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# Feminist Bookstore News



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Women & Humor

Volume 19 Number 4

November/December 1996

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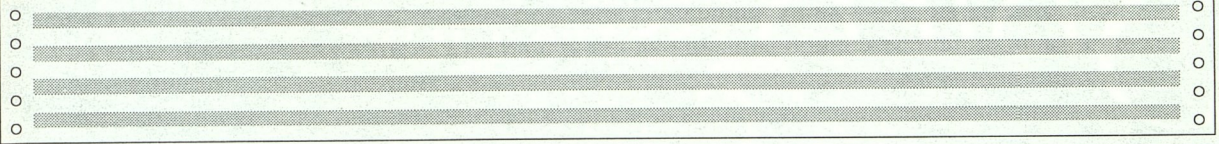
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# NOTES FROM THE COMPUTER TABLE



I've always hated that cartoon where the ogre behind the sales desk snarls at the (male) customer, "We don't have a humor section—we're a feminist bookstore."

We have a sharp, biting, wicked sense of humor. We laugh at ourselves, with the people we love, and skewer those who would do us harm. And somehow those are always the folks who can't "get" feminist humor and say we have none.

But obviously feminists must have some kind of sense of humor — feminist bookstores have humor sections and shelves full of humor books. This issue takes a brief look at feminist humor on the printed page. Liz Wermcrantz presents a quick overview of feminist humor current and past. Roz Warren offers an insider's eye view of life in the fast lane of a feminist humor publishing house, and Ellen Orleans takes a look at novels that might-have-been. Following the lead of industry publicists, we also created a number of self-serving "awards" that we were going to bestow on ourselves in this issue, but those things are often (and definitely in our case) funnier in fantasy than when you write them down, proving that we have both a sense of humor and a sense of discretion.

But there's one award that we want to keep — that's *FBN's* Finest Fire Fighter Award, which goes to Tricia Fallon, last year's Catalog Coordinator and all around back-up for everything from installing coat racks to sending out tearsheets. Tricia spent most of the last three years studying, training, applying, and then waiting, waiting, waiting for that magic call. She started with the SF Fire Department in September, and we're all outrageously proud of her.

And congratulations to Binti Legacy, the first feminist bookstore in Africa! (See page 15.) And to the employees of Chicago's Clark Street Borders who voted in a union. (See page 11.) May all Borders

employees be fortunate enough to have union representation in the near future.

ABA sold its remaining interest in what *used* to be called the ABA Convention. If you're in Chicago next June, surrounded by books, you'll be at BookExpo America. Sounds like an amusement park. And the FTC dropped its anti-trust investigation and sold independent bookstores down the river. (See page 7 for all the gory details.)

Last but not least, *FBN* analyzes returns and finds that chains have turned books into wallpaper and publishers into interior designers. Intrigued? Turn to page 39.

Enjoy the issue,  
Carol Seajay

## FBN Articles Due

Women in Cyberspace  
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Spring Announcements  
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—Josephine Humphreys, *New York Times Book Review*

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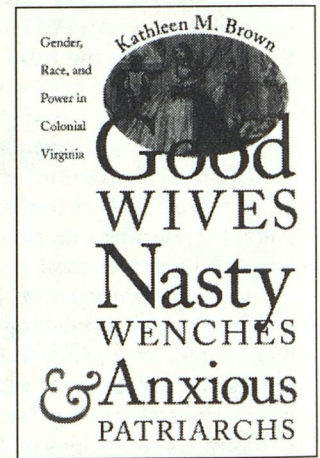
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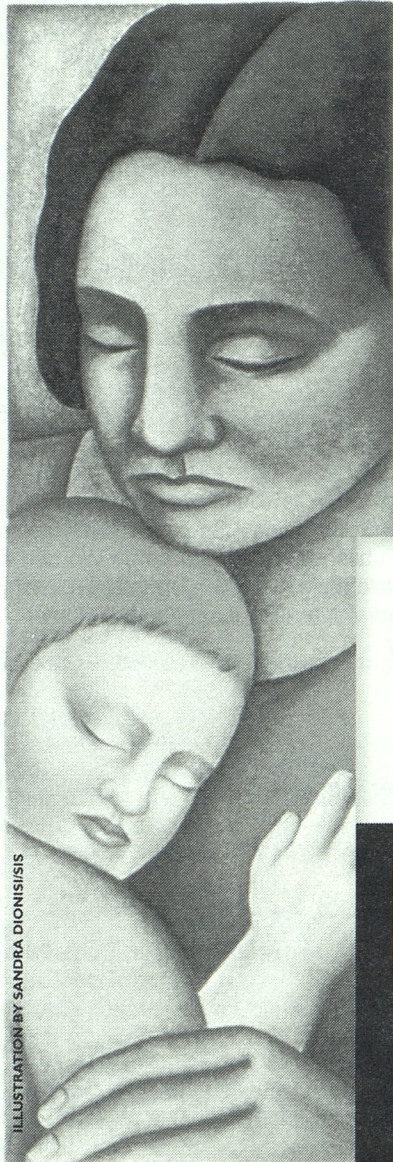
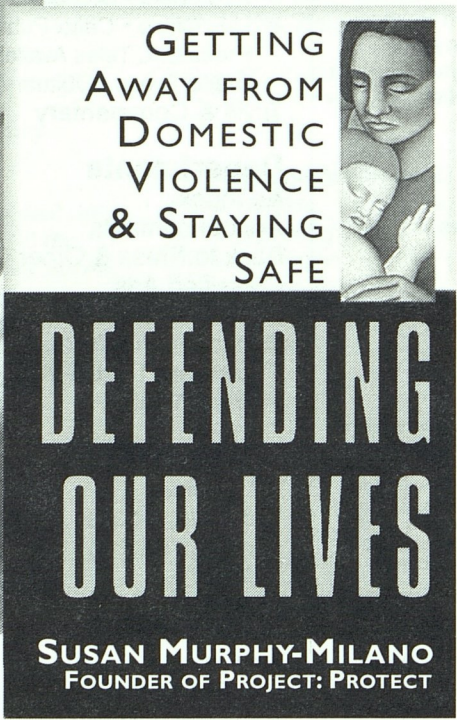


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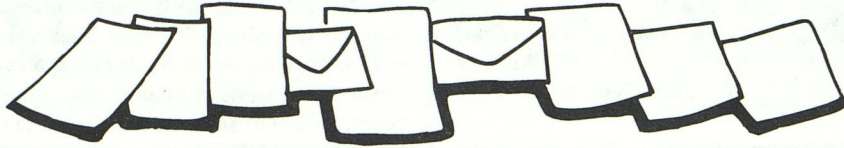
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—Susan Estrich,  
author of *Real Rape*



*When one life is lost, we all lose.*

# LETTERS



Dear Friends,

Well known lesbian author/editor Victoria Brownworth, who copes with compromised health (as she wrote about in *Too Queer*), recently suffered a stroke and a broken arm, underwent two major surgeries, and is facing yet another operation.

She is a freelancer with minimal health insurance. Her laptop computer, which she uses for her income, is malfunctioning (IBM clone, non-windows based, she uses Wordperfect 5.1). Her lover, award winning filmmaker Judith Redding, is Victoria's primary caregiver.

They need help immediately. A fund has been established for her. Wishes of good cheer and donations of any size are urgently needed. Make checks payable to Victoria Brownworth Fund and mail to: Brownworth Fund c/o Judith Redding, 478 Apple Drive, Exton PA 19341.

We all need help sometime. Each of us can make a difference.

Tee A. Corinne	Judith Katz
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Barbara Wilson	Valerie Taylor
Musawa & Mother Tongue Ink	

The Women's Bookshop  
228 Dominion Road  
Auckland 3 New Zealand

Dear FBN,

We have just held a marvelous Women's Book Weekend — highly successful, featuring 26 of New Zealand's top women writers (flown to Auckland from all around the country by their publishers), with

hundreds of women in the audiences. The whole thing has been a great buzz — and financially very good for us!

The Listener Women's Book Festival is now a biennial event so we took the initiative and ran something ourselves for this year. It was so successful (all the authors in one place at the same time, rather than flying past each other all over the country) that we have decided to make our weekend biennial too.

It is interesting to note that there has been a huge increase in writing (especially fiction) by NZ women in the last couple of years — the result, I am sure, of eight years of the Listener Women's Book Festival fostering women's writing and giving it a profile and a marketing tool.

So, we are in better shape than we have ever been in our seven-and-a-half-year history and I have decided to come to ABA next year to participate in all the feminist bookstore activities.

Carole Beu



*The three-day event offered books, readings, conversations, panels, workshops and more. It opened with a workshop titled Asking and Unmasking: Revealing the True Issues Surrounding Politics, Economics and Human Rights featuring Marilyn Wating (Three Masquerades) and Anne Else (False Economy) in conversation with Chair Jane Kelsey (The New Zealand Experiment) — "three of the most challenging and creative thinkers of our time." Saturday morning Dr. Elizabeth Harding and her partner Diane Bush, who spent two years running a hospital in a rugged and remote area of the Himalayas, talked about their experiences with cold, culture shock and chauvinism in a workshop titled "You Are a Brave Man." Other Festival highlights included a panel of publishing women who*

*publish women, an evening of storytelling, and workshops on writing fiction, surfing the net in search of women's literature, and feeling fabulous.*

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Laugh Lines Press  
PO Box 259  
Bala Cynwyd PA 19004

Dear FBN,

I *loved, loved, loved* the latest issue. It's very activist in tone and full of useful stuff.

Thanks for the followup on the Ms. situation. Not to mention the attempted unionization of my local Borders. We locals were absolutely thrilled and delighted when the move to unionize Borders first turned up and very sorry that it didn't fly this time around.

Best,  
Roz Warren

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Copperfield's Books  
PO Box 139  
Cazadero CA 95421

Dear FBN,

Hi! I wanted to take a moment to thank you for the sample copy of *FBN* — you've completely altered my perspective on bookselling for the better, and given me several ideas that can improve sales in our women's and gay/lesbian sections. What an absolute gem of a resource!



I'm a part-time bookseller at Copperfield's Books in Sebastopol (the original store in what's now a countywide chain). In the two years that I've been with the company, I've seen our struggle as an independent chain trying to hold our own against two big discount stores distort our focus on the community we're here to serve. When the wolf is at your door, it's easy to forget the other folks getting chomped outside. ClaireLight Books in Santa Rosa, and By The Book in Guerneville, both wonderful resources, are now gone (for a variety of reasons), leaving a lot of gay, lesbian, and feminist booklovers looking for a new place to call their own. Reading *FBN* it occurred to me: We can be that place.

I don't mean in any way to minimize the good

work we're doing already (since I stock the Women's and Gay/Lesbian section, I'd be shooting myself in the foot). It's just tremendously exciting making the cognitive leap from "There's gotta be *something* we can do" to reading your magazine and basically being handed the blueprints and adrenaline to *do* it. You give a great sense of there being a big picture to see beyond our standard squabbles. An example? It took reading *FBN* to alert me to Milk and Honey, a feminist bookstore that's *right across the street* from Copperfield's! Talk about overinsulation.

Heather L. Seggel

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Deep South Distribution  
PO Box 754  
Grahamstown 6140  
South Africa

Dear Friends,

Having followed *FBN* reports on the ABA to date, I would be very interested in hearing alternatives to the structuring and administration of such a convention, from independent (and small) booksellers and publishers.

As an independent bookseller in distress I am seeking a second vocation co-ordinating a book fair for a non-profit heritage organisation.

Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated.  
Paul Wessels

---

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Jane Evershed Card Collection  
PO Box 8874  
Minneapolis MN 55408

Dear FBN,

More Than A Tea Party?

"Dangerous" feminist books are not being promoted by the larger publishing companies these days, passivity via the soul has the limelight. Prominent radical feminists are being axed, some books even shredded! My book, *More Than A Tea Party*, sold 13,000 copies in less than two years but it was remaindered anyway. I was able to track down the remainders so it will be available through my existing business. Others are not so fortunate. Feminism is a very necessary step toward true consciousness. *Beware!*

Jane Evershed

*More Than A Tea Party is a full color book of art and poetry, to order call toll free 888-667-0599. (\$12, 50% for 6+.)* ○



# News News News

## ABA Sells Trade Show —BookExpo America—

In a move that took its membership by surprise, the American Booksellers Association sold its remaining 51% of the ABA Trade Show & Convention to Association Expositions & Services (AE&S), the division of Reed Exhibition Companies that purchased 49% of the show in 1993. The show will be renamed BookExpo America (BEA). Terms were not announced at the time of the sale but later reports were that ABA will receive a \$17M cash payment, that ABA has committed to running the booksellers educational program and to holding its annual meeting in conjunction with BEA for the next ten years, and that ABA stands to make as much as \$25M in show royalties during that time. ABA received \$17M for the 49% interest in the show it sold in 1993.

While the sale took many members by surprise, explanations for the sale abound. ABA President Barbara Bonds Thomas and ABA Executive Director Bernie Rath published a letter to ABA members in *Bookselling This Week* stating that "The ABA's annual trade show and convention is less about the relationship between booksellers and publishers and more about being a book-industry event.... [I]t is our considered opinion that it is time to cash out and move on to other activities which are more relevant to the day-to-day struggle for survival our members face."

Others described the declining attendance by ABA member stores, the extreme dissatisfaction with the stagnant location, the flight of core corporate publishers from the show in recent years (Simon & Schuster, Penguin, St. Martin's, Random House and Putnam have all declined to exhibit at the 1997 convention), ABA's vulnerability to publisher boycotts as ABA continues to pursue a level playing field for

*See ABA Sells Show, next page.*

## FTC Inexplicably Drops Antitrust Case Against Publishers

In a move that puzzled and angered independent booksellers, the Federal Trade Commission has abandoned 17 years of investigation and negotiation (and delay) into the question of whether Random House, HarperCollins, Macmillan, Morrow, Putnam, and Simon & Schuster violated the Robinson-Patman Act by favoring large bookstore chains with price and promotional discounts that were not made available to independent bookstores.

The investigation began in 1979, following the successful Northern California Independent Booksellers Association's lawsuits charging mass market publishers with similar discrimination. In 1988 the FTC investigated and charged the six corporate publishers with illegal pricing practices. Consent agreements were signed by the named publishers in 1992, but were never ratified by the full Commission or implemented, pending, it would seem, exploration of similar trade practices with a publisher not named in the 1988 charges, Bantam Doubleday Dell. Industry observers expressed concern at the time that the consent orders would be useless if other publishers engaged in similar practices because that would allow all publishers to argue that they were simply "meeting the competition."

Negotiations with BDD were reported to be "nearing an end" for several years, but they seemed to have stopped about the time that Robert Pitofsky, who had served as BDD's outside counsel during the FTC's probe of BDD activities, was appointed chairman of the FTC in 1995.

In dismissing the complaints, the Commission did not make any statement that the cited publishers were *not* in violation of the Robinson-Patman Act. The

*See FTC Drops Case, page 9.*

**ABA Sells Show**, *continued from page 7.*

independent booksellers, publishers concerns that the high cost of exhibiting at ABA exceeds the benefits of attending, the show's shift — instigated in part by ABA — away from being bookseller focused and toward being an international rights show, the unwieldiness of the show as ABA has pushed to expand both the total amount of space rented and the price of booths, the lack of attention paid to booksellers at the show, and independent booksellers' declining marketshare of the book industry.

Booksellers have expressed a number of concerns including that the BEA will shift to being a chain-focused show, that BEA will de-emphasize the role of independent bookstores, that independent bookstores and the ABA will lose a significant platform for our agendas, and that media attention to independent bookstores will decline. Others have voiced concern that the ABA organization will become increasingly removed from the membership if fewer members attend BEA and consequently fewer members attend the ABA's annual meetings. Strong member intervention at annual meetings, including the resolutions that drove the initial lawsuit and the development of National Independent Bookstore Week, have significantly altered ABA's direction in recent years.

Two booksellers at NCIBA's regional trade show, commenting on the relative wealth of ABA's national organization in contrast to the financial struggles of most of its members, suggested that members might best be served by closing the organization and dividing the \$36M ABA received for the show, plus the projected \$25M royalty, among its 5,000 members. That would come to \$7,000 per member store immediately plus an additional \$5,000 per store paid over the next ten years — not counting ABA's other assets.

BEA, inadvertently perhaps, seems to validate independents' fears. "Given the market changes affecting the bookselling and publishing industries, it makes sense to create a distinction between the event, which encompasses many interrelated industries, and the Association, whose mission is to serve the bookseller portion of the market," said Pat Dolson, president of Reed Exhibition Companies. The new name for the show, she continued, "better represents the changing distribution channels" in the industry. BEA also intends to bring "other, non-traditional channels of book distribution to the show in greater

numbers" as well as to continue to draw independent booksellers. Tracks for nontraditional booksellers will also be added to the show's educational program. BEA plans to create an Event Advisory Board, which will include representation from ABA as well as other industry segments, to decide such matters as which authors and public figures will be invited to appear at the show. Not surprisingly, BEA has stressed its interest in continuing to grow the show.

ABA plans to shift its focus to its mission of education and supporting the bookseller community including increased focus on developing its own insurance and programs offering better rates on shipping and merchant credit card processing.

BookExpo America 1997 will be held May 31–June 2, 1997 at McCormick Place Complex in Chicago. The show will remain in Chicago for the next several years, but a future move has not been ruled out. AES is aware that some exhibitors and attendees are unhappy at being tied to one site.

Reed Exhibition also produces the London Book Fair, Salon du Livre, and the Tokyo Book Fair. The global parent company, Reed Elsevier also owns Cahnerns (*Publishers Weekly*, *Library Journal*, and *School Library Journal*), R.R. Bowker (*Books in Print* and *Literary Market Place*), as well as book publishing concerns. The Reed Elsevier group has annual sales in excess of \$5.7 billion and over 25,000 employees. For information about BookExpo America call 203-840-5460 or write to BookExpo America at 383 Main Ave., Norwalk CT 06852 or check their web site at (<http://www.reed-elsevier.com>).

### Holt Bolts

Holt is the latest to join the list of mainstream publishers that will not be attending BookExpo America. Holt has concluded that with all of the show's drawbacks and the costs continuing to rise, attending the show no longer makes economic sense. Holt's president Michael Naumann cited a number of reasons for deciding not to attend BEA including that BEA has become primarily a rights show and Holt sees the people it needs to see in New York; the declining numbers of booksellers attending the show; that most of the actual sales Holt makes at ABA are to the institutional market; and his "severe problems with Chicago." ○

**FTC Drops Case**, *continued from page 7.*

Commission's statement claims, without citing any evidence, that "it appears that major book publishers generally have modified pricing and promotional practices," an odd statement given that ABA has only recently reached out-of-court settlements against five other publishers and that ABA is currently involved in a lawsuit with Random House, one of the "FTC-6," over the same issues. The FTC expressed concern that further investigation would be "time-consuming and resource-intensive" and that new orders might not be effective because publishers might be able to get around them by using the meeting-the-competition argument, but stated that "further investigation does not appear to be a...prudent use of scarce public resources." The final Order Returning Matters to Adjudication and Dismissing Complaints, ironically, also cited the ABA's success in addressing these same issues in its own litigation.

Independent booksellers, including those who have lost their businesses and their livelihoods due to unfair competition, disagreed strongly with the FTC decision.

It appears that FTC Commissioner Mary L. Azcuenaga also found the decision to be absurd. In her Dissenting Statement she states that "the Commission has inexplicably also failed to act on the proposed consent orders.... I do not understand and certainly cannot endorse this decision."

She also stated, "The most obvious justification

for dismissing the complaints, a conclusion that the respondents did not engage in unlawful price discrimination...is noticeably absent from the Commission's order." She then criticizes each of the four reasons the majority offered stating, "It is not at all clear how...changes [the growth of 'superstores' and warehouse or 'club' stores] might mitigate the practice [illegal price discrimination].... Indeed, one could speculate that the growth of significant discount retailers would result in more rather than less price discrimination against disfavored retailers."

She argues that "to the extent that the proposed consent orders were inadequate...the Commission could have sought appropriate revisions in the proposed consent orders or it could have rejected the orders and returned the matters to adjudication" and proposes, "If what the majority means to suggest is that if book publishers not under order also are engaging in discriminatory pricing, the solution would appear to be to initiate additional investigations, not to dismiss the complaints."

She concludes, "As far as I know, the Commission never before has deemed enforcement of the Robinson-Patman Act fruitless on the ground that a respondent under order could meet the presumptively lawful prices of its competitors and it seems a very odd preposition to adopt."

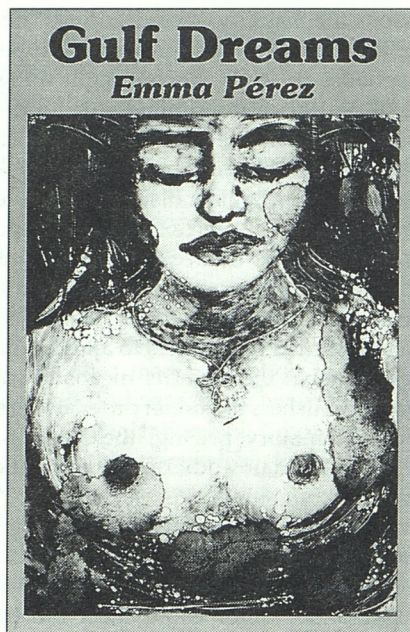
And, "Finally, the majority cites the success that the American Booksellers Association has had in its private Robinson-Patman suits against several

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publishers. The Association has negotiated settlements with four publishers. The implication is that the Association's success should somehow stand in for the Commission's law enforcement. This is very confusing, when the same majority suggests that a mere six FTC orders would have been ineffective.

"The unfortunate choice to dismiss the complaints may indeed save 'scarce public resources' from further expenditure in these cases, but it is an imprudent waste of substantial law enforcement resources that this agency already has expended.

"I dissent."

In the final analysis, the FTC's very strange decision, especially in light of the ABA's relative success in pursuing these matters and the odd coincidence of the appointment of one of the counsel to head the agency in the midst of the agency's inability to progress on the case, underscore a bitter truth that civil rights lawyers and oppressed people have known for years: Justice in this country is the province of those who can afford their own lawyers. —CS ○

### Serpent's Tail Closing U.S. Office

Citing "difficult trading conditions and excessive and unpredictable returns," Pete Ayrton, publisher of the British-based independent press, has decided to close Serpent's Tail's U.S. office in December. Books will continue to be distributed by Consortium. Serpent's Tail is best known in the U.S. for the New York-based High Risk Books imprint which was published by Ira Silverberg and edited by Silverberg and Amy Scholder. Ayrton will see through the publication of those titles acquired by its U.S. editors and will continue to commission challenging U.S. fiction and non-fiction. A publicist will be hired to promote the books currently in the pipeline.

According to Silverberg, "While the High Risk imprint brought both visibility and prestige to Serpent's Tail, it was not enough to outweigh the demand of increased returns and lower advances from the stores; thus, our U.K. publisher has chosen a path which is geared to decreasing overheads in an effort to create better economies for the house." Silverberg will stay on through the end of the year to see the Spring list into production. ○

### ***Calyx* Publishes Nobel Laureate**

When the Nobel Prize for Literature was awarded to Polish poet Wislawa Szymborska, *Calyx* editors were already familiar with Ms. Szymborska's poetry — they had published her poetry in English translation in *Calyx's* fifth anniversary anthology of International Women's Writing. Szymborska's poetry was translated by New York poet Sharon Olds, who was not well-known at the time but who has since gained international attention for her own poetry. It was Old's translations of the remarkable poetry of Wislawa Szymborska that inspired the International Women's Writing anthology issue. Copies of the issue are still available from *Calyx* and Consortium, \$10.

*Calyx* was founded in 1976 in Corvallis, Oregon and is celebrating its twentieth anniversary this year. Underfunded from its inception, the first issue of *Calyx* was laid out on borrowed equipment in Corvallis' City Hall. In 1986 *Calyx* expanded into book publishing, building on its reputation for recognizing writers first or early in their careers.

Best-selling author Barbara Kingsolver congratulated the publishers on their twentieth anniversary, saying, "*Calyx* holds a special place in my heart. Some of my very first published words — two poems — were published by *Calyx* years ago. I've never forgotten the thrill of turning those beautifully illustrated pages and seeing my name, my earnest words, printed there alongside those of some of my literary heroines. It made me feel as if I belonged to the important company of women." ○

### **Women's Press/ U.K. Titles Finally Available in the U.S.**

Women's Press/U.K. titles have been unavailable in the U.S., officially, since the demise of the Inland organization in Connecticut, but most titles had been out of stock at the U.S. warehouse for a long time before Inland's bankruptcy was officially declared.

In September The Women's Press/U.K. finalized a distribution arrangement with Trafalgar Square in

the U.S. Trafalgar distributes several other British publishers in the U.S. as well. Books are expected to be available in October. Trafalgar's sales reps will call on feminist bookstores throughout the U.S. The package they will be repping will be comprised of "new" titles which haven't previously been distributed in the U.S. and backlist U.S. bestsellers, but all of the titles to which Women's Press has U.S. rights can be ordered from Trafalgar Square.

Backlist titles include books by American writers that are no longer available in U.S. editions (Suzy McKee Charnas' *Walk to the End of the World and Motherlines*, Kristin Hunter's *Soul Brothers and Sister Lou*, Judith Arcana's *Every Mother's Son and Our Mothers' Daughters* and *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin) as well as strong British titles such as *Not a Passing Phase: Reclaiming Lesbians in History* by the Lesbian History Group, *Reader I Murdered Him: Crime Fiction by Women*, Caeia March's novels *Three Ply Yarn* and *Fire! Fire!*, Joan Riley's *The Unbelonging* and *Waiting in the Twilight*, and Marie Cardinal's *Devotion and Disorder*. See "From Our Own Presses" for ordering information. ○

### **Chicago Borders Store Goes Union**

In the third union vote taken at Borders stores, Chicago's Clark Street Borders employees said yes to unionizing and elected United Food Commercial Union Local 881 to represent them.

Greg Popek, one of the employee organizers, said that employees were concerned about wages, benefits, grievance procedures and work hours. He cited a 25% increase in health coverage copayments, an "at will" employment agreement that employees are required to sign that allows the chain to fire employees at any time without notice, and variations in pay from store to store for similar responsibilities.

Marilyn Slankard, v-p of marketing for Borders, was quoted in *PW* as saying, "We are disappointed, but we will bargain in good faith."

The Clark Street Borders is the first chain store to unionize in the country. Union drives at other stores continue. Bookstore employees are expected by many to be in the forefront of the drive to unionize employees of the national retail chains. ○

**Womyn's Braille Press  
— Update —  
By WBP Board of Directors**

By Kathy Hagen, Sally Koplin, Elissa Raffa,  
and Marj Schneider/WBP Board of Directors

In December, 1994 we shipped our collection of over 800 books on 4-track tape and in Braille to the Bureau of Braille and Talking Book Services in Daytona Beach, Florida, after this library agreed to take on distribution of our titles through the network of National Library Service libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS). Incorporating the books we had been producing for 14 years into the NLS system was our best alternative when the core group of volunteers running WBP found we could not continue the enormous amount of work this project requires.

This transition has been slow; we may hold the record for the "organization taking the longest time going out of business." The staff at the Bureau of Braille and Talking Book Services has been gradually

cataloging our books for inclusion in the "National Union Catalog," a list of books produced by libraries affiliated with NLS. Each book has been assigned a number beginning with "CBF," for titles circulated through the Florida library. Copies have been made for distribution. Although their work is far from complete, and has taken longer than we anticipated, nearly 600 titles can now be circulated.

WBP subscribers who are tape or Braille users were sent an index of these 600 books this summer. Copies of the index are also available to print readers (see resources). The index lists items in alphabetical order by author, followed by title, then order number. Unlike our 1994 catalog, which included descriptions of books and was divided by subject, this is a single list. It should be used in conjunction with our catalog to order those titles now available for circulation (see resources). We need to receive your requests for indexes and catalogs by December 1, 1996. The catalog will be your best means of inquiring in the future about other books that had been part of WBP's collection. We are investigating the possibility of a Web site for information on WBP where updates could be posted about titles as they become available. Let us know if you have suggestions for possible low-cost sites.

Unfortunately, there are still over 200 titles that have not been processed by the staff at the Bureau. These include all of our Braille titles, all of the books originally produced by Lambda Resource Center for the Blind and acquired by WBP, and a significant number of our recorded books. Some of these are titles we could never obtain permission to distribute from their publisher or author. NLS won't circulate books without written permission. However, Congress recently passed legislation permitting organizations to produce materials in Braille or on 4-track cassette without obtaining permissions from publishers. If this provision can apply retroactively, all of our former titles will be available again, not just those from responsive publishers.

You should request former WBP books from your local NLS library, either by CBF number, title or author. Librarians will have computer access to information about these books and will contact the library in Daytona Beach, which will then send the book directly to you. When you finish a book, return it to this Florida library.

**WOMEN RESHAPING HUMAN RIGHTS  
How Extraordinary Activists  
are Changing the World**

WOMEN RESHAPING  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
How Extraordinary Activists  
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We learned recently that staff at some NLS libraries will not order books for patrons through inter-library loan (books not produced by the NLS program itself). We don't know how widespread this problem is, but needless to say, we are outraged to learn that such a basic service may be denied to some people. We will take whatever action we can with NLS to insure that our books continue to be available to everyone. If your library staff are reluctant, extremely slow or unwilling to order these books for you, complain to the head of your library, the state agency that oversees it, and then to the NLS in Washington.

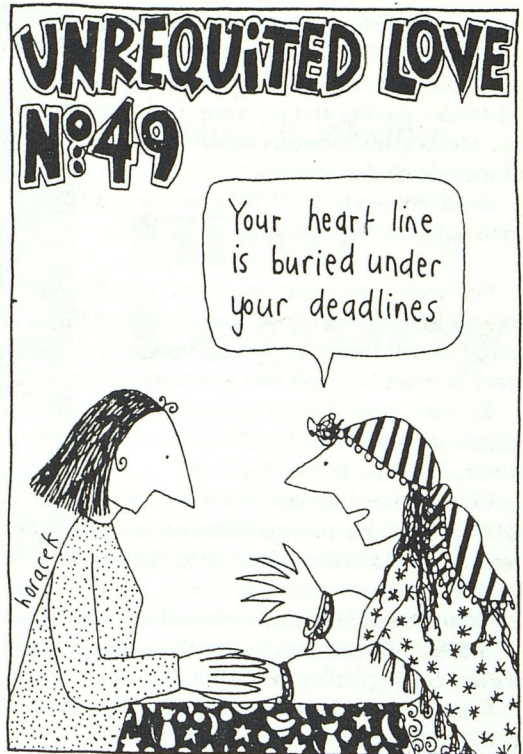
If you have a print disability and do not already receive literature through the NLS program, see information at the end of this letter about enrolling in this service. WBP subscribers in other countries should contact their own libraries such as the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, which can request NLS books from the U.S. for their patrons.

Since our April 1995 letter, much of our equipment has been distributed, though we still have a number of 4-track recorders to donate to organizations involved with taping projects. If you know of an organization in need of taping equipment to make print publications accessible, please let us know. We also still have our oldest Telex high speed duplicator that we want to donate to an organization in need of such equipment. This spring, we circulated a notice soliciting applications from feminist and disability projects for some \$4,000 remaining in WBP's bank account. We received a number of requests, and will be making decisions about granting those funds this fall.

WBP documents have recently been sent to three archives, the Lesbian Herstory Archives, Heartland Lesbian Feminist Archives, and the Minnesota Historical Society, and will be available to the public once they are cataloged. Some of the items, such as issues of the WBP Newsletter, have gone to all three archives. Otherwise, different materials were sent to each of them. Documents include: meeting minutes, brochures, articles on the organization, and recordings of public WBP events.

We plan to have distributed our remaining funds and assets and close WBP's bank account by the end of this year, thus ending WBP's official existence as a nonprofit organization. Taking this final step will be difficult. WBP has been a vital, active organization for more than a dozen years.

We understand that whether you have recently



*Unrequited Love by Judy Horacek*

discovered WBP or were a long-time subscriber, the end of this organization represents an enormous loss. We know that while transferring our books to an NLS library was our best alternative, it's far from an ideal solution. We deeply thank the staff of the Daytona Beach library for coming forward to adopt our collection, and are proud we've seen this process through. We also value the support and best wishes from subscribers, volunteers, donors and friends. Thanks for your participation over the years.

We know that a project like WBP is still needed, especially when we hear the responses of women contacting us for the first time who've learned that we're going out of business. Along with all of you, we hope that another project will emerge to meet that need.

### Resources:

Copies of the index to former WBP books, listing authors, titles and book numbers are available free in Braille, print, large print, on cassette and on computer disk for IBM or Mac. Requests must be placed before

December 1, 1996, and must include choice of format.

The 1994 WBP catalog, which was distributed on tape dated 1993, is available for free in regular print or on 4-track cassette, and on computer disk for IBM or Mac. Make your requests before December 1, 1996, and include choice of format.

Send requests to WBP's mailing address, or e-mail <sch0105@maroon.tc.umn.edu>.

For more information about enrolling in the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, and to locate your nearest regional library, contact NLS toll-free at 800-424-8567.

To contact the Bureau of Braille and Talking Book Services directly, call 904-239-6050; or write to 420 Platt St., Daytona Beach FL 32114.

Contact the Lesbian Herstory Archives at 718-768-3953 to make an appointment to browse or do research; fax 718-768-4663; write to PO Box 1258, New York NY 10016.

Contact the Heartland Lesbian Feminist Archives at 715-698-2609 to schedule a visit; or write to W3419 850 Ave., Spring Valley WI 54767.

Contact the Minnesota Historical Society at 612-296-1430; 345 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul MN 55102. ○

**Alma Routsong/Isabel Miller  
1924–1996**

Alma Routsong, author of *Patience and Sarah*, one of the most beloved lesbian novels of all time, died at her home in upstate New York after a long illness on October 3. She was surrounded by her loving family.

In 1969, having enjoyed two midlist successes with a very prestigious publisher, Alma Routsong set out to place her third novel, *A Place for Us*. After being rejected by "every house in New York," she published the novel herself, under the imprint Bleeker Street Press, using the pseudonym Isabel (an anagram for Lesbia) Miller.

A couple years later, when Columbia University was the scene of a major Women's Liberation Conference, Miller was there, selling copies of *A Place for Us* out of a brown paper shopping bag. Charlotte Sheedy, then attending Columbia and working freelance as a book scout, was also there — selling, legend has it, perfume that she had concocted as a fund-raiser for women's liberation. Sheedy's co-conspirator



purchased a copy of *A Place for Us*, which she later recommended to Sheedy. Sheedy was convinced that she could place it, Alma agreed to let her, and Joyce Johnston acquired it for McGraw-Hill on the book's second trip out. The title was changed to *Patience and Sarah* and it was published in a cloth edition and a book club edition before Leona Nevler bought the paperback rights for Fawcett Crest. *Patience and Sarah* went on to become a classic and has stayed in print continuously since its first trade publication in 1972.

Routsong/Miller always intended to write a sequel to *Patience and Sarah* but was never able to work her way through that particular writers' block. Instead she continued the themes in two of her short stories and went on to write *The Love of Good Women*, *Side By Side*, and *A Dooryard Full of Flowers*, all published, at her insistence, with the lesbian-oriented Naiad Press. Her final novel, *Laurel*, will be released in November. One of her last days was spent approving the edited book.

Alma Routsong/Isabel Miller is survived by four daughters and her longtime companion, Julie Weber. Memorial contributions may be sent in her name to the ACLU, Hospice, or the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Or, better yet, share a copy of *Patience and Sarah*, and its story, with a friend who doesn't already know it. —CS ○





By Carol Seajay

Several hundred people showed up to help launch Africa's first feminist bookstore, Binti Legacy, in Nairobi. The June opening, framed as an important cultural event, was covered on TV, in all the national papers and commanded front-page news locally. Binti is also getting excellent coverage for its programs for women and children. Binti is Swahili for "daughter, girl or young woman."

In Africa, as elsewhere in the developing world, most women do not have access to appropriate information that meets their different and special needs. Gender sensitive literature and information is hard to find in Kenya and, when available, it tends to be buried under conventional issues and contemporary literature. But with the global trend towards gender sensitivity and the media's attention to raising gender awareness and highlighting the needs of women, founder Aoko Midiwo-Odembo believes that the time is right to launch a feminist bookstore in Kenya.

But launching a feminist bookstore in East Africa is a complicated venture. Retail space is at a premium in Nairobi and finding a good location for the store required signing a lease in 1994 for space in an unfinished building that was scheduled to be completed in the spring of 1995. Delays in finishing the building meant delays in opening the bookstore. But the wait was worth it. Binti Legacy finally opened June 3, 1996,

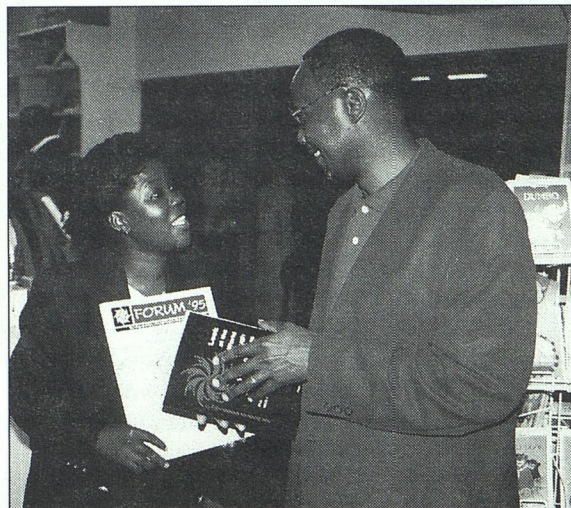
Africa's First  
Feminist Bookstore:

# Binti Legacy

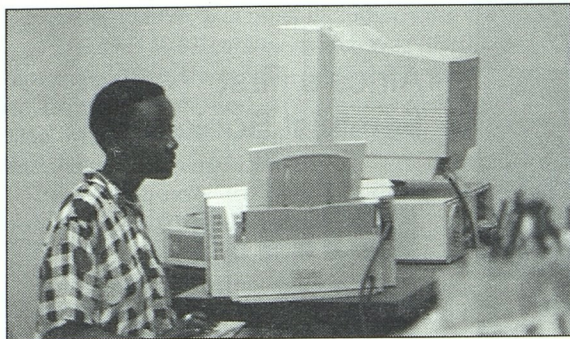
on the mezzanine floor of the beautiful Loita House, the newest and most modern mall in downtown Nairobi. Binti occupies a huge space in a building that also features a large courtyard that the bookstore is free to use for

parties, events, performances and children's programs. The store is fully computerized (using Anthology for inventory and Books in Print on CD-ROM) and depends on two networked computers.

Binti features books published in Africa as well as books imported from the U.K. and the U.S. Aoko has traveled to the U.K. to set up accounts with publishers; she was the only feminist bookstore at the Zimbabwe



Top: Binti Legacy is located on the mezzanine level of Nairobi's newest, most modern shopping mall.  
Above: Founder Aoko Midiwo-Odembo and her husband Elkanah Absalom Odembo enjoy the grand opening party.



International Bookfair and she traveled to the Beijing Conference as well. In the U.S., an old friend, Dan Hoffman, has become something of an expert in ordering both familiar and obscure feminist and development titles from the widest possible range of publishers. In the process of helping to stock the store he has also learned the ins and outs of intercontinental shipping and negotiating for terms appropriate for books that will endure the long journey to Africa. Dan devotes a day a week to keeping Binti supplied with all the latest and most important titles. His work is facilitated by Sprint's no-longer-available "Free on Friday" international calling program, which allows Aoko and Dan to stay in frequent telephone and fax contact. *FBN* was able to interview Aoko by phone thanks to a conference Dan arranged on this line.

Many publishers, recognizing the uniqueness and importance of this new venture, have extended special terms to the new store and/or have offered 90-day billing in recognition of the extended shipping time. Whenever possible, Binti is becoming the East African distributor for publishers' lines, thus earning a distributor's discount on top of the normal bookstore discount and expanding their base of operations to distributing otherwise impossible-to-get titles to bookstores throughout East Africa.

Women in Nairobi are more than ready for the books. The environment is liberal and there's a critical mass of strong, independent women who are interested in women's issues, want the literature, and have money to buy imported books.

Alice Walker, Terry McMillan, Toni Morrison and Nawal el Saadawi are strong sellers as are books on domestic violence and books on various kinds of self-help. *Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus*, for example, is a steady seller. Other sections include:

Binti Legacy is fully computerized, using Anthology for inventory and Books in Print on CD-Rom.



psychological and personal development; relationships; pregnancy, parenting and childcare; yoga and meditation; law and human rights; political activism; humor; poetry and drama; gardening, home improvement and cookery; family life; health; self-image and beauty; character building; business and careers; religion; violence against women; and recovery.

The young women's books are, perhaps, closest to Aoko's heart. "We can make a tremendous difference in the lives of these young girls by showing them that they have options," she told *FBN*. Titles for children include poetry and early learning, picture books and biographies as well as books on character building. Titles for young people will be gender sensitive, reflective of Kenya's multi-ethnic culture, and will show young people of both genders as independent, resourceful, caring and emotional individuals. Perhaps even more important than stocking the books in the store, Binti Legacy is setting up programs to distribute books to schools throughout Kenya.

Binti is also committed to stocking development materials and "gray literature" — pamphlets and other materials that have been created by and for women in developing areas and are published by women, NGOs or other non-traditional publishers. Binti's development section includes items as diverse as practical manuals for personal development, conference papers and research reports on topics ranging from tool making to crop protection to building construction and roof thatching. Good development programs, thanks to much hard work

and consciousness-raising over the years, address women's employment and health issues. So working with the development community is one of the most efficient ways Binti can reach out to girls and women in outlying areas. People who work in these fields are, of course, vitally interested in women's development literature, and NGOs and development agencies buy books for staff use as well as materials for distribution through various programs. Binti will provide books that haven't previously been readily available to these communities.

Binti also sends booklists out by mail to local and outlying customers and organizes "book mobiles" to the neighboring cities of Kampala in Uganda and Arusha in Tanzania. The book trips include receptions and a program to sell books to agencies as well as individuals. One of Binti's long-term goals is to set up contract outlets to distribute books throughout East Africa. And, like feminist bookstores anywhere, Binti provides a wide range of sidelines, books for travelers, and the ever-essential bulletin boards.

Binti's founder, Aoko Midiwo-Odembo, has strong roots in the development community. She has a Masters in Public Administration and Human Resource Management from Atlanta University in Georgia and a post-graduate certificate in Personnel Management from the Royal Institute of Personnel Administration in London. She has worked with the Combating Childhood and Communicable Diseases Program at the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, was the Contracts Manager for the African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF), worked for the International Center for Insect Physiology and Ecology as a Planning Officer, and helped to establish Jimmy Carter Center offices in Nairobi. Aoko was also a founding member of the League of Kenya Women Voters, a NGO committed to raising political and social awareness among women and girls in Kenya, and she comes from a long line of politically active and outspoken people. Opening a feminist bookshop is an idea that Aoko has nurtured for many

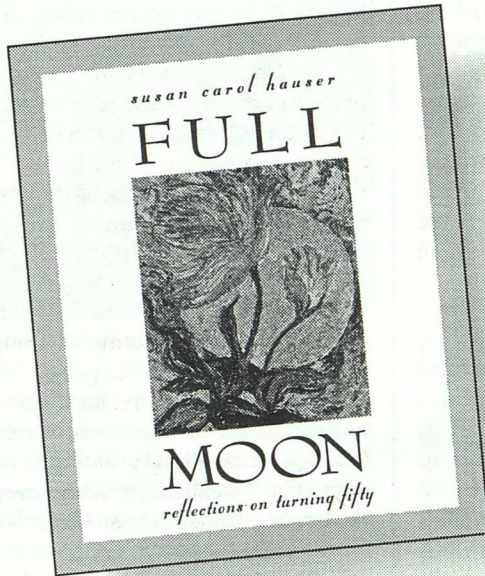
years. It just seems like the next logical step — and she has the skills and the contacts to make it work.

In Nairobi "everyone" knows that Binti is the place to get books for women. Women from out of town can ask anyone in the neighborhood, from cab drivers to cobblers, where to find "that bookstore for women" and get directions. Still, some people in the development community find the concept of a women's bookstore difficult. "Why 'binti?'" — they ask, "Why just women?" a question that makes sense in an environment where their job is to develop the entire community. To simplify things, staff sometimes refer to the store as "Legacy." "Feminist" is also a challenging word in the local vernacular. Too often it is used to mean rebellious, "crazy" or "wayward" (though, interestingly enough, not "lesbian"). But whatever it's called, by whomever, Binti Legacy has the books women in East Africa want and need.

Binti Legacy, Loita House, Loita Street, Nairobi, Kenya; 254-2-33-0853; fax -33-0854. Dan Hoffman will also forward mail, fax and telephone messages to Binti. His address is 597 San Luis Road, Berkeley CA 94707; 510-528-9900; fax 510-527-7651. ○



Binti Legacy's books on display at a trade fair in Kampala, Uganda.



**“These graceful meditations  
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and complemented by the delicate art of California-based  
Barbara Van Arnam.” —Publishers Weekly**

**FULL MOON: REFLECTIONS ON TURNING FIFTY**  
by Susan Carol Hauser

This is a time of transition for many, as one baby boomer turns fifty every two seconds. *Full Moon: Reflections on Turning Fifty* honors, rather than shuns the rich passage of time. Susan Carol Hauser’s celebratory essays and Barbara Van Arnam’s exquisite full-color art represent the thirteen moon cycles in the year leading up to a woman’s fiftieth birthday. “Listening to Susan Carol Hauser we realize there is no reason to fear aging.” —Paula Schroeder, Minnesota Public Radio

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**GROW OLD ALONG  
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IS YET TO BE**  
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**Sandra Haldeman Martz**

In the enriching tradition of the million-copy bestseller, *When I Am an Old Woman I Shall Wear Purple*, this outstanding anthology of short fiction, poetry, and photographs shares poignant experiences of growing old, while expanding to include men as well as women.

“written from experience and from the heart. . . . Each piece can be enjoyed for itself, but together they speak well for a growing but overlooked population. . . . Sooner or later, if they’re lucky, everyone moves into this stage of life. And, as many of these writers point out, they’re still the same inside, only the packaging has changed.”  
—Publishers Weekly

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AMERICA'S FAVORITE PUBLISHING HOUSE FOR WOMEN AND AGING

# News FROM THE BOOKSTORES

Compiled by Carol Seajay

Sales are all over the map — there's no one consistent story.

My Sisters' Words (Syracuse) just celebrated their ninth anniversary with "the best party ever. People stayed longer and spent more. In fact, they spent twice as much as last year," Mary Ellen Kavanaugh told *FBN*. Keys to the success? "A lot of community education, chocolate cake to die for, and free mini-massages. People had to hang around and wait for their turn for massages." The last may have been the secret. The event also featured Donna Woolfolk Cross' inaugural reading for *Pope Joan* ("the reading at Borders didn't count") with the heady news that Jodie Foster is reading for *Joan* for the movie.... Mary Ellen is already brainstorming for Anniversary # 10. "Maybe Jamie Anderson to emcee, along with Pat Humphries (a local folk singer), Suede and The Flirtations, Minnie Bruce Pratt (who did her first reading from *Crimes Against Nature* at My Sisters' Words) and Adrienne Rich...?"

Mary Ellen also reports that "we're holding our own, paying our bills. Sales are up (not a lot but noticeably). We feel really solid for the first time."

No one at New Words would say that things are easy yet but "there's a corner being turned." Once again, community education, reinforced by the closing of other New England bookstores, seems to be making the difference in customers' shopping patterns — and generating increased out-of-store sales opportunities.

Amazon, on the other hand, saw sales drop by 20% during the summer. Hard to know why — Amazon has been fairly well insulated from the sales drop that usually follows when chain stores move into town, so it may be a delayed response in a traditionally very loyal community. But Amazon still keeps moving ahead: their new Web site is up and it's great! Drop by at (<http://www.amazonfembks.com>).

The Women's Bookstop (Hamilton, Ontario) has been in the local paper again for the seventh time in eleven years. Renee Albrecht writes, "Surprisingly, in this industrial town our shop is respected. We're even called upon to comment when a story involving women's lives is about to appear." But it's not all good news: "Our sales have been down about 20% from last year. Staff have been cut back; luckily they've found other part-time work to compensate. I'm working more hours, the bills are being paid slower. It's the way [the Canadian] economy is. Things will improve as the months go by and, if not, we'll just have to restrain our ordering." Chapters, the Canadian mega-chain and espresso bar, has arrived in Hamilton. But Women's Bookstop customers refuse to be daunted — and one customer just brought the Bookstop an espresso machine!



## National Coming Out Day

Full Circle celebrated National Coming Out Day with their Second Annual NCOD Fiesta, taking over the whole block from 4–8pm. This year's event drew only half again as many people as last year for a crowd of 700 — not bad for a week night! The Gay Men's Chorus performed, the square dancers danced and political candidates vied for chances to speak (and all agreed to abide by Full Circle's one rule: that they couldn't say, "I'm not gay or lesbian, but..."). Craftspersons exhibited their wares, the Green Party exhibited, gay political groups exhibited along with the gay & lesbian business association. Entertainers entertained and a good time was had by all. Not to mention that sales in the store were really good, too. "It was really wonderful. Excellent," Jennifer told *FBN*. "The only way to improve it next year will be to start the event earlier in the day. Sometimes the community tends to see us as a 'women's studies' store and it's a great way to remind

that part of the community that we're also a lesbian and gay store and resource."

Full Circle has just changed their hours, too, for the first time in ten years. Why? "Well, for a lot of reasons: We wanted to hire two new people and expanding store hours (and presumably income) was one way to give them both full time jobs; Barnes & Noble will open here next year and we want to be here first with the hours; and the fact is that most feminist bookstores are open 10-6, but people don't get home from work until 6 pm. So how can we be here for working women if we're not open when they can come?"

### National Independent Bookstore Week

The highlight of Santa Cruz' NIBW celebration was the brainchild of Herland's owner Kayla Rose — *Word by Word: A Celebration of Books*, a city-wide event sponsored by local independent bookstores featuring local authors reading from their books. Ellen Bass (*The Courage to Heal*) and Kate Kaufman presented for Herland and read from their new book *Free Your Mind: The*

### B&T Link Update

We have upgraded our B&T Link subscription to quarterly. It is really being put to the test as I do my Fall frontlist orders. So far, so good. Most publishers have their Fall titles on the July disk, so preparing my Fall orders is easier than it has been. Even with the recent price increase, B&T Link is less expensive, more thorough, and infinitely easier to use than the hard copy of Books in Print.

—Mary Ellen Kavanaugh  
*My Sisters' Words*

Another suggestion for easy, cheap access to ISBN's and bibliographic data: If you're on the Internet, dial up Amazon.com and use their search service. They keep their data base pretty current (since that's what they sell from and they get the forthcoming titles in there pretty quickly). It's free, it seems to be thorough, and, unlike the Library of Congress (see *FBN* Vol. 19 #2, page 33), they don't shut down at night. And I gotta say that using their business site as a resource helps to vent my resentment that they so cavalierly appropriated the name of the oldest women's bookstore in the country.

—CS

*Book for Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Youth — and Their Allies*. The \$5 ticket price included two raffle tickets — one for a \$25 gift certificate good at the store where the ticket was purchased and the other for \$400 worth of gift certificates to local independent bookstores.



### And Other Good News:

Lioness has been getting great publicity lately: A story on the changes in the book business with a color photo of Lioness in the Sacramento daily paper, and some coverage on a TV program about hate crimes....

In Other Words' (Portland OR) Catherine Sameh has decided to stay on as manager as the store goes from a two-paid-staff-and-some-volunteers to a one-paid-staff-and-a-lot-of-volunteers structure. Catherine Tetric, who has been co-managing the store with Catherine Sameh since it opened, will stay on as a volunteer and a member of the board of directors. "Our group of volunteers is ready and able to take on more responsibilities. If they weren't I wouldn't have decided to stay on — we're ready for a really good year," Catherine Sameh told *FBN*. Borders opened in Portland just after In Other Words opened — and the Powells across the street tripled their space at the same time.

Women & Children First was featured in Papier-Mache's great ad series titled, "9 Traits of Highly Successful Booksellers." Trait #7 is "Stocks sidelines to provide one-stop shopping for holiday gift buying," and the ad features a great photo of Linda Bubon and Women & Children First. It's great to see feminist booksellers presented in such a lovely and professional way. My question is, why are such treats so rare?

### Congratulations!

Congratulations to Natalie Lando, recipient of The Pat Bond Memorial Old Dyke Award. Natalie was honored as "a lifelong dyke, a steadfast mover and shaker for lesbian culture for years in the [SF] Bay Area, a volunteer extraordinaire at Mama Bears Bookstore & Coffee House. A quiet force, Natalie is unmatched in her many contributions to Bay Area Culture." Natalie was an early Daughters of Bilitis member, and one of the visionaries who helped get A Woman's Place, possibly the first women's bookstore in the country, off the ground.

○

# TRIVIA & COMMENTARY

By Carol Seajay

## Woman-Hating for Slow Readers

Why do people still think misogyny is funny? Harper Trophy is pushing a new series for middle grades called the "He-Man Women Haters Club." The description of the first book, *Johnny Chesthair*, reads, "Steven hates Monica. He's hated her ever since third grade when he hit her and she — breaking all the rules — hit him back...." He-Man Women Haters Club #2, titled *Babes in the Woods*, is about the same group of boys on a camping trip, the highlights of which include chewing a live slug. The third in the series is due to be released in June. The series title, we've twice been told, is based on the clubhouse from the "Little Rascals" TV series from the 50s. A Harper spokesperson explained that the name is supposed to be funny. The series is aimed at reluctant readers and apparently anything and everyone is fair game if it induces (boy) readers to pick up a book. But I'd remind Harper that the Little Rascals series was so blatantly and offensively racist that it hasn't been shown on TV in decades. Woman-hating is no funnier than lynching. Women die from being battered, and sexual harassment in schools is at epidemic proportions. Racist and sexist attitudes are not behaviors to model for any children. There's nothing funny here — just a willingness to sacrifice girls to bribe boys to read. It's an old line. It's been done before. It's disgusting.

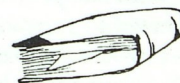
Mary Ellen Kavanaugh at My Sisters' Words brought this to our attention. She's organizing a larger response to Harper and this title. Please call her with ideas, suggestions, or to pitch in.

## A Cautionary Tale?

It's difficult to mourn people, confusing to mourn institutions, and even harder to mourn the loss of a vision. Canada's 31-year-old Coach House press closed this summer. A fiercely successful press (sales in 1995 were C\$450,000), it succumbed to government cutbacks rather than low sales, returns, inadequate distribution or other, more familiar small press nightmares. Since 1994, grants to Coach House from the Department of Canadian Heritage have dwindled by 37%. Other federal funds declined by 22%. Coach House's publisher

Margaret McClintock told PW that, while the cuts were severe, they came with some warning and the press had time to trim its staff to two people and to push its entire 15 titles into the Fall season to cut costs and counteract the effects of the lost revenue. What McClintock couldn't plan for was the sudden 74% reduction in its provincial funding and the increasingly right-wing government's decision to close the

Ontario Development Corporation — the governmental agency that has, in years past, provided line of credit and loan guarantees for Ontario publishers — from Coach House to Women's Press. The dissolution of the agency not only leaves publishers scrambling for new loan sources, it calls in all previous loans.



To add insult to injury, Ontario Premier Mike Harris criticized Coach House for blaming government cutbacks for its demise and suggested that Coach House was the victim of poor management — to which Jack Stoddart, president of the Association

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*There's nothing funny  
here — just a  
willingness to  
sacrifice girls to bribe  
boys to read.*

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of Canadian Publishers replied, "Premier Mike Harris is completely out of touch with the realities facing book publishers." Small comfort to a press that has tripled its sales and audience in the last five years and reduced its reliance on grants from 60% in 1990 to 40% in 1996.

Yet Coach House is, well, *was*, a venerable institution, *the* standard for Canadian literature. It published writers such as Margaret Atwood, bp Nichol and Michael Ondaatje. *FBN* has reviewed twenty-some Coach House titles in the last five years. I cannot help but wonder who will publish these voices now? I cannot think of its closing without hearing Margaret Atwood's voice, echoing in my mind from the 1993 Women Reviewing Women Conference, explaining, "Canada has a literature because a generation of Canadian writers stayed home from London and Paris and started presses and review media and lobbied the government for money to support Canadian publishers and Canadian literature and Canadian culture." Without governmental support of some kind, most distinctly Canadian publishing cannot take place — the population simply isn't large enough to buy enough copies of books to make them affordable. Canada has a choice: to either subsidize Canadian publishing or to let it die away and leave Canadians dependent on the exports from other nations for its literature — and national identity.

Earlier this year, Canada rebuffed an attempt by American bookstore chain Borders to move into Canadian bookselling. Barnes & Noble has tried another tack: buying 20% of Chapters, the Canadian bookstore chain formed last year when the Smith-Books and Coles chains merged. Chapters already controls 40–50% of the total Canadian book market. It has opened five superstores and plans to open five more later this year. B&N's CFO Irene Miller and COO Stephen Riggio will serve on Chapters' board of directors. B&N, with an eye to the Canadian government, has promised to purchase more books by Canadian authors to sell in the U.S. I for one, am not holding my breath. Ordering the books is one thing. Supporting them is something else, and returning books is something that B&N does very well. And big purchases followed by big returns can destroy publishers. But we already know I'm cynical about such things.

Speaking of cross-over markets (or the lack thereof), Richard Labonte was quoted in ABA's *G&L Bookselling* newsletter as saying, "I don't believe that [other than library sales] more than a handful of gay and lesbian titles have been sold beyond the gay and lesbian communities." That's bad news for those emotionally or financially invested in the mythical cross-over (gay book to straight readers) sale. But Labonte sees it this way: "For the most part, gay and lesbian customers have been supporting gay and lesbian books published by both mainstream and gay and lesbian presses. To me, that's a very soothing fact, that we don't have to depend on the whims of curious liberal readers to support our publishing." Amen.

Meanwhile, African American booksellers have mixed feelings about seeing Blackboard's monthly list of African American bestsellers in every B&N across the country. Sure, it's great to see Black authors and their books get recognition, but there's a difference between recognizing the books that sell and targeting the audience that African American bookstores have proved. For any independent booksellers to provide information to chain stores (the list is based on information gathered from African American bookstores) that the chain can (and undoubtedly will) use in its unending struggle to take over the book industry, seems to *FBN* to be sheer folly. Something like feeding the dog that bites you. Don't look to B&N to discover the up-and-coming new Black writers, to stock the range of titles that African American stores do, or to launch the unknowns.... Gay and lesbian readers are welcome to re-read the above paragraph substituting "g/l" for "African American." One struggle, many fronts, etc.



A Banned Books Week article in *PW* (September 23) pointed out that while attempts to censor books fell by 11%, broad challenges to the freedom to read, including attacks on entire curricula, rose by 46%. A third of the attacks directly or indirectly involve the religious right. The book challenged most often was *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou, which reflects the disproportionate number of attacks on books by — you guessed it — African American women.



This may be a good time to point out that ABA has been distributing an excellent pamphlet summarizing book publishers' obligations to bookstores under the Federal Antitrust Discrimination Act (the Robinson-Patman Act). If you have any remaining doubts that it's illegal for publishers to offer chains and other large retailers discounts and benefits (promotional allowances, special deals, favorable returns or other deals) that aren't (proportionately) available to independent bookstores, call Len Vlahos, 800-637-0037 ext. 219, or e-mail (vlahos@bookweb.org) for a copy.

### ABA? BEA? Go Away!

So with all the big corporate publishers deciding to skip ABA, one has to wonder how important it is for feminist publishers and booksellers to attend a show that is increasing geared away from independents. God nose (as Celeste West used to say), if the corporate publishers aren't getting their money's worth out of the increasingly expensive show, it's hard to imagine how a small press will. One suggestion I've heard is for publishers to exhibit on alternate years (the show rules currently read that publishers can skip a year without losing seniority). Another idea is for publishers to agree to move around to the various regional shows — say, attend NEBA one year, NCIBA the next, then UMBA in the Midwest — and for the annual meetings to be held in conjunction with the agreed-upon show. It would take some coordination, but it could mean meeting new booksellers every year, rather than seeing the same (albeit wonderful) folks year after year.



### Unexpected Bedfellows?

*Family Circle* and *PC World* will jointly launch a new magazine for women, *Family Circle Computers Made Easy With the Editors of PC World*. (That's FCCMEWEPCW, for short.) The price (\$3.99) is considerably shorter than the title, so it may have a chance, but get a clue! If this is aimed at the American working woman, it's scheduled to debut at exactly the wrong time: the week of Thanksgiving and in the midst of the pre-Christmas bustle.

More folly? *FBN* was as thrilled as anyone else when Wells Fargo and the National Association of

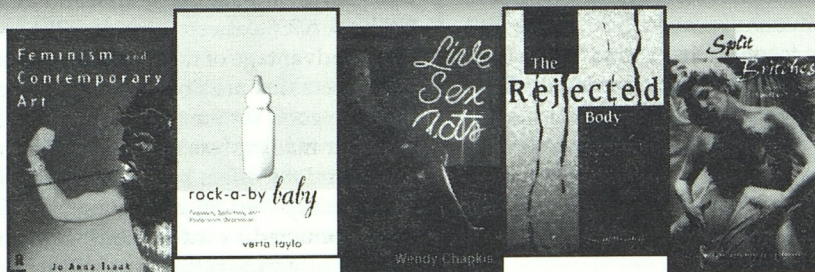
Women Business Owners launched a \$1 billion loan program for women business owners. We've received a number of offers for 50% off the \$150 opening fee, but with an annual fee of \$150 and an interest rate of prime + 6.75%, most women will be way better off taking advantage of the numerous 5.9% to 6.9% credit card offers that are floating around. Sure, those rates are only good for the first six months, but these folks sell their mailing lists faster than they send out credit cards, and the offers keep coming in. It's not fun, but it's certainly cheaper to rotate one's outstanding balance from credit card to credit card than to pay for special programs at these rates. Too bad. It seems like such a nice idea.



### Reading Groups

Reading groups are all the rage, with publishers large and small investing in supporting them (and encouraging groups to read *their* books). Doubleday has just released a video for book groups that features Margaret Atwood talking about *Alias Grace*. Word is that there's a video of an interview with Dorothy Allison that's available for book groups, too. (Does anyone know what/where, and how to get it?) Conari has published a *Wild Woman Reading Group Guide* that includes photos and descriptions of a number of their titles along with suggested discussion topics. *Circles of Sisterhood: A Book Discussion Group Guide for Women of Color* (Writers & Readers) celebrates a reading-group tradition with a rich and wonderful history. *The Lavender Salon Reader*, the "Newsletter & Literary Review for Gay & Lesbian Reading Clubs" reports on the activities and books read by various reading groups around the country. Published by Michael Nitz, copy-edited by Brenda Timm. \$2/issue. 1474 Home Avenue, Menasha WI 54952; (lavsalon@athenet.net; <http://www.athenet.net/~lavsalon/>). But perhaps best of all is *BookWomen*, the new magazine from the (Minnesota) Women's Press, which serves as a woman-to-woman conversation about who's reading what and why. No pretensions, just good reading and a solid belief that books change women's lives. *BookWomen*, Minnesota Women's Press, Inc., 771 Raymond Avenue, St. Paul MN 55114; fax 612-646-2186, e-mail (womenpress@aol.com). ○

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# That's the Oldest Joke in the Book

By Liz Wermcrantz  
Women & Children First

"I couldn't hush the voices I kept hearing...the writers and thinkers, the scholars and comics, the speakers and street fighters, the movers and shakers."  
—*Mary Kay Blakely, 1980*

"...it is true that women's humor has only lately been brought to the front of the line, shuffled up from the crowded background, to receive its much deserved attention, laughter, and applause."  
—*Regina Barreca, 1996*

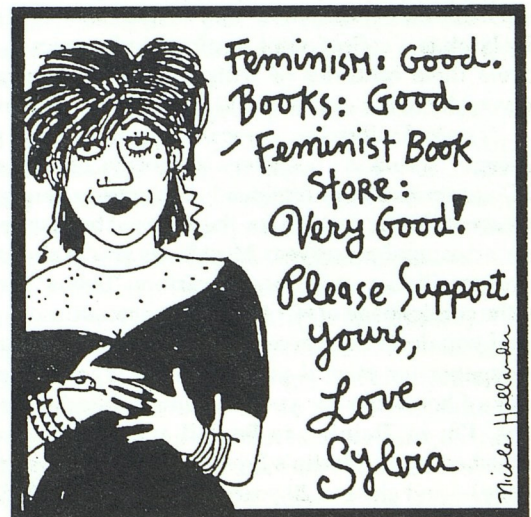
I often trip over nothing when I walk down the street. It's the worst when I'm alone and there's no trusted friend nearby to laugh with me. I assume most of us feel this way when we do something embarrassing or when we're suffering through something uncomfortable or difficult. I remember, too, getting yelled at during my grandmother's funeral for laughing — as if my laughter was any less healing than crying. It wasn't. There's something about embarrassment, sadness, anger, frustration, struggle that screams for laughter. And there's something comforting and bonding in a good belly-laugh or giggle of recognition. It heals. It eases. It's fun.

Feminism is no exception. As with any other movement or difficult task, humor has played a constant and key role. Through humor we have withstood our circumstances and our society. We have raged against the system. We have become empowered through shared laughter, both collectively and singularly.

Women's humor has always been around. It has changed, become louder and more aggressive as we've toddled along, but it has always been there. It used to be that it was less socially acceptable for a

woman to convey outright humor. Women were neither to be involved with the "masculine" act of being funny nor were they to enjoy humor. Instead humor was hidden in the most unlikely of places. It was lurking in the passages of Jane Austen and sneaking through the pages of Sylvia Plath. Nowadays, women are more blatantly hilarious, having broken free from such social constraints. We see hilarious women like Diane DiMassa, Regina Barreca, Kate Clinton and Nicole Hollander become more and more popular, loud and irreverent. Often they speak better than any other genre for the rest of us. Who else can completely sum up the frustrations of a crush in one postcard-size cartoon? I know it would take me a few college-ruled journals to do so while being un-funny.

But to understand the current state of feminist humor, we must first look at the past. In 1980, Indiana University Press published one of the first collections



devoted strictly to feminist humor. Edited and curated by Gloria Kaufman and Mary Kay Blakely, **Pulling Our Strings** serves as a hilarious slice of life for that time. Filled with humorous pieces about everything from tampons to breasts, from the workplace to motherhood, it stands as a testament to the issues women were immersed in during the 70s and early 80s. That's not to say that women today don't laugh and fret, wonder and fight for many, if not all, of the same issues, but the focus in humor has shifted. We're making fun of ourselves more these days. Our humor is still both subtly and overtly political, but there's a maturity to it that only comes with time and age. We're more flip, more smug. We revel in our inside jokes. We exclude men when we feel like it. We struggle not so much to demolish ideas such as "women's proper place in society" as to laugh in the faces of those who try to uphold them or revive them. For these and many other reasons, it's important to have a well-stocked humor section. Here are some of the current gems....

A few weeks ago, Women & Children First hosted a reading for Regina Barreca, the editor of a new book titled **The Penguin Book of Women's Humor** and the author of other numerous books of humor such as **They Used to Call Me Snow White But I Drifted**, also from Penguin. Several days before, WBEZ, the local NPR-carrying radio station had her on one of their shows. We have since been inundated with requests for the book. Not to mention that her reading was packed to the rafters and she provided the women and men in the audience an hour they will not soon forget. The book is a collection of writings and comics that covers three centuries of witty women who speak powerfully about our lives and the world we live in.

Nicole Hollander, a local cartoonist here in Chicago, has always been very supportive of Women & Children First and feminist bookstores in general. She even did the cartoon for the feminist bookstores' joint ad campaign one year. Most likely you're already familiar with her work since her cartoon "Sylvia" runs on the comics page of 60 newspapers across the country. If you don't have access to her cartoons via your newspaper (or even if you do) you'll want a good stock of her books for your customers. Nicole's first book, **I'm in Training to Be Tall and Blonde**, was published by St. Martin's Press in 1979. Twentysome books — and close to 20 years later — Adams Media Corporation has released **101 Reasons Why Cats**

**Make Good Kids** (June, 1996). Sadly, some of her books are out of print, but many are still available.

**Hothead Paisan**. You should all know Hothead by now. Created in 1991 by Diane DiMassa, this self-described "homicidal lesbian terrorist" represents a major shift in women's humor. No longer are women joking about how life would be if men could menstruate. Instead, Hothead is single-handedly eliminating all the men who, among other things, would dare to cross the path of a menstruating woman — or a non-menstruating woman for that matter. Hothead, representing all things pissed off and rebellious, serves as a cathartic release for us. Diane DiMassa spreads our anger openly throughout the panels of her comic. And in turn, Hothead relieves some of the anger that haunts us. As Diane says, "There's something about getting the anger outside of yourself — getting it out where you can look at it — that gives you a much better perspective." Hothead is available in a quarterly comic form as well as in two anthologies published by Cleis Press, **Hothead Paisan: Homicidal Lesbian Terrorist** and **The Revenge of Hothead Paisan**.

We've watched the women in Alison Bechdel's **Dykes to Watch Out For** grow from the nubile young dykes in 1983 to pioneering 90s babes facing their thirties. Through them we've dealt with the struggles of vegetarianism, mothering, big corporations (you know, Buns & Noodles), sex toys and hundreds of other issues important not just to lesbians but to all women. I believed for years I was not interested in comic strips. One day, after I realized I was probably the last lesbian on the planet who hadn't developed full-blown personal relationships with Mo, Harriet, Clarice, Lois and the rest, I decided to test my previously unsubstantiated aversion. I picked up the first book of **Dykes to Watch Out For**, published by Firebrand, and reappeared two days and six volumes later wanting more. At one point my girlfriend even caught me reading the book over her shoulder while she was talking to me.

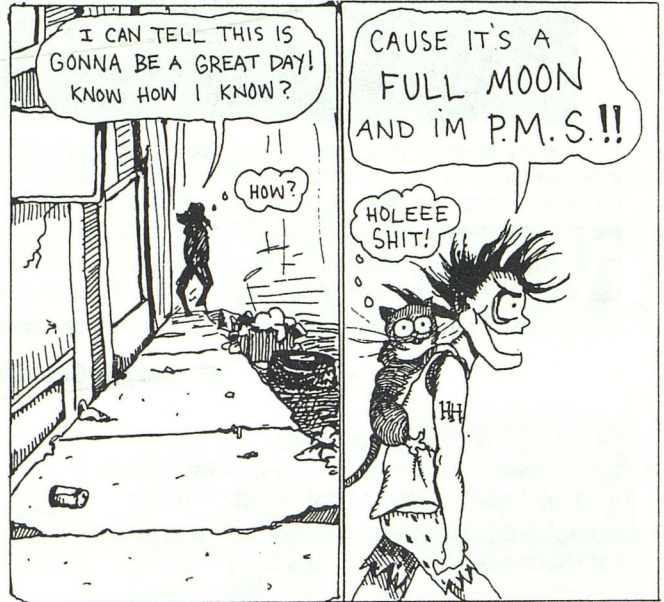
Jennifer Berman's smartly political cartoons have found a welcome and hungry place on our shelves. She's the one who created the postcard-size representation of a crush I talked of earlier. Her newest book, **Why Dogs Are Better Than Republicans**, couldn't have come at a better time. People are snapping this one up for the title alone. After cracking the cover open, they've been treated to a sharp, fun commentary on what we're up against come November 5.

Cynthia Heimel is the straight woman's loudmouth, although I've been known to enjoy her, too. The titles of her books alone are a sure indication that she's a hilarious woman: *If You Can't Live Without Me Why Aren't You Dead Yet?*, *Get Your Tongue Out of My Mouth, I'm Kissing You Good-bye*, and her latest, *When Your Phone Doesn't Ring, It'll Be Me* (Atlantic Monthly Press). With chapter titles such as "Rush Limbaugh: Blow Me," "Networking With Wolves," "Ode to Sweatpants" and many more just as zany, there's no telling what she'll talk about in her columns. She covers the gamut from dating men to admiring lesbians, from the ageism of Hollywood to girls nights out... virtually everything.

Roz Warren is the queen of women's humor, the founder and publisher of Laugh Lines Press, editor of eleven women's humor anthologies, her most recent being *Dyke Strippers: Lesbian Cartoonists A to Z* (Cleis Press). Carol Seajay told me Roz even said this once: feminists don't take humor seriously. Ironic, yet too often true. Roz makes a case for humor everyday. She has taken up the slack, pushed us to listen, pushed us to laugh. *Dyke Strippers* is a wonderful collection of lesbian and bisexual comics. Everyone's in it: Alison Bechdel, Diane DiMassa, Jennifer Camper, Nicole Ferentz, Fish and more. It's not just a beginner's guide to lesbian comics, it's a collector's edition.

*So You Want to Be A Lesbian?*, by Liz Tracey and Sydney Pokorny, is the ultimate in self-irreverent humor babble. I tore through this book. Written by twentysomething dykes for women of all ages, this book is leaping off the shelf. It's more a parody of our lives than a guide for lesbian-wannabes, though questioning women will find some humor and information in the pages. Anything with a provocative title or any funny book about being a lesbian or being a woman is an easy sell and this book is no exception. People want to see themselves looking back at them from the printed page, especially if it's funny. They want to laugh and nudge their friends next to them and say, "Hey, listen to this...." This book is perfect for that. It has photos of different "types" of lesbians, quizzes to take, lesbian must-haves and tons more.

*The History of Lesbian Hair and Other Tales of Bent Life in a Straight World* by Mary Dugger



Hothead Paisan, *Homicidal Lesbian Terrorist* (Cleis Press)

(Doubleday, \$10.95). This just-published parody book is also a sure-seller. We, at Women & Children First, frantically passed around the galley and traded notes. Filled with jokes about everything from formulas for "gay girl movies" to trading cards of the right-wing, this book is sure to crack you up. While a few times, I thought Mary Dugger went a bit far in poking fun at people, for the most part, this book is a winner. Especially with that picture of Mona Lisa with a dykey haircut on the cover.

All of these women and their work serve as a sign of the times for the 90s, just as *Pulling Our Strings* did for the 80s. Yes, we're still angry. Yes, we're still struggling with the same issues as we were in 1980, but now we're even less tolerant, even more sick of it. Back in 1980, it seemed to me, it was easier to present humor more inclusively. Things were funny much of the time because the men were making us feel this way. These days, we're more likely to poke fun at ourselves and forget the men. We're still angry and annoyed at them for treating us the way they do, yet it's less about them specifically and more about how we can take care of things on our own and take care of ourselves without the approval or even the voice of the men. What a refreshing change. ○

# Womensource

FALL 1996

Now in it's seventh year, the Womensource program of LPC Group continues to gather the best of the independent women's presses together in one catalog. The publishers in this catalog share a strong commitment to the diversity and uniqueness of women's writing. LPC Group renews this same commitment each season with a stunning list of titles by and for the women's market.

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How I Lost Unwanted Pounds, Got Rid of Pesky Household Odors,  
Cleared Up Unsightly Blemishes, And Even Found a Date  
for the Senior Prom, All by Publishing Women's **Humor!**

By Roz Warren

I began publishing humor by women in 1991, with *Women's Glib*, a feminist humor collection that would sell close to 20,000 copies before it finally went into the dumpster (i.e. was remaindered) last year.

*Women's Glib* was remaindered because my publisher decided that they'd had it with women's humor publishing.

I'm grateful to Crossing for publishing humor by women for as long as they did. From 1991 to 1995 they published nine of my books, including four cartoon collections, three anthologies, an in-depth look at women comedians and a quote book. All sold steadily; none flopped. Crossing finally bailed out because (particularly if you pay your contributors, which I always did) feminist humor anthologies cost a *lot* of money upfront, and are a major headache to design and produce, and thus cannot make money back quickly or easily.

The audience for feminist humor is fiercely loyal but it just isn't big enough. Yet. (My pal Deb Werksman, who published the feminist humor magazine *hysteria* at a loss for several years before finally shutting it down, would agree with me here.)

I know one thing for certain: if I'd taken the money I've spent on women's humor publishing over the past five years and, instead, invested it in the stock market, and then spent those same five years just lying on the sofa, reading books and eating chocolates, I'd have a hell of a lot more money in the bank than I do now.

But *The Butches of Madison County* wouldn't exist. Nor would *Dyke Strippers*, or any of the twenty other



"You look like the kind of girl who could enjoy a good cup of coffee and be able to discuss the literary merits of 'The Story of O'... Cafe to join me?"

From *Caffeinated Cartoons* by Stephanie Piro  
(Laugh Lines Press)

women's humor books I've brought into this world, as editor or publisher.

My books haven't made me rich. (The money Crossing paid contributors was deducted from my royalties.) They haven't even made me famous. But

## Five Things You Can Do to Support Women's Humor...

1. If there isn't a feminist strip like Nicole Hollander's "Sylvia," Jan Eliot's "Stone Soup," Stephanie Piro's "Fair Game" or Barbara Brandon's "Where I'm Coming From" on the comics page of your local newspaper, write to the editor asking that such a strip be included.
2. If there is a feminist strip on the comics page of your local newspaper, write to the editor thanking her for including it. (And while you're at it, ask her to include another one!)
3. The same thing goes for your local "alternative" weekly. If they don't run Nicole Hollander's "Sylvia" or Lynda Barry's strip, or another good feminist strip, write and ask them to. And if the local lesbian paper doesn't run "Dykes to Watch Out For" or "Stonewall Riots" or "Subgrrrlz" ask them to include comics on their pages!
4. Stock feminist humor books! Read them yourself! Face them out on your shelves! Encourage your customers to buy them not only as gifts, but for themselves. (Women are often reluctant to buy humor for themselves...it's seen as self indulgent.)
5. If a feminist comic is performing at a local club, go out and catch her act. If a feminist comic turns up on a talk show, write to the producers telling them you enjoyed watching her and asking them to bring her back.

Okay, one more:

6. Stock my (i.e. Laugh Lines Press) women's humor books! So I can make enough money to be able to publish more of them.

they've made me happy, and they've given the kind of woman I love (smart, irreverent feminists) a few good laughs. They've led to my becoming friends with some very cool people. (Alison Bechdel and Nicole Hollander return my phone calls!)

And they've provided one of the only markets for the work of a number of very funny women.

What I am trying to say here is that the payback for publishing feminist humor is other than financial.

That's okay, because I published *Women's Glib* not so I could get rich but because I was a diehard humor fan who was frustrated (and angered) by the fact that none of the existing humor anthologies contained humor by women.

I'd been laughing at funny feminist material, published mostly in "alternative" and "feminist" venues, for years. The material was there. Yet, mysteriously, the straight white guys who edited these humor anthologies never included it!

I wanted there to be at least one book of nothing *but* humor by women, and feminist humor at that. Not the mild stuff that reinforces the status quo, but the fierce stuff that rocks the boat.

Basically, what I wanted to do was undermine the patriarchy. By laughing, not with it, but at it. And encouraging others to join in.

You cannot reasonably expect the patriarchy to shower you with financial rewards for doing that.

Although Crossing no longer publishes women's humor, I now have my own press. I started Laugh Lines Press because I wanted to publish *Weenie-Toons!* a zine consisting of nothing but cartoons by women making fun of penises. (Somehow I knew that Random House wouldn't be interested.) Then I realized that the essays of lesbian humorist Ellen Orleans needed to be made into a book, so Laugh Lines published *Can't Keep a Straight Face: A Lesbian Looks and Laughs at Life*. Laugh Lines went on to publish three other books by Ellen, one of which, *The Butches of Madison County*, won a 1996 Lambda Book Award, the only book so honored published by a woman-owned press.

Laugh Lines currently has twelve titles, with four new books expected next year. Although lesbian humor always far outsells humor by straight feminists, I will always publish both.



None of my books could have survived without women's bookstores. I'm grateful to the booksellers who read this magazine for keeping my books alive by stocking them, handselling them and reordering them. (Thanks!!!) And to the feminist and lesbian periodicals who always gladly devoted review space to feminist humor. (In contrast, when *Women's Glib* first came out, the editors of the *New York Times Book Review* notified me that they wouldn't be reviewing it because they considered it a "cartoon book.")

Has any progress been made in the five years I've been at this? Well, it's unusual these days to see a humor anthology that doesn't include women (although not as many women as they could or should). Penguin just published a fine women's humor anthology, *The Penguin Book of Women's Humor* (although there isn't enough lesbian material in it). The *Funny Times*, a popular humor newspaper, is packed with humor by women, including lesbian material. Feminist cartoonists Jan Eliot, Nina Paley and Stephanie Piro, all of whose work I published, are now being distributed to daily papers by major syndicates. I know that my books helped make this possible.

One day soon there will be just as many strips by women as by men on that last bastion of conservative patriarchal thought, the daily comics page. With a range of diverse viewpoints. Sure, Cathy will still be there, but so will a feminist strip, and a lesbian strip. (Last year, Universal, the largest syndicate, asked Alison Bechdel to create a lesbian strip for them. Being



Cartoon by Nicole Hollander, from *101 Reasons Why Cats Make Great Kids* (Adams Media Corporation).

Alison, she turned them down.) Maybe two lesbian strips! Not to mention Tim Barela's "Leonard & Larry," a wonderful strip about two gay men.

I look forward to the day when funny pages will no longer be all about straight white boys. It'll happen. As sure as feminist comics Roseanne, Brett Butler and Ellen Degeneres all currently have hit sitcoms. And when it does, I'll know that I helped it along.

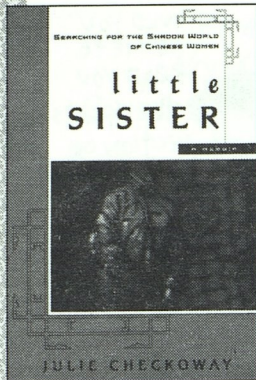
At which point I'll be able to stretch out on the sofa, open a good book and reach for the chocolates. ○



"Rhymes with Orange" by Hilary B. Price. Hilary's strip is syndicated and runs in about 100 newspapers.

Look for it — or ask for it — in your local paper; see #1 and #2 in Roz's list.

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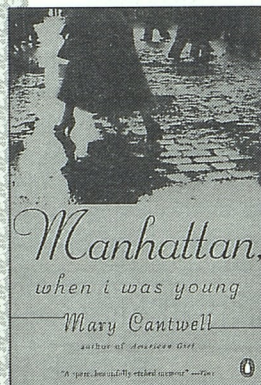
A Viking hardcover

“Painstakingly observed and gracefully rendered.”  
—KIRKUS REVIEWS

**LITTLE SISTER**  
*Searching for the Shadow World of Chinese Women*  
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Julie Checkoway

“One woman’s fascinating and poignant journey to find her own center in a foreign land” (*Booklist*) penetrates the secret sisterhood of China’s women.

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A Penguin paperback

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Mary Cantwell

The author of the acclaimed memoir *American Girl* continues

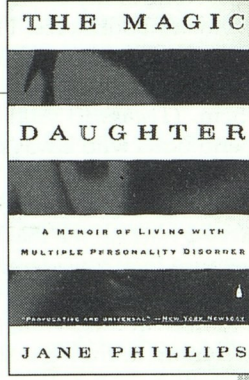
her journey in this lyrical account of her life in Greenwich Village during the 1950s.

*American Girl* is available from Penguin.

“Brilliant...fascinating.”  
—KIRKUS REVIEWS

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*A Memoir of Living with Multiple Personality Disorder*  
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—SHARI BENSTOCK,  
AUTHOR OF *WOMEN OF THE LEFT BANK: PARIS, 1900-1940*

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*The Life and Work of Djuna Barnes*  
Phillip Herring

Best known for her tragic, satirical novel *Nightwood*, Djuna Barnes (1892-1982) was a compelling figure in Greenwich Village and Left Bank literary and lesbian circles. She is vividly rendered in this “full-fledged critical biography and fascinating read.”  
—*The Nation*



A Penguin paperback



IN BOOKSTORES NOW FROM VIKING PENGUIN



# Lesbian Adventure Novels? Get Real!

By Ellen Orleans

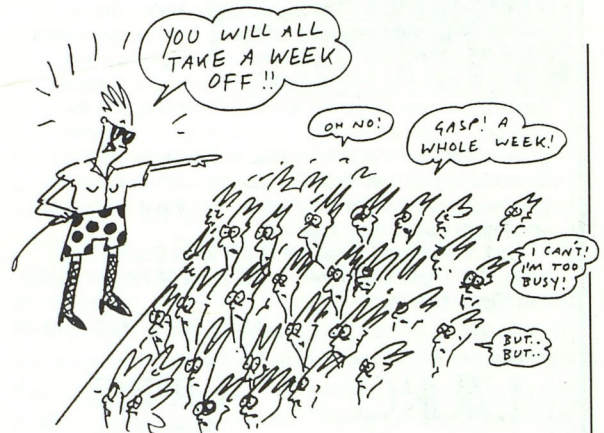
Reprinted from *Still Can't Keep a Straight Face*, by Ellen Orleans, Laugh Lines Press, December 1996.

Well, with summer just around the corner, it's time to break out that bottle of sparkling soda, climb into a hammock and settle into a solid stack of lesbian fiction. So, with the wealth of lesbian genius out there, what's on the bestseller list? Detective novels. And murder mysteries. And crime thrillers.

Now look, I enjoy escapism and adventure as much as the next gal, but I'd like to see a little realism now and then. Not all of us are travel agents turned crime solvers, or out-of-work English majors who just sort of fell into the private-eye business. I believe that some realistic, true-to-life adventure is in order. Therefore, I present a small sampling of Ellen's All-Lesbian Get Real Adventure Series.

*Margie Biblin: Vet Tech!* Follow the harrowing and heartwarming tales of veterinarian technician Margie Biblin as she narrowly escapes the jaws of injured canines atop examining room tables, expertly dodges vicious claws while administering feline-leukemia shots, or makes the soul-searching, life-changing decision to adopt an abandoned three-legged rabbit. Whether it's soothing frantic pet owners or selflessly giving up a quiet evening at home to dole out free medical advice to friends too broke to make a real appointment, Margie Biblin: Vet Tech is sure to inspire animal lovers and adventure seekers everywhere.

*Psychologist's Girlfriend: The True Story of Sylvia Sanchez.* Being the girlfriend of a clinical psychologist is an even greater challenge than passing the bar exam, Sylvia Sanchez discovers in this gripping, first person narrative. You too will writhe in frustration



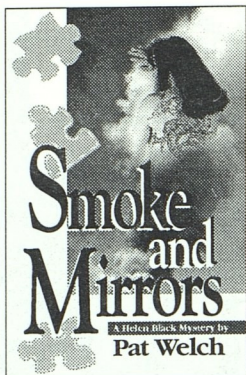
The Mistress of Leisure appears at a meeting of Workaholics Anonymous

Cartoon by Barbary O'Brien, from *The Women's Diary* 1996 (Cath Cate).

as you watch Sylvia and girlfriend Tanya give up social event after social event just to avoid seeing Tanya's clients. When Tanya calls ahead to compare guest list to client list before attending the hottest housewarming in all of Seattle, will Sylvia strike out on her own and go alone? Or will she stay home and rationalize that she needed to review those briefs anyway? What fine line separates professional protocol and a meaningful social life? And just how far will they go to stay together?

Terry Yakamoto: *Adventures of a Reluctant Suburban Dyke.* After the untimely death of her parents, city dyke Terry Yakamoto unexpectedly finds herself responsible for, and living in, her New Jersey split level childhood home.

While waiting for the lawyers, relatives and debtors to settle their differences, Terry attempts to upload  
**See Lesbian Adventures, page 127.**



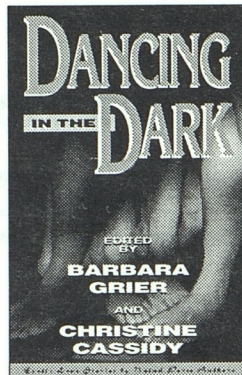
**SMOKE AND MIRRORS**  
*A Helen Black Mystery*  
 Pat Welch

From the pen of best-selling mystery writer Pat Welch comes the most electrifying chapter of her high-voltage series featuring private eye Helen Black.

When a community health clinic is besieged by anti-abortion protesters, Helen Black's ex-lover begs her to help. Realizing that the only way to get information is from the inside, Helen goes under cover and infiltrates the extremist group. Considering all that Helen's been through in the past, the case seems rather routine — until the threats and vandalism escalate to murder!

Don't miss other installments of Helen Black's case book: *Still Waters*, *Murder by the Book*, *A Proper Burial*, and *Open House*.

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Isabel Miller is the author of *Patience and Sarah*, *Side by Side*, *The Love of Good Women*, and *A Dooryard Full of Flowers*.

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 Catherine Ennis

While exploring a deserted house, Millie finds a battered suitcase from the 1930's containing a woman's clothes, an unused train ticket, and a love letter from another woman. Millie's lover, Ellen, is fascinated by the thought of lesbian lovers living in a by-gone era,

which motivates Millie to find out all she can about the suitcase's owner. Distracted by her passion for Ellen and her search for the past, Millie is oblivious to warning signs in the present, until she discovers a deception that will change her life and her love forever!

Catherine Ennis is the best-selling author of *Chautauqua*, *Clearwater*, *South of the Line*, *To the Lightning*, and *Up, Up, and Away*.

ISBN 1-56280-145-7 \$10.95

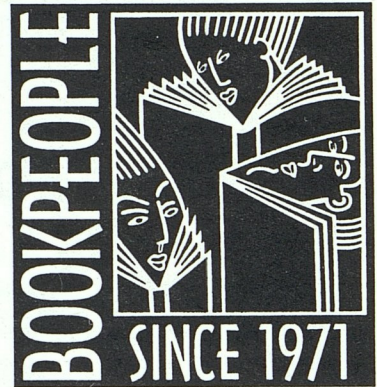


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# BOOKPEOPLE CELEBRATES 25 YEARS



Bookpeople was founded 25 years ago in the idealistic aftermath of the 60s when the employees of a struggling distribution and publishing business, on the verge of being laid off, unplugged the telephones and postage meters, gathered up other essentials, and hid them in and behind the thousands of cartons of books in the warehouse, effectively closing the company down. After a month of negotiations, the employees raised \$60,000, bought the distribution side of the business and, in keeping with the commune and worker-owner movements of the day, created the worker-owned distributor that has been at the heart of the small press movement.

Today Bookpeople is a full-service wholesaler of books, calendars, audio cassettes and videos, offering 30,000 small press and trade titles from 3,000 publishers to booksellers around the world.

The ownership structure created in 1971 remains in place to this day. The company is entirely employee-owned and all employees become equal shareholders after a six-month probation. A five-member Board of Directors is elected annually from among the shareholders and charged with carrying out policies that provide for the employees' needs and general welfare; promoting and encouraging independent trade book distribution, retailing, and publishing; and maintaining a democratic structure of total employee ownership.

Deploing industry trends which

seem to be moving toward "one publisher, one distributor, one bookstore," Bookpeople believes that diversity in the marketplace — not only in terms of a wide range of bookstores, but also in terms of distributors — is crucial to the free flow of ideas. Bookpeople President Gene Taback stated during Bookpeople's anniversary celebration, "We are all too aware of the social and economic forces which threaten diversity and creativity, especially in the book marketplace. To our independent bookstore



1974 photo in *Publishers Weekly*: on extreme left: Rich Reiheld (the first GM); front and center: Miriam Foley (the first trade buyer); next to her: Steve Hargraves (later partner in Inland/InBook); above and to the right: Clair Peterson (first small press buyer).



1980. Back row, standing: Terry Nemeth (current publisher of Theatre Communications Group); third in: Randall Beek (now CEO of Consortium); eighth in: Michael Jacobs (current publisher of Simon & Schuster's Free Press); ninth in: Edward Bloom (current shipping manager). Sitting, extreme left: Gene Taback (president, trade buyer, and longest-term employee); mid-dock, in skirt: Jeri Riddle (fourth GM, no longer with Co.); next to her: Michelle Dow (current publications editor).

customers, to whom we have dedicated our professional lives these past 25 years, we would like to point out that the very real threats you feel to independent retail bookselling are mirrored on the wholesale side. Only by a strong commitment to our mutual support can our independent segment of the book business survive and prosper. We intend to be stronger than ever. You can count on us to keep on busting ass to bring you the quality of service you deserve. We are confident that we can count on you for your continued business support and loyalty." (And *FBN* would add, "The concept of independent bookstores would cease to make sense without multiple distributors — especially independent distributors — as sources for the book mix we cherish.")

Some of the titles Bookpeople was first to represent and promote demonstrate the independent regional wholesaler's ability to keep a finger on the pulse of the idea industry and their role in launching the books that eventually achieve mass distribution and change the hearts and minds and images of the American public. Books like *The Whole Earth Catalog*, *How to Keep Your Volkswagen Alive*, *Spiritual Midwifery*, *South-East Asia on a Shoestring* (1976), *Women Who Run*

*with the Wolves*, *Ectopia*, the first book on AIDS, as well as books from many early feminist presses (including The Women's Press Collective, Amazon, Diana, Persephone, and the Nomadic Sisters) and books from other social movements had enormous impact on public consciousness. In 1972 Bookpeople stocked an unprecedented number of titles from small presses — 60. Today, thanks in part to Bookpeople's enthusiastic support of independent presses, even the largest wholesalers and chain stores know that stocking independent press titles is essential if they are to have any real credibility as book sources.

In the summer of 1991, Bookpeople moved from Berkeley to Oakland, doubling its warehouse space to 70,000 square feet. Once settled in the new quarters, Bookpeople streamlined its fulfillment systems and enhanced its electronic ordering capabilities. Bookpeople has also just completed installation of a state-of-the-art shrink-wrapping process and shipping system.

In 1994, Bookpeople hired Interaction Associates to provide business plan expertise. The consulting process identified the need for a single general manager who would do short- and long-range planning and could coordinate the activities of various department heads with an eye to the big picture. Eighteen months after hiring Joel J. Bernstein from a field of a hundred applicants, significant gains have been made in cutting the budget while making the company more efficient. Balancing the seemingly conflicting interests of the employees (benefits and working conditions) with the needs of the "owners" (the bottom line) is the key to success in this endeavor.

Bookpeople is especially proud of its steady growth rate, successfully avoiding the wild fluctuations of many others in the industry, its daily fulfillment rate (order in by noon, books out by 5:00) of nearly 100%, its employee-ownership structure, and its famous hot lunch program.

Coming off its most profitable year ever, and with projected sales of \$25,000,000 for the 1996/97 fiscal year, Bookpeople is poised for continued success.

For more Bookpeople history, see "Bookpeople at 21" in *FBN Vol. 15 # 1*. ○

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, BOOKPEOPLE!

I first met Bookpeople in 1975, unpacking boxes of books that Forest or Paula or one of the other collective members brought back from the weekly expedition to the Berkeley warehouse. I had just started volunteering at A Woman's Place Bookstore in Oakland, California, and receiving books was my first "real" bookstore task (after several weeks of clearing bulletin boards, running errands, and learning the fine art of writing up sales). A Woman's Place had opened five years earlier with "a month's rent, \$100, and a \$400 line of credit from Bookpeople."

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*My mental picture of "wealth" is a Bookpeople-like warehouse filled with stacks and cases of books.*

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Four hundred dollars doesn't seem like a lot of money nowadays, but mass market paperbacks were priced at 50¢, trade paperbacks were \$2.00–\$3.00, and a \$400 line of credit meant the difference between having a bookstore and having only a dream.

Later I learned how to make up the Bookpeople shopping list and finally I learned to invite myself along on the Bookpeople shopping trip.

Years later, long after I had opened my own store, I learned that I could call Bookpeople, read my list of books to an order taker, and someone in the warehouse would pull the books and pack them in boxes for me to pick up the next morning — or even UPS them directly to the store, which saved me the drive over the Bay Bridge and back.

But I always resisted those efficiencies of time, preferring to wheel my own cart through the stacks and pull my own books. There were always treasures to be found there — titles previously unknown to me

that I could take "home" to my store and share with my community.

Times have changed. Bell bottoms are no longer the norm, the sweet smoke of weed no longer wafts out the open warehouse door, and the book industry is infinitely more complicated than it was in the 70s, but the warehouse is still my favorite part. Even now, as much as I love bookstores, my mental picture of "wealth" is a Bookpeople-like warehouse filled with stacks and cases of books in large numbers from all kinds of publishers — enough books to stock all my favorite bookstores. And I'm not the only one. Booksellers' dream trips to San Francisco always seem to include a morning or afternoon wandering through Bookpeople's warehouse. It's a wonderful pastime — a bookseller's holiday, if you will. But it's more than that. Independent distributors and wholesalers are essential to independent bookstores — be they general stores, feminist, gay, African American, or any other alternative that challenges the status quo — because our "independence" is only as strong as our access to the books that make our stores unique.

So, Happy 25th Anniversary, Bookpeople — and congratulations and thanks to all of the owner-workers past and present who helped the institution along. May we all be here to celebrate decades of anniversaries to come.

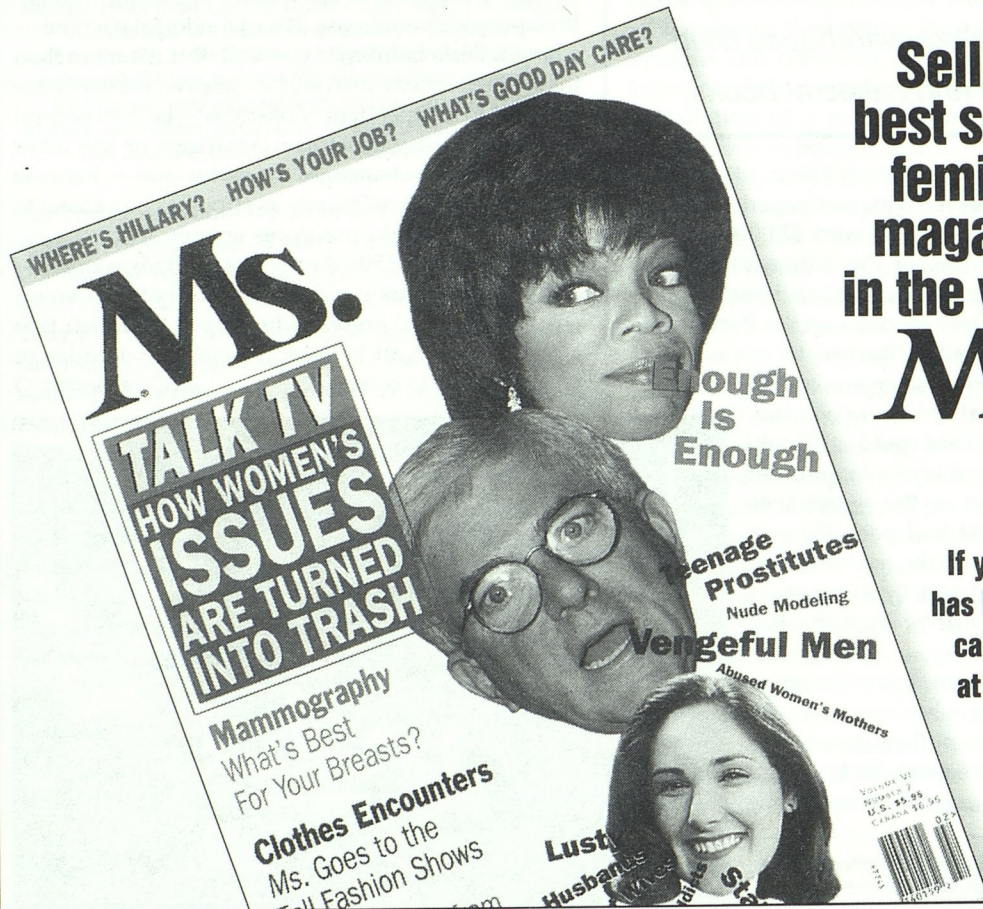
— Carol Seajay ○



1996: A crew works to install the new packing/shipping line in the Oakland warehouse.

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## Returns:

# Too much wallpaper on a no-growth industry

By Carol Seajay

Ask any publisher, large or small: returns were bad last fall. Lousy weather and below-expected holiday sales meant larger-than-expected post-Christmas returns. But they didn't stop there. Returns continue to escalate to the point where publishers, multinational and small independent alike, are facing serious consequences.

The problems are very real. Feminist publishers have experienced return rates that are almost as high as sales, even in traditionally "good" months. Returns swing from 30–50% to 55–60%. Several publishers have experienced several months where returns actually exceeded sales. A 30–50% return rate for the year means that bills don't get paid and books aren't reprinted, and may mean that titles are postponed. Long term, these kinds of return rates spell disaster for both feminist and mainstream publishers.

Everyone agrees that returns are a problem, but no one agrees on the cause of the problem.

Independent bookstores were the first scapegoat. "They return books rather than pay bills," one now-defunct wholesaler has told *FBN*. "Independents are closing, so they return books as if to forestall the inevitable," another explained. There was even, in one of these conversations, an implication that *feminist* bookstores were responsible for the surge in returns. (I *wish* feminist bookstores controlled a big enough piece of the book industry to be able to be responsible for the entire problem of returns!)

The truth lies closer to this comment from a more savvy distributor: "Chains don't return books to us — returns come from independent stores and from Ingram." What was understood in this conversation was that chains return their books to Ingram, Ingram returns them to the distributor, and the distributor

returns them like bad pennies to the publishers. And like bad pennies, the books aren't worth much after being shipped around the country six or eight times.

Ah, so it's not all the independent bookstores after all.

In fact, *FBN* recently had an opportunity to have a very off-the-record conversation with an Ingram executive who confirmed that, while returns from independents are up, returns from chains are coming in at a much higher rate than from the independents. So much for blaming the independents.

And this confirms the reports from publishers who are able to track the source of their returns. Said one publisher of her 45–51% return rate, "Virtually all our May returns were from Ingram — which means they're from B&N. Ninety percent of our June returns were from Borders, 5% were from Ingram." She also reported receiving three separate returns shipped the same week that her new list was published — all three from chain stores that apparently decided to return the books without even putting them on the shelf for a three-day test run.

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### Returns from chains are coming in at a much higher rate than from the independents. So much for blaming the independents.

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In the long run, "blame" is only important 1) if you're the one unjustly being accused of being responsible, or 2) if it provides insight into solving the problem. Number one being resolved, for the length of this column anyway, let's move on to some of the more common explanations.

"Stores are returning books to pay bills." Probably true in some cases, but it's a limited resource. Generally

independent bookstores who do this clean up their act, learn to order responsibly, or go out of business.

"Stores with computerized inventory systems tend to get bloated and need to reduce their stock to keep balance with their cash flow." Yep, a common learning-curve problem, but not one that can be repeated indefinitely, ditto the above.

Wholesalers, including the one who pushes "just-in-time ordering" as a way to sell inventory systems, are now embracing "just-in-time ordering" for themselves. Wholesalers that used to stock two- to three-month supplies of frontlist titles now order a month's supply and adjust their stock on a weekly basis, returning what is perceived as excess stock immediately — even if it means reordering the same titles again in two to three weeks. This means that publishers and distributors are sending out fresh copies of a title even before they have finished processing the original return. (Title this picture "Publishers' Hell.") The publishers would probably be better off if the wholesaler would just keep the books and pay a(nother) month later.

One publisher told *PW* that Ingram has been cutting their inventory from a six- or seven-week supply of books to a four-week supply. That transition, whether it comes as overt returns or smaller initial

orders, is the equivalent of taking a 25–45% return before the season even begins.

And, of course, there is a chronic problem of unrealistically large initial orders that inevitably result in returns later.

In the case of an unrealistic sale to an independent, the books will come back to the publisher within the year, probably sooner. But an unrealistic sale to a chain — especially one in the midst of an expansion program — may not come back to haunt the publisher for several years. In the "good old days" (a year ago), "chains didn't return overstock, they just shifted it to other locations or used it to fill up the shelves of new stores." But nowadays, chains face cash flow problems, too. Chains that are busy closing "underperforming" stores return dead stock. From the reports we hear, it doesn't matter if the books are two to three years old. I have yet to hear of a distributor or wholesaler refusing to accept a return from a chain because the books were purchased too long ago, or because the books were too shopworn to send out again.

But most of these explanations are situational — one-time problems occurring as the industry adapts to industry-wide "just-in-time ordering." They create a major glitch in the system, to be sure, but once the kinks get worked out it should be business as usual

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again. But it isn't. The situation isn't improving yet, even with Ingram and B&T imposing penalties of one kind or another.

So obviously there's more to it than any of these logical or even blame-and-guilt explanations. New England Booksellers Association president Suzy Staubach offers a key to the problem. In NEBA's August newsletter she writes, "The number of selling outlets for books has increased without a concurrent increase in demand."

And therein lies the crux of the problem. Superstores, for all their propaganda about "expanding the market" and "selling books to previously unserved markets," haven't significantly increased book sales. Depending on who's doing the analysis and what their parameters are, book sales have increased 2–6% over the last five years. But, at the same time, superstores have just about doubled the amount of space devoted to retail bookselling.

So what do you get if you double the sales space in a low growth industry? Basically: wallpaper — books that are used for decoration, books that make stores look full and rich but that can't possibly sell. And then, when the books begin to get dusty, they're returned and, inevitably, replaced with newer, fresher titles that will also, in turn, get dusty and turn into returns. At least in the furniture rental business those who provide the furniture get paid for their services. In the book industry publishers are providing the "furnishings" for free — and some are even paying to ship the wall coverings to the stores.

Until (or unless) book sales increase or shelf space decreases, returns in the industry will hover at about 50%. Correction: make that 50% plus whatever the "old" rate of returns was, minus the 2–6% increase in sales. Unless, of course, the chains continue to expand selling space faster than they drive independents out of business. In that case, look for returns to continue to rise to 60 or 70 or 80%.

This current crisis in publishing/bookselling is rooted in the belief that expanded sales space and an expanded number of outlets would, necessarily, increase book sales.

As the superstores started to multiply, publishers' sales did increase. It was almost a "golden age" of (apparent) sales growth for some publishers.

The Catch-22 in this rosy (for publishers, if not for independent booksellers) picture is that the books aren't selling through. The expanded sales space isn't generating a proportionate expansion in retail book sales. And now the books are being returned to the publishers — directly and via wholesalers. The golden age of sales has degenerated into the dirty age of used wallpaper.

So it turns out that the burst of expansion in superstores isn't as much an asset to publishers as it initially seemed. The irony is that some (many?) of the publishers who are suddenly on the receiving end of this first wave of returns helped to finance the superchains' expansion with new-branch store discounts, sweetheart deals, and very-extended credit terms.

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**What do you get if you double  
the sales space in a low growth  
industry? Wallpaper —  
books that are used for decoration,  
that can't possibly sell.**

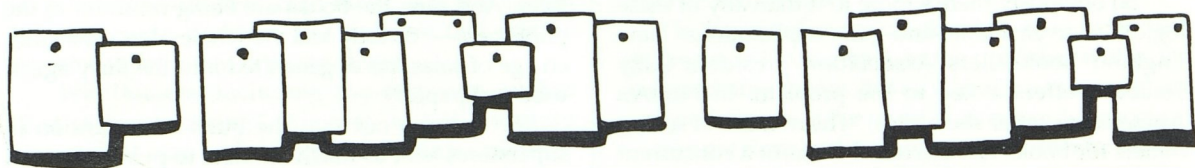
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Initially it was independent bookstores who cried "foul," but, in the long run, it is going to be the publishers who will have to take a hard look at the situation and recognize that providing wall coverings for seven million square feet of new sales space, which doesn't generate increased sell-through, is not only not in the best interests of the entire book industry, it is creating a non-viable economic conundrum for the publishers themselves.

But here is where hope lies: if publishers decide to stop financing chain growth at their own expense, if they strictly enforce the returns policies already in existence, and if they decide to invoke policies that preclude the "wallpapering" of new superstores with books on long-term loan, then there's a chance that the book industry can be returned to a balance that allows for successful operation of all the necessary parts: publishers, large and small; bookstores, independent and chain; and distributors and wholesalers, large and small, corporate to fiercely independent.

It's becoming increasingly clear that if one part of the industry is flourishing at the expense of other parts, or if one part of the industry is in trouble — be it booksellers or publishers or distributors — we're all going to lose in the long run. ○

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



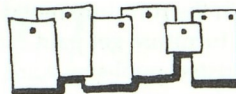
By Jenn Tust

A gala awards ceremony on October 25 honored Joan Nestle, winner of the Bill Whitehead Award for Lifetime Achievement, and Felice Picano and Sarah Schulman, winners of this year's Ferro-Grumley Awards for Outstanding Novel for *Like People In History* and *Rat Bohemia*. The affair also marked the presentation of the Robert Chesley Playwriting Award to Susan Miller, and the Lifetime Achievement Award to Robert Patrick. The awards carry a cash prize of \$1,000.

The Fifth Annual Astraea Lesbian Writers Fund Gala was held on November 1. The Gala is an annual tribute to lesbian writers and lesbian culture and celebrates the Lesbian Writers Fund, which awards grants to emerging lesbian writers of poetry and fiction. Anndee Hochman won the 1996 award for fiction. She is a freelance writer who's work has appeared in publications from *The New York Times Book Review* to *Ms*. She is the author of *Everyday Acts & Small Subversions: Women Reinventing Family, Community and Home*. Vanessa Haley is the winner for poetry. After a 13 year academic career Haley is now a counselor specializing in women's issues. Her poems have appeared in *Poetry* and the *Southern Poetry Review*. She is the author of *Fictions*. Highlights included readings by Kitty Tsui and Sarah Schulman and a selection from Urban Bush Woman and Jewelle Gomez's dance, theater, music piece, *Ash and Bone: A Gilda Story*.

Minnesota Women's Press is establishing a new publication for book lovers called *BookWomen*, which aspires to be a conversation among readers of women's words. *BookWomen* is dedicated to building

a community of readers, celebrating the joys of living with books, exploring the place of reading and books in women's lives and spreading the word about women writers and their work. Articles and reader-exchanges will discuss bookscapes in our lives, reading friendships, the sensuality of books, the reader-writer connection, reading as a feminist act, books on the road, behind the scenes, and more. Regular features will include a book column by Glenda Martin, "don't miss" titles, subscribers' thoughts and recommendations. 6 issues/\$24/year. *BookWomen*, Minnesota Women's Press, Inc., 771 Raymond Avenue, St. Paul MN 55114, fax 612-646-2186, e-mail [womenpress@aol.com](mailto:womenpress@aol.com). Bookstore distribution information not yet available.



The Union Institute Center for Women announces the 1997 Audre Lorde Legacy Award for Women's and/or Multicultural Studies. The \$3,000 award recognizes exceptional work in building coalitions between scholars and activists. Individuals, informal groups that have formed for a specific project, emerging grassroots groups or organizations, and formal nonprofit organizations that focus on women's/multicultural projects are eligible to apply. Deadline: November 15. Contact: The Union Institute Center for Women, 1710 Rhode Island Avenue NW #1100, Washington DC 20036; 800-969-6676, fax 202-496-1635.

Dufour Editions, one of America's leading distributors of books from the U.K., Ireland and the Continent has just released their first complete  
**See Announcements, page 69.**



# CANADIAN CONTENT

## Reflections After Two Years in Business

By Jacqueline Dumas  
Orlando Books/Edmonton Alberta

*Reprinted with permission from Orlando's summer newsletter.*

### On Publishers

The other day I received an invitation to attend a seminar which would teach me to "bury the competition." Why would I want to bury the competition? Is there not room for all of us to make our living? Is it not desirable that we all survive? That we all be able to enjoy our work? To pay taxes? So much in the book world is mirroring the global tendency for the big to get bigger and bigger, and the small to not just get smaller but to be gobbled up.

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*In September, the bestseller list which we compile for the Sunday edition of the Edmonton Journal mysteriously vanished*

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In some ways, July, August and September have been months of disappointment and headaches. First came the sad demise of Coach House Press, then news that Routledge had fired many of its editors and was cutting down on its cultural studies list because the new owners decided that it's not enough for a publisher to make a 7% profit (long considered to be an extremely healthy "performance" in the book business) but that a

17% profit is necessary to satisfy the shareholders. I wonder how many publishers are still owned by people who are interested in good writing, in ideas, in the books themselves, and how many are now branches of the entertainment industry and other conglomerates interested strictly in profits?

Some accounts have become so huge that it's difficult to pay the bills on time. In the pre-monster-publisher days, I dealt with hundreds of accounts, and if I had a slow couple of weeks, I could hold back one invoice from everyone until next month and everyone was happy. If I am to hold back payment now, it means holding back 10 or 15 invoices from each of the monster publishers, which is not acceptable.

One of our major headaches has been Canbook, distributor for Penguin and McClelland & Stewart, among others. Canbook is one of those companies which has been gobbling up smaller publishers, expanding its facilities, to the point where it is so bloated with itself it can no longer supply service. The only efficient department seems to be accounts receivable.

### On bestseller lists and special interest groups, or why Marilyn Dumont and Robert Kroetsch don't count...

In mid-September, the small bestseller list which we compile weekly for the Sunday edition of the *Edmonton Journal* mysteriously vanished while Gordan Morash, the books editor, was on holiday. I phoned Bob Remington, the entertainment editor, and he said he pulled our list because: it's "too alternative;" it represents "special interest groups;" as far as he knows we could be making up the list; and anyway, the *Journal* "is always covering gay and lesbian issues." Ah, "gay" and "lesbian" — there's the rub.

I admitted that our store indeed reflects a diverse population which includes feminists, people with leftist political views, writers, people who enjoy

Canadian and international fiction and poetry (especially from the small presses), cultural studies, science, music, and of course, gay and lesbian books — in short, books which, if they are available, are not highlighted elsewhere in the city.

At first we were given our regular turn with the other independents at compiling the Edmonton list. Then one day I was told that our store was no longer to be included as it does not reflect mainstream Edmonton. I granted that this was true (at least I hope it is), but that our selection does represent the interests of an important part of the reading public. Gordon Morash then graciously agreed to print our weekly bestseller list of 10 titles (alongside the *Maclean's* list of 20 titles and the mainstream independent's list of 40 titles).

So what's the problem? Our weekly list represents 10 titles out of 70. The last time I looked, more than 1 out of 7 people in Edmonton voted neither Conservative nor Reform, and yes, the gay/lesbian population was estimated to be about 20%.

By the way, the bestseller list which Bob Remington did not print on September 15 was as follows:

#### FICTION & POETRY

1. **A Really Good Brown Girl**, Marilyn Dumont, Brick Books, \$12.95
2. **The Piano Man's Daughter**, Timothy Findley, HarperCollins, \$8.99
3. **Search Procedures**, Erin Mour, House of Anansi Press, \$15.95
4. **Regeneration**, Pat Barker, Penguin, \$12.95
5. **Fugitive Pieces**, Ann Michaels, McClelland & Stewart, \$19.99

#### NONFICTION

1. **A Likely Story**, Robert Kroetsch, Red Deer College Press, \$16.95
2. **Life's Companion**, Christina Baldwin, Bantam, \$15.95
3. **My Point (And I Do Have One)**, Ellen DeGeneres, Bantam, \$7.99
4. **Race and the Education of Desire**, Ann Stoler, Duke University Press, \$22.50
5. **Prayers for Bobby**, Leroy Aarons, HarperCollins, \$16.75

We're very pleased that both of our "special interest" lists for Edmonton were topped by Alberta

writers. In answer to Mr. Remington's suspicions that our lists may be less accurate than the *Maclean's* lists, I wonder if he's aware that some large publishers routinely pay the large chain stores to feature certain books at the front of their stores in the "bestseller" sections? I wonder which stores *Maclean's* contacts for its bestseller list? The magazine has certainly never called us.

We hope that all the writers who are reading at our store in the coming months will see their books make our "special interest" bestseller list, instead of books like *The Celestine Prophecy* and *Ten Stupid Things Women Do To Mess Up Their Lives*.

Meanwhile, be sure to pick up your copy of The Feminist Bookstores Holiday Catalogue and relax in our reading area; enjoy Barbara Hartman's Bloomsbury style mural of bookshelves, a fireplace, and of course, a cat. Here you can have a coffee, read about our current Charity of the Month and, if you like, leave a small donation. Orlando Books sponsors a different charity each month, featuring organizations ranging from the Women's Shelter to the Prostitute Resource Centre to small literary magazines to local choral groups to performance groups to various AIDS groups to peace groups. We provide each group with space to put up a display, including pamphlets, etc., describing what it is that they do and to solicit volunteers. The coffee is free, but customers are invited to leave a donation which is given to the group featured. ○

**Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation:** FEMINIST BOOKSTORE NEWS (10/1/96), published monthly in January, March, May, July, August, September and November. Subscription price: \$70/year/store. Mailing address of Known Office of Publication: 2358 Market St. 3rd Floor Rear, San Francisco, CA 94114-1521. Mailing Address of Headquarters: Same. Publisher, Editor, Managing Editor and Owner: Carol Seajay, PO Box 882554, San Francisco, CA 94188-2554. Known bondholders: none. Average Number of Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months (Actual Number of Copies September 1995/Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date): A-Total Copies/Net Press Run: 925 (900). B-Paid and/or Requested Circulation 1) Sales through dealers, carriers, street vendors and counter sales: 0 (0), 2) Mail Subscription 486 (494). C-Total Paid or Requested Circulation: 486 (494). D-Free Distribution: 47 (43). E-Total Distribution: 562 (545). F-Copies Not Distributed 1) Office use, leftover, etc: 363 (355), 2) Returns from News Agents: 0 (0). G-Total: 925 (900). Signed Carol Seajay, Editor & Publisher. PS Form 3526.

# SHORT RAVES

Compiled by Jenn Tust

**Memory Mambo** by Achy Obejas tells of the immigrant experience in a very engaging way. A woman's quest for her reality. It let a white girl glimpse into Cuban and Cuban American lives through a lesbian storyteller's eyes. Often, I could see and smell the sights and sounds of the scenes as they were being developed. \$12.95 pb, 1-57344-017-5, Cleis Press.

—Debra Resnik  
FOFBN

"Zoiks!" I exclaimed when I was 20 pages into **The Hearing Trumpet** by Leonora Carrington. "I've been waiting for this book all my life!" I was completely swept off my feet by the 92-year-old narrator and her hilarious adventures, which include organizing hunger fasts against murderers, saving the planet from an impending ice age, finding the Holy Grail and knitting sweaters out of cat hair. Carrington combines fable and myth in prose so beautifully written I could read this book a hundred times in a row. Read it yourself and give it as a gift! \$15.95 cl, 1878972197, Exact Change.

—Mary  
Amazon Bookstore/Minneapolis MN

**Push** by Sapphire is without question the most powerful incest recovery novel I've ever read. Along with a violent sexually abusive father and a blaming physically abusive mother, the protagonist, Precious, endures against spirit crushing poverty and illiteracy. Sapphire's writing is spare, brutal and totally appropriate — no gratuitous violence here. The reality of this kind of story will only increase as our nation continues to punish the poor and end literacy projects like the one that gives this novel a hopeful ending. A "guaranteed read" at Full Circle Books! \$20 cl, 0679446265, Knopf.

—Anne  
Full Circle Books/Albuquerque NM



**Into the Forest** by Jean Hegland takes the reader into the lives of two teenage sisters surviving rural California in a gradually disintegrating USA — as electricity, gas, outside communication and government cease to exist. There is a powerful story of friendship, learning to let go of the props we think we need to survive and embracing the offerings of nature. This is not "Pollyanna" and it is a "guaranteed read" at Full Circle Books! \$13.95 pb, 0934971501, Calyx.

—Anne  
Full Circle Books/Albuquerque NM

**Ghost Singer** by Anna Lee Walters (Pawnee/Otoe) is a stunning novel about the disastrous effects (emotional as well as physical) of cultural appropriation on the people who are stolen from as well as on those who do the stealing. Navajo history is woven throughout the book in the form of stories an old man tells his grandchildren. Indigenous spirituality and healing are utilized as ever-present resources in the struggle to survive intact in the White world. One of the real treasures of this book (aside from its eloquent style and tone) is that the point of view of the narrative is Native American. What a wake-up call for whites to be observed from an objective distance instead of being central to the story, instead of being the "norm." "He's as smart as any other white man" is one of many lines that certainly gives whites another way of seeing themselves. I read this book on the heels of a "lesbian adventure novel" where a white author portrays the spirituality of a tribe in the



Amazon with ideas so oversimplified she implies these folks just don't have much depth (but that's a whole other review!). I took two lessons from these books. First is the importance of primary source material — if you are interested in the thoughts/lives of people of other races or cultures, read the writers of that group. There are whole sections of non-white writers at Full Circle. The second is the importance of coalition-work; I may be a lesbian, and love to read about lesbians, but I also must acknowledge that some lesbian-generated material may be detrimental to the work that we need to do to break the racial tensions in our community. A "guaranteed read" at Full Circle Books! \$19.95, 0826315453, University of New Mexico Press.

—Anne A.  
Full Circle Books/Albuquerque NM

**Under the Feet of Jesus** by Helena Maria Viramontes. Viramontes has been one of my favorite authors since she published *The Moths & Other Stories* (\$9.95 pb, Arte Publico), an exquisite collection detail-

ing the lives of Latina women and girls in L.A. This second book chronicles in gorgeous, lush prose a season in the lives of a group of migrant farm workers. It succeeds as both a novel and an indictment against the exploitation of migrant workers. \$9.95, 0452273870, Plume. —Bookwoman/Austin TX

**Places in the World a Woman Could Walk: Short Stories** by Janet Kauffman. This re-release of a previously out-of-print title is one of the most vivid, poignant collections I've read. These stories of women in the Midwest are populated with farmers, hair dressers, mothers, children, widows and chickens. Kauffman's language is sharp, clear and breathtaking. \$12, 1555972330, Graywolf. —Bookwoman/Austin TX

**Home Alive: The Art of Self Defense.** Born out of anger at the brutal rape and murder of The Gits singer Mia Zapata, this double-CD fund-raiser (to help find the murderer) includes songs or spoken-word performances by Ann and Nancy Wilson, 7 Year Bitch, Joan Jett, Tribe 8, Nirvana and Pearl Jam. It



contains a chilling mission statement too long to write here. The cause and the music are definitely worth a purchase. A way-cool release. Various artists, tape \$14.95, CD \$20, Sony.

—Lori

*Amazon Bookstore/Minneapolis MN*

Are you adventurers out there — armchair or otherwise — looking for a great story? Check out **Kabloona in the Yellow Kayak: One Woman's Journey Through the Northwest Passage** by Victoria Jason. In probably the only book of its kind, Victoria writes about kayaking thousands of miles of the Arctic coast through the summers of 1991–1994. She starts out the journey with a guy who quickly reveals himself to be a total jerk and goes on to do much of the journey alone. She's fearless, loaded with common sense, loving of the animals and people she meets and absolutely determined to live her dreams. An inspiring role model for us nearing-50 folks, as well as for women of any age. \$22.95 cl, 0888012012, Turnstone Press. Distributed in the U.S. by LPC/InBook.

—Barb Weiser

*Amazon Bookstore/Minneapolis MN*

Titles I've uncovered in my recent wanderings:

**Money Meditations for Women**, Jo Anne Lordahl.

I found all sorts of support and encouragement in this book. \$9.95 pb, 0-89087-694-0, Celestial Arts.

**First Comes Love** by Marion Winik is a true, bittersweet and sometimes unnerving story of the passion between a straight woman and a gay man — their falling in love, marrying and raising two sons, the crumbling of their happiness under the pressure

of AIDS, drug addiction and betrayal, and the harrowing, heartbreaking moment when Winik must help her husband to die. Winik is a commentator for NPR. I was captured by this book — sometimes cursing it, sometimes laughing and sometimes crying. \$23 cl, 0-679-44572-2, Pantheon.

**A Simpler Way**, Margaret Wheatley and Myron Kellner-Rogers. Life on earth is creative, experimenting and self-organizing, not hierarchical and rational. This book encourages us to organize our lives and our cultures in the same way — honoring the messy, playful ways of being. I found this to be a wonderful alternative to all those "how to organize your life" titles. \$27.95 cl, 1-881052-95-8, Berrett-Koehler. Available from PGW.

I enjoy Sandra Scoppettone's work a lot and hype her to customers — but she won my heart with this passage from **Let's Face the Music and Die** (\$21.95 cl, 0316776645, Little, Brown, 1996, page 184): "I watch as she goes into the big Barnes & Noble. Although it's large, it isn't suitable for safe surveillance, so I check the time and wait across the street. Sometimes I go in B & N to see what's new, have a cup of coffee, read magazines for free, but I never buy anything, in deference to the independent bookstores in general, Three Lives in particular.... I don't believe that B & N, or the other superstores that are trying to crowd out the small guys, will create new readers. Although some might shop for the discounts, those who go to drink coffee and pick up people won't suddenly become book buyers. My feeling is that these stores are going to crash and burn. I only hope it won't happen *after* they've buried the independents." —Dorothy Holland



An excerpt from "Loyalty" by Alison Bechdel, from *Unnatural Dykes to Watch Out For* (Firebrand Books).

# BACK TO PRESS

## AND OTHER GOOD NEWS

Compiled by Jenn Tust

### Back to Press

*Warriors of Isis* (now \$11.99) and *Isis Rising* (now \$11.99), both from Rising Tide, have gone back to press for a total of 20,000 copies in print.

*The Butches of Madison County* and *Who Cares If Its A Choice* both from Laugh Lines Press recently went back to press. *Butches* now has 6,000 copies in print and *Who Cares* has 11,000 copies in print.

### Rights

Women's Press-U.K. has sold North American rights of *Mustn't Grumble: Writing by Disabled Women* to The New Press (see "Small Presses" for review) and *All the Rage* to Teacher's College Press. They have sold Korean rights to two titles: *Nervous Conditions* by Tsisti Dangarembga to Jakaknamu and *The Dreams of Women* by Lucy Goodison to the Korean Alternative Culture Publishing Company. Dutch rights to *Javady Alley* by Manny Shirazi went to De Geus. Large print rights for Marcia Muller's *Leave a Message for Willie* were sold to Chivers, and rights to *Wolf in the Shadows* went to Thorndike.

Pandora published a U.K. edition for *Dyke Life* edited by Karla Jay.

*Our Bodies, Ourselves* (Simon & Schuster) has been translated into Chinese and published in mainland China.

### Good News

Ten photographs from the series "Women En Large: Images of Fat Nudes" by Laurie Toby Edison will be exhibited at the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography. The show, titled "Gender: Beyond Memory," runs from September 5 to October 27. The exhibit, curated by Michiko Kasahara, features the work of international women artists. The exhibit catalog will include ten photographs by Edison and an

essay on fat feminism by *Women En Large* editor Debbie Notkin. The Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, one of the few such institutions in the world, is the first cultural institution in Japan to specialize in photography and the visual arts. Laurie and Debbie are flying to Japan for the opening. Go girls!



### Awards

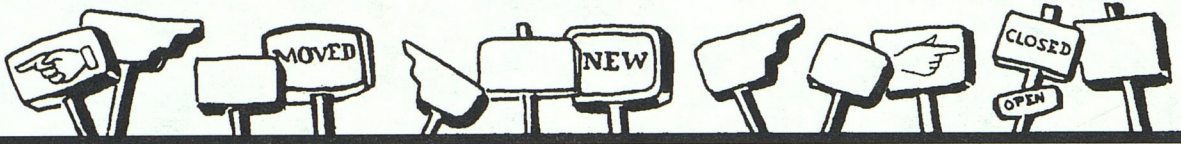
Karen X. Tulchinsky's *In Her Nature* (Women's Press/Canada) won the 1996 VanCity Book Prize for best B.C. book pertaining to women's issues. Tulchinsky was presented the award at the Second Annual Word On the Street Literary Arts Festival in September in Vancouver.

The Athena Awards for independent producers working in lesbian film and video making were announced in August. The awards and winners were: Outstanding Achievement in Experimental Film, *But Would You Take Her Back* (Judith Redding/Victoria Brownworth); Outstanding Achievement in Experimental Animation, *Anastasia and The Queen of Hearts* (Shawn Atkins); Best Short Film, *Uncommon Grounds* (Pamela Whyte); Outstanding Achievement in Long Form Music Video, *The Cowgirl Sweethearts* (Beverly Buhr/Melissa Dopp); Best Documentary, *Their Own Vietnam* (Nancy D. Kates); and Best Feature Length Film, *The Midwife's Tale* (Megan Siler).

Ofelia Dumas Lachtman's *The Girl from Playa Blanca* (Arte Público Press) won a 1996 Benjamin Franklin Award for Juvenile-Young Adult Fiction. Alba Ambert's *A Perfect Silence* (Arte Público Press)

See **Back to Press**, page 66.

# THEY WENT THAT-A-WAY

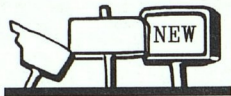


By Jenn Tust and Carol Seajay

## Stores Open

Jane Douglas, Gayle Rayfield and Jean Narunsky opened Brava! A Plaza for Women in early October in Redwood City, a short drive south from San Francisco. The store has two floors: the 2,500-square-foot first floor holds books, a coffeebar and a baby grand piano; the 2,200-square-foot upstairs is open to the lower floor in the middle (like a mezzanine) and will be a gallery for women's artwork. Brava!, 2209 Broadway, Redwood City CA 94063; 415-369-3335.

Shirley Walker and Susan Smiel operate The Lavender Rose, a mobile book service focusing on lesbian/gay, feminist and women's issues in Winnipeg. They attend conferences and events and have book parties in people's homes (like Tupperware parties). Shirley and Susan are hoping to open a store in the spring. The Winnipeg women's community is still grieving the loss of Bold Print and will surely welcome the new store. The Lavender Rose, 3D-440 Assiniboine Avenue, Winnipeg Manitoba R3C 0Y1, Canada; 204-956-1620.



The Heygirl Mailorder catalog is now available. Mary Ellen LeBlanc put together the 20-page black-and-white catalog with 140 scanned covers and short blurbs for hot lesbian-interest titles from all areas including erotica, romance and science fiction. Although it has taken Mary Ellen a lot longer than she'd planned to get the business up and running, she says her persistence has paid off and she's optimistic for the future. She also said she's looking for

additional titles to include in her next catalog, so if you want to send a review copy... Heygirl Mailorder, PO Box 878, Atkinson NH 03811-0878.

Mary Pietrowski is working on A Woman's Spirit — The Global Woman's Bookstore and Marketplace, "an on-line woman's bookstore" that will feature an on-line inventory of 300,000 general titles. She is also planning to have a women's business directory, customer reviews and recommendations, classified ads and other book-related sections. The site is up at {<http://www.womanspirit.com>} with a "coming soon" notice. You can reach Mary at 1257 Worcester Road #293, Framingham MA 01701; 508-877-3303, fax 508-877-0985, e-mail {[athena1@tiac.net](mailto:athena1@tiac.net)}.

Tina Yeaman and Eli Raindancer are the owners of Whispering Wisdom, a lesbian/gay mail-order company based in Salt Lake City. They started the business at the end of May doing mail-order and local festivals and are planning to open an actual store some time next year. You can reach them at PO Box 3326, Salt Lake City UT 84110; 801-530-1488.

Women of Wisdom, a new age gift shop in North-easton, Massachusetts, opened August 31. Katie Ramaci, the owner, wanted a place that is empowering to all people, especially women. The space has three rooms, one of which is used for workshops, healing circles, meditation and tai chi. About 25 minutes south of Boston, and an hour north of the cape, Women of Wisdom (with its catchy sign) gets a lot of drive-by traffic from those taking an alternative route to or from Boston. The store is 40 percent books (women's health, women's studies, psychology, self-help, astrology, healing, etc.) and 60 percent sidelines (music, cards, jewelry, T-shirts, art prints, etc.). Katie's

excited to have a neighbor that practices Chinese medicine, massage and tai chi moving next door. Women of Wisdom, 118 Washington Street, Northeaston MA 02356; 508-230-3680.

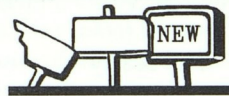
FBN happened upon Sapphisticate, an on-line "book source" for the "dykescriminating" reader. Sapphisticate is a member of the Amazon.com Associates program and all books are ordered through/delivered by Amazon.com. Amazon.com claims that a thousand associated Web sites are currently participating in this program, which pays the site-owner a 3-8% commission on all books sold through these "outside" sites.

According to its home page, Sapphisticate "was created to provide access to lesbian literary work [for] those who, for whatever reason, choose not to visit gay/lesbian bookstores or conduct credit card transactions with gay/lesbian identified sites." All transactions from this site will be billed and shipped by Amazon.com, an on-line bookstore that carries practically every book in print and therefore specializes in nothing. It continues, "The interest and opportunities in lesbian books and bookselling is growing proportionate to our visibility and our efforts. The business of bookselling will always be done best by booksellers in bookstores. On-line book shopping will never replace the experience of standing between tall shelves surrounded by hundreds of volumes and authors who share our deepest bonds. Some of us, however, are not able to shop in bookstores or, to find in the bookstores we have access to, the titles we would like to purchase. Sapphisticate will attempt to bridge the gap between readers and writers of lesbian literature, with the express purpose of enhancing the visibility and the distribution of lesbian books."

Of course there's some bitter irony here — the implication that lesbian readers would be "safer" ordering books from Amazon.com, which is a generic name, than from, say, (feminist) Amazon Bookstore, which had been in business for 25 years when Amazon.com appropriated the name for themselves, but I digress....

{Sapphisticate.com} is obviously a site under development. "Featured authors," for instance, includes an odd list of 14 authors with descriptions of their works, 3 or 4 of which include no lesbian content or you couldn't tell it by the descriptions. Some (many,

all?) of the descriptions on Sapphisticate's list of featured authors come directly from Amazon.com and/or publishers' materials. You'll find Patricia Cornwell here, but not Barbara Wilson; Rita Mae, but not Jane Rule — and only three or four feminist press titles in the whole bunch. Odd, given the site name, not to mention the lesbian content of listed titles such as *Oranges Out of Season* or *The Color Purple*.... All of which, I'm sure, will be remedied over time.



Mending Hearts is a six-month-old self-help and recovery store in Fort Wayne, Indiana. (Fort Wayne is a town of 200,000 people located 2½ hours east of Chicago, 2½ hours south of Detroit and 2 hours north of Indianapolis.) The owners, Amy Etzler and Cindy Thomas, both have full-time jobs outside of the store. They work evenings and weekends at the store, while Jamie Owens manages the day-to-day operations of Mending Hearts. The 1,000-square-foot store carries titles pertaining to 12-stepping, wellness, the inner child and other recovery issues, plus music, books, gifts and more. Mending Hearts, 1305 East State Boulevard, Fort Wayne IN 46805; 219-482-1200, fax 219-482-5536.

The Reading Edge, owned by Margaret Conner, is a 1,200-square-foot general bookstore specializing in lesbian/gay, African American, and women's issues and writings. Located in the downtown area of Savannah, an area that is going through a period of revitalization, The Reading Edge opened with a ribbon-cutting in June followed by a reception. The Reading Edge has a computer station with a CD-ROM of *Books in Print* for the customers to use (which has generated special orders), a newsstand/coffeebar area, and comfortable chairs for leisurely browsing. The store is also used by groups for special events. Margaret's goal for the store is that it become a community/neighborhood space for people to come to find interesting events and a comfortable atmosphere. 202 East Broughton Street, Savannah GA 31401; 912-236-1006, fax 912-236-3245.

Frances Werner, a retired attorney who "took 20 years to get up to the Russian River full-time," is the

owner of River Reader, a "clean well-lighted" one-year-old bookstore in Guerneville, California. As a community bookstore with strong sales in fiction, gay/lesbian-interest, spirituality and children's titles Frances is also working on a wide range of events including author readings, storytelling, writing groups, book groups and more. There is one used bookstore in town and a B&N 40 minutes away, which has caused Frances to start discounting bestsellers to keep local business. River Reader, 16355 Main Street, Guerneville CA 95446; 707-869-2240.

Erin Lipkind and David Berry are trying to establish Mary Jane's, a women-oriented, feminist, lesbian and goddess-oriented alternative store in Montana that will carry used clothing, new and used books, jewelry and consignment goods. They have been selling at the Farmer's Market, and are looking for space and funding. For now you can reach them at 1512 Phillips Street, Missoula MT 59802; 406-542-2733.

Joanne Weiss at The Hermitage Bookshop in Denver, a general store with a small women's section of out of print and collectibles, put together a Women's Studies catalog of these titles. For a copy, contact: The Hermitage Bookshop, 290 Fillmore Street, Denver CO 80206; 303-388-6811.



Two not-so-new African American bookstores owned by Eric Crosby are African American Booksource & Music, a small, cozy neighborhood store in the Village Shopping Center in Gary, Indiana, and Black Expressions, which is right across the way from Chicago in Evergreen Park, Illinois. Both stores carry Black publications, art, music, cards and other items. Janna Washington manages day-to-day operations at the six-year-old African American Booksource and Kimberly Montgomery manages the three-year-old Black Expressions. African American Booksource & Music, Village Shopping Center, 3500 Village Court, Gary IN 46408; 219-981-2133. Black Expressions, 9500 Southwestern Avenue, Evergreen Park IL 60805; 708-424-4338.

Gloria Soto and Cesar H. Soto Cintrón are opening a general bookstore by the end of November in San

Juan, Puerto Rico. The 3,600-square-foot store will specialize in children's books, books in Spanish, teaching materials, and "everything else," including women's and lesbian/gay sections and sidelines. There will also be a tiny cafe area. The store's temporary mailing address and phone number are PO Box 367041, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936-7041; 809-781-1797.



## Store Changes

The women at Ruby Slippers were receiving threats of bodily harm, so the police advised that they change their phone numbers and put a tap on their phones. Their new phone numbers are: 516-421-3550, fax 516-431-1816.

After 21 years serving the Central Ohio area, Fan the Flames Bookstore in Columbus has changed its name to Women's Words: Gifts, Books and Gatherings to describe its changing image. Last winter Judith Murphy-Smits was hired as the new manager, in the spring the store's board conducted focus groups for customer feedback and suggestions, and just recently the store received a new coat of paint. Women's Words also has 17 new volunteers who will assist with all aspects of the store's operations. An exciting calendar of events is set for this fall, including book discussions, discussion groups, workshops, and author appearances and readings. Women's Words, 3387 North High Street, Columbus OH 43202; 614-447-0565.

Heartland Books has changed hands and moved from Vermont to Winthrop, Washington, a rural community in north central Washington. The previous owners, Linda Weiss and Joyce McKeeman, sold their retail mail order book business specializing in lesbian literature, to new owners, Barb Dubee and Sunny Mally. Barb and Sunny will continue to run Heartland stressing good reading, personal service and timely delivery, while raising horses (two colts this spring), caring for their other pets and working on their log home. They are hoping to be up on the Web in the near future. Heartland Books, PO Box 609, Winthrop WA 98862; 509-996-2291, 800-535-3799, e-mail <heartlan@methow.com>.

Mother Kali's in Eugene, Oregon, has a new area code: 541.

Bad Habits (Norfolk, Virginia) has changed its name to Two of a Kind, 6123 Sewells Point Road, Norfolk VA 23513; 715-857-0223.

Sappho's Garden in New Hope, Pennsylvania, moved to 78 Ney Alley Towpath, 18938. Their phone remains 215-862-1326.

Hassled by the new Borders in town, Stepping Stones (Palo Alto) has increased their stock of mainstream bestsellers and gift books by women to stay competitive. The number at the store is 415-853-9685.

Back to the Source in Rockford, Illinois, changed their name to The Source, because that's what everyone was calling it. We're glad to see The Source alive and well after going through a rough period of harassment. At one point an extreme rightist threatened to set himself on fire in front of the store. Thankfully that didn't occur and all those at The Source haven't seen the man since the threat was made. Address and phone remain the same.

Last issue we announced Wild Women books in Bellingham, Washington. This issue they have a new name: Rainbow Bridge. The two store managers and operators are D. Lovie and Rianne Muller. Rianne has worked at Amazon and My Sisters' Words. They are opening in early October and are planning on a Halloween grand opening. Rainbow Bridge, 304 West Champin, Bellingham WA 98225.



The Oscar Wilde Book Shop has a totally new look! Larry Lingle, the owner of the gay Lobo Bookstores in Houston and Austin, Texas, recently purchased The Oscar Wilde Book Shop in New York. After Lingle took over September 1, he closed the store for three weeks to gut and renovate. They painted, put in new carpeting, cabinets and bookshelves. Oscar Wilde reopened October 3 with a grand reopening on the sixth attended by several hundred people. Kim Brinster manages the day-to-

day operations of the store. She says they plan on "beefing up the stock in all areas, particularly back stock, videos and CDs." Lobo, 3206 A Guadalupe, Austin TX 78705; 512-454-5406. Lobo, 3939 South Montrose Boulevard, Houston TX 77006; 713-522-5156. Oscar Wilde continues on at the historic 15 Christopher Street, New York NY 10014 address; 212-255-8097, fax 212-255-8195.



## Stores Close

Gifts of Athena (Cleveland) closed its doors at 6 p.m. on September 14th. The store was full of mourners/well-wishers all day. Following the closing the staff and community held a ritual for about 50 friends of the store to aid in letting go and moving on. Tara Ayres described it as "beautiful, moving and sad." Sue Bennett described it as being a little like attending one's own funeral and getting to hear your own eulogies, as women talked about what the store and Sue's years there had meant to them. Tara writes, "There was one eerie moment — there had been a leak in the ceiling of the store for the entire six years it's been open. At exactly 6:00, just as we were turning over the sign to say 'closed' for the final time, a major piece of the ceiling fell in! Despite the crowd, nobody was hurt. It did rather feel like a sign, though, that it was time for the project to be over." The growing number of superstores in the area had been taking an ever-larger bite out of GoA's sales for the last several years.

This issue we also bid a sad adieu to the Gertrude Stein Memorial Bookshop in Pittsburgh, one of the last collectively run bookstores, open only on weekends; and to the Purple Moon in Fredricksburg (Virginia) and Textures in San Antonio. Purple Moon and Textures had both been for sale for some time, and both closed after promising arrangements had fallen through. San Antonio has seen a series of feminist bookstores open and close in a town that desperately wants a feminist bookstore but doesn't seem to be quite large enough to support one. Sales at all three stores had been compromised by sales lost to the ever-expanding chains. Don't hold your breath, but don't be surprised, either, if new stores or reorganiza-

tions of the Purple Moon and Textures dreams appear in Fredricksburg or San Antonio.

## People

Carole London, longtime staffer at the Book Garden and ardent *FBN* proofreader, is launching a new journal, *EarthWalk*, dedicated to "inspiring a deeper respect for the planet." Booksellers who would like a free preview copy (or writers who'd like contributors' guidelines) should write to her at Earth-Centered Publishing, PO Box 200055, Denver CO 80220; 303-322-0044, 800-245-0129, fax 303-322-5843, e-mail (earthwalk@eco-net.com).

## Correction

Donnelly/Colt's correct zip code is 06247. The zip code in their listings in the Sidelines issue was incorrect.

## Books Move, Too

*Life Isn't Weighed on the Bathroom Scales* by Laura Rose (\$18.95, 1-5676-037-5) was originally published by the WRS Group, which changed its focus to more traditional medical books and then dropped the book. Rose addresses two basic lies: "you can lose weight easily if you want to badly enough" and "you can't fulfill your potential until you get thin." Copies are now available directly from the author at 11 Randolph Street, Eureka CA 95503; 707-445-2101, fax 707-445-0321.

## Distribution News

The Women's Press/U.K.'s titles are now available through Trafalgar Square in the U.S. Trafalgar plans to open accounts with "all the relevant U.S. wholesalers" so look for Women's Press titles at all of your favorite wholesalers. Trafalgar Square Publishing, Howe Hill Road, North Pomfret VT 05053; 802-457-1911, fax 802-457-1913.



## Publisher Address

We announced the launching of a new German gay/lesbian publishing house, Querverlag, in our July/August issue. Their address is: Akezienstrasse 25, 10823 Berlin, Germany; 011-49-30-7-870-2340, e-mail (querverlag@aol.com).

## Distributors Close

Atrium Publishers Group closed operations due in part to excessive returns.

## Electronic News

Sisterhood has a new Web site: (www.sisterhood.com).

Herstory Bookstore now has an e-mail address: (herstory@netrax.net).

Amy Goodloe has created a Web site for lesbian book recommendations. To view it or promote your favorite lesbian books go to: (http://www.lesbian.org/lesbian-writers/books.html).



Deborah Rudacille has established a Web site called "Scheherazade" for women's stories in her attempt to address the "nowhere to publish" dilemma. She hopes to publish a print version as well. You can reach the Web site at: (http://gumby.spharbor.jhu.edu/~Scheherazade).

New Victoria Press has a Web site featuring their catalog and other news. Their address is (http://www.opendoor.com/NewVic/). New Victoria is running a profile of a feminist bookstore in each issue of their catalog. The first profile features Amazon. New Vic introduces the series with "We are grateful to these [women-owned, women-identified bookstores] because they began selling our books long before the chains had a clue about the lesbian/feminist market and they continue to support New Victoria and all other feminist presses, through knowledgeable and enthusiastic presentation of our books." The section ends with a reminder to readers that "feminist bookstores have served as the backbone of our lesbian/feminist culture for the past twenty-five years. They (and we) depend on your support. We encourage you to purchase your books at your local feminist bookstore (if you are lucky enough to have one) or, of course, to order directly from New Victoria." This kind of support means the world — and the future — to feminist bookstores. ○

# WRITING WANTED



Compiled by Jenn Tust

Sandra Langer is seeking painting and photography slides and videos for an art show titled *Same Gender Family Values*. The theme is "the time has come to say that gays/lesbians want many of the same things everyone else does — to say we are fine the way we are and to be in people's faces about homophobia by putting our families and values out there." Sandra L. Langer, 111 East 14th Street # 229, New York NY 10003.



A new monthly 'zine for queer (lesbian, bisexual) Jewish women is seeking articles, herstory, interviews, stories, poems, photos and artwork about what it means to be a Queer Jewish Woman. Length: 6,000 words maximum. Deadlines: November 1 for the December issue; December 1 for the January issue. Send to: Staci Schoenfeld, Editor, 1440 Kansas, San Francisco CA 94107, e-mail (staci@zoom.com).

Poems sought for the T. Nelson Gilbert Poetry Prize (formerly the Woman In The Moon Poetry Prize) between January 1 and April 31. Fee: \$8. Length: 100 lines maximum on any subject. Contest recognizes and rewards excellence in poetry composition, significance in theme, originality of thought, lyric and image and value to the world community as a symbol for the ideals of humanity. Prizes: \$100, \$75, \$50, \$25 and invitation to submit full-length manuscript. Winner announced in June. WIM, 1409 The Alameda, San Jose CA 95126; 408-279-6626, e-mail (sb0270@Mercury.FDHA.edu).

Woman In The Moon is seeking fiction and non-fiction for their Audre Lorde Memorial Prose Prize

contest. The \$500 prize will be divided into fiction and nonfiction categories (\$250 for each winner). Works should take up a topic of discourse found in the work of Lorde or seek to illustrate a condition, idea or ideal inherent in her fiction or prose. Length: 500-3,000 words. Deadline: December 31. Winner announced on Lorde's birthday, February 18. Include SASE for manuscript return and an index card with the name of piece, the writer's name, address and phone number. Fee: \$20. Author's name should not appear on the manuscript. WIM, 1409 The Alameda, San Jose CA 95126; 408-279-6626, e-mail (sb0270@Mercury.FDHA.edu).

*Lavendar Life*, a bimonthly nationwide lesbian magazine is having a writing contest to celebrate the beginning of their sixth year in January. Deadline: December 31. Winners announced in their January 15, 1997, Anniversary Issue. All entrants who are published will receive a complimentary issue. All writers will retain final rights to their short stories and/or poetry. Include SASE. Short story prizes are \$100, \$50, \$25, poetry prizes are \$50 and \$25. Send to: *Lavendar Life*, Attn: Pamela K. Fite, PO Box 898, Binghamton NY 13902.



How do you successfully raise teen-age daughters in today's society? Sibyl Publications is seeking nonfiction book-length manuscripts of stories, advice, challenges, experiences, what to do and what not to do — how to cope so that both thrive? This is more than stories about mothers and daughters; it is to be an honest, down-to-earth guide-book to mothers dealing with the turbulent teen-age years. Send SASE and query letters or proposals to: 600 S.E. Powell Blvd., Portland OR 97202. ○



# BESTSELLERS

Compiled by Jenn Tust

## Sisterspace & Books Washington DC September Bestsellers

1. **Tumbling**, Dianne McKinney-Whetson, William Morrow, \$24 cl, fiction
2. **The Artist's Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity**, Julia Cameron, \$13.95 pb, spiritual
3. **One More River to Cross: Black & Gay in America**, Keith Boykin, Doubleday, \$23.95 cl, nonfiction
4. **Push**, Sapphire, Knopf, \$20 cl, fiction
5. **Black Sun Signs: An African American Guide to the Zodiac**, Thelma Balfour, Simon & Schuster, \$11 pb, astrological
6. **So Good: An African American Love Story**, Vernice Berry, Dutton, \$21.95 cl, fiction
7. **About My Sister's Business: The Black Woman's Road Map to Successful Entrepreneurship**, Fran Harris, Simon & Schuster, \$12 pb, finance
8. **Where Evil Sleeps**, Valerie Wilson-Wesley, Putnam, \$21.95 cl, fiction
9. **The Serpent's Gift**, Helen Elaine Lee, Atheneum, \$21 cl, fiction
10. **The Higher Education Money Book for Women & Minorities**, Doris Burce-Young, William C. Young, \$25 pb, finance

## Full Circle Albuquerque NM September Bestsellers

### FICTION CLOTH

1. **Mother Tongue**, Demetria Martinez
2. **Liberty Square**, Kathryn Forrest
3. **Push**, Sapphire

4. **How Stella Got Her Groove Back**, Terry McMillan
5. **Mama's Girl**, Veronica Chambers
6. **Gibbon's Decline & Fall**, Sheri Tepper
7. **LoverBoys**, Ana Castillo
8. **Her Stories: African American Folk Tales**, Virginia Hamilton
9. **Arc of Love**, C. Cass
10. **Let's Face the Music & Die**, Sandra Scoppettone

### FICTION PAPER

1. **Parable of the Sower**, Octavia Butler
2. **Mean Spirit**, Linda Hogan
3. **Memory Mambo**, Achy Obejas
4. **Yes I Said, Yes I Will**, Judith McDaniel
5. **Serpent's Gift**, Helen Lee
6. **Face of an Angel**, Denise Chavez
7. **Into the Forest**, Jean Hegland
8. **Grass Widow**, Nanci Little
9. **Heart on Fire**, Diane Simmonds
10. **We Came All the Way From Cuba So You Could Dress Like This?**, Achy Obejas

### NONFICTION CLOTH

1. **Beyond the Flower**, Judy Chicago
2. **Women's Wheel of Life**, Elizabeth Davis
3. **Gender Shock**, Phyllis Burke
4. **Run Jane Run**, Jane Wells
5. **Book of the Goddesses**, K. Waldherr
6. **Lesbianism Made Easy**, Helen Eisenbach
7. **Transgender Warriors**, Leslie Feinberg
8. **Deep Water Passage**, Ann Linnae
9. **Dancing in the Flames**, Marion Woodman
10. **Desert Quartet**, Terry Tempest Williams

### NONFICTION PAPER

1. **Reviving Ophelia**, Mary Pipher
2. **Gossips, Gorgons & Crones**, Jane Caputi

3. **Dinner Party**, Judy Chicago
4. **Remarkable Women**, Karen Arnold
5. **On Duty, Nurses Notes**, Carolyn Fink
6. **Red Azalea**, Anchee Min
7. **Robert's Rules of Lesbian Living**, Shelly Roberts
8. **Women's Traveller**, Damron
9. **Ferrari for Women**, Mary Anne Ferrari
10. **Serving in Silence**, Margarethe Cammermeyer

**Dreams and Swords  
Indianapolis IN  
September Bestsellers**

FICTION

1. **Education of Harriet Hatfield**
2. **Once More With Feeling**
3. **Wild Things**
4. **Curious Wine 10th Anniversary**
5. **Devotion**
6. **Flashpoint**

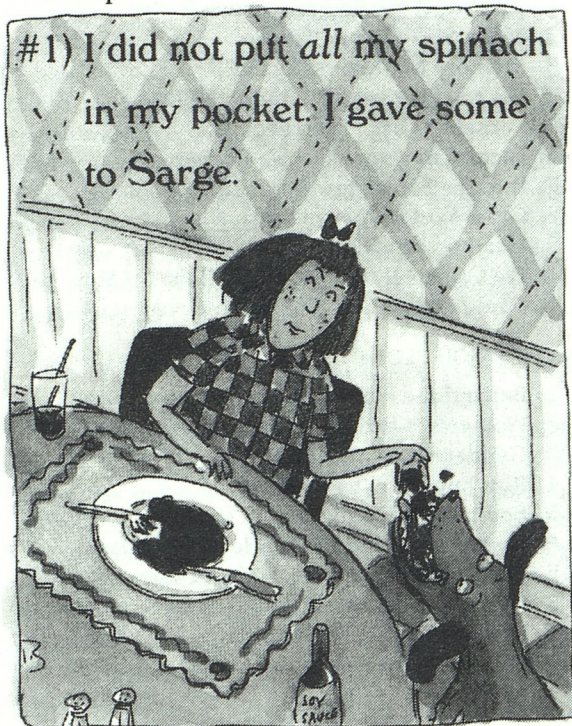


Illustration by Roz Chast, from *Now I Will Never Leave the Dinner Table*, sequel to *Now Everybody Really Hates Me* (HarperCollins Publishers).

7. **Love's Harvest**
8. **Paperback Romance**
9. **Second Chance**
10. **Triple Exposure**

LESBIAN/GAY

1. **Our Tribe**
2. **Roberts' Rules of Lesbian Living**
3. **Unnatural Dykes to Watch Out For**
4. **Great Gay & Lesbian Places to Live**
5. **Nothing But the Girl**
6. **Serving in Silence**
7. **k.d. lang: An Illustrated Biography**
8. **Accidental Activist**
9. **And Say Hi to Joyce**
10. **Before Stonewall**

CALENDARS

1. '97 **Men Are From Mars**
2. '97 **Dykes to Watch Out For**
3. '97 **Audubon Birds**
4. '97 **Gardening**
5. '97 **Now Go Take On The Day**
6. '97 **We'Moon**
7. '97 **When I Am an Old Woman I Shall Wear Purple**

ANTHOLOGIES

1. **When I Am an Old Woman I Shall Wear Purple**
2. **I Am Becoming the Woman I've Always Wanted**
3. **Tasting Life Twice**
4. **Women on Women 3**

MYSTERIES

1. **Baby, It's Cold**
2. **Crazy for Loving**
3. **I Left My Heart**
4. **Liberty Square**
5. **Someone to Watch**

GIFT BOOKS

1. **Menopaws**
2. **Book of Questions**
3. **14,000 Things To Be Happy About**
4. **American Women Authors Card Game**
5. **Famous Women Card Game**

Books in Canada:

# BORDER CROSSING



By Suzanne Buffam  
Women in Print/Vancouver BC

As with the movies and the TV networks, Fall seems to be the season publishers pick to put their best feet forward. Whether this is a back-to-school thing, a symptom of band-wagon mentality, or merely an attempt at consolation for the end of summer, I can't say, but this Fall is no exception: so many good books for me to choose from, so hard to narrow it down. Here's a sample of the cream of the small press crop this Fall:



Starting with Fiction:

**Broken Windows** is Patricia Nolan's first collection of short stories and is sure to put her name on the literary map. These are haunting and unsettling stories that explore the lives of people who are struggling with the destructive potential of their pasts. Despite their worlds of deceit, brutality and lunacy, these are not tragic stories about victims; instead, Nolan embraces her characters' fierce survivalist impulses, revealing the restorative effects of memory, fantasy and dreams. Graceful and witty and often painfully comic, her prose is sharp and impeccably crafted. U.S.\$14.95 pb, 1-896095-20-8, Polestar. Available in the U.S. from Orca, PO Box 468, Custer WA 98240; 800-210-5277.

Another startling first collection of fiction is Meeka Walsh's **The Garden of Earthly Intimacies**. These lyrical and precise stories achieve an intensity that touches on the rhapsodic, as Walsh writes in a celebratory way about her own body and the quiet, but uncompromisingly passionate lives of her female narrators. Two-time gold medalist of the National

Magazine Awards and current editor of the international arts magazine, *Border Crossings*, Walsh is a writer worthy of attention. C\$16.96 pb, 0-88984-184-5, Porcupine's Quill. Order through General Distribution Services.

The stories in Rachel Wyatt's collection **The Day Marlene Dietrich Died** are all linked through an exploration of this powerful cultural icon's complex and enduring appeal. Wyatt is a subtle, ironic, witty writer whose stories are funny and poignant, erotic and tremendously moving. Why she is not better known as a writer of fiction, beyond her rep as a playwright, is a mystery. This kind of writing will send shivers of emotion down the length of your spine, without neglecting to engage the intellect. No small praise, I know. C\$14.95 pb, 0-88982-161-5, Oolichan Books. Order through LPC/InBook.



**The Rose Garden** by Kristjana Gunnars is a truly unusual novel, combining the genres of fiction, memoir, personal essay and theoretical speculation — a narrative strategy for which she has become well-known and respected in Canadian literary circles. Focussing on the story of a woman whose life has become a curious amalgam of "reality" and fiction, Gunnars cuts the central issues of language and our place in culture, provoking the essential question of what meaning literature actually has in our lives. C\$14.95 pb, 0-88995-150-0, Red Deer College Press. Order through Raincoast; in Canada call 800-663-5714. Available in the U.S. from Orca Books, PO Box 468, Custer WA 98240; 800-210-5277.

Margaret Sweatman's second novel, **Sam and Angie** is a chilling and exquisitely written account of

the ugly politics of a relationship in decline. Through a series of flirtations, betrayals, jealousies and suspicions, Sam and Angie's love collapses into surveillance while their upper-class world acquires holes, both real and imaginary, and their sexual relationship becomes a shocking act of violence. Her prose is clean and elegant while her plot blurs the line between paranoia and reality, laying bare the cold and calculating passions beneath the glassy surface of her characters' lives. C\$16.95 pb, 0-88801-208-X, Turnstone Press. Order through LPC/InBook.

**The Turning** by Pauline Holdstock is another novel out this Fall by a wrongly under-exposed writer who has written three very accomplished previous books. This novel takes place in France in 1870-71, against the backdrop of the Franco-Prussian War. It centres on a ruinous triangle of emotion between a mother, her daughter and the stranger who enters their lives, forcing an examination of fidelity in all its aspects — marital, sexual, spiritual and political. C\$16 pb, 0-921586-531, NewStar Books. Order through General.



Now, a look at some Non-Fiction titles:

**Bringing it Home: Women Talk About Feminism in Their Lives** edited by Brenda Lea Brown is a diverse and eloquent collection of essays by Canadian women, from a wide range of fields and perspectives, on the role of feminism in their lives. Full of passion and verve, this is a populist snapshot of women in Canada today who share a common concern: that all women, beyond the politics and the rhetoric, be able to lead independent, dignified lives. C\$19.95 pb, 1-55152-034-6, Arsenal Pulp Press. Available in the U.S. in Spring 1997 from LPC/InBook.

Chris Czajkowski's **Diary of a Wilderness Dweller** is a truly inspirational account of her epic journey to build a home in the wilderness — 20 miles on foot from the nearest road. What this woman has accomplished, not only with a chainsaw and an axe, but with a pen, paper and watercolour paints (including two previous books) is a testament to the latent capabilities in us all. C\$15.95 pb, 1-55143-059-2. Available in the U.S. from Orca Books, PO Box 468, Custer WA 98240; 800-210-5277.

Are you ready to answer the questions your children will ask? We can all be thrown off from time to time. All of us, that is, except Meg Hickling, RN, Canada's best sex educator, aka "the Little Sex Lady," whose utterly frank and straightforward approach to educating both children and parents about all aspects of sexual health, orientation, practice and discussion makes her book **Speaking of Sex** one of the most invaluable books any parent can buy. It's very funny, too. U.S.\$14.50 pb, 1-55145-094-1. Northstone Publishing, 1980 Cooper Road #330, Kelowna BC V1Y 9G8, Canada; 604-766-1201. Available in the U.S. from LPC/InBook.

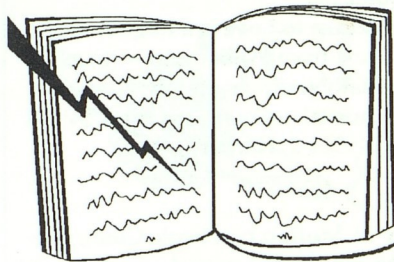


And last but never least, except maybe in page count, a look at some poetry:

...If you can call it that when referring to performance and literary whirlwind Adeena Karasick's third collection, **Genocide**, in which the interlingual, intralingual and intersemiotic play on words and whole discourses are *always* intended. Palimpsesting Hitler and Derrida with *The Violent Femmes*, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* and Gary Larson cartoons, this book explores the intersection of multiple cultures, codes, idioms and constructs that impact on the social construction of female identity. While perhaps not the most "accessible" book of poetry available this Fall, it is certainly a feast for readers who appreciate "the dance of the intellect," from one of the most exciting and globe-trotting performance poets of the decade. C\$14.95 pb, 0-88922-370-X, Talonbooks. Order through General.

**Toward a Catalogue of Falling** is Meira Cook's second full-length book of poetry and is a true delight, transforming language itself into a character alongside circus performers, Venetian tour guides, clumsy sons and migrating geese. Verging on the surreal, her poems are dramatic rushes of words that are consistently vibrant and intense, whether she is rewriting Hans Christian Andersen's "The Little Mermaid" or offering advice for catching crows. C\$12.95 pb, 0-919626-88-2, Brick Books. Order through General.

General Distribution Services, 30 Lesmill Road, Don Mills ONT M3B 2T6, Canada; 800-387-0172, 416-445-3333. 40% for 10. In the U.S.; 800-805-1083. O



# NEW MEDIA

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ELECTRONIC BOOKS

By Dorothy Holland

## Books

I have a favorite Internet book that you just have to get: **The Internet for Women: Travel & Culture** by Rye Senjen and Jane Guthrey. It is a step-by-step guide to the Internet, the do's and don'ts, the how-to's of e-mail, electronic conferencing, bulletin boards, news groups, useful software and the possibilities of the World Wide Web. Catch more info on this title at <http://www.peg.apc.org/~spinifex>. I'm loving this book. Every time I open it, I find more reasons to extol its virtues! For example, I just discovered a flip animation of a woman surfer! I use and refer to **The Internet for Women** constantly as I teach women about on-line communication and the Internet. \$16.95 pb, 0-875559-52-3, Spinifex Press.

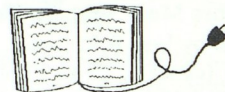
Another useful Internet book is **Surfer Grrrls: Look Ethel! An Internet Guide for Us!** by Laurel Gilvert and Crystal Kile. My favorite sections are "Surfergrrrl Scout Merit Badges," the "CyborGrrr Oath" and the interviews with several of the legendary grrrls on the net. \$15 pb, 1-878067-79-6, Seal Press.

## CD-ROM

Voyager New Media has a group of CDs out that are aimed at us this season. They are advertising **Writing Women's Lives** in our Fall Catalog, and are promoting all of the CDs in mailings to feminist booksellers. I'm anxious to find out if we can actually move this product in our stores. **Writing Women's Lives: Interviews with Eight Accomplished Writers** by Melissa Sanders-Self starts with the entire documentary from PBS, adds samples of each author's work (Amy Tan, Harriet Doerr, Gloria Steinem, Isabel Allende, June Jordan, Mona Simpson, Bharati Mukherjee) and

includes biographies and bibliographies for all of the authors. What a great way to use this medium. \$39.95 CD Windows, 1-559407-13-1, Voyager.

**Invisible Universe, A Tour of the Galaxies: Science, Sights, and Sounds** by Dr. Fiorella Terenzi covers a subject not generally considered "feminist," but I believe we should consider this title because of the author and her approach to the material. Terenzi is a cross between Carl Sagan and Madonna and manages to pull it off quite well! It's a pleasure to have a female voice and mind guiding you through an intense science experience. \$39.95 CD Win&Mac, 1-55940679-8, Voyager.



**Sacred and Secular: The Aerial Photography of Marilyn Bridges** by Marilyn Bridges. Bridges is one of the few women aerial photographers in the world. Flying at an altitude of 300 feet to maintain her "intimacy with the landscape," Bridges explores the power and beauty of ceremonial spaces created by ancient peoples. She also explores "modern" ceremonial spaces. This CD includes one hundred photos with detailed close-ups, maps of the sites, background information about each culture and commentary from Bridges. This is another title that is not specifically "feminist," but of great interest to many women in our bookstores, particularly those of us interested in ancient spirituality. Advertised in the Feminist Bookstore Network's Fall Catalog. \$39.95 CD Win&Mac, 1-55940703-4, Voyager.

**Return to Love: Bringing Spirituality Into Daily Life, An Interactive Workshop with Marianne Williamson.** Do we have customers who are both computer grrrls and Williamson devotees? If so, this is

# KIDS' LIT

By Linda Bubon  
Women & Children First/Chicago

## Ten of the Best for Ages 2-4

- **Chicka Chicka Boom Boom** by Bill Martin and John Archambault, illustrated by Lois Ehlert, Simon & Schuster Juvenile. \$14.00 cl, 067167949X; \$4.95 bd, -87893X.
- **The Big Red Barn** by Margaret Wise Brown, illustrated by Felicia Bond, HarperCollins Publishers. \$14.95 cl, 0060207485; \$6.95 bd, 0694006246.
- **If You Give a Mouse a Cookie** written and illustrated by Laura Numeroff, HarperCollins Publishers. \$13.95 cl, 0060245867.
- **Madeline** written and illustrated by Ludwig Bemelmans, Penguin USA. \$15.99 cl, 0670445800; \$4.99 pb, 0140501983.
- **More More More Said the Baby** written and illustrated by Vera B. Williams, William Morrow. \$16.00 cl, 0688091733; \$4.95 pb, -147364.
- **Draw Me a Star** written and illustrated by Eric Carle, The Putnam Publishing Group. \$16.95 cl, 0399218777.
- **The Runaway Bunny** written and illustrated by Margaret Wise Brown, HarperCollins Publishers. \$13.95 cl, 0060207655; \$4.95 pb, -4430189; \$ 6.95 bd, -1074292.
- **We're Going on a Bear Hunt** written by Michael Rosen, illustrated by Helen Oxenbury, Simon & Schuster Juvenile. \$16.00 cl, 0689504764; \$5.95 bd, -716532.
- **Where the Wild Things Are** written and illustrated by Maurice Sendak, HarperCollins Publishers. \$15.00 cl, 0060254920; \$4.95 pb, -4431789.
- **The Very Hungry Caterpillar** written and illustrated by Eric Carle, The Putnam Publishing Group. \$18.95 cl, 0399208534; \$8.95 bd, -226907.

Note: bd indicates board book.

*Kids' Lit* will return in full form in the next issue. ○

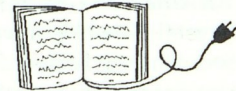
## New Media, continued.

the perfect answer. **Return to Love** is a huge resource — video, audio and text from Williamson — to assist the user in creating daily journals and exploring the miraculous. A very unusual use of the medium. \$49.95 CD Win&Mac, 0-06-019514-2, HarperCollins.

## Video

**Cynara: Poetry in Motion** by Nicole Conn, produced by Wolfe Video, is short and very sweet. Nicole's previous title, *Claire of the Moon*, was the hottest lesbian video in a long time, and this one runs a close second. Full Circle's copy is forever being rented! You have to stand in line. **Cynara** is definitely a sweeping lesbian romance, quite erotic and artsy. I'm sure it'll be worth your picking it up. \$29.95, 39 minutes. Available at Wolfe and Naiad.

**The Question of Equality**, produced by David Meieran for Testing the Limits, weaves together never-before-seen archival footage and eye-opening firsthand accounts of the lesbian and gay movement's struggle for civil rights. In four hour-long episodes, it offers definitive portrayals of historic moments and key themes of the movement — from the explosive 1969 Stonewall riots to the less well-known but no less visionary efforts of today's lesbian and gay youth. Advertised in the Feminist Bookstore Network's Fall Catalog. \$59.95 boxed 4-video set, 240 minutes, KQED Books & Video.



**Women Speak Up: A Video Collection of Women's Voices from Around the World**, produced by Esther Farnsworth and Linda Leehman, is a colorful collage of workshops, interviews and spontaneous events and music from the Fourth International Women's Forum that took place in Beijing and Huairou, China last year. **Women Speak Up** captures the serious predominant themes of the Forum and gives a vision of women working together for peace and justice. Includes study guide and resource booklet. Advertised in the Feminist Bookstore Network's Fall Catalog. \$19.99 video, 58 minutes, Multicultural Media.

See ya on the Web!

*Dorothy Holland is Amazon Support for feminist bookstores and other woman-owned businesses.* ○



# SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY



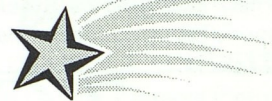
By Julie Mitchell  
Sisterhood Bookstore/Los Angeles

Since there are so many books to present, especially during this ever-abundant holiday publishing season, I will make my introductory remarks brief. I'm just back from a spectacular two-week trip to the Inside Passage and Interior of Alaska. From glaciers to braided rivers to kettle ponds, from orca pods to paired eagles to mama bears and their cubs, from kayaks to bikes to park buses, and from solitude to brief connections with other travellers to a women's camping group, I made my awed way through this pristine, vast, and wild land. Though I didn't have time for much reading amidst all that grandeur, I did manage to get through a few books en route, which I *must* recommend. The Edgar Award-winning Kate Shugak mystery series (Berkley) by sf writer Dana Stabenow and the Athabaskan tale told by Velma Wallis in *Two Old Women* (Harper) are simply not to be missed.

In the worlds of sf/f literature, a number of 1996 awards have been delivered in these past few months. The James Tiptree, Jr. Award, presented at WisCon (the sole feminist-oriented sf convention), is "an annual literary prize for science fiction or fantasy that explores and expands the roles of women and men...for work by both women *and* men." This year's award is shared by Elizabeth Hand for the Gothic, modern f **Waking the Moon** (\$5.99 pb, 0-06-105443-7, HarperPrism) and Theodore Roszak for **Memoirs of Elizabeth Frankenstein** (\$5.99 pb, 0-553-57637-2, Bantam).

*Locus*, "The Newspaper of the Science Fiction Field," delivered a number of *Locus* Awards to women writers at Westercon: for Best First Novel, **The Bohr Maker** (\$4.99 pb, 0-553-56925-2, Spectra)

by Linda Nagata; for Best Novella, **Remake** (\$5.99 pb, 0-553-57441-8, Spectra) by Connie Willis, author of the Hugo and Nebula Award-winning *Doomsday Book* (\$5.99 pb, 0-553-56273-8, Spectra); for Best Short Story, "The Lincoln Train" (*F&SF* 4/95) by Maureen F. McHugh (who also won the Hugo in the same category), author of the Lambda and Tiptree Award-winning *China Mountain Zhang* (\$3.99 pb, 0-8125-0892-0, Tor); for Best Collection, **Four Ways to Forgiveness** (\$5.99 pb, 0-06-105401-1, HarperPrism) by the estimable Ursula K. Le Guin.

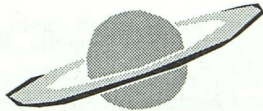


The Horror Writers Association's Stoker Awards (to women) went to Joyce Carol Oates for her short novel **Zombie** (\$10.95 tp, 0-452-2750-0, Plume/Penguin) and Lucy Taylor for her first novel **The Safety of Unknown Cities** (details unavailable).

Due to the numerous sf/f titles being released at this time, I've decided to organize this issue's column into a shorter section and a longer section. First, a brief mention of some Summer/Fall releases I missed in the previous column listed according to genre, then the usual, more lengthy, detailed entry by publisher for Fall/Winter releases.

In the category of fantasy... Marion Zimmer Bradley and Holly Lisle's **Glenraven** (\$23 cl, 0-671-87738-0, Baen) is the contemporary story of two American women college friends who take a trip to a magical land (with a cover that may make feminist bookstores think twice about carrying it: an unconscious woman collapsed in the arms of a he-man type). **Wolf-Woman** (\$3.99 pb, 0-440-21969-8, Laurel Leaf/Dell) is Sherryl Jordan's young adult novel about a child raised by wolves in prehistoric times.

Melanie Rawn, Jennifer Roberson, and Kate Elliot team up in **The Golden Key** (\$24.95 cl, 0-88677-691-0, Daw), "an epic multigenerational saga" of the Dukes of the Tira Virte family and the male artist/magicians and female First Mistresses of the Grijalva family, with a male protagonist unifying the stories, pictured on the cover. **Martha Moody** (\$10.95 tp, 1-883523-07-9, Spinster's Ink) is a lesbian, "fantastical western" by Susan Stinson, author of the lyrical *Fat Girl Dances with Rocks*.

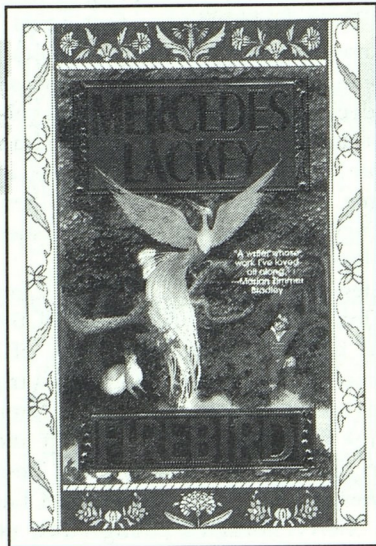


In the science fiction realms.... Raphael Carter's **The Fortunate Fall** (\$21.95 cl, 0-312-86034-X, Tor) was hailed by *Publishers Weekly* as a "highly literate, grim and gripping example of latter-day cyberpunk [which] counts as one of the most promising SF debuts in recent years" and includes a lesbian romance. Hugo Award-winner C. J. Cherryh has two set in the same universe: **Rider at the Gate** (\$5.99 pb, 0-446-60345-7, Aspect/Warner) and **Cloud's Rider** (\$22 cl, 0-446-51910-3, Aspect/Warner). Mary Rosenblum, of *The*

*Stone Garden* (\$4.99 pb, 0-345-38958-1, Del Rey/Random) fame, has her first short-story collection in **Synthesis and Other Virtual Realities**. (\$21.95 cl, 0-87054-170-6, Arkham House. This independent publisher specializing in sf and horror can be reached at 608-643-4500.) **True Game** (\$15 tp, 0-441-00331-1, Ace), one of Sheri S. Tepper's early trilogies, is now back in print in one volume. Featuring a female, lycanthrope detective named Ty, Denise Vitola's **Quantum Moon** (\$5.99 pb, 0-441-00357-5, Ace) looks like a murder mystery/political thriller thrown full force into the mid-21st century.

And, last, in the arena of mixed gender sf/f anthologies.... Laura Anne Gilman and Keith R. A. DeCandido co-edited **Otherwere: Stories of Transformation** (\$5.99 pb, 0-441-00363-X, Ace), a collection of "stories of lycanthropy — with a twist" by such authors as Jody Lynn Nye, Esther M. Friesner, and Josepha Sherman. Anne McCaffrey and Elizabeth Ann Scarborough's **Space Opera** (\$5.99 pb, 0-88677-714-3, Daw) promises "20 all-original tales — symphonies of the starways by the modern-day maestros of science fiction." Photographer Patti Perret's art-sized **The Faces of Fantasy** (\$21.95 tp,

# TOR BOOKS



## FIREBIRD Mercedes Lackey

A coming-of-age fantasy set in Russia before the Tsars, *FIREBIRD* is the tale of a young aristocrat who has seen the fabled Firebird, of his adventures in a fantastic Russian landscape, and of his eventual confrontation with the fabled creature.

"A writer whose work I've loved all along."  
—Marion Zimmer Bradley

0-312-85812-4 • \$24.95





0-312-86216-4, Tor), with an introduction by Terri Windling, contains black and white photos of over 100 f writers, including *lots* of women (e.g., Lisa Goldstein, Barbara Hambly, Madeleine L'Engle, Paula Volsky, Patricia C. Wrede — you get the picture!). **Tarot Tales: Sixteen Spellbinding Stories Inspired by the Tarot** (\$5.99 pb, 0-441-00352-4, Ace), edited by Rachel Pollack and Caitlin Matthews, includes stories by both editors as well as the likes of Gwyneth Jones, Cherry Gilchrist, and Storm Constantine. **The Armless Maiden and Other Tales for Childhood's Survivors** (\$14.95 tp, 0-312-86221-0, Tor), edited by Terri Windling, contains original stories and essays exploring themes of childhood betrayal, abuse, and oppression by "many of fantasy's finest writers" (hopefully including some female ones!).

### ACE (BERKLEY)

This statement is all I found for Wilhelmina Baird's latest sf offering, **Chaos Come Again** (\$12 tp, 0-441-00369-9): "[e]nter into a future where symbiotes have delivered humankind to the next phase of telepathic evolution. A place where reality is flexible, caution is essential, and chaos is the norm." Sounds tumultuous!

On ice-covered Nevya, the formally taught Cantrixes have traditionally sung light, warmth, and healing into being. Professional opera singer Louise Marley has returned to Nevya in a sequel to *Sing the Light* (\$5.50 pb, 0-441-00272-2). In **Sing the Warmth** (\$5.99 pb, 0-441-00386-9), the Cantrix Sira attempts to save the planet by challenging convention and teaching anyone with the gift to sing, thus marking her a traitor.

World Fantasy Award-winner Patricia A. McKillip has created a wonderful, haunting, lush fable of humans and feys in **Winter Rose** (\$19.95 cl, 0-441-00334-6). Now that I've read it, I can't help but mention this small-sized hardback — with stunning cover art and a title that could make this a great holiday gift item — a second time. McKillip's descriptive abilities are phenomenal, unequivocally seducing the reader with brilliant imagery. Cobwebs "hung like chandeliers with prisms of dew" and mushrooms "had no roots to tie them to one place; like curiosity, they wandered everywhere." Also by McKillip is **The Book of Atrix Wolfe** (\$5.99 pb,

0-441-00361-3), another evocative f novel filled with magic, fairies, and unusual female (and male) characters, covered by *more* gorgeous artwork. Again, let me entice you with words: "[s]he sat quite still behind the cauldron until voices finally ceased. Chairs spoke to stone; shod feet to stone and stairs. The door opened; night stood a moment at the doorway, dark and crowned with stars."

Nichelle Nicols — beloved Uhura on the original *Star Trek*, giver of the first interracial television kiss, and now novelist — has co-written a work of sf with *Trek* author Margaret Wander Bonanno. **Saturn's Child** (\$5.99 pb, 0-441-00384-2) is set in the 21st century, when Earth and Fazi laws prohibit mixed-race offspring. Saturna, half-Human and half-Fazian, is gifted with "stunning powers" and burdened with the possibility of causing an interplanetary war. *Publishers Weekly* reviewed the novel favorably, hopefully adding another talented African American female voice to the annals of sf.



### ATHENEUM (SIMON & SCHUSTER)

Young adult f novelist Tamora Pierce finishes the Wild Magic series with book number four, **Realms of the Gods** (\$17 cl, 0-689-31990-8). Daine, an animal-speaker, and her mentor Numair are transported to the Divine Realms during a battle between their besieged country and the immortals. There, Daine encounters her dead mother, divine father, the gods, and various other interesting inhabitants.

### AVONOVA

Three of f's grande dames unite forces in **Tiger Burning Bright** (\$6.50 pb, 0-380-77512-3). Marion Zimmer Bradley, Andre Norton, and Mercedes Lackey tell the tale of three determined and powerful women. Of their land's ruling house, these three voluntarily step down from their positions to save the citizenry, and then take on alternate, hidden identities to fight against an enemy invader/emperor. If the *Trillium* saga does well in your store, this latest collaborative effort is probably a safe bet, too.

Nancy Springer's newest is a contemporary f which turns the change-the-frog-into-a-prince story on its head. **Fair Peril** (\$12 tp, 0-380-78413-0) features a

divorced, middle-aged, fat mom who does not kiss the talking frog but takes it home instead. Unfortunately, both the frog and her teenaged daughter vanish into the land of Fair Peril (aka the local mall). Mom stages a rescue attempt, discovering magic along the way. The ads for this book proclaim it "magical realism" which "addresses modern gender issues." Springer also authored *Larque on the Wing* (\$4.99 pb, 0-380-76742-2), co-winner of the Tiptree Award.



### BAEN (SIMON & SCHUSTER)

Lois McMaster Bujold continues her three time Hugo-Award winning saga of Miles Vorkosigan and Barrayar. **Cetaganda** (\$5.99 pb, 0-671-87744-5) is the latest installment in the adventures of Miles, this time "play[ing] detective in a strange, complicated, and deceptively alien culture." **Cordelia's Honor** (\$15 tp, 0-671-87749-6), previously published in parts as *Shards of Honor* and *Barrayar*, follows Cordelia Naismith — Betan ship captain turned Barrayaran Lady — as she maneuvers through combat, betrayal, exile, and politics.

These days Mercedes Lackey is writing books almost faster than stores can order them, in numerous series and with various co-authors. **The Fire Rose** (\$6.99 pb, 0-671-87750-X) is a solo f work set in San Francisco in 1905. Rosalind Hawkins, a medieval scholar, is forced to accept a mysterious governership to make ends meet when her father dies. A bond grows between her and her employer, Jason Cameron, despite some "terrible secret" he's hiding.

### CIRCLET

There are four new erotica collections from this sf/f publisher which specializes in the carnal, edited by Cecilia Tan (of course!) — **Fetish Fantastic: Tales of Power and Lust from Futuristic to Surreal** (\$12.95 tp, 1-885865-13-9), **Erotica Vampirica: Sensual Vampire Stories** (\$11.95 tp, 1-885865-08-2), and **SexMagick 1** (\$7.95 tp, 1-885865-14-7) and **SexMagick 2** (\$9.95 tp, 1-885865-09-0), "two anthologies that conjure magical erotic fantasies," volume one by female writers and volume two mostly male. (These first two books are mixed gender and, more than likely, pansexual.) Distributed by BP, Koen.

### DAW (PENGUIN)

Mercedes Lackey's **Storm Rising** (\$5.99 pb, 0-88677-712-7), Book Two in The Mage Storms trilogy, is available in paper simultaneously with Book Three, **Storm Breaking** (\$21.95 cl, 0-88677-713-5), in cloth. These two conclude the most recent installation in the ongoing f series featuring the enchanted world of Valdemar and its neighboring realms.

The third novel in the sf adventure originating with *Turning Point* (\$3.99 pb, 0-88677-575-2) and *Fortune's Wheel* (\$5.99 pb, 0-88677-675-9) is **Fire Margins** (\$6.99 pb, 0-88677-718-6). Lisanne Norman's tale of the feline-like Sholan race and the Human race evolves as the empaths from both form relationships and mate. This new biracial species, with the combined powers of Sholan and Human, threatens to either bridge the precarious alliance between civilizations or demolish it.

### ONYX (PENGUIN)

**The Horses at the Gate** (\$5.99 pb, 0-451-40723-7), Mary Mackey's sequel to *The Year the Horses Came* (\$5.99 pb, 0-451-18298-7), returns to a prehistoric, matrifocal Europe being transformed by patriarchal, warring nomads. Featuring the "peace-loving" priestess Marrah who encounters more adventures, battles, and romance, this work will most likely appeal to readers of Jean Auel, Sue Harrison, and Linda Shuler.

### ORB (ST. MARTIN'S)

Three of Ursula K. Le Guin's early, previously out-of-print novels are now available in one complete volume. *City of Illusions*, *Rocannon's World*, and *Planet of Exile* are combined in **Worlds of Exile and Illusion** (\$14.95 tp, 0-312-86211-3), with introductions by Le Guin. These classic works, set in the same universe as *The Left Hand of Darkness*, launched her career as a novelist.

### ROC (PENGUIN)

Award-winning author Valerie J. Freireich, who wrote *Becoming Human* (\$4.99 pb, 0-451-45396-4) and *Testament* (\$5.99 pb, 0-451-45459-6), brings us **The Beacon** (\$5.99 pb, 0-451-45397-2). This interesting piece of sf is primarily the story of Stefan Acari, a neutral Judge of the Open Court, who is linked into the Assembly, a world-wide, powerful network accessible by all. Stefan's every thought, feeling, and experience is

transmitted into the system, along with his judgments, every time he makes a dump. Beatrice Whit, an apparently human diplomat from an alien spaceship, arrives on earth but reveals little about the Travelers' mission, which concerns Earth's future. The two quickly become entangled in shifting, complex alliances and loyalties. Exploring moral and ethical choices and the multifarious inter-relationships between people, Freireich creates a character (in Stefan) who evolves, moving from a socialized, blind trust in the system to a conscious questioning of it. I recommend it.

An exciting first f novel, Anne Lesley Groell's **Anvil of the Sun** (\$5.99 pb, 0-451-45544-4) promises to be Book One of The Cloak and Dagger series. Narrated in the omniscient voice, this is the story of aristocratic Lady Vera (aka Hawk) — the lusty, independent, 39-year-old, supremely capable assassin who is renowned throughout the lands as the absolute best in the Guild; her niece Jen — the impulsive, wild, promiscuous, 18-year-old, aspirant-assassin; and Thibault — Jen's level-headed, even-tempered, male childhood friend and self-appointed guardian. When Vera's mission goes awry, the eager Jen and reluctant Thibault go on a wild adventure to save her, getting in way over their heads. This debut is entertaining, well-written, fast-paced, and intricate in plot, politics, motivation, and characterization. The strong female protagonists and exploration of class issues, combined with a fun, good read, have me looking forward to Groell's next in the series.

**No One Noticed the Cat** (\$13.95 cl, 0-451-45578-9), a small, gift-sized hardback by Anne McCaffrey, is a novella-length fairy tale being marketed for the holiday buyer. I suspect this book will do well in your store if you have die-hard McCaffrey readers or an abundance of cat-lovers as customers. However, the story, though engaging and quite enjoyable, is all about wealthy men and their escapades and intrigues (including — surprise, surprise! — marrying lovely Princesses). The main character is Prince Jamas, a young ruler who loses his mentor/regent but gains the mysterious, heroic cat Niffy. Though a she-cat in body, even the cat proves to be male in the end!

### SPECTRA (BANTAM)

From 25th-century China to 19th-century San Francisco, Lisa Mason's **The Golden Nineties** (\$5.99 pb, 0-553-57307-1) mixes sf, f, and time-travel. Zhu

Wong, comrade in the paramilitary cadre known as the Daughters of Compassion, is a dedicated enforcer of the Generation-Skipping Law. Arrested for attempted murder, Zhu is conscripted to search for a slave woman critical to the future of their society — in the past.

### ST. MARTIN'S

Rachel Pollack, winner of the Arthur C. Clarke Award for *Unquenchable Fire* (\$13.95 tp, 0-87951-530-9, Overlook) and author of *Temporary Agency* (\$10.95 tp, 0-87951-602-X, Overlook), has created a stunning, unforgettable lesbian novel in **Godmother Night** (\$24.95 cl, 0-312-14606-X). This modern, magical fairy tale is about Laurie and Jaque, two women who find each other with the help of Mother Night, a short, flamboyantly dressed old woman. Accompanied by her red-headed, leather-jacketed, motorcycle-riding girl gang, Mother Night — who is really Death herself — appears at various stages of their lives. This surreal tale is at once haunting and riveting, fascinating and horrifying. Here is nothing less than the highest quality f writing, writing which thoroughly entrances with its thoughtful, concentrated style, its peculiar story line and oddly sympathetic characters, and its ability to turn the protagonists inside out...and back again.



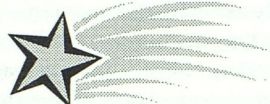
### SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Jane Donawerth, co-editor of *Utopian and Science Fiction by Women: Worlds of Difference* (\$16.95 tp, 0-8156-2650-7), returns with her own work of feminist literary criticism in **Frankenstein's Daughter: Women Writing Science Fiction** (\$16.95 tp, 0-8156-0395-9). Exploring the birth of sf, gender problems in traditional, male-oriented sf, and new forms of sf devised by female authors to address such problems, Donawerth utilizes cultural, feminist, literary, and social theory in her broad overview of sf by women.

### TESSERACT (THE BOOKS COLLECTIVE)

This Canadian sf imprint has a number of 1995 and 1996 releases by women writers. Phyllis Gotlieb, touted as writing "in the American SF tradition with a uniquely Canadian viewpoint," has gathered her short fiction in **Blue Apes** (\$8.95 pb, 1-89536-13-1; \$21.95 cl, -14-X). Heather Spears' **The Taming** (\$8.95

pb, 1-895836-23-9; \$21.95 cl, -24-7) is the final volume in the trilogy that began with *Moonfall* (\$6.95 pb, 0-88878-306-X) and continued with *The Children of Atwar* (\$7.95 pb, 0-88878-335-3). Winner of the Prix Boreal and Philip K. Dick Awards, Elisabeth Vonarburg's gender-bending books include the recent **Reluctant Voyagers** (\$8.95 pb, 1-895836-09-3; \$21.95 cl, -15-8), which won the 1996 Prix Aurora for Best Long-Form Work in French, as well as *The Silent City* (\$9.95 tp, 0-8878-227-2) and *The Maerlande Chronicles* (\$8.95 pb, 0-88878-294-2). Their address: 214-21 10405 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton Alberta T5J 3S2; 403-448-0590. Distributed in Canada by H.B. Fenn & Co.; in Canada call 800-267-3366. U.S. booksellers can order books from Koen or direct from the publisher.



### TOR (ST. MARTIN'S)

In **Beggars Ride** (\$23.95 cl, 0-312-44554-6), Nancy Kress completes the hard sf trilogy which began with Hugo and Nebula Award-winner *Beggars in Spain* (\$5.99 pb, 0-380-71877-4, AvoNova) and continued with *Beggars and Choosers* (\$5.99 pb, 0-8125-5010-2). This third creation "chronicles the rise of the genetically-altered Sleepless, a new breed of superintelligent humans, and their radical effect on civilization in the 21st century."

Mercedes Lackey's **Firebird** (\$24.95 cl, 0-312-85812-4) is a coming-of-age f based on the classic Russian fairy tale and set in a mythical pre-Tsar, Old Russia. Exiled from his homeland, the protagonist is a young nobleman who undertakes a magical journey to find the legendary Firebird, an enchanted maiden with whom he falls in love.

**Nadya** (\$23.95 cl, 0-312-86226-1) is the latest by Pat Murphy, author of the Nebula Award-winning novel *The Falling Woman* (\$9.95 tp, 0-312-85406-4, Orb). Set in the American West in the mid-1800s, this f adventure is about Nadya, who discovers in adulthood that she transforms into a wolf when the moon is full. After leaving behind her home, and a tragedy brought about by her male lover, Nadya heads West in search of safety and freedom.

Back in print is another Arthurian spin-off, this time focusing on that much-maligned vixen **Guinevere** (\$13.95 tp, 0-312-86233-4), by Sharan Newman.

Many booksellers will give a big "hurrah!" that

Melissa Scott's Lambda Award-winning **Shadow Man** (\$13.95 pb, 0-312-86206-7) is now available in paperback. In a future where five human sexual identities are now acknowledged throughout the galaxy, one planet is stuck in the old ways. On Hara, people must choose to be either female or male, permanently. Warreven chose to be a man, despite the fact that choosing to be a woman would have led to marriage with the planetary ruler's son. However, Warreven is neither truly male nor female, and his resulting publicized identity crisis becomes the crisis of his world.

Five-time winner of the World Fantasy Award, (the obviously busy!) Terri Windling presents her newest f novel, graced with gorgeous cover art by Susan Seddon Boulet. **The Wood Wife** (\$22.95 cl, 0-312-85988-0) is the account of urban writer Maggie Black, courageous seeker of answers, who travels to the spirit-inhabited Arizona desert upon a mysterious inheritance. There, she unravels the mystery of a poet's death and his dead wife's art work, encountering the desert's wild magic and shape-changers. ○

### Back to Press, continued from page 48.

won the 1996 Carey McWilliams Award, an annual award by *Multicultural Review* for "an outstanding scholarly or literary publication on an aspect of multiculturalism in the United States."

### Forthcoming

Andrea Dworkin signed a three-book contract with the Free Press at the end of August. *Life and Death* will collect her essays, speeches and commentary from the past decade; *Scapegoat* will examine the dynamics of scapegoating by illustrating how and why women and Jews have been stigmatized, the civil inequality both groups have experienced and the prejudices and stereotypes that have framed identity for each; and an untitled political memoir, a collective biography of women survivors of rape, prostitution and incest, will outline Dworkin's understanding of both loss and resistance, and how these issues and experiences have shaped her feminist ethos. Dworkin will also write a new introduction for *Intercourse* reflecting on the ten years since its original publication. Set for publication in April, *Intercourse* is part of the Free Press' plan to issue new editions of classic works to commemorate the company's 50th anniversary. ○



# MYSTERIES



By Nan Cinnater  
Cape & Dagger/Provincetown

Did everyone read the letter from publisher Joan Drury in Spinsters Ink's Spring catalogue? It's a wonderfully concise and thoughtful answer to the question, "Why feminist mysteries?" Drury writes, "In general, I think feminists began reading, writing, and publishing mysteries because there is very little justice for women in the 'real' world and, in the fictional world of mysteries, there has always been a highly developed sense of justice. Women are hungry and thirsty for justice, in the same way that they are simply looking for books...that portray women's lives." If you missed it, contact them at 32 East First St. #330, Duluth MN 55802 or 800-301-6860. Also, be sure and order their Fall mysteries from the LPC Group: **Silent Words** by Joan M. Drury (the very same), sequel to *The Other Side of Silence* (\$10.95 pb, 1-883523-13-3), and **The Well-Heeled Murders** by Cherry Hartman (\$10.95 pb, 1-883523-10-9).

The Jane Austen craze may be abating (now that there are no major works left to be optioned for the movies), but it should still be easy to sell **Jane and the Unpleasantness at Scargrave Manor** by Stephanie Barron. Barron does a wonderful job approximating the nearly inimitable Austen style, with echoes of both the letters and the novels mixed into this fictional journal of Jane's. In good Austen tradition, Jane makes a Christmas visit to a newly married friend, the Countess of Scargrave, just in time to see her elderly husband taken violently ill and subsequently die. Soon rumors of poison are abroad and scandal surrounds the Countess. The plotting is not quite as smooth as the style, but after

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

spending too long at bleak Scargrave Manor, we get to go to London with Jane and seek out clues among high society. Austen purists may scoff, but cozy mystery lovers will eat it up. And the cover art is outstanding. (\$5.99 pb, 0-553-57593-7, January, Bantam.) A hardcover sequel, **Jane and the Man of the Cloth**, follows close on the heels of the paperback. (\$21.95 cl, 0-553-10203-6, February, Bantam.)

Speaking of pastiche, wonder woman Laurie R. King continues her remarkable Sherlock Holmes series with the paper edition of **A Monstrous Regiment of Women**. This is the sequel to *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* and should soon be followed by the new hardcover, *A Letter of Mary*, postponed from the Fall by St. Martin's Press. Here, brilliant young university student Mary Russell, Holmes' protégé and beloved companion, gets involved with a charismatic feminist/religious leader, a kind of cross between Aimee Semple MacPherson and Jane Addams. No one says the word "settlement," but that's what King describes: an urban women's center in 1920s London, complete with child care, sex education, and labor cooperatives. Mary notices a pattern of timely deaths among young women who have willed their fortunes to the movement, and she decides to make herself a target. Amid plenty of action, King finds time for feminist theological debate. Certainly not for Holmes fans only! (\$5.99 pb, 0-553-57456-6, January, Bantam.)



Jody Jaffe's debut novel, **Horse of a Different Killer**, got a lot of positive notice and I can see why. Although written with an insider's knowledge of the South Carolina horse show circuit, the story is told in the voice of an outsider — Natalie Gold, a Jewish

Yankee working girl, who finds herself in a world dominated by Southern WASP money. Natalie is good company and a good narrator, a feature-writing reporter who just happens to be crazy about horses. The plot is serviceable and the story moves along at a good clip (not to say "canters" or "gallops"). (\$5.99 pb, 0-8041-1472-2, Ivy.) If your customers are really big on horses, you might also try **Hoofprints** by Laura Crum, sequel to *Cutter*, about a horse vet named Gail McCarthy who works in California ranch country. (\$5.99 pb, 0-312-96040-9, St. Martin's.)

Readers of Grisham, Ludlum and other high-stakes thrillers should enjoy Linda Davies' **Wilderness of Mirrors**, which features a female British intelligence agent working to bring down a drug smuggler. Davies is a former merchant banker who uses her specialized financial knowledge in her books. *Entertainment Weekly* wrote, "Along with sexual intrigue and derring-do, there's a lot of great stuff here about how to leverage a buy-out or run a stock scam...." (\$6.99 pb, 0-440-22295-8, Dell.) If Davies is attempting to create a female James Bond, Katherine Neville has already given us a female Indiana Jones. Neville's **The Eight** is the kind of steady-selling backlist that booksellers love and customers will thank you for. The story follows a chess set owned by Charlemagne across centuries and continents, with a terrific contemporary heroine. If you don't already know about it, get it and hand sell it. (\$6.99 pb, 0-345-36623-9, Ballantine.)

Here are a couple of women authors to help fill the apparently insatiable demand for legal thrillers. **Guilty As Sin** by Tami Hoag features lawyer Ellen North prosecuting the kidnapper of a young boy in the trial of her life. (\$6.50 pb, 0-553-56452-8, February, Bantam.)

This will be followed in the spring by Hoag's new hardcover, **A Thin Dark Line**, in which a woman cop tries to nail a killer who got let off on a technicality. (\$22.95 cl, 0-553-09960-4, April, Bantam.) **Speak No Evil** by Rochelle Majer Krich

features a young Orthodox Jewish attorney who is defending a rape suspect, only to discover someone is killing lawyers who successfully defend rapists. Critical quotes look very good.



(\$6.50 pb, 0-446-40505-1, February, Mysterious Press/Warner.)

New paperbacks in reliable series include **The 77th Street Requiem** by Wendy Hornsby, in which filmmaker Maggie MacGowan is working on a documentary about the unsolved murder of an L.A. cop (\$5.99 pb, 0-451-40675-3, Onyx); and **Nobody's Child** by Janet Dawson, in which private eye Jeri Howard goes undercover among Berkeley's homeless to find out what happened to a teenage runaway (\$5.99 pb, 0-449-22356-6, Fawcett).



**Monkey Wrench** by Liza Cody, sequel to *Bucket Nut*, is about a female wrestler ("the London assassin") who gets involved with a group of prostitutes trying to protect themselves from a killer. This is strong stuff, with class, sex, and gender issues aplenty, but the main character and her world are so very odd that it's impossible to classify. I loved it. (\$5.99 pb, 0-446-40457-8, Mysterious Press/Warner.) Kate Kinsella, the part-time nurse and private eye of Christine Green's series, is also decidedly odd, or maybe she's just British. Sometimes it's hard for me to tell. In any case, these medical whodunits are not Robin Cook clones, more like Cody's Anna Lee with a nursing degree — offbeat and interesting. Green's **Deadly Admirer** will be out in December (\$4.99 pb, 0-373-25223-X, Worldwide), and **Deadly Practice** in March (\$4.99 pb, 0-373-26232-9, Worldwide).

**Windy City Blues**, Sara Paretsky's collection of short stories about V.I. Warchawski, will be out in paper in December. The high points are a Paretsky's-eye tour of Chicago in the introduction, and the story in which V.I. comes across a personal ad seeking the whereabouts of her mother, whom she believes long dead. Fans will be happy. \$6.99 pb, 0-440-21873-X, Dell.

**Political Death** by Antonia Fraser is the first Jemima Shore mystery in five years, which is reason for rejoicing among certain readers. Fraser has been busy writing scholarly books such as *The Warrior Queens* and *The Gunpowder Plot*, but, like Amanda Cross, Fraser was also a pioneer of the feminist mystery. Here journalist Jemima Shore is summoned to the home of elderly Lady Imogen Swain, whose

diaries tell sexual secrets that someone is willing to kill for. \$5.99 pb, 0-553-57203-2, February, Bantam.

As booksellers know, there are more fictional women detectives named Cat than actual women of that name in the entire population, or so it seems. Here comes another one: Cat Austen, a New Jersey reporter investigating the death of a "shock jock" — think Howard Stern — in **Death of a DJ** by Jane Rubino. (\$4.99 pb, 0-06-104433-4, February, Harper.) On the other hand, there are shockingly few African American women in the genre, so it's good to see a new Black author and character. **Do Not Go Gently** by Judith Smith-Levin introduces African American police lieutenant Starletta Duvall, who sets herself up as bait for a serial killer who attacks Black women professionals. (\$5.99 pb, 0-06-101109-6, Harper.)



As for hardcovers, **All She Was Worth** by Miyuki Miyabe was named Best Mystery and Best Novel of the Year when it appeared in Japan in 1992. Translated by Alfred Birnbaum, it's being published in hardcover in the U.S. in February. This is the kind of "find" that feminist bookstores are known for. Like Batya Gur's Israeli mysteries,

this features a male police detective, but should hold plenty of cross-cultural interest for feminist readers. The detective is trying to find his nephew's missing fiancée, only to discover that she may have completely fabricated her identity. \$22 cl, 4-7700-1922-X, Kodansha International.

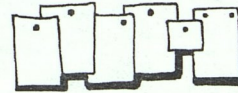
I wasn't planning to include **The Knowledge of Water** by Sara Smith, but a review in the Crime column of *The New York Times Book Review* changed my mind. There Marilyn Stasio called it "a lushly erotic, feminist study of artists and lovers and killers swept up in their obsessive passions." Set in Paris in 1910, the story concerns the murder of a street singer called Mona Lisa, a plot to steal the real Mona Lisa, and a love story between concert pianist Perdia Halley and the dashing Alexander von Reidsen. He was the hero of Smith's previous book, *The Vanished Child*. That book got great reviews, and this one sounds even more interesting to feminist readers. \$23 cl, 0-345-39135-7, Ballantine.

**High-Heel Blue** by Diane K. Shah is better than you would expect from a brief description of the

cookie-cutter plot. Brenden Harlow of the LAPD draws decoy duty to catch a serial killer who attacks women at cash machines. This works all too well; soon she's being followed and getting phone calls on her unlisted number. But the dialogue-driven story zips along, with credible details about life on the force and off. Drug and alcohol abuse in Brenden's life are dealt with realistically and not sensationally. Only the climax, when Brenden (of course) confronts the killer, becomes clichéd and a bit lurid, but by then I was completely hooked. If you can't sell the hardcover, wait for paper. \$23 cl, 0-684-81431-5, January, Simon & Schuster. ○

### Announcements, continued from page 42.

women's studies catalog including 300 titles. It includes works from the U.S., Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales, Japan, France, the Middle East, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Italy, Germany and Russia. Authors include: Jenny Joseph, Anna Akhmatova, Jackie Kay, Mary Dorcey, Irina Ratushinskaya, Colette, Monique Wittig, Dacia Maraini, Anna Kavan and Selma Lagerlof (the first woman to ever win the Nobel Prize for Literature). For a copy of the catalog write Dufour Editions, PO Box 7, Chester Springs PA 19425.



WomanMade Products, a woman owned and operated textile screen printing company, celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. Since they began printing T-shirts in 1976, it has been their goal to provide quality T-shirts, clothing and gifts for the lesbian/gay and feminist communities. If you haven't seen their 20th Anniversary Catalog call or write for one now: WomanMade Products, PO Box 517, Seneca Fall NY 13148; 315-568-9364.

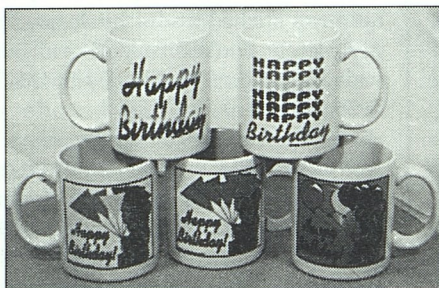
*Healthy Weight Journal* is sponsoring the third annual Healthy Weight Week, January 19-25, Rid the World of Fad Diets and Gimmicks Day on January 21, and Women's Healthy Weight Day on January 23. Healthy Weight Week promotes healthy lifestyle habits that prevent the onset of weight problems and last a lifetime. For more information contact: *Healthy Weight Journal*, 402 South 14th Street, Hettinger ND 58639; 701-567-2646, fax 701-567-2602. ○

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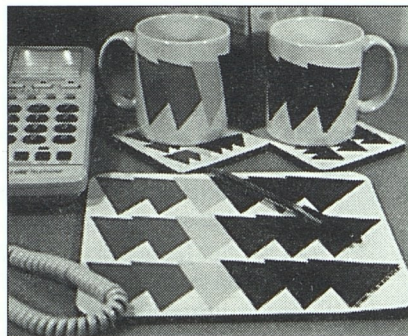
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# MUSIC NEWS

Compiled by Barb Smalley  
Ladyslipper Music

By the time this reaches your hands, you will probably be selling many of the popular new releases this season: Ferron's *Still Riot*, Holly Near and Ronnie Gilbert's *This Train Still Runs*, Rhiannon's *Live on Tomales Bay*, the new pop compilation *Women for Women II*, and that cover-art with CD accompaniment *Classical Erotica II*. I'd like to highlight a few other new picks of ours — by both well-known and more obscure artists. We have customers increasingly looking for more "world" music, including Celtic, Native American and percussion from various traditions. At the end of this article, you'll also find some holiday titles we like.



**Beauty in the Beat/Barbara Borden.** This 1996 release "spans the global possibilities of rhythm-driven melodies" — it's like a trip around the rhythm world! Barbara employs many types of drums and percussion, including trap drums, hand drums, wooden blocks, bells and shakers — 40 different instruments in all — capturing the universal power of drumming with a delicacy that is rarely heard. Cloud 9 555.

*Barb Smalley is even more fascinated by populations and markets and how the word gets out about music and musicians than she is by the music. Not a big spender herself, she loves the challenge of finding the music that will sell for bookstores as much as she loves a good music festival. Barb has been with Ladyslipper since 1990 and is the wholesale manager. She and Jennifer Einhorn will alternate hosting FBN's music column beginning with this issue.*

**Honor (2-Set)/Various:** Ulali, Indigo Girls, et al. This specially-priced, 1996 double compilation features nine tracks by Native artists — including Ulali, Indigenous, Keith Secola & Wild Band of Indians, and Joy Harjo & Poetic Justice — in addition to twelve tracks by the Indigo Girls, Jane Siberry, Bonnie Raitt and David Grisman, Victoria Williams, Reversing Hour, Exene Cervenka and others. The intention of the project is to create widespread support for Native environmental struggles. The album benefits Native environmental groups and Native women's projects chosen in conjunction with the Indigenous



"SOON and AGAIN is a great and personal album."

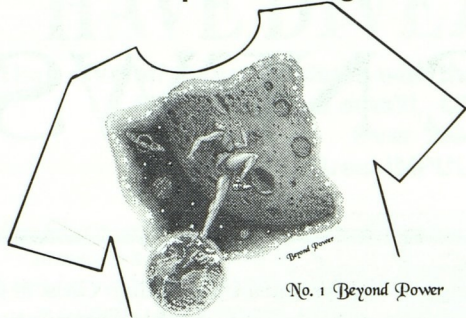
— George Winston

"If I could play piano like Margie Adam, I wouldn't have to bother singing." — Janis Ian



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Women's Network, the Seventh Generation Fund and the Indigenous Environmental Network. Daemon 19012.

**Mutiny at the Matinee**/The Derivative Duo. On this Fall 96 release, the lesbian duo once again musses the hair of the great opera, ballet and piano concerti classics. Aided and abetted by Pro Homo Voci, a Seattle lesbian and gay chorus (who gives the album a "true" operatic feel — better to parody you with, my dear). Derivative Duo 2.

**Rene Russell**/Rene Russell. A native of Columbia, South Carolina, and now a part of the fertile Austin, Texas music scene, Rene has been on the road for ten years with her finger-picked 12-string guitar and friendly rock-n-roll. An out lesbian, she has opened for the Indigo Girls, Tom Chapin and, hold on to your hats, Hootie and the Blowfish. Her 1996 album of original mid-tempo originals with a little growl is reminiscent of Melissa Ferrick and gets down easily. (As I'm writing this, fellow 'Slips keep popping in to ask who I'm listening to. She's piqued our interest!) Well-produced (not to be taken for granted...) with tasty arrangements for guitar, keyboards, bass and drums, her songs are about universal themes with special interest to lesbians and gays. Verge Records 8950.



**True North**/Kathryn Warner. What a voice! With the purity of an alto Joan Baez and the richness of toffee, Kathryn Warner is a wonderful gift to cherish and hold close. Her 1996 album has a direct line to your heart and once there it tugs on the strings for all it's worth. From blues to ballads, she creates beautiful mini-tapestries with each song. Full Circle 101.

**Oba**/Wild Mango. Like a tropical breeze, the mostly mellow Latin/jazz stylings of this seven-woman California band are always welcome. Delicate shadings of congas, timbales, flute, guitar and alto sax create a slinky groove for this 1996 album of vocal and instrumental originals (except for a slow, bass-heavy version of the Bacharach/David easy-listening jewel, "The Look of Love" — Sergio Mendes and Brasil 66 similarities are sprinkled throughout). Lyrics are in both Spanish and English. Good for in-store play when the winter gets to be too much. Marquee Records 2002.

**Warrior Queen/Akabu.** Akabu (which means "African Women") is an excellent London-based six piece, all-female modern reggae/dub group. Their keyboards, guitar, bass sound is painted with the sweet vocals of percussionist/songwriter Vyris Edghill, guitarist/songwriter Valerie Skeete and Madelaine Edghill and the righteous chatting of DJ Samantha "Pepsi" Edghill (coincidence or sisters?). On-U Sound 71.



**Yoruba Women of the Drum/Madam Omege & Madam Ogunfalu.** This 1995 release compiles two different styles of Nigerian voice-and-percussion music, also known as Yoruba street percussion, that have traditionally been associated with women. Madam Mujidat Ogunfalu and her Asiko Waka group perform waka, a Muslim derived style that utilizes chanting, a percussive instrument made of a hammered tin disc surrounded by metal rings and the four-finger tenor finger piano called the agidigbo. Madam Comfort Omege and her Asake Isale Group perform ashiko, which derives from the Christian Yoruba of Lagos who had, in turn, been influenced by the samba from Brazil, via the community of returned slaves known as aguda. Both styles blend older musical traditions with modern hymns, slang and imported musical styles to create hypnotic 17-18 minute "song-suites." Original Music 36.

**Rebecca Riots/Rebecca Riots.** This Berkeley-based feminist folk trio (Eve Decker, Andrea Pritchett and Lisa Zeiler), previously known as Final Girl, presents a 1995 "radical folk-rock" album, which has garnered comparisons to Casselberry-Dupree — both in the intense acoustic sound and the dynamic and political lyrics. Rebecca Riots 3.

**Teenager/Jane Siberry.** These 13 songs were written by Jane during her teens, and recorded and released in 1996 (as she was turning 40) — the true meaning of "retrospective!" Includes the first song she ever wrote, called "For My Father" (with a snippet of a version recorded at age 17), plus "Trumpeter Swan" (a tribute to an aunt whom she later named herself after). Acoustic and basically unadorned, **Teenager** features Jane on vocals, guitar and piano, with just back-up vocals and accordion accompanying. The

liner notes contain insightful and wonderful musings on the creative process and ways of hearing/listening...this is a special treasure for those of us who have been her fans for years and years. Sheeba 001.

**The Women of Kerrville/Various Kerrville Artists.** This exciting compilation of some of the best singer/songwriters around today was recorded at the 1995 Kerrville, Texas Folk Festival. A great introduction for anyone wanting to dip their ear into the rich world of folk, this collection includes both big names and some up'n'comers: Dar Williams, Tish Hinojosa, Eliza Gilkyson, Cheryl Wheeler, Susan Werner, Caroline Aiken, Lynn Miles, Catie Curtis, Domestic Science Club plus more. Nary a dud to be found here! Silver Wolf 1004.

**I Surrender/Barbara Higbie.** This long-anticipated 1996 release from the Grammy-nominated, critically acclaimed singer/songwriter and multi-instrumentalist has been well worth the wait! Accompanied by guitarist Nina Gerber, vocalist Chris Webster and a host of others, Higbie presents a warm and lively mix of songs and tuneful

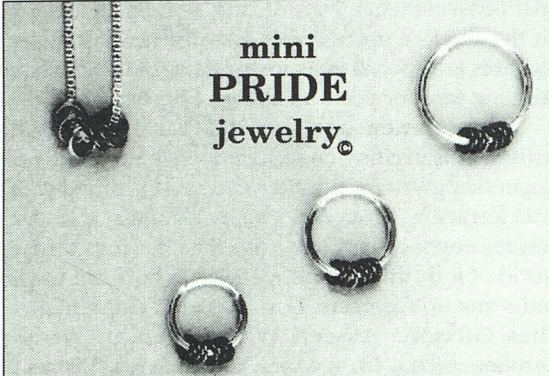
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**Transisters/Transisters.** Goddesses of the "Pink Rock" (multi-gendered rock-n-roll) movement, the NYC-based Transisters work, like their name, on a few levels. They are comprised of lead singer/lyricist Chloe (a male-to-female transsexual), bassist/songwriter Gyda Gash, drummer Tracy Almazen and guitarist Kathy Rey (from one of the first all female punk bands, The Bloods). With a sound reminiscent of late 70s/early 80s classic punk, they tackle subjects including child abuse and addiction, incest, the politics of gender and sexuality and AIDS. On top and in your face, this 1995 seven song EP cuts close to the edge. Transisters 100.



**Six Women, No Strings/The Undertones.** This all-woman a cappella sextet has been performing together since 1991; we had the good fortune to hear them at the 96 GALA (Gay and Lesbian Association

of Choruses) Festival where they were a *big* hit. On this 1996 recording, they cover the gamut of a cappella styles: classic doo-wop with "In the Still of The Night;" the Flirtation's arrangements of "Something Inside So Strong" and Cris Williamson's "Shooting Star;" a madrigal interpretation of Dorothy Parker's sardonic poem, "Coda;" Leadbelly/Bernice Johnson Reagon's "Silvie;" a Manhattan Transfer-y version of Fred Small's feminist "Fifty-Nine Cents;" even a radical reworking of Disney's "Kiss The Girl" (from *The Little Mermaid* — I certainly prefer this version!). Solid, tight, political, fun...what more do you need? Undertones 96.



**CELTIC:**

**River of Stars/Noirin Ni Riain.** Dubbed "one of Ireland's living treasures," this amazing Celtic singer speaks about her musical and spiritual journey on this 1996 release. Noirin discusses the inspiration she drew and continues to draw from other women, and the "deep bonds" she feels with St. Brigid, Hildegard von Bingen, poets Emily Dickinson and Ryonen (from Japan) on her quest for the divine source. Includes her previously unavailable original song for Mary Magdalene, "On Lone Calvary," and her thoughts on women's music and creativity, the transcendental nature of song and more. Sounds True 291.

**Wood, Fire and Gold/Kim Robertson.** Inspired by ancient Celtic and French melodies, Kim has created a 1996 musical collage of unparalleled beauty. The breath-taking purity of her ethereal voice, mingled with the sparkling yet serene sounds of her Celtic harp, soars over a richly-woven tapestry of shimmering strings, haunting woodwinds and exotic percussion. Dargason Music 119.

**NATIVE AMERICAN:**

**Mahk Jchi/Ulali.** This First Nations women's a cappella trio has toured with the Indigo Girls. ("We don't go by the name Native America, because our blood and people are older than America will ever be and we don't recognize the borders.") Pura Fe (Katenuaga/Tuscarora), Soni (Mayan/Apache), and Jennifer (Katenuaga/Tuscarora) blend their talents to deliver a mystical and sweeping sound, which

combines a variety of traditional and contemporary indigenous music of the Americas. Singing about struggles and prophesies, their work is a form of personal and historic expression. This album contains "Mother," "Women's Shuffle," "Necklace of Broken Hearts," and their well-known title track, which translates to "Our Hearts." Thrush 7581.

**Letter From the End of the 20th C./Joy Harjo & Poetic Justice.** Joy Harjo, author of many books including *Woman Who Fell From the Sky*, is an enrolled member of the Muscogee tribe; Poetic Justice is a six-member Native American/reggae/jazz/rock band formed to provide a musical union with Joy's poetry. Joy plays saxophone and speaks her lyrical words over the multi-ethnic sounds, while Dakotans Susan and John Williams, Hopi Frank Poocha, Isleta Pueblo/Navajo Willie Bluehouse Johnson and Richard Carbajal jam on drums, guitars and bass. If you missed them opening for the Indigo Girls on their "Honor The Earth" tour, here is another chance to experience this powerful music! Red Horses 1.



**Songs of the Spirit/Various Artists.** This 1996 compilation of contemporary Native music includes some of the most critically acclaimed female and male vocal and instrumental artists performing today. Among the contributors: Rita Coolidge, of rock-n-roll fame; the Little Wolf Band, with Laura Coolidge Satterfield and her mother, Priscilla Coolidge; Joanne Shenandoah; Native Flute Ensemble; R. Carlos Nakai; 500 Nations and others. This release beautifully fulfills the intent of Native peoples to preserve the songs of their ancestors while creating new contemporary forms for those ancient songs. Triloka 4137.

**Matriarch/Joanne Shenandoah.** This 1996 release is a collection of complex women's songs rooted in the history of the Haudenosaunee (the People of the Longhouse), composed to honor all women as the Lifegivers and as a "series of thanksgivings for the bounties of Mother Earth, the true Matriarch and sustainer of us all." Recorded at ancient village sites in Oneida Territory, Joanne's solo voice is subtly enhanced by Native flute, drums and guitar. The liner notes offer an excellent overview of Haudenosaunee women's history and

culture; individual songs are named after women members of the Shenandoah family, with notes about their personalities and contributions to the community. Silverwave 913.

## HOLIDAY TITLES:

**A Star in the East/Anonymous 4.** On their sixth album, released for the 1996 Christmas holidays, this amazing vocal quartet performs an evocative and transcendental program (could they do any other kind?) of rare Hungarian Christmas music. Flavored with modalities and cadences rooted in the folk tradition of medieval Hungary, this music will, of course, delight. Harmonia Mundi 7139.

**Holiday Times/Ella Jenkins.** For terrific family sing-alongs, here's a 1996 album that covers not only Christmas but Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and Chinese New Year. Contains songs, chants, rhymes and stories, all written, composed and/or arranged by this wonderful children's artist. Ukelele, harmonica, guitars, pipe organ, wooden flutes, drums, bells and many other percussion instruments accompany.

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**A Scottish Christmas/Maggie Sansone/B Rideout/A Petteway.** From across the Highland moors...the haunting wail of fiddle and bagpipe. Into the castle drawing rooms...the elegant chamber sound of viola and cello. And out in the village squares...lively country dances with hammered dulcimer and guitar. Celebrate the many moods of a Scottish Yuletide holiday, with this 1996 release from Maggie, Bonnie and Al, plus guest artists Abby Newton and Eric Rigler (the piper from the film *Braveheart*). Maggies Music 215.

**Making Spirits Bright/Vancouver Men's Chorus.** Accompanied by a jazzy 18-piece orchestra, this Christmas album features songs by women's music artists Cris Williamson ("Lullaby" and "Wish-book") and Connie Kaldor ("Island Santa") along with some holiday classics, and not-quite classics, and a few tunes having not one whit of Christmasness ("My Buddy" and "You Go to My Head"). With special guest, jazz pianist Louise Rose. Vancouver Men's Chorus 2.

**To Warm the Winter's Night/Aine Minogue.** This 1995 "Celtic Holiday Celebration" from Irish émigré harpist and singer Aine is a beautiful collection of songs and spoken word pieces gathered from Ireland, England, Wales, Scotland and Brittany. A few of the songs such as "Oiche Chuain/Silent Night" and "The Olde Year Now Away Has Fled/Greensleeves" are well known, but most of them are ancient, nearly-forgotten celebrations of winter, Yule, New Year and Winter Solstice. Aine and her harp are also joined by Irish pipes and whistles, cello and oboe. Evergreen Music 014.



**Mother & Child/Various Artists.** Following the excellent advice offered by Girls in the Nose to have "more Madonna, less Jesus," we suggest this "Christmas Celebration of Motherhood," featuring eleven female artists who are also mothers. Women from the worlds of pop, r&b, country and gospel — CeCe Winans, Amy Grant, Olivia Newton-John, Beth Nielsen Chapman, Suzy Bogguss, Kindred Spirit and others — perform songs specifically written or arranged for this project, as well as unique versions of holiday classics: "Ave Maria," "Bless This Child," "Christmas Lullaby" and more. Gaia Saber 35173.

**A Winter Celebration/Various Artists.** A tranquil compilation of songs to celebrate the winter and the winter solstice, this 1995 recording gathers both traditional and original instrumentals and vocals. Includes Joanne Shenandoah's Iroquois lyricizing on "Winter Dream," Chris White's soaring a cappella on "Lay Down Your Burden" (she's the vocalist in Flesh and Bone, who also contributes a piece here), and Peter Kater's piano and R. Carlos Nakai's Native flute and eagle bone whistle on their instrumental meditation, "Solstice." Silverwave 906. ○

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# GAY MEN'S LIT FOR FEMINIST BOOKSTORES

By Richard Labonte  
A Different Light Bookstores

What follows is part two of the Summer-Fall new books listing, which was broken up by a more essay-like column last issue; it seemed that commenting on the business of books was a slight theme, and I'd urge anyone who didn't have time to read the smart little essay by Ed Hermance of Giovanni's Room — my predecessor with the Gay Lit column — to burrow into their back issues and check it out. He gets right to the point of why women's and lesbian and gay bookstores deserve — nay, have earned the right to — bulk-sale and special-order sales for "our" books. Read, reflect, re-print.

To the books: many are by now available, expected month of publication is given for forthcoming titles, and titles I especially recommend are asterisked (\*).

One title I especially, especially recommend, before getting to the rest of the listings, is **\*Boys Like Us: Gay Writers Tell Their Coming Out Stories** edited by Patrick Merla. These are essays on coming out, with a tremendous range of ages, arranged chronologically from Manhattan in the late 1940s to San Francisco in the early 1990s; and what's particularly enticing is that the accounts are by a wide range of contemporary writers, among them Samuel R. Delany and Edmund White, Scott Heim and Norman Wong, Alex Chee and Michael Nava — authors who lace their proud confessions with the grace of great writing. \$24 cl, 0-380-07340-5, Avon Books.

Another title I want to showcase this issue has certainly the most unusual thesis I've encountered in 18 years of selling gay books (and 30 years of reading them): it's **Penumbra: How Gay Confederate Veterans Founded the Ku Klux Klan** by Buford Dickey. It seems that the author's great-great-uncle was openly homosexual all through the Civil War, and at war's end joined

with five other brothers-in-arms (and -in-bed, one presumes) to form a costume-wearing social club. "Soon," says Dickey, "other veterans asked to join the club. When the straights took over...the original gay members thought it was time to quit." And the author takes 350 pages to tell this story! \$25 cl, 0-8038-9383-9, Hastings House, PGW.

And now, in keeping with this issue's theme, older bestselling, newer and forthcoming humor titles:

**\*Naked** by David Sedaris — From the author of the fabulously hilarious *Barrel Fever* (\$9.95 pb, 0-316-77942-3, Little, Brown), more mad moments in his life and on the road. Sedaris is the funniest gay writer to come down the pike, and worth stocking in any store. (\$21.95 cl, 0-316-77949-0, Little, Brown).

**Drag Queen** by Robert Rodi — This Chicago writer (*Fag Hag*, *Closet Case*) gets better and funnier with every novel; here's the story of guppy straight-arrow Mitchell who discovers he has a drag queen twin brother. \$11.95 pb, 0-452-27344-7, Plume.



**\*Betty & Pansy's Severe Queer Review of San Francisco** by Betty Pearl and Pansy — Well, yeah, it's a travel book (fifth edition, in fact). But this bestselling guide is as popular for the wit of its insight as it is for the right-ness of its entries. \$10.95 pb, 1-57344-056-6, Cleis.

**\*Living It Up: Humorous Adventures in Hyperdomesticity** by Karen Finley — I guess she's not gay, but she does camp and parody well (viz. her takeoff on self-help books, *Enough is Enough*). Here, the object of loving lampooning is, well, Martha Stuart, hence the obvious appeal to gay men who can laugh at themselves. This is the book advanced and then rejected by Stuart's own publisher when they realized

how close to the bone it cut.... \$15.95 cl, 0-385-48645-6, Doubleday.

**Wicked** by Gregory Maquire — Paper edition of a, well, wickedly funny novel, rich with allegory and imagination and inspired by *The Wizard of Oz*, in which the sound argument is made Elphaba wasn't that wicked after all. \$12.50 pb, 0-06-098710-3, HarperCollins.

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*While there has always been  
somewhat more non-fiction  
(there are many more subject  
categories, after all),  
the balance has recently  
really tipped.*

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**\*A Funny Time to Be Gay: Hilarious Gay and Lesbian Comedy Routines, from Trailblazers to Today's Headliners** by Ed Karvoski, Jr. — From in-jokes for an in-crowd to full hours on Comedy Central: we're here, we're queer, and you can laugh at us, says this part-social history, part-comedy routine collection. \$12 pb, 0-684-81806-5, January, Simon & Schuster.

**The Homo Handbook: Getting in Touch with Your Inner Homo** by Judy Carter — From a stand-up comic, a ten-step strategy for coming out, filled with cartoons, quizzes, charts and worksheets and some seriously funny suggestions on how to leave the right clothes behind when you come out of the closet. One question: why "homo" twice in one title? \$12 pb, 0-684-81358-0, Simon & Schuster.

**The Wit & Wisdom of Oscar Wilde: A Treasury of Quotations, Anecdotes and Observations** by Ralph Keyes — Hip is OK, and it's nice to see the burst of new humour energy; but there's nothing like a classic wit, and there are hundreds and hundreds of examples in this 192-page culling of Wilde's words. It's from a series which previously has included Abraham Lincoln, Ben Franklin, Winston Churchill and Mark Twain.... I guess there have never been any women in the English-speaking world either wise or witty. \$12 pb, 0-06-992755-0, HarperCollins.

**Oscar Wilde's Guide to Modern Living** edited by John Calvin Batchelor and Craig McNeer — A great

little gift book, nicely designed and sure to overlap with the book cited above. \$15 cl, 0-385-48179-9, Doubleday.

**\*Queer Baby Names** edited by Matthew Rettenmund and Liz Tracey — Yes, it's another parody, though I've heard, perhaps one of those urban (sales rep's) legends that the marketing department at St. Martin's didn't think at first that there'd be a market yet for gay baby names. \$7.95 pb, 0-312-14711-2, St. Martin's.

**Primary Whites** by Anonymous — Sub-titled "A Novel Look at Right-Wing Politics," this deadly-accurate parody of *Primary Colors* switches Pat Buchanan for Bill Clinton, parallels the lesbian character of the original with same fond gay-bashing (let me explain: because it's an inverse of *Colors*, this book's bad-mouthing of gays is actually politically correct) and throws in a transvestite romance as well. \$9.95 cl, 0-7871-1104-X, Dove Books.

**\*Gay Comix #23** edited by Andy Mangels — After a year in hiatus, this 16-year-old showcase for queer comix talent is back. Contributors include an equal mix of women and men, among them Roberta Gregory, Catherine Doherty and Beck Main, J. A. Fludd, David Kelly and Jon Macy. \$3.50, *Bay Area Reporter*, 395 Ninth Street, SF CA 94103 for direct orders, or try BP.

**Absolutely Fabulous 2** by Jennifer Saunders — The complete second season scripts of the U.K. program which was such a hit on Comedy Central. Even in print, it's hilarious. \$12 pb, 0-671-00021-7; **Ab Fab 1** is also \$12 pb, -52714-2, Pocket Books.

**\*Leonard & Larry: Kurt Cobain and Mozart Are Both Dead** by Tim Barella — Certainly the most popular of the comic-art collections sold at A Different Light, and the closest gay male work comes to *Dykes to Watch Out For* in terms of humor and insight: here's what Robert Triptow says in his introduction: "...offspring of Lucy and Ethel...they're originally from Mayberry, they've hung out at Cheers...can out-bitch the cast of Designing Women and have French-kissed Roseanne." \$9.95, 1-884568-04-1, Palliard Press, Alamo Square or BP; also: *Domesticity Isn't Pretty*, the first Leonard & Larry Collection, \$12.95 pb, -00-9.

**\*Doc & Raider Incredibly Lifelike** by Sean Martin — Full-page cartoons about a sweet couple with a slight S/M flavor. \$10.95 pb, 1-895564-04-2, Q Press, Alamo Square.

**\*The Ethan Green Chronicles** by Eric Orner — And Orner runs Barella a close second, with his wry and occasionally wicked comic commentary on the



lives of Ethan and his friends. \$10.95 pb, 0-312-14742-2, St. Martin's.

**Municipal Bondage: One Man's Anxiety-Producing Adventures in the Big City** by Henry Alford — Another one to rave about: a collection of really funny essays on working at really odd jobs or encountering really odd workers. \$10 pb, 1-57322-510-X, Riverhead.



**You Know You're Gay When** by Joseph Cohen — An older title (10/95) of which we've sold several hundred; snappy aphorisms with a ring of truth. \$9.95 cl, 0-8092-3320-7, Contemporary Books.

**\*Patriarchy's Nightmare** by Rick Jacobsen — This is a cash-register countertop oddity, a deft parody of those Jesus-will-save-you hate-tract comics often peddled by the fundies; again, A Different Light has sold hundreds. \$1.25, no ISBN, RJ, available only from Alamo Square.

**\*The Unofficial Gay Manual** by Kevin Dillalo and Jack Krumholtz — And this is the gay humour prize winner, a how-to-be-gay energizer bunny of a book, of which A Different Light has sold, in all its stores, close to 5,000 copies; it still sells about 100 copies a month combined, and it's been out for two years. \$12.95 pb, 0-385-47445-8, Bantam Doubleday Dell.

**Rush Limbaugh Is a Big Fat Idiot** by Al Franken — Watch for the paper edition of this book; not particularly gay, or feminist, but definitely on the side of the angels, and it struck a chord with our customers. \$21.95 cl, 0-385-31474-4, Bantam Doubleday Dell.

#### FICTION

**\*Men on Men 6** edited by David Bergman — The first four in this series of excellent anthologies were edited by the late George Stambolian, whose standard galvanized the anthology boom of the past seven or eight years; Bergman carried on the tradition with number five — and together they have sold about 200,000 copies. \$12.95 pb, 0-452-27708-6, Plume.

**\*Best American Gay Fiction 1996** edited by Brian Bouldrey — Think of this as a sampler of really good gay writing, drawn by a persistent editor from mainstream and alternative magazines, excerpts from novels and other sources. If you've got limited room

for gay fiction, this is a good book to stock. \$13.95 pb, 0-316-10329-9, Little, Brown/Back Bay Books.

**Shadowdance** by Robert Wayne Bailey — Upfront gayness in a highly readable fantasy, about a lad who must dance every night to be able to walk, and who perhaps must sacrifice his mobility for the man he loves. \$5.99 pb, 1-56504-946-2, White Wolf.

**Storm Tide** by Mel Keegan — Keegan's previous thrillers have been a hit: *Fortunes of War*, *Death's Head* and *Equinox*, and this latest, are unapologetic over-the-top narratives; here, two men on a cruise in order to salvage their love find themselves caught up drug-smuggling at sea. \$12.95 pb, 0-85449-227-5, GMP, LPC/InBook.

**\*Unholy Ghosts** by Richard Zimler — In despair over AIDS, a classical guitar teacher moves from New York to Portugal, only to find that the disease has followed: his prize student tests positive. To buck him up, he takes him to Paris to prepare him for a concert career, and the trip — with the lad's stonemason father, is a healing and often witty and moving adventure. \$14.95 pb, 0-85449-233-X, GMP, LPC/InBook.

**\*Young Men at War** by Noel Currer-Briggs — Based on a true experience, this tale of love across borders — a young British aristocrat in love with a German officer in WWII — is fascinating history and a ripping good love story. \$14.95 pb, 0-85449-236-4, GMP, LPC/InBook.

**\*For a Lost Soldier** by Rudi van Dantzig — Another true tale, told from the adult perspective of a young man who fell in love with a Canadian soldier who liberated his small Dutch town near the end of WWII. \$14.95 pb, 0-85449-237-2, GMP, LPC/InBook.

**Hunting With Diana** by David Watmough — This eleventh novel by Canadian author Watmough



Artist: Ann Glover, from *The Homo Handbook* (Fireside Books)

features, as always, his literary alter ego Davey Bryant, an aging gay man who surfs the Internet while his lover (of 40 years, a fact and part of the fiction) sleeps. Think of him as a male Jane Rule: he's that good. \$14.95 pb, 1-55152-032-X, Arsenal Pulp Press, LPC/InBook.

\***Sons of Darkness** edited by Michael Rowe and Thomas Roche — Men and women both in this co-gendered followup to *Daughters of Darkness*. \$12.95 pb, 1-57344-059-0, Cleis, LPC/InBook.

\***Does Freddy Dance** by Dick Scanlan — Paper edition of tales spanning 30 years in a gay man's life, sweet and romantic and, a rare thing, mature. \$9.95 pb, 1-55583-386-1, Alyson.

\***2nd Time Around** by James Earl Hardy — New novel from the author of *B-Boy Blues*, one of the best-selling Alyson books of all time, seriously sexy and fiercely funny and Black-on-Black. \$11.95 pb, 1-55583-372-1, Alyson.

\***Chain of Fools** by Richard Stevenson — Albany, New York's only gay private eye, Donald Strachey, is called to the bedside of his own lover's high school beau as tempers flair during a family feud over control of a family-owned newspaper. A guarantee: Stevenson's quiet humor and brisk style are captivating. \$20.95 cl, 0-312-14563-2, St. Martin's.

\***Death Trick** by Richard Stevenson — New paper edition of an earlier well-crafted story featuring Donald Strachey, called in to clear a young gay activist of murder. \$9.95 pb, 1-55583-387-X, Alyson.

**Forth Into Light** by Gordon Merrick — The slew of Merrick novels which best-sold (not really a word; sorry) through the 1960s to the mid-1980s are coming back into print. Awful books, really, but immensely popular, especially for younger readers getting their queer-lit feet wet. This is the third of a classic trilogy, after **The Lord Won't Mind** (1-55583-290-3) and **One For the Gods** (-291-1), all \$9.95 pb, (Alyson, -292-X).



\***Little Men** by Kevin Killian — Hovers, says the author, between searingly humorous fiction and self-effacing autobiography. Think pop culture gone awry, and know that the author has contributed to Sally Field's official fan-club newsletter. \$12.95 pb, 1-889097-01-2, Hard Press, Consortium.

**Original Color** by Hugh Kennedy — The cut-throat world of art dealers is the setting for a first novel described as a hybrid of *The Mysteries of Pittsburgh* and *The Bonfire of the Vanities*. \$21.95 cl, 0-385-47736-8, Doubleday.

\***Gary in Your Pocket: Stories & Notebooks** by Gary Fisher edited by Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick — Says the publisher: "The incandescent African American writer Gary Fisher was completely unpublished when he died of AIDS at age 32. This book...will introduce readers to a tender, graphic, extravagant and unswervingly incisive talent." \$14.95 pb, 0-8223-1799-0, Duke.

\***Pagan's Father** by Michael Ardit — What makes a father? Biology? Law? Love? That's the gist of this excellent British novel about a gay man who inherits five-year-old Pagan when her mother dies suddenly. Excellent fiction, but also a fine fit for a parenting section. \$24 cl, 1-56947-062-6, SoHo.

\***Dream Boy** by Jim Grimsley — Painful first love between two teens, one who knows he's gay and another who's not yet sure, written in a memorable, taut and haunting Southern voice. \$11 pb, 0-684-82992-4, January, Simon & Schuster.

**Winter Birds** by Jim Grimsley — His highly-praised debut novel, about a young boy trapped between his father's rage and his mother's anguish. \$11 pb, 0-684-82991-6, Simon & Schuster.

\***The Promise of Rest** by Reynolds Price — Paper edition of an extraordinary novel by one of this country's best writers, about a man confronting old age, his son's AIDS and his regrets over the lost chance for the love he really wanted. \$13 pb, 0-684-82510-4, Scribner.

\***The Death of Friends** by Michael Nava — The fifth of Nava's Henry Rios novels is strong and eloquent; an excellent mystery, with the bonus of being a searing examination of self-hatred, hidden lives, the cost of lives and the pain of death. \$21.95 cl, 0-399-13977-X, Berkley.

\***Dhalgren** by Samuel R. Delany — Probably the richest, densest, queerest-before-its-time SF novel ever, back in print after far too long. The plot's impossible to distill: but it's a book which tackles the conflicts between and the intersections of gay and straight, Black and white, women and men, madness and sanity. Introduction by William Gibson. \$17.95 pb, 0-8195-6299-8, Wesleyan University Press.

\***Trouble on Triton** by Samuel R. Delany — Published back in 1976 as *Triton*, this looser and less

intense tale tackles gender roles and sexual expectations with a deft touch. SF section, or maybe Gender studies...introduction by Kathy Acker. \$14.95 pb, 0-8195-6298-X, Wesleyan University Press.

**Three Plays** by Mart Crowley — *The Boys in the Band* is/are back, off-Broadway in New York and elsewhere; and here is the text of that landmark play, along with two other works and a new introduction by Crowley. \$11.95 pb, 1-55583-357-8, Alyson.

**Hell Has No Limits** by Jose Donoso — For your Spanish-interest sections, a re-issue of a 1966 Chilean novel with, as a primary character, a sympathetic transvestite dancer/prostitute. \$10.95 pb, 1-55713-187-2, Sun & Moon.

**\*Captain Swing** by Larry Duplechan — New cover for a fine old novel (well, late 1980s) featuring gay African American Johnnie Ray Rousseau, who is funny and smart as he comes "out" into the world. \$9.95 pb, 1-55583-361-6, Alyson.

**Nature in the Raw: Erotic Stories from Freshmen Magazine** edited by Gerry Kroll — The writing's erratic, but if you're a store with a section of vanilla gay male erotica, you can't go wrong with this collection of sex under the sun. \$11.95 pb, 1-55583-363-2, Alyson.

**\*Go the Way Your Blood Beats: An Anthology of Gay and Lesbian Literary Writing** edited by Shawn Stewart Ruff — Half the 32 entries in this mixed-gender mixed-genre collection are original, and it's a must for any progressive store. \$16.95 pb, 0-8050-4437-X; \$30 cl, -4736-0, Holt/Owl.

**\*Daddy's Wedding** by Michael Willhoite — Phooey to the Defense of Marriage Act: here's a winning follow-up to the controversial kid's book *Daddy's Roommate*. \$15.95 cl, 1-55583-350-0, Alyson.

#### NON-FICTION

**Strength in Numbers: A Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Resource** — From Visible Ink, which specializes in often prosaic reference books, this is more than just a directory; as the publisher claims, it's also a call to political and social action; not just lists of facts, but biographical sketches too, the faces behind the names. \$16.95, 0-7876-0881-5, Visible Ink.

**\*Love Between Men** by Rik Isensee — A book about, as the subtitle says, enhancing intimacy and keeping your relationships alive. It's a reprint from a few years ago, but psychotherapist Isensee's suggestions are timeless. \$12.95 pb, 1-55583-362-4, Alyson.



Artist: Ann Glover, from *The Homo Handbook* (Fireside Books)

**The New Gay Book of Lists** by Leigh Rutledge — New edition of an Alyson classic, and a clever combination of trivial facts and important matters. \$11.95 pb, 1-55583-359-4, Alyson.

**The Day We Met** by Jack Hart — True stories, in the tradition of this author's *My First O* and *My First Time*, by men describing the erotic heat of first-time romantic and sexual encounters. \$11.95 pb, 1-55583-352-7, Alyson.

**The Alyson Almanac: The Gay and Lesbian Fact Book** edited by Gerry Kroll — An updated edition of one of Alyson's featuring plenty of new facts, plus a comprehensive guide to on-line services; a must for any reference section. \$11.95 pb, 1-55583-390-X, February, Alyson.

**Wonder Bread & Ecstasy: The Life and Death of Joey Stefano** by Charles Isherwood — Life story of one of gay America's most lusted-after porn stars, done in by drugs and despair. \$11.95 pb, 1-55583-383-7, Alyson.

**\*Coming Out While Staying In** by Leanne McCall Tigert — Staying in the church, that is, and this collection tells the story of women and men, gay and lesbian and bi, who have chosen to do so. \$14.95 pb, 0-8298-1150-8, United Church Press.

**The Sexuality of Jesus** by William E. Phipps — Twenty-five years ago, the author asked in a controversial book, "was Jesus married?" Here he deals with sexuality and faith, especially how the church's attitude towards sexuality has shifted so dramatically over the centuries. \$16.95 pb, 0-8298-1144-3, Pilgrim Press.

**Gay and Gaia: Ethics, Ecology and the Erotic** by Daniel T. Spencer — In several words: liberationist theory, environmental concern and gay passions are brought together by the author in a plea for gay and

lesbian and straight and bisexual and transgendered to "reject a human-centered worldview in favor of an ecocentric worldview." \$19.95 pb, 0-8298-1149-4, Pilgrim Press.

**\*Farm Boys: Lives of Gay Men from the Rural Midwest** by Will Fellows — Just what the title says: interviews which demonstrate, with plain-spoken directness, that queerness is not just a big-city thing. More than three dozen men, ages 24 to 84, tell their tales; and the publisher is sending editor Fellows on a 30-city tour, impressive stuff from a university press. \$27.50 cl, 0-299-15080-1, University of Wisconsin.

**\*Reclaiming the Heartland: Lesbian and Gay Voices from the Midwest** edited by Karen Lee Osborne and William J. Spurlin — In the same vein, another university press book offers a look (through fiction, poetry, memoir, essays, photos) at the lives of both lesbians and gay men who were born, grew up and live in the geographical Middle America. Advertised in the Feminist Bookstore Network's Fall Catalog. \$18.95 cl, 0-8166-2754-1, University of Minnesota.

**\*Out Our Way** by Michael Riordon — And with three books on rural gay life, it must be a trend: covering primarily Canada but with a few interviews from the U.S., this is a splendidly-written look at the lives of gay men who have chosen the rural life over the urban way, written by a long-time Canadian activist. \$16.95 pb, 1-8963-5705-9, Between the Lines, Alamo Square Press.



**\*Out & About USA Resorts & Warm Weather Vacations** by Billy Kolber and David Alpert — Used to be, everything you could find out about lesbian and gay travel was in Bob Damron's, Ferrari's, the Gayellow Pages or the old Gaia's guides. Now there are shelves-full of national, regional and specialized guides, including this first in a series from *Out & About* magazine, featuring "the hottest" gay destinations. \$14.95 pb, 0-7868-8177-1, January, Hyperion.

**London Scene 1997** — Indispensable gay male guide. \$11.95 pb, 0-85449-229-1, GMP, LPC/InBook.

**The Rise and Fall of Gay Culture** by Daniel Harris — Hmmm. Could this be a neocon look at homosexual culture? Essayist Harris contends, it seems, if catalogue copy is to be believed, that gay

culture is in danger of being assimilated out of existence. \$24.95 cl, 0-7868-6165-7, Hyperion.

**\*The Mythology of Transgression: Homosexuality as Metaphor** by Jamake Highwater — A renowned Native American writer on myth and spirituality uses his own queerness as a starting point for a spirited discussion of how our culture both disdains and depends on "the outsider." \$23 cl, 0-19-510180-4, Oxford University Press.

**\*Islamic Homosexualities: Culture, History and Literature** edited by Stephen O. Murray and Will Roscoe — A collection of anthropological and sociological writing demonstrating that patterns of male and female homosexuality have long existed and often flourished in the Islamic world. \$19.95 pb, 0-8147-7468-7, January, New York University Press.

**\*A Queer World: The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader** edited by Martin Duberman — A 600-page compilation of lectures, panels, discussions and papers that have passed through the portals of the five-year-old Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies (CLAGS), focusing on the social sciences and issues relating to public policy. \$24.95 pb, 0-8147-1875-2, January, New York University Press.

**\*Queer Representations: Reading Lives, Reading Cultures** edited by Martin Duberman — from CLAGS, but with a more literary bent, this collection (Dorothy Allison, Edmund White, Essex Hemphill, Jewelle Gomez, Samuel R. Delany, Joan Nestle, many more) emphasizes the interconnectedness of lesbian and gay lives and their literatures. \$22.95 pb, 0-8147-1884-1, January, New York University Press.

**\*Dancing Around the Volcano: Freeing Our Erotic Lives, Decoding the Enigma of Gay Men and Sex** by Guy Kettlehack — A passionately pro-sex book which, through interview, anecdote and analysis, looks at the sorts of sex gay men are really having. \$25 cl, 0-517-70103-0, Crown.

**\*Perfect Enemies: The Religious Right, the Gay Movement and The Politics of the 1990s** by Christopher Bull and John Gallagher — A good subtitle says a lot about a book; this is a useful analysis of why our community is too often on the defensive. \$25 cl, 0-517-70198-7, Crown.

**Tom: The Unknown Tennessee Williams** by Lyle Lovrich — Paper edition of a definitive account of the playwright's early years. \$18 pb, 0-517-88772-X, Crown.

**\*Much More Than Sexuality: Listening to 70 Gay People Talk About Their Lives** compiled and edited by Liz Sherblom and Hohn Sherblom — Aimed as much at the parents of gays and at non-gay youth as it is at those wrestling with coming out, this collection of autobiography is a great addition to the coming out shelves. \$13 pb, 1-879418-90-8, Audenreed Press, LPC/InBook.

**Essays on Kushner's Angels** by Per Brask — Directors, dramaturges, poets and playwrights from the U.S., Canada, Germany, Denmark and Australia discuss and dissect one of the great gay plays. \$14.95 pb, 0-921368-577, Blizzard Publishing, LPC/InBook.

**\*Policing Public Sex** edited by Dangerous Bedfellows — A group of New York-based activists call for a new activism that refuses to sacrifice queer culture and sexuality on the altar of...moralistic hysteria." \$16 pb, 0-89608-549-X, South End Press, LPC/InBook.

**\*Bi Men's Lives: Bisexual Men Tell Their Tales** edited by Mark Zepezauer — Several dozen men from their 20s into their 50s, from widely different class and cultural backgrounds, from several different countries, discuss bisexuality as a range of behavior and a way of life. \$16.95 pb, 1-884365-11-6, See Sharp Press, LPC/InBook.



**\*We Must Love One Another or Die: Larry Kramer, His Life and Legacy** by Lawrence D. Mass — Christopher Bram, Kate Clinton, John D'Emilio, Michael Denny, Patrick Merla, Urvashi Vaid, Rosa von Praunheim, among others, assess the life activist, polemicist, novelist, film producer, scriptwriter and person-with-AIDS, Kramer. \$23 cl, 0-304-33545-2, December, Cassell, LPC/InBook.

**\*Cassell's Encyclopedia of Queer Myth, Symbol and Spirit** by Randy P. Conner — Same-sex desire, the sacred and gender variance are the themes of this 320-page co-gender, cross-cultural and across-the-ages reference, as readable as an almanac and as researched as an encyclopedia. By the author of *Blossom of Bone*. \$21.95 cl, 0-304-33760-9, December, Cassell, LPC/InBook.

**Gay Skins: Class, Masculinity and Queer Appropriation** by Murray Healy — A look at the world of the skinhead, deconstructively speaking.

\$17.95 pb, 0-304-33324-7, Cassell, LPC/InBook.

**Gay Phrase Book (2nd Edition)** by Barry McKay — Japanese has been added to the French, German, Spanish, Italian, Dutch and Portuguese in this handy compendium of useful homophrases — all the words you need for a gay holiday. \$12.95 pb, 0-304-33775-7, Cassell, LPC/InBook.

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*For now, major publishers,  
academic houses and  
university presses must all  
be profiting from the  
lesbian and gay titles  
they've published  
in the past few years.*

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**\*Between the Sheets: Sex Diaries and Gay Men's Sex in the Era of AIDS** by Antony Coxon — Based on new data extrapolated from more than 1,000 sexual diaries, this book portrays the reality of gay sex in relation to the transmission of HIV. \$17.95 pb, 0-304-33208-9, December, Cassell, LPC/InBook.

**\*We Are Family: Queer Parents Tell Their Stories** by Turan Ali with Catherine Treasure — An engrossing (and British) look at the lives of lesbians and gay men who are parents, exploring such topics as what to tell the children, what to tell the neighbors and what kids think of their queer parents. \$17.95 pb, 0-304-33148-1, December, Cassell, LPC/InBook.

**\*Antigay: Homosexuality and Its Discontents** edited by Mark Simpson — Bruce La Bruce, John Weir, Glenda Orgasm and others of a post-PC ilk take off the gloves, and the rose-tinted glasses, to take aim at AIDS sanctimony and other issues too seldom discussed in polite pink society. \$16.95 cl, 0-304-33144-9, December, Cassell, LPC/InBook.

**Robert Duncan in San Francisco** by Michael Rumaker — Here's a truly unique book: published in the 1990s, 20 years after it was written by Rumaker, about events that took place 20 years previously, when Duncan and Rumaker and Jack Spicer and Allen Ginsberg were all a lot younger. \$8.95 pb, 0-912516-13-5, Grey Fox, BP.

**Accepting Ourselves & Others: A Journey Into Recovery From Addictive and Compulsive Behavior for Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals** by Sheppard B. Kominars and Kathryn Kominars — A gay father and his daughter, both psychologists, examine recovery as it affects the queer community; this is a highly revised edition of the book *Accepting Ourselves*, published in 1989. \$18.95 pb, 1-56838-120-4, Hazelden.

**A Crisis of Meaning: How Gay Men Are Making Sense of AIDS** by Steven S. Schwartzberg — Drawing on in-depth interviews with 19 gay men with AIDS, the author shows how some triumph emotionally, and some do not, and then offers guidance for all. \$25, 0-19-509627-4, Oxford University Press.

**My Life With Noel Coward** by Graham Payne with Barry Day — Paper edition of a lively remembrance by Coward's long-time companion, an intimate but discreet book. \$16.95 pb, 1-55783-247-1, Applause.

**\*The Gay Agenda: Talking Back to the Fundamentalists** by Jack Nichols — Long-time activist Nichols (he co-founded the Mattachine Society of Washington) sets the fundies on the run in this examination of their hysteria, their hypocrisy and their own "hidden agenda." \$24.95 cl, 1-57393-103-3, Prometheus.

**The Masculine Marine: Homoeroticism in the U.S. Marine Corps** by Steven Zeeland — Records what active-duty Marines have to say about being a man, being a Marine and desiring other men, and examines why the hyper-masculine Marine is such a staple of gay fantasy. \$14.95 pb, 1-56023-874-7, Harrington Park.

**Against My Better Judgment: An Intimate Memoir of an Eminent Gay Psychologist** by Roger Brown — It reads like a novel, is a model of self-analysis, and tells what tantalizes a 65-to-70-year-old gay man after his lover of more than 40 years has died. \$17.95 pb, 1-56023-888-7, Harrington.

**\*True Selves: Understanding Transsexualism for Families, Friends, Coworkers and Helping Professionals** by Mildred L. Brown and Chloe Ann Rounsley — With real life stories, letters, poems and more, this is a first coming-out collection for the TS community. \$25 cl, 0-7879-0271-3, Jossey Bass.

**\*The Women** by Hilton Als — In four provocative studies, *New Yorker* and *Out Magazine* writer Als looks at the issues of racial and sexual identity; among the portraits — that of brilliant Harvard-educated

Dorothy Dean, who rarely identified with either other women or other Blacks, but surrounded herself with white gay men. \$21 cl, 0-374-29205-1, FSG.

**\*Out in Force: Sexual Orientation and the Military** edited by Gregory Herek, Jared Jobe and Ralph Carney — Refuting the notion that gayness and the military are incompatible, this study of the issue from a social science perspective aims to keep the issue of gays in the services alive. \$17.95, 0-226-40048-4, University of Chicago.



**The Good Book** by Peter J. Gomes — Harvard's minister reads the Bible without blinkers and suggests that it does not exclude lesbians and gays, or women, or people of color — all those the religious bigots claim the good book gives them the right to cast out. \$25 cl, 0-688-13447-5, Morrow.

**\*The Rights of People Who Are HIV Positive** by William Rubenstein, Ruth Eisenberg and Lawrence Gostin — One in a series of excellent legal-rights guides produced by the ACLU and pitched at the layperson. \$13.95 pb, 0-8093-1992-6, December, Southern Illinois University Press.

**\*The Rights of Families** by Martin Guggenheim, Alexandra Dylan Lowe and Diane Curtis — Ditto; includes section on adoptive, single-parents and gay and lesbian parents. \$8.95 pb, 0-8093-2052-5, Southern Illinois University Press.

**\*Life Is Not a Rehearsal** by David Brudnoy — We are everywhere; here, we are a conservative Boston radio talkshow host who kept his job and his following after he "came out," at age 54, as both gay and a person with AIDS. \$22.95 cl, 0-385-48276-0, January, Doubleday.

**Science and Other Homosexualities** edited by Vernon Rosario — The first anthology by historians of science studying European and American research on sexual orientation since the coining of the word "homosexual" nearly 150 years ago. \$17.95 pb, 0-415-91502-3, Routledge.

**We Are Everywhere: A Historical Sourcebook for Gay and Lesbian Politics** edited by Mark Blasius and Shane Phelan — Includes writings from the beginnings of the gay movement (Ulrichs, Hirschfield, Symonds through ONE, Mattachine, The Ladder, Daughters of

Bilitis, on to the early days of AIDS, through to current activism. \$24.95 pb, 0-415-90859-0, Routledge.

#### SPECIAL BONUS COOKBOOK SECTION

Despite all the passion gay men are said to have for cooking and dinner parties (to say nothing of that Martha Stewart stuff), there really haven't been many gay-specific cookbooks. What makes a sorbet gay, anyway? But as I went through several hundred torn-out catalogue pages to compile this column, I came across several:

**Food For Life and Other Dish** edited by Lawrence Schimel — A benefit book for organizations around the country serving meals to people with AIDS, this one contains not one but two (or perhaps more) lasagna recipes (Michael Musto and Tony Kushner), and dozens more, from queer and queer-friendly authors. Full disclosure #1: I have a recipe in it. A meaty one. "I need meat recipes," the editor wailed at me. "Everyone's a vegetarian." (As is he.) Full disclosure #2: the cover models manage the New York branch of *A Different Light*, in one case, and clerk in the San Francisco store, in the other. \$14.95 pb, 1-57344-061-2, Cleis.

**Cookin' With Honey: What Literary Lesbians Eat** edited by Amy Scholder — In the tradition of M.F.K. Fisher, this is as much a collection of mouth-watering essays and ruminations on the sensuousness of food and the satisfaction of preparing it well, as it is a recipe book. \$13.95 pb, 1-56341-076-1, Firebrand.



**Queer Street Cookbook** by Donna Clark — "With so much disposable income and so few children, queers are seriously into cuisine," says this book's publicist, promising recipes with which to bed the baby dyke spotted at the Girl Bar, with which to prepare homo hordes for Gay Pride marches or with which to turn off the sexual approach of a guy you'd still like to break friendly bread with. \$16.95 pb, 0-304-33812-5, Cassell.

**Feast for Life: Over 100 Celebrities and Chefs Share Their Favorite Recipes** by Linda Provus Bartlett and Gretchen Sandin Jordan, foreword by Elizabeth Taylor — Here's the straight version of *Food for Life*, featuring recipes from the likes of Diane Sawyer (roasted potato skins), Harrison Ford (pasta) and Karl Lagerfeld (apple strudel). Proceeds to

DIFFA and the Pediatric AIDS Foundation. \$35 cl, 0-00-255459-3, HarperSan Francisco.

**Positive Cooking** by Janet Brauer, Lisa McMillan and Jill Jarvie — On a more serious note, here's a useful recipe book specifically for people living with HIV, using sensible nutrition as a way to deal with the side effects of medications used to fight HIV. \$12.95 pb, 0-89529-734-5, Avery Publishing, PGW.

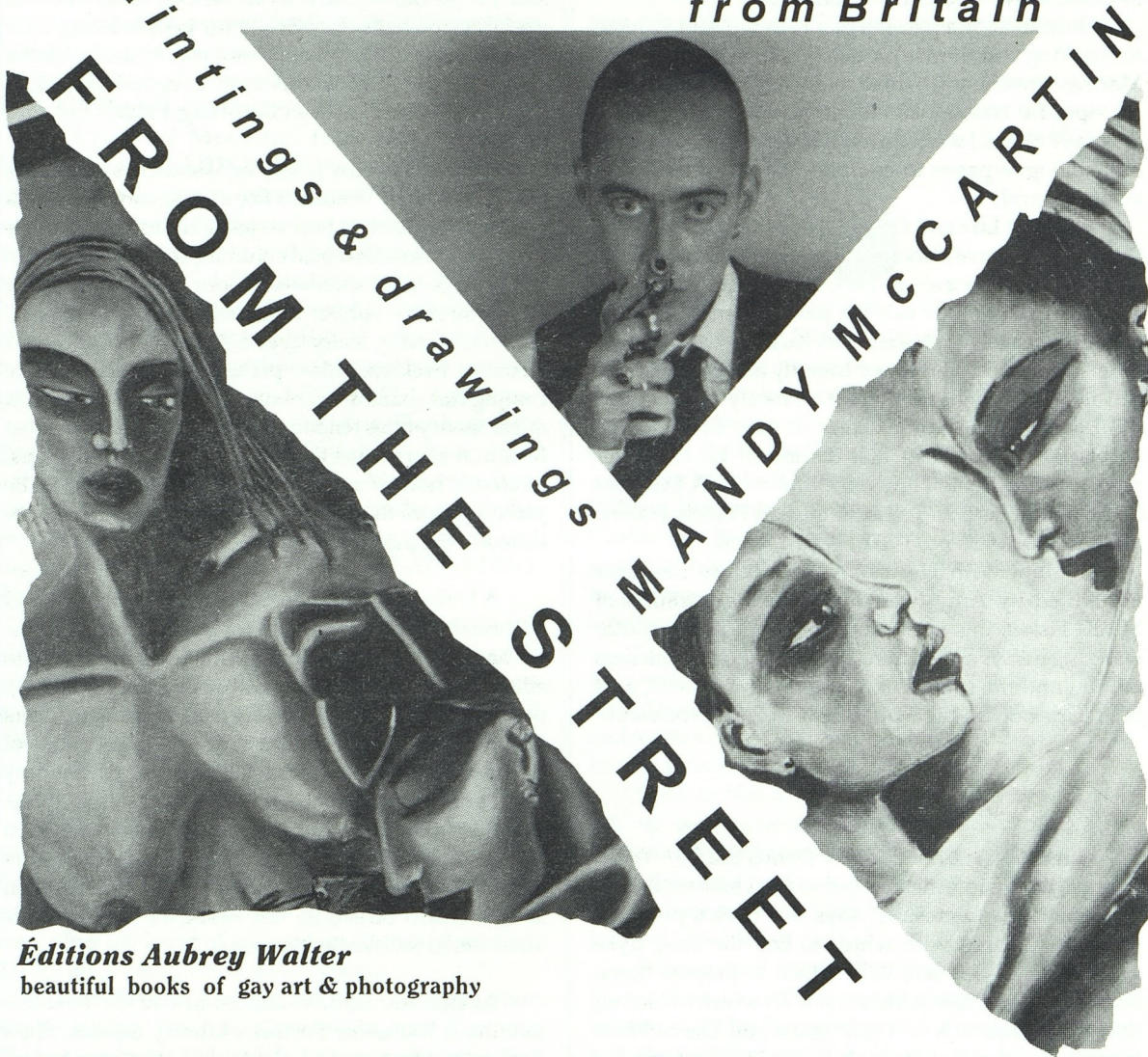
A trend this year in gay books: there's a *lot* more non-fiction than fiction so far, as you can see from a count of the listings you've just skimmed. My sense from past years, and past columns, is that while there has always been somewhat more non-fiction (there are many more subject categories, after all), the balance has recently really tipped. What does this mean? Stronger backlist, sales, perhaps — good religion, coming out, parenting, sexual how-to, reference and queer theory titles tend to sell more steadily than most fiction. It also means that, for now, major publishers, academic houses and university presses must all be profiting from the lesbian and gay titles they've published in the past few years.

A Different Light Bookstore is preparing a series of specialty catalogues to use for outside sales; to date, we have one listing more than 100 titles of interest to educators and librarians (**Concerning the Children**), produced for GLSTN, the Gay and Lesbian Teachers Network; and two smaller ones, with a couple of dozen titles each, covering **Counseling & Therapy** and **Parenting**. By year's end, we'll have two more: **The Law and Us** and **Queer in the Workplace**, each with a couple of dozen titles. If any *FBN*-reading store would like a copy of these, please write to Jim Breeden at 489 Castro Street, SF CA 94114, or e-mail to his attention to (adl@adlbooks.com).

To end: my favorite lesbian title of the past few months is Katherine Forrest's **Liberty Square**. She's continuing the Kate Delafield series started at Naiad, and here shifts locale from Los Angeles to Washington, where her Delafield is attending a reunion of Vietnam vets. There are several pleasures to Forrest's work, among them the fast pace of her story, the skilled interweaving of politics and personality, and the evolution, over the years, of Kate's personal life. \$21.95 cl, 0-425-15477-X, Berkley Crime. ○

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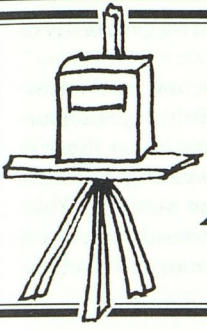
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# ART BOOKS

By Tee A. Corinne

This is one of those months when it is obvious that the Women's Liberation Movement has had a tremendous impact on the range and number of books about women artists coming out. This, in turn, impacts art that is produced in the future, the ways in which it is made available, and who is seen as the reading/buying public. Congratulations all!

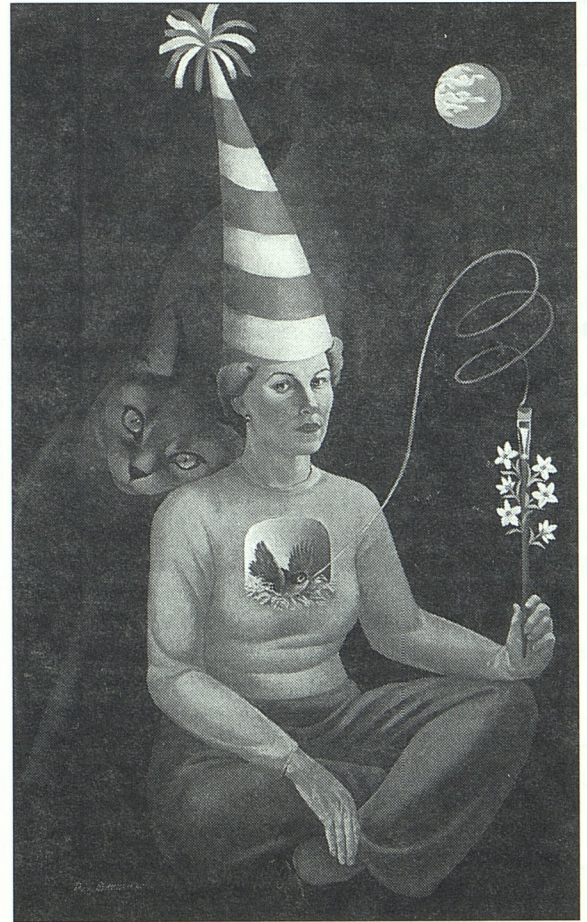
Canadian Emily Carr (1871–1945) is one of my favorite artists. **Beloved Land: The World of Emily Carr**, introduction by Robin Laurence, is a wonderful way to get to know this gifted painter and writer who never married, was perhaps more fond of animals than people, and did stunning paintings of the British Columbian landscape and Native sites along the coast. \$17.95 pb, 0-295-97542-3, Douglas & McIntyre and the University of Washington Press.

**Feminism & Contemporary Art: The Revolutionary Power of Women's Laughter** by Jo Anna Isaak features the work of women artists active, for the most part, in the last 30 years: Nancy Spero, Mary Kelley, Lorna Simpson, Hannah Wilke, Kiki Smith and the Guerrilla Girls. Of special interest is a large section on Russian women artists. All reproductions are in black and white. \$17.95 pb, 0-415-08015-0, Routledge.

**Women, Creativity, and the Arts: Critical and Autobiographical Perspectives** edited by Diane Apostolos-Cappadona and Lucinda Ebersole is a fascinating collection of first person accounts by writers and visual artists including Georgia O'Keefe, Michele Wallace, Louise Nevelson and Audre Lorde. \$18.95 pb, 0-8264-0831-1, Continuum Books.

**Erotic Faculties** by Joanna Frueh is a collection of personal essays by a contemporary performance artist

and art historian. "Through personal reflection, parody, autobiography, and poetry, Frueh shows us what it means to perform criticism, to personalise critical thinking." Stimulating. Highly recommended. \$19.95 pb, 0-520-20082-9; \$55 cl, 0-520-20081-0, University of California Press.



Self portrait by Dorr Bothwell, from *Independent Spirits* (University of California Press).

**Finger-Licking Good: The Ins and Outs of Lesbian Sex** by Tamsin Wilton, along with a lively discussion of lesbian communities and issues, profiles seven artists who have worked with sexual imagery: Della Grace, Kiss and Tell, Laurence Jaughey-Paget and me. Subtle and perceptive. \$17.95 pb, 0-304-33259-3, Cassell. Distributed by LPC.

A complex and interesting book, **A Question of Balance: Artists and Writers on Motherhood** edited by Judith Pierce Rosenberg, includes interviews with writers and artists including sculptors Linda Vallejo, Alison Saar, Roxanne Swentzell, photographer Bea Nettles, painters Karen Horn, Elizabeth Murray, Faith Ringgold, May Stevens, illustrator Trina Schart Hyman and collage artist Betye Saar. \$14 pb, 0-918949-53-X; \$25 cl, 0-918949-54-8, Papier-Mache Press. Distributed by LPC.

In **Dialogues with Zuni Potters**, Milford Nahohai and Elisa Phelps combine interviews with wonderful pictures of contemporary Native American potters (often shown at work) and their pots, bowls and animal forms. Most of the potters are women. \$19.95 pb, 0-9641401-3-6; \$45 cl, 0-9641401-2-8,

Zuni A:shiwi Publishing. Distributed by University of New Mexico Press.

**Jane Bown, Observer**, introduction by Andrew Billen, is a collection of images by a British photojournalist who began chronicling the faces of our times in the 1950s. These sympathetic, revealing portraits engage whether you recognize the subjects (Yoko Ono, Kate Millett, Ella Fitzgerald, Sinéad O'Connor) or not. \$19.95 pb, 0-500-27891-1, Thames and Hudson. Distributed by W.W. Norton.



**Susie Cooper: An Elegant Affair** by Bryn Youds features plates, jugs, tea and coffee sets, and more produced from the 1920s on by a British ceramist (1902-1995) who achieved commercial success in England and the U.S. \$24.95 pb, 0-500-27888-1, Thames and Hudson. Distributed by W.W. Norton.

**Earth, Spirit and Gender: Visual Language for the New Reality** by Kyra Belán records the explorations of an American artist of Argentine heritage. Chapters include: "The Issue of Gender-Identified Art," "The Face of Mother God," "The Female Gaze and the Male Nude," "Earth, Nature and the Eco-Feminist Vision" and "The Artist as Shaman." \$27 pb, 0-8281-0835-8, American Heritage Custom Publishing; 800-242-8786.

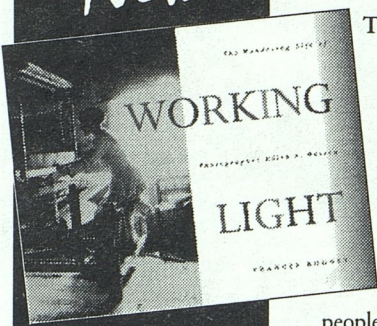
**Cecilia Beaux and the Art of Portraiture** by Tara Tappert presents the work of a painter of the American upper class (1855-1942), still active into the 1920s, but best known for her dignified and elegant pictures of men and women in formal attire. \$29.95 pb, 1-56098-658-1, Smithsonian Institution Press.

**Olympic Portraits** by Annie Leibovitz is an extraordinary collection of black and white photographs of athletes in motion and repose. \$29.95 cl, 0-8212-2366-6, Little, Brown.

**Reframings: New American Feminist Photographies** edited by Diane Neumaier, foreword by Anne Wilkes Tucker, is a lavishly produced, highly intellectual, multi-cultural/multi-ethnic celebration of the scruffy-grunge school of contemporary photography. \$49.95 cl, 1-56639-331-0, Temple University Press.

**Secrets, Dialogues, Revelations: The Art of Betye and Alison Saar** with essays and interviews by

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Lucy R. Lippard, Ishmael Reed and Judith Wilson, "examines the shared experience of two Black women, two artists, two mothers, and their very special relationship" with each other as mother and daughter. \$30 pb, spiral bound, 0-943739-14-4, Wight Art Gallery. Distributed by University of Washington Press.

**Nampeyo and Her Pottery** by Barbara Kramer is an engaging, informative biography of the famous Hopi-Tewa potter (1860–1942) who is credited with revitalizing Hopi pottery "by creating a contemporary style inspired by prehistoric ceramics." \$39.95 cl, 0-8263-1718-9, University of New Mexico Press.

**Tapestries of Hope, Threads of Love: The Arpillera Movement in Chile, 1975–1994** by Marjorie Agosin is probably priced too high for the slimness of the volume (142 pages), but the art work is so moving, and the interviews so compelling, that, once opened, it is difficult to put it down. \$39.95 pb, 0-8263-1692-1; \$70 cl, 0-8263-1691-3, University of New Mexico Press.

**Independent Spirits: Women Painters of the American West, 1890–1945** edited by Patricia Trenton takes a regional focus in celebrating the work of a variety of artists who worked outside of the Paris/New York mainstream. With its intermixing of solid text, documentary photographs and lush color prints, it is a striking resource and a delightful gift book. \$29.95 pb, 0-520-20203-1; \$60 cl, 0-520-20202-3, Autry Museum of Western Heritage/University of California Press. Distributed by University of California Press.

**Vivir La Muerte: Rituals of Death in Latin America** by Bastienne Schmidt, introduction by Edward Sullivan, is a collection of intense, black and white photographs by a contemporary German woman who spent five years documenting the ritual surrounding death in Peru, Columbia, Guatemala, Mexico, Cuba and Brazil. \$39.95 cl, 3-905514-73-7, Edition Stemmi. Distributed by Distributed Art Publishers, 636 Broadway, New York NY 10012.



**The Exceptional Woman: Elisabeth Vigée-Lebrun and the Cultural Politics of Art** by Mary D. Sheriff is a detailed study of a famous French portrait painter (1755–1842). The author utilizes "philosophy as well as modern feminism, psychoanalysis, literary

theory, and art criticism" to broaden the understanding of Vigée-Lebrun's success. \$40 cl, 0-226-75275-5, University of Chicago Press.

**Imogen Cunningham: Flora** by Richard Lorenz is a lush, gorgeous book of black and white (and some color) photographs by one of the pioneers in the transition from soft focus to sharply defined images which took place in the 1920s. Cunningham (1883–1976) spent most of her adult life in the San Francisco Bay Area and her images reflect the range of plant forms which thrive in that moderate climate. \$45 cl, 0-8212-2221-X, Bulfinch/Little, Brown.



**Mbuti Design: Paintings by Pygmy Women of the Ituri Forest** by Georges Meurant and Robert Farris Thompson is a scholarly study, handsomely produced, of geometric designs painted on cloth and on bodies. \$60 cl, 0-500-97430-6, Thames and Hudson. Distributed by W. W. Norton.

**Barbara Hepworth: A Pictorial Autobiography** by David Fraser Jenkins is once again available. Hepworth (1903–1975), British, paved the way for women sculptors to tackle large scale commissions and abstract work. \$22.95 pb, 0-295-96768-4, Tate Gallery. Distributed in the U.S. only by University of Washington Press.

New distributor: **At Century's End: Norwegian Artists and the Figurative Tradition, 1880/1990** by Susan Fisher Sterling, Anne Wichstrøm and Toril Smit, previously reviewed here as "a rich and fascinating book which gives up ways of understanding how women artists have supported one another." \$28.95 pb, 0-940979-32-2; \$50 cl, 1-55553-288-8, The National Museum of Women in the Arts. Distributed by Northeastern University Press.

And finally, **Forbidden Fires** by Margaret C. Anderson, edited by Mathilda M. Hills deserves art attention for two reasons. First, the 97 photographs — most of which have never been published before — show a creative circle of lesbian friends. Further, Margaret Anderson's first major lover, Jane Heap, trained at the Chicago Art Institute in the 19-teens and ran an influential avant-garde gallery in New York City in the 1920s. \$21.95 cl, 1-56280-123-6, Naiad Press. ○

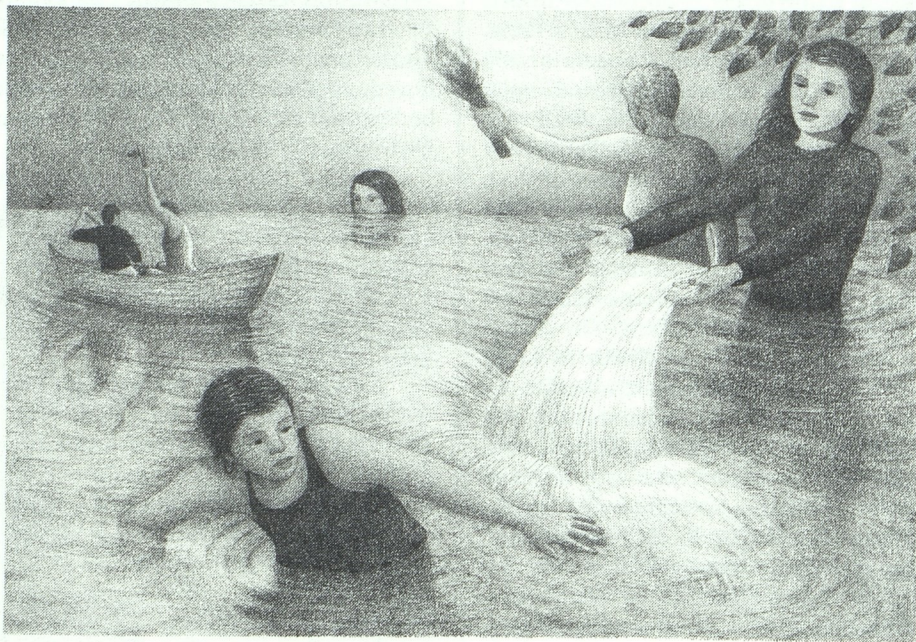
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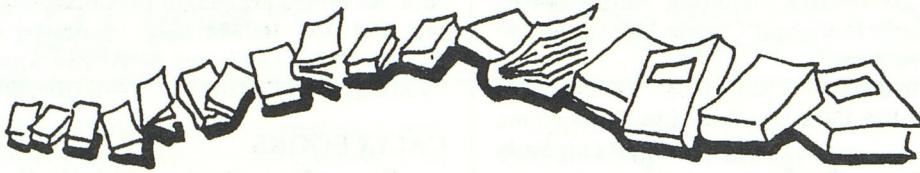
*Order now for delivery mid-September 1996*

*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 [sbvpv@eden.com](mailto:sbvpv@eden.com). Also available through Plain View Press from Baker and Taylor. ISBN:0-911051-86-4. \$15.95p, 160 pgs.

# FROM OUR OWN PRESSES



Compiled by Jenn Tust

## ASTARTE SHELL PRESS

*Celebrating Ourselves*, a crone ritual book first published in 1992, was mentioned by Laura Weltner in her syndicated column. She had attended a croning ceremony and learned of the book depicting the ritual. She mentioned it and us, and for the last nine months orders from Pennsylvania, Texas, Ohio, Massachusetts and Indiana have flowed in as the local papers picked up the column and/or wrote their own version. The Des Moines paper, for instance, ran a full-page spread, which *USA Today* and then CNN picked up. Oh for the joys of a syndicated column on all our books!

Another great asset for a publisher is an author with charm, hutzpah and energy. Such an author generates lists and contacts for the publisher, reaches out to bookstores herself, and initiates interviews and readings. This is what Toke Hoppenbrouwers, author of *Autumn Sea*, has been doing. As a result, she has been largely responsible for generating sales of half the run in six months, even though she is a first-time novelist. For a small press, with one person responsible for all the marketing, such an author is a godsend.

Astarte Shell Press, PO Box 3648, Portland ME 04104; 207-828-1992, 800-329-0941. Distributed by Koen, LPC/InBook. —Astarte Shell Press

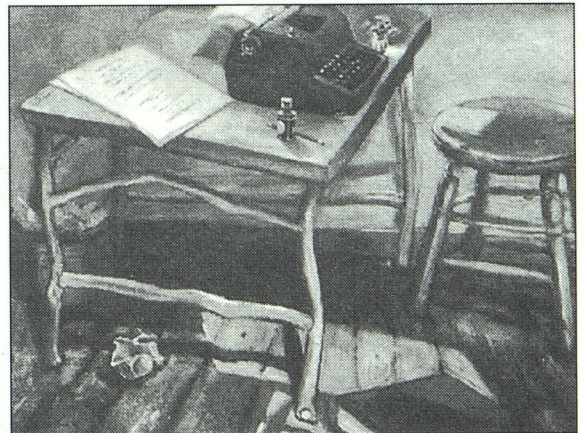


## AUNT LUTE BOOKS

**I Remember: Writings by Bosnian Women Refugees** edited by Radmila Manojlovic is a collection of short memoirs written by Bosnian women refugees and accompanied by their drawings. It

serves as a testament to the strength and commitment to a multicultural state of these Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian women of all religions, ages and ethnic backgrounds. Designed as a replication of the original handmade book (of which only 80 were produced during wartime) the memoirs appear in the original Serbo-Croatian, along with English, Spanish and Italian translations. \$22.50 cl, 1-879960-46-X.

**Grassroots: A Multicultural Reader** edited by Aunt Lute. As a multicultural women's press, Aunt Lute has been committed to publishing the words of women from an extraordinary range of personal, political and cultural histories. **Grassroots** brings together some of our most highly acclaimed essays and stories about identity, survival and celebration creating a sampler of the most vibrant voices in literature today. It includes works by Paula Gunn Allen, Gloria Anzaldúa, Kleya Forte-Escamilla and Jyl Lynn Felman. \$7.95 pb, 1-879960-49-4.



"Birthplace" by Laurie York, from *We'Moon '97*  
(Mother Tongue Ink)

Aunt Lute's 16-month weekly planner, **Imagery: Women Writers**, features remarkable portraits by talented photographer Jean Weisinger and inspiring words from 33 writers including Audre Lorde, Chrystos, Angela Davis and Cherríe Moraga. \$13.95 spiral, 1-879960-48-6.

Aunt Lute Books, PO Box 410687, San Francisco CA 94141; 415-826-1300. Distributed by Consortium, BP, SPD. —Aunt Lute Books



## BOOKLEGGER PUBLISHING

Booklegger Publishing has acquired the rights from Cleis Press to Celeste West's bestselling *Lesbian Love Advisor* in order to market it with West's new **Lesbian Polyfidelity: How to Keep Nonmonogamy Safe, Sane, Honest, & Laughing, You Rogue!** and her other titles. Booklegger also distributes poet/philosopher Elsa Gidlow's autobiography *Elsa: I Come with My Songs* and her collected poetry *Sapphic Songs* as well as her other books and audio tapes. **Lesbian Polyfidelity** is advertised in the Feminist Bookstore

Network's Fall Catalog. \$15 pb, 0-912932-15-5; \$25 cl, -16-3. Booklegger discounts 1-4 titles at 20%, 5-9 at 30%, 10+ at 40%. Carton quantities of the same title: 50%. All orders are freight free! Booklegger Publishing, PO Box 460654, San Francisco CA 94146; 415-642-7569. Distributed by Alamo Square, BP and by Marginal in Canada. —Booklegger Publishing

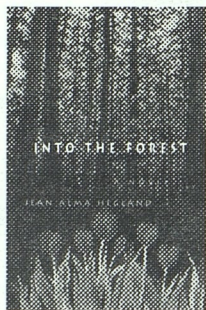
## CALYX BOOKS

**Present Tense: Writing and Art by Young Women** edited by the Calyx Young Women's Editorial Collective (Micki Reaman et al.). This groundbreaking anthology of vibrant work by a new generation of writers and artists — the 20th anniversary special issue of Calyx Journal (Summer 1996) — is now being released as a book. Edited by a group of young editors and writers, **Present Tense** is "multicultural," "post-industrial," "chick lit" — always, it is utterly contemporary. "Sistas, you sing, make my spine shiver: what you know, I know — the diaspora of your lives crystallizing in words, the pissed-off frantic sweet lyric that resounds for all of us here in the present tense. My thanks to you." —Lois-Ann Yamanaka.

# NEW TITLES FROM



# CALYX BOOKS



## INTO THE FOREST

by Jean Hegland

Jean Hegland creates a speculative fiction that is lush, gripping, and oddly prophetic. Two sisters must survive the collapse of society alone.

"In sensuous, lyrical prose, Jean Hegland pulls us into an intimate relationship with the sisters, the clearing in which they live, and the deep forest around them. At each step, we ask ourselves: 'Would I do this? Could I do this?'" —Susanna Sturgis

275 pages, \$13.95 paper, ISBN 0-934971-49-8; \$25.95x cloth, ISBN 0-934971-50-1

Distributed to the trade  
by Consortium  
1-800-283-3572

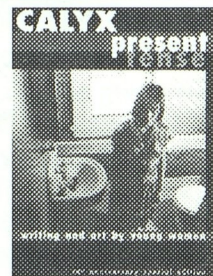
*Sistas, you sing, make my spine shiver: what you know, I know—the diaspora of your lives crystallizing in words, the pissed-off frantic sweet lyric that resounds for all of us here in present tense.* —Lois-Ann Yamanaka, author of *Wild Meat* and *the Bully Burgers*

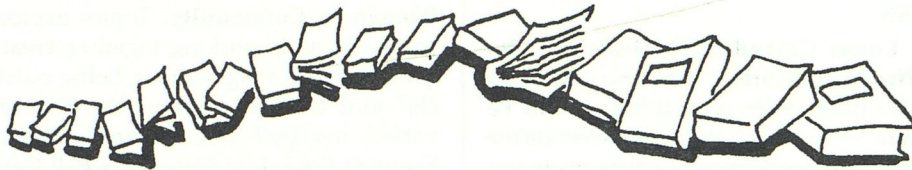
176 pages, \$14.95 paper, ISBN 0-934971-53-6; \$26.95x cloth, ISBN 0-934971-54-4

CALYX · PO BOX B · CORVALLIS OR 97339 · 541 753 9384 · FAX 541 753 0515

## SPECIAL CALYX 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY ANTHOLOGY

## PRESENT TENSE: WRITING AND ART BY YOUNG WOMEN





"What a wonderful birthday present...engrossing writing and art by emerging talent." —Tee Corinne. "New as only a generation can be new, [Present Tense] casts race, class, sexuality, family, community, country in surprising ways that embrace the past yet speak from the present tense." —Shirley Geok-lin Lim. \$14.95 pb, 0-934971-53-6; \$26.95 cl, -54-4, January. Calyx Books, PO Box B, Corvallis OR 97339; 541-753-9384, fax 541-753-0515. Distributed by Consortium, BP, SPD, Pacific Pipeline, Banyan Tree Distribution, Airlift, and other small press distributors. —Calyx Books



## JP COMMUNICATIONS

Jan Phillips, co-founder of the Syracuse Cultural Workers, co-editor of their annual *Women Artists Datebook: In Praise of the Muse* and author of *Making Peace: One Woman's Journey Around the World*, recently published **Born Gay: Images and Reflections of an Ordinary Lesbian**. In chapbook form, this photographic chronicle of the author's life from age 3 to 47 is a quick and entertaining read. Phillips writes of her early crushes on women, outing a straight friend, dismissal from the convent and how she finally comes into herself, how her family reacts and how she feels at 47. \$8 pb, no ISBN. 40% for 5+. JP Communications, 3226 Petunia Court, San Diego CA 92117; 619-483-2955, fax 619-483-2959, e-mail (jpfalsh@aol.com).—JT

## LAUGH LINES PRESS

**Still Can't Keep a Straight Face** by Ellen Orleans, illustrations by Noreen Stevens. Ellen Orleans, author of the Lammy-winning *The Butches of Madison County*, is back, with a brand-new collection of wickedly funny essays on topics ranging from lesbian adventure novels and Olivia Cruises to Ricki Lake and the Supreme Court. Ellen's first three lesbian humor books have sold close to 20,000 copies and are still selling steadily. Ellen's latest take on lesbian life will be a strong seller as well. \$8.95 pb, 1-889594-01-6.

**Meow-Mories: A Place for Kitten Notes and Cat Fancies by Non-Biological Parents of Fabulous Felines** by Julia Willis, illustrations by Chris Suddick, is a charming and humorous "baby book" in which to record the antics and mark the milestones of the fabulous felines in your life, with plenty of space for photos and momentos. Illustrated by cat-loving cartoonist Chris Suddick. Writer Julia Willis is the author of the very funny *Who Wears the Tux? The All American Dyke Quiz*. Advertised in the Feminist Bookstore Network's Fall Catalog. \$9.95 pb, 1-889594-00-8.

**Caffeinated Cartoons: Cartoons about Coffee and Tea** by Stephanie Piro. Hilarious cartoons celebrating America's addiction to coffee and tea by popular cartoonist Stephanie Piro (author of *Men! Ha!*, *Caffeinated Romance*, *The Caffeinated Workplace*, *Coffee Snobs*, *Tea Rebels* and much more). Piro's new single panel cartoon feature, *Fair Game*, has just been picked up by Chronicle Features and will be syndicated to major newspapers starting this fall. Piro's work has been featured in *Ms.*, *The Funny Times*, *Glamour*, *Women's Glib* and on countless T-shirts and coffee mugs. \$7.95 pb, 0-9632526-9-0.



Laugh Lines is also advertising *Kicking the Habit: Cartoons about the Catholic Church* by Rina Piccolo, Ellen Orleans' *Who Cares If It's a Choice: Snappy Answers to 101 Nosy, Intrusive and Highly Personal Questions about Lesbians and Gay Men* and *The Butches of Madison County* in the Feminist Bookstore Network's Fall Catalog.

All Laugh Lines titles are available directly from the publisher (PO Box 259, Bala Cynwyd PA 19004 at a 50% discount, prepaid, with no minimum order. We pay postage on orders of +5). Also available from LPC/Womansource, BP, Alamo Square, Koen, Bookazine and most other distributors.

—Laugh Lines Press

**LUNA PRESS**

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". Nancy F. W. Passmore, Editor. \$20, 1-877920-07-X. 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. —*Luna Press*



**MOTHER TONGUE INK**

The 16th edition of **We'Moon: Gaia Rhythms for Womyn** is ready. An astrological moon calendar, appointment book, and daily guide to natural rhythms for women **We'Moon** is a multicultural anthology of women's art and writing, as well as a primer on living in tune with the earth's cycles. The **We'Moon** has 40 pages of reference material and informative articles, making astrology and lunar rhythms accessible to anyone who uses the calendar, and it is filled with articles, poetry and art from 100 women! **We'Moon '97** focuses on the theme of

**Womyn in Community**. Topics explored include: womyn's land, working together, creating culture, generations, loving womyn, being outside "the circle" and tools of community. The offerings are varied, heartfelt and genuine. Advertised in the Feminist Bookstore Network's Fall Catalog. \$13.95 pb, 0-9510661-8-8. Mother Tongue Ink, PO Box 1395-R, Estacada OR 97023; 503-630-7848. Distributed by BP, Ingram, New Leaf, Pacific Pipeline.

—*Mother Tongue Ink*

**NAIAD PRESS**

Well-known for her true-to-life portrayals of the joys and heartbreaks of contemporary lesbian life, Jackie Calhoun paints a frighteningly real portrait of an obsessed ex-lover in the compelling romance **Love or Money**. Calhoun is the author of *Lifestyles, Triple Exposure, Second Chance, Friends and Lovers, Changes* and *Sticks and Stones*, which is also available from Naiad on audio-cassette. \$10.95 pb, 1-56280-147-3, December.

Author of *Patience and Sarah, Side By Side, The Love of Good Women* and *A Dooryard Full of Flowers*, the incomparable Isabel Miller is without a doubt one of the most beloved lesbian novelists of all time. **Laurel**, a passionate account of May-December romance, is Miller's richest, most deeply intimate novel yet. \$10.95 pb, 1-56280-146-5, December.

**Costa Brava** is the heartwarming, hilarious novelization of Marta Balletbo-Coll's award-winning

Sarah Aldridge's



**Amantha**

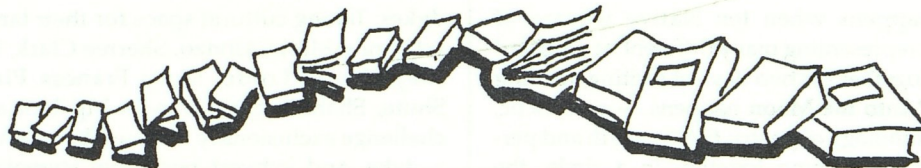
The story of two women caught in the web of the opulent patriarchal society of Baltimore, Paris and London in the 1880s and 90s, who nevertheless reach intimate love with each other. ISBN: 0-9646648-0-1 \$10.95

**Magdalena**

The story of a great diva, brought by the loss of her heart's love to the depth of despair as a homeless streetwoman, and of the devoted friendship of four younger women who rescue her. ISBN: 0-9646648-1-X \$9.95

For more than twenty years Sarah Aldridge's novels have enthralled and inspired many women. Critics have called them "superlative writing", "delightful", "fast-moving, romantic, highly enjoyable", "a joy to read". All twelve of the novels are now available only from their new publisher, A&M Books: *The Latecomer, Tottie, Cytherea's Breath, All True Lovers, The Nesting Place, Madame Aurora, Misfortune's Friend, Magdalena, Keep to Me Stranger, A Flight of Angels, Michaela, Amantha*. Send for our free catalog: **A&M Books**, P.O. Box 283, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971; 1-800-489-7662. Booksellers are offered a 50% discount. We do not have a minimum on orders.





film. Set amidst the beauty of Barcelona and the splendor of Spain's Mediterranean coast, **Costa Brava** chronicles the love affair between Anna, a Barcelona tour guide and aspiring performance artist, and Montserrat, a Tel Aviv-born/Boston-bred seismic engineer. The feature-length video of *Costa Brava* is also available from Naiad Press (\$49.95). \$11.95 pb, 1-56280-160-0, January.



**Meeting Magdalene** is an intriguing short story collection by the multi-talented Marilyn Freeman, creator of the sexy, lesbian film of the same name. Her stories pulsate with insightful, poignant, humorous peeks at romance, relationships, coming out, staying in, power dykes and babes in the 'burbs. The video version of **Meeting Magdalene** is also available from Naiad Press (\$24.95). \$11.95 pb, 1-56280-170-8, January.

**Second Fiddle** is the spellbinding followup to Kate Calloway's blockbuster debut novel, *First Impressions*. Someone is blackmailing the residents of Cedar Ridge and Oregon private eye Cassidy James buries herself in the investigation, hoping it will help her forget the horror of her last case...and the woman who broke her heart. Let your mystery buffs know that Calloway's next thriller, *Third Degree*, will be coming out soon! \$11.95 pb, 1-56280-161-9, January.

The Naiad Press, PO Box 10543, Tallahassee FL 32302; 904-539-5965. Naiad titles are available from the publisher and from BP, LPC/WomanSource, Ingram, et al. —*Naiad Press*

## SISTER VISION PRESS

We've been under some duress lately — drastic arts funding cuts at both provincial and federal levels have had a devastating effect on all small Ontario presses: we were saddened to witness the recent demise of Coach House, the highly respected literary press that launched the careers of Margaret Atwood

and Michael Ondaatje, among many others. Furthermore, here in Toronto, a local ultraconservative talk-radio host has launched a campaign to get *all* of Sister Vision's funding cut, on the grounds that our being a women-of-colour publishing house is "racist." Nonetheless, we're forging ahead.

**Quilting a New Canon: Stitching Women's Words** edited by Uma Parameswaran is a collection of essays that attempts "to ground a theory of justice in the experience of injustice." Feminist inquiry into difficult and provocative socio-economic questions provides a context for the literary critiques and theoretical discussions of other essays. This book doesn't just insist that *all* women's voices must be "quilted" into the literary canon — it illustrates *why*. C\$24.95/\$19.95 pb, 1-896705-06-5.

## Small Press Distributors

Alamo Square Distributors  
PO Box 14543, San Francisco CA 94114  
415-252-0643, fax 415-863-7456

Bookpeople (BP)  
7900 Edgewater Drive, Oakland CA 94621  
800-999-4650, fax 510-632-1281

Consortium  
1045 Westgate Drive, St. Paul MN 55114  
800-283-3572, fax 612-221-0124

Koen/Inland (Koen)  
10 Twosome Drive, Moorestown NJ 08057  
800-257-8481, fax 609-727-6914

LPC Group (InBook/Login Trade/Womensource)  
1436 West Randolph Street, Chicago IL 60607  
800-243-0138, fax 800-334-3892

Publishers Group West (PGW)  
Box 8843, Emeryville CA 94662  
800-788-3123, fax 510-658-1834

What happens when ten Native women of diverse ages, representing many different nations and clans, come together for two days of writing, reading and sharing? **Into the Moon** happens — an eclectic, engrossing anthology of poetry, fiction, myth and personal essays. By coming together in a circle, the members of the Native Women's Writing Circle find the strength to speak the experiences of their hearts, souls, bodies and minds, and to challenge hate and violence with their words. C\$14.95/\$12.95 pb, 1-896705-04-9.

Sister Vision Press, PO Box 217, Station E, Toronto ONT M6H 4E2; 416-595-5033, fax 416-595-0627. Distributed in Canada by General Distribution Services, 30 Lesmill Road, Don Mills ONT M5B 2T9; 416-445-3333, fax 416-445-5967. In the U.S. by LPC/InBook.

—Sister Vision Press

**WOMEN'S PRESS — Canada**

**Pushing the Limits: Disabled Dykes Produce Culture** edited by Shelley Tremain is a path-breaking multi-media anthology of fiction, personal narrative, poetry, song and artwork by disabled

dykes. Taking cultural space for their language and art, Anne-Marie Alonzo, Sherree Clark, Laura Hershey, Audre Lorde, Mary Frances Platt, Sherry Shute, Shahnaz Stri, Frances Yip Hoi and others, challenge exclusionary notions about who counts as a dyke, and subvert pervasive stereotypes about disabled people. In doing so, these writers and artists enrich queer communities and contribute to the efforts of anti-ableist and other disability activists. Finally, an autonomous, self-contained collection of cultural work by disabled dykes, **Pushing the Limits** is compelling, provocative and affirming. \$13.95 pb, 0-88961-218-8. Women's Press, 517 College Street #233, Toronto ONT M6G 4A2; 416-921-2425. Distributed in the U.S. by LPC/ InBook and in Canada by University of Toronto Press.

—Women's Press/Canada



**WOMEN'S PRESS — U.K.**

The Women's Press Ltd. titles are finally available again in the U.S.! All of the following titles should be available through Trafalgar Square by the time you read this. Trafalgar will also be opening accounts with other U.S. wholesalers, so check with your favorite distributor. We'll report the details as we get them.

**Instead of Full Stops: A Guide to Writing and Publishing Nonfiction** edited by Susan Sellers offers all the guidance, advice and encouragement needed to write and publish nonfiction books, with contributions from top writers, editors and publishers. Aimed at both novice writers and at writers hoping to make the switch from fiction to nonfiction, journalism to books, or one form of nonfiction to another, it stands out from the "how-to-write" crowd, because of the sheer quality and breadth of the material included. \$17.95 pb, 07043-4439-4.

In **The Protectors' Handbook: Reducing the Risk of Child Sexual Abuse and Helping Children Recover**, Gerrilyn Smith argues that, with child sexual abuse now unquestionably widespread, every adult in any contact at all with children must become an active protector of children (rather than simply a non-abuser). Giving adults all the information and skills necessary to protect children in their day-to-day lives, this excellent book is aimed at parents, other relatives, nurses, teachers, nursery workers, childcare

*Which lunar calendar?*  
**The Lunar Calendar.**



**LUNA PRESS**

Box 15511, Kenmore Station  
Boston, MA 02215-0009 USA  
(617) 427-9846

THE LUNAR CALENDAR:  
DEDICATED TO THE GODDESS IN HER MANY GUISES.

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.



workers — anyone in contact with children. Gerrilyn has been a professional childcare worker for many years and **The Protectors' Handbook** draws on her professional experience, a wide range of sources and techniques and on the testimony of young survivors themselves. \$13.95 pb, 07043-4417-3.

**The A-Z of Non-Sexist Language** by Margaret Doyle provides a complete listing of sexist words and their non-sexist alternatives. It has proved invaluable for writers, editors, journalists, teachers and others and has become a strong seller for The Women's Press both in the U.K. and in Canada. \$13.95 pb, 07043-4430-0.

**Secret Flowers: Adapting to Mourning and to Loss** by Mary Jones is one woman's account of the loss of her husband, the processes of grief and how she learnt to live alone. It has made a huge impact because it describes with clarity and compassion the different stages of grief, loss and recovery. The author is now a bereavement counselor. "A moving record of bereavement and grief...[it] will comfort all those who have to face the death of someone dear and the pain and isolation that can involve." —Val Hennessy, *She*. "Compulsive reading.... Mary Jones has important things to say and she says them clearly, honestly and intricately." —*Bereavement Care*. "A beautifully written book." —*Guardian*. \$13.95 pb, 07043-4505-6.

**Reader I Murdered Him, Too.** edited by Helen Windrath provides superb short stories from top women crime writers, including Sara Paretsky, Amanda Cross, Mary Wings, Val McDermond and many more. (\$11.95 pb, 07043-4363-0.) The sequel to the best-selling collection, *Reader, I Murdered Him*. (\$11.95 pb, 07043-4159-X.)

**Unlike Normal Women** by Vernella Fuller is a powerful novel by increasingly acclaimed Black writer, Vernella Fuller. Set in Jamaica just after independence, three women take a stand against lingering corruption and bring about much-needed change. \$13.95 pb, 07043-4431-9.

In **Snowflakes in the Sun** by Jean Buffong a retired couple returns to Grenada and reflects upon their working life in an often hostile, racist society. "Never before has the Caribbean dialect been molded into such sensuous and uplifting prose." —*Publishers Weekly*. "A wonderfully evocative portrait." —*Kirkus Reviews*. \$13.95 pb 07043-4423-8.

In **Mahi's Story**, celebrated Iranian author Gohar Kordi recounts in fiction form her mother's early years as a young woman, providing a warm and loving picture of the mother/daughter relationship and an analysis of the strengths of Iranian culture. "A writer of riveting quality." —*Good Book Guide*. \$11.95 pb, 07043-4373-8.

These and other backlist titles are also available from Trafalgar Square.



### Backlist Titles

#### NONFICTION:

**Every Mother's Son: The Role of Mothers in the Making of Men** by Judith Arcana. (Arcana is Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies at The Graduate School of the Union Institute, Washington.) \$17.95 pb, 07043-3916-1.

**Our Mother's Daughters** by Judith Arcana. \$15.95 pb, 07043-3864-5.

**Delighting the Heart: A Notebook by Women Writers** edited by Susan Sellers. \$17.95 pb, 07043-4176-0.

**Taking Reality by Surprise: Writing for Pleasure and Publication** edited by Susan Sellers. \$17.95 pb, 07043-4267-7.

**The Anorexic Experience** by Marilyn Lawrence. A Women's Press Handbook. \$13.95 pb, 07043-4441-6.

**Dealing with Depression** by Kathy Nairne and Gerrilyn Smith. A Women's Press Handbook. \$13.95 pb, 07043-4443-2.

**Hidden Loss: Miscarriage and Ectopic Pregnancy** edited by Valerie Hey, Catherine Itzin, Lesley Saunders

and Mary Anne Speakman. *A Woman's Press Handbook*. \$13.95, 07043-4457-2.

**For the Record: The Making and Meaning of Feminist Knowledge** by Dale Spender. \$17.95 pb, 07043-3960-9.

**Not a Passing Phase: Reclaiming Lesbians in History** by the Lesbian History Group. \$17.95 pb, 07043-4175-1.

**New Age and Armageddon: The Goddess or the Gurus? Towards a Feminist Vision of the Future** by Monica Sjo. \$22.95 pb, 07043-4263-4.

**In Our Own Hands: A Book of Self-Help Therapy** by Sheila Ernst and Lucy Goodison. \$17.95 pb, 07043-3841-6.

**On Women and Writing** by Virginia Woolf, selected and introduced by Michele Barrett. \$17.95 pb, 07043-3839-4.

**A Journey into the Red Eye: The Poetry of Sylvia Plath** by Janice Markey. \$15.95 pb, 07043-4316-9.

**Aurora Leigh and Other Poems** by Elizabeth

Barrett Browning, selected and introduced by Cora Kaplan. (Kaplan is Professor of English and Director of the Institute for Research of Women at Rutgers.) \$11.95 pb, 07043-3820-3.



FICTION

**Reader I Murdered Him: Crime Fiction by Women** edited by Jen Green. \$11.95 pb, 07043-4159-X.

**Happy as a Dead Cat** by Jill Miller. \$9.95 pb, 07043-3898-X.

**Three Ply Yarn** by Caeia March. \$13.95 pb, 07043-4007-0.

**Fire! Fire!** by Caeia March. \$13.95 pb, 07043-4282-0.

**The Unbelonging** by Joan Riley. \$13.95 pb, 07043-3959-5.

**Waiting in the Twilight** by Joan Riley. \$13.95 pb, 07043-4023-2.

**The Awakening** by Kate Chopin. \$11.95 pb, 07043-3822-X.

**Devotion and Disorder** by Marie Cardinal. \$15.95 pb, 07043-4247-2.

**A Piece of the Night** by Michele Roberts. \$13.95 pb, 07043-3830-0.

**The Visitation** by Michele Roberts. \$13.95 pb, 07043-3903-X.

**Walk to the End of the World and Motherlines** by Suzy McKee Charnas. \$14.95 pb, 07043-4154-9.

**The Soul Brothers and Sister Lou** by Kristin Hunter. One of our Livewire books for young women. \$9.95 pb, 07043-4900-0.

The Women's Press Ltd. titles are available again in the U.S. through Trafalgar Square Publishing, Howe Hill Road, North Pomfret VT 05053; 802-457-1911, 800-423-4525; fax 802-457-1913. Their terms are: 40% for 3-9; 42% for 10-24; 44% for 25-74; 46% for 75-249. Women's Press titles should also be appearing at other U.S. wholesalers over the next few months. They can be obtained in Canada from Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 195 Allstate Parkway, Markham ONT L3R 4Z8; 905-477-9700, fax 905-477-9179.

—Women's Press/UK.

WOLFE VIDEO

**Antonia's Line** is coming to video in October. A rich, big-hearted fable worthy of the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film, with a delightful

ONE WOMYN'S  
JOURNEY TO FEEL

"I tell of my journey to offer hope to those who have traveled my path. I share my courage and strength to celebrate, to reaffirm, to empower myself and other Womyn who have walked in unshielded silence."

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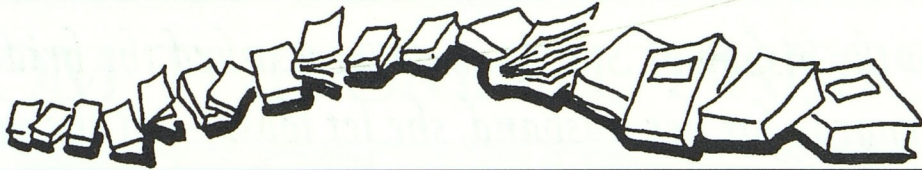
"A journey taken through the eyes of a child and a destination reached by an empowered Womyn."



*"The branches of my body glide  
whispering the mellow winds of her songs  
dancing, rising, roots  
in search of the soul it longs."*

Natures Dance: Laura Irene Wayne ©93





feminist slant. On a bright, sunny morning an elderly woman wakes up and decides that this is the day she will die. Thus begins this Dutch film portraying a rural matriarchy that covers four generations of women. Subtitled in English. Wolfe Video is offering a 40% discount to bookstores on this highly recommended title. \$89.95.

**I Shot Andy Warhol** is coming to video in October. Valerie Solanas, lesbian separatist and founder of the Society for Cutting Up Men (SCUM), has one mission — to spread the word of female superiority. Lili Taylor gives an incredible performance set in the 60s and the cultural whirlwind of events surrounding the shooting of Andy Warhol. (Closed Captioned.) \$89.95.

**French Twist** has also just been released to video by Wolfe. A sexy housewife gets revenge on her two-timing husband by taking a female lover. Based on a true story, this hilarious sex farce takes on new twists and plays on every possibility. Subtitled in English, but you'll love it anyway! \$99.95.

**Teresa's Tattoo** has just been reduced to \$19.95 by Wolfe Video. **Teresa's Tattoo** is last year's goofy comedy with not-to-be-missed cameos by k.d. lang and Melissa Etheridge.

**Coming Out Under Fire** has also just been reduced to \$29.95 by the Wolfe Pack. The experiences of nine gay and lesbian veterans is documented in this powerful new film directed by Academy Award nominee Arthur Dong.

Wolfe Video, PO Box 64, New Almaden CA 95042; 408-268-6782, e-mail (wolfevid@megamed.com).

—Wolfe Video

## Magazines

*InterMountain Woman* is a new bimonthly women's literary magazine out of Missoula, Montana. Founded on the belief that many women would like to read something beyond the standard diet, beauty and romance fare, *InterMountain Woman* publishes art, photos, fiction, poetry, essays, profiles, interviews,

articles, reviews and such by women on topics of interest to women including history, current events, politics, humor, art, environment and the outdoors. They are planning to add regular columns on health, economics, legal concerns and other topics. 72 pages, 8½" by 11" format, black and white glossy, large print, easy to read. Subscription is 6 issues/\$20/year. \$3.95 each. ISSN 77470-90431. *InterMountain Woman*, PO Box 7487, Missoula MT 59807; 406-721-8420, e-mail (imwoman@marsweb.com). And on the Web: (http://www.marsweb.com/imwoman). Distributed by Fine Print.



*Goddessing Network News* is a bimonthly newsprint networking journal for people throughout the world passionately interested in goddessing. This impressive journal includes a large letters and networking section, articles, poetry, interviews, bibliographies of related readings, news, festival reports, reviews, a listing of goddess tours and an extensive calendar of goddess-related events throughout the world. For those interested in the concepts, values, art and inspiration of "prehistoric," pre-patriarchal goddess-oriented cultures. Issue #5, "Still Harvesting/Light Waning," includes a letter and an editorial stance supporting feminist bookstores. "Please Support Your Local Feminist and Alternative Bookstores!" heads an editorial that reads, in part, "These bookstores have given many of us our first exposure to Goddess books and music; now when so many are going out of business, they really need our community to return that gift with our matronage and patronage." 5 issues for \$15-25/£9-13, sliding scale. Sample issue: \$4/£2.50. Based in Malta, but printed and mailed from the U.S. 40%. *Goddessing* has working addresses in both the U.S. and in Malta: PO Box 269, Valrico FL 33595; PO Box 73, Sliema, Malta; e-mail (goddssng@maltnet.omnes.net). Direct order only. ○

*When the bishop of San Juan de Acre asked the bride if she took Bernardo for her husband, she let loose—at the very foot of the altar—with a resounding and energetic “No!”*

*From “Torn Lace”*



*Illustration for Emilia Pardo Bazán's "Castaways" (1909)*

## Torn Lace and Other Stories

*Emilia Pardo Bazán*

*Translated by María Cristina Urruela*

*Introduction by Joyce Tolliver*

Featured in the  
Fall 1996 *Feminist  
Bookstores' Catalog*

ALTHOUGH WRITTEN a century ago, the sixteen stories by Emilia Pardo Bazán collected in this volume are strikingly relevant to contemporary concerns. Noted for narrative complexity, stylistic variety, and feminist themes, Pardo Bazán's stories explore many aspects of the relationships between men and women.

Readers of these stories, most of which are here translated into English for the first time, will encounter memorable and affecting characters. A mysterious nun spends her days in a convent crying over something that happened to her long ago. A young man tries to uncover the true reason a scheming woman married his uncle. An unwed pregnant woman finds unexpected help from a misogynist doctor. A bachelor wishing to marry develops a special test for prospective wives, only to see it backfire. And in the title story, a bride suddenly calls off her wedding at the last possible moment without an explanation.

Both outspoken and witty, melancholy and humorous, these stories will interest general readers as well as students and scholars of Spanish literature.

Considered by many scholars one of the most important writers of nineteenth-century Spain, **Emilia Pardo Bazán** (1851–1921) published twenty novels, twenty-one novellas, two cookbooks, seven plays, nearly six hundred short stories, and hundreds of essays.

January 1997

Advertising in major literary reviews and scholarly journals

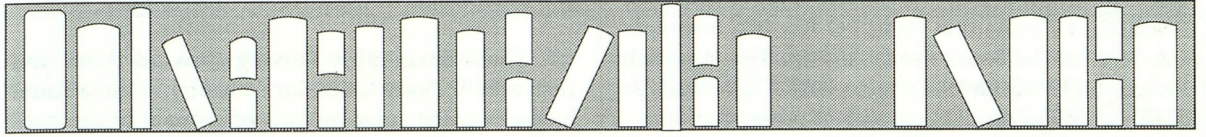
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# FROM THE SMALL PRESSES



By Lisa McGowan and Jenn Tust

An updated edition of Jennifer Harbury's **Bridge of Courage: Life Stories of the Guatemalan Compañeros and Compañeras** has just been released by Common Courage Press. Harbury is the woman whose hunger strikes forced into the open the CIA's long ties to the Guatemalan military as well as the assassination of her husband by a paid agent of the CIA. Through the Guatemalan guerrillas' own stories of fighting against a U.S.-backed army, she provides a terrifying yet inspiring account of a revolution brought down to the most elemental, human level. \$14.95 pb, 1-56751-068-X; \$29.95 cl, -069-8.

Sara Diamond (*Spiritual Warfare: The Politics of the Christian Right, Roads to Dominion: Right-Wing Movements and Political Power in the United States*) has been studying, analyzing and reporting on right-wing movements in this country since the early 1980s. In **Facing the Wrath: Confronting the Right in Dangerous Times**, she provides a highly readable, essential road map of the desolate fringes of our country's politics. Showing that the Far Right is made up of more than just the psychotics who make headlines with their bloody deeds and that it has in fact significant popular, grass-roots support by many who work quietly and diligently to put their agenda into effect, Diamond demonstrates the need to abandon any preconceived stereotypes we have about who this movement is made up of and to understand how it really operates. \$16.95 pb, 1-56751-078-7; \$29.95 cl, -079-5.

Common Courage Press, PO Box 702, Monroe ME 04951; 207-525-0900. Distributed by Koen.

**In the Time of the Right: Reflections on Liberation** is another insightful analysis of the Right written by a woman who has long been an activist working for

social change. Suzanne Pharr founded and has been on the staff of The Women's Project, an organization that has worked to eliminate sexism and racism since 1981. In this new book she blends personal anecdote and contemporary cutting-edge analysis — along with a vision of a multi-issue, multi-racial movement — to create a powerful call to action. (\$10.95 pb, 0-9620222-8-4.)



Stone carving from the church at Kilpeck, Herefordshire, England, from *The Yoni* (Inner Traditions).

Also by Suzanne Pharr is **Homophobia: A Weapon of Sexism**, published by Chardon Press in 1988. Chardon Press publishes works relating to [or funding] the work of social justice and social change. All proceeds from the sale of these books go to The Women's Project. (\$9.95 pb, 0-9620222-1-7.) Chardon Press, PO Box 101, Inverness CA 94937. 40%. Books available from The Women's Project, 2224 Main Street, Little Rock AR 72206; 501-372-5113; fax 501-372-0009, e-mail <wproject@aol.com>. Distributed by BP.

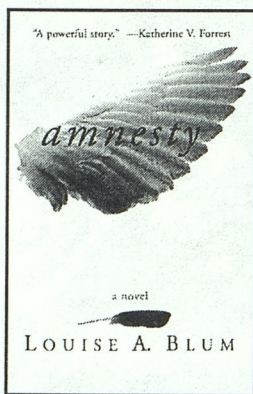


**In Women Reshaping Human Rights: How Extraordinary Activists Are Changing the World** by Marguerite Guzmán Bouvard, women activists from around the world tell their own stories, in their own words. The activists challenge drug dealers and toxic polluters threatening their neighborhoods, combat racial and ethnic discrimination, confront authoritarian governments, and fight to uphold women's rights as human rights. Each piece begins with a brief biography of the activist that provides a context for her work. These "ordinary" women then tell their own stories of political activism. "Extraordinary acts of courage, compassion and political skill grew out of the ability to see the relationship between everyday activities and larger political imperatives. These stories both instruct and

inspire." —Mary L. Shanley, Professor of Social Science, Vassar College. \$18.95 pb, 0-8420-2563-4, Scholarly Resources Inc., 104 Greenhill Avenue, Wilmington DE 19805. Distributed by B&T, Blackwell North America and other major wholesalers and distributors.

**The Womanspirit Moving: Toward Peace and Justice 1997 Peace Calendar** edited by Virginia Baron focuses on the contributions of women to the non-violent movement. This 42nd peace calendar from the War Resisters League tells numerous stories (albeit quite abbreviated) that attest to the vision, dedication and courage of activist women around the world. Resources for peace and justice, women's, and non-violence groups (both in the U.S. and internationally) are included in the back of the calendar, as well as a list of publications that make a significant contribution to peace and independent thought. \$12 spiral bound, 0-940862-08-05. War Resisters League, 339 Lafayette Street, New York NY 10012; 212-228-0450. Distributed by BP, Small Changes, VisionWorks.

Conceived by the League of Women Voters to honor the 75th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, **A Voice of Our Own: Leading American Women Celebrate the Right to Vote** edited by Nancy M. Neuman is a collection of original essays featuring pieces from an eclectic group of contributors. The women, which include Mary Chapin Carpenter,



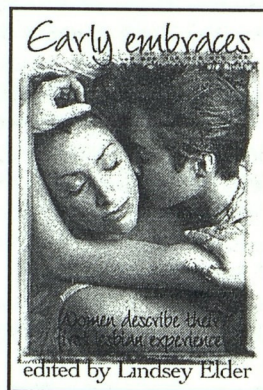
**"Blum is a superb writer."**

—*Feminist Bookstore News*

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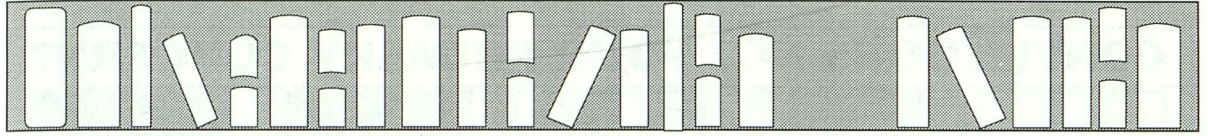
**Women describe their first lesbian experience**

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Martina Navratilova, Betty Ford, Wilma P. Mankiller, Rebecca Walker, Donna Shalala and Nicole Hollander, offer their own unique perspectives on their visions of equality. \$24 cl, 0-7879-0231-4. Jossey-Bass, 350 Sansome Street, San Francisco CA 94104. Distributed by B&T, Ingram.



Back in January we ran a pre-publication excerpt from **Unspoken Rules: Sexual Orientation and Women's Human Rights** edited by Rachel Rosenbloom. This ground-breaking book, prepared by the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission in time for the Beijing conference, documents human rights violations against lesbians in 31 countries around the world. It situates lesbian human rights within the broader framework of women's human rights, arguing for a women's movement that embraces and works for the most inclusive vision of human rights. A vitally important document in the field of women's and lesbian studies and human rights. \$14.95 pb, 0-304-33764-1,

Accessible, entertaining and original, **Undressing Lesbian Sex: Popular Images, Private Acts and Public Consequences** by Elaine Creith draws on information provided by women from three 1992 surveys — two in London and one in New York. Presenting a down-to-earth review of what lesbians do, how they do it, and how often, this is a provocative and informative book. \$14.95 pb, 0-304-32849-9.

In **Just Good Friends: Towards a Lesbian and Gay Theology of Relationships**, author Elizabeth Stuart suggests that lesbians and gay men have significant insights to contribute to creative theological reflection upon sexuality, marriage and celibacy — most notably in the understanding of friendship to include our most intimate and committed relationships. Stuart makes the case that the covenant of friends is the most appropriate model for sexual relationships, and in this book seeks to revise

theologically both heterosexual and lesbian and gay relationships. \$14.95 pb, 0-264-67328-X.

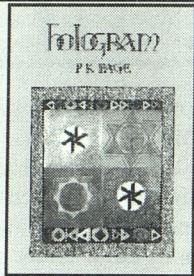
**Amazon to Zami: Towards a Global Lesbian Feminism** edited by Monika Reinfelder is a collection of essays that looks at the existence of a global network of lesbian feminist activists in Latin America, Africa, Asia and the Pacific. Challenging the assumption that lesbianism is a political phenomenon exclusive to the white decadent West, the contributors explore the history, myths and oppression of lesbians in their respective countries, placing lesbian concerns in the context of the pressing political issues of their regions. \$17.95 pb, 0-304-33203-8; \$60 cl, -33193-7.

**Lesbians Are So Chic...that we are not really lesbians at all** by Laura Cottingham is an intelligent and insightful examination of current debates in lesbian, gay and feminist politics that seeks to re-affirm the position of the lesbian in relation to queer and feminist ideologies. In this slim volume Cottingham argues that the lesbian significance of the mainstream media's "lesbian chic" phenomenon is less about lesbian cultural power than it is about disempowering and marginalizing lesbians by making lesbianism a commodity. \$4.95 pb, 0-304-33721-8.

Sue O'Sullivan's **I Used to Be Nice: Sexual Affairs** offers the reader an engaged, questioning and hilariously honest account of international feminist and lesbian politics. The essays in this collection stretch back over 25 years and touch on many different topics: from her ambivalence toward motherhood and marriage in the 60s to butch/femme and queer in the 80s and 90s; from birth control and PMS to HIV/AIDS and eroticism. A passionate and witty account of a feminist life in progress. \$16.95 pb, 0-304-33572-X.

**Sakhiyani: Lesbian Desire in Ancient and Modern India** by Giti Thadani offers a unique and fascinating account of lesbian life in India, both contemporary and in history. Through a detailed examination of mythology, cosmology, ancient art and artifacts the study of ancient Sanskrit texts, the author constructs a tapestry of feminine kinship, genealogy and sexual bonding between women in ancient India.

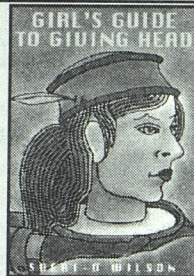
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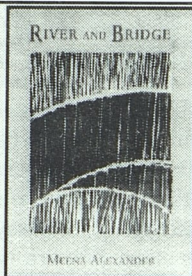
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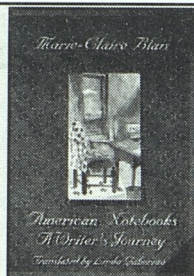
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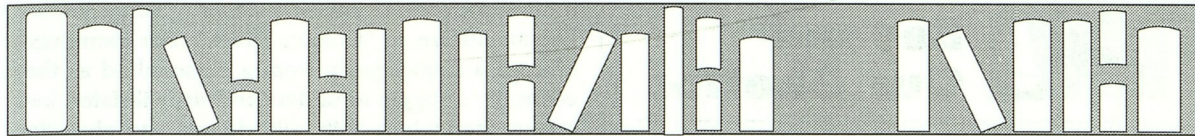
She also looks at contemporary lesbian realities and issues, including lesbian marriages, suicide pacts, lesbian human rights, sexual exile and the different constructions of gender, family and possible kinship alliances. \$17.95 pb, 0-304-33452-9; \$60 cl, -33451-0.

Cassell Academic, 127 W. 24th Street, 4th Floor, New York NY 10011. Distributed by Koen, LPC/ InBook.

The term *yonis* heralds from a culture and era in which women were regarded and honored as the embodiment of divine energy and where the female genitals were seen as a sacred symbol of the Great Goddess. Yoni worship has been part of the spiritual heritage in every part of the globe and may, in fact, be the most ancient realizing of humanity. In **The Yoni: Sacred Symbol of Female Creative Power**, Rufus C. Camphausen traces this primal motif from its first surviving occurrence almost 30,000 years ago in Europe to its remnants and budding renaissance in contemporary language, art and literature. \$19.95 pb, 0-89281-562-0. Inner Traditions, One Park Street, Rochester VT 05767; 802-767-3174. Distributed by BP.

**All the Rage: Reasserting Radical Lesbian Feminism** edited by Lynne Harne and Elaine Miller is a collection of essays that explores how feminism is being undermined by current trends in popular culture such as queer theory, sado-masochism, lesbian chic and lipstick lesbianism. The contributors argue that these glamorous trends are in fact the post-modern disguises of a patriarchal backlash that threaten the hard-won (and often precariously held) gains made by radical feminists over the past three decades. The book also shows how a generation of radical lesbian feminists are continuing to connect lesbianism with feminism and are working in coalitions with other feminists to reassert a radical feminist agenda. \$16.95 pb, 0-8077-6284-9, Teachers College Press, 1234 Amsterdam Avenue, New York NY 10027. Distributed by AIDC; 800-575-6566.

Compiled by Feminists Against Censorship and edited by Cherie Matrix, **Tales from the Clit: A Female Experience of Pornography** is a collection of essays that confronts the stereotype that all feminists



are in favor of censoring pornography. From intimate sexual experiences and physical perception through to the academic arena, this volume documents women's positive thoughts, uses and desires for, with and about pornography. \$10.95 pb, 1-873176-09-0. AK Press, PO Box 40682, San Francisco CA 94140; 415-923-1429. Distributed by LPC/InBook.

**Haunted Houses** by Lynne Tillman is the film noir version of growing up female. In this dark and comic story of three friends growing up in urban middle-class families in the late 50s and 60s, Tillman chronicles the loneliness of childhood and incipient womanhood, the salvation of friendship, and the neurotic chain that binds perpetually needy daughters to their perpetually self-absorbed parents. \$12.99 pb, 1-85242-400-1.

Serpent's Tail also has two new books in their Mask Noir crime fiction series. In **Wavewalker** by Stella Duffy, Saz Martin, who first appeared in *Calendar Girl*, returns to investigate a mystery that starts in 70s San Francisco and then comes crashing down into her own 90s London life. About *Calendar Girl*, *The Times of London* wrote, "There's a lot of lesbian love and sex in it, but is also a fast, witty and clever crime story, with a cracking dialogue and exuberant characters." Jenn loved both of Duffy's mysteries. (\$13.99 pb, 1-85242508-3.) Pieke Biermann won the German Crime Writers' Prize for **Violetta** in 1991, which is now available in English with the publication of this edition. "Pieke Biermann has an apocalyptic imagination. Her voice — telling us of violence and despair as we hurtle to the end of the millennium — is unique among contemporary crime writers." —Sara Paretsky. (\$13.99 pb, 1-85242-289-0.)

Serpent's Tail, 180 Varick Street, 10th Floor, New York NY 10014; 212-741-8500. Distributed by Koen.

**Chick-Lit 2: No Chick Vics** edited by Cris Mazza, Jeffrey DeShell and Elisabeth Sheffield is FC2's second collection of new and alternative post-feminist women's fiction. A follow-up to their well received *Chick-Lit: Postfeminist Fiction, 1995*, this new volume

brings together new stories, both witty and deadly serious, that adamantly reject the role of female victimization. This new anthology of short fiction, which features new work by Rikki Ducornet, Eurydice, Elizabeth Graver, Ursule Molinaro and others, is sure to fascinate, arouse, anger and ultimately intrigue readers, whether gay or straight, male or female. \$11.95 pb, 1-57366-020-5. FC2/Black Ice Books, Illinois State University, Normal IL 31790. Distributed by Northwestern University Press, 625 Colfax Street, Evanston IL 60208; 847-491-5313.



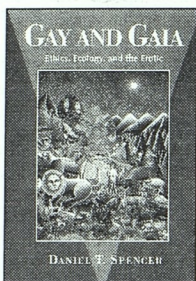
With **Exteriors** author Annie Ernaux (*A Woman's Story*, *Simple Passion*, *A Man's Place*) shifts the focus from her immediate circle and surroundings to survey the outside world, though in doing so she continues to reflect on her own condition and the lives of those near to her. This slim novel takes the form of random journal entries and captures the feeling of contemporary living on the outskirts of a great city — drab, tortured, chaotic, lyrical, and powerfully alive. Annie Ernaux will be touring the U.S. in November to promote this book as well as the paperback edition of *A Frozen Woman* (advertised in the Feminist Bookstore Network's Fall Catalog) — be prepared for heightened interest in her work. \$16 cl, 1-888-363-31-2. Seven Stories Press, 632 Broadway, 7th Floor, New York NY 10012. Distributed by PGW.

Rachel Guido deVries' second collection of poetry, **How to Sing to a Dago** is from her perspective of a southern Italian American woman looking first at the world of family and lovers and friends, then focusing on the dominant culture in which she and her cast of characters must live. DeVries' novel *Tender Warriors* was published by Firebrand in 1986. C\$12/\$10 pb, 1-55071-028-1.

In the two plays that comprise **Women As Lovers**, Theresa Carilli satirizes the lesbian, rendering



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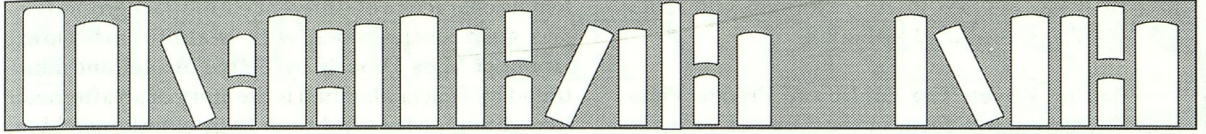
a humorous and dramatic portrait of San Francisco lesbian culture. In "Dolores Street," four roommates arrange a dinner party from a personal ad as they comically struggle to understand their ill-fated love affairs, fascination with jelly donuts and obsession with house meetings. In the end, they discover each other. "Wine Country" depicts the trials of triangles. Jo's lover gets involved with their best friend and Jo heals through her experience only to find herself in another triangle — on the other side. \$C18/\$15 pb, 1-55071-007-9.

Guernica Editions, PO Box 117, Station P, Toronto ONT Canada M5S 2S6. Distributed by LPC/InBook.



Jan Zobel's *Minding Her Own Business: The Self-Employed Woman's Guide to Taxes and Recordkeeping* is a down-to-earth, comprehensive guide that addresses all those frequently asked questions that people who are starting and running their own businesses have. This often intimidating information is presented in a clear, inviting format, guiding women through the basics of setting up a business all the way through hiring help. The book includes examples that provide additional clarity to the concepts presented as well as lots of resources that offer further help in running a business. An indispensable guide for the new small business owner. Advertised in the Feminist Bookstore Network's Fall Catalog. \$16.95 pb, 0-9654778-6-X, EastHill Press, 6114 LaSalle Avenue # 599, Oakland CA 94611. Distributed by BP.

*Personal Financial Planning for Gays and Lesbians: Our Guide to Prudent Decision Making* by Peter M. Berkery, Jr. is a comprehensive guide to key financial issues for those outside the "traditional family" model. The book provides many examples of the ways in which the entire financial infrastructure — the insurance industry, the investment process, the tax structure, the retirement system and the probate process — does not accommodate the lesbian and gay communities' goals, priorities, or relationships. It then gives practical, easy-to-read and essential advice on how lesbians and gay men can navigate this system to plan for their financial futures. "Until we have equal rights under the law, this book is a 'must read'



for every lesbian or gay person planning for their future." —Carole Migden, Assemblywoman, California State Assembly. \$24.95 cl, 0-7863-0482-0. Irwin Professional Publishing, 1333 Burr Ridge Parkway, Burr Ridge IL 60521; 800-634-3966. Distributed by Koen, B&T, Ingram.

**Try This at Home: A Do-It-Yourself Guide to Winning Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights** by the Director of the ACLU Gay and Lesbian Rights Project, Matthew A. Coles, explains how to rally the community, get organized, respond to opposition, get proposals into public hearings and win over policy makers. This tool is designed to help create change at all levels of government. It includes instructions for building support in the lesbian and gay community, preparing for public hearings, designing campaign organization, developing an endorsement strategy, building relationships with the media, writing and negotiating policy, lobbying, implementing domestic partnership policies and more. \$14.95 pb, 1-56584-309-6. The New Press, 450 W. 41st Street, New York NY 10036; 212-6529-8811. Distributed by W.W. Norton.



**Gay & Lesbian Online** by Jeff Dawson is a travel guide to digital queerdom on the Internet, the World Wide Web, America Online, Compuserve, and BBS's coast to coast. In this easy to use guide, readers will find resources for activism, books, cooking, dating, erotica, gardening, movies, politics, square dancing, travel, women's groups — just about anything one could imagine wanting to know about, and, because it's the Internet, more. \$15.95 pb, 0-201-88453-4. Peachpit Press, 2414 Sixth Street, Berkeley CA 94710; 800-283-9444. Distributed by Ingram and Addison Wesley.

**A Private Matter: RU 486 and the Abortion Crisis** by Lawrence Lader, founding chair of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League, is

Lader's autobiographical discussion of the evolution of the abortion rights movement. Lader was an active participant in the debate from its beginning, and his book provides a full story of how the movement started and developed, and how RU 486 has come to play a pivotal role in the struggle. (\$24.95 cl, 1-57392-012-6.) Prometheus Books is also the publisher of **Why I Am An Abortion Doctor** by Suzanne T. Poppema, M.D. (\$25.95 cl, 1-57392-045-2), a firsthand look at the life and work of a leading abortion provider, and **The Recovering Catholic: Personal Journeys of Women Who Left the Church** by Joanne H. Meehl (\$24.95 cl, 0-87975-927-5), a book that focuses on the individual journeys of women who have, for various reasons, made the choice to leave the Catholic church. Prometheus Books, 59 John Glenn Drive, Amherst NY 14228. Distributed by B&T, Ingram.

Based on a conference of Christians for Biblical Equality, **Women, Abuse, and the Bible: How Scripture Can Be Used to Hurt or Heal** edited by Catherine Clark Kroeger and James R. Beck reveals that many abusers see no conflict between their behavior and their Christian beliefs — some even justify their behavior by citing biblical passages and religious principles. This book compels Christians to recognize the existence of domestic violence; shows how the Bible can be used to hurt or heal; offers practical and creative pathways to healing; and challenges churches to honestly address the issues of domestic violence, verbal and clergy abuse, emotional cruelty, sexual harassment and rape. \$14.99 pb, 0-8010-5707-8. 40%. Baker Book House, PO Box 6287, Grand Rapids MI 49516; 616-676-9185, fax 616-676-9573. Distributed by Ingram, Spring Arbor.

**Dealing with Date Rape: True Stories from Survivors** by Susan Smith Nash, Ph.D., presents the stories of victims of date or acquaintance rape who share their experiences to provide support, guidance, understanding and courage to others who are reaching out for knowledge. \$12 pb, 0-9641837-1-4. 40%.

Texture Press, PO Box 720157, Norman OK 73073; 405-366-7730. Distributed by B&T.

**Making Waves: The Public and Private Victories of the Women's Team in the America's Cup** by Anna Seaton Huntington chronicles the ten-month drive of the first all-female team to race for yachting's most coveted and esteemed prize. The author, a freelance journalist and 1992 Olympic bronze medalist in women's pair rowing, was a member of the 1995 America's women's team aboard the *Mighty Mary*. In this book, she relates the process by which this group of talented athletes learned to work together to prove to the world that fast boats and teamwork were more important than the physical strength of a male sailor in this still very male-dominated race. \$19.95 cl, 1-56530-191-9. The Summit Publishing Group, 1112 E. Copeland Road, 5th Floor, Arlington TX 76011; 817-274-1821. Distributed by Ingram, BP, B&T, Koen, PP.

We're very excited about the kids books being published by Lee & Low. These books have strong

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female characters of different ethnic backgrounds — and good stories along with beautiful art! **Down Home at Miss Dessa's** by Bettye Stroud and illustrated by Felicia Marshall is the story of an afternoon two young girls spend with their elderly neighbor, Miss Dessa. "[Author] Stroud successfully conveys the strength of the bond between two generations, subtly underscoring the key fact that...the support and caring are mutual...[Artist] Marshall's textured acrylic illustrations also capture the characters' compassion." —*Publishers Weekly*. Ages 4 and up. (\$14.95 cl, 1-880000-39-3.) The poems in **The Palm of My Heart: Poetry by African American Children** edited by Davida Adedjouma are as colorful, powerful and bold as the paintings by Gregory Christie that illustrate them. Each of the 20 poems in this dazzling collection resounds with the captivating rhythms of life, as seen through the eyes of African American children. Ages 4 and up. (\$15.95 cl, 1-880000-41-5.) **Confetti: Poems for Children** by Pat Mora and illustrated by Enrique O. Sanchez is a collection which celebrates the vivid landscape and culture of the Southwest and the delightful rapport children have with the natural world. The poems are written in English with Spanish words woven in, adding rhythm and color to these vibrantly illustrated poems. A glossary of Spanish words is included. Ages 4 and up. (\$14.95 cl, 1-880000-25-3.) In **Allie's Basketball Dream** by Barbara E. Barber and illustrated by Darryl Liganas a young girl's perseverance and determination in the face of gender bias are celebrated. Basketball has been Allie's favorite sport since her father took her to her first game at Madison Square Garden. When her dad gives her a basketball of her own, she hits the neighborhood courts and practices and practices — until she's making baskets and being cheered by the boys who had been teasing her. Ages 4 and up. (\$14.95 cl, 1-880000-38-5.) In **My Steps** by Sally Derby and illustrated by Adjoa J. Burrowes, the reader enters the pretend worlds a young girl creates on the front steps of her home in the city. "A gentle story about a child's imaginative play...Bright cut-paper collages with watercolors...have a fresh, childlike quality." —*School Library Journal*. Ages 3 to 8. (\$14.95 cl, 1-880000-40-7.)

Lee & Low Books, 95 Madison Avenue, New York NY 10016; 212-779-4400. Distributed by PGW. ○

# FROM THE UNIVERSITY PRESSES



By Mev Miller

I haven't seen a humor title come from a University Press for quite some time, but I desperately wanted to contribute some humor as it's the theme of this issue. So here are three titles to contemplate. I don't mean to be offensive, just cute!

**Homoerotic Butch/Femme Dykes in Foucault's "Treatise on Postmodern Whatever" and Paglia's "Words for the Cranky:" A Critical Comparison** edited by R. U. Boredyet. \$39.95 cl, Major City University.

**We Have Arrived: The Memoirs of 14 to 16 year-old Norwegian Girl Immigrants from the East End of Oslo to Northfield, Minnesota Between May 1, 1840 to June 13, 1841** edited by Ineda T. Gradguwait. \$20.95 pb, Women's Studies University, December.

**The Hermeneutics in the Transcontinental Psychosexual Writings of the Bloomsbury Group: Literary, Critical, and Socioanalytic Perspectives** by Ima Akidemick. \$29.95 cl, Big Word University, December.

## AUGSBERG FORTRESS

As feminists, we have tended to look at prostitution (the few of us who did) from the broader viewpoint of violence against women. In **Casting Stones: Prostitution and Liberation in Asia and the United States**, Rita Nakashima Brock and Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite remind us that religion is in large part responsible for casting stones at prostitutes — calling them sinners and blaming them for their situations. The authors draw on understanding the global system of exploitation of women in the U.S. as well as in Korea, Japan, the Philippines, Thailand and Taiwan while analyzing the doctrines of sin and karma. The heart of their project is rethinking the deeper cultural and religious notions of sexuality,

power and violence that undergird sexual exploitation. \$22 pb, 0-8006-2979-5.

Also of interest: **Through the Eyes of Women: Insights for Pastoral Care, The Handbook of Womencare** edited by Jeanne Stevenson Moessner. \$21 pb, 0-8006-2928-0.

## COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESS

**Noel Coward and Radclyffe Hall: Kindred Spirits** by Terry Castle is the first look at the connection between these two influential contemporaries. Though they are two very different personalities, Castle reveals their similarities in a captivating manner. This book includes 45 illustrations and photographs. \$19.95 cl, 0-231-10596-7.

**Sappho and the Virgin Mary: Same-Sex Love and the English Literary Imagination** by Ruth Vanita reveals how mainstream criticism, from Freud to Foucault and on to Camille Paglia and Harold Bloom, has effectively excluded the notion of homoerotic ancestries in Western literature. \$17.50 pb, 0-231-10551-7, December.



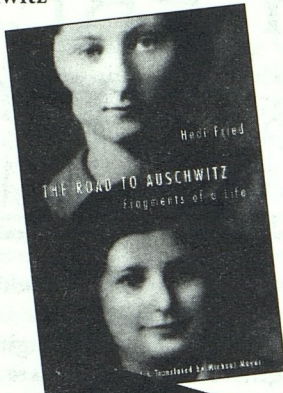
## CORNELL UNIVERSITY PRESS

**Holding the Line: Women in the Great Arizona Mine Strike of 1983** is the book that launched Barbara Kingsolver's writing career. It's the story of how women's lives were transformed by the 18-month strike against the Phelps-Dodge Copper Corporation, and is part history and part social criticism. \$14.95 pb, 0-8014-8389-1.

Also of interest: **Hannah Arendt and the Limits of Philosophy**, Lisa Jane Disch. \$14.95 pb, *short discount*, 0-8014-8378-6.

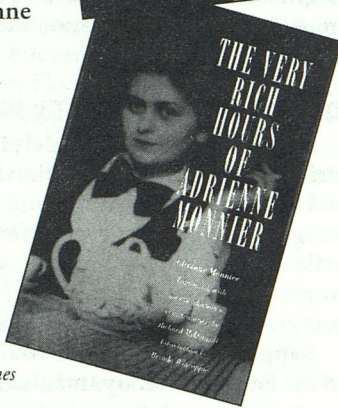
**The Road to Auschwitz**

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 —Elie Wiesel  
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**DUKE UNIVERSITY PRESS**

In *Beyond the Whiteness of Whiteness*, Jane Lazarre weaves a narrative from her own and her sons' and husband's voices. Recalling events that opened her eyes to her sons' and husband's experiences as Black Americans — an operation, turned into a horrific nightmare by a doctor's unconscious racism; the jarring truths brought home by a visit to an exhibit on slavery at the Richmond Museum of the Confederacy; her own revealing missteps — Lazarre describes her journey from silence to consciousness and a commitment to action. As personal as this story is, it is a remarkably incisive account of how perceptions of racial difference lie at the heart of the history and culture of America. "An important affirmation of a white woman's love of her black sons. Jane Lazarre, warrior mom, has crossed over." —Alice Walker. Advertised in the Feminist Bookstore Network's Fall Catalog. \$17.95 cl, 0-8223-1826-1.



**MIT PRESS**

How often have we not been satisfied with physical spaces — wondering if they couldn't be more practical or more beautiful? *The Architect: Reconstructing Her Practice* edited by Francesca Hughes examines how the introduction of women to the main body of architecture might bring about a reconstruction of the orders that shape architectural production and consumption. It's packaged as a text book but will be a great addition to those who collect sturdy art/architecture books. Essays from twelve American and European architects reflect on the nature of critical practice and its relation to architecture. Lots of pictures too! \$35 cl, 0-262-08245-4.

**NEW YORK UNIVERSITY PRESS**

"Isn't it interesting," she mused with a sarcastic grin, "how all of a sudden we're perceived with so much power that everyone wants our votes, *not*." In *The Lavender Vote: Lesbians, Gay Men, and Bisexuals in American Electoral Politics*, Mark Hertzog examines lesbians, gay men and bisexuals as a force in American elections. He contrasts the differences in demographics, attitudes and voting behavior between these groups and the rest of the voting





population. This is a timely book to have for the upcoming elections. \$18.95 pb, 0-8147-3530-4.

**Your John: The Love Letters of Radclyffe Hall** edited by Joanne Glasgow is the first publication of original writing by Hall in 50 years. This is a selection of Hall's love letters to Evguenia Souline, a white Russian *émigré* with whom Hall fell in love in the summer of 1934. These letters continued until 1942, and this collection reveals how these letters also caused pain for Una Troubridge, Hall's lover. Advertised in the Feminist Bookstore Network's Fall Catalog. \$24.95 cl, 0-8147-3092-2.

**Feminism and Islam: Legal and Literary Perspectives** edited by Mai Yamani illustrates how women in Islamic societies have become actively involved not only in learning their rights under the *sharia* (Islamic Law) but in rereading this law to improve their status and gain increased equality and freedom. \$19.95 pb, 0-8147-9681-8; \$60 cl, -9680-X, December.

**Critical Race Feminism: A Reader** edited by Adrien Katherine Wing reveals how the historical experiences and contemporary realities of women of color are profoundly influenced by a legacy of racism and sexism that is neither linear nor logical. Contributors include Anita Hill, Lani Guinier, Regina Austin, Patricia Williams and over three dozen other women seeking to ensure that their perspectives on race, power, law and politics in the U.S. will never again be distorted or ignored. \$24.95 pb, 0-8147-9309-6, December.



Also of interest: **Feminizing Venereal Disease: The Body of the Prostitute in Nineteenth-Century Medical Discourse**, Mary Spongberg (\$40 cl, *short discount*, 0-8147-8060-1), **The Politics of Survivorship: Incest, Women's Literature, and Feminist Theory**, Rosaria Champagne (\$35 cl, *short discount*,

0-8147-1542-7) and **Toward a Tenderer Humanity and a Nobler Womanhood: African American Women's Clubs in Turn-of-the Century Chicago**, Anne Meis Knupfer (\$18.95 pb, 0-8147-4691-8; \$50 cl, -4671-3).

#### NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY PRESS

Books from The National Museum of Women in the Arts are now available through Northeastern University Press. Though their new title may be too narrow in focus for some stores, it will be of interest to those with strong art sections. **At Century's End: Norwegian Artists and the Figurative Tradition-1880/1990** edited by Susan Fisher Sterling, Anne Wichstrøm and Toril Smit, offers feminist interpretations of the art of Harriet Backer, Kitty Kielland and Asta Nørregaard. Full color plates of their work is also included. \$28.95 pb, 0-940979-32-2.

**Elisabeth Schwarzkopf** by Alan Jefferson is the first full-length biography of this internationally renowned soprano. She was a preeminent performer in both opera and Lieder for three decades. \$29.95 cl, 1-55553-272-1.

Hearing the names of Eve and Jezebel invoked to deny women suffrage and justify women's subjugation, Elizabeth Cady Stanton decided to scrutinize and reinterpret Biblical passages relating to women. In 1895 Stanton published **The Woman's Bible**, a controversial critique of the Bible, arguing that far from being the word of God, "these degrading ideas of woman emanated from the brain of man." Advertised in the Feminist Bookstore Network's Fall Catalog. \$15.95 pb, 1-55553-162-8.

#### OHIO UNIVERSITY PRESS

**Recollections of Anais Nin: By Her Contemporaries** edited by Benjamin Franklin V presents Nin through the eyes of 26 people who knew her. They include Anatole Broyard, Valerie Harms and Deena Metzger. This is a fine companion piece to Nin's diaries. \$14.95 pb, 0-8214-1165-9; \$29.95 cl, -1164-0, December.

**OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS**

Graced with 60 rare photographs, **Art and Affection: A Life of Virginia Woolf** by Panthea Reid illuminates the life of one of the great voices of modern literature. Reid draws on a wealth of original documents to shed light on how the twin desires to write and to be loved drove Woolf all her life. Reid is particularly insightful on Woolf's relationship with her sister, Vanessa, and Vanessa's influence on Woolf's writing. Advertised in the Feminist Bookstore Network's Fall Catalog. \$30 cl, 0-19-510195-2.

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK PRESS**

**Between the Flag and the Banner: Women in Israeli Politics** edited by Yael Yishai is the first comprehensive study of the political life of Israeli women and looks at political participation, political identity, women's political organizations and public policy regarding women. \$17.95 pb, 0-7914-3128-2; \$54.50 cl, -3127-4, December.

Also of interest: **Women and Minorities in American Professions** edited by Joyce Tang and Earl

Smith (\$19.95 pb, 0-7914-3106-1; \$59.50 cl, -3105-3), **Women in Medical Education: An Anthology of Experience** edited by Delese Wear (\$20.95 pb, 0-7914-3088-X; \$62.50 cl, -3087-1).



**UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA PRESS**

For those who enjoy nature writing and reflective memoir, **Bringing the Mountain Home** by SueEllen Campbell is a treasure. Just the contents page alone got me excited — Desire, Equipment, Finding the Way, Pristine, Trudging, Grandeur, Misery, Paying Attention to Detail, Wildflowers, Wild Animals, Fear, Stunned by Beauty, and so on — holding a careful balance of what's good and what's precarious about being in nature. \$14.95 pb, 0-8165-1617-0.


Also of interest: **Mexican Cinema/Mexican Woman: 1940-1950**, Joanne Hershfield. \$16.95 pb, *short discount*, 0-8165-1637-5; \$39.95 cl, *short discount*, -1636-7.

**UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS**

Fans of *Signs* reprints and the scientific research of Sally Kohlstedt and Helen Longino will be happy to know about **Gender and Scientific Authority** edited by Barbara Laslett, Evelyn Hammonds, Longino and Kohlstedt. Topics range from mathematics, anthropology, philosophy, computers, and biology to social concerns, lesbians and psychology, and Black feminism and social construction. \$19.95 pb, 0-226-46918-2; \$30 cl, -46917-4.

It's an election year, so they're all coming out (as it were) — those books on women and the vote. Add to the list this new one by Kristi Andersen **After Suffrage: Women in Partisan and Electoral Politics Before the New Deal** which gives an account of both the accomplishments and disappointments experienced by women in the decade after suffrage. \$13.95 pb, 0-226-01957-8.

**Tomorrow, God Willing: Self-Made Destinies in Cairo** by Unni Wikan, reads like a novel but is the moving real-life portrait of Umm Ali — a mother of eight children, the wife of a man who abuses her and a woman living in extreme poverty. Despite this, Ali maintains some level of self-respect and an unwavering belief that she can improve her situation. \$17.95 pb, 0-226-89835-0.



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Employing a range of cultural sources, from magical spells and medical texts to astrological horoscopes and dream interpretation, Bernadette J. Brooten examines female homoeroticism in the ancient Roman world in **Love Between Women: Early Christian Responses to Female Homoeroticism**. From brutal clitoridectomies for women who displayed "masculine desires" to social support for woman-woman marriages, Brooten gives a tour of the lives and beliefs of ancient Mediterranean peoples. Advertised in the Feminist Bookstore Network's Fall Catalog. \$34.95 cl, 0-226-07591-5.



#### UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA PRESS

**Because I Remember Terror, Father, I Remember You** by Sue William Silverman is a harrowing memoir of incest and survival. To all outward appearances, it was a normal middle-class family, but at home Silverman's family was a place of horror. Her father — a successful banker and high-ranking government official — abused her from age 4 to 18. Her mother's complicity in silence of actions she couldn't stop and her sister's aloofness left Silverman bereft of a sense of self. Happily, she's able to come to some sense of recovery. Advertised in the Feminist Bookstore Network's Fall Catalog. \$19.95 pb, 0-8203-1870-1.

**Woman of Color, Daughter of Privilege: Amanda America Dickson, 1849–1893** by Kent Anderson Leslie is the true story of a slave who became the wealthiest Black woman in the South. \$14.95 pb, 0-8203-1871-X.

#### UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS PRESS

**The Lonely Other: A Woman Watching America** by Diana Hume George chronicles the life of a woman constantly facing new amazements. In this collection of creative non-fiction, George recounts her life as a white teenage bride on an Indian reservation, as an adult

facing drunken hunters outside her isolated cabin and more. These essays ultimately ask the question — can women learn to travel alone, on roads and in their daily lives without fear? \$14.95 pb, 0-252-06534-4.

**The Unruly Voice: Rediscovering Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins** edited by John Cullen Gruesser explores the literary and journalistic career of Pauline E. Hopkins, a turn-of-the-century African American writer who was editor-in-chief of the *Colored American Magazine*, though it was not acknowledged on the masthead. She wrote short fiction, novels, non-fiction articles and a play believed to be the first by an African American woman. Versatile and politically committed, she was fired when the magazine was bought by an ally of Booker T. Washington who disliked her editorial stands and unconciliatory politics. \$16.95 pb, 0-252-06554-9.

I can only say, *wow!* It's this kind of book that I find not only interesting but an off-beat and quirky, though worthy, addition to the memoirs or spirituality section of any women's bookstore. In **Betrayal of the Spirit: My Life Behind the Headlines of the Hare Krishna Movement**, Nori Muster recounts the story of her life in the Hare Krishna movement since 1977. For more than ten years, she worked as a public relations secretary and editor of the organization's newspaper. It's an insider's view of drug dealing, weapons stockpiling, deceptive fundraising, child abuse and murder. Though she has formally left the movement, she is still a believer. It may not be feminist but it does offer a rare look into the world of those women dressed in orange who put flowers in your hands at the airport in search of spare change. \$24.95 cl, 0-252-02263-7.

**Writing Mothers, Writing Daughters: Tracing the Maternal in Stories by American Jewish Women** by Janet Handler Burstein analyzes memoirs, autobiographies, short stories and novels examining how immigrant daughters "translated" their mothers' stories into the vernacular of their own American experiences. Writers discussed include Anzia Yezierska,

Emma Goldman, Tillie Olsen, Grace Paley, Adrienne Rich, Erica Jong and Kim Chernin. Advertised in the Feminist Bookstore Network's Fall Catalog. \$14.95 pb, 0-252-06555-7; \$34.95 cl, 0-252-02252-4.

Also of interest: **The Entangling Net: Alaska's Commercial Fishing Women Tell Their Lives**, Leslie Leyland Fields. \$16.95 pb, 0-252-06565-4; \$34.95 cl, -02220-3.

### UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA PRESS

In **Resisting State Violence: Radicalism, Gender, & Race in U.S. Culture**, Joy James takes the convergence of race, gender and class as a fundamental trajectory and offers an account of a world in which the United States functions as the political-police center. James examines the prevalence of racist violence in U.S. policies, making connections between seemingly disparate themes and events, and linking them to global and U.S. domestic politics. She creates a picture of a nation that consistently uses dehumanization to normalize and rationalize violence in foreign policy, all the while creating a domestic climate that pathologizes Blackness and sexuality, portraying those most vulnerable to violence as its carriers. Foreword by Angela Y. Davis. Advertised in the Feminist Bookstore Network's Fall Catalog. \$18.95 pb, 0-8166-2813-0.

### UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI PRESS

**Lost Women, Banished Souls** is a collection of stories by Garnett Kilberg Cohen capturing the voices of a variety of women who share one main characteristic — the sense of loss. These stories explore such social issues as domestic violence, teenage pregnancy and child-rearing after divorce. This is Cohen's first book. \$16.95 pb, 0-8262-1073-2.

### UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA PRESS

**Rue Ordener, Rue Labat** is a moving memoir by distinguished French philosopher, Sarah Kofman. Her father was a rabbi of a small synagogue who was dragged from their Paris home and transported to Auschwitz. This eloquent story recalls her family and father in the years before the war and turns to the terrors and confusion of her childhood in Paris during the German occupation. \$10 pb, 0-8032-7780-6.

**Slander** by Linda Lê is a novel whose narrator has distanced herself from Vietnamese society and her family. Her story is an exercise in clear-eyed fury

revealing three generations of a cursed family. \$14 pb, 0-8032-7963-9; \$30 cl, -2913-5.

**Conversations with Maryse Condé** by Françoise Pfaff is an exploration of the life and art of Maryse Condé, who first won international acclaim for *Segu*, a novel about West African experience and the slave trade. Her writings — novels, plays, essays, stories and children's books — have led her to an increasingly important role within Africa and throughout the world. \$15 pb, 0-8032-8743-7; \$35 cl, -3713-8.

Also of interest: **Automatic Woman: The Representation of Women in Surrealism**, Katherine Conley (\$35 cl, *short discount*, 0-8032-1474-X), **Cather Studies, Volume 3** edited by Susan Rosowski (\$45 cl, *short discount*, 0-8032-3920-3, December) and **Covered Wagon Women, Volume 3: Diaries and Letters from the Western Trails, 1851** edited and compiled by Kenneth L. Holmes (\$13 pb, 0-8032-7287-1).

Now in paperback: **Claiming Breath** by Native American writer Diane Glancy. \$12 pb, 0-8032-7066-6.

Available again: **Song of Rita Joe: Autobiography of a Mi'kmaq Poet**, Rita Joe. \$16 pb, 0-8032-7594-3.



### UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA PRESS

A generation of educated African American women emerged in the 1890s to become, in effect, diplomats to the white community after the disenfranchisement of Black men. In **Gender & Jim Crow: Women and Politics of White Supremacy in North Carolina, 1896-1920** Glenda Elizabeth Gilmore argues that the ideology of white supremacy embodied in the Jim Crow laws of the turn-of-the-century profoundly reordered society and within this environment, Black women crafted an enduring tradition of political activism. \$17.95 pb, 0-8078-4596-5.

### UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA PRESS

Sometimes a book comes into my hands and I can't help but moan (*oh god, hardcover, expensive, academic and way too narrow in focus*). One look at the table of contents in this one, though, and I actually got excited. **Old Norse Images of Women** by Jenny Jochens is filled with considerations of fertility goddesses, Valkyries, Sibyls, goddesses, magic, warrior women, prophetesses and sorceresses,



avengers and more. Oh sure, it's still an academic study (and expensive and hardcover) but if you have a customer base who likes anything related to goddesses or mythology and ancient women's folklore, I'd give this book a second look. \$39.95 cl, 0-8122-358-1.

### UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO PRESS

Based on more than 30 interviews, Fiona Nelson's book, **Lesbian Motherhood: An Exploration of Canadian Lesbian Families**, explores the many aspects and stages of lesbian motherhood through the lives of two groups: those raising children conceived in prior heterosexual relationships and those raising children conceived in lesbian relationships. These experiences of mothering are often strikingly different. Included is a directory of Canadian resources for lesbian parents. Advertised in the Feminist Bookstore Network's Fall Catalog. \$18.95 pb, 0-8020-7135-X; \$50 cl, -0765-1.

### UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON PRESS

The 37 women who competed for the U.S. in Los Angeles in 1932 catapulted the Olympic Games and women's athletics into the nation's consciousness. In **Their Day In The Sun: Women of the 1932 Olympics**, Doris H. Pieroth's interviews with the athletes and observers, along with quotes from journalists Damon Runyon and Paul Gallico, reveal the extraordinary courage and stamina it took to challenge the barriers in a world abounding with stereotypes about women. Advertised in the Feminist Bookstore Network's Fall Catalog. \$16.95 pb, 0-295-97554-7; \$30 cl, -97553-9.

### UNIVERSITY PRESS OF FLORIDA

UPF has two books this season that would be good in women's studies sections — especially in an area of study often overlooked, namely women in Egypt. Unfortunately they are both expensive and *short discount* so I just mention them. **The Mobilization of Muslim Women in Egypt**, Ghada Hashem Talhami (\$39.95 cl, 0-9130-1429-8) and **Doria Shafik, Egyptian Feminist: A Woman Apart**, Cynthia Nelson

(\$49.95 cl, 0-8130-145-7, December). This is similarly true for a book on Irish women writers — **The Comic Tradition in Irish Women Writers** edited by Theresa O'Connor (\$39.95 cl, 0-8130-1457-3, December).

### WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Originally published by Humanities Press in 1985, **Women's Liberation and the Dialectics of Revolution: Reaching for the Future** by Raye Dunayevskaya is a rich collection of 35 years of Raye Dunayevskaya's writings, based on active participation, correspondence, interviews and meetings. Dunayevskaya (1910–1987) founded the philosophy of Marxist-Humanism in the United States and was the author of *Rosa Luxemborg, Women's Liberation, and Marx's Philosophy of Revolution* among other titles. \$15.95 pb, *short discount*, 0-8143-2655-2.

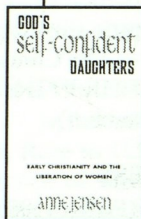


### YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Working mothers today confront conflicting demands on their time and energy as well as conflicting ideas about how they should behave: they must be nurturing and unselfish with their children but competitive and ambitious at work. Sharon Hays addresses this contradiction in **The Cultural Contradictions of Motherhood**, arguing that ideas about "appropriate mothering" stem from a fundamental ambivalence about a system based on the competitive pursuit of individual interests. Advertised in the Feminist Bookstore Network's Fall Catalog. \$25 cl, 0-300-06682-1.

C'est livre en française — **Écritures de Femmes: Nouvelles Cartographies**, compilé et édité par Mary Ann Caws, Mary Jean Green, Marianne Hirsch et Ronnie Scharfman. This is an anthology of writings in French by 20th century women. It promises to be a dazzling array of literary treasures and recommended for those who have Francophone customers. \$30 pb, 0-300-06412-8. ○

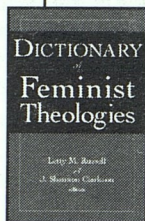
# WJK WOMEN & RELIGION



## God's Self-Confident Daughters

Early Christianity and the Liberation of Women  
 Anne Jensen  
 Paper \$34.00

Reworks "older portraits of women in early Christianity in such a way that these women can now be seen as strong, powerful, and influential figures in the development of Christian faith and practice."—Karen Jo Torjesen, *The Claremont Graduate School*



## Dictionary of Feminist Theologies

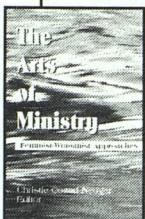
Letty M. Russell and J. Shannon Clarkson, editors  
 Cloth \$39.00



## The Stained-Glass Ceiling

Churches and Their Women Pastors

Sally B. Purvis  
 Paper \$12.00



## The Arts of Ministry

Feminist-Womanist Approaches

Christie C. Neuger  
 Paper \$22.00



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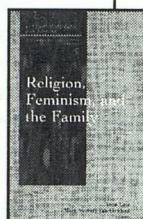
At your bookstore, your Cokesbury bookstore or  
 call toll-free 1-800-227-2872

## Religion, Feminism, and the Family

(Studies in the Family, Religion, and Culture series)

Anne Carr and Mary Stewart Van Leeuwen, editors  
 Paper \$33.00

Contributors to this volume analyze the impact of feminism on the experience of family life in its religious dimension. Contributors include Margaret Lamberts Bendroth, Pamela Couture, Toinette M. Eugene, Tikva Frymer-Kensky, Christine Gudorf, Bonnie Miller-McLemore, Sally B. Purvis, Rosemary Radford Ruether, and others.



## "You Have Stept Out of Your Place"

A History of Women and Religion in America  
 Susan Hill Lindley  
 Cloth \$35.00



## Lydia's Impatient Sisters

A Feminist Social History of Early Christianity

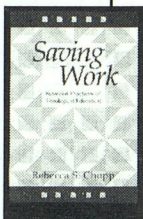
Luise Schottroff Foreword by Dorothee Soelle  
 Cloth \$29.00



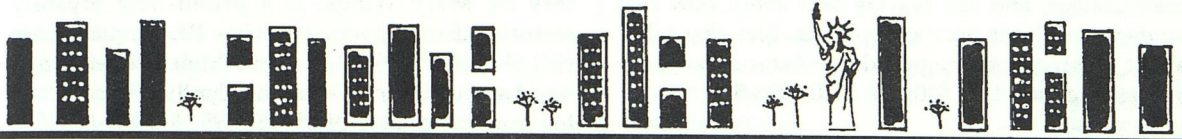
## Saving Work

Feminist Practices of Theological Education

Rebecca S. Chopp  
 Paper \$13.00



# AND ON PUBLISHER'S ROW



Compiled by Jenn Tust

## ADDISON WESLEY

There are not a lot of feminist titles in AW's Fall catalog, but there are some strong titles if you have an education or teaching section. (We added a section labelled "teaching" a couple of years ago; books sell well from there.)

**A Life In School: What the Teacher Learned** by Jane Tompkins (\$22.95 cl, 0-201-91212-0) is a "painful and exhilarating story of spiritual awakening" by a teacher who rebels against conventional education. **The Manufactured Crisis** by David Berliner and Bruce Biddle will be available in paper in October (\$13 pb, 0-201-441969). They argue against the neo-conservative agenda that is prepared to write off public education.

If you sell gay biography, you might want to stock **Alvin Ailey: A Life in Dance**, by Jennifer Dunning. It should receive a lot of review attention. \$30 cl, 0-201-626071.

—Trudy Mills

*Antigone Books/Tucson AZ*

## BALLANTINE

Now in paper: **The Oldest Sin** (\$5.99 mass, 0-345-40202-2, December) by Ellen Hart, the author of the Jane Lawless Mystery series, continues the series featuring food critic Sophie Greenway. **The Hundred Secret Senses**, Amy Tan. (\$6.99 mass, 0-804-11109-X, December, Ivy.) **Women Who Run with the Wolves**, Clarissa Pinkola Estes. (\$7.99 mass, 0-345-40987-6, January).

—Dorothy Holland

## BEACON

**Approaching Eye Level**, Vivian Gornick. These are essays on loneliness, the desire for independence, feminism and connecting. Gornick gives us an

intimate look at her own life while pondering how women can attain the balance between fulfilling our own needs and participating in the world. Short major city author tour. \$18 cl, 0-8070-7090-4.

**Doctors of Conscience: The Struggle to Provide Abortion Before and After Roe v. Wade** by Carole Joffe is new in paper. Although I believe that all feminist stores should carry this book, I haven't sold much on the abortion "controversy" here. Sounds like a good summary of the struggle, though. \$14 pb, 0-8070-2101-6.

**Feminism and Religion**, Rita M. Gross. How have 30 years of feminist thought affected religious institutions around the world? Gross examines how ritual, theology and leadership roles have changed in the five major (patriarchal) religions. She also looks at the "new religion" of feminist spirituality. \$16.95 pb, 0-8070-6785-7; \$40 cl, -6894-9.



**Rena's Promise: A Story of Sisters in Auschwitz**, Rena Kornreich Gelissen with Heather Dune Macadam. This memoir by a survivor of Auschwitz tells of her promise to take care of her sister, a connection that ultimately made it possible for them to endure the horrors. \$14 pb, 0-8070-7071-8.

**Life in a Day**, Doris Grumbach. Novelist and essayist Grumbach, now 77 years old, leads the reader through one day in her life effectively "seeing the world in a grain of sand." \$17 cl, 0-8070-7088-2.

**My Soul Is a Witness: African American Women's Spirituality** edited by Gloria Wade-Gayles is now in paper. This history of the life of the spirit in African American women's lives includes Maya Angelou, Nikki Giovanni, Rita Dove and

Sonia Sanchez. It is the first such collection. \$15 pb, 0-8070-0935-0.

Gloria Wade-Gayles has also written personal essays exploring aging, homophobia and rape in **Rooted Against the Wind**. She's a professor at Spelman College, and she bravely tells about how her students confront her homophobia. She also talks about interracial marriage and the obstacles faced by young Black scholars. \$20 cl, 0-8070-0938-5.

—Patty Callaghan  
Brigit Books

**BERKLEY**

**The American Women's Almanac: An Inspiring and Irreverent Women's History** by Louise Bernikow, in association with the National Women's History

Project, shows how women of all races have, individually and together, challenged narrow definitions of womanhood and changed history. Looks very good. \$16.95 trade, March, Berkley.

**She Came to the Castro**, an Emma Victor Mystery by Mary Wings, is a brand-new mystery featuring San Francisco lesbian P.I. Emma Victor. (\$21.95 cl, 0-425-15629-X, April, Prime Crime.) **Promised Land** by Connie Willis and Cynthia Felice. I can't tell from the catalog blurb. (\$21.95 cl, 0-441-00405-9, February, Ace.)

Now in paper: **Journey into Motherhood: Writing Your Way to Self-Discovery** by Leslie Kirk Campbell. (\$14 trade, 1-57322-576-2, January, Riverhead.) A guided journal to help expectant mothers explore the thoughts, feelings and discoveries of their



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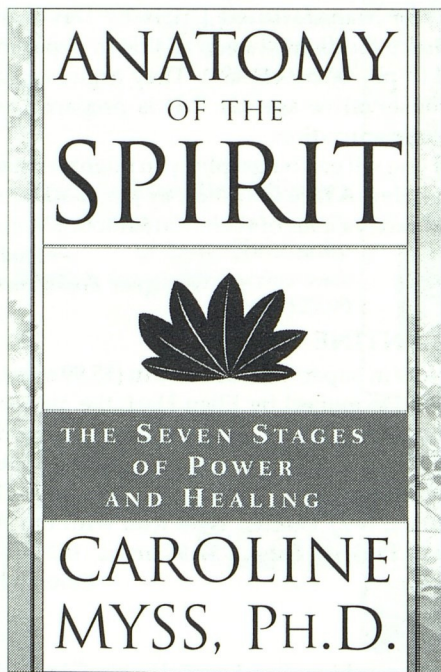
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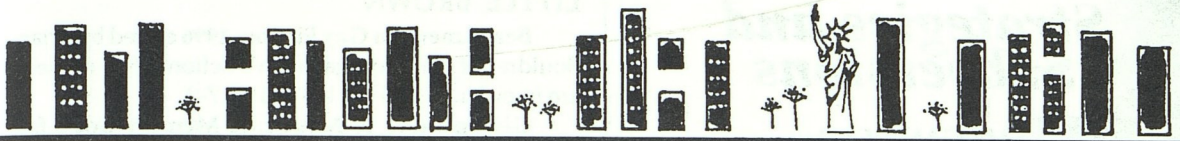
—CLARISSA PINKOLA ESTÉS, PH.D., AUTHOR OF *Women Who Run with the Wolves; The Gift of Story; and The Faithful Gardener*

\*Publishers Weekly



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unique experience of pregnancy. Campbell's a strong feminist and single mom, which makes this book a real asset to our shelves. **Toward Amnesia**, Sarah Van Arsdale. (\$11 trade, 1-57322-577-0, January, Riverhead.) "When her lover of five years leaves her for another woman, a young marine biologist is lost and bereft...." **The Cloister Walk**, Kathleen Norris. (\$12 trade, 1-57322-584-3, April, Riverhead.) After spending two residencies at a Benedictine monastery, Norris takes the reader through one liturgical year — rituals, prayers, daily activities. Norris discovered a different perspective on family, community and spirituality during her residence. **Doing It For Ourselves: Success Stories of African-American Women In Business**, Donna Ballard. (\$12 trade, 0-425-15613-3, February, Riverhead.) Inspiring and engaging conversations with successful African American business women.

—Dorothy Holland

## FARRAR STRAUS GIROUX

**First Generations: Women in Colonial America**, Carol Berkin. Berkin, professor of history at Baruch College, gives us a much needed multicultural history of Native, African and European women of 17th- and 18th-century America (by "America" I think the publisher means the U.S.). She looks at women's roles as wives, mothers, household keepers, workers and rebels. It sounds like the book may reclaim herstory in a readable way. The cover as shown in the catalog is a little too scholarly looking for my taste, but it depicts African, Native and European women. \$23 cl, 0-8090-4561-3.

**Going All the Way: Teenage Girls' Tales of Sex, Romance and Pregnancy**, Sharon Thompson. In these interviews, 400 girls reveal their thoughts about their own sexuality and experiences with love, sex, birth control and motherhood. An important study. \$13 pb, 0-8090-1599-4.

**From the Beast to the Blonde: On Fairy Tales and Their Tellers**, Marina Warner. Warner (*Alone of All Her Sex*) explores how changing attitudes toward women affect their roles in fairy tales from ancient stories to the Brothers Grimm to Angela Carter.

Illustrations (color and black-and-white) of images from modern culture echo symbols found in fairy tales. \$16 pb, 0-374-52487-4.

—Patty Callaghan  
Brigit Books

## HARPERSAN FRANCISCO

After a 13 year gestation, Marcia Falk's **Book of Blessings: New Jewish Prayers for Daily Life, the Sabbath, and the New Moon Festival** has finally arrived from HarperSanFrancisco. Long awaited in Jewish feminist circles, where Marcia Falk's non-hierarchical, non-patriarchal re-visioning of Jewish prayer is well known, this book re-creates blessings, meditations and poetry in English and Hebrew (and some Yiddish), with extensive commentary. The poetry is all by women and the blessings are gay inclusive (e.g. the Friday night "Blessing the Beloved" is given in three Hebrew versions: for a woman and a man, for two women and for two men). Despite the hefty price (\$50), this 500+ page book will be a resource for Jewish feminists for years to come. A warning: HarperSanFrancisco announced this book a year ago (at a substantially lower price) and did not reannounce it for this Fall, so if you were on hold with Harper any time during the last year, chances are your backorder was cancelled and you'll need to reorder (0-06-062340-3).

—Rose Katz

*A Room of One's Own*



## HEALTH COMMUNICATIONS

Are we the only ones growing weary of chicken soup? Well, there's an October title that you'll want to stock, even if you are full of soup. **Chicken Soup For the Woman's Soul** has a wide array of authors, including Maya Angelou and Bessie Delaney. The catalog notes that "part of the profits will be donated to organizations promoting breast cancer research."

—Trudy Mills

*Antigone Books/Tucson AZ*

# Strategies and Subversions



## SHE CAN READ Feminist Reading Strategies for Biblical Narrative

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"...an excellent linkage of feminist criticism and biblical studies. Its application of reading strategies from the broader field of feminist studies to the biblical text is...quite insightful."

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CELIA M. DEUTSCH

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1-56338-163-X 240 pp \$20.00 pbk

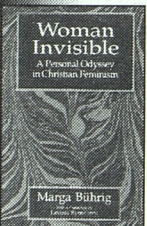


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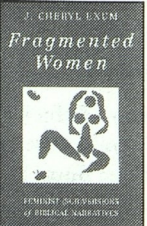
## WOMAN INVISIBLE A Personal Odyssey in Christian Feminism

MARGA BÜHRIG

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— *Expository Times*

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## FRAGMENTED WOMEN Feminist (Sub)Versions of Biblical Narratives

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## LITTLE, BROWN

**Best American Gay Fiction: 1996** edited by Brian Bouldrey. If you carry gay men's fiction, a few of these are in order. \$13.95 pb, 0-316-10317-9.

**Giving Voice to Myself: A Memory Book for Women** Peg Streep, watercolors by Claudia Karabic Sargent. Looks like a gift item for a general audience. Journal format provides headings for writing topics accompanied by watercolors. \$19.95 cl, 0-8212-2243-0.

**Courts of Love: A Novella & Stories**, Ellen Gilchrist. Gilchrist can always be counted on to tell a good story. If you don't know her or don't often sell hardcover fiction, stick to one. \$23.95 cl, 0-316-31478-1.

**The Weight of Water**, Anita Shreve. Shreve is another solid storyteller, and her books have always done better in paperback for us. Try one or two if you sell hardcover fiction. \$22.95 cl, 0-316-78997-6.

**Life Support: Three Nurses on the Front Lines**, Suzanne Gordon. Journalist Suzanne Gordon follows three nurses at Boston's Beth Israel Hospital and reveals what she found. A possible gift item for nurses. \$23.95 cl, 0-316-32117-6.

**Last Night in Paradise: Sex and Morals at the Century's End**, Katie Roiphe. The catalog copy promises that this book will cause controversy. Here, Roiphe reports what she has observed in sex education classes, abstinence clinics, talks with teens and interviews with educators and policy makers. I'm a firm believer in having at least one copy of books by authors such as Katie Roiphe. There's always someone eager to read them. \$21.95 cl, 0-316-75439-0.

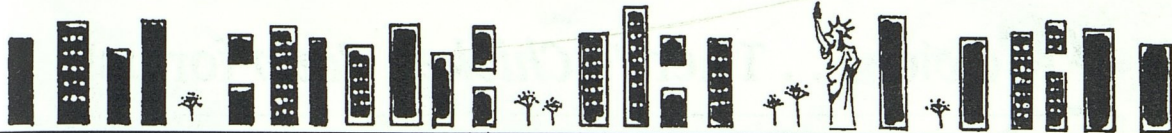
—*Mary Ellen Kavanaugh*  
*My Sisters' Words/Syracuse NY*

## PUTNAM

**Strega Nona: Her Story**, as told to Tomie dePaola, by Tomie dePaola, is a prequel to dePaola's Strega Nona series. This series is remarkable for many reasons, one that is dear to me is that it shows a culture of strong, sure women — without any apology. For kids of all ages. \$15.95 cl, 0-399-22818-7.

**Kitchen Table Wisdom: Stories that Heal** by Rachel Naomi Remen reminds us to look below the surface and to remember that we are all connected. This is a collection of modern-day parables designed to heal and connect. \$22.95 cl, 0-57322-042-6, Riverhead.

—*Dorothy Holland*



## RANDOM HOUSE

The **American Medical Association Complete Guide To Women's Health** is a comprehensive guide for every stage of a woman's life. This accessible guide will help readers take charge of their health. Special features include: "Atlas of the Body" (in full color), a guide to preventative medicine with specific advice for four age groups and questions women should ask their doctors. This book, developed by a woman gynecologist and a team of physicians, offers both in-depth coverage of women's health concerns and insights into how major health issues affect us. Advertised in the Feminist Bookstore Network's Fall Catalog. \$39.95 cl, 0679431225.



## RH-Crown

**The Law of Love** by Laura Esquivel (*Like Water for Chocolate*) is a cosmic love story that stretches from the fall of Montezuma's Mexico to the 23rd century. Azucena is an "astroanalyst," a sort of highly evolved psychotherapist, in the Mexico City of the future. She ministers to the karmically challenged with the help of her Guardian Angel. Azucena becomes caught in the brass ring of reincarnation, meets her Twin Soul but, after one night of passion, the lovers are separated. Azucena searches for Rodrigo across the galaxy, through her own past lives. \$25 cl, 0517706814.

A novel based on the life of Pope Joan, a daring woman who, disguised as a man, rose to rule Christianity as the first and only woman ever to sit on the Throne of St. Peter, **Pope Joan** by Donna Woolfolk Cross is a sweeping historical drama set against the turbulent events of the ninth century. Highly recommended. \$25 cl, 0517593653.

In **Perfect Enemies**, Christopher Bull and John Gallagher, two senior reporters for *The Advocate*, trace the origins and growth of the religious right and the gay movement. The authors offer a comprehensive

account of the rhetoric and strategies of both groups and show how the mutual passion of these enemies is influencing electoral politics from the state houses to the White House. \$25 cl, 0517701987.

**Still Unequal: The Shameful Truth About Women and Justice In America** by Lorraine Dusky is an investigation into America's legal system and how it undermines women's progress. Dusky looks at the profound sexism that still pervades the legal system, the prejudice written into the law itself, and the staggering levels of sexual harassment that exist in law schools and law firms. Dusky documents her claims with numerous studies and hundreds of interviews of women from all walks of life — Yale professors to rape survivors. \$27.50 cl, 0517593890.

**A Woman's Guide to a Simpler Life** by Andrea Van Steenhouse is a thoughtful primer on how to clear your mind and your closet and make space for what you truly value in work, home, family, friendships and traditions. \$23 cl, 0517706989.

**How To Succeed In Business Without a Penis** by Karen Salmansohn is a humorous but serious advice book about getting ahead in the business world. \$21 cl, 0517706687.



Joan Tollifson relays her struggle to make sense of her life and her spiritual awakening in **Bare-Bones Meditation**. Born with only one hand, she grew up feeling different, found identity and purpose as a bisexual lesbian and a disability rights activist, but struggled with drug and alcohol addiction. She first embraced Zen Buddhism then a very bare-bones form of spirituality that has no form. This exuberant and amazing testament is for the many people who don't fit into the conventional molds of existing religious traditions. \$14 pb, 0517887924.

**The Planned Parenthood Women's Health Encyclopedia** is the authoritative reference from a trusted name in women's health care. It provides

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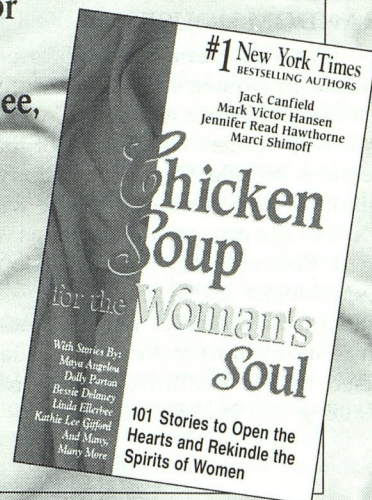
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## RH-Knopf

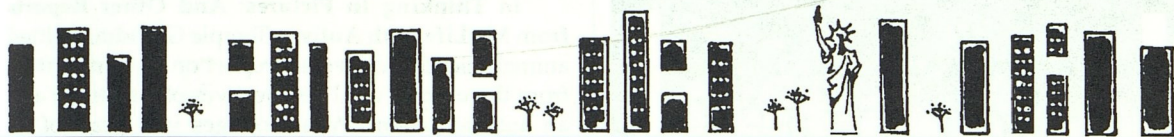
**Selected Stories** by Alice Munro is a generous selection of stories drawn from Munro's seven collections spanning almost 30 years. If you haven't read her, pick this up. She is the best short story writer writing today. \$30 cl, 0679446273.

**The Prospect Before Her: A History of Women in Western Europe, 1500–1800** by Olwen Hufton is the first of two volumes that explore women's fate in Western Europe from medieval times to the early

modern age. Rich, poor, Italian aristocrat, German peasant — the shape of women's lives during those centuries was in a profound way the same. Hufton offers a portrait that encompasses women's childhoods, their struggles to earn or ensure a dowry, the complex bonds between women and men, and women's lives as mother, provider, widow, scholar, leader, witch, nun and prostitute. Advertised in the Feminist Bookstore Network's Fall Catalog. \$35 cl, 0679450300.

Kennedy Fraser offers essays on women's lives in **Ornament and Silence**. In these 13 essays, Fraser explores the uniquely female voice and presence in literature and art. She reveals how the early sexual experiences of Virginia Woolf and Edith Wharton colored their emotions and their work and she considers the long life in exile of Nina Berberova. Fraser also writes of survivors such as feminist Germaine Greer, the naturalist Miriam Rothchild and the New York haute couture designer Valentina. \$25 cl, 0394585399.

Clarissa Pinkola Estes' new book **The Dangerous Old Woman** will not be coming out this Fall. No new date has been set.



### RH-Pantheon

**Family: American Writers Remember Their Own** edited by Sharon Sloan Fiffer and Steve Fiffer, with an afterward by Jane Smiley, is a collection by 18 American writers recalling the family member who had the strongest influence on their life and work. Included are Edwidge Danticat, Alice Hoffman, bell hooks, Whitney Otto, Jayne Anne Phillips and Marion Winik. \$23 cl, 0679442472.

A collection of stories, essays and conversations by Toni Cade Bambara, **Deep Sightings and Rescue Missions**, is a rich selection of her work. Bambara died last year of cancer at the age of 56. In her obituary in the *New York Times* she was called "a major contributor to the emerging genre of Black women's literature." This collection will bring her work to those already familiar with her writing and also to a new generation of readers who will recognize it as a precursor to contemporary Black women's literature. Advertised in the Feminist Bookstore Network's Fall Catalog. \$23 cl, 0679442502.

### RH-Times

An accurate, up-to-date guide, **Menopause** by Isaac Schieff, will help women make smart choices during this important life stage. It offers steps that can be taken to reduce symptoms, explains the differences between natural and post-surgical menopause, suggests times when hormone replacement therapy may be the right choice, considers the roles of diet and exercise, alternative therapies, and the "connection" between menopause and depression, weight and loss of libido. \$15, 0812923189.

### RH-Vintage

**Written By Herself, Volume II** edited by Jill Ker Conway is a sequel to her bestselling collection of women's autobiographical writing. Conway assembles English-speaking voices from three generations and four continents, voices that serve as paradigms of women's quests for personal and political power, autonomy and inclusion over the course of the 20th

century. Included in this volume are Vera Brittain, commemorating the deaths of the men she loved in the carnage of WWI; Emma Mashinini, who endured imprisonment and torture as a labor organizer in South Africa; Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, the daughter of Indian aristocracy who became an architect of her country's independence movement; and Edith Mirante, the wise-cracking American whose passion for justice took her to the opium trails of Burma. Advertised in the Feminist Bookstore Network's Fall Catalog. \$16 pb, 0679751092.



The story of Lisa See's family is told in **On Gold Mountain: The One-Hundred-Year Odyssey of My Chinese-American Family**. Starting with her great-great-grandfather who arrived in the United States in 1867, See constructs the chronicle of her family, a work that includes stories of racism, romance, entrepreneurial genius, domestic heartache, secret marriages and sibling rivalries. \$14 pb, 0679768521.

**An Unquiet Mind** by Kay Redfield Jamison, an authority on manic-depressive illness, is the story of her own struggle with this illness. As she was pursuing her psychiatric training, Jamison found herself succumbing to the exhilarating highs and paralyzing lows that afflicted many of her patients. While her disorder paid off in mercurial creativity and boundless energy, it also propelled her into spending sprees, episodes of violence and an attempted suicide. This is a powerful and candid book that has the power to transform lives. \$12 pb, 0679763309.

**Virtually Normal** by Andrew Sullivan, the editor of the *New Republic*, addresses a range of viewpoints about homosexuality. Sullivan draws on both his personal experience and on rigorous arguments to explore how a predominantly heterosexual society should treat those citizens who love members of their own sex. \$12 pb, 0679746145.

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poetry—this is the lesbian lyric, the  
ballad/chant of the deepest feelings  
one woman can have for another."

—SUSIE BRIGHT



In *Thinking In Pictures: And Other Reports from My Life with Autism*, Temple Grandin, a gifted animal scientist, delivers a report on autism written from the unique, dual perspectives of a scientist and an autistic person. What emerges is a story of an extraordinary human being who bridges the gulf between her condition and the non-autistic world and sheds light on the riddle of our common identity. Advertised in the Feminist Bookstore Network's Fall Catalog. \$12 pb, 0679772898. —Sandi Torklidson

*A Room of One's Own*



**ROUTLEDGE**

DECEMBER TITLES

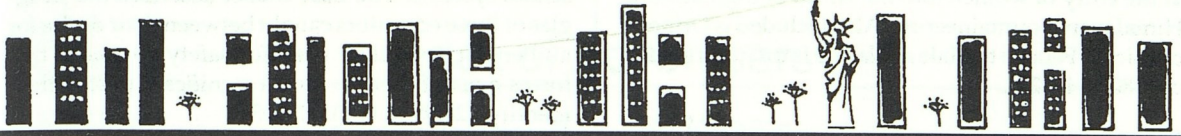
In *White Trash: Race & Class in America* editors Annalee Newitz and Matt Wray compare stereotypes with social reality, unmasking racial and social class assumptions behind the term. Looks like a good book on class. \$17.95 pb, 0-415-91692-5; \$55 cl, -91691-7.

In *Live Sex Acts: Women Performing Erotic Labor* Wendy Chapkis draws on more than 50 interviews, looking at how competing political discourses work concretely to frame policy and define perceptions of AIDS, to mobilize women into opposing camps, and silence some agendas while promoting others. \$16.95 pb, 0-415-91288-1; \$65 cl, -91287-3.

*Off White: Readings on Society, Race, and Culture* edited by Michelle Fine et al. brings a much-needed analysis of the white racialization process to the multicultural discussion. While some essays tackle the privileges associated with whiteness, others look at the possibilities that lie within multiracial ethnic coalition work. \$24.95 pb, 0-415-91302-0; \$65 cl, -91301-2.

Noted here before, *Homo Economics* has been postponed until December 1996.

In *Sexual Justice: Democratic Citizenship and the Politics of Desire*, Morris Kaplan argues that the achievement of equality for lesbian and gay citizens is part of the unfinished business of modern democracy and develops a conception of l/g rights that emphasizes protection against discrimination and recognition of queer relationships. \$16.95 pb, 0-415-90515-X; \$59.95 cl, -90514-1.



**Race/Sex: Their Sameness, Difference and Interplay** edited by Naomi Zack brings together a combined discussion of racial and gender theory. \$17.95 pb, 0-415-91590; \$59.95 cl, -91589-9.

The catalog copy says, **Psychology and Sexual Orientation: Coming to Terms** by Janis Bohan "strives to 'come to terms' with lesbian, gay, and bisexual life and with the controversial scientific and sociocultural theories and arguments on the origin and meaning of homosexuality...." \$18.95 pb, 0-415-91514-7; \$59.95 cl, -91513-9.

#### JANUARY TITLES

**Three Plays by Mae West: Sex, The Drag, & Pleasure Man** edited by Lillian Schiessel. If you sell a lot of plays, these resurrected plays by Mae West (who knew she wrote?) may be for you. \$16.95 pb, 0-415-90933-3; \$65 cl, -90932-5.

**Disabilities Studies Reader** edited by Leonard Davis is the first of its kind — not a general reader, but one for folks studying or working with any of the 15% of our population who are called disabled. \$24.95 pb, 0-415-91471-1; \$74.95 cl, -91470-1.

In **Transitions, Environments, Translations: International Feminisms in Contemporary Politics** edited by Joan Scott, scholars from Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, South Africa, China, Iran, India, Ethiopia and the U.S. consider feminism in their own cultures. Looks like a good addition to an International section. \$18.95 pb, 0-415-91541-4; \$65 cl, -91540-6.

#### FEBRUARY TITLES

**We Are Everywhere: A Historical Sourcebook in Gay and Lesbian Politics** edited by Mark Blasius and Shane Phelan presents political, historical, legal, literary and psychological documents that trace the evolution of the lesbian and gay movement. Although the catalog copy doesn't make clear whether or not an analysis of the works is included, this looks like a great collection of original sources. \$24.95 pb, 0-415-90858-0; \$75 cl, -90858-2.

**Ecofeminist Natures: Race, Gender, and Transnational Environmental Politics** by Noel Sturgeon is

an historical treatment of ecofeminism in the U.S. \$16.95 pb, 0-415-91250-4; \$65 cl, -91249-0.

**Changing the Wor(l)d: Discourse, Politics and the Feminist Movement** by Stacey Young is a critique of the political science research and writing that has been done on the women's movement in the U.S. NB: The catalog specifically points out that one focus of the book is on feminist publishing and the books it has produced. \$17.95 pb, 0-415-91377-2; \$65 cl, -91376-4.

—Mary Ellen Kavanaugh  
*My Sisters' Words/Syracuse NY*



Here are some titles that have slipped through the cracks that we think are important for feminist bookstores.

#### ANCHOR

**Handsome Heroines: Women as Men in Folklore** is a collection of stories based on classic folk tales from around the world with one thing in common: all of the protagonists are women who masquerade as men. The women dress as men for various reasons — to save king, country, kin and their own lives or to get revenge, love and power. Sometimes they just do it for fun. After receiving recognition for their achievements as men, they reveal their true gender; this shatters the myth of the helpless female and thereby transforms their status as women forever. Looks great! \$12.95 pb, 0-385-48405-4.

#### BEACON

**Making Gender: The Politics and Erotics of Culture** by Sherry B. Ortner collects eight of Ortner's essays illuminating 25 years of her analysis of women's roles and the meaning of gender. In "The Virgin and the State," Ortner examines the origins of the idea of the protection of female purity and virginity, and in "Borderland Politics and Erotics," she looks

at the entry of women into the world of high-altitude Himalayan mountaineering. Also included is Ortnier's classic "Is Female to Male as Nature is to Culture?" \$25 cl, 0-8070-4632-9.

### DOUBLEDAY

All stores better be stocking *Alias Grace* Margaret Atwood's new novel. Set in the 1840s, Atwood takes us into the life and mind of Grace Marks a "notorious killer" serving life of imprisonment for the murders of a wealthy landowner and his housekeeper/mistress. \$24.95 cl, 0-385-47571-3.

In *The History of Lesbian Hair* Mary Dugger delivers a goofy view of the modern world in her lesbian "Contract with America." Dugger utilizes an array of illustrated essays, diagrams and short takes on topics such as "Patsy Cline and the Impact of Her Hair on Lesbianism Since the 1950s" and "The PE Teacher." "Sheer comic genius." —Karen Finley. I, on the other hand, was disappointed — such a great cover, but the inside left me bald! \$10.95 pb, 0-385-48037-7.

### DUTTON

In *The Intimacy Dance: A Guide to Long-Term Success in Gay and Lesbian Relationships* Dr. Betty Berzon draws on insights that she has gained since her ground-breaking book *Permanent Partners* to provide specific and compassionate advice for maturing relationships of three years and longer, while acknowledging the inevitable surprises and complications our culture presents. Dr. Berzon provides sound and realistic advice for any couple interested in a stable and rewarding life together. \$24.95 cl, 0-525-94234-3.



### HEINEMANN

*The Last Closet: The Real Lives of Lesbian and Gay Teachers* by Rita M. Kissen tells the stories of lesbian and gay educators as they struggle for dignity in the face of homophobia. The stories in this book come from over one hundred lesbian, gay and bisexual women and men who are, or have been, teachers, counselors, librarians and administrators across the country. Some of these teachers are so closeted they know no other gay or lesbian educators in their own

school systems. *The Last Closet* describes the struggles of these educators caught between their desire for authenticity and their need for safety — a need that forces most of them to hide a significant part of their identity. \$23.95 cl, 0-435-07005-3.

### HENRY HOLT

In *Way Out of No Way: African American Short Stories for Young Adults* Jacqueline Woodson (*Autobiography of a Family Photo*) has gathered stories and poems by her favorite writers to pass on to a new generation. Here are many tones and moods, from the passion and violence of Sapphire's poem "Wild Thing" to the new horizons of friendship in a chapter from Jamaica Kincaid's *Annie John*. This highly personal anthology is a great writers' gift of great writing. \$16.95, 0-8050-4570-8.

### RIVERHEAD BOOKS

*The Armchair Activist: Simple Yet Powerful Ways to Fight the Radical Right* by Felice N. Schwartz and Suzanne K. Levine is designed to empower the reader with facts to dispel hype and letters of protest to address vital issues such as censorship, deficit reduction, welfare, immigration, civil liberties, separation of church and state, education and much more — all without leaving the house. The authors show how readers can decode the language of the radical right; discover important information about their elected officials; write letters to the government, the media and corporations; use the telephone as a powerful activist tool; and create a "virtual" coalition on-line. \$12 pb, 1-57322-549-5.

### VIKING

*My First White Friend: Confessions on Race, Love, and Forgiveness* by Patricia Raybon traces the significant events in Raybon's life — her childhood confusion about race, her discovery of sex and its mythology in Black life, her first White friend, marriage and motherhood, her rediscovery of religion, and her inspiration from such spiritual leaders as Ghandi and Martin Luther King, Jr. In a narrative that is part journal, part memoir and part social analysis, Raybon explores her recent "journey from rage to racial reasoning." Raybon discovers that racial reconciliation starts with individual willingness to love. \$22.95 cl, 0-670-85956-7. —JT ○



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### Lesbian Adventures, *continued from page 33.*

documents to her office, keep alive a new, now long-distance relationship, as well as illegally sublet her rent-controlled apartment on the Upper West Side. And when it all takes a metaphysical turn as Terry experiences the ghosts of her parents while driving in their late-model mini-van in search of a six-pack of decent beer, we see that the suburban search for meaning is just beginning.

*Jolyn MacCray Takes on the Collective.* It's a rough ride for European-American sociology professor and disabilities-rights activist Jolyn MacCray. With her lover Elena off to Liberia on a Rhodes Scholarship and best friend Rosa on a whirlwind book tour, Jolyn learns she's been denied tenure by a stodgy group of male professors. Retreating to a small women's college for the summer, Jolyn thinks immersing herself in the lesbian community will ease her pain. But watch out, because these macrobiotic, newspaper-recycling lesbians prove that white privilege and ableism are alive and well and

raging at the Collective. Can Jolyn get through to the seemingly oblivious feminists without the help of Rosa and Elena? Will Rosa's latest book, delayed at the printer's, arrive in time to educate, enlighten and prevent a murder? Or will Jolyn finally take an ax to the collective's bathroom, making it truly accessible once and for all?

*Vengeful Spirit.* When eternal-graduate student and visiting house guest LouAnne takes it upon herself to point out all the differences between (over)activist Lucy and Lucy's cable-TV-addicted girlfriend Lonnie, all hell breaks loose — until the three of them discover there's a ghost in the house. Or is the "ghost" a prank of the local religious right group, who hope to derail Lucy's latest plans for a local lesbian cable network? Can everyone work together, or is one of the three not whom she appears to be?

Yup, looks like we have a fine summer of reading lined up here. So pass the mineral water and sink into — well, if it's not exactly reality — maybe a little escapism isn't so bad after all. ○

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# CLASSIFIED ADS

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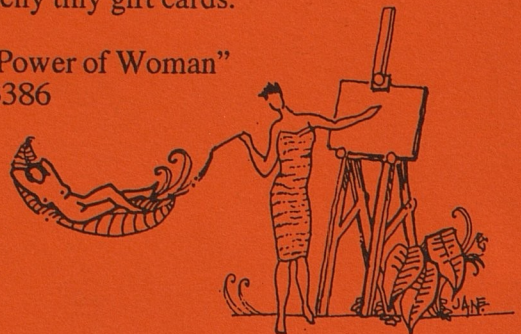
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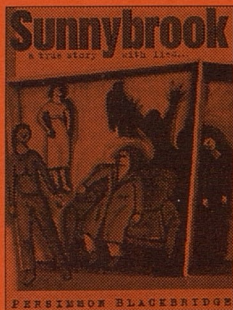
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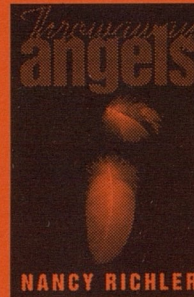


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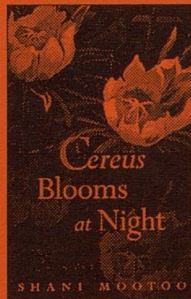


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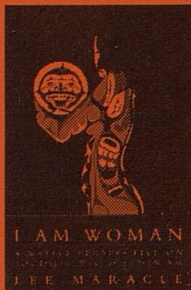
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