
Feminist Bookstore News



Summer/Sidelines '96

July/August 1996

Volume 19 Number 2

Femina Serial am F32978 8/19/96

Thank you!

All the feminist and alternative stores for carrying the Jane Evershed Card Collection. Over 20 000 of JANE's Journals alone have gone through your stores. I believe their popularity is largely due to the free thinking climate embodied in your stores. Chain stores provide you up, independents set you free! You provide a place for individuality and creativity to thrive and prosper.

I would like to show my appreciation by offering you a \$24.00 discount when you order 12 dozen or more of our most popular cards, or cards of your own choice. Call me at 612 3776355 or fax 612 3770417 and just mention this ad.

Also, look for JANE's Journal III called Refuge from Insanity! Coming soon.

Sincerely ~ JANE

e-mail: Evershed@201.com

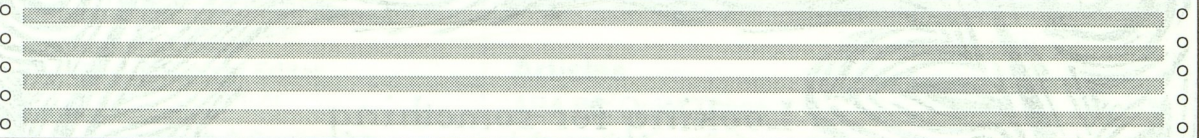
Jane Evershed Card Collection. P.O. Box 8874 Mpls. MN.

55408-USA.

Please honor our
one discount per
store policy.
offer expires
DEC 31, 96
Thanks!

JANE

NOTES FROM THE COMPUTER TABLE



Welcome to our combined Summer and Sidelines Issue. The Sidelines section includes everyone's favorite feature, Booksellers Faves & Raves, an article on diversifying stock by working with local craftswomen, special sections on Music, New Media, and "Cyberschlock," and the most complete collection of sidelines for women's bookstores to be found on planet earth. Flip to the yellow pages and dig in!

This has been an enormously difficult year. So many fine bookstores (feminist and otherwise) have closed and many long-timers have sold stores. And yet, as this issue goes to press I find myself feeling incredibly optimistic. We just updated our list of feminist bookstores and, surprise, there is one more feminist bookstore this year than there was at this time last year — 143 feminist bookstores altogether! ABA reports that bookstore "profitability" is at an all time low — and yet I see feminist bookstores turning bookstore math on its head to cut costs, cut losses, and create a much more solid financial footing. I've seen community education succeeding and watched communities come out in a host of ways to celebrate and support their local feminist bookstores. Reports of our demise have been greatly exaggerated. We're here, we're good at what we do, and you haven't seen the end of us 'cause we're not done yet!

Meeting with feminist booksellers at ABA always generates new ideas and clarifies what we can do better: Linda Bubon has agreed to do a children's book column that will launch next issue. Julie Mitchell is set to go as our new f/sf columnist, and Suzanne Buffam is ready to take up Border Crossings/ Canadian Literature. If other Canadian booksellers would like to alternate columns or pitch in in other ways, please give me a call. We've also had requests for more bookseller input in the women's music column — if you're interested, call. Our

regular Sidelines Columnist (Suzanne) sold her store, so we need someone to take that column under wing, too. And I'm also looking for someone to write a "State of Feminist Publishing" article and an article about Canadian feminist publishing. If you're interested in any of above, grab that phone and dial!

FBN turns 20 in October. The very first issue came out October 14, 1976. We plan to celebrate all year long, at Feminist Bookstore Camp (October 13–17) and at ABA next spring — but we don't have any specific plans yet. Please call/write/e-mail with ideas and suggestions.


Yours in spreading the words,
Carol Seajay

FBN Deadlines

Fall Announcements Issue
September/October
Call Now!

Women & Humor
November/December
September 3

Women in Cyberspace
January/February '97
November 1



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FEMINIST BOOKSTORE NEWS is the communications vehicle for the informal network of feminist bookstores. FBN reaches 500 feminist and feminist-inclined bookstores in the U.S. and Canada as well as feminist book-sellers in England, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, India, Japan and Kenya. Librarians, women's studies teachers, book reviewers, publishers and feminist bibliophiles comprise the remainder of the subscribers.

Letters, articles, and news items should be received the first Friday of the month preceding publication. Signed articles and letters are the responsibility of the authors.

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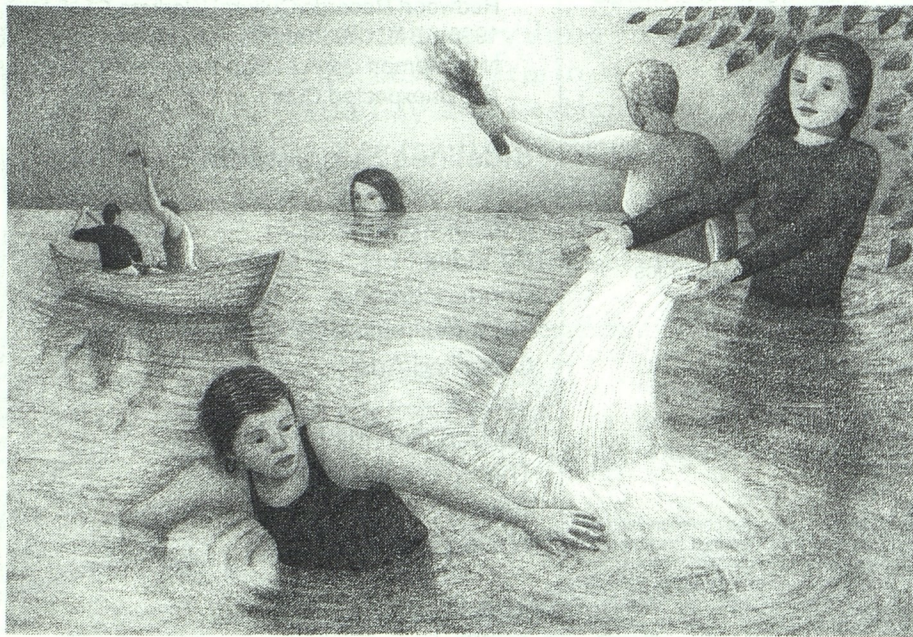
Angela Davis Maria Jimenez

Gloria Steinem Mililani Trask

Feminist Family Values Forum

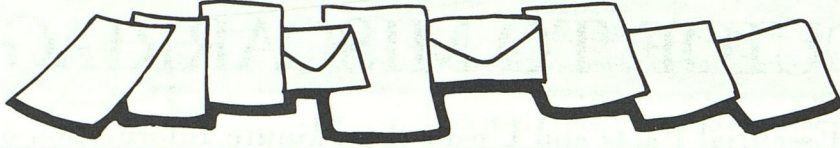
Order now for delivery mid-September 1996

On May 10, 1996 the Foundation for a Compassionate Society invited these women to speak on family values from a feminist point of view. A common thread in the presentations was that social change is necessary in order to allow all humans to thrive. Let's begin, as this year's presidential campaigns gear up, to spark public discussion about values beyond right wing definitions of family.



Produced by Plain View Press in collaboration with the Foundation for a Compassionate Society, the book will be available in September, 1996. A **50% discount** will be given to bookstores that order directly from: the Foundation for a Compassionate Society: 1711 South Congress Ave., Austin, TX 78704, (512) 473-8335 or FAX (512) 472-1043. Or contact: Plain View Press P.O. BOX 33311, Austin, TX 78764, voice or FAX (512) 441-2452, e-mail sbpvp@eden.com. Also available through Plain View Press from Baker and Taylor. ISBN:0-911051-86-4. \$15.95p,160 pgs.

LETTERS



Sweet Violets
413 N. Third St.
Marquette MI 49855

Greetings,

Winter was a business buster for the whole town. Our conservative approach helped minimize the impact of reduced sales. 1995 showed a 7.4% overall growth and we managed to cut our deficit spending to almost nothing. We hope to roar into the black in '96. Our four-year anniversary will be August 9. We're working on "sharpening" our "look" and adjusting inventory with the mood of our customers. When you only have 216-square-feet of sales space it doesn't pay to hang on to the "should have" inventory when no one "will have"....

Thanks for the terrific support of *FBN*, *Hotflashes*, and the network.

Sue Graves and Leigh Wall

Vancouver Women's Bookstore Collective
315 Cambie
Vancouver B.C. V6B 2N4

To all our customers and supporters of the Vancouver Women's Bookstore,

The collective at the Vancouver Women's Bookstore has decided after a long and difficult process that we are closing. We are writing this letter to you to announce that we will be closing our storefront in June. This is a very difficult letter to write but many things have occurred to lead us up to this decision, mainly financial struggle. Many of the books we carry are now widely available at other stores, even some chain stores, and it has become harder and harder to maintain our "niche" in the book market. The purpose of this letter is to thank all the people who supported us over the last 23 years and all the women who

volunteered and worked at the store and saw the store as a vital contributor to the growth, empowerment and strength of the community. Without these women, we would not have lasted all these 23 years.

For those of you who have not heard about us or do not know about the roots that we have been standing on, here's a little history:

The Vancouver Women's Bookstore was founded in 1973 and was located on Richards Street. We joined the small and growing network of feminist bookstores throughout North America and were the first feminist bookstore in Canada.



Due to arson fire, in 1980, we were forced to close, but because of the great amount of community support, we were able to re-open three months later on Hastings Street. Many people and organizations in the community came together and helped us out. We were lent space, given donations, and many people came down to our fire sale. This was a strong message that we were supported by the community. In 1984, we outgrew our space on Hastings and moved to the location we are at now, on Cambie Street. Here, we were able to expand our space a little and expand our range of books and merchandise.

It was at this location, in 1992, after 19 years of being run by a volunteer collective, that we decided to become a paid workers' cooperative. Many women who worked here were paid minimally, and were still willing to put in many unpaid hours.

This is what the store was built on — what all feminist bookstores are built on.

Since the beginning, we did not see ourselves as just another bookstore, but a link in the community.

A WOMAN DOCTOR'S GUIDE TO MISCARRIAGE

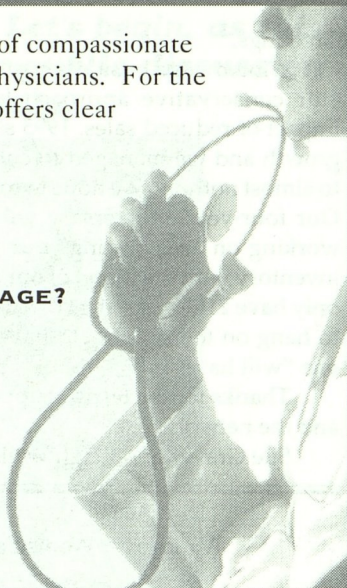
Essential Facts and Up-to-the-Minute Information on Coping with Pregnancy Loss and Trying Again

LYNN FRIEDMAN, M.D., WITH IRENE DARIA

A Woman Doctor's Guide to Miscarriage is the newest in a respected series of compassionate and comprehensive guides to female health written by leading female physicians. For the approximately one million women who suffer miscarriages each year, it offers clear answers to such commonly asked and complicated questions as:

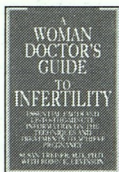
- **WHY DID THE MISCARRIAGE OCCUR?**
- **WHAT HAPPENS HORMONALLY AFTER MISCARRIAGE?**
- **HOW CAN ONE COMMUNICATE WITH LOVED ONES AND ACQUAINTANCES ABOUT THE FEELINGS AFTER MISCARRIAGE?**
- **WHEN IS THE RIGHT TIME TO TRY AGAIN?**
- **WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE'S A SECOND MISCARRIAGE?**

A Woman Doctor's Guide to Miscarriage also includes up-to-date information on recent medical breakthroughs and personal testimonies from women who have suffered miscarriages themselves—making it an indispensable source for helping women free themselves from misinformation and doubt.



ALSO AVAILABLE IN THE BOOKS FOR WOMEN BY WOMEN SERIES:

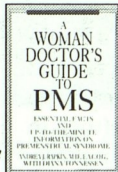
A WOMAN DOCTOR'S GUIDE TO INFERTILITY
Essential Facts and Up-to-the-Minute Information on the Techniques and Treatments to Achieve Pregnancy
 by Susan Treiser, M.D., Ph.D., with Robin K. Levinson



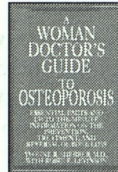
A WOMAN DOCTOR'S GUIDE TO SKIN CARE
Essential Facts and Up-to-the-Minute Information on Keeping Skin Healthy at Any Age
 by Wilma F. Bergfeld, M.D., F.A.C.P., with Shelagh Ryan Masline



A WOMAN DOCTOR'S GUIDE TO PMS
Essential Facts and Up-to-the-Minute Information on Pre-menstrual Syndrome
 by Andrea J. Rapkin, M.D., F.A.C.O.G., with Diana Tonnessen



A WOMAN DOCTOR'S GUIDE TO OSTEO-POROSIS
Essential Facts and Up-to-the-Minute Information on the Prevention, Treatment, and Reversal of Bone Loss
 by Yvonne R. Sherrer, M.D., with Robin K. Levinson

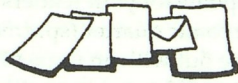


A WOMAN DOCTOR'S GUIDE TO MENO-PAUSE
Essential Facts and Up-to-the-Minute Information for a Woman's Change of Life
 by Lois Jovanovic, M.D., with Suzanne LeVert



ALL IN PAPERBACK FROM
HYPERION

We all believed in a space where the power of words and expression could thrive, as well as providing a space where women could announce community events, or just sit and relax among shelves and shelves of books.



We know we still believe in these things and more, but are faced with a difficult task of letting go of the store before we become more in debt.

Once again, we would like to thank all the people who supported the store, and all the women who worked and volunteered their time, some as long as twenty years, to build, nourish and believe in a feminist bookstore.

Thank you,
Vancouver Women's Bookstore Collective.

171 East 99th Street #18
New York NY 10029

Dear FBN,

On June 4, Rebecca Chalker won a judgment in New York Civil Court against Lang Communications, former owner of *Ms.*, *Working Woman* and *Working Mother* magazines, for non-payment of \$4,500 for a cover story she wrote on women's sexuality for the November/December 1995 issue of *Ms.* magazine. Dr. Karla Jay, Director of Women's Studies at Pace University won a judgment in Small Claims Court on May 16 against Lang for failure to pay \$250 for a book review that was published in the September/October issue of the magazine. Maryann Napoli, a well known consumer advocate who has written for *Ms.* for 13 years, also won a Small Claims judgment against Lang, on June 12, 1996. Lang failed to pay Napoli \$1,200 for an article she wrote for the May/June 1996 issue on DES and the Dalkon shield. Other suits are pending.

Brett Harvey, grievance officer of the National Writer's Union, has sought to negotiate payments for several Union members who also failed to receive payment.

Dale Lang recently sold his magazines to Jay MacDonald. We, and numerous other freelancers for these publications who have not been paid, are now

in the position of having judgments against a failed company, which, according to the *Wall Street Journal*, has amassed \$15 million in outstanding debts. Lang began selectively withholding writers' payments as early as April, 1995.

Reorganization discussions are now underway within the new company. Before initiating contracts with writers for new articles, we urge *Ms.* and MacDonald to honor all contracts which are outstanding from Lang's regime.

After repeated letters, phone calls and faxes produced no results, we and several other freelancers went to court. We were initially reluctant to make this information public, fearing that it might be seen as an attack on the flagship of the women's movement. Given the dearth of mainstream feminist magazines today, such a loss would be a tragedy. However, we know that *Ms.* editor Marcia Gillespie and her staff have fought valiantly to keep the magazine alive and viable, and strenuously encouraged Lang — who single-handedly controlled the purse strings — to pay the magazine's freelance contributors.

MacDonald told the *New York Times* that he feels no obligation to make outstanding payments to the more than 200 unpaid freelancers, a figure we believe to be more than \$200,000. Refusing to pay freelancers, most of whom are women, seems an ironic position for MacDonald to take, since he aims to capture the vast market of working women.



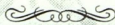
We are asking *Ms.* readers, distributors and book-sellers, to fax, write or phone Jay C. MacDonald, the new owner of the magazine at 212-697-1971 (fax), 212-697-1971 (phone), MacDonald Communications Corp., 230 Park Avenue, 7th Floor, New York NY 10169, and urge him to pay this debt before making contracts with other writers, photographers and illustrators. It would be helpful to point out to MacDonald that women (his target audience) will not buy his new publications if freelancers who have worked for his magazines are not paid. We encourage bookstores to post this letter for *Ms.* readers to see.

Rebecca Chalker
Karla Jay
Maryann Napoli

Would You Treat Your Mother This Way?



Mother



Judy Olausen

Introduction by KARIN WINEGAR

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OH...her comic quarterly
PO Box 41030
5134 Cordova Bay Road
Victoria B.C. V8Y 2K0, Canada

Dear FBN,

A belated update for your readers on what's happening with the comic quarter (spasmodically) *OH*... We actually came out with an issue #11 as advertised on your pages, but did not ship to either Fine Print or Inland (our two regular distributors), the former having dropped us as a client and the latter having declared bankruptcy. In both cases, the 'affidavit returns' ensured we have received zero payment for our product for over a year.



Since the comic industry itself has imploded — and was the one source we could rely on for payment on time and in advance of store sales — we have moved to downsize drastically. Our latest installment (issue #12) was produced on a photocopier. We no longer do retail sales or subscriptions and, instead, are doing a membership drive (with none of the privileges. Isn't downward marketing amazing?) Happily, we are already receiving monetary and moral support from diehard readers indicating whatever format we take they want to be in for the ride. Some of these have written us directly because they could not find us in their feminist bookstore.

We are offering in this open letter to those stores who have carried us and successfully sold copies the direct route to *OH*. We ask for prepayment and in return offer 50% off the cover price and to pay for shipping. The minimum order we will take is ten copies from any single store, which may be a combination of back issues with our latest product — #11: *Tomboy Takes to the Street*.

The cover price of #6 and #7 is US\$3.95/C\$4.95 (the only magazine-size back issues still available). Issues #8-11 (comic-size) retail at US\$2.95/C\$4 respectively. We will accept returns, but only on undamaged copies.

Non-consignment terms (which is how the comic industry works) is tough with the way the market is nowadays (speaking as an ex-retailer I know just how tough) but it also makes for careful ordering. It's not that we don't appreciate all those who have put *OH*

on their shelves and given it a chance: it's simply that we never had the revenue or funds to be a display experiment. Our losses are considerable.

For those who have passionate comic readers as part of their customer base, and who would still like to carry us beyond issue #11 on their shelves, i.e., in photocopy zine format (actually, magazine size) — U.S./C\$65 annually gives you a business card-sized advertisement for each issue that we produce, plus however many copies you would like on your shelves. Our next issue comes out in late May/early June and we hope for enough of a response to be bimonthly/monthly. (Call 800-874-9088 if you want to talk bigger size ad, or the experiment of a comic-drawn one!)

We'd like to thank Carol and crew for all their support in the three years we've been around (now going on four) — and for allowing us this space to promote women in comics once again (truly a wonderful thing).

Yours Grovelling, But Still Kickin',
Hope

Onlywomen Press
40 St. Lawrence Terrace
London UK W10 5ST
0181-960-7122

Dear FBN and, especially, Susanna Sturgis,

Susanna's science fiction column is/has been one of my favourite FBN sections. So this is a thank you note as well as a fond farewell.

I'm also writing to point out an omission in Susanna's last column and its listing of feminist publishers who publish science fiction. Onlywomen Press, a British lesbian feminist publisher, also publishes science fiction.

Our books are with LPG/InBook and should now be in their Chicago warehouse ready to go. For anyone who's interested, here's a selection of Onlywomen sci-fi titles:

The Needle on Full: lesbian feminist science fiction (stories) by Caroline Forbes, 1985, \$9.99, 0-906500-19-2; *Altogether Elsewhere* (novel) by Anna Wilson, 1985, \$8.99, 0-906500-18-4; *Bulldozer Rising* (novel) by Anna Livia, 1987, \$10.99, 0-906500-27-3, lots of Ms. Livia's work (short stories, too) fit the category; *Hatching Stones*

(novel) by Anna Wilson, 1991 Top Twenty Feminist Book Fortnight, \$9.99, 0-906500-39-7; *Mosaic of Air* (stories) by Cherry Potts, 1992, \$9.99, 0-906500-44-3.

Our anthologies of lesbian feminist short stories always include fantasy/sci-fi among the realistic tales. In 1984, '89, '90, '91 those were: *The Reach*, *The Pied Piper*, *In and Out of Time*, *Perfect Pitch*. If you'd like their prices and ISBN numbers as well as names of editors and contributing authors, I'll be glad to supply them.

Yes, as Susanna said, "feminism remains high-spirited and vital all over the world."

Please take note,
Lilian Mohin

An Open Book
749 North High Street
Columbus OH 43215
614-291-0080

Dear FBN:

You're the best! Since we opened our store (just 18 months ago), your publication has quickly become *our most valuable resource* for news and information about the book business. We have especially benefited from your article on how to cut the cost of goods sold ("Staying Solvent;" March/April 96). We always knew we could save more money by ordering more directly from publishers, but we didn't realize how much until we read about the details.



In two months we have cut our cost of books by 2%, and should add another 1% by the end of the year. In addition, our cash flow has improved because we are now spreading payments out over the month to many different vendors. Ordering takes a little longer, but this also forces us to make wiser purchasing decisions, which saves more money!

Your most recent article about effectively using co-op advertising looks like it will save us a lot in advertising and newsletter expenses.

Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

Michael Lindsey, Owner and General Manager
and Doug Motz, Assistant Manager



Arte Público Press

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Don't Miss These New Fall Titles

***Fitting In* • By Anilú Bernardo**

Clothbound ISBN 1-55885-176-3 \$14.95
Trade Paperback ISBN 1-55885-173-9 \$7.95
September 1, 1996



PIÑATA BOOKS

Fitting In is a richly-hued tapestry woven with the bittersweet tales of Cuban immigrant girls caught in the abyss between childhood and womanhood. In this poignant collection of stories of coming of age on the fragile bridge between two cultures, Anilú Bernardo lends an eloquent voice to her teenaged characters as they face the daunting gateway into adulthood while grappling with their desire to "fit in" to American culture and coming to terms with their polarized worlds. The plucky characters in these stories rise to the complex challenges in their lives, offering pure, bright and moving glimpses of bicultural adolescence.

***The Red Camp* • By Debra Diaz**

Trade Paperback ISBN 1-55885-169-0 \$11.95
September 1, 1996

From barrios and labor camps spring life and art. *The Red Camp* paints a deeply humane and moving mural of coming of age amid the poverty, exploitation and discrimination, where Debra Diaz recreates the life of one family as it bursts out from under the red roof of its shanty, ripped by marital strife, generational conflict and frustrated familial love and responsibility. Rather than dwelling on destitution and deprivation, the women of the Cruz family—spin mesmerizing tales of hope in this richly textured and enchanting narrative in which their voices join in chorus to remember their trials and their triumphs in the Red Camp.

These and other important new titles may be ordered from your local distributor or directly from **Arte Público Press, University of Houston, Houston, Texas 77204-2090. CALL TOLL FREE 800-633-ARTE.**

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off our backs

2337B 18th Street NW
Washington DC 20009

Dear Readers of *off our backs*,

Months after the fact, *off our backs*, the oldest continuously published feminist magazine in the USA, discovered that we have had a problem with sending out renewal cards in the past year, so we have lost touch with a fair number of our subscribers. Now we are searching for people who used to read *oob*. If you are one of our lost readers, please send in for your subscription today. And tell your friends about us.

Feminist journalism is in a bad way. In 1981, *off our backs* organized a "Women in Print" conference to which 250 women came, representing about 400 feminist and lesbian bookstores, newspapers, magazines, printers, publishers and archivists. There are still over 140 bookstores, and there are just about as many book publishers, but the feminist newspapers have just about disappeared — *Big Mama Rag*, *Plexus*, *New Directions for Women*, *New Women's Times* are all gone. As far as we know, of all the U.S. monthly newsprint, only *Sojourner* and *off our backs* are still going.

This is not to dismiss other types of valuable publications. For example, *Women's Review of Books* and *Ms.* are still going strong. But smaller feminist periodicals have had troubles. It is hard to keep up both the editorial content and the business end of a monthly, especially if you rely on an unpaid collective as *off our backs* does, and what the others largely did. We totally rely on paid subscribers and bookstore distribution for our income — *oob* has hardly any paid ads, but runs quite a few free ads given to feminist conferences and publications.

That's enough about the business end of being a feminist newsjournal. Both old and new readers will want to see all the feminist news fit to print — coverage of feminist conferences, interviews with grassroots activists, analysis of international issues, reproductive rights, violence against women and lesbian issues in *off our backs*. If you don't know us, get a trial sub for \$6 and try us out. Despite the hard times, *off our backs* is still here after 26 years!

alice henry

oob collective member since 1977

*A year sub is \$21, a trial sub (3 issues) is \$6. Send to *off our backs*, 2337B 18th Street NW, Washington DC 20009; 202-234-8072, e-mail (73613.1256@compuserve.com).

E-MAIL

(bnuse@islandnet.com)

Betsy Nuse e-mailed to FBN:

We've started a lively conversation at the general bookstore here where I work [Volume One Bookstore in Duncan BC], provoked by the interesting article in the March issue on improving profitability by buying at greater discount.

The November/December 1995 issue of the *Canadian Bookseller* had a feature article about Leonard Shatzkin (who spoke at last year's CBA in Toronto). He apparently wrote a "classic and controversial" book called *In Cold Type: Overcoming the Book Crisis* and has forthcoming from McGraw Hill *The Business of Publishing: How to Survive and Prosper in the Publishing and Bookselling Industry*. Anyway, the short of it is that his advice is *totally* contrary to *FBN's*: he advises buying almost entirely from wholesalers and monitoring turnaround instead.

Have any others any comments on your article — or what they think of Mr. Shatzkin's theories?

Cheers from Vancouver Island,
Betsy

Carol responded:

I didn't see Shatzkin's article...(but would love to) but that was the advice here a few years ago. Now there seems to be a shift back toward the Amazon direction (which Barb described as much more similar to what we all used to do pre-computers)....

The exciting thing about computerized inventory systems is that you *can* control inventory, you *can* have a deep(er) inventory by stocking fewer copies and you can get books fast. But then what happens is most computerized stores also develop a deep inventory of books that aren't moving.... Many stores then become overstocked and get behind in payables.... Amazon isn't advocating ordering everything direct from publishers — only those books that make sense on the margin. I'm convinced that to survive, independent bookstores have to do *everything* that aids them.... And need to be very savvy about using *all* the tools at our disposal *and* knowing when to use each....

I've heard from a number of independent bookstores (and specialty stores) that are doing increased

direct-order when it offers a significant discount advantage, so I guess that *is* a conversation.

Betsy responded:

Having "a deep inventory of books that aren't moving" struck a deep and familiar chord when store staff met in Gossip's Coffeeshop after receiving your note. We have continued our talk — and begun to monitor turnaround c/o monthly reports from our Bookmanager program. Like most of the stores subscribing to *FBN*, Volume One is an independent store. But it is a general bookstore, large by *FBN's* standards; in an average month we order regularly from 125 Canadian and 20 U.S. accounts, 10 of these wholesalers. Like a good number of *FBN's* subscribers, we are Canadians, and so may experience some problems unique to the book business in Canada. Book wholesaling has never been as extensive or as efficient in Canada as in the U.S. (Stores in Western Canada have effectively only the BookExpress wholesale operation in Vancouver available to us; the cost of returns to Pacific Pipeline, Baker & Taylor or Ingram even on the West Coast of the U.S. is so high that it prohibits substantial ordering.) Also high freight charges on orders from publishers (not all Canadian publishers offer "FOB Canada" or free freight terms on orders) is a problematic added cost for us. How do other Canadian stores who read *FBN* balance ordering for publishers and wholesalers?

Barbara Johnston, Pat Davidson and Betsy Nuse

*After ABA Carol responded:*

At ABA we talked to a number of booksellers who are using "The Amazon Model" of ordering to improve their bottom line and are already seeing the benefit in their balance sheets. Amazon reported that, with six months of ordering direct from publishers with good discounts, they cut their cost of goods for books by 1% for the year — saving an estimated \$4000. Had they implemented the plan at the beginning of their fiscal year, they probably would have cut cost of goods by 2%. Back copies of this issue are still available. Send \$10 to *FBN*, PO Box 884554, San Francisco CA 94188 and tell us you want the March 96 issue. ○

CROWS OVER A WHEATFIELD

Timely, provocative, emotionally fine-tuned, *Crows Over a Wheatfield* is a stunning account of how domestic violence transforms two women's lives.

A Novel by **PAULA SHARP**

"As a reader I look for a book to have a compelling story and important message or fine writing.

Crows Over a Wheatfield has all three in the extreme. I underlined many passages that I will read again and again with enormous pleasure."

—Elizabeth Berg, author of
Talk Before Sleep and *The Pull of the Moon*



 HYPERION

News News News

Ms. Magazine Sold to MacDonald Communications

Ms., *Working Woman* and *Working Mother* magazines, all previously owned by Lang Communications, are being sold to MacDonald Communications. Lang Communications had been financially stressed and failed to pay writers for articles published in *Ms.* (See this issue's Letters column.) In announcing the sale in June, Gloria Steinem also reported that the next issue would be delayed as there was no money to pay the printer and acknowledged that writers and photographers had not been being paid.

Commenting on the purchase, Jay MacDonald said, "Collectively, these magazines represent 61 years of publishing to market segments that have continuously gained importance and strength: working women on a strictly managerial/executive level; working mothers, who today represent 70% of all mothers; and feminists. It will be a privilege to provide these important vehicles with the editorial, circulation and marketing support they need to prosper in the near and long-term future.

"We are prepared to deliver a substantial cash infusion into these properties," he added. "Monies involved will additionally establish a solid financial foundation from which the magazines can fulfill their commitments to millions of loyal readers, and to the advertisers and marketers who reach those readers through their pages."

Earlier in his career, MacDonald served as the publisher of *Business Month* and later *Inc.* magazine. Most recently he was chairman and CEO of World Congress, Inc., an international conference and seminar business.

Separately, *Working Woman* announced that its editor-in-chief Lynn Pivot resigned her position to join

the Microsoft-NBC Electronic News venture. Her successor at *Working Woman* will be Nancy Smith, former executive editor of *Self* magazine. ○

Helen Dunmore Wins £30,000 For-Women-Only Orange Prize

The first Orange Prize for Fiction was awarded to Helen Dunmore for *A Spell of Winter*.

The Orange Prize, which is sponsored by the phone service Orange, is Britain's newest and largest book prize — and it is for women only. The prize celebrates excellence, originality and accessibility, and is designed to honor "the best novel of the year" in any genre written in English by a woman.

The prize of £30,000 (about \$45,000) was donated by an anonymous 80-year-old woman. The idea originated with a group of women at the top of British publishing circles.

One of the triggers for launching the prize, according to Kate Moss, novelist, former publisher, and chair of the judging committee, was the 1990 Booker shortlist, which was all male. "There is a perception," she said, "that men's books are for everyone and women's books are for women and we want to change that."

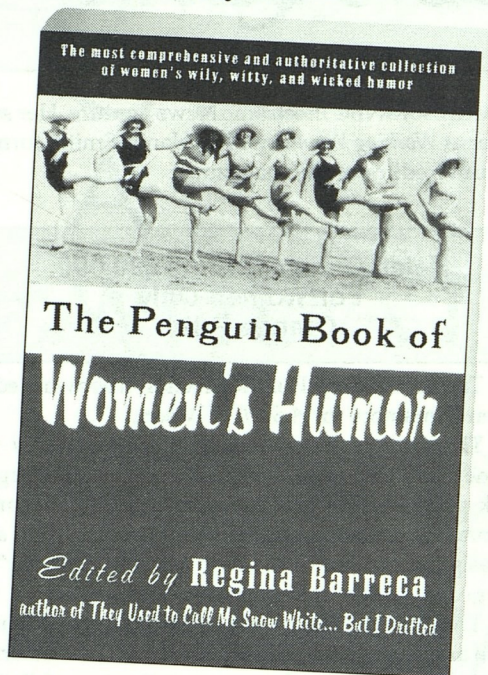
The short-listed titles were: *The Book of Colour* by Julia Blackburn, *Spinsters* by Pagan Kennedy, *The Hundred Secret Senses* by Amy Tan, *Ladder of Years* by Anne Tyler and *Eveless Eden* by Marianne Wiggins.

The winner also receives a bronze figurine, the Bessie, a tribute to the anonymous donor who endowed the prize.

The original sponsor, Mitsubishi, apparently withdrew after the award received bad press "for being only for women" and "for discriminating against men," for being "too feminist" and for implying that other prizes (such as the Booker) are unfair to

**"Not just humor, of course,
but all the wit and wisdom of
the female universe."**

—Fay Weldon



Shocking, invigorating, infuriating, and inspiring—this landmark anthology spans over three centuries to prove there is a distinctly female way of being funny. Including Jane Austen, Dorothy Parker, "Moms" Mabley, Erma Bombeck, Roseanne, Toni Morrison, and Emily Dickinson.

"Comprehensive and delightful."

—Cynthia Heimel, author of *When the Phone Doesn't Ring, It'll Be Me*



Also available in paperback from Penguin
*They Used to Call Me Snow White...
But I Drifted*

IN BOOKSTORES NOW FROM PENGUIN

women. Orange, the current sponsor, is a national, digital wire-free phone service.

Feminists in the U.S. have been searching for similar funding to endow feminist book awards here. ○

**Redwood Records/
Redwood Cultural Workers
Closes after 23 Years**

The board of directors of Redwood Records and Redwood Cultural Workers announced in April that the organization would be disbanding.

Founded in 1972 by singer/songwriter Holly Near, the company's musical history included active participation in the anti-Vietnam, anti-nuclear, women's, gay and Latin American solidarity movements. Redwood was especially known for their promotion of musicians such as Sweet Honey in the Rock, (recording their album *B'lieve I'll Run On* in 1978), the Chilean ensemble Inti-Illimani, and, of course, Holly Near.

Most recently, Redwood focused on emerging multicultural artists in World, Latin and Folk music through recording, commissioning and presenting activities. Highlights in the last four years included a Grammy nomination, the commission of six major works by women composers of color, and the creation of the acclaimed New Spirituals Project with Linda Tillery and the Redwood House Choir. In the past four seasons Redwood released ten CDs, produced 26 concerts and two drum festivals, and organized numerous community and school workshops.

Taking over the company in 1992, Executive Director Susan Freundlich, Artistic Director Elizabeth Seja Min, General Manager Cynthia Frenz, and a dedicated staff of three revitalized Redwood as a multicultural arts organization with a small independent record label, while simultaneously reducing an inherited debt from three-quarters of a million to less than one-quarter of a million dollars.

Despite this Herculean effort, the gutting of the NEA and the dramatic loss of other tax-supported grants radically diminished Redwood's ability to leverage other funding. The loss of funding, coupled with rising costs and serious downturns in the record industry, make it financially impossible to sustain Redwood as a non-profit endeavor.

Recordings from Redwood Records will be available from Goldenrod and Ladyslipper while supplies last. ○

1996 ABACUS Study Shows Decline in Profitability

Results from ABA's most recent ABACUS study are in and the news isn't good.

Average pre-tax net profit for participating booksellers fell from 1.5% in the 1995 study to 0.6% in the 1996 study. Sales growth among reporting stores declined from an 8.4% increase in the 1995 study to 5.2% in the 1996 study.

On the more hopeful side, respondents who reported the highest profitability based on total return on assets had both significantly lower expenses and higher inventory productivity than respondents showing losses or zero profits.

The 1996 study is based on 1993-1994 sales figures. The 1995 study was based on 1992-1993 sales figures. Given that the expansion of superstores began in 1992, it's reasonable to expect that figures for the next two reporting periods will continue to decline significantly.

Copies of *1996 ABACUS Expanded: ABA's Financial Survey of Member Bookstores Based on 1994 Operations* are available to ABA members at \$25 per copy and to non-members for \$50.

The ABACUS survey enables booksellers to compare their profitability, liquidity, returns rate, inventory turn rate, and other relevant data against benchmark information provided by the 200 independent booksellers who participate in the study. ○

New German Gay and Lesbian Publisher

Querverlag, the first German publisher specializing in both lesbian and gay books, released its first books in March. Co-publisher Illona Bubeck's experience includes managing the women's bookstore in Nuremberg, which she founded, and seven years as the director of sales and finance of German feminist publisher Orlanda Frauenbuchverlag. Jim Baker represents the gay half of the publishing duo. He studied at the

University of Pennsylvania and worked for a year and a half at Giovanni's Room. His career in publishing includes helping to edit *Spartacus*, tenure as the executive secretary for Verlag Rosa Winkel, and founding Magnusbuch, a publisher of gay men's books.

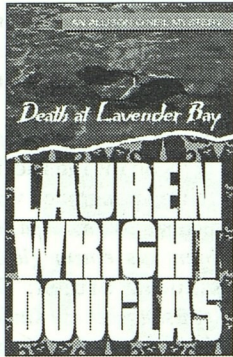
Querverlag's first books are: *Querverbindungen: Lesben + Schwule im Datennetz*, a book on the Internet by Renee Schaeuecker and Lukas Hauser, paperback with CD-ROM; *Orakel*, a novel by Micheal Sollorz; *Spaetere Heirat ausgeschlossen: Geschichten aus einem gleichgeschlechtlichen Paradies* by Klaudia Brunst; *Das lesbisch-schwule Babybuch: Ein Rechtsratgeber zu Kinderwunsch und Elternschaft*, a self-help book on gay and lesbian parenting edited by Uli Streib; *Ganz was anderes!* gay stories by Aby Neumann; and *Die Tafeln der Maeeve*, a lesbian fantasy novel by Magliane Samasow. ○

Nothing But the Girl Unexpected Cuts

Jill Posener and Susie Bright ran into unexpected problems during the production phase of *Nothing But the Girl: The Blatant Lesbian Image*, when they received word from upper-level Cassell management that Cassell had decided to remove ten photos from the book. The photos to be excised included: Della Grace's self-portrait "Hermaphrodyké" (page 96 of the American edition), the photo from her Ruff Sex Series (page 82), Katie Niles' untitled photo (a.k.a. "fat dykes having fun at an orgy as per the directions in the book they are reading") (page 97), Catherine Opie's self-portrait "Pervert" (page 40), Jill Posener's self-portrait (page 90), both of Morgan Gwenwald's photos portraying fist fucking (page 83), Claire Garoutte's lesbian s/m family photos (page 90 and 91) and Shari Cohen's dungeon scene.

Posener and Bright fought fiercely, furiously and brilliantly to keep the book intact and put their publishing contract on the line to do so. They argued that they had delivered exactly what had been contracted: an art book, portfolio and critique of contemporary lesbian erotica, aesthetics, politics and history. They argued that the Opie photo had already been exhibited in the Whitney Biennial, one of the most prestigious art shows in America and published in the show catalog, thus proving that the photo is publishable in the U.S;

See News, page 36.



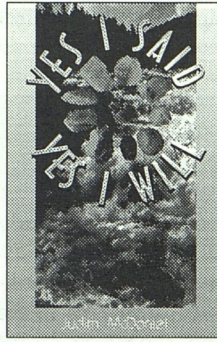
Death at Lavender Bay

An Allison O'Neil Mystery
Lauren Wright Douglas
A thrilling new mystery series from Lambda Literary Award winner Lauren Wright Douglas!!!

When Allison O'Neil is called for the reading of a relative's will, she is astonished to find herself an heiress. It seems her Aunt Grace — from whom she received little more than birthday and Christmas cards — has left Allison a bed-and-breakfast in the tiny town of Lavner Bay, Oregon.

Allison's worst fears are realized when she discovers that Aunt Grace allegedly drowned while snorkeling — an unlikely pursuit for a woman who couldn't swim and was terrified of the water!!!

ISBN: 1-56280-085-X \$10.95



Yes I Said Yes I Will

Judith McDaniel

The critically acclaimed author of *Just Say Yes* triumphs again with this sensational tale of romance and suspense!

Unitarian minister Rachel Smythe has spent her life caring for others while ignoring her deepest needs.

High-level government official Susan Meyers knows too well the dark side of desire, and carefully controls every aspect of her life — including her heart.

Each woman must confront her own fears and heal the pain of the past before she can surrender to the ecstasy of all-consuming love.

Yet even in the haven of their passionate embrace, Rachel and Susan aren't safe. A treacherous enemy is out to destroy one of them — and the danger is much closer than she dare imagine!!

ISBN: 1-56280-138-4 \$10.95



Heart on Fire

Diana Simmonds

An incomparable love story set amidst the landscape and untamed beauty of the Australian Outback . . .

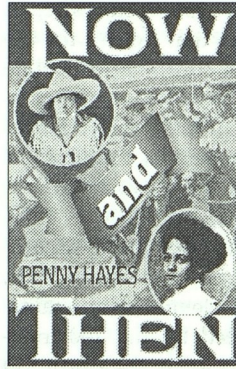
American Jody Johnson
 The rising young queen of country music, has taken the music world by storm. Adoring fans are so taken by Jody's cool exterior, her angular good looks, and her incredible voice that they

never notice the far-away sadness in her eyes.

Australian Grace Davanzo An illustrator who lives and works at her family's truckstop, Grace Davanzo could have her pick of the truckers and tourists enthralled by her lush beauty. But dark memories of the past have reconciled her to a solitary existence.

When Jody's tour bus stops at the Davanzo Truckstop for repairs, the attraction between the two women is undeniable.

ISBN: 1-56280-152-X \$10.95



Now and Then

Penny Hayes

The beloved author of *Grassy Flats* takes you back to the summer of 1888 for an extraordinary account of love and courage in the face of overwhelming odds.

Elsa Catulie Young department store clerk has resigned herself to the mundane life of an obedient daughter of working-class parents. Until her father's

brutal murder reveals a dark legacy of secrets that threaten her entire family...

Wynn Carson Star trick rider in a wild west show is as handsome and graceful as her prized palomino. Then a tragedy changes the course of her life...

A fateful meeting between these unlikely companions soon leads to a desperate journey out West and to the very limits of survival, and teach them more than they ever dreamed about life...and about love.

ISBN: 1-56280-121-X \$10.95



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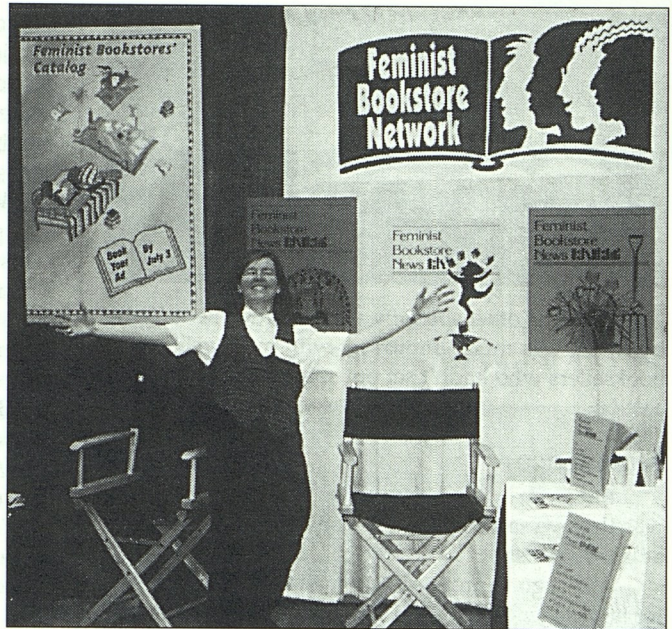
ABA 1996

By Carol Seajay

This year's ABA Convention (June 15 to 17) was marked by... well, the absence of problems, conflicts and controversies — and of booksellers.

Last year was a banner year for booksellers, with midwestern booksellers — who hadn't had a "local" ABA for years, driving/ flying/ carpooling into Chicago for the show. Business was brisk, sales were decent and the conversation and networking were what you'd expect of ABA. McCormick Place and the exhibition company blew it on logistics, ABA set off a major controversy by setting up a program with an NEA budget-cutting politician, and the folly was further compounded by the arrest of one exhibitor and two townspeople while exercising their First Amendment rights to protest the speaker and his policies. It was an ABA to remember.

This one?? Well, the silver lining was, as one exhibitor put it, "since there were fewer booksellers to converse with I did have longer, more in-depthe



conversations with booksellers at this ABA than at any ABA in recent memory...." This convention was also noted for the ease in moving around the (rarely crowded) floor.... These aren't exactly compliments. Last year's logistical problems were replaced with a major hike between the "main" exhibit area and the "East" exhibit area. (To be resolved next year when the new building is finished and both "floors" will be reunited in a single hall.)

The Aisle

The Gay/Lesbian/Feminist Aisle ("The Aisle") enjoyed a much better location than last year or any previous year. We were about two-thirds of the way back and a bit to the left (of course) of the central hub on the main floor. Last year, The Aisle was in the back third of that hall behind a cement block wall that hid us — and other exhibitors in that section — from view. We're promised an equally good or even better location next year. ABA's overhead signage for



Above: Carol Seajay shows off our booth. Left: FBNers Carol Seajay, Lisa McGowan, Jenn Tust, and Kathryn Werhane celebrate the end of the convention. Photo at left by Sue Hardisty, all others by Kathryn Werhane.



The Aisle and other specialty areas was excellent. Walk-by traffic was much improved, with more visits from booksellers who hadn't set out specifically to find our section.

Attendance

But even with the improved location, our take was that we saw significantly fewer booksellers than at last year's show.

As we go to press ABA has yet to release statistics for bookseller attendance. The good news is that there also seemed to be fewer goodie-grabbers masquerading as booksellers and that ABA has created a new category for "retailers" (non-bookstore retailers, that is). But even combining the "bookseller" and "retailer" badges, there were still many fewer than last year.

Why? "Been there, done that" seemed to be many booksellers' response to Chicago — a problem that will only intensify over the course of the seven ABA's scheduled in Chicago in as many years. This ABA was two weeks later than usual. Many booksellers (and publishers) had already bought/sold their Fall titles. ("Been there, done that"²), and/or they could get the same deals in the comfort of their own bookstores without spending the time or money on travel. Chicago weather in mid-June? Who wants to go there and do that? It's been a hard year for independent bookstores: what with blizzards and bad weather and the ever-increasing chain invasions, and the decline in sales of books all hitting the bottom line. A trip to Chicago to "buy" books that the stores have already bought from reps...? *Not* a good use of money in a hard-cash-flow year seemed to be the conclusion of many booksellers from around the country. No one *FBN* interviewed cited the absence of Penguin or Random House as a reason for not attending, although several booksellers who did attend complained about the reduced level of staff and attention

to booksellers in many mainstream press booths. One publisher, when queried about the effects of the reduced bookseller attendance, responded, "Yes, but we're selling rights," consciously or unconsciously echoing an informal theme of the show, "Yes, but who needs booksellers?"

When questioned at the "Town Meeting" about the apparent low attendance of booksellers and their plans to resolve this problem, ABA officials cited the loss of 200 member stores (presumably to chains) and that 19 stores had closed in Chicago since last ABA. The assumption seemed to be that next year, when the new convention hall is finished, booksellers will again flock to ABA and exhibitors will again provide deep staffing for their booths. But, I have to admit, the logic escapes me.

Attendance at the Feminist Bookstore Network Conference was also down, with about 40% of last year's participants citing the above reasons plus a few more: One bookseller took a once-in-a-life-time trip to Greece to visit goddess sites; several stores have also been sold in the last year or so. The old owners, of course, aren't coming, and the new owners, busily learning to run their particular stores, aren't yet ready to expand their scope to the national level.

And what of the publishers?

Several publishers, in addition to the publishers who are actively boycotting ABA because of the lawsuits, stated that they would be increasing their presence at the regional shows this fall and in the future. A few publishers who usually exhibit, either didn't pay for booths or abandoned them, choosing to "walk the floor" instead.

But the question for ABA remains unanswered: will the ABA Convention continue to have national importance for booksellers, or will it become primarily a rights show with a secondary and much less important function as a sort of glorified regional show for midwestern booksellers? It's not a pretty question, but someone needs to answer it.

Unaesthetics and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace

European publisher Taschen gets the "Stupid Exhibit Prize" for their larger-than-life blow-ups of highly sexualized, objectifying photos of women. One was of a blond woman poured into a red latex "suit." The next image was doubly offensive for incorporating

racism into the sexism, for playing on the stereotypes of Native American women as sluts and for the attempt to gain commercial profit by trivializing native traditions. The woman in this photo was wearing a corset-like sex costume with her breasts spilling out of the top of the "corset" and her legs spread with her vulva barely covered by a feather or a bit of white fur... The viewer "knows" she is Native American because she is wearing a stereotypic "Indian war bonnet."

ABA is put in a tenuous position by these kinds of images on the convention floor. While some want to dismiss the problem with "free speech rights," this situation is complicated by the fact that the ABA Convention is a workplace for thousands of women exhibitors and booksellers. U.S. courts have pretty consistently stated that beaver-shots and "girlie" posters in the workplace create a hostile work environment.

This kind of imagery has not been a problem for several years, and it was surprising to see ABA unprepared to take appropriate action on either the grounds of racism or sexism. ABA, as an institution, seemed to be much more conversant with the state of sexual harassment legislation as applied to the convention workplace a decade ago than it was at this convention. ABA, apparently, needs to spend some time reviewing sexual harassment laws and court decisions and needs to convey appropriate standards to all exhibitors before it allows another situation where ABA could be liable for sexual harassment-related charges.

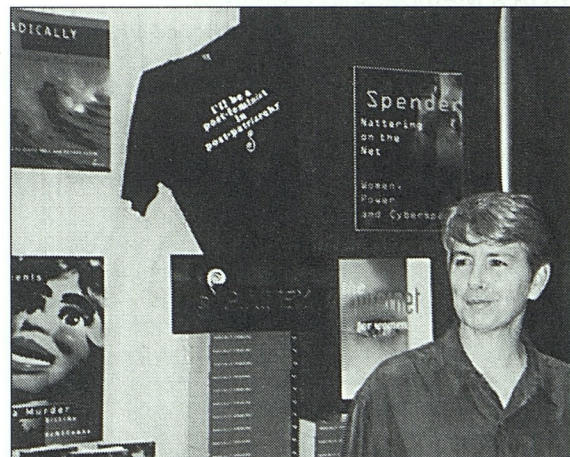
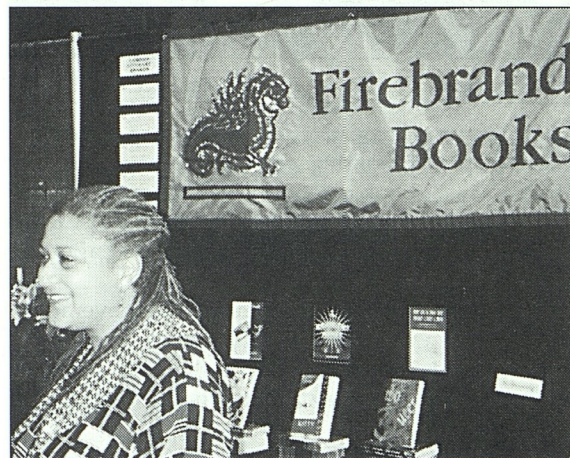
FBN has been told that both *American Bookseller* and *Publishers Weekly* have declined to run an ad that features the second photo.

Anti-Abortion Propaganda

There are certain complications that come from selling your display space — including that customers hold you accountable for the values espoused in those (sold) spaces.

This year ABA sold the official "show bag" (racks of which are placed at each entry, free for the taking) to a publisher called Life Dynamics Incorporated. (Estimated price \$7,500.) It was a rather ugly, badly designed, green-on-black bag that read "Lime 5." Thousands of people carried them around the show only to find out later that the bag was a promo piece for an anti-abortion tract with the same title. The bag included promo material for the book and a

copy of the organization's newsletter. Both are extremist enough to turn-off most of ABA's attendees with the first scan. Interestingly enough, the newsletter details a list of publications, radio stations and personalities that have refused to run this company's ads (including *USA Today*, *The American Spectator*, the Catholic magazine *First Things*, *Christian American*, the *National Right to Life News*, and Rush Limbaugh and Dr. Laura Schlesinger's radio shows). *USA Today*, the newsletter claims, returned a check for \$75,000 with the ad, and Rush Limbaugh returned a check for \$125,000. Would that ABA had



On The Aisle: (top) Jewelle Gomez staffing the Firebrand booth, (below) Sue Hardisty on call for Australia's Spinifex Press, and (opposite page) ABA's overhead signage.



Stephanie Martin at Canada's Sister Vision booth.

been as wise. Instead, apparently as a follow-up blooper, staff preparing press packets noticed "the pretty bags" (book promo, newsletter and all) and used them as containers for the official ABA Press Packet — a mistake that was not repeated after the first day.

This gaffe has received considerable coverage in news media around the country. Usually this kind of publicity helps sell books but, in this case, I suspect that it's a lot of money and publicity spent for nil results.

ABA's Membership Meetings

Except for ABA's above-mentioned lack of a plan for increasing the number of booksellers at ABA, and ABA Board Member Sandi Torkildson's (A Room of One's Own, Madison) unofficial suggestion that booksellers and publishers take the time to tell Tanshen that their exhibit was inappropriate and unacceptable, the ABA town meeting and board meetings were remarkably uneventful.

ABA reported that 82% of the members surveyed strongly supported ABA's legal efforts — including the lawsuits — to bring an end to discriminatory practices that disadvantage independent bookstores.

Feminist Booksellers and Publishers' Dinner

Feminist booksellers and publishers celebrated surviving all the changes and challenges of the last year at the annual Feminist Booksellers and Publish-

ers' Dinner on pre-ABA Thursday evening at Singha Thai Restaurant. The food was good, the company superb, and the mood, despite (or because of) the challenges of the last year, celebratory. Because of the decline in the number of booksellers attending ABA (and the slightly reduced number of publishers attending) we weren't able to fill up the entire restaurant and so shared space with some of the regular clientele, who were treated to our round of introductions and lists of things we were most proud of achieving in the last year.

We still need a coordinator for next year's dinner. It's the publishers' turn to host, but whoever offers to do it can rely on Midge Stocker and Ann Christophersen's careful research on Chicago-area restaurants and FBN is willing to handle the registration. How about it? To volunteer, call me (Carol); 415-626-1556, or Midge at Third Side; 312-271-3029. The easiest thing is probably for whoever is coordinating the publishers meeting to do it.

Feminist Publishers Meeting

The Feminist Publishers Meeting on Thursday was noted for the air of unexpected goodwill and support after last year's difficult meeting. Each publisher discussed her survival strategies in the current environment, and a decision was made to embark on a joint project of educating chain stores about the nuances of successfully selling, rather than returning, the feminist press books they buy.

The LPC/InBook Meeting

Increasingly aware of bookseller frustrations with Login Publishers Consortium (LPC)/InBook/WomenSource service and shipments, LPC invited feminist and other booksellers to a 7:30 A.M. breakfast meeting on Sunday morning.

It turns out that 7:30 A.M. was not an effective time to hold this meeting for booksellers. David Wilk spoke to the small gathering about LPC's Identity Campaign, the recent past and immediate future of the company and the InBook and WomenSource titles.

He stressed that LPC is a distributor not a wholesaler and that, as such, their current goal is a 72-hour turnaround between orders and shipment, a goal expected to be reached the following Monday — with the caveat that their current computer system does not allow for printing pull-lists until the

end of the day. In other words, an order received on Monday would be printed Monday night and shipped by Thursday. Unfortunately, logical as this may be, it means that stores outside the 24-hour delivery area won't receive books until at least the following week, a situation that will require stores that do just-in-time ordering to get their books elsewhere even though they've been accustomed to ordering after the weekend and receiving their books before the beginning of the next weekend. This has been a major disappointment to stores accustomed to — and dependent on — old Inland's 24- (or sometimes 48-) hour-turnaround.

Wilk also discussed the now-familiar problems with the transition, promised that by that end of the summer new software would be in place that would speed up telephone ordering and handle electronic ordering (and promised a seamless transition to the new software). In addition, he detailed the problems in finding and incorporating order-taking staff who are knowledgeable about the InBook/WomenSource stock. It was reported that "all books are now unpacked" (though there were conflicting reports about this from publishers). LPC's next task, Wilk reported, now that they know what they have in the warehouse and what they're out of, is to catch up on inventory. Shipments to Canadian stores will now be shipped from Winnipeg on a weekly basis and returns may also be made to that address.

Suggestions from booksellers were, generally, met with explanations as to the history of the problem and explanation of why it couldn't be readily solved, or, worse, impractical solutions. Regarding double-shipments of books, the suggestion was to refuse the shipment. This only works if the bookseller knows it's a double shipment before unpacking it — as if the box is marked "double shipment — you don't want these books" on the outside. The hope is that the situation that led to double shipments has been resolved and won't recur — but some stores are still stuck holding the bag for return shipments.

Goodwill and frustration aside, the situation seems to be that these problems will be fixed as soon as possible, and that there's not much booksellers can do except wait it out or order books elsewhere in the meantime if they need faster turnaround or if they need to cascade orders.

Hotels

One of the "advantages" of ABA being in the same city year after year is that one can go back to the same hotel year after year.... But in our case, it seems that, great as it was to have a hospitality suite, and helpful as the staff was at the newly renovated Cass, it's time to move on to slightly more luxurious quarters (with rooms large enough for two people to turn around in at the same time without processing) and water-pressure in the showers. And, hopefully, a meeting room large enough to accommodate the Feminist Booksellers' meetings. And, dream of dreams, a decent swimming pool and spa for cooling out after the show closes.

Anyone with suggestions, please call me at FBN (415-626-1556) or e-mail: (seajay@dnai.com).

25 Years of Feminists at ABA's 50th?

Next year ABA will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the ABA Convention. We've received some suggestions for doing a parallel promotion re: 25 Years of Feminist Bookselling or 25 years of Feminist Bookselling and Publishing. Doing something along these lines seems like a good idea, even if some feminist bookstores and publishers have been around for more than 25 years.... If you have ideas, opinions or suggestions, now is the most effective time to pass them along.... One suggestion has been to do a Sara Steele poster "Celebrating 25 years of Feminist Bookselling." Call me at FBN (415-626-1556) or e-mail: (seajay@dnai.com). ○



Lee Boojamra and Alice Frier alternating between their Womankind and Rising Tide Press identities.

The American Book Awards

The Before Columbus sponsors of the American Book Awards, is also celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year. The American Book Awards were created to provide recognition for outstanding literary achievement from the entire spectrum of America's diverse literary community. The Awards recognize literary excellence without limitation to categories, quotas or other restrictions. The Before Columbus Foundation views American culture as inclusive and has always considered the term "multicultural" to be not a description of various categories, groups or "special interests," but rather as the definition for all of American literature.

1996 Winners include:

Stephanie Cowell, *The Physician of London* (W.W. Norton); Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, *Arranged Marriage* (Anchor Books); Maria Espinosa, *Longing* (Arte Publico); Kimiko Hahn, *The Unbearable Heart* (Kaya Productions), E.J. Miller Laino, *Girl Hurt* (Alice James Books/University of Maine at Farmington); Chang-rae Lee, *Native Speaker* (Riverhead Books); Agate Nesaule, *Woman in Amber: Healing the Trauma of War and Exile* (Soho Press); Editor/Publisher Award: Alexander Taylor and Judith Doyle, *Curbstone Press*; Lifetime Achievement: Janice Mirikitani. —JT ○

The FABs

The Firecracker Alternative Book Awards: Books With A Fuse! (FABs) premiered during this year's ABA. The FABs provide a showcase for the best in alternative publishing — for those exploring today's cultural wilds, and cultivating new and not-yet-domesticated sorts of writing. The FAB winners were presented at the FAB-DO, which was held at the Subterranean Cafe & Cabaret in Wicker Park, Chicago's bohemian neighborhood. As well as being an awards ceremony, the FAB-DO was itself an underground culture happening. Sponsors included: AK Press, Cassell Publishing, Consortium, Gates of Heck/Heck Editions, Incommunicado Press, Juggernaut, Juno Books, Koen, LPC Group, Manic D Press, Miller Trade, Serpent's Tail/High Risk Books, Touch and Go/Quarterstick Records, Tower Books/Tower Records, 2.13.61 Publications and V/Search.

The winners are:

Fiction: *A Void* by Georges Perec, translated by Gilbert Adair (Harvill Press).

Non-fiction: *Censored: The News that Didn't Make the News — and Why* by Carl Jensen and Project Censored (Seven Stories Press (1996) and Four Walls Eight Windows (1995)).

Poetry: *In Defense of Mumia* edited by S.E. Anderson and Tony Medina (Writers and Readers Publishing).

Politics: *Race For Justice: Mumia Abu-Jamal's Fight Against the Death Penalty* by Leonard Weinglass (Common Courage Press).

Sex: *Breathless: Erotica* by Kitty Tsui (Firebrand Books).

Drugs: *Pharakol/Poeia: Plant Powers, Poisons and Herbcraft* by Dale Pendell, (Mercury House).

Music: *Get in the Van: On the Road with Black Flag* by Henry Rollins (2.13.61).

Graphic Novel: *The Narrative Corpse* edited by Art Spiegelman and R. Sikoryak (Gates of Heck).

Zine: *Ben is Dead*, Darby Romeo Editor/Publisher.

Outstanding Independent Press of the Year: Serpent's Tail/High Risk Books.

Special Recognition Categories:

Rum, Sodomy, and the Lash: Pirate Utopias: Moorish Corsairs & European Renegades by Peter Lamborn Wilson (Autonomedia).

Kool Kids: Marco Solo by James Schwinn and Gail Harlow, illustrated by Andrew Turner (Reverse Angle Productions).

Cemetery Art: Saving Graces: Images of Women in European Cemeteries by David Robinson (W.W. Norton).

I was extremely disappointed after looking at this list. It seems as if alternative culture is interested in women only as related to gender, sex, drugs and death, and women only won for sex and death. Mumia seems to have been the token alternative cause of the year. Let's hope that the finalists and winners of next years' awards will be more representative. —JT ○

Feminist Bookstore Network Conference



The Feminist Bookstore Network (FB-Net) members attending this year's convention met, as usual, for a two-day conference the Thursday and Friday before ABA. This year's conference was organized by Jane Brooke (Lammas/DC) and River Artz (Pandora/Kalamazoo, MI), with site organizing by Ann Christophersen (Women & Children First/Chicago).

Attendance at this year's meetings reflected ABA's low bookseller registration, and was only about 60% of last year's attendance, although about 10% of the participants flew in for the FB-Net Conference and didn't attend ABA at all. Moving the site of the FB-Net Conference was seriously considered for the first time in several years. (See "Future FB-Net Conference Sites," below.)

Discussions and Workshops

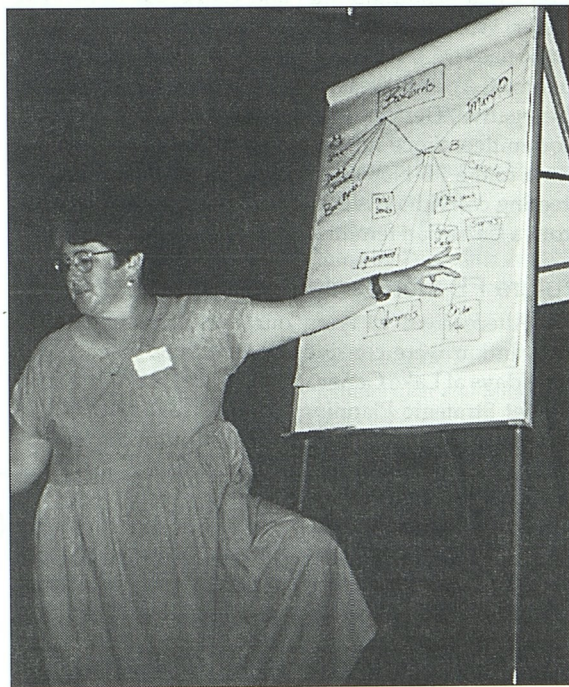
Workshops included "Rapid Response" (the art of being fluid and flexible in the rapidly changing bookselling environment); using the internet, building Web pages and why; competition, cooperation and inclusion as Web practices; fundraising; selling used books; more ways to use the FB-Net catalog; and a "Missions, Visions and Goals" workshop, presented by Donna Paz (Paz & Associates).

And, of course, a number of other topics were discussed along the way. It would be too difficult to discuss "rapid responses" without talking strategies for staying current with returns — and we didn't even try. Cost of goods was a hot topic, with discussions

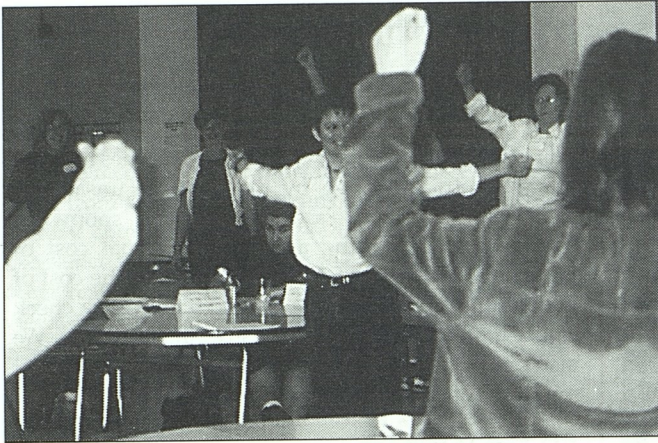
pointing out that, even though most sidelines have an apparent 50% discount, by the time the unsalables (odd lots of leftover cards, t-shirts and shopworn goods) and shoplifting are figured, actual cost of goods may be higher for some items than the cost of goods for books. This was offered as a reality check rather than as a suggestion for stocking decisions. We also discussed setting up a joint Web site to represent and promote all of the network members.

FB-Net Business

FBN staff brought samples of the new FB-Net Member Store decals and circulated them. Network members will receive decals when their 1996-1997 membership dues are paid.



Above left, Jane Troxell, Kasha Songer and Sandi Torkildson contemplate the future of feminist bookselling. Above, Dorothy Holland makes a point during her presentation on bookstores and the Internet.



The only time feminist booksellers all do what they're told to do — when Jane Troxell leads a break-time game of "Simone Says"

New Steering Committee members, Anne Frost (Full Circle/Albuquerque) and Catherine Tetrich (In Other Words/Portland, OR), join Jane Troxell (Lammas/DC), Theresa Corrigan (Lioness/Sacramento, CA) and Treasurer Amy Blake (A Woman's Prerogative/Detroit, MI) for the 1996-1997 Steering Committee. Since no Canadian feminist booksellers came to the FB-Net Conference, the sixth seat on the steering committee is being held open for a volunteer from a Canadian feminist bookstore.

Future FB-Net Conference Sites

Alternatives to tying our meeting to the ABA Convention were considered, including meeting for three days at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin (site of the 1994 FB-Net Strategic Planning Conference, just over the Wisconsin border), meeting in an outdoor "camp-

like" setting, meeting at ABA in alternate years only and doing a longer, more in-depth retreat on the alternate years....

The advantages of shifting away from ABA's schedule and location were readily apparent: better facilities, lower costs and rotating locations would allow a wider range of feminist booksellers to participate. Being in the country would be more relaxing and conducive to in-depth discussion and analysis of problems.... Earlier in the spring was suggested for timing. Disadvantages included the possibility of losing our collective visibility at ABA, the high cost of traveling to two different events (for those who would continue to attend ABA) and the difficulty this would create scheduling meetings with feminist publishers. Suggested discussion topics for a more in-depth conference included our politics and actually talking about books!

Coordinators for the 1997 FB-Net Conference are Dorothy Holland (Full Circle Books/ Albuquerque, NM and The Book Garden/Denver, CO) and Mev Miller (Amazon/Minneapolis, MN). Linda Mowry (Prairie Moon/Arlington Heights, IL) will do site coordination. One suggestion was to meet with the feminist publishers for two to three hours on Thursday afternoon preceding the Feminist Booksellers and Publishers' Dinner at the restaurant.

The Revolving Loan Fund committee reported on their meetings over the last year and the changes in committee members lives that have affected the time and/or leadership they could give to the project. They proposed that the project be put to rest because of lack of time and resources to implement the vision.

More details from various workshops will follow in future issues. ○

1996 Lambda Literary Awards Winners

The Lambda Literary Awards offered their usual mixed-bag of good news and frustration. The good news is that the Awards survived through all of last year's traumas. Attendance was down at the Awards Banquet, but that was in keeping with the rest of ABA-related events. LPC sponsored the event, and that, presumably, made the event financially viable.

Following the trend that has been established

over the past few years, only three independent press books, out of all the independent and feminist press books published that address lesbian and gay experience, were considered worthy of awards and only one of the 21 books honored for excellence was published by a feminist press.

In the good news department, congratulations to Firebrand Books and Nancy Bereano, the recipient

of this year's Publisher's Service Award "for ten years of publishing excellent literary fiction, nonfiction, and poetry" and to both Press Gang and Cleis Press, co-recipients of the Editor's Choice Awards for their respective books describing Little Sister's fight against Canada Customs. Press Gang's *Restricted Entry* outlines Little Sister's suit against Canada Custom's homophobic practices from the suit's beginnings over ten years ago, to BC Supreme Court's cheering decision earlier this year. Cleis Press' *Forbidden Passages* anthologizes many of the literary works Canada Customs would have

prevented lesbian and gay readers from finding on their country's bookshelves.

This year the new Lambda Literary Foundation, which will serve as the nonprofit sponsor of the Lambda Literary Awards and the *Lambda Book Report*, created a new award, the Pioneer Award, designed to recognize those who have done the most to help further its goal of recognizing gay and lesbian literature. LLF gave its first Pioneer Award to L. Page "Deacon" Maccubbin, publisher of the *Lambda Book Report* and CEO of Lambda Rising Bookstores, Inc.

The winners are:

Lesbian Fiction

Autobiography of a Family Photo
Jacqueline Woodson
Dutton

Gay Men's Fiction

Flesh and Blood
Michael Cunningham
Farrar, Straus & Giroux

Lesbian Studies

Dyke Life
Karla Jay, editor
BasicBooks

Gay Men's Studies

De Los Otros
Joseph Carrier
Columbia University Press

Lesbian Poetry

Dark Fields of the Republic
Adrienne Rich
W.W. Norton

Gay Men's Poetry

Atlantis
Mark Doty
HarperPerennial

Lesbian Mystery

Intersection of Law and Desire
J.M. Redmann
W.W. Norton

Gay Men's Mystery

Closet
R.D. Zimmerman
Dell

Lesbian and Gay Science Fiction/Fantasy (tie)

Shadow Man
Melissa Scott
Tor Books

Slow River
Nicola Griffith
DelRay

Lesbian and Gay Anthologies/Fiction

Tasting Life Twice
E.J. Levy, editor
Avon

Lesbian and Gay Anthologies/Nonfiction

Gay And Lesbian Literary Heritage
Claude J. Summers, editor
Henry Holt

Lesbian/Gay Small Press Book Award

The New Fuck You
Liz Kotz and Eileen Myles, editors
Semiotext(e)

Gay and Lesbian Humor

The Butches Of Madison County
Ellen Orleans
Laugh Lines Press

Children's/Young Adult

From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun
Jacqueline Woodson
Blue Sky Press

Photography/Visual Arts

Paris Was A Woman
Andrea Weiss
HarperSanFrancisco

Lesbian and Gay Drama (tie)

Thinking About The Longstanding Problems of Virtue and Happiness (Slavs!)
Tony Kushner
TCG

Go Fish

Guinevere Turner and Rose Troche
Overlook Press

Lesbian Biography/Autobiography

Aimee and Jaguar
Erica Fischer
HarperCollins

Gay Men's Biography/Autobiography

Tom: The Unknown Tennessee Williams
Lyle Leverich
Crown

Lesbian and Gay Spirituality

Wrestling with the Angel
Brian Bouldrey, editor
Riverhead Books

Editors' Choice (two chosen)

Forbidden Passages
Intro. by Pat Califia and Janine Fuller
Cleis Press

Restricted Entry

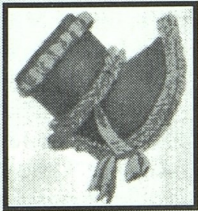
Janine Fuller and Stuart Blackley
Press Gang Publishers

Publisher's Service Award

Nancy Bereano, Publisher
Firebrand Press

Lambda Literary Foundation Pioneer Award

L. Page "Deacon" Maccubbin
President and CEO of Lambda Rising Inc., founder of *Lambda Book Report* ○



Approaches to Teaching
AUSTEN'S PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

Marcia McClintock Folsom, ed.

In sixteen essays, teachers of Jane Austen's best-known work discuss social history; Austen's biography; her unpublished writings and her reading; and the novel's structure, themes, and language. Teachers will especially appreciate the variety of information gathered in this volume: a chart of British social structure that allows students to identify the classes of individual characters, a discussion of how teachers and students might use Austen's juvenilia and letters to study the novel, the illumination of Austen's debt to Samuel Richardson's *Sir Charles Grandison*, and many other ideas for the classroom. The collection also represents a spectrum of opinions (e.g., on whether Austen is a "feminist") that will help focus class discussions.

CONTRIBUTORS

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Bruce Stovel

1993. xii & 186 pp.

Paper ISBN 0-87352-714-3

\$18.00

Approaches to Teaching
BRONTE'S JANE EYRE

Diane Long Hoeveler and Beth Lau, eds.

This collection includes twenty essays that will help bring new dimensions to classroom instruction on Charlotte Brontë's most taught work. Contributors discuss Brontë's milieu and biography; the influence of Christianity, fairy tales, and Gothic fiction on her work; the themes of the novel and its social and political implications; its film and stage adaptations; relevant artworks (paintings, etchings, and portraits); and various theoretical approaches to teaching the book (e.g., psychological, Kristevan, Foucauldian, new-historicist).

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ABA: Life in the Small Press Section

By Midge Stocker

Third Side Press has exhibited at ABA four times in its five-year history, twice in the Gay/Lesbian & Feminist aisle ("the Aisle") and twice in the Small Press section. Many booksellers have asked us why we're in the Small Press section, so I want to share my reasoning with *FBN* readers. There are three basic answers.

The first answer, in these times of financial duress for all of us, is money. A small press booth for the 1997 ABA costs \$624 total, including carpet, a draped table, two chairs and a wastebasket. A regular booth on the main floor (on "the Aisle," with a distributor, or elsewhere) costs \$2350 for the space. With rental of carpet, tables and chairs, the cost jumps to around \$3000 for a booth with a minimal furniture setup. That \$2376 difference is about half the cost of a print run for one of our regular books.

The second answer: I have to consider why we, as a publishing company, come to ABA. Third Side Press publishes feminist books, lesbian fiction and women's nonfiction (primarily health). The primary reason Third Side Press comes to ABA is to meet new people, people unfamiliar with our books, people who never knew that our books are what they were looking for until they stumbled across us. For better or for worse, "the Aisle" is thought of as "gay" (that being the first word on its identification signs), which pricks up homophobic ears — and which tends to lead them away from *our* books, which are feminist and lesbian, but not particularly gay. About a third of our books are women's health/mental health books, but potential buyers of those books might not go down "the Aisle" at all — and if they do, they tend to shift their focus to either looking for or fending off the "gay and lesbian."



Jane Murtaugh, Midge Stocker, and Nancy VanArsdall
of Third Side Press.

Many general independent bookstores have or are beginning to have gay/lesbian sections now, yet some store buyers are squeamish about walking through an area that promises to be Gay/Lesbian & Feminist, even though that's what they need to find. We began meeting these folks at our regional booksellers association trade show and realized that we had missed them, and others like them, at ABA. In the Small Press section, we serve as an outpost, telling people about our titles and steering them to other feminist presses with related titles of interest.

When we exhibited on "the Aisle", we found that the vast majority of the people who came to our booth already knew about our books, stocked them in their stores, etc. After a while, we began to feel that we were "preaching to the choir." We love you all: feminist bookstores are the backbone of our business and I cherish the contact that I have with you. But I began

to feel that it would be cheaper, and perhaps more useful, for me to drive a car around the country and visit you one at a time (à la Kay Hagan) than to exhibit on "the Aisle" at ABA.

The third answer: although we miss the personal and professional camaraderie of exhibiting on "the Aisle", we have found that the quality of interaction we have with booksellers and media representatives can be better in the Small Press section. We really love talking with *you* — the people who know and sell our books. Hearing stories about how *Cancer as a Women's Issue* or *Alternatives for Women with Endometriosis* changed the lives of your customers, for example, makes us feel that what we're doing is really worth the struggle. And in the Small Press section we have your attention because we and a few other publishers (like Down There Press and usually Mother Courage) are an oasis of feminist culture after a desert of mainstream hype and glitz. We may not see as many people coming through the Small Press section as we would on the main floor, but when folks find us there, they are happy to see us and tend to spend more time talking with us because they aren't feeling pressed to go instantly to the next booth.



Third Side Press

Speaking of the next booth, reports of the homophobia we encountered at ABA 1996 have been circulating, so I'd like to tell the whole story, briefly, here. The booth to our right was assigned by ABA to Kumquat Press (a children's press). The Kumquats chose to disregard ABA rules and set up part of their exhibit in the aisle in front of their booth, thereby partially blocking access to our booth.

Finally, when they put one of their chairs partly in front of our booth, I walked around my booth to them, stood by the chair, and said, "This is not OK." "What?" they said. I was very calm and pleasant and pointed out that I had already asked them once to move their chairs out of the aisle, that I was not going to allow them to block access to my booth, and that I would go to show management if I had to. One of the two women in the Kumquat booth was immediately in my face, with: "Well, we've had to put up with a lot from you." I responded curiously, "What are you talking about?" Their problem: as a children's press they were unhappy being next to a bunch of lesbians. ("We

are a children's press, and we don't want to be next to the likes of you.") I pointed out that we weren't in the children's section and that I was talking about *conduct* while she was talking about *content*.

Before too long the woman's husband pulled her away from me. She and the other woman and the little girl then left the booth for most of the day. The women helping in my booth and I persisted in being friendly and polite to whoever was around at Kumquat, which left them no room for getting in my face again. Some of my helpers heard the little girl and one of the adults, when they returned from walking the floor, talking about how there is a whole section of gay and lesbian presses, and then saw them looking for that section on the ABA floor map.

At the end of the show, I had a brief conversation with the woman who had been in my face. I told her that Third Side Press had taken space on the main floor in the Gay/Lesbian & Feminist section a couple of times in the past but that we found that we already knew most of the people who came to see us there. She responded that she had been told by other presses that it would be better for Kumquat to stay in Small Press as long as possible because they would tend to get lost among the bigger presses in the Children's section. She found a point of commonality between us! Perhaps we've put a dent in homophobia here.

By contrast, we had a positive, invigorating experience with the people from Bryant & Dillon, the press in the booth on the other side of us, publishers of *Black in White America*. They were a little uneasy with us at first, but pleasantness prevailed on both sides. On Sunday afternoon, Mr. Bryant asked me why I call Third Side Press a feminist press: "What's the point?" We talked a little about the fact that Bryant & Dillon is marketed as an African American press and how that works for him: he knows the African American community he is trying to reach, just as I know the lesbian and feminist community I am trying to reach. He showed me one of his books by an African American woman writing about her life experiences and asked why we wouldn't publish a book like that. I assured him that we certainly would love to publish such a book, as would any other feminist press, and he gave me a copy of a book of short stories by one of his authors who is working on a novel. The story he marked for me to read is called "Coming Out"; it's very rudimentary, but I was happy for the point of contact. ○

News FROM THE BOOKSTORES

By Carol Seajay

Recognition and Appreciation

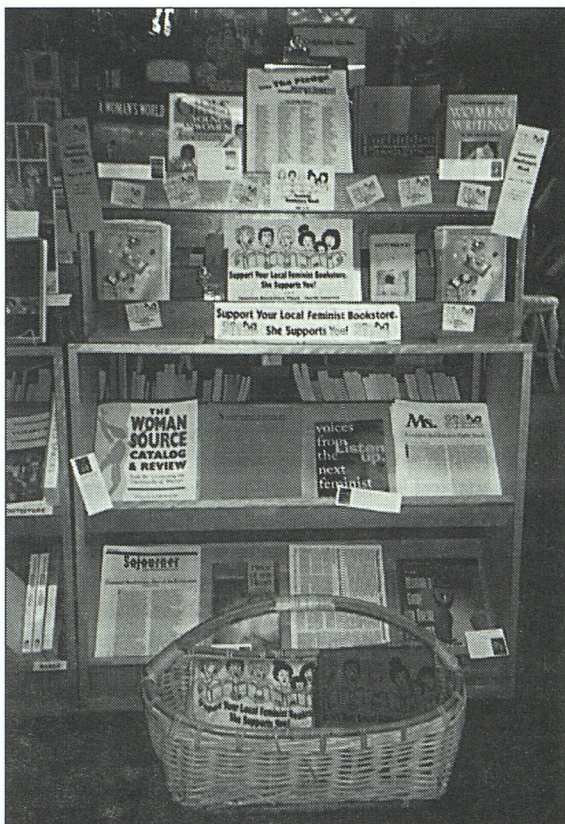
Let the parade begin! Charis owners Linda Bryant and Sherry Emory were the Grand Marshals for the Atlanta Gay Pride Celebration. Atlanta's gay pride event is a major event any year, but this year, with the Olympics being staged in Atlanta and all of the "Olympics Out of Cobb County" protests (against Cobb County's overtly anti-gay stance vis-a-vis lesbians and gays participating in the Olympics), it's an especially large and significant event. Much of the early organizing against Cobb County and the forthcoming book about the protests (see next issue for details) started in Charis. Go Charis! We look forward to hearing about it!



Congratulations to Harriet Claire, the winner of the new Appreciation Award sponsored by Women in the Arts (WIA). WIA, which produces the National Women's Music Festival, gives awards each year for outstanding contributions to women's music and for the advancement of women's culture. This year WIA added a third award, the "Women in the Arts Appreciation Award" and presented it to Harriet Claire, saying, "Harriet has owned and operated Dreams & Swords Bookstore in Indianapolis since 1982 and has been actively involved in the women's community for over 30 years. More than a bookstore, Dreams & Swords is the local hub of all information about, by, and for women's music and culture and is an essential part of the Indianapolis women's community. Harriet has also served on the boards of Friends of Women's Studies at Indiana University-Purdue University, Women in the Arts, and the Indianapolis Business Outreach Association. Her contribution to women's culture is immense.

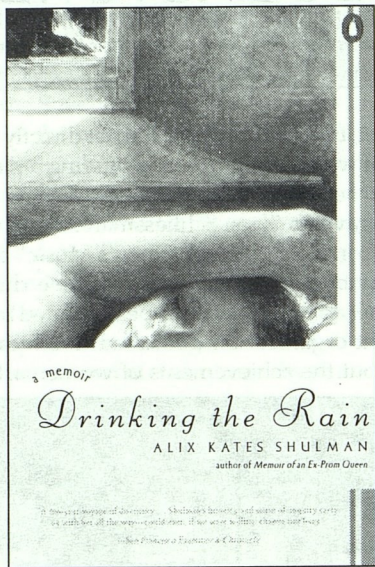
In her quiet, unassuming way, Harriet directly enriches the lives of women every day by offering a place to be safe and to network, learn, and grow."

WIA gave its "Jane Schliessman Award for Outstanding Contributions to Women's Music" to Laurie Fuchs, founder, president and executive director of Ladyslipper, saying, "Ladyslipper, founded in 1976, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating the public about the achievements of women artists and



Sisterhood Bookstore's in-store display for Feminist Bookstore Week.

“A feminist at her very best.”*



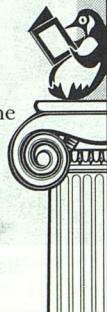
At fifty, Alix Kates Shulman left a city life dense with political activism, family and literary community, and went to live alone on an island off the coast of Maine. There she faced challenges that helped her redefine her notions of independence, courage, confidence, and creativity.

“A magical book that takes on the great, paradoxical challenge we all face: how to live vitally connected to the world and within the lone self at one and the same time.”

—Houston Chronicle*

“A superb piece of work.... It seems to encompass, in its narrow scope, all the anxieties and rewards, the political struggles and social changes of the American world.” —The Boston Globe

IN BOOKSTORES NOW
FROM PENGUIN



musicians and to expanding the scope and availability of recordings by women. Ladyslipper distributes approximately 500,000 catalogs with descriptions of more than 1,600 recordings annually. With a staff of 20 and an annual budget of about \$2 million, Ladyslipper also produces concerts, and is a small, independent record label.”

BookWoman just turned 21 this year in their new, twice-as-big location. The expanded space has made it possible to have some fabulous events, including their Fourth Annual Virgin Day, a discussion with Robin Morgan, music with Holly Near and a reading with novelist Rebecca Brown — as well as their very successful Third Friday Music Series, featuring such notables as Lourdes Perez, Nancy Scott and the Therapy Sisters.

Still, even with awards, nothing is easy. In a recent newsletter BookWoman’s Susan Post wrote, “Although sales have increased with the move, we are still struggling financially. The opening of more chain bookstores in Austin has definitely hurt us. It’s incredibly difficult to compete as an independent bookstore against the chains because of the huge financial incentives given to them by publishers.... We feel that Austin wants and can support a women’s bookstore. In fact, among the highlights for us in 1995 were being voted Best Specialty Bookstore in Austin and having our best holiday season yet, which gives us hope for the future.



“You, our customers, support us in a myriad of ways: placing special orders with us, ordering for book clubs, placing mail orders, buying gift certificates, and, of course, shopping enthusiastically. And we appreciate that support. We are your bookstore and we want your feedback on how to keep BookWoman a vital part of the Austin women’s community.

“The political and economic climate of the nineties makes the survival of women’s bookstores more challenging, and more essential, than ever before. And more than ever before, we need your active support to keep BookWoman alive. Please don’t assume someone else will guarantee our survival.

“As always we thank you for your continued support.”

Paying Off the Building!

Congratulations to Theresa Corrigan and Lioness Books (Sacramento) and to Crazy Ladies (Cincinnati). Lioness paid off their building this spring in a mere 14 years (1982 to 1996). Crazy Ladies' building, which also houses a number of other community programs and organizations, pays off their mortgage in November. Look for a *big* celebration when that note is burned!

Comings and Goings

Every year, just before ABA, we update the new list of feminist bookstores to take to ABA. It was a task that I'd dreaded doing this year, because, with the closing of several long-time feminist bookstores over the past year, I was certain that, this year, for the first time since we started keeping the list in the mid-seventies, that there would be fewer feminist bookstores than last year. Jenn was the brave one who took on the enormous task of tracking down the new stores, the closed stores, the struggling stores and all the people who'd written saying that they were going to open a women's bookstore. It's a huge job and it always takes weeks. But, two weeks before ABA, Jenn walked into the back office with the final tally and we all held our breath:

"Last year," she said, "there were 142 feminist bookstores. This year, there are...143!"

So, even with losses, there's still one more feminist bookstore this year than last year. It's the lowest rate of growth that I've seen in 20 years, but the fact that we're even holding steady is phenomenal in this chain-besieged era. And compared to the fate of other independent bookstores, we're doing an amazing job. ABA is reporting a loss of 200 stores over the last year, about a 5% loss.

I think that it's safe to say that part of the difference between the rate of closing of independent bookstores and the steady number of feminist bookstores is that feminist bookstores were better prepared for the impact of the chain stores. Our network does better education regarding preparation and survival for these kinds of circumstances; our very strong history and tradition of cooperation and sharing information, skills and strategies is giving many of our stores an edge against the chains. Also, coming from a tradition of oppression, we have a political analysis (or rather, a number of them!) that helped us understand what was happening and empowered us to constructive action while many wonderful (but

perhaps politically naive) general independent booksellers were still immobilized by the "unfairness" of it all. For feminist bookstores, being targeted by the chains is one of a series of ways patriarchy has tried to put us/keep us out of business. It's just one more fight to wage, but we're skilled at fighting and at surviving — and thriving — against impossible odds. And we have incredibly loyal and committed constituencies. Some stores have seen 2% or 10% or 15% of their business stray off to the new fancy coffeebar-con-bookstore or the big new discounter, but the fact that 85% or 90% or 98% of our customers keep coming back is a customer base that many independents would — well — survive for.



Stores that have closed in recent months include the 23-year-old Vancouver Women's Bookstore, Golden Thread (New Haven), Wild Iris (Claremont CA), and, in February, Crone's Harvest (Boston). Jane Troxell has also decided to close the Baltimore branch of Lammas.

Wild Iris' sales were severely impacted by the opening of chain stores and warehouse clubs with deep discounts. Genevieve Beenan's decision to close came after several years of fighting the financial challenges these kinds of competition create in a smaller community. (See *They Went That-A-Way*.)

Jane Troxell and Rose Fennell bought the 31st Street Bookstore Cooperative after the co-op's board had decided to "close or sell," but they found that even an influx of capital, moving to a large, new, spiffy location and vastly expanding the store's programs could not generate enough additional book sales to support the larger location in the financially challenged Baltimore community. "The traffic was good," Jane said, "But people didn't spend much when they came." Sales were consistently higher than at the old 31st Street store, but not enough higher to pay for the new location's higher rent. And, like most cities where independent bookstores are closing, new superstores have added to the number of bookstores but not significantly increased the number of books sold. Jane stresses that closing the Baltimore store will mean that the DC store will stay solid because it won't be trying to support the financial drain of the

**Maiden, Mother, or Crone—
where does a woman in her
forties fit in?**

The Women's Wheel of Life

**Thirteen
Archetypes of
Woman at
Her Fullest
Power**

**Elizabeth Davis
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Women who have turned to feminist spirituality have struggled with the confining concept of the triple goddess. Though no longer raising children, a woman may not yet be ready to be a "wise old crone." Here is a new archetype for this woman: the Matriarch. This figure of sexual and professional strength is one of thirteen empowering archetypes presented in this revolutionary work that reveals the grand and mysterious pattern of women's lives.

"At last, a mythological, archetypal book about women's life—cycles in which I can find, learn about, and celebrate myself!"

—Robbie Davis-Floyd, Ph.D.,
author of *Birth as an American
Rite of Passage*



IN BOOKSTORES NOW FROM VIKING

Illustration by Carol Leonard

Baltimore store any longer. A neighboring business bought out the lease and leasehold improvements.

The Crones Harvest closure, proves, perhaps, that you really can have too many overlapping specialty stores in one community. As much as the founders wanted to believe that Boston was big enough to support two major feminist bookstores, the pie Crones' tried to divide, in the end, wasn't large enough to pay for rent in two locations, staff in two locations and the range of books that customers wanted to find when they walked in. Crones started out as a craft and gift store, "with just a few books" and a focus on providing performance and entertainment space in their community but found, as many such shops do, that book sales are more regular and dependable than gift items. Over the years, Crones' focus shifted to selling books. They also tried shifting from being a feminist/lesbian store, to being multicultural, and, in the last year, a general bookstore. Crones, we have been told, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy that was immediately converted to Chapter 7 bankruptcy. The store closed in February after some attempts to turn it into a co-op and a community center sans books. It is with considerable pain that I recall the FB-Net Conference in Washington DC where a number of feminist booksellers explained their concerns and lack of faith in the idea that Boston could support two feminist bookstores without doing in both stores in the process. Would that we all had been wrong and that both stores could have flourished.

The Vancouver Women's Bookstore (VWB) collective closed the storefront at the end of June. The first feminist bookstore in Canada, VWB opened in 1973 as a collectively owned and run store, and it remained collectively run right up to the end. Arson destroyed the bookstore in 1980, forcing it to close temporarily but, with the aid of a huge outpouring of community support, collective members were able to reopen the store three months later.

Ironically, the collective and nonprofit structures, which sustained the store all these years, may also have been part of what caused it to close. Collectives tend to be cautious — some would say overly cautious — about going into debt. While the store had briefly been on hold with a couple of publishers, the collective also anticipated that the store's assets would easily cover the outstanding debt — a financial

situation that many privately owned bookstores would consider luxurious in these times. However, the store's co-op structure made it impossible to sell the store's assets to an individual or privately held company, despite the strong possibility that an individual or partnership might have been able to turn the store around again. Other factors influencing the collective's decision to close the store were changing retail patterns and declining foot traffic in their immediate neighborhood, a lack of energy and confidence necessary to move the store, the opening of two new Chapters stores (Canada's nearest equivalent to mercenary chain stores) and the shift to discounting in mainstream Canadian stores. Others in the Vancouver book community cite the closing of Octopus, the lefty store, a year after it was sold by its long-time owners; the opening of another feminist bookstore in town; the enormous amount of well-earned publicity the local gay bookstore has received for its heroic fight against Canada Customs and the local community's understandable urge to support that battle by shopping there; the shift away from having a core collective of long-term workers who worked several days a week; and the difficulty of running any book-industry business in these times without a full-time, fully committed and highly skilled staff.

VWB was one of the "old" stores when I first came into the feminist bookselling scene. I visited the store many times over the years, knew many of the collective members from many of the generations of women who nurtured the store over the years, and I shall miss VCB greatly — as will the many women of their community.



Golden Thread closed on May 25, after 14 years, with a beautiful and moving ritual that included the stores founders, Rhea Horseman and Kim Lawrence, as well as current owner Alison Cunningham. Many factors contributed to Alison's decision to close the store: Golden Thread had been for sale for some time and, while many people expressed interest and/or fantasies, there were no serious offers; business and necessary income was lost to the discounts offered by the superstores that mushroomed in the area; changes in buying patterns as business after business closed

Booksellers Want to Know:

If you know the Canadian or British publisher or distributor for *The History of Ideas on Women* (second edition) by Rosemary Agonito, please call Margaret at The Northern Women's Bookstore, 65 S. Court Street, Thunder Bay Ontario P7B 2X2; 807-344-7979. (The Putnam edition is NCR.)

Booksellers Get Answers

In the last issue, in "Booksellers Want to Know," Mooneyan asked if anyone knew how to find ISBN's on-line without buying Books in Print. She was able to access BIP from her school library, but not from home or on the Internet.

Margaret Gillon, from Bluestocking Books ((Bluestock@aol.com)) replied: "Yes, via the Library of Congress Web site at: (<http://lcweb.loc.gov/homepage/online.html#z3950>). "Go to this address and one of the menu items allows you to search their database. You can search by author, title, etc. This site is new and has been up for less than a year. Check it out. It's fun. I wish it had been up when I was working on *Lesbians in Print* because a lot of the information I had trouble finding is in the Library of Congress records. The downside is that it is only available when the Library of Congress is open. So it shuts down at 8 or 9 P.M. PST."

and/or moved to the suburbs following the urban migration; and, not least of all, the detrimental impact of anti-abortion protesters at Golden Thread's immediate neighbors, Women's Health Services.

Alison's closing letter thanks all of the women who worked in the store over the years, thanks the amazing range of writers who participated in store events and signed the Writers' Pledge for their support, describes the store's role in supporting community events and promoting feminist and lesbian culture and being supported in return, notes the importance ("honor" was the word she used) of being part of the Feminist Bookstore Network and the Coalition of Connecticut Independent Bookstores, thanks her community for their encouragement and support over the years, "Without you, we wouldn't have survived as long as we did," and encourages

women to come by one last time. "Remember, there really are books here that you can't get anywhere else. So get them now, before it's too late. And if you don't want them in your own personal library, buy them anyway and donate them to your local public library or to a women's prison or to a local women's center." Her letter to her community closes with reminders that there are two remaining feminist bookstores in Connecticut, Readers Feast and Bloodroot, and gives their addresses and a reminder to readers that they can get a complete list of feminist bookstores in North America by sending \$1 and a SASE to FBN. Alison will be going to graduate school in the fall in library science, so we'll get to keep her as a colleague even though we've lost the store.

(Please see They Went That-A-Way for a listing of new stores that have opened during the same period of time.)

Feminist Bookstore Week/North America

We have only a few reports and photos in on FB-Week as I write this column: Sisterhood (Los Angeles) decked out the bookstore in FB-Week paraphernalia (see photo). Full Circle (Albuquerque) reports a great time with their now-annual Solidarity

Party. The Book Garden (Denver) decided to go for maximum-effect/minimum-work and threw a two-day, Mother's Day and FB-Week Picnic and Bookstore Party instead of doing a whole crafts/local businesses fair. Kasha flew her mother, Elaine Girot, in to work the grill. Elaine wore a badge identifying her as "Kasha's Mom" and turned out a wide range of roasties from turkey- and tofu-dogs to more traditional fare. The Book Garden also sprang for a \$50 gift certificate/door prize each day of the party and people loved it. "Party decorations" included a thousand dollars worth of seconds from Crystal Mist glassworks that were displayed outdoors to catch the sun.



FB-Week was also celebrated in cyberspace, on Sisterspirit's page where Leisa Fearing ((Leisa@elf.net)) posted news and information about FB-Week, including the Writers' Pledge and a list of all the women who signed it. Check it out at (<http://www.elf.net/sister-spirit/>). Sisterspirit (San Jose, CA) offered a 20% discount on all books by Pledge signers during FB-Week.

Many thanks to Leisa for putting us out there!

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+ \$19 for other international postage.

1/2 year - \$35.

Sample copy - \$6.

I am/We are:

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

Bookstores, Publishers and Periodicals —Is your focus primarily:

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

- Owned and operated by women
- Co-owned and run by women and men
- Owned and operated by men

Bookstores — We also stock:

- Lesbian books
- Feminist non-fiction
- Gay men's titles
- General interest
- Leftist/political
- New age/metaphysical
- Children
- Other _____
- Back issues available — \$6 each or \$30/year. Check enclosed.

Sales

Sales are up, down and stabilizing, as reported from stores around the country — which is much better news than last year's "sales are down or sales are (barely) holding steady."

Amazon (Minneapolis), the last of the larger stores to feel the effects of the chain-monsters (mid-western book buyers are notoriously loyal to their local community women's bookstore), reports that sales are down 2%, but that they're still solidly in the black, thanks to careful management and attention to cutting their cost of goods. (At the FB-Net Conference in Chicago, Barb cautioned that, while sidelines sales are vitally important, sideline's cost of goods, by the time you figure shoplifting, discounts on shopworn goods and the end-lots of cards and t-shirts that inevitably end up on sale, can be lower than the cost of goods on books.



Full Circle (Albuquerque) reports ups and downs, but owners Anne Frost and Mary Morell feel that they've pulled out of their mid-nineties slump. They also note that chain stores in their area have cut back on their discounting. Their "local" chains are no longer discounting trade paperbacks and mass markets, and cloth discounts are usually limited to 20% (except at the warehouse-club stores.) "We knew they couldn't keep it up," Mary Morell commented to *FBN*. "But they created an image and they're still trading on it. Our job is to outlast the illusion, and our customers are pretty good at seeing whether the emperor is wearing clothes or not."

Hot news from New Words (Cambridge, MA): January to June sales are up 9.1% over last year. Cost of goods is improved. A solid fundraising program helped them clear out overdue invoices, and, if that wasn't enough, 1995, despite reduced sales, showed a significant increase in profitability over 1994 and the year ended in the black. Look for a more detailed article by New Words' Jean MacRae in *FBN*'s November issue.

Mama Bears (Oakland CA) reports that sales are up 14% over last year's slump.

Stores facing newly opened chain stores or new "gay/lesbian" bookstores or gift stores across the

street are continuing to report reduced sales.

And please also see Sweet Violet's comments in the letters column.

New Sections

Now that there are actually a number of books out about women and computers, Amazon has added a "Computer Books and Supplies" section for books, paraphernalia and books and games on-disk.

Disability Insurance

A couple years ago, A Room of One's Own's accountant mentioned to Sandi Torkildson that if the premiums for staff disability insurance were deducted from employees wages, rather than being a store-paid benefit, any employee who needed to use the insurance would receive 75% rather than 60% of their wages. So A Room of One's Own changed the way it administered its disability insurance program and adjusted everyone's wages to cover the deduction. "In the end the cost to the store was just about the same, but the employee benefit is much better," Sandi told *FBN* at ABA. "It was totally worth redoing the paperwork. It means that, as her insurance benefit, Karen (Axness) is getting 75% of her normal wages, rather than only 60%. We feel very lucky that we were able to provide disability insurance when we did and that our accountant had learned how to maximize the benefits we could offer."

Catalogs

Sibley Dale from Equilibrium has just finished the new Equilibrium Catalog "To Celebrate, Educate and Inspire Women and Girls." One hundred eleven pages of girl-positive stuff. As she says, it's enormous and took forever to write, edit and assemble, but it's a fantastic resource and, let me add, a work of art. I envy the girls who are given a copy by their feminist aunts and mothers and told, "Pick out something you really want for your birthday." It's add-a-page format will keep it current for months to come.

But I have to admit that one of my favorite pages was a sheet that wasn't in the catalog: it was an enclosure called "What You Won't See in Equilibrium." It's chock full of stereotype-supporting images of girls who love to clean, who fight "boyfriend wars" and would *die* to marry... Sibley has added her own comments: "Bosnia is at war, this is

just stupid," "Join SuperModels so the number of anorexics doesn't drop" and, re: a book from Scholastic (What does this have to do with education) called *Here Comes the Bride* that comes with "a ring, veil, and more," "and hopefully a prenuptial agreement." Everyone should request a catalog just for the art form and the in-depth resource. But please be thoughtful enough to include a few dollars (\$3 to \$5) to help cover costs.



Sibley is also hard at work putting together a new mail-order catalog called *Broad Appeal* — funky, feisty,

feminist stuff for chicks. ("Oddly enough," Sibley writes, Roz Warren's name keeps coming up. I bow and pray towards Roz and Nicole Hollander five times daily....")

She also writes that Esteem International Inc., the makers of Happy-To-Be-Me Doll have gone belly up. HTBM is a fashion doll with sparkly clothing and a realistically proportioned body (unlike your basic Barbie who would have to be 6' 4" tall, have had her lower ribs removed to give her an 18" waist and wear toddler size 3 shoes on her permanently disfigured feet. Two Barbies are sold every second. Sibley wonders, and I do too, how that correlates to the number of bulimic episodes each minute. ○

News, continued from page 15.

that the Garoutte photo was in a book of fine art photographs; that Della Grace's "Hermaphrodyké" is a self-portrait, after all; that Cassell had previously published a book on safer sex that depicted anal fisting between men and, if it's legally acceptable for Cassell to publish a "deliberately crude and pornographic" image of men engaged in anal fisting, it's certainly legal to publish a relatively romantic and tender image of women fisting. Posener and Bright questioned why, in a world where men are allowed to create and publish provoking and disturbing imagery in the tradition of Robert Mapplethorpe, Joel Peter Witkin, Larry Clark and Jeff Koonz, Cassell wanted to censor women who create provoking and disturbing imagery — is it simply more of the same old double standard? And if so, what's that double standard doing in an art book? They argued that, however much some individuals may dislike the contents of some of the images, they are all exceptionally fine and brilliant photographs. And, finally, they asked, what in the world was the objection to Katie Nile's photograph: that the women are large? that there are fat women having fun? that there are more than two women? is it their body ornamentation? the fact that they are practicing safe sex? using vibrators? or just that they are obviously having such a good and joyful time?

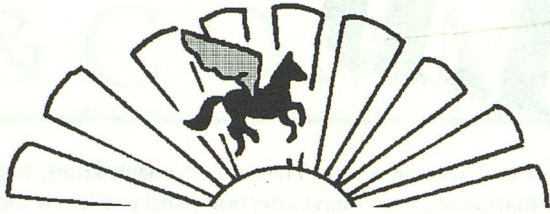
"The book came very close to not happening on both sides," Jill Posener told *FBN*. "We would have been sunk without Susie's expertise on the whole of American porn laws and we were able to clarify a

number of points for Cassell regarding the specifics of the law here, such as the differing standards for photos taken before and after 1995 and the different standards that are applied to art books — which this book clearly is. We also had copies of their lawyer's evaluation of the work as a whole and we fought for his interpretation that, *taken as a whole*, all of the photographs in the book were publishable."

In the end, Cassell and the editors agreed to publish two distinct editions, a cloth American edition that included all but one of the ten photos, and a British edition (in paperback) that omitted five photos due to the U.K.'s more stringent laws. Missing from the U.K.'s edition are Della Grace's "Hermaphrodyké," Claire Garoutte's threesome (page 90, top), Jill Posener's self-portrait and the two Morgan Gwenwald photos. In their place are the cover photo (which does not appear in the body of the American edition), and an additional photo by Jill Posener that Posener describes as "a classic nude portrait of two women."

Cassell's name does not appear on the American edition (we have not seen the British edition), the book is instead listed as being published by "Freedom Editions" with a comment on the title page that "The editors regret that the paperback edition does not include the following photographs" followed by a list of the missing photos.

When a paperback edition is released in the U.S., American booksellers will want to be certain that it includes the full collection of work, and that it is not the compromised British paperback edition. ○



WisCon and the Tiptrees

By Susanna J. Sturgis

The 1996 James Tiptree Jr. Memorial Award was presented at WisCon 20, held in Madison, Wisconsin, over Memorial Day weekend, to Theodore Roszak for *The Memoirs of Elizabeth Frankenstein* (Random House, 1995) and Elizabeth Hand for *Waking The Moon* (HarperPrism, 1995). The award recognizes fantasy and science fiction (f/sf) that explores and/or expands the roles of women and men.

On the now-traditional "shortlist" were "And Salome Danced," by Astraea Award winner Kelley Eskridge (in *Little Deaths*, edited by Ellen Datlow, Dell Abyss); *Little Sisters of the Apocalypse*, by Kit Reed (Black Ice Books); "Food Man," by Lisa Tuttle (in *Crank #4*); and *The Armless Maiden and Other Stories For Childhood's Survivors*, edited by Terri Windling (Tor).

Also noted were Isobelle Carmody's "The Pumpkin Eater" (in *She's Fantastical*, edited by Lucy Sussex and Judith Raphael Buckrich, Sybylla Feminist Press); Julie Haydon's *Lines Upon the Skin* (Pan); *Women of Wonder: The Classic Years* and *Women of Wonder: The Contemporary Years*, edited by Pamela Sargent (Harcourt Brace); Melissa Scott's *Shadow Man* (Tor); and Stephanie Smith's *Other Nature* (Tor).

For the first time, "Retrospective Tiptrees" were given to honor landmark works published before the Tiptree Award existed. These went to Suzy McKee Charnas for *Walk to the End of the World and Motherlines*; Joanna Russ for *The Female Man* and "When It Changed," and Ursula K. Le Guin for *The Left Hand of Darkness*.

WisCon is the world's only convention dedicated to feminist f/sf. "The Tiptree," founded at WisCon 15 in 1991, honors the late Alice Sheldon, aka James

Tiptree Jr., whose peerless short fiction explored gender-related issues with a courage and clarity that few others have matched.

The Tiptree Award ceremony was but one highlight at a con that featured more peaks than the Alps. Not only were Ursula K. Le Guin and Judith Merrill the guests of honor (GoHs); WisCon organizers invited all previous GoHs to return, and many of them did, including Katherine MacLean, Suzy McKee Charnas, Joan Vinge, Chelsea Quinn Yarbro, Suzette Haden Elgin, Avedon Carol, Pamela Sargent, Trina Robbins, Lois McMaster Bujold, Nicola Griffith, and Tiptree Award co-founders Pat Murphy and Karen Joy Fowler.



And there were more, dozens more: veteran writers and those just emerging, poets, editors, publishers, academics, Tiptree Award winners and former judges, and a half-dozen writers and editors from Australia, some of whom met for the first time at WisCon. To avoid overstressing both facilities and people, con organizers put a cap of 800 on attendance and WisCon 20 was sold out well in advance. A full third of the 800 were program participants, which effectively blurred the lines between writers and readers, "pros" and fans.

WisCon 20 incorporated some 250 program items, with as many as twelve occurring simultaneously in prime time slots: panels, readings, book discussions, lectures, films, workshops, a full kids' track and a staged reading of two excerpts from Le Guin's masterpiece, *Always Coming Home*. Karen

See **WisCon**, page 104.

Selling the Store, Part III

SOLD

By Suzanne
Two Sisters Bookshop/Menlo Park, CA

This is Suzanne's third and final piece about selling her store. She wrote it before she left in June.

Dear Women,

After announcing my plans this spring to sell the store, I received over 35 calls from interested women! It was very gratifying to have such a large response, but after two weeks of nonstop talking I was getting fried out. So I began putting my energy into the ten more serious buyers. Four weeks later I had two offers in hand and two more coming. It sounds so easy, doesn't it? And on one level it has been, but inside me this has been one intense journey.

Several women asked about my buyer profile, so I came up with one that I could work with and share with others. Then I promptly proceeded to accept an early offer from two women who didn't begin to meet that profile. To this day I don't know what happened to me — how I lost myself so completely. Why didn't I ask crucial questions? Why did I ignore red flags?

The emotional roller coaster that started last November continues. One day I am down with grief and the next I'm flying with excitement. But the most difficult place for me is "not knowing" what is going to happen, where I'm going to live, how will I make friends, and will I freeze to death in the New England winter? Lately I've felt frantic to get it all over with — anything to escape all this discomfort. Yet even in this turmoil I am certain about my decision to leave. That clear knowing is my anchor right now.

Still, I'm a basketcase and getting worse as the days of May rush toward the first of June when I close the sale. First I worried whether anyone would buy the store, now I worry that the deal will fall through before we close. I have a vision of riding my bike to the store and not having a key to open the door. It's

not my store anymore. Then my stomach knots, my throat closes, a sob heaves my body and you know the rest. So I shuffle my lists and obsess over the logistics of moving myself and two cats into the unknown. This separation process is a killer. I can't wait until that future date when I will look back and calmly pronounce how perfectly the sale of the store and my move went.

The good news is that I've had more time at the store to sit at the front desk and talk at length with many [customers]. It's been wonderful to have so many personal good-byes. Many have shared contacts in New England and lent a kind ear toward my process.

So that's what's been happening. Two Sisters has two capable new owners, Owl and Jan Blossom. They love the store and the energy, they love women and they're smart. Laurel will stay on as staff. What else could you ask for? You can meet them on June 15th at the Renewal Celebration. This will be a very "up" event with music, storytelling and sales. Come join the festivities and help spirit Two Sisters into her next generation. I expect to be in New England at that time looking for my new home, but I will think about all of you having a wonderful time.

I will be holding a little "going-away" gathering on the evening of June 1. If you haven't received a note from me and would like to attend, I'd love to have you: the more the merrier! Just call me for the time and details.

I love you all and I'm going to miss you terribly.
Bless You,
Suzanne

○

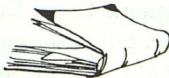
Let's keep in touch

Cyber women can e-mail me at (SuzTwoSist@aol.com). For noncyber women, I will leave a forwarding address at the store. My home phone until about July 15 is 415-323-9636.

TRIVIA & COMMENTARY

By Carol Seajay

I though we'd already been called every name in the book, but we just received an envelope addressed to Criminvest Bookstore News. Is the assumption here that everything feminist is criminal, or are we to understand that we're the most criminal of the crime-committers? The sender was the Department of Justice. Makes ya a bit nervous, some days.



Congratulations to Knowledge, Ideas & Trends ("The Positive Publisher") for making it into *The National Enquirer*. An article titled, "How to live it up as an older woman (and have fun too!)" turned out to be a squib for their classic title, *Be an Outrageous Old Woman*.

Yes, I know I'm out of fashion for not losing sleep over the possibility that electronic books will replace those comfortable, familiar, hand-held things that bookstores sell, but *Wired* magazine backs me up: In a recent article about the future of magazines ("Will the Web replace them all? including *Wired*?") was the question) *Wired's* response was, "There's nothing that comes close to the user-friendliness of paper — paper is still the best way of delivering high thought content." A sentiment you can sleep on!

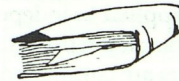
Market Sharing — Not!

Is this news? Independent bookstores, according to figures released at ABA, saw their share of book sales decline to 19.5% in 1995 (down from 21.4% in 1994 and down from 32.5% in 1991). At the same time chain bookstores' market share increased to 26.2% (for 1995), up from 24.6% in 1994 and 22.1% in 1991. Total book sales at all outlets increased a mere 0.9% despite the addition of 166 new superstores during 1995 (and

an estimated loss of 200 normal-sized independent bookstores during the same period).

Growth rates, rather than market percentages, were given for the following categories: mail-order booksales grew at a rate of 14.3% (almost double the chains' rate of growth: 7.6%), food and drug store book sales grew by 6.7%, used bookstore sales by 3.3%, book club sales by 3.5% and price clubs sales by 2.7%. Discount stores' market share declined by 6.6%.

Meanwhile, according to a recent *PW* article, superstores' sales were up 45% to \$2.4 billion in 1995. The chains opened 166 new superstores in 1995 (for a total of 624 superstores). In 1992, when the superstore explosion began, there were 210 superstore-type outlets with sales of \$526 million. Superstores' sales have soared 356% since 1992 and the number of outlets has risen by almost 200%.



I guess the silver lining here is that if your sales declined by less than 19.5% in 1995, you're doing better than the "average" independent bookstore in the mid-1990s. That's not very comforting. Neither is this:

Sales being up doesn't necessarily mean that profits are up at the chainstores. Each report of losses posted fans the hope that, at some point, the chains will run out of money to open new stores. No such luck in Barnes & Noble's case: B&N (which opened nearly 100 superstores during their last fiscal year) recently signed a new credit facility that B&N says "will enable it to expand at its current pace for the foreseeable future. The new facility includes a \$100 million amortizing term loan and a \$325 million revolving credit facility to meet seasonal working-capital needs — as well as another \$125 million September 1997. Maybe ABA's next move should be to look into discrimination in terms of access to capital

and into finding ways to generate loans for independents (that are as easy to repay — or *not* repay — as the chains' loans) at a comparable rate. Let's see: if B&N has a total of 358 superstores and received a total loan package worth \$550 million over the next three years, that comes to approximately \$1.5 million per existing store. I'm trying to think about how \$1.5 million dollar loans could improve the competitive position of most independent and specialty bookstores.... It's kind of entertaining to think about.



Rocky Playing Fields

And here's another part of the playing field that needs leveling: We don't have any hard data, but there are some excellent questions floating around out there about credit terms for small independents vs. large independents vs. large corporations. I know this is being looked at re: corporate publishers, but we're hearing that it may also be a problem among large (and not-so-large) wholesalers and distributors. Every distributor has a right to put bookstores on hold if their invoices aren't paid in a timely manner (usually 30 or 45 or 60 days), but to hold independent stores to one standard while continuing to ship to chains beyond the cutoff applied to independents, is illegal. Even worse, we're hearing reports that some distributors and wholesalers are cutting independents' credit ceilings, sometimes to half the level they enjoyed in previous years, but that the same standards are not being applied to chain stores.

If you haven't started stocking used books by now, you've missed the cutting edge. Barnes & Noble is testing the idea in three superstores — two in NYC and one in Detroit, according to *BTW*.

And how do superstores finance all those ads, all those discounts, etc.? This isn't a new question and the answers are multiple, but Bernie Rath offers a new bit of twisted reality in his article "Co-Op Advertising: Breaking the Independent Bookstore Paradigm" in the May issue of *American Bookseller*. It seems that chains have been using "co-op" ads as a major source of profit by billing the publishers a fixed fee for each book included in the ad that is much higher than the actual cost of including the book in the ad. Hence, in Rath's example, a full-page news-

paper ad in a national edition of a newspaper that costs the chain \$50,000 may be producing revenue of over \$150,000 from publishers "co-op" — thus, as Rath points out, chains may make much more money from running ads than from selling the books. (Nice work if you can get it!) Don't drop everything to start placing major ads (even if you need just a one-time \$100,000 cash infusion) — publishers tend to scrutinize independents' co-op bills much more closely than they do the chains'. Dig in for the long haul instead: co-op and fair access to co-op are among the areas where ABA's lawsuits are beginning to pay off for independent bookstores.



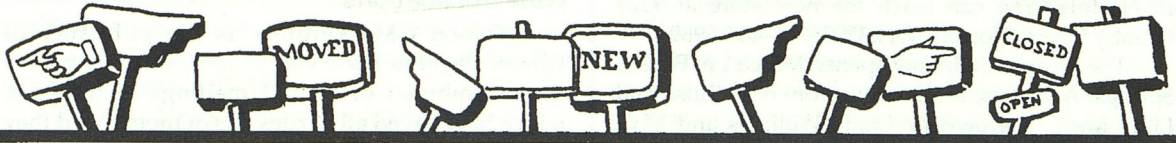
Bookseller Law

I know, it's hard to keep up with all these exciting legal cases and Supreme Court Decisions that affect your day-to-day life, but, lest you have missed it in the flurry of media attention around other big cases, you'll be glad to hear about this one: A District Court judge has ruled against the Hamilton (Ohio) County Prosecuting Attorney's office in a matter involving a letter that Prosecutor Joseph Deters sent to Barnes & Noble and other stores, warning them that Deters considered the public display of certain magazines (including *Playboy*, *Heavy Metal*, *Subliminal Tattoos* and *Kiss & Tell*) to be a violation of state law on the grounds that they were "harmful to juveniles." Prosecutor Deters' letter suggested that B&N needed to remove these publications (as well as other unspecified publications "harmful to minors") from open display in order to be in compliance with the law. Basically the judge decided that the prosecutor's letter was based on the prosecutor's personal opinion, rather than on law or interpretations of the law; that the letter was "fatally vague" in providing no indication of why the listed materials might be considered harmful to minors; that prior restraint is not acceptable; and that these publications are generally protected by the constitution. Chalk that up as booksellers one, bigots zip.

Trivia

Pat Neblett, President of the Black Women's Literary Guild, is writing a book (tentatively titled *The* See **Trivia & Commentary**, page 100.

THEY WENT THAT-A-WAY

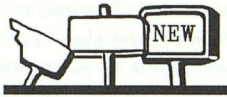


By Jenn Tust

Stores Open

Milk & Honey is a new feminist book and gift store that opened in June in Sebastopol, California. Jill Leslie Kurman, the owner, says the store will start with around 125 book titles, music, goddess figures, apparel and more. The staff is all women and the stock is 90% by/for/about women. Milk & Honey is at 137 North Main Street, Sebastopol CA 95472; 707-824-1155.

Rising Moon has opened a second store in Wilmington, North Carolina. Owner Sue Henry does the ordering for both stores from the Charlotte store. Paula McGlamery is Rising Moon Wilmington's manager. The address is 215 Princess Street, Wilmington NC 28401; 910-343-9106.



Sissy's Inc. is a new feminist, lesbian/gay, alternative/political gallery and bookshop, which was opened in June by Jocelyn Croft and Becky Jeffers. Their 2,400-square-foot space is right across from the ocean, and they plan on having a coffeebar with tables and chairs outside. They also plan on having lots of art, sidelines, video rentals and books including self-help, inspirational and the top ten bestsellers. Sissy's stock is 90% by/for/about women. You can reach Jocelyn and Becky at Sissy's Inc., 1670 Hwy A1A, Satellite Beach FL 32937; 407-779-0086.

Cindy Beck is the owner of New Realities Books, Tapes and Gifts in Omaha, Nebraska. Open since March 1990, this feminist, lesbian/gay and metaphysical store is doing wonderfully in its "niche" despite chain movement in the area. Cindy says the

store is about 1,000-square-foot and they need more space. Their stock consists of 50% books, 40% sidelines and 10% tapes. Their sidelines include jewelry, cards, candles, chimes and musical instruments (flutes, rainsticks and drums). New Realities' stock is 90% by/for/about women and they are going up on Booklog. They are located at 1026 Howard Street, Omaha NE 68102; 402-342-1863, fax 402-691-9928 (call before faxing).



Dianne Draper and Beth Picon opened Violets & Rainbows on June 15. A small, 800-square-foot lesbian/gay and feminist bookstore, Dianne and Beth are planning on specializing in gay Christian literature and other topics that the community wants. The store has a few rooms below a dentist's office, whose occupants have been very supportive of Beth and Dianne's efforts. Violets & Rainbows, 2426 Mineral Springs, Knoxville TN 37917; 423-687-5552.

Kim Gaylord is the owner of Light Weavers, a new mail-order business in North Carolina specializing in incense, goddess imagery, ritual items and books on a range of goddess- and women-related topics. Light Weavers, PO Box 64486, Fayetteville NC 28306.

In July, Lambda Rising opened a fourth store in Norfolk, Virginia in the location previously occupied by OutWrite. The store has been totally remodeled, has a small soup, sandwich and dessert coffeeshop, named Rainbow Cafe, and is located in a community building which also houses a gay and lesbian church, AIDS organizations and a gay-owned hair salon. Lambda Rising Norfolk is located in the Ocean View area, an up-and-coming gay and

lesbian neighborhood. Earl Jones, the former owner of OutWrite/ Norfolk, will be managing the store. There are several other stores including Two of a Kind, Phoenix Rising, Bad Habits and a few chains in Norfolk. You can reach the new store at 9229 Granby Street, Norfolk VA 23503; 757-480-6969.

The Emerald Rainbow opened March 1 in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, three hours from both Tulsa and Little Rock. The owners, Linda Williams and M.C. Delahanty (both women), say the store is primarily metaphysical with gay/lesbian and women's studies/issues sections, 35% to 40% books, jewelry, handmade crafts, crystals, incense and a lot more. Eventually they hope 20% of the stock will be by/for/about women! All women staff. You can reach them at 45½ Spring Street, Eureka Springs AR 72632; phone/fax 501-253-5445.

Susan Hutchinson, an assistant professor of social work at the University of Texas Pan America (Edinberg) is considering opening a women's bookstore. Susan teaches the only course on women at the university and knows both that traditional gender roles are in full force and that the women are starving for literature on themselves, particularly Mexican American writings. She'd like to hear from other booksellers about opening a feminist bookstore. You can contact her at 1716 W. Kuhn, Edinburg TX 78539; 210-380-0454, 210-381-3577(wk), fax 210-381-3516.

Moon Lit., a mail order book source for women that also embraces men and children, offers books and tapes to nurture self-growth. Started in July 1994, by Cindy Elliott, Moon Lit. publishes a newsletter — each issue highlighting a topic pertinent to women such as "Food and Diet." Moon Lit., PO Box 76, Fox AR 72051; 501-363-4248.

Open Mind Books is the name of a new progressive bookstore in Michigan "with an emphasis on women's, lesbian/gay and Native American issues," owned by Dan Doran and Sharon Komondy. Opened in May, you can reach the store at 223 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie MI 49783; 906-635-9008.

Elizabeth Shipley (previously with A Room of Our Own/Brooklyn) is working with a group to put together a new community/cultural center (with bookstore included). You can reach Elizabeth at 511 Ninth Street, Brooklyn NY 11215; 718-788-4973.

A second lesbian and gay bookstore opened in Sacramento three blocks from Lioness Books. The

Open Book is owned by Larry Bailey and Ron Grante. They are located at 910 21st Street, Sacramento CA 95814; 916-498-1004, fax 916-498-1014.

New Publications

Women's Marketplace is the publisher of *Women Ought to Know* and *Victory Scars*. They have done combined or shared mailings in the past, which have saved all parties lots of money, and they are interested in doing a cooperative mailing to all women's business owners promoting women's bookstores and presses. If you'd like more info., contact Margaret at PO Box 1947, Cupertino CA 95015; 408-865-0472.



Stores Sold

Suzanne sold Two Sisters (Menlo Park) to Janet and Owl Blossom, a couple that has been together for six years. Laurel Sager will be staying on at Two Sisters. The Blossoms plan on doing credit card sales and raising the store's income. (See Suzanne's final article on selling her store in this issue.)

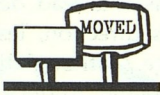
Joan Denman at Rubyfruit Books (Tallahassee FL) found a buyer for her store. She will work with the new owner, Susan Mayer, for several weeks and will be leaving the store by the end of July. Joan plans in August to first, get some sleep and second, take a vacation with her sweetie. In September, Joan will be starting an oral history project on women who were involved with WWII. If you know anyone with a story, have her contact Joan. Joan wishes everyone her best and she'll miss seeing everyone at the FB-Net meetings. If you want to get in touch with her write Joan Denman, 2007 East Indian Head Drive, Tallahassee FL 32301; phone/fax 904-942-4308.

Stores Close

Wild Iris Bookstore (Claremont CA) has closed its doors. Genevieve Beenen writes: "It has been a pleasure to own and run this business which provided wonderful books and gifts for everyone and a safe place for women to explore personal health and growth issues. I mourn my loss of the company of hundreds of good people who shopped at or visited my store. I grieve over an economic climate which

forces people to abandon their community stores and patronize discount warehouses. I grieve for the many individuals of all ages who found my store a place to socialize; to talk over crises they, their families or friends were experiencing; to discuss the spiritual and political values they would like to see promoted by our society." Contact Genevieve Beenen at PO Box 683, Claremont CA 91711.

(See also, News from the Bookstores.)



Stores Move

Little Sister's is moving to 1238 Davie Street, Vancouver BC Canada V6E 1N4; 604-669-1753, fax 604-685-0252, e-mail (lsisters@lsisters.com), Web: (<http://www.lsisisters.com>).

OutWrite Bookstore and Coffeehouse (Atlanta) moved to a new location twice the size of the old store. OutWrite is now at 991 Piedmont, Atlanta GA 30308. The phone and fax number remain the same.

People Move

Cleis Press is pleased to announce that Charity Denlinger, previously manager of Giovanni's Room in Philadelphia, is Cleis' new marketing director. Charity will work with Felice Newman and Publicity Director Deborah Barkun in Cleis' Pittsburgh office.

Effective July 1, Steven Cantine and Bert Herrman will co-own and co-manage Alamo Square Distribution. Alamo Square Distribution was previously a division of Alamo Square Press. Cantine was formerly a computer specialist with Wells Fargo Bank. "ASD will continue as in the past, at the same location and with the same goals," Bert Herrman said, "But the new partnership will give us the ability to add electronic ordering and to keep pace with twenty-first century technology while maintaining our reputation for service and integrity." Bert is building a home in New Mexico and will continue to work with ASD on a daily basis for a six month transition period, then will shift his concentration back to his publishing business.

Lost your scorecard? Can't remember who's on which base at Alyson? Here's the report as we go to press: Greg Constante (who we reported as being Associate Publisher-Marketing in the last issue) has

been promoted to publisher. David Groff continues as acquiring editor. Elaine Rathgeber is national sales manager. Prior to moving to Alyson she was national account manager at Random House-Trade Division and was responsible for the Crown Books and Books-A-Million accounts. Tom Radko, who, we reported last issue, had just been appointed the Alyson's publisher position, left Alyson after two and a half months in that position. His predecessor, Helen Eisenbach, lasted for five months, according to an article on Alyson Publications in the June issue of the Boston *Phoenix* in which Isa Leshko (book review editor at *Sojourner*) considers the changes at Alyson under the new ownership.

Books Move

Caillech Press titles are available through Koen, BP and B&T.

Suzy Charnas' *Walk to the End of the World* and *Motherlines* (The Women's Press/U.K.) are now available in the U.S. from: Trafalgar Square Publishing, Howe Hill Road, North Pomfret, Vermont 05053; 802-457-1911, fax 802-457-1913. The Women's Press hopes to announce a new U.S. distributor for all their titles in the near future.

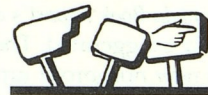
Chicory Blue Press' *The Crimson Edge: Older Women Writing* (see *FBN* vol. 18 #6, pg. 78) is now available from Koen.

Girljock is now distributed by Armadillo, BP, Bookazine, Desert Moon Periodicals, Don Olson, Fine Print, IPD, Koen, Last Gasp, Marginal Distribution, Tower Magazines, Ubiquity and through *Girljock* at PO Box 882723, San Francisco CA 94188; 415-282-6833, e-mail (Girljock1@aol.com) or (roxie@sirius.com).

The feminist travel magazine *Maiden Voyages*, is now distributed by Koen and Small Changes.

Consortium is now distributing Paris Press and Cinco Puntos Press titles.

Koen has Battleaxe titles.



Anniversaries & Celebrations

Calyx celebrates its 20th anniversary and won the Oregon Governor's Arts Award this year. With over 1,400 women writers and artists with whom they have worked, Calyx is the first or early publish-

er of works by Julia Alvarez, Sharon Olds, Barbara Kingsolver, Paula Gunn Allen, Linda Hogan, Elizabeth Layton, Cherríe Moraga, Ellen Bass, Elizabeth Woody and others. Calyx published the first U.S. color reproductions by Frida Kahlo in 1979, in 1984 they published the first anthology of Chicana/Native American/Latina women's work, in 1986 they published *Women and Aging*, the first anthology to address women, aging and ageism, and the first anthology of Asian American women's work, *The Forbidden Stitch*, in 1989. Their editorial board has read over 140,000 unsolicited manuscripts during its 20 years. To mark this important year, Calyx is publishing *Present Tense: Writing and Art by Young Women*, which is being edited by nine young editors who are part of the new generation taking Calyx forward into the twenty-first century.

Third Side Press celebrated its fifth year as a feminist book publishing company in June. The official anniversary publication, appropriately enough, is *Coming Full Circle: Honoring the Rhythms of Relationships* by Nancy VanArsdall. Founded in 1991 by Midge Stocker, Third Side Press has 20 titles in print. The Feminist Library's 20th birthday bash was attended by about 30 women who danced the night away. Held at the Old White Horse in Brixton, England, volunteers, supporters and collective members, past and present, attended. They also had a raffle with fabulous prizes donated by Everywoman, Silver Moon, *Bad Attitude* and the Fawcett Library.

SageWoman's next issue will be their tenth anniversary issue with 96 pages and a 15,000 copy print run. *SageWoman* has recently acquired the mailing list from the now-defunct *Women of Power* magazine.



Magazines Reappear

Rumors of *Lambda Book Report's* demise turn out to have been greatly exaggerated. The first edition of the *LBR* under its new non-profit umbrella, Lambda Literary Foundation, was premiered at this year's Lambda Literary Award Banquet. The Lambda Literary Foundation will also oversee and sponsor the Lambda Literary Awards. Fundraising for the new foundation began in earnest this spring.

As part of the magazine/foundation restructur-

ing, *LBR's* Senior Editor Jim Marks will become Managing Editor and will take over management of the magazine's business activities, including advertising, circulation and fundraising. Assistant Editor Kanani Kauka will become the Senior Editor and will take over direction of the magazine's editorial content. Deacon Maccubbin continues as publisher.

In its new incarnation *LBR* will become a monthly publication, be a bit longer, a bit less slick, and sport a cleaner, easier to read, design. And, hopefully, under Kanani's direction, lesbian books will receive better coverage. (Although the lead story features the "new" Margaret Anderson novel, only a third of the books reviewed are by or about lesbians.)



Internet News

Sisterspace and Books (DC) can be reached via e-mail at: sistersp@erols.com.

Sisterhood Bookstore (Los Angeles) has a Web site: www.labridge.com/sisterhood/.

A Different Drummer (Laguna Beach, CA) now has a Web site, the address is www.ccweb.com/ddbooks.

Once Upon a Time Alternative Books and Gifts (Bloomington, IL) can be reached either by e-mail at: outbooks@outbooks.com, outbooks@aol.com, via their Web site: <http://www.outbooks.com> or, at their cybercafe Web site: <http://www.outcafe.com>.

Dreams and Swords' (Indianapolis, IN) e-mail address is: dreams@in.net.

Full Circle Books (Albuquerque NM) is up on the Web: <http://www.bookgrrls.com/bookgrrls/>.

Just in time for their 20th Anniversary year, the *Ladyslipper* Catalog is up on the Web: <http://www.ladyslipper.org>.

Jane Larsen at Lady Jaynes Books will include a link to your Web page from her store's page, "It's Not the Size That Counts," if you send her your link info and a short bio (two to four sentences) of your store and your location (city/state).

A bibliography compiled by Martha Stone and Michael Wofsey on Boston gay and lesbian writing and authors is now available on the Web at the HQ76.3/New England Web site: <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~janusz/hq763.html>. ○

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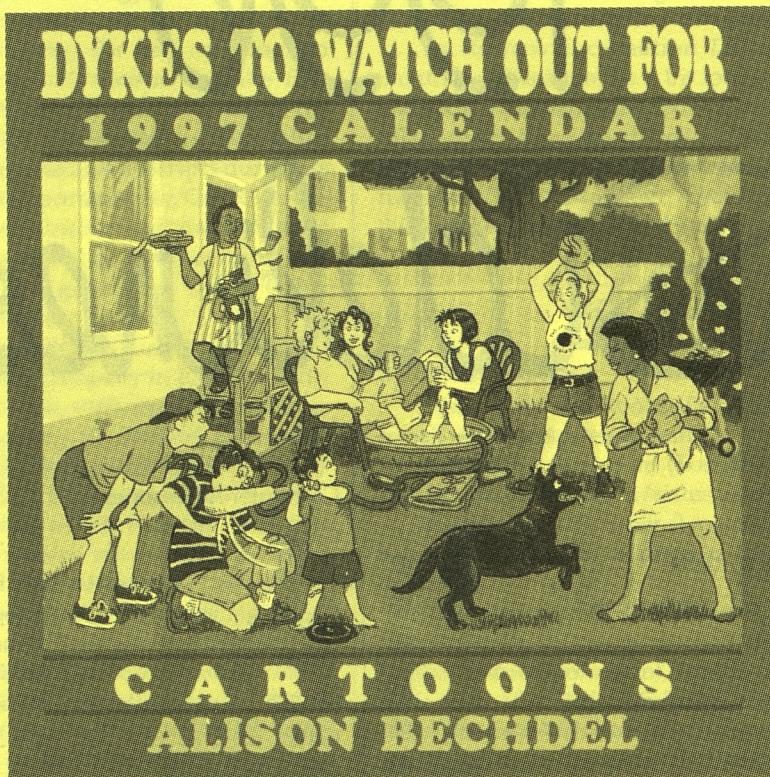
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1997 Dykes to Watch Out For Calendar

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With upwards of 150,000 copies in print, Alison Bechdel's six cartoon collections and yearly calendar extravaganzas continue to delight her loyal fans and the growing ranks of her supporters. This eighth edition of her calendar adds to the ongoing spectator sport of watching our girls in action.

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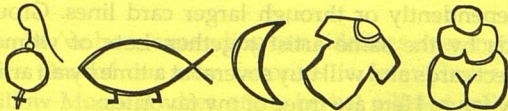
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Sidelines Faves, Rawes, & Bestsellers

Compiled by Jenn Tust

Petite Discretions was created to provide today's woman with a way to communicate her concern for safety in a relationship and do so in a less awkward, somewhat romantic, way. Each envelope provides a brief message and contains one Lifestyles latex condom with the spermicide nonoxynol 9. Petite Discretions are available in both English and Spanish and can be imprinted with your store's contact information on the back panel. Each envelope is provided with an instruction sheet and the product can be purchased with or without the condom. Messages include: "I'm in the Mood," "Won't You Join Me?" "In Case You Forgot Yours..." "Especially For You... Specially From Me" and "Because I Care." MOI, Inc. 75¢ each or \$9 a dozen. —Suzanne

Two Sisters Bookshop/Menlo Park CA



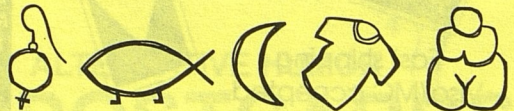
At our collective meeting we decided to tell you about our favorite sidelines. We love the Keeper, a natural rubber menstrual cup, which sells extremely

well through word of mouth. It is comfortable and environmentally excellent! We're proud to sell such a marvelous device and think that *FBN* readers deserve to know all about it. Ecologique.

We also love Stella Mars Postcards. She's based just over the border from the U.S., and her cards are really popular in this city. Her irreverent collages use images from the 40s and 50s with subversive text. (My personal fave: "If you Can Bake a Cake, You Can Make a Bomb.")

—Tara Wells

Everywoman's Bookstore Collective/Victoria B.C.



I've only been here two months, but Watch Cats key rings sell well for us. It is a handy, lightweight, strong and attractive metal tool at your fingertips. It can be used as a letter opener, pulltop opener and more. Also a self-defense tool. *Shh!* —Judith Murphy-Smiths
Fan the Flames/Columbus OH

Here at Sisterspace & Books, our best sideline sellers are our posters, videos and (get ready) — our paper dolls.

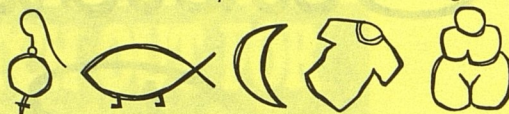
Besides our posters being fabulous, wonderful and positively lovely, they also come in enough variety to satisfy (almost) any taste. They are depictions of prominent African American women in history, the arts and literature and others that also inspire good vibes and celebrations of beauty. Our posters are provided by Pomegranate and range from \$6-10.

And speaking of beauty, in a time of debasing African American imagery our *Daughters of the Dust* video (\$24.95) is not only beautiful, it is redemptive. It's fluid poetry (good line — huh?). Already a classic in the African American community, it portrays with an ethereal quality, the struggle and growing pains of an early twentieth-century family in rural South Carolina. From the cinematography to the screenplay, it's truly stunning. Distributed by Kino International.

Last but not least, our paper dolls are anything but meek or dated. As a matter of fact, they're twenty-first-century paper dolls. In the likenesses of Mae Jamieson, Barbara Jordan and others, these irrepressible cardboard women can change from one

work ensemble to the next, all the while exploding the myth that being powerfully dynamic and devilishly fashionable are mutually exclusive. Dolls are about a dollar each and are made by Dover Little Activity Books.

—Sisterspace and Books/Washington DC



We carry a lot of cards by artist Diana Breyer and they sell like crazy for us (six-eight dozen a month). The bestsellers are Virgin of Guadalupe and Four Stages of Womanhood. Rumpelstiltskin Designs.

Also we've had good luck with a new jewelry line, Camenae. It's got great colors (taupe, lavender, copper, opal) and designs that aren't trite, mostly \$13-17 wholesale.

—Anne Frost and Mary Morell
Full Circle Books/Albuquerque NM

As resident card czar at Women & Children First, I'd like to recommend the following card lines:

Brush Dance — nice artwork and wonderful quotes by women like Audre Lorde, Alice Walker, Virginia Woolf, even Cris Williamson and interesting guys like Rumi and Thich Nhat Hanh. These cards truly "blow out" and I have to reorder 12-18 dozen every few months. (\$1.75 each)

Seabright Press has a new quote card line that has interesting artwork on a white card with a colored envelope. Again the quotes are ones women will love — from Gertrude Schweitzer to Eleanor Roosevelt. \$2.25 each in cello bags.

Minnesota Women's Press makes simple, earth-toned quote cards without artwork but nicely presented with the quotes in black calligraphy. These sold very quickly and you can order ½ dozens from them. \$1.50 each. See listing page 76.

There are so many beautiful art cards by women artists; I really encourage you to buy small lines (six-twelve images) by women artists that are either sold independently or through larger card lines. Group cards by the same artist together. Lots of women collect cards and will buy several at a time by an artist they fancy. Here are three of my favorites:

Erika Oller's witty pictures of huge women together or with their pets. \$1.50 each Bottman Designs.

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Sandra Bieman's loving and light filled portraits of women reading, gardening, etc. from Blue Sky Publishing. \$1.95 each.

Mara Friedman's images of the "deeply feminine" are beautifully colored goddess-like portraits of women. New Moon Visions. See ad page 53.

I also love Jane Evershed, Kiki, Sara Steele and Judy Stone cards and Carol Grigg's cards from Trilling. Support women artists! See Jane Evershed's ad on the inside front cover, and Sara Steele's (Tide-Mark) on page 66.

I must mention one of our local cartoonists — Jennifer Berman. She had two funny books with Pocketbooks — *Why Dogs Are Better than Men* and *Adult Children of Normal Parents* and a new one coming in August — *Why Dogs Are Better than Republicans*. Her postcards do *very* well. Humerus Cartoons.

—Linda Bubon

Women and Children First/Chicago IL



Goddesses, figurines, hearth goddess, small and large clay figures. Affordable and well made. Venus of Willendorf, Aegean, Great Mother plus birdfeeders and drums. Slitherings. See ad, this page.

Campy magnets (magnets are far outselling buttons for us right now). Women-orientated retro artwork with snappy sayings. Anne Taintor.

Light-hearted pins, earrings and key chains. Highly detailed charms for book lovers, cat lovers, gardeners and naughty gals. Jewelry that makes a personal statement. Studio Roja.

Wendy Waugaman Goldsmith/Silversmith has been around a long time and most bookstores have carried her jewelry. But worth mentioning is her new line of earrings and earcuffs with rainbow rings. A new take on rainbow ring jewelry with flair and nice new designs. We got a great response from customers.

—Jo den Boer

Amazon Bookstore/Minneapolis MN

We've been expanding our sidelines over the last year. One of our new favorites is from Under the Willow Moon. Andrea offers herbal pillows and gift cards. By far our bestseller is the "Kitty Pillow" (I've never seen my cats drool before!) We sell them for \$4.95. She offers starter kits, no minimum reorder and

womyn made goddesses for garden
hand made and home

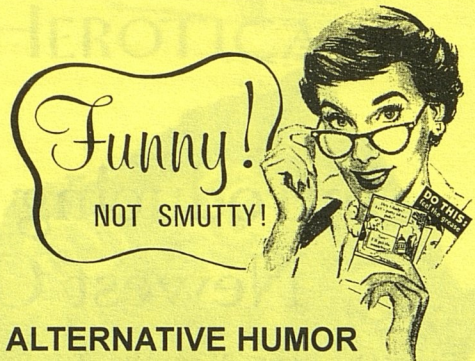


- goddess figurines
- garden goddesses
- hearth goddesses
- goddess bird feeder
- goddess drums
- goddess bird bath
- goddess fountain

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wonderful service. Prepay for free shipping.

Another favorite is Coyote Found Candles. They offer a wide variety of products including hand-dipped paraffin tapers (solid and "prisma" colors), beeswax tapers and new, all vegetable "Tapioca Tapers." Our customers love the beeswax goddesses, goddess and kitty votive rings and olive oil lamps. The \$50 minimum is great for small stores like ours. Net ten available.

—Amy Wapp

Rubyfruit Books/Tallahassee FL

My favorite sidelines to order and sell include:

The Rosie the Riveter "We Can Do It" mugs, magnets and t-shirts, as well as the other WW II images (such as "Good Work, Sister" and "Soldiers Without Guns"). Always a classic, these "We Can Do It" items are much sought out, sell very well and look great. Plus, this company is easy to deal with, has friendly service and is prompt in filling orders. Watermind.

Any and all of the "Groovy Crapola" related to Hothead Paisan, that ever-lovable homicidal lesbian terrorist. Our bestsellers are the "48 chickens" t-shirts, which show that adorable cartoon cat named Chicken in every position imaginable for the feline physique and the "Oh, Purr" buttons with a mug shot of said feline. These items are great for those unsuspecting customers who know nothing of Hothead yet are fervid cat lovers. Giant Ass Publishing.

—Julie Mitchell

Sisterhood Bookstore/Los Angeles CA

Those Girls, Ltd. is a jewelry line with funky and very affordable metal pins and earrings and is our hottest new sideline. Lots of interesting animal designs, especially endless variations of cats, which customers love.

Customers are very amused by the sight of "Chocolate Gay Bars" piled in a basket on the front desk. Wrapped in colorful foil, these triangular-shaped bars come in four flavors and two sizes, no less. Gay Goodies.

—Julie Stein

New Words/Cambridge MA

Our favorite card line is from Maggie Dunlop's one-woman company in New Haven, Lavender Rose Art Works. Each card is hand painted with acrylics (some are stunning), combined with good quotes

from Margaret Atwood, Audre Lorde, Eleanor Roosevelt, etc. We've reordered six times during the two years we've carried them. You can try 20 different cards, one each, for only \$35 total (\$1.75 each).

—Pokey Anderson

Inklings/Houston TX



The 52 Decks Series published by Chronicle Books have sold well for us. They have about twelve different decks. The most popular ones at Celebration! are: 52 Tokens of Affection, 52 Silly Things to Do When You're Blue, 52 Ways to Mend a Broken Heart, 52 Nature Activities and 52 Things to Try Once in Your Life. They offer a spinner rack if you order a certain amount.

—Carol

Celebration!/Austin TX

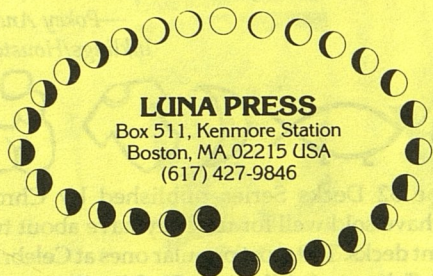
We sell 3/\$1 candles from The Miracle Valley Candle Co. in Lanedo, Texas. These are probably our most successful sideline. The candles come 80/case at

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THE LUNAR CALENDAR:
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The 21st anniversary edition features fresh work from 23 artists and writers, definitive moon-data, 32 page, wall-hanging, recycled paper. ISBN 1-877920-07-X. Retail: still only 20.00 US\$.

Available from: BOOKPEOPLE, LADYSLIPPER, NEW LEAF DISTRIBUTING, MOVING BOOKS, SAMUEL WEISER, SMALL CHANGES, VISIONWORKS, and the publisher.

\$14/case. We get them from the NOLA Candle company here in New Orleans, but your local botanica could probably turn you on to a more local source.

Probably the second most popular sideline are the Bayou Magick oils, made locally in Waveland, Miss. by Mary Biebel. The oils are cold pressed and handmade. She grows most of the flowers and herbs she uses in her oils. There are 50 oils named for goddesses, gods and planets. They are delightful scents and compared to others I have used work extremely well, (i.e., they do what they say they will).

Tarot cards are so much a part of the stock of our store, I hardly consider them sidelines. We carry five shelves full of them and are always getting requests for special orders.

—Anne Moore

Moore Magic/New Orleans LA



Our favorite sidelines are the goddess pendants, solstice bowls and small clay sculptures we get from Anna Many Blankets at Anna's Little Wimmin. They

are extremely reasonably priced (we pay C\$5 — for the solstice bowls) and they sell well at all times of the year.

—Jacqueline Dumas

Orlando Books/Edmonton Alberta

Papier-Mache Press t-shirts and mugs sell out as soon as they come in — especially the larger sizes. See ad page 50.

Cards — Laurel Bunch — Woman Series see Sunrise. Colorful and bright and sell at good rate even at \$2.25 each.

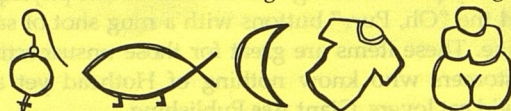
—New Woman Books/Kent WA

We can't keep rainbow votive candles from Coyote Found Candles in stock. Buy in boxes of 36 for 62¢ each. They also sell rainbow-colored tapers as well as many other colors.

Magnetic Attractions "Gift in a Card" by woman artist M. A. Belle are cards with colorful magnets (about 2¾ x 4¾) decorated with goddesses, earth symbols and all kinds of animals. Each card has an explanation on back, is blank inside and is \$3 wholesale. They have journals with the same images, which I haven't tried, but the cards sell very well. Minimum order \$108. They have 81 different designs.

—Patty Callaghan

Brigit Books/St. Petersburg FL



Maid in the Shade postcards: Grainy black and white images of 50s kitsch with decidedly anti-Donna Reed sentiments. Woman-owned. See ad page 49.

Hannah Handmade Cards are absolutely stunning handmade greeting cards that cover a variety of themes. Hand-pressed papers, fabrics, flowers and semi-precious stones, among other media, are used to create lovely, enchanting little pieces of art. Woman-owned.

Old Bachelor Card Game is a funny new look at the Old Maid card game for kids. The new deck features Consuela Cardiologist and Edna Editor, among others, and the odd card out is a balding man doing the dreaded "comb-over." Grownups love 'em. University Games.

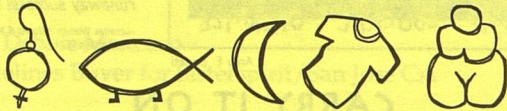
Someday A Woman Will Be President and Women Are Wonderful t-shirts: Yep, that's right, the one that Wal-Mart banned. Order them directly from the shirt's mother, Dr. Ann Reuben, so that she can get

a larger cut and make even more chick-positive stuff. Women Are Wonderful. Woman-owned.

Sydney Greensheep: A fantastic little lamb made from organic end cuts, flax and herbs. Soothes one to sleep, provides the perfect weight for the eyes and is made by a single mom. Cool, especially appropriate if you have an environmental bent to your store. It's always good to support the woman-owned, home-based business. Herbal Animals.

—Sibley Dale

Equilibrium/Charleston SC



The Complete Gay Union Planner: The Essential Guide to Planning Perfect Gay & Lesbian Marriages is more than just a book. It's an entire system designed to give lesbians and gays a treasure of resources and assistance that, until now, have not been available in one source. Ease yourself through the hurdles of planning the ceremony you have always dreamed of with this very complete and highly recommended resource. Your customers are asking for this! \$49.95 retail.

—Jim Bennett

Lambda Rising/Washington DC

Our favorite sidelines and sidelines vendors include: Jane Iris Spirit Healer Jewelry; Eye Pillows and Dream Pillows by local women Earth Heart; Brush Dance and Caravan cards; Kiki, Papier-Mache and Brush Dance t-shirts; Brush Dance magnets and Pomegranate magnets; Women Fly hats — shirts are nice, but the caps "flew" out the door; and Hilary's comfort stones — we finally ordered a trial batch of these after reading about them in *FBN* for months, we received 24 and four days later we have seven left! See Jane Iris's ad on page 51, Papier-Mache's on page 50, and Hilary's on this page.

—Prairie Moon/Arlington Heights IL

By far our bestselling and most favorite sideline has been the Cat Moon Calendar 1996 — created by Kathy Bouton with cat artwork by Bekah Perks both of Burlington, Vermont. The size is 11" x 14" and retails for \$5. The colors they come in include purple, lavender, gray, turquoise and white. There will be a 1997 Cat Moon Calendar along with perhaps a

Coyote or Dog Moon Calendar (by popular request) available August.

—Ann Reading

Peace and Justice Store/Burlington VT

Style Data is our favorite sidelines supplier. Their products continue to be the bestselling sideline we carry. They continually come out with new designs and product refinements keeping customer interest high. Style Data sells Bookmarkzz™, Buttonzz™ Magnetzz™ and Tagzz™. The Tagzz™ are the overall favorite with our customers. Tagzz™ come as key chains with 4" chain or split ring or as a necklace with 30" chain. The catalog Style Data provides is in full color and well organized so its easy to choose the designs you want to carry. See ad page 48.

Magnetic Poetry kits are also a favorite of ours. We carry their full line: Original Magnetic Poetry, Original Version II, Magnetic Poetry for Kids, Magnetic Romance Kit, and Customizer. We've even painted a wall in our cafe with magnetized paint and feature their oversized kit (with 4" x 6" letters). Folks come in regularly to create poetry on our wall. It's a real hit.

—Jane

Malaprops Bookstore-Cafe/Asheville NC

Hilary's Comfort Beads would like to thank Feminist Bookstores around the country for seven years of support and four years of listings as a best selling sideline in this publication! We specialize in hand held stones and beads, each imprinted with one of over 100 empowering words. Part of profits go to organizations that support cancer research, and women's and gay rights groups in Oregon.

free catalog!

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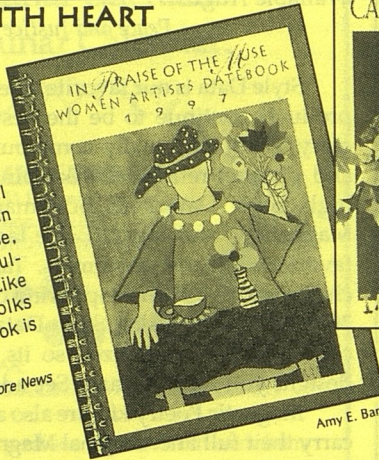


SYRACUSE CULTURAL WORKERS

ART WITH HEART

“Great design, beautiful and powerful artwork, fascinating historical annotations on women artists, and, of course, just about as multicultural as they come. Like everything these folks put out, this datebook is superbly done.”

—Feminist Bookstore News



Amy E. Bartell



Amy E. Bartell

“The beautiful Syracuse Cultural Workers’ Peace Calendar is one of our favorite and most popular items. The striking images relate to everyone with a social conscience. It’s powerful, affirming and inclusive—a radical, runaway success!”

—Lammas Women’s Books & More, Washington DC

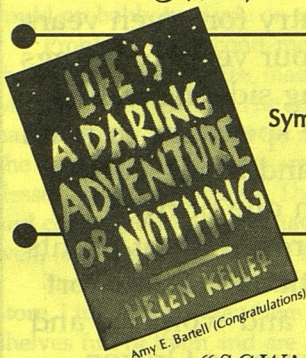
CARRY IT ON 1997 PEACE CALENDAR

Our provocative 1997 cover by Amy E. Bartell is a creative reworking of the well-known labor image of the many, unified small fish eating the big fish. In March, we have the marvelous San Francisco Women’s Building mural, *Maestrapeace*. June is a vibrant tribute to lesbian and gay youth, also by Amy, entitled *Generation Q*. Other terrific art relates to natural healing, Beijing Women’s Conference/Burma and Martin Luther King. Another year of inspiration and affirmation!

IN PRAISE OF THE MUSE 1997 WOMEN ARTISTS DATEBOOK

- Work by Amy E. Bartell, Jude Spacks, Marion Honors, Bonnie Acker and 27 more!
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- Women’s resources list; menstrual calendar
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- Full color/2 color, 5.75x8; REAL recycled paper
- \$13.95, ISBN 0-935155-21-X

- People’s history annotations for education and inspiration
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Linda Malik (Holiday)



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Please contact Amy or Dik to get our full color catalog or to place an order or just to chat a bit.

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Working with Local Craftswomen

By Debbie Mancuso
Sidelines Buyer for Sisterspirit/San Jose CA

Finding local craftswomen to buy from can either be easy and convenient, or a lot of legwork, depending upon your geographical area and local culture. If you're really lucky, craftswomen will seek out you and your store. In this case, you will need to set up a convenient time and have them come on down. This seems to be much more likely in metropolitan areas. Craftspeople also talk among themselves (as do book-sellers) and a craftswoman who has sold merchandise to you may refer a friend your way.

If you don't mind a little legwork and don't loathe crowds, a lot of high-quality crafts can be found at your local art and wine festivals and craft fairs. Be sure to wear good shoes, bring lots of business cards and be prepared to spend some time schmoozing. Keep in mind that most craftswomen will not want to talk wholesaling in front of retail-paying customers at a fair, so you might need to save the heavy-duty business talk for a follow-up phone call. Get a business card, write down any pertinent information you discussed and call her back shortly after the fair.

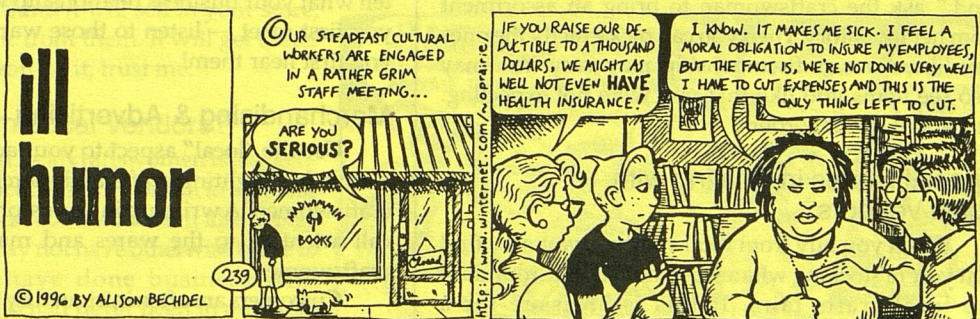
Buying the Crafts

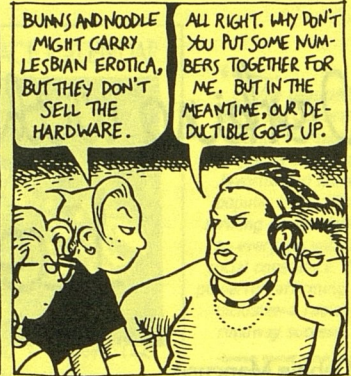
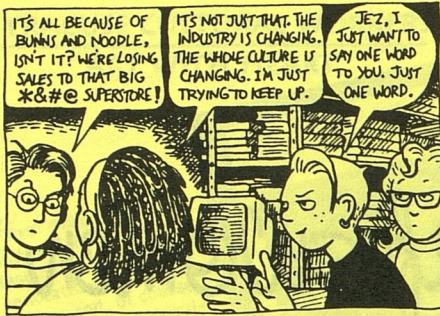
For starters, keep in mind that these women are not the factories and established businesses that we are used to dealing with. They are, most likely, used to dealing with retail customers one-on-one, and you may be their first wholesale customer. You might have to lead them through the process of doing wholesale if they haven't done it before. Be patient!

I strongly recommend a policy of appointments when dealing with craftswomen in your store. Set up a specific day and time (Wednesday afternoons, for example) in your schedule to meet with people, and ask everyone to come by during that time. Tell all of the bookstore staff to ask craftswomen to come by then if they pop in at another time. This way, you can be sure that there will be someone else to watch the store while you are in a meeting. If someone shows up unannounced at a bad time, ask them to come back on the day you have staff back-up. You are going to need a good chunk of time to do business with them and it is in everyone's best interest to not be rushed or preoccupied.

Be a stickler for quality. If you wouldn't buy it yourself, based on the quality, then most likely your customers won't either. The mediocre crafts are more

Dykes
To
Watch
Out
For





likely to come from the walk-in craftswomen with what may be the first batch of things they have created. Don't feel pressured to buy this particular set — let her know that you aren't ready for what she has right now but that she should come back in six months or so, with any new products she has made in the meantime.

A clear, detailed receipt of your purchases from the craftswoman is essential. Most things are one-of-a-kind and without a good description on your part, you won't be able to reorder the one you sold. If they don't have a receipt to give you, a clearly handwritten one on a piece of paper, though not pretty, will suffice.

Be prepared to negotiate on the prices. Many new-to-wholesale craftswomen will not know fair market value for their items and will initially ask a wholesale price that may be higher than you could reasonably sell the item for at retail. Some will ask too low of a price. Talk the price over until you both have reached a compromise where everyone is happy. By being honest, you can do much better business. If they don't want to budge on a too-high price, then you may have to decide not to carry their wares. You certainly don't need a box full of merchandise too overpriced to sell.

If the items you are buying are not "one-of-a-kind," ask the craftswoman to bring an assortment from her inventory. Then you can pick exactly the ones you like, since craftwomanship may vary. You may also see items you like that you were not expecting. Ask about special orders.

Special Issues in Dealing with Local Vendors

When you buy from local vendors, you may find that you're stocking whatever is making the rounds at the local crafts fairs. If this is an issue for a

craftswoman or the sponsors of a particular event, take a moment to remember that most craftswomen make more money selling directly to the customer and be willing to make agreements to support her work in these venues. If a craftswoman is selling the same merchandise at a nearby festival, be ready to refer customers directly to her for that particular weekend or take her crafts off the sales floor until the festival is over. Though it seems bad for your business on the surface, by being considerate and flexible with these local craftswomen you'll build a better business relationship that will outlast that one weekend.

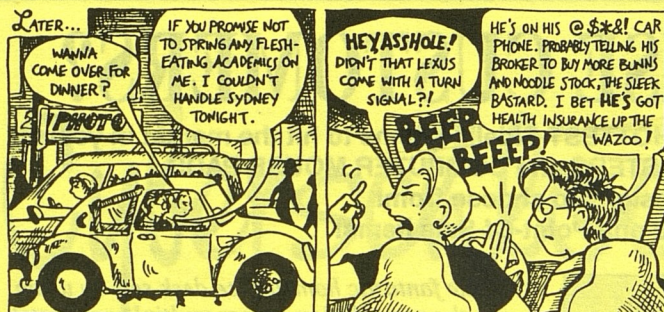
Many local craftswomen don't have displays for their wares, which means you'll have to do some creative merchandising. Perhaps you can use a display left over from another product, or ask her to create a display especially for your store.

Local craftswomen will pop in from time to time to check on their wares, which can either be a blessing or a nightmare, depending on how you like to do business. Some are very helpful, tidying up the display of her wares and offering helpful suggestions. Some may also be really demanding. You can usually tell what your business relationship will be like when you first meet — listen to those warning bells when you first hear them!

Merchandising & Advertising

Use the "local" aspect to your advantage. Set up a table highlighting crafts and merchandise by local craftswomen. A write-up in your store newsletter will call attention to the wares and may bring in new craftswomen.

Customers are often intrigued by the fact that a real



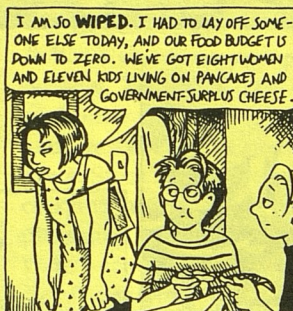
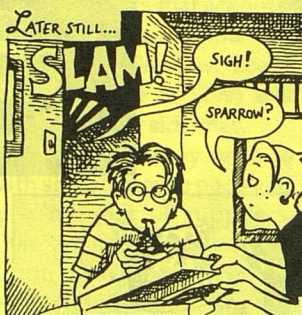
live person made a particular item — not a machine at a large overseas company. You can play this up to everyone's advantage. Let the craftswoman help with the word-of-mouth advertising: every friend she sends in to check out her "stuff" is a potential customer. Some craftswomen print lists of upcoming shows they plan to sell at and places to find their work — ask her to list your store.

Not Buying Stuff

This can be the hardest part of being a retailer! Since these women are coming in to your store to sell you their pride and joy, you are going to have to be able to tell them, to their faces, that you don't want to carry their stuff. This, for many people (myself included) can be akin to breaking up with your high school sweetheart. Though you know it needs to be done, you'd rather just die. My best advice to you is to just breathe deep, and in the most polite way you can muster, do it. Just remember that you need to keep the best interest of your store in mind. If you don't like it, or you don't think it will sell in your store, then don't buy it from them. It will get easier the more often you do it, trust me.

Why Buy from Local Vendors?

Buying from local craftswomen is just generally a good practice. It's important to keep our money in our local communities. It also brings in people who may not have otherwise come to your store. I have done business with craftswomen who had never been in our store



before, but have since become regular customers.

Keep in mind that it's good karma to cut people slack and give someone a break. For some of these craftswomen, you may be the first place that they are able to sell their stuff. This should not be the sole reason why you buy someone's wares, but it should remind you to be patient and considerate. Everyone is a beginner sometime (yes, even you!).

Many crafts can be custom-made when dealing with local vendors. When I was having a hard time finding a supplier for rainbow-bead necklaces, a local craftswoman custom-made a batch for our store that turned out to be cheaper than the originals. One of our bookstore workers is also a craftswoman and she keeps a watchful eye on her display of handbeaded jewelry in our store. She

trades out slow-sellers for new designs and is eager to make anything requested of her. By working closely with her I can keep fast-selling merchandise in stock at all times and get new ideas made into finished products and into our store. It's a mutually beneficial relationship.

Local crafts can be found in unlikely places. Craft galleries, flea markets, even a friend's living room can have the perfect sideline for your store. Keep your eyes open, always carry business cards with you and take a chance with new local talent. The woman carrying the box that is walking in your bookstore door could be bringing you the hottest sideline of the year — take a look. ○



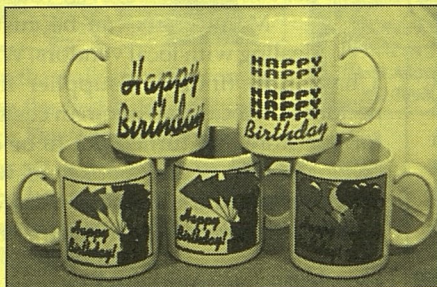
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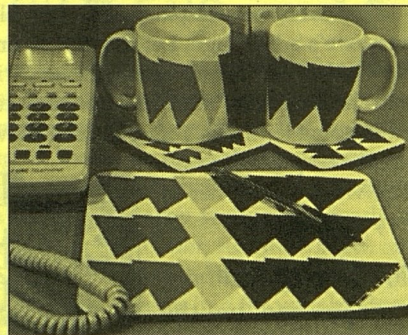
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LOW MINIMUM ORDER size allows you to try a wide variety of designs without spending a fortune! Minimum order size is 12 of any one product (i.e. Mugs, Steins, Coasters) and may consist of 1 to 12 different designs. There are over 120 different Lesbian, Gay and General designs to choose from.

CUSTOM DESIGN service available from our complete in-house graphics department that can turn your ideas into a spectacular product for a one-time setup fee of \$35. Your Custom Design is then available on any of our products with no additional setup fee!

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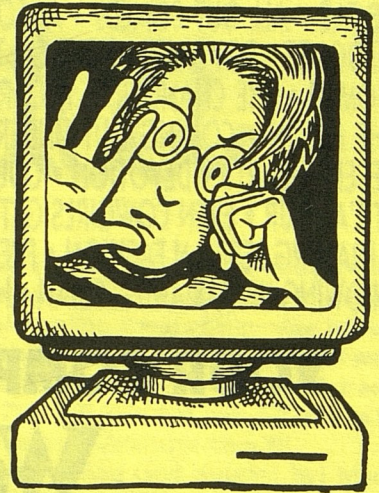
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Cyberschlock

By Charity R. Denlinger
Giovanni's Room/Philadelphia

The recent spate of computer books that acknowledge and affirm the presence of women on-line (see Carol Seajay's "Cyberstuff and the Feminist Book-seller" in the March/April 1996 issue of *FBN*) will certainly pique an interest in computer sidelines.

Digital feminists and our friends may wish to accessorize the desktop with stylish mouse pads and a brief survey turns up a number of suppliers. WomanMade Products has an ad in the current *Lesbian Connection* (May/June 1996) for a mouse pad with a woman's visage — 50s style — and the quote, "Relax! There's a Woman on the job." They list for \$11 each and are available in red, blue or gray. WomanMade Products, PO Box 517, Seneca Falls NY 13148; 315-568-9364.



Alison Bechdel

Our customers have been snapping up the *Dykes To Watch Out For* mouse pad brought to us by Alison Bechdel. The black and white \$12 pad features an exclusive cartoon with geekgirl Ginger giving Luddite Mo a few helpful hints about her floppy disk drive. Stock this one if you are at all hesitant about carrying any of these offerings — and you'll be pleasantly surprised! Alison Bechdel, PO Box 703, Waterbury VT 05676; 802-244-1137.

Phabulous Handcrafted Stuff, a lesbian and gay company based in Phoenix, offers an extensive line of homoerotic images on mouse pads, but the selection is much wider for the boys than for the girls. They do have a full color Melissa look-alike reclining on a motorbike for \$15.95 that may be of interest. Phabulous Handcrafted Stuff, 1010 East Sierra Vista Drive, Phoenix AZ 85014; 800-736-8919, fax 602-234-9800.

The most lavishly illustrated mouse pads we've found come carefully boxed and shrink-wrapped from The Kiki Collection. Two familiar and beloved images are "Book Woman" and "Many Strong and Beautiful Women." On the box we're told that the "soft cloth surface and permanent designs are guaranteed machine- or hand-washable. [The] 100% natural rubber base is anti-static and non-skid." Sounds like the best bet for the serious Web surfers among us! \$11 each. The Kiki Collection, 500 North Robert Street #302, St. Paul MN 55101; 800-945-5454.

So don't delay — stock up on some cyberschlock today! (Tip o' the nib to Alison Bechdel!) ○

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New Media

By Dorothy Holland

Jackie and I took a road trip to the Canyonlands in Southern Utah, giving us a chance to listen to the eclectic collection of books on tape that's been accumulating. With some trepidation we plugged in **How to Have Confidence and Power in Dealing with People** by Leslie Giblin, which "just doesn't sound feminist," we muttered. Giblin won us over — lots of good ideas on improving interpersonal skills and it is presented well. It's not particularly feminist, but it's not sexist either. We feel it is well worth the listen. **How to Have Confidence** affirmed the skills we have and showed us new ones. Beneficial for anyone. Very helpful information for those working with other people. \$19.95, 2 cassettes, 2½ hours, 0-7871-0634-8, Dove Audio.

The next selection fit in well with the sensuous red rock formations we were viewing; **Herotica 2: A Collection of Women's Erotic Fiction** edited by Susie Bright and Joani Blank. It's a new feast of spicy stories celebrating sex and sensuality from a woman's point of view. Multi-voice reading. Very nicely done, should do well. \$16.95, 2 cassettes, 3 hours, 1-886238-05-7. Passion Press, Box 277, Newark CA 94560.

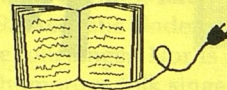
Then for a break, we tried **The Cat Who Said Cheese** by Lilian Jackson Braun, performed by Mason Adams. This was a hit. We enjoyed the listen. Great for those who just can't get enough of Pickax, Qwill and the two Siamese. \$17.95, 2 cassettes, 3 hours, 0-7871-0610-0, Dove Audio.

On the video front, **Meeting Magdalene** by Marilyn Freeman was well worth the wait. This short (34 minutes) black and white film is very beautifully done. It's definitely a lesbian film, and manages to be very romantic without the sex scenes. Don't miss it. \$24.95, 1-56280-136-8, Naiad.

Architects of Change: Two Grandmothers, Straw Bale and Earth Dome Homes By Off the Grid Grandmothers, Volume III from the Wise Women

Series. Jackie and I loved this, we were ready to start collecting bales of straw. Not only does it contain encouraging information about energy-wise homes, the two older women are wonderful. \$29.95, 48 minutes. ConText Productions, 5525 North Via Entrada, Tucson AZ 85718; 520-299-2404, fax 520-299-2410, e-mail (vtape@aol.com). Available from BP.

Costa Brava, starring (and directed by) Marta Balletbò-Coll and Desi del Valle, won awards at the 1995 Los Angeles and San Francisco Gay and Lesbian Film Festivals. A humorous and enjoyable exploration of a new relationship, as the two women also juggle the rest of their complex lives. \$49.95, 92 minutes, no ISBN yet, October, Naiad.

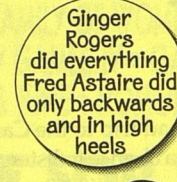
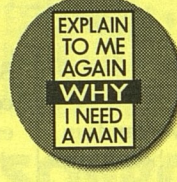
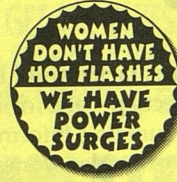
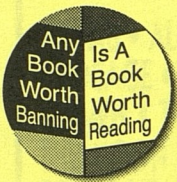


News about the movie version of *Bastard Out of Carolina*...

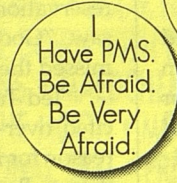
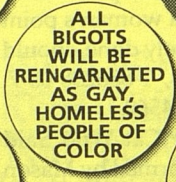
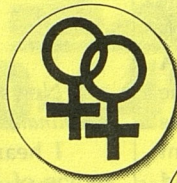
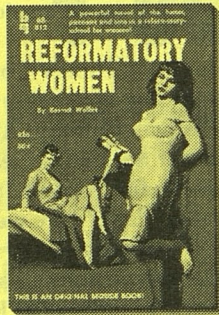
I heard on "All Things Considered" that the movie of *Bastard Out of Carolina* is an entry at the Cannes Film Festival. Dorothy (Allison) said she had reservations about the film, at least the version she saw. "Good on sexual content," she said, "but [it] missed the boat on class." (Are we surprised?)

Ted Turner, according to *The Advocate* (5/14/96) cited over-violent depictions of sexual abuse as his reason for refusing to air Anjelica Huston's directorial debut, *Bastard Out of Carolina*. Allison told *The Advocate*, "I have to say that I like best about [the film] what Ted Turner hated most. The sexual abuse and rape scenes are made brutally clear to be acts of abuse, not sexually titillating in any form." Huston is free to "peddle" the project elsewhere — a good sign says Allison, "People can judge it for themselves and then let Ted Turner know what they think."

Dorothy Holland is Amazon Support for feminist bookstores and other women owned businesses. ○



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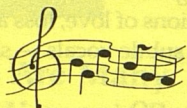
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Music News

By Jennifer Einhorn

Dilate/Ani DiFranco. The high priestess of indie everything is back with what is perhaps the best record of the decade thus far. Ani DiFranco continues to break concert and retail sales across the United States, Canada and Europe. And, after seven releases, she has finally garnered some serious press, most notably an unprecedented review from a *New York Times* critic placing her heads above Springsteen and Dylan. **Dilate** finds writer, player and producer DiFranco leaving her already dim folk roots even further behind — and experimenting with funk-hop, and feedback-tinged vocals. “Shameless” and her version of “Amazing Grace” are more innovative than any single thing that your customers will hear any single place. Use your play copies and let customers discover her in *your* store. Righteous Babe 8.



Tornado/Rory Block. One of my favorite artists with one outstanding record. Block is usually described as a “blusier” Bonnie Raitt. Truth be told, Rory Block is a *better* Bonnie Raitt. She’s been around probably just as long and is a true master of the Mississippi Delta Blues tradition. Block’s genius lies in her uncanny ability to mesh that sparse, gritty texture with pop and make the whole soup sound spiritual. On **Tornado** Block plays with members of Paul Shaeffer’s band and her acoustic guitar playing has never sounded better. For that matter — neither

has her voice. Such vocal command and smart music is quite an anomaly. No one can do it better. “Mississippi Bottom Blues” and “Pictures of You” are serious stand-outs. Play this in your store. Oh — excellent packaging and cool pics to boot. Rounder 3140.



Squished Under A Train/Ratsy. The winner of the esteemed 1995 Acoustic Underground, Ratsy is not your average folk singer. Nor is she even your Christine Lavin humorous folk singer. She is, however, according to her mother, “extra super fabulous...give her money!” And according to the shy and particularly modest artist, she is “a soon to be extra-super-famous folk songstress.” It’s quite possible. Ratsy is the Roches meet Donna Reed meet, OK — Christine Lavin. She’s smart, incredibly refreshing and happens to be very funny. Lots of talk/songs about boys that don’t call back, but these are not recycled lyrics — perhaps due to the fact that even the *music* sounds funny. Really. Keep an eye out and take advantage of the free promos. Ratsy 1195.

Gay American Composers/Various. If you can’t deal with the naked-boy-CD-covers, then read no further. If you are selling tons of them, this is for you. Unlike its predecessors *Sensual Classics Too* (Teldec), *Out Classics* (BMG) and *Classical Erotica* (Rising Star), this latest release features living classical composers. Jumping on the very lucrative bandwagon that has taken retail by storm, it features the Kronos Quartet,



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soprano Phyllis Bryn Julson, Lou Harrison and many more. Its marketers say that it's the first collection featuring pieces written by gay American composers. Original liner notes and have I mentioned the cover yet? What can I say? — Face it out. CRI721.

Gently/Liza Minelli. Her debut for this label finds Liza hooking up with some classic standards as well as exploring some new angles. Like Bette, Liza sells well in indie retail stores to a lot of men, so file it under Gay. There are some impressive characters on this release including Herbie Hancock, a duet with Donna Summer and a duet of "Chances Are" with Johnny Mathis. Other tunes are by Irving Berlin, George and Ira Gershwin, Leier and Stoller, and others. **Gently** has been long awaited by fans. Angel 35470.

Wind Jammer/Deuce. After a move to the West Coast, this duo is back in full force. Ellen Sterling and Jean Fienberg have polished their technique and recruited some excellent musicians (Ray Obiedo, Frank Martin). The result is a collection of sophisticated,

relaxed and really good fusion that is expected to gain Deuce some critical attention in trade publications such as *Jazziz*. The horn-wind duo sizzles at times and is most accessible to those who are just discovering jazz. Any one of these cuts could easily be heard on your favorite fusion/jazz station. Great in-store play. Pivot 10096.

Somebody's Sister/Somebody's Sister. Jill Stein is a part-time mom of two and a physician at Harvard Medical School. Ken Selcer is a part-time studio producer. When they're not busy, they are better known as Somebody's Sister, and they are fast becoming a staple on the acoustic music scene throughout New England. Stein bears an uncanny resemblance to Jane Siberry and Nancy Griffith, while Selcer's guitar licks are mesmerizing. Much of this music is infectious stuff — great in-store play, and for customers who are looking for melodic, smart stuff. TTS 1002.

10 Song Demo/Roseanne Cash. When Cash sent this ten song demo to her label, they called her back and told her to forget about making a record. In *their* minds, the record was already finished. They loved the songs so much, just the way they were, that they created a nifty package and released the collection untouched. Produced by husband Jon Levantahl (Shawn Colvin, Mark Cohn), this is probably going to be Cash's most heralded work. Since Cash left her country roots with *Interiors* and *The Wheel* (both on Columbia) she's been included in the *Who's Who of Contemporary Songstresses*. And she *should* be. Dark, soothing explorations of love, loss and wonder enveloped by her lush, subtle vocals — she's quite the one. Capital 32390.



Upcoming Releases

- **Three/The Flirtations.** Flirt 3.
- **Drone Zone—Healing Music/Kay Gardner.** Relaxation Company 3188.
- **Peace Beyond Passion/Me'Shell Ndegéocello.** Maverick 46033.
- **Seed In the Sahara/Disappear Fear.** Philo 1180.
- **Legacy/Michael Callen.** Significant Other 951. ○



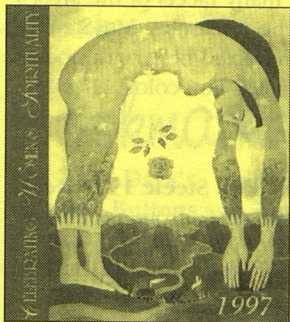
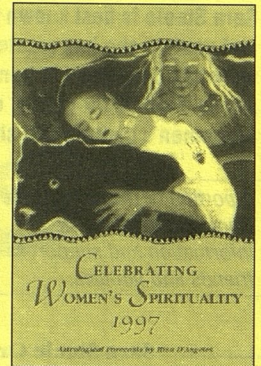
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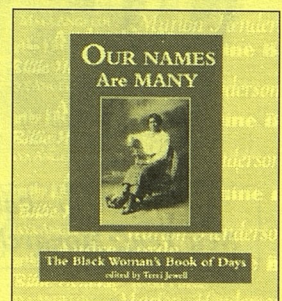
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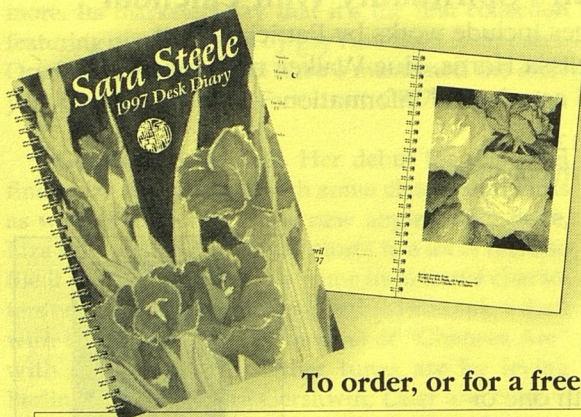
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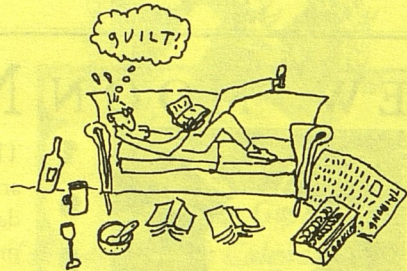
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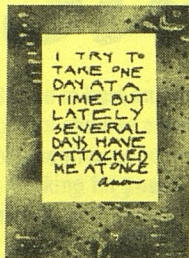
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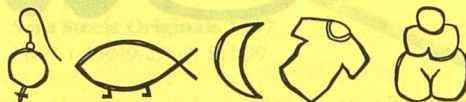
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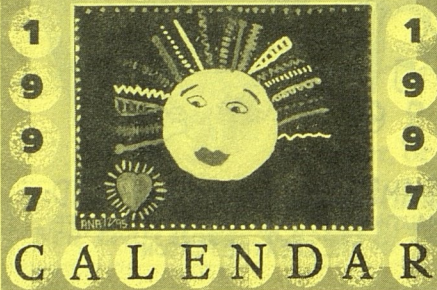
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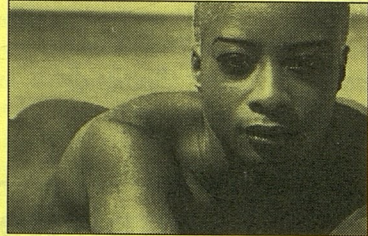
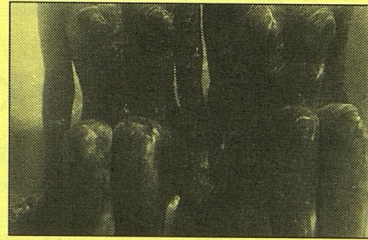


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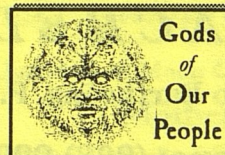
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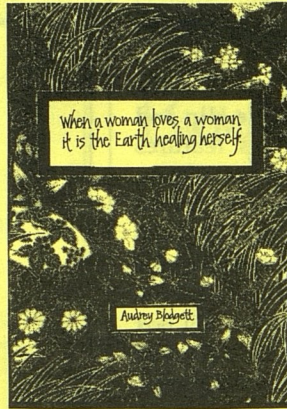
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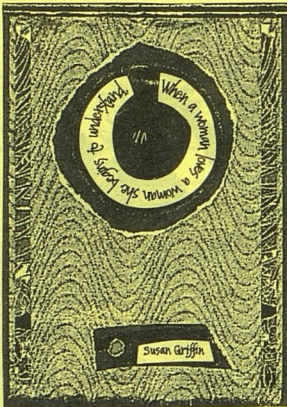


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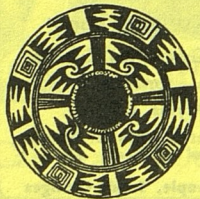
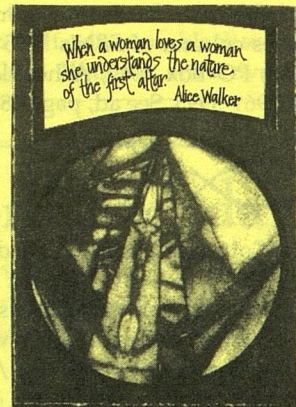
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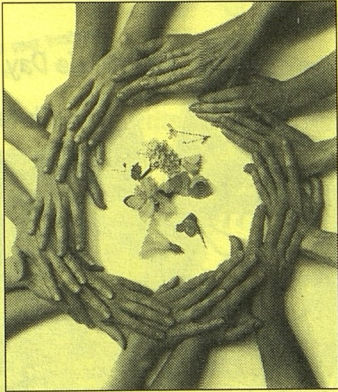
The '97 Lunar Calendar: Dedicated to the Goddess in Her Many Guises "is like no other, and customers who have never seen it before will be thrilled to find it." —*New Age Retailer*. We celebrate the 21st edition with fresh work from 23 artists, poets and writers! Features real lunar months depicted in 13 graceful spirals, definitive moon data, plus the lunar year-at-a-glance, complete instructions and bibliography, 32 pages, opens to wall-hanging 11" x 17". \$20, 1-877920-07-X. Nancy F.

W. Passmore, Editor. Luna Press, PO Box 15511, Kenmore Station, Boston MA 02215; 617-427-9846. Distributed by BP, Ladyslipper, Moving Books, New Leaf, Samuel Weiser, Small Changes, Visionworks and the publisher. See ad, page 52.



1997 Peace Calendar and *Women Artists Datebook* — bestselling staples in feminist and independent stores across North America. Both featured in the 1996 Feminist Bookstore Network Catalog, so your customers will be looking for them. Real recycled paper. Expanded t-shirt collection of our hottest full color images: Peace Signs, Pray for the Dead, Celebrate Community — Honor Diversity. And, in kids sizes, "It Takes a Whole Village to Raise Me!" Art with Heart/Syracuse Cultural Workers (a nonprofit, feminist publisher); 315-474-1132, fax 315-475-1277. See ad, page 54.

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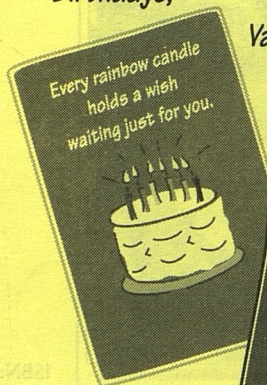
It still amazes me how much I love you.
When I look at you across the room
my heart soars.
Your beautiful smile,
the sound of your sweet laughter.
After all the years we've been together
I still long for your soft kiss, your gentle touch.

Your strength guides me, your love inspires me
and your woman spirit
touches the very heart of my soul.



Valentine's Day,

Christmas.



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Calendars, continued

New Moon Calendar 1997 — this gorgeous calendar is overflowing with colorful, lively, fun artwork by girls 6-15! Moon phases, cultural holidays and notable dates in women's and girl's history every month. 11½" x 9" monthly wall calendar on recycled stock. \$5 each wholesale on orders of 10+. We also wholesale a unique line of products for girls 8-14 and their parents, including: "Listen to Girls" t's, sweats, cards, posters and pins and "Girls Unite" t's, sweats, mugs and stationery. Call us at 800-381-4743 to order! New Moon, PO Box 3620, Duluth MN 55803. See ad, page 68.

In Good Company for 1997: A Woman's Journal for Spiritual Reflection, is an anthology of quotations, a book of days, a personal calendar, an opportunity for reflection, a spiritual journal, a diary for women and a collection of stunning photography. 344 pages, spiral, \$16.95, 0-8298-1123-0. The Pilgrim Press, Cleveland Ohio. Call 800-654-5129 for our catalog. See ad page C2.

By popular demand, **Papier-Mache** is bursting into calendars with three incredible 1997 wall calendars (12" x 12") featuring bestselling anthologies. *When I Am an Old Woman I Shall Wear Purple* and *If I Had My Life to Live Over I Would Pick More Daisies* calendars feature the covers, title poems and other excerpts, with tender photographs-all women. New gift collector's edition, *Threads of Experience*, offer Scherer's unparalleled fabric portraits in a wall calendar with twelve full color images. See ad, page 50.



SageWoman presents two calendars for 1997. Our **SageWoman Calendar** is once again edited by Lunaea Weatherstone. This year's theme is "Gifts of the Goddess," and each month focuses on a different quality such as creativity or hope. Beautiful artwork, Lunaea's musings and rituals and 365 Goddess days a year make this calendar our best ever. New in 1997 is our **Green Man Calendar for 1997**, titled "Gods of Our People." A must for all Green Men! See ad, page 69.

Sara Steele Originals 1997 Wall Calendar and *Sara Steele 1997 Desk Diary* feature a wide range of work by this highly lauded Philadelphia artist, from intimate flowers to richly toned landscapes. Sales will benefit The National Domestic Violence Hotline, which provides crisis intervention, information and support to victims of domestic violence, their friends and families. The wall calendar features twelve new watercolors and the weekly desk diary includes 53 images. From Tide-mark Press. See ad, page 66.



We'Moon is a bestselling appointment book, astrological moon calendar, spiritual guide and multicultural handbook in natural rhythm. Includes: week-at-a-glance format, daily astrological aspects, daily moon phases and signs, complete ephemerides (with asteroids) and astrological predictions for each zodiac sign. This edition theme is Womyn in Community. It's filled with extraordinary art and writing that honors, celebrates and examines that which arises when women come together to build community. Mother Tongue Ink. See ad, page 71.

Cards

Banshee Designs by Bridget Benton. A woman-owned business creating woman-made batiked and silkscreened tees with size-positive, feminist, queer and goddess images. Sizes small to 3XL @ \$13. Sizes 4XL-10XL are available. Now these same designs are also available as framable greeting cards and full-color decals and magnets. \$6 sample pack available August 1. For more info, contact Bridget at 923 SE 37th Avenue, Portland OR 97214; 503-236-6890. See ad, page 94.

Holiday, Solstice, Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanzaa greeted cards in packages of twelve labeled by holiday. Great artwork! Great diversity! Great salability! New hot line of 20 greeted 5" x 7" counter cards for birthdays, anniversaries, International Women's Day, Gay Pride Day, congratulations and more. Blank, 5" x 7" notecards, now 16 designs. Thirty-five postcards including Audre Lorde, Fabulous Feminist and Rosie the Riveter. Real recycled

paper. Art with Heart/Syracuse Cultural Workers (a nonprofit, feminist publisher); 315-474-1132, fax 315-475-1277. See ad, page 54.

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Cards, continued

congratulations, new baby, new job and holidays. Call or write to receive a brochure. Process© Comics Greeting Cards, Crystal Davenport, 4247 Locust Street #303, Philadelphia PA 19104; 215-382-4669. See ad, page 73.



Creatrix is a very personal line of blank and greeted notecards. Series include Women & Magic, Women & Nature, Women & Cats and others and sell by the dozen or in boxed sets. Cards usually retail for \$1.95 each. There are three styles of holiday cards in boxed sets. Buyers collect cards for the artwork as well as the meditations on the backs of the cards. Gift enclosures and posters too. All products on recycled paper. Creatrix Cards, 8 Uphill Drive, Olivebridge NY 12461; 914-657-5842. See ad, page 75.

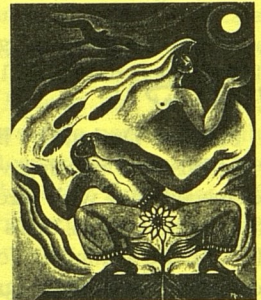
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Feminist Photography postcards in three series celebrate women's strengths and diversities. Two Women at Work series each contain eight black-and-white images of women in formerly male-dominated non-traditional occupations, including: firefighter, welder, plumber, glass blower, police officer. The Farm Worker series contains twelve sepia-toned images of Mexican women. Shrink-wrapped sets available. A percentage of profits promotes women's equality groups. Davida Johns, Feminist Photographer, PO Box 20574, Tampa FL 33622; 813-521-3829.

Artist
Mara Friedman
*Images Honoring
the
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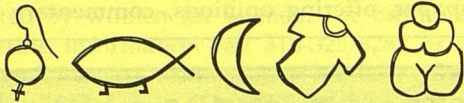
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In the past year **Lavender Expressions** has produced 30 beautifully written and designed cards that are selling very well in over 60 stores in 42 cities. "The response from our customers to Lavender Expressions greeting cards has been overwhelming, as they return time and again to purchase them. I've been looking for just this type of card with impeccable quality and Lavender Expressions certainly has delivered." Nancy Perrone, Woman Wild, Chicago. For orders/catalogs call 800-692-7775. See ad, page 72.




LesBiGay Pride Merchandise for the Hip and Happy Homo! Dan Kaufman Graphics features original, great-selling buttons, t-shirts, postcards, bumperstickers, magnets and more. We sell the very popular "Homosexual Lifestyle" and "Because" designs among lots of others. Proudly serving the community for more than seven years. Call or write for a free wholesale catalog and price list: PO Box 33714, Washington DC 20033; 202-I'M OUT-RU, fax 202-466-8879, e-mail <wholesale@dkgraphics.com>. See ad, page 95.

Looking Out Productions offers an enchanting collection of uncommonly beautiful blank notecards by photographer Ruth Rabinowitz. Romantic lesbian imagery, friendship themes, timeless nudes and a vintage garden series. Expertly printed in full color on recycled card stock. See for yourself why we are so popular! Lesbian owned and operated. Call today for a free catalog 800-988-2688 or write to us at PO Box 66433, Scotts Valley CA 95067.

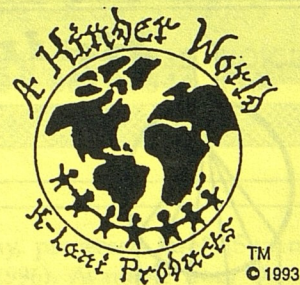


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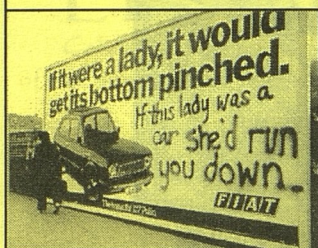


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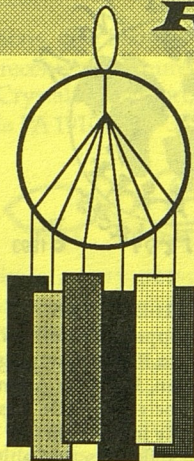
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Cards, continued

Maid In The Shade is an alternative humor post-card line of 150+ cards that is very popular with women, lesbian/gay and college groups. Intelligent humor is also positive and cutting edge. Some stores report that it is their bestselling card line! Attractive racks available as package deals. For free catalog call 201-659-1269 or 715-669-3191, fax 715-669-3116, or write: Maid In The Shade, PO Box 341, Church Street Station, New York NY 10008. See ad, page 49.

Celebrate women's words. *Nomenclature Cards*, from Minnesota Women's Press, Inc., are blank notecards with quotes and graphics celebrating the wisdom of famous and not-so-famous women. Choose from 16 quotes, printed on recycled paper. *Nomenclature Cards* are bestsellers in our bookshop. Our "Great Books by Women" list contains 175 titles, selected by 2,000 women readers; annotated; handy pocket-size format. We also offer two periodicals of interest: *BookWomen*, our new bimonthly booklet for feminist readers, and the *Minnesota Women's Press* newspaper, offering opinions, commentary and

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current issues from a feminist perspective 26 times a year. We've been celebrating women's words, ideas and values for twelve years. Send for samples and order form: 771 Raymond Avenue, St. Paul MN 55114; 612-646-3958, fax 612-646-2186, e-mail (Women Press@aol.com).

New Moon Visions offers blank notecards, prints and bookmarks by artist Mara Friedman. Her growing line of 17 cards features images that both honor and express the spirit, grace and beautiful strength of the Feminine. Mara's work can be seen in the Crossing Press, Syracuse Cultural Workers' and We'Moon women's spirituality calendars. Recycled paper, soy inks. Call, write or fax for a free color catalog: New Moon Visions, PO Box 23, Lorane OR 97451; 800-701-6984. See ad, page 74.

Person II Person Greetings: Celebrating the unique expressions of the sensual and spiritual worlds of women. We offer an eclectic line of cards, prints and gifts for sharing that "special feeling — from the heart." All our products are designed and created by women for women. For brochure and ordering information call 310-325-6282 or write: Person II Person Greetings, Attn: Marketing Director, PO Box 1841, Lomita CA 90717. (Lesbian owned and operated.) See ad, page 74.

Sacred Spiral Press was created to help finance "Earthsong," a women's retreat center in Hawai'i. Eco-feminist/lesbian social activist, Rashani, has recorded 14 audio cassettes and has over 200 beautiful cards with quotations from inspirational teachers. She recently reclaimed the distribution rights for her wonderful lesbian line and her unique 5" x 8" postcards. Journals, t-shirts and magnets also available. All buyers receive 15% discount at Earthsong! Come visit Pele and Hi'iaka. Please call us toll free: 888-7SPIRAL. See ad, page 70.



Orna Pascal. Offers unique and colorful quote cards, magnets and prints. Combining the traditional art forms of papermaking, painting and calligraphy with the most up-to-date technology, this line is "not

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the everyday, processed fare" (Suzanne in *FBN*, May/June 1996). Available from Orna Pascal, #5 Bulson Ct, Napa CA 94559; phone/fax 707-254-9790. See ad, page 68.

Photo greeting cards and notecards. **A Kinder World** is a rapidly growing card company featuring "Sierra Club"—type 5" x 7" full color cards, which seeks to share warmth and compassion for life by supporting organizations such as the American Cancer Society (fight against breast cancer), American Foundation for AIDS Research, Human Rights Campaign, 9 to 5 Working Women (fighting sexual harassment) and Fund for Animals. All photographs taken by freelance photographers Karen LeBoulluec and

Cards, continued

Jennifer Ensign. Send for catalog and samples: PO Box 584, Durham CT 06422; fax 860-343-0415. View our popular Nature Holiday Cards supporting AIDS Research. See ad, page 75.

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Dianne Whelan Photography: Posters, Postcards, Postcard Book. This is my second year of creating and distributing my images of women around North America. My line consists of three posters, all of which are top of the line quality. They are printed on 100 lb. karma paper. There are a total of 15 postcards and a postcard book of the entire collection. Order from PO Box 95, Station C, Toronto Ontario M6J 3M7 Canada; 416-631-3597. See ad, page 69.

Positive Notecards For Women. Joyously illustrated with florals, herbs, cats, moons, stars, celestials.... Neat Stuff! Woman owned and operated. Experience the notecards women across the country can't stop talking about! For color catalog and sample notecard contact: Emmanuel Publishing, PO Box 212534-T, Columbia SC 29221; 803-798-8903.

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Touch the Sky: Meeting & Healing Your Inner Child by lesbian authors A. J. Wolff and Tamara Kestrel features heartwarming teddy bear drawings to color, stories to inspire and meditations for relaxing, releasing and healing. (\$9.95 pb, 0-931481-02-03.) Use **In Peace: A Meditation Coloring Book** by A. J. Wolff to learn to still and focus the mind through coloring...a collection of affirmations with mandala drawings, story and meditation to inspire. (\$6.95 pb, 931-481-01-5). 40% for 5+. Rosebush Publishing, PO Box 1273, Ventura CA 93002; 805-385-9819. Distributed by New Leaf, DeVors.

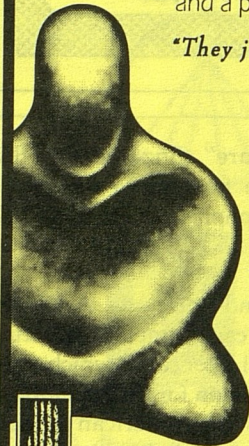
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Art & Soul: Creators of the Inner Self Manifestation Bowl, a ritual sculpture that comes with a unique booklet titled *Manifestation: The Art of Turning Thought Forms into Reality*. Available in three sizes and six colors, The Inner Self Manifestation Bowl has really turned some heads this year. Also available: a complete line of Inner Self products, Goddess and Angel light switch covers, t-shirts and original artwork commissions. Art & Soul, 60 Raintrail Road, Sedona AZ 86351; 800-244-1899, 888-ART-SOUL, fax 520-284-1899. See ad, page 78.

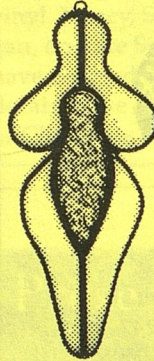


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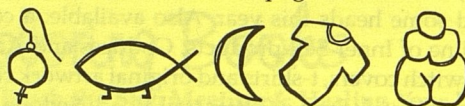
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Crafts, continued

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Rainbow Wind Chimes. Great sales item for unused overhead display space. Captures customer attention with sight and sound, but never intrusive. Six hand-crafted, fused glass pieces (red, orange, yellow, green, blue and violet) announce pride and preference as they delicately dangle from a beechwood ring augmented by glass beadwork. Chimes are sturdy for indoor or outdoor use. Never tangle. Approximately 18" long. Call Colleen at Blue Jewel Glassworks; 916-652-9336 for info. See ad, page 76.



Slitherings Handmade, Womyn Made Goddesses, as mentioned in "Faves & Raves," honor and empower womyn. Goddess Figurines and Hearth Goddesses are raku fired. Garden Goddesses are lovingly made from earth-colored concrete. Many new goddesses: Goddess Bird Feeder, Bird Bath, Goddess Fountains! Goddess Drums and more! Affordable art signed by the artist. Retail prices start at \$9. Sample available, call for details. Free wholesale catalog. Slitherings/Shamanic Art, 733 Ormewood Avenue, Atlanta GA 30312; 404-627-2328. See ad, page 49.

Spiral Woman offers colorful, handmade pins, earrings, necklaces, clocks and more, created by and for women. Original artwork celebrates women's spirit with images of goddesses, animals, mermaids and nature. *New item:* gift-in-a-card with inspirational

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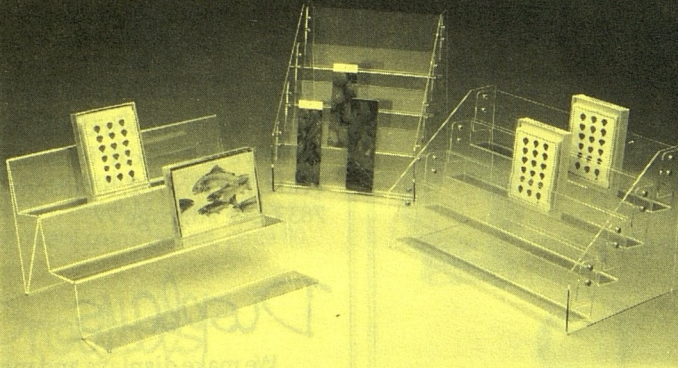
Nomi creates exceptional sculptural goddesses, Herstorical images, cowgirls, animals, petroglyphs, shells, celestial and earthy artifacts in hand polished

sterling, bronze with colorful and earthy patinas, as well as 14 kt. gold. Full-color catalog. Call or write Nomi at PO Box 15702, Santa Fe NM 87506; 505-989-3880, fax 505-820-7635. See ad, page 84.

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Signs of Pride is a lesbian owned business producing over 80 decal designs in static cling vinyl. Nancy, Susan and their baby daughter, Morgan, operate Signs of Pride from a home office and have enjoyed doing this since 1991. Signs of Pride decals make great gifts to enclose with a birthday or Christmas card. People love displaying them on

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We make displays and merchandisers for books, greeting cards, audio and video media, and the best calendar display available. Clear Solutions are known for increasing sales by the beautiful way they present merchandise, without calling attention to themselves. And they are guaranteed against breakage for a year. See ad, page 81.

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U.S. Games Systems tarot and playing cards, books and games can contribute to your bottom line. Feminist publications include the Mother Peace and Medicine Women tarots, American Women Authors, Famous Women and Notable Black Women in American History playing card games as well as Seeds of Life notecards. Our sidelines are topical, attractively packaged and affordably priced for add-on sales. Call 800-544-2637 or fax 203-353-8431 for additional info. and catalogs. See ad, back cover.

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Health Products

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Health Products, continued

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Jewelry

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Jane Iris Designs, Inc. offers jewelry designed and handcrafted by women for women. These designs reflect the essence of our feminine spirit and give visibility to the current concerns of women's lives. This product is a proven bestseller. Call or write for our free catalog, PO Box 608, Dept. FBN96, Graton CA 95444; 800-828-5687. See ad, page 51.

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"Diana Manley's popular tiny freedom rings are all the rage!" —*Curve*, Summer 95 Catalog. **Diana Manley's** mini Pride jewelry features high quality affordable pendants, earrings and symbols in a variety of sizes and styles. Many stores currently carrying this line are especially impressed with the high volume of sales and the convenience of a small

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Nomi creates exceptional sculptural goddesses, Herstorical images, cowgirls, animals, petroglyphs, shells, celestial and earthly artifacts in hand polished sterling, bronze with colorful and earthy patinas, as well as 14 kt. gold. Full-color catalog. Call or write Nomi at PO Box 15702, Santa Fe NM 87506; 505-989-3880, fax 505-820-7635. See ad, page 84.



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Jewelry, continued

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Sister Spirit Incorporated volunteers have resumed the Bracelet Project. We are making and selling, directly to feminist bookstores, leather bracelets with stone chips and beads attached by sterling silver wire: Your cost \$3 each; suggested retail \$6 each. Our work here in Mississippi at Camp Sister Spirit is important. We are currently building our Feminist Education and Cultural Retreat Center/Folk School, and we have a

community outreach program, the Sister Spirit Food-pantry. We have successfully defended ourselves against a nuisance lawsuit, and the religious right opponents are now asking the judge to reconsider. We will continue our fight. We need your help. We are a 501(c)(3) organization, and any additional contributions are welcomed. Our struggle is your struggle. Camp Sister Spirit, Feminist Education Retreat/Folk School, PO Box 12, Ovett MS 39464; 601-344-2005, fax 601-344-1411.



Spiral Woman offers colorful, handmade pins, earrings, necklaces, clocks and more, created by and for women. Original artwork celebrates women's spirit with images of goddesses, animals, mermaids and nature. *New item:* gift-in-a-card with inspirational message: \$6.50 (pin or pendant). Jewelry \$6-16; clocks \$18. Also new: t-shirts and magnets. Call or write for catalog: PO Box 14772, San Francisco CA 94114; 415-626-7821, fax 415-863-1935.

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Magazines

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Magnets

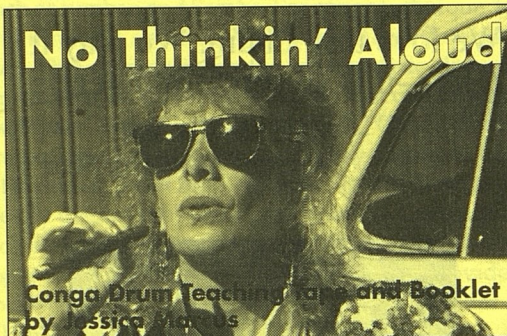
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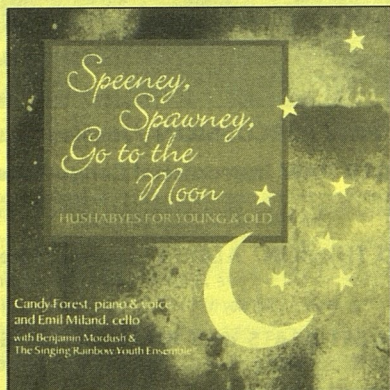
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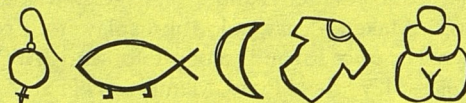
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Music

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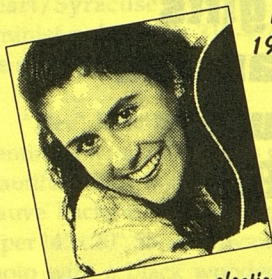
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Alice Di Micele is a lesbian singer/songwriter with roots in the natural world. She has released five independent recordings and her latest, *Naked*, is receiving wide-spread critical and popular acclaim and distribution. Known for her relaxed performance style and five-octave vocal range, she tours extensively. For more information on recordings, distribution and bookings call or write: Alice Otter Music, 415 E. Hersey Street, Ashland OR 97520; 541-488-1047; webpage URL (http://www.amp.org/alice). See ad, page 89.

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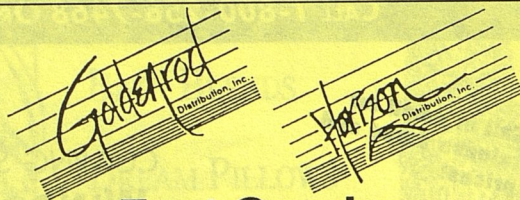
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Tiger Paw Percussion has the *Tiger Paw Instructional Conga* tape: Jessica introduces the three conga drums and leads the beginner on basic Latin rhythms,

such as tumbao and Samba. For conga technique, tone and timing, it's a must. *No Thinkin' Aloud* (Intermediate): This cassette is for the intermediate drummer. Jessica created warm-up exercises that clip along at a swift pace. Parts of these African and Cuban rhythms are explained so simply you can play with ease. Booklet included. *Sweet Beats and Busy Signals*: This cassette clearly displays rhythms originating in Cuba and Africa and how various drum, bell and clavé parts fit together. This multi-layered recording provides a rock-steady example of Jessica's craft. To order call 800-634-6044 (Ladyslipper). See ad, page 87.

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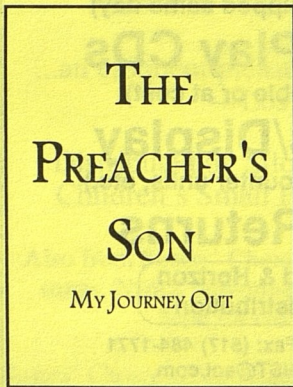
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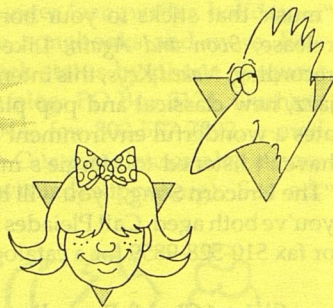
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"Her" **Erection** is an empowering poster documenting a woman's clitoris growing an erection. Four beautiful black and white photos printed on a rosy mauve background, on high quality Teton textured paper 14" x 20", \$8. Also available in 5" x 7" custom color photo with a black wooden frame \$8; custom color photo laminated pin, \$2. Artist: Prinny Alavi. Lick the Crisis, Inc. is a woman-owned business, providing *quality-tested* safer sex latex products. Because condoms are not enough! **Rub-Her the Finger Condom** is a latex barrier, to be used during clitoral, vaginal and anal stimulation. **Dam-Her with Pleasure** is for oral sex and rimming (anal). Available in three scents and five colors. **Glove-Her** comes in nine colors to play safer with, and flavored gloves, too. All products include easy-to-read instructions and helpful tips. Until we lick the crisis on HIV, AIDS and STD's Lick the Crisis is committed to distributing products of quality that encourage preventive measures. We make sex with latex fun and tasty. To order call 212-260-0535.

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Daboize Toys. 100% original cards and gifts for the lesbian/gay community since 1993. Plenty of goodies for da-boys and da-goils! T-shirts, tank tops, mugs, votives, plush toys, key tags, magnets, greeting cards, plaques and more! Manufacturers and distributors of merchandise for nationally syndicated gay/lesbian cartoon characters Harold the Bird and CindyGirl — The Downhome Country Lesbian. Free 24-page color catalog and wholesale price list: 800-258-7468, e-mail (whdaboize@aol.com). Most products available for overnight delivery. See ad, page 90.

Banshee Designs by Bridget Benton. A woman-owned business creating woman-made batiked and silkscreened tees with size-positive, feminist, queer and goddess images. Sizes small to 3XL @ \$13. Sizes 4XL-

10XL are available. Now these same designs are also available as framable greeting cards and full-color decals and magnets. \$6 sample pack available August 1. For more info, contact Bridget at 923 SE 37th Avenue, Portland OR 97214; 503-236-6890. See ad, page 94.

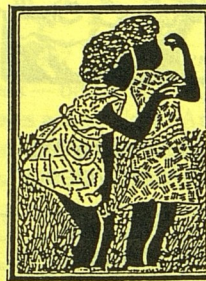
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T-Shirts \$16.00 (sm, med, lg, xlg) (girl sizes \$12.00)
xlg \$17.00, xxxlg \$18.00 xxxxl \$19.00

Tanks : \$14.00 (med, lg, xlg)

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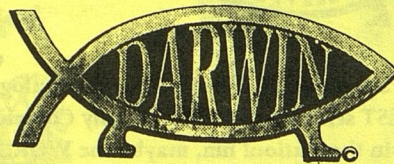


GIRLS GOT MUSCLES TOO.
by laura irene wayne ©88

Girls Got Muscles Too.

Yeah Sister
go ahead feel my arm.
I know what you
were taught to think
that girls ain't got no muscles
and should only wear pink
but quite the contrary
dear sister, you know what
I am saying is true
just go ahead feel
my powerful arm
Yes,
GIRLS GOT MUSCLES TOO.
by laura irene wayne ©88

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(800) 739-5638 RISING MOON DESIGNS, Box 60993F, Palo Alto, Ca 94306

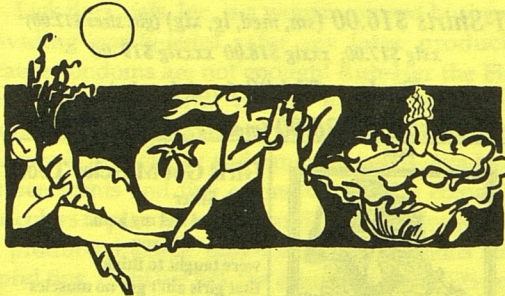
TM
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Northern Sun. We have 200+ t-shirt designs in our catalog. The other half of our catalog includes all the other sideline-type items you can think of: buttons, magnets, bumperstickers, posters, etc. We have 17 years experience bringing our customers a wide variety of social messages. Colorful, humorous, wholesale rates, expert advice and a reasonably good chance that what you want will be in stock and that we'll fill your order promptly and accurately. Call Northern Sun Merchandising: 800-258-8579. See ad, this page.

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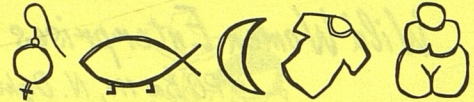
Ladies Sewing Circle and Terrorist Society t-shirts in beautiful colors: red, royal blue, turquoise, purple and hot pink. Also Darwin and Choice bumper plaques. Rising Moon Designs, Box 60993F, Palo Alto CA 94306; 800-739-5638. See ad, page 93.

Wild Women Enterprises was born out of an attitude — that little voice that says, "What do you mean I can't do that? Watch me!" Women helping women is what we're all about. Designs meant to raise the self-esteem of women and girls in a positive and humorous way — also help to raise funds for battered women and environmental education. T-shirts, totes, mugs, stickers, tattoos, etc. Catalog and wholesale info.: Wild Women, PO Box 114, N. Dighton MA 02764; 508-880-0555, fax 508-880-2529. See ad, page 96.

Womyn Work. T-shirts, paintings, prints and poetry that celebrates and empowers womyn by artist and poet Laura Irene Wayne. T-shirts range in sizes from small to 4X and are priced from \$16-19 + \$4 S.H. A collection of her artwork and poetry *Journey To Feel* is available for \$15 + \$3 S.H. To place an order or receive

a catalog, send \$2 to Womyn Work, PO Box 221850, Sacramento CA 95822; 916-684-9989. See ad, page 93.

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images: Peace Signs, Pray for the Dead, Celebrate Community — Honor Diversity. And, in kids sizes, "It Takes a Whole Village to Raise Me!" Art with Heart/Syracuse Cultural Workers (a nonprofit, feminist publisher); 315-474-1132, fax 315-475-1277. See ad, page 54.

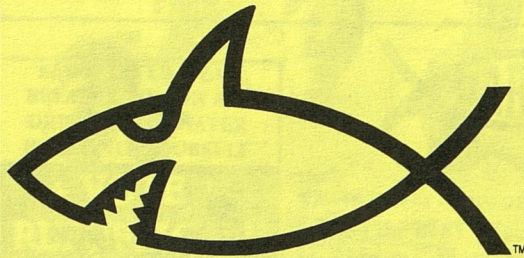
Videos

Naiad Press has released four videos in 1996 — *Devotion*, the feature-length lesbian romance film, and the three hot short films: *Meeting Magdalene* (34 min., \$24.95); *Kate Clinton: The Queen of Comedy* (52 min., \$29.95); and *I Became a Lesbian and Others Too!*, a compilation of four short lesbian films (52 min., \$29.95). This fall we release two feature-length lesbian romance movies: *Costa Brava* in September (92 min., \$49.95, English) and *The Midwife's Tale* in October (75 min., \$49.95). At least four compilation tapes and three-five feature films per year are planned. Naiad estimates video product will amount to 25% of its income this fiscal year. If you are a store thinking about revamping your video program, call 800-533-1973 for assistance.



Wolfe Video takes pride in bringing you the most complete selection of lesbian, feminist and gay entertainment available anywhere. Let us help set up a rental section for your store! Bookstores just like yours have found video rental to be a simple and profitable way to add new product and increase traffic. With over 700 titles available...let us be your one-stop shopping. Call the Wolfe Pack today at 800-642-5247. See ad, page 60. ○

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BACK TO PRESS

AND OTHER GOOD NEWS

By Jenn Tust

Back to Press

Seal Press has gone back to press with four titles: *Nowle's Passing* by Edith Forbes now has an in-print total of 12,000; *Getting Free* went back for the 17th time for a total of 140,000 copies in print; *You Can Be Free* (the simplified version of *Getting Free*) by Sue Davidson and Ginny NiCarthy is now in its eighth printing for a total of 45,000 copies in print; and Barbara Kingsolver's *Another America* went back for a fifth run bringing its total in print to 19,000.

Sitt Marie-Rose by Etel Adnan (The Post-Apollo Press) is going into its fourth edition. It won the France-Pays Arabes Award in 1978 and has been translated into six languages.



Rights

Spinifex Press (Australia) has sold rights for several of its new titles: Canadian rights to *Nattering on the Net: Women, Power and Cyberspace* by Dale Spender, have been sold to Garamond, the German rights went to Frauenoffensive; *Radically Speaking: Feminism Reclaimed* edited by Diane Bell and Renate Klien is now available in the U.K. from Zed Books; *Another Year in Africa* by Rose Zwi has been published by Editions Lavoro in Italy; *Figments of a Murder* by Gillian Hanscombe has been sold to Fischer in Germany; and *Too Rich* by Melissa Chan has been sold to Argument/Verlag/Ariadne Krim for a German edition.

The Audre Lorde Compendium: Essays, Speeches and Journals, introduced by Alice Walker, is now available in the U.K. from Pandora. It includes *The Cancer Journals* (Aunt Lute Books/1980), *Sister Outsider* (The Crossing Press/1984) and *A Burst of Light* (Sheba Feminist Publishers/1988). [This edition is not available in the U.S.]

A Restricted Country: Documents of Desire and Resistance by Joan Nestle, originally published by Firebrand Books in 1987, is also now out in a U.K. edition from Pandora.



First serials for Shirley Geok-lin Lim's *Among the White Moon Faces* (Feminist Press at CUNY) have been sold to *The Women's Review of Books* and *Bamboo Ridge*. Shirley will be doing an extensive author tour this fall. She is familiar to booksellers as one of the editors of *The Forbidden Stitch: An Asian American Women's Anthology* (Calyx), winner of the National Book Award.

Seal Press has a pending rights sale for *Nowle's Passing* by Edith Forbes to the German publisher Rowohlt and several film production companies are interested in optioning movie rights.

Awards

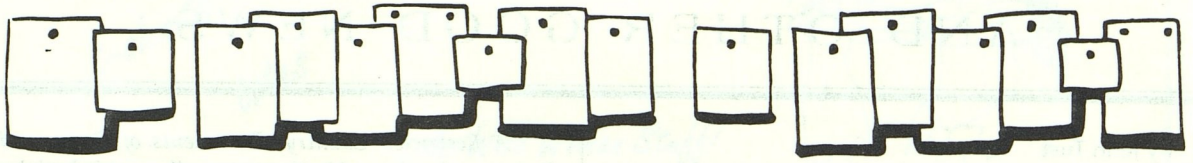
Anna Deavere Smith (*Fires in the Mirror, Twilight — Los Angeles*), Rebecca Goldstein (*The Mind-Body Problem*) Allan Berube (*Coming Out Under Fire*), Richard Howard, poet and translator, and Louis Massiah, filmmaker, all received MacArthur Grants. The awards include a \$300,000 cash prize.

The British Columbia Gas-sponsored Annual Lifetime Achievement Award, which includes a \$5,000 prize, went to Jane Rule. It includes a \$5,000 prize. The May 25 ceremony was held at the Vancouver Public Library.

Bending At the Bow by Marion Douglas (Press Gang) won the Alberta Book Award for best novel.

See Back to Press, page 126.

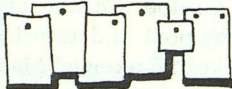
ANNOUNCEMENTS



By Jenn Tust

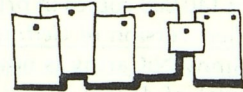
Feminist Press at CUNY announces that co-op is available for *The Tree and the Vine*, a rediscovered lesbian classic by Dola de Jong. Stores placing a minimum order of five or more copies can receive \$125 in co-op. Contact your Consortium rep for details.

Small press and independent publishers from around the country are invited to submit their 1996 books for consideration in the 1997 *Small Press Book Awards*, a contest aimed at bringing "well-deserved recognition to many of those publishers that are providing diverse, informative and essential books to North America." Categories include: Business/Economics/Career, Children's Picture Books, Fiction, Humor, Parenting and Travel. Publishers should send two copies of each title for consideration and note the category for which they wish to be considered. Entry fee is \$45 per title/per category. All entries need to be received by March 15, 1997 to be eligible. For more information, contact Irma Brownley at *Small Press* magazine; 616-933-0445.



Amy Goodloe, director of Lesbian.org, announces that space on the World Wide Web is now available free of charge to nonprofit lesbian organizations and activist groups through Lesbian.org. Construct your own Web page and deliver it, via e-mail attachment or floppy disk, to Lesbian.org. Volunteers may be available for assistance with Web page development. For more information about Web pages see:

(<http://www.women-on-line.com/web/webresources.html>). For more information about Lesbian.org contact them at: (<http://www.lesbian.org>).



Women Writing the West is an association of writers and other professionals loosely modeled on Sisters in Crime. "More needs to be done to build respect for the range of writers who in the recent past have increasingly redefined 'western' writing to include women's experiences." Their goals include defining the market, raising awareness and winning recognition. "Every woman storyteller has to make a journey backward as well as forward. Women have been writing the west since before Willa Cather...before Mollie Sanford...as far back as Spider Woman, but we keep dropping these tales from the record, so that every generation has to begin again from the beginning, to imagine women's stories and tell them. Women Writing the West will help break that cycle, by giving us back our past and providing support for voices in the present." —Sara Paretsky. For more information contact Sybil Downing at 303-666-4290 or Jerrie Hurd at 303-444-3475.

Cleis has announced a new editor and judge for their *Best Gay Erotica 1997*. The new editor will be Richard Labonte. Send work to him via: A Different Light/Anthology Submissions, 489 Castro, San Francisco CA 94114. The new judge will be Douglas Sadownick, author of *Sacred Lips of the Bronx* and *Sex Between Men: An Intimate History of the Sex Lives of Gay Men*. ○

WRITING WANTED



Compiled by Jenn Tust

The Sue Saniel Elkind Poetry Contest, co-sponsored by *Kalliope* and Papier-Mache Press will award \$1,000 and publication in *Kalliope: a journal of women's art* to the first prize winner. Maximum length: 50 lines. Entry fee: \$3 per poem; 4 poems/\$10. Poems previously published, that have received monetary awards, or are under consideration elsewhere are not eligible. Send two copies of each poem — one copy with the author's name, address and phone number typed on the upper right corner. For announcement of winner, scheduled for Spring 1997, include SASE. (For notification of manuscript receipt, include SASP.) Deadline: October 30. *Kalliope*, Sue Saniel Elkind Poetry Contest, FCCJ, 3939 Roosevelt Blvd., Jacksonville FL 32205.

Kat Morgan is seeking essays, prose and poetry for an anthology giving voice to the experiences of women battered by other women. Deadline: December 31. Send two copies of your work and two legal-sized SASE's to: Kat Morgan, 31094 Granger Avenue, Union City CA 94587, Attn: Break the Silence.

Cyberdyke Love Stories is seeking stories and poems about lesbians falling in love over the Internet. Did you meet your girlfriend via e-mail? Have you found love on one of the many "personals" Web sites? Length: 3,000 words maximum, graphics 400 x 500 pixels. Works will be accepted on a rolling basis (and held for six months) and new selections will be published each month. The first issue is due out mid-June. Please save your submission in text only format and send it in the body of an e-mail or as a stuffed or zipped attachment via e-mail. For graphics, we can accept TIFF format. [If you need help, try posing the

question on a help forum like Internet-women-help (to join this forum, send e-mail to: <internet-women-help-request@lists1.best.com>) and in the body type: "subsinglet".] Send submissions via e-mail: <cyberdyke-love@lesbian.org>.



The Virtual Dyke: a new 'zine published by Lesbian.org (<<http://www.lesbian.org/virtual-dyke>>) is seeking stories, poems and essays about coming out as a lesbian on the Internet. Was the Internet influential in your coming out process? Has your "virtual life" crossed over into your "real" life? What impact do you think the Internet has on lesbian visibility and on lesbian rights? Also seeking artwork relevant to lesbians and the Internet. Length: 3,000 words maximum, graphics 400 x 500 pixels maximum. See deadline info above. Send to: <virtual-dyke@lesbian.org>.

Women Online Speak Out: a new online journal published by Women Online (<<http://www.women-online.com/speak-out/>>) is seeking articles and stories about gender and technology, women and the Internet, feminist activism online and more. Need a space to speak your mind? Tired of all the media hype? Want to show the world what "women and the Internet" really means? Go for it. This Web space is for you, for all women online to have a voice. If you're interested in a regular column, go ahead and suggest one. Length: 6,000 words maximum. See above for deadline information. Send to: <agoodloe@women-online.com>.

Princess Magazine, a new lesbian, feminist magazine, is accepting submissions on an ongoing basis. Send your prose, poetry, artwork, theory, porn, etc. Especially looking for work addressing issues of race,

class and/or dyke sexuality, but all work considered. For a sample, send \$4 (check payable to D. Morrow); for guidelines write: PO Box 20370, New York NY 10009; 212-439-1001.

Lesbian Short Fiction, a new ongoing anthology of short stories with lesbian themes, is seeking manuscripts with significant lesbian content of all lengths up to 10,000 words, in all genres. Send for guidelines before submitting manuscript to: Jinx Beers, Editor, LSF, 6507 Franriviers Avenue, West Hills CA 91307.



Linnea Due is seeking writing about lesbians' erotic travel adventures for a book she is editing titled *Hot Ticket*. Travel can mean across the globe, to another universe, or — if cyberspace is your medium — even around the block. Give her something unexpected, haunting, exhilarating. Stories should be 1,000-10,000 words. *Hot Ticket* is scheduled for release by Alyson Publications in early 1997. Inquire before sending work to: *Hot Ticket*, PO Box 138, 1678 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley CA 94709.

PEN Center USA West is accepting applications for its grant program for writers with HIV/AIDS. Grants of \$1,000 are available to writers residing in the western and mid-western U.S. To be eligible applicants must be HIV positive and have been actively involved in creating literary work within the last three years. They need not be PEN members or published writers. Eligible projects include fiction, poetry, stage plays and creative nonfiction. Five grants will be awarded in 1996. Deadline: October 7. For application: PEN Center USA West, 672 S. LaFayette Park Place #41, Los Angeles CA 90057; 213-365-8500.

Short short stories of fewer than 1,000 words are being sought for *One Thousand and One Kisses*, an anthology of lesbian/gay/transsexual/bisexual/heterosexual/cross-species kisses edited by Anna Livia and David Hirsch. Romantic kisses, stolen kisses, reluctant kisses, lost kisses, public kisses, political kisses, kisses which gave you herpes, kisses which launched a thousand ships, the run-up to a kiss, the description of a kiss, the aftermath of a kiss, or regret for a kiss not given, the kisses can be to anyone, anything,

anywhere.... Confirm deadline before sending story to: Anna Livia via e-mail: <a-brawn@ux1.cso.uiuc.edu>, or mail: Department of French, University of Illinois, 707 South Mathews Avenue, 2090 Foreign Languages Building, Urbana IL 61801.

Ken Hanes, author of *The Gay Guy's Guide to Life*, is seeking gay men's original advice for other gay men to be included in *Speaking Out: Maxims for A Good Gay Life*. Publication scheduled for 1997 by Crown. *Speaking Out* will be a collection of maxims and instructions in which hundreds of gay men across the country share their pearls of wisdom, their golden rules, their recipes for success and the lessons they have learned about living and loving gay. Send SASE for guidelines to *Speaking Out*, PO Box 12202, Seattle WA 98102. ○

Trivia & Commentary, *continued from page 40.*

Circles of Sisterhood) about Black book groups and the 100,000 or so Black women who are members of book discussion groups. She asks that Black women in both Black and mixed book groups contact her for a questionnaire. Each participating group as well as the bookstore responsible for the introduction will be listed in the book. Pat Neblett, Owner, Tuesday's Child Books, 28 Hart Circle, Randolph MA 02368; 617-694-4164, fax 617-296-4949.

If you've been looking for *L*, the anthology about the lesbian movement in Slovenia, 1984-1995, contact Suzana Tratnik, Sekciia LL/SKUC, Kersnikova 4, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia; fax 4386-61-328-185.



September 22-28 is Banned Books Week. Call Audrey Eisman at ABA (800-637-0037 ext. 289) to order Banned Books Week kits, posters, buttons and bookmarks, or check out the Banned Books Week Web site at <http://www.ala.org./bbooks>. One kit free to all ABA members, \$28 each for additional copies or non-members. The week is sponsored by the ALA, the ABA, the Association of American Publishers, the National Association of College Stores, the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression and the American Society of Journalists and Authors. ○

BESTSELLERS

Compiled by Jenn Tust

INKLINGS — AN ALTERNATIVE BOOKSHOP

Houston TX

May 1996 Bestsellers

1. **Five Minutes in Heaven**, Lisa Alther, \$11.95
2. **Forest House**, Marion Zimmer Bradley, \$12.95
3. **A Grave Talent**, Laurie R. King, \$5.50
4. **Ill Wind**, Nevada Barr, \$5.99
5. **The Lesbian Pillow Book**, \$8
6. **My Point and I Do Have One**, Ellen Degeneres, \$19.95
7. **Permanent Partners**, Betty Berzon, \$13.95
8. **Reviving Ophelia**, Mary Pipher, \$13.50
9. **Riding Shotgun**, Rita Mae Brown, \$22.95
10. **S/He**, Minnie Bruce Pratt, \$10.95
11. **Surface Tension**, ed. by Meg Daly, \$12
12. **Tomboys: Tales of Dyke Derring-Do**, ed. by Lynn Yamaguchi and Karen Barber, \$9.95
13. **Transgender Warriors**, Leslie Feinberg, \$27.50
14. **Two or Three Things I Know for Sure**, Dorothy Allison, \$14.95
15. **Unnatural Dykes to Watch Out For**, Alison Bechdel, \$10.95
16. **Women's Traveller**, Damron, \$11.95

BRIGIT BOOKS

St. Petersburg FL

May 1996 Bestsellers

1. **Grief: Reminders for Healing**, Gale Massey, \$1.95
2. **Women's Traveller**, Damron, \$11.95
3. **101 Reasons Why a Cat is Better Than a Man**, Allia Zobel and Nicole Hollander, \$5.95



4. **Women Who Love Cats Too Much**, Allia Zobel and Nicole Hollander, \$6.95
5. **Witches' Almanac Spring 1996–Spring 1997**, ed. by Elizabeth Pepper, \$6.95
6. **Womansource Catalog and Review**, ed. by Ilene Rosoff, \$19.95
7. **Women's Bodies, Women's Wisdom**, Christiane Northrup, \$14.95
8. **Key to Everything: Classic Lesbian Love Poems**, Gerry Gomez Pearlberg, \$10
9. **Getting in Touch with Your Inner Bitch**, Elizabeth Hilts, \$7.95
10. **Metaphysical Techniques That Really Work**, Audrey Davis, \$12.95

ORLANDO BOOKS

Edmonton ALB

May 1996 Bestsellers

FICTION

1. **Fighting for Air**, Marsha Mildon, C\$14.95 pb
2. **Forbidden Passages: Writings Banned in Canada**, Cleis Press, C\$20.95 pb
3. **Moo**, Jane Smiley, C\$16.95pb

NON-FICTION

1. **Whose Brave New World? The Information Highway and the New Economy**, Heather Menzies, C\$19.95 pb

2. **Women's Bodies, Women's Wisdom**, Christiane Northrup, C\$20.95 pb
3. **Paris Was a Woman**, Andrea Weiss, C\$28 pb

POETRY

1. **Exiles Among You**, Kristjana Gunnars, C\$9.95 pb
2. **Jerusalem Beloved**, Di Brandt, C\$12.95 pb
3. **The Arc of Love: An Anthology of Lesbian Love Poems**, ed. by Clare Coss, C\$27 cl

WRITING

1. **Breasting the Waves: On Writing and Healing**, Joanne Arnott, C\$14.95 pb
2. **Bird by Bird**, Anne Lamott, C\$16.95 pb
3. **Writing for Your Life**, Deena Metzger, C\$19.50 pb

VIDEOS & MUSIC

1. **Who's Counting? Marilyn Waring on Sex, Lies & Global Economics**, National Film Board of Canada, C\$19.95
2. **Fiction and Other Truths: A Film About Jane Rule**, National Film Board of Canada C\$19.95
3. **She Carries Me**, Jennifer Berezan, C\$21 CD, C\$12.99 cassette.



GIFTS OF ATHENA
Cleveland Heights OH
May 1996
Bestsellers, all in paper

1. **Too Queer**, V. Brownworth, Firebrand
2. **Seeing Dell**, Carol Guess, Cleis
3. **Last of Her Lies**, Jean Taylor, Seal
4. **Ladder of Years**, Anne Tyler, RH-Pantheon
5. **Hooded Murder**, Jean Van Dyke, Naiad
6. **Beach Affair**, Nancy Johnson, Naiad
7. **Fodors Gay Guide**, Fodors
8. **We Know Where You Live**, Jean Taylor, Seal

9. **New Our Right to Love**, Ginny Vida, Simon & Schuster
10. **Virtual Equality**, Urvashi Vaid, Anchor

SISTERHOOD BOOKSTORE
Los Angeles CA
Bestsellers-to-Date 1996

1. **Working Parents Handbook**, Simon & Schuster, \$13
2. **Double Bluff**, Claire McNab, Naiad, \$10.95
3. **Unnatural Dykes to Watch Out For**, Alison Bechdel, Firebrand, \$10.95
4. **Women's Traveller**, Damron, \$11.95
5. **My Life So Far by Edith Ann**, Jane Wagner, Hyperion, \$7.95
6. **Northern Blue**, Tracey Richardson, Naiad, \$10.95
7. **Girl Power: Young Women Speak Out**, Hilary Carlip, Warner, \$11.99
8. **She Came By the Book**, Mary Wings, Berkley, \$10
9. **Loves Harvest**, Peggy Herring, Naiad, \$10.95
10. **Color of Winter**, Lisa Shapiro, Naiad, \$10.95

WORD IS OUT
Boulder CO
Bestsellers for April/May

1. **Five Minutes in Heaven**, Lisa Alther, \$11.95 pb
2. **Damron's Women's Traveller '96**, Damron, \$11.95 pb
3. **Ferrari for Women '95**, Ferrari, \$14 pb
4. **Soulskin**, Marilyn Krysl, \$12.95 pb
5. **A Small Sacrifice**, Ellen Hart, \$5.99 pb
6. **Transgender Warriors**, Leslie Feinberg, \$27.50 cl
7. **Do What I Say: Ms. Behavior's Guide**, Meryl Cohen, \$11.95 pb
8. **Playing for Keeps**, Stevie Rios, \$10.99 pb
9. **1st Impressions**, Kate Calloway, \$10.95 pb
10. **The Artist's Way**, Julia Cameron, \$13.95 pb
11. **Written on the Body**, Jeanette Winterson, \$11 pb
12. **Rubyfruit Jungle**, Rita Mae Brown, \$6.50 pb
13. **The Lesbian Sex Book**, Wendy Caster, \$14.95 pb

HUMOR

By Roz Warren

Everything's coming up rosaries in Rina Piccolo's **Kicking the Habit: Cartoons About the Catholic Church** (\$7.95 pb, 0-9632526-7-4, Laugh Lines Press), a sinfully funny collection of single-panel cartoons about nuns, priests, God, the Pope and the folks who love them. Rina's cartoons have appeared in *Ms.*, *The National Lampoon*, *The Utne Reader* and most of the *Women's Glib* books. Her first collection, *Stand Back: I Think I'm Gonna Laugh* (\$7.95 pb, 0-9632526-3-1) is also available from Laugh Lines Press. Rina, who likes to keep busy, recently illustrated yet another new humor book (on a reliable old topic), **The Trouble With Men** by Kitty Mancini (\$9.95 pb, 0-9648010-9-4, Hypertext Publishing).

Bertice: The World According To Me by Bertice Berry is an "inspirational autobiography" (part celebrity bio, part self-help book) by a terrific feminist comedian. (If you ever have the opportunity to see Berry's act — go! She's fabulous.) **Bertice** is an engaging, from-the-heart account of Berry's life, interspersed with her thoughts about how she developed the skills it took to survive a tough background and become both an educator (she holds a Ph.D.) and a successful entertainer (she had her own talk show and will have her own network sitcom this fall.) As Berry puts it: "This book is the story of the paths I've taken and those I'm still trying to avoid. Much of my life has been an obstacle course. I've been trying to break the cycles of poverty and abuse, while a whole group of spectators who couldn't jump off a curb if they tried have been yelling, 'That girl is gonna fall flat on her big behind.' **Bertice** combines plenty of memorable wisecracks with solid insights about growth and survival." \$21, 0-684-81457-9, Scribner.



Cartoon from *Kicking the Habit* by Rina Piccolo
(Laugh Lines Press)

Marilyn: The Story of a Woman is a graphic novel about the life of Marilyn Monroe. Cartoonist Kathryn Hyatt relies on transcripts of interviews with Monroe, augmented by her own imagination, to explore the life of this enigmatic woman. The result is a compelling portrait of a troubled personality, with artwork that is competent rather than outstanding. \$14.95 pb, 1-888363-06-1, Seven Stories.

Roberts' Rules of Lesbian Living is a clever new book by Shelly Roberts, the author of *The Dyke Detector*. Priced to sell well as an impulse purchase. A "handy little lesbian instruction book" — a pal who read my copy described it as "fortune cookie messages for lesbians" — it includes lines like: "I love you is not a question" and "After one year, all lesbian couples will be wearing at least one matching item." \$5.95 pb, 1-883523-09-5, Spinsters Ink.

Jorjet Harper's **Tales From The Dyke Side**, the second collection of funny columns by the author of *Lesbomania*, is even better than Harper's first collection,

which was a hoot. **Dyke Side** covers topics like the secret lesbian life of the Loch Ness Monster, the secret lesbian life of Santa Claus, and the secret lesbian life of the witch in *Hansel & Gretel*. Plus Camile Paglia and lesbian lizards! (Yeah, those last two are different essays.) \$10.95 pb, 0-934678-71-5, New Victoria.

Twin 'Toons collects cartoons about twins by Nancy Bea Miller, a mother of twins. The first humor book ever on this topic, **Twin 'Toons** has been selling incredibly well to its target audience (anybody who has or is expecting twins) and is of no particular interest to anyone else. That's niche publishing for you. Why not stock one so you'll have the perfect book for the next customer who asks for a good gift for a mother of

multiples? \$7.95 pb, 0-9632526-8-2, Laugh Lines Press.

Wild Words From Wild Women edited by Autumn Stephens is a solid collection of humorous quotes by women, arranged not by topic but by speaker, with a strong feminist voice, and some interesting juxtapositions (e.g., Ann Boleyn shares a page with Anita Hill)! \$9.95 pb, 1-57324-038-9, Conari Press.

And be sure to watch out for the eighth edition of Alison Bechdel's **Dykes To Watch Out For** calendar. \$11.95, 1-56341-069-9, Firebrand.

RozWarren owns *Laugh Lines Press*, the proud publisher of the *Lammy-Award* winning *The Butches of Madison County* by Ellen Orleans. ○

WisCon, continued from page 37.

Axness of A Room of One's Own Bookstore, a program participant since WisCon 2, played her customary role on one of the con's perennial favorite panels: "Women Writers You Might Never Have Heard Of." Karen has been fighting a hard battle against cancer and her presence at WisCon was an inspiration to her many friends and admirers.



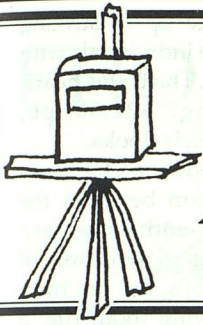
The presence of several book and magazine publishers — notably Broken Mirrors Press (publisher of *Crank!*, in which last year's Tiptree co-winner, Ursula K. Le Guin's "The Matter of Seggri," first appeared), *Century* (whose publisher, Meg Hamel, coordinated publications for the con committee), and Tor Books — helped make possible a particularly strong series of panels on the publishing business. These included "Publishing 101: How the economics of publishing influences the qualities of what you read," "Feminist and anti-women pressures acting on editors, writers, and publishers: the business perspective," "Sexism and the definition of marketing labels," and "Curse of the brass bra, or, why can't we get honest book covers?"

Tor's influence on feminist f/sf in the 90s can hardly be underestimated. Two of its contributing editors are WisCon regulars: Jim Frenkel, who lives in Madison and Debbie Notkin, who chaired the first Tiptree Award jury. (Debbie, a former co-owner of

Other Change of Hobbit, the f/sf bookstore in Berkeley, was the writer half of the team that produced *Women En Large*.) Decorating the walls at Tor's party Saturday night were cover-art posters for a plethora of new and forthcoming titles by such established feminist writers as Pat Murphy, Melissa Scott, and Gwyneth Jones, and promising newcomers like Raphael Carter (*The Fortunate Fall*), and Anne Harris (*The Nature of Smoke*).

Currently f/sf writers in the U.S. have few options outside the "mainstream" (read: "Corporate Publishing") for their novels, collections, and anthologies. Yet the mainstream can't do justice to every book worth publishing and today's best publisher may be bought up and gutted tomorrow by Conglomerate X. This writer thus organized and moderated "A small, quality feminist science fiction and fantasy press — would it work?" with Suzette Haden Elgin, Jim Frenkel, Debbie Notkin, and Lucy Sussex. Major input about economic realities was made by Jane Dorsey of Tesseract Books, a "small, quality feminist f/sf press" in Canada. Tesseract can be reached by writing 214-21 10405 Jasper Ave., Edmonton Alberta T5J 3S2 Canada; 403-448-0590; or e-mail <Tesseract@istream.com>.

For more information about WisCon, contact SF3, Box 1624, Madison WI 53701. An annotated list of Tiptree Award winners and shortlist titles is available from SF3 for \$2. To recommend f/sf (any length, short stories to novels) published in 1996 for the Tiptree, send title, author, publisher, and pub date to Karen Joy Fowler, 457 Russell Blvd., Davis CA 95616; e-mail <KJFowler@aol.com>. ○



ART BOOKS

By Tee A. Corinne

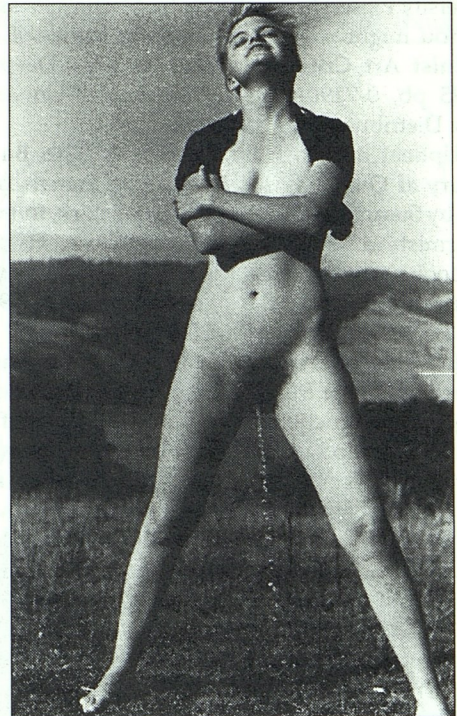
Nothing But the Girl: The Blatant Lesbian Image edited by Susie Bright and Jill Posener is a difficult book to review, and not just because my work is prominently featured in it. Bookstores that have chosen not to carry lesbian sex magazines may dislike the book intensely. There are s/m images in the book as well as images of dildos and piercings. The range of photographs also includes the lyrical and gentle, tattoos, a woman standing in the sunlight peeing and a safer-sex orgy with fat women participating (my favorite). Thirty-five lesbian photographers contributed the 150 color and black-and-white photographs. Susie Bright's text pulls together diverse community discussions spanning the last three decades and provides a context for understanding the wide range of images. **Nothing But the Girl** is about erotica, but it's also about resistance and defiance — about making art out of all of the above. I believe it is a major document on the history and development of lesbian aesthetics. \$29.95 cl, 1-86047-001-7. Freedom Editions/Cassell, 215 Park Avenue South, New York NY 10003. Distributed by Login/InBook.

Just arrived and a hit at the Art Librarians' Conference, **Lesbian Art: An Encounter With Power** by Elizabeth Ashburn is gorgeous, inspiring, full of reproductions in color and black-and-white. It is not afraid of controversy, but doesn't dwell on it. Chapter titles are: "Fighting Invisibility," "Emerging," "Finding Power," "Working Together," "Dyke Power" and "Surveying the Field." Includes a bibliography. \$36 cl, 976-6410-76-3. Craftsman House, 20 Barcoo Street, Roseville East, NSW 2069 Australia. Distributed by Gordon and Breach, 2 Gateway Center, 11th Floor, Newark NJ 07102; 201-643-7500, ext. 223.

New in paper, **Significant Others: Creativity and Intimate Partnership** edited by Whitney Chadwick

and Isabelle de Courtivron examines the relationships of 13 couples to determine how these partnerships influenced the creativity of each partner. Couples include: Virginia Woolf and Vita Sackville-West, Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera, Jasper Johns and Robert Rauschenberg, Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant. \$17.95 pb, 0-500-27874-1, Thames and Hudson. Distributed by W.W. Norton.

Mapping the Terrain: New Genre Public Art edited by Suzanne Lacy is a terrific book that may be overlooked because of its bland cover. More than



Pissing, by Catherine Opie, in *Nothing But the Girl* (Freedom Editions/Cassell)

two-thirds of the essays are by women, many well known in feminist art circles: Lucy Lippard, Arlene Raven, Judith F. Baca and Lacy herself. Estella Conwill Májozo's chapter begins: "To search for the good and make it matter: this is the real challenge for the artist." And from Suzie Gablik's: "What I am concerned with is understanding the nature of our cultural myths and how they evolve — the institutional framework we take for granted but which nevertheless determines our lives." \$18.95 pb, 0-941920-30-5, Bay Press. Distributed by Login/InBook.



Feminist Subjects: Multi-Media edited by Penny Florence and Dee Reynolds is a collection of essays on a range of interdisciplinary topics including family photos, Frida Kahlo's "grotesque" bodies, the film *Thelma and Louise* and the use and meaning of texts in women's art. \$24.95 pb, 0-7190-4180-5, Manchester University Press. Distributed by St. Martin's Press.

You might want to order more copies of **New Feminist Art Criticism** edited by Katy Deepwell. \$19.95 pb, 0-7190-4258-5, Manchester University Press. Distributed by St. Martin's Press.

Upbeat and affirming, **Gay by The Bay: A History of Queer Culture in the San Francisco Bay Area** by Susan Stryker and Jim Van Buskirk, foreword by Armistead Maupin, is full of artwork, magazine and book covers, activist photographs and lively text that guides the reader through the decades. \$24.95 pb, 0-8118-1187-5, Chronicle Books.

In **Dear Robert, I'll See You at the Crossroads: A Project** by Renée Stout, Marla C. Berns features the collaged constructions of a contemporary African American sculptor described as "an artist whose extensive engagement with African artistic traditions informs all of her creations and infuses them with a strong sense of moral critique, intellectual complexity, and historical connection." I would add "beauty" to that list. Includes an essay by George Lipsitz. \$22.95 pb, 0-942006-27-5. University Art Museum, UCSB, Santa Barbara CA 93106. Distributed by the University of Washington Press.

Mothers and Sons in Their Own Words, photographs by Mariana Cook, introduction by Isabel

Allende, is a great gift book made up of striking photographs of famous and obscure individuals with a strong racial, ethnic and class mix. The text is heart-warming and heart-wrenching. \$22.95 pb, 0-8118-1170-0; \$40 cl, -1194-8, Chronicle Books.

Mother by Judy Olausen, introduction by Karin Winegar, is actually a collaboration between the mother/subject, Vivian Olausen, and daughter/photographer, Judy. The subject is a revisiting of women's social situation in the 1950s. On the front cover the mother kneels on the living room rug, a glass table top balanced on her back. I thought I would hate the book, but I found it was a warm and hilarious spoof of the "family values" crowd. \$24.95 cl, 0-670-86867-1, Viking Penguin.

Our Boots: An Inuit Woman's Art by Jill Oakes and Rick Riewe is a cultural study focusing on the making of boots. It is rich with detail, quotes, drawings and beautiful photographs that show a wide range of historical and contemporary styles and decorations. \$24.95 pb, 0-500-27860-1, Thames and Hudson. Distributed by W.W. Norton.

The White Blackbird: A Life of the Painter Margaret Sargent by her granddaughter, Honor Moore, is a loving, compelling, poetic portrait of a bisexual woman of great talent who, constrained by class and social expectations, ultimately retreated to alcoholism. It is also the story of Moore's reconstruction of Sargent's shattered life and the documentation of paintings and drawings that had been neglected for years. A complex and ultimately inspiring book. \$29.95, 0-670-80563-7, Viking.

Weaving Identities: Construction of Dress and Self in a Highland Guatemala Town by Carol Hendrickson is an anthropological study of "*Traje*, the brightly colored traditional dress of the highland Maya.... It plays an active role in the construction and expression of ethnicity, gender, education, politics, wealth, and nationality for Maya and non-Maya alike." \$15.95 pb, 0-292-73120-0; \$35 cl, -73099-3, University of Texas Press.

Of special interest to librarians collecting catalogs of exhibits by contemporary artists: **Kiki Smith: Sojourn in Santa Barbara** by Elizabeth A. Brown has 40 pages with 24 illustrations (twelve in color). \$15 pb, 0-942006-25-9. University Art Museum, UCSB, Santa Barbara CA 93106. Distributed by the University of Washington Press. ○

FROM OUR OWN PRESSES



Compiled by Jenn Tust

ASTARTE SHELL PRESS

In every community, gay or straight, separations of couples run the gamut from amicable to acrimonious. In our new book, *Autumn Sea*, the characters test their mettle and make their choices — choices that envision endings as beginnings, that respect and celebrate differences, that ultimately reflect trust and transform relationships. *Autumn Sea* by Toke Hoppenbrouwers explores lesbian relationships and choices. As the white narrator is challenged to end her relationship with her African American lover, she learns to honor her own anguish and fear and to move toward a new freedom and reconciliation with others. In her journey, she also confronts her own family and her childhood in the Netherlands during World War II. In one of the most beautiful episodes in the novel, the narrator and her mother move toward a new relationship of love. Lesbian readers are constantly seeking books that tell the stories of women creatively living out their chosen lifestyles, meeting and overcoming the complexities of relationships that cross racial and ethnic boundaries. Heterosexual readers also will appreciate and enjoy the dynamics of endings and beginnings and particularly the ways in which the women characters deal with separations. \$12.95 pb, 1885349-04-1. Astarte Shell Press, PO Box 3648, Portland ME 04104; 207-828-1992. Distributed by LogIn/InBook. —*Astarte Shell Press*

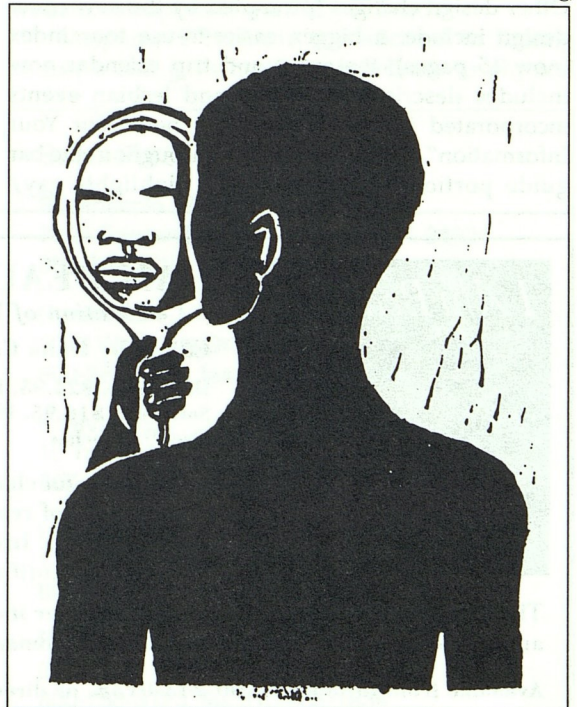
BIBLIO PRESS

Drawing on the Bible: Biblical Women in Art by Beth K. Haber has 39 black and white engravings and prints from museum sources showing women of the Hebrew Bible (*Tanakh*). Haber's insightful commentary of the women and the art in the 15th–19th

centuries, complements the original biblical text on facing pages. No other work of biblical art is available of the 14 biblical women included here. A visual book for all readers — especially for gift-giving to adults and Judaica collectors. \$14.95 cl, 0-930395-24-7. Biblio Press, 1140 Broadway #1507, New York NY 10001; 212-684-1257. Distributed by BP. —*Biblio Press*

FERRARI

Ferrari will launch *Ferrari Guides' Paris for Gays & Lesbians* in November. It offers an in-depth guide to Paris, France with full-color sections containing



Woodcut by Alison Saar, from *Arcade* (Kelsey St. Press)

reviews of gay, and selected mainstream, hotels and restaurants, each chosen for their desirability to well-traveled gays and lesbians. sorry price not set yet, 0-942586-58-1, November.

Ferrari is changing the titles of the Ferrari Guides. *Ferrari for Women* (originally *Places of Interest*) becomes **Ferrari Guides' Women's Travel in Your Pocket** 16th edition (\$14 pb, 0-942586-56-5); *Ferrari Travel Planner* (originally *Places of Interest*) is now **Ferrari Guides' Gay Travel A to Z**, 17th edition (\$16 pb, 0-942586-54-9); **Ferrari Guides' Inn Places** is the new name for the former *Inn Places*; and *Ferrari For Men* (originally *Places for Men*) is now **Ferrari Guides' Men's Travel in Your Pocket**, 13th edition (\$16 pb, 0-942586-55-7).

The new Ferrari cover design will help identify the books as a series: a black background frames colorful front-cover photographs; a new Ferrari logo at the upper left of each front cover and at the top of the spine consists of the words "Ferrari Guides" in white against a red rectangle; a pink triangle contains the phrase "Gay/Lesbian Travel Series" on each front cover and at the bottom of each spine; bright yellow titles leap off the black background. Other design changes (prompted by the new cover design include: a bigger, easier-to-use tour index (now 15 pages), the event and trip calendar now includes descriptions of gay and lesbian events incorporated into the calendar, a new "For Your Information" appears randomly throughout the bar guide portion, and a "pointer" highlights gay/

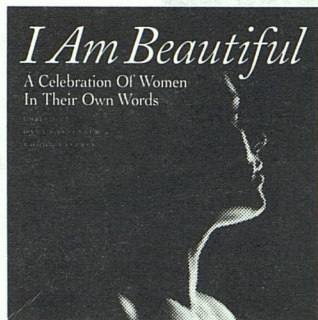
gay-friendly tour companies that offer packages to given destinations.

Ferrari International Publishing, PO Box 37887, Phoenix AZ 85069; 602-863-2408, fax 602-439-3952, e-mail (ferrari@q-net.com). Distributed by BP, B&T, Ingram, Koen, Bookazine. —*Ferrari International*

KELSEY ST. PRESS

We are particularly excited about our most recent book, **Arcade**, a collaboration between two African American artists; Erica Hunt and Alison Saar. This innovative book includes nine woodcuts on vellum by Saar interspersed with Hunt's imaginative and forceful poetry. **Arcade** is an unusual collaboration between two major African American artists that traverses the boundaries between language and images. It brings together Hunt's imaginative explorations of the personal and political realms and Saar's Santeris, Voodoo and Catholic inspired assemblages of urban artifacts. These two artists have complementary yet idiosyncratic visions. Hunt's poems are grounded in the staccato rhythms of New York City where she juggles the phenomena around her while her writing also illuminates forces at work beneath surfaces and facets of the human spirit that emerge in odd displacement. \$15 pb, 0-932716-39-3. Kelsey St. Press, 2718 Ninth Street, Berkeley CA 94710; 510-845-2260, fax 510-548-9185. Distributed by Small Press Distribution and Kelsey St. Press.

—*Kelsey St. Press*



I AM BEAUTIFUL

A Celebration of Women in Photographs and Words

Edited by Dana Carpenter and Woody Winfree

Hardcover, \$24.95, ISBN 1-887166-11-4

Softcover, \$16.95, ISBN 1-887166-12-2

Size: 9x9 inches

I Am Beautiful challenges traditional concepts of beauty through 100 photographs of real women and their own descriptions of what makes them beautiful. Inspiring and profound, this book makes every reader know how beautiful she is.

The diversity embodied in here, with the ever increasing popularity of the topics of feminine beauty and self worth, make this a book that any woman would want to buy, either for herself or as a gift.

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LESBIAN SHORT FICTION

LSF: Lesbian Short Fiction, the new ongoing anthology of short stories with lesbian themes, is available, and we are now taking subscriptions at four issues for \$36. The fiction will thrill, depress, entertain, evoke old memories, anger, and run the gamut of emotions in your readers. The premiere issue contains 21 stories by authors Joan Drury, Lee Lynch, Elizabeth Pincus and others. Work has already begun on the fall issue. \$9.95 pb, 1087-7169. 40% discount. Tanta Publishers. Make check to Jinx Beers, Editor and mail to 6507 Franrivers Avenue, West Hills CA 91307. —LSF



MELPOMENE INSTITUTE

Of Heroes, Hopes & Level Playing Fields: A Collection of Insights and Observations on Physical Activity and Women by Judy Mahle Lutter is a wonderful collection of stories about real people — from you and me to champions. It's inspiring, uplifting, educational, challenging. You'll want to 'do' sports, exercise or any physical activity. This book is a 'must read' for anyone who cares about her body. \$10 pb, 0-9651137-0-1.

Heroes: Growing Up Female and Strong is a 52-minute educational video that focuses on the link between self-esteem and physical activity for adolescent girls. Sharing the stories of four everyday heroes, the documentary explores the benefits of sports on self-esteem, encourages girls to examine their self image and make choices to improve it. A corresponding curriculum can be ordered with the video. Video \$19.95, video and curriculum \$24.95.

The second edition of **The Bodywise Woman: Reliable Information About Physical Activity and Health** by the staff and researchers of the Melpomene Institute for Women's Health Research, foreword by Billie Jean King, will be available in September. **The Bodywise Woman** is the result of eight years of exhaustive research and study at the Melpomene Institute. Complete, up-to-date and unbiased, here is

an invaluable reference, filled with case studies, graphs, charts and checklists to help answer every fitness question — from the most effective exercises for your age to weight and lifestyle concerns. Whether you are already enjoying the benefits of physical activity or have just started to consider becoming more active, **The Bodywise Woman** is the perfect guide to help you deepen your commitment and make informed choices about your health and lifestyle. \$16.95 pb, 0-87322-606-2. (This one's actually published by Human Kinetics Publishers.)

Melpomene also compiles information packets on a variety of issues of particular interest to women including: body image, breast health, exercise and menstrual function, girls, physical activity and self esteem, menopause, exercise and pregnancy, larger women, osteoporosis and PMS. \$12 each.

Melpomene Institute is dedicated to linking women's and girl's health and wellness to physical

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activity. Melpomene is a nonprofit, membership based organization located in St. Paul, Minn. and is renowned for groundbreaking research used by physicians and other health care professionals, as well as teachers, coaches, parents and individual women and girls.

40% for 10+. Melpomene Institute, 1010 University Avenue, St. Paul MN 55104; 612-642-1951, fax 612-642-1871. Distributed by Bookman. —*Melpomene Institute*



NAIAD PRESS

As most of you know, Naiad Press has been looking for *Curious Wine's* successor for at least 10 years. Well, prepare yourself for the next *Curious Wine!* We guarantee that your biggest challenge this season will be keeping up with the demand for **Heart on Fire**, an incomparable love story by exciting new author Diana Simmonds. Set amidst the shimmering landscape and untamed beauty of the Australian outback, Diana's passionate account of a scorching affair between America's top country music star and an Australian truckstop princess will raise pulses — and sales —

around the globe. \$10.95 pb, 1-56280-152-X, August.

No one breathes life into the lesbian past like the incomparable Penny Hayes! In **Now and Then**, the beloved author of *Grassy Flats*, *The Long Trail*, *Montana Feathers*, *Yellowthroat* and *Kathleen O'Donald* takes your readers back to the summer of 1888 and the fateful meeting between a timid working class woman and a fearless trick rider in Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show. We predict strong sales for this extraordinary account of love and courage in the face of overwhelming odds. \$10.95 pb, 1-56280-121-X, August.

Karin Kallmaker — "the undisputed mistress of lesbian romance" — triumphs again with **Wild Things**, a provocative, sensuous tale of two strong women swept up in a whirlpool of wanting as deep and powerful as love itself. (This book is so *hot* you should advise your customers to keep a fire extinguisher handy when they start reading the love scenes.) **Wild Things** is a sure-fire bestseller guaranteed to ignite demand for Karin's previous titles *Car Pool*, *In Every Port*, *Touchwood*, *Paperback Romance* and last year's critically acclaimed, *Painted Moon*. \$10.95 pb, 1-56280-139-2, September.

The Internet is in, and everyone who is (or wants to be) on-line will get in line to purchase **The Girl Next Door**, Mindy Kaplan's timely exploration of the tantalizing possibilities of virtual sex — and love — in the exciting new world of cyberspace. A sizzling romance from the creator of the hit film and novel, *Devotion*. \$10.95 pb, 1-56280-140-6, September.

Jaye Maiman is back! **Baby It's Cold** is the long-awaited fifth installment in her award-winning mystery series featuring private investigator Robin Miller. As a bitter winter grips New York City, Robin is catapulted on a bone-chilling quest to save a friend's child from a horrifying death. The investigation rushes ahead at breakneck speed, propelling Robin on a collision course with a cold-hearted killer...and former lover. Be sure to stock up on the first four chartbusting installments of Jaye Maiman's award-winning mystery series, *I Left My Heart*, *Crazy for Loving*, *Under My Skin* and *Someone to Watch*. \$19.95 cl, 1-56280-141-4, September. —*Naiad Press*

NAIAD VIDEO

Kate Clinton: The Queen of Comedy headlines the wonderful new video, **The Club Skirts & Girl Bar Queens of Comedy** show, with Dos Fallopia and

A Small Bit of Bread and Butter

LETTERS from the DAKOTA TERRITORY

1832-1869

Edited by

Maida Leonard Riggs

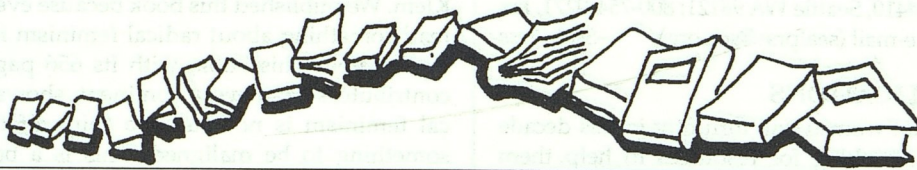
Mary Ann Longley Riggs left a detailed collection of her experiences as a frontier missionary and mother of eight. These letters of life before, during, and after the Great Sioux uprising in 1862 offer rich detail about domestic life and interactions with the Sioux.

ASH GROVE PRESS

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Maggie Casella and MC Maureen Brownsey. An hour long tape filmed at the Dinah Shore Golf Classic Week in Palm Springs — our customers will laugh themselves silly with this one. Color. \$29.95, 1-56280-154-6.

A last minute change in the compilation tape, **I Became a Lesbian and Others Too**, adds the wonderful color short film, *Just a Little Crush* as the opening film. *Just a Little Crush* tells of the unrealized affair between a pet store clerk and a beautiful and mysterious woman in red. Reality gives way to the ultimate dyke dream, the lush rescue fantasy and concludes with a striking tribute to the wonderful film, *The Pirate*. \$29.95, 1-56280-149-X.

From Nicole Conn, the creator of *Claire of the Moon*, comes **Cynara: Poetry in Motion**. This new erotic video is a highly charged romance featuring a brooding heroine and her beautiful lover. This will be one of the hottest selling video titles this year. \$29.95, 34 minutes, August.

Note that all of the last year's hottest lesbian films have new prices: **Go Fish** \$29.95, **The Incredibly True Adventures of 2 Girls in Love** \$19.95, **The Sum of Us** \$29.95, and **Bar Girls** \$19.95.

All wholesale orders receive a 40% discount and any bookstore order of three or more copies receives free freight.

50% discount. The Naiad Press, PO Box 10543, Tallahassee FL 32302; 904-539-5965. Distributed by BP, Login/InBook, Ingram, et al. —*Naiad Press*



THE POST-APOLLO PRESS

We are proud to announce the publication of the latest collection of poems by Barbara Guest: **Quill, Solitary Apparition**. Barbara Guest is the winner of The Lawrence Lipton Prize, the San Francisco State Poetry Award and the Josephine Miles Award for Poetry. She is also the author of the celebrated biography: *H.D. Herself Defined*. She considers **Quill,**

Solitary Apparition one of her most important works. This publication constitutes a literary event. \$12.95, 0-942996-26-7.

The fourth edition of **Sitt Marie-Rose** by Etel Adnan will be out in September. \$9.95, 0-942996-27-5.

The Post-Apollo Press, 35 Marie Street, Sausalito CA 94965; 415-332-1458, fax 415-332-8045. Distributed by Small Press Distribution, BP. —*Post-Apollo Press*

PRESS GANG

A new second edition of **Restricted Entry: Censorship on Trial** is scheduled for release on July 15. It features an epilogue chapter about the outcome of the trial, as well as an index. \$16.95 pb, C\$18.95 pb, 0-88974-066-6. Press Gang Publishers, #101-225 East 17th Avenue, Vancouver BC V5V 1A6, Canada; 604-876-7787, fax 604-876-7892. Distributed by BP.

—*Press Gang Publishers*

RISING TIDE

We are the new publisher of the popular lesbian mystery series by Linda Kay Silva: *Taken by Storm*, *Storm Shelter*, *Weathering the Storm* and *Storm Front*. These out-of-print titles will be available from us in the Fall. Deanna Leach of Paradigm Press has chosen to terminate the publishing arm of Paradigm Press.

In addition, we have purchased from Paradigm the remaining copies of *Storm Front*. Any bookstores who wish to purchase these books directly from Rising Tide Press may do so.

We are also happy to announce that we will be publishing Linda Kay Silva's new novel, the fifth in the Storm series entitled **Tropical Storm**. Publication date set for August.

—*Rising Tide Press*

SEAL PRESS

Reading Group Guides for *Nowle's Passing* are now available. They include information about the author, synopsis of the book, questions for discussion, suggested readings, ordering information and praise for *Nowle's Passing*. They are free from Seal Press, 3131

Western Ave. #410, Seattle WA 98121; 800-754-0271, fax 206-285-9410, e-mail (sealprss@scn.org). —*Seal Press*

SIBYL PUBLICATIONS

Ten million women will turn fifty in this decade and will be searching for resources to help them approach mid-life. **Inventing Ourselves Again: Women Face Middle Age** by Janis Fisher Chan is such a resource. It is a conversation between the author and close friends about this puzzling, challenging and wondrous time in our lives. The women examine the fears, ideas, feelings and discoveries common to all American women reaching midlife. This book is a conversation between women who belong to the generation born at the end of the Depression and during the first years of World War II. We are aging differently then we had expected. We have few role models. So we must invent ourselves...again, the way we've done all our lives. \$14.95 pb, 0-9638327-1-9. Sibyl Publications, 600 S. E. Powell Blvd, Portland OR 97202; 800-240-8566, fax 503-231-7492. Distributed by BP. —*Sibyl Publications*



SPINIFEX PRESS

1996 is the fifth birthday year of Spinifex Press and we are celebrating with books.

The hottest book at this year's NWSA meeting in Saratoga Springs was **Radically Speaking: Feminism Reclaimed** edited by Diane Bell and Renate

Klein. We published this book because everytime we read something about radical feminism it was misrepresented. This book, with its 656 pages and 68 contributors from every continent, shows that radical feminism is not passé, a thing of the 70s, or something to be maligned. This is a book which shows the seriousness and the humor of radical feminists (and if you doubt the latter, just read the Po-mo Quiz at the end of the book!). Courses on feminism will be incomplete without this book and it is already being talked about inside and outside the universities. \$29.95 pb, 1-875559-38-8, September.

Spinifex is quite aware that things have changed since the 70s and as a follow-up to Dale Spender's highly successful *Nattering on the Net*, we now have a guide to how to do it. **The Internet for Women** by Rye Senjen and Jane Guthrey assumes you are a reader first and just coming to the Internet. We published this because so many of the guides to the Internet simply don't address the issues covered in this book: such as women's part in the development of computers, issues around privacy, the establishment of community and political action, and, of course, resources for feminists. Take your own magic carpet ride through this clear and substantial book. \$16.95 pb, 1-875559-52-3, September.

And then there's history and political struggle. Do you understand the origins of Apartheid? Rose Zwi's novel, **Another Year in Africa** documents the little-known history of Jewish communities in

A progressive view of the politics of our time that will make sense to students, activists and all who are trying to understand the current threat to democracy. A blend of personal anecdote and contemporary cutting-edge analysis—along with a vision of a multi-issue, multi-racial movement—creating a powerful call to action for each of us.

This essential book provides keen analysis and tactical guidance to people concerned about the growing power of the Right. —Urvashi Vaid, author of *Virtual Equality*

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THE WOMEN'S PROJECT

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author of *Homophobia:
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Johannesburg through the eyes of six-year-old Ruth. Winner of the Olive Schreiner Award for Fiction, this is a moving account of dreams and fears, of tragedy and persecution. A tender evocation of South Africa in the 30s and 40s. \$12.95 pb, 1-875559-42-6, September.

Over the next few months we will be adding to our Home Page, updating it regularly and eventually putting on much more information, including interactive work. So watch our space and check out our catalog on the Internet. E-mail us if you are having any difficulties getting our books. Home Page: <http://www.publishaust.net.au/~spinifex>, e-mail spinifex@publishaust.net.au.

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Spinifex Press, 504 Quennsberry Street, PO Box 212, North Melbourne Victoria 3051, Australia; +613-9329-6088, fax +613-9329-9238. In the U.S. call or fax 718-351-9599 for further information. Distributed by Koen. —*Spinifex Press*

WOMEN'S RESEARCH CENTRE

Listening to the Thunder: Advocates Talk about the Battered Women's Movement is a comprehensive, provocative, innovative and insightful examination of current issues in the battered women's movement by 22 grassroots activists from across Canada. Although the articles are based on the Canadian experience, the problem of violence against women is international, and the challenges facing the movement today are more similar than different from country to country. American advocates, counsellors, frontline workers in shelters, teachers, policy-makers, researchers and activists will find that **Listening to the Thunder** offers practical strategies and analyses drawn from direct experience of the issues. Readers who are not directly involved, but who are concerned about the

issue of violence against women and children, and about racism, will also find the book informative. \$17.95, no ISBN. 40% on 5+. Women's Research Centre, #101-2245 West Broadway, Vancouver B.C. V6K 2E4; 604-734-0485; fax 604-734-0484. —WRC

WOLFE VIDEO

Nicole Conn and Wolfe Video have teamed up again to release a new lesbian "Romantica" video. **Cynara: Poetry in Motion** is a sweeping romance set against the moody backdrop of the Northwest coast in 1883. The storyline begins with the simple elegance of girl meets girl on the haunting shoreline. One is a sculptress in exile; the other is an expatriate in search of solitude. What they find is each other. Writer/producer Conn describes her concept of Romantica: "Our spectrum starts with tender and elegant nuance, moves to sensual and subtle shades of romantic emotion, and peaks with the primal and visceral elements of passion. **Cynara** is high seas, Heathcliff on the Moors, larger than life romance. It is a lush, textured lesbian *Wuthering Heights* for our time." \$29.95, Wolfe Video, PO Box 64, New Almaden CA 95042; 408-268-6782, fax 408-268-9449, e-mail www.wolfevideo.com. —*Wolfe Video*



Princess Magazine is a hot new feminist lesbian magazine you need to stock. Angry, political, edgy, it gives voice to a diversity of (mostly) young lesbians on a variety of issues and subjects. Full of articles, poetry, prose, interviews, erotica and photographs this 40-page full sized magazine is currently published twice a year. The editor's goals for the magazine include that it intelligently discuss social issues, provide information and serve as a medium for communication, encourage action and be fun as well as informative. Includes centerfold. Check it out. \$3, *Princess Magazine*, PO Box 20370, Tompkins Square Station, New York NY 10009; 212-439-1001. Distributed by Fine Print. ○

Brett Butler

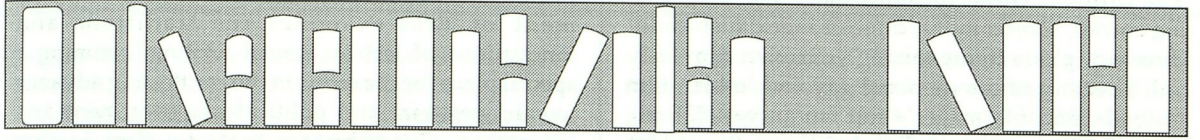
Knee Deep in Paradise

"Brett Butler's thoughtful memoir presents us with an authentic, literate, Southern voice that recalls Mark Twain—witty but melancholy, colloquial but personal. This landmark book will last a long, long time." —Carolyn See

"Powerful, stylish, the work of a real writer with a distinctive literary voice... Brett Butler achieves what few of her TV counterparts have with an autobiography that's both thoughtful and funny."
—*Entertainment Weekly*

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FROM THE SMALL PRESSES



By Jenn Tust

"What Happened to You?" Writing by Disabled Women edited by Lois Keith is an anthology of stories, poems and essays by 36 writers featuring a foreword by Judith Heumann, Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, U.S. Department of Education. Heuman, the highest-ranking disabled person ever to serve in a Presidential administration, writes, "With much of what we have seen and learned about disabled people focuses on men with disabilities, there is a real need for disabled women to be able to...share our unique experience." And the editor says, "This book is part of the coming out of disabled writers...Our terrible isolation, our protective devices, and our lack of power often keep us hidden from the world." \$12.95 pb, 1-56584-280-4. New Press, 450 W. 41st St. New York NY 10036; 212-629-8811. Distributed by W. W. Norton.



I don't ever want to let go of my righteous indignation, because I feel like that is what fuels me.



Angry Women in Rock: Volume One edited by Andrea Juno (*Angry Women*) explores creativity, sexuality, politics, the vagaries of fame, and a wealth of other topics with a range of interviewees from the world of rock — many of whom refuse to talk to the mainstream press. Interviews run the gamut from Kathleen Hanna, singer for the punk band Bikini Kill and originator of the Riot Grrrl movement and

fanzine network, to pioneering rockers of the 60s and 70s like June Millington of Fanny, Chrissie Hynde of the Pretenders and Joan Jett. In-your-face lesbian rockers Tribe 8 and Team Dresch push boundaries with humor and irony while creating a new genre, "homocore," and Bettina Richards, owner of the independent record label Thrill Jockey, reveals the inner workings of the music industry. Looks great! \$19.95 pb, 0-9651042-0-6. Juno Books, from the former co-publisher of Re/Search Publications, 180 Varick St. 10th Floor, New York NY 10014; 212-807-7300. Distributed by Consortium.

The Ultimate Guide to Lesbian & Gay Film and Video edited by Jenni Olson (previously of the San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival) is the first comprehensive review of the history of gay and lesbian cinematic representation. Presenting an overview of the last 20 years of queer film and video production and including retrospective and archival titles, this publication is the complete and authoritative resource for gay and



Yes, I meditate; yes, I have my spiritual practice; yes, I carry a knife and I wear steel toes and I'm ready at all times — to hurt whoever's going to try to hurt me.



Quotes from Tribe 8, in *Angry Women in Rock* (Juno Books)

lesbian film buffs, consumers wanting more information about home video titles, students, activists, film and video makers, and programmers who want to bring these important works to wider audiences. **The Ultimate Guide** includes: more than 2000 catalog entries, subject index, director index, distributor directory, guide to organizing your own film festival, directory of international gay and lesbian film festivals, and filmmaker's top ten survey. \$25 pb, 1-85242-339-0. Serpent's Tail, 180 Varick Street 10th Floor, New York NY 10014; 212-741-8500. Distributed by Consortium.

In **A Movement of Eros: 25 Years of Lesbian Erotica**, Heather Findlay (*Girlfriends* magazine) places lesbian erotica in historical context: stories

with roots in lesbian feminism, pre-Stonewall life, or the fallout of the feminist "sex wars" are grouped together, allowing for a fuller appreciation for the distances traveled — and frequently bridged — by some of the community's boldest writers. **A Movement of Eros** examines the traditions and innovations of lesbian sexual writing, claiming a special place for the erotic in the continuing advance toward personal and political empowerment and liberation. Contributors include: Red Jordon Arobateau, Pat Califia, Chrystos, Tee Corinne, Leslie Feinberg, Jewelle Gomez, Artemis OakGrove, Linda Smukler, Robbi Sommers, Trish Thomas and Chea Villanueva. \$12.95 pb, 1-56333-421-6. Richard Kasak, 801 Second Avenue, New York NY 10017; 212-661-7878. Distributed by BP, Alamo Square.

Beyond Animal Rights: A Feminist Caring Ethic for the Treatment of Animals edited by Josephine Donovan and Carol J. Adams collects eight articles that extend feminist ethic-of-care theory to the issue of animal well-being. These essays suggest ways that theorists may move beyond the limited concept of "rights," establishing care as a basis for the ethical treatment of animals. The articles explain women's concern for animals by providing a new theoretical basis for it. **Beyond Animal Rights** presents some of the most compelling voices in the area of animal advocacy who explore the way ethic-of-care feminism can be applied to issues such as hunting, vivisection and even to the characteristics of activists themselves. \$24.95 cl, 0-8264-0836-2. Continuum Publishing Group, 370 Lexington Avenue, New York NY 10017; 212-953-5858. Distributed by Publisher Resources; 800-937-5557.

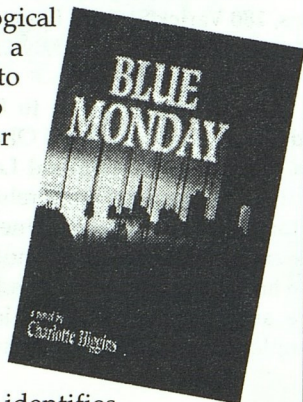


Women Healers: Portraits of Herbalists, Physicians, and Midwives by Elisabeth Brooke celebrates women in medicine from ancient Egypt to present day. Drawing on primary sources, Brooke reconstructs the history of women's healing practices, providing a picture of these innovative, compassionate practitioners. Brooke recognizes well known and more obscure contributors to the history of healing women, including Trotula of Salerno, Hildegard of

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In this psychological suspense novel, a mother returns to San Francisco to find out why her 23-year-old daughter has committed suicide by jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge.

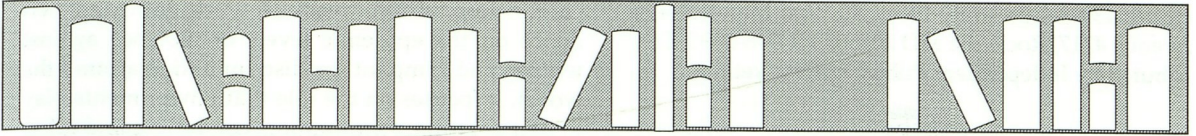


Starting with the moment she identifies the body, Margaret is on a relentless quest to piece together the last months of her daughter's life. What she discovers is a lifetime of secrets and betrayals.

"This book is spellbinding. I could not put it down."—Eileen Lewis, Critic-at-Large, Aspen, Colorado

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Bingen, Sophia of Mechlenburg, Elizabeth Blackwell and Sophia Jex-Blake. \$12.95 pb, 0-89281-548-5.

A newly revised edition of **Aromatherapy for Women: A Practical Guide to Essential Oils for Health and Beauty** by Maggie Tisserand is now available. An easy-to-use guide, it assists readers in boosting their immune systems, reducing stress, relieving menstrual cramps and easing common health complaints. The range of everyday ailments covered in this book — from insomnia to hangovers to foot odor — applies to workday, social homefront, and to most intimate health concerns. Recipes for making remedies, masks and baths are included. \$8.95 pb, 0-89281-628-7.

40% for 5+. Healing Arts Press, One Park Street, Rochester VT 05767; 802-767-3174. Distributed by Ingram, B&T.



Touch the Sky: Meeting & Healing Your Inner Child by lesbian authors A. J. Wolff and Tamara Kestrel features teddy bear drawings to color, stories to inspire and meditations for relaxing, releasing and healing. (\$9.95 pb, 0-931481-02-03.) Use **In Peace: A Meditation Coloring Book** by A. J. Wolff to learn to still and focus the mind through coloring...a collection of affirmations with mandala drawings, story and meditation to inspire. (\$6.95 pb, 931-481-01-5). 40% for 5+. Rosebush Publishing, PO Box 1273, Ventura CA 93002; 805-385-9819. Distributed by New Leaf, DeVorss.

Daddy's Girl, a comic book by Debbie Drechsler, takes a brutal and painful look at an American childhood. Not the typical comic book! The main character, Lily, deals with her sexually, verbally and physically abusive father, an unsupportive, abusive and unaware mother, various siblings, boyfriends and friends. "Debbie Drechsler's work is scary and tortured and maybe too revealing, but it's mesmerizingly beautiful and I can't stop looking at it...Debbie is one

of the highly talented new generation of cartoonists that make me contemplate early retirement!" —Aline Kominsky-Crumb. \$9.95 pb, 1-56097-303-X. 50% discount. Fantagraphics Books, 7563 Lake City Way, Seattle WA 98115; 800-657-1100. Distributed by Koen, BP, Last Gasp, B&T.



Jewish Women Speak Out: Expanding the Boundaries of Psychology edited by Kayla Weiner and Arinna Moon "is a wonderful anthology, full of wisdom, information and steady, quiet courage.... The collection is rich, very rich and contains unique and creative suggestions about Jewish experience, both sacred and secular, and has implications for Jewish psychological suffering, clinical theory and practical." —Phyllis Chesler. \$18.95 pb, 0-9645878-0-7. 40% for 3+. Canopy Press, PO Box 46252, Seattle WA 98146; 206-781-4409, fax 206-933-9790. Distributed by BP, B&T, Pacific Pipeline.

Chapters included in **Safe, Smart and Self-Reliant: Personal Safety for Women and Children** edited by Gerri M. Dyer are Aware and Prepared, Street Smarts, Shopping and Entertainment, Car Sense and Security, Personal Safety and Driving, Securing Your Home, Safety At Home Alone, Travel Tips, Safety At Work, Avoiding Sexual Assault, Protecting Children From Crimes, Safety Concerns For Adolescents, Defending Yourself and Surviving A Crime. Each chapter contains information, key points to remember and some "what ifs" to think through. It gives a lot of information (could drive women nuts with the anality) but readers should be aware of the situations and possible responses. Take the information that you need for now, then reread it down the road. "A terrific book [with] a lot of great safety tips that aren't well known...**Safe, Smart and Self-Reliant** shows that information can be better than a loaded gun to protect yourself." —Judith O. Mueller. \$16.95

cl, 0-9648903-0-5. Safety Press, 90 West Montgomery Avenue #217, Rockville MD 20850; 301-948-3995. Distributed by Independent Publishers Marketing.



Divorce Yourself: The National No-Fault Divorce Kit by Daniel Sitarz now includes all the necessary forms and questionnaires for no-fault divorce procedures on computer diskette. Practical legal information is furnished for topics including property division, alimony, child support, child custody and visitation. Checklists, questionnaires, worksheets and sample forms are provided for readers who wish to understand and do the legal work themselves to ease the pain and expense of divorce. The legal procedures for preparing a marital settlement agreement and obtaining a divorce without the use of a lawyer are carefully set out in a step-by-step manner. Disk with forms included: \$34.95 pb, 0-935755-25-X; no disk: \$24.95, -136. Nova Publishing Company, 1103 West College Street, Carbondale IL 62901; 618-457-3521. Distributed by National Book Network; 800-462-6420.

The Human Rights Watch Global Report on Women's Human Rights put together by the Human Rights Watch Women's Rights Project is the

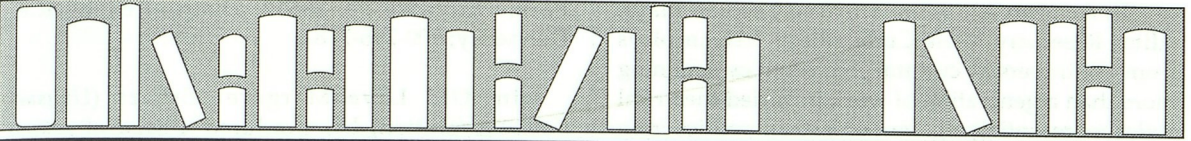
culmination of five years of work gathering evidence on the epidemic levels of violence against women and rampant sex discrimination around the world. It focuses on the role that governments play in perpetuating, encouraging, condoning and tolerating seven categories of abuse: rape as a tactic of war and political repression; trafficking of women into forced prostitution; custodial violence against women; abuses against women workers; domestic violence; sexual abuse of refugee women; and human rights violations related to reproduction and female sexuality. Includes recommended actions that governments and the international community should take to combat these violations of women's human rights. \$15 pb, 0-300-06546-9. 30% discount. Human Rights Watch, Publications Department, 485 Fifth Avenue, New York NY 10017; 212-972-8400 ext. 238, or 212-986-1980.

In The Status of Women in Foreign Policy Nancy E. McGlen and Meredith Reid Sarkees draw on their research and interviews with women and men in senior policymaking positions to analyze the causes underlying the lack of female representation in the institutions shaping U.S. foreign policy. The authors explore the history of women's role in foreign affairs and the obstacles women continue to face outlining several strategies to ensure that women preserve their gains and expand their roles,

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and examine factors that contributed to women's exclusion from foreign policy in the past citing current examples of both direct and indirect discrimination against women. \$5.95 pb, 0-87124-165-X. 25% discount. Foreign Policy Association, 470 Park Avenue South, New York NY 10016; 212-481-8100, fax 212-481-9275.



Wave-Rings in the Water: My Years With the Women of Postwar Japan by Carmen Johnson, foreword by Yuka Moriguchi Tsuchiya, chronicles the authors four years teaching democracy and equal rights to Japanese women in devastated postwar Japan. Johnson, a former teacher, Girl Scout leader and member of the Women's Army Corps, was the women's affairs officer for the entire island of Shikoku, the smallest of Japan's main islands, where rural customs and isolation made teaching democracy and women's equality a constant challenge. "This is the first book by a woman member of that occupation, the first to focus on interpersonal relations at the grassroots, and the first based on first-hand knowledge of Japanese women during this time." \$12 pb, 0-9647124-1-5. Charles River Press, 427 Old Town Court, Alexandria VA 22314; 703-519-9197. Distributed by BP.

There Are Mountains to Climb: An Inspirational Journey by Jean Deeds is the true-life account of a middle-aged suburban woman who, with little backpacking and camping experience, decided to backpack the entire Appalachian Trail — all 2,155 miles! In the format of letters home from the trail, Deeds tells her story of physical and mental struggles, of magic and beautiful moments, of the people and animals she encountered and of her spiritual evolution as her journey became a metaphor for her journey through life. It is the story of finding there is no challenge more worthy than searching for the hero

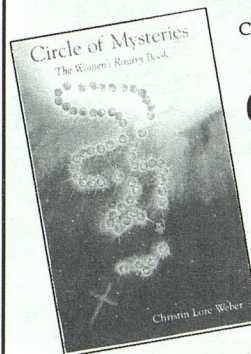
within. \$12.95 pb, 0-9651487-1-8. Silverwood Press, 1508 East 86th Street #105, Indianapolis IN 46240; 800-996-5627. Distributed by Becket-Highland; 800-434-3343 ext. 1.

Feminism and Sporting Bodies by M. Ann Hall examines the history, current trends and future of gender relations in sport. Hall details her odyssey through various feminist approaches; the need to look at gender issues relationally, not categorically; feminist cultural studies as applied to sport, focusing on both theory and action; what constitutes feminist research; and what can be done about the gap between theory and practice in women's sport. \$22 pb, 0-87322-969-X. Human Kinetics, 1607 North Market Street, PO Box 5076, Champaign IL 61825; 217-351-5076. Distributed by Ingram, B&T.

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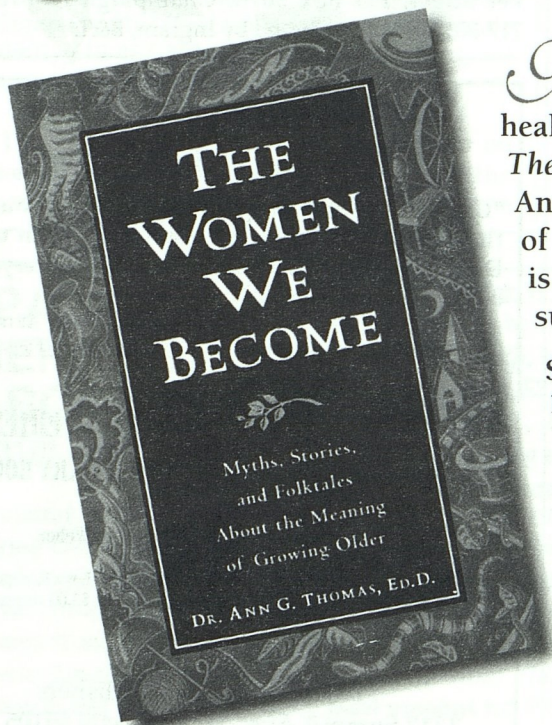
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In **Amazon All Stars: Thirteen Lesbian Plays**, editor Rosemary Keefe Curb collects lesbian plays from controversial cultural perspectives spanning more than a generation of work in varied theatrical styles representing a gamut of lesbian politics from all over America. Lesbian activist heroes, lesbian relationships, lesbian families and lesbian communities are just a few of the topics touched on by the authors of the plays. Contributors include Jane Chambers, Janis Astor Del Valle, Gloria Joyce Dickler, Maria Irene Fornes, Carolyn Gage and Sue Carney, Shirlene Holmes, Joan Lipkin, Susan Miller, Patricia Montley, Canyon Sam, Joan Schenkar, Megan Terry and Paula Vogel. \$18.95 pb, 1-55783-220-X. Applause Books, 400 Keystone Industrial

Park, Dunmore PA 18512. Distributed by R.R. Donnelley; 800-798-7787.

In **Old Love** Margaret Erhart (*Unusual Company/Dutton*) has produced a saga of sexual self-exploration and the modern American family. The time is the late 60s and the setting is a nondescript New Jersey suburb where Tommie and Frank Haas, with their two children, are living next door to a gay man who had briefly been Tommie's lover and is now her close friend. Erhart traces the emotional lives of her characters as they participate, in their own distinctive ways, in elaborate courtships for love, friendship and understanding. \$24 cl, 1-883642-07-8. Steerforth Press, PO Box 70, South

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PRIMA

Royalton VT 05068; 802-763-2808. Distributed by National Book Network; 800-462-6420.

Home in three days. Don't wash. by Linda Smukler (*Normal Sex/Firebrand*) is a collection of literary and erotic prose poems accompanied with a CD-ROM. Smukler pushes boundaries and takes the prose poem off the page and into the world of sound and image by performing her poems and producing them on CD-ROM. "Stein hovers behind, above, beneath these brazen texts. Like her modernist forebearer, Smukler uses the most direct and plain American idiom to render the complexity and anguish, and the humor of desire." —Rebecca Brown. \$12.95 pb, 9638433-8-9; \$24.95 with CD-ROM, 1-889097-00-4. Hard Press, Inc., PO Box 184, West Stockbridge MA 01266; 413-232-4690. Distributed by Consortium.

The two long stories in **Kora and Ka** by H.D., "Kora and Ka" and "Mira-Mare," contain many of the author's central themes: war, art, love, sexuality, madness, psychoanalysis and travel. The stories are at once autobiographical yet, through H.D.'s unusual brand of modernist story-telling, push beyond personality. The men and women who haunt these tales are wraiths in spiritual exile, wanderers in a Europe still recovering from the devastations of WWI. **Kora and Ka** was previously published in a 100-copy edition for her friends in 1934. H.D. was part of the expatriate women's community in early twentieth-century Paris; a poet, writer and editor often associated with Marianne Moore, Margaret Anderson, Jane Heap and Bryher (Winifed Ellerman). \$7 pb, 0-8112-1317-X.

Toddler-Hunting & Other Stories by Kono Taeko translated by Lucy North (with additional translation by Lucy Lower) introduces readers to the most highly regarded female writer in Japan today with a collection of stories described as remarkably beautiful and profoundly disquiet, with a strong undercurrent of female sexuality. It was dubbed

"transgressive" fiction by *The New York Times* because "the title story, which has an S&M subtext, is about a woman's fetish for dressing little boys." Exploring freedom and bondage, these stories refract light from the strangely facing mirrors of fantasy and reality; pain and pleasure; the active and the passive. As the tales consider the possibilities, implications and limitations of romantic masochism, Kono's narrative voice gives the impression of being "inside" and "outside" at once. \$21.95 cl, 0-8112-1305-6.

"Levertov's mastery — more than mastery, because she is one of the originators — of contemporary poetic form, informed with a fierce, generous intelligence, can be frightening." —Ursula Le Guin writing about **Sands of the Well**, Denise Levertov's newest collection of poetry. Divided into "eight sections addressing nature, music, memory, aging, and God in which Levertov delivers powerful visions, this collection is spiritual, compassionate, intelligent, imaginative, courageous." \$20.95 cl, 0-8112-1316-1.

Frames Structures: Early Poems 1974-1979 collects Susan Howe's earliest poems. Howe, in the preface, suggests the autobiographical, familial and historical motifs that suffuse her early works. **Frame Structures** reflects Howe's rediscovered sense of her own beginnings as a poet, her movement from the visual arts into the iconography of the written word. Other work of hers to check out includes *My Emily Dickinson*/North Atlantic Books. \$12.95 pb, 0-8112-1322-6.

New Directions Press, 80 Eighth Avenue, New York NY 10011. Distributed by BP.



Soho Press just released two books by Ann Nietzsche (*Natalie on the Street*). In **Solo Spinout: Stories and a Novella** the reader gets a collective portrait of a woman who lives on the edge — of middle age, of town, of the continent — a little bruised by failed marriages and uncertain futures. "Solo Spinout is a book that stays with you. In the beauty of its prose, its

sensitivity, grace and humor, it achieves an intense and disturbing picture of modern fragmented lives as one is likely to read." —Ella Leffland. (\$22 cl, 1-56947-052-9.) The narrator in **Windowlight**, also by Ann Nietzke, observes, from her window overlooking the boardwalk in Venice, Californi, the disparate denizens of that beach community. "Nietzke's prose evokes Joan Didion in its clarity and vision...An absolute jewel of a book, studded with sensitivity, grace and humor." —PW. \$12 pb, 1-56947-060-X. Soho Press, Inc., 853 Broadway, New York NY 10003; 212-260-1900. Distributed by FSG.



Otherwise: New and Selected Poems by Jane Kenyon opens with 20 new poems and continues with generous selections from Kenyon's previous collections. "Kenyon's poetry is honest and earnest, rich in imagery yet free of clutter. This collection is generous, cohesive and moving." —PW. As husband and fellow poet Donald Hall describes in his afterword, Kenyon finished shaping the volume in the few days before her death. **Otherwise** best represents Kenyon's poetic voice and it illustrates her contribution to contemporary

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800-243-0138, fax 800-334-3892

Publishers Group West (PGW)

Box 8843, Emeryville CA 94662
800-788-3123, fax 510-658-1834

American poetry. \$23.95 cl, 1-55597-240-3. Graywolf Press, 2402 University Avenue #203, St. Paul MN 55114; 612-641-0077. Distributed by Consortium.

"Mary Diane Hausman captures — no, sets free — the power and complexity of womanhood in **A Born-Again Wife's First Lesbian Kiss and other poems**. Cherokee ancestors, ancient goddesses, even Mother Earth herself live in the lines of Hausman's free verse. Her poems take the reader on a journey to places as mystical as Nirvana, as passionate as the silky nape of a lover's neck, and as sensible as a strong red beet pulled from the earth. She is a stumbling warrior, taking on past lovers, her daddy, even a woman waving a 'homeless cancer sign,' making her way through a life for which she offers no apologies. The reason Hausman keeps people coming to our readings is clear — she is the sum total of everything on these pages." —Linda Simone, National Writers Union. \$9.95 pb, 0-9646371-3-8. Relief Press, PO Box 4033, South Hackensack NJ 07606; 201-641-3003. Distributed by Koen/Inland, Alamo Square.

Gag, a collection of poems by the up-and-coming African American poet Lovechild, is "a book that will make you do exactly what it says.... From New York's thriving poetry scene comes this explosive volume of work from one of the bravest, most cutting young writers you'll ever encounter. The poems in **Gag** take on American hypocrisy with uncommon insight and energy, and announce Lovechild as a writer of unique and unforgettable rage." \$5.95 pb, 1-56333-369-4. Rosebud/Masquerade Books, 801 Second Avenue, New York NY 10017; 212-661-7878. Distributed by BP, Alamo Square.

Poetry of Pain is a unique self help book of poems of truth, acceptance and hope for those who suffer chronic pain. Linda Martinson's poems are a walk through the phases of pain that she knows so well: frustration, anger, depression, acknowledgment, acceptance and hope. Nearly 34 million Americans suffer from chronic pain — it can disrupt sleep, family relationships, friendships, job performance and opportunities. "Chronic pain can steal your life." \$9.95 pb, 0-9648968-2-2. Simply Books, PO Box 2205, Lynnwood WA 98036. Distributed by B&T, Pacific Pipeline, Christie & Christie. ○

FROM THE UNIVERSITY PRESSES



By Mev Miller

HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS

The Harvard Guide to Women's Health by Karen Carlson, Stephanie Eisenstat and Terra Ziporyn is a comprehensive resource for women that combines practical experience, medical knowledge, hard-to-find information, balanced perspectives, special implications, symptom descriptions and much more. \$24.95 pb, 0-674-36768-5.

Dubious Conceptions: The Politics of Teenage Pregnancy by Kristin Luker explores some of the misconceptions about unwed mothers from colonial times to today. Luker traces the ways popular attitudes demonize young mothers and examines the profound social and economic changes that have influenced debate on this topic since the 70s. **Dubious Conceptions** also portrays youth pregnancy as a symptom rather than a cause of poverty. \$24.95 cl, 0-674-21702-2.

Additional titles of interest: **Only Paradoxes to Offer: French Feminists and the Rights of Man**, Joan Wallach Scott (\$27.95 cl, 0-674-63930-8); **The Virgin and the Bride: Idealized Womanhood in Late Antiquity**, Kate Copper (\$37.50 cl, *text discount*, 0-674-93949-2).

Now in paperback: **Only Words**, Catherine MacKinnon (\$10, 0-674-63934-0); **A History of Women in the West, Volume 5: Toward a Cultural Identity in the 20th Century** edited by Françoise Thébaud (\$16.95, 0-674-40365-7).

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Here's a couple of summer titles for the philosophers in your clientele. They may be too much brain food for summer reading, but will probably interest the academic crowd returning in the fall. **Hypatia's**

Daughters: 1500 Years of Women Philosophers edited by Linda Lopez McAlister offers a comprehensive view of women in the history of philosophy — from Hypatia to Angela Davis. (\$22.50 pb, *short discount*, 0-253-21060-7.) **Ecological Feminist Philosophies** edited by Karen J. Warren collects feminist philosophical essays on ecofeminism. (\$19.95 pb, *short discount*, 0-253-21029-1.)

Development, Change, and Gender in Cairo: A View from the Household edited by Diane Singerman and Homa Hoodfar provides a firsthand look at political, social and economic change in contemporary Egypt as it affects the family and the household. \$17.95 pb, *short discount*, 0-253-21049-6.



MIT PRESS

Concerned about what makes people gay, lesbian, bisexual or heterosexual? Do you care? **Queer Science: The Use and Abuse of Research on Homosexuality** by Simon Levy addresses the scientific and social analysis of research in the field of sexual orientation. It includes the latest discoveries in brain science, genetics, endocrinology and cognitive psychology. For those interested in the future of our community, especially as science develops to explain and perhaps change us, this will be an important book. \$25 cl, 0-262-12199-9.

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY PRESS

Motherhood Reconceived: Feminism and the Legacies of the Sixties by Lauri Umansky examines how the realities of motherhood have influenced feminist thought utilizing the work of Mary Daly, Susan Griffin, Jane Alpert, Adrienne Rich and Dorothy Dinnerstein. (\$17.95 pb, 0-8147-8562-X,

August.) The essays in **On Your Left: The New Historical Materialism** edited by Ann Kibbey, Thomas Foster, Carol Siegel and Ellen Berry demonstrate the need for an awareness of gender as it affects every aspect of society and maps new terrain for feminist thinking. (\$17.95 pb, 0-8147-4682-9, August.)

Lesbian Friendship: For Ourselves and Each Other edited by Jacqueline Weinstock and Esther Rothblum focuses on actual accounts of friendships among lesbians and examines a number of issues, including transition from friends to lovers and/or friends, erotic attachment in friendship, diverse identities among lesbians, and friendships across sexuality and/or gender lines. (\$18.95 pb, 0-8147-7473-3, August.) **Queer Studies: A Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Anthology** edited by Brett Beemyn and Mickey Eliason makes a major contribution through essays that are general, accessible and suitable for an introductory class. It assesses the conflict between postmodernism and identity, addresses queer theory, informs political activism, and theorizes on aspects of sexual performance/behaviors such as s/m or butch-femme relationships. (\$24.95 pb, 0-8147-1258-4, August.) Also **The Lavender Vote: Lesbians, Gay Men, and Bisexuals in American Electoral Politics** by Mark Hertzog (\$18.95 pb, 0-8147-3530-4, August); and **Representing Bisexualities** edited by Maria Pramaggiore and Donald Hall (\$18.95 pb, 0-8147-6634-X, August).

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY PRESS

If you like tell-all autobiographies, especially those filled with the love triangles of famous people, then have a look at **A Disgraceful Affair: Simone de Beauvoir, Jean-Paul Sartre, and Bianca Lamblin** by Bianca Lamblin. Unlike the accounts told by de Beauvoir and Sartre in their letters and memoirs, this is Lamblin's side of the story, her reactions and dissatisfactions, her struggle with depression — the underside of the relationships among these three strong people. \$24.95 cl, 1-55553-251-9.



OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

Tired of hearing from the Catholic Church that it's not acceptable for women to have leadership roles in the Church? Geez, do they have a lot to learn. And a good place to start is with **Priestess, Mother, Sacred Sister: Religions Dominated by Women** by Susan Starr Sered. This important book uncovers, describes and analyzes religions throughout the world in which women are both the majority of leaders and the majority of participants. In wondering if anything "womanly" emerges from women's religions, Sered traces common threads through a diversity of groups including the secret societies of West Africa, the Matrilineal Spirit cults of Northern Thailand,

AMBITION & ACCOMMODATION

How Women View Gender Relations

ROBERTA S. SIGEL

"Vivid, compelling, and nuanced voices of ordinary men and women make this book a classic. Sigel has used a brilliant combination of focus groups and survey research to reveal the tensions surrounding men and women in a moment of great change in the social understanding of gender roles."

—Jane Mansbridge, author of *Why We Lost the ERA*

Paper \$16.95 250 pages 30 tables Cloth edition available

The University of Chicago Press 5801 South Ellis Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60637



Christian Science and the Feminist Spirituality Movement. \$14.95 pb, 0-19-510467-6.

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY PRESS

For those who like biographies and music history, **An American Virtuoso on the World Stage: Olga Samaroff Stokowski** by Donna Staley Kline may be an interesting (though expensive) treasure. Born Lucy Hickenlooper, "Madam Samaroff" forged her own career and was the first American pianist to become a concert artist without first gaining approval in the European circuit. Not only was her career successful, but she also influenced the careers of other now famous musicians, including Leopold Stokowski. \$39.95 cl, 0-89096-691-5.



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Erotica, performance art, cultural and gender politics — these are just a few of the areas explored by Joanna Freuh in **Erotic Faculties**. She rejects post-modern prose and uses lush, graphic and sexual language to explore aging, beauty, sex, love, pleasure, contemporary art and so on. \$19.95 pb, 0-520-20082-9; \$55 cl, -20081-0.

For those interested in Goddesses and their mythologies and powers, **Devi: Goddess of India** edited by John Hawley and Donna Wulff combines analysis of texts with intensive fieldwork to understand how Goddesses are worshipped in everyday life. \$17.95 pb, 0-520-200-58-6.

The Lioness in Bloom: Modern Thai Fiction About Women edited and translated by Susan Fulop Kepner brings together a rich and wide-ranging collection of eleven short stories and excerpts from five novels. Unfortunately, the catalog copy does not clarify whether these writings *about* women are all written *by* women! I suspect they are, but I don't know for sure. \$16.95 pb, 0-520-08903-0.

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

Africa Wo/Man Palava: The Nigerian Novel by Women by Chikwenye Okonjo Ogunyemi offers the first close look at eight Nigerian women writers and a new vernacular theory based on their work. African Womanism emerges to tackle sexism, totalitarianism and ethnic prejudice. The eight writers include: Flora Nwapa, Adaora Lily Ulasi, Buchi Emecheta, Funmilayo Fakunle, Ifeoma Okoye, Zaynab Alkali, Eno Obong and Simi Bedford. \$15.95 pb, 0-226-62085-9.

In **Ambition and Accommodation: How Women View Gender Relations** Roberta Sigel explores what "ordinary" women and men really think about issues of gender equality and gender roles. In this case, "ordinary" refers to those people not in the academy who are affected by the popular culture's view of women in society. This is an academic study, though, intended for those doing gender studies. To my mind, the most alarming sentence in the cover blurb is: "Most women feel they have more in common with the men to whom they are closest than with women as a group." I have my guesses as to why, so I'm curious to delve more into Sigel's writing. \$16.95 pb, 0-226-75696-3.

Bound and Determined: Captivity, Culture-Crossing, and White Womanhood from Mary Rowlandson to Patty Hearst by Christopher Castiglia explores the issues of racial identities and gender roles through a careful study of women's captivity narratives. \$13.95 pb, 0-226-9654-8.

Those who have audiences interested in academic art theory will want to know about **The Exceptional Woman: Elisabeth Vigée-Lebrun and the Cultural Politics of Art** by Mary D. Sheriff which explains how art historians draw from a variety of disciplines — cultural studies, feminism, psychoanalytic theory and literary theory. Not recommended for the casual reader! \$40 cl, 0-226-75275-5.

University of Chicago offers a second important biography this season, Estelle Freedman **Maternal**

Justice: Miriam Van Waters and the Female Reform Tradition. Van Waters was one of the U.S.'s most charismatic leaders of prison reform, promoting justice and a life of decency and dignity for women in trouble. Through the telling of Van Waters' life, Freeman also provides a social history of her times with the force and drama of a novel. \$34.95 cl, 0-226-26149-2.

Additional titles of interest: **American Gay** by Stephen O. Murray introduces a new series called Words of Desire: The Chicago Series on Sexuality, Gender, and Culture (\$16.95 pb, 0-226-55193-8); **Women of the Far Right: The Mothers' Movement and World War II**, Glen Jeansonne (\$29.95 cl, 0-226-39587-91); **Pragmatism and Feminism: Reweaving the Social Fabric**, Charlene Haddock Seigfried (\$16.95 pb, *short discount*, 0-226-74558-9); **Opposing Ambitions: Gender and Identity in an Alternative Organization**, Sherryl Kleinman (\$10.95 pb, 0-226-44005-2); and **Women and Religion in Medieval and Renaissance Italy** edited by Daniel Bornstein and Roberto Rusconi (\$16.95 pb, *short discount*, 0-226-06639-8).

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS PRESS

I'm not sure how I missed this one in the last issue, but it's certainly worthy of attention. **Bearing Meaning: The Language of Birth** by Robbie Pfeufer Kahn traces the patriarchal co-option of the language of birth and women's reclaiming of that language. It promises to be a powerful book on the sociological constructs of pregnancy, childbirth and parenting. It's probably not for the casual reader but will be crucial to midwives, nurses, feminists, sociologists and historians. \$29.95 cl, 0-252-02171-1.

The Lynching of Language: Gender, Politics, and Power in the Hill-Thomas Hearings edited by Sandra Ragan, Dianne Bystrom, Lynda Lee Kaid and Christina Beck explores how the use — and misuse — of language, power and politics shaped both the discourse of those hearings and the ongoing national debate about sexual harassment and sexual politics. \$15.95 pb, *short discount*, 0-252-06517-4.

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA PRESS

Now available — **Women in German Yearbook: Feminist Studies in German Literature and Culture, Issue 11** edited by Sara Friedrichmeyer and Patricia Herminghouse. \$18 pb, 0-8032-9785-8. ○

Back to Press, *continued from page 97.*

With definite lesbian content, it still won a very straight prize!

Mary Karr's memoir of her Texas upbringing *The Liar's Club* (Viking) won The PEN/Martha Albrand Award for First Nonfiction, which carries a \$1,000 prize.

Spinsters Ink reports that *Martha Moody* by Susan Stinson was awarded the Publishers Marketing Association PMA Benjamin Franklin Award in the Drama/Literature category and, *The Hangdog Hustle* by Elizabeth Pincus was a finalist for both the Lambda Literary Awards (Best Lesbian Mystery) and the Publishers Marketing Association PMA Benjamin Franklin Award in the Gay/Lesbian category.

Tina Juárez' *Call No Man Master* (Arte Público Press) has garnered two literary citations — the 1995 Violet Crown Award and the 1995 Presidio La Bahía Award.

Pepita Talks Twice/Peptita habla dos veces by Ofelia Dumas Lachtman and illustrated by Alex Pardo DeLange (Arte Público Press) won the 1996 Skipping Stones Book Award which honors exceptional contributions to children's literature.

In Good Company: A Woman's Journal for Spiritual Reflection, 1996 (Pilgrim Press) won a Gold Award in the National Awards Program and a Silver Award in the World Awards Program for Best Graphic Design during the Calendar Marketing Association's annual awards competition.

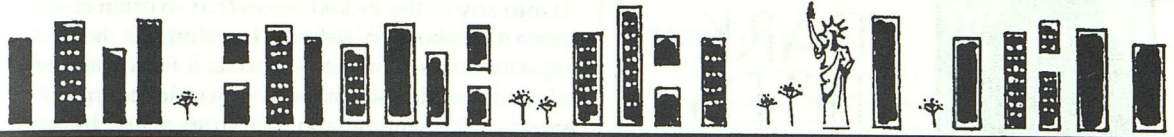
Winners for the 1995 Nebula Awards included: *Last Summer at Mars Hill* by Elizabeth Hand (Best Novella), *Solitude* by Ursula K. LeGuin (Best Novlette) and *Death and the Librarian* by Esther M. Friesner (Best Short Story).

In a Family Way by Rochelle Hollander Schwab was a finalist in the Gay/Lesbian category of the Publishers Marketing Association PMA Benjamin Franklin Award.

Random Acts of Kindness by the editors of Conari Press, and read by Edward Asner, Pat Fraley, Margaret Klenck, Elizabeth Roby and Robert Sevra (Audio Literature), won a 1995 Audie Award for Best Inspirational/Motivational Audio.

Nowle's Passing by Edith Forbes (Seal Press) received a superb review by Ron Hansen in the *New York Times Book Review* in the 5/19/96 edition. ○

AND ON PUBLISHER'S ROW



Compiled by Jenn Tust

ADDISON WESLEY

It's Not All in Your Head: Now Women Can Discover the Real Causes of Their Most Commonly Misdiagnosed Health Problems by Susan Swedo and Henrietta Leonard. Very reaffirming ways to deal with our illnesses and health problems. The authors look at biological, sociological and spiritual connections for many ailments. Provides info on when, how and from whom to seek treatment for problems including depression, PMS, migraines, phobias and more. Clear and supportive. \$13, pb, 0-201-48832-9.

—Dorothy Holland

AVON

Shade: An Anthology of Fiction by Gay Men of African Descent, edited by Bruce Morrow and Charles H. Rowell with an introduction by Samuel Delany, is a collection of fictional stories by and about gay men of African descent. Presenting often under-represented literary visions and voices, the anthology includes 22 stories by writers including Samuel Delany, Randall Kenan, James Earl Hardy, Winston James and Greg Henry. The stories depict a broad representation of the past 30 years and reveal the impact of the civil rights, feminist and gay liberation movements, the spread of AIDS and the emergence of the Black middle class. \$12 pb, 0-380-78305-3. —JT

BANTAM

Desert Queen, the Extraordinary Life of Gertrude Bell: Adventurer, Adviser to Kings, Ally of Lawrence of Arabia by Janet Wallach. I got a galley, but it looked too big and thorough for me. I'm sure it is fascinating! \$27.50 cl, 0385474083, Doubleday.

—Dorothy Holland

BEACON

Transgender Warriors: A History of Resistance from Joan of Arc to RuPaul by Leslie Feinberg: powerful, many photos, stretched my mind. Gender is on a continuum; it is not one or the other. Joan of Arc was persecuted mostly because she wore men's clothes and challenged women's roles! \$27.50 cl, 0-8070-7940-5.



Womanguides: Readings Toward a Feminist Theology by Rosemary Radford Ruether has a new preface. A good resource for understanding ideas about gender in the Christian tradition and building alternative patterns to transform and heal. Each chapter includes readings and essays as well as questions and exercises for meditation or group study. \$15 pb, 0-8070-1235-1.

—Dorothy Holland

In Choosing to Lead: Women and the Crisis of American Values, Constance H. Buchanan offers an assessment of women's social status today and what we can do in an election year and beyond to change it. **Choosing to Lead** argues that women have a greater role to play in national affairs as leaders who can offer fresh viewpoints on both the norms of the public world and the realities of the private one. For both policymakers and citizens looking to make an informed election year decision, Buchanan offers new ways of understanding barriers to women's leadership and how these can be overcome. She makes an important contribution to understanding the crisis of American values and what and who can help solve it. \$25 cl, 0-8070-2002-8.

In Beyond Pro-Life and Pro-Choice: Moral Diversity in the Abortion Debate, Kathy Rudy

ADRIENNE RICH



PHOTO: GYPSY P. RAY

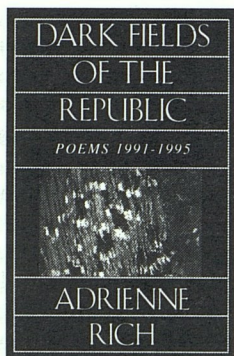
DARK FIELDS OF THE REPUBLIC POEMS 1991-1995

“A reminder of what an engaged political life coupled with a supreme poetic gift can offer a starved culture....In this country, Adrienne Rich has no peer.” —David St. John, *Los Angeles Times Book Review*

“Rich’s poems beckon readers to engage in the kind of intimate, subversive, beautifully constructed conversation only [she] can initiate.”
—Tom Clark, *San Francisco Chronicle*

“[Rich’s] finest book, full of risk-taking and astonishing versatility of mind and depth of feeling.”
—Adrian Oktenberg
Women’s Review of Books

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NORTON

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explores the religious and moral views of many of the different groups making themselves heard in the abortion debate, including feminists, Catholics and members of Operation Rescue. “Kathy Rudy has written a complex and engaging book that refuses to fit into any of the locked boxes that so often characterize the abortion debate. Drawing on her own experiences as a former Catholic, a feminist, and a religious scholar, she takes us on a unique tour of the world of thinking on abortion from many different perspectives, from the voices of activists, to theological debates within Catholicism, to the issues raised by genetic testing and new definitions of the fetus. This is the kind of committed scholarship that perhaps can help us break the current stalemate.” —Faye Ginsburg. Rudy also outlines steps that communities of faith and policymakers can take to live most peacefully with this unresolvable conflict and more effectively deal with the abortion issue. \$23 cl, 0-8070-0426-X. —JT

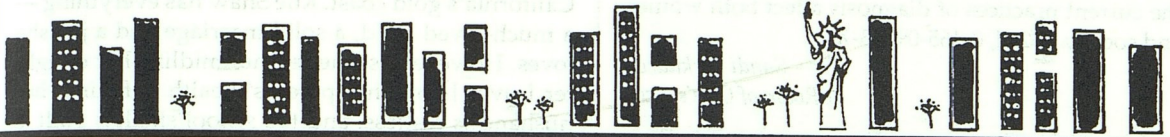


DUTTON

What Women Want is about empowerment — political and personal. By turns serious and funny, Patricia Ireland discusses how important it is that women answer the question “What do I want?” and go after it with everything they have. She describes her life going from a stewardess taking people’s trash (and thanking them for it!) to running NOW, the largest feminist organization in the country. A feminist warrior in the tradition of Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, she addresses controversial issues — from abortion rights to sexual choices to the need to elect more feminist women to political office — in light of her own experiences: standing up to sexist professors and coworkers, organizing for the ERA, defending women’s health clinics against anti-abortion terrorists, and learning the politics of a male-dominated and increasingly conservative Washington. \$23.95 cl, 0-525-93857-5. —JT

FULCRUM

In Search of Kinship: Modern Pioneering on the Western Landscape by Page Lambert has wonderful writing, wandering meditations, lessons



passed on and reflections on making a life on a small Wyoming ranch. Lambert looks to the West in a wide ranging search for a heritage to pass on to her children. An authentic voice of the land along the lines of Terry Tempest Williams. \$23.95 cl, 1-55591-266-4.

A Woman's Place: Yesterday's Women in Rural America by Norton Juster is a portrait of women in rural America between the Civil War and the turn of the century — three decades of great social change. \$20.95 cl, 1-55591-250-8.

A new edition of **Empty Cradle, Broken Heart: Surviving the Death of Your Baby** by Deborah Davis is out. This title has been the Bible for bereaved parents — it's wonderful to have it back. A supportive guide for parents confronting miscarriage, stillbirth and infant death. \$15.95 pb, 1-55591-302-4.

Women's Legal Guide: A Comprehensive Guide to Legal Issues Affecting Every Woman edited by Barbara Hauser and Julie Tigges is an exhaustive source on women's unique legal concerns. Written by 29 lawyers, it provides up-to-date information, sample forms, lists and letters. Topics include selecting a lawyer, estate planning, health care, sexual discrimination, adoption, starting a business, family violence, marriage and divorce. \$22.95 pb, 1-55591-303-2; \$39.95 cl, -913-8. —Dorothy Holland

HARCOURT BRACE

Choices by Mary Lee Settle (*Beulah Quintet* and *Blood Tie*) a *Publishers Weekly* Best Book and Winner of the 1995 Lillian Smith Book Award for Fiction, is the saga of one woman's journey through life. Melinda, a young southern belle of the 30s, who led a safe life suddenly joins the Red Cross in Harlan County, Kentucky when her conscience is stirred up by the bloody coal-mining strike. When she aids the blacklisted miners, she is branded a Communist and dismissed from the Red Cross. Melinda moves to other battlefields, tending to the social wound wherever it may be — the Spanish Civil War, WW II London, and the civil-rights-torn South. \$14 pb, 0-15-600388-0. —JT

HARPERCOLLINS

Paper Wings by Marly Swich is the first novel by this award-winning short story writer. It is the moving story of a mother who suffers bouts of depression. Her daughter, Suzanne, tells the story of the dissolution and ultimate redemption of her family. As the Kennedy election, presidency and assassination loom in the background, mother and daughter learn from each other how to emerge from the shadow of tragedy. (\$21 cl, 0-06-017434-X.) HarperPerennial will publish Swich's two volumes of short stories: **The Summer Before the Summer of Love** was the best collection of stories I read last year (\$12 pb, 0-06-092730-5) and **Monogamy** was the winner of the Iowa Short Fiction Prize (\$12 pb, 0-06-097452-4).

A provocative look at how feminism has changed American society, **A Feminist Critique** by Cassandra Langer is an overview of the last 50 years of American feminism. Langer discusses how it began, its ideas, goals, accomplishments, major players and what the future holds. \$24 cl, 0-06-435025-8, August.

—Sandi Torkildson
A Room of One's Own



HARPERBASIC

HarperBasic will issue the original text of the bestseller **The Drama of the Gifted Child** with its original title *Prisoners of Childhood*. After all the years of telling people that the title was changed, we get to deal with the confusion all over again. \$20 cl, 0-465-06287-3.

Pigeonholing Women's Misery by Hannah Lerman is a history and critical analysis of the psychodiagnosis of women in the 20th century. This feminist critique of mainstream psychology's diagnosis techniques examines the assumptions both recognized and implicit in the DSM-III. It also shows how the diagnosis of women has changed over time and how

the current practices of diagnosis affect both women and society. \$32 cl, 0-465-09533-X.

—*Sandi Tokildson*
A Room of One's Own



HARPERPERENNIAL

Free Your Mind by Ellen Bass and Kate Kaufman is a practical handbook and resource guide for gay teenagers and college students and their families and friends. Bass and Kaufman provide information to empower gay and lesbian youth to understand, accept and celebrate their sexual orientation; come out to themselves, their families and friends; overcome obstacles at home, at school and in the community; make healthy choices about relationships and sex; and take pride and participate in the growing gay and lesbian community. \$14 pb, 0-06-095104-4.

Saying Grace by Beth Gutcheon is a novel set in the close-knit world of a country day school on

California's gold coast. Rue Shaw has everything — a much-loved child, a solid marriage and a job she loves. However, as Rue reaches midlife, her daughter leaves home, her parents' health is failing, her husband is restless, and the school she has built is being buffeted by changes in society. A clash of values and cultures shakes her safe world as well as the whole community (\$12.50 pb, 0-06-092727-5). HarperPerennial will also publish two of Gutcheon's earlier novels: **Still Missing**, the story of a mother's determination to find her missing son (\$13 pb, 0-06-097703-5), and **The New Girls**, which follows the lives of five girls during their formative prep school years in the mid-sixties, when the Vietnam war, the women's movement and the sexual revolution were in full swing (\$13 pb, 0-06-097702-7).

In Marcie Hershman's new novel **Safe In America**, three generations of the Eichenbaum family are forced to face a crucial question: How can we keep our loved ones safe when the rest of the world is beyond our control? In the 30s Evan and Vera try to save their Jewish relatives in Europe. During WW II they try to shield their sons from the draft. And, in the

NEW AND RECENT BOOKS ON CURRENT ISSUES IN FEMINISM

**The Illusions of 'Post-Feminism'
New Women, Old Myths**

Vicki Coppock, Deena Haydon,
and Ingrid Richter

1995 • 224pp • CL 0-7484-0237-3 • \$75
PB 0-7484-0238-1 • \$24.95

Feminist Activism in the 1990s

Edited by Gabriele Griffin

1995 • 224pp • CL 0-7484-0289-6 • \$75
PB 0-7484-0290-X • \$24.95

Feminist Academics:

Creative Agents for Change

Edited by Louise Morley and Val Walsh

1995 • 240pp • CL 0-7484-0299-3 • \$75
PB 0-7484-0300-0 • \$24.95

Stirring It: Challenges for Feminism

Edited by Gabrielle Griffin, Sasha Roseneil, Marianne Hester, and Shirin Rai

1994 • 236pp • CL 0-7484-0213-6 • \$75/PB 0-7484-0214-4 • \$24.95

Sex in Question: French Feminism

Edited by Lisa Adkins and Diana Leonard

1996 • 208pp • CL 0-7484-0293-4 • \$75
PB 0-7484-0294-2 • \$23.95

**Researching Women's Lives
From a Feminist Perspective**

Edited by Mary Maynard and June Purvis

1994 • 224pp • CL 0-7484-0152-0 • \$75
PB 0-7484-0153-9 • \$24.95

**The Dynamics of Race and Gender:
Some Feminist Interventions**

Edited by Haleh Afshar and Mary Maynard

1994 • 272pp • CL 0-7484-0211-X • \$75
PB 0-7484-0212-8 • \$27

AIDS: Setting a Feminist Agenda

Edited by Lesley Doyal,

Jennie Naidoo, and Tamsin Wilton

1994 • 244pp • CL 0-7484-0162-8 • \$75
PB 0-7484-0163-6 • \$24.95

**Women and Health:
Feminist Perspectives**

Edited by Sue Wilkinson
and Celia Kitzinger

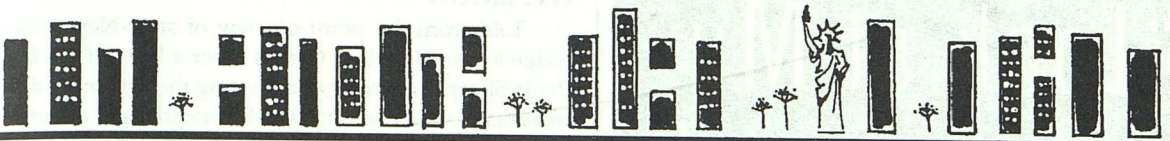
1994 • 208pp • CL 0-7484-0148-2 • \$75
PB 0-7484-0149-0 • \$24.95



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present, their daughter and her children face the peril of AIDS. \$12 pb, 0-06-092734-8.

Fifty Ways to Raise a Nonracist Child by Barbara Mathias and Mary Ann French is a much-needed resource for parents. The book is divided into five age-related sections, ranging from preschool to the teenage years. It provides practical ways for parents to teach important lessons — everything from how to select toys for toddlers to how to talk with teenagers about the evening news. \$10 pb, 0-06-273322-2.

A history of how the national culture invented baby fever and successfully foisted it on the nation's women is the subject of Elaine Tyler May's **Barren In the Promised Land**. With the increasing acceptance of a variety of reproductive options, Americans have become more, not less, preoccupied with their own (and others') reproductive fates. May explores how this preoccupation emerged, what nourished its roots and what in the national culture promoted it. \$14 pb, 0-465-00608-6.

Kidding Ourselves: Breadwinning, Babies, and Bargaining Power by Rhona Mohony is a guide for women to help negotiate work and the responsibility of household and childraising with their mates. This is a feminist critique of division of labor at home; it is also an empowering handbook for those seeking change and real equality between women and men in the family. \$13 pb, 0-465-08594-6.

—Sandi Torkildson
A Room of One's Own



HARPERSAN FRANCISCO

Positively Women Living With AIDS edited by Sue O'Sullivan and Kate Thomson not only gives women a voice but also provides comfort, hope and informed advice for all those affected by AIDS, positive or not. The women interviewed in this book talk openly about their HIV status, and they also talk about their lives, their histories and their relation-

ships. As the editors say, "Positive women are not just sad victims or famous people; they are a hundred other things besides being HIV positive they could be anyone — you or your neighbor or your sister or your lover." **Positively Women** smashes the invisibility of women with AIDS. By combining individual experiences with concrete analysis and implications for organizing, the authors treat each reader as a potential activist and inspire us to action." — Sarah Schulman. New chapter on grief and loss. \$18 pb, 0-04-440943-5. —JT



HARPERWORLD

Variable Cloud by Spanish author Carmen Martin Gaité is a novel about Mariana and Sofia, close friends who grew apart and are now on the threshold of middle age. An accidental meeting at a party rekindles their friendship. The two women fill notebooks with their insights and recollections and engage in a correspondence in which they lay bare their souls. \$26 cl, 1-86046-061-5.

—Sandi Torkildson
A Room of One's Own

HEALTH COMMUNICATIONS

Out of Betrayal by Patrick Carnes shows readers how to break free of relationships in which "traumatic bonding" has occurred. \$11.95 pb, 1-55874-393-6.

Embracing Our Essence: Spiritual Conversations with Prominent Women by Susan Skog is a collection worth carrying. It includes 29 short pieces from a variety of women discussing their spiritual lives, including Terry Tempest Williams, Christiane Northrup, Jane Goodall and Nikki Giovanni. \$11.95 pb, 1-55874-3596.

Now available, **A Third Helping of Chicken Soup for the Soul** has "101 more stories to open the heart and rekindle the spirit." These books continue to sell well for us. \$12.95 pb, 1-55874-3790.

—Trudy Mills
Antigone Books

“Look at My Ugly Face!”



**A Compelling,
Transforming
Exploration of the
Links Between
Women's
Appearance,
Identity,
and Power**

*Myths and musings on beauty
and other perilous obsessions with
women's appearance*

S A R A H A L P R I N

A penetrating look at the creative interplay between roles of beauty and ugliness, based on multicultural myths, Jungian analysis, process work, and images drawn from popular culture.

“Halprin teaches...the joy in being your own true self.” —June Singer, author of *Boundaries of the Soul*

“It's as if Sara Halprin has been listening in to the intimate conversation of women's groups all over the land.”

—Nor Hall, author of *The Moon and the Virgin* and *Those Women*

Illustration: Adrian Leichter



IN BOOKSTORES NOW FROM PENGUIN

HYPERION

Told from the point of view of stoic New York Judge Melanie Ratleer, **Crows Over a Wheatfield** by Paula Sharp is a strong and moving indictment of the treatment of women by the American legal system. Melanie, raised by a tyrannical father and distanced from her beloved, psychotic half-brother, is brought together with self-styled revolutionary Mildred Steck and a cast of characters in rural Wisconsin. After Mildred is forced to kidnap her own son in order to protect him from her abusive husband when the child custody laws fail her, she leads a John Brown-like insurrectionist movement for the rights of women trapped in destructive relationships. As Mildred's life intertwines with those of Melanie and her family, Melanie's stilted existence is transformed. \$22.95 cl, 0-7868-6117-7. —JT



LITTLE, BROWN

They never sent a catalog, despite my requesting it a number of times — what's here is just from a *PW* ad — hence not much commentary.

Waking Up: Fighting the Politics of Breast Cancer, Roberta Altman, \$23.95 cl, 0-316-03532-7.

Getting Over Getting Older: An Intimate Journey, Letty Cottin Pogrebin, \$23.95 cl, 0-316-71263-9.

They Don't Get It, Do They? Communication in the Workplace — Closing the Gap Between Men and Women, Kathleen Kelley Reardon, \$12.95 pb, 0-316-73634-1.

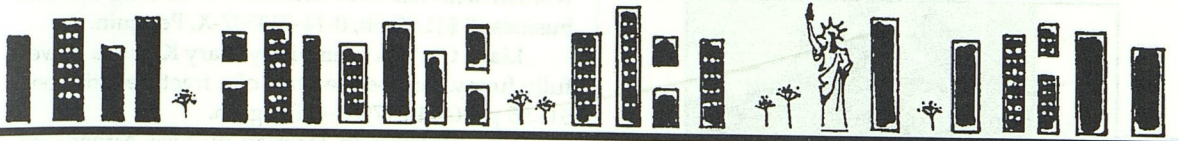
Woman's Best Friend: A Celebration of Dogs and Their Women, Barbara Cohen and Louise Taylor, \$15.95, 0-316-15054-1.

Let's Face the Music and Die: A Lauren Laurano Mystery, Sandra Scoppettone, \$21.95 cl, 0-316-77664-5.

—Mary Ellen Kavanaugh
My Sisters' Words

NORTON

In **Wise Women: Over 2000 Years of Spiritual Writings by Women** editor Susan Cahill presents a collection of writings that validates and celebrates the spiritual heritage of women. Representing a multitude of cultures and spanning years of human history, the essays, poems, prayers, journal writings, stories



and memoirs are as varied in content as they are in form. From across the boundaries of race, religion, age, class and time, the writers in **Wise Women** find common themes: the love of God, of nature, of all creation; commitment to human rights; friendship and love; personal and spiritual freedom. \$27.50 cl, 0-393-03946-3. —JT



PENGUIN

Power and Sex: A Book About Women by Scilla Elworthy looks at how power has been abused for centuries and proposes an alternative called "hara power," located in the solar plexus. \$24.95 cl, 0-85230-788-9, Element.

A Visible Wound: A Healing Journey Through Breast Cancer, with Practical and Spiritual Guidance for Women, Their Partners and Families, Julie Friedeberger, \$12.95 pb, 1-85230-808-7, August, Element.

Setting Them Straight: You Can Do Something About Bigotry and Homophobia in Your Life by Betty Berzon contains hard-hitting strategies for standing up to bigotry, managing the anger and utilizing the power to create change. \$10.95 pb, 0-452-27421-4, Penguin.

Women on Women 3: A New Anthology of American Lesbian Fiction edited by Joan Nestle and Naomi Holoch continues the tradition of 1 and 2. \$12.95 pb, 0-452-27661-6, Plume. —Dorothy Holland

Beyond the Flower: The Autobiography of a Feminist Artist by Judy Chicago is the sequel to *Through the Flower*, the first volume of her autobiography and classic in the literature of women and the arts, and takes up in the spring of 1974, with Chicago on the brink of recognizing that "through my art, I could contribute my values and attitudes as a woman to the culture in such a way that I could affect society." Chicago chronicles the five years surrounding the creation of *The Dinner Party*, a symbolic work that celebrates women's history, sexuality and crafts,

and the ensuing controversy still swirling around it, including a congressional art vs. pornography debate in 1990. **Beyond the Flower** documents the evolution of Chicago's artmaking during the last two decades. \$25.95 cl, 0-670-85295-3, Viking. —JT

Now in paper:

Two or Three Things I Know For Sure by Dorothy Allison is a must. A frank and honest memoir exploring love, loss, family and storytelling with clarity and power. \$8.95 pb, 0-452-27340-4, August, Plume.

Einstein's Wife: Work and Marriage in the Lives of Five Great 20th Century Women by Andrea Gabor includes five accounts of exceptional women navigating between love and work. \$12.95 pb, 0-14-015993-2, August, Penguin.

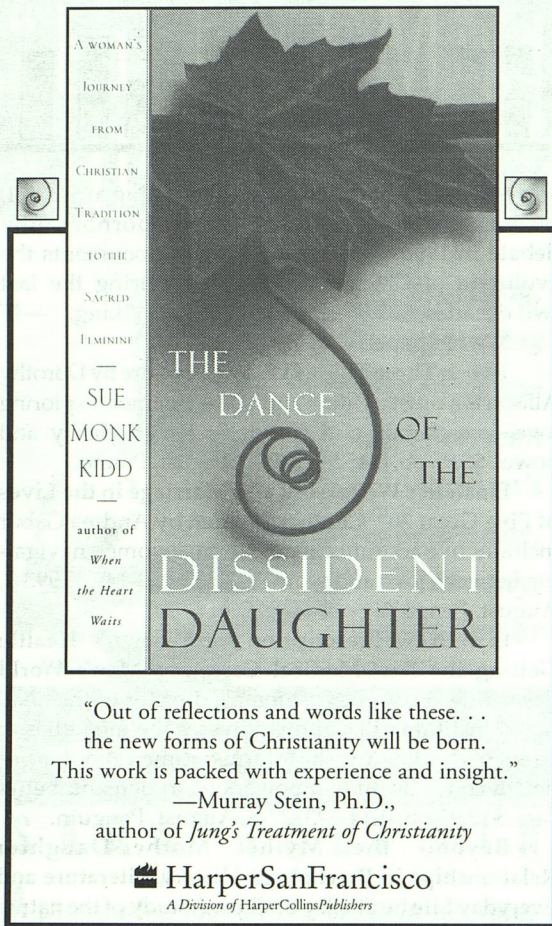
In A New Prescription for Women's Health: Getting the Best Medical Care in a Man's World Bernadine Healy, the first female director of the hNational Institute of Health, addresses the inequities in women's health care; she informs women about major health concerns and empowers us to demand better care. \$12.95 pb, 0-14-023727-5, August, Penguin.

Beyond the Myths: Mother-Daughter Relationships in Psychology, History, Literature and Everyday Life by Shelley Phillips. A study of the nature of mother-daughter relationships, how to improve them and how they have been viewed throughout the ages. \$13.95 pb, 0-14-025186-3, Penguin.

The Woman Who Ran for President: The Many Lives of Victoria Woodhull by Lois Beachy Underhill is the story of a charismatic and controversial suffrage leader whose bold ideas and style make her a feminist heroine for our day. \$13.95 pb, 0-14-025638-5, Penguin.



Drinking the Rain: A Memoir by Alix Kates Shulman, the author of *Memoirs of an Ex Prom Queen*, recounts her summers of solitude and how they inspired her to transform her life. \$11.95 pb, 0-14-025584-2, Penguin.



“Out of reflections and words like these. . . the new forms of Christianity will be born. This work is packed with experience and insight.”
 —Murray Stein, Ph.D.,
 author of *Jung's Treatment of Christianity*

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Keeping Women and Children Last: America's War on the Poor by Ruth Sidel looks at the issue of women, children and poverty ten years after her book *Women and Children Last*. \$11.95 pb, 0-14-024663-0, Penguin.

In **Look at My Ugly Face! Myths and Musings on Beauty and Other Perilous Obsessions with Women's Appearance** Sara Halprin explores the links between appearance, identity and power using the archetype of the triple goddess, Jungian analysis, multicultural myths and popular culture. \$12.95 pb, 0-14-023492-6, Penguin.

Inc. Your Dreams, For Every Woman Who Has Ever Considered Business Ownership by Rebecca Maddox is a “practical and inspiring approach for any

woman who has ever dreamed of owning her own business.” \$11.95 pb, 0-14-023537-X, Penguin.

Liars' Club: A Memoir by Mary Karr is a powerfully funny, razor-edged tale of a fractured girlhood. \$11.95 pb, 0-14-017983-6, Penguin.

Five Minutes in Heaven by Lisa Alther (*Bedrock, Original Sins, Other Women*) follows Jude, a woman haunted by dreams, ghosts and longings, on a search for love and intimacy. \$11.95 pb, 0-452-27613-6, Plume.

Wooden Fish Songs by Ruthanne Lum McCunn recreates the life of a Chinese man — a botanist who developed frost-resistant orange trees — who came to the new world to earn money to save his family. McCunn tells his story through the eyes of the women who loved him: his mother, a benefactor and his wife. In doing so McCunn gives us portraits of a Chinese mother, an Eastern middle-class spinster and a Black southern woman. \$12.95 pb, 0-452-27346-3, Plume.

In **Dive** by Stacey Donovan as Virginia's life is unraveling she falls for Jane, discovering that in love, as in life, there are more questions than answers. \$4.99 pb, 0-14-037962-2, Puffin. —Dorothy Holland



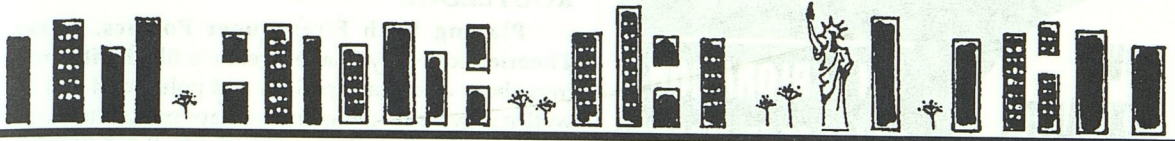
PUTNAM

In **Mama's Girl**, Veronica Chambers chronicles her life growing up in Brooklyn in the 70s, a girl who mastered double-dutch with the same ease and finesse she brought to her schoolwork, her often-troubled family life and the demands of being over-achieving and underprivileged. More than a family memoir, **Mama's Girl** gives voice to the first generation of African Americans to come of age in the post-Civil Rights era. Chambers addresses issues including the conflict between a mother's hopes and a daughter's ambition; the challenge of leaving the inner city without leaving behind those you love; and the struggle to accept what you have been given when you want more than your mother can give. \$22.95 cl, 1-57322-030-2, Riverhead Books. —JT

RANDOM HOUSE

RH-Knopf

From the author of *Anyra*, comes a novel about twin sisters whose lives are shaped by the strength



and ambiguity of their feelings for each other. Susan Fromberg Schaeffer's new novel, **The Golden Rope**, tells the story of Florence Meek, a painter of note who disappears at the age of 27. She is mourned by the admirers of her art and by her twin, Doris, the "unsuccessful" one. Doris, shattered by the discovery that Florence has denied her very existence, never searches for her sister until years later when disturbing new information prompts Doris to hunt for Florence. \$26 cl, 0-394-58821-5.

—Sandi Torkildson

A Room of One's Own

RH-Pantheon

Irene Vilar's novel, **A Message From God In the Atomic Age**, is a meditation on three generations of women in a Puerto Rican family. In 1954, Lolita was a young Puerto Rican nationalist who opened fire on the U.S. House of Representatives and was sentenced to life in prison. Twenty-three years later, Lolita's daughter, Gladys leaps to her death from a speeding car driven by her philandering husband. Irene, Lolita's granddaughter and Gladys' daughter, is committed to a psychiatric hospital after a suicide attempt. Vilar unravels the lives of these women and delves into the frightening secrets that have haunted their lives. \$23 cl, 0-679-42281-1.

—Sandi Torkildson

A Room of One's Own



RH-Vintage

Let 'Em Eat Cake by Susan Jedren is an earthy, irreverent novel about the blue-collar, no-glitz New York world of a single mother trying to keep her head above water. Anna, the feisty heroine, is one of the few delivery women for HomeMade Cakes. She has to put up with her misogynistic bosses, would-be muggers, and storekeepers who feel her up when they aren't trying to rip her off. \$14 pb, 0-679-76805-X.

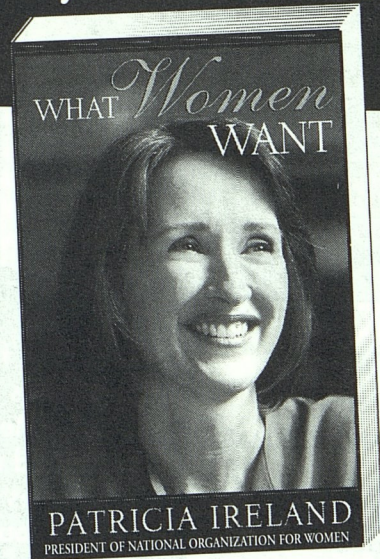
El Arroyo de la Llorana is the Spanish-language edition of Sandra Cisneros' novel **Woman Hollering Creek**. \$11 pb, 0-679-76804-1.

Las Hojas Muertas (*The Dead Leaves*) by Barbara Jacobs is the story of a daughter's attempt to uncover the mysteries in the life of her gentle yet reclusive father — a one-time soldier and ardent Communist supporter — forced into the quiet exile of running a hotel in Mexico City. The English translation of this novel was published by Curbstone Press in 1993. \$12.50 pb, 0-679-76845-9.

—Sandi Torkildson

A Room of One's Own


One Woman's History Every Woman's Future



One of the most potent forces in feminist politics, Patricia Ireland combines her profound vision of feminism with the story of her personal odyssey from flight attendant to president of the National Organization for Women.

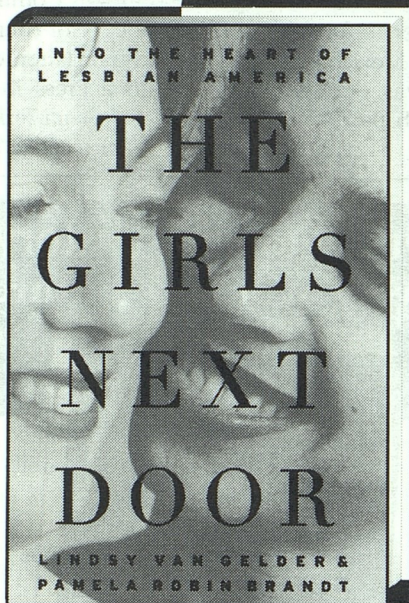
"Whether you agree with Patricia Ireland's politics or not, she is hard to dislike. She writes compellingly and she is funny."

—*Fortune*

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TO BE A LESBIAN.**



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and delicious."
—LILLIAN FADERMAN**

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next door—
get her phone
number!"
—RITA MAE BROWN**

**"This brainy, funny
report reads as if
Margaret Mead
had teamed up
with Charles
Kurault to observe
the girls in our
midst. It's a wicked
good read."
—KATE CLINTON**

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ROUTLEDGE

Playing With Fire: Queer Politics, Queer Theories edited by Shane Phelan is filled with writings about queer law, politics and policy and will do well in university towns and perhaps moderately well with a general audience. \$17.95 pb, 0-415-91417-5; \$59.95 cl, -91416-7.

A Matter of Justice: Lesbians and Gay Men in Law Enforcement is by Robin Buhrke. The title says it all. I haven't seen the cover; it could make a difference. \$17.95 pb, 0-415-91469-8; \$65 cl, -91468-X.

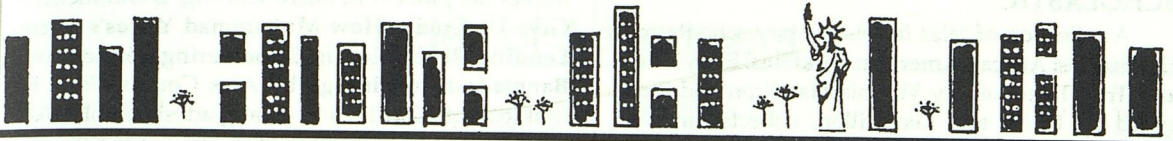
A Family and Friend's Guide to Sexual Orientation: Bridging the Divide Between Gay and Straight edited by Bob Powers and Alan Ellis is a collection of stories by straights and queers including individual histories, the development of negative attitudes toward different sexual orientations and how these folks moved beyond what they learned. The catalog copy says the book offers "insight into family dynamics relating to the homosexuality of a family member." \$17.95 pb, 0-415-91276-8; \$65 cl, -91275-X.



In Outlooks: Lesbian and Gay Sexualities and Visual Culture edited by Reina Lewis and Peter Horne contributors, including artists, art historians, theorists and performers, provide a historical look at the place of l/g in art history. Good if you have customers who buy art books (or anything on l/g history). \$18.95 pb, 0-415-12468-9; \$65 cl, -12467-0.

Feminist and Contemporary Art: The Revolutionary Power of Women's Laughter by Jo Anna Isaak. Again, good if you sell art books; the picture of a Gorilla Girl on the cover should get some otherwise reluctant folks to pick it up. Features over 100 photographs, paintings and images. \$16.95 pb, 0-415-08015-0; \$55 cl, -08014-2.

Split Britches: Lesbian Practice/Feminist Performance edited by Sue-Ellen Case. The long-awaited authoritative volume on this U.S. lesbian theater troupe. If you don't know Split Britches, do acquaint yourself with them through this book, which includes their most important plays, as well as a critical and historical introduction. \$16.95 pb, 0-415-12766-1; \$59.95 cl, -12765-3.



In **Hatreds: Racialized and Sexualized Conflicts in the 21st Century** Zillah Eisenstein's examination of hatred begins with the body and ends with the globe — looking at war-rape of women, colonialism, the LA riots, the Oklahoma City bombing and other current examples of hatred. I'm looking to this to help me make some sense of how humans can be so destructive. \$17.95 pb, 0-415-91221-0; \$59.95 cl, -91220-2, August.

Feminism and Families edited by Hilde Lindemann Nelson. A collection of essays covering the two topics named in the titles. Not much more info available. \$17.95 pb, 0-415-91254-7; \$55 cl, -91253-9, August.



The Other Machine: Sexual Politics and Reproductive Technologies by Dion Farquhar provides an analysis of contemporary feminist debates on modern technologies. \$17.95 pb, 0-415-91279-2; \$59.95 cl, -91278-4, August.

Sisters in Struggle: Invisible Black Women in the Civil Rights Movement 1945-1970 by Bernice McNair Barnett. Based on eight years of research, Barnett's book provides an analysis of race, gender and class in social movement leadership. It argues for a rethinking of traditionally narrow concepts of leadership. \$17.95 pb, 0-415-91435-3; \$55 cl, -91434-5, August.

Blood Stories: Menarche and the Politics of the Female Body in Contemporary U.S. Society by Janet Lee and Jennifer Sasser-Coen looks interesting. Using the narratives of 104 diverse women, the authors address how menarche is received in a culture where women's bodies are devalued. No clue about the cover; it could make or break this one. Definitely belongs in any serious section of health, women's lives or sociology. \$16.95 pb, 0-415-91547-3; \$55 cl, -91546-5, August.

The Gender/Sexuality Reader: Culture, History, Political Economy edited by Roger Lancaster and Micaela di Leonardo is a major anthology linking

anthropological work on gender and sexuality from a wide range of disciplines and methodologies. For those with serious gender/anthro/cultural studies sections. \$24.95 pb, 0-415-91005-6; \$69.95 cl, -91004-8, August.

The Rejected Body: Feminist Philosophical Reflections on Disability by Susan Wendell, who has lived with CFS since 1985, connects her own experience of illness to feminist theory and the literature of disability. Since the body of literature on this topic is slim, I'd recommend checking this one out. \$16.95 pb, 0-415-91047-1; \$59.95 cl, -91046-3, August.

Abortion Politics: Public Policy in Cross Cultural Perspective edited by Dorothy McBride Stetson and Marianne Githins. Although I have never sold a book about abortion (outside of how-to books), I'm including this for stores that do sell theoretical books on abortion. Title seems self-explanatory. \$18.95 pb, 0-415-91225-3; \$59.95 cl, -91224-5, August.

Toward a New Psychology of Gender: A Reader edited by Mary Gergen and Sara Davis looks useful because it collects diverse writings into one definitive volume. Looks like an outstanding group of contributors. Any store with a serious psychology section needs at least two. \$24.95 pb, 0-415-91308-X; \$69.95 cl, -91307-1, August.

—Mary Ellen Kavanaugh
My Sisters' Words



The editors of **Antifeminism in the Academy** contend that the anti-feminist backlash in the academy is part of the broader "politically correct" rhetoric. VèVè Clark, Shirley Nelson Garner, Margaret Higonnet and Ketu H. Katrak have gathered together a collection of writers, academics and activists to challenge the assault on feminist thinkers in the academy. The contributors consider possible responses, actions and remedies while exploring the roots of the backlash against women. \$16.95 pb, 0-415-91071-4; \$49.95 cl, -91070-6.

—JT

SCHOLASTIC

A collection of tales for elementary school girls, **Her Stories: African American Folktales, Fairy Tales, and True Tales** told by Virginia Hamilton and illustrated by Diane and Leo Dillon, collects nineteen stories focusing on the magical lore and wondrous imagines of African American women. Tales include "Little Girl and Buh Rabby," "Mary Belle and the Mermaid," "Lonna and Cat Woman," "Annie Christmas" and "Mary Lou Thornton: My Family." **Her Stories** presents a broad range of folktales, fairy tales and legendary women. Together, stories, illustrations and the author's notes combine to create a remarkable book that honors African American heritage while giving hope and inspiration for the future. \$19.95 cl, 0-590-47370-0, Blue Sky Press. —JT



ST. MARTIN'S

Lie Down With Dogs, a mystery by Jan Gleiter, won St. Martin's malice domestic contest. This story of two people caught up in events they can neither understand nor control really caught my interest. A Chicago businessman befriends a small boy and becomes partners with the boy's caretakers, a woman and her enormous dog. \$21.95 cl, 0-312-14003-7.

—Dorothy Holland

In **A Place Called Home: Twenty Writing Women Remember** edited by Mickey Pearlman, some of the best-known women writers in the U.S. explore their memories of "home" — and the powerful, oftentimes painful, emotions this concept evokes. The writers look back to a place that was not necessarily Home Sweet Home, as memories emerge of anti-Semitism, racism, unloving or missing parents, loneliness and loss. Contributors include: Sandra Benítez, Maxine Hong Kingston, Erica Jong, Lucille Clifton, Meg Pei and Jane Shapiro. \$20 cl, 0-312-12793-6.

Now out in paper is Randye Lordon's (*Brotherly Love*) **Sister's Keeper**, the second in the mystery series featuring the lesbian private investigator Sydney Sloane. \$9.95 pb, 0-312-14134-3. —JT

TIMES BOOKS

The career of Muhammed Yunus, from young economist to founder of Grameen Bank and the most

influential pioneer in micro-lending, is chronicled in **Give Us Credit: How Muhammad Yunus's Micro-Lending Revolution is Empowering Women from Bangladesh to Chicago** by Alex Counts. From his first loan of \$6 in 1976 to a Bangladeshi stool maker, Yunus and Grameen have disbursed loans to more than two million borrowers, most of them women, and have fostered similar lending programs in several countries worldwide. **Give Us Credit** weaves stories of success and achievement of women from these diverse cultures who have changed their lives by gaining credit and starting their own businesses. \$26 cl, 0-8129-2464-9. —JT

VISIBLE INK

Drawing representatives from a diverse range of fields, **Latinas! Women of Achievement** edited by Diane Telgen and Jim Kamp, with a foreword by Nicholasa Mohr, celebrates the lives of such accomplished women as journalist Maria Hinojosa, fashion designer Carolina Herrera, professional tennis player Rosemary Casals, astronaut Ellen Ochoa, political analyst Linda Chavez and singer Gloria Estefan. **Latinas!** describes the contributions of 70 Latina women who trace their roots to Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Spain or the Spanish-speaking countries of Central and South America — women who overcame obstacles to become trend setters, innovators, groundbreakers, pioneers and leaders in their fields. I can't believe Gloria Anzaldúa and Cherríe Moraga aren't included. Very short on lesbians. \$18.95 pb, 0-7876-0883-1. VI. now offers a flat 47% discount, no minimum.



Great Women in Sports by Anne Janette Johnson with a foreword by Donna Lopiano, profiles over 150 female athletes. Each profile contains facts about the athlete, anecdotes about her childhood, early training, and later success in her sport. Photographs are included whenever possible. Each entry also includes an at-a-glance summary of the athlete's personal stats and career highlights. Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Julie Krone, Nancy Lopez, Oksana Baiul, Cheryle Miller, Beth Heiden, Michelle Kwan and Steffi Graf are a few of the amazing women athletes profiled. \$17.95 pb, 0-7876-0873-4. —JT ○

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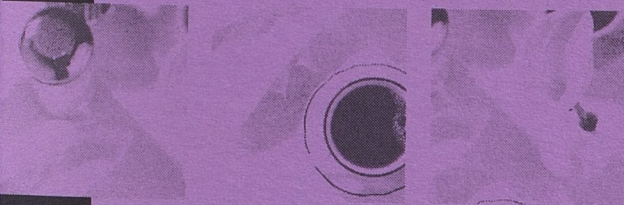
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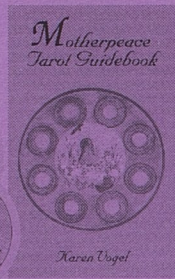
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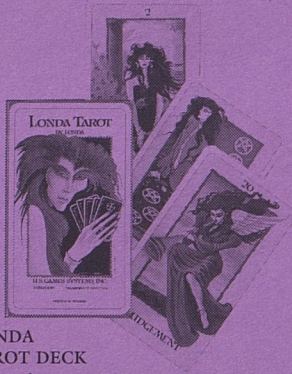
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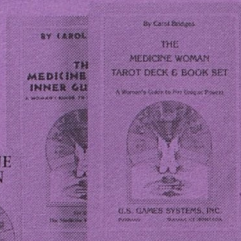
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