security (after initially saying, "Oh, I don't think we can make copies of a flier like this.") Only after several delays — and after meeting the man who confiscated her fliers on Monday — was her order filled.

South End Press editor Asha Mehrling had a slightly different experience. As a paid lunch participant, she was leafletting tables during Newt's speech. A security guard approached her and told her she had to give him her fliers. She pointed out that Newt was talking about free speech and that passing out these fliers was exactly what was meant by free speech. He looked at the fliers, said, "You're right." and gave them back to her.

Later that day, however, while she and others were waiting outside the security office for Sue Ostfield's release, she and the others were told by security guards that they couldn't pass out *anything* that was not sponsored by ABA. Despite arguments that none of the materials passed out at the convention were sponsored by ABA, the guards confiscated "a huge pack of stickers and fliers" from the exhibitors and booksellers who were standing vigil for Sue. This group was also told that they couldn't stand in the hall outside the security office and that they had to disband, although there was no use of force to back up the threat at that time.

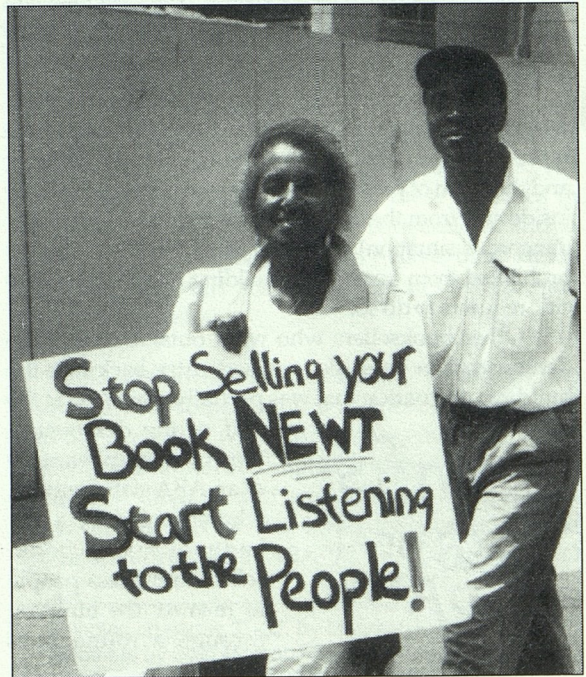
Right to free assembly was also consistently abrogated.

When booksellers Deacon Maccubbin and Jim Bennett (Lambda Rising) left the exhibit hall to join the demonstration, Chicago police refused to allow them to cross the walkway that lead to the other building and the demonstration. When Deacon and Jim asked the police officers "Why are you doing this? What purpose does it serve?" one of the officers responded, "If you don't like it, you can fucking leave Chicago." Facing those kinds of attitudes, Deacon and Jim took the long way around (the somewhat meandering underground passage between the buildings). When they arrived at the demonstration they advised demonstration leaders of the police line and marched with other demonstrators to the police line. Police at that point backed off and allowed two busloads of demonstrators who had been caught behind the line (union members, disabled people and seniors) to cross the walkway and join the demonstration — after most of the media had departed. Officials from both ABA and McCormick Place later told Deacon that they had not asked the Chicago police to form a police line or to prohibit access to the walkway.

Later that afternoon, police refused to allow Deacon and Jim into the building at all. The booksellers argued that they had badges and had every right to enter the building. Eventually McCormick Place security guards told the police to let "badges" in and the situation was temporarily resolved.

Maccubbin also reported that he saw McCormick Place security guards interfere when members of the press tried to interview one of the speakers who had been evicted from The Lunch. One guard went so far as to shove a reporter's microphone into the reporter's stomach. A group of people surrounded them and the security guard backed off. The same security guard twice threatened Maccubbin with arrest after the incident and Maccubbin filed a complaint with McCormick Place Security. He has not yet received a response to the complaint.

Booksellers Anne Frost and Mary Morell (Full Circle Books, Albuquerque) also had their right to assembly compromised. "First we were prevented from entering the hall [where the lunch was held] and then, when we wanted to go back out and join the demonstration, we were locked in and prevented from re-joining our group," Anne told FBN. "I argued that I was a registered

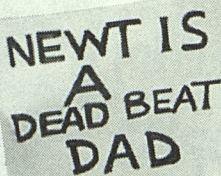


bookseller, that I had a badge, and that I had every right to be in that building," she continued. "It was getting a little heated when someone came up and tapped the cop on the shoulder at the same time that someone came up to me and tapped me on the shoulder and said, 'Remember, this is the Chicago police force and you may want to be a bit careful about what you say,' linked arms with me, and walked me away." Frost and Morell were eventually allowed into the building.

Later they decided to rejoin the demonstration outside but were held inside the building against their will for 20-30 minutes on the grounds that "riot conditions existed." "Having been an assistant dean of students during the '70s and having witnessed many incidents of extreme student unrest, demonstrations and genuine riot conditions," Mary Morell told FBN, "I feel quite confident in my evaluation that no 'riot conditions' were present. The whole demonstration was quite peaceful, actually, but the security guards acted as if they were terrified of some fairly old people and some people so disabled that their chairs had to be motorized to achieve mobility. I did, however, see a lot of extremely poorly trained and frightened security guards, which is a dangerous combination in and of itself." And she added, "I hope these officers get some training before the Democratic National Convention hits Chicago next year, or it's going to explode."

Morell also reported that five demonstrators in wheelchairs (apparently admitted by security when the wheelchair-led column attempted to enter the building and the crush of pressure from the security guards on the inside and from the crowd outside created a potentially dangerous situation) were also caught inside and were prohibited from leaving the building despite their specific requests to do so.

Other booksellers who went outside to join the demonstration were also refused entry back into the building, a situation that was partially remedied at the end of the demonstration by the appearance of an ABA staff member, who arranged for a few badge-wearing booksellers and press people to re-enter the building through a roundabout route.



NEWT IS
A
DEAD BEAT
DAD

Security also evidenced few qualms about roughing up demonstrators. Two security guards started pushing and shoving this reporter and released me only when other reporters started yelling "Press, that's press! She has a right to be here!" whereupon they let go of me and started in on FBN staffer Jenn Tust.

A very strong police presence permeated the plaza throughout the demonstration. Chicago-based camera crews honed in on several high-ranking police executives, which implied that local authorities were *not* unaware of the policies that were being enforced.

ABA's Role — or lack thereof

Ironically, it was ABA's administrative section that set the stage for political protests at this year's convention. In the course of discussing who would be invited to speak at the various breakfasts, the Convention Program Committee very adamantly stated that Newt Gingrich would *not* be an appropriate ABA guest (presumably because of his opposition to NEA, NEH and Public Radio funding, and concerns about his stance on other issues that affect booksellers).

ABA Executive Director Bernie Rath, setting off a controversy that was covered in newspapers from the *Washington Post* to *The San Francisco Chronicle*, insisted that the committee's function was purely advisory, disregarded their input, and invited Mr. Gingrich to be the lead speaker at the Monday "Power Lunch."

When pressed to dis-invite the controversial and inflammatory speaker, ABA administration, once again confusing the concepts of censure and censorship, accused protesting members of censorship. This conflict between the members' advice and the administration's wishes won't be a problem in future years, however, as both committees that make suggestions for ABA Convention programming have been defunded and will not exist next year.

Having created a situation in which members could be no less than outraged, ABA then failed its membership in several important ways:

1. Meeting with McCormick Place Security and stating that ABA is a First Amendment organization was obviously inadequate preparation in the face of the reputation of the Chicago police force and McCormick Place Security's stated policies (no leafletting, etc.).

2. At the very least, ABA should have placed observers at the demonstration and inside the "ABA-

controlled building" to be sure that First Amendment rights were respected.

3. That ABA was unaware that members were consistently prohibited from passing out fliers for a two hour period — and that ABA didn't know (and was not informed) that an exhibitor had been arrested for passing out fliers for at least an hour and a half after the arrest, speaks to both ABA's absolute lack of awareness of abuse right under its nose and to McCormick Place Security's disdain for ABA or for any need to inform ABA of such arrests. That McCormick Place Security took a registered exhibitor off the premises to the police station for booking without first informing ABA is either an overt lie on Security's part or is an act of enormous contempt for an exhibitor that has signed a seven-year contract to exhibit at McCormick Place.

4. ABA failed to advocate for its members during the demonstrations.

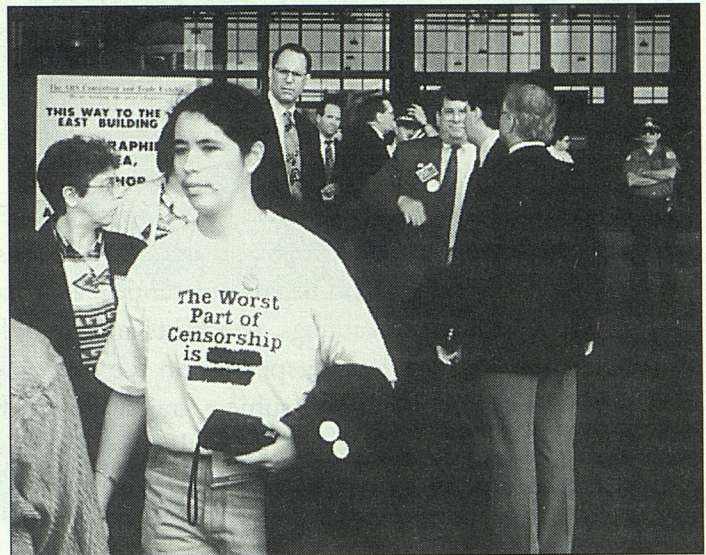
5. ABA failed to advocate for its arrested participants, taking a "guilty until proven innocent" approach to Ostfield's arrest and swallowing the very tired line about demonstrators maliciously attacking police officers. ABA's stance was underlined when an ABA administrator told FBN "We might have been able to do something about [the arrest] if she hadn't assaulted the police officer."

6. When ABA first learned that arrests had been made and demonstrators had been taken to the police station, they failed to dispatch either an observer or a lawyer to the police station to advocate for exhibitors and to gather information about the other arrests — an inconceivable oversight for an experienced First Amendment organization.

7. ABA's press conference after the arrests was an embarrassment. Using implication and tricks of verb tense, ABA officials managed to convey to the assembled press that Ostfield had been released without even once using the past tense or actually *stating* that she had been released. ABA's assumption that the arrested demonstrator was actually being released in these circumstances is, at best, unprofessionally naive for a First Amendment organization.

8. ABA's strange stand regarding advocating for the First Amendment rights of its exhibitors while refusing

to stand for — or even inquire after — the rights of the other two people arrested at the same time raises a very disturbing question as to whose First Amendment rights ABA and ABFFE care to protect and whose rights don't matter, even at ABA's own convention.



From left: André (Bookpeople), Kanani Kauka (Lambda Book Report), and sundry representatives of various security organizations.

At the very least, ABA needs to investigate the entire situation and take appropriate legal stands vis-a-vis *all* of the people who were arrested; ABA needs to make amends to those who were harassed this year by taking steps to guarantee that these breaches in ethics can't be repeated at future conventions, and to guarantee that booksellers won't have their rights compromised while attending ABA in Chicago next year, and thereafter.

ABA also needs to increase its "sensitivity" to minorities, to women, and to members whose opinions are in conflict with ABA management's goals. If current staff cannot accomplish these goals, then staff need to be hired — and empowered — to keep the organization out of the kinds of situations that appeared repeatedly at ABA '95. ○

Photos on pages 31-32 by Maureen O'Brien/PW.
All others by Beth Morgan/FBN. No Newts buttons by
Syracuse Cultural Workers.

Behind Every Strong Bookstore is a Strong Wholesaler.

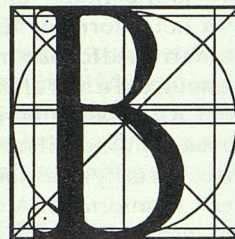
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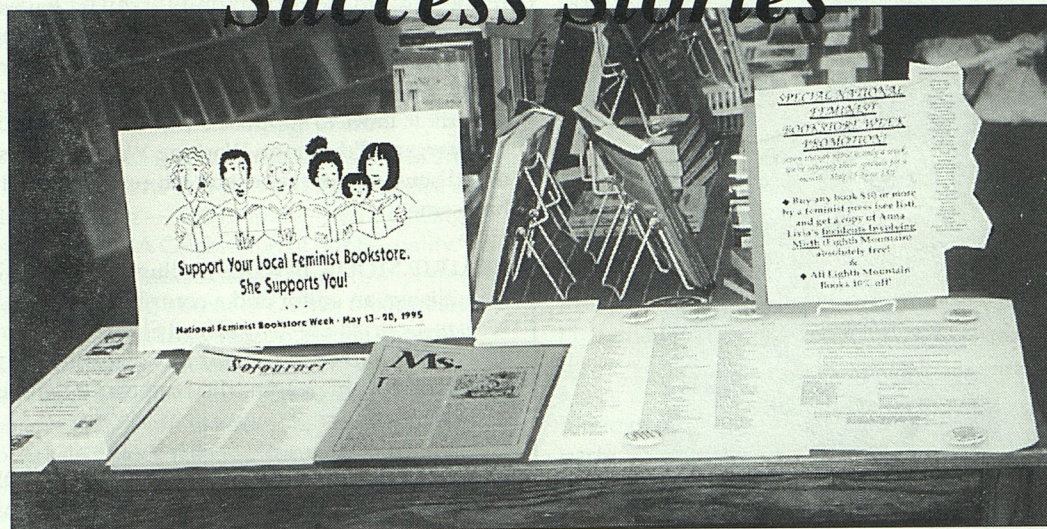
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National Feminist Bookstore Week

Success Stories



By Beth Morgan

Feminist booksellers across the U.S. and Canada celebrated National Feminist Bookstore Week, May 13-20, 1995, and from the reports we've heard so far, the week was an outrageous success! Participation ranged from putting up posters, selling tee-shirts and giving away bookmarks, to a full week of events that made a big local splash. And the press came on board in a big way — local newspapers covered the event, and several radio stations aired Mev Miller's superb documentary *A Labor of Love: A Tribute to 25 Years of Feminist and Lesbian Publishers and Bookstores*. At the national level, *Publishers Weekly* featured NFBW twice, Carol wrote a wonderful full-length article for *Ms. Magazine*, and National Public Radio invited Carol to speak about the state of independent bookselling on *Talk of the Nation*.

The result was a significant increase in visibility for feminist bookstores and a golden opportunity to educate book lovers about the politics of shopping at chain bookstores and the importance of where they

Photo: In Other Words, Portland, Oregon

choose to spend their book-buying dollars.

As we go to press, here's the latest from bookstores all across the country (and if you're not in here, call us and tell us how you celebrated NFBW at your store!)

Publishing Tie-In

MERISTEM (Memphis TN): Audrey May at Meristem was so excited about NFBW she decided to become a publisher! *On Resurrecting Roses*, an anthology of writings by local women authors on the subject of mother/daughter relationships, was published in time for NFBW, and last we heard, every single copy had been snapped up. Meristem also received fabulous support from County Commissioner Linda Rendtorff and City Council Chair Mary Rose McCormick, who each sponsored proclamations in honor of NFBW. Mary Rose came to Meristem's party celebrating their new book, read the proclamation, and then stayed for the whole event.

THE WOMEN'S BOOKSTOP (Hamilton Ontario): Renee Albrecht tells us that they put together an anthology especially for NFBW. Local women wrote

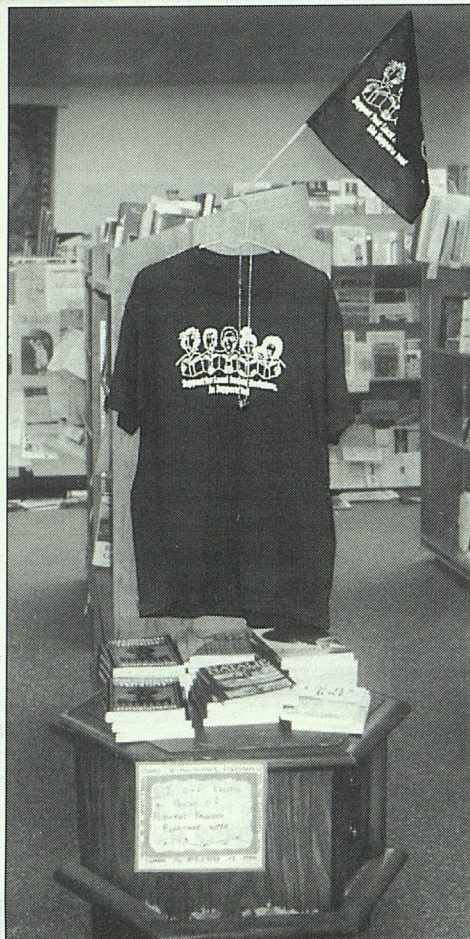


Photo at left and on facing page: Mother Kali's Books, Eugene, Oregon

Jacqueline Dumas (also an author and a signee of the Feminist Writers Pledge) scheduled three events for NFBW: The Northern Alberta Women's Archives Association, which focuses on women's history and the importance of their contributing memoirs, diaries, etc., to their community archives, gave a presentation in the store; Vjera Boniface, just back from Croatia, presented material she has gathered on how women have grouped together, often crossing ethnic lines, to support each other and oppose the war; and Edmonton Working Women released and discussed their report on job-related sexual harassment.

PRAIRIE MOON BOOKS (Arlington Heights IL): A publisher, an editor and a contributor to *The Woman-Centered Economy* (Third Side Press) came for an evening in the store. Their most visible positive result came from people who read about them in *Ms. Magazine*.

GERTRUDE STEIN MEMORIAL BOOKSHOP (Pittsburgh PA): At GSMB they declared National Feminist Bookstore Week a week of women's health awareness, and held a safe sex workshop for women and a breast cancer awareness workshop.

Promoting Feminist Presses

IN OTHER WORDS (Portland OR): The Eighth Mountain Press teamed up with In Other Words to create local visibility by sponsoring a 10% discount on all Eighth Mountain Books sold that month and donating enough copies of *Incidents Involving Mirth* (Anna Livia) so that In Other Words could give a free copy of the novel to each customer who purchased *any* book from a feminist press during NFBW. Co-director Catherine Sameh says it was great fun watching customers scout the store for feminist press books they could buy to get their free book! A local feminist author who signed the Feminist Writers Pledge did a reading at the store, and Ruth Gundle (owner of Eighth Mountain Press) taught an evening workshop for writers about getting published. In Other Words also distributed copies of Theresa Corrigan's *Sojourner* article and Carol Seajay's *Ms.* article, and as a result several people volunteered to help out in the store. Catherine reports that without all the advance publicity packets,

stories, each of which had a recipe in it; then they held a book launching party at the store, with a performance by local musician Shelley Whitehead.

Using the Feminist Writers Pledge

THE READER'S FEAST (Hartford CT): Tollie Miller and Carolyn Anderson, creators of the Feminist Writers Pledge, report that they blew up the Pledge and the list of signees and posted it in their window, facing in and out. And Mary Kay Blakely, author of *American Mom: Motherhood, Politics and Humble Pie*, and Linda Villarosa (editor of *Essence* magazine) both did readings at the store.

Special Programming

ORLANDO BOOKS (Edmonton Alberta): Owner

posters, buttons, tee-shirts, etc., they never would have had such a successful celebration!

Open Houses

CRAZY LADIES (Cincinnati OH): All books were discounted 15% in honor of NFBW, and on Friday they held an open house from 5 PM to 9 PM, during which they drew for a \$100 gift certificate.

Getting Media & Rotating Sales

LIONESS BOOKS (Sacramento CA): Owner Theresa Corrigan reports that they did their biggest ever newsletter mailing — 4000 copies! — announcing a three-part event, “A Celebration of our Sexuality.” Author Robbie Sommers did an evening of performance art; Karla Jay, author of *Lesbian Erotics*, came to the store for a reading; and Dr. Joanne Marrow hosted a free-flowing discussion about female sexuality. Each day of NFBW a different section of the store was on sale at 20% off. In addition, Theresa picked out some select stock (i.e. impressive looking but too late for return), wrapped it up as presents, and gave a present each day to the person who spent the most money at the store (the wrapped presents were displayed, with an explanation). Lioness got more press coverage for NFBW than it has at any other time, but it didn't bring in the hordes of people they would have liked. The academic semester had ended a week previously, so maybe if NFBW comes earlier next year ...

Having a Good Time

WOMEN & CHILDREN FIRST (Chicago IL): Most of what they did was just *fun!* They loved the Ms. article — pithy and powerful. The most fun thing they did was to hide a gift certificate in a feminist press book or children's book every day, and then have a limerick that was a clue to where the certificate was hidden. People loved it! They also raffled free store memberships and sets of encyclopedias.

Street Fair Generates 34% Sales Jump

THE BOOK GARDEN (Denver CO): The Book Garden held a two-day street fair for local artists. Fifteen vendors came, as well as political organizations, healing artists and local publications. The fair filled an entire side of the block and down the alley next to The Book Garden. From this fair, they created a media list in their computer which has already come in handy since NFBW. Kasha Songer reports that The Book Garden made an extra \$3-4,000 in sales that week due to the fair. All in all they spent about \$600 promoting NFBW, and it bumped sales up 34% in May!

Making Feminism Visible

FULL CIRCLE (Albuquerque NM): Full Circle did a big window display, hosted several readings, and threw a Solidarity Party for people to celebrate and honor the store, including special invitations to luminaries of the women's community. It was just a party, not a sale, but they did \$900 in business that night. Their community was so pleased with the party that they're still getting thank-you letters for making feminism visible in Albuquerque. All of this despite the fact that Ann and Mary were down with hepatitis during much of the lead time. Mary was

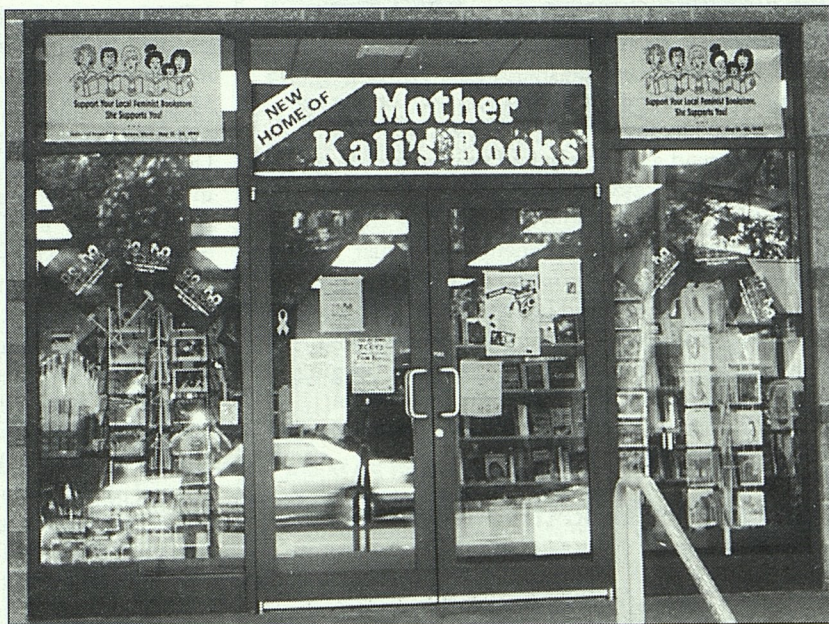




Photo at left and on facing page: Solidarity Party at Full Circle, Albuquerque, New Mexico

BRIGIT BOOKS (St. Petersburg FL): Diane Stein, author of fourteen books on healing and women's spirituality (and one of the authors who signed the Feminist Writers Pledge) came to Brigit Books to sign her newest book on May 20th. Attendance was fantastic! The store got some press coverage in local gay/lesbian venues, but not much mainstream press attention. Owner Patty Callaghan also made a map

back on her feet in time to do a local radio show, followed by an airing of Mev Miller's *A Labor of Love: A Tribute to 25 Years of Feminist and Lesbian Publishers and Bookstores*.

Standing Room Only

MY SISTERS' WORDS (Syracuse NY): In addition to coverage in local newspapers, store owner Mary Ellen Kavanaugh tells us that My Sisters' Words was featured in a six-minute spot all its own on the evening news! Her favorite NFBW event was when a local poet read a poem she had written for Marge Piercy, and dedicated it to the bookstore workers because they treated her so well every time she came into the store, whether she spent \$100 or just browsed. But the most popular NFBW event was the night Mary Ellen and her employee Kay Steinmetz read from their current favorite books — to a standing-room-only crowd! Folks are begging them to do it again. And last but not least, the NFBW tee-shirts were a big hit — they sold fifteen shirts in two weeks.

A WOMAN'S PREROGATIVE (Ferndale MI): The store held one big event with four local authors, including Beth Brant, and it was by far the most successful reading they've ever had.

of all the feminist bookstores in the U.S. and Canada, and gave it out with copies of the Feminist Bookstores' Fall Catalog.

NFBW Book Tables

AN UNCOMMON VISION (Wynnewood PA): NFBW coincided with An Uncommon Vision's planned participation as a dealer at the annual meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine, in Pittsburgh PA. As an out-of-print specialist in women's history and women's lives, An Uncommon Vision had a sales table featuring women in medicine — physicians, nurses, technicians, patients, etc. — in all formats (autobiographies, biographies, novels written by women physicians or nurses, women's textbooks, manuals, diseases relating to women, women's health, photographs, postcards, posters and ephemera. They displayed original posters of WWII nurses and nurse recruitment; original paperback novels from the 1950s and 1960s with medical themes (such as the sexy nurse and the sex starved woman physician who is a closeted lesbian); and original photographs and autobiographies by women physicians and nurses who served as volunteers in Europe during WWII. An Uncommon Vision distributed its seventh out-of-print catalog during NFBW, celebrating its third year in business.

“Click!”

AMAZON BOOKSTORE (Minneapolis MN): The gals at Amazon got a lot of press in the locals and dailies, and local radio station aired Mev Miller’s documentary *A Labor of Love: A Tribute to 25 Years of Feminist and Lesbian Publishers and Bookstores*. They received many positive phone calls in response to the radio spot, and an author who heard the tape and was scheduled to read at Borders that night actually plugged Amazon Books during her reading, saying that without feminist bookstores like Amazon, her work wouldn’t have gotten the visibility that got her to Borders that night. Lots of women who signed the Feminist Writers Pledge live local to Amazon, and nine of them — all published with feminist presses — came to the store and read. And Sandra Martz, founder of Papier-Mache Press and editor of *I Am Becoming the Woman I’ve Wanted*, came to the store with local contributors to the anthology and gave a reading.

Special Sales

NEW WORDS (Cambridge MA) moved their annual birthday sale (already very well known locally) to coincide with NFBW. All the NFBW “gear” — buttons, tee-shirts, posters, flags, etc. — was great and worked very well. Lots of folks commented on the *Ms.* article.

OLD WIVES’ TALES (San Francisco CA) hosted two wonderful readings: Editors Cathrine McKinley and Joyce Delaney of *Afrekete: An Anthology of Contemporary Black Lesbian Writing*; and Emily Shihadeh, author of *Grapes & Figs Are in Season: A Palestinian Woman’s Story*. And on Mothers Day they discounted by 10% all books in the store that had the words sister, sistah or sisterhood in them.

Celebrating the Store

CHARIS BOOKS & MORE (Atlanta GA): Everyone loved the NFBW tee-shirts, and they had to order more! Charis had an evening celebration where people came in and shared anecdotes about their community experiences at Charis, and they played Mev’s documentary on the history of feminist bookstores and feminist publishing. It wasn’t a sales-oriented event, but they did do a nice display of books by signers of the Feminist Writers Pledge, and next year will do the same but will have a sale on those titles. The local gay/lesbian press did an

article on the store and NFBW, but since Charis just had their 20th anniversary in November, the press had already recently given them lots of attention.

Celebrating Staff

NORTHERN WOMEN’S BOOKSTORE (Thunder Bay Ontario): Margaret Phillips gave away NFBW bookmarks and put up NFBW posters, and threw a grand surprise birthday party for Anna McLeod, co-founder of the store. Margaret also took books to a conference in Sudbury and received a great response from the women there, who were thrilled to have access to quality feminist books.

SWEET VIOLETS (Marquette MI) reports that some of their customers even brought them gifts to celebrate “our week!”



Celebrating the Network

A ROOM OF ONE’S OWN (Madison WI): They did a huge window collage of promo “gear” from feminist bookstores all over the country and hung tee-shirts from the ceiling all over the store. They also had a sale on all feminist and lesbian press books during NFBW. The displays from other bookstores generated a lot of discussion and several customers asked to buy tee-shirts from the displays. “Next year,” Sandi Torkildson reports, “we’ll set it up so that we can sell the shirts instead of returning them.”

Can You Say “Feminist”?!

LAMMAS BOOKSTORE (Washington DC) gave folks a discount if they would say they were a feminist — some people wouldn’t say it and did not get a discount! Lammas reports that because of the NFBW article in *Ms. Magazine*, old customers they hadn’t seen in a while have begun returning to the store.

Making the Local Gay Rag (Finally)

BOOK•WOMAN (Austin TX): NFBW offered the perfect opportunity to convince the local gay rag to (finally) do a front page story about the store, and Susan Post did a spot on a co-op radio station. They blew up a list of the Feminist Writers Pledge signees and posted it in the store, so every customer could see which of their favorite authors have "taken the pledge" (as did several other stores). Alaskan feminist singer/songwriter Libby Roderick made an in-store appearance, and Lin Sutherland did a reading and signing for the book *A Different Angle: Fly Fishing Stories by Women* (Seal Press)

Doing It With Display

MOTHER KALI'S (Eugene OR): made displays out of tee-shirts and flags throughout the store and posted turquoise and magenta NFBW posters in the windows and around the store. Owner Izzie Harbaugh said that the best part of NFBW was that it gave her an opening to talk about the importance of supporting feminist bookstores all week long — and she did!

And lots and lots of stores displayed articles and the Feminist Writers Pledge, wore buttons and tee-shirts, put up posters, and just generally made NFBW visible to all of their customers.

Planning For Next Year

All in all, NFBW was wildly successful in generating publicity and media attention and educating both our own communities and the industry about the importance of feminist bookstores. Several publishers — including Ballantine, The Eighth Mountain Press, Dufour Editions and U.S. Games — called to express their enthusiasm and support for NFBW and to find out how to be a part of the event.

Next year's events are scheduled for the week of May 11-18, and the biggest change will be the name. Several Canadian booksellers felt that the "national" part of the name kept the focus primarily on the U.S. (even though we had hoped the term national would simply apply to the country of whatever store one found oneself celebrating in). So the feminist booksellers in attendance at the FB-Net Conference in June came up with something they felt was both more accurate and more inclusive: **Feminist Bookstore Week/North America**. They also voted to use the same graphics next year, so please use the NFBW graphic only for NFBW/FBW-NA related events.

Next year, the Feminist Bookstores' Spring Catalog will be timed to coincide with FBW/NA so that it can be used as a mailing piece for The Week.

Recipients of the First Annual Feminist Book Awards will be featured in the Spring catalog, giving The Week an even higher profile. And our goal is to have 1,000 names on the Feminist Writers Pledge by the time "our week" rolls around again.

If you'd like to be part of planning Feminist Bookstore Week/North America for 1996, call FB-Net at 415-626-1556. ○



Book Garden Street Fair,
Denver, Colorado

NEWS

FROM THE BOOKSTORES

By Carol Seajay

Support Your Women's Bookstore

Cathy Lundoff, who used to own and run Grassroots Books, Iowa City, is writing a book on the history of feminist bookstores in the U.S. which is tentatively titled *Rooms of Our Own: Feminist Bookstores and Communities*. She's sent questionnaires to bookstores on the FBN list, but also is very interested in talking to women who worked in the early bookstores and collectives (1970s onward) and wants to obtain as much information as possible. Write to Cathy at PO Box 984, Iowa City IA 52244 or call 319-358-8778.

Now is the time for all good booksellers that stock 75% of Naiad's titles to send a postcard to Naiad stating that fact. Naiad collects the postcards and uses them as the basis for the list of bookstores they publish in their annual catalog — which is circulated to their entire mailing list and wherever Naiad travels during the year. Drop Dead Deadline is September 12, but reduce stress and tension and do it now! Send to Naiad Press, PO Box 10543, Tallahassee, FL 32302, 904-539-5965.

To celebrate the first ABA in Chicago and Chicago's own Printers Row Book Fair, *Lit: Chicago's News and Arts Weekly* published a list of Chicago's fifty most influential writers, booksellers, poets, publishers, and journalists, with the emphasis on *influential*, that included (#43) Women & Children First's co-owner Linda Bubon, for her leadership role in organizing the Independent Booksellers of the Chicago Area, a group of 28 independent bookstores (with 36 locations), as well as for her work at W&CF. Others who made the list? Oprah was #1, followed by Studs Terkel and Saul Bellow. Number 4 was the district manager of Barnes & Noble, followed by (and we're

are talking real power here) B&N's real estate manager. Gwendolyn Brooks was #14, Sara Paretsky (#19), Haki Madhubuti (Third World Press) (#32), *PW's* midwest correspondent (#33), Carol Anshaw (#37), Catharine Stimpson (#42), and Anchee Min (#47).

A Woman's Prerogative (Ferndale/Detroit) celebrated their third birthday in June and reports sales are up a whopping 53% over last year. March was their third best month ever. Kelly Smith credits their growth to two factors: 1) word of mouth and great publicity (Kelly had just been on the radio again when we talked), and 2) the atmosphere of the store. "It's very friendly. I'm here most of the time and I know the customers. I'll talk and joke a bit. It's important to greet everyone who comes in, but without being in their face." Kelly says that they get a lot of comments on their friendliness from travelers and encourages other feminist booksellers to pay attention to how friendly your customers perceive your store to be. Is it a place that women who are just coming out and women who are new in town will remember, fondly, forever as a place that made a vital difference in their lives during a crucial time?



In Other Words, one of the handful of stores that have 501(c)(3) status, have received two grants so far. One was for "general support" and to help finance their newsletter and printing costs, the other is a \$6500 educational grant to finance workshops on women and class issues. They're also looking for a grant to expand their access to the more expensive educational videos. Their best event to date? 100 women showed up for a screening of *Warrior Marks*. Other great events have been the *Places of Rage* event and local authors Thalia Zepatos and Anndee Hochman.

The following letter was first published in Sojourner: The Women's Forum Vol. 20, No. 10 (June, 1995), 42 Seaverns Ave., Jamaica Plain, MA 02130. Subscriptions are \$21/yr for 12 issues. The letter is reprinted with permission.

Dear Sojourner,

Over a year ago, I attended Eastern Connecticut State University's "Day for Women" and participated in a guided meditation where we were to envision something happening in our past that would have given us what we needed to feel empowered and whole today, and then to absorb that experience into our consciousness as if it had actually happened. It seemed a little odd at the time. It does not seem odd any more.

I imagined discovering a women's bookstore when I was fourteen years old. What a difference that would have made in my life! How much more powerful and validated I would have felt! How much harder it would have been to rape, abuse, and exploit me! How much easier it would have been to find friends! How much easier it would have been to find myself!

On Sunday, April 30, 1995, New Horizons bookstore in Worcester [Massachusetts] closed its doors for the last time. This is the fourth effort in Worcester to open and maintain a women's bookstore. I am grateful for the valiant effort put forth by Lisa and Joni to make a go of it, and I am sad once again that this community could not muster the resources and the support to make a women's bookstore a successful source of safety and empowerment for another generation. Maybe next time.

In the meantime, for those communities fortunate enough to have women's bookstores, do not take them for granted! Especially in this political climate! Support your local women's bookstore and visit others far away. Women's bookstores are the backbone of our evolution, and I extend my appreciation, and my respect, to each and every one.

Kate Huard
Worcester, MA

Crazy Ladies (Cincinnati) has a great bumper sticker: Restore Your Sanity at Crazy Ladies Bookstore.

Changes

Vivian Scheinmann, after 12 years with Pandora Book Peddlers (Madison NJ), is moving to "the Berks" to pursue other book-related interests. Pamela Sheldrick, the other co-founder of the store, and new staffer Sharon Ferber, will keep the store and the Pandora Book Peddlers Book Club flourishing. Sales at Pandora tripled when they moved to their new location last year.

Old Wives Tales' (San Francisco) is looking for a full-time collective member. For information, send a SASE to the store (1009 Valencia, 94110). Women of color are especially encouraged to apply.

After a several-year-long search for just the right buyers, Lunaria (Northampton) has been sold. We'll have the details next issue.



Reader's Feast (Hartford, CT) is also for sale. "After twelve years of wonderful, gratifying and challenging work at the store, the two of us have decided to move on to new things. By this fall, we will be leaving the Reader's Feast and stepping down as co-managers and owners of the bookstore," Carolyn Gabel and Tollie Miller wrote in a letter to their community. Carolyn and Tollie have taken the store from founding through many changes — including developing a successful survival strategy for the store against the onslaught of chains in Hartford. Their best hope is to sell the store entirely, or to sell a portion of the store to someone who will manage it. Failing that, they'd like to pass the location (next to a very successful restaurant) to another community enterprise that will keep the energy and some of the resources alive. If you're interested, call/write The Reader's Feast, 529 Farmington Avenue Hartford CT 06105; 203-232-3710.

Last minute addition: Carolyn and Tollie just called to say they've found two "wonderful women with tremendous spirit who are also *very* experienced" to take over the store. Details to follow in the next issue (as soon as the ink on the contract is dry).

Amazon (Minneapolis) has switched its legal form to a workers co-op, for both the tax advantages and to insure that the store will always stay true to its long-term vision as a worker-controlled store.

Book•Woman (Austin), after years of being cramped in their Historic Austin location, loves it's beautiful, *big*, new location (918 W. 12th, 78703). Sales are up, but there's one thing they miss — and that's the \$6,000/month t-shirt business they did to historic district tourists...



Our Successes

The second day of the Feminist Bookstore Network Conference (the two days before ABA) we did a round of "what we've done in the last year that we're particularly proud of and what we'd like to learn in the next year." Here are some of the comments (in no particular order) from the legible parts of my notes...

Pokey Anderson (Inklings, Houston) opened by saying it was a tough year — but that she was proud that she'd kept her Strategic Planning Conference commitments to do tai chi and to swim regularly, saying "When I have a good day, my customers do, too."

Laura Smith (Crazy Ladies, Cincinnati) was proud of their birthday week events. "We did a blessing of the store with a ritual that included saying the names of the women who opened the store, made it a safe place, and got it going. So many women spoke of how the store had changed their lives."

Patty Callaghan (Brigit Books/St. Petersburg) was proud of standing down a publisher who wanted to send their author to Barnes and Noble the day before their reading. "We said absolutely no, sent them Theresa's article (from *Sojourner*), and then they "got it" and were wonderful. They did do an event at B&N later, but B&N didn't even have the book in stock..."

Ann Christophersen (Women & Children First/Chicago) was proudest of their 2-weekend-day 15th Anniversary events. "All kinds of Chicago women did readings, performances, came to hang out. Sara Paretsky wrote a story about the bookstore and Nicole Hollander illustrated it. It was very touching and very special. We were very fired up by our communities' response."

Amy Blake (A Woman's Prerogative/Detroit) was proud of their growth, the new shelves, and "getting bigger in the space we have." Her partner Kelly Smith recalled providing journals for a group of girls in a sexual abuse group. Kelly also spoke of receiving two Christmas cards from customers that said how much the store meant to them. "It really made me step back and appreciate what we do," she added.

Sally Engler (Lodestar/Birmingham): "We made it through last year — a year with good sales and a severe cash flow problem. We went through desperation, begging, burning candles — and we pulled out."

Catherine Tetrick (In Other Words/Portland): "We're proud of the progress we made in our first year — we mean a lot to our community. We were robbed, twice, in February and decided that, for safety's sake, we had to close during the evening when there was only one woman in the store. — And then all these women came forward and signed up for time slots to be security to keep the store open nights. It meant a lot to us."

Jane Troxell (Lammas) was, of course, proud of the new Baltimore store and the great Baltimore community. Jane Brooke, Lammas DC- store manager, got cheers for selling "six wondrous vulva puppets in six months — at \$70 each."

Someone, whose name I didn't get down, was proudest of raising money for her local rape crisis center.



Barb Szlavko (Womansline Books/London ONT) cited the very special Margaret Atwood reading they hosted. "I was so proud to stand in front of that group and recall how much hard work we'd done at that point, and was so proud of all of our work..." She also cited "cracking the nut of exclusive course orders from the women's studies department" and of finally computerizing all the accounting.

Lisa Weems (Fan the Flames, Columbus OH) was proud of their move from being collectively run to being board run.

Gilda Bruckman (New Words/Cambridge) spoke of the tremendous shift in staff, and their new facility with having staff come and go as needed and having those transitions be very smooth. She also cited being proud of the FB-Network Catalog and how proud their customers were of it, as well. Last

year New Words decided to add sidelines to their stock mix and reported that between the two, their December sales were very up.

Ellie Knepler (Women & Children First/Chicago) was proud of their new systems for doing returns and out-of-store tables, and of their work with the Chicago Independent Booksellers organization. W&C has been keeping records on what they take to out-of-store sales and what's sold, a resource that's a wonderful asset the next year in deciding whether to do a conference and what books to take....

Lee Boojamra (Womankind/Huntington Station) cited celebrating the store's sweet sixteenth and getting their catalog onto America On Line.

Sue Bennett (Gifts of Athena/Cleveland Heights), was proudest of "my customers and my community. They really came through and kept our doors open with their dollars, their loans and their labor. We've done a lot to educate our community about what we do, and to the fact that we're a community resource." Gifts of Athena celebrated her fifth anniversary with a totally remodeled store and a complete paint job — all via volunteer labor. Tara Ayres cited "learning to ask for money from the community when we needed it. Learning to give the rap and follow that up with "and would you give us \$100?"

Anne Moore (Moore Magic/New Orleans) recalled having 300 people turn out for the Luisah Teish reading "in my tiny store."

Theresa Corrigan (Lioness Books/Sacramento) recalled, "It's been a tough year. I did some soul searching about whether I want to stay in bookselling, and what I came to is that you are my affinity group, my most important and essential community of peers and that I can't leave *that*, so I'm here to stay!" Theresa also cited "getting our inventory completely computerized. After ABA last year I realized that I'd had the inventory program for five years and the computer for four years and that it still wasn't up and running, so I talked to Dorothy Holland. She came to Sacramento and got us up and running in a week."

Linda Bryant (Charis/Atlanta) spoke of the continuing work they do in their store and in their community around racism. They're getting ready to have a major program about racism in the lesbian and gay community.

Carole London (Book Garden/Denver) was proud of the street fair they organized for National

Feminist Bookstore Week. They brought in authors and jewelers and other women whose work contributes to the store but whose faces the customers rarely see so their community could meet these people and see what makes the store work. The Book Garden was also proud of doing massive book returns and getting out of debt with a number of publishers.

Anne Frost (Full Circle/Albuquerque) was most proud of the Full Circle staff, "the best staff we've ever had." Full Circle has created monthly day-long staff meetings with everyone. "It changes how we operate and it's wonderful."



What do we want to learn?

- How to get customers to try new music
- More technology
- "A system of managing incoming mail that doesn't involve putting entire shopping bags full of mail in the trunk of the car and driving them around indefinitely."
- How to reach people who aren't coming to the store.
- "Better time management skills so that we're not just doing day to day crisis management."
- How to prioritize time and to do things more efficiently.
- CD-Rom and Internet
- How to sell sex-toys
- More about financial planning and running the business.
- And, after Barb Weiser's excellent workshop on keeping and using a book buying budget, a least a dozen women cited "book buying budget" as one of the skills they most wanted to develop, thus reducing their reliance on the "zen" method of book budgeting.

Bookstores Want to Know

In Other Words (Portland) would like to borrow a stat of the Sylvia cartoon. They opened after the stats of that ad were sent out. They're also looking for a current address for A-Wear... If you can help write 3734 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Portland OR 97214, or call 503-232-6003.

Part 2 in a continuing saga...

Chasing Co-op Dollars

By Dorothy Holland

In my last article [see FBN 17#6] I reviewed ways of pursuing co-op dollars from publishers for books listed or reviewed in your store's newsletter. Many stores do not purchase enough books direct from a single publisher to qualify for more than a dollar or two each year. However, they may buy enough of one publisher's books from local wholesalers (Ingram, for example). Book Garden's Avon direct purchase co-op pool last year was a grand total of \$3.53! However, Book Garden did purchase many Avon books from Ingram. Avon allows bookstores to total their direct and indirect (wholesaler) purchases when figuring the co-op pool. This allowed Book Garden to collect \$50 in co-op money for placing blurbs about Nevada Barr's books in their newsletter.

Publishers need to have proof of these indirect purchases, and they are not willing to accept the bookseller's word for it, or even our computer print-outs. What they want is a print from the wholesaler. Fortunately, several of the wholesalers will do this for bookstores. Unfortunately, they charge for this service, and you usually have to sign up in advance. Ingram and Baker & Taylor will set you up for the next year's worth of reports for \$25. Full Circle started doing this in January, and we already have proof for \$100 of co-op — well worth the initial investment. Most, but not all, publishers will allow you to count your direct and indirect purchases in this manner. Random House, Norton and Holt, among others, do not.

Another nifty co-op plan is offered by Little Brown. Now, I have to agree that they do not publish a lot of books that feminist bookstores are excited

about, but when they do, be sure to track down some co-op with your purchase. Little Brown will give you money to make a window display if you choose from a set list of their titles. There is no minimum purchase, and all they require is a picture of the display, and your statement that it was on display at least a week. Contact your rep for a list of titles that will work. Little Brown also offers a great newsletter benefit. If you purchase at least ten copies of a title, and put a fifty-word blurb about it in your newsletter, they'll give you \$50. If you include a copy of the cover, they up the amount to \$100.

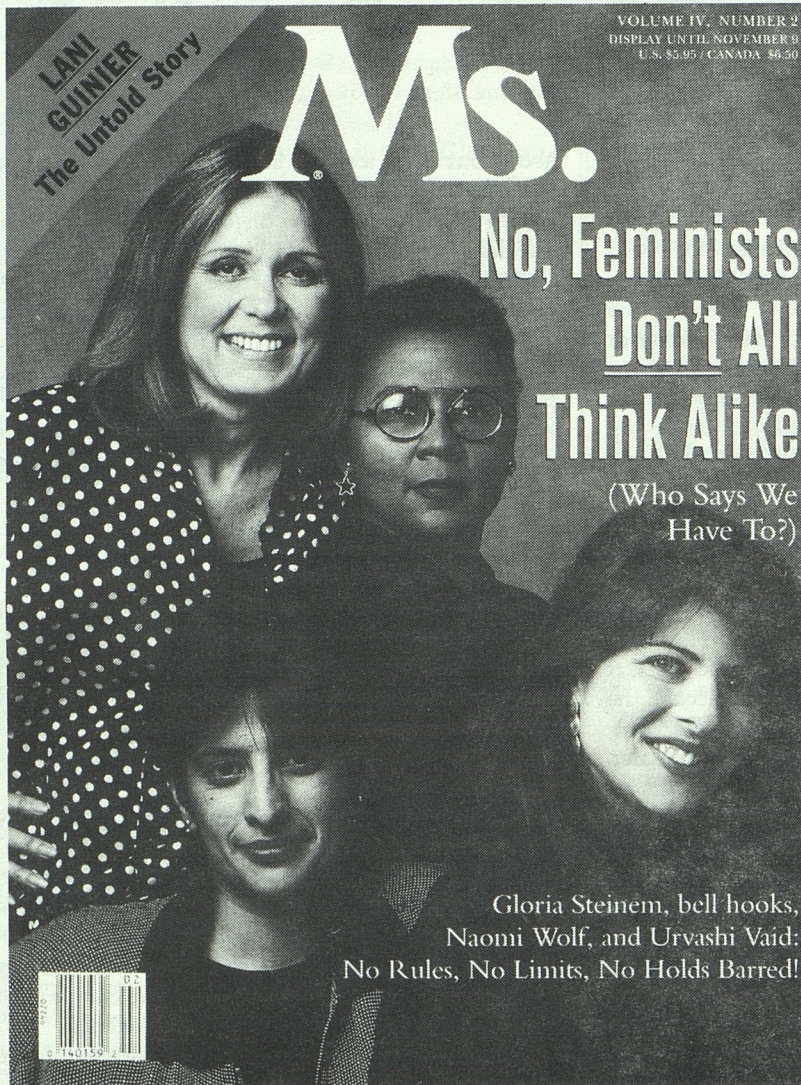


Putnam also has a friendly plan. Each season they choose certain titles (usually a good part of their list) that get you an additional \$100 in co-op monies if you purchase at least ten copies. This past season feminist stores might have been interested in *Ill Wind* by Nevada Barr, *Wrestling With the Angel* by Brian Bouldrey and *Katherine* by Anchee Min. The co-op can be used for just about anything that promotes the book.

More news and updates to come! Meanwhile, go get co-op, girls! Call me if you need help.

Dorothy Holland can be reached at 53 Perdiz Canyon Road Box 943, Placitas NM 87043; 508-867-9077. ○

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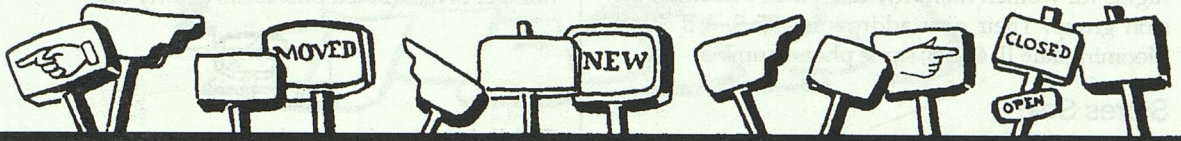
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THEY WENT THAT-A-WAY



Compiled by Beth Morgan

New Stores

Sherry Thompson has opened New Woman Books in Kent, WA. The focus of the store will be primarily feminist and lesbian, and will also feature new age and metaphysical books. The address is 326 W. Meeker, Kent WA 98031; 206-854-3487.

Connie and Jill Haegele-Rael opened their new bookstore, Sappho's Garden, in late May in New Hope PA, offering a full selection of feminist, lesbian, new age and self-help books, with a moderate selection of gay/men's issues. Connie and Jill have been planning the store for about two years, and both took early retirement to be able to get the store up and running. Their address is Sappho's Garden, 34 W. Ferry Street, New Hope PA 18938; 215-862-1326.

Rachel Pepper recently opened Bernal Books, a neighborhood community bookstore in my very own neighborhood, Bernal Heights in San Francisco. Bernal has long been in need of a good general bookstore, and now we have one! Bernal Books carries an excellent and thoughtful range of quality paperbacks, selected new hardcover releases, children's books, magazines and newspapers, and book-related gifts. Rachel plans to sponsor readings and book signings, and the store features rotating gallery space for the work of San Francisco residents. Also in the plans is a free weekly children's story hour for preschoolers, and a project working with the local library to foster literacy and love of books among children and adults. Rachel has worked for a number of wonderful bookstores over the years, including A Different Light/San Francisco and Women & Children First in Chicago, and her experience and bookselling savvy are clear the minute you walk through the door of this beautiful, inviting store! The address is 401

Cortland Street, San Francisco CA 94110; 415-550-0293.

Stephanie Becker is currently negotiating space for a new gay/lesbian bookstore — Ruby Slippers — that she hopes to open in Huntington on Long Island. Stephanie can be reached at 212-951-4269.

Stores Move

The Real World Emporium in Lansing Michigan has a new address: 1214-16 Turner Street, Lansing MI 48906. Their fax number is 517-485-0052, and their e-mail address is RealWorldE@aol.com.



Store Revitalized!

Tamera Kilpatrick and Betty Powell of A Book for All Seasons (Bloomington IL) have a great story to tell: The bookstore was running out of money and had pretty much hit a brick wall (they'd been running it on savings the last two years), but now they've turned it around by going into partnership with a gay man, Jim Richardson, who had been wanting to open his own store and decided not to when A Book for All Seasons first opened. With the resources of their new partner to help, Tamera and Betty have moved the store around the corner from its original location, to a Victorian on the main strip. The new location has room for a gay men's section, kid's section, and meeting rooms. They plan to increase stock, carry more sidelines, and of course more gay men's books now that they have a resident expert. They threw a party back in May that became a membership drive for cash to do the move — \$3000 in memberships so far — and also did a spot on the radio and sent out a mailing to a 600-count gay and lesbian list. The store offers three membership levels: \$30/year (15% off paperbacks,

20% off cloth, and a mug); \$50/year (same discount plus a tee-shirt); and \$100/year (discount, fanny pack and a tee-shirt). Other events coming soon: a lesbian evening at the store every fourth Saturday; movie nights for women monthly; and a men's book discussion group. Their new address is 105 S. 3rd Street, Bloomingdale IL 60108; same phone number.

Stores Sold

Lunaria in Northampton, MA was sold on May 30, 1995 to long term Lunaria customer Deb Coon. A big Hello/Goodbye party was held June 10 in the store (from May 30-June 10, the store was closed for training). Former owners Rose Maloff and Madelaine Zadick report that the store was sold for "less than tangible assets," and that they are very glad the store will continue to serve the Northampton community. The new owner, Deb Coon, plans to change the name. Rose will be going to graduate school in Social Work in Administration and Community Organizing; Madelaine plans to get back into horticulture.

L'Androgyne in Montreal has been sold to long time staff member France Desilet. Lawrence Boyle had been planning to sell for a long time — as soon as his partner's daughter finished school and they could be free to travel and do all those things parenting precludes. France couldn't be happier, and says that owning a bookstore is what she's always wanted. Sounds like a perfect fit all the way around!



Stores Close

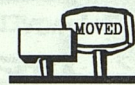
Southern Sisters in Durham, NC, closed its doors at the end of May — another in the list of independent bookstores suffering from the opening of chain bookstores in their area.

Press Sold

Liberation Publications, Inc., parent of *The Advocate*, has purchased Alyson Publications, Inc. Former owner Sasha Alyson says that, like any parent, he had mixed feelings as it came time for the kid to "leave the nest," but that Alyson Publications needs an owner with the experience and skill to run a business of the size it has become. For booksellers there will not be any abrupt changes; stay tuned for further news as events unfolds.

Books Change Distributors

Consortium Book Sales & Distribution announces the addition of two new publishers to their list, Curbstone Press and Hungry Mind Press, bringing their total number of distributed publishers to forty-one.



Publisher Anniversaries

Kali for Women is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year. As India's first women's press, Kali publishes primarily Third World studies on women. Part of their work is producing and distributing items such as posters, reports, and literacy materials for use by activists, trainers and others working in women's organizations. Kali's address is B1/B Hauz Khas, New Delhi 110016 India.

The Eighth Mountain Press celebrates its tenth anniversary! For ten years, Eighth Mountain has published feminist literary and nonfiction writing by women, with an emphasis on writing by lesbians. With twenty titles in print and with national and international distribution, the Eighth Mountain Press has become an important player on the feminist and literary publishing scenes. Eighth Mountain books have been highly praised for their exceptional quality, for the diversity of their voices, and for the outstanding beauty of designer Marcia Barrentine's covers, which feature artwork by Northwest artists. Poetry has been central to Eighth Mountain's purpose. In 1988, the press launched The Eighth Mountain Poetry Prize — a biennial competition for a book-length manuscript by a woman (one of only two such contests in the U.S.) — which has resulted in a series of books selected by poets of national reputation, including Audre Lorde, Lucille Clifton, Marilyn Hacker, Judy Grahn and Linda Hogan. From Barbara Wilson's lyrical fiction to the crucial political writing of Irena Klepfisz, Andee Hochman's feminist redefinition of family and Judith Barrington's rich anthology of writings about lesbian sexuality, Eighth Mountain has produced books that blend excellent writing with some of the most important feminist thinking of our time.

Publishers Move

Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press has a new address: Box 404920, Brooklyn NY 11240-4920.

See **That-A-Way**, page 50.

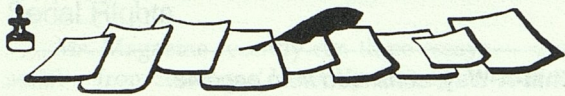
WRITING WANTED



Compiled by Beth Morgan

Anthologies

Women of Diversity Productions is seeking short fiction with significant lesbian content for inclusion in *Lesbian Short Fiction*, a new periodical to premiere Spring 1996. *LSF* welcomes stories of 10,000 words or less in most genres: mystery, science fiction/fantasy, horror, romance/gothic, humor, etc. Payment: 1 cent per word plus 2 copies upon publication. Send SASE for guidelines to Jinx Beers, Editor, *Lesbian Short Fiction*, 6507 Franriviers Avenue, West Hills CA 91307; 818-704-7825.

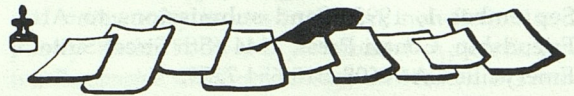


Herotica 5 — Coming your way! Down There Press is now accepting submissions of womanuscripts with straight, bisexual and/or lesbian characters which explore all aspects of the sexual imagination. Looking for arousing, unpredictable stories with strong narrative qualities that reflect the variety, detail and adventure of women's sexuality and that focus on women's pleasure. The editors welcome explorations which go beyond the experience of the young, the hip, the white and/or the middle-class. Deadline: August 1, 1995. Send stories to Down There Press, Attn: HER, 938 Howard Street #101, San Francisco CA 94103; 415-974-8985.

Wild/Rice: Erotica by Asian Pacific Lesbian and Bisexual Women seeks steamy, stunning, wild, tender, fierce, passionate, funny, stormy stories that seduce and scream. Suzy Wong, geisha, jungle girl, dragon lady, Miss Saigon — these are the words that have been used to describe us. Take back the words and use the

power of the erotic to tell *your* story. Three to ten pages, double-spaced. Deadline: October 30, 1995. Submissions or queries to Kitty Tsui, PO Box 13081, Chicago IL 60613.

The Evergreen Chronicles, a journal of gay & lesbian arts and culture, is holding a contest that will publish a special issue in March 1996 on the theme of **collaboration**. They are seeking work that addresses two specific forms of collaboration: collaboration across media (photo and text, poetry and nonfiction, etc.) produced either by a single artist or artists together; and collaboration by two or more artists across a social boundary (race, culture, region, gender, religion, sexual orientation, class, language and/or ability). The winning selections will be published in *Evergreen*, along with a selection of the other submissions. All artists chosen for publication will receive an honorarium. The winning submissions will receive a cash prize. For guidelines send SASE to *The Evergreen Chronicles*, PO Box 8939, Minneapolis MN 55408 or call 612-649-4982.



What is lesbian short fiction? Susan Fox Rogers wants to know. She asks for your favorite piece of original, unpublished writing for this anthology of contemporary American lesbian short fiction. No theme to adhere to, no style to follow, no particular subject need be addressed — she is open to reading a range of creative work from the traditional to the experimental on a variety of subjects. Include SASE and short bio. Deadline: September 15, 1995. Direct queries and submissions to Susan Fox Rogers, Box 23, Bard College, Annandale NY 12504; or call 914-687-4102.

Anchor Books has asked Beatrix Gates to compile an anthology of fiction, poetry, nonfiction, letters, interviews, photographs and movie/video stills on lesbian love. The primary goal of the anthology is to portray the daily strength of love in the lives of lesbians in a way that is celebratory and realistic. The anthology will be divided into thematic sections: friendship, family, romance, sex, community, spirituality, health/body and legacy. Gates hopes to draw from the diversity of the lesbian community, including bisexual women, to depict lesbian love in all its power and complexity, with something to offend and please everyone! To submit work or for more info write Beatrix Gates, PO Box 28, Greenport NY 11944 or call 516-477-0729. Deadline: August 25, 1995.



Conari Press is compiling an anthology of stories on inter-ethnic friendship between women. Women of all ages and ethnic backgrounds are invited to send stories about friendship with a woman/women of a different ethnic background than their own. How did you get to know each other? What makes this friendship so special? How does the ethnic or cultural difference relate to your friendship? What are some of the difficulties in your relationship? Please feel free to choose the form of narration that is most appropriate for you. Stories and essays welcome; no poetry please. Deadline: September 1, 1995. Send submissions to Attn: Friendship, Conari Press, 1144 65th Street Suite B, Emeryville CA 94608; 510-654-7259.

Seal Press will publish an anthology of outdoor writing by and for women over fifty, in 1996. Personal essays, fiction and creative non-fiction of 3,000-8,000 words are acceptable. Deadline: September 15, 1995. Send SASE for guidelines to Jean Gould, 17 Greenleaf Road, Natick MA 01760.

Lesbian, gay and bisexual librarians! Seeking stories, essays, speeches, short fiction, and nostalgic reminiscences up to 2500 words. Contributors may want to write about coming out; confronting homophobia, racism, sexism in libraries; interactions with les/bi/gay library users; work with special

collections; and censorship of les/bi/gay materials in libraries. Anonymous and early submissions welcome. Submissions from all women and especially racial minority librarians encouraged. Send with Canadian SASE and short bio to Norman Kester, Editor, 1418-620 Jarvis Street, Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 2R8 Canada. For guidelines call 416-944-9319 or fax 416-922-0824. Deadline: September 30, 1995.

Workshops

Women in the Wilderness offers two writing workshops this summer: Landscape and Memory, a workshop with Judith Barrington in northern Minnesota, with canoeing and nature study (August 19-26, 1995); and Writing in the Forest with Carol Bly, with snowshoeing, skiing and animal tracking in the Northwoods just west of the Boundary Waters (February 26-March 3, 1996). Both workshops offer a mix of time to write, time in the wilderness, and time to exchange ideas and critique with other writers. Open to both experienced outdoorswomen and novices. For more details or to request a brochure write to Women in the Wilderness, 566 Ottawa Avenue, St. Paul MN 55107; or call 612-227-2284. ○

That-A-Way, continued from page 48.

Sibyl Publications has a new address: 1007 SW Westwood Drive, Portland OR 97201.

Attic Press and Basement Press have moved to 29 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2, Ireland; (01) 661-6128, fax 661-6176.

Books Beyond Borders, Inc. has moved to a new location: 3640 Walnut Street Suite A, Boulder CO 80301. Their telephone numbers remain unchanged.



New Editors

The new editors of *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* are Carolyn Allen and Judith Howard, replacing Barbara Laslett and Ruth-Ellen B. Joeres. Effective immediately, books to be reviewed by *Signs* should be sent to the following address: *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, Box 354345, University of Washington, Seattle WA 98195. ○

BACK TO PRESS

AND OTHER GOOD NEWS

Compiled by Beth Morgan

Rights

Naiad Press' *Under the Southern Cross* by Claire McNab will soon be available in Spain from Berkana, a new women's publishing company. Berkana has plans to translate and publish two dozen Naiad titles over the next two years. *Under the Southern Cross* is the third Naiad Press title to be published in Spanish (the previous two are *Faultline* and *Lesbian Nuns*).

And a new Brazilian publisher, Suigeneris, has half a dozen Naiad Press titles under contract, with plans to do 6-8 titles per year in the future. Authors sure to be tapped include Claire McNab and Nicole Conn, but stay tuned for specifics.

Serial Rights

Ms. Magazine recently ran three essays — first serial — from Seal Press' *Listen Up: Voices from the Next Feminist Generation* (edited by Barbara Findlen, executive editor at Ms) in their May/June issue, with plans to use another second-serially. Other first serial excerpts went to *Mademoiselle* and *Girlfriends*, and a second serial to *Cosmopolitan*. The collection as a whole has been taken by QPBC.



Awards

Hispanic, Female and Young: An Anthology edited by Phyllis Tashlik (Arte Público) is the recipient of two major citations: The American Library Association's Young Adult Library Services Association included the anthology in its Quick Picks for Young Adults 1995 list; and the New York Public Library has selected the book for inclusion in its 1995 Books for the Teen Age annual list.

Parenting Magazine has awarded its 1995 Achievement Award to Nancy Gruver and Joe Kelley, publishers of *New Moon: The Magazine for Girls and Their Dreams*. Gloria Steinem is also a 1995 Achievement Award winner for her role in expanding opportunities for girls.



The First Annual Boston Book Review Literary Prizes awarded the Fisk Fiction Prize to Rebecca Brown for *Gifts of the Body* (HarperCollins), Amy Bloom, judge; and the Bingham Poetry Prize to Heather McHugh for *Hinge & Sign: Poems 1968-1993* (Wesleyan University Press), Mark Doty, judge. The BBR awards the winners \$1000 for the most creative and noteworthy works in fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Katha Pollit was nominated in non-fiction for *Reasonable Creatures: Essays on Women & Feminism* (Random House); Ruth Hamilton was a fiction prize nominee for *A Map of the World* (Bantam Doubleday Dell).

The Poetry Society of America's Norma Farber First Book Award — a \$1000 prize — has been awarded to Sophie Cabot Black for *The Misunderstanding of Nature* (Graywolf).

Ann Haymond Zwinger's book *Downcanyon: A Naturalist Explores the Colorado River Through the Grand Canyon* (University of Arizona Press) is the winner of the Western States Book Award for creative non-fiction. ○

HUMOR



By Roz Warren

Because I've been sick, I've been unable to pen my usual brilliant, witty and insightful humor column, but I do want to bring the following books to your attention.

At Adair's House by Adair Lara is the second collection of humorous columns by the author of *Welcome to Earth, Mom*. \$11.95 pb, 0-8118-0498-4, Chronicle Books.

Dyke Strippers: Lesbian Cartoonists from A to Z, edited by Roz Warren, celebrates the wild imaginations and very hot artwork of fifty lesbian and bi cartoonists. Includes work by and interviews with Alison Bechdel, Jen Camper, Diane DiMassa, Roberta Gregory, Andrea Natalie and more. \$16.95 pb, 1-57344-008-6, Cleis Press. Distributed by Publishers Group West, BP, IN, Ingram, Baker & Taylor.

Glamourpuss by Christian McLaughlin is a very funny first novel about a gay soap opera star who still has a major crush on the cute but ambivalent hunk he left behind in Texas. \$19.95 cl, 0-525-93866-4, Dutton.

Out Loud and Laughing: A Collection of Gay & Lesbian Humor edited by Charles Flowers, a one-of-a-kind collection of monologues, sketches and stories by fifteen top gay and lesbian comics, including Kate Clinton, Suzanne Westenhoefer, Lea Delaria, Bob Smith and David Sedaris. \$12.95 pb, 0-385-47618-3, Anchor.

Ransacking the Closet is a collection of essays about lesbian life by Yvonne Zipter, the woman who brought us *Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend*. Cartoonist Jen Camper says: "While there are many things lesbians do well with their mouths, Yvonne Zipter reminds us that laughing out loud is in the top ten." \$9.95 pb, 1-883523-06-0, Spinster's Ink, October. Distributed by InBook.

AFTER LAST YEAR'S FIASCO, TRISH MADE SURE SHE BROUGHT PROPER ATTIRE TO THE "DINAH SHORE"^{oooo}

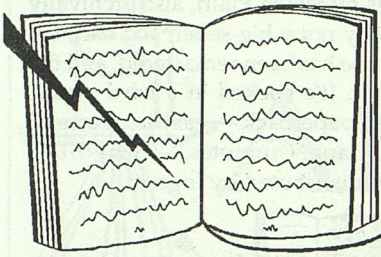
Cartoon by Leslie Ewing, from *Dyke Strippers, Lesbian Cartoonists A to Z*, edited by Roz Warren.

The Snarling Citizen by Barbara Ehrenreich — brilliant, funny, feminist, provocative and politically astute essays about contemporary life. \$20 cl, 0-374-26648-4, FS&G.

Twisted Sisters 2: Drawing the Line edited by Diane Noomin is a solid collection featuring comics by Mary Fleener, Carol Lay, M.K. Brown, Aline Kominsky-Crumb and more. \$15.95 pb, 0-87816-339-5, Kitchen Sink. Distributed by BP, IN.

When My Parents Were My Age, They Were Old (Or, Who Are You Calling Middle-Aged?) by Cathy Crimmins — humor about the joys of being an aging baby-boomer by the author of *Curse of the Mommy*. Highlights include the "Signs that You Might be Half-way Up That Stairway to Heaven" checklist. \$10 pb, 0-684-80289-9, Fireside.

Roz Warren is the owner of Laughlines Press, which will soon be publishing an unauthorized lesbian parody of *The Bridges of Madison County* — **The Butches of Madison County** by humorist Ellen Orleans.



MULTIMEDIA

AUDIO • VIDEO • CD ROM
ELECTRONIC BOOKS

By Dorothy Holland

Audio

My picks for the season are Anchee Min's **Red Azalea** and **Katherine**, two very different yet wonderful stories. Both tapes are beautifully read by Nancy Kwan, and have positive lesbian content. In **Red Azalea**, Min tells us her life story — growing up in China under Chairman Mao's rule, becoming a member of the Little Red Guards, working in a labor collective, and dealing with the radical change in culture when Mao dies (\$17.95, 2 tapes 3 hours, abridged, 0-7871-0253-9). **Katherine** shows the clash between mystical traditions of communist China and modern American ways through the story of a young American woman who goes to China to teach. The story is a wonderful read or listen (\$17.95, 2 tapes 3 hours, abridged, 0-7871-0252-0). Both from Dove Audio, distributed by Ingram, Baker & Taylor.

Herotica Collection of Women's Erotic Fiction, edited by Susie Bright, has several different readers, which adds to its charm. Jackie listened to it on her daily commute, arriving both at work and back home in gloriously good moods! It's clear as you listen that the readers are having a great time. Tapes are well done. Straight as well as lesbian content, but all women-centered. \$16.95, 2 tapes 3 hours, 10 stories, 1-886238-02-2, Passion Press. Distributed by BP, Ingram, Baker & Taylor.

Creating Health: Better Health for Women Naturally by Chris Northrup. This is a seminar in which Northrup shares her experiences and knowledge of health choices women make, and why they make them. It's so packed with information that although I've listened several times, I've learned more each time. Northrup is clear that one's "partner" could be a man or a woman — nice. I disliked the packaging, though. It was awkward and hard to get into (\$17.95,

2 tapes 3 hours, 1-56455-303-5). Also by Northrup and part of the same series is **Creating Breast Health: Holistic Approach to Breast Wellness**. Northrup speaks clearly and personally to women. This tape left me feeling good about what I'm doing for myself and armed with new ideas to try. Definitely a worthwhile tape. Same awkward packaging (\$10.95, 1 tape 1 hour, 1-56455-311-6). Both titles by Sounds True Audio, distributed by Ingram, Baker & Taylor.

Another health-related tape is **Guide to Helping Elderly Relatives, Near and Far** written and presented by Pamela Erickson and Gordon Wolfe in the form of a moderator asking questions of resource people. It's well done and full of good ideas for us as our parents start needing care. Lots of resources; very helpful. \$14.95, 1 tape 85 minutes, 0-9633185-9-4, Eldercare Press, 6000 E. Evans, Bldg 1 #340, Denver CO 80222; order direct 303-757-4808.



There are two new tapes written and presented by Hope Edelman, whose book *Motherless Daughters: The Legacy of Loss* has been a big seller for feminist stores. Both of the audio titles are an important source of support and information for any of us who have lost our mothers, at any age. The tape we'll probably sell more of is the abridgement of Edelman's book, **Motherless Daughters: The Legacy of Loss**. It's well-produced and looks good. My mother, 72, who lost her Mom at age 11, said this is one of the most important books in her life (what a recommendation, huh?) (\$16, 2 tapes 2 hours, 0-69451-545-0, HarperAudio, distributed by Ingram, Baker & Taylor). The other tape, **Mother Loss: A Daughter's Search for Truth and Healing** is more like a 2-hour visit with Edelman, and

dwells more on psychology than the book did. Edelman looks at primary abandonment issues, the landmarks in a motherless daughter's life, assuming responsibilities, family issues and more (\$17.95, 2 tapes 2 hours, 1-56455-309-4, Sounds True Audio, distributed by Ingram, Baker & Taylor).

And in the general fiction category:

Longings of Women by Marge Piercy, read by a cast of Lee Meriwether, Elisa Pensler and Leigh Taylor Young. It's well done, and the multiple cast makes it a joy to listen to. \$17, 2 tapes 3 hours, abridged, 1-57042-044-0, Time Warner Audio. Distributed by Ingram.

Talk Before Sleep by Elizabeth Berg is read by Blythe Danner, who does a wonderful job. This book runs out the door — I'm sure the tape will also. It's a celebrated work about the grit and power of female friends, looking at how two women's friendship changes and deepens as one of them is dying from cancer. \$16.99, 2 tapes 3 hours, abridged, 0-553-47389-1, Bantam Doubleday Dell Audio. Distributed by Ingram.

Map of the World by Jane Hamilton is performed by Mary Beth Hurt and David Strathairn. This is a well-produced abridgement of Hamilton's bestselling novel about how a single mistake can forever change the lives of everyone involved. \$16.99, 2 tape 3 hours, 0-553-47374-3, Bantam Doubleday Dell Audio. Distributed by Baker & Taylor.

Sisters and Lovers by Connie Briscoe, performed by Charlayne Woodard, is nicely read and produced. It's exciting to see the audio presses realizing that there is a market for audio other than straight white males. \$17, 2 tapes 3 hours, abridged, 1-55994-987-2, Harper Audio. Distributed by Baker & Taylor.

In **Taste of Power: A Black Woman's Story** Elaine Brown talks about assuming leadership of the Black Panthers, who were at that time a very militant organization. She talks about the problems the men had dealing with her, and traces her political and romantic involvements with other Black Panther leaders. I found the story fascinating and well presented. Written and performed by Elaine Brown. \$17, 2 tapes 3 hours, abridged, 1-55994-830-2, Caedmon Audio. Distributed by Ingram.

May Sarton Reading Her Poetry is part of Caedmon's Great American Poets Series. As wonderful as it is to actually hear Sarton reading, this tape will probably not be a big seller, but it is an important tape for archival purposes. \$11, 1 tape 1 hour, 0-89845-597-9, Caedmon Audio. Another audio tape in that series

is **Sylvia Plath Reads** by Sylvia Plath, also archivally important but probably not a big seller. Too bad, because it's good. The tape has been remastered, and the recording is very clear. It's packed in a hard plastic case the size of a small paperback — easy to open and should last well. \$12, 1 tape 50 minutes, 1-55994-570-2, Caedmon. Both tapes distributed by Ingram.



Video

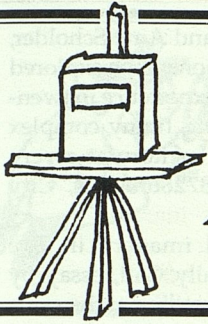
She's Safe! is an explicit safe sex video. It's a compilation of several public service announcements, some erotic videos, and some other excerpts. It's hot. Proceeds from sales benefit the Erotic Video Education Fund, supporting the production of woman-to-woman safe sex erotic videos. 55 minutes. Available from Naiad.

Go Fish, a feature length lesbian film, has a street release date of November 7, 1995. It will be available from Naiad Press and Wolfe Video. Call for discount and ordering information. Both distributors are taking pre-publication orders. It will probably retail close to \$90. **Desert Hearts** hasn't been available for a while; the re-release date is November 21, 1995. **Bar Girls** will be available on video this fall; meanwhile, **The Making of Bar Girls** is now available — contact Wolfe Video and/or Naiad.

Straight from the Heart is a powerful and affirming video which was nominated for an Academy Award. It presents moving and supportive stories about parents coming to terms with their lesbian or gay child. Excellent. \$24.95, Wolfe Video

Wolfe Video also has several other titles of interest to lesbians and gay men. **Kiss of the Spider Woman**, with William Hurt, who won Best Actor in 1985 for his part in the complex story of friendship and love between two men in a prison cell. Wonderful (\$14.95). **Priscilla Queen of the Desert** is a bit on the expensive side — will you rent it just to justify the cost? But it's such a campy, hysterical jaunt (\$94.95). **Teresa's Tattoo** is directed by Julie Cypher (Melissa Etheridge's girlfriend) and offers a comedy including cameo performances by kd lang and Melissa herself. Pricy also at \$92.99.

Naiad Press: 800-533-1973. Wolfe Video: contact LJ Waldinger, 408-323-2234; fax 408-268-9449; e-mail wolfevideo@megamed.com. ○



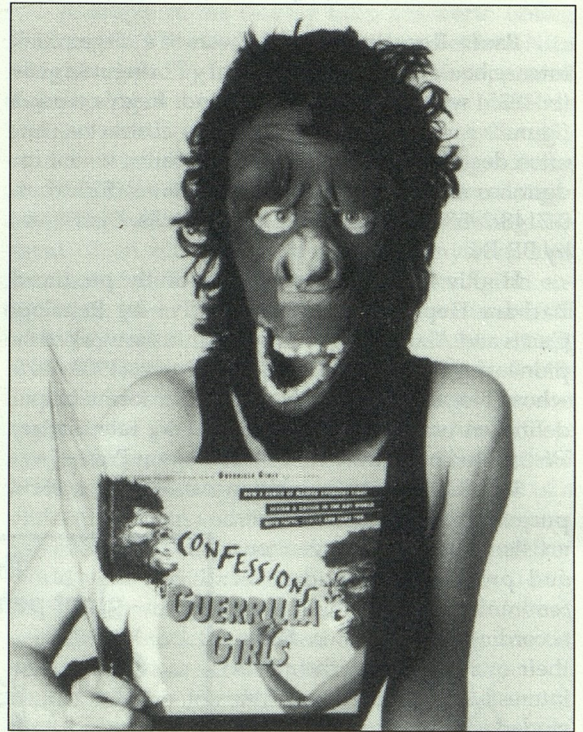
ART BOOKS

By Tee A. Corinne

Due out in July, *Art on My Mind: Visual Politics* by bell hooks is thoughtful and provocative. In her introduction hooks writes, "When I began these essays and conversations with individual artists, I did not plan to focus the majority of my attention on the work of Black women artists. The book evolved in this direction only as I began to critically examine spaces of lack. I found that even those Black women artists whose work is widely acclaimed and receives attention on a number of fronts, both within the mainstream art world and outside, rarely receive serious consideration by art critics." hooks interviews Alison Saar, Carrie Mae Weems, Emma Amos, and Margo Humphreys and, in a brilliant series of essays, examines themes and work by numerous Black artists, male and female, and issues of cultural relevance. \$15 pb, 1-56584-263-4, The New Press. Distributed by W.W. Norton.

Artemisia by Anna Banti, translated by Shirley D'Ardia Caracciolo, is an elegant fictional exploration of the life of the famous seventeenth-century Italian painter Artemisia Gentileschi who "painted the great women of Roman and biblical history ... could neither read nor write, was reviled as a rape victim in a public trial, rejected by her father, and later abandoned by her husband," but who pursued her career as an equal with male painters. \$10 pb, 0-8032-6119-5, University of Nebraska Press.

Confessions of the Guerrilla Girls by The Guerrilla Girls (whoever they really are) is a snappy, lively collection of graphics and interviews with the New York-based women activists who always wear guerrilla masks and use statistics and irony to convey their primary message: that women and people of color have been ignored by the major art institutions of our

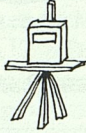


One of the authors of *Confessions of the Guerrilla Girls*
Photo by Teri Slotkin

time. Subtitled "How a Bunch of Masked Avengers Fight Sexism & Racism in the Art World with Facts, Humor and Fake Fur," it is designed for high visual and intellectual impact. \$18 pb, 0-06-095088-9, HarperPerennial.

Turning 50 by Bea Nettles is a small, lovely, autobiographical book by a woman photographer who makes images like a writer might diary entries, then pulls them together with text in ways that are easy to

relate to. "My work has always been autobiographical, so it was inevitable that I would explore/exploit my aging body." She explores her life/body as it is and in comparison with her mother's and grandmothers'. \$10 pb, 0-930810-11-2, Inky Press Productions. Distributed by Prairie Book Arts Center, Box 725, Urbana IL 61801.



Paula Rego by John McEwen is a large, thick, intense book about a contemporary Portuguese artist (b. 1935) who now lives in England. Rego's work is figurative — some more, some less abstract — and often deals with childhood fears, dreams, sexual undertones and odd, compelling situations. \$29.95 pb, 0-7148-2958-7, Phaidon/Chronicle Books. Distributed by BP, IN.

Highly informative and beautifully produced, **Barbara Hepworth: A Retrospective** by Penelope Curtis and Alan G. Wilkinson presents the work of the pioneering British modernist sculptor (1903-1975) whose elegant, abstract, often pierced forms helped define an era. \$40 pb, 1-85437-141-X, Tate Gallery. Distributed by University of Washington Press.

Bad Girls is an exhibition catalog for a show purporting to be about women artists who defy "conventions and proprieties of traditional femininity to define themselves according to their own terms, their own pleasures, their own interests, in their own way." Included is the famous 1974 nude image of Lynda Benglis holding an erect fake penis; Laura Aguilar's nude self-portrait in front of a fan; decorated false teeth; and a doll with penis and balls as a turban. \$19.95 pb, 0-262-70053-0, co-published by The New Museum and MIT Press. Distributed by MIT Press.

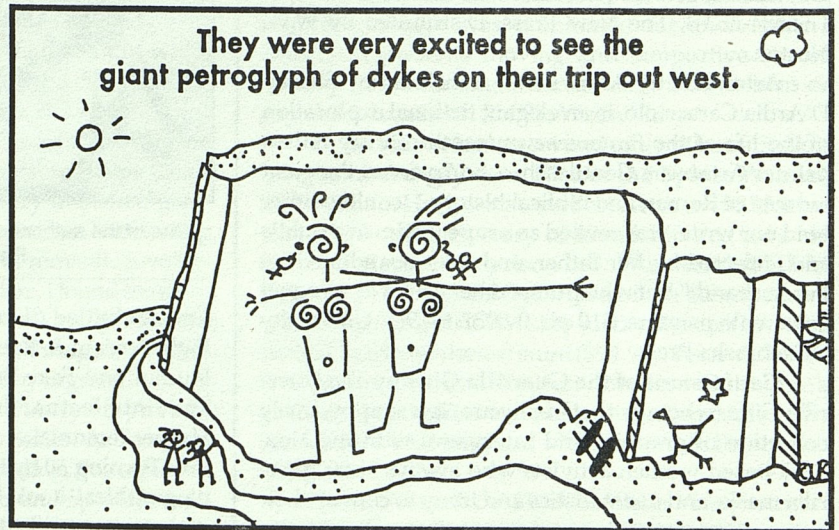
In A Different Light: Visual Culture, Sexual Identity, Queer Practice, edited by

Nayland Blake, Lawrence Rinder and Amy Scholder, is the catalog of a landmark exhibition which explored "the resonance of gay and lesbian experience in twentieth-century American art." Literate, funny, complex and surprising, it covers a lot of territory at a very reasonable price. \$16.95 pb, 0-87286-300-X, City Lights. Distributed by BP, IN.

The beautiful and mystical imagery in **The Water's Edge**, photographs by Sally Gall, essay by James Salter, are satisfying and unsettling at the same time. Most are of landscapes with water, some show people in the water, swimming, diving under, standing or sitting. It may be hard to sell at this price unless you know you have an audience for fine art photo books. \$25 cl, 0-8118-0848-3, Chronicle Books. Distributed by BP, IN.

Now available in paperback: **Overlay: Contemporary Art and the Art of Prehistory** by Lucy R. Lippard, a fascinating interweaving of old and new imagery by the author of *The Pink Glass Swan: Selected Feminist Essays on Art* and *Mixed Blessings: New Art in a Multicultural America*. \$20 pb, 1-56584-238-3, The New Press. Distributed by W.W. Norton.

Indian Singing in 20th Century America by Gail Tremblay, although not primarily an art book, contains 6 photographs of evocative and dramatic fabric art by Tremblay. \$9.95 pb, 0-934971-12-7; \$19.95 cl, 0-934971-14-5, Calyx Books. Distributed by BP, IN. ○



Cartoon by Ursula Roma, from *Dyke Strippers* (Cleis Press)



MYSTERIES



By Nan Cinnater
Now Voyager, Provincetown, Mass.

Out here on the tip of Cape Cod, summer is our busiest season, for tourism in general and for bookselling in particular. It's Christmas in July in many ways, but one difference is that people are buying beach books, not gift books — that is, lots of mass market paperbacks, lots of mysteries. I would guess that summer is paperback thriller time for most bookstores. School is out, escapism is in, and the market for gift books won't pick up until October. In any case, this column covers mostly mass market paperbacks, on the assumption that they are the summer books of choice. Have fun reading and selling them!

Ballantine is offering two mass market floor displays that are of great interest to feminist bookstores. Their annual "Women of Mystery" floor display contains three copies each of the following titles: **With Friends Like These** by Gillian Roberts, **The Alpine Escape** by Mary Daheim, **Grievous Sin** by Faye Kellerman, **Death Served Up Cold** by B.J. Oliphant, **Take a Number** by Janet Dawson, **Dead on a Sunday** by A.J. Orde, **Murder in a Nice Neighborhood** by Lora Roberts, **Practice to Deceive** by Janet L. Smith, and **The Sourdough Wars** by Julie Smith. This is a mixed bag of somewhat older titles, but almost all of them (with the possible exception of the Daheim and the Orde) are of feminist interest and worth stocking. The big drawback to this display is the ugly and inappropriate riser, which in past years has depicted a hooded female figure holding a poison cup. We always throw out the riser and use a hand-made "Women of Mystery" sign. But, if you have enough traffic and enough interest in mysteries to sell mid-list titles like these, this display is a handy way to sell them. \$183.64, 0-345-39331-7.

A couple of the display titles are worth noting (and possibly stocking) separately. **Murder in a Nice Neighborhood** by Lora Roberts, which first appeared as a paperback original last year, features a homeless woman sleuth (she prefers the term "vagabond"), who lives in her VW bus and makes a meagre living as a magazine writer. Although the character of vagabond Liz Sullivan is by far the most interesting element of an otherwise conventional mystery, this strong and unusual point of view makes for an engaging read. The plot touches on a number of women's issues, and we meet several interesting, well-sketched women characters (\$4.99 pb, 0-449-14891-2, Fawcett). **Take a Number** by Janet Dawson explores the psychology of an abuser, when private eye Jeri Howard takes on a divorce case for a battered Navy wife. Dawson paints a clear-eyed portrait of a violent, evil man and the harm he can do to women. She even makes the connection between the military world view and domestic violence (\$4.99 pb, 0-449-22183-0, Fawcett). Of course, you already stock the excellent series by Faye Kellerman about Orthodox Jewish sleuth Rina Lazarus; most recent in the series is **Grievous Sin** (\$5.99 pb, 0-449-14839-4, Fawcett).



Ballantine's "Gay and Lesbian Mysteries" floor display is quite exciting, if only as a sign of the changing times, but it may not work for stores that don't carry any gay men's titles. It's perfect for our store, and we expect to sell a lot of books from it. Included are three copies each of **Stage Fright**, **Hallowed Murder** and **Vital Lies** by Ellen Hart; **I'll Be Leaving You Always** and **Everything You Have is Mine** by Sandra Scoppetone; **How Town** and **The Hidden Law** by

Michael Nava; and **Arms of Nemesis** and **Catalina's Riddle** by Stephen Saylor. These guys are the best in the business. (So are the gals, of course, but you knew that.) Both Nava and Saylor have won Lambda Awards for Gay Men's Mystery. Nava writes brilliantly and sensitively about a gay Chicano lawyer in L.A.; Saylor's books are richly detailed historical whodunits set in ancient Rome. This display is part of Ballantine's June Gay and Lesbian Book Month promotion; I hope it will still be available when you read this. By the way, the riser depicts a stylized but presumably male figure in a hat and trenchcoat. \$183.64, 0-345-39333-3.

Here's a feminist fantasy we'd like to see in real life: A progressive corporation hires a woman private eye to find out who's responsible for the sexual harassment of female employees. This is the starting point for **A Woman's Place** by Linda Grant, which is so on-point about the sexual politics and dirty pool of office life that it will make any woman reader who has ever been there (and who hasn't?) angry all over again (\$5.50 pb, 0-8041-1327-0, Ivy). I like P.I. Catherine Saylor, who lives with her male lover (also a P.I.) and



her teenage niece, and works with an African American partner. This is the first I've caught up with Linda Grant, who has a couple of other mysteries in print, all of them concerning business and/or computers. Her previous mysteries are **Blind Trust** (\$3.95 pb, 0-8041-0791-2, Ivy) and **Love Nor Money** (\$4.50 pb, 0-8041-0947-8, Ivy).

North Star Conspiracy by Miriam Grace Monfredo (\$4.99 pb, 0-425-14720-7, Berkley) is the second in a series about nineteenth-century librarian Glynis Tryon, who finds herself involved in some of the great movements of her time. The year is 1854 in Elizabeth Cady Stanton's home town, Seneca Falls, N.Y., and radical abolitionists are moving slaves along the Underground Railroad. Although the writing is uninspired, Monfredo's books are a painless way to learn essential women's history, and they certainly belong in feminist bookstores. First in the series was **Seneca Falls Inheritance**, about the historic women's rights convention of 1848 (\$4.99 pb, 0-425-14465-8, Berkley).

Chances are you'll be intrigued by Tamar Myers'

Too Many Crooks Spoil the Broth, coming in paper from Signet. A Mennonite innkeeper in Pennsylvania Dutch country accidentally books two groups for the same weekend: a deer-hunting party headed by a senator, and vegetarian animal-rights activists. It sounds great, but I hated it. None of the characters were likeable, least of all the tart-tongued innkeeper, who came off as shrewish and narrow-minded. The Amish locals seemed stupid and stubborn, and the city folk didn't fare much better. It's a waste of a great premise, not to mention attractive packaging. \$4.99 pb, 0-451-18296-0, Signet, August.

From the catalogues ... **Mallory's Oracle** by Carol O'Connell was nominated for an Edgar Award for Best First Mystery, and also got good critical notice and good word-of-mouth in our store. The intriguing, though not particularly feminist, premise is that Kathleen Mallory was a wild child who grew up on the streets of New York, and was adopted at age ten by a cop and his family. Of course, she joined the NYPD, and now, as a homicide detective, has a crucial case — her own father's murder. \$5.99 pb, 0-515-11647-5, Jove.



There are new paperback entries in several strong women's series this summer. **New Orleans Beat** by Julie Smith is the latest case for police lieutenant Skip Langdon, a case involving a huge computer network set up for intimate "chat" (\$5.99 pb, 0-8041-1336-X, Ivy). **Shooting at Loons** is the new mystery by Margaret Maron featuring North Carolina judge Deborah Knott. Here she deals with the dying fishing industry and the murder of a fisherman (\$5.50 pb, 0-446-40424-1, Mysterious Press). The mother of the genre, Marcia Muller, brings back the original tough female private eye, Sharon McCone, in **Till the Butcher Cuts Him Down** (\$5.99 pb, 0-446-60302-3, Warner, August). These days we can sell Muller's hardcovers, too; the new one, **A Wild and Lonely Place**, will be published by Mysterious Press in August (sorry, no details).

Sandra Scoppetone's lesbian private eye, Lauren Larano, is back in the paper edition of **My Sweet Untraceable You**, which should sell well for all of us. Unfortunately, Scoppetone is losing me as her jokes get cuter and her plots even more implausible. \$5.99 pb, 0-345-39162-4, Ballantine.

In **What Men Say** by Joan Smith, feminist professor Loretta Lawson helps out her friend, an Oxford don, when a woman's decomposed body is found in the don's barn. A cynical, misanthropic Amanda Cross, Smith nevertheless has a following, and this attractive package with a cover blurb by P.D. James will probably bring her more fans. \$5.99 pb, 0-449-22297-7, Fawcett.



Up till now, Ellis Peters' Brother Cadfael hasn't had much female competition in the way of historical sleuths. I only knew of Sister Frevisse, in the paperback original series by Margaret Frazer (*A Novice's Tale*, *A Servant's Tale*, etc.). Now Forge is bringing out paper

editions of two medieval mysteries by Sharan Newman. **Death Comes as Epiphany** introduces twelfth-century novice/scholar Catherine LeVendeur, who uncovers a plot which threatens her order. The *L.A. Times* calls it "breathhtakingly exciting and full of mystery and adventure" (\$4.99 pb, 0-812-52293-1, Forge/St. Martin's, August). The follow-up is **Devil's Door**, in which Catherine has to choose between her

former fiance and the convent, while also solving the murder of a countess (\$4.99 pb, 0-812-52295-8, Forge, September). Newman also has a new hardcover in the series, **The Wandering Arm** (\$20.95 cl, 0-312-85829-9, St. Martin's, October). These are beautifully packaged with lots of good cover blurbs, and I expect they will be very welcome to women readers of historical whodunits.

We are also doing well in our store with a new series by J.A. Jance about Arizona sheriff Joanna Brady. The two paperbacks in the series are **Desert Heat** (\$4.99 pb, 0-380-76545-4, Avon), and **Tombstone Courage** (\$5.99 pb, 0-380-76546-2, Avon). It's a Southwestern thing...

Longtime feminist mystery readers will remember Carolyn Wheat's mid-eighties books about Brooklyn attorney Cass Jameson, the Edgar-nominated *Dead Men's Thoughts* and *Where Nobody Dies*. Berkley is bringing back both Wheat and her heroine in a trade paperback, **Fresh Kills**. Here Cass is prevailed upon to handle an adoption, which quickly becomes a criminal case when the birth mother is murdered (\$9 pb, 0-425-14920-X, Berkley). I'm not crazy about trade paper mysteries, but if that's what it takes to get strong writers (back) into print, I'm all for it. ○

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B O R D E R C R O S S I N G



By Alexandra Wilson

This summer, for a completely different look at nature read **Dream Museum** by acclaimed poet and literary critic Lillian Welch. For twenty-five summers Welch has climbed the Alps and Dolomites; here her poetry explores both the literal and figurative peaks and valleys of her experiences. C\$12.95 pb, 1-55039-56-2, Sono Nis Press. Order direct from the publisher, 1745 Blanshard Street, Victoria BC, V8W 2J8; 604-382-1024. Terms: 1-2 titles, 20%; 3 titles, 30%; 4+ titles, 40%.

And lots more poetry this summer: Kathryn McLeod's **Mouthpiece** is rhythmic, lyric, a "sequence of numbered riffs" that stay in the mind long after putting the book down (C\$7.95 pb, 0-921331-23-1, New Star Books, distributed by InBook). And Brick Books has published the latest from one of Canada's outstanding poets, P.K. Page. **Hologram: A Book of Glosas** contains fourteen intricate and elegant poems that build on the lines of other poets — an inspiring volume for both readers and writers (C\$11.95 pb, 0-919626-72-6, Brick Books, distributed by InBook).



Ronsdale Press is publishing a book that works as biography, family mythology, herstory and poetry. Intrigued? **Burning Stone** by Zoe Landale explores the lives, and continuing influence, of family members from the past. A chronicle of overcoming bitterness to reach understanding, the book is especially powerful in its depiction of the women of earlier generations. C\$10.95 pb, 0-921870-31-0, Ronsdale Press. Distributed by InBook.

Non-fiction from ECW Press this summer: Locating

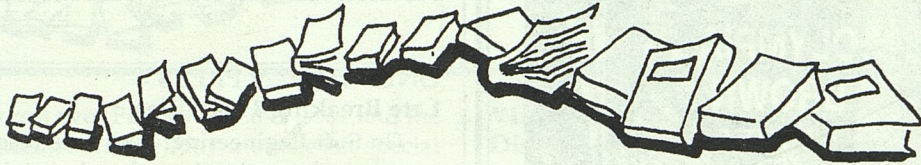
Alexandra by Margaret Rodgers explores the "dual life" of Alexandra Luke — devoted wife and mother, and successful Canadian artist in the male-dominated art world in the 1940s and 1950s (C\$20 pb, 1-55022-248-1, August). **Mina's Story: A Doctor's Memoir of the Holocaust** by Dr. Mina Deutsch is a simply told and therefore chilling personal account (C\$14.95 pb, 1-55022-212-0). Both titles distributed by InBook.

Yellow Pages by Nicole Marcotic is a novel about the early years of Alexander Graham Bell that gives voice to his wife, who "weaves [her] own magical tale of love and logic." C\$12.95 pb, 0-88995-132-2, Red Deer College Press. Distributed by Raincoast Books, 8680 Cambie Street, Vancouver, Ontario V6P 6M9; 1-800-663-5714.

Swimming from the Flames by Pauline Holdstock is a collection of inventive stories that capture a single moment, or frame a brief portrait of one character. The tales explore moments of joy and grief with exacting detail. C\$14.95 pb, 0-888-1-182-2, Turnstone Press. Distributed by InBook.

And finally, two new novels for young people: **Melanie Bluelake's Dream** by Betty Fitzpatrick Dorian is a children's novel that describes a Native girl's struggle to fit into the urban world. Ten-year-old Melanie is torn between memories of her Grandmother at home on the reserve, and supporting her mother's efforts to finish high school in the city (C\$4.95 pb, 1-55050-081-3, Coteau Books, distributed by Inland). **Saying Good-Bye** is a young adult collection of stories by Linda Holeman (*The Blue Jean Collection*) that explores love — funny, touching, tragic — among pre-teens. Each character has a moment of insight into herself (C\$16.95 cl, 1-895555-47-7, Lester Books, distributed by Key Porter, 2775 Matheson Blvd. East, Mississauga, Ontario L4W 4P7; 800-668-5525). ○

FROM OUR OWN PRESSES



Compiled by Beth Morgan

BIBLIO PRESS

Drawing on the Bible: Biblical Women in Art by Beth Haber collects forty black-and-white museum engravings and prints picturing women of the Hebrew Bible. The original biblical text appears on the facing pages, along with Haber's insightful commentary on art work spanning the fifteenth to nineteenth centuries. No other such collection exists, making this a perfect book for gift-giving and for Judaica collectors. \$13.95 cl, 0-930395-24-7.



And **From the Wise Women of Israel: Folklore & Memoirs** by Doris Gold and Lisa Stein is coming out in a revised edition which includes 13 new pages offering, for the first time, brief folklore stories from Beta Israel — Ethiopian Jews now living in Israel. A unique collection reflecting the wisdom of Jewish women, with an emphasis on wise action and enlightened self-interest. \$8.95 pb, 0-930395-10-7.

Biblio Press, 1140 Broadway Suite 1507, New York NY 10001; 212-684-1257. Distributed by BP, IN.

—*Biblio Press*

MOTHER COURAGE PRESS

The story of one of our unsung foremothers, Olympia Brown, must not be overlooked during the 75th Anniversary celebrations of women's right to vote. Brown is not well known compared to her friends and co-activists Susan B. Anthony, Lucy Stone and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Her biography, **Olympia Brown: The Battle for Equality** opens with the 83-year-old, ninety-pound protester and orator

challenging a crowd and burning President Woodrow Wilson's speeches during a wintery suffragist march in front of the White House. It goes on to document the herstory of the era, Brown's rebellion against the repression of women and her battle for equal rights. \$9.95 pb, 0-941300-11-0. Mother Courage Press, 1667 Douglas Avenue, Racine WI 53404; 414-637-2227. Distributed by IN, BP.

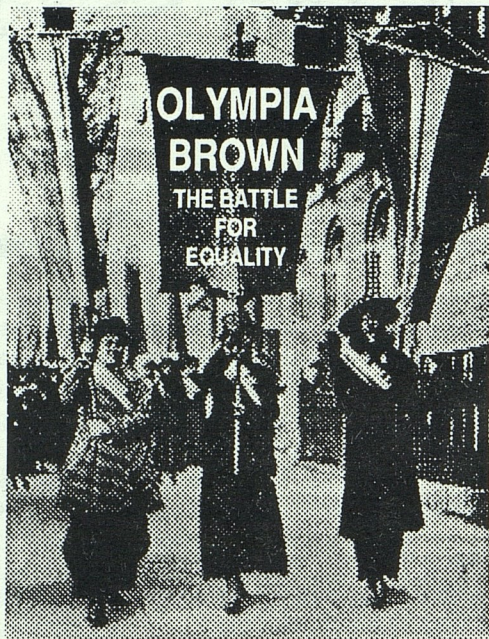
—*Mother Courage*

NAIAD PRESS

These two Naiad titles are guaranteed to cause a heatwave at your bookstore!

Lesbian mysteries are *hot* and Barbara Johnson's **The Beach Affair** is a sizzler. When former professional bodybuilder Candy Emerson is found dead in her Rehoboth Beach gym, the police rule it a tragic accident. But is it? While wading through a sea of suspects, insurance investigator Colleen Fitzgerald is soon knee-deep in a growing attraction for the victim's ex-lover, aerobics instructor Gillian Smith. After Gillian gives Colleen a full-body workout that leaves her breathless, the investigator has a hard time keeping her mind on the case. Blinded by her white-hot passion, could Colleen be overlooking a motive for murder? \$10.95 pb, 1-56280-090-6, August.

And speaking of *hot*, no one understands lesbian sensuality like Robbi Sommers. Now in **Getting There**, her most beautiful and intimate book ever, Robbi brings your customers a bouquet of dreams and diamond-edged fantasies ... a slow dance in the eye of a hurricane ... a banquet of eroticism where readers will savor each delicious word. **Getting There** is a sensual journey by the bestselling author of *Pleasures, Players, Kiss and Tell, Uncertain Companions, Personal Ads, Behind Closed Doors*, and the audio-erotica collection, *Between the Sheets*. **Getting There** — "There's something about surrender that brings us home to



■ **Olympia Brown, *The Battle for Equality*** captures this indomitable activist's fight for women's suffrage and equal rights. This inspiring herstory dramatizes the struggle for women's rights to be celebrated on August 26, Women's Equality Day, when women won the right to vote, and in November, the 75th anniversary of women casting their first ballots. \$16.95 Cloth; \$9.95 Paper.

Also from Mother Courage Press

■ ***And Then I Met This Woman: Previously Married Women's Journeys into Lesbian Relationships*** is available now from Mother Courage.

■ Distributed by Bookpeople, Alamo Square, Baker & Taylor, Inland or order directly from

Mother Courage Press

1667 Douglas, Racine, WI 53404

(414) 637-2227 FAX(414) 637-8242



ourselves ..." \$10.95 pb, 1-56280-099-X, August.

Naiad Press, PO Box 10543, Tallahassee FL 32302; 800-533-1973. Distributed by BP, IN, et al. Naiad's bookstore discount for 1995 will be 50% at all times.

—*Naiad Press*

ONLYWOMEN PRESS

Late Breaking 1994 Titles

In ***Soft Engineering***, poet Kate Foley brings an experienced, passionate and truly original voice to bear on the unassuming and unnoticed details of the world — rust, marks on a pillow, an old woman's boots. "Foley understands not just the immense burden of history that underlines vestigial signs, but also the irresistible powers of the sea at work," says poet U.A. Fanthorpe. I picked this up and read it all the way through. Bravo! \$7.99 pb, 0-906500-51-6.

An inspiring and intriguing collection of poetry which celebrates Black women's beauty, strength and sexuality, ***Lightning on My Tongue*** by Tina Kendall eloquently embraces memoirs of women loving women and women loving men in the same volume of poetry — a book of the '90s all women can feel proud of. \$7.99 pb, 0-906500-50-8.

Onlywomen Press, 40 St. Lawrence Terrace, London W10 5ST England. Distributed by IN. —*Beth Morgan*



PARIS PRESS

Ruth Stone's new volume of poetry, ***Simplicity***, reveals this great American poet at the height of her powers. Bold, provocative and visionary, ***Simplicity*** is laugh-out-loud funny, brilliantly political, social and environmental. Weaving urgent, contemporary issues through her poems, Stone is one of the few poets to use the language of science with true authority, marking the vast and intricate beauty of the earth, the amazing new insights of physics and biology, and the terrors of nuclear and ecological destruction. Highly accessible, just plain wonderful. \$12.95 pb, 0-9638183-1-7. Paris Press, PO Box 267, Northampton MA 0106; 413-268-7204. Distributed by BP, IN. —*Paris Press*

PRESS GANG PUBLISHERS

This year Press Gang Publishers mark twenty years of feminist publishing, and we're celebrating



with our largest ever Fall list (see this issue and the Fall Announcements Issue). To announce this special anniversary, we've just printed 2,000 eye-catching bookmarks that feature some of our bestselling books on the back. Also for the Fall season, we're happy to offer a sampler of our new fiction titles. So join us in our celebration! Any bookseller wishing the bookmark or sampler, or both, in quantities, should just drop us a line. We'll pick up the tab for postage.

Choral by Karen McLaughlin has been called "a breathtaking novel" by Aritha van Herk. Assembling a chorus of female voices, McLaughlin tells the story of bones grazing skin, of mothers and daughters, and of family relationships. Her quirky and engaging characters include great-grandmother Nonnie with her breasts cut off; Grace, who swallows her mother's ruby and believes it grows inside her; and Eva, who is afraid her fingers will snap off if she practices her pump organ. These and many other voices will live in readers' minds long after they put the book down. \$12.95 pb (C\$14.95), 0-88974-045-3, August.



Bending at the Bow is an elegantly written and funny lesbian love story sure to become a favorite with every reader. In this second novel by Marion Douglas, Annie Clemens' partner of six years has died in a car accident and two years later Annie still clings to memories and a deep sadness that she must release. Sometimes she gives in to her idiosyncratic methods of cocooning from the world, unable to resist the familiarity of that path. Other times she challenges herself to move on, accepting the support of friends and discovering the possibility of a new lover. \$14.95 pb (C\$16.95), 0-88974-051-8, September.

Press Gang Publishers, #101-225 East 17th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, Canada V5V 1A6; 604-876-7787. Distributed in the U.S. by IN and BP; in Canada by General Distribution Services. —Press Gang

VIRAGO

Distributed by Trafalgar Square

Bread, Wine & Women: The Ordination Debate in the Church of England by Susan Dowell and Jane Williams analyzes the theological and Christian feminist debate that has wracked the Anglican Church and distressed and elated so many of its members. In November 1992, the General Synod voted for the ordination of women into the priesthood. Some people sang and danced in the streets. Others threatened to go over to the Roman Catholic Church. Published to mark the first female ordination, **Bread, Wine & Women** is an invaluable handbook for those who want to know "what all the fuss is about." \$13.95 pb, 1-85381-730-9.



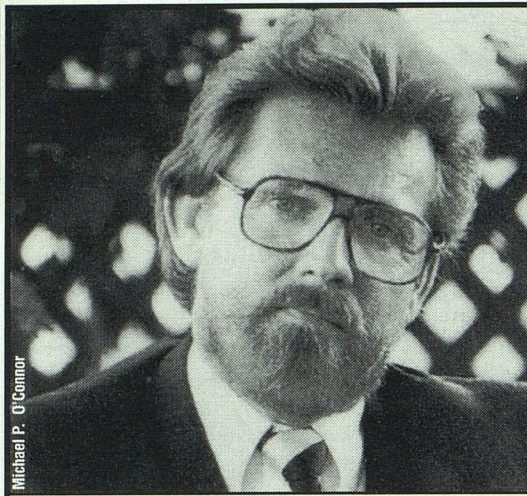
Singing in Tune with Time: Stories and Poems about Aging edited by Elizabeth Cairns explores the myriad experiences of aging in this compelling anthology. Includes work by Colette, Nadine Gordimer, Penelope Lively, Muriel Spark, Edna O'Brien and more. \$10.95 pb, 1-85381-633-7.

Soul Providers: Writings by Single Parents edited by Gil McNeil goes beyond statistics and media stories to show the real lives of single parents and their children. One in five families in Britain are single-parent households — for most it's a constant battle against poverty and a juggling game of time and energy. But their love for their children shines through, confounding myths of failure and hopelessness. Includes contributions from Glenda Jackson and Lynne Segal. A percentage of the proceeds goes to Gingerbread, the British national organization for one-parent families. \$13.95 pb, 1-85381-710-4.

Virago Press, distributed in the U.S. by Trafalgar Square, North Pomfret VT 05053; 802-457-1911.

—Virago ○

Michael P. O'Connor



Is victimhood the biggest addiction of all?

Adult children of alcoholics. Incest survivors. Women who love too much. Men who fear commitment. Sexaholics. Co-dependents...

It seems a new psychological label is born every day. According to clinical psychologist and award-winning author Christopher McCullough in his new book, *NOBODY'S VICTIM*, these labels, together with the therapy and support groups that spawn them, are turning victimhood into America's biggest growth industry.

Based on the author's own practice as well as Eastern and Western philosophy, *NOBODY'S VICTIM* examines the disturbing phenomenon of America's ever growing victim cult, and offers a way out. Filled with inspiring true stories and helpful guidelines for finding life after victimhood, this groundbreaking book is a welcome antidote to what *really* ails America, with chapters that cover:

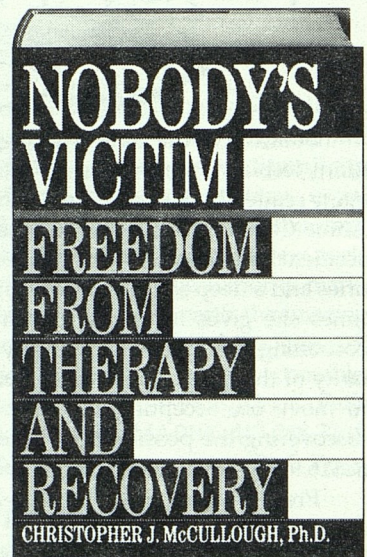
- The allure and tyranny of victimhood
- The limitations of therapy and recovery
- Breaking free of the victim trap
- Asking the right questions
- Outgrowing "help"
- Life outside the victim cycle

"In his refreshing and insightful analysis of the proliferation of 12-step and other kinds of recovery programs, McCullough offers self-help with a difference, which many may find liberating and self-affirming." —*Publishers Weekly*

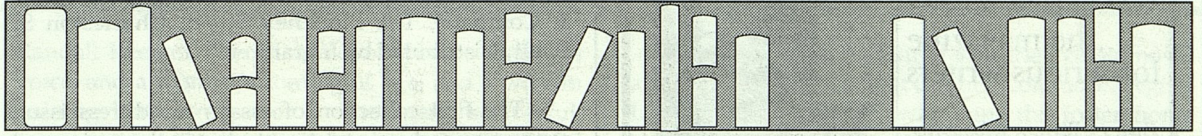
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Clarkson Potter/Publishers



FROM THE SMALL PRESSES



By Beth Morgan

From Facts on File comes a useful and inspiring new title, **Women for Change: A Grassroots Guide to Activism and Politics** by Thalia Zapatos (*Adventures in Good Company, A Journey of One's Own*) and Elizabeth Kaufman, a much-needed resource and guide for women of any age who wish to expand their involvement in politics and social issues at all levels. Topics covered include how to overcome obstacles to activism, how to form a group to fight for power, how to get involved as a volunteer or paid staff person in the public sector, how to support self-interest groups with greater effectiveness, and even how to prepare for running for office. Incorporated throughout are useful lists of books, journals and organizations, and interviews with dozens of women from around the country who have made rewarding political commitments. Whether a woman wants to get more involved in her local community or run for office, **Women for Change** provides indispensable information. \$22.95 cl, 0-8160-3032-4, August, Facts on File, 400 Park Avenue South, New York NY 10016. Distributed by Baker & Taylor, Ingram.



Lesbian Sacred Sexuality by Diane Mariechild, photography by Marcelina Martin, combines stunning photographs with a variety of perspectives on "sacred sexuality" between women in a book that is as beautiful as it is thought-provoking. The book features interviews with and photos of participants, as well as poetry and prose by Chrystos, Elsa Gidlow, Audre Lorde, Starhawk and more, and commentaries by Diane Mariechild. A gorgeous cover and a

reasonable price for such a quality book — no lesbian's coffee table is complete without it! \$24.95 pb, 0-914728-81-4, Wingbow Press, 7900 Edgewater Drive, Oakland CA 94621. Distributed by BP.

New from The Crossing Press is **Breaking Convention With Intercultural Romances** edited by Dianne Dicks, a collection of fifty-five personal accounts by authors whose love relationships required crossing cultural frontiers. Topics covered include food,

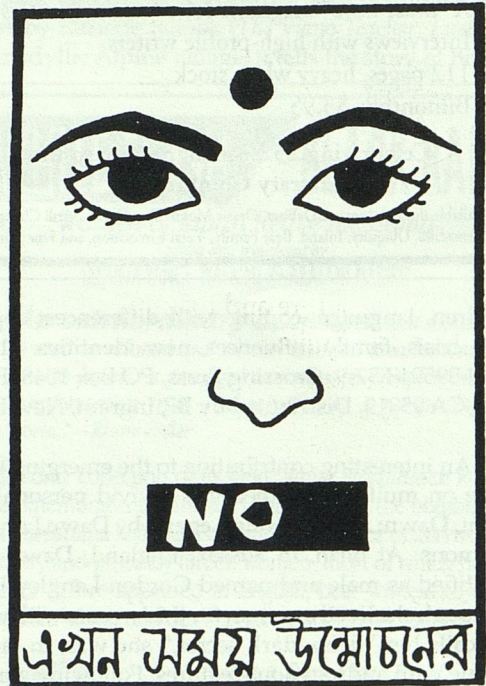


Illustration from Isis International/Women in Action, from *Women and Violence: Realities and Responses Worldwide* (Zed Books)

POETS & WRITERS MAGAZINE

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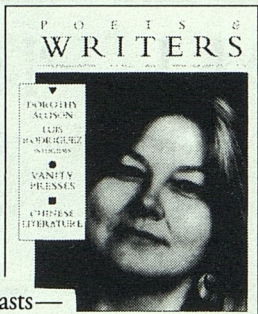
readers are literary enthusiasts—book buyers, writers, editors, reviewers, teachers, and journalists—who rely on us for NEWS about writing, DEADLINES for grants and awards, provocative ESSAYS, and HOW-TO articles on getting published.

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hostilities directed at her interracial marriage. Also interesting is Dawn’s literary life — she spent childhood vacations at Sissinghurst with Vita Sackville-West, and had a successful career as a writer in New York and Charleston. \$19.95 cl, 0-941711-16-1, Wyrick & Company, 1-A Pinckney Street, Charleston SC 29401. Distributed by Ingram.

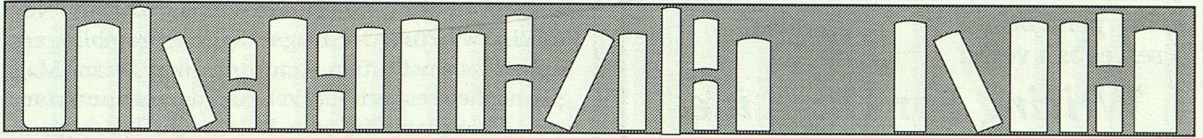
The first collection of essays to address issues concerning lesbian and gay studies in the undergraduate classroom, **Professions of Desire: Lesbian and Gay Studies in Literature** edited by George E. Haggerty and Bonnie Zimmerman will challenge teachers and students of literature with new materials, new approaches, and new ideas. The eighteen essays in this collection reflect the range of current research, scholarship, and pedagogy devoted to lesbian and gay literary studies. \$19.75 pb, 0-87352-563-9, Modern Language Association, 10 Astor Place, New York NY 10003. Distributed by Ingram, Baker & Taylor.



Don’t miss the debut novel of a strikingly original and powerful voice, **The Good Negress** by A.J. Verdelle. As the novel opens, it is 1963 and young Denise Palms — reared in rural West Virginia by her grandmother — has just rejoined her mother, new stepfather and two older brothers in Detroit, where she is expected to cook, clean house, go to school, and take care of her mother’s new baby when it comes. But Denise is studying with an uncompromising new teacher, Miss Gloria Pearson, who encourages Denise to “reach beyond her station,” and tells her that if she doesn’t learn to speak official, “downtown” English she will never be anything but a “good negress.” For the diligent Denise, language becomes currency, but she soon finds that speaking “King’s English” brings on private struggles: How can down-home knowledge be reconciled with street-smart ways of inner-city life? How can she change herself without betraying her grandmother’s culture? And why aren’t her brothers made to feel the same pressures that mold her into a “good negress”? Eventually, Denise comes to question the legacies of her family and begins to determine — for the first time — her own course for the future. “Like *Their Eyes Were Watching God*,” says

children, language, coping with differences, coping with crisis, family influences, new identities. \$12.95 pb, 0-89594-757-9, Crossing Press, PO Box 1048, Freedom CA 95019. Distributed by BP, Ingram, New Leaf.

An interesting contribution to the emerging literature on multigender theory is a vivid personal account, **Dawn: A Charleston Legend** by Dawn Langley Simmons. At birth, in Sussex, England, Dawn was identified as male and named Gordon Langley Hall. Although she lived as a man for thirty years with what she calls her “deep, dark secret,” she was, in fact, a female with androgynous features. Following gender modification in 1968, Gordon became Dawn, married a Black Charlestonian, John-Paul Simmons, and was forced to move from South Carolina to escape



Randall Keenan, "here is a novel about a woman's voice, and a woman's coming of age, and a woman gaining her own power ... intelligent, sorrowful, warm, intimate, this portrait clearly marks a powerful debut into a long and proud tradition of American letters." \$19.95 cl, 1-56512-085-X, Algonquin Books, PO Box 2225, Chapel Hill NC 27515. Distributed by IN.

From Orlando Place Press comes their first title, **In a Family Way** by Rochelle Hollander Schwab, a novel centering on a custody fight over the child of a lesbian family. Keith was disowned by his family when he came out as a gay man; Sonya lost custody of her children when her ex-husband discovered she was a lesbian. Now Sonya and Janice have started a new family — with Keith's help as sperm donor. But when tragedy strikes, it is up to a family court judge to decide whether it is love — or law — that makes a family. Looks like an interesting and well-written exploration of nontraditional family issues. \$10.95 pb, 0-9643650-0-6, Orlando Place Press, 3617 Orlando Place, Alexandria VA 22305. Distributed by IN.

Cutting the Rose: Female Genital Mutilation, The Practice and Its Prevention by Efua Dorkenoo outlines what must be done to eradicate the practice of FGM, which has such a negative effect on both the physical and psychological health of millions of women in Africa, Europe, North America and other parts of the world. Dorkenoo's field research and her work in Britain illustrate the power of culturally-respectful intervention, as well as offer an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of various international campaigns against FGM. Gloria Steinem says: "This is a brave book, [Dorkenoo] is an international treasure, and the women and men in its pages show us that a peaceful future can only begin at home." \$24.95 cl, 1-873194-60-9, Minority Rights Group, 379 Brixton Road, London SW9 7DE. Distributed in the U.S. by Paul & Company, c/o PCS Data Processing, Inc., 360 West 31st Street, New York NY 10001; 212-564-3730.

Don't miss **Stygo**, Laurie Hendrie's debut novel about a small town in Bent County, Colorado. Stygo is home to Mama Jewell, who runs the foster home where Baby Annie primps and rants and Hallie lives life as a gremlin; Billy Fiddle, the twin who calls everybody's bluff; Willa Moon, who has come home to Stygo because no place else pays nearly as much attention to her; and a cast of children, powerful and wise, who know what to take from life and when to leave it alone. "Rocks with wild, hard writing," says E. Annie Proulx. \$16.95 cl, 1-878448-59-5, MacMurray & Beck, PO Box 4257, Aspen CO 81612. Distributed by National Book Network, 800-462-6420.

From Serpent's Tail/High Risk Books comes **Women as Lovers**, a powerful and disturbing new book by Elfriede Jelinek (*The Piano Teacher, Lust*). Set in an idyllic Alpine village, it tells the story of Brigitte

WHITE FLASH BLACK RAIN

Women of Japan Relive the Bomb

edited and translated by

LEQUITA VANCE-WATKINS & ARATANI MARIKO

"An extraordinary document that should be read by all men and women who still idealize warfare as heroic, a powerful summons to complete the transformation from a dominator to a partnership world." —Riane Eisler

The only collection of its kind, *White Flash/Black Rain* commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki with the voices of survivors. Poetry and prose by fifteen women, most of which have never before appeared in English, bear witness to the horrors of war and our shared responsibility for peace.



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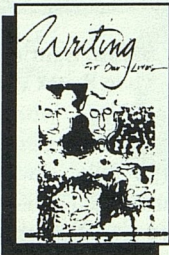
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— a reader*

Vol 4, # 1 (Summer 1995) ISBN 0-9633743-6-2

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Running Deer Press, 647 N. Santa Cruz Ave., "ANNEX,"

Los Gatos, CA 95030 U.S.A. (408) 354-8604.

ISSN 1062-3434. 5.25 x 8.25. Perfect bound. Janet McEwan, editor.

and Paula, two underwear factory workers who dream and talk of finding happiness, a comfortable home, a good man. Brigitte subordinates her feelings and goes for Heinz, a young, up-and-coming businessman. Paula gets pregnant by Erich, a handsome forestry worker whom she subsequently marries. Using the conventions of the romantic novel, Jelinek has written a moving tragedy whose power lies in its refusal to take at face value its characters' dreams and aspirations. "An unrelenting look at the bleak correspondence between marriage, capitalism and sex. Every sentence slams home a truth ..." (PW). \$14.99 pb, 1-85242-237-8.



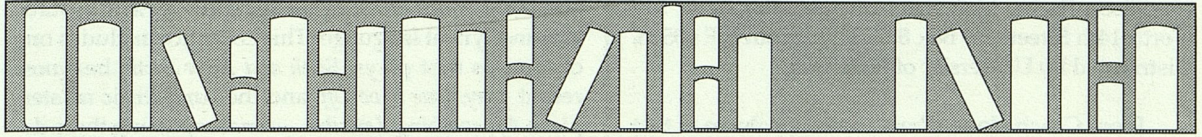
And from the Serpent's Tail Mask Noir imprint: **Calendar Girl** by Stella Duffy stars stand-up comic Maggie, who has fallen for "the girl with the Kelly McGillis body," a mysterious woman who can't commit herself. Meanwhile, South London sleuth Saz is hot on the trail of a woman known only as

September, who commutes between London and New York in a whirlwind of drug smuggling, gambling and high-class prostitution. A murder brings Saz and Maggie and their respective mysteries together. Smart and sexy, **Calendar Girl** is a lesbian thriller high on attitude and erotic content. \$11.99 pb, 1-85242-367-6.

Serpent's Tail/High Risk, 180 Varick Street 10th Floor, New York NY 10014. Distributed by Consortium.

From Hanging Loose Press comes **A Burden of Earth**, a powerful and disturbing collection of closely linked stories by Beth Bosworth. Of her work E.L. Doctorow writes, "Bosworth sets her stories in the labyrinth of family life, bravely exploring its dark turns and heartstopping entanglements. The minds of her characters are self-haunted with their memories, and what is imagined as past is crucially immediate to the present ... the debut of a gifted writer." \$12 pb, 1-882413-18-0; \$20 cl, -19-9, Hanging Loose Press, 231 Wyckoff Street, Brooklyn NY 11217. Distributed by IN, BP, Small Press Distribution.

Three new titles are out from Arte Público Press, and two from their Young Adult imprint, Piñata Books. In **Call No Man Master** by Tina Juarez, Carmen Rangel — drawn more to the arts of war than to those of domesticity — becomes a daring participant in the wars of Mexican independence from Spain and of Texas independence from Mexico. In the course of her adventures, Carmen falls in love with Coalter Owens and bears a daughter, but her continued struggles for the cause of freedom separate her from both of them, until their fateful encounter at the battle for the Alamo. An exciting and innovative historical novel which explores both the role of women and the rise of liberal ideas in Texas and Mexico during their births as republics (\$22.95 cl, 1-55885-124-0). **A Perfect Silence** by Alba Ambert is a powerful novel of human suffering, courage and survival, rendering with authenticity and poignancy the struggles of a young woman, Blanca, to break out of the cycle of poverty and violence that has entrapped her family for generations. From the surrealistic world of a mental institution, Blanca relives her past, attempting to come to terms with her life after a failed suicide attempt (\$19.95 cl, 1-55885-125-9). **Cactus Blood** is Lucha Corpi's second mystery novel featuring Chicana detective Gloria Damasco. During the seventies, a young



Mexican woman was raped and exposed to pesticide contamination. Five men and two women saved her and helped her put her life back together. Sixteen years later, one of the men who helped her is dead and two others are missing. Damasco follows a trail from the 1973 United Farm Workers strike and grape boycott in San Joaquin Valley, to an old Native American ghost-dancing site in the Valley of the Moon in a suspenseful search for a ritualistic assassin. Looks great! (\$18.95 cl, 1-55885-134-8).



And from Piñata Books: In **Maya's Divided World** by Gloria Velasquez (*Juanita Fights the School Board*), Maya's mother and father have divorced and a disoriented Maya — once an outstanding student and member of the tennis team — falls in with the wrong crowd and shuns her old, faithful buddies. This is the second in Velasquez' Roosevelt High School series, and Velasquez is wonderful, as usual, as she addresses the pressures and mysteries of young adult life in a multicultural world (\$7.95 pb, 1-55885-131-3). **Sweet Fifteen** by Diane Gonzales Bertrand tells the story of Stephanie, a young girl approaching her *quinceañera* — a traditional coming out party for her fifteenth birthday. Stephanie's father has recently died, and against Stephanie's wishes her mother decides to go ahead with the party Stephanie's father had planned. It is Rita, the seamstress hired to make Stephanie's dress, who helps the girl express her grief and make the transition to a completely new family situation. The *quinceañera*, instead of remaining an archaic custom for this modern teenager, becomes a psychological process through which Stephanie can cherish and preserve the best of the old while adapting to the new (\$7.95 pb, 1-55885-133-X).

Arte Público Press, University of Houston, Houston TX 77204-2090. Distributed by BP, IN.

If you haven't yet read anything by Mildred Walker, you have a treat in store, and Bison Books has

just reprinted two of her titles. Originally published in 1935, **Light from Arcturus** tells the story of Julia Hauser, married to a dull small-town merchant, confined by childrearing, and becoming extremely restless. Set in the late nineteenth century in the middle of Nebraska, **Light from Arcturus** tells how Julia steps beyond sacrifice and duty, impresses herself on a larger scene, feeds her spirit and grows in dignity, while it illustrates the significance of that era's worlds fairs and expositions to early settlers. If you like Willa Cather, you'll love Mildred Walker! (\$11.95 pb, 0-8032-9769-6). And originally published in 1951, **The Southwest Corner** is one of those rare books in American literature that focuses on the experiences and inner life of an older woman. At eighty-three, Marcia Elder is alert and active but feels insecure about facing another winter alone; yet she dreads giving up her big, old home and moving to a retirement facility. The story of how she manages to retain both her dignity and her home is moving, satisfying and very, very real (\$7.95 pb, 0-8032-9768-8).



First published to critical acclaim in Italy in 1947, **Artemisia** by Anna Banti, translated by Shirley D'Ardia Caracciolo, is a lyrical, well-wrought novel about the life of the painter Artemisia Gentileschi. Born in 1598 the daughter of an esteemed painter, Artemisia could neither read nor write. She was reviled as a rape victim in a public trial, rejected by her father and later abandoned by her husband. Nevertheless, she went on to become a superb, self-taught painter and one of the first women in modern times to uphold through her work and deeds the right of women to pursue careers compatible with their talents and on an equal footing with men. The unusual structure of this novel — the story of the artist's life is interspersed with the story of the writer's search for Artemisia's life — and Banti's skillful writing make this a deeply compelling narrative. \$10 pb, 0-8032-6119-5.

Bison Books, University of Nebraska Press, 312 North 14th Street, PO Box 880484, Lincoln NE 68588. Distributed by University of Nebraska.

From Coach House Press comes a volume of two new plays from award-winning playwright Joan Macleod, **The Hope Slide/Little Sister**. In *The Hope Slide* an actress travels back in memory to the Doukhobor prison outside the town of Hope, the site of a mountain collapse in 1965. Natural disaster becomes the metaphor for the AIDS crisis, and anarchy emerges as both a liberating social force and a frightening presence in the natural world. *Little Sister* tackles issues of self-image, weight preoccupation and eating disorders in teenage girls, as five girls are caught in a web of contradictory messages about how they should look, feel and behave. More wonderful work from this exceptional playwright. \$12.95 pb, 0-88910-463-8, Coach House Press, 50 Prince Arthur Avenue Suite 107, Toronto Ontario M5R 1B5. Distributed by Consortium.

In *Approaching Zanzibar and Other Plays* Tina Howe contemplates love, marriage, family, death, art

and the wonder of life in her signature style of absurdism and lyrical language. This collection includes one of Howe's first plays, *Birth and After Birth*; her most recent play, *One Shoe Off*; and the surrealistic masterpiece *Approaching Zanzibar* — encompassing three decades of Howe's innovative and irreverent work. \$13.95 pb, 1-55936-104-2, Theatre Communications Group, 355 Lexington Avenue, New York NY 10017. Distributed by Consortium.



A few poetry titles that are very much worth carrying:

The World is Round by Carol Edelstein is my current favorite just-pick-it-up-and-open-it-to-any-page volume of poetry. Edelstein crafts images so fresh and original I find myself returning to them again and again thinking I must have imagined how good they really are — lines like “It was dawn by the tepid, silver dollar lake/dawn in the whole dish the gods over Florida/keep on their chipped, blue bedside table/for the day's loose

REICH ANGEL

BY ANITA MASON

“Splendid, moving... A richly tragic fable of ambition and restraint... puts Leni Riefenstahl into Amelia Earhart's cockpit and flies low over the pockmarked terrain of the Third Reich.”

- *Kirkus Reviews (starred)*

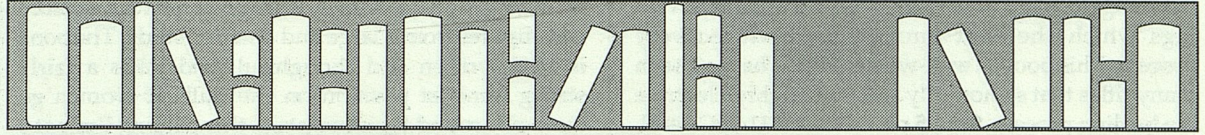
“An anatomy of an obsession, a moving love story, and an intriguing exploration of gender and sexuality. It is also a vivid picture of an era: the irresistible rise of the Nazis.”

- *London Daily Telegraph*



Distributed by Farrar, Straus & Giroux to bookstores

SOHO



change." Whether writing about how to welcome the dead, opening to the first light of morning, releasing into solitude or singing lullabies, Edelstein will make you laugh, think, dream and wonder at the power of words to so briefly sketch such complicated worlds. \$12 pb, 0-941895-09-2; order directly from the publisher, Amherst Writers & Artists Press, PO Box 1076, Amherst MA 01004; 413-253-3307. Terms: 1-5 copies, 25%; 5+ copies, 40%.

New from Coffee House Press, **The Weather That Kills** is the long-awaited collection of poetry by powerful African American poet Patricia Spears-Jones, whose evocative imagery jumps off the page with the force of gunfire strafing city streets, and whose words are vibrant with the intensity of blues singers. From a poem for Miles Davis: "The blues of this day/are as elegant and as sad/as minor fifths and we all try to sing it/What we all want is to be brass/The horn-scratched voice blown through." Of Spears-Jones Thulani Davis says, "[Her] poems are like homecomings ... the heart charts its path home by her map of weather that kills and springs that heal." No matter how small your poetry section may be, carry this one. \$11.95 pb, 1-56689-029-2, Coffee House Press, 27 North 4th Street, Minneapolis MN 55401. Distributed by Consortium.



"Today we will not be invisible nor silent" says Victoria Lena Manyarrows in her debut book of poetry **Songs from the Native Lands**, winner of the 1994 Astraea Foundation Emerging Writers Award. And Manyarrows fulfills this promise, giving voice to her experience as an indigenous woman in the Native lands north and south of the Rio Grande. From North Dakota to Nicaragua, Canada to California, these poems unravel oppression, rejoice in love, confront injustice and sing praise to the strength and beauty of Native people, women, the young and old. \$9.95 pb,

0-9645234-1-8, Nopal Press, 2440 16th Street #146, San Francisco CA 94103. Distributed by IN, BP.

New from Carol P. Christ, **Odyssey With the Goddess: A Spiritual Quest in Crete** is the story of a woman's quest to understand the human relation to the ground of being and to the powers that sustain life, and to name divinity out of the depths of personal experience. At a time in her life when she felt she could no longer trust her deepest feelings and intuitions, Christ embarked on a spiritual journey that took her from the mountaintop shrines to the sacred caves of Minoan Crete as she gradually rediscovered her own inner strength through her connection to the goddess. \$18.95 cl, 0-8264-0793-5. Continuum Publishing Company, 370 Lexington Avenue, New York NY 10017. Distributed by BP.



Tending Inner Gardens: The Healing Art of Feminist Psychotherapy by Lesley Irene Shore, Ph.D., is a beautiful meditation on the parallel between feminist psychotherapy and gardening, using nature's seasonal cycles as a model for successful psychotherapeutic practice. Recounting her own evolution as a therapist and her life on Harmony Farm, where she practices, Shore discusses in detail how psychotherapy uses nature's growing and healing processes and shows how to tune the rhythms of psychotherapy to the rhythms of each season. \$14.95 pb, 1-56023-856-9. Harrington Park Press, distributed by The Haworth Press, 10 Alice Street, Binghamton NY 13904; 800-342-9678.

Healing the Whole: The Diary of an Incest Survivor by Yvette M. Pennacchia is a powerful and moving book that documents the traumatic journey back through the secret of Pennacchia's childhood incest and forward to recovery and to the creation of a healthy new outlook on adult life. The author shares

her struggle, triumph and courage in the journal writings which she kept through her own recovery process. This book is well-written, and I haven't seen many titles that so honestly and thoroughly illustrate the healing process. \$14.95 pb, 0-304-33111-2. Cassell, 387 Park Avenue South, New York NY 10016. Distributed by InBook.

From Bergin Garvey comes an incisive and important new title, **Obstetric Myths Versus Research Realities: A Guide to the Medical Literature** by Henci Goer. You would assume that the typical obstetrician practices according to the medical evidence. You would be wrong. Despite what obstetricians and their patients believe, obstetrics is riddled with fallacies, fictions and myths, and their own research proves it. Drawing on a review of hundreds of medical studies, Goer — a childbirth educator and medical writer — explodes many common obstetric myths and offers provocative answers to the question of why educated, normally assertive women meekly accept interventive management manifestly harmful to them and their babies. Looks like a powerful and extremely useful resource. \$29.95 pb, 0-89789-427-8, Bergin Garvey, a division of Greenwood Publishing Group, 88 Post Road West, PO Box 5007, Westport CT 06881. Distributed by Baker & Taylor.



A title I don't know quite what to make of but am fascinated and impressed by is **Dressed to Kill: The Link Between Breast Cancer and Bras** by Sydney Ross Singer and Soma Grismaijer. As the authors themselves acknowledge, the question of whether bras cause breast cancer at first seems laughable. But the idea of culturogenic diseases is not new — the scientific community has long acknowledged diseases attributable directly to lifestyle-related factors, such as the Western fat-heavy diet and its role in heart disease, and numerous health problems associated with poorly designed clothing (cinch-waist corsets and high heels come to mind). In **Dressed to Kill** the authors argue that the constrictive nature of bras results in suppression of the lymphatic system, leading to the accumulation of toxins in breast tissue — an environment ripe for a variety of health problems,

including breast cancer. And they support their theory with figures from a large and detailed study. The book is well written and thoughtful, and takes a fairly strong feminist position on the bullshit women go through around their breasts in this culture. I'm not a medical person, but this book just seems to make a lot of sense. The cover is somewhat silly — a painting of a lacy bra with a bow in the center — but the subtitle stands out very clearly. I would pick this one off the shelf to take a look at, and I bet a lot of your customers will, too. (And maybe it *is* time to just go ahead and burn the damn things!) \$11.95 pb, 0-89529-664-0. Avery Publishing Group, 89 Baldwin Terrace, Wayne NJ 07470. Distributed by Publishers Group West.

By the year 2000, nearly 40 percent of the children in America's classrooms will be African American, Hispanic, Asian or Native American — yet most of those children's teachers will be white. In **Other People's Children: Cultural Conflict in the Classroom** Lisa Delpit offers a radical and piercing analysis of what is going on in American classrooms today and suggests that many of the academic problems attributed to children of color are actually the result of miscommunication as schools and "other people's children" struggle with the imbalance of power and the dynamics of inequality plaguing our system. What must be done to help teachers and students better understand each other? How can we stop training teachers to expect less of certain children? Delpit introduces the idea of teachers as "cultural translators" as she attempts to answer these questions and to rethink the classroom for the 21st century. \$21 cl, 1-56584-179-4.

Women Pay More (And How to Put a Stop to It) by Frances Cerra Whittelsey and Marcia Carroll illustrates how, in a whole range of fields from medicine and weight-loss programs to divorce law and sporting activities, women pay more for the same services than do men. For example, in Chicago, male and female participants were sent out with a set script to bargain for a used car; women ended up with prices 40% higher than those for men. And in Boston, a survey found that half the city's dry cleaners charged women customers up to three times more than men to clean a plain oxford cloth shirt. In **Women Pay More** the authors have created a pocket guide to unfair pricing practices and how women can avoid or

counter them. Take a look — you'll be shocked, pissed off, but prepared to take action against this kind of gender discrimination. \$9.95 pb, 1-56584-224-3.

The New Press, 450 W. 41st Street, New York NY 10036. Distributed by IN.

The Vocabulary of Peace: Life, Culture, and Politics in the Middle East is the first collection in English of essays by the distinguished Hebrew writer Shulamith Hareven, the first woman admitted as a full member to the Academy of the Hebrew Language. In the pieces collected here, Hareven looks at life and literature in Israel and the Middle East from her perspective as a Levantine, a woman and a Jerusalemite. Whether juxtaposing portraits of a West Bank settler and an Arab terrorist; explaining the need for real leaders, not charismatic ones; or evaluating the essence and value of myth, Hareven leads us far into the past and widely into the present in her search for a "vocabulary of peace" to guide us through the future. \$14.95 pb, 1-56279-072-2, Mercury House, 201 Filbert Street Suite 400, San Francisco CA 94133. Distributed by Consortium, BP, IN.

From Zed Books comes two new titles of interest: **Women and Work** by Susan Bullock draws together research on gender, work and development worldwide and emphasizes that the concept of work should include not only paid labor but all of those activities which contribute to production and development, most especially the "invisible" work that women do, which in the past has not been acknowledged as work at all. A strong international focus, hard-hitting political truths about the North/South divide, and excellent layout, design and graphics make this an important and accessible book. \$17.50 pb, 1-85649-118-8.

Women and Violence: Realities and Responses Worldwide edited by Miranda Davies highlights the extent of the problem of violence against women worldwide through the experiences and ideas of individual women and groups from over 30 countries as diverse as New Guinea, Argentina, Tanzania, France,

Scotland, Bosnia, India and Tibet. Broadly divided by theme, their writings examine the incidence of domestic violence and child sexual abuse, sexual harassment in the workplace, rape, torture in war, genital mutilation and the effects of male violence on women's reproductive health. Balancing this disturbing picture are illustrations, cartoons and posters throughout that attest to the wealth of activity generated by grassroots women's organizations to find solutions to these problems in women's lives. \$22.50 pb, 1-85649-146-3.

Zed Books, 7 Cynthia Street, London N1 9Jf England. Distributed by IN, Humanities Press International.



Illustration by Tripurari Sharma/Kali for Women, from *Women and Violence: Realities and Responses Worldwide* (Zed Books)

And some especially noteworthy children's books that have come through the door recently:

From Northland Publishing comes **Grandmother Spider Brings the Sun: A Cherokee Story** by Navajo writer Geri Keams, illustrated by James Bernardin. It tells the story of how light is brought to the dark side of the world where the animals are always bumping into each other and getting lost. Coyote convinces the animals that they should steal a piece of the sun; shy possum and cocky buzzard make attempts to do so, with hilarious results. But it is the most unlikely individual — tiny, wise old Grandmother Spider — who has the best idea, and she is still honored for her achievement today. Beautiful illustrations; a fantastic book! \$14.95 cl, 0-87358-597-6, Northland Publishing, PO Box 1389, Flagstaff AZ 86002. Distributed by BP, IN.

Eye Spy: A Mysterious Alphabet is by our very own Linda Bourke, designer of the Feminist Bookstore Network logo! At first glance it's a simple alphabet book featuring panels of gorgeous illustrations, but it is also a two-tiered guessing game. Readers must guess the answer to the visual riddle on each page by determining the connection between four pictures. Once this initial puzzle is solved, it's time to find the clue to the next letter's puzzle cleverly hidden within the fourth illustration. This is a beautiful, delightful book that adults will love as much as kids. Bravo,

Linda! \$15.95 cl, 0-87701-805-7, Chronicle Books, 275 Fifth Street, San Francisco CA 94103. Distributed by BP, IN.

And don't miss **White Bead Ceremony: Mary Greyfeather Gets Her Native American Name** by Shawnee/Cherokee author Sherrin Watkins, illustrated by Kim Doner. For ages 4-10, this is the first in a series about Mary Greyfeather, a contemporary Shawnee girl, whose world bridges two distinct cultures — traditional Shawnee and contemporary American. Mary's mother wants her to learn about her Shawnee heritage, but Mary is more interested in Barbie dolls. Grandma suggests a Shawnee naming ceremony for Mary, complete with the traditional naming gift, a strand of white beads. This is the story of what happens when the Greyfeather clan gathers to decide on a name for Mary. Will she be named for the *mseewi womhsoomi* (the grass eaters), the *thepati womhsoomi* (the claw animals) or the *mayataykamshi* (the swimming animals)? This is an unusual and beautiful book. The illustrations will knock your socks off, and the writing is excellent. \$16.95 cl, 0-933031-92-0, Council Oak Books, 1350 E. 15th Street, Tulsa OK 74120. Distributed by Ingram, BP, Baker & Taylor.

Note: Pluto Press books are now distributed in the U.S. by InBook (formerly distributed by Westview Press). ○

BLOOD KISS
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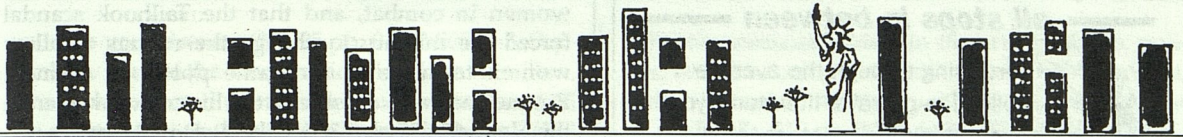
BLOOD KISS: VAMPIRE EROTICA, edited by Cecilia Tan
\$9.95 trade paper 1-885865-00-7
"What a great collection!" says **Pam Keeseey**, editor of *Daughters of Darkness: Lesbian Vampire Stories* about **Blood Kiss**, the latest anthology of erotic fantasy from Circllet Press. **Blood Kiss** brings together lesbian and gay male tales of vampiric allure.

WORLDS OF WOMEN: SAPPHIC SF EROTICA
\$5.95 trade paper 0-9633970-6-0 edited by Cecilia Tan
"Fabulous books! There's nothing else like them!" So said **Susie Bright** when she praised Circllet Press' erotic science fiction anthologies, including **Worlds of Women**, from which she chose the story "None of the Above" by Bernadette Lynn Bosky for inclusion in the 1994 **Best American Erotica**. Lesbian & bi women.

Available direct from us (call 617-262-5272 for terms) or get them from *Inland*, *Alamo Square*, or *Last Gasp!*



AND ON PUBLISHER'S ROW



Compiled by Beth Morgan

ADDISON-WESLEY

Not specifically a women's book, but certainly crucial to women's experiences in the mental health field in this country is Paula J. Caplan's *They Say You're Crazy: How the World's Most Powerful Psychiatrists Decide Who's Normal*. Once a consultant to the exclusive (all white, all male) group that writes the *DSM* — the "bible" of the mental health profession — Caplan here exposes how unscientific and potentially dangerous the *DSM* really is. Caplan reveals, for instance, how many "problems in living" such as mourning, loneliness, disempowerment, insecurity, shame, anxiety, and anger become medical conditions at the hands of this elite group. Carol Tavris calls this book "A marvelous insider's story of how psychiatric diagnoses are invented — how subjective, political, and personal agendas are dressed up in the lab coats of science and offered to the public as 'truth'." And I'm sure it won't come as a surprise to you that this process often has disastrous consequences for women and minorities. Looks like a fascinating read, but you may want to wait for paper. \$22 cl, 0-201-40758-2. —*fbn*

BANTAM/DELL/DOUBLEDAY

Dearest Brothers, Love Awaits: Much Peace, Your Sisters: African American Women Talk About Sex, Love and Life is a collection of twenty-six interviews of African American women by filmmaker Courtney Long. Informal and in-your-face, profound and sometimes profane, *Love Awaits* presents the voices of Black women strong enough to vent their frustrations about their brothers and open enough to talk about their desire to be loved by them. Addressing a wide range of topics — love, sex, respect, race,

politics, unity, spirituality, cultural pride — these voices comprise a first step toward building a bridge of mutual understanding and creating a common ground for love and relationship. \$21.95 cl, 0-553-09702-4.

Little Girls in Pretty Boxes: The Making & Breaking of Elite Gymnasts & Figure Skaters by Joan Ryan details the dilemma of young women who risk their health and stability to compete at the highest levels of competition. I was appalled to learn of the destructive systems of training that are used on these young girls. Did you know that several elite gymnasts were paralyzed during training for the last Olympics? \$22.95 cl, 0-385-47790-2, Doubleday.



And Say Hi to Joyce: America's First Gay Column Comes Out by Deb Price and Joyce Murdoch — "Erma Bombeck meets Armistead Maupin in this collection of nationally syndicated columns about day to day gay life." Book includes many of Price's columns, along with commentary by Murdoch, tracing the history of the column and its impact on mainstream journalism. \$22.50 cl, 0-385-47365-6, Doubleday.

Arranged Marriage: Stories by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni is a collection of stories featuring Indian-born women whose ties to tradition and memories of home intrude on their new lives in America. Might want to wait for paper unless you're sure of your store's audience. \$19.95 cl, 0-385-47558-6, Anchor, July.

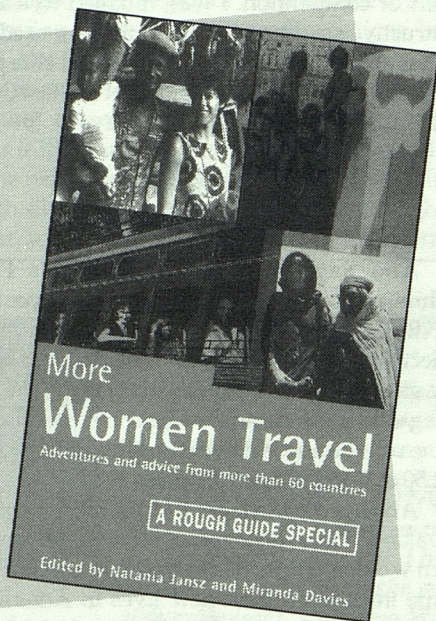
Joining the Tribe: Growing Up Gay and Lesbian in the 1990's by Linnea Due is a portrait of gay and lesbian teenagers as an endangered and vulnerable community whose diversity, courage and resiliency

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ROUGH GUIDES are
distributed by Penguin USA

will inspire gay and straight readers alike. \$12.95 pb, 0-385-47500-4, Anchor, September.

In Tailspin: Women at War in the Wake of Tailhook, Jean Zimmerman contends that Tailhook was the result of the U.S. military's refusal to allow women in combat, and that the Tailhook scandal forced the military to change the rulings to allow women to serve in the same positions as men. Zimmerman also chronicles the history of women in the Navy. \$24.95 cl, 0-385-47789-9, Doubleday.

Skin Deep: Women on Race, an anthology edited by Marita Golden and Susan Richards Shreve collects twenty pieces — essays, stories, a poem and a play — which look at contemporary relationships between Black and white women. \$22.95 cl, 0-385-47409-1, Doubleday/Nan A. Talese, July.

In and Out of Vogue: A Memoir by Grace Mirabella, with Judith Warner. Mirabella forthrightly describes her life at the top of the fashion world, her thirty-eight years at *Vogue* magazine, and her current position as the driving force behind *Mirabella* magazine. Publisher is planning a promotion to feminist publications. \$25 cl, 0-385-42613-5, Doubleday, September.

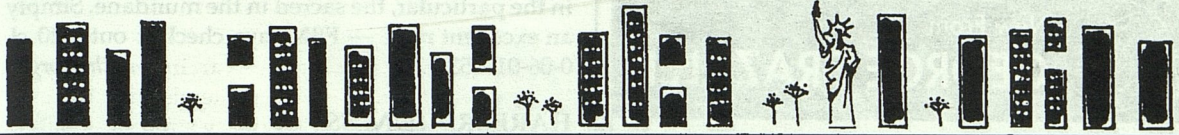
Largely Positive: Self Esteem Comes in All Sizes by Carol A. Johnson looks good. It's another "how to love yourself and enjoy your life as a large person" book, which will probably sell better in paper. \$18.95 cl, 0-385-47565-9, Doubleday, September.

Ellen Sue Stern has several new meditation books this August. **Starting Over: Meditations for Divorced Women** has encouraging advice from Ann Landers, Maya Angelou and hosts of others (\$8.95 pb, 0-440-50595-X). **In My Prime: Meditations for Women in Midlife** looks good. However, I've seen several meditation books recently aimed at this crowd. Just how many meditation books do they think it takes to get us baby boomers through menopause? (\$8.95 pb, 0-440-50596-8).



Now out in paper:

I Could Do Anything If I Only Knew What It Was: How to Discover What You Really Want & How to Get It by Barbara Sher and Barbara Smith is an empowering, life changing book that really can help



you live your dreams (\$11.95 pb, 0-440-50500-3, September). **Map of the World**, a novel by Jane Hamilton, "maps the best and worst of the human heart and all the mysterious, uncharted country in between" (\$12 pb, 0-385-47311-7, Anchor). **Minding the Body: Women Writers on Body and Soul** edited by Patricia Foster still has the horrible cover that will stop many women from picking it up. Between the covers, it explores the psychological and political aspects of a woman's body in today's culture (\$11 pb, 0-385-47167-X, Anchor, July). **Women of the Asylum: Voices from Behind the Walls 1840-1945** edited by Jeffrey L. Geller and Maxine Harris collects the fascinating, sometimes frightening, always moving stories of women who were committed, often unjustly, to psychiatric hospitals (\$12.95 pb, 0-385-47423-7, Anchor, September). - **Financial Self Defense for Unmarried Couples: How to Gain Financial Protection Denied by Law** by Larry Elkinnow (previously titled *First Comes Love*) is aimed at lesbian and gay audiences, as well as senior citizens and other non-married couples. Very helpful information (\$15 pb, 0-385-47173-4, Doubleday/Currency, July). —*Dorothy Holland*



BERKLEY

In Sexual Violence: Our War Against Rape Linda A. Fairstein provides a firsthand account of her struggle for victims' rights. Fairstein is the director of Manhattan's Sex Crimes Prosecution Unit. \$12.95 pb, 0-425-14780-0, Berkley.

100 Things I'm Not Going to Do Now That I'm Over 50 by Wendy Reid Crisp celebrates the time of our life when it's finally OK to ignore other people's opinions, kick up our heels, and kick up a fuss. Crisp is the director of the National Association of Female Executives. \$14 pb, 0-399-51936-X, Berkley.

Gay and Lesbian Address Book by the Editors of *OUT Magazine* lists names and addresses of more than

3,500 homosexual leaders in the arts, business, politics, activism, culture and more. Their bookstore list, sadly, is based on ABA's gay & lesbian bookstores list — not FBN's. \$12 pb, 0-399-51933-5, Berkley.

Amazon Spirit: Daily Meditations for Lesbians in Recovery by Eleanor Nealy offers healing words of strength and insight for many of life's most difficult challenges (\$10 pb, 0-399-51940-8, Perigee). Also available is **Lavender Light: Daily Meditations for Gay Men in Recovery** by Adrian Milton (\$10 pb, 0-399-51939-4, Perigee). —*Dorothy Holland*



CROWN

In The Apartheid of Sex: A Manifesto on the Freedom of Gender Martine Rothblatt argues that "legal gender categories are irrelevant for any social purpose and are a failure as a predictor of behavior," and asks, if this labeling is useless and limiting, why do it? Rothblatt goes on to discuss what a multi-gendered society might be like; why a sexual spectrum is more valid and healthier than our current dual-sex system; how and why unisex prisons, restrooms and sports competitions would work; why gender categories based on reproductive roles, hormones and behavioral differences or genetics are not valid; and why gender classification is similar to, and just as harmful as, racial apartheid. Looks very interesting. \$21 cl, 0-517-59997-X.

—*Beth Morgan*

HARPERCOLLINS

Wild Ride: Earthquakes, Sneezes and Other Thrills, collected personal essays by Bia Lowe, is a spectacular and inventive mix of memoir, astute social observation and bravura nature writing. Whether she's recounting the natural history of the pigeon or her stint as a drummer for The Love Machine, an all-lesbian garage band, Lowe's gorgeous, unstintingly honest voice finds the universal



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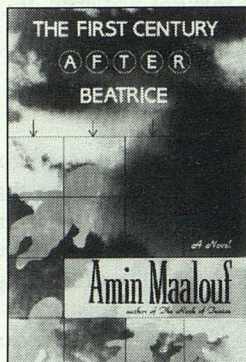


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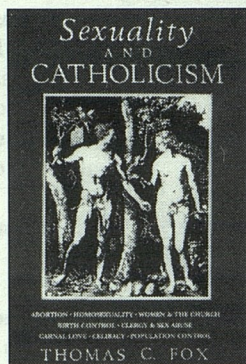


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in the particular, the sacred in the mundane. Simply an excellent read — FBN says check it out! \$20 cl, 0-06-019053-1.
—Beth Morgan

HARPERBUSINESS

Clicking by Faith Popcorn, with Lys Marigold, tells how to position yourself and your business for the way things will be. Popcorn is probably the leading futurist for businesses today. I think Feminist Bookstores can benefit greatly from her information. Carry this for your customers, but devour it yourself first. \$22 cl, 0-88730-694-2, August.

—Dorothy Holland

HARPERBASICBOOKS

The Man Who Never Was by Janet Sayers is "a pioneering look at how illusions about masculinity maintain patriarchal relationships and prevent both women and men from fulfilling their potential." \$24 cl, 0-465-04557-X, August, Basic Books.

The Feminist Classroom by Frances Maher and Mary Kay Thompson Tetrault is an inside look at how professors and students are transforming higher education for a diverse society. \$14 pb, 0-465-02354-1.

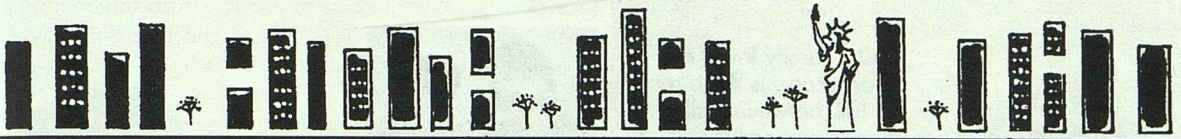
—Dorothy Holland



HARPERPANDORA

Gluck: Her Biography by Diana Souhami tells the fascinating story of artist Hannah Gluckstein. Born in 1895, Gluckstein insisted on her own monosyllabic name, dressed as a man, and had passionate affairs with society women. She acknowledged no influences in her painting and exhibited her work only in "one man" shows. In this fully illustrated biography, Souhami skillfully mines unpublished letters, diaries and manuscripts to reveal not only an extraordinary life but also a much undervalued artist. \$22 pb, 0-04-440545-6.

In Preventing Breast Cancer: The Politics of An Epidemic Dr. Cathy Reid argues that breast cancer is not the mysterious, unavoidable epidemic many would have us believe and addresses the root causes of breast cancer — diet, environment and social structures. Laying bare the politics of an epidemic, Reid calls on everyone, women and health professionals



alike, to “stop the wringing of hands and unravel the real story behind breast cancer.” Looks like a fascinating and well-researched read. \$13 pb, 0-04-440909-5.

Death of a Mother: Daughters’ Stories edited by Rosa Ainley collects over thirty non-fiction pieces by women about the death of their mothers, spanning a startlingly diverse range of emotions and experience — hatred, relief, deepest love, despair. The common theme for all is an eschewing of conventional wisdom, both about relations between mothers and daughters and about grief. Includes work by May Sarton, Marilyn Hacker, Jill Posener, Rahila Gupta and more. \$13 pb, 0-04-440928-1. —*fbn*



HARPERPERENNIAL: now in paper

The Good Divorce by Constance Ahrons has practical guidelines for preserving sanity and balance for yourself and your kids while uncoupling (\$13 pb, 0-06-092634-1, August). **Fever** edited by Michele Slung is a collection of erotica by women for women. Slung also edited *Slow Hand* (\$11 pb, 0-06-092650-3, August). **Mutant Message Down Under** by Marlo Morgan, and since I can’t say nothin’ nice, I won’t say nothin’ at all (\$10 pb, 0-06-092631-7, August).

—*Dorothy Holland*

HARPERSANFRANCISCO

Midlife Meditations for Women by Maureen Brady addresses the joys and concerns of women as they encounter the challenges of midlife. Includes daily affirmations and sage advice on hot flashes, mood swings, wisdom gained and innocence lost. Lots of quotes from such women as Betty Friedan, Margaret Mead, Annie Dillard and more. \$12 pb, 0-06-251148-3. —*fbn*

HEINEMANN

From Heinemann’s exciting new African Writers Series comes four titles that look very good: **Colour**

Me Blue by Gaelle Sobott-Mogwe is a collection of short stories which detail everyday life in South Africa, capturing the casual or determined oppression of men and women, the tenderness of human affection, and the powerful rhythm of African myth (\$9.95 pb, 0-453-90971-1). **The Rape of Sita** by Lindsey Colen is a novel in which ancient myths, folk tales and religious prophesies intertwine with the modern-day story of Sita, a woman who must struggle to remember her own history and rape against a background of many rapes, many violations, many colonizations (\$10.95 pb, 0-435-90958-4). **The Heinemann Book of African Women’s Poetry** edited by Stella and Frank Chipasula is the first major collection of its kind, and offers an extensive selection of poetry in a variety of styles by women throughout the African continent (\$10.95 pb, 0-435-90680-1). **Beyond the Horizon** by Amma Darko is the gripping story of Mara, A Ghanaian village girl deceived by her husband into coming to Europe to find “paradise,” only to be set to work as a prostitute in a German brothel — a painful and deeply moving tale of African women in Europe, and the false hopes of those they leave behind (\$9.95 pb, 0-435-90990-8). —*Beth Morgan*



HYPERION

Fresh Girls by Chinese Canadian writer Evelyn Lau is a hard yet sensitive look at the dark side of desire as girls and women teeter between the adult demands and severed innocence of their troubled lives. Writing in a fierce, poetic style, vibrant with energy, Lau’s work is above all emotionally truthful and insightful as she illustrates how turning tricks and donning leathers can become routine, while love and tenderness seem exotic. A disturbing, powerful writer. \$17.95 cl, 0-7868-6058-8.

And for those stores that have a men’s section or even a general humor section, you’ll want to

"Our family loves to barbecue. Is there really a link between grilled foods and cancer?"
See Chapter 13

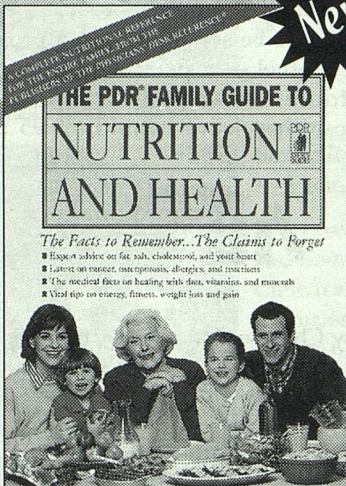


"Our supermarket has started to sell irradiated milk. Is it considered safe?"
See Chapter 13



"My kids love fast food. Is it really that unhealthy?"
See Chapter 32

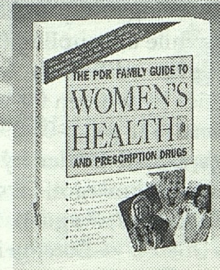
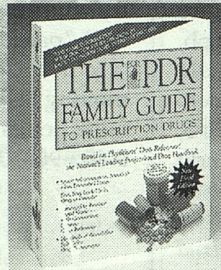
"I've tried a million diets. How do I keep the weight off?"
See Chapter 7



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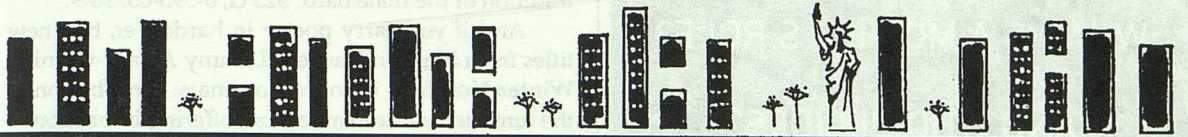


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stock **Growing Up Gay: From Left Out to Coming Out** by Funny Gay Males (Jaffe Cohen, Danny McWilliams and Bob Smith). Growing up gay has almost always been portrayed as poignant and painful, but in this book the Funny Gay Males create an irreverent look at the "gay wonder years" — from secretly yearning for a Barbie and getting a GI Joe, to tuning in to the between-the-lines queer content of *Bewitched* and *Lost in Space*. \$9.95 pb, 0-7868-8056-2.

—Beth Morgan



JOHN WILEY & SONS

From Suzette Haden Elgin, Ph.D. (*The Gentle Art of Verbal Self-Defense*) comes an intriguing new book, **You Can't Say That to Me! Stopping the Pain of Verbal Abuse — An 8-Step Program**. At first glance I thought this was just another in the seemingly endless rash of pop-psych micro-self-management books that have slowly begun to get on my nerves (even a little more irksome because I am a long-time fan of Elgin's splendid science fiction). But the more I looked at this book, the more I began to suspect that there is something quite different going on here. The same brilliant take on psycholinguistics that produced such astonishing books as *Native Tongue* and *The Judas Rose* here teases apart the threads of power and language as we are taught to weave them through our everyday lives. And although it's not explicitly stated, the strategies in this book will be particularly useful for women and other groups whose relationship to language has traditionally been one of disempowerment. For those of you who *have* read Elgin's *Native Tongue*, consider this book as subversive a tool as the creators of Laran themselves might have come up with — a guide to altering our world(s) through altering our relationship to language. \$12.95 pb, 0-471-00399-9.

—Beth Morgan

JOSSEY-BASS

A must for every store's young women's and/or sexual abuse section is **How Long Does it Hurt? A Guide to Recovering from Incest and Sexual Abuse for Teenagers, Their Friends, and Their Families** by Cynthia L. Mather, foreword by Eliana Gil — an extremely well-done, step-by-step recovery guide for teenagers suffering from sexual abuse. In clear, accessible language the author offers lots of practical advice on a variety of crucial issues including knowing who to tell, getting safe, dealing with friends, becoming comfortable with your sexuality, going to court, living with your family after you tell, and surviving the trauma of sexual abuse. It's obvious that a lot of thought and care went into this book — text, layout and graphics make it a very adolescent-friendly resource. I haven't seen anything else like this. It's a winner. \$15 pb, 1-55542-674-3.

—Beth Morgan

NORTON

The Stories That Shape Us: Contemporary Women Write About the West edited by Teresa Jordan and James Hepworth collects twenty-six personal essays ranging widely across the cultures and regions of the West, in stories that speak of family and community, race and gender, commitment and displacement, grief and repair, spirituality and connection. This is a marvelous anthology that disrupts and challenges conceptions of what is truly "western." Includes work by Evelyn C. White, Judith Barrington, Maxine Hong Kingston, Leslie Marmon Silko, Kathleen Tyau and more. \$23 cl, 0-393-03723-1.



In **Object Lessons: The Life of the Woman and the Poet in Our Time** acclaimed Irish poet Eavan Boland recounts the arduous and wondrous origins of her own poetic voice — a profoundly female sensibility that emerged into a culture steeped in the Irish

WHAT IS A MOTHER'S ROLE?
AND WHO DECIDES?



THE MYTHS OF
MOTHERHOOD

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Shari L. Thurer



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—SUSAN BROWN MILLER,

AUTHOR OF *Against Our Will and Femininity*

Painting: Elisabeth Louise Vigée-Lebrun, Madame Vigée-Lebrun and her daughter, 1789, Musée du Louvre, Paris. Photograph inset: Giraudon/Art Resource, NY.



AT BOOKSTORES NOW FROM PENGUIN

tradition of the male bard. \$23 cl, 0-393-03716-9.

And if you carry poetry in hardcover, two new titles from Marilyn Hacker: Lammy Award-winning **Winter Numbers** is an extraordinary contribution to the feminist and lesbian canon, offering impassioned meditations on the scourges of AIDS and cancer among the poet's friends and contemporaries, and on the parallel scourge of social indifference; and erotically-tinged elegies that lead to an account of Hacker's own battle with breast cancer. Remarkable (\$17.95 cl, 0-393-03674-X). **Selected Poems 1965-1990** is a generous selection representing five volumes of Hacker's previous work — twenty-five years of forthright, feminist, politically-astute and unabashedly erotic poetry. A superb collection (\$22 cl, 0-393-03675-8).

The Blue Woman is a new collection of sixteen stories by Mary Flanagan (*Bad Girls, Trust*). With surprising reversals and unnerving twists, Flanagan tests the boundaries of female roles and relationships in stories that are alternately hilarious and starkly disturbing, exploring that dangerous place where orderly conduct tips into chaos and where the ordinary becomes the extraordinary. \$21 cl, 0-393-03803-3.

—fbn

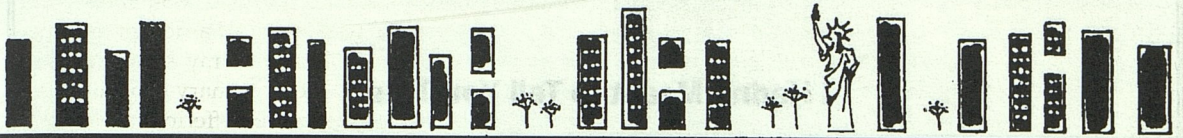


PENGUIN, OVERLOOK, ZEBRA
& KENSINGTON (combine for discount)

More Women Travel: Adventures and Advice from More Than 60 Countries edited by Miranda Davies and Natania Jansz is a new edition of the *Women Travel* anthology. Eighty contemporary women travellers describe their experiences, from trekking to beach walking. \$14.95 pb, 1-85828-098-2, Rough Guide, Penguin.

Myths of Motherhood: How Culture Reinvents the Myth of the Good Mother by Shari L. Thurer is a history of motherhood from the Stone Age to Hillary Clinton. Shows that a lot of cultural ideas of motherhood are total myth. \$12.95 pb, 0-14024683-5, Penguin.

Rattlebone by Maxine Clair takes place in a fictional town in the 1950s as Brown v. Board of Education is happening across the river. This series of interrelated stories looks at the emotional, financial and social conflicts governing the lives of the African American community at the time. \$9.95 pb, 0-14-024825-0, Penguin.



A Match to the Heart: One Woman's Story of Being Struck by Lightning by Gretel Ehrlich tells Ehrlich's experience of almost dying from a lightning strike in Wyoming, and her journey back to the land of the living. \$10.95 pb, 0-14-017937-2, Penguin.

Battling Bias: The Struggle for Identity and Community on College Campuses by Ruth Sidel will be of interest to stores near campuses. \$11.95 pb, 0-14-015831-6, August, Penguin.

Temporary Agency by Rachel Pollack is a fantasy/science fiction title by the woman who created the Shining Woman Tarot Deck. Looks good. \$10.95 pb, 0-87951-602-X, August, Overlook.

Sisters: Devoted or Divided by Susan Ripps is a look at the ties between sisters. \$12 pb, 0-8217-4927-7, Kensington.

Friends for Life by Meg Wolitzer (*Hidden*

Pictures) is a novel about the friendship of three women who have known each other since the fifth grade, and still meet once a month at a New York restaurant. \$4.99 pb, 0-8217-5037-2, August, Zebra.

—Dorothy Holland



RANDOM HOUSE

Private Altars by first-time novelist Katherine Mosby is the complex and beautifully written story of Vienna Daniels, an educated young New York woman who elopes with Willard, a charming Southerner she hardly knows, and then moves to his family seat in rural West Virginia to begin her new life. Absorbed in writing an epic poem, Vienna

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PB 1-56032-338-8 • \$22.95

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Liz Stanley

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MESSAGES MEN HEAR:

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Ian M. Harris

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PB 0-7484-0230-6 • \$24.95

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Luc Van Campenhoudt et al.

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CL 0-7484-0345-0 • \$79.00
PB 0-7484-0346-9 • \$24.95

GENDER ISSUES IN AIDS: Psycho-Social Perspectives

Edited by Lorraine Sherr et al.

January 1996 • 192pp
CL 0-7484-0231-4 • \$74.00
PB 0-7484-0232-2 • \$24.95

I Hadn't Meant to Tell You This

For those of you who have been blown away by Jacqueline Woodson's superb novel **Autobiography of a Family Photograph** (and if you haven't read it yet and aren't hand-selling it, don't miss out!), be advised that she is also the author of a truly remarkable series of Young Adult fiction titles, all of them very well-written, strikingly original and full of real-life, complex characters. Woodson does class- and race-fuck as brilliantly as others do gender-fuck — all in a format acceptable to the gatekeepers of YA literature. Here's a sample:

Woodson's newest YA title, **From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun**, sensitively probes issues of racism and sexuality as fourteen-year-old Melanin Sun faces a dramatic turning point in his life with his Mama — the arrival of her new lover, a woman. Suddenly Mama is shutting doors that were always kept open to him, and as if the change in his relationship with Mama isn't enough, Melanin must also find a way to deal with the cruel gossip that's going around the neighborhood. But more than anything else, Melanin Sun must face his own deepest fears and prejudices if he and Mama are ever to be whole again. \$14.95 cl, 0-590-45880-9, Blue Sky Press (Scholastic).



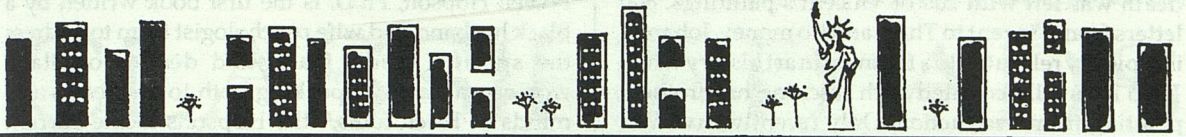
Also in hardcover is Woodson's **I Hadn't Meant to Tell You This**, the powerful and haunting story of two twelve-year-old girls — Marie, Black, and Lena, white — in present-day Chauncey, Ohio. Marie and her father — a college professor — have recently been abandoned by Marie's mother. Lena lives on the wrong side of town and is spurned by her school-mates as "white trash." Drawn to each other, Marie and Lena become best friends and Lena shares a terrible secret with Marie: that since her mother's death her father has been sexually

abusing her. Marie must decide how she can best help her friend — by keeping the secret or telling it. Here, as in her other books, Woodson's take on race, class and sexuality is always fresh, complex and unpredictable. \$14.95 cl, 0-385-32031-0, Delacourte Press (Bantam/Doubleday/Dell).



In **The Dear One**, twelve-year-old Feni's mother takes in her old college friend's fifteen-year-old pregnant daughter, Rebecca. The sparks fly when Rebecca, a street-smart girl from Harlem, spends the last months of her pregnancy in Feni's suburban world. But Feni, her mother, Rebecca and their friends ultimately draw together to help Rebecca decide what's best for herself and for her baby. The novel also portrays the ever-since-Spellman-college-days friendship of Feni and Rebecca's mothers and their third "best friend," and looks at the choices each of the adults made about relationships. One is married and divorced, one dropped out of college to marry, and the third came out — she and her lover teach in Feni's school and form an essential part of Rebecca's support network. Brilliantly done. \$3.50 pb, 0-440-21420-3, Laurel Leaf (Bantam/Doubleday/Dell).

And finally, **Last Summer With Maizon** is the first in a trilogy about Margaret and Maizon, two young Black girls who have promised to be best friends forever, and who find that promise tested by a summer of profound loss and change: Margaret's father dies, and Maizon is offered a scholarship to a boarding school in Connecticut where she may be the only Black student. A wonderful and absolutely real tale about characters who have a strong sense of community and look out for each other as best they can. \$3.50 pb, 0-440-40556-6, Yearling (Bantam/Doubleday/Dell). —*fbn*



refuses to play the role of quiet, beautiful wife at social events, engages in intellectual discussions and aimless barefoot walks with the local schoolmistress, and discourages formal schooling for her two children. The marriage fails, Willard abandons his family, and the life they then create together weaves multiple layers of joy and loss into a vivid and unforgettable story. Of the many novels I've read recently, this one keeps coming back to haunt me. \$21 cl, 0-679-42896-8.

—Beth Morgan

RH-Pantheon

Last House: Reflections, Dreams, and Observations 1943-1991 is the final book in M.F.K. Fisher's trilogy of memoirs (the other volumes are *To Begin Again* and *Stay Me, Oh Comfort Me*). Almost all of the work in **Last House** is previously unpublished, so your M.F.K. Fisher fans will definitely want to pick this one up. \$23 cl, 0-679-43908-0.

—fbn



RH-Times

1995 is the 175th anniversary of Susan B. Anthony's birth, and the 75th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote. To celebrate you may want to showcase a new title, **Failure is Impossible: Susan B. Anthony in Her Own Words** by Lynn Sherr, which for the first time brings together a wide-ranging selection of Anthony's speeches, letters and quotes, linked by Sherr's insightful biographical commentary. "Tired? Bruised? Beleaguered? Confused?" asks journalist Diane Sawyer, "Lynn Sherr and Susan B. Anthony have just the medicine. Wonderful words, invigorating history. Lynn knows the heart and humor of women and provides it in abundance. This is better than a vitamin shot." \$23 cl, 0-8129-2430-4.

No Disrespect by Sister Souljah offers a raw and brutally honest portrait of life in the projects and on the streets, and traces Souljah's life from a terrifying

childhood in a Bronx housing project to college years at Rutgers University and life as a committed activist. "Sister Souljah is one of the most eloquent and articulate spokespersons of her generation. Listen to her courageous and painful words ..." (Cornell West). \$23 cl, 0-8129-2483-5.

—Beth Morgan

SIMON & SCHUSTER

June Jordan's newest, **I Was Looking at the Ceiling and Then I Saw the Sky: Earthquake/Romance** mixes the drama of poetry and song to construct a brilliant opera libretto. Set in South Central Los Angeles, the work explores immigration, birth control, criminal law, and of course, love. A white cop, a Black Baptist minister and an El Salvadoran mother are among the young Americans cast in this heartfelt portrayal of a day in the life of an L.A. neighborhood. The opera is now being performed here in the San Francisco Bay Area, and if I'm lucky I'll get to see it! \$12 cl, 0-684-80422-0, Scribner.

A title you will want to consider for your health or young women's section is **Will I get Breast Cancer? Questions & Answers for Teenage Girls** by Carole G. Vogel. This is a marvelous, low-key and very informative book. It teaches young women about their breasts, explains how breast cancer is diagnosed and treated, offers help and advice about what to expect if someone in a girl's life is under treatment for breast cancer, and offers comfort if she knows someone who is losing the battle to cancer. Most books about breast cancer are written to an adult audience; this one fills a niche. I was especially impressed that the author covers all reconstructive options, including no reconstruction at all. \$14.95 cl, 0-671-88046-2, Silver Burdett Press.



Johanna: A Novel of the Van Gogh Family by Claire Cooperstein tells the story of Johanna, the wife of Vincent's brother Theo, who upon Theo's

death was left with 200 of Vincent's paintings, 600 letters from Vincent to Theo, and no money. Johanna is typically relegated to a footnote in art history while Theo is usually credited with rescuing his brothers painting from destruction. Only recently have Van Gogh scholars acknowledged that were it not for Theo's young widow it is doubtful we would ever have heard of Vincent Van Gogh. From the few published facts about Johanna, and her own extensive research on the lives of women in turn-of-the-century Holland and the avante-garde art scene in Paris, Cooperstein weaves a compelling epistolary novel made up of real and imaginary letters and fictional excerpts from Johanna's diary. \$22 cl, 0-684-80234-1, Scribner.

The tales in *A Wild, Cold State* by Debra Monroe are linked by the cold, unforgiving geography of rural Wisconsin, and run the gamut of moods and textures from bittersweet and nostalgic to hard-edged and gritty. In "Crossroads Cafe" a young waitress discovers that tenderness is harder to find than a decent tip on a slow night; in "The World's Great Love Novels" the narrator comes to terms with the sorrow of her first unrequited love; and in the ruefully funny "Royal Blues" the wife of a musician must cope with her husband's philandering ways and spiraling coke habit. Lurching and dipping with the cadence of conversation, these stories read like slightly surreal dispatches from the thoroughly modern American battlefield of everyday life. \$10 cl, 0-671-89717-9, S&S.



Not by the Sword: How the Love of a Cantor and His Family Transformed a Klansman by Kathryn Watterson tells the story of how a Jewish cantor and his family befriended Larry Trapp, a grand dragon of the Ku Klux Klan, and how the redemptive power of love and connection transformed a man of hate and violence into an advocate for tolerance and justice. The writing is a bit heavy-handed at times, but the story itself is so powerful you'll find yourself getting goosebumps. \$23 cl, 0-671-86893-4, S&S.

Friends, Lovers and Soul Mates: A Guide to Better Relationships Between Black Men and Women by Derek S. Hopson, Ph.D. and Darlene

Powell Hopson, Ph.D. is the first book written by a Black husband and wife psychologist team to address the specific needs, fears, and desires of Black women and men. "Speaking both to the hearts and minds of Black folks," the Hopsons locate current problems of commitment and loyalty in Black America in a historical context, offering insights into how to deal with such special problems as the myth of Black men and infidelity, and how to protect relationships from ongoing racial bias and prejudices. As the title would suggest, however, this book is strictly heterosexual — homosexuality is mentioned only once, in relation to its negative effect on the ratio of Black heterosexual men to Black heterosexual women. \$10 pb, 0-671-50561-0, Fireside.

In *Fare Play* by Barbara Paul, detective Marian Larch investigates a sensitive murder case while being harassed by male officers who can't handle her recent promotion to lieutenant. Meanwhile, she's scheduled to be the best *man* at a wedding. Our galley copy is wearing out, we keep passing it on, saying "Here's one you'll enjoy." \$20 cl, 0-684-19715-4, Scribners.

—Beth Morgan



ST. MARTIN'S

Transitions: New Australian Feminisms edited by Barbara Caine and Rosemary Pringle collects work by some of Australia's leading feminist writers and talented young scholars, offering a systematic overview of the ways in which recent feminist analysis is shaping the field of women's studies. \$16.95 pb, 0-312-12548-8.

—fhn ○

Correction

The following titles are published by The New Press, *not* New Directions as we incorrectly listed in our last issue: *Art on My Mind* by bell hooks; *Words of Fire: A History of Black Female Resistance* by Beverly Guy-Sheftall (title change from *Claiming Feminism*); *Tesserae* by Denise Levertov; *English is Broken Here: Notes on Cultural Fusion in the Americas* by Coco Fusco; and *Coming of Age in America: A Multicultural Anthology* edited by Mary Frosch. Our apologies to both presses for any confusion that may have resulted from our error.

CLASSIFIED ADS & LITERARY PERSONALS

STORE FOR SALE

Feminist Bookstore for Sale: Aquarius Books, small store in its seventh year in scenic Bloomington, Indiana, hometown of the National Women's Music Festival and Indiana University. \$21,500. 812-336-0988.

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Feminist Bookstore Owners/Managers: I am writing a book on the herstory of feminist bookstores in the U.S., 1970-1995. I am very interested in the connections between bookstores and the communities that they serve and interact with. I am also trying to track down information from women who operated early bookstores (1970-1979) and/or were in bookstore collectives.

Please send information, inquiries, requests for questionnaires, etc. to Cathy Lundoff, PO Box 984, Iowa City IA 52244 or call 319-358-8778. Thanks.

Women in Print: I am working on a history of feminist publishing companies and print shops — 1970-1990. I'd like to be able to include as much information as possible in this book, but need to locate women who were connected to or know something about the following presses: Women's Press Collective, Oakland CA; Violet Press, New York City; New Seed, Berkeley CA; Diana Press, Baltimore MD & Oakland CA; Magaera/Mother Jones, Northampton MA; UP Press, Palo Alto CA; Fly By Night, Austin TX; Out and Out Books, Brooklyn NY; Olive Press, Portland OR; Moon Books, Berkeley CA; Northwest Matrix/Jackrabbit, Eugene OR; Ms Atlas, San Jose CA; Timely Books, Chattanooga TN; Frog in the Well, San Francisco CA; Crones Own, Durham NC; New Sage, Pasadena CA; Silverleaf, Seattle WA. If you have any information please call Beth Dingman, New Victoria Publishers, 800-326-5297. Thanks.

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Feminist Bookstore News

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