
Feminist Bookstore News



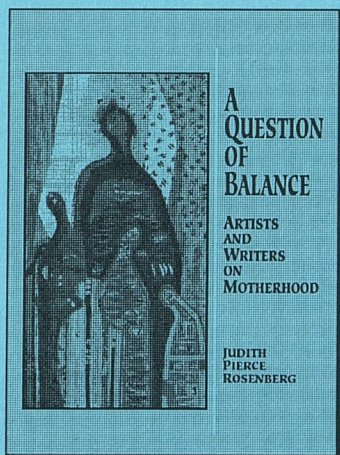
November/December 1995

Volume 18 Number 4

Femina Serial Am F32978

4/19/96

New Stars for the Fall Season



★ *A Question of Balance:* Artists and Writers on Motherhood

Judith Pierce Rosenberg

Ursula Le Guin, Rita Dove, Dorothy Allison, Faith Ringgold, Linda Vallejo, Joyce Maynard, Kate Braverman, Rosellen Brown and seventeen other remarkable artists and writers illuminate how their challenging and renewing experiences as mothers have shaped their creative work. "... a wealth of insights into the creative life and motherhood, as well as no-nonsense advice to women seeking to combine the two." —(★) Publishers Weekly

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288 pages, 7 x 9.25, 5-color cover, acid-free paper
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ISBN 0-918949-54-8, cloth, \$25.00
Pub. date: September 1995

Legacy: Gifts from a Grandmother, Elizabeth A. Mikesell, Quotes for daily living by "Grandma." Compact for easy cash register selling. 80 pages, 6 x 4.5, 5-color cover, ISBN 0-918949-68-8, paper, \$6.00. Pub. date: August 1995

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

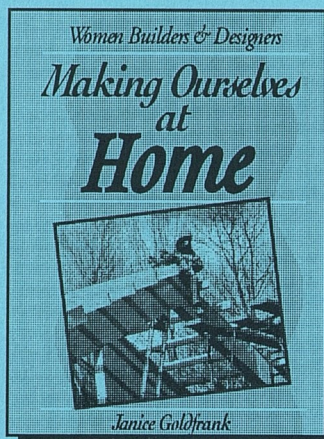
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★ *Making Ourselves at Home:* Women Builders & Designers

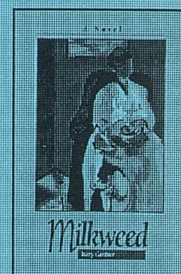
Janice Goldfrank

Incredible true accounts of women who mustered the courage and resources to do what few men and even fewer women ever do: design and build their own homes. From architects to novices, experiences range from building log cabins to adobes to highrises. Oversized and loaded with photos, this is a unique book about women's home building.

- 10,000 First Printing • National Workshop Tour
- Direct Mail to Consumers • In-Store Support Materials
- National Ads & Publicity

250 pages, 8.5 x 11, 5-color cover, acid-free paper
ISBN 0-918949-26-2, paper, \$20.00
Pub. date: October 1995

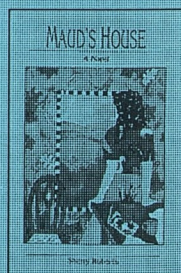
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Milkweed
Mary Gardner

- Regional Author Tour
- National Ads & Publicity

308 pages, 6 x 9,
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Pub. date: August 1995

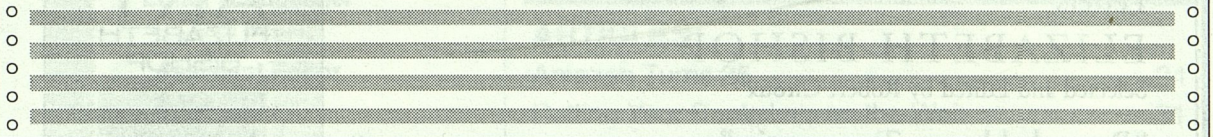


Maud's House
Sherry Roberts

- National Ads & Publicity

200 pages, 6 x 9
ISBN 0-918949-28-9
paper, \$11.00
Pub. date: August 1995

NOTES FROM THE COMPUTER TABLE



This fall has been a time of comings and goings. It's been very difficult to watch the closing of Old Wives' Tales, the bookstore that I dreamed into existence and co-founded with Paula Wallace in 1976. (See "They Went That-A-Way.") During these same months I also watched one of my first customers, a gay man who always seemed to have a gut-level understanding of feminism, lose his fight with AIDS. Both seem to be such unnecessary losses. Both generate such anger and grief.

The only peace I've ever found for that kind of anger is activism; the only relief for grief, vitality and joy. All of which have been abundant during these months. Work on The Feminist Bookstores' Fall Catalog, a promotion and survival tool for feminist bookstores, satisfies that need for activism. The Catalog rolled off the presses early in October and I took myself to Minneapolis to watch it race through that big web press. I got to hang out with the Amazon gang and then drove up Highway 17 to Thunder Bay to visit the Northern Women's Bookstore and stopped along the way to visit Spinsters Ink, the Duluth Women's Building, At Sara's Table, the Duluth feminist bookstore/cafe, and Norcroft, a women writers' retreat. (Next year there will be fewer on-press crises and I'll get to visit more Minneapolis friends and bookstores!) In the difficult moments of this fall I take myself back to the top of Mt. Josephine where I sat with Lake Superior and the Susie Islands reaching toward one horizon, the autumn tree covered hills rolling off toward another, and all of the feminist book institutions I'd just visited on my mental horizon....

And in keeping with that need for joy, this issue of FBN celebrates Amazon's 25th Anniversary with an article that looks at the store's history and at some of the issues and challenges they have addressed over the years. We also look at the everyday heroics

practiced at women's bookstores ("A Pat on the Back"), then take a stroll on the electronic side ("Putting Your Bookstore on the World Wide Web") and a quick walk on the wild side with a look at the explosion in lesbian erotic literature.

This issue features Suzanne's (Two Sisters) first Sidelines Column, FBN's new assistant editor Jenn Tust's first articles, and my own newly expanded "Trivia and Commentary" column. Please also join me in welcoming our new administrative assistant, Cathleen Moore, to FBN.

And please see News, That-A-Way, and Trivia & Commentary for more anniversaries and birthdays.

Yours in spreading the words,
Carol Seajay

FBN Deadlines

International Voices (Jan.)

November 10

Spring Announcements

January 5

ABA Issue (May)

March 1

ONE ART

Letters

ELIZABETH BISHOP

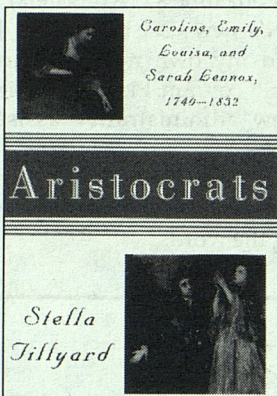
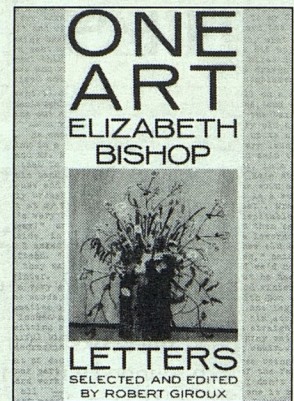
Selected and Edited by Robert Giroux

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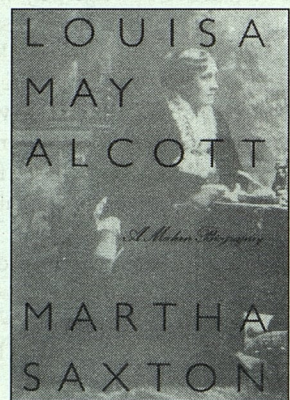
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CONTENTS

ARTICLES

Amazon Turns 25	24
Putting Your Bookstore on the Web	31
Herland: A Pat On the Back	42
Trends in Lesbian Pornography	39
Bookstore News	15
Letters	5
News/Short Stories	9
Feminist Bookstores Make Prime Time • Loan Fund for Women • <i>Forbidden Passages</i> in Canada • InBook/WomanSource Sold? • New Victoria Turns 20 • Paradigm Suspends Publishing • New Location for G/L/F ABA Aisle • Lesbian Poet Granted Asylum	

DEPARTMENTS

Ad Index	95
Announcements	20
Back to Press & Other Good News	50
Classified Ads	96
Short Raves	43
Subscription Information	30
They Went That-A-Way	45
Trivia & Commentary	21
Writing Wanted	54

THE BOOKS

Art Books	51
Canadian Books	53
Multimedia	57
Music News	47
Mysteries	55
Our Own Presses	63
Publisher's Row	89
Science Fiction	59
Sidelines	35
The Small Presses	69
University Presses	83

NORTHEASTERN

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Lucie Adelsberger, M.D.

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Historical advice and annotations by Arthur J. Slavin

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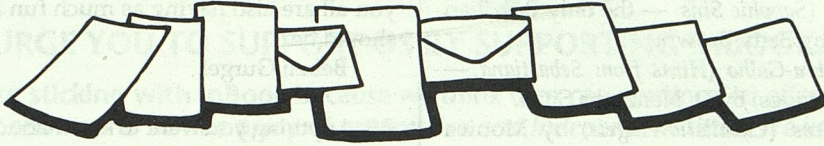
It focuses mainly on women as composers and performers, and includes documents such as letters, diaries, autobiographies, poems, novels, and interviews.

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LETTERS



Volumes of Pleasure Bookshop
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Dear FBN,

I'm enclosing a flier for *Contract with the American Family: A Bold Plan by Christian Coalition to Strengthen the Family and Restore Common-Sense Values* which was sent to all Ingram customers which is about 99% of all bookstores in America.

I am incensed. "We" need to select the best book we can think of as an antidote to this one and demand that Ingram send a flier out on it in similar coverage to this one.

Perhaps Spong's book *Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism* or Peter McWilliams *Ain't Nobody's Business If You Do* or a better one if we can come up with one — There are a couple of excellent ones by University Presses exposing the arrogance of Christianity but they are expensive and too academic.

What do you think?

Carroll Leslie



Lilith
Livraria Feminista
Rua XV De Novembro
420 Loja 3 Galeria
Schaffer CEP 80020
Curitiba Paraná Brazil

Hello FBN,

Guess what? We are still alive...

My bookstore still exists, is surviving. It is still the only feminist bookstore in the country. In September it will celebrate four years of Brazilian survival! Can you imagine this? We are all surviving in this country.

I am really sorry for not writing you before, but my personal life has been chaos since I last wrote you. Apart from that — the Brazilian economy is crazier than ever. Our money changed its name three times in one year!!! Nobody can calculate the inflation anymore. A normal book, I mean, 120 pages from a Brazilian author (this means no translation), simple cover, format 13X21 cm. doesn't run less than \$25!! Books are very, very expensive in Brazil, much more than a CD.

So, of course, I don't get a penny from Lilith and I have to do other things to pay my bills such as borrow money from my mother, father and friends...

Well, in fact, I would like to ask all the feminist bookstores, if you can, to send me books you don't want anymore (new or used) for my bookstore. I really don't have much money to buy foreign books now. Any books about health, lesbians, biographies, black women, poetry...in any language, will be very much welcome. Also t-shirts, buttons and so on. I thank you all in advance! (Once I received a very nice box with books from Charis: Books & More, which I thank again).

I have some good news too. I wrote (under pseudonym — it is a long story) the very first lesbian novel from the country and the book is selling quite a lot. It's been on the bestseller list for two weeks now. I didn't get my copyright money yet because in Brazil the publishing house pays 10% of the already sold books, every three months! It is the only novel ever written about Brazilian lesbians. And it is quite erotic and provocative. (Hello people from Naiad and Firebrand!!! What about translating a bestseller Brazilian lesbian novel?!?)

Besides publishing the novel, I am trying to open, with five other women, the first feminist publishing house in Brazil. Of course, we are still very much in

the beginnings, but it is going OK. So far only arrangements, nothing is concrete yet. But it will work, it will definitely work well.

So, the ten books I am selling the most now are:

- *Pecados Safados (Sapphic Sins* — the only Brazilian lesbian novel) by Betty Brown.
- *Sebastiana Quebra-Galho (Hints from Sebastiana* — hints for housewives) by D. Nenzinha Silva.
- *Anjos Cabalísticos (Cabalistic Angels)* by Monica Buonfiglio.
- *Pele De Gaya (Gaya Skin* — testimonies from Brazilian lesbians) by Conceição Couto Neto.
- *Manual Do Orgasmo (Orgasm Manual)* by Marilene Vargas.
- *A Quem Interessar Possa (To Whom it May Concern* — feminist romance) by Bebeti Gurgel.
- *Teatro Essencial (The Essential Theater* — thoughts about theater) by Denise Stocklos.
- *Paixão Segundo G.H. (The Passion According to G.H.* — romance) by Clarice Lispector.
- *Você Pode Curar Sua Vida (You Can Cure Your Life)* by Louise Hay.

- *Orlando (Orlando* — romance) by Virginia Woolf.

That is it for now. A big hug from me to all my colleagues — hoping you are making much more money and are having greater success than I, but that you all are also having as much fun as activism, as it should be.

Bebeti Gurgel

P.S. Anything you want to know about feminist books in Brazil — feel free to contact me. My fax is: 55-41-2330913.



Box 39

West Tisbury MA 02575

Dear FBN,

I just waded line by line through Oren J. Teicher's letters in the September/October FBN. I don't know whether to laugh, cry, or run screaming into the night! Writes Mr. Teicher: "To censure — in an effort to make a political point — is, in our opinion, the very worst kind of censorship." Does ABA have a dictionary?? Censure is comparable to a bad review. Censorship is someone in power deciding that one's work will not be published, recorded, or otherwise allowed a chance to reach an audience. Would anyone who has experienced both *not* prefer the former to the latter?

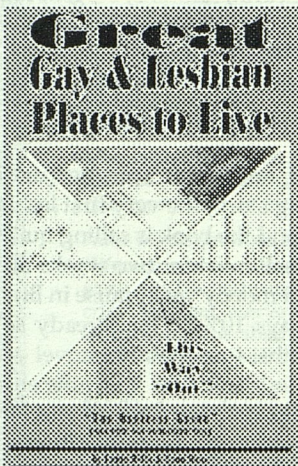
I can't even begin to grapple with such a garbled understanding of the First Amendment. Neither Newt Gingrich nor anyone else has a "right" to speak at an ABA — or any other — convention. The ABA is no more obligated to extend an invitation to a pro-censorship speaker than a Catholic diocesan convention is obliged to invite the president of NARAL. That the ABA did, by whatever process, decide to invite Gingrich is a political statement — and one with which many ABA members understandably take issue.

To defend a person's right to speak does not require one to give that person a podium or (presumably) a fee.

"Guilt turns to hostility," a college friend used to say, quoting I think from *The Boys in the Band*. It's one of the most psychologically astute observations I've ever heard, and it seems to apply here.

Susanna J. Sturgis

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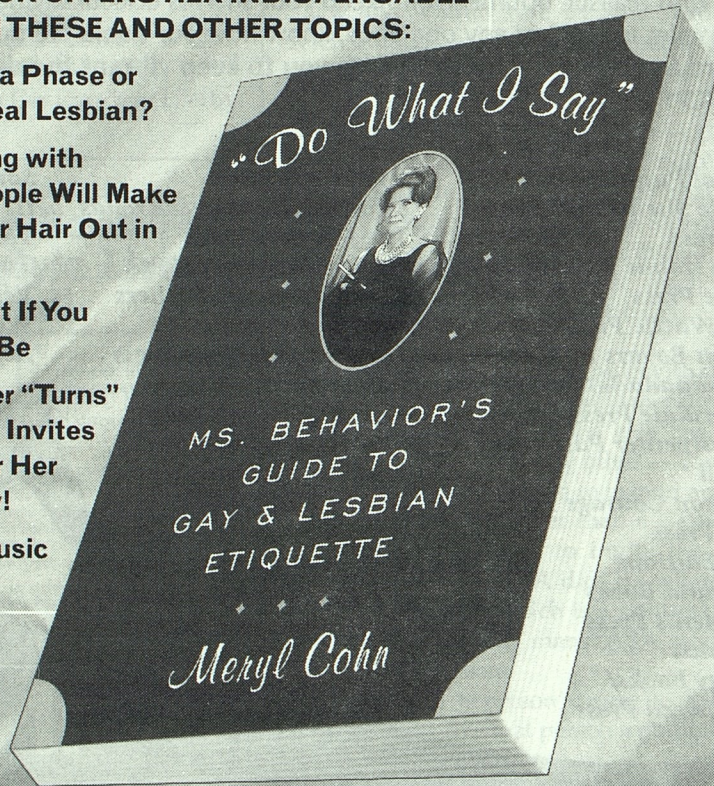
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- **Wimmin's Music Festivals**



AT LAST, AN ETIQUETTE DIVA FOR OUR TIME.

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News News News

Murphy Brown Show Features Feminist Bookstores

The October 16 episode of the *Murphy Brown* television show featured feminist bookstores. The show opened, I'm told, with a scene of Murphy and her co-workers sitting in her living room. They are all eating popsicles so Murphy can finish the popsicle stick building sitting on the coffee table in front of her. Murphy is saying something like, "Hurry up you guys and eat these so I can finish my popsicle stick feminist bookstore building for Avery's nursery school class." She apparently wants to contrast it with the projects she expects the other parents to provide. Then, a few minutes later, she chases everyone out of the house so she can "figure out how to make her feminist bookstore wheelchair accessible"!

I haven't seen the show (I was at my reporter-job writing things up for FBN!) but everyone who has seen it has raved about it not only for including feminist bookstores, but also the amazing, heady delight that she got it exactly right! Awesome, amazing, delightful and wonderful. Send notes of appreciation and thanks to your local station and to The Murphy Brown Show, Warner Brothers Television, 4000 Warner Blvd., Building 5 Room 18, Burbank CA 91522

Wells Fargo Creates \$1 Billion Loan Fund for Woman-Owned Businesses

Wells Fargo and the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) unveiled a new loan fund aimed at women entrepreneurs in September. It's the first nation-wide, bank-based lending program aimed at woman-owned businesses. Wells Fargo expects as many as 50,000 women to participate in the program over the next three years.

Line-of-credit loans will be available for \$5,000 to \$50,000. In California \$50,000 to \$100,000 loans will also be available under the NAWBO program. Loans are expected to average around \$20,000.

The line-of-credit loans are unsecured, are "revolving," have no fixed term and have variable interest rates. Interest is payable only on money in use. Some fixed-term loans also appear to be available. I

To qualify for the new NAWBO loan, women entrepreneurs must have good personal and business credit ratings, must have been in business for at least two years or have an equivalent period of related experience, have a business bank account and be profitable. A one-page application and a financial statement will be required for the application; copies of tax returns will not be required.

Line-of-credit loans will carry a \$150/year service fee. Interest rates are based on the prime lending rate (currently 8.75) plus 3.75% to 6.75%, depending on profitability and creditworthiness.

Fixed rate loans up to \$50,000 will carry a one-time 1%-of-loan fee; interest will range between 11.10% and 14.10% and be based on a review of the application. Interest on loans over \$50,000 will range between 9.85% and 12.85% plus a 1% loan fee.

Loans will be available for 10% to 12% of gross sales for the previous year.

According to a recent industry study, woman-owned businesses are the fastest-growing segment of the economy. We employ 15.5 million workers (a third more than are employed by Fortune 500 companies). Last year 7.7 million woman-owned firms generated \$1.4 trillion in sales.

Wells Fargo Bank claims a long history of equal opportunity for women. In the 1860s, bank founder Henry Wells founded Wells College for women in Aurora, New York and hired women agents to manage Wells Fargo posts. Wells Fargo is reported to be one of the few banks with a significant number of women in senior positions.

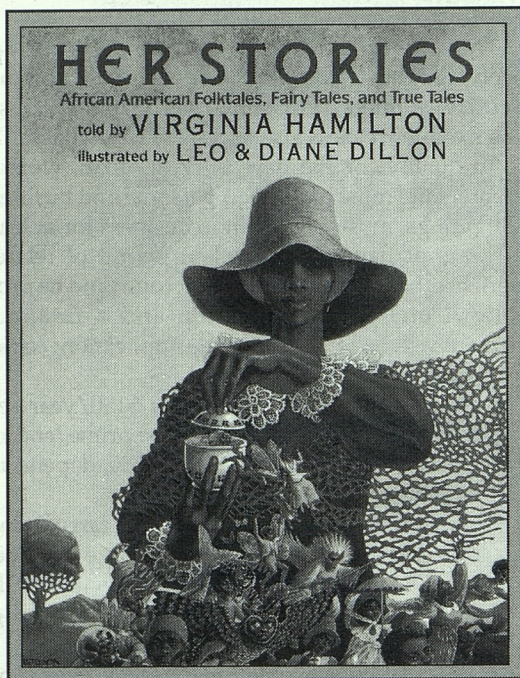
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Applications can be taken over the telephone (1-800-359-3557, ext. 120) for lines of credit up to \$25,000 and by mail or fax for loans over that amount. Membership information for NAWBO is available from 1-800-55-NAWBO. Women need not be members of NAWBO to apply for these loans. —CS

Iranian Lesbian Feminist Poet Granted Asylum

Vahm-e-Sabz, a 27-year-old Iranian lesbian feminist poet, was granted political asylum on Wednesday, October 18, by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, on the grounds that she would be persecuted if she returned to her country. Sabz faces the possibility of execution in her native Iran because she is a lesbian and an outspoken feminist and advocate for women's rights.

A rape crisis and violence reduction counselor, Sabz has been involved with many women's organizations, is a member of the Iranian Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Network, and has been involved with the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC).

Sabz is also the author of a chapter in an IGLHRC human rights report that documents the extent of persecution against Iranian lesbians who must contend with strict anti-lesbian interpretations of Islamic belief by the Iranian government.

"I hope that my case will not be used to perpetuate the existing anti-Iranian sentiments, but instead will assist other lesbians who are living in fear of persecution and are seeking asylum," Sabz said in a press statement. "The INS's decision is consistent with its mandate to protect refugees from past or future violence."

In 1994 Attorney General Janet Reno, as part of the Clinton administration's reform of the asylum process, ordered that gay men and lesbians who faced persecution in their countries because of sexual orientation be granted asylum. The new streamlined process for asylum applications mandates a hearing within a month of filing for asylum and a decision within two weeks of the hearing.

Photographs of Sabz were not available because of the possibility of retaliation against family and friends who remain in Iran.

—info from the Bay Area Reporter.

***Forbidden Passages:
Writings Banned in Canada
Distributed in Canada by Marginal***

Forbidden Passages: Writings Banned in Canada, published by Cleis Press as a fundraiser for Little Sisters Bookstore's court case against Canada Customs, has faced a number of censorship- and Canada Customs-related problems.

In addition to fundraising, the book is also intended to gather the work of writers and artists from whom Canada Customs would like to "protect" Canadian readers and to present that work to Canadian (and U.S.) audiences so that readers can evaluate Custom's decisions for themselves.

However, publishing — and then exporting to Canada — a book of writings banned in Canada creates a number of interesting problems for a publisher, not the least of which is getting a book subtitled "*Writings Banned in Canada*" through Canada Customs. The odds are against it.

So Cleis devised a better strategy and decided to print the book in Canada, since one of the major problems with the Canada Customs policies is that Customs routinely prohibits the importation of books that are published and/or are immanently publishable in Canada.

Nothing that has anything to do with Canada Customs, however indirectly, is ever simple, and Cleis was turned down by several printers before a contract was successfully signed.

The search for a Canadian distributor was equally difficult.

The book is clearly an in-your-face criticism of Canada Customs and its policies, and several distributors, including Cleis' Canadian distributor and Publishers Group West/Canada, declined to distribute the book out of concern that the people employed by the distribution companies could be liable for criminal charges for deliberately importing a book of writings that have already been banned by Customs (a risk that would not be faced by the U.S. publisher). Some companies also voiced concern that, if Canada Customs associated them with this book, Customs would detain everything they import, a punitive measure that would threaten their survival.

Marginal Distribution, however, has risen to the challenge and agreed to distribute *Forbidden Passages* in Canada. Marginal also distributes books for City Lights, Re/Search, Cassell and a number of other independent publishers of culturally transgressive books. Marginal's bookstore terms are 40% for 3+ books. Marginal Distribution is located at 277 George Street N. #102, Peterborough, Ontario K9J 3G9; 705-745-2326.

"We dealt with a lot of fine companies and fine people who wanted to do the right thing," Cleis Press' Felice Newman told FBN. "The printers wanted to print the book and the distributors wanted to distribute it, but all of them were seriously afraid of retribution — and with good reason. And that's the effect of censorship: ordinary people become afraid to do ordinary things. It's terrifying."

And it's also reason enough to continue the fight against Canada Customs and its routine seizures of gay, lesbian and feminist books and magazines. Little Sisters originally attempted to take Canada Customs to court for its discriminatory and anti-gay practices in 1990. Their case finally went to trial on October 11, 1994, and lasted into December. But a year later Little Sisters is still waiting for a verdict.

Forbidden Passages features work by authors and artists whose work has been detained by Canada Customs at the border and/or was examined in court during the two-month-long trial and includes work by Dorothy Allison, Joseph Beam, Jane Rule, Marguerite Duras, David Wojnarowicz, Kathy Acker, Tom of Finland, bell hooks, Pat Califia, Jack Morin, Susie Bright, Marcy Sheiner, Kiss 'n Tell, and Jack Hart.

Cleis will print 8,000 copies of *Forbidden Passages* in Canada on the first print run; 3,500 copies will stay in Canada, 4,500 copies will be shipped to PGW/U.S. The book will be available in the U.S. from PGW, Bookpeople, Koen, B&T and other wholesalers. Check with Inland for availability. Cleis plans to reprint as U.S. and Canadian sales demand. The book will come off press on December 1.

Press Gang is publishing an account of the trial, *Restricted Entry: Censorship on Trial* by Janine Fuller and Stuart Blackley, which is also a fundraiser for Little Sisters' court costs and is due out in November. It is hoped that the decision in the Little Sisters vs. Canada Customs case will be announced in time to aid in the promotion of both books. —CS

Inland Update: InBook/WomanSource for Sale?

Inland/InBook reports a number of encouraging developments as they continue with their reorganization plans:

Inland has been able to assume the contracts of all but two of the publishers on their #2 list (see FBN Vol 18 #3). Mother Tongue, Inland reported, did not wish to have their contract assumed and Aunt Lute's contract was not assumed as InBook was not Aunt Lute's exclusive distributor.

The court has also decided to allow payments to sales reps of up to \$4,000 each for pre-bankruptcy debt. Salary to employees is payable under bankruptcy, but the law is less clear with regard to sales reps who work on commission. Inland argued that sales reps commissions should be payable and the court agreed.

The sale of Inland's wholesale distribution arm to Koen Books is proceeding. An asset purchase agreement has been signed by both parties. The next step is a court hearing on November 8.

Inland also reports that Login Brothers/Login Publishing Consortium has expressed serious interest in buying InBook and WomanSource.

Login publishes medical books. The distribution company specializes in health-related books and texts and reps these books to chains and independents. They distribute several books of marginal interest to feminist bookstores but are not generally well known in feminist book circles. The proposal on the table would move InBook and WomanSource to Chicago, possibly as early as January 1, 1996, and would keep the catalogs and lines intact. Login is reported to be growing in volume and sees acquiring the InBook and WomanSource lines as a way to increase growth. Some of the Inland staff would probably move to Login as part of the agreement.

Estimates are that Inland would receive approximately \$150,000 for the sale to Koen, a similar amount for the sale of InBook and WomanSource, and possibly as much as \$100,000 for the inventory that it currently owns. If the InBook/WomanSource sale to Login goes through, Inland will close the Connecticut warehouse and liquidate under Chapter 11. —CS



New Victoria Celebrates Her 20th!

NORWICH VT: New Victoria celebrated its 20th anniversary in September. New Victoria started life as an all-women print shop in 1975. A group of us were working as printers at a male-owned press and when we asked for a raise (we were being paid \$2.00 per hour) he fired us. So we decided to start our own shop. We formed a collective of five women, converted an old barn in downtown Lebanon New Hampshire, bought a bunch of used equipment and launched New Victoria Publishers. We printed for local groups and businesses, as well as for some national publications such as *Sinister Wisdom*, for ten years. When we finally decided to close the print shop, we moved the publishing company to our house in Norwich where we have been ever since.

We invited all the women who began the press and all those who have been associated with it over the years to come back to celebrate with us.

It was also our (Claudia and Beth's) 20th anniversary as a couple. We got together around organizing the press, one thing led to another, and here we still are 20 years later! —New Victoria Publishers.

Paradigm Suspends Publishing

Paradigm Publishing has decided to suspend publishing new titles due to cash flow problems stemming from Inland's bankruptcy situation.

"Inland's bankruptcy came at a bad time for us," Deanna Leach told FBN. "We had debt from publishing the last two books, we needed to reprint three titles, and my new business partner looked at [Inland's] bankruptcy and the state of the book industry and backed off. If I had access to another source of capital I could hang in there." Paradigm signed its first books in 1990, published 16 books between 1991 and 1995, and broke even on the books in the second year.

Previously published titles will continue to be available from Inland and direct from Paradigm (50% discount for 30+ books; 40% for 5-29, non-returnable).

Three of Linda Silva's Delta Stevens mysteries that are currently out of print, *Taken by Storm*, *Storm Shelter* and *Weathering the Storm*, have been sold to Naiad. Deanna expects to be able to place the remaining books with other publishers as they come up for reprint. The two books that were scheduled for publication, a mystery by a new author and the new Shelly Roberts title, are also available to other publishers. Call Paradigm for further information.

Deanna will continue to do production for other publishers, including Knowledge Ideas & Trends and Harcourt Brace.

Paradigm's new address is 4461 Mayapan Drive, La Mesa CA 91941; phone/fax 619-444-2935. —CS

Gay/Lesbian/Feminist Row Gets New Location; Other Improvements for ABA '96

ABA and Association Expositions & Services (AE&S) have announced a number of major changes in the way the 1996 ABA Convention will be organized.

A new show-layout puts exhibits in both the North and the East buildings. Last year the exhibits were housed on levels one and three of the North Building. In 1996 the exhibits will be divided between level three of the North Building and level two of the East Building. Many will remember the East Building as the site of the anti-Newt demonstrations and arrests — and also as the secret location of short, uncrowded cab lines.

The North Building will house all the general publishers as well as seven specialty areas: Gay/Lesbian/Feminist; Small Press; International and Foreign Language Books; University Presses; Sidelines; Art;

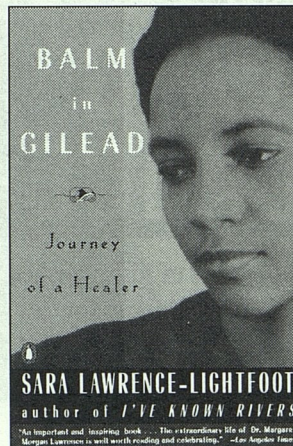
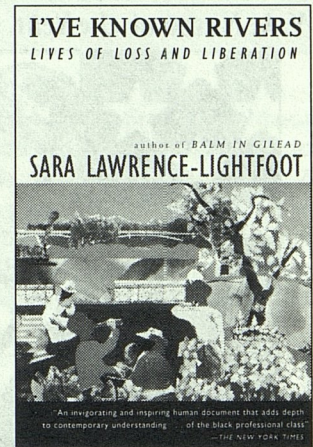
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puts us into
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men and women who, inspiring us to
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This is her story.



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AT BOOKSTORES NOW FROM PENGUIN

Publishers' Supplies & Services; and Visual Merchandising. The Gay/Lesbian/Feminist section has been moved up from behind the cement block wall to the fifth section of the six-section main room, four aisles in from the left wall. Gay/Lesbian/Feminist Row is reported to be surrounded by general publishers which should bring new traffic to the aisle rather than limiting our traffic flow to the people who already know to come find us.

The East Building will house eight specialty sectors: Children; Religious/Spiritual/Inspirational; New Media; Audio Visual; Travel; Professional; Gourmet Food; and Remainders, as well as the Booksellers' and Librarians' Lounges and the New Media Playground.

Level one of the North Building will be converted into a 70,000-square-foot autographing area and a 30,000-square-foot restaurant seating 2,500 people. Three additional restaurants will also be provided. Each building will have separate taxi and shuttle service areas, thus doubling the space for bus and taxi drop-off and pick-up. Both bus and METRA (subway) train service will be increased.

The morning book-and-author events have also been moved to level three of the East Building to the Arie Crown Theatre. This shift should make it possible for all attendees to actually hear the speakers, though it means that food will not be served.

To avoid Chicago's rush-hour traffic, the show's hours have been moved back half an hour to 9:30-6:30, Saturday through Monday. The one improvement that will not come is the much-requested change in dates. ABA 1996 will not be held until June 15-17, two to three weeks later in the ordering season than any ABA in memory. Bring your beach wear; Chicago is not known for cool summers. —CS

Packwood Report Out in Record Time

On September 18, 1995, women were finally able to read all the dirt about ex-Oregon Senator Bob Packwood in *The Packwood Report: The Senate Ethics Counsel on Senator Robert Packwood*. The book includes excerpts from 44 pounds of sensational testimony as well as many of Packwood's diary entries. Published by Times Books, who managed to crank it out in less than one week. —JT ○

NEWS

FROM THE BOOKSTORES

By Carol Seajay

Birthdays and Celebrations!

(Wild!) Iris Books (Gainesville FL) is reclaiming the "Wild" in their name for their third birthday. Call them *Wild Iris Books* from now on! They also report that it gets better every year and that they get "smarter" at running the business. They doubled their textbook sales this year, making January an even bigger month than December, thanks to a new Women's Studies Department head who wants to support women's stores. Their birthday festivities included a store blessing by a local witch and a party to which women were encouraged to bring a "birthday gift" to donate to local women's shelters.

There's also a Wild Iris Books in Claremont CA and there's a Wild Iris in Northampton MA that sells gifts and books.

My Sisters' Words (Syracuse NY) celebrated their eighth anniversary with three events: on Friday night they played Mev Miller's radio documentary, *A Labor of Love: A 25-Year History of Feminist and Lesbian Bookstores and Publishing*, in the store, followed by a conversation about feminist publishing and bookstores. ("Bring your favorite story about a press or bookstore or how reading what you find from feminist presses and bookstores has affected your life," the program description read. I wish I'd been able to be there!) On Saturday My Sisters' Words had "the usual day-long celebration with eats and drawings for gift certificates." (Purchases over \$10 during the week before the celebration entered customers in the drawings for the eight gift certificates.) The following Friday (the thirteenth),

Irene Zahava, owner of the former Smedley's (Ithaca), joined MSW's celebration and read from her collection of interconnected stories, *The Family Fleischmann*. As Mary Ellen says, "This past year has truly been a test of [our community's] commitment and our stamina and creativity. We've all passed with flying colors and are here to celebrate an anniversary that almost didn't come around."

A Different Drummer (Laguna Beach CA) celebrated their tenth anniversary with several events. In the afternoon Patricia Nell Warren read from the 20th anniversary edition of *The Front Runner*. Refreshments were served after the reading, followed by a concert featuring the return of Kelly Conway and Dykes on



Tollie Miller (far left) and Carolyn Gabel (far right) pass the torch on to Barbara Masc and Roberta Collins at the Reader's Feast Transition Party — a gathering of 300+ community activists and supporters who were thrilled that their local community bookstore would continue on in this new incarnation.

Mykes, a group that began four years ago as a small gathering of women at the bookstore. Later that evening Alex Dobkin performed at the birthday concert. A portion of the proceeds were donated to Laguna Shanti.

Amazon Bookstore (Minneapolis) is in the midst of their 25th anniversary celebration as we go to press. Amazon is the oldest feminist bookstore in the country. They're celebrating all year and have had some great press. Events include a 25th Anniversary Concert featuring local musicians Shelly Medemach, Barbara Cohen, Ann Reed, and Waterbound, hosted by Kim Hines; a major dance event hosted by Women-Works, a deejayed affair at the Hyatt Regency; and a 25th Anniversary Read-Out at the store featuring feminist and lesbian work published 25 years ago at the very beginning of the lesbian and feminist press movement. I hope somebody recorded this one!

Birthdays

Mama Bears (Oakland) has been celebrating a series of 60th birthday parties as her founders arrive at that magic number. It started two years ago when Natalie Lando turned sixty and The Gang threw a huge celebration honoring her. Talk about community turn-out! I saw women there I hadn't seen in years! The next year it was Carol Wilson's turn and it was another incredible party! This year (November 26) it's Alice Molloy's 60th and it will *definitely* be the event of the year!



In January these three begin another celebration — their 25th year in women's bookselling. The three of them (along with four others) started ICI-A Woman's Place (Oakland), one of the first women's bookstores in the country, in December of 1971. In 1983, after A Woman's Place was torn apart by a community struggle, the three started Mama Bears Bookstore and Coffeehouse. As far as I know, they have the longest running tenure of any women in the feminist bookstore movement.

(OK, OK, OK! I can already hear Natalie insisting that I be absolutely accurate! Technically, Natalie didn't join the ICI-A Woman's Place collective until nearly four months after it started. And *technically*

she's not a part of Mama Bears — it's just that she's always there, "putting in a few hours" when there's work that needs to be done. The other four founders of A Woman's Place included Forest [then Gretchen Milne], Nancy Cook, Star Goode, and Rosalie. Shortly after A Woman's Place opened, The Women's Press Collective [Judy Grahn, Wendy Cadden, Pat Parker, Paula Wallace, Willyce Kim, Martha Shelley, *et al.*] moved into the other half of the space. The store sold books by day and the Women's Press Collective churned them out at night. Thinkers and writers and activists were always hanging around, reinventing the world we knew and inventing new worlds on a daily basis. It was an awesome time and place and I doubt there's a feminist or a lesbian in the country today whose life hasn't, in some way, been affected by that nexus of activity.)



All of which reminds me that I'm celebrating a 20th anniversary myself. It was in the spring of 1975 that Gretchen, seeing me with some time on my hands, invited me to spend a few afternoons helping out a A Woman's Place ("There's always plenty to do," she assured me). From Alice and Gretchen I learned vision and to order very widely; from Carol (the Carol in Judy Grahn's *She Who Poems* who "does/everything better/if you let her"), tenacity ("You can do just about anything you want to if you take the time to sit down and figure out how to go about it"); and from Natalie I learned perhaps the most important lesson, that you have to do all the steps, including all the paperwork and all the bookkeeping and all the accounting, if you *really* want to keep it going. And she taught me how to do it. After a year-and-a-half-long "apprenticeship" (though none of us called it that at the time), I went back to my own side of the San Francisco Bay and opened Old Wives' Tales (with my then-lover Paula Wallace). At the same time Andre (then of Rising Women Books in Santa Rosa) and I started *The Feminist Bookstore Newsletter*. I left OWT in 1983, started doing FBN full-time in 1985, and am watching OWT close its doors now, in the fall of 1995 (see *They Went That-A-Way*). There has been, as Gretchen promised, "plenty to do." Natalie, Carol and Alice have been awesome mentors. I have been

blessed by my 20-year association with these three and would like to take the occasion of their sixtieth birthdays, and the occasion of this 20th anniversary of mine, to say "Thank you!"



Buying Buildings

Antigone's grand re-opening party on October 15 celebrated their new location, their good fortune in owning their own building, their great relief that they were able to stay on Fourth Avenue, their larger and livelier space, being near other community stores and, of course, their loyal customers who make it all possible. The day started with a ribbon-cutting ceremony (honors performed by Sarah and Benjamin, ages 9 and 4) and featured free trolley rides and goodies for kids, coffee treats for adults, 10% discount on everything and lots of fun for everyone. Go, Antigone!

Surviving the Chains

Rubyfruit (Tallahassee) reports that sales have been down each month since Barnes & Noble opened nearby three months ago.

Eighteen months after the incursion of the chains in Albuquerque, Full Circle reports that sales have been *up* for the last three months. "Basically you have to 're-open' the store," Mary Morell advises. "Do all the things you did to promote your store when it first opened and then think of some more ways to promote it" — such as the street fair Full Circle threw from 4-7pm on National Coming Out Day. Gay and lesbian businesses, craftswomen and organizations filled 35 booths. There were speakers, music and other entertainment, and a coming out ritual. Food booths offered dinner and munchies. Over 300 people attended and a good time was had by all.

(This just in as we go to press: A note with a request for our list of feminist bookstores from a woman who writes, "Please send me a list of the

Guaranteed Reads

Full Circle runs one of my all-time favorite feminist bookstore programs: Guaranteed Reads. Their latest list begins:

Some titles at Full Circle Books are so wonderful that we, as a staff, guarantee them. If you are not happy with one of these selected titles, just bring it back and [Full Circle] will give you a credit toward another title.

- Our current favorite is *Shark Dialogues* by Kiana Davenport, which is finally out in paper. This book is not only lush and engrossing, it also speaks with a vital native voice for the liberation of Hawaii. "An epic feminine saga with a narrative force as irrepensible as its cry for native preservation. No one who reads *Shark Dialogues* will ever look at Hawaii the same," says Isabel Allende.
- *Grave Talent* by Laurie King is our favorite new mystery with a lesbian detective, Kate Martinelli (\$5.50).
- *Breath Eyes, Memory* by Edwidge Danticat is a phenomenal story of a woman finally stopping three generations of Haitian women's sexual abuse in the name of protecting virginity. This is a fascinating look at real, everyday life in Haiti (\$11).

- *Stones From the River* by Ursula Heigi is an incredible historical novel that takes place in Germany during Hitler's rise to power (\$12).
- *Praise Song for the Widow* by Paule Marshall is an all-time great book, a Black woman finding her roots in Africa (\$10.95).
- *Katherine* by Anchee Min tells of the emotional and sexual impact of a young American lesbian's experience as a teacher in China (\$22.95). Min's previous title, *Red Azalea*, is an autobiographical story of her years in Mao's China as a young Chinese lesbian (\$6.99).
- *Beloved* by Toni Morrison won a Pulitzer Prize. If you haven't read it yet, do it *now!* (\$10.95).
- *Talk Before Sleep* by Elizabeth Berg is a beautiful novel about the power of women's friendships in the face of illness and death (\$5.99).
- And, just arrived, *Two or Three Things I Know for Sure* by Dorothy Allison. Part autobiography, part wisdom, and entirely eloquent. Dorothy at her finest (\$14.95).

—from Anne Frost, the Guaranteed Read Queen

Feminist Bookstore locations. I'm sick of the super-stores already!" Yes!)

Media

A Woman's Prerogative (Ferndale MI) gets the best publicity! Their latest success was a TV spot on "Dateline Detroit" on a show covering Candace Gingrich's visit. It featured lots of shots of the store, inside and out (including Amy rolling along on their splendid 2-story ladder), and an interview with Kelly in the store. The show also included bits on hate crimes, an out gay man running for office, and gay men of color, and lots of footage taken during Candace's visit. Intended to be a show on gays and lesbians, the "lesbian content" came as an afterthought when one of the gay men featured on the show told the producers, "But you've got to have some lesbians!" The show aired at 9:30 on a Tuesday night, and business on Wednesday, Kelly reported, "was *very* good — and the show generated a lot of phone calls."

A Woman's Prerogative's new e-mail address is AWomPrer@AOL.com.

Lammas/Baltimore was named "The Best New

It's Books In Print Time

The 1995-1996 Books In Print is out. If you have a 94-95 edition that you'd like to pass along to another bookstore, give us a call or drop us a card. If you need a set, do the same and we'll match up the "haves" and the "needs." The usual deal is that the store that receives the used set pays the shipping.

This is one of many ways that larger stores (including general independent stores) can help smaller stores in a big way for just the price of a postcard and a few minutes boxing and addressing the books.

Call now! FBN's operators (and answering machine) staff the phone 24 hours a day! Call 415-626-1556, fax 415-626-8970, e-mail seajay@dnai.com or send those postcards to FBN, PO Box 882554, San Francisco CA 94188.

Bookstore" by the Baltimore *City Paper*. Lammas was chosen over several new chain stores that had also opened recently.

But Meristem (Memphis) takes the prize for the most wonderfully absurd media win: *Southern Living*, an "oh-so-proper Southern gracious-living-and-gardening magazine" managed to squeeze a Meristem mention in ("Find women's subjects at Meristem Bookstore") between recommendations for gift baskets and an Elvis-themed wedding chapel, all located in "The Cooper-Young District, our favorite neighborhood for exploring." You bet!

Meristem is building a new business plan, is selling membership discount cards (renewable annually) and is considering selling stock to increase store funding.



Literacy

Everyone believes in literacy, but few bookstores have found ways to make a significant contribution to adult literacy programs. Amazon has developed a program in conjunction with the Minnesota Literacy Foundation for new adult readers who would like to further develop their skills in both reading and, for those for whom English is a second language, in conversational English. The series will run for six weeks and will include both new readers and literacy volunteers who will provide opportunities for one-on-one conversation. We'll have more details as they emerge!

Events

Prairie Moon (Arlington Heights IL) honored Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October) with a workshop on the epidemic of physical and emotional abuse among partners. SisterSpirit (San Jose CA) did fundraising for two local programs for homeless and abused women. West Berkeley Women's Books (WBWB) sponsored a Self-Defense and Personal Safety lecture and demonstration by a local black belt martial artist who teaches self-defense and karate.

WBWB is also running a series of Friday night Dinner/Readings at The Brick Hut, the Bay Area's beloved women's breakfast and lunch restaurant that recently moved to jazzy new quarters and is now serving dinners. At one dinner/reading Carolyn Gage

and Debra Wright performed sections from Gage's play *The Second Coming of Joan of Arc*. Another dinner/reading featured three contributors from *Listen Up: Voices From the Next Feminist Generation*, Jennifer Myhre, Inga Muscio, and Jee Yeun Lee, who read from the book and discussed feminism in the nineties. Discount coupons, available at the bookstore, reserve a place and entitle the holders to a 10% discount on dinner and the book.

BookWoman (Austin) ran two workshops on journal-keeping. The cost of the workshops was \$15 each, with \$5 off either class with a \$15 purchase at BookWoman. BookWoman is also running a Third Friday Music Series featuring local and not-so-local musicians. "Women in Technology," another new program, offered local women a forum for networking, sharing stories, and discussing their involvement in the 'High Tech' industry. Participants were encouraged to bring business cards, resumes, and their 'High Tech' ideas. The program was hosted by a local recruiter for a national placement firm.



Book Groups

When I was at Amazon I got to hang out in the newly furnished and revitalized (thanks to customer donations, "All we had to do was ask!") staff-lounge and book-group room. Amazon's fall book groups include: "Feminism/Womynism from the 1960s-1990s, Eclectic Dyke Readings, Writing Group, The Goddess, Feminist Art Criticism, and Spots and Stripes (on bisexuality). All groups are facilitated.

Saturday Seminar

Amazon is also sponsoring a series called Women's Prose in Black and White that will examine how whiteness (as an ideology) has contributed to the creation of readers who are likely to internalize and reproduce misconstructions of Black women in the United States. "A body of thought-provoking reading material will engage the participants in reviewing, questioning, and acting against the existing alliance among racism, capitalism, and patriarchy." The seminar runs for six Saturday afternoons and costs \$70. Participants get a 10% discount on books read for the seminar. ○

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elusive author of*
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*The Life and
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PHILLIP HERRING

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—Shari Benstock, author of *Women of the Left Bank: Paris, 1900-1940*



Photograph by Carl Van Vechten

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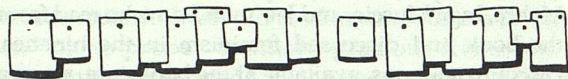
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ANNOUNCEMENTS



By Jenn Tust

Naiad Press is teaming up with Northern Arts Entertainment, Inc. (founded in 1989 by filmmakers David Mazor and John Lawrence) to create a new video label to distribute videos of lesbian themed movies. *Devotion* (based on the original story by Arlene Battishill, screenplay and novel by Mindy Kaplan) will be the first title in the new joint video project. It is scheduled for release on February 6, 1996 with a \$69.95 suggested list price.



The tenth Berkshire Conference on the History of Women will be held at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, June 7-9, 1996. The Conference will feature 200 sessions, workshops and roundtables, with participants from across the United States and around the world. For a program and registration information, contact 1996 Berkshire Conference, Division of Continuing Education, CB#1020 The Friday Center, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill NC 27599.



Bookpeople is now offering a one-percent-of-invoice freight credit on orders of 100 or more units for Western States (AZ, CO, ID, MT, NM, TX, UT, OR, WA and WY). Bookpeople's goal is "to be the first choice for independent booksellers of all types and sizes." This offer applies to their entire stock of over 30,000 titles from over 3,000 trade and independent presses. This offer is open to any account in good credit standing. California stores already receive free freight on 100+ shipped units. For more information, call Bookpeople's order department at 800-999-4650. ○

TRIVIA & COMMENTARY

By Carol Seajay

Yes! Let's hear it for the *Murphy Brown* show for mentioning feminist bookstores on their October 16 show! [And on October 30, Murphy and Corky must have said the "F" word 20 times each when they crashed a women's studies class at Murphy's alma mater.]

More good news: according to "Defining the Internet Opportunity 1994-1995" women represent 34% of Internet users, a much higher number than previous estimates, which have guessed 10% - 15%. The survey, performed for O'Reilly & Associates, claims to have a 1% sampling error rate.

Meanwhile, an article in ABA's July 31 *Bookselling This Week* reveals that women made up 65% of the retail bookselling workforce in 1994. Yet women are held to only 50% of the seats on the ABA's Board of Directors — which means that men get 50% of the seats for being 35% of the workforce.

Publishers Weekly ran a superb article about publishers' perspectives on the Independent Bookstore/Superstore wars in the September 18 issue. One of the most striking aspects of the article was the number of mainstream publishers who refused to be quoted by name which, to me at least, is a statement about how dangerously dependent mainstream publishers are on the chains and how unfree-to-speak they feel, although some executives described a fear of "offending either party." Issues raised included fears of massive returns from the chains, concern about independent bookstores' decline in market share (58% in 1972, 19% in 1994), the loss of a number of independent bookstores and that loss' impact on sales of non-bestseller titles ("1000 buyers are better than five"), a decline in visible orders from independents (which is sometimes seen as an actual decline in book sales by independent bookstores and is sometimes seen as the shift to just-in-time ordering from distributors), concern about whether the super-chains

actually track and re-order backlist books by title, and problems that arise when chain buyers aren't top-notch. Most publishers gave Borders and B&N the highest marks among the chains. (Crown was described by one publisher as "a big, mysterious dark hole, with no communication.") On the plus side, some large publishers have found that chains sell and re-order their backlist titles well, some independent publishers with chain-appropriate product mixes have had good sales to chains, and many publishers have benefited from the chains' willingness to either let stock sit on the shelves or to shift it from store to store (rather than returning the books to the publishers), a situation that seems to be changing, with some publishers reporting returns of books five years after the sale and a high rate (30%) of damaged returns.

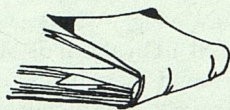
The comment that I found most telling was from a director at a large publishing house who stated that publishers (who have a large stake in the matter) "are not really focused on practical, serious ways they can help the independent bookstore survive, and I think it should be a strong self-interest agenda for them."

All in all it was one of those wonderful articles that grapples with all kinds of difficult issues and sheds new light — and makes you wonder why this kind of analysis isn't being done in every book-trade publication in the country. It's well worth finding if you happened to miss it.



Meanwhile, it's National Independent Bookstore Week as we go to press. The pre-Week silence has been deafening. The booksellers I talked to received their kits far too late to do anything useful, there's no national advertising back-up, no announcement of tie-in national media.... Nothing that I've seen that will aid local stores in making a splash. I can see how

the tie-in with Habitat for Humanity is great publicity for Habitat — but I've yet to see it creating publicity for bookstores. The media kit describes things that bookstores did last year, but it doesn't describe the effect. We can all think of a lot of great things to do with our limited resources — what we need to know are which ideas generated media attention, strong customer response, and/or were effective as educational tools. My worst fear is that this is a program designed to fail so it can be ditched. My best hope is that all my information and predictions are totally wrong and that NIBW turns out to be a wild success.



A media campaign that has generated a lot of national media is The Body Shop International's "Blow the Whistle on Violence Against Women" campaign. For fewer posters than ABA is printing for NIBW, the design of a postcard and three additional (and salable) products — a whistle, a t-shirt, and a CD with women-themed songs — the company has scored full-color, front-of-section newspaper coverage all over the country *and* is raising money for YWCA and Outward Bound women's programs. Activism is also a part of the campaign. Shoppers are encouraged to sign a postcard imploring House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole to "ensure that Congress lives up to its commitment by providing the full \$1.6 billion in federal funding" to the Violence Against Women Act in last year's Crime Bill. Surely ABA can come up with something as effective and as compelling for NIBW.

Ah, fame, credit and glory! Somehow they escape us, but did you see the suggestion in Paz and Associates' *Independent Bookselling Today* newsletter that bookstores create "Rx for Reading" "prescription-pads" with your bookstores' name and address to distribute to therapists in your community? It's a great idea — one that I first heard from Mooneyan Grosch, then of A Woman's Place Bookstore in Phoenix, at a Feminist Bookstore Day conference about ten years ago.

It's great to be trendy, though. Have you seen the Virginia Slims ad that promotes their 1996 *Book of Days*? The copy reads, "Finally, a book that puts women's

views first." *Finally!!??* With several feminist publishers and booksellers celebrating their 25th anniversaries this year, you'd think that even Virginia Slims' PR department might have heard of *one other book that "puts women's views first"*... Guess not. But you can get the book free just for smoking 20 packs of their cancer-sticks. Ummm! Love their commitment to women! And I'm so glad that the cigarette company invented feminist publishing! Where would we be without them?

Another of my favorite corporate glitches is the "new" travel-book newsletter/catalog published by the Borders store just a couple freeway exits north of The Book Passage (Corte Madera CA), an independent bookstore owned by Elaine and Bill Petrocelli. A year ago Bill commented in the Book Passage newsletter/travel-book catalog that some "guys in corporate suits" had been in the store with "notebooks, tape measures and furtive glances." That prompted a letter from the Borders-Walden CEO denying that his company would copy anything Book Passage did. "OK," Bill wrote in this summer's newsletter, "Maybe the strange guys we saw in the store were just shopping. Now Borders is doing a travel-book catalogue with lots of short reviews, book photos, snappy dialogue — we started the idea, but they'll undoubtedly say they came up with it on their own.... But there is just one little problem and that's the name they're using on their catalogue. It's on the front in big, bold type: *Booking Passage*.... (Do you think we need to copyright our children?)" (Note to Bill: Only if they're profitable.)



Meanwhile I don't see Borders picking up the kind of (controversial, challenging, world-changing) programs like the one Book Passage did in September: a benefit reading/fundraiser by Bay Area writers Isabel Allende, Amy Tan, and Anne Lamott for Shahrnush Parsipur, an Iranian woman writer (now living in the U.S.) whose forthcoming book *Prison Memoirs* documents her harrowing experiences in the prisons of Iran (1981-1986), the wanton torture and mass executions she witnessed, as well as the particular horrors suffered by women prisoners. Her novel was originally confiscated in prison, but later became

a bestseller in her country. Her books were banned in Iran by the Islamic Republican government when she published a collection of short stories titled *Women Without Men*. Alev Croutier read translations of Ms. Parsipur's work.

On a cheerier note, Anchor Books and Urvashi Vaid launched a great promotion via the dust jacket of Vaid's *Virtual Equality* called The Yes Promo Homo Campaign. The Campaign offers a special joint membership in six activist organizations for \$35. All the reader has to do is fill out a coupon from the inside back-cover dust jacket and send a \$35 check to get trial memberships in *Astraea*, *Gay Community News*, National Gay & Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute, National Minority AIDS Council and the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund. Descriptions of the groups are printed on the backside of the dust jacket. (Waste no paper!) You don't even have to read the book to get the pitch! Great idea and a great use of mainstream press resources for movement political goals. What a rare and lovely treat.



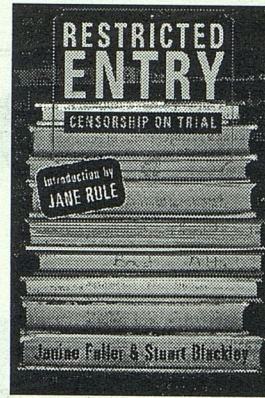
Exciting as it can be to get those perks from the mainstream, you gotta remember that they wouldn't be there at all if there wasn't a solid (and growing) body of feminist, lesbian and gay press literature.

So it's good news to hear, in these challenged times, that Naiad Press is increasing its publication schedule from 24 to 26 books in 1995. In 1996, and thereafter, Naiad will do 28 books a year. These are Naiad's first increases in eight years. Naiad is also planning to add 20 to 50 video titles to their line as fast as they can find video product to add.

Meanwhile, Nicole Conn (*Claire of the Moon*) has signed a two-book deal with Simon and Schuster. The first of the two, *Passion's Shadow*, was published in October. The novelization of her *Claire of the Moon* screenplay (Naiad) is in its fifth printing.

And last, but not least, special thanks to *Lilith* magazine and *Sojourner* for their support-women's-bookstores features and for including raves and quotes from feminist booksellers around the country. It is as a community that we will persevere. ○

CELEBRATING OUR 20TH YEAR!



RESTRICTED ENTRY

CENSORSHIP
ON TRIAL

by

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& STUART BLACKLEY

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Honoring Women Who Honor

By Mickey Koivisto & Elise Matthesen

Jefferson Airplane and Golden Earring were the hottest tickets in town. The Minneapolis Women's Liberation movement and their brothers in Gay Liberation were among the strongest in the country. With the burning of draft cards and antiwar protests, the University of Minnesota was a hotbed of student activism. A few blocks away, in a Seward neighborhood commune, two women and a few of their friends were mulling around an idea which would change forever, and for the better, the lives of thousands of area women.

With the consent of their 26th Avenue housemates, Rosina Richter and Julie Morris spent a couple hundred dollars ordering books, turned the front parlor of their communal house into a bookstore and in the process became the founding mothers of Amazon Bookstore, North America's oldest surviving feminist bookstore, celebrating its quarter-century mark in October.

According to Mev Miller, who produced *Labor of Love: 25 Years of Feminist Publishing and Bookstores*, there are now 130 women's bookstores across the country; more than 50 feminist or lesbian publishers; and hundreds of magazines, 'zines, periodicals, and journals. In

1970, there were few. *The Second Sex* and the work of Mary Renault and Mary Wollstonecraft were part of the limited selection of stock available to Richter and Morris when they first ordered for Amazon, a store which now stocks thousands of books, music, cards, and crafts by women and a few good men.

Long-time Minneapolis local activist and 26th Avenue housemate Don Olson remembers the beginning of Amazon as a "small endeavor... They wanted to make what books were there available...and everyone in the house went along with it, and thought it was a good idea." Richter and Morris, who had produced one of the local women's community's earliest newsletters, used the store as the venue for consciousness-raising groups. "Julie lived in the house for a couple of years, and she was the head of the student mobilization committee on campus," Olson recalls. "But, with the '70s came a certain malaise, and it affected Julie," he believes. The rest of her story is right-wing history. The feminist bookstore which she founded lasted longer than the feminist, and Morris became Mrs. Alan Quist — wife of the Minnesota Republican golden boy, instant mother of eight, and persevering

spokeswoman for fundamentalist Christian causes. She was not available for comment. When Richter and Morris moved out of the Seward house, the bookstore went with them. Its \$400 worth of inventory was sold to Karen Brown and Cindy Hanson, who moved it into the basement of the Lesbian Resource Center at 22nd and Lyndale.

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Early ads like this one in *Gold Flower* (1971) announced Amazon's existence.

Women: Amazon Turns 25!

According to Diane Como, who was an Amazon collective member for 10 years and its first paid staff person, the bookstore at that time was a cumulative total "of a few boxes, and if anybody wanted to go downstairs and look at something, they just had to let someone know what they were doing."

Across the country, other women's and lesbian centers were following suit. Margaret Johnston, a member of the feminist bookselling community, explains how the two institutions evolved in almost symbiotic manner. "They were highly mimetic. As women had a safe place to explore the politics of feminism, they began to write about it. When they wrote fiction and lesbian nonfiction, publishing companies owned by feminist collectives evolved to fill the need, as did women's bookstores and printers. Women's centers were having a hard time paying the rent and thought selling books would help. That's why there are several bookstores, publications, publishers, and centers all celebrating their 25th anniversaries over the next few years."

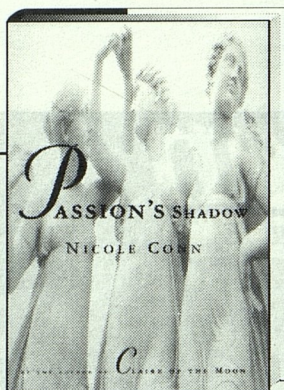
In Minneapolis, though, Brown and Hanson eventually realized that "Amazon wouldn't survive without a storefront." They moved the store to its first commercial

Amazons: (from left, standing) Barb Wieser, Beth Prullage, Jonna Shelomith, Cheryl Anthony, Mev Miller, Kris Hoover and Jo den Boer. From left, kneeling: Justine Denny, Donna Niles, Kathy Sharp and Sylvia Crannel.



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home, on West Lake Street, in the early '70s. Many of the area's residents thought that Amazon was a front for a pornography operation, and "would be really surprised when they actually realized what it was." That location was the first of several unsafe neighborhoods and several bone-chilling winters for the collective members and volunteers who staffed the bookstore in the early years.

Still, like other bookstores across the continent, it was an exciting place to be. The bookstores of the '70s were often the hub of the community, doubling as bookstore and lesbian center. "I had just come out, and it was really exciting," Como recalls. She doesn't gloss over the hard work or rough conditions of Amazon's first years, though, adding that "the back room leaked, and you had to wear double the clothes in the winter to stay warm." The heating would be an ongoing problem. In the Hennepin store, the last before Amazon found its present home on the north side of Loring Park in 1985, there were also leaks and no heat. "It was impossible for people to be warm," Como goes on. "But they worked anyway...with fans and space heaters and whatever we could, to have it open with the sign up to let people know that someone was in there behind that ice."

"We were trying to get Amazon known in the community," Como explains. "Still, even then, there were quite a few women coming in. It was the first place many women came when they moved to town. We had a lending library where you could sit and read, sit and watch women, sit and look around, get to know people...ask questions. It got to be a real nice place for women, because it was safe. It was safe, and that made us different."

Several former Amazon workers mention being "thanked" by women who walked terrified through Amazon's doors as their first stop on their road to coming out. These women later would recall what a huge difference it made at that point in their lives (as a woman's bookstore did for this writer).

Amazon was incorporated as a not-for-profit business and operated as a collective. Since its inception, the store has gone through a variety of management styles. Como states that the collective members would pack up books and haul them to "every conference we could get our noses into — colleges, churches that asked

us to come in. We were trying to build credit, and as a women's bookstore, that was kind of a strike against us with some of the publishers. They didn't take us seriously." Eventually, though, Amazon's collective members gained a solid reputation for paying bills, and creditors realized that the bookstore would "not be closing tomorrow."

A new set of problems was developing to replace the old ones. While the men of the publishing industry decided to give Amazon a break, the boys in overcoats and wing-tip shoes began hanging around. As newspaper heiress Patty Hearst's disappearance in 1974 made O.J.-like headlines, the FBI took to walking through Amazon's aisles with pen and pad, writing down titles, while trying to look inconspicuous. "It was pretty obvious who they were," chuckles Como, remembering their wing-tip shoes and suits. "At one point, though, an agent came in and asked to speak to me. He asked if we'd ever heard of Patty Hearst," because they thought she was being hidden by the women's movement underground...and that we must know something about it." Como explained to the agent that Amazon wasn't connected with the Hearst disappearance, but agents "still hung around for awhile," returning a few years later to inform the Amazon collective that someone was using their return address to send bomb threats to the Federal Building. "He said he didn't actually think we were stupid enough to put our own return address on them." The mystery was never solved, but as the '70s came to a close, so did the visits of the FBI.

The other problems Amazon faced at that time had nothing to do with boys in blue, gray, or any other color. Like many feminist organizations across Canada and the U.S., women at Amazon had started to realize that working toward consensus could be hell. By the early '80s, the collective entered therapy "to

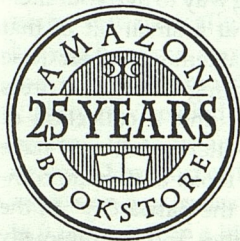


Amazon Bookstore started on the front porch of this house on 26th Avenue in 1970.

learn how to get along." Como attributes some of the store's problems to a blurred boundary between what was business and what was personal. Her partner, Carol Carlson, was also extremely committed to Amazon, and when they broke up, "it was pretty hard on the collective." The group also needed to look at issues around power and how to deal with conflict.

Despite the problems they faced, the core group of Como, Carlson, Cris Morris, Colleen Convey, Dawn Oftendahl, and Dana Fox had worked together for several years. They were, in Como's view, "pretty creative in ways to operate a business, and do it with everybody agreeing on things. People can't always expect to get along, but for Amazon's survival, we needed to learn ways to get along." What they learned was that "talking things out and not keeping them inside" were important strategies for collective survival. "We had weekly meetings, and took turns facilitating, with a point for grievances to be discussed," Como relates. "We learned that it's OK to say things like, 'I'm uncomfortable with this,' and that being female doesn't mean we don't get angry and frustrated and have problems with the other women."

The biggest changes in the bookstore reflect changes in society at large, says Barb Wieser, general



manager and cooperative member. "We have an explosion of books by and about feminists and lesbians. In 1970, there were probably five books, very few feminist publishing companies, and almost no lesbian literature." The boom in feminist and lesbian publishing has changed the landscape of publishers," notes Wieser. "For a long time, most was published by small presses, but in the last five years, mainstream presses have published more." This would have been almost unimaginable for the feminists of the 1970s. Wieser recalls that when she was involved with the start-up of The Iowa City Women's Press, "the first thing we printed was an anthology of an all-women's poetry reading, and it was considered pretty radical."

Amazon currently is giving out free bookmarks to customers with a message from the Feminist Bookstore Network. Each bookmark features a cartoon of "Sylvia," the character developed by Nicole Hollander. Sylvia is saying, "Feminism: Good. Feminist Book Store: Very Good! Please support yours, Love, Sylvia."

The issue of who the "you" is of "yours" in that phrase comes up at Amazon, as it does with many

other businesses that grow out of (and nurture) a community. Wieser laughs, and observes, "People really identify with the store as 'their place,' and, you know, sometimes that's great, and sometimes..." she trails off, then adds, "If they find something they don't like, they can get really mad."

Some shoppers (and a fairly large number of non-shoppers) refer to the store as a "lesbian bookstore." While stressing that the store is lesbian-positive — and committed to carrying material by, for, and of interest to lesbians — members of the workers' cooperative that own and run the bookstore insist that Amazon is a feminist bookstore, not a woman's bookstore or a lesbian bookstore. "We really try to appeal to a wide range of women," explains Wieser. "We've got over 15,000 titles by women. More than anything else, a feminist bookstore in the year 1995 functions as visible women's space." Wieser stresses that many women's centers and other feminist spaces have closed over the years, and that some women come into Amazon "just to be in what feels like a safe place, especially after a horrible day at work. We want to be a place where they come in to find everything surrounding them affirming them." Also, according to Wieser, there are economic factors to consider. "We couldn't survive as a business stuck in '70s lesbian separatism. We need a broader community to survive, and we need to be a broader community resource."

In the words of Donna Niles, head book buyer and member of the co-op's management team, "There are more and more definitions of what feminism is. My mission is opening up the store for as many kinds of feminists as possible." Miles speaks of the pressure against coming out as a feminist. "We are not a monolith, and we are not a monolithic voice of what feminism is. We carry some marginal stuff, because I figure our movement has matured enough that we can carry it." She smiles, and continues, "Besides, diversity really is the most interesting way to live your life."

The Sylvia cartoon hints at a small bit of that diversity, at least in terms of what feminists wear these days: the character wears dangly earrings, a dress showing discernible cleavage, and a collection of snake bracelets and bangles — items that may have earned the wearer some dirty looks and snide comments about being "a dupe of the patriarchy" in the 1970s. With today's queer politics and continuously

WHEN THE WORLDS OF RELIGION, SCIENCE— AND WOMEN—COLLIDE.

PYTHAGORAS' TROUSERS

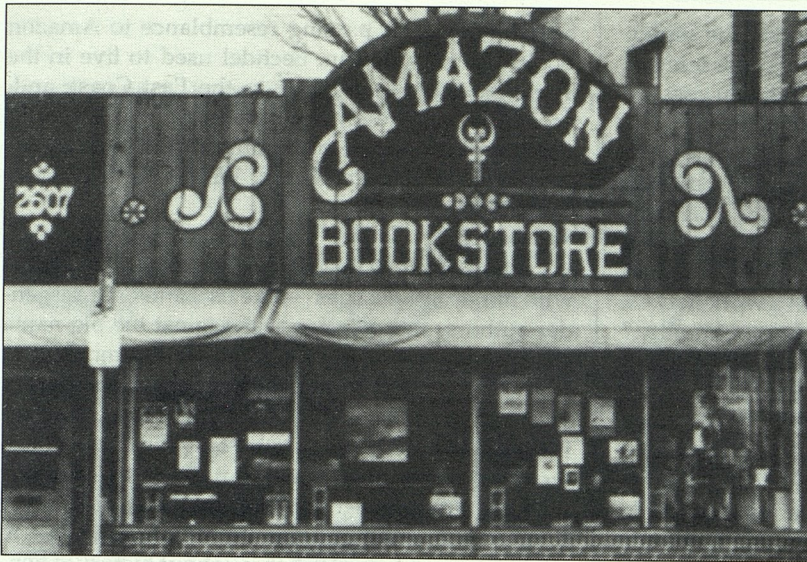
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—Susan Faludi,
author of *Backlash*

T I M E S B O O K S



In 1980, Amazon was on Hennepin Avenue South.

evolving feminism, however, such things don't mean what they used to. The codes have changed.

So has the stock in the store, relates Niles, pointing to certain newer sections of the store. "We've got sections on bisexuality and on sex industry workers, books in Spanish, books on creating families. There are more subsections, and there's also a bigger emphasis on young adult books." And yes, admits Niles, the store carries some books by men now. Niles, whose duties include choosing books to buy, suggests that some of this is in response to the new queer politics. "Many younger women identify as queer, not feminist," she remarks. "It's important to have outreach to women who don't consider themselves feminists. But basically, when I'm buying books, it comes down to that we are a feminist bookstore. I'll buy HIV-related material if it relates to women or to caregivers. That sort of thing. But if a book on gay issues has lesbian in it like a tail on a kite, I'll leave

it to Harvey." (Harvey Hertz is owner of the Minneapolis bookstore A Brother's Touch.)

Amazon Bookstore is a worker-owned cooperative. Policy decisions are made by the cooperative, with each member getting one vote. "This system prevents anybody from becoming Empress of the Universe," states Niles. She laughs, and terms the store's organizational structure "a self-cleaning oven."

Workers can become cooperative members after they have been at the store for one year. Day-to-day management questions are handled by the

management team, and by Wieser, the general manager. Wieser, who began as a part-time temporary employee, has been with the store for nine years. She describes her duties as general manager as "overseeing what goes on, but we all work as a cooperative, so the members make the ultimate decisions." Since those decisions reflect the knowledge and cultural awareness of the staff, the store always is looking to



Amazon Bookstore today, at 1612 Harmon Place.

do what Wieser refers to as "diversifying the staff in terms of age, color, and background. People bring in their communities," she comments, and then goes on, "We live in a pretty white town, though."

Niles, who came to the Twin Cities from Washington, D.C.'s Lammas bookstore, agrees with that assessment. "I stock one-quarter of what I stocked at Lammas in Women of Color literature, because of the population. On the other hand, I sold nominal amounts of Native American women's work in D.C., and here that's a major part of the community." Another difference between the nation's capital and the nation's heartland, in Niles' view, is that "in D.C., there was not as much male clientele as there is here. The Midwest is different: there are gay men with political consciousness, bisexual activists, men in Birkenstocks, and they come to the feminist bookstore." Wieser mentions male shoppers as well when she elaborates on the "Rainbow Department": "We have great gay memorabilia, and we've got rainbow rugs, pink triangle rugs, Pride screensavers with rainbows, and the Alison Bechdel mouse pads. And we're going to be getting rainbow doormats in, too."

And yes, for those of you who always have wondered, "Madwimmin Bookstore" in Bechdel's popular comic strip "Dykes to Watch Out For" does

bear more than a passing resemblance to Amazon Bookstore for a reason. Bechdel used to live in the Twin Cities before moving to the East Coast, and, according to Wieser, the cartoonist still keeps in touch with the pulse of feminist bookstore life via Amazon. "She calls us up. We're her bookstore consultants."

The bookstore over the years has had to deal with hundreds of issues — like its stand on transgender authors, and going to war against the big-name chain stores, who have decided, for the moment at least, to go chic with lesbian authors and get richer with lesbian dollars. What the chains can't provide, however, is a place which is not only the Minneapolis women's community center, but also a place where walking through the door gives lesbians a little piece of pride and affirmation. Amazon is a venue where all that women have done throughout history is honored day after day, year after year. It's only fitting that after a quarter century of helping the Twin Cities community grow up, come out, and stay strong, Amazon be honored, too.

An earlier version of this article was published in issue 9 of Lavender Lights. ○

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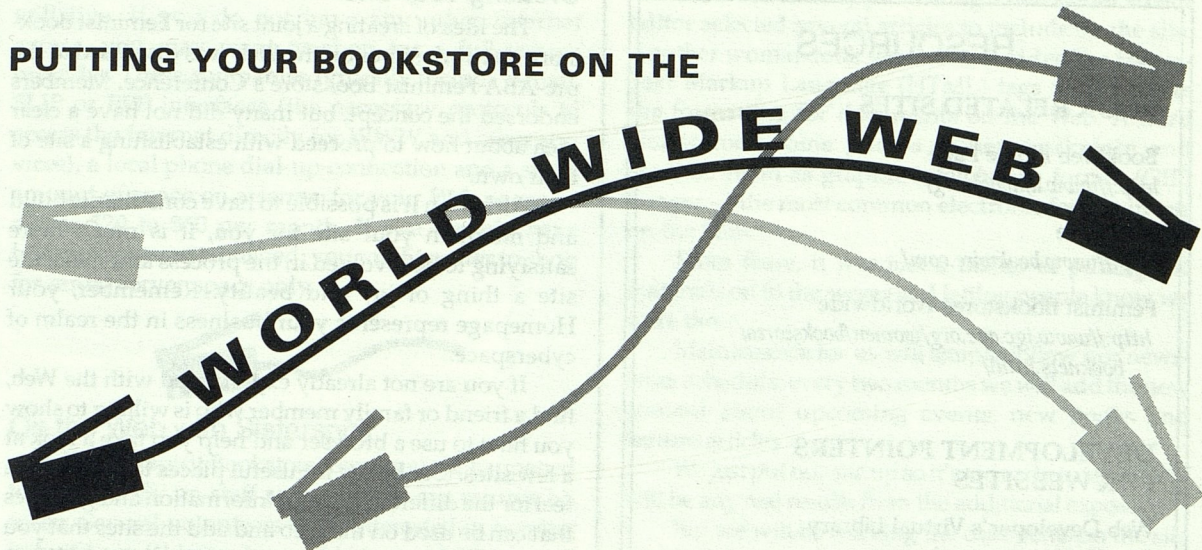
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PUTTING YOUR BOOKSTORE ON THE

WORLD WIDE WEB



By Leisa Fearing
Sisterspirit Bookstore

The Internet is rapidly becoming a part of our popular culture. For feminists, the "Net" can be a powerful tool in communicating a message or marketing a product. The recent development of the World Wide Web (WWW), the fastest growing application on the Internet, now provides a simple-to-use and easy-to-maintain mechanism for making information about your store available to people in your community and throughout the world.

If you're thinking about developing a "Homepage" for your store it will help if you have some specific goals in mind. Think about what you want to achieve with your site.

Some of the best ways to use a Website:

- As a signpost to let people who are looking for feminist bookstores know that you exist. The Web is the modern version of a listing in the yellow pages.
- Attract new customers to your store by placing material which may pique the interest of people with similar concerns. This is analogous to taking fliers to women's workshops that list related titles that you stock.
- Serve your existing customers better. Let them

know about special events, new titles, promotions, time-sensitive information and features. This is more like a newsletter, to keep up the interest level and encourage frequent visits.

- Garner feedback from your customers. This "online suggestion box" lets users provide you with opinions, recommendations, complaints and requests.
- Expand your market by allowing customers to shop online. This is similar to catalog sales, where people view your Website for product information, then send their orders to you electronically or through traditional methods for processing.



Websites can be obtained through ABA as well as many regional community and business resources. The ABA has established a Website where member stores may set up a Homepage at a nominal fee (\$100 for the initial set-up; \$60 quarterly to maintain) or include a hyperlink to a Homepage they have set up elsewhere on the Web.

"Sites" are viewed with a Web "browser," (the program used as the interface for the Web) by entering the URL (Uniform Resource Locator, the addressing system for the Web). To view the ABA site, enter <http://www.ambook.org/> on your Web browser.

RESOURCES

BOOK RELATED SITES

BookWeb Home Page
<http://www.ambook.org/>

Bookwire
<http://www.bookwire.com/>

Feminist Bookstores Worldwide
<http://www.igc.apc.org/women/bookstores/booknets.html/>

DEVELOPMENT POINTERS FOR WEBSITES

Web Developer's Virtual Library
<http://www.stars.com/>

Yahoo - Computers and Internet - World Wide Web
http://www.yahoo.com/Computers_and_Internet/Internet/World_Wide_Web/

INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS

http://www.yahoo.com/Business_and_Economy/Companies/Internet_Access_

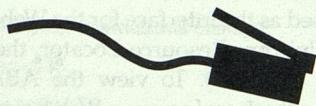
http://www.yahoo.com/Business_and_Economy/Companies/Internet_Presence_Providers/

WOMEN RELATED SITES

FeMiNa Directory
<http://www.femina.com/>

Feminist Majority
<http://www.feminist.org/>

IGC WomensNet
<http://www.igc.apc.org/womensnet/>



Creating Your Site

The idea of creating a joint site for Feminist Bookstore Network stores on the Web was discussed at the pre-ABA Feminist Bookstore's Conference. Members endorsed the concept, but many did not have a clear idea about how to proceed with establishing a site of their own.

Although it is possible to have consultants build and maintain your site for you, it is much more satisfying to be involved in the process and make the site a thing of joy and beauty. Remember, your Homepage represents your business in the realm of cyberspace.

If you are not already experienced with the Web, find a friend or family member who is willing to show you how to use a browser and help you take a look at a few sites. (See below for useful places to start.) Get a feel for the different types of information and graphics that can be used on the Web and add the sites that you particularly like to your browser's "bookmark" list so that you can look them up again.

Taking the Plunge

Once you have a sense of what the Web is and how you might be able to use it, you can make some decisions about how to proceed.

The first step is determining what your resources are for building and maintaining your site. It is a good idea to begin by leveraging existing resources. Match the goals for your Website to the advertising and publishing activities already in place for your store.

If you want to get started without investing a lot of time or energy, the ABA listing service offers a simple and low cost turnkey method of setting up a basic Homepage.

But if you've had a bit of experience on the Web or if you're feeling adventurous, think about setting up your own Homepage. Don't underestimate the talent available to you or exaggerate the magnitude of the task. Assess staff interest and capabilities or make an appeal to your community for help in setting up your site. Building and maintaining your own Website requires some computer literacy, but will allow flexibility and experimentation and is important if you want to include ordering capabilities.

If you are feeling more ambitious, find an Internet Service Provider (ISP) to "host" your site for your Homepage, *et al.* ISP's provide a computer, called a

server, where the files that make up your Website will live. If you do not have any other Internet access, you may want to shop for a full-service provider. These companies typically include e-mail, SLIP or PPP interfaces (the necessary protocols to access the Internet directly for WWW and other services), a local phone dial-up connection and a small amount of space on a server for your Web pages — all for \$20 to \$60 per month. If you already have Internet access established, you might prefer to shop for rental server space only.



On the Web with Sisterspirit

At Sisterspirit Bookstore (San Jose) we happened to have an ISP on staff so that made our setup a bit easier. Several volunteers were interested in helping to build our Website. I was able to provide technical guidance and space on the Internet, but the store was able to draw upon its existing resources and found that several women were excited to learn the new skills for publishing on the Web.

We were already publishing a newsletter so our editor selected several articles to include on the site. Another woman took the text and added the Hyper-Text Markup Language (HTML) tags which create the formatting for documents on the Web. A third staffer took some photos to her workplace and scanned them as graphic interchange format (GIF) images — the most common electronic format in use on the Web.

From there, it was just a matter of putting the materials on to the server and letting people know we were there.

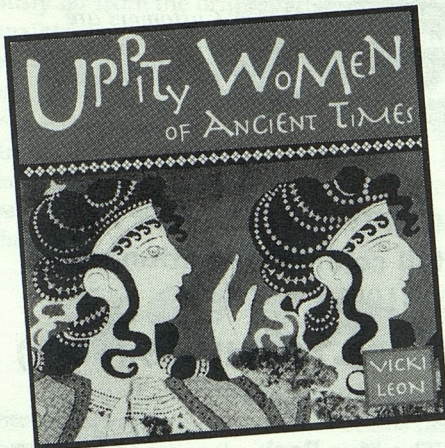
Maintenance for us will simply follow our newsletter schedule: every two months we will add the new content about upcoming events, new books and feature articles.

We just put our site up so it's too early to tell if there will be any real results from the additional exposure.

But we will be tracking the comments on the site and at the store and will let you know how it goes.

Leisa Fearing is President of the WWW provider Elf Systems Corporation and spends her free time as a volunteer for Sisterspirit Bookstore in San Jose. ○

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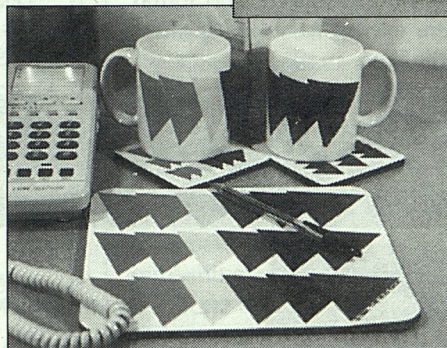
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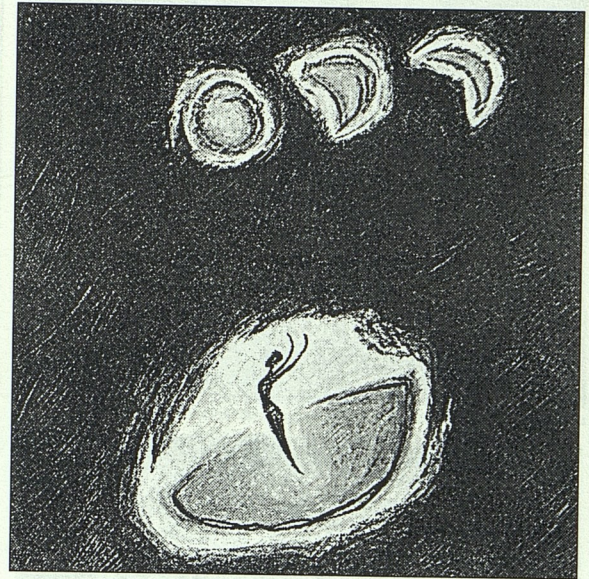
Holding The Integrity Of Your Store

By Suzanne
Two Sisters Bookshop/Menlo Park CA

When my sister and I opened the bookstore seven years ago, we didn't know much, but we did know we wanted to carry sidelines. Besides being fun, beautiful and interesting, we knew the 50% margin would help offset the 40% we'd make on books. The first year was 50/50 books and sidelines. Two years later we were 40% books and 60% sidelines. That percentage has held now for about five years. I don't do anything to manage it one way or the other. I regularly choose new gift items and eliminate slow-moving book categories and sidelines. I do get a pit in my stomach at the thought of our books decreasing. It doesn't matter if sales are great, it's an identity problem for me. The bookstore was my sister's idea, so when I start straying seriously far from the original idea, I have to soothe my anxiety. I wander around the store admiring how beautiful it is and how well everything is working — and then I relax — a bit. Change is so hard for me. If you women are having difficulty moving into sidelines, I encourage you to hang in there and take it easy. Changing your inventory is a process that can be a lot deeper than plopping a ceramic goddess on the shelf.



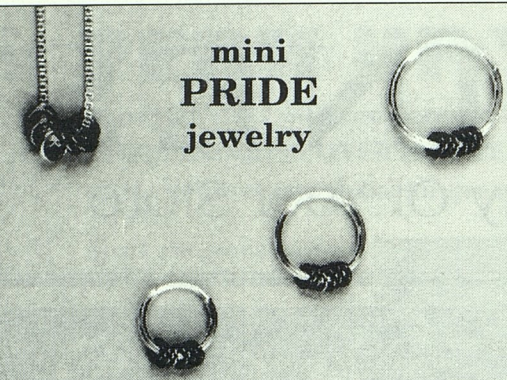
Of course now that I'm facing chains and big discounters selling our books, it seems only too perfect that our sideline/book inventory is split the way it is. We recently took a look at our best-selling book categories: Lesbian Fiction, Goddess/Wicca, Women's Spirituality and Psychology/Self help.



Painting by Deborah A. Bowman, from the '96 Luna Press Calendar/ Luna Press.

They've been the same for five years. So I said, "OK, let's be the very best at what women want here. We'll specialize in these top categories and won't try to force others that aren't selling." In the meantime, we find beautiful new gift items everyday that we want to make space for.

Like our books, our sidelines are very much in line with our overall focus on women's empowerment, growth and spirituality. If an item doesn't support our intentions, we don't carry it — even if it sells millions. I think women feel the integrity of our store and inventory. I know I do, and I'm the one who lives with it day in and day out. It's my home and I won't have cheap or demeaning merchandise or merchandising. It's a challenge holding this broad





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container, particularly when a saleswoman says "These doodads are so hot, stores can't keep them in stock" and sales are a little slow, the quarterly taxes and sales tax are due, etc. etc. But I hate the little doodads! I say no. We feminist booksellers have high standards for the books we carry and I've found that the sidelines are no less important, maybe even more so because they are so visible. They set a standard, a mood, an energy, that can be seen and felt the minute a customer steps in the door. She can smell the high quality candles and incense. She sees the bright, true colors of well-designed tee-shirts. She hears music from a quality sound system. Displays invite her to touch and drink in their beauty. She feels a spaciousness around her.



My best advice in choosing sidelines is not to "know your customer," but rather, "know yourself." Sidelines should fit snugly into your store's mission statement, which I assume fits snugly into your own heart. What do you love? What jewelry do you wear? What cards do you send to friends and relatives? What goddess would you buy for your altar or your garden? There will be customers who feel the same. When I first have a woman help me select cards, she offers to pick cards that she thinks our customers would like. I encourage her to select what *she herself* loves and would buy. This is riskier, because if the card or sideline doesn't sell, it feels so personal: after all, it's what the woman herself loves. If she's bought what she *thinks another person* will like, then she's only made an error in judgment. So be sensitive when a woman is buying from her own heart. She'll be watching her selection like a hawk. She'll know when the first one sells and she'll grieve and fret when they don't. I had one woman take it so personally she offered to buy the cards she'd chosen which didn't sell. Hey, we just don't know, do we? We do the best we can. I'll tell you this, though: In seven years, I've had about three sidelines items, total, that never sold. Sometimes we've marked the price down to help jewelry find a home, and I have given a few cards away, but we don't have anywhere near this sell-through rate with our books.

So I like to involve lots of women in choosing

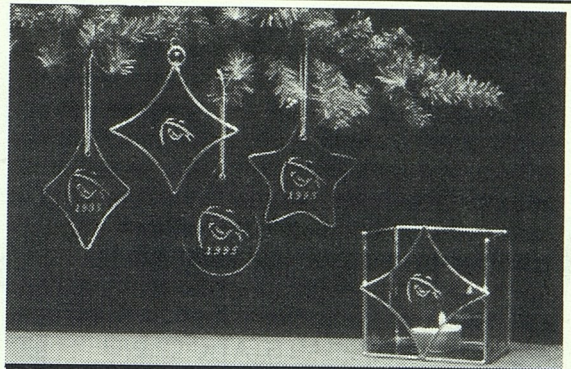
sidelines, even our customers if they're hanging around. They love it! As long as a product fits within my broad container that holds the integrity of the store, I personally don't have to love a sideline as long as one woman does. You might have guessed by now that there's a lot of love around our sidelines. Our customers describe our displays as altars everywhere they look. A man compliments our great *merchandising*. What it really is, is a woman loving what she's placing and arranging in its special spot. She makes it beautiful in her own eyes with form, color and texture, using her creativity and intuition. They can't teach that in school. It comes from the heart and I haven't worked with a woman yet who doesn't have it. Some take longer than others to feel safe enough to show their creativity. After all, it's been criticized and smashed for so long; but it's there and when it starts flowing, the displays are beautiful, just like the women!

So if you ask a woman to make a display, be so careful, because she's putting out her heart. I try very hard not to tamper with another woman's display when I don't like it or think my way is better. Rearranging a woman's creativity will shut it down. If I need to make space for other items or if I just *have* to make a change, I ask the woman's permission first. How attached is she to her display and can I move things a bit? When I washed the tablecloths and redid all our display tables over Labor Day, I was greatly attached to my displays for a couple weeks. I told Mickey and Laurel that I wanted them to stay the way I'd created them for a while. So I did the displaying until my attachment was gone. It created a lot of work for me protecting all my tables, but it's what I needed and I respect that in another woman too!



Now a few words about sidelines and Christmas:

For years I began a chronic anxiety attack in August that lasted through December 26, obsessing about whether I would have too little or too much inventory for holiday shopping. I kept notes from the previous season to remind me what sold well, what we ran out of and what we over-ordered. These notes were reassuring but minimally helpful because every year is different. The most helpful note I write myself every



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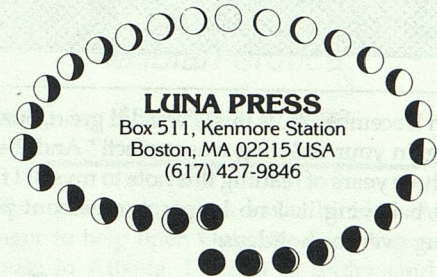
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year on December 26, is this: "You did great, Suzanne, once again your ordering was perfect!" And it's true. After three years of reading this note to myself I finally started believing it. I no longer panic about perfect ordering over the holidays.



There's always one sideline that sells wildly every X-mas. I never know what it will be. Last year I expected it to be Jana Viles-Simpson's Light Guardians because they sold so well over the year and were reasonably priced at \$12. So I ordered a bunch and we had a bunch left. I know the *hot item* will always be something under twenty dollars. For several years it

was candles. The scented candle pots from Coyote Found sold like hot cakes two years in a row. The next year the *hot item* was their Goddess Votive Ring (\$12). Last year every other customer bought a set of Luminart's Chakra Candles (\$7.50) and an Earth Mama candleholder by Janet Taylor. Fortunately, the *hot item* has always been something that I could reorder right up to the second week of December. That's one reason I encourage you to find local sources for sidelines. It's helpful having face-to-face relationships with craftswomen. They'll work with you — let you do a small opening order to test a few items with minimal financial risk. Often they'll trade-back pieces that don't sell. So cultivate your local craftswomen and don't screw them over by not paying their bills! Some have told me that the women's bookstores are the worst! Tsk! Tsk!

This year I predict our *hot item* will be Soap Sistah's soaps and gift sets because *I love them!* If I over-order I will personally bathe, lather and oil myself in loving bliss with all the leftovers!

Happy Holidays, I'll be writing more about sidelines again next year so if you have a special interest, let me know: 415-323-4778.



Luminart Candles — 800-226-3533 Redway CA. Great service, high quality candles.

Coyote Found Candles — 800-788-4142 Port Townsend WA. Terms are Net 10 only.

Soap Sistahs — 510-531-0315 Oakland CA. You'll love Terry, the owner. Let her help you put an order together.

Jana Viles-Simpson — 503-688-1356 Eugene OR. Creates the Light Guardian, Loving Arms and Winged Messenger ceramic Goddesses. All come with description cards. She'll trade-back.

Taylor-Made Pottery — 707-677-0240 Trinidad CA. Janet Taylor creates beautiful ceramic goddesses, bowls, wall pieces and rattles. Her Earth Mama candleholders are distributed by Luminart and it's best to order through Luminart as they are more reliable and timely in their deliveries. Janet is a great creator, but her direct orders can be long in coming. She'll trade-back.

Trends in Lesbian Pornography

By Debbie Fraker
Outwrite Bookstore
Atlanta

When I came out into the lesbian community five years ago, I assumed that my experience with lesbian erotica was limited to what I could find here in Atlanta. I looked for the lesbian equivalents to what I knew was available for men. I did not expect to find as much smut in the lesbian market as there was for straight men but I hoped for something similar and was frustrated when I couldn't find it. I finally discovered *On Our Backs* and later I heard about *Bad Attitude* but couldn't find it here. (I continued to pick up occasional copies of *Playboy*, *Penthouse*, and *Penthouse Forum* surreptitiously).

I found erotic fiction by Tee Corinne (*Lovers and Dreams of the Woman Who Loved Sex*, published by Banned Books) and Robbi Sommers (*Pleasures*, published by Naiad) and I learned about *Macho Sluts* by Pat Califia (Alyson Publications) from a friend who was wearing the button that used to come with the book. I thought there must be a whole body of work out there somewhere that I just couldn't get in Atlanta. I eventually discovered *Coming to Power* by Samois (Alyson) and heard about Artemis Oakgrove and they reinforced my feeling that there was more that I was missing out on. In *Coming to Power*, I discovered Dorothy Allison as a writer of erotic fiction and picked up a copy of *Trash* (Firebrand Books). I'm sure I've missed something important, but this was the extent of lesbian erotic fiction that I was aware of before 1990. (I discovered one of my favorite collections, *Serious Pleasure*, after it was picked up by Cleis Press for United States publication. Before that it was imported

from Sheba in England. I apparently came out during the gap between Sheba and Cleis.)

There was plenty of lesbian fiction that included subtle romantic and erotic references in the context of the story or novel but I was looking for jerk-off stories — stories that reinforced the power of my own imaginative sexual fantasies.

*I began to
understand
why I hadn't been
able to find more
lesbian erotica:
it wasn't there.*

Two years ago, when I was hired as Assistant Manager to help open Outwrite Bookstore and Coffeehouse in Atlanta, I began to understand why I hadn't been able to find more lesbian erotica: it wasn't there. In 1993 the selection was still disappointingly small, even though it was far larger that it had been three years earlier. When we opened the store, we allotted two shelves to a Women's Erotica section and had to shelve most of the books face-out to fill them. (The Men's Erotica section is much bigger and I was jealous. I began reading the men's books, as I have since discovered many of my sisters, feeling the same deprivation, do.)

But even then, as lesbian and gay publishing was growing, lesbian erotic publications were beginning a dramatic improvement in both volume and variety.

Susie Bright had already begun putting together some of the hottest erotica collections any woman could want (starting with *Herotica* and *Herotica 2*, both first published by Down There Press). Karen Barber had edited two yummy collections with Alyson Publications (*Bushfire* and *Afterglow*), and Masquerade Books had begun publishing some divine mass market collections, including *Provincetown Summer* by Lindsay Welsh. In the two years since the store was opened, however, the selection of lesbian erotic fiction we are able to offer has almost doubled. In the magazine section, *Lezzie Smut* is a new lesbian S/M erotic 'zine-style magazine, and *Girlfriends* combines erotica with general features, a refreshing twist.

Cleis Press has had great success with *Daughters of Darkness: Lesbian Vampire Stories* edited by Pam Keesey and has recently issued its sequel, *Dark Angels*, which is reported to be much hotter than the first volume. In the spring, Cleis is bringing out the first in an on-going series called *Best Lesbian Erotica* (along with *Best Gay Erotica*). The lesbian series will be edited by Tristan Taormina with a guest judge each year who will also write an introduction. The 1996 guest judge

*Some other
recent books of
erotica are
pan-sexual or,
as we like to say,
polyamorous*

is Heather Lewis (*House Rules*). Also due in 1996 from Cleis is *Switch Hitters: Lesbians Write Gay Male Erotica and Gay Men Write Lesbian Erotica* edited by Carol Queen and Lawrence Schimel.

The vast majority of the new books are mass markets from Masquerade Books and most of them are S/M erotica. Sadomasochistic fantasies have increased in publication, sales and popularity. At Outwrite, Laura Antoniou's work is the most popular, but Masquerade publisher Richard Kasak tells me that, overall, Lindsay Welsh's books have higher sales. Welsh's new Fall title, *The Best of Lindsay Welsh*, mixes vanilla and S/M stories. The books in Antoniou's Marketplace series, the first two published under the pseudonym Sara Adamson, are among our bestselling erotica, partly because our staff recommends them so often.

The Marketplace books represent another trend in erotica written or edited by lesbians and bisexual women. Reminiscent of Anne Rice's Beauty series and *Exit to Eden*, Antoniou's series has gay, straight, lesbian and bisexual encounters. Some other recent books of erotica are pan-sexual or, as we like to say, polyamorous — such as Pat Califia's *Doing It For Daddy* which is also a staff favorite in our store. My favorite



Cartoon by Jane Caminos from *Dyke Strippers, Lesbian Cartoonists A to Z*, Cleis Press.

story in *Doing It For Daddy* is by Carol Queen, about a dyke who goes out dressed as a fag boy and picks up a gay leather daddy and eventually flips him. Gender seems to have little significance to these queer girl writers. Through her own publishing house, Circle Press, Cecilia Tan is writing and editing a unique style of pan-sexual science fiction and fantasy stories. One of the reasons these books sell so well is that they sell to both men and women. We are delighted with the cross-over, but we sometimes have to point them out to anyone who might not be browsing the section they're shelved in.

Even though our staff has been excited by the abundance of S/M lesbian erotica, many of our customers have been equally pleased by the increased variety of lesbian erotica available to them. Whether lesbians are writing S/M or good old-fashioned vanilla erotica, more women are writing more stories and they're writing characters that are more aggressive about seeking their own pleasure. Susie Bright has been hard at work putting out *Herotica 3* from Penguin, and *The Best American Erotica 1994* and *1995* through Simon & Schuster. *Herotica 3* includes a very sexy story about a woman with a penis; and the Best American Erotica series defines sexual diversity. Lily Burana, Roxxie, and Linnea Due put together *Dagger: On Butch Women* for Cleis Press — it's a collection of erotic stories and pictures and some of the sexiest essays a girl could ask for. It is a goddess-send for those of us who worship butch women.

Shar Rednour edited *Virgin Territory* for Masquerade Books. Robbi Sommers has put out two new books with Naiad in the last two years (*Personal Ads* and *Getting There*). Women's Press of Canada published *Tangled Sheets*, edited by Rosamund Elwin and Karen X. Tulchinsky. *Erotique Noir*, edited by Miriam Decosta-Willis, Reginald Martin and Roseann P. Bell, and *Pleasure in the World*, edited by Margarite Fernandez Olmos and Lizabeth Parazisini-Gebert and published by Plume, reach out to the erotic experience of women of color.

In December Alyson Publications will release *Heat Wave*, edited by Lucy Jane Bledsoe, a collection that includes both S/M and vanilla stories. Next Spring Alyson will publish the long-awaited sequel to *Coming to Power*, *Second Coming* edited by Pat Califia and Robin Sweeney. These and more collections of erotic fiction published in the last two years represent

the best of both good writing and good jerk-off fiction.

Even with the greater availability of lesbian erotica, our customers are still looking for more. We often get requests for an erotic magazine that is less hardcore than *On Our Backs* and with more erotica than *Girlfriends*. There are still lots of lesbians reading *Playboy* and *Penthouse*, even if some of them don't admit it. We also need more lesbian erotica featuring lesbians of color and presenting sexuality from the perspectives of women of color. There has been some improvement in these areas but we need more.

*Whether lesbians
are writing S/M
or good old-fashioned
vanilla erotica,
more women
are writing more stories
and they're writing
characters that are
more aggressive
about seeking
their own pleasure.*

We trust that these issues will be addressed as the market makes more demands, just as the demands for more sexually charged fiction are being answered.

Are lesbians getting more sexually aggressive or are publishers just catching up? Either way, we're enjoying both the increased sales and the increased access to some of our favorite reading material.

Debbie Fraker is still the Assistant Manager at Outwrite Bookstore and Coffeehouse in Atlanta and is a freelance writer whose work appears in Southern Voice, Etcetera and just about anywhere else that will take it. ○

A Pat On The Back



By Margaret Cox

I am no longer on the Herland Board, but I am nevertheless filled with pride for Herland, and want to congratulate them (her? us?) for their (her/our) part in a most phenomenal success — the Supreme Court decision in July which sets the precedent that lesbianism/homosexuality is not grounds for denying a parent custody.

It all began, for Herland, in March of 1992, when, to excerpt from the Board minutes, "The Board next heard from two women who are involved in a custody fight with one's exhusband. The mother currently has custody and the exhusband has filed for primary custody, citing her lesbianism and the proposed move from Oklahoma. An appeal to the Oklahoma Supreme Court is expected no matter who the winner is at the lower court level, and that appeal will probably be in the \$15,000 range. The women's immediate need is for \$1,000-\$2,000. After considerable discussion as to the best ways for Herland to help raise this initial amount, Jean moved that \$500 be made available to them immediately; this amount to be guaranteed them; that any amount over that raised for them also be forwarded to them."

Gulp. It was clear during the "considerable discussion" that no one had a clue how to raise that kind of money — we had never done it before but when fiscally conservative Jean moved that we actually commit to giving \$500 immediately, we girded our loins and the motion passed unanimously. Thus was born the Herland Legal Defense Fund.

Fund-raising efforts by Herland included: Articles in *The Herland Voice*, every few months; countless open mikes at Herland and at various bars in town; countless mailings; countless strategy meetings; bring-

ing in the poet Chrystos from Bainbridge Island WA for a series of readings and workshops; a fabulously successful concert with Cris Williamson and Tret Fure; garage sales; clever mailings to a nationwide group from a list donated by the National Women's Mailing List; production and sale of a cookbook, *Family Cooking* (a few copies are still available); everything, that is, but a dog and pony show.

Over three years the Herland Legal Defense Fund (thanks to all of the wonderful women and men who donated to the Fund) was instrumental in raising over \$13,000 for this struggle. A portion of this went to other custody cases; but this first case met all the criteria established by the HLDF, primarily being that it was clearly winnable and thereby capable of setting a precedent to benefit lesbian and gay parents state- and nationwide.

I want to note here that this precedent also helps all women, gay or straight, in that all women are vulnerable to the playing of the lesbian card in custody cases. Just the threat of it has gained great advantage and concessions by the unscrupulous.

Finally, I want to acknowledge that it was the courage and gallantry of the mother and her partner which gave Herland the strength and impetus to keep on with their efforts, and certainly not the other way around. Words cannot express the deep admiration and affection we have all come to feel for these two strong, strong-hearted, courageous women. We're proud to know them, and proud to have helped.

Herland Sister Resources is the feminist bookstore/community center in Oklahoma City OK. They are one of a growing handful of feminist bookstores that own their own (totally paid for!) building. Reprinted with permission from The Herland Voice. ○

SHORT RAVES

Compiled by Jenn Tust

Examining Your Doctor: A Patient's Guide to Avoiding Harmful Medical Care by Timothy B. McCall MD is the first of its kind, a consumers guide to choosing and evaluating physicians, written by a physician. It is full of concrete and helpful ways to select a doctor, to evaluate the one you already have, and to understand the underlying fiscal, legal and bureaucratic machinations that impact on the quality of your medical care. Tim has been my friend (and sometimes medical advisor) for the past twenty years and his commitments to consumers, to progressive politics, and to improving the health care delivery system are heartfelt and impressive. You can bet that his chapter on principles of prescribing medicine will insure that he will be left off the pharmaceutical companies' schmooze lists forever and that many physicians may find what he has to say threatening. You can also bet that he would not be concerned about either of these things. His equal senses of humor and outrage make this an important and worthwhile book. Highly recommended for women's bookstores. \$22.50 cl, 1-55972-282-7, Birch Lane Press.

—Ann Dwyer

*Going Places Travel Agency & Bookstore, Madison WI
and ex-A Room of One's Own staff*

The Adventures of Mona Pinsky by Harriet Ziskin. The setting is an affluent, crime-free community in California which protects itself shamelessly from the "outside world." The problem starts with a suspicious conversation overheard by a 65-year-old restaurant hostess by the name of Mona Pinsky. In her efforts to bring a potential crime to light, Mona must endure and overcome the dismissiveness of the younger generation that discredits and discounts the heroic warnings of a disruptive and, therefore, "old and eccentric" woman. Ziskin weaves a sensitive, compelling, and

instructive path through the minefield of ageism and anti-Semitism which unfolds before her protagonist. \$12.95 pb, Calyx.

—Pat McAllister

*Crazy Ladies Bookstore, Cincinnati OH.
from The Crazy Ladies Center Community News*

Crone by Barbara Walker — an oldie but goody that I'm re-reading. A decade after its first printing it is still a dynamite discussion of women, age, wisdom, power and history. This book makes me want to be a crone as soon as possible! \$10 pb, Harper SF.

—Mary Morell

Full Circle Books, Albuquerque NM

Romance Reader by Pearl Abraham. This book is anything but romantic. This fascinating and compelling novel about a second-generation Hassidic woman/child kept me spellbound. The traditions which are essential foundations in life are also the walls of her prison. \$21.95, Riverhead Books.

—Mary Morell

Full Circle Books, Albuquerque NM

The Wedding by Dorothy West is the first novel in 45 years from West, the last surviving member of the Harlem Renaissance. It is a contemporary story about a middle-class Black wedding that examines the shackles of race and class. By successfully combining the personal with the political, and material reality with complex emotion, West does a remarkable job of conveying both the overt and covert fear, cruelty and stress created by white supremacism and its intricate connection to current realities. \$20, Doubleday.

—Helene Vann

Full Circle Books, Albuquerque NM

In the Tiempo/Time of the Mariposas/Butterflies by Julia Alvarez. As a woman who has just returned from seeing the actual home of the sisters of

this novel, I invite you also to feel the presence of these *Hermanas Mirabel!* The *casa* actually is as alive in Alvarez's pages as it was for me when I was in *La Republica Dominicana* (The Dominican Republic). You will understand women's history, especially of the Spanish-speaking Caribbean. Visuals are so tender and special. \$11.95 pb, Penguin USA. —*La Lupe*

Full Circle Books, Albuquerque NM

"I can't recall a time when we at Full Circle Books have had a richer, more fabulous selection of novels than this summer, and most titles are in paperback!" Ann Frost from Full Circle Books raves the following five titles:

Stones From the River by Ursula Hegi tells the story of Trudy, a dwarf living in a small German town, growing up between WWI and WWII. Exquisite description of place and heart to allow one to understand something of how Germans allowed the rise of the Nazis. Especially valuable given our current political and social climate here in the U.S. \$12 pb, Poseidon Press.

A Place Where the Sea Remembers by Sandra Benitez. Lyrical vignettes set in a Mexican village, all linked by the presence and guiding hand of the *Curandera*. The power of love and tragedy are beautifully drawn. A bittersweet serenity stays with you long after you've put this volume down. \$10 pb, Coffee House.

Katherine by Anchee Min. A hauntingly beautiful novel of the powerful effect of an American teacher in China. The meaning of freedom and love are forever changed for both a young man and a young woman who study with her. A complex and profoundly moving story. \$22.95 cl, Putnam.

Ugly Ways by Tina McElroy Ansa. A father and three grown daughters reunite upon the mother's death to discover and process their emotional inheritance: this eccentric woman's complex legacy of both strength and fear. \$9.95 pb, Harcourt Brace.

Blue Rodeo by Jo Ann Mapson. A recovering alcoholic cowboy and a recently divorced and relocated artist and mother of a deaf adolescent deal with their issues in a delightful and humorous romantic novel. Very well written. \$12 pb, Harper Collins.

—*Anne Frost*

Full Circle Books, Albuquerque NM

The Good Negress by A.J. Verdelle is Verdelle's delicately written debut novel which delves deeply into the thoughts and emotions of Denise, a young Black girl caught by circumstance and confined by duty. The author analyzes abstract concepts by fusing the personal and the social arenas that our fragmented world thrusts upon us. Verdelle graphically depicts Denise's growth, allowing the reader to see the oneness between politics and the individual psyche, oppression and the nature of female history, culture and the individual. The result is vibrant, clarifying and powerful. \$19.95 cl, Algonquin.

—*Helene Vann*

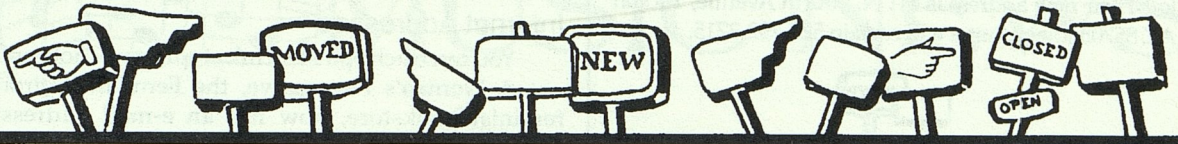
Full Circle Books, Albuquerque NM

Through a Ruby Window: A Martha's Vineyard Childhood by Susan Klein. It's the fate of tourist traps to be stereotyped; most people who write about them are just passing through. Martha's Vineyard is known for celebrities, Chappaquiddick and, most recently, two presidential visits. Tell someone you live here and they'll probably think you own a yacht and two houses, even if you add that the place has the lowest per capita income in the state.

Susan Klein grew up on the Vineyard and taught school here before becoming a nationally known storyteller. She tells haunting stories of living in Alaska and she deftly makes traditional tales her own; but best of all she shapes memories of her growing-up into stories funnier than those of most stand-up comedians. Read about how she and best buddy David make a lunch of starlings shot with David's new BB gun or about how they flush out rats with the help of Rusty the dog. There's almost painful poignancy here as well: child Susan going, dime in hand, to the Flying Horses carousel, hoping this will be the day it opens for "the season"; or trying to reject her Christmas gift, a longed-for blue bicycle, because she fears her mother and sister can't afford it. Visitors and recent arrivals will learn much about the island and its people, about childhood, and about the depth and resilience of human connections — not to mention, in the title story, about making beach-plum jelly.

Susan Klein's spoken stories translate beautifully to the printed page. This book, and the tape that contains several of the same stories, are what I give friends who love the Vineyard and want to know it better. \$19.95 cl, August House. —*Susanna J. Sturgis* ○

THEY WENT THAT-A-WAY

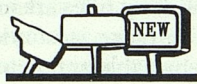


By Jenn Tust

New Stores

In January, Wittershins (Greenville, SC) will reopen — but in Raleigh NC! More details next issue!

Peggy Douglas and Susan Godseaux are taking over Printers Mark (Knoxville) — a progressive bookstore that has large feminist fiction and nonfiction sections. They plan on turning it into a feminist bookstore! Peggy is already working there and they will phase into owning and running the store by the beginning of 1996. Printers Mark, 30 Market Square, Knoxville TN 37920; 615-524-1958.



Terry Mahoney and Debra Bower-Watling are the owners of By the Light of the Moon, "a feminist, womanist, spirituality and health bookstore" in Waukesha WI. The store opened two years ago in October and has just moved to a new location. A second By the Light of the Moon is scheduled to open in Madison. The store will be independently owned, but the two stores will share stock under a franchise type agreement. By the Light of the Moon, 880 N. Grand Avenue, Waukesha WI 53181; 414-574-7651.

Stores Close

Old Wives' Tales Bookstore (San Francisco) will close at the end of October, after a long and difficult decade of financial struggle. Despite enormous efforts to reduce the store's outstanding debt, the debt continued to grow. Bookpeople was the store's last remaining supplier and once they stopped shipping early this fall, the dye was cast. No new books means no more bookstore. OWT's debt grew out of a number

of circumstances, including expanding at the wrong time (the same fall that A Different Light opened a branch in San Francisco), paying higher-than-market rates for rent and, in years past, financing operating expenses by shrinking the inventory to a size that could neither support the store nor generate enough income to reduce the debt. The store also, at various times, suffered from a bad reputation due to low stock and staff burn-out. The current collective has had the difficult task of letting go of the hope that the store could be saved and doing the difficult, but essential work of closing. Old Wives' Tales opened in 1976 and was once one of the flagship bookstores of the international women's movement. It will be sorely missed in many quarters. —CS

Aquarius Books in Bloomington IN closed on September 30. They hoped to sell the store but after a few months of looking and waiting — and just breaking even — they could hold out no longer. They credit part of their decision to new Barnes & Nobles and Borders bookstores moving into the area.

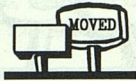
Lisa Mariotti closed New Horizons (MA) mail-order business at the end of September. (She had closed the store-front on June first.) Lisa said that it was too hard to sell books now and that she spent more time being a resource for people and less time selling books. Lisa plans to move to San Francisco in soon. We'll be looking forward to talking with our new neighbor!



Stores Move

The women of Antigone Books in Tucson bought and moved into their own building in early October! They did not want to leave Fourth Avenue and a

wonderful opportunity came up: a building on the corner of Fourth Avenue just 2 blocks south of their old location and across from the Food Conspiracy Coop! It has all the extra room they need and its own parking lot! Their new address is 411 N. Fourth Avenue, Tucson AZ 85705; their phone will remain 520-792-3715.



Books Move

Kitty Libber: Cat Cartoons by Women, Women's Glib: A Collection of Women's Humor, Women's Glibber: State-of-the-Art Women's Humor, Glibquips: Funny Words by Funny Women and Mother! Cartoons by Women have been discontinued by the Crossing Press and are now available from the editor at \$3 per book, prepaid, she pays postage. No minimum order. Make checks payable to Roz Warren. Laugh Lines Press, PO Box 259, Bala Cynwyd PA 19004.

People Move

Sally Owen of the recently closed Judith's Room was named book review editor of *On the Issues: The Progressive Woman's Quarterly*.

After five years as co-managing editor for fiction, poetry and drama at the Women's Press/Canada, Ann Decter is taking a one-year maternity leave and hopes to complete her second novel at the same time. Martha Ayim, who has been with Women's Press as co-managing editor for non-fiction since February 1993, will assume all managing editor duties for the next year.

Former Dutton editor Helen Eisenbach is the new editor-in-chief and associate publisher of Alyson Publications. She worked with the Plume/Dutton and NAL/Dutton line of gay and lesbian writing in the 1980's. Eisenbach plans to increase Alyson's list from 20 to 49 new titles per year by 1997. Liberation Publications (the publisher of the *Advocate*) acquired Alyson in May of this year. None of the old Alyson staff will move with the company to California.

Publishers Move

RDR Books and its divisions Zenobia Press, Wetlands Press and Book Passage Press have moved to 4456 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland CA 94611. Their phone number is 510-595-0595, fax 510-595-0598.

The Mountaineers Books moved. Their new address is 1001 SW Klickitat Way #201, Seattle WA 98134. Their phone is 206-223-6303, fax 206-223-6306, e-mail mbooks@mountaineers.org.

Internet Addresses

You can reach Spinsters Ink at spinsters@aol.com. A Woman's Prerogative, the Ferndale/Detroit feminist bookstore, now has an e-mail address: awomprer@aol.com.

FBN has its own domain, so you can reach each of us individually:

Carol Seajay: carol@fembknews.com

Jenn Tust: jenn@fembknews.com

Kathryn Werhane: kathryn@fembknews.com.



No Longer at Inland...

Books from Consortium publishers will no longer be available from Inland. These titles will remain available through Consortium.

Torrance Publishing titles are no longer available from Inland but Torrance is offering a new highly discounted non-returnable option to encourage bookstores to stock their titles. Returnable/nonreturnable terms are: 20%/40% for 2-3 books; 40%/50% for 4-25; 43%/53% for 26-75; etc. Torrance Publishing Company, PO Box 2558, Sebastopol CA 95473; 800-437-2338. Also available from BP.

Wild Dove titles are no longer available through IN. Terms for direct order from Wild Dove are: 30% for 2-4; 40% for 5-24; 43% for 25-49; 46% for 50-99; 50% for 100. Wild Dove plans to add an extra discount for prepaid orders. Wild Dove, PO Box 789, Palatine IL 60078; 708-991-5615. Also available from BP and the distributors.

We'Moon '96: Gaia Rhythms for Womyn, published by Mother Tongue Ink, is available on a limited basis only from Inland on non-returnable terms. Or order on returnable terms from Mother Tongue, 37010 South Snuffin Road, Estacada OR 97023 (503-630-7848) or BP, Ingram, Lady Slipper, New Leaf, Pacific Pipeline, Small Changes, Moving Books and Vision Works. Mother Tongue thanks you for your support and for your persistence in finding the *We'Moon* calendar. ○



MUSIC NEWS

by Jennifer Einhorn
Goldenrod/Horizon Distribution

Editor's note: Due to a space problem in the last issue, we held this column for this issue, so many of these releases aren't as "new" as they were then...

Strangers World/Patty Larkin. You won't find a better in-store play record if you try! Larkin is probably the most all-around talented artist to ever grace the pop/folk scene — period. In the past, her striking and sometimes hilarious persona tended to overshadow what can only be described as brilliant guitar work. However on this, her sixth and best release, the Cape Cod resident concentrates on *craft*. This is a songwriter's record: understated, wondrous lyrics spun around subtle but intricate instrumentals. Bruce Cockburn shines with backing vocals on the title track and the group formerly known as The Story transforms to a surreal level what was already the most powerful song this writer has ever heard: "When The Heaven's Light Up" will tell you all you need to know about Patty Larkin. \$7.49 tape, \$12.29 CD, High Street 10335.

When Love Is Right/ Doug Stevens and The Outband. The Official Gay and Lesbian Ambassadors to Country Music are celebrating the follow-up to their acclaimed debut, *Out in the Country*. Embraced by *Billboard*, *The New Yorker*, and CNN, and named #1 Gay Album in the country by *The Advocate*, *Out In The Country* carved an indelible niche for the band in the *Who's Who of Country Music*: a knee-slappin' hard-lovin' musically compelling Country Western Band with heartfelt pleas from cowboy to cowboy, and lustful looks from one cowgal to another. Gays and lesbians are some of country music's fiercest fans — and are relentless two-steppers to boot! Without

preaching or pointing, The Outband will empower, uplift and enlighten. \$5.99 tape, \$9.98 CD, DS102.

Not a Pretty Girl/ Ani Difranco. Imbued with an unwavering sense of wit and integrity, this is the seventh release from the hottest indie artist on the planet. It is also Goldenrod's best selling new release in its twenty-year history, and I venture to guess that's true for many stores as well. After fielding release-date calls for months, New Words Bookstore (Cambridge MA) immediately plastered a poster in their window with a sign that said "It's Here!!!" and promptly sold out. Stores that have no room for posters inside made room. The record is prime Difranco — "don't fuck with me" attitudes woven with disarming ballads and firm, independent stances. Note: Booksellers should play this in-store, but not before taping it onto a cassette and editing out a few extremely loud (non-bookstore) cuts. \$5.99 tape, \$9.59 CD, Righteous Babe Records 7.



Out and About — Again/Sid Spencer. Gay/lesbian stores will want to carry this one, but it's also for two-steppers and all types of country music folk. This record is a fantastic surprise: "Country music with a family twist." Gay men who loved Doug Stevens and The Outband will line up for this guy. Spencer has real talent and could easily give the best of 'em, including Clint Black and Vince Gill, a run for their money. Stellar vocals, fine production and sweet melodic tunes highlight all of his very out gay characters and scenarios, from my-baby-left-me rocking blues to two teenage boys going to the prom together. Perfect in-store play. \$5.99 tape, \$9.99 CD, Amethyst Records 9235.

Bette of Roses/Bette Midler. Gay and lesbian bookstores already know that Bette is on her way to usurping Babs as the ultimate gay icon. And it appears as though the Divine Ms. M's handlers have learned a serious thing or two about who's who in the contemporary singer-songwriter genre. She begins the collection with — are you ready? — a cover of Cheryl Wheeler's "I Know This Town." Play in-store and you'll hear the tunes of songstresses Maria McKee and Bonnie Hayes performed by a true vocal master. Not since Midler recorded John Prine's masterpiece, "Hello In There" (in the seventies!) has she scored so well with bright, touching and musically compelling songs. \$7.49 tape, \$12.29 CD, Atlantic 82823.



Jagged Little Pill/Alanis Morissette. Buyers should know that this gal is only the second woman to record on Maverick, the label Madonna founded, owns and runs. Morissette's predecessor, Me'Shell Ndegeocello, did big business in women's and gay bookstores — and recently became a mega-star after recording a duet with John Mellencamp. My point being that Madonna is a marketing whiz, and her girl Morissette is sure to become one big deal. Have her on your shelves, but not in your speakers. She's louder and edgier than Melissa and is not browsing material. She is, however, the most talented and gutsy rocker to emerge in years. Witty, quirky and smart, smart, smart — her scathing sarcasm alone is worth the price of admission. \$7.49 tape, \$12.79 CD, Maverick 45901.

The Freedom Sessions/Sarah McLachlan. Play this in-store and customers will steal it from your disc player. This twenty-seven-year-old Canadian is the flavor of the month right now. And for good reason. Everything she records is brilliant and turns (literally) to gold. Stores active in the CD-ROM arena will sell lots, as the first "track" is a thirty-minute video available only to those with said technology: part concert footage, interviews and informative pieces, it allows the viewer to click on to a member of her band and bring a bio up on screen. The remaining eight tracks feature acoustic, pared-down versions of many songs from her latest

Fumbling Towards Ecstasy release. Pass this tip along to your customers and they'll love you: After the last track and a few minutes of complete silence, McLachlan inserts a second version of her now-signature tune, "Hold On," a wrenching story of a woman whose fiance is dying of AIDS. The cut is listed nowhere on the liner notes and can easily be missed. \$6.10 tape, \$12.29 CD, Arista 18784.

Wigstock — The Soundtrack to the Movie/Various Artists. Featuring RuPaul, Erasure, Lady Kier and Dee Lite, this is a must-carry for stores with gay men customers and customers who favor kitschy club and dance material. The movie played in mainstream theatres and you'll want this even after the movie has left town. RuPaul (now a model for Revlon!) is due for a new release soon and his monologue and performances are priceless. He and they mirror the spirit and sound of the entire collection — uplifting, empowering and lots of fun. \$7.49 tape, \$12.79 CD, Sire 6181.

Heartkeys: The AIDS Memorial Album/Various Artists. Great project with compelling and wonderful keyboards featuring the best in contemporary classical, new age and jazz instrumentals. A bonus is the fabulous booklet that accompanies the disc, which includes photos, bios and quotes from each artist describing the inspirations for their compositions. Often these include very moving accounts of lovers and friends who have died from the disease. Has pieces from Liberace, Steven Halpern, Tom Barabas (whose last release reached number 12 on the Billboard New Age Chart) and the incredibly talented jazz pianist Dave Catney, who died in 1994. \$5.99 tape, \$9.99 CD, Rising Star Records 260.

Singles (mostly CDs)

As a rule, most bookstores don't carry cassette or disc singles. Up until this point, they've not sold well. But for the past few months, women's stores in particular have been doing extremely well with the following singles, especially "Come to My Window," which also features a live concert recording of Rod Stewart's "Maggie May." Singles are discs and tapes usually composed of three and sometimes four songs. Their job is to extend the wave of the best-selling album and single by including the single from the current record, a live recording of it, an extended

remix of the same song and a choice live cut you can get nowhere else. Give them a chance; you can always return what doesn't move.

- **I'm the Only One**/Melissa Etheridge, \$5.29 disc only, Island 854069.
- **Come to My Window**/Melissa Etheridge, \$5.29 disc only, Island 858029.
- **Lifted by Love**/kd lang, \$5.29 disc only, Sire 41379.
- **Power of Two**/Indigo Girls, \$3.49 tape, \$4.79 disc, Epic 77844.



Just Released

- **Soon and Again**/Margie Adam. \$5.99 tape, \$10.19 CD, Pleiades 2752.
- **Never Assume**/Jamie Anderson. \$5.99 tape, \$9.99 CD, Tsunami 1005.
- **What's Inside**/Joan Armatrading. \$7.49 tape, \$12.29 CD, MCA Victor 27269.
- **Ring Them Bells**/Joan Baez. \$8.49 tape, \$12.29 CD, Guardian 34989.
- **Voices From Women of the World**/Global Divas. \$17.99 tape, \$18.99 CD, Rounder 5062.
- **1200 Curfews**/The Indigo Girls. A double "best of" collection with some new tracks. \$12.29 tape, \$21.99 CD, Epic 67229.
- **Naked Songs**/Rickie Lee Jones. \$7.49 tape, \$12.79 CD, Reprise 45940.
- **All You Can Eat**/kd lang. \$7.49 tape, \$12.29 CD, Sire 46034.
- **Dream Cum Down**/Juliana Lueking. Spoken word. \$8.49 CD only, Kill Rock Stars 234.
- **Sacred Ground**/Sweet Honey in the Rock. \$6.10 tape, \$10.49 CD, Earthbeat 42580.
- **Sisters 1**/Various Celtic Women. Gift Horse. No info available at press time.
- **Ain't Nuthin But a She Thing**/Various artists featuring Salt 'N Peppa, Melissa, Annie Lennox, Me'Shell, Dionne Farris and more. During the weekend of November 4th and 5th MTV will devote 48 hours to all-woman programming, vee-jays, rockumentaries, and world premiere videos. This record is a sampling of the best of 'em. \$8.49 tape, \$12.79 CD, London 828674.
- **Mrs. Pinocci's Guitar**/Cheryl Wheeler. \$6.10 tape, \$10.19 CD, Philo 1192.

- **Breezes**/Kate Wolf. Recorded in 1973, all never-before-released cuts. \$5.99 tape, \$10.19 CD, Gadfly 210.

Gay Men's

- **Sinner Man**/Extra Fancy. \$11.29 CD only, Diabolical 9501.
- **This Is Not Going to Be Pretty**/Harvey Fierstein. \$11.29 CD only, Plump 5904.
- **Let's Flaunt It**/Romanovsky and Phillips. All new songs. \$5.99 tape, \$9.99 CD, Fresh 106.

Re-releases

- **Live '88**/Shawn Colvin. The eight acoustic cuts which originally appeared on what was a tape-only format, plus four additional newly recorded songs. \$6.59 tape, \$11.29 CD, Plump 5901.
- **Phantom Center**/Ferron. The original release re-mastered with newly added vocals from Tori Amos and The Indigos. \$6.10 tape, \$9.99 CD, Earthbeat 42576.
- **Visions and Dreams**/Carrie Newcomer. \$6.10 tape, \$10.19 CD, Philo 1193.
- **Snow Angel**/Cris Williamson. Re-release on CD \$10.19, Olivia 943.



Holiday

- **I'll Be a Homo for X-Mas**/Venus Envy. Re-release on CD \$10.19
- **A Celtic Christmas**/Various artists. \$7.49 tape, \$12.99 CD, Windham Hill 11178.
- **A Winter Celebration**/Various artists. \$5.99 tape, \$10.19 CD, Silverwave 906.
- **Winter Moon**/Various artists. From the folks who brought you the gay and lesbian singer-songwriter compilation "Love Worth Fighting For." \$5.99 tape, \$10.19 CD, Streater Records 1002.
- **Winter Solstice**/Various artists. \$7.49 tape, \$12.99 CD, Windham Hill 11174.

Upcoming Releases

- **New Beginning**/Tracy Chapman. Elektra.
- **Your Little Secret**/Melissa Etheridge. Island.
- **Scrapbook**/The Flirtations. \$5.99 tape, \$10.19 CD, Flirt Records 333. ○

BACK TO PRESS

AND OTHER GOOD NEWS

By Jenn Tust

Back To Press

A & M Books has reprinted Sarah Aldridge's eighth novel, *Magdalena*, which has been out of print. It's available for \$9.95.

Knowledge Ideas & Trends went back to press with two titles: *Be An Outrageous Older Women* which now has 22,000 copies in print and *Making Sense of Humor* which now has 10,000 copies in print.

New Victoria has gone back to press on *Deaths of Jocasta* by J. M. Redmann. *Death by the Riverside*, the first of the Micky Knight mysteries was reprinted last year. There has been a renewed interest in this series since Norton published the third J. M. Redmann title, *The Intersection of Law and Desire*.



Rights

New Victoria has sold the rights to *Deaths of Jocasta* to Argument Verlag (Germany). They have also sold the rights to Sarah Dreher's *Bad Company* and the original *Stoner McTavish* to The Women's Press/U.K. If these do well, The Women's Press plans to bring out the entire series.

Seal Press has recently signed a two-book deal with Ballantine Books for mass market rights to Ellen Hart's *Faint Praise* and *Robber's Wine*. Seal is releasing *Faint Praise* in hardcover this Fall and will publish *Robber's Wine* in the Fall of 1996. Rights for these books, the newest in the Jane Lawless mystery series, were sold for \$20,000.

Movie Rights

Seal Press sold the film rights to Barbara Wilson's *Gaudí Afternoon* to the Spanish production house, Iberoamericana. Production is scheduled to begin early next year in Barcelona and London. Susan

Seidelman (*Desperately Seeking Susan*) will direct the feature, which is tentatively budgeted at \$5 million. The English-language film will be produced by Andreas Vicente Gomez (*Belle Epoque*) and San Francisco-based writer/producer James Myhre. Iberoamericana will be backed by Sogetel, a leading production house owned by Canal Plus+ Spain.

Faultline by Sheila Ortiz Taylor has been optioned by Joseph May Co., Ltd. in England.

Awards

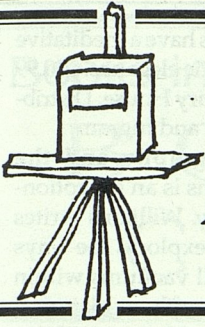
Pat Barker's *Ghost Road* was shortlisted for the 1995 Booker Prize. *Ghost Road* completes a much-praised trilogy set during WWI. Barker (*Union Street, Regeneration*) is well-known in Britain for her very feminist, anti-war novels. Front-runner among the chosen titles is Salman Rushdie's *The Moor's Last Sigh*.

Crossing the Snow Bridge by Fatima Lim-Wilson won the 1995 Ohio State University Press/*The Journal Award in Poetry*. Her first collection, *Wandering Roots/From the Hothouse*, won the 1992 Philippine National Book Award for poetry and the Colorado Book Authors Award in 1991.



Phosphor in Dreamland by Rikki Ducornet (Dalkey Archive Press) made PW's Best Books of '95 list.

Ann Haymond Zwinger's *Downcanyon: A Naturalist Explores the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon* (University of Arizona Press) won the 1995 Western States Book Award for Creative Nonfiction. Ann Zwinger recently edited a book on women in the wilderness with her daughter Susan. That beautiful book is *Women in Wilderness: Writings and Photographs* (Harvest Books/Harcourt Brace). ○



ART BOOKS

By Tee Corinne

Just out is **Flapjacks and Photographs: A History of Mattie Gunterman, Camp Cook and Photographer** by Henri Robideau. Mattie Gunterman (1872-1945), who worked in the logging and mining camps of turn-of-the-century British Columbia and Washington, documented the work and play activities around her and made numerous self-portraits, producing significant and compelling images which counter the notion that Victorian era women were passive. Polestar, a small Canadian publishing company, has done a wonderful job with this lively, photo-filled book. \$19.95, C\$24.95 pb, 1-896095-03-8, Polestar Press, 1011 Commercial Drive, 2nd Floor, Vancouver BC Canada V5L 3X1. Distributed by Orca Book Publishers in the U.S. and by General Distribution Services in Canada.

The National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C. has, since its founding in 1987, been instrumental in calling attention to the work of famous and lesser known women artists. Susan Fisher Sterling's **Women Artists: The National Museum of Women in the Arts**, a thick, 4 x 4½ inch book of reproductions from the Museum collection, is a delight. Because of its quality color printing, comfortable size and informative text, this study of artists from the Renaissance to the present will gracefully introduce the work of many women artists to a wider audience. \$11.95 pb, 1-55859-890-1, Abbeville Press.

Women in Wilderness: Writings and Photographs, edited by Susan and Ann Zwinger is a collection of breathtaking nature photographs and heartfelt, moving essays — all by women — collected by a mother and daughter editing team. With fine attention to detail and exquisite color photo reproductions, **Women in Wilderness** will be a prizewinning

gift for this season and for years to come. \$19.95 pb, 0-15-600224-8, Harvest Books (Harcourt Brace).

Conversations Before the End of Time: Dialogues on Art, Life & Spiritual Renewal by Suzi Gablik the author of *The Reenchantment of Art*, includes 19 interviews/discussions, about half with women. It is an inspiring, thoughtful, philosophical collection generated by a critic deeply committed to meaning and connectedness in art and to the future of the planet. \$24.95 cl, 0-500-01673-9, Thames and Hudson. Distributed by WW Norton.

Due out in October is **Working Light: The Wandering Life of Photographer Edith Watson** by Frances Rooney. Rooney has been working a long time on this book about an American lesbian photographer,



Self-portrait: Mattie Gunterman with her camera case, her gun and her dog, 1898 in British Columbia (Polestar).

Edith Watson, (1861-1942) who often worked in Canada, creating photos in tandem with her writer-lover, Victoria Hayward. Many images show people, especially women, at work. This is a timely and extraordinary collection about a photographer whose work has too long been obscured. Price not yet available, 0-88629-273-5, Carleton University Press, Suite 1400, CTTC, 1125 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5B6, Canada. Distributed in Canada by Oxford University Press; U.S. distribution not yet established.

A major problem for women artists has been locating each other, finding role models, and cherishing the work done in the distant past and in more recent years. **Beatrice Mandelman: Taos Modernist** by Robert Hobbs focuses on a painter who has pursued her craft for seven decades. Born around 1911 to Jewish immigrant parents, Mandelman has developed a colorful, highly structured form of abstraction similar to Russian Constructivism. \$29.95 pb, 0-8263-1604-2; \$60 cl, -1603-4, University of New Mexico Press.



Many otherwise obscure women artists are well served by museums with a commitment to regional perspective. **Agnes Pelton: Poet of Nature** by Michael Zakian focuses on a mystically-inclined painter (1881-1961) who spent her first fifty years on the U.S. East coast, then moved to the Palm Springs area of California and entered an exceptionally creative and productive period. Pelton never married and seems to have used her art as her primary emotional outlet. The images are magical and move from softly focused figurative imagery done early in the century, to abstractions and desert imagery in her later years. A visually strong book, **Agnes Pelton** is an interesting study of how one woman sustained a career in art for six decades. \$29.95 pb, 0-295-97451-6, Palm Springs Desert Museum. Distributed by University of Washington Press.

Kate Furbish and the Flora of Maine by Ada Graham and Frank Graham, Jr. presents the words and paintings of a dedicated amateur botanist (1834-1931) who devoted her life to recording the plant life of Maine. The lively text presents a woman of determination and

warmth. The plant and flower images have a meditative beauty, cleanness of line, and emphatic elegance. \$30.99 pb, 0-88448-176-X; \$55 cl, -175-1, Tilbury House. Distributed by Consortium, Baker & Taylor and Ingram.

Warworks: Women, Photography and the Iconography of War by Val Williams is an exceptionally fine, visually compelling study. Williams writes that it is "a book about memory. It explores the ways in which photography is able to fill vacuums within our own experience, to provide us with an historical framework without which we would be unable to assess the state of our society, to make judgements on world events, to place ourselves as component parts within a shifting and bewildering whole." The book is a complex recognition of our involvement as participants in, observers of and commentators on war. \$40 pb, 1-85381-591-8, Virago. Distributed by Trafalgar Square, North Pomfret VT 05053.

The Age of Grandeur and a Woman Who Lived It: Artist Evelyn Metzger by Brett Topping and Nancy G. Heller is about a talented U.S. artist, born into wealth in 1911, whose figurative work has evolved from tight likenesses to a gentle, evocative realism which favors outdoor scenes, usually including people. \$29.95 pb, 0-940979-24-4; \$50 cl, -29-2, The National Museum of Women in the Arts. Distributed by Northwestern University Press.

Managing Traumatic Stress Through Art: Drawing From the Center by Barry M. Cohen, Mary-Michola Barnes and Anita B. Rankin, a workbook with an unpromising cover, takes the participant through a number of very useful exercises. This is a good addition to your recovery section. \$19.95 pb, 0-9629164-7-1, The Sidran Foundation, 2328 West Joppa Road, Suite 15, Lutherville MD 21093. Distributed by Ingram and Baker & Taylor.

Visually positioned somewhere between sex-education and the straight as well as lesbian sex magazines, **Making Out: The Book of Lesbian Sex and Sexuality**, text by Zoe Schramm-Evans, photographs by Laurence Jaugey-Paget (a woman), is upbeat and trendy. The color photo essays include an interesting variety of youngish women (white women, women of African and Indian origins, a pregnant woman). The subjects interact in pairs and triads. If your store does well with *On Our Backs*, this will be a hot item. \$24 pb, 0-04-440932-X, Pandora/HarperSanFrancisco. ○

Books in Canada:

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



By Alexandra Wilson
Women in Print/Vancouver

Let's start off with two very different but sure-fire new releases from Arsenal Pulp Press. **Eggplant Wife** by J. Jill Robinson (*Lovely in Her Bones*, C\$12.95 pb, 0-88978-260-1) is a novella and two short stories by one of Canada's finest emerging writers. The title novella reveals the relationship between a sensual woman and her emotionally distant husband. An intimate and fluid collection at a very good price (C\$12.95 pb, 1-55152-024-9). In a completely different vein, try **The Necrofiles**. Donna Lypchuk is a columnist whose commentary spans the gap between pop-culture, feminism and past life experiences. The book is a very funny collection of her best from the last three years. (C\$16.95 pb, 1-89635-02-8). Distributed by IN.

The newest daybook this fall is **Rebel Chicks '96**, a glossy week-at-a-glance dayplanner edited by Diane Wilputte. It brings together lesbian pulp novel covers (with the irresistible jacket copy included) and the artwork, poetry and cartoons of over twenty contemporary lesbians. Spiral bound and lightweight. C\$12.95 pb, 1-55022-254-6, ECW Press. Distributed by IN.



Several strong collections of short fiction have been published this fall. From the Mercury Press comes a collection of emotionally engaging stories from Newfoundland writer Lisa Moore. Strong emotions and vivid imagery mark the writing in **Degrees of Nakedness**. C\$14.50 pb, 1-55128-023-X, Mercury Press. Distributed by IN.

Turnstone Press brings us the third collection of short fiction by Lois Braun. **The Montreal Cafe**

records strange small events, revealing the secrets behind her characters' conscious lives. C\$16.95 pb, 0-88801-199-7, Turnstone Press. Distributed by IN.



NuAge Editions has three collections of short pieces. The first is **Scatter the Mud: A Traveller's Medley** by Nancy Lyon, a travel writer who is an observant, thoughtful and curious international busker. Her travels take her on some unusual adventures and the resulting articles are fascinating. (C\$16.95 pb, 0-921833-42-3). For fiction, **A Quiet Night and a Perfect End** is the first collection of short stories by Montreal writer Denise Roig. Beautifully and confidently crafted, the stories are filled with people moving through the disappointments of everyday life. (C\$14.95 pb, 0-921833-40-7). Patricia Stone's second collection of short stories enters the lives of women leading independent lives — often reluctantly. **Through Any Window** are intimate and sometimes disturbing stories (C\$14.95 pb, 0-921833-41-5). NuAge Editions are distributed by IN.

The Porcupine's Quill brings us three really fun new titles and one beautiful re-release this fall. Terry Griggs attracted attention with her first book **Quickening** (C\$10.95, 0-88984-111-X). In **The Lusty Man** we follow a weird and comic story of the search for an ancient male fertility figure. A very colourful novel (C\$16.95 pb, 088984-159-4). **Help Me, Jacques Cousteau** is a hilarious collection of linked stories by Gil Adamson. Called "one of Canada's funniest writers," Adamson's first collection creates a portrait of one very bizarrely dysfunctional family. (C\$14.95 pb, 0-88984-161-6). **Influence of the Moon** by Mary

See *Border Crossing*, page 95.

WRITING WANTED



By Jenn Tust

West Berkeley Women's Books is launching a new women's literary journal in January 1996 and is seeking artwork and manuscripts. They are looking for all genres including poems, short prose pieces, memoirs, and cover art and illustrations by women of all ages, sexual orientations and ethnic backgrounds. Previously unpublished and self-published writers are especially encouraged. The deadline is November 15. Send to Karen Smith, West Berkeley Women's Books, 2514 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley CA 94702; 510-204-9399.



Edith Blicksilver is seeking short stories, poems, essays and biographical sketches of three to five pages for a book on how women from different ethnic backgrounds cope with stress. Submissions should describe how people have coped with the loss of a loved one, divorce, disappointment, etc., and include specific ways in which cultural/ethnic traditions have helped or hindered recovery. Student work welcome. Send to Edith Blicksilver, School of Literature, Communication and Culture, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta GA 30332.

Papier-Mache Press is now accepting submissions for an upcoming anthology exploring the issues of women and power. Submit short fiction, poetry and black-and-white photographs. The anthology is scheduled for Fall 1997 publication. Deadline is March 1, 1996. For guidelines send a SASE to Shirley Coe, Papier-Mache Press, 135 Aviation Way #14, Watsonville CA 95076. Submissions should be sent to Women and Power at the same address.

Ava Chanté de l'Esprit, a survivor of incest, is writing a book and seeks original artwork, poetry, dreamwork, essays, short stories and letters from survivors of incest/sexual/ritual abuse. She especially needs more "inspirational" contributions that convey the message "in spite of the torment, healing is possible. We need to tell each other we can heal and we need to help each other learn how." Send submissions with a SASE to Ava Chanté de l'Esprit, 390 Euclid Avenue #7, Oakland CA 94610.

Rising Tide Press is seeking submissions for two new anthologies: *Cruising Stories* — true or fictionalized tales about women cruising women — and *Coming-together Stories* — true or fictionalized accounts of lesbians meeting the loves of their lives. Short stories may be serious, humorous and/or sexually explicit. Previously published and new writers welcome. Send no more than two unpublished stories for each anthology. All genres welcome. Stories should be 1200-1500 words in length. Include SASE for return of work and a one-page autobiography. Include phone number in cover letter. Deadline is November 30. Send to Short Fiction, Rising Tide Press, 5 Kivy Street, Huntington Station NY 11746.



Iowa Woman magazine's tenth international writing contest offers \$500 for first place and \$250 for second place prizes. Categories include poetry, short fiction and creative nonfiction/essay. Winning entries will be published in the Summer 1996 issue. Manuscripts must be postmarked by December 30, 1995. For guidelines, send SASE to *Iowa Woman*, PO Box 680, Iowa City IA 52244. ○



MYSTERIES



By Nan Cinnater
Now Voyager, Provincetown MA

Ellen Hart may not be a household name yet, but she's becoming very well known among mystery readers, it seems. We're selling all of her books these days, including both the paperbacks in her new Sophie Greenway series, **This Little Piggy Went to Murder** (\$4.99 pb, 0-345-38189-0, Ballantine) and the recent **For Every Evil** (\$5.99 pb, 0-345-38190-4, Ballantine). These are top-of-the-line cozies, with understated sexual politics, victims you love to hate, and fully fleshed characters, especially the likeable sleuth and her household.

Now Ellen Hart has a new hardcover in her (lesbian) Jane Lawless series, **Faint Praise** (\$20.95 cl, 1-878067-67-2, Seal Press). Sales in this series have really taken off, partly because of the Ballantine mass markets and also because Hart won the Lambda Literary Award this year. In January, Ballantine will issue the paperback of Hart's Lambda Award winner, **A Small Sacrifice** (\$5.99 pb, 0-345-39113-6), with a cover blurb by Katherine Forrest. It also carries the somewhat misleading tag, "Chosen by Lambda as Best Lesbian Mystery of the Year." (Perhaps the pub people will clean that up before printing.) Nevertheless, we're glad that Ballantine has been bold enough to feature the "L" word on these covers, and I don't mean "Lawless." I'd love to know how the series sells for mainstream and mystery bookstores. In our store, customers new to Hart have been scooping up all of the mass markets in the series at one buy. Clearly, lesbians are hungry for some inexpensive light reading. For the record, the series features straight-arrow lesbian restaurateur Jane Lawless and her

Illustrations by Yani Bateau from *The Dyke Detector*, Paradigm Publishing.

comic sidekick Cordelia Thorn in superior, Christie-style whodunits. Previous books in the series are: **Hallowed Murder**, (\$4.99 pb, 0-345-38140-8) **Vital Lies**, (\$4.99 pb, 0-345-38141-6) **Stage Fright**, (\$4.99 pb, 0-345-38142-4) and **A Killing Cure** (\$5.99 pb, 0-345-39112-8).

What a difference a cover makes! For us, **Face Value** by Lia Matera seems to be her breakout paperback, largely because of an attractive full-color cover with great blurbs. **Face Value** is the fifth in a series about San Francisco lawyer Laura Di Palma, who's too radical for her own good or the good of her high-powered corporate law firm. Here she's finally setting up her own practice and her first case involves a lesbian sex worker and a New Age guru who videotapes his followers' orgies. The set-up allows Matera to touch on every "buzz" issue from unprotected group sex to the feminist porn wars to computer-enhanced video technology. I wish I could have liked the book, but I didn't. Infelicitous writing, unsympathetic characters, and an overall creepiness left me cold. Set that up against the wealth of great critical quotes and the fact that some customers liked it enough to come back for other books in the series, and you have an author and a title you will probably still want to carry. \$5.99 pb, 0-671-88840-4, Pocket.



Carroll and Graff has been re-issuing Sandra Scoppettone's backlist, originally published under the pseudonym Jack Early. Not nearly as light-hearted as her Lauren Larano series, Scoppettone's "early" work tends toward the grim and gripping, with male heroes, violent murders and bizarre motives. Her fans

are not deterred, however, and it has certainly been worth it to us to carry these titles: **Razzmatazz** (\$4.95 pb, 0-7867-0230-3) and **A Creative Kind of Killer** (\$4.50 pb, 0-7876-0229-X). Probably of greatest interest to feminist readers is **Donato and Daughter** about a New York policewoman who must work with her estranged father, another cop, to catch a serial killer (\$5.95 pb, 0-7867-0284-2).

Two recent Edgar Award winners have paperbacks out. **She Walks These Hills** by Sharon McCrumb (\$6.50 pb, 0-451-18472-6, Signet) is the sequel to her Edgar Award-winning *The Hangman's Beautiful Daughter*. Expect another atmospheric, hauntingly suspenseful slice of Appalachian life and folklore. Meanwhile, Ballantine has re-issued the first of McCrumb's Appalachian books, **If Ever I Return, Pretty Peggy-O** (\$4.99 pb, 0-345-36906-8) scary suspense about a sixties folksinger who's stalked by a Vietnam vet. British contender Minette Walters followed up her Edgar Award winner *The Sculptress* with **The Scold's Bridle** (\$5.99 pb, 0-312-95612-6, St. Martin's) in which village doctor Sarah Blakeney is suspected of the murder of an unloved but wealthy old woman, who left Sarah a fortune. **The Scold's Bridle** won the British Crime Writers' Gold Dagger Award, which confirms Walters' place at the top of the profession. Steer fans of Ruth Rendell and P.D. James to Walters and they will thank you.

Recent paperback entries in reliable series include: **Don't Turn Your Back on the Ocean** by Janet Dawson (\$5.99 pb, 0-449-22184-9, Fawcett) featuring quietly professional P.I. Jeri Howard; **Drift Away** by Kerry Tucker (\$4.99 pb, 0-06-109176-6, Harper) in which photographer Libby Kincaid goes undercover at a Boston law firm to find a friend's murderer; and **Hard Case** by Barbara D'Amato (\$4.99 pb, 0-425-15009-7, Berkley). With each case, D'Amato's investigative reporter sleuth learns everything there is to know about an issue or industry; this time, it's a hospital trauma center.

Florence Nightingale makes a dramatic courtroom appearance to save Nurse Hester Latterly,



accused of murder, in **The Sins of the Wolf** by Anne Perry (\$6.99 pb, 0-8041-1383-1, Ivy), the latest in her Detective William Monk series. Perry's new hardcover, also about William Monk, is **Cain His Brother** (\$22.95 cl, 0-449-90847-X, Fawcett).

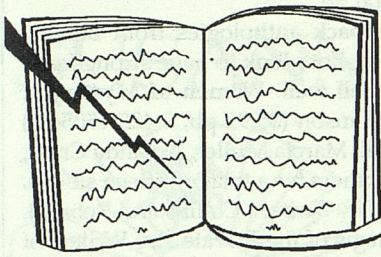
Note that **The Best Defense** by Kate Wilhelm is out in paperback (\$6.99 pb, 0-446-22314-0, Fawcett). Oregon attorney Barbara Holloway defends a battered woman accused of killing her baby in this smooth "good read" by an old pro. There's a right-wing conspiracy thrown in just to keep the politics pointed. For those cus-



tomers who got hooked on legal thrillers and now wish that John Grisham was a woman, there are some other possibilities as well. Lisa Scottoline was twice nominated for Edgar Awards for her paperback originals *Everywhere That Mary Went* and *Final Appeal*. In Scottoline's first hardcover, **Running From the Law**, trial lawyer Rita Hamilton represents a judge charged with sexual harassment (\$17 cl, 0-69451-614-7, HarperCollins). Christine McGuire's **Until Justice is Done** concerns a woman Assistant D.A. who finds herself in danger while building a case against a serial rapist (\$6.50 pb, 0-671-53052-6, Pocket). In Linda Davies' **Nest of Vipers** London's most successful young currency trader (female, but this is fiction) exposes a billion-dollar conspiracy in the world of merchant banking (\$6.50 pb, 0-440-22190-0, Island/Dell).

I had a lot of fun with **Death of a Postmodernist** by Janice Steinberg (\$4.99 pb, 0-425-14546-8, Berkley) and so I'm looking forward to the sequel, **Death Crosses the Border** (\$4.99 pb, 0-425-15052-6, Berkley). Here public radio reporter Margo Simon investigates conditions at U.S.-owned factories in Mexico. **Cry for Help** by Karen Hanson Stayck (\$4.99 pb, 0-425-15103-4, Berkley, December.) is a promising-looking paperback original about a mental health clinic worker who suspects a friend's suicide is murder. The plot turns on an investigation into psychiatrists' sexual abuse of patients.

See **Mysteries**, page 58.



MULTIMEDIA

AUDIO • VIDEO • CD ROM
ELECTRONIC BOOKS

By Dorothy Holland

Video

Don't forget, *Bar Girls* and *Go Fish* are both available now through Wolfe and Naiad.

Celebration of Age: The Croning Ceremony, produced by Connie Spittler, L. Cann and R. Gardner, is a slow moving, easygoing look at contemporary adaptations of the ancient custom of Croning. Includes snippets from several croning ceremonies, interviews with a variety of women becoming crones and looks at historical crone figures. \$29.95, 38 minute video. ConText Productions, 5405 N. Estelle Drive, Tucson AZ 85718; 602-888-4292, fax 602-888-4192. Distributed by BP.



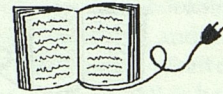
Audio

Not Heterosexual: An Educational Program About Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual People by Gail Bernstein presents Lesbian/Gay 101 for parents and friends. Although the presentation lacks vitality, there is lots of information here and it's presented in a non-threatening way. \$10.95, 1 cassette. GSB Productions, Box 18373, Denver CO 80203; 303-832-5123, e-mail: Nothettape@AOL.com. 40% discount if prepaid, no minimum.

You've probably heard of New Dimensions Radio — they have some wonderful programming including some tapes on women and women's issues that I've been enjoying lately. **More Than Skin Deep** with Sara Halprin takes a courageous, personal but comprehensive look at our current images of female beauty. Halprin wrote *Look at My Ugly Face: Myths & Musings on Beauty* (Viking). Tape #2528. **Coming**

Into Fullness with Gloria Steinem gives her personal recollections of coming of age and how it feels to be a woman over sixty. Tape #2466. **Making Magic in the World with Maya Angelou** — what can I say? I'd listen to her anytime, anyplace! Tape #1983. **Bring Me Women to Match My Mountains with Arlene Blum** looks at women and mountains and Blum's American Women's Climb on Annapurna. Tape #1565. These are all hour-long audio cassettes of the weekly interview radio program. \$9.95 cassette, New Dimensions Radio. New Dimensions, Box 410510, San Francisco CA 94141; 415-563-8899, fax 415-563-9009. These tapes do not have ISBNs, and as far as I can figure, are not available at distributors. New Dimensions will wholesale them with 40% discount, minimum order of \$100 wholesale, they pay freight.

Motion To Suppress by Perri O'Shaughnessy is a suspenseful legal thriller with a feminist protagonist. Deals with many issues of our times: repressed memory syndrome, abuse, incest. \$16.95, 2 cassettes, 3 hours, abridged, 1-56100-423-5, NOVA. Distributed by Ingram, Baker & Taylor.



New Media

Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus: The Interactive Workshop by John Gray is the multimedia version of a book that has sold well for many of our stores. The material is unflinchingly straight — won't be of interest to the lesbian crowd. The program is very easy to install — it's probably the first multimedia program I've installed with absolutely no problem! If the book did well for you, give this a try. \$49.95 CD-ROM, 0-06-019500-2 (Windows),

0-06-019506-1 (Macintosh), HarperCollins. Distributed by Ingram, 45% discount.

Clip Art On Disk

I've finally found some computer clip art for lesbians and feminists. A company called Oregon Cuntree Dykes puts out several disks of women's clip art, with images for Mac or IBM-based systems. I've been using them for newsletters, flyers and such and am very pleased. The images include women of many colors, shapes and sizes. Also on the disks are symbols for women, lesbians, labryses and such. The disks are \$30 each. They have 3 disks with 50 images per disk in the postscriptformat (for Laser printers) — they are beautiful and print up wonderfully on a laser printer. They also have a budget disk with 100 images in PCX format for IBM or Paint format for Mac. The Oregon Cuntree Dykes are not set up for wholesale so it might be difficult to justify carrying them for resale, but get some for your store's use! The Oregon Cuntree Dykes, 886 Raven Lane, Roseburg OR 97470; 503-673-6749, e-mail frances@teleport.com.

Frontier Graphics is another company with clip art on disk. ClipOuts currently has two volumes: 1 is Leisure, 2 is Symbols & Borders. The images are gay and lesbian. Volume 1 is mostly line drawings, volume 2 has a nice collection of lambdas, triangles and such. Frontier does wholesale sales but the discount isn't what we are used to (5% discount for 5-10, 20% for 11+). However, you may want copies for your store's use. \$24.95 retail, specify Mac or DOS/WIN. Frontier Graphics, Box 13641, Berkeley CA 94712; 510-540-6014, fax 510-540-6144, e-mail 71730.606@compuserve.com.



Online

If you have an internet connection you may want to subscribe to glb-bookshops, linking Gay and Lesbian Bookstores and Giftshops on the Internet. It's being run by the boys at Lambda Rising but seems to be worth watching. To subscribe send an e-mail to Majordomo@vector.casti.com with this message: subscribe glb-bookshops.

Another online place worth visiting is Wolfe Video's WWW site: <http://wolfevideo.com>. ○

Mysteries, from page 56.

Two new paperback anthologies from Berkley look like must-carries. Both look to have strong feminist content and to sell well. **Women of Mystery II** edited by Cynthia Manson (\$5.99 pb, 0-425-15054-2) features Ruth Rendell, Marcia Muller, Amanda Cross, Antonia Fraser and others for a total of fifteen stories. **Lethal Ladies** edited by Barbara Collins and Robert J. Randisi under the aegis of the Private Eye Writers of America (\$5.50 pb, 0-425-15141-7, January) includes sixteen stories, all of them private detective stories by American writers, ten of them never before published. Writers featured on the cover are Sara Paretsky, Marcia Muller, Linda Grant, Sue Dunlap and Janet Dawson.



I tend to be wary of writing that's described as "snappy," but I really liked **One for the Money** by Janet Evanovich (\$5.99 pb, 0-06-100905-9, Harper) and so far I'm really liking the sequel, **Two for the Dough**, to be published in hardcover by Scribner in January (\$22 cl, 0-684-19638-7). Both feature Trenton NJ native Stephanie Plum, neophyte bounty hunter, who got the job by blackmailing her cousin Vinnie ("I know about the duck") and now chases crooks between pot roast dinners at her parents' house. Not as silly as they sound, these books deliver the authentic New Jersey goods in a tight, smart (okay, snappy) style that's a joy to read. As Marilyn Stasio wrote in the New York Times, "A Jersey girl with Bette Midler's mouth and Cher's fashion sense....Who could resist this doll?"

Although you may not want to think beyond the holidays, there's an upcoming February hardcover from Norton that looks hot! **Dry Fire** by Katherine Lewis is a first novel about a lesbian police officer in North Florida. Apparently not a mystery per se, this is described in the catalogue as a "coming-of-age" novel, notable for its strong, authentic atmosphere. Like her main character, author Lewis is a police officer and former paramedic who lives in the Florida panhandle. Catalogue says advance reading copies are available, and this may be worth it. (\$21 cl, 0-393-03835-1.) ○

SUSANNA STURGIS



ON SCIENCE FICTION

Lois McMaster Bujold won both the Hugo and the Locus Award for *Mirror Dance*, the most recent Miles Vorkosigan novel, which focuses on the often moving, sometimes hysterically funny struggle of Miles's clone-brother Mark for success and self-acceptance. (Her first anthology, *Women at War*, is announced under Tor Books, below.)

Okay, so I know it's still fall and there's still the holiday frenzy (not to mention the January cash flow crunch) to get through, but for anyone seriously into feminist fantasy and science fiction, WisCon 20 is the place to be next Memorial Day weekend. Ursula K. Le Guin is the guest of honor, and the guest lineup as of August already included Suzy McKee Charnas, Lois McMaster Bujold, Suzette Haden Elgin, Nicola Griffith, Pat Murphy, Karen Joy Fowler, Pamela Sargent, Joan Vinge, Elisabeth Vonarburg and Chelsea Quinn Yarbro. And the fifth annual Tiptree Award will be presented. The place is Madison, Wisconsin (home of A Room of One's Own bookstore).

For more information, pick your favorite medium: write SF3, Box 1624, Madison WI 53701; call (608) 233-8850; e-mail wiscon.concom@cs.wisc.edu; or visit WisCon's World Wide Web site, <http://www.cs.wisc.edu/wiscon/>.

ACE BOOKS

Amy Thomson's first novel, *Virtual Girl* (\$4.99 pb, 0-441-86500-3), was a neo-Pygmalion tale with a strong feminist message. In her second, *The Color Of Distance* (\$13 pb, 0-441-00244-7), a human woman is rescued by truly alien aliens, raises an alien child, and, when her own people return, must mediate between the two.

In *The Shape-Changer's Wife* (\$4.99 pb, 0-441-00261-7), Sharon Shinn's first novel, Aubrey, a talented, sunny-tempered apprentice magician,

gradually learns that his new teacher, Glyrenden, has more secrets than shape-changing: he created his wife and his two servants from other creatures. The story is spare and elegant, and retains its own integrity to the end. And if the shape-changer's wife is Lilith, and the young girl brought into the household near the end is Eve, who is the arrogant Glyrenden really?

Recently out in mass-market editions are two justly acclaimed titles: Patricia A. McKillip's *The Cygnet and the Firebird* (\$5.99 pb, 0-441-00237-4), a beautifully written fantasy featuring two sorceresses, and Patricia Anthony's *Conscience of the Beagle* (\$5.50 pb, 0-441-00262-5), in which a tough cop on a tough mission is haunted by the case he couldn't solve — the murder of his wife — and an android holds the key.



BAEN BOOKS

The hottest of Baen's January crop is, by several lengths, Lois McMaster Bujold's *Cetaganda* (\$21 cl, 0-671-87701-1), but for feminist bookstores there are two drawbacks: it's in hardcover, and the hero, Miles Vorkosigan, is a rich white guy — albeit one born with bones so brittle that standing still is hazardous. The Vorkosigan books are stylish space opera with a wry wit and a feminist sensibility. Of Bujold's backlist, do stock *Shards Of Honor* (\$4.99 pb, 0-671-72087-2) and *Barrayar* (\$5.99 pb, 0-671-72083-X), both of which feature Miles's extraordinary mother, Cordelia Naismith, and *Ethan Of Athos* (\$5.99 pb, 0-671-65604-X), whose title character hails from one of sf's very few credible all-male planets.

Also on the list is Holly Lisle's *Sympathy For The Devil* (\$5.99 pb, 0-671-87703-8), in which a nurse

persuades God to give people in Hell — including her husband, who's there on a technicality — a second chance.

BALLANTINE/DEL REY

All right cat fans just out is Tara K. Harper's **Catact** (price n/a, mass market, 0-345-38052-5), sequel to *Cat Scratch Fever*, in which the mercenary Tsia became telepathically bonded to the intelligent cats of her world. Here, the bond makes Tsia an easy scapegoat for her comrades when an important mission screws up. Go for it!

The paperback edition of Anne McCaffrey's **The Dolphins Of Pern**, (0-345-36895-9) should be out by the time you read this. Reviewers thought it rather predictable, but McCaffrey fans won't mind.

Around the turn of the year, look for McCaffrey's **The Crystal Singer Trilogy** (pb, 0-345-40292-8) in a one-volume edition. The three parts are *Crystal Singer*, *Killashandra* and *Crystal Line*. Due at the same time is Susan Dexter's **The True Knight** (0-345-39345-7), which sounds like the conclusion of the fantasy trilogy begun in *Prince Of Ill Luck* and *The Wind-Witch*. The continuing character in these books is a bionic, psionic horse with a sense of humor, which may explain why I've enjoyed them so much.

DAW BOOKS

The Heralds of Valdemar and the Sun-Priests of neighboring Karse, now linked in uneasy alliance, struggle to protect their countries from magical mage-storms in Mercedes Lackey's **Storm Rising** (\$21.95 cl, 0-88677-660-0). The pivotal character is Solaris, High Priestess and ruler of Karse. This continues the Mage Storms trilogy, which began with *Storm Warning*, now out in paperback (\$5.99 pb, 0-88677-661-9).

Other new and forthcoming titles of note are Jo Clayton's **The Burning Ground** (\$4.99 pb, 0-88677-663-5), in which Shadith, once imprisoned in the Diadem, tries to break up a business that creates civil wars as a tourist attraction; **The War Minstrels** (\$4.99 pb, 0-88677-669-4), by Karen Haber, in which a woman empath fights to stop a magnate who wants to stop free trade on the spaceways; **Enchanted Forests** (\$5.50 pb, 0-88677-672-4, December), edited by Katharine Kerr and Martin H. Greenberg, an anthology of 25 stories on the title theme, with Susan Schwartz, Kate Elliott, Jo Clayton, and Michelle Sagara among the many women represented;

and Rosemary Edghill's **The Cup Of Morning Shadows** (\$5.99 pb, 0-88677-67106, December), in which Ruth Marlowe, newly degreed librarian, is again yanked into elf lord Rohannon Melior's quest for the twelve treasures needed for the elf king's coronation.

Further down the road (all in paper): in April 1996, Tanya Huff, **No Quarter**, in the same world as her *Sing The Four Quarters* and *Fifth Quarter*, and Marjorie B. Kellogg's **The Book Of Water**; and in May, Ellen Foxe, **Season Of Storms**, sequel to *Season Of Shadows*, set in an alternate America around colonial times.



HARPERPRISM

Speaking of vampires (weren't we?), Poppy Z. Brite's **Love In Vein** (\$5.99 pb, 0-06-105490-9), "twenty original tales of vampiric erotica," is now out in paperback. Fewer than half are by women, and with the exception of Jessica Amanda Salmonson, none are likely to have high name-recognition among feminist readers.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY PRESS

To Write like a Woman: Essays in Feminism and Science Fiction (\$12.95 pb, 0-253-20983-8; \$27.95 cl, -32914-0) collects more than two decades of criticism by Joanna Russ, one of the most perceptive, forthright and eloquent feminist commentators around. Among her topics: male fantasies of women in sf and "Recent Feminist Utopias" (both circa 1980), the modern gothic, Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, Willa Cather and Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper." This complements her *How To Suppress Women's Writing* (Texas University Press) and *Magic Mommas, Trembling Sisters, Puritans & Perverts* (OP, sad to say).

SYBYLLA FEMINIST PRESS

One of the great joys of editing my anthologies some years back was learning how much wonderful f/sf was being written by Australian women, among them Lucy Sussex (who served with me on the 1994 Tiptree Award jury) and Rosaleen Love (*The Total Devotion Machine, Evolution Annie*).

Now Sussex and Judith Buckrich have produced **She's Fantastical**, "the first anthology of Australian women's speculative fiction, magical realism, and fantasy." Notes Ursula K. Le Guin in her introduction:

"The landscapes of these stories are familiar and strange, whether to the Australian or the outsider reading them.... But beneath every time, every landscape, lies a dreamtime. These poems and stories are signs, ways, roads leading into that time, our shared country." Distribution and U.S. price were still unconfirmed at press time, but *Inland* is a distinct possibility. Lucy Sussex advises that retail copies may be obtained from Justin Ackroyd, bookseller, of Slow Glass Books, GPO Box 2708X, Melbourne, Victoria 3001, for \$20 (Australian dollars) plus postage. Telephone/fax: 61 3 96391511.

TOR

Suzu McKee Charnas's **The Furies** is due in mass-market in December (sorry, I don't have price and ISBN at hand). Don't miss it! This, along with the tetralogy of which it is the third part, is already a feminist classic. Having developed new skills of survival and community, the free fems return to the Holdfast, where the brutal patriarchy is in the violent process of collapsing. Revenge wars with reason in an almost unbearably vivid portrayal of a formerly oppressed people reclaiming their land and beginning the work of inventing a society. What role is there for the surviving men, despised and yet necessary if the free fems are to bear daughters?

What I said about Rosemary Edghill's first Bast novel, *Speak Daggers To Her*, applies nicely to her second, **Book Of Moons** (\$20.95 cl, 0-312-85605-9): "witty, well-written, and made to order for feminist bookstores." Bast is a New York City witch and freelance graphic artist. While person unknown steals the books of shadows from other witches, rumor has it that the Book of Moons — the spellbook of Mary, Queen of Scots — has surfaced. What begins with Bast informally assessing a prospective coven member is soon complicated by the appearance of two bodies — and the definite possibility that Bast herself will be the third.

Point Of Hopes (\$23.95 cl, 0-312-85844-2, December), the second fantasy collaboration from Melissa Scott and Lisa A. Barnett (the very fine *Armor Of Light*, regrettably OP, was the first), is a sort of police procedural set in a city where clocks are of paramount importance — because one's natal horoscope virtually determines one's occupation. Apparently at random, the city's children are disappearing; it falls to Pointsman Nicolas Rathe to figure out the pattern and find

the children. Inextricably woven into the mystery's solution is a marvelous multisensory tour of the streets, alleys and waterways of Astreion. The crisis promotes both rifts among the city's ethnic groups and unexpected alliances among those on both sides of the law. And the only thing gender determines in this place is who births the babies. Recommended!

A fine theme anthology is **Women at War** (\$23.95 cl, 0-312-85792-6, December), edited by Lois McMaster Bujold and Roland J. Green. The opening story, a knock-out short-short by Jennifer Stevenson, gives notice that this is no simple celebration of combat or warlike women. Contributors include Jane Yolen, Judith Tarr, Elizabeth Ann Scarborough, Elizabeth Moon and R. M. (Rebecca) Meluch.

Though women number well under half the contributors, **Tales From The Great Turtle**, an interesting anthology of fantasy/magical stories from Native American traditions edited by Piers Anthony and Richard Gilliam, is just out in mass-market paperback. \$5.99 pb, 0-812-53490-5.

Sequel to Gwyneth Jones' Tiptree Award-winning *White Queen* and like that title an inquiry into gender/sexual politics (among other things), **North Wind** finally gets its first hardcover U.S. publication in January; it was shortlisted for the Tiptree in 1994. Keep an eye out also for Nancy Kress's **Oaths and Miracles** (cloth, January) and Susan Shwartz's **Shards Of Empire** (cloth, April).



WARNER

Women vampires are all the rage, it seems. **Sisters of the Night** (\$12.99 pb, 0-446-67143-6), edited by Barbara Hambly and Martin H. Greenberg, gets a nod from *Locus* reviewer Shira Daemon: "an exceedingly diverse anthology, with each story varying greatly in regards to tone, setting, and having its own take on this most trendy of current devils." Contributors include Jane Yolen (writing about Lilith) and Hambly herself, author of *Those Who Hunt The Night* and *Traveling With The Dead*. I'll sneak in an advance notice here: my own very first (and so far only) vampire tale will appear in Victoria Brownworth's anthology of vampire stories by women, tentatively titled **Night Bites** and due from Seal Press this winter. ○

In a Family Way

A NOVEL BY ROCHELLE HOLLANDER SCHWAB

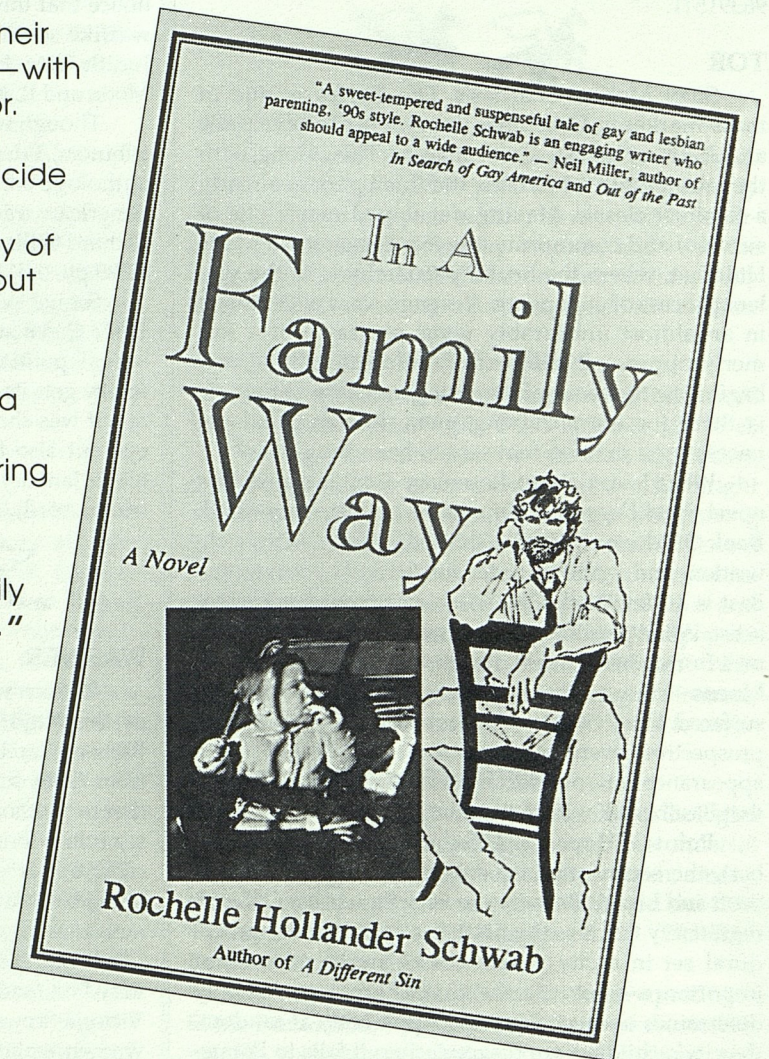
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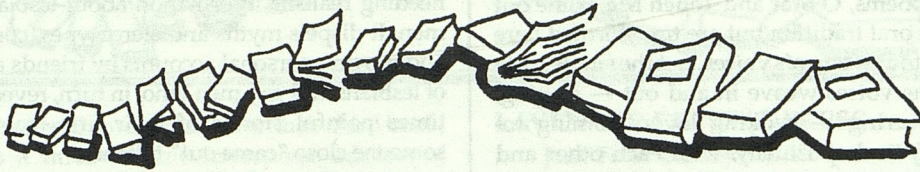
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In a Family Way is now available from: Alamo Square Distributors, Baker & Taylor, Bookazine, Bookpeople and directly from the publisher, Orlando Place Press, 3617 Orlando Place, Alexandria, VA 22305. Phone/fax 703-836-8964, E-mail OrlandoPl@aol.com



FROM OUR OWN PRESSES



Compiled by Jenn Tust

A&M BOOKS

A&M Books has just published Sarah Aldridge's twelfth novel, *Amantha*, a historical novel about a pretty and innocent 18-year-old finishing school graduate who meets an enterprising financier who chooses her for his wife and takes her off to Paris. Once settled in Paris she concludes that the role of wife to a wealthy, powerful, possessive husband is not exactly what she wants.... "But in the midst of the drama of this life of privilege and constraint she has found, under the most unusual circumstances, the woman who gives her the love her heart seeks." \$10.95 pb, 0-9646648-0-1. A&M also distributes all of Sarah Aldridge's previous titles. 50% discount, no minimum, no distributors — direct orders only. A&M Books, PO Box 283, Rehoboth Beach DE 19971; 302-227-2893. —CS

ASH TREE PUBLISHING

Breast Cancer? Breast Health! The Wise Woman Way by Susun S. Weed is for women who love their breasts and want to keep them. A one-stop guide for the woman who wants to prevent breast cancer, for the woman who's found a lump and for the woman dealing with breast cancer. Herbs and home remedies may not cure cancer but they can prevent it — and they offer themselves as highly effective complementary medicines for women choosing orthodox treatments. As usual, Susun's style is lyrical, her facts impeccable and her advice simple and easy to follow. For well-educated

women who are looking for information outside the mainstream, health educators, oncologists and anyone interested in complementary medicine. \$14.95 pb, 096146-20-78.

Ash Tree Publishing, PO Box 64, Woodstock NY 12498; 914-246-8081. Distributed by BP, Baker & Taylor, New Leaf, Nutribooks, Weiser's, and Moving Books.
— Ash Tree Publishing



Cartoon by Leanne Franson, from *Plural Desires: Writing Bisexual Women's Realities* (Sister Vision).

ASTARTE SHELL PRESS

Our newest venture is into audio tapes, with two exciting sound poems by the renowned poet Anne Witten. The poems, **O Star** and **Touch Me**, come out of an ancient oral tradition but are transformed here by the use of four women's voices, not the single male epic hero. The voices weave in and out — singing, calling, answering — evoking lovers coming together, bodily and spiritually, with each other and nature. Fortunately we have had an intern, Jill Schultz, who knows about j-cards and cassettes, to help us through the production process. Another example of on-the-job training. \$9.95, 1 cassette (40 minutes), 1-885349-03-3.

Astarte Shell Press, PO Box 3648, Portland ME 04104; 207-828-1992. Distributed by IN.

—Astarte Shell Press

ATTIC PRESS/BASEMENT PRESS

Basement Press is an imprint of Ireland's feminist Attic Press that addresses gay men's (and gay/lesbian) issues. **One in Every Family: Dispelling the Myths About Lesbians and Gay Men** by Carole Wardlaw is

designed for friends, families, work colleagues, acquaintances, medical professionals, clergy, social workers, teachers or anyone else who finds themselves needing realistic information about lesbians and gay men. It dispels myths and stereotypes, contains frank and moving personal accounts by friends and families of lesbians and gay men who, in turn, reveal the sometimes painful stories of their first reactions when someone close "came out" to them.

Attic Press, 29 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2, Ireland. Distributed in the U.S. by IN. —CS



BLUESTOCKING BOOKS

Lesbians in Print: A Bibliography of 1,500 Books with Synopses edited by Margaret Gillon started as a personal quest as she stood in the middle of a bookstore looking at the books for lesbians asking, "What else is published for us? Is this all there is?" After requesting catalogs from different publishers Gillon concluded there should be one book that a woman could pick up and use as a reference to find lesbian books. **Lesbians in Print** is that source. It includes both fiction and non-fiction, alphabetically arranged by title, cross-referenced by author, subject and publisher. **Lesbians in Print** looks like a great resource and a book that many lesbians will want to own. \$19.50 pb, 1-887237-13-5.

Bluestocking Books, PO Box 50998, Irvine CA 92619. 40% for 3-199; 45% prepaid. Also distributed by BP. —JT

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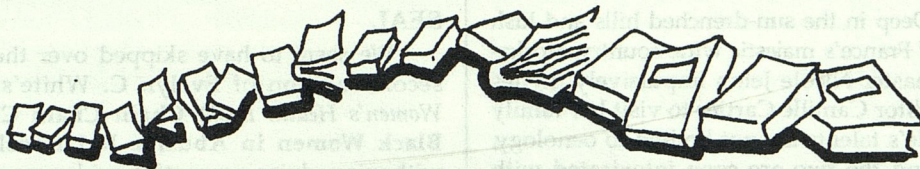
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KORE PRESS

Girls in the Jungle by Alison Hawthorne Deming (\$9.95 pb) and **Helen Groves**, a collection of new poems by Olga Broumas and T. Begley (\$55 pb, \$75 cl), are the first two handmade, letter press-printed books from new feminist letterpress publisher Kore Press. Founders Karen Falkenstrom and Lisa Bowden were inspired to start the press, in part, by one of the ten pieces of advice that comprise the text of their first book **Girls in the Jungle: What Does It Take for a Woman to Survive as an Artist?** "Commit yourself to your work. Give up your security if it begins to smother your art... Establish alternative galleries (and) presses... Be willing to run things, to learn what you have to do." The book itself is a 4" x 8" spiral-bound book, signed



and numbered with press mark. For their third book, Kore plans a three-volume letterpress edition of Gertrude Stein's **Tender Buttons** (\$125), due out in December. Kore Press, 101 W. Sixth Street #4, Tucson AZ 85701; 602-882-7542. Terms: 30% for up to 5 books; 40% for 6+; \$2 shipping. (Applying to Small Press Distribution and Consortium.) —CS



KNOWLEDGE, IDEAS & TRENDS, INC.

KIT's fall release is by Dr. Ruth Harriet Jacobs of *Be an Outrageous Older Woman* fame. In **Women Who Have Touched My Life: A Memoir**, Jacobs tells the story of her beginnings — the abuses and deprivations she suffered — before her determination and hard work and help from other women lifted her to another plane. The book is full of poetry, exhortations and guidelines for providing and accepting help — and is an example that a difficult childhood does not have to result in a miserable and unproductive adult life. Dr. Jacobs is hitting the lecture circuit again primarily in New England and along the east coast including GA and FL. If you want her to give a lecture and signing give me a call — we'll piggyback with her schedule (call even if she is currently not in your area — this can change any time). Fortunately I decided to publish only one title for the Fall season — this had nothing to do with the retirement of my partner of five years, Rita McCullough, or Inland's troubles — instead I knew both Rita and I would be away for a considerable length of time visiting China and attending The Women's Conference. The Goddess was watching! Bookstores should have received our special Survival Sale flier offering an 80% discount on *Telling It Like It Is: Making Peace With My Mother* and *Delights, Dilemmas & Decisions*. If not — call. This offer is not available from any other source. \$14.95 pb, 1-879198-22-3.

Knowledge, Ideas & Trends, 400 Prospect Street, Glen Rock NJ 07452; 800-826-0529. Distributed by IN.

—*Knowledge, Ideas & Trends*

LAVENDER CRYSTAL PRESS

Jane Fixes Cars by Sue McConnell-Celi is the first in Lavender Crystal's Women Working: When I Grow Up I Can... series designed for children ages 2 and up. Using text and photos, it briefly describes the work of an auto mechanic, how she learned to fix things and what she likes about her work. \$3.50 pb, saddle-stitched, 0-9636909-5-7. Lavender Crystal Press, PO Box 8932, Red Bank NY 07701. Distributed by BP, IN.

—CS

NAIAD PRESS

Your readers will be enthralled by Lisa Shapiro's **The Color of Winter**, a beautifully written romance about two strong women struggling to live life on their own terms. Haunted by ghosts of the past, Dr. Sandra Ross, 51, seeks safety in the conventions and conformity of academia. Newly appointed to the History Department at University of California/Berkeley, she becomes the faculty advisor to 29-year-old Jay Hope, the rebellious daughter of wealthy philanthropists. Jay's inheritance is contingent upon her graduating before she turns 31, but the young woman is interested in a different kind of education. \$10.95 pb, 1-56280-116-3, January.



Laura DeHart Young (*There Will Be No Goodbyes*) serves up an exhilarating blend of romance and suspense in her spellbinding **Family Secrets**. Orphaned as a child when her parents were killed in an "accidental" car wreck, Meg Rhyland is shocked when a stranger shows up claiming to be her long-lost half-brother. After falling out of love with her partner and into the strong arms of P.I. Susan Marks, Meg soon learns that there's much more at stake than her inheritance. \$10.95 pb, 1-56280-119-8, January.

Peggy Herring has won high praise for her best-selling novel *Once More With Feeling*. Her magnificent new romance, **Love's Harvest**, is sure to win even

more fans. Deep in the sun-drenched hills and lush vineyards of France's majestic wine country, workaholic winemaker Nicole Jeton impulsively invites magazine editor Camille Cartier to visit her family estate. Nicole's talents are not limited to oenology, of course, and the two are soon intoxicated with something much sweeter than wine. \$10.95 pb, 1-56280-117-1, February.

Canadian Tracey Richardson makes her writing debut with **Northern Blue**, a top-notch contemporary romance set in her native Ontario. Sure to be a favorite with your readers, police recruit Miranda McCauley is an athletically gifted, intensely ambitious young woman. So ambitious that even a white-hot love affair with fellow trainee Miki Paxton can't melt her determination to be a police chief by the time she's forty. Years later, in line for a big promotion and engaged to the mayor's son, Miranda seems well on the way to achieving her goals. Then Miki transfers to Miranda's town.... \$10.95 pb, 1-56280-118-X, February.

Naiad Press, PO Box 10543, Tallahassee FL 32302; 800-533-1973. Distributed by IN, BP, et al.

—Naiad Press



NEW MOON

New Moon, the magazine for girls, has a beautiful, high-quality, colorful 1996 calendar full of full-color artwork created by New Moon readers. Each month highlights notable women, girls and events. Wholesale cost is \$6. Minimum order is 5. New Moon, PO Box 3620, Duluth MN 55803; 218-728-5507, fax 218-728-0314. Distributed in the U.S. by BP, Ingram, Small Changes, Book Tech, Fine Print, Don Olson, Ubiquity; in Canada by Doormouse. —CS

ROWBARGE PRESS

Mono Lake is a collection of nine stories by Martha Clark Cummings. These stories, set in Paris, New York City and Tampa, deal with lesbians' quests for love, understanding, identity, community and family. The title story won the Astraea Foundation Lesbian Writers Fund Emerging Writers Award in 1994. \$8.95 pb, 0-9646201-2-X. Rowbarge Press, PO Box 407, Monterey CA 93942; 408-345-7022. Distributed by Alamo, BP, IN, and Baker & Taylor. —JT

SEAL

We seem to have skipped over the expanded second edition of Evelyn C. White's (*The Black Women's Health Book*) **Chain Chain Change: For Black Women in Abusive Relationships**. Filled with wise advice, respectful guidance, and a strong sense of hope, this book can help empower African American women to break free of abusive partners and reclaim healthier and happier lives. It helps women determine if they are being abused and offers positive suggestions for getting support from emergency agencies, the legal system, shelters, counselors, the church, family and friends. This edition includes a new chapter that addresses the experiences of Black lesbians who are battered by their partners. \$8.95 pb, 1-878067-60-5. Seal Press, 3131 Western Avenue #410, Seattle WA 98121. Distributed by PGW. —CS

SONJA SOEHNEL

Women's Solutions to Problems of Aging by Sonja Soehnel compiles 112 women's responses to Sonja's questionnaire asking what had helped them with specific problems related to aging, including problems with joints, digestion, vision, hearing, sexuality, fatigue, sleep, memory and movement. The responses are arranged by topic and listed by age of the respondent. Initially I wished that the responses had been summarized into a more readable format, but I quickly was captivated by the directness of each woman's voice/response. It's a straightforward, no-nonsense book that addresses a number of issues that aging women aren't supposed — but need — to talk about. \$10 pb, 0-9645025-0-X. Terms are 40% sale; 30% consignment. Sonja Soehnel, 5356 Locksley Avenue, Oakland CA 94618; 510-654-3047. —CS



VIRAGO

For everyone who's ever been intimidated by launching into Virginia Woolf, **Virginia Woolf: Introductions to the Major Works** edited by Julia Briggs might be a good place to begin. These fourteen introductions, specially commissioned for Penguin's reissue of Woolf's major works and gathered here in one volume, are by distinguished feminist critics and Woolf scholars from both sides of the Atlantic. \$16.95



pb, 1-85381-629-9. Distributed in the U.S. by Trafalgar Square (North Pomfret VT 05053). —CS

WOMEN'S REVOLUTIONS PER MINUTE

Women's Revolutions Per Minute (WRPM) is a Canadian womyn's music distribution company that's part of a larger organization, Multicultural Womyn in Concert (MWiC). MWiC formed 12 years ago and promotes the work of progressive women cultural workers — artists, musicians, dancers, writers, etc., by organizing workshops, concerts, festivals and recordings. Their other long-term project, Camp Sis, is aimed at providing a permanent political centre, studio space, and retreat for womyn and their children. The Camp is 2½ hours northeast of Toronto on 75 acres. They are particularly interested in providing a place for poor womyn, womyn in shelters, homeless womyn, lesbians, disabled womyn, womyn of colour, First Nations womyn, and immigrant and refugee womyn.



In April MWiC established WRPM to distribute recordings by progressive womyn musicians focusing on the music of womyn of colour, First Nations womyn, disabled womyn and lesbians. Proceeds go to support Camp Sis. Titles distributed include:

- Faith Nolan's fourth recording **Hard to Imagine** (C\$9 cassette, C\$13.50 CD), as well as her *Africville*, which explores Black history in Canada from slavery to the displacement of Black people in Africville, Nova Scotia, in 1969.
- Leslie Taylor's **First Born**, a danceable funky fusion of different elements from urban Toronto life, reggae, and pseudo-jazz imbued with awareness, humour, and desire for change from within (C\$9).
- Jane Field's **The Fishing is Free**, a collection of satirical songs that highlight the absurdities of many people's attitudes to disability and to the lesbian and gay experience (C\$8.50 cassette).

- Tiki Mercury-Clarke's **Breaking the Silence** offers a broad landscape of musical sounds from r&b to hallelujah-gospel. Includes moving affirmations of her faith as well as examinations of wife assault, racism, drug abuse and adult illiteracy (C\$12 cassette, C\$15 CD).
- Assar Santana's **Ileea**, a mix of Latin, African, jazz and funk rhythms from the dynamic Brazilian-born and Montreal-based musician Santana and

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her seven-women ensemble Sharnell No. 6. The album is dedicated to Native people across the Americas and to people around the world fighting for survival and dignity (C\$8.50 cassette, C\$15 CD).

- Gloria Blizzard's **Strange Hearts** melds pop, jazz, Latin and African rhythms into contemporary urban music. Her dreamily poetic lyrics bring natural elements to life (\$13.50 CD).
- Arlene Mantle's **Full Circle** is about journeys, changes, women's lives and Mantle's own life — based in the realization that spirituality and activism are inextricably interwoven. The songs are about naming and reclaiming, about hope and healing, about struggle and survival (C\$12 cassette, C\$15 CD).
- ASE (pronounced Ah-Shay) Drumming Circle's **Souls A Gathered** celebrates the diversity of African cultural expression and showcases the women's voices and a variety of percussive instruments. Their repertoire ranges from traditional folk tunes to contemporary music from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. Highly recommended to Sweet Honey in the Rock fans (C\$10 cassette, C\$15 CD).

- Taiko music is rooted in the history of rural farming and fishing communities throughout Japan. Katari Taiko celebrates its fifteenth anniversary with the release of **Commotion**, a unique collection of original taiko music written by present and past members of the group. I heard them perform at the gay games in Vancouver — they were fabulous! C\$9 cassette, C\$15 CD.



- **Blue Voice New Voice** by Jani Lauzon, a Metis blues singer, offers a fiery voice connected to the Earth and radiating the strength and substance of a powerfully talented woman. The album bridges her aboriginal ancestry with her love for rhythm and celebrates the luminous sound of women's voices coming together in joy, love, pain, laughter and sharing.

Promo copies available with orders for some titles. Minimum order is four items, any combination. WRPM, PO Box 266 Station E, Toronto ON M6H 2H0; phone/fax 416-963-9946. —CS

And a few new magazines:

Lola Press is a new international feminist magazine that I'd like to see on a regular basis.... It's edited by a team based in Germany and Uruguay and publishes each article in both English and Spanish. The issue I saw contrasted preparations for Beijing in Europe and in Latin America, reviewed the changes that led to the demise of a global consortium, discussed the creation of the Haitian Ministry of Women's Conditions and Women's Rights, offered an update on the case of the two Philippine lesbians who were fired from their jobs at a human rights organization for coming out to a co-worker, an article on living as a lesbian feminist in wartime Belgrade, and much more. Beautifully designed. Subs in the U.S. are \$15/year + \$10 postage. Order from Lola Press Berlin, Friedrichstrasse 165 D, 10117 Berlin, Tel/Fax 49-30-6093719. e-mail: lolapress@ipn-b.comlink.apc.org. U.S. and Canadian bookstore distribution info not yet available.

Trivia 22 is out—this double issue features "rejected ideas" including some interesting ideas and articles that were previously rejected by *Trivia!* Great stuff! \$7. *Trivia*, PO Box 9606, N. Amherst MA 01059. —CS ○

FROM THE SMALL PRESSES



By Jenn Tust

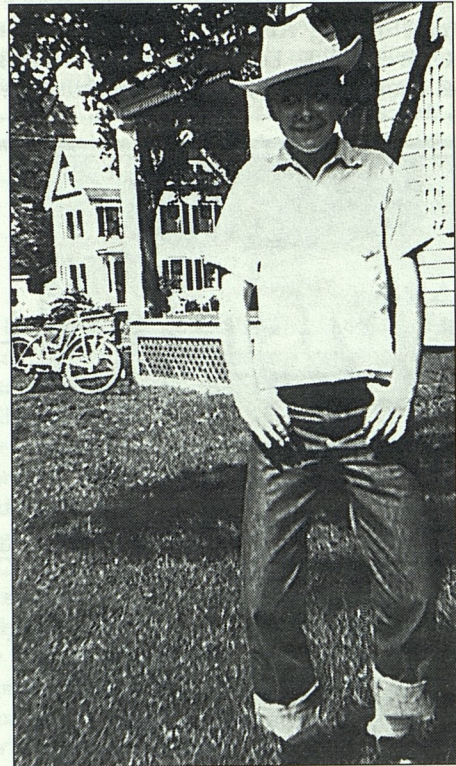
Tomboys! Tales of Dyke Derring-Do, edited by Lynne Yamaguchi and Karen Barber, is a hilarious and entertaining collection featuring the work of fifty lesbians including Kanani L. Kauka, Susan Fox Rogers, Jeanne Cordova, Sharon Lim-hing and Lucy Jane Bledsoe. Comprised of poetry, essays, fiction, and photos from World War II to the present, **Tomboys** explores the often-interconnected themes of gender identification and sexual orientation. This is a must have for tomboys past, present and future and for those who love them! \$9.95 pb, 1-55583-285-7.

The "Pride Pack," the first gay-themed young adult series, will follow the adventures of a group of teens, both gay and straight (some kids have gay parents) who find themselves drawn into mysterious events in their community. **Who Framed Lorenzo Garcia?** (\$5.95 pb, 1-55583-608-9), the first in the series, tells how the Pride Pack came together to help Ramón when his foster dad is framed for a crime he didn't commit. **The Case of the Missing Mother** (\$5.95 pb, 1-55583-609-7), the second in the series, tells how one of Rebecca's moms disappears after getting into a public dispute with a local anti-gay preacher. The group of kids will be confronted with different real-life situations once or twice per season in the Pride Pack series.

Alyson Publications, 40 Plympton Street, Boston MA 02118. Distributed by Consortium and BP.

Randy Turnoff's eclectic anthology **Lesbian Words: State of the Art** touches on topics ranging from menstruation to lesbian transgenderism, from the history of Black lesbian/gay literature to sex. Contributors include Dorothy Allison, Canyon Sam and Andrea Weiss. Provocative and sure to sell. Published

by Richard Kasak/Masquerade Books, this book is part of Kasak's foray into literary [non-sex-based] publishing. This collection is rather short on women of color, hopefully Kasak-published books will be more inclusive in the future. \$10.95 pb, 1-56333-340-6. A Richard Kasak Book published by Masquerade Books, 801 Second Avenue, New York NY 10017. Distributed by BP, Alamo Square.



Diane F. Germaine, c. early 50's in Burlington VT.
From *Tomboys! Tales of Dyke Derring-Do*,
Alyson Publications.

Herbal Abortion: The Fruit of the Tree of Knowledge by Uni M. Tiamat brings vital information on emmenagogual (menstrual promoting) and abortive herbs into a convenient and usable resource handbook. Its goal is to help women have more successful and safer herbal abortion experiences by providing essential information and support from herbalists, healers, and wise-women. Includes the pros and cons of herbal abortion, tips on forming a back-up plan and a resource list. Half of the book details the cultivation, gathering, chemical components and other information on 20 abortive herbs grown in North America. Back cover quotes are by Diane Stein and Susun Weed. Comes in a saddle-stitched, staple-bound handbook with a decorative inside cover, an over-cover, and a ribbon that ties it all together. \$16.95 pb, 0-964520-3-7. 46% discount for 10+ books, free freight. Sage-femme! 3457 North University #120, Peoria IL 61604. Distributed by BP, IN.

Transforming Abuse: Nonviolent Resistance and Recovery by K. Louise Schmidt articulates and applies a non-enemy ethic of intervention and healing

that short-circuits the cycle of violence against women and children. In the foreword Ellen Bass writes, "[**Transforming Abuse**] embodies a strong, respectful stance [that] we will not allow the abuse of children, of women, or of our Earth to continue unchecked. We take this stance, not out of desire for violence or revenge, but out of love." Issues addressed include feminism and nonviolence, principles and practices of nonviolence, truth and testimony, anger and action, non-violence in our families and communities, and creative justice. Filled with quotations relating to non-violence, **Transforming Abuse** will be a useful sourcebook for activists, advocates, social workers, therapists and all who want to stop family violence. \$14.95 pb, 0-86571-314-6; \$39.95 cl, -313- 8. New Society Publishers, 4527 Springfield Avenue, Philadelphia PA 19143. Distributed by IN.

In **Sexual Abuse in Nine North American Cultures: Treatment and Prevention** Lisa Aronson Fontes considers the impact of cultural issues on sexual abuse in nine specific cultures. She suggests ways in which cultural norms can be used to protect

THE INVISIBLE WOMAN

Confronting Weight Prejudice in America
W. Charisse Goodman

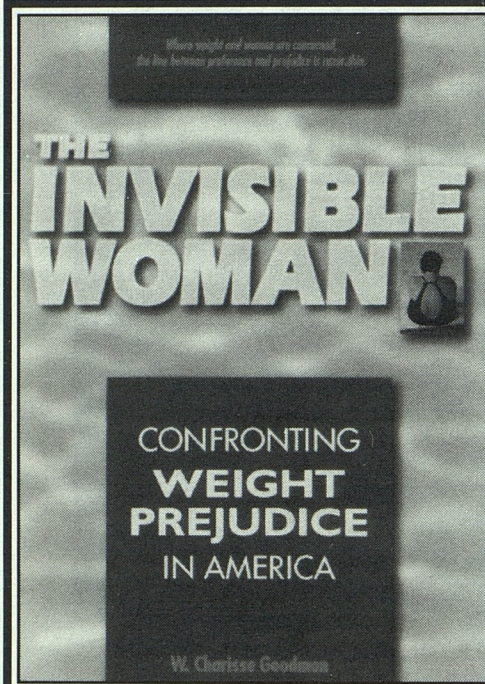
An articulate, provocative and stereo type-shattering exposé of America's pervasive prejudice against fat women

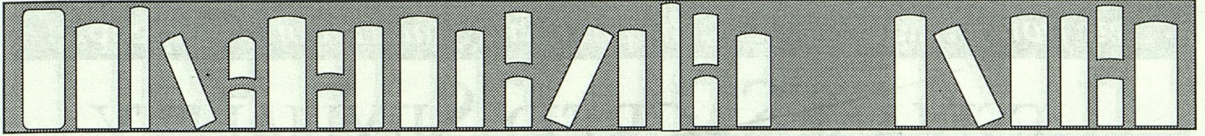
This unapologetically feminist treatise explores the many forms of active and passive weight prejudice in contemporary America, and traces the path toward reclaiming one's own body in refusing to tolerate discrimination.

\$14.95, Trade paper, ISBN 0-936077-10-7
 256pp, 6 x 8 1/2

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children to promote recovery from sexual abuse, and breaks new ground in offering practical guidelines that professionals can use to become more helpful to children, families, and adult survivors from all groups. Among the groups explored are Cambodians, African Americans, Puerto Ricans, Jews, lesbians and Anglo Americans. \$22.95 pb, 0-8039-5435-2; \$48 cl, -5434-4. Sage Publications, 2455 Teller Road, Newbury Park CA 91320; 805-499-0721.



Take Back Your Power: A Working Woman's Response to Sexual Harassment by Jennifer Coburn presents and analyzes her experiences with sexual harassment, fighting back and winning a settlement against her harasser, as well as the experiences of 100 other women she interviewed about their experiences of sexual harassment. Coburn places strong emphasis on the psychological dimension of combatting harassment: building self-esteem and overcoming resistance from co-workers, friends and family. She also suggests practical steps women can take to fight sexual harassment on the interpersonal and legal fronts. A good addition to your sexual harassment section. \$10 pb, 0-910383-13-8. Ism Press, PO Box 12447, San Francisco CA 94112; 415-333-7641. Distributed by BP.

Until Darkness Holds No Fear: The Healing of a Multiple Personality is the story of Elizabeth Julie Mikal's struggle with MPD and her experiences with physical, mental and sexual abuse. It describes the ways she used MPD as a survival tool and her ongoing integration and healing. Much of the book is comprised of conversations between her personalities as she works through her experiences. Published by Books Beyond Borders (BBB) which began publishing in 1993. BBB now has five change-related titles which honor persistence and the power of life in women's studies, multicultural studies, metaphysics and psychology. \$16.95 pb, 1-883862-08-6. Books Beyond

Borders, 3640 Walnut Street #A, Boulder CO 80301. Distributed by BP, Ingram and Moving Books.

She Does Math! Real-Life Problems from Women on the Job edited by Marla Parker targets young women who may be unaware of the opportunities for women who have a good background in mathematics and advises them of the value of taking math throughout high school. Thirty-eight women describe experiences that led to their chosen fields and then provide real-life problems as exercises, illustrating that math — even high school math — really is useful. **She Does Math!** includes strong role models, practical information about the job market, the need for math to compete for interesting, well-paying jobs, and shows the variety of fields in which mathematics is used. Looks great! Makes me wish I had taken more math in high school and college! \$24 pb, 0-88385-702-2. The Mathematical Association of America, 1529 18th Street, N.W., Washington DC 20036; 202-387-5200.



House of Waiting, the first novel by Marina Tamar Budhos, maps the stormy marriage between a sheltered New York woman from an Orthodox Jewish family and an Indo-Caribbean man. The husband leaves soon after they marry to seek his destiny in the bitter political struggle in his homeland; waiting, and building community are his wife's tasks. Ultimately she gains the strength to make the dangerous trip to the Caribbean to save her marriage — learning, in the process, a lot about herself and her husband. I particularly enjoyed the mix of cultures and ethnicities and how they play in the various relationships and interactions between the characters. \$12 pb, 0-9641292-2-1. Global City Press, 138th Street & Convent Avenue, New York NY 10031. Distributed by Consortium.

Prisoner of Dunes collects the writings by Isabelle Eberhardt spanning her wanderings and

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"Erotic love between women can be a celebration of and an initiation into the female creative spirit, the feminine mysteries."

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exile. Born in Geneva in 1877, she spent much of her short adult life in North Africa where she learned Arabic, converted to Islam, smoked kif (hashish), wore men's clothing, drank alcohol and was "promiscuous" with men — shocking the French colonials. At the age of 27 she died in an accident during a flash-flood. Translated from the French by Sharon Bangert. \$24 pb, 0-7206-0944-5. Peter Owen Publishers, 73 Kienway Road, London England SW5 0RE. Distributed in the U.S. by Dufour Editions (610-458-5005).



Harriet Tubman: The Moses of Her People by Sarah Bradford was originally published in 1886. It was based on a collection of essays, *Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman*, compiled by Bradford in 1869. Both books were privately funded by Bradford with proceeds going to Harriet Tubman who used the funds to house and care for indigents until her death. In the preface the author personally testifies to the story's validity. It's interesting to read what she and other prominent people of that period needed to say to

validate Tubman's life and experiences. \$12.95 pb, 1-55709-217-6. Applewood Books, 18 North Road, Bedford MA 01730; 617-271-0055. Distributed by Consortium.

The Sewing Circle: Hollywood's Greatest Secret, Female Stars Who Loved Other Women by Axel Madsen (male writer) tells tales about some of the most glamorous women in the world — women who lived double lives — in public as larger-than-life romantic heroines on the screen, and in private as lesbians or bisexuals. Take it for what its worth, but the photos are great — particularly the one of Barbara Stanwyck in boxing gloves. The caption reads, "the role model for young, insecure lesbians"! \$19.95 cl, 1-55972-275-4. Carol Publishing Group, 600 Madison Avenue, New York NY 10022. Distributed by BP.

Great Gay & Lesbian Places to Live by Lanie Dills and Lynn West profiles 133 U.S. cities and towns from a lesbian/gay/bisexual perspective. It considers gay rights laws, what the locals say, demographics (lesbian/gay friendly businesses, companies that prohibit discrimination, and crime statistics), things to do

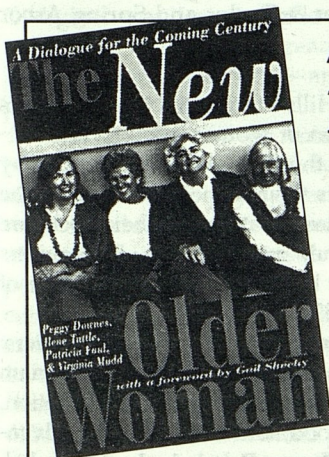
and more. Lots of good information and a resource a lot of queers will want to have. \$16.95 pb, 0-916744-03-5. Relocation Station, 1725 B. Madison Avenue #774, Memphis TN 38104; 901-274-6620. Distributed by IN, BP, Alamo Square and Baker & Taylor.



A great book chronicling Alzheimer's disease is **Catch a Falling Star: Living with Alzheimer's** by Betty Baker Spohr with Jean Valens Bullard. Told through journal entries and sketches, this book records the author's experiences as caregiver to her husband as they dealt with his ten years of life with Alzheimer's. A humorous and informative story of the day-to-day life for spouses, relatives, friends and caregivers to people living with Alzheimer's. \$9.95 pb, 0-9641357-1-X. Storm Peak Press, 157 Yesler Way #413, Seattle WA 98104; 206-223-0162. Distributed by BP, Ingram, Pipeline, Baker & Taylor.

Stores that sell to the Christian-feminist community will want to consider the following titles.

In **Found Wanting: Women, Christianity, and Sexuality**, author Alison Webster presents an accessible and rigorous feminist critique of Christianity, and its impact on the political, social, sexual and spiritual lives of women. Webster reconsiders the question which often preoccupies women on the periphery of Christianity, "should I stay or should I go?" and suggests possible ways this question may be reframed. She traces the links between heterosexuality and homophobia, and between sexual violation and harassment and addresses the Church's silences about lesbian relationships and its marginalization of single women. Also examined are the condemnation of women without partners who choose parenthood and the subjection of both gay women and men to "curative" treatments. Through thorough analysis of both Church documents and practices and through the words of women themselves, **Found Wanting** draws upon lesbian experience in order to reveal how established Christianity works as a political institution to silence and exclude those who would challenge it. \$15.95 pb, 0-304-32850-2; \$55 cl, -32848-0. Cassell, 215 Park Avenue South, New York NY 10003. Distributed by IN.



The New Older Woman **A Dialogue for the Coming Century**

By Peggy Downes, Ph.D., Patricia Faul, Virginia Mudd & Ilene Tuttle
Foreword by GAIL SHEEHY

Conceived when four friends in their sixties organized a two-day, all-women's conference at the Esalen Institute at Big Sur in 1991 and 1992, this book is a dialogue between multi-talented women from diverse professional disciplines. A treasury of information which will transcend time and be of value to *all* generations.

ISBN: 0-89087-769-6, \$12.95, paper, 196 pages, 6 x 9 inches

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MARY ANN HINSDALE
and PHYLLIS KAMINSKI, editors

Women and Theology covers a wide range of topics that present women's entry into the public conversation of theology — and the ways women's voices challenge the nature of that conversation.

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ANN O'HARA GRAFF, editor
A well-organized, clearly focused volume of original essays by North American feminist theologians encompassing the major areas of theological anthropology. Contributors offer fresh insights and helpful new ways to approach the rich complexities of human experience.

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The *Women's Bible Commentary* edited by Carol A. Newsom and Sharon H. Ringe is "the kind of accessible, clear and solid feminist hermeneutics [which] has been needed in the churches for a long time." It puts each book of the Bible into historical perspective, and is reinterpreted according to a feminist vision in a way that is highly readable and very entertaining. Beth thinks it's a great book — a must carry for feminist theology sections. \$19.99 pb, 0-664-25586-8.

Saving Work: Feminist Practices of Theological Education by Rebecca S. Chopp explores the impact of the dramatic increase of women enrolled in seminaries in the past two decades. "A fascinating and ground-breaking study on how women use theological education. This book promises to change the conversation about theological education for both men and women." \$12.99 pb, 0-664-25539-6.

In Reimagining God: The Case for Scriptural Diversity Johanna W. H. van Wijk-Bos asks the question, "Can believers talk about God and to God in a way that is not exclusively male and is biblically responsible?" She examines alternatives to the dominant male language associated with God in the Bible. Focusing primarily on the Hebrew Bible, van Wijk-Bos mines a rich source of God-imagery and discusses alternative language that transcends the narrow confines of male/female imagery. \$12.99, 0-664-25569-8.

Westminster John Knox Press, 100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville KY 40202; 502-569-5043. Distributed by Ingram, Baker & Taylor and Spring Arbor (800-395-5599).

In the Berkshire Hills of Western Massachusetts there is a concentration of women pastors unprecedented anywhere in the U.S.. **Women Pastors** by Allison Stokes presents their stories and those of the people they serve. "These pastors and their flocks are forging new paths: they are explorers, improvisers and creators who are birthing a new experience of church." \$14.95 pb, 0-8245-1465-3.

In The Chronicles of Noah and Her Sisters: Genesis and Exodus According to Women Miriam Therese Winter retells ancient myths of the Creation, the Garden and the Flood, and chronicles the adventures of Sarah and Hagar, Rebekah, Leah, Rachel, Miriam, and many more. Winter presents the chronicles



as if they were an ancient manuscript written by one of the many wives of Solomon. Noah, a woman writer, who feared the loss of women's perspective as written records began replacing oral tradition, wrote these chronicles to offer another version of our shared myths and memories. "Midrash that reads like scripture." \$11.95 pb, 0-8245-1509-9.

Crossroad Publishing Co., 370 Lexington Ave., New York NY 10017. Distributed by Publisher Resources (800-937-5557).



In Eros Breaking Free: Interpreting Sexual Theo-Ethics Anne Bathurst Gilson examines how twentieth-century theologians and mainline churches have interpreted eros — erotic love and desire. Traditional interpretations of Christian love have celebrated romantic love while treating eros with suspicion and distrust. Gilson — who a decade ago was ousted from ordained office because of her sexual orientation — seeks to affirm eros, to affirm carnal joy, and to reconnect it to Christian faith. She contends that it is our unwillingness and inability to confront this God-given manifestation of love that has been largely responsible for the widespread sexual abuse and violence found in our society — and in the church. \$14.95 pb, 0-8298-1021-8.

AIDS, Gays, and the American Catholic Church by Richard L. Smith sensitively reveals the social construction of AIDS, paying particular attention to the ways in which the use of religious metaphors has affected how Americans inside and outside the church perceive the illness. Tracing the emergence of gay culture in America and Catholicism's response to it, and drawing on extensive interviews with Catholics involved in AIDS ministry, Smith looks behind the church's official statements to expose the surprising difference between its official position on homosexuality and its pastoral response to those in need. \$14.95 pb, 0-8298-1011-0.

The Pilgrim Press, 700 Prospect Ave. East, Cleveland OH 44115. Distributed by Ingram.

Mary of Magdala: Apostle and Leader by Mary R. Thompson challenges the traditional view of Mary of Magdala as a penitent and prostitute, and argues that Mary played an important role in the early church as disciple, leader and apostle. Scripture students and feminist scholars are sure to be interested in this revealing work. \$12.95 pb, 0-8091-3573-6.

Add Kathleen Fischer's **Autumn Gospel: Women in the Second Half of Life** to your growing collection of Women in Midlife titles. Weaving together stories, experiences and research from a variety of traditions and cultures, Fischer explores the spiritual dimensions of women's middle and late years and suggests ways older women can embrace new visions of themselves. At the end of each chapter Fischer offers rituals and prayers that mark the passages of the second half of life. \$12.95 pb, 0-8091-3581-7.

Paulist Press, 997 Macarthur Blvd, Mahwah NJ 07430. Distributed by New Leaf, Ingram, Spring Arbor and Baker & Taylor.



If you have Catholic customers you may want to consider **Circle of Mysteries: The Women's Rosary Book**. Christin Lore Weber takes a fresh look at the rosary and brings new depth to its age-old mysteries. The book begins with the author's remembrances of her mother's beads, describes the rosary and how to use it, offers a short history, and elaborates on the rosary's mysteries, grounded in the life of Jesus and his mother. Used alone or as a companion to the rosary, this book invites readers to celebrate the creation of woman in all of her dimensions and all her experiences. \$12.95 pb, 0-936663-11-1. Yes International Publishers, 1317 Summit Ave., St. Paul MN 55105. Distributed by Atrium Publishers Group.

There are several books that might be of interest for health and spirituality sections.

In **Embracing Our Essence: Spiritual Conversations with Prominent Women** Susan Skog weaves together the voices of 29 prominent women who share their views of what it means to live a spiritual life. Featuring Nikki Giovanni, Betty Ford, Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, Jane Goodall and Terry Tempest Williams, these women tell us their spiritual philosophies and experiences. Touchstones show how their inner selves give them the outer courage to shape a more humane, compassionate society. Skog frequently returns to the idea that spirituality is an everyday event, one that need not require trekking the mountains of Tibet or fasting in the desert seven days. Health Communications expects this to be a very strong seller. \$11.95 pb, 1-55874-359-6. 45% discount for returnables; 50% for nonreturnables. Health Communications, Inc., 3201 SW Fifteen Street, Deerfield Beach FL 33442; 800-441-5569. Distributed by BP, Ingram, Baker & Taylor and Bookazine.

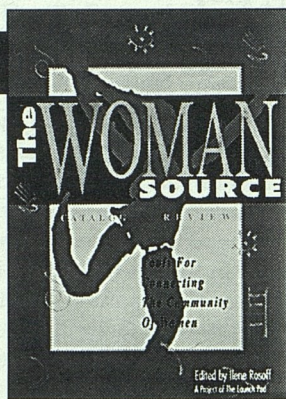
The Tao of Women by Pamela K. Metz and Jacqueline L. Tobin links the inspirational, peaceful teachings of the Tao with the deep, penetrating knowledge of all that is female, capturing and presenting the power and wisdom generated by centuries of women's lives, with the hope that this wisdom will not be lost. Presented like the *Tao Te Ching* in chapters or verses, **The Tao of Women** also features chapter headings illustrated with the ancient Chinese language *Nu Shu* — a written language developed and used by

women to communicate with each other when traditional forms of education excluded them. Traditional Chinese characters are used to show the disparity between the two languages. \$16.95 pb, 0-89334-237-8. 40% discount for 5+ books. Humanics Trade, 1482 Mecasin Street N.W., Atlanta GA 30309; 800-874-8844. Distributed by BP, Baker & Taylor, Ingram, New Leaf, Airlift and Banyon Tree.



Throughout **Song & Silence: Voicing the Soul** Susan Elizabeth Hale explores the meaning of song and cultural estrangement from one's own voice. She both reveals the power of singing and questions how and why many people don't sing. She shows how singing can restore a relationship with oneself, the natural world, culture and community and become a deep spiritual joy. Hale recognizes the social, political and psychological issues that affect women's voices, and embraces the feminine — the powers of emotion, intuition, memory, compassion, the body's knowledge and the womb. \$14 pb, 0-9631909-3-8. La Alameda Press, 9636 Guadalupe Trail N.W., Albuquerque NM 87106; 505-897-0285. Distributed by BP.

Another possible addition to your alternative healing or health section is **Woman Heal Thyself** by Jeanne Elizabeth Blum. Blum weaves together



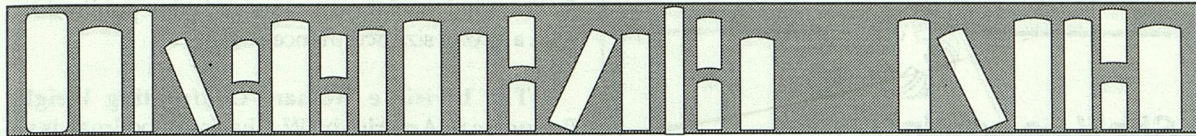
THE WOMANSOURCE CATALOG & REVIEW

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 Edited by Ilene Rosoff

These are the ultimate yellow pages for women—over 1500 entries! Everything from Earthware paper, eco-garb, car repair guides, pepper sprays, to the usual staples including *Ourbodies Ourselves* and *The Feminine Mystique*. Easy to read headings help readers tab through the book to find exactly what they need.

ISBN: 0-89087-768-8, \$19.95, paper, 500 pages, 8½ x 11 inches

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personal anecdote, historical reflection, theory and praxis, describing the 24 so-called forbidden pregnancy points, how to massage them and provides methods for working them to maintain menstrual health. She also discusses self-regulated on-set menstruation to avoid pregnancy, instead of abortion. **Woman Heal Thyself** introduces basic principles behind holistic healing and utilizes charts and illustrations for reference. A healing guide that offers women the tools needed to achieve total well-being without prescription drugs, expensive therapies, or surgery. \$24.95 cl, 0-8048-3045-2. 40% discount for 5-24 books; 41% for 25-49; 42% for 50-99. Charles E. Tuttle Co., 153 Milk Street-Fifth Floor, Boston MA 02109; 800-526-2778. Distributed by Ingram and Baker & Taylor.

In Conversations With My Healers: My Journey to Wellness from Breast Cancer Cynthia Ploski tells the story of her journey back to wellness from the diagnosis of breast cancer, using both traditional and alternative treatments. She presents in-depth interviews with each of her healers: a surgeon, an oncologist, an herbalist, a nutritionist, a shamanic healer, a naturopath, and others, in the hope that the variety of perspectives will help empower the reader to become more involved in her own health processes. \$24.95 cl, 1-57178-010-6. Council Oak Books, 1350 East Fifteenth Street, Tulsa OK 74120; 800-247-8850. Distributed by BP, Book Source, Baker & Taylor, Ingram and Pacific Pipeline.

Health Risks of Weight Loss by Frances M. Berg questions whether weight loss is healthy. Berg's goal is to educate both professionals and consumers about the complexities of losing weight, a serious matter with health ramifications ranging from gallstones to elevated cholesterol to death. The report covers the risks of losing weight; effectiveness of treatment; weight cycling; mortality increase with weight loss; treatment issues; and challenges for the 1990s. **Health Risks of Weight Loss** brings together the scientific

evidence on the risks of dieting, diet pills, semi-starvation, stomach stapling, purging, rapid weight loss, eating disorders and weight cutting for sports. \$19.95 pb, 0-918532-44-2. 40% discount for 10-29 books; 50% for 30+. Healthy Weight Journal, 402 South 14th Street, Hettinger ND 58639; 701-567-2646. Distributed by Bookman and Baker & Taylor.

Healthy Weight Journal is also sponsoring Healthy Weight Week, January 14-20, 1996, with January 16 being Women's Healthy Weight Day. Much of the promotional material is positive and claims to "celebrate the diversity of women," but actually falls short of truly advocating size acceptance, and may be offensive to fat women. While supposedly rejecting the importance of weight, at the same time it *emphasizes* weight. To counteract any negative or mixed messages generated during Healthy Weight Week, consider featuring

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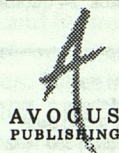
The Cultural Battlefield: Art Censorship & Public Funding

Jennifer A. Peter, Louis M. Crosier, Editors

Never has there been a more stirring call to celebrate the *original* Contract with America: the U.S. Constitution. Artists and arts administrators describe their struggles against the suppression of ideas.

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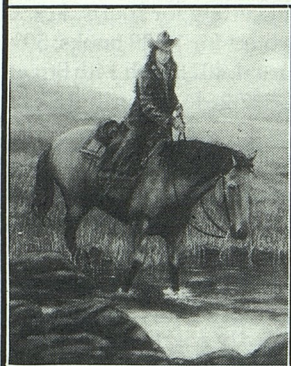


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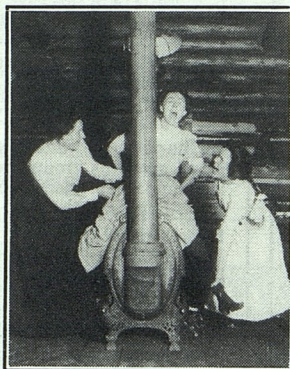


Luanne Armstrong brings us the cowgirl hero we've been waiting for. Forging into the great western frontier alone with her horse and dog, Annie meets up with nature's vast landscape, its unforgiving weather and wild creatures, and a collection of unpredictable characters.

Annie by *Luanne Armstrong*

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Mattie Gunterman, American-born photographer and camp cook, captures the joyful and robust frontier spirit in her turn-of-the-century photographs. **Flapjacks and Photographs** chronicles the life of this talented, pioneering woman.



Flapjacks and Photographs:

A History of Mattie Gunterman, Camp Cook and Photographer
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Radiance and *Fat!So?* magazines and other publications with a strong size acceptance stance.

The Invisible Woman: Confronting Weight Prejudice in America by W. Charisse Goodman is an "unapologetically angry, intelligent and feminist treatise exploring and exposing many forms of weight prejudice in America, including the mass media's perpetuation of inappropriate — and unhealthy — standards of beauty, the tremendously profitable weight-loss industry and the fear of fat women as sexual beings. Goodman brilliantly traces a liberating path for reclaiming one's body and refusing to tolerate a bigoted society." \$14.95 pb, 0-936077-10-7. 40% discount for 5-24 books; 45% for 25-99. Gurze Books, PO Box 2238, Carlsbad CA 92018; 619-434-7533. Distributed by PGW, Baker & Taylor and Ingram.

First published in Great Britain, **Foreign Parts** was described as a "a road movie for feminists...a funny, sharp and gutsy portrayal of female friendship," and "a painstakingly crafted, multi-layered investigation of contemporary female experience." A driving holiday in France for two Scotswomen turns into a caustic, humorous account of dysfunctional relationships — both between men and women and between women friends. \$12.95 pb, 1-56478-082-1. 47% discount for 5+ books. Dalkey Archive Press, ISU, Campus Box 4241, Normal IL 61790; 309-438-7555. Distributed by BP, IN, Baker & Taylor, Pacific Pipeline and Small Press Distribution.



Old Mother, Little Cat: A Writer's Reflections on Her Kitten, Her Aged Mother, and Life by Merrill Joan Gerber is a touching tale about the process of aging. This deeply personal narrative draws the reader into the two journeys — the joy of loving a new pet and the anguishing helplessness of watching a parent grow old. Spanning a year, the author's reflections document the link between mother and daughter and celebrates her mother's life. \$19.95 cl, 1-56352-249-7. 41% discount for 5-9 books; 43% for 10-49; 44% for 50-199. Longstreet Press, 2140 Newmarket Parkway #118, Marietta GA 30067; 800-927-1488. Distributed by BP and Ingram.



The 1995-96 **Gayellow Pages: The National Edition** is now out, \$11.95 pb, 1-885404-07-7. **The Northeast Edition** is also out, \$4.95 pb, 1-885404-06-9. If your store isn't included send a SASE for a listing form. 50% discount on CODs; 60% on consignment. Renaissance House, PO Box 533 Village Station, NY NY 10014; 212-674-0120. Distributed by BP, IN, Alamo, Small Changes and Bookazine.

Arms to Fight, Arms to Protect: Women Speak Out About Conflict draws from 200 testimonies collected in twelve countries and provides first-hand accounts of women as fighters, as active participants in or as supporters of armed struggle, as organizers for peace and rehabilitation, and as mothers, relatives and partners of the dead and disappeared. Women speak out about conflict and show how the predominant image of women as passive victims shows only half the picture. These vivid and often harrowing stories reveal women's determined efforts to survive — emotionally and economically — during wartime and highlight women's active contributions to the recovery process in their communities and at home. Many women talk of gaining new skills, capabilities and confidence through the tragedy of war. \$19.95 pb, 1-870670-36-1. The Panos Institute, 9 White Lion Street, London England N1 9PD; 071-278-1111. Distributed in the U.S. by Paul & Co., in Canada by Fernwood Books, and in the U.K. by Central Books.

The Spanish language edition, **Armas Para Luchar, Brazos Para Proteger**, is published by Icaria, Ausias Marc 16, 3r 2a-08010 Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain.

The **Carry It On 1996 Peace Calendar** from the Syracuse Cultural Workers celebrates the 25th Anniversary of the **Peace Calendar**. Featuring the work of Bonnie Acker, Ann Altman, Amy E. Bartell and Luis Alvarado, the calendar looks especially bright and colorful — beautiful — this year! Includes peoples' history annotations, lunar cycles and holidays for many faiths. \$12.95 pb, 0-935155-17-1. 40% discount

for 25+ calendars. Syracuse Cultural Workers, PO Box 6367, Syracuse NY 13217; 315-474-1132. Distributed by IN, BP, New Leaf, Small Changes, and in Europe by Turnaround.

Fierce with Reality: An Anthology of Literature About Aging by Peg Cruikshank (*The Gay and Lesbian Liberation Movement*) combines international perspectives (Vietnamese, African, Cambodian, Chinese, Iraqi, Japanese and German) with writings by old women, old men, lesbians and gay men to provide a rich kaleidoscope on the topic of aging. \$14.95 pb, 0878390987. North Star Press, Box 451, St. Cloud MN 56302; 612-253-1636.



Wildcat Press celebrates Patricia Nell Warren's *The Front Runner's* 20th Anniversary with **The Front Runner: The 20th Anniversary Edition**, a classic novel about the gay relationship between an ex-Marine track coach and an Olympic-bound athlete. This book has been reprinted in 14 editions and translated into seven languages. \$21.95 cl, 0-9641099-1-3. Special discount until January 15, 1996: 50% for 1-19 books; 52% for 20+. Regular discount is 42%. Wildcat Press, 8306 Wilshire Blvd., Box 8306, Beverly Hills CA 90211; 213-933-3662.

HUES (Hear Us Emerging Sisters) is a multicultural magazine created by Dyann Logwood and twins Ophira and Tali Edut. Their goal is to create an alternative magazine that promotes the self-esteem of women of all shapes, sizes, cultures, sexual orientations and economic backgrounds and they're doing a great job! It's full of political, informative, multicultural and informational articles plus poetry, interviews, book and music reviews, and much more! \$3.95 per issue. Hues Magazine, PO Box 7778, Ann Arbor MI 48107; 313-213-1653. Distributed by BP, IN, Ingram, Small Changes, Fine Print, Ubiquity, Desert Moon, Disticore, Gemco, Don Olson.



In Keepers of the Culture: The Power of Tradition in Women's Lives Janet Mancini Billson reveals that tradition has not always been a constricting force for women struggling to overcome patriarchal dominance — it has bestowed power upon women of certain cultures. Billson explores women's lives in seven distinct and intact North American Cultures — Iroquois, Mennonite, Inuit, Blood, West Indian, Chinese and Ukranian — to show how their roles have changed and how the balance of power between men and women has shifted as their communities have moved from a traditional way of life to more contemporary life-styles. \$25 cl, 0-02-903512-0. Lexington Books, 866 Third Avenue, New York NY 10022; 800-323-7445. Distributed by BP, IN, Ingram and Baker & Taylor.

Ruby of Cochin: An Indian Jewish Woman Remembers by Ruby Daniel and Barbara Johnson describes Jewish life on the Southwest Coast of India, spanning many centuries. Daniel writes about the lives of ordinary women — dark, Asian Jews — who are not known in the larger world. It is the story of one woman, yet it is also the story of all the Jews of Cochin, from the earliest settlements when the Maharajah granted the Jews their land and privileged status, until today, when a dying Cochin community is finding new life in Israel.

With a storyteller's voice, this book contains historical legends, ghost tales, colorful renditions of Jewish celebrations in Cochin, and translations of Jewish women's songs. \$29.95 cl, 0-8276-0539-0.

In Emma Lazarus in Her World: Life and Letters Bette Roth Young presents recently discovered letters which shed new light on the life of Lazarus. Young's book not only defines more clearly the patterns of Lazarus' life and values but also ties her much more successfully than ever before to the major American literary and intellectual currents of the nineteenth century. \$34.95 cl, 0-8276-0516-1. 40% discount for 4-49 books; 44% for 50-99; 50% for 100+.

The Jewish Publications Society, 1930 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia PA 19103; 800-234-3151 x 3100. Distributed by BP and Bookazine.



The 37 stories which comprise **Imagining Women: Fujian Folk Tales** by Karen Gernant challenge long-held stereotypes and provide a rare look at the everyday lives of common people in villages across Fujian province. Despite the efforts and influence of the male-dominant Confucian culture, the stories reflect women's voices and women's lives touched by power and independence. Combining elements of the supernatural with that of reality, these tales serve as an example of how folk cultures engage in passive resistance against the dominant values. \$14.95 pb, 1-56656-174-7; \$29.95 cl, -173-6. Interlink Books, 46 Crosby Street, Northampton MA 01060; 413-582-7054. Distributed by IN.

The Greaseless Guide to Car Care by Mary Jackson provides the information necessary to speak confidently, to understand and be clearly understood when buying a car or having a car repaired, and how to avoid unnecessary repairs and overcharges. Jackson uses graphics, hands-on experience, and a lot of humor in her quest to demystify the workings of the

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auto in **The Greaseless Guide** while answering a number of car-care questions. This book offers a framework for building car-care confidence and provides protection from car repair rip-off. \$19.95 pb, 1-56261-212-3. John Muir Publications; PO Box 613, Santa Fe NM 87504; 800-888-7504. Distributed by PGW.

In **The Cultural Battlefield: Art Censorship & Public Funding** Jennifer A. Peter and Louis M. Crosier provide a platform for a collection of fresh viewpoints by artists and art administrators whose personal accounts "don't shrink from naming names and revealing dubious, hateful motivations that so often stifle artistic expression...and explores why and how the government has tried to stifle artistic expression that challenges the status quo." The authors also delve into the deeper questions of self-censorship, schisms within the arts community, and the future of art and public funding. \$19.95 cl, 0-9627671-7-4.



The Other Side of Silence: Women Tell About Their Experience with Date Rape edited by Christine Carter reveals the pain of being violated by someone thought to be trustworthy. This book collects personal accounts presenting the views of survivors — perspectives that are often misunderstood if they are heard at all. **The Other Side of Silence** addresses the elements of date rape and how it differs from stranger rape and examines how American culture builds and reinforces behavior that can lead to rape. The book also presents the findings of health educators and sexual assault experts who examine the socialization of women and men, highlight exemplary programs, and recommend a path for change. \$19.95 cl, 0-9627671-9-0. 40% discount for 5-24 books; 42% for 25-99; 44% for 100+.

Avocus Publishing, Lower Village, Gilsum NH 03448; 800-345-6665. Distributed by Ingram and Baker & Taylor.

In **Teaching My Daughter to Mulch: Gardening Meditations** Donna Schaper uses insight and humor, and the metaphors of gardening to create a series of "gardening meditations" that address parenting, the presence of God in all life and, among other things, the

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contribution of push mowers to a saner life. Schaper, a regional bishop in the United Church of Christ, was one of the first women ordained by the UCC. \$10.95 pb, 1-886172-19-6. Ash Grove Press, 19A Elm Street, South Deerfield MA 01373; 800-834-4200. Distributed by BP, IN, Baker & Taylor and Ingram.

The Centerfold Syndrome: How Men Can Overcome Objectification and Achieve Intimacy with Women by Gary R. Brooks focuses on the phenomenon of men's objectification of women and offers hope for change. Brooks challenges the prevalent myth that objectification is a natural and immutable part of male sexuality and he shows how men can change their sexual attitudes in order to have more healthy and loving relationships. Useful

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for educators, therapists, men, and their partners. When we went to do the press check for the Feminist Bookstore Network Fall Catalog we discovered that one of the guys had cut the description of this book out and taped it to the printers' work station. \$22 cl, 0-7879-0104-0. Jossey-Bass Publishers, 350 Sansome Street, San Francisco CA 94104; 415-433-1740. Distributed by Baker & Taylor, Ingram and Simon & Schuster.



Lady of the Reeds by Pauline Gedge brings the mysteries of ancient Egypt alive. "A remarkable tale of an indomitable, ambitious young woman and her rise from village midwife to concubine of the Pharaoh, Ramses III. Using her skills as a physician and seductress, she quickly rises from initiate to insider and as her power grows, so does her ambition." (\$25 cl, 1-56947-043-X). Also by Gedge is the **Child of the Morning**, "remarkable...a vivid and powerful sense of atmosphere." (\$14 pb, 0-939149-85-0). 40% discount for 10 49; 41% for 50-199. Soho Press, 853 Broadway, New York NY 10003; 800-631-8571. Distributed by BP, Baker & Taylor, Ingram, Pacific Pipeline, Bookazine, Bookmen and Booksources.

Chrystos' (*Not Vanishing, In Her I Am*) recent collection, **Fugitive Colors**, "takes us into the intensely intimate realms of desire, politics and survival. Chrystos' words are made sharp by the living traditions of her people and the edgy rhythms of urban life. Both draw us in to hear her stories of passion and injustice. This is poetry to live by." — Jewelle Gomez. A must carry even if it's a challenge to get! \$10 pb, 1-880834-11-1. 40% discount. Cleveland State University Poetry Center, 1983 East 24th Street, Cleveland OH 44115; 216-687-3986.

The Last Dust Storm, Wilma Elizabeth McDaniel's fifth full collection of poems, bears witness to the Depression era's Dustbowl exodus and chronicles the lives of workers in California's hot Central Valley over the years. Born to an Oklahoma sharecropping family and part Cherokee, McDaniel began writing when she was eight and persevered through a lifetime of farm work, even when poverty forced her

See **Small Press**, page 96.

FROM THE UNIVERSITY PRESSES



By Mev Miller

BASIL BLACKWELL

Christian Feminist Theology by Denise Carmody is an introductory text intended for undergraduate classroom use. It's for anyone interested in a basic understanding of a Christian feminist theology and critical thought — for those with no theological background. \$21.95 pb, 1-55786-587-6, December.

Are you a closet *Cosmopolitan* reader? Then you might want to look at **Reading Women's Magazines: An Analysis of Everyday Media Use** by Joke Hermes. This book examines women's magazines through the eyes of their readers. Who reads them and why? It offers a detailed analysis of this particular medium and describes the role of media products in the day-to-day lives of individuals. \$19.95 pb *short discount*, 0-7456-1271-7.

New Edition: Feminist Literary Theory: A Reader (2nd Edition), Mary Eagleton. \$21.95 pb, 0-631-19734-6, December.

HUMANITIES PRESS (including Zed Books and Lawrence and Wishart)

Bisexual Horizons: Politics, Histories and Lives by Sharon Rose, Cris Stevens, et.al. is the first comprehensive account of bisexuality and the bisexual movement in Britain. The essays have been edited by the Off Pink Collective who have pioneered the documentation of bisexual experience. It includes history, personal experiences and theories of bisexuality. \$19.95 pb, 0-85315-831-2, Lawrence & Wishart.

Fans of Vandana Shiva (*Staying Alive*) will be happy to know about **Biopolitics: A Feminist and Ecological Reader on Biotechnology** which she edited with Ingunn Moser. This collection includes essays by Evelyn Fox Keller, Ruth Hubbard, Vandana

Shiva and many others and brings together some of the most important work from feminists and environmentalists critical of the headlong rush into what is likely to be a technological minefield. \$25 pb, 1-85649-336-9, Zed Books.

Women's Rebellion and Islamic Memory by Fatima Mernissi presents a sustained analysis of the position of women in the world of contemporary Islam. Mernissi makes a major contribution to the theorization of gender roles and sexual identity in the Islamic world. \$22.50 pb, 1-85649-398-9, Zed Books, March 1996.



NATIONAL LEAGUE FOR NURSING

This year at ABA I stumbled over the National League for Nursing booth (figuratively, not literally). I've long been a fan of their book **Peace and Power: A Handbook of Feminist Process** by Charlotte Wheeler and Peggy Chinn (\$16.95 pb, 0-88737-520-0) — it will be advertised in this year's Feminist Bookstore Network Fall Catalog. This fall they will be publishing **Breast Cancer: Twenty Women's Stories** by Susan Moch (\$15.95 pb, 0-88737-654-1) which reveals the stories of 20 women with breast cancer. The book will be of interest to health professionals, educators, students and patients. These women share how they have dealt with treatment, emotional and physical stress, the threats of recurring cancer, family, friends and more. It looks like it will be a significant contribution to this important field. The National League for Nursing has several titles of interest especially to stores near nursing schools or medical centers. However, their prices are high and their discounts very short. They also have an interesting poster series and

some videos. You might want to call them for a catalog and have a look. National League For Nursing, 350 Hudson Street, New York NY 10014; 800-669-9656, ext.138.

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Crossing the Snow Bridge by Fatima Lim-Wilson explores the split experiences of the immigrant in the United States. Using the *manananggal*, a supernatural character in Filipino folklore, her poetry builds a metaphor over which the reader can cross between cultures. \$10.95 pb, 0-8142-0681-6.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

The Cost of Competence: Why Inequality Causes Depression, Eating Disorders, and Illness in Women by Brett Silverstein and Deborah Perlick supports through research what many of us have claimed for quite some time: that societal pressures and child-rearing practices have led thousands of young women to equate competence with success and femininity with failure. Their study includes 40 prominent women from Elizabeth I to Eleanor

Roosevelt, giving strong historical connections to something that is *not* merely a modern day problem. It's an academic study and probably best suited for an audience with strong psychological and medical backgrounds. \$23 cl, 0-19-506986-2.

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY PRESS

Though it's not a strictly feminist title (or even lesbian for that matter), I thought I'd include this one since it does seem to have some relevance for lesbian and gay audiences. **Congregations in Conflict: The Battle Over Homosexuality** by Keith Hartman examines nine churches that were split by disagreements over gay and lesbian issues and how the congregations resolved them. Hartman explores various issues and congregations as well as Christian responses to lesbian and gay issues. Rather than being a theological exploration, this book tries to address how people in the pews respond to these issues. For Christians, it may be a helpful and readable book. \$24.95 cl, 0-8135-2229-3, January.

Dismayed by the media's tendency to reduce the feminist enterprise to labels and superstars, Nan

MOLLY SPOTTED ELK

A Penobscot in Paris

By Bunny McBride

Foreword by Eunice Nelson-Bauman

Born on the Penobscot reservation in Maine, Molly ventured into show business at an early age. "The poignant story of a native-American woman's struggle to bridge two cultures . . . dancing was Molly's passion and her way of integrating the native and the American in her heritage . . . McBride has created a sympathetic portrait of a complex person."—*The Christian Science Monitor*.

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**WOMEN AND POWER IN
NATIVE NORTH AMERICA**

Edited by Laura F. Klein
and Lillian A. Ackerman

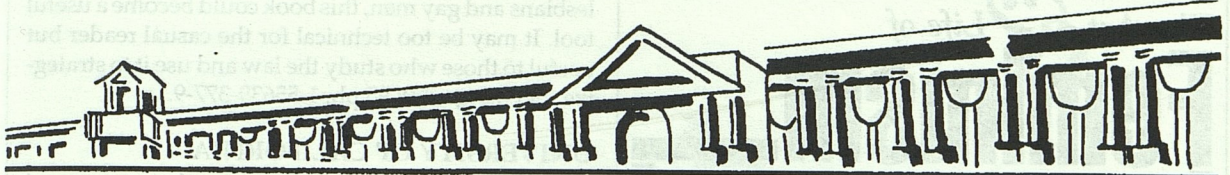
This impressive book draws away the curtain of silence surrounding the lives of Native North American women.

"What a refreshing read . . . what is power, where are women powerful, and under what circumstances do women sustain their power."—**Helen Fisher**, Rutgers University.

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Press





Bauer Maglin and Donna Perry the editors of **Bad Girls/Good Girls: Women, Sex, and Power in the Nineties** decided to find out what a diverse group of feminists think about women, sex and power in the '90's. The result is a varied collection of 24 essays by second- and third-wave feminists: artists and activists, professionals and academics, mothers and daughters. Contributors include: Marge Piercy, Lisa Jones, Katha Pollitt, Elayne Rapping and others. Some issues covered are: AIDS, battering, pornography, popular culture and personal struggles. \$17.95 pb, 0-8135-2251-X, February.

Workfare or Fair Work: Women, Welfare, and Government Work Programs by Nancy Rose explores how women on welfare, especially women of color on welfare, continue to be forced into a program that is mandatory, punitive and demeaning. She contrasts this with historical programs for men which were mainly directed towards getting men back into the workplace. By using the history of U.S. job creation programs, Rose shows alternatives to mandatory welfare programs and provides a perceptive analysis from the history of women, work and welfare that can be used to redesign modern welfare programs. ("But do we think the social policy makers will read it?" said the reviewer in a cynical tone!) \$19.95 pb *short discount*, 0-8135-2233-1.

The following titles are worth noting but may be too academic for a general audience and they're both short discount: **Abortion at Work: Ideology and Practice in a Feminist Clinic**, Wendy Simonds (\$16.95 pb, 0-8135-2245-5, February); **Place Matters: Gendered Geography in Victorian Women's Travel Books About Southeast Asia**, Susan Morgan (\$19.95 pb, 0-8135-2249-8, February).

Back in Print: **Sandinos Daughters: Testimonies of Nicaraguan Women in Struggle**, Margaret Randall (\$18.95 pb *short discount*, 0-8135-2214-5); **Women's Medicine: A Cross-Cultural Study of Indigenous Fertility Regulation**, edited by Lucile Newman (\$16 pb *short discount*, 0-8135-2257-9).

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Temple has several tempting offers this fall beginning with **Reframings: New American Feminist Photographies** edited by Diane Neumaier. This remarkable collection contains not only feminist artworks but also critical essays and the exposition of the diverse cultural representations of women. Thirteen B&W duotones and 84 color photos express concern for how women are represented and address visual representations of family life, child care, work, food, sexuality, social space and more. \$49.95 cl, 1-56639-331-0.

It's always problematic when two important books have the same title. I always hope that people get the book they wanted and that neither book suffers from the confusion. So watch out for **Home Girls: Chicana Literary Voices** by Alvina Quintana. Using anthropological, feminist, historical and literary sources Quintana examines the works of Gloria Anzaldua, Ana Castillo, Denise Chavez, Sandra Cisneros and Cherrie Moraga. Writing across varied genres, these writers explore nationalism and feminism, social change, patriarchal and homophobic culture and traditional gender roles. \$16.95 pb, 1-56639-373-6, December.



In **The Feel of Silence** Bonnie Poitras Tucker describes her experience navigating through two cultures at odds with each other: hearing and deaf. Born profoundly deaf, Tucker survived as an expert lip-reader who never learned to sign, became a wife and mother, then went on to law school where she became an expert corporate litigator as well as an expert in several fields of law. Her stories are funny and introspective, angry and sad. \$18.95 pb, 1-56639-352-3.

Legal Inversions: Lesbians, Gay Men, and the Politics of the Law edited by Didi Herman and Carl Stychin explores the contested field of gay and lesbian sexuality and the law. During a time when so many states are trying to pass discriminatory laws against

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lesbians and gay men, this book could become a useful tool. It may be too technical for the casual reader but useful to those who study the law and use it to strategize for change. \$18.95 pb, 1-55639-377-9.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

If you like stories and histories about nuns and are doubly interested in music, especially sacred music of the 16th and 17th centuries, you'll relish **Disembodied Voices: Music and Culture in an Early Modern Italian Convent** by Craig Monson. At first I considered not including this book because of its price and the specificity of the topic. But I changed my mind once I had the book in my hand. The women who entered the convent of Santa Cristina during this time period did so in order to pursue their love of music, a choice considered disgraceful if not for the holiness of the convent. Figuring prominently is Lucrezia Vizzana, a young nun who had exceptional musical skills both as a composer and musician. This book offers a portrait of women committed to their musical talents as well as their spirituality. It also considers factionalism within the convent and political oppression from without. \$32 cl, 0-520-08875-1.

With the Beijing conference barely finished, **Conceiving the New World Order: The Global Politics of Reproduction** edited by Faye Ginsburg and Rayna Rapp is worth a look at, especially for anthropologists and political theorists. The essays in this book examine the international and political importance of reproduction in the lives of women. Not a casual read, it's best suited for classroom use. \$17.95 pb, 0520-07814-6.



UNIVERSITY PRESS OF FLORIDA

University Press of Florida will publish two books this season that examine women's writing in historical and regional contexts. In **Women Writers and Fascism: Reconstructing History** Marie-Luise Gtens focuses on the intersection of gender and fascism and on the problems of feminist historiography. By studying the writings of Virginia Woolf, Crista Wolf, Helga Schubert and others, Gtens shows how understanding this particular period of fascism from the viewpoint of women's writing can deepen our understanding of National Socialism (\$39.95 cl *short*



discount, 0-8130-1401-8, December). **Southern Women's Writing: Colonial to Contemporary** edited by Mary Louise Weaks and Carolyn Perry covers the periods of the antebellum South, the Civil War, post-bellum, the modern South and the contemporary. Authors considered include Frances E.W. Harper, Kate Chopin, Katherine Anne Porter, Zora Neale Hurston, Mab Segrest, Sonia Sanchez, Ellen Gilchrist and Alice Walker — to name only a few. \$24.95 pb *short discount*, 0-8130-1411-5, December.

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA PRESS

Charleyhorse by Cecil Dawkins was one of my favorite lesbian novels when it first came out. But it's been a long time since I've read anything by Dawkins, so I'll specifically be looking forward to **The Quiet Enemy**, a collection of stories set in the rural South and West. Though this collection is not lesbian, it does promise to be a fine contribution to feminist literature by a writer who can present stark reality and truthful observation along with compassion and spiritual revelation. \$12.95 pb, 0-8203-1785-3.

Discovering the Women in Slavery: Emancipating Perspectives on the American Past edited by Patricia Morton is a collection of 14 essays on women's experiences of slavery in America — researched and written from gender- and women-focused perspectives. The experiences portrayed also include those of plantation and slaveholding mistresses and free women of color. \$20 pb *short discount*, 0-8203-1757-8, January.

Those interested in the works of Flannery O'Connor will want to look at **Flannery O'Connor: New Perspectives** edited by Sura Rath and Mary Neff Shaw. These essays go beyond the earlier geographical and religious stereotypes of her work and explore new avenues including feminist undertones in her stories. \$18 pb *short discount*, 0-8203-1804-3, February.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA PRESS

Learning from history is essential. **A German Women's Movement: Class & Gender in Hanover,**

1880-1933 by Nancy Reagin promises to be an example for us. In 1933 large segments of the German women's movement supported the Nazi regime. By examining 80 bourgeois women's associations (feminist, nationalist, religious, philanthropic, political and/or professional) Reagin explores the links between political conservatism and a feminist agenda based on a belief in innate gender differences. This support for the idea of spiritual motherhood combined with an antidemocratic climate produced a conservative, maternalistic approach to women's issues. Reagin's writing style is accessible and, in a time of considerable backlash and search for family values, we might learn much from this period of the women's movement. \$18.95 pb, 0-8078-4525-6.

UNIVERSITY PRESS OF MISSISSIPPI

Conversations with Susan Sontag edited by Leland Poague collects articles interviews and conversations that offer rich insights into Sontag's life and work as they address her career as a writer, filmmaker, dramatist and cultural critic. \$15.95 pb, 0-87805-834-6, December.



WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

A marvelous collection of essays edited by Geneva Smitherman, **African American Women Speak Out on Anita Hill-Clarence Thomas** contains reflections as well as in-depth analysis of what the Hill-Thomas confrontation meant for African American women and the African American community at large. Writers include: Angela Y. Davis, Julianne Malveaux, Harriette McAdoo and Margaret Walker Alexander among others. Diverse and interdisciplinary in scope, these essays speculate on the importance and ramifications of the hearings on all marginalized groups. \$18.95 pb, 0-8143-2530-0. ○

“Eleven presidents and four wars ago Louise Rosenblatt gave us her magnum opus, Literature as Exploration. Since its publication in 1938 it has remained one of the most widely read books on literature and its teaching—an extraordinary feat of endurance. Written in an accessible, jargon-free style, it eloquently escorts the reader to a place where transactions with literature become personally crafted moments of discovery.”

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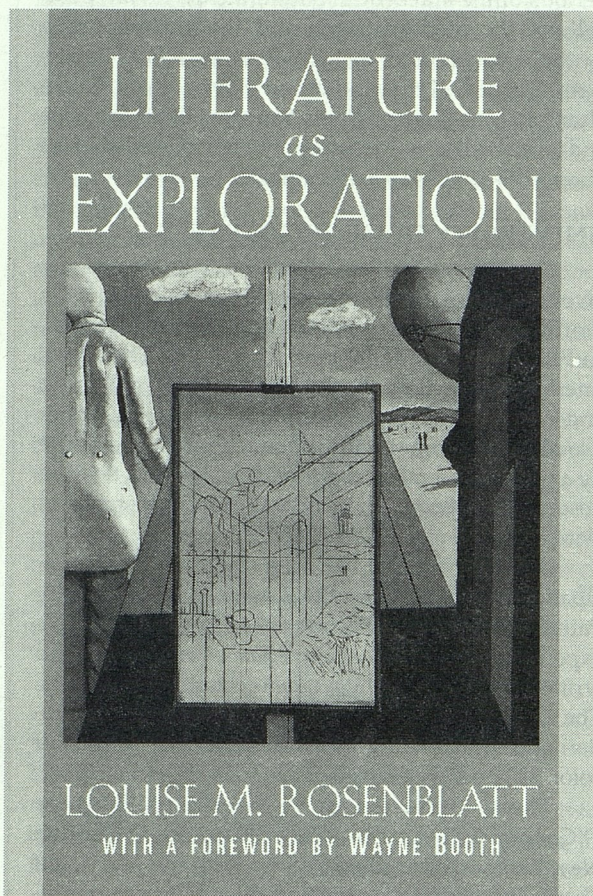
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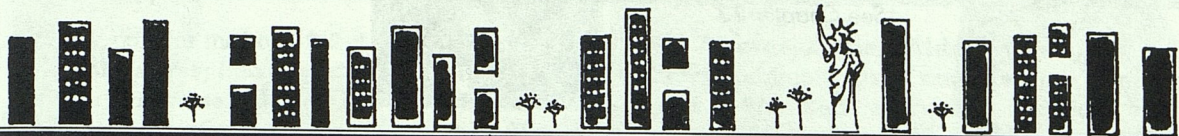
In *Literature as Exploration*, Louise Rosenblatt presents her unique and influential theory of literature and focuses on the immense, often untapped, potential for the study and teaching of literature in a democratic society. First published in 1938, Rosenblatt's classic is reissued here with a new foreword by Wayne Booth, a new preface and retrospective chapter by the author, and an updated list of suggested readings.

During the last decade, *Literature as Exploration* sold more than 15,000 copies, confirming its status as one of the most durable works of literary theory of modern times. Owners of the previous, mass-market edition will want to purchase this special inexpensive trade edition, with its attractive cover, larger format, elegant typography, and new supporting materials. Students, teachers, and scholars reading the book for the first time will be as enlightened and challenged as previous generations have been by this enduring work.

Louise M. Rosenblatt is professor emerita of New York University, where she taught comparative literature and literary theory while developing a doctoral program in English. She is the author of *The Reader, the Text, the Poem: The Transactional Theory of the Literary Work* (1978; Southern Illinois UP, 1994) and recently contributed an essay for *Writing Theory and Critical Theory* (MLA, 1994). She lives in Princeton and is working on a book about contemporary theories of communication.



AND ON PUBLISHER'S ROW



Compiled by Jenn Tust

HARPERCOLLINS

The Complete Kwanzaa by Dorothy Winbush Riley is a comprehensive guide that explains the traditional ceremonies, foods, clothing and history of this holiday that is celebrated by over 18 million African Americans. This book is organized around the seven principles that are the soul of Kwanzaa: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, economics, purpose, creativity and faith. \$23 cl, 0060172150.

Dyke Life edited by Karla Jay provides a comprehensive view of the many phases of lesbian life. Jay has gathered together lesbians of different ages, races and religious persuasions to write about topics such as coming out, sex, health, work, role playing and aging. This collection takes the position that the lives of lesbians are in many ways not like those of gay men or heterosexual women. \$23 cl, 0465039073.

—Sandi Torkildson
A Room of One's Own

HAWORTH PRESS

Feminist Foremothers in Women's Studies, Psychology and Mental Health, edited by Phyllis Chesler, Esther D. Rothblum and Ellen Cole, collects writings on feminist therapy, psychology and mental health by women who radicalized these fields in the 60s and 70s — including Carol Gilligan, Kate Millett, Jean Baker Miller and many others. Looks like an exciting book but very pricey. \$29.95 pb, 1-56023-078-9.

Bisexual Politics: Theories, Queries and Visions edited by Naomi Tucker has 33 bisexual activists, historians and theorists analyzing, challenging and informing the history, strategies, philosophies and diversity of bisexual politics and theory in the United

States. Warren Blumefield and Pat Califia give rave reviews of this anthology. \$14.95 pb, 1-56023-869-0.

Feminist Visions of Gender Similarities and Differences by Meredith Kimball opens the dialogue between two traditions of feminism — similarities-based and difference-based — to generate useful scientific, political and psychological tensions. \$14.95 pb, 1-56023-870-4.

Lesbians of Color: Social and Human Services edited by Hilda Hidalgo offers personal accounts and analyses on four major themes — issues related to Latina and Black lesbians, adoption issues from a Korean lesbian standpoint, administrative policies and practice approaches in social service agencies, and visibility for lesbians in political and social civil rights activities. \$9.95 pb, 1-56023-072-X.

Lesbian Social Services: Research Issues edited by Carol T. Tully is a book that discusses current issues in social research with lesbians from psychotherapy to relationships to ethical dilemmas and includes extensive and up-to-date information on lesbian-focused research. \$9.95 pb, 1-56023-071-1.

—Laura Zimmerman
New Words



RANDOM HOUSE

RH-Crown

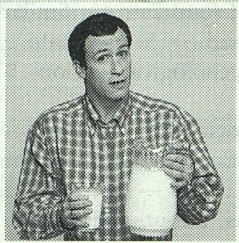
Zenith of Desire: Contemporary Lesbian Poems About Sex edited by Gerry Gomez Pearlberg is a little gift book similar to *The Key to Everything*. Includes Chrystos, Audre Lorde, *et al.* \$12 cl, 0517702819, February.

Eros in Boystown: Contemporary Gay Poems About Sex edited by Michael Lassell is the same type

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

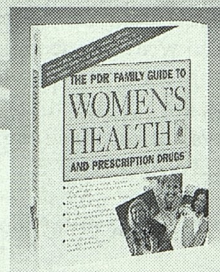
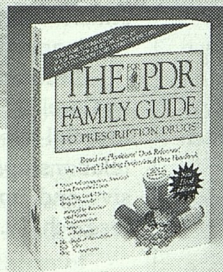
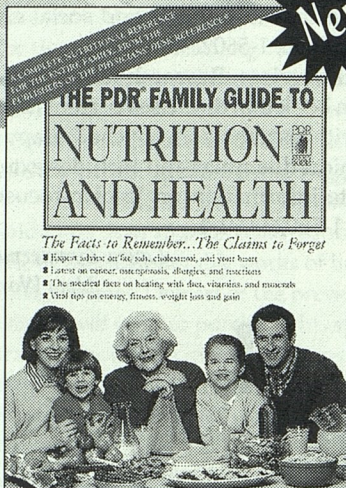


"Our supermarket has started to sell irradiated milk. Is it considered safe?"
See Chapter 13



"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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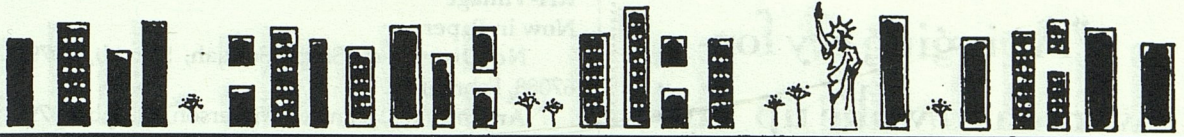
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of book, only for the boys. \$12 cl, 0517702800.

Osler's Web: Into the Labyrinth of the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Epidemic by Hillary Johnson. Investigative reporting into this syndrome that affects so many women. Done with drama and poignancy. \$35 cl, 051770353X, March.

Between Sisters by Nina Vida. From the author of *Goodbye Saigon*, a novel about survival, heartbreak, hope — sounds wonderful to me. \$23 cl, 0517700719, March.

Hormone of Desire: The Truth About Sexuality, Menopause, and Testosterone is by Susan Rako, MD: How is the loss of desire during and after menopause related to hormones and what does one need to know to make informed decisions? \$21 cl, 0517703424, February.

Celtic Devotional: Daily Prayers and Blessings by Caitlin Matthews. These meditations are divided into the seasons of the Celtic year. \$14 cl, 0517704137, March.

Sex for One: The Joy of Self-loving by Betty Dodson is the reissue of a backlist favorite with a new chapter on fantasy. \$14 pb, 0517886073, February.

—Linda Bryant

Charis Books & More

RH-Knopf

The Wellspring: Poems by Sharon Olds. If you do poetry that is not specifically lesbian, you should get this book — her backlist sells steadily for us. \$13 pb, 0679765603; \$21 cl, -445927, January.

Art Objects: Essays on Ecstasy and Effrontery by Jeanette Winterson offers original, personal, provocative essays relating art to life. \$21 cl, 0679446443, February.

—Linda Bryant

Charis Books & More

In the Cut, Susanna Moore's new novel, centers around a smart, self-determined woman living in New York whose life is thrown into turmoil when a woman in her neighborhood is murdered. Testing her own limits, she involves herself in a risky sexual liaison, becoming increasingly wary about the motives of every man with whom she has contact while questioning her darker side. \$21 cl, 0679422587, January.

Attorneys Ellen Alderman and Caroline Kennedy examine one of our most important legal rights in **The Right to Privacy**. They look at law enforcement, the body, the media, voyeurism, the workplace and informational privacy. What happens when your employer reads your e-mail on the computer at work? When can someone be legally strip-searched? Can a court order a pregnant woman to have a cesarean against her will? The authors shed light on many misunderstandings and illuminate the real everyday impact of these issues. \$25 cl, 0679419861.

—Sandi Torkildson

A Room of One's Own

RH-Pantheon

The Story of Jane: The Legendary Underground Feminist Abortion Service. From 1969-72 this group provided 11,000 safe abortions — hear from one of its members how that was possible as this right is again challenged. \$25 cl, 0679420126, January.

—Linda Bryant

Charis Books & More



RH-Villard

Breaking Point: A Novel of Suspense by Martina Navratilova and Liz Nickles. Lesbian, mystery, tennis, Martina, so what else do you want? \$23 cl, 0679433910, February.

Now in Paper

Different Loving: A Complete Exploration of the World of Sexual Dominance and Submission is by Gloria Brame, William Brame and Jon Jacobs. We sold this book in cloth for a psychology conference on sexuality a couple of years ago and have had a couple of requests for it since then. They call it a "user-friendly guide through the world of alternative sexual styles." \$18 pb, 0679769560, January.

—Linda Bryant

Charis Books & More

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RH-Vintage

Now in Paper

No Disrespect, Sister Souljah, \$12 pb, 06797-67088, February.

Art and Lies, Jeanette Winterson, \$11 pb, 06797-62701, February.

Coming to Light: Contemporary Translations of the Native Literatures of North America edited by Brian Swann presents literature from 39 tribes presented in cultural context. \$17 pb, 0679743588, February.

—Linda Bryant

Charis Books & More

Open Secrets by Alice Munro confirms her reputation as a master of the short story. Munro tells of the power of old love suddenly recollected, of vanished schoolgirls, indentured frontier brides and eccentric recluses. \$13 pb, 679755624.

A new edition of **To Be Young, Gifted and Black**, Lorraine Hansberry's autobiography is due out in December. This book follows Hansberry from her childhood in Chicago, where her family encountered vicious resistance when they moved into a white neighborhood, through the triumph of her play *A Raisin in the Sun* to her tragic early death at age 34. \$12 pb, 0679764151.

—Sandi Torkildson

A Room of One's Own



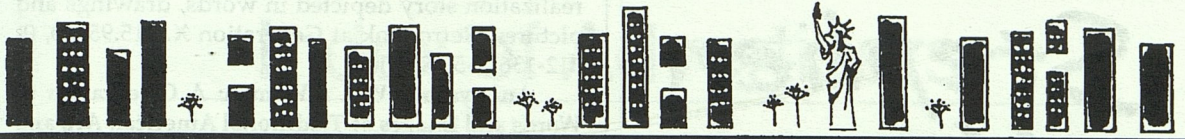
ROUTLEDGE

December Titles:

Antifeminism in the Academy edited by Shirley Nelson Garner *et al.* is an answer to the assault on feminist thinkers, critics and academics. **Antifeminism** offers a spirited response to those seeking to undermine the role of women in the academy. A must if you're in a university town. \$16.95 pb, 0-415-91071-4; \$49.95 cl, -91070-6.

Another in the Thinking Gender series **Feminist Genealogies, Colonial Legacies, Democratic Futures** edited by M. Jacqui Alexander and Chandra Talpade Mohanty offers original works charting various feminist theories and practices that address imperialism, post-colonialism and the advanced capitalist nation-state. \$18.95 pb, 0-415-91212-1; \$59.95 cl, -91211-3.

Contemporary Plays by Women of Color is by Kathy Perkins and Roberta Uno. The title is self-



explanatory. \$18.95 pb, 0-415-11378-4; \$59.95 cl, 11377-6.

Asian American Sexualities: Dimensions of the Gay and Lesbian Experience is edited by Russell Leong. Again, self-explanatory. \$16.95 pb, 0-415-91437-X; \$59.95 cl, -91436-1.

Women in Antiquity: New Assessments edited by Richard Hawley and Barbara Levick reassesses the role of women in areas such as culture, medicine, literature and early Christianity. \$17.98 pb, 0-415-11369-5; \$55 cl, -11368-7.

White Lies: Race, Class, Gender and Sexuality in White Supremacist Discourse by Jessie Daniels explores white supremacist ideology through an analysis of over 300 publications from such groups. \$17.95 pb, 0-415-91290-3; \$59.95 cl, -91289-X.



January Titles

Premodern Sexualities is edited by Louise Fradenburg and Carla Freccero. If you have folks studying the history of sexuality, this will be useful. \$19.95 pb, 0-415-91258-X; \$59.95 cl, -91257-1.

Reconstructing Womanhood, Reconstructing Feminism: Writings on Black Women edited by Delia Jarrett-Macauley examines concepts of womanhood and feminism through the context of race. Most contributors are British. \$17.95 pb, 0-415-11649-X; \$59.95 cl, -11648-1.

February Titles

In **Feminism, Objectivity and Economics** Julie Nelson extends a feminist analysis of the influence of masculine norms on the development of Western science by scholars such as Evelyn Fox Keller and Sandra Harding to the specific cases of economics. Although this was buried in the catalog, I would guess it might be an important book. At any rate, try at least one if you have customers interested in economics. \$17.95 pb, 0-415-13337-8; \$45 cl, -13336-X.

Homo Economics: Capitalism, Community, and Lesbian and Gay Life is edited by Amy Gluckman

and Betsy Reed. Looks like February is economics month! This groundbreaking collection brings together a variety of voices from the world of journalism, activism, academia, the arts and public policy. It looks at various aspects of economics in the lesbian/gay community — from jobs and the workplace to funding political campaigns to expanding lesbian/gay neighborhoods. \$17.95 pb, 0-415-91379-9; \$59.95 cl, -91378-0.

Julie Abraham's **Are Girls Necessary? Lesbian Writings and Modern Histories** looks like it will become a classic for those interested in lesbian literature. Comments on British and American novels of the 20th Century. \$17.95 pb, 0-415-91457-4; \$55 cl, -91456-6.

Field Work: Sites in Literary and Cultural Studies is edited by Marjorie Garber *et al.* If you have a textual studies department at a local university, this would be useful. Looks like an interesting collection for cultural studies buffs. \$17.95 pb, 0-415-91455-8; \$55 cl, -91454-X.

—Mary Ellen Kavanaugh
My Sisters' Words

ST. MARTIN'S PRESS

The Brontes by Juliet Barker is a large biography of the Bronte family. \$35 cl, 0-312-13445-2, Thomas Dunne Books, St. Martin's.

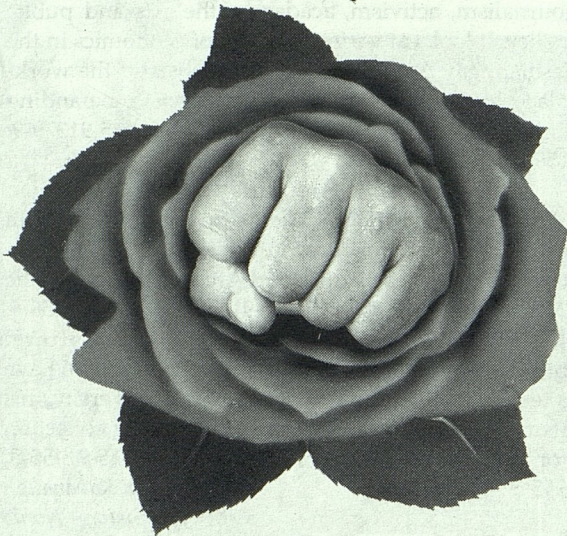
Ghostlight by Marion Zimmer Bradley is a fantasy novel concerning a young woman searching for the truth about her past and learning to take control of her emotions and her life. \$22.95 cl, 0-312-85881-7, Tor Books.

Point of Hopes by Melissa Scott and Lisa Barnett is a fantasy adventure from the authors of *The Armor of Light*, set in a world of necromancy and astromancy. \$23.95 cl, 0-312-85844-2, Tor Books, December.

Women at War edited by Lois McMaster Bujold and Roland J. Green is an anthology of military SF about women. \$23.95 cl, 0-312-85792-6, Tor Books, December.

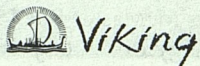
Zine: How I Spent 6 Years of My Life in the Underground and Finally Found Myself...I Think by Pagan Kennedy is a 90s woman's coming of

Stephen
King




Rose
Madder

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has to take things
into her own hands.**



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**Don't miss the *New York Times* bestseller, *INSOMNIA*,
now in  Signet paperback.**

realization story depicted in words, drawings and pictures. Retro look at Generation X. \$15.95 pb, 0-312-13628-5, Griffin.

Anonymous Was a Woman: A Celebration in Words and Images of Traditional American Art, and the Women Who Made It by Mirra Bank, with a new preface by Phyllis Rose, is based on Bank's PBS film, *Anonymous Was a Woman*. A celebration of the daily experiences and inner lives of women who, in acts of love and duty, created many masterpieces of American folk art. \$13.95 pb, 0-312-13430-4, Griffin.



Keeper of the House by Rebecca T. Godwin, now in paper, is a novel about a young Black woman from a South Carolina Gullah community. I loved it. \$11.95 pb, 0-312-13529-7, Griffin.

Don't miss the paper release of *Love Songs of Phoenix Bay* by Nisa Donnelly. A novel of love, loss and friendship in the lesbian community by one of our own. \$12.95 pb, 0-312-13561-0, Griffin.

—Dorothy Holland

SIMON & SCHUSTER

How to Prevent Breast Cancer: A Lifestyle Guide for the Prevention of Breast Cancer and Its Recurrence, Plus an Investigation of the Critical Risk Factors by Ross Pelton, Taffy Clarke Pelton & Vinton Vint presents a complete and comprehensive program for the prevention of breast cancer. \$11 pb, 0-684-80022-5, Fireside.

Available Light by Ellen Currie is a novel about love, parents, babies, marriage and humanity, from the author of the National Book Award nominee *Moses Supposes*. \$11 pb, 0-684-80414-X, Scribner, December.

Rage & Fire: A Life of Louise Colet, Pioneer Feminist, Literary Star, Flaubert's Muse by Francine du Plessix Gray is now available in trade paper. Colet was a poet, novelist and journalist. \$14 pb, 0-684-80453-0, Touchstone, December.

The Science of Desire: The Search for the Gay Gene and the Biology of Behavior by Dean Hamer and Peter Copeland is the story behind the headlines announcing the discovery of a gay gene. It's now available in trade paper. \$13 pb, 0-684-80446-8, Touchstone, December.

—Dorothy Holland ○

Index of Advertisers

Avocus	77	Noonday Press/Farrar Straus Giroux	2
The Blue Sky Press/Scholastic Inc.	10	Northeastern University Press	4
Celestial Arts	73, 76	Orbis Books	74
Conari Press	33	Orlando Place Press	62
Diana Manley	36	Papier-Mache Press	C1
Goldenrod/Horizon Distribution	36	Penguin	13, 14
Gürze Books/Publishers Group West	70	Polestar	78
HarperSanFrancisco	20	Press Gang Publishers	23
Health Communications, Inc.	81	Relocation Station	6
Houghton Mifflin	8	Signs of Pride	38
imom	37	Simon & Schuster	26
InBook	7	Talking Circles Press	68
Light Publications	82	Temple University Press	86
Luna Press	37	Third Side Press	67
Medical Economics	90	Times Books	28
Modern Language Association	88	University of Illinois Press	3C
Montreal Health Press	64	University of Oklahoma Press	84
Mug Rack	34	Viking	19, 92, 94
Naiad Press	C2	WingbowPress/Bookpeople	72



Border Crossing, continued from page 53.

Borsky vividly chronicles growing up in the fifties. The stories are both lyrical and intense, with a "sly and insidiously engaging feminism." (C\$14.95 pb, 0-88984-163-2). Finally, take note of the revised **The Little Flowers of Madame de Montespan** by Jane Urquhart (*Away*, \$10.95 pb, 0-14-023398-9, Viking Penguin). A collection of elegant poems from the point of view of one of Louis XIV's most influential mistresses, coupled with beautiful photographs of Versailles. This is a wonderful buy. (C\$12.95, 0-88984-165-9, The Porcupine's Quill.) All distributed by IN.

A dual language collection of poetry, **Two Shores** is the first collection of poetry in English by a Vietnamese immigrant to the west, Thuong Vong-Riddick. The poems describe life in Vietnam and life

as an immigrant. C\$14.95 pb, 0-921870-35-3, Ronsdale Press. Distributed by IN.

Rialto has a multi-language book out this season. **Mother Tongue** is a play by Betty Quan that weaves together Cantonese, English and sign language as family members struggle to overcome separation. C\$12.95 pb, 1-896239-07-2, December. Distributed by IN.

Finally, the biography of a little-known Canadian woman, Grace Hartmen, who was the first woman president of the largest union in Canada. In **Grace Hartman: A Documentary Biography** Susan Crean looks at the life of this trailblazing feminist and union activist. C/U\$18 pb, 0-921586-47-7, New Star Books. Distributed by IN.

That's the end of the column for this month — but there is a lot to come, let me tell you.... ○

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Small Presses, continued from page 82.

to write on old envelopes and brown paper bags. "Beneath the surface of her poems lies profound feeling, insight, sophistication, and often a sly humor at the expense of those who would patronize working people." \$12 pb, 1-882413-16-4; \$20 cl, -17-2. 40% discount. Hanging Loose Press, 231 Wyckoff Street, Brooklyn NY 11217; 212-206-8465. Distributed by BP, IN and Small Press Distribution.

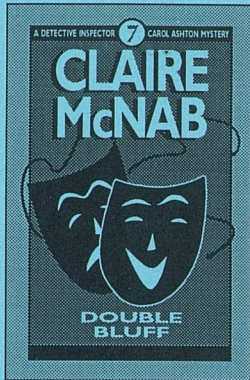
A Face Not My Own by Sharon Olinka is "a spiritual search by a poet whose heart refuses to be crushed by the reality of class in America." A journalist who was born in NYC, Olinka has travelled extensively in Bali and Australia. She has published in journals for fifteen years. This is her first collection of poems. \$8.95 pb, 0-931122-82-1. Silver Dollar is Carol Ann Russell's fourth book of poetry. She and her family are adopted Ojibwes living in Minnesota. Her poetry "is alive with the idiom of the North Country, with the emotions of a writer who is committed to this world". \$8.95 pb, 0-931122-81-3.

West End Press, PO Box 27334, Albuquerque NM 87125. Distributed by the Talman Company.

Two fun comic 'zines you should look into

Liliane, a white, twenty-something dyke living in Montreal shares her insights and experiences on a variety of topics. Issue #29 **Liliane in 'Butchy Dykes'** is dedicated to the many butch dykes she has known, those whom she's glimpsed from afar, and those whom she had the (nearly always) pleasure to get to know. Her other comix include: *The Life and Times of Butler*, *Breaking Up*, *My First Michigan and Anti-Porn Fanatic*. \$1.50 each. 30% to 40% discounts. Liliane Comics, C.P. 274, succ. Place du Parc, Montréal Québec Canada H2W 2N8; 514-526-4236. Distributed in Canada by Marginal Distributing (705-745-2326).

Frustrated by exaggerated, powerless or whining female characters, Milwaukee-based writer and performance artist Jen Benka and Chicago-based illustrator Kris Dresen created **Manya**, a twenty-to-thirty something "regular gal" who used to smoke, drinks coffee, is sometimes cynical, sometimes silly, usually politically inclined and is generally learning to understand herself. **Manya** deals more with generational than gender issues. \$3 per issue. Vagabond Press, 2300 N. Clybourn Avenue #2, Chicago IL 60614. ○



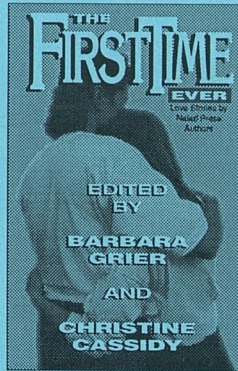
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by Claire McNab

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MISS PETTIBONE AND MISS MCGRAW

by Brenda Weathers

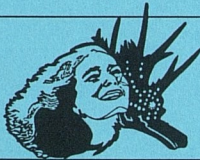
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Brenda Weathers is the author of the immensely popular *The House at Pelham Falls*.

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Koen/Inland Deal Clears Credit Committee & Bankruptcy Court

By Carol Seajay

On November 8 Koen Book Distributors announced that their agreement to purchase Inland Book Company (the wholesale side of Inland) had been approved by both the Inland Creditors Committee and the Bankruptcy Court. Koen is purchasing the Inland name, customer list, publisher list, magazine business and technical support.

Koen is quite highly regarded among booksellers who have worked with Koen in years past. "I'm looking forward to this," one feminist bookseller told FBN. "[Koen is] one of my favorite suppliers — fast, friendly, and smart."

Koen already stocks books from an estimated 20% of Inland's publishers. Koen/Inland's goal is to add a minimum of 300 new publishers and to put 6,000 new titles on line in time for holiday orders, a challenging task despite the fact that Koen began contacting publishers several weeks ago in anticipation of a successful sale. Inland's publisher and title databases are being incorporated into Koen's existing structures. Koen's has also established a magazine department which is negotiating with thirty key periodicals.

Koen will negotiate contracts with each publisher and will order new stock from publishers that were

distributed by Inland wholesale. Koen is not buying InBook and WomanSource but will continue to order InBook and WomanSource titles from InBook, whether InBook stays in Connecticut or moves to Chicago, and anticipates becoming a much bigger InBook customer.

Koen added staff to the buying department to handle the publisher and title explosion. Andrew Tunick, formerly Vice President of Operations at Consortium, will head up Koen/Inland's new magazine department. John Davis, formerly national accounts manager at Inland, will handle Inland National Accounts at Koen and help ease the transition for traditional Inland customers.

"Our biggest challenge in the near future will be contacting all the publishers we have not dealt with up to this point and getting to know what they need — and showing them what we can do," said Jim DiMiero, Marketing Manager.

See the sidebars for lists of publishers whose books should be arriving as this reaches you or are already available from Koen.

Koen will be contacting bookstores from Inland's customer list in the weeks to come with ordering information, updates on their expanding title selection, and the array of mainstream and university titles of interest to feminist, lesbian, gay,

Publishers Available at Koen

Publishers already signed-on (with books in stock or on the way as this supplement went to press) include:

Astarte Shell	Knowledge, Ideas &	Sister Vision/LPG
Attic	Trends	Second Story
Aunt Lute	New Victoria	Spinifex
Calyx	New Sage	Spinsters
Cleis	Naiad	Third Side
Down There	Papier Mache	Tough Dove
Eighth Mountain	Press Gang	Volcano
Feminist Press	Rising Tide	Women In Translation
Firebrand	Scarlet	Women's Press/Canada
Gynergy	Seal	Women's Press/U.K.

literary, and other general and specialty stores previously served by Inland's wholesale program. Koen's outreach to Inland's customers will focus on Koen's reputation for fast and accurate service, on the advantages of order consolidation, on the new additions to their title base, and on other mainstream, university and small press publishers and titles Koen stocks that may also be of interest.

Koen's sales department already includes specialists in several areas including children's books and computer books. Koen has hired additional sales staff to work with feminist bookstores as well as other specialty stores who utilize the Inland publisher/title mix. Training on the new small press and "outpost" titles is already in the works.

Although Koen's initial focus will undoubtedly be on getting the most salable publishers and titles in stock, Koen will also add publishers and titles as booksellers request them. Koen's title-database will include all of the titles previously stocked by Inland and is set up to record customer requests for specific titles. "We have always prided ourselves on being able to respond to our customers needs and wants. As always, we will listen to what our customers have to say, and make every effort to carry the titles they request," Bob Koen, President of Koen Book Distributors, stated.

Koen staff are realistic about adding as many publishers and titles as possible over the remaining

pre-holiday weeks. "The frustrating thing for us," Koen's Vice President of Merchandising Sally Lindsay told FBN, "Is that while we are working to have as many of the essential publishers and titles in place as fast as possible, we won't be able to have everything in place for the Christmas holidays that feminist booksellers will want and that we'd like to be able to provide. That situation reflects the time limits rather than our commitment — we have an intense commitment to feminist bookstores. We are anxious to get to know them and for them to get to know us. We want them to tell us what publishers and titles they want to see us carry and, wherever it is humanly possible, we will respond in a positive way."

The "old" Inland in Connecticut will stop shipping books the day the deal receives final signatures — probably before this supplement arrives in your mailbox. As of that date, Inland/Connecticut will stop shipping Inland (wholesale) titles and will stop using the name "Inland."

This will initiate an "interesting" transition period for booksellers and publishers alike. Even if Koen succeeds in bringing up 300 new publishers and getting their books into the warehouse and ready to ship, 600 to 1,000 publishers that *used* to be at Inland won't be available through either the new or the old Inland. Booksellers will have to find them at other distributors or will have to order direct. —And no directory of ex-Inland publishers' addresses and terms has been

released. Some of these publishers' books will eventually be available at Koen, but it is unlikely that they will ever stock all of the publishers and titles that Inland/Connecticut stocked. Many of the smallest publishers, the least salable, and the single-book publishers are likely to disappear from sight as Koen looks for its own balance between offering the widest range of books possible and staying profitable.

This transition might have been less difficult for bookstores if the sale had been delayed until after Christmas and if the Inland/Connecticut warehouse was full viable and fully stocked. But the reality is that many of Inland's wholesale publishers (as opposed to the InBook or WomanSource publishers) had stopped shipping to Inland. 75-85% of the books shipped out of the Connecticut warehouse are InBook or WomanSource titles.

With or without the change, booksellers would be faced with the same problem: If the book isn't in stock at the wholesaler today, and if it isn't available through other distributors, is it worth doing a direct order? Is there time to get the books for holiday sales? If it's promised at a distributor, is it worth the risk to wait and see if it comes (and risk losing sales if it doesn't) or is it better to order direct (and risk losing sales if the distributor order would have come in sooner) — or is it better to hedge by trying to get some books from both directions? In any case, it's a lot more work for fewer sales.

Unfortunately, lack of availability of essential stock is going to mean fewer titles, lost sales on some essential titles, and lower sales at a time when bookstores can ill-afford it.

Publishers, meanwhile, will be scrambling —

More Publishers Available at Koen

Alyson	ECW	Parenting Press
Autonomedia	Ecco	Phoenix
Avery	Faber & Faber	Pluto
Banned Books	Four Seasons Foundation	Pomegranate Art Books
Beacon	Four Walls Eight Windows	Princeton
Bear & Company	Hanging Loose	Re/Search
Beyond Words	Harvard	Routledge
Marion Boyars	Haworth	Rutgers
George Braziller/ Persea	Hay House	Serpents Tale/ High Risk
Carroll & Graf	Hazelden	South End
Cassell	Health Communications	State Univ. of NY Press
Celestial Arts	Hunter House	Sun & Moon
City Lights	Hysteria	Temple University
Coach House	Inner Traditions	Ten Speed
Coffee House	Llewellyn	Theatre Communications
Columbia	Marlowe & Company	Tilbury House
Common Courage	Masquerade	U. of California
Conari	Mercury House	U. of Chicago
Creation Books	Milkweed	U. of Massachusetts
Crossing	New Directions	U. of Mississippi
Curbstone	New Harbinger	U. of Nebraska
Dalkey	Noble	U. of North Carolina
Duke	Open Hand	Writers & Readers
	Oxford	

some to get books to Koen, some to get onto the Koen list, and others to find new ways to get their books out to the bookstores. In the midst of it there will be a lot more direct orders.

Koen will also integrate Inland's catalog schedule into their existing schedule and will keep the spirit and depth of genre-specific information that marks the Inland catalogs. The Black History Month catalog is the first scheduled "special" catalog from the Inland schedule. Complete new title lists should be available by early January. Koen already does children's, computer and other special interest area catalogs.

Enthusiasm for the Inland purchase was high among the Koen staff that FBN interviewed. Bob Koen summed it up saying, "Bringing these Inland publishers aboard will make them available to a wider range of customers, making their books more accessible to everyone. In a like fashion, Inland customers will be able to consolidate their orders through Koen and purchase...everything from mainstream bestsellers to academic studies. It is a continuation of the direction we have been tracking all along: making every book possible accessible to everyone. [The Inland purchase] expands what we can offer, and it expands the audience we reach, all in one fell swoop."

The sale of Inland assets to Koen will earn Inland/Connecticut, an estimated \$150,000.

Koen is *not* acquiring InBook or WomanSource. The sale of both InBook and WomanSource to Login (see News) is progressing. If the Login sale goes through, InBook and WomanSource will be moved to Login's Chicago facility and will continue to exist as entities within the Logan superstructure.

Koen's bookstores terms are 40% for orders over \$150/retail. Titles ordered in multiples of 5-9 copies earn 41%, 10+ copies get 42%. Audio and calendars are 45%, calendars are non-returnable.

Koen's free-freight program is available in 28 states on orders of 50+ confirmed units; stores outside the 28-state area receive an additional 1% discount and are eligible for an additional 2% cash discount (on both books and shipping) for on-time payment. Stores

in the free-freight area are eligible for the 2% discount on bills paid within ten days.

Koen also offers a 38% small-order discount for orders totaling \$75-\$149.99/retail.

Booksellers interested in establishing an account with Koen or learning more about Koen's services can call 800-257-8481. Publishers should call Sheila Kowalsky or Sally Matero at 609-235-4444. ○