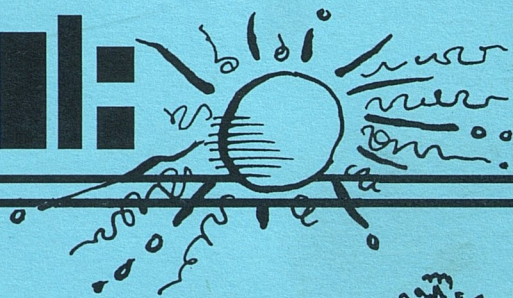

Feminist Bookstore News

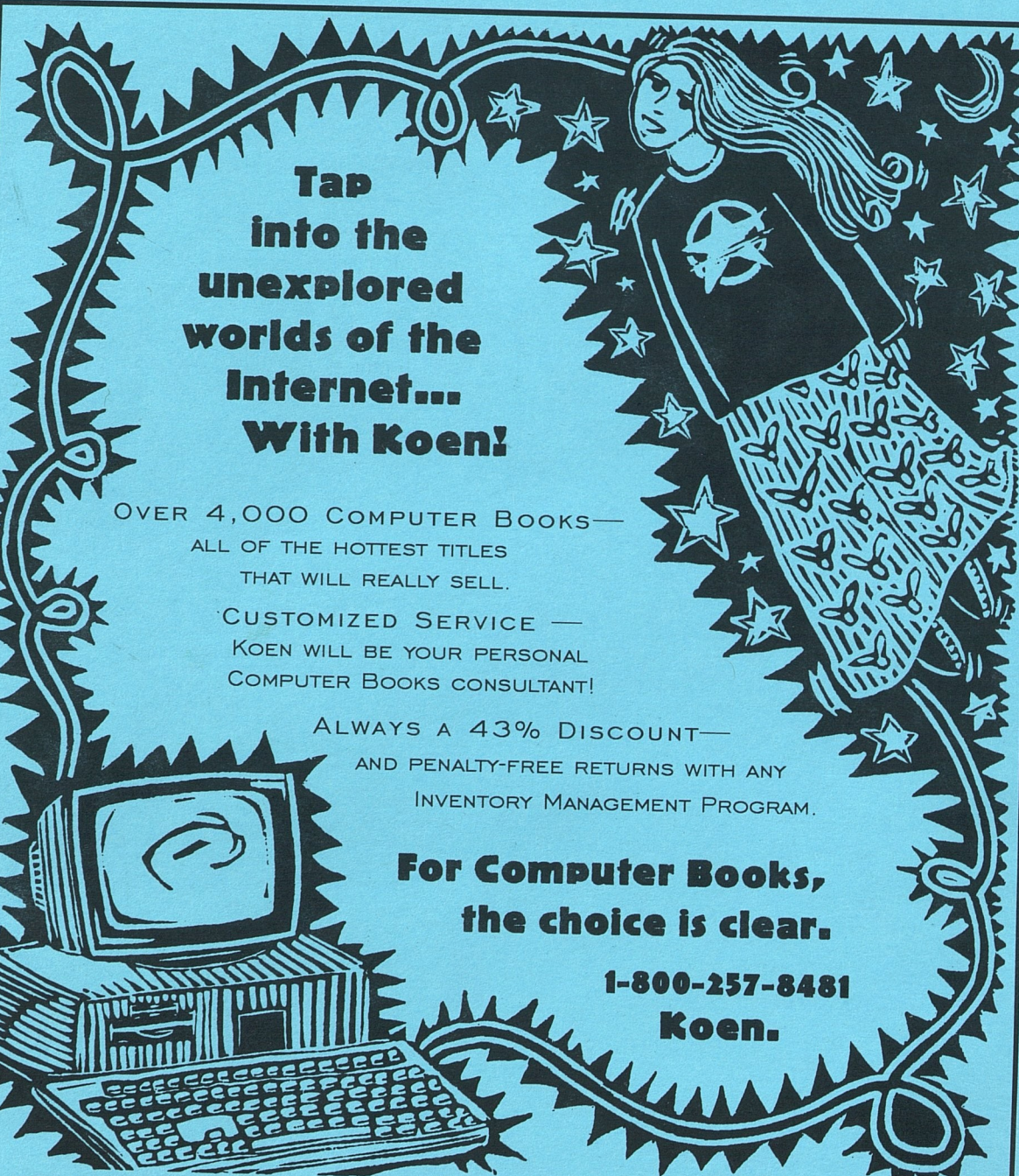


Women in Cyberspace

January/February 1997

Volume 19 Number 5

Am Ser
Femina Serial AM F32978 4/8/97



**Tap
into the
unexplored
worlds of the
Internet...
With Koen!**

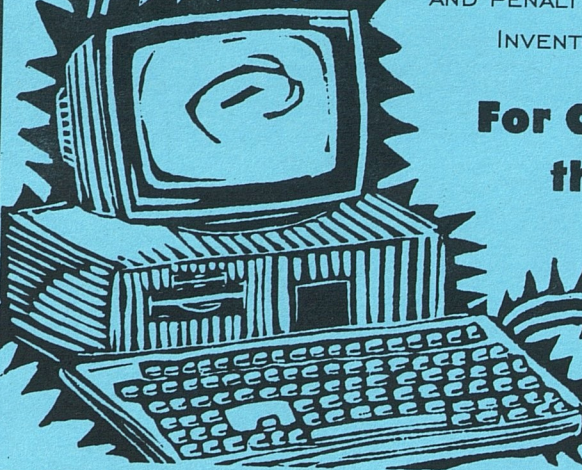
OVER 4,000 COMPUTER BOOKS—
ALL OF THE HOTTEST TITLES
THAT WILL REALLY SELL.

CUSTOMIZED SERVICE —
KOEN WILL BE YOUR PERSONAL
COMPUTER BOOKS CONSULTANT!

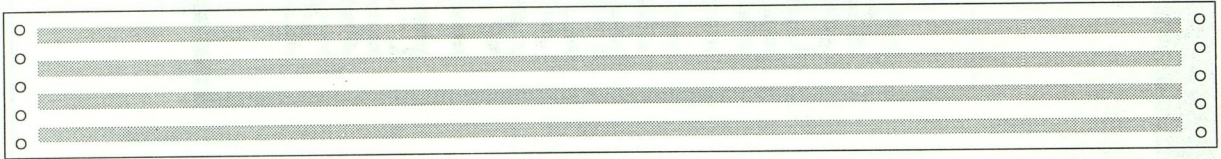
ALWAYS A 43% DISCOUNT—
AND PENALTY-FREE RETURNS WITH ANY
INVENTORY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.

**For Computer Books,
the choice is clear.**

**1-800-257-8481
Koen.**



NOTES FROM THE COMPUTER TABLE



Many, many women pitched in to help us build this Feminist Bookstores in Cyberspace Issue. Our thanks to everyone who helped, especially Liz Wermcrantz, who traveled to Bloomington to interview Tana Meldrum about Once Upon a Time's new cybercafe; Lee Anne Phillips for both her feminist bookstores Web page and her article about how it came to be; Dorothy Holland (Amazon Support); everyone who contributed to the Cybergrrls Book List; and all the feminist booksellers and publishers who responded to my query about running a Web site.

This issue also features a profile of Ms. Crayonhouse, the feminist bookstore in Tokyo. It's the third in our series on feminist bookstores "of the EuroAmerican track." We're very pleased to have it and are eager to see what will come next. Anyone ready to do a piece on South American feminist bookstores? Updates on the feminist bookstores in India and Bangladesh? Are there more stores out there that we don't yet know about?

After a great deal of soul searching and many, many discussions with booksellers and publishers, *FBN* has decided not to exhibit on the main floor of ABA/BEA 97. BEA gave the Gay/Lesbian/Feminist Aisle an absolutely back-of-the-bus location this year, despite all our years of seniority. Weighing the evidence, we had to conclude that it was simply not worth the \$2,400 price tag. We'll attend the show, we may exhibit in the Small Press area, but we're not paying full price for a booth in the back shadows of the hall.

We'll spend the money and energy on other projects: While we were working on this CyberIssue, we received a call from a woman offering to coordinate volunteers to put the Feminist Bookstores' Catalog on the Internet if we can find someone to donate the

space to put it up. We're very excited! Our goal is to have it up by National Feminist Bookstore Week, May 10-18.

Another dream: We're looking for a library student or other volunteer interested in indexing *FBN's* first twenty years. It's not as big a project as it seems — all the books are indexed for the last ten years, but an index of articles would be a wonderful resource.

It is with sadness that we announce that Cathleen Moore, *FBN's* administrative assistant, will be leaving in mid-January.

Yours in spreading the words,
Carol Seajay

FBN Articles Due

Spring Announcements
March/April
January 3

ABA/BEA Special Issue
May/June
March 7

Summer/Sidelines Issue
July/August
May 2

NORTHEASTERN

WOMEN'S LIVES

A BRIDE'S PASSAGE

Susan Hathorn's Year Under Sail

Catherine Petroski

Based on the diary of a 19th-century Maine seafaring woman, *A Bride's Passage* recreates the drama of daily life in the age of sail. Susan Hathorn (1830-1907) kept a detailed journal during her first year of marriage, which she spent aboard the bark of her merchant captain husband. Here, Catherine Petroski frames excerpts from Susan's diary with colorful and insightful commentary on maritime history and the social mores and folkways of the era. Chronicling Susan's journey from somewhat giddy and pretentious bride to seasoned seamstress and new mother, Petroski creates a captivating portrait of a spirited, intelligent, and dryly witty New England woman.

\$42.50 cloth • \$15.95 paper

"TO DO AND TO BE"

Portraits of Four Women Activists, 1893-1986

Ann Schofield

Gertrude Barnum (1866-1948), Mary Dreier (1876-1963), Pauline Newman (c. 1888-1986), and Rose Pesotta (1896-1965) were social reformers who worked in the settlement, suffrage, feminist, and trade union movements in the early years of this century. They helped to define a new model of womanhood that incorporated waged labor into the female life cycle, and made a profound contribution to the elimination of the brutal sweatshop conditions under which women worked. Ann Schofield's fascinating comparative biography depicts the reformers' personal histories, work, and activist strategies within the context of the ideologies, organizations, and sexuality that framed their lives.

\$42.50 cloth • \$15.95 paper



NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY PRESS

360 Huntington Avenue, 416CP
Boston, MA 02115

FBN

Editor & Publisher

Carol Seajay

Assistant Editor

Jenn Tust

Advertising & Production

Kathryn Werhane

Columnists

Art Books	Tea Corinne
Canadian Books	Suzanne Buffam
Gay Men's Literature	Richard Labonte
Kids' Lit	Linda Bubon
Music News	Jennifer Einhorn
Mysteries	Nan Cinnater
New Media	Dorothy Holland
Science Fiction	Julie Mitchell
Small Presses	Lisa McGowan
University Presses	Mev Miller

Proofreading

Elaine Blake, Sarah Fallon,
Sarah Holmes, Kirsten Janene-Nelson,
Cathleen Moore, Stephanie Provines,
Dena Taylor, Susan Waller, Kathleen Wilkinson

Cover Art

Juliet Breese (*Woman'space* magazine)

Feminist Bookstore News

2358 Market Street

PO Box 882554

San Francisco CA 94188

415-626-1556, fax: 415-626-8970

e-mail: FBN@FemBkNews.com

Printed in USA

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

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

FEMINIST BOOKSTORE NEWS (ISSN: 0741-6555) is published bi-monthly in January, March, May, July, September, and November by FEMINIST BOOKSTORE NEWS at 2358 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Periodicals Postage paid at San Francisco, CA. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to FEMINIST BOOKSTORE NEWS, PO Box 882554, San Francisco, CA 94188-2554.

CONTENTS

Women in Cyberspace

Opening a Cybercafe!	23
To Website or Not to Website	29
The Birth of a Web Page "Empire"	25
Cybergrrrls Book List	37

Articles

Tokyo's Feminist Bookstore: Ms. Crayonhouse	19
Trivia & Commentary	17
News/Short Stories	7
ABA & Random House Reach Settlement • Publishers Abandon BEA • News From Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press • Calyx Sells <i>Into the Forest</i> for \$350,000 • Bookpeople Launches WORDS Distribution • More Borders Elections • <i>Salò</i> Returns to Cincinnati • <i>Girlfriends Buys On Our Backs</i> • Black Bookstore Week • Obituaries: Meridel Le Sueur, Winnie Wan-ru Pong	
Bookstore News	15
Bestsellers	43

Departments

Ad Index	103
Back to Press & Other Good News	41
Classified Ads	104
Letters	5
Subscription Information	84
They Went That-A-Way	39
Writing Wanted	42

The Books

Art Books	45
Canadian Books	59
Gay Men's Lit	52
Kids' Lit	47
Mysteries	53
Music News	61
New Media	49
Our Own Presses	67
Publisher's Row	93
Science Fiction & Fantasy	55
Small Presses	73
University Presses	87

LPC GROUP CELEBRATES WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



LIKE THERE'S NO TOMORROW

Meditations for Women Leaving Patriarchy

by Carolyn Gage

A meditation book to clear your political sinuses, these annotated quotes will inspire, intrigue and invigorate any woman in search of radical healing.

Available March 1997

COMMON COURAGE PRESS

\$14.95 paper ~ 1-56751-104-X • \$29.95 cloth ~ 1-56751-105-8



THINKING CLASS

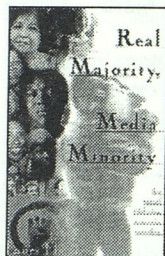
Sketches from a Cultural Worker

by Joanna Kadi

A compelling look at how oppression by class intersects with oppression by race, gender, and sexuality, from both a personal and analytical perspective.

SOUTH END PRESS

\$14.00 paper ~ 0-89608-547-3 • \$40.00 cloth ~ 0-89608-548-1



REAL MAJORITY, MEDIA MINORITY

The Cost of Sidelining Women in Reporting

by Laura Flanders

How are women's lives and issues portrayed in the news? Laura Flanders reveals what's wrong with the "objective picture" painted by the media.

COMMON COURAGE PRESS

\$17.95 paper ~ 1-56751-090-6 • \$29.95 cloth ~ 1-56751-091-4



MOTHER JOURNEYS

Feminists Write About Mothering

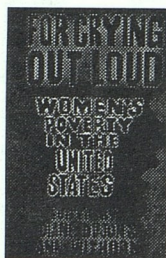
Edited by Maureen T. Reddy, Martha Roth and Amy Sheldon

"...should be mandatory reading for everyone who came into this world other than via the virgin birth."

—Jayne Blanchard, *Pioneer Press*, St. Paul, MN

SPINSTERS INK

\$15.95 paper ~ 1-883523-03-6 • \$29.95 cloth ~ 1-883523-04-4



FOR CRYING OUT LOUD

(2ND EDITION)

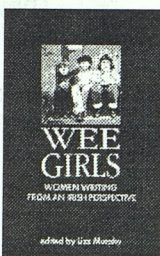
Women's Poverty in the United States

Edited by Diane Dujon and Ann Withorn

Reviews "traditional solutions" to women's poverty such as job programs, welfare, and electoral politics, with an urge to see beyond them to more fundamental change.

SOUTH END PRESS

\$22.00 paper ~ 0-89608-529-5 • \$40.00 cloth ~ 0-89608-530-9



WEE GIRLS

Women Writing From an Irish Perspective

Edited by Lizz Murphy

A moving and often amusing collection of fiction, poetry and autobiography by top-selling and award winning authors such as Maeve Binchy, Mary Daly and Linda Cherry.

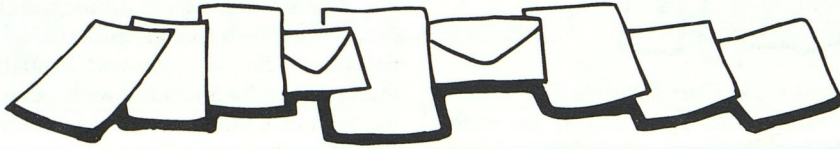
SPINIFEX PRESS

\$14.95 paper ~ 1-875559-51-5



1436 West Randolph Street, Chicago, Illinois 60607
PHONE ORDERS 1-800-626-4330 • FAX ORDERS 1-800-334-3892

LETTERS



The Mulberry Company
PO Box 268
Cotati CA 94931

Dear FBN,

Great article on superstores and returns! Important information — thanks for lifting the veil.

We've seen a parallel trend in the past few years with the wholesale gift shows where we exhibit (repping women artists): promoters opened more and more shows ("shelf space"), creating the illusion of more sales. But buyers were simply spread thin, and exhibitors had to choose between shows or double-show. As with the superstores, the promise of expanded market proved hollow — it took two shows to make the sales we used to make at one, while booth prices continued to rise. Resulting attrition of smaller cottage-industry exhibitors deprived buyers access to many unique products. In the end, no one benefited but the promoters selling booth space.

Lately, however, some shows are so seriously undersold that promoters are making stunning changes. The Los Angeles gift show (owned by a large out-of-state promoter), for example, now shares its Convention Center show site with a local competitor (whose show is also a fraction of its former size), and has shrunk to four exhibit days (at no savings to exhibitors of course). Dare we hope this is a sign?

Elaine Blake

55A Norwood Avenue
Newton Centre MA 02159

Dear FBN,

I am writing to you to spread word about the recent fate and current availability of my three most recent books. These are *Pure Lust*, *Websters' First New*

Intergalactic Wickedary of the English Language, and *Outercourse: The Be-Dazzling Voyage*.



These books, which represent half of my life's work, were "disappeared" from Harper San Francisco. That is, before I knew what was going on, the paperbacks were remaindered. In late September 1996 I was informed that the copies still left of *Pure Lust* and of the *Wickedary* would be sold to the highest bidder by October 18 if I did not purchase them before that date, and that the extant copies of *Outercourse* which were still possessed by the publisher would be...*shredded* after that time.

As one who is somewhat sensitive to words, I shuddered at the word *shredded*. Since *Outercourse* is my philosophical *autobiography*, it was difficult not to take this, uh, personally, I envisioned myself in long narrow strips laid out neatly on the floor. I regretted that I had not added the word *shredder* to my list of *Wickedary* words. But there was no time for such self-indulgent imaginings and regrets. Run, Mary, Run!



I Wickedly managed to rescue the remaining copies of the books. They are being distributed by: Unitarian Universalist Association Bookstore, 25 Beacon Street, Boston MA 02108. The director of the UUA Bookstore is Steve More. Books can be ordered by fax at 617-367-3237, or by phone 800-215-9076. E-mail address is: (bookstore at uua.org).

They are selling the books (all paperbacks) at list

price to individuals and at 40% discount to bookstores. The list price of *Pure Lust* is \$16, *Wickedary*, \$17; *Outercourse*, \$13.



My earlier books (*The Church and the Second Sex*, *Beyond God the Father*, and *Gyn/Ecology*) are with Beacon Press. My forthcoming book is *Quintessence: Re-Calling the Outrageous Contagious Courage of Women*. The 2048 AF (*Anno Feminarum*) Edition of this work, containing a Preface and Canny Comments on each chapter by an inhabitant of the

Future, will also be published Originally by Beacon in 1998. This Future Feminist, a member of the Anonyma Network of the twenty-first century, is known informally as "Annie."

Annie Conjures me up for conversations all the Time Now. She is a keen student of twentieth-century Feminism. So who knows? Probably she will be interested in Be-Speaking with other participants in the Women's Movement, Past, Present, and Future.

Many books are being destroyed. However, the moronizing millennial megamonsters cannot stop the flow of information and Original/Deviant/Feminist Genius. Take Heart! Ask Annie!

Mary Daly

○

take a spin with **SPINIFEX PRESS**
<http://www.publishaust.net.au/~spinifex>

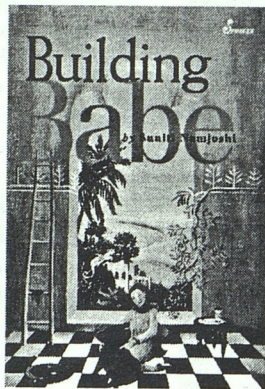
Dale Spender
Women, Power & Cyberspace
touring in March

Tour details, contact
 M. Karlsberg

Nattering on The Net [Women, Power & Cyberspace] is a book you must read.

- President, America Online Enterprises

ISBN 1-875559-09-4
 lge format paper \$19.95



Interactive fiction . . .

Building Babel by Suniti Namjoshi

ISBN 1-875559-56-6 paper \$13.95
<http://www.publishaust.net.au/~spinifex/babelbuildingsite.html>

The Internet for Women

by Rye Senjen & Jane Guthrey

ISBN 1-875559-52-3

lge format paper \$16.95

The best introduction to the Internet I have ever come across . . .

- Harrison, Daily Post UK

Look out for more cyberfiction . . . ***The Silicon Tongue***

by Beryl Fletcher

ISBN 1875559-49-3

paper \$13.95

SPINIFEX NY Office: Michele Karlsberg Tel 718-351-9599 Fax 718-980-4262
Distributed in USA & Canada by LPC (Inbook) Chicago Tel 800-626-4330 Fax 800-334-3892

News News News

ABA & Random House Reach Agreement — Last Antitrust Lawsuit Settled —

An out-of-court settlement between the American Booksellers Association and Random House resolved the last of the anti-trust lawsuits ABA filed as part of their effort to achieve a level playing field for independent bookstores.

Random House admitted no wrongdoing, but agreed to abide by the terms of a ten-year consent decree, which will be administered by the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. These guidelines require that the same discount terms and promotional allowances be made available to independent bookstores, chain stores, warehouse clubs, and other retail stores with general interest book departments or specialty book sections.

Unlike settlements achieved previously, Random House will not reimburse ABA for legal fees.

With the Random House settlement, 30 to 40 percent of trade book sales are now operating under the consent decree, which guarantees fair and equitable treatment for independent bookstores that compete with chains and non-bookstore outlets.

The consent decree also includes a procedure through which any bookseller can seek enforcement of the order if the bookseller feels the publisher has violated the terms of the decree. Steps in the grievance procedure include written notice from the bookseller and ABA to the publisher and good faith, face-to-face negotiations. If no resolution is reached, the bookseller and ABA may then make a motion for contempt. The presiding judge will decide the validity of the complaint and, if the judge finds for the bookseller, penalties may be assessed against the publisher.

ABA had already reached settlements with Houghton Mifflin, Penguin USA, St. Martin's Press,

Hugh Lauter Levin, and Rutledge Hill, the five publishers named in the suit filed in May, 1994. The Random House settlement was filed in January, 1996. One of the major victories of the lawsuits was the consent decree, which specifies how Robinson-Patman and other anti-trust legislation must be applied to the book industry. These guidelines have become particularly important in the wake of the Federal Trade Commission's failure to complete its investigation of illegal practices in the book industry, which put independent bookstores at a competitive disadvantage with chain stores and warehouse clubs. ○

BDD, FS&G, and Hearst Group Abandon BEA — FBN Decides Not to Exhibit — — Firebrand Cuts Back —

Bantam Doubleday Dell, one of the comparatively few remaining big houses that was expected to exhibit at BookExpo America '97 in Chicago, surprised the industry on Halloween by announcing it will not exhibit at the show. BDD spokesman Stuart Applebaum described the decision as difficult because BDD CEO Jack Hoeft has always been a strong believer in the concept of a national book-publishing convention. Nevertheless, BDD, when faced with "an immutable deadline for committing to the show" (i.e., the deadline for the second payment for exhibit space), concluded that BEA "was not yet coming together effectively enough to merit our full-scale participation" and that it was not clear to what extent booksellers would be supporting the convention. BDD will review their decision next year.

Farrar, Straus & Giroux also confirmed, in late October, that it would send "a few people" to BEA '97 but would not exhibit. FS&G president and CEO Roger Straus said, "At this stage of what's going on,



San Francisco
in the 70's...
It was the best
of times if you
knew where the
party was.

APRIL SINCLAIR

BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF
COFFEE WILL MAKE YOU BLACK

AIN'T GONNA BE THE SAME FOOL TWICE

**"A HOOT... HIGH-SPIRITED
AND ENTERTAINING..."**

a disarmingly upbeat novel about
race and sexual preference."

— *San Francisco Chronicle Book Review*

"Sinclair's affection for her feisty ingenue
colors every page of this winning novel."

— *Entertainment Weekly*

"A 1970'S MAGIC CARPET RIDE..."

— *Chicago-Sun Times*

In paperback at bookstores everywhere



<http://AvonBooks.com>

PHOTO: ROBERT TRACHTENBERG

we'd be better off to spend our money at regionals."

The Hearst Book Group (William Morrow and Avon) had earlier decided their resources could better be spent at regional shows. They also expressed concern about booksellers' diminishing presence at recent ABA conventions.

Henry Holt, on the other hand, which had announced their decision not to attend ABA at Frankfurt, has changed its mind and will take 600 square feet of exhibit space and will prioritize sending sales and marketing personnel.

Publishers Weekly reports HarperCollins has put in for a smaller space than usual and Time Warner, which reduced its presence by about ten percent last year, plans no further reductions this year. Time Warner President Larry Kirshbaum told *PW*, "We have a commitment to stay in, as long as there are enough independent booksellers there whom we can meet one-to-one, which is what the show is all about."

On the Gay/Lesbian/Feminist Aisle several publishers *FBN* spoke with are questioning the value of exhibiting at BEA this year. Most publishers seem to have decided to exhibit in 1997 and then reevaluate for 1998.

Firebrand Books, however, recently decided to exhibit with Login/InBook rather than maintaining an independent booth. Publisher Nancy Bereano will attend the show but will not bring additional staff.

Feminist Bookstore News has also decided to forgo the cost of exhibiting on the aisle (\$2,300 for booth rental, + \$400 to \$800 for furnishings and exhibit materials). *FBN* will take two rather than four staff to BEA.

Cleis Press had decided last summer to exhibit with their distributor PGW rather than on the Aisle. Cleis' Felice Newman cited "minimal set-up time, no furniture rental, no shipping costs and no breakdown time" as advantages of being part of the joint exhibit. Other publishers working from joint stands also cited the advantage of being able to leave Sunday afternoon rather than staying through Monday night.

Feminist presses cited the high cost of doing business at BEA, reduced bookseller attendance, and the Aisle's very-back-of-the-hall location as factors in their decision.

Random House, Simon & Schuster, Penguin, the Putnam Berkley Group and St. Martin's Press have declined to exhibit at the 1997 show. ○

**Calyx Sells *Into the Forest*
to Bantam for \$350,000;
Hegland Signs Additional \$350,000
Deal for Second Novel**

Calyx Books and author Jean Hegland have sold *Into the Forest* to Bantam Books for \$350,000. Bantam also bought Hegland's unfinished second novel for an additional \$350,000. The \$700,000 deal, agented by Elizabeth Wales (Seattle) and Kim Witherspoon (New York), is a saga of independent bookselling and feminist publishing. "It's the independent bookstores who got behind this novel and got the ball rolling," a jubilant Margarita Donnelly told *FBN*.

The editors at Calyx had selected Hegland's beautiful first novel, *Into the Forest*, from a group of 150 manuscripts received in 1994. Due to financial constraints, it was two years before the feminist press could publish it.

Feminist and other independent booksellers discovered the book when it was published in July and began handselling and promoting it in the multitude of ways that independent bookstores promote books too unique to have big publicity budgets behind them.

Susan Wasson of Bookworks (Albuquerque) recommended *Into the Forest* to her Warner rep, who passed the excitement on to Bantam editors in New York. Calyx's literary agents did what agents do and, when the dust settled, Bantam's offers of \$350,000 to Calyx for *Into the Forest* and \$350,000 to Hegland for her second novel were accepted. The proceeds of the *Into the Forest* sale will be divided equally between the publisher and the author.

"One of the ironies in this whole process," Margarita told *FBN*, "was that we had to keep shipping copies of the book to the various publishers, because none of the (mostly chain) stores in NYC had the book."

Calyx published a paperback/cloth edition of *Into the Forest* in July, which had sold most of its initial 6,000 copy print-run before the deal was signed. Bantam will publish a cloth edition in 1997.

On the strength of the initial reviews and sales, Calyx, which had been forced by budget constraints to cut staff hours by fifty percent in May, squeezed its budget to hire Mary Bisbee Beek to do additional publicity. Author Jean Hegland worked closely with

Calyx on the promotional program and covered part of her travel expenses for reading tours. These efforts to reach reading groups and independent booksellers paid off and, by the end of the summer, the book was on bestseller lists at independent and feminist bookstores across the West.

Review attention has also been excellent: *Into the Forest* has been compared to *Cold Sassy Tree* and *Snow Falling on Cedars* by the *Austin Statesman Journal*. *Library Journal* compared it to George Orwell's 1984 and Ursula K. Le Guin's *Always Coming Home*. It also received a starred review in *PW* and rave reviews in *Small Press*, *Booklets* and *Quirks*.

For Calyx, the influx of cash comes at just the right time. Despite receiving a slew of awards and honors during the press' 20th Anniversary year (the Oregon Governor's Arts Award, the Best Literary Journal award from Seattle's Bumpershoot Book Fair, a Nobel Prize to Polish poet Wislawa Symborska, whose work Calyx had first published in 1980, and other recognition), Calyx had also suffered from excessive returns and drastic reductions in grant funding. In response, Calyx had launched a very successful drive to raise \$40,000 from private donors, but still had been forced to cut staff hours and postpone publishing dates. The sale of *Into the Forest* means Calyx will be able to return to its full publishing program and all staff have been able to return to their normal work schedules.

Margarita Donnelly, Calyx's Managing Editor, concluded, "This is *the* novel I've been waiting for for twenty years. We are rejoicing at Calyx that Jean Hegland's work is receiving the recognition it deserves and that our publications are being noticed in New York." ○

Girlfriends Buys *On Our Backs*

After languishing for months in bankruptcy court, the controversial lesbian erotica magazine *On Our Backs* has been purchased by HAF Enterprises, publisher of the San Francisco-based bimonthly magazine *Girlfriends*. Heather Findlay and Erin Findlay, co-owners of HAF Enterprises, have stated that they will honor unfulfilled subscriptions to *On Our Backs* (which ceased publishing in 1995) with subscriptions to *Girlfriends*. Other plans include issuing

anthologies of *On Our Backs'* groundbreaking erotic fiction and pictorials and reviving the magazine as a regular publication.

Blush Entertainment, Inc., *On Our Backs'* parent company, declared bankruptcy in April 1996. Melissa Murphy, then-president of Blush, signed an acquisition agreement with the national gay news magazine *The Advocate*. HAF Enterprises contested the sale and purchased the assets of Blush Entertainment at an overbidding hearing October 3, 1996. *On Our Backs* ceased publishing in 1995.

"I'm very happy that *On Our Backs* will remain in the hands of lesbian publishers," says Heather Findlay, editor-in-chief of *Girlfriends*, which currently boasts a national readership of 60,000. "The purchase bodes well for *Girlfriends'* vitality and for the future of lesbian publishing as a whole."

Susie Bright, nationally known "sexpert" and former editor of *On Our Backs*, reports that she is "very pleased and hopeful that this historic magazine will flourish under the care of its new owners." Bright has

expressed interest in editing an upcoming "best of" anthology of *On Our Backs'* fiction. Nan Kinney, founder and former publisher of *On Our Backs*, will assist HAF Enterprises in developing capital to re-launch the magazine.

Heather Findlay served as editor of *On Our Backs* from 1993 through 1994, when she and several other *On Our Backs* staff left the publication to launch *Girlfriends*. ○

Bookpeople Launches Distribution Company

For 25 years Bookpeople has been a champion of independent publishing, serving as a wholesaler for a vast range of small, independent, and often establishment-challenging small presses as well as wholesaling pertinent titles from mainstream and corporate publishers.

Fueled by its commitment "to promote and

From Cybergrrrrl to Wired Woman

Just a taste of what Bookpeople has in stock for the savvy and the curious:

- The Internet For Women Rye Senjen, Spinifex Press 1-875559-52-3 \$16.95
- Wired Women: Gender and Cyberspace Lynn Cherny, Seal Press 1-878067-73-7 \$16.00
- Nearly Roadkill: Infobahn Erotic Caitlin Sullivan, Serpent's Tail 1-85242-418-4 \$13.99
- Your Creative Rights in the Digital Age Catherine Kirkman, N.A.L. 0-452-27689-6 \$12.95

You can always count on Bookpeople to come through with:

Over 30,000 Titles

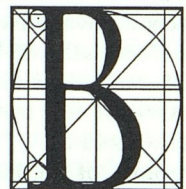
Our selection represents more publishers than any other independent wholesaler.

Over 3,000 Publishers

From bestselling Trade to hard-to-find Independent presses and everything in-between, plus regional hits and thousands of calendars, we have what you need.

Outstanding Service

As always, orders received by noon ship that day, with next day delivery for most of California. We extend free freight to California orders of 100 units or more.



BOOKPEOPLE
Employee-Owned & Operated
7900 Edgewater Dr.
Oakland, CA 94621

Orders—(toll free) 1-800-999-4650

Fax—(510) 632-1281

WWW—<http://www.bponline.com>

encourage independent trade book distribution, retailing and publishing," Bookpeople has decided to launch a distribution program as a way to give independent publishers increased visibility and support.

WORDS Distributing Company will provide a national sales force of commission groups and in-house reps, distribution to other wholesalers and sales to national (including chain store) accounts, vendor-of-record services, and marketing strategy and positioning services — including pre-publication advice, assistance in developing advertising and promotion strategies, and cross-publisher promotions. WORDS will give particular attention and focus to supporting independent bookstores — reps were selected for their experience and success in working with independent bookstores. Terms for publishers will be 25% of net.

WORDS' services and programs are built on and backed by Bookpeople's experience as a wholesaler. Fulfillment systems are already in place. Bookpeople prides itself on its 24-hour fulfillment commitment and WORDS intends to match its success rate.

WORDS' discount is designed to facilitate front-list orders. Follow-up and backlist titles may be ordered from WORDS or from Bookpeople, whichever will generate a larger discount for the bookseller. Stores that wish to open a WORDS account may talk to their sales rep or contact Maryann Sluis in Customer Service.

In its first season, Spring 1997, WORDS will represent 14 presses: Ashgrove Press, Easthill Press, The Findhorn Press, The Golden Sufi Center, Healthy Healing Publications, Integral Publications, Keep it Simple Books, Lao Tse Press, Maypop, The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, Paradigm Publications, Snow Lion Publications, Wingbow Press, and Zen Meditation Center.

Bookpeople/WORDS, already excelling with alternative spirituality and complementary healing and health titles, will be giving increased attention to expanding their sales and promotion of lesbian, gay, and feminist/women's titles over the next year. ○

Black Bookstore Week

The first Black Bookstore Week will be held June 14–19, 1997. Yes! ○

Borders' Employees Go Union in Des Moines

Borders' Des Moines store and its Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, warehouse employees have filed for and scheduled elections with the United Food and Commercial Workers Union on December 10 and December 11, respectively. The UFCW is the union that was voted in by Chicago Borders employees in October. About 40 employees in the Des Moines store and 160 in Harrisburg will vote in the elections. *Publishers Weekly* quoted Des Moines employee Christine Gholson as saying, "We like our jobs, but none of us can continue to work at \$6 an hour. Three-quarters of the store employees have a second job."

Bookselling This Week recently quoted staff member Greg Popek, one of the Chicago organizers, as saying that Borders had hired a union-busting labor law firm, Manhattan-based Jackson, Lewis, Schnitzler & Krupman, to negotiate with the union. "Borders has gone upscale to pay money to keep this [union] from succeeding," he added.

News Flash! Results of the Borders elections came in as we went to press: Workers at the Des Moines store voted for the union, 20–16. The union lost the election at the Harrisburg site, 87–44, with nine challenges. UFCW's Ed Chew told FBN that the union hadn't expected to win the warehouse on the first vote. "We plan to give it a couple of years," he said. ○

Salò Returns to Cincinnati

After a long and excruciating censorship legal battle, officials in Cincinnati have been thwarted again. Several years ago Cincinnati officials prosecuted its art museum and its director for exhibiting photographs of Robert Mapplethorpe. (A jury acquitted them.) This time the targets were the owner and manager of the Pink Pyramid, a small gay bookstore, who faced fines and prison sentences for obscenity charges placed after undercover police officers rented a videotape of Pier Paolo Pasolini's anti-fascist film *Salò*.

Despite a dismissal of charges by the lower court, the prosecutor pursued appeals. The case, on the

verge of going into jury trial, was finally settled when the prosecutor dropped six charges and the store agreed to plead no contest and pay a \$500 fine for "attempted pandering" on the grounds that a customer told another "customer," who was actually an undercover vice squad member, that it was a film "with everything in it."

Why stores are held liable for what their customers say to one another is beyond *FBN's* comprehension. The video will be returned to the store, which can resume renting it.

— Info from *News Censorship* ○

News from Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press

By Carolyn C. Antonio
Kitchen Table Women of Color Press

On November 8, 1996, we celebrated 15 years of radical feminist publishing by women of color. The anniversary celebration, held in Brooklyn, New York, was an elegant evening of Kitchen Table memories, long-awaited reunions, women of color talent and, of course, delicious food. Hosted by poet and performance artist Hattie Gossett, the program featured wonderful readings by fiction writers and original Press collective members Fay Chiang and Mariana Romo-Carmona. Emerging Haitian American lesbian vocalist, Nadine Lafond graced the audience with her powerful presence. Last but not least, JUCA, featuring Judith Casselberry, of Casselberry and Dupree, rocked the house with their intense musical energy.

The Honorary Host Committee for the celebration was composed of 48 luminaries including Julia Alvarez, Alison Bechdel, Becky Birtha, Pearl Cleage, Kate Clinton, Angela Davis, Jewelle Gomez, Grace Paley, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Gloria Steinem, Urvasi Vaid, Alice Walker, Merle Woo, Mitsuye Yamada and Hisaye Yamamoto. The evening also launched the Kitchen Table Press Legacy Fund, a mechanism for sustained giving designed to ensure the Press' continued growth into the 21st century.

We were also delighted to present an award to Kitchen Table Press' co-founder and former publisher Barbara Smith, who left Kitchen Table in the Fall of

1994, for her years of hard work and dedication to the Press. Barbara, a Bunting Fellow at Radcliffe, is currently researching and writing two books, one of which is a comprehensive history of African American lesbians and gays in the United States.

In January 1993, Kitchen Table created the Kitchen Table Press Transition Coalition by entering into a three-year partnership with the Union Institute Center for Women. The Transition Coalition, a multiracial group of women, is dedicated to helping the Press build its operational capacity and become more financially stable. The Union Institute has served as fiscal sponsor, development advisor and hub for this partnership. Among the successes of the Coalition are the participation of more than a dozen foundations, as well as more than 800 individuals across the nation who have generously donated funds. Over \$300,000 in direct grants and donations has been raised over the last three years with \$30,000 coming from house parties across the country. Although the Coalition officially ends this year, the Legacy Fund is intended to continue what the Transition Coalition has developed.

The Press Staff now consists of two women, Publisher Andrea M. Lockett and Office Manager Carolyn C. Antonio. Andrea, a Barbadian-Seminole poet, came to her position after serving on Kitchen Table's Board of Directors. She is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and has worked for Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, McGraw-Hill and Cahners Healthcare Education. Currently, she also serves as associate editor of the literary magazine *Chelsea* and managing editor of *The New York Quarterly*. Carolyn, a Filipina poet, was a production associate with John Wiley Publishers before joining Kitchen Table in January 1996. She is co-coordinator of the New York chapter of GABRIELA Network, a U.S.-Philippine women's solidarity organization.

Kitchen Table has much to celebrate having survived the racist, sexist, homophobic, classist and reactionary climate of this nation. Many women, in the past and in the present, have kept the Press alive with their creative, intellectual and physical energies. Future plans for the Press include creating a more regular publication schedule, increasing the number of bilingual titles the Press produces, moving to desktop publishing, and making use of alternative media. Kitchen Table hopes to continue

its important work for many more years to come. With your help, it can.

Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press, PO Box 40-4920, Brooklyn NY 11240-4920; 718-935-1082, fax 718-935-1107.

Editors note: The new projected publication date for The Third Wave: Feminist Perspectives on Racism edited by M. Jacqui Alexander, Lisa Albrecht, Sharon Day, Mab Segrest and Norma Alarcon is January 1997. ○

Winnie Wan-ru Pong 1949–1996

We were angered and saddened to learn of the violent death of feminist activist Winnie Wan-ru Pong. Ms. Wan-ru Pong, 47, had devoted most of her life to the women's movement in Taiwan. In 1988–89 she served as the general secretary of the Awakening Foundation, the first feminist organization in Taiwan and the parent-organization of Fem Books, the first (and only) Chinese-language feminist bookstore (see *FBN* Vol. 18 No. 5). She founded or served as a member of the board of several other distinguished feminist grassroots organizations, including the Housewives Association and the Foundation for Women's Rescue. She had presided over the Department of Women's Development for the last three years.

Two days after being reported missing, Ms. Wan-ru Pong's body was found. She had been stabbed thirty-five times, and raped. Feminists from Taiwan write: "Our hearts are full of rage and sadness as we think of her struggle with the rapist and killer. And the irony that she, as a foremost fighter for women's rights, became a victim of rape, the most demeaning form of crime against women, further deepens our sorrow and pain. As women, we feel her death symbolizes the violation of all women."

Aware that many rapes and murders go unreported and unpublicized in Taiwan, Taiwanese feminists are calling for an end to sexual violence against women and for the establishment of a Women's Rights Day, the Wan-ru Memorial Day, on the last Sunday of every November. To add your name to the petition to create this day, email your name to <1xh5294@utarlg.uta.edu> or sign at the Web site <<http://www.taiwanese.com/peng>>. ○

Meridel Le Sueur 1900–1996

Meridel Le Sueur's long and productive life came to a close on November 14. She was 96 and had been living in the residential unit of the Hudson Memorial Hospital in St. Paul for the last few years.

Clearly one of the great American writers of the 20th century, her voice and vision resonated with the lives of immigrants, native peoples, the poor and the working-poor during the most difficult economic times, and, always, with the lives of women. Journalist, poet, witness, historian, mythmaker, Le Sueur wrote of the bitterest experiences with the kind of lyric beauty that makes knowledge bearable and issues the reader an irresistible call to action.

Blacklisted and hounded during the McCarthy era and after, Le Sueur worked at factory jobs, washed dishes, and did whatever was necessary to support herself, her children, and her writing. The ban on Le Sueur's work was not fully lifted until the feminist movement of the 70s discovered and began reprinting her older works and publishing her more recent writings, including *Women on the Breadlines*, *The Girl*, *Corn Village*, *Rites of Ancient Ripening* and *Ripening: Selected Work, 1927–1980*. During the time that her adult work was deemed unpublishable, Le Sueur wrote children's books (including *Little Brother of the Wilderness: The Story of Johnny Appleseed*, *Nancy Hanks of Wilderness Road: A Story of Abraham Lincoln's Mother*, *Sparrow Hawk and Chanticleer of Wilderness Road: A Story of Davy Crockett*), which have since been republished by Holy Cow! Press. Her books on the Colorado mining strikes and the settling of Minnesota and Wisconsin have also been republished in recent items.

Le Sueur was a woman from a generation of activists who believed in the ability and struggles of the common people to overturn capitalism and right the world. She never gave up, never compromised her political position, kept her feet on the ground, and always stood for and with women.

Meridel Le Sueur is survived by two daughters, Rachel Tilsen and Deborah Le Sueur; 8 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great-grandchildren and a generation of feminists, writers and other activists who will sorely miss her. ○

Devil's Leg Crossing

A Maris Middleton Mystery

Kaye Davis

When sixteen-year old Karin Beauchamp disappears from her Texas home, the local police believe she's run away. Frustrated by the inadequate investigation, Karin's aunt, Lauren O'Conner, takes a leave of absence from the F.B.I. and hires independent crime scene specialist Maris Middleton to help her find her niece.

Maris isn't sure which she finds more disconcerting — the dearth of hard evidence or her growing attraction for the enigmatic Lauren. The discovery of Karin's blood-soaked blouse appears to be a turning point in the case, until Maris's lab tests show it's not the type of blood they expected.

Unknown to the women, someone linked to Karin is about to have a deadly "accident," an accident that will lead them to long-buried scandals, dark family secrets, and the evil that lurks at Devil's Leg Crossing.

ISBN 1-56280-158-9 \$11.95



Love on the Line

Laura DeHart Young

There was no room in her life for a lover . . . especially not a woman 10 years her junior!!!

A National Park Service Ranger in Fairbanks, Alaska, Kay Westmore has all the drama she can handle right now. In addition to escalating problems with her own family, she has become the target of a series of

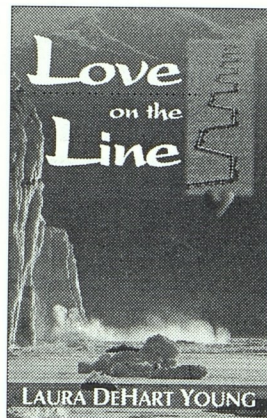
harassing letters and phone calls that she suspects are the work of her abusive ex-lover. Besides, she's about to leave on a dangerous survival mission to Northern Alaska, a mission further complicated by the machinations of one Grace Perry — an ambitious (and very attractive) government official who's intent on running the show.

The problem is, none of this makes Stef Kramer any less beautiful, less alluring, or less determined to win Kay's heart.

Nor does it change the way Kay's body reacts to this woman's touch. But Stef is in college, for crissake! What could someone that young possibly know about love?

Laura DeHart Young is the best-selling author of *Family Secrets* and *There Will Be No Goodbyes*.

ISBN 1-56280-162-7 \$11.95



Hot Check

Peggy J. Herring

Ricky Conrad brings a whole new meaning to the word hot . . . but is the rising young rock star too hot to handle???

In an effort to revive her struggling restaurant chain, Alice Collins hires the dynamic Ricky Conrad and her band, Hot Check, to record a new corporate jingle. Ricky turns out to be as talented as she is drop-dead gorgeous, and the minute her sultry voice hits the airwaves, restaurant sales start to soar — along with Alice's pulse.

Although one look from the singer can turn her blood to molten lava, workaholic Alice is determined not to mix business with pleasure. But as she watches Ricky play those hot licks on the guitar, she can't help but fantasize what those strong hands could do to a woman's body . . . to her body . . .

It's hard to keep your cool when you're standing at the edge of a volcano . . .

Peggy J. Herring is the author of the sizzling bestsellers *Once More with Feeling* and *Love's Harvest*.

ISBN 1-56280-163-5 \$11.95



The Naiad Press, Inc.

P.O. Box 10543 • Tallahassee, FL 32302

(904) 539-5965 • Fax (904) 539-9731 • 1-800-533-1973

News FROM THE BOOKSTORES

By Carol Seajay

Smut Shops & Harassment...

Audrey May is considering printing up T-shirts that read, "Meristem — Your neighborhood smut shop." ...It seems that some gutless wonder filed an anonymous complaint with the zoning board that Meristem (Memphis) was running an "adult bookstore" in an improper location.... Meristem's response? Tell everyone about it! By the time the two inspectors came in to check out the store, the head of the complaint division, the city council, the mayor's office, and everyone else who has ever loved Meristem had heard about the complaint and was outraged. The problem seems to have resolved itself, but not before some good rumors got started: one version had six police officers bursting into the store. But as Audrey says, "We're not doing our job if we don't piss someone off!" Meanwhile, the statistics are just in that Tennessee is one of the three lowest ranking states in terms of the percentage of women-owned businesses. Go Meristem!



Don't be tempted to think that this is "just" a regional problem: At about the same time Orlando Books in Edmonton, Alberta, was visited by a vice-squad detective who said that a man "who has a 12-year-old daughter" filed a formal complaint against the store for "advocating violence against men." The offending book? *Angry Women*. Apparently the 12-year-old found it in the Feminists Bookstores' Catalog and her daddy didn't like it one bit. "The detective was almost apologetic," Jackie Dumas e-mailed *FBN*, "saying, 'I usually deal with prostitution, so this is a bit out of my league,' and adding that he would send his partner in to look at the book. The partner will probably

buy the book so the prosecutor can have a look at it. I can't imagine anything will come of it." (Except possibly an unexpected book sale.) "Otherwise the Catalog is getting a terrific response," Jackie continued.

Strategizing a Financial Future...

Amazon Bookstore and their neighbor Ruby's Cafe have developed a plan to increase traffic for both businesses: Beginning in January Ruby's, formerly a breakfast-and-lunch restaurant, will open in the evenings as a coffeehouse with entertainment. Amazon will stay open later hours and the two businesses, with the landlord's blessing, will build a door in the wall between them to facilitate customer sharing and so that large events can easily overflow into Amazon's larger event space.

"It's time for Plan B," Kasha Songer decided last fall and went off to real estate school for five weeks. Beginning January 1 she'll work half-time in the store and half-time selling real estate. Kasha found that she liked dealing with real estate a few years ago when she bought a building for the Book Garden (Denver) to expand into. "I'm interviewing with different agencies around town," she told *FBN*. "They like it when [I] tell them [I've] been a bookseller for the last ten years. But what's really fun is watching their faces when I say I have 9,000 names on my mailing list."

In the Good News Department...

Amazon got some nice local press for their women and literacy program. The photo that accompanied the article featured one of the Women Leading Though Reading group members reading from Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. The article concludes with a quote from Jane Hugo, the literacy instruction coordinator for Laubach Literary International, "There's a saying that goes, 'If you teach a man, you've taught a man, but if you teach a woman,

you've taught a family....' Literacy is a means of social change. Women play a key part in spearheading social change in their communities."

Pearls (Long Beach) celebrated #5 last summer. Their newsletter reads, "Time flies when you're having fun. We want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have made Pearls a regular book-buying stop, and who have supported us in many other ways. In spite of all the worrying some of you have done on our behalf, faced as we are with the arrival of two (Count them! Two!) more godzilla bookstores in our neighborhood, we continue to do better each year.

"Pearls, of course, needs your support. Supporting Pearls doesn't mean never buying a book anywhere else, or pledging that you will never visit a godzilla store. What it does mean is making a point of coming in from time to time to see what the latest offerings are in the feminist book arena, and buying a book (or books) from us. It means throwing business our way when you can, and saying good things about us when we deserve it.

When thinking about a book purchase, you might ask yourself these questions:

- Hey! When was the last time I stopped in at Pearls?
- Gee, I wonder what's new in women's literature?
- Gosh, where would I find a good, life-affirming book for my niece?
- Hmmm...where can I buy some lesbian erotica for the holidays?
- Hey? When *was* the last time I stopped in at Pearls?

... So, come in and see us. We're friendly. We have lots of books you are not likely to find elsewhere. And you will be supporting, in more ways than one, the vision of a feminist future."

—reprinted from Pearls' newsletter.



Focusing on the Home Store...

Sue Henry (Rising Moon) made the difficult decision to close her branch store in Wilmington, North Carolina. Business had been very slow, with lots of new competition: two Barnes and Nobles, one Borders, a gay store, and a second women's store, as well as lots of stores carrying books as sidelines. But she's "digging in and holding on" at the main store in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Newsletter Ideas...

Brigit Books' (St. Petersburg) newsletter includes a list of local organizations supported by donations from Brigit Books in 1996.... (Why wait for those raffle book and ticket sale recipients to thank you? Thank yourself and take the credit and the publicity.) It also lists some of the services Brigit Books provides — including ticket sales without a service charge, space for classes and events (without marking up the class fee), a community room for fliers, business cards, free publications and the like — "all to keep you informed about what's going on in our community. So please visit us soon (and support your local bookstore)!"

Pearls' (Long Beach) newsletter carries a short item headlined "Have Books, Will Travel" reminding readers that "Pearls is always happy to accommodate groups who need a bookseller for an event or conference in the area. Our most recent off-site excursions have included Immaculate Heart's Women and Spirituality Conference, the Society for Women Engineers Conference, and a conference for domestic violence counselors. If you are organizing an event or have heard of one that could benefit from the presence of a feminist bookstore, please give us a call."

Women & Children First (Chicago) did a special holiday mailing featuring a selection of calendars and books. The first page reminds readers that "more than 600 women writers have read at Women & Children First over the years. Discussions of feminist issues have ranged from women's safety on the streets to lesbian culture, from children's welfare to the women's movement in Mozambique. Ten to twelve programs a month, including an open book discussion and a mother-daughter empowerment group, have made Women & Children First a lively center of women's culture and politics.... Women & Children First is reaching beyond its storefront to bring its selection and spirit to women too distant or busy to come in person. — *Think of us when you need good books for yourself. Think of us when you want gifts for clients and colleagues, friends and family.*"

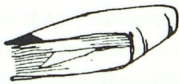
The mailer also stresses "Women Doing Business With Women" and other services that they provide.

The theme of all these newsletter excerpts is taking credit and getting credit for our own good work by giving it to ourselves. ○

TRIVIA & COMMENTARY

By Carol Seajay

Gee, just in case anyone is surprised, there's been a rash of stories in the media lately about the ways mega-chains choose to limit freedom of expression and the circulation of ideas — and even books.



Big time news (because it's about the music industry rather than about mere books) is the Wal-Mart story about how many of the CD's Wal-Mart

sells have been "sanitized," "cleaned," and "edited" for the buyer's "protection." Some of these CD's are so marked, others are not, and there's currently no protection for the buyer who thinks s/he's buying the music of a favorite group or artist only to find that certain words have been blanked out or changed — or that an entire song is missing. Cover art is sometimes air-

brushed or redone entirely to accommodate Wal-Mart's particular sensibilities — and politics. Sheryl Crow's recent CD featuring an anti-violence, pro-gun control song, which satirizes and criticizes Wal-Mart, isn't available in Wal-Mart's music departments nationwide (surprise!).

Wal-Mart is the nation's largest seller of pop music and it has a lot of clout. Wal-Mart can — and does — simply refuse to stock albums with lyrics or cover art — or politics — it finds objectionable. This is bad enough for people who have access to other places to shop, but for many people, teens especially, the local Wal-Mart and other chain stores may be the only stores in town. And, as a *New York Times* article

points out, it's not just in rural areas that these companies exert influence. "In larger cities, cost-cutting chains are forcing independent retailers out of business, making unaltered music and videos harder to find."

Kmart and Blockbuster are also contributing to the chilling of dissent in pop culture. Film studios are re-cutting movies for chain rental, often without the director's consent, and with no notice to the consumer that they're getting an abbreviated version of a film they paid to see. And, "of course," video boxes are redesigned to be "acceptable" enough to win a place on the chains' shelves. Think about what it takes to

*Readers don't seem
to like it when the
"good guy" chain
hires union-buster lawyers
and fires employees who
try to organize unions.*

make a lesbian video box acceptable to all three chains. Suddenly there's an explanation for video boxes portraying heterosexual couples on lesbian films. Some films, such as Oliver Stone's *Natural Born Killers*, have been banned entirely by all three chains and thus are effectively unavailable to a large percentage of people who rent videos for

home viewing. (Blockbuster alone controls 25–30% of video rentals nationwide.)



Would that it were only the "finished" product being tampered with, but what's harder to track is the way the chain's decisions affect the production of music and videos. Record labels design covers with Wal-Mart looking over their shoulders and, according to the *NYT*, "drop songs, electronically mask objectionable words and even change lyrics to gain a place on Wal-Mart's shelves."

The Directors Guild of America is fighting for a new consumer protection act that would force companies to inform customers that the product they are selling is different — and how it is different — from the product that was available in theaters.



As far as we know, no chain bookstores are demanding and getting “sanitized” versions of contemporary books. But one new trend that is getting little publicity is that chains can, and do, print books for in-house distribution only — including at least one gay novel and one book of interest to feminists — which they refuse to sell to other (independent) bookstores. If the customer wants it, they have to go to the chain that owns the book. (And that includes that “big champion of the NEA,” “freedom of expression,” “community-based” nationwide chain-store you hear so much about.)

Worse than that, chain buyers’ decisions to stock (or not to stock) forthcoming titles all too frequently affect both print runs and advertising budgets for books. In at least one case, according to a Book Passage newsletter, a book didn’t get published because the chains didn’t buy it: “The book was written, the contract was signed, the sales representatives had all the information in their catalogues, and many stores, including Book Passage, had already placed orders for *Literary Feasts*. So when Barbara Scrafford called the president of the publishing company to find out how sales on her book were going, she was startled to find out that it had been canceled. Why she wanted to know? Because, she was told, the chain stores hadn’t ordered any. Why not continue to sell to the independent stores? She got this answer: ‘The independents aren’t worth bothering about.’”

Borders, that most liberal of chains, is also coming in for a lot of bad press: Readers don’t seem to like it when the “good guy” chain hires union-buster lawyers and fires employees who try to organize unions. Michael Moore’s *Nation* column, “Banned by Borders,” about his recent book tour and misadventures with Borders, is making its own whirlwind tour of the Internet.

On the second day of Moore’s 47-city tour to publicize *Downsize This! Random Threats From an*

Unarmed American, he walked up to the Philadelphia Borders store where he was scheduled to read to find 100 people picketing the store to protest Borders’ firing of Miriam Fried, who had led a drive to organize workers at the store. Not one to cross a picket line, Moore invited the protesters inside. He reports that he gave his talk, and then gave the microphone to Fried so that she could speak as well. Moore announced that he would donate all of his royalties for the day to help Fried out.

The following Tuesday, when Moore was scheduled to speak at the new NYC Borders store, he was met by two Borders executives and two security guards who told him, he explains in his *Nation* column, that he had caused a “commotion” in Philly that raised “security concerns” and that he would be allowed to sign books but not to speak. Disbelieving that he was being censored in a “bookstore” he signed books under protest — ironically, beneath a “Banned Books Week” banner.

He also reported similar experiences in Des Moines, the night before the Des Moines Borders crew held their first union meeting. His Fort Lauderdale appearance was canceled.

Moore’s version is much more colorful than this brief retelling. It’s entertaining, but it’s not a pretty picture. And it’s circulating like mad. Moore has pledged the royalties from the next 1,000 copies of his book to the Borders union drive.



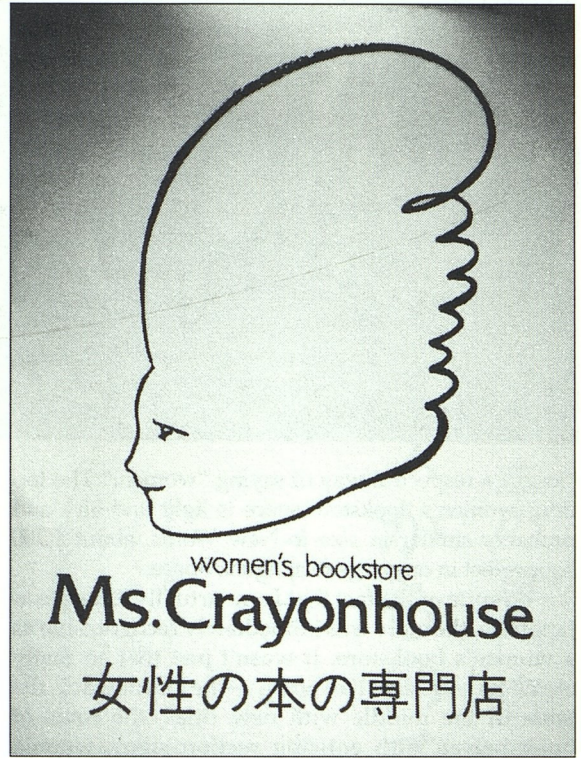
Interesting to note, too, that B&N has cut its discounts on non-bestselling hardcover books from 20% to a mere 10%. (Which now matches the discount that many independents give on their membership programs.) Independent booksellers may find this an intriguing non-coincidence, following as it does in the wake of all those signed consent decrees ABA has recently won. Perhaps, as ABA and the independents have hoped, a level playing field on the wholesale side of the book business will lead to a level selling field as well. Customers, hopefully, will note that there’s a lot less in the savings department to lure them away from independents. Most of the discounts on non-bestselling paperbacks have long since disappeared from mega-chain land. ○

Ms. Crayonhouse

The Tokyo Feminist Bookstore

By Jean MacRae
New Words Bookstore/Cambridge MA

Although I lived in Japan for two years in the mid-1980's, I never felt as at home there as I did visiting Ms. Crayonhouse in Tokyo on my first return trip to Japan earlier this year. The chill of fall in New England makes it particularly pleasant to think of the Saturday afternoon in cherry blossom season when two Japanese friends, Hiro and Ikumi Yanagisawa, and I took the bullet train to Tokyo and walked along a wide boulevard lined with outdoor cafes to Crayonhouse. Begun



as a children's bookstore in 1976, Crayonhouse now occupies a four-story building, with the children's bookstore on the first floor, a gift store on the second, and Ms. Crayonhouse, the women's bookstore on the third floor. On the basement level is a terrific natural foods restaurant opening onto a brick courtyard with a small organic food market. There is also a branch of Ms. Crayonhouse in Osaka.

On our climb up the stairs to Ms. Crayonhouse, we saw a bustling store with tall bookshelves lining the walls, customers browsing and numerous staff women in blue aprons (I was later told the whole complex employs about 60 women). Approaching the third floor, we saw the Ms. Crayonhouse logo on the wall (a very intelligent woman, no doubt!) and the characters I have come to recognize as representing

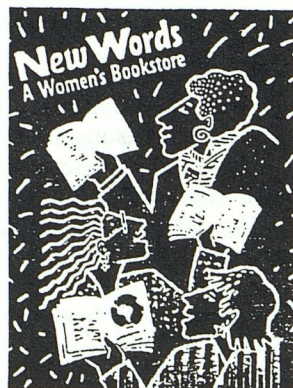


The entrance to the four-story Ms. Crayonhouse complex.

ボストンの女性の本の専門店

ニューワーズからの手紙

ジン・マツクレイ

New Words
A Women's Bookstore

ニューワーズにとっても忙しい春でした。

四月二十三日、開店一周年を迎えたわたしたちは、パーティとセールを開きました。年に一度の開店記念日には、大勢のお客

たちが出席しました。

そのうちひとり、Lehana Sadar は、

エジプトの元ファースト・ウーマンで、世界

平和と女の権利を拡充する活動家としても、

長いキャリアがあるひとです。

に留学している娘に宛てて手紙を書く、という設定になっています。新しい世界に入っていく娘……。母は、自分自身の体験を娘と共有するために、ペンをとります。

母自身の夢と挫折、ジンバブエの独立闘争

of books on lesbian issues have been published in Japan. Also somewhat different from New Words and fun to see was the space devoted to organically grown natural fiber clothes and a substantial selection of cosmetics. Although primarily a bookstore, Ms. Crayonhouse also included elements of The Body Shop and The Green Planet. Among my purchases that day was a nice hand lotion, something I had been unable to find in the neighborhood of my hotel.

One publication which was particularly thrilling for me to see was the newly published April issue of Ms. Crayonhouse's newsletter, "Women's Eye," which included my first quarterly column on new women's books in English. There was "New Words" and my name translated into Japanese katakana, and I didn't even have to get anxious looking at my article because, since it was translated into Japanese (thanks to Ms. Crayonhouse staff member, Mariko Miyawaki), it was impossible to obsess about whether I liked what I'd said or the way I'd said it. It was the perfect publication experience!

The column came into being through correspondence with Keiko Ochiai following her visit to New Words. She invited us to write on recent activities at the bookstore and short descriptions of 10-12 recommended new books. In the three columns I've done so far, I've included titles such as *Dr. Susan Love's Breast Book*, *Unnatural Dykes to Watch Out For*, *Frontline Feminism*, *Krik? Krak!*, and *Sarah's Psalm*. Over a superb lunch in the restaurant, Ochiai-san explained that while some readers of "Women's Eye" would be interested in reading the English books reviewed there, she felt many readers would simply like to know what kinds of books by women are being published and read in the United States.

Ochiai-san, Miyawaki-san, Crayonhouse manager Misako Shimada, my friends and I exchanged information about our stores, women's books and the women's movements in our respective countries — all made possible by the energetic and skillful interpreting done by my friends Hiro and Ikumi. Inevitably we talked about the challenges faced by women's bookstores here and there (there is one

Excerpt from Jean MacRae's book column in Ms. Crayonhouse's newsletter. The column features important books at New Words and other U.S. feminist bookstores and is translated into Japanese by Ms. Crayonhouse staff.



The women's bookstore part of Ms. Crayonhouse is a large, airy, rectangular, 1,200 square foot area. Staff members wear blue aprons with white pockets — a device that makes staffers more visible and solves the problem of pocketless clothing.

other women's bookstore in Japan in Kyoto). Japan is not experiencing the growth of superstores in the book world to the extent that we are in the United States, but keeping Ms. Crayonhouse afloat has been challenging since its beginnings due to the same social and political conditions that make other feminist goals challenging to attain.

Whatever the challenges and financial concerns, they haven't stopped Keiko Ochiai from thinking big

about Crayonhouse, and that was the inspiration I took with me. Dozing on the train that evening I imagined New Words with four floors and jobs for 60 women and appreciated Ochiai-san's vision, courage and energy. I recommend a visit to Crayonhouse to any feminists and booksellers who find themselves in Tokyo.

Ms. Crayonhouse is at 3-8-15 Kita-aoyama, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107, Japan; phone: 011-81-3-406-6492, fax 011-81-3-3407-9568.

(Some Japanese phone numbers have eight digits.)

Jean MacRae was one of the founders of New Words in 1974. She left the store in 1979 and later worked for the Massachusetts Coalition of Battered Women's Service Groups. She taught English in Kyoto from 1986-1988. In 1989 she returned to the store to help out, briefly, during a crisis and has been the financial manager and reading series coordinator ever since. ○

Doing an Event at Ms. Crayonhouse

By Debbie Notkin

Since *Women En Large: Images of Fat Nudes* was published, Laurie and I have done many slide shows at women's bookstores around the United States. So we were incredibly curious to find out how it would be different speaking at Ms. Crayonhouse in Tokyo.

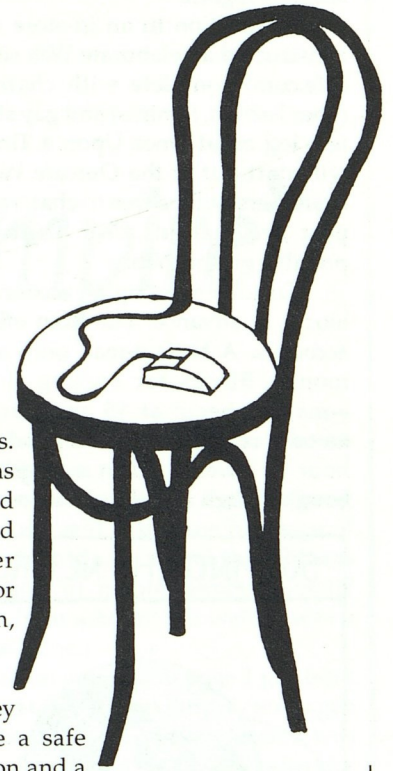
The event area at Ms. Crayonhouse is a large formal hall, with a raised stage and microphones for the presenters. We had anticipated that the Japanese audience was likely to respond well to a more rigorous presentation and a lot more references to other feminist work than the average American audience. (Laurie, in fact, was delighted — we had spent years training her out of talking too much about the slides in purely artistic terms, and this was her chance to put all that material back in!)

After the presentation, we were joined by Ms. Keiko Ochiai (Ochiai-san), a leading feminist in Japan and one of the proprietors of Ms. Crayonhouse. Ochiai-san led us in a round table where she asked us questions about our presentation and other areas of feminist thought and then opened the floor up to questions.

The questions were detailed and formalized, often written out beforehand. Some were intellectual, yet many women spoke very intimately about their experience. We came away feeling strongly how much we all share the same struggle, and how the different styles of different countries can remind us of what we have in common.

Women En Large: Images of Fat Nudes can be ordered by individuals or bookstores by calling 800-463-6285. ○

Cybercafe!



By Liz Wermcrantz
Women & Children First/Chicago

Cybercafes in bookstores? Who knew? Tana Meldrum did. Her store, *Once Upon A Time Alternative Books and Gifts* in Bloomington, Illinois, is the first of our network to unfurl its long lines of bits and bytes and offer an empty chair and a mouse to its customers.

Born in April 1995, this spacious store in downtown Bloomington has its megabytes churning. Tana, owner and computer junkie, has worked hard these past several months to add a cybercafe to her store's floor space. And, as of November 1st, the doors to the cafe are open.

Once Upon a Time Alternative Books & Gifts

Recently I paid a visit to this booming combo-shop located dangerously close to Bloomington's Republican headquarters. The store itself is a charming addition to small-town Bloomington. It is a large store with doors opening into a free newspaper area and a lovely counter. To the right is a space filled with tables and a do-it-yourself pop and coffee bar. It is in this area that the cybercafe resides.

After years as a computer consultant, Tana and her partner, Ruth, opened the bookstore with high

hopes and big plans. Their initial idea was just to sell books and sidelines. Tana and Ruth knew, after living in the area for years, that lesbian, feminist and gay books were rare commodities so they wanted to provide a safe space in Bloomington and a

good resource center for books. But, soon after opening the doors to the bookstore, Tana's mind started churning, "People like the Internet idea like wildfire."

And wildfire it has been. So far, Tana says, her customers are "snapping at the bit" to get their turn at the computer while she has been getting the cafe ready. And the preparations have been fun enough for Tana. Her plans are to start very simple, very small to test the waters. No sense sinking a bunch of money into the expedition if it's not going to take off. Tana, however, thinks it will. In preparation for a cybercafe boom, and because rent is cheap in Bloomington, Tana and the woman who owns *The Bistro*, a lesbian and gay bar across the street, have rented the storefront next to the bookstore. Currently it's home to an impromptu, low-key community center where various groups use the space for meetings and other activities. If the mini-cybercafe Tana has begun is a success, it will expand into the space next door along with a full-service coffee bar. For now, though, *Once*

Upon a Time, will start with one computer station and see how it goes.

In addition to an in-store cybercafe, Tana has constructed an elaborate Web site (<http://www.outcafe.com>) complete with chatrooms and links to other lesbian, feminist and gay sites. When cybersurfers log on at Once Upon a Time's cybercafe, they will start out at the Outcafe Web site. From there, customers will be free to chat, read and send e-mail, post personal ads, surf or do virtually anything possible on the Web.

Customers set up an account and purchase time blocks in advance. The store offers several types of accounts. A basic e-mail only account runs \$5 per month. Blocks for surfing time beyond simple e-mailing begin at \$5 an hour depending on the amount of time purchased in advance. (The price per hour is lowered when a larger amount of time is bought.) Each time block has a six-month expiration

period after which any unused time is non-refundable. To keep track of time used, a timer built into each user's disk begins and ends when the user logs on and off. After setting up an account and buying some time, the customer can reserve time in advance on a sign-up sheet.

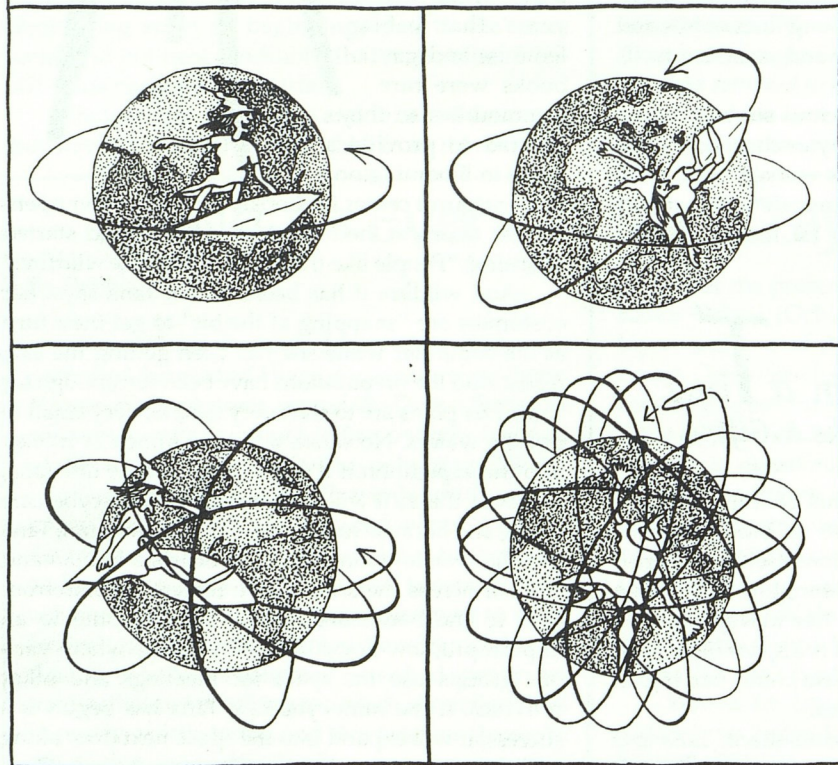
In addition to choosing an account type, each customer is assigned a disk complete with his or her user information and the ability to log onto the Outcafe Web site. Using a program called winU, Tana and her staff will set up individual desktops for each customer as well as chart the time they have used. This allows Tana to limit the customers' access to the computer: customers are not able to access the store's hard drive, but they can print at the cost of 10¢ per black and white page and \$1 per color page.

Tana knows that most people interested in her cybercafe don't have computers at home, so to outwit their fear of the big and scary World Wide Web, she

offers hour-long training sessions on Saturday afternoons that walk customers through the basic steps of on-line activities such as logging on and off, e-mailing, chatting and surfing. After that, the users are on their own.

Tana believes that adding a cybercafe is more of a necessity than a luxury for her store. Her primary motive is to increase foot traffic. She projects that her cybercafe will bring people into the store to use the station and to see what the Web et al. is all about. "You have to keep moving forward to keep people interested," she says. She also has a good eye on the future, "I just know that's the way the world is going so I better be there." ○

SURFING THE NET. Rule # 1. Know when it's time to stop



Cartoon by Jane Guthrie, from *The Internet for Women* (Spinifex). See Cyberrrrls Book List, page 37.

The Birth of a Web Page "Empire"

By Lee Anne Phillips
E-mail: leeanne@pacbell.net

In the early part of 1995, I had a little bit of time on my hands (an unsuitable job working for an absentee boss "on his way out" and the prospect of unemployment clearly before me), and was wondering what I could do to occupy myself in something useful to humanity (midlife crisis!) and learn some new skills to be able to compete in the modern job market as I approached middle age with antiquated skills.

I thought of several things I could do that might be beneficial as well as educational and none of them seemed right. Then I was browsing through the *Ferrari Guide* for women, which lists feminist and lesbian bookstores in many city-by-country entries, and it struck me that I'd never seen a special-purpose guide for women who love books and bookstores on the Net. After an exhaustive search, I found that, as far as I could tell, no one had ever done such a thing.

Aha! All I had to do was get a place to put a Web page, learn how to make Web pages in the first place, and I could do some good, have some fun, and learn how to code HTML (the special language used for Web pages) all at the same time. No problem!

So I started collecting names. I searched through *Ferrari*, *Damron*, the list that Carol Seajay and the FBN women put out, magazine articles, and anywhere else I could find. I subscribed to E-Sappho, the European lesbian mailing list, and several others. I was already on Bookwoman, a U.S. list, so I sent out messages to all these places begging for names to

add to my growing list of stores. Pretty soon I had a *pile* of names and addresses.

After many false starts at coding, I got the hang of what I wanted to do, and made one big page of every bookstore I could find with what I thought was a *beautiful* background of maple leaves. (Get it? Leaves. As in pages from a book? Oh well, it was a little corny but it was mine.)

The first list was on a free Web page I got from Geopages, now called Geocities, at (<http://www.geocities.com>), but as the page grew, I found that it was too big for my allotted space and the Geopages service was so unreliable back then that I started looking around for another home. I also started collecting messages from women with monochrome monitors and slow connections saying they couldn't read through the leaves!

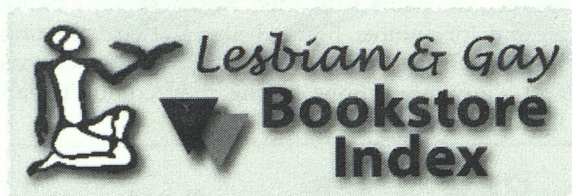


Oh oh! I guess the "beautiful" background was a bad idea. So I started buying books on Web design. They were pretty unanimous in saying that backgrounds should be either *very* unobtrusive or absent altogether, so I lost the maple leaves and made another design, the bookwoman logo that now graces all my book and bookstore pages in various

incarnations. It was kind of cute, one I had made originally for my friends at Different Drummer Books in Laguna Beach, California (which is a wonderful store and everyone in Orange County should buy their books from them!), and seemed to express the "gift" feeling that I wanted the page to have. It's gone through several changes as my skills and knowledge of computer graphics design have grown but it is still recognizably the same design.

That left the problem of where to put the new page. I couldn't afford to spend much (if anything!) so I started asking around and was directed to several women who might help find a Web home for me, one of whom, Sarah Stapleton-Gray, very generously offered to let me share the space she uses on the Institute for Global Communications (IGC) server for her own Feminist Activist Resources on the Net pages. After obtaining the agreement of IGC, I was all set.

I decided to get an account on Netcom to supplement the account I had through my employer so I wouldn't have to use their resources to load my new pages. Also, I didn't know when the job would end and I wanted to have some stability so people could e-mail me with new information about stores. As it turned out, I should have thought about this a little more carefully but that part of the story is coming up very shortly.



I broke the now huge original page into two pieces, North America and the rest of the world, and redesigned the navigation to make it a little easier to find things, including a new thank you page, where I thanked many of the people who had particularly helped or inspired me in one way or another, and a rant, where I gave everyone my "two cents" on how important it is to buy from women's stores, and then discovered that, due to the way my Web account on Netcom was set up, I couldn't load my pages!

Oh no! What to do? I was frantic, and finally found, after an interim time when Sarah uploaded my

pages for me after I mailed them to her as *huge* attachments, and then asking for help from the wonderful support staff at IGC, that I had to have what's called a "shell" account to load the pages. I called Netcom to find out what I could do and found that I had to have another account that would cost more money!

Well, I gritted my teeth and said go ahead, so now I had two accounts at Netcom, one for Web surfing and one for page maintenance. My "free" pages were starting to cost serious dollars every month. As I now know, I should have found a provider who could offer both types of accounts in one package, instead of piecemeal like I have now.

Well, in spite of the cost, the pages were working fine! The IGC server was very reliable and women started writing me with more and more stores to put on the list. Sadly, I also began to receive messages about stores that had closed. I included some of the ones I particularly missed for one reason or another on my rant page, but stopped adding names as the list grew longer and more depressing.

My next problem was how to tell people about the page. The first version had sort of spread (with a little help from me) by word of mouth, but I wanted to do some serious advertising for this one. So I posted my page information to all the major search engines, and to as many women's link lists as I could find, to publicize its availability. I also made a slight mistake (in retrospect) by posting to the alt.feminism newsgroup, which generated a brief flurry of angry (and some vulgar) men telling me what I "really needed" to satisfy me. All my needs seemed to involve men, or at least small (I beg your pardon! *Large!*) pieces of them, according to my male informants, but the delete key was very close and after a while they stopped writing.

I later found that there are two Internet newsgroups that one would naively assume to serve as discussion groups for feminism, alt.feminism and alt.soc.feminism. In actuality they seem to be mainly for people who like to argue with each other and by far the largest number of messages seem to be from men. They both remind me of bars in a way; people lose their inhibitions and let it all hang out, distance and anonymity serving the dual purpose of the bartender and the booze in mitigating the possibility of mayhem while loosening tongues, and nothing is *ever* decided in a barroom argument. Alt.feminism

has the lion's share of angry males on it but neither ever generated a lead or *any* response from a woman that I know of. I did see some thoughtful posts from men on alt.soc.feminism but I'm long past the age when starting (or continuing) arguments seemed like anything other than a waste of time. Life is far too short. Oh, well. In the meantime, I started getting more responses from women who had seen the page out there on the Web.

Success! My pages were soon generating 1,500 or more hits a month, I was getting quite a bit of mail from women (and some men) who were thrilled to find this information available on the Web, and everything was going swimmingly. I could afford to coast, or so I thought.

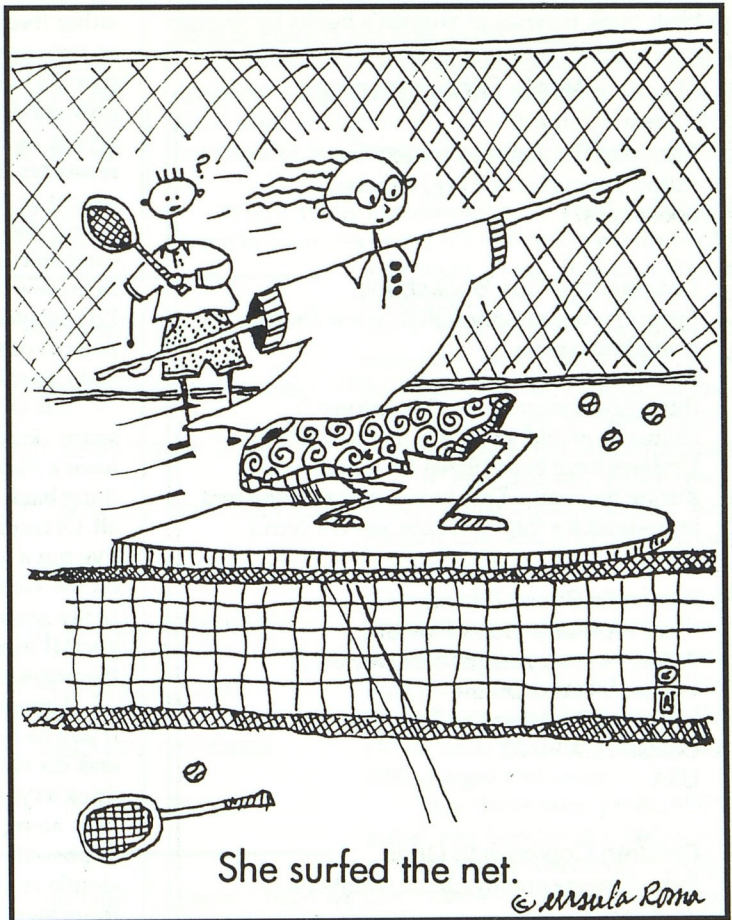
Then I got a rather nice letter from Deacon Maccubbin, the man who runs the Lambda Rising gay and lesbian store in Washington, DC, asking if his store could be on the list. Hmm. It's not really a women's store...but he did say he carried every feminist and women's title in print...but he was in direct competition with Lammas, a woman's store...but it was a very large resource and other gay and lesbian stores also wrote asking to be on the list.... Dang! I was in a quandary.

I finally decided to make another set of pages just for gay and lesbian stores that had lots of women's titles available. More work but worth it, I thought, as they would advertise each other and possibly increase their visibility on the Net. But where to put it? I didn't feel right about using women's space at IGC to host the new list, so I started thinking.

Well, I thought of QRD (Queer Resources Directory), especially since QRD is one of the largest and oldest directories of GLB information on the Net. I had earlier sent them a listing (which is still there, last I looked) of women's bookstores in southern California so I knew they would be a likely place to put the new information. I wrote to them and asked for their help.

They wrote back right away and told me they would be very pleased to find some space for it and I was off to the races again, but now women's stores started asking if they could be on that list too! Aaargh! Taxonomy was never my strong point, and I have had a lot of trouble deciding sometimes, whether a store belongs on one list or another.

I dithered on Little Sisters in Canada for a long time, putting it first on one list and then another, because the name sounds like it would be a woman's store but I'd seen it listed as a gay and lesbian store. Then Carol Seajay told me that it really *was* a male-owned GLB store and so I put it on the GLB list to stay. My final (for this week at least) decision was that I would leave women's stores on the women's list,



© 1996 Ursula Roma — Little Bear Graphics

unless they specifically asked to be moved, and point people from the GLB list to the women's list if they don't find the store they're looking for there.

It doesn't work perfectly of course, I still get many notes telling me that this store or that store is missing from one list or another. Sometimes they are right and I am very grateful but they are often wrong as well, for which I can only blame myself as it is confusing to have two lists. But what can I do? You pays your money and you takes your choice. I'm still vacillating on this one.

Well, after that I decided I didn't have enough to do since even both pages together didn't take up all that much time once I had put them into their final shape and I had finally, inexorably, been laid off. So I started up another page, Women's Books Online, to publish book reviews of women's books by women

Web Bibliography

Feminist Bookstores Index:

<http://www.igc.apc.org/women/bookstores/>

Lesbian and Gay Bookshops:

<http://www.qrd.org/QRD/www/media/print/bookstores/>

Soon moving to:

<http://www.queer.org/bookstores/>

(Actually, an old version is up there already. Updates have been frozen for quite a while during the move. Thanks to everyone who sent in updates for their patience and concern.)

Women's Books Online —

A Woman's Book Review:

<http://www.cybergrrl.com/review/>

Women's Books Online

4200 Park Boulevard — Suite 250

Oakland CA 94602

USA

Children Coping with Grief:

<http://www.grannyg.bc.ca/ckidbook/grief.html>

who volunteered to write for publication. Can you tell? I *do* love books. Aliza Sherman (Cybergrrll!) thoughtfully provided space for that one.

The review page has an indexed list of book reviews by date, category, and author, so people who like a particular type of book, or a certain woman's style, can find all the stuff they want easily. It's updated roughly once a quarter, depending on how many reviews I receive. The review is open to any woman who wants to submit a review of any woman's book, so any budding literary critics out there are welcome to submit a review for publication, preferably by e-mail, but I'll also consider snail-mail submissions if I feel up to typing it all in.

A little later, I made a special book review page for children facing death or life-threatening disease, either their own or that of a loved one. That one was in response to a request for help from a woman whose friend's husband had just killed himself, leaving three little children to grieve as well as herself. I did a lot of crying as I explored the poignant world of literary resources for children with cancer; children whose parent or sister has died or is going to die; children facing the mental deterioration of their parent or caregiver; and all the other sad things that can happen to make a "happy childhood" a hard place to be. Once I'd collected the information, I had to put it on a Web page so other people could find it. I found a home for it at Canadian Kid's Books on the Granny G. Web site.

All of these pages have found homes in "free" space, kindly donated by organizations who also have a vision of public service, and of giving something back to the communities that have nurtured us all. Of course the "free" pages have cost me quite a lot; I've put a lot of my resources into polishing my skills on the Web, as well as access and tools, but I've been richly rewarded as well, both in improved job prospects (I'm available!) and in the satisfaction I feel with the pages and with the service they provide.

I guess that's what I want to leave everyone with. If you have a dream of *doing* something, just go ahead and do it. Money is less important than you might think as you can always get by and you will often find help along the way if you just ask. What seems an impossible task can turn out to be just a series of simple steps. Before you know it, you've done something bigger than you thought possible, something to be proud of. ○

To Website or Not to Website...

An Email Conversation With a Dozen Feminist Bookstores and Publishers

Compiled by Carol Seajay

To find out what feminist booksellers and feminist publishers think about their Web sites I sent a query out on the Feminist Bookstore Network LISTSERV, on Bookfiends, and asked someone to post it on the feminist publishers' e-list.

I have to pause here and say it was the easiest research I've ever done for an FBN article. Once I sent the query out, all I had to do was check my email every day to find the answers. No phone calls, no phone tag, no long-distance bills. I've tried to reproduce the spirit of email correspondence in Part II. First, though, I've tried to address some of the hyperbole around setting up Web sites.

Part I: A Reality Check

"You gotta do it." "Everyone has one." "It's the wave of the future. Get one or get left behind." "You have to be there first." "That's where the readers went...."

The word is that books and computer paraphernalia are the best-selling items on the Web. I'm willing to believe the bit about computer goods (and even computer books) — because, after all, more/newer/faster computer stuff is *de rigueur* for the folks

who, like Alice, live on the other side of the looking glass as much of the time as they can.

But what does it mean that books are the #2 sales category? Does being #2 mean that there are a lot of book sales out there or does it simply mean that nothing else is selling?

Who actually buys books on the Web? For people living in countries where it's difficult to get the books

they want, being able to find and order books over the Web is a god-send. Ordering on the Internet somehow *seems* easier (and more fun) than ordering by email or fax.

Many of the booksellers I've talked to speak first, and with a particular enthusiasm, about their international customers and how pleased they are. International customers, as stores with a mail-order clientele of travelers who have visited their stores in the past will tell you, bring their own unique challenges: specialized mailing procedures, extra trips to the Post Office and/or outrageously high UPS charges and more.

"Are these sales profitable?" I asked one bookstore's Webmaster at an NCIBA workshop. "I don't

know. I hope we don't lose money on them, but getting their books out is part of The Adventure," was the answer. Getting books to women who don't normally

*Women's Review of
Books is in the process
of setting up links
with feminist bookstores
to facilitate orders
for people who wish
to order books
that are reviewed
in each issue.*

have access to books (for whatever reasons) is definitely part of the feminist bookstore mission — as is being part of The Adventure (the definition of which varies from year to year). It's important to include these goals — and perhaps to prioritize them higher than profitability — when making the decision to set up a Web site.

I can hear a buzz in the background, "But Amazon.com is making a lot of money selling books on the Web...." But, actually, nobody knows that for sure. What we do know is that Amazon.com has an excellent publicity machine. And they have the ear of all the big-time East-coast media. So we all read these glowing stories that are uniformly enthusiastic and are uniformly devoid of profitability analysis and numbers. These stories report "gross income" figures that range from \$5M/year (*Wall Street Journal*) to \$17M/year (*Business Week*). (Someone's playing with reality here!) But

they never state whether that's income from sales, co-op advertising money, in-kind contribution of time from the brilliant men behind the idea, investments of savings or loans, or what. Every time I read one of those stories I feel like the kid looking at the emperor in his long johns. I suspect there's more truth in what these stories don't say than in what they do say.

*All that said,
yes, of course
Web sites are a good
idea for feminist
bookstores.*

And then there's the argument that you have to get there first, you have to beat the competition. The idea is that if you get there first, and these (mythical?) legions of book

buyers start ordering from you, you'll be able to build a loyal clientele that will stay with you in years to come — even after the superchains hit the Web with their (widely indexed/highly publicized) new book-selling sites....

The problem here is in applying real-world practices to virtual reality. Customer loyalty is the foundation of many successful feminist and other independent bookstores. We provide services, information and (not least of all) the desired books to women in our communities and they return again and again, building relationships that sustain us through our lives. But the concept of customer loyalty on the Web is almost an oxymoron. Book buying on the Web is only a couple of years old. People who now buy books on the Web used to buy them from other sources — such as walk-in bookstores — that they are not patronizing when they shop by Web. Change and convenience are more likely to be Web-shopper's key characteristics than loyalty. If they want a book and your site is on their bookmark list, you might get the order (that's the "get there first" argument). But if your site is down at the moment they click on, or if someone else has a newer, flashier, more exciting site, you're likely to be history. Old history. On the Internet all of the competition is just a click away. It's unrealistic to expect undying loyalty from a community that has already diminished their commitment to land-based bookstores.

That's not to say that your loyal customers who now phone you up to order books if they can't get to the store won't order from your Web site at 3 am or

NEW!

Clicking In

Hot Links to a Digital Culture

Edited by Lynn Hershman Leeson

Includes
a free
Macintosh and
PC-compatible
CD-ROM!

"With its all-star cast ... (Clicking In) provides as wide-ranging and exciting an introduction to digital culture as a year's subscription to *Wired*."
—*Publishers Weekly*

The contributors include Pattie Maes, Sandy Stone, Sherry Turkle, Sadie Plant, Söke Dinkla, Catherine Richards, Diana Gromala, Mette Strømfeldt, and more.

Bay Press books are distributed to the trade by the LPC Group/Inbook
1436 W. Randolph Street, Chicago, IL 60607
Phone orders 800.626.4330 or 800.243.0138
Fax orders 800.334.3892

Bay Press

115 West Denny Way, Seattle, WA 98119-4205
E-mail Bay Press@aol.com

from work on a boring Thursday afternoon. But is this a new sale or simply a diverted sale?

All of which is not to say that there aren't book sales out there on the Web and that these sales can't be profitable (assuming you don't have to count all of your set-up costs). Are there enough sales to make a difference to an ailing bookstore or one that's taking a lot of below-the-belt hits from superchains and warehouse stores? You'd need a crystal ball to get a definitive answer. My cynical guess is probably not.... Certainly not yet. If you need to increase sales immediately, you'd probably be better off focusing on real world out-of-store sales.

But Is It a Good Idea?

All that said, yes, *of course* Web sites are a good idea for feminist bookstores. As are computerized inventory systems, fax machines, email and telephones — and having a good time every day at work.

There are a lot of good reasons to add a Web site: Because it's fun. Because it's current. Because it's The Thing To Do (this year). Because it makes the store look good. Because it's an especially good way to generate a lot of publicity. (Goodwill is nice, too.) Because your staff wants to do it. (Badly!)

Few bookstores can afford to pay the rates most Web designers charge — you'd have to sell too many books to pay for \$1,000–\$10,000 of set-up fees. And few stores can afford to pay for all the training and time a Web-novice staff member would require to launch a top-notch site. But when a staff member is already learning and would love to put up a site for practice, when a customer offers space and site-launching in exchange for a (modest) book allowance, or even if the store owners are getting bored and jaded and are hungry to learn new skills, launching a site may be just the thing to do.

Getting the books out is the mission, after all. Being part of The Adventure can make it all worth-

while. Learning to sell on the Web (indexing, promotion, and all that it takes) is the next frontier. But remember, Web sales are only one way of generating increased out-of-store sales. Continuing to do an outstanding job with your traditional selling practices is probably the real key to success on the Web.

But enough conjecture, what are people *doing* out there?

Part II: Using Websites

Six Feminist Bookstores Have Web Sites

Amazon, Full Circle, Sisterhood, Different Drummer, OUT, and Orlando all have active Web sites.

OUT (Once Upon a Time, Bloomington) not only has a beautiful Web site and they've also set up a Cybercafe in the bookstore (see "Cybercafe!," page 23). OUT takes VISA, Mastercard, Discover and Amex cards over the Net, and most of their Internet customers

use credit cards. OUT also provides a toll-free phone and fax numbers for customers concerned about credit card security. Outbooks site:

<http://www.outbooks.com>
and the cafe site: <http://www.outcafe.com>

Orlando (Edmonton) is the only Canadian store to have a Web site. Jackie Dumas summed up the thoughts of many bookstore owners when she wrote to *FBN*, "I have no idea why I have a Web site. I guess it's because so many people told me I needed to have one. But I find I have very little time to spend updating it. People are always coming to me with great ideas on how to use it...but it all takes time. The next person I hire has to know more

about it than I do, and enjoy using it. That said, I find I'm getting more orders via email all the time, and more queries about books, so I think it will eventually show itself to have been a good idea."

<http://www.compumart.ab.ca/orlando/>

*I find I'm getting
more orders via email
all the time,
and more queries
about books,
so I think it will
eventually show itself to
have been a good idea.*

— Orlando

Sisterhood (Los Angeles) seems to have had an almost utopian initiation to running a Web site: Simone Wallace wrote, "We were approached by a lovely politically and community conscious new business, LA Bridge, to create our Web site. They were sent to us by our sister independent bookstore, Midnight Special, who already had a Web site with LA Bridge that was very successful. At that time I was absolutely Internet- and email-illiterate. However, I said, 'Yes, let's go for it.'

"Our site has gone through a few changes since last April when it was launched. However, each change cost us money as we have to pay for the time.

"It isn't on the 'cutting edge' in terms of frequent, exciting changes and interactively — we simply don't have the time or training or inclination to get that involved; but we are getting and some orders. We may even have broken even in October — just in terms of monthly fees, not all the set-up costs. I can't imagine when we would recoup those costs.

"We're getting lots of email — people say they found our site, they love it, etc. The email is fun! I'm thoroughly enjoying having this high-tech life with my computer.

"Even though we're not making direct money from the site, I assume that, like any advertising, there are indirect benefits. I can't imagine shutting it down at this point. The Net seems like an important place to be, especially for women's businesses and organizations. I feel proud to have this presence."

<http://www.sisterhood.com>

Loretta Staub and Moira McGee from a **Different Drummer** (Laguna Beach) have had a more frustrating experience. They wrote, "We think it is important to have a presence on the Web but our experience has not been too profitable. We have not been happy with our service provider, which may be part of the problem. We also are not computer literate enough, nor do we have time enough, to make sure that we are

connected to the best links. It's also very important to be able to have a site that can be changed daily or weekly so that it offers new titles and information frequently, but our site cannot be changed for a year.

We signed up for a package deal that was cheap just so we could have a site, but it would have been better if we could have afforded a site that can be changed often.

"Having said all that, we do get two or three orders a month, mostly from overseas. We have a few repeat customers now, which is really nice, but it has not been a profitable venture for us. When the time comes to renew, we'll give it some serious thought."

<http://www.ccweb.com/ddbooks>

Amazon's (Minneapolis) Web page went up in September. Mev Miller writes, "Our biggest problem is confusion with Amazon.com's site. (#*@!)

"We decided to do our own site as a way to propel ourselves into the 21st century. We also wanted the visibility. The site cost us \$200 for the set-up/registration costs, \$70/month for the service (includes

the site and email, etc.), plus ten hours of staff time to do the updates.

"We update monthly. We maintain lists of staff raves and new book reviews. We also post our events, a few announcements, some bibliographies, and I try to do something additional each month to keep it fresh.

"I spend three to eight hours updating the site each month. Responding to the email takes 15–30 minutes per session (I don't answer it every day), but we don't have much traffic yet.

"We publish our site's address in our newsletter each month and, when we do out-of-store sales, I try to be sure that each customer gets a flier or bookmark that has our URL on it. I'm still working on links with other publishers, women's stores, 'zines, and women/lesbian-related places. Our ad in *Lesbian Connection* (with URL) generated some nice activity,

*We decided to do
our own site as a way
to propel ourselves into
the 21st century...
it's good for us
to be active on the Web
because it is still
a new and changing
universe and
we may be able to affect
it by our presence.*

— Amazon

though we've only had about five actual orders so far.

"The biggest drag is publishers and other vendors who try to get us to take their product via email. This is extremely annoying and is counter-productive. Our staff buyers aren't the ones who see all that email, so it becomes a real pain.

"Still, I think it's good for us to be active on the Web because it is still a new and changing universe and we may be able to affect it by our presence. It may not prove to be much in the long run, but neither is it going to go away. It's extremely important for feminist/lesbian bookstores and publishers on the Web to start talking about how we will work *with* each other rather than be forced into capitalist/patriarchal competition. We *can* do it differently."

<http://www.amazonfembks.com>

Full Circle's site had been up for a year. Dorothy Holland wrote, "We only get a couple of orders a month on the Internet, but customers use the site to send us email asking if we have a book in stock. We check stock and confirm by email, then they come to the store to pick it up. Basically they're using the site instead of making a phone call, so it's not "new" business, necessarily, but if the woman sends the query at a time when we're closed, it's more convenient for her. And it's worth a lot if it's a sale we might otherwise have lost.

"We get several messages a week that say, 'A feminist bookstore on the Web! How exciting! Bravo!' These folks don't necessarily order, but we do get a lot of new walk-in customers who say, 'I found you on the Web.' A lot of people are moving to Albuquerque for computer jobs right now. These folks are computer literate and check out the city via Internet before they move....

"The site may never pay for itself in terms of traceable book sales but it will pay in terms of connections and in terms of people being able to find the store. Studies show that the main reason women use the Internet is for email and to connect with others. And making connections is what we're all about!

"The Internet is a very effective way to get the word out that we're here. It's one of the few places where we can have just as big a presence as anyone else.

"We've had 1,509 countable visits to our home page. Our site includes several sub-pages that can be accessed without going through our home page, so we've had many other visitors that aren't counted. If you figure that two-and-a-half orders a month, times twelve months is 30 orders a year — that's a two percent return rate, etc.

"Our site includes a home page, a mysteries page, a Cybergrrls' Books page, an author's page for [store co-owner] Mary Morell, our newsletter, and our calendar of events. We also post our Guaranteed Reads list. I plan to put our Violence Against Women Bibliography up in January.

"We get a lot of email. We answer it all, but it doesn't take too much time. If people want recommendations we send them to our sub-pages, whenever it's appropriate. If people have complicated or open-ended questions ('I'm looking for a book on incest...'); we recommend a title or two but suggest that they come into store if they're local, or that they call if they're not. Sometimes we suggest that they ask for a particular staff member who is especially knowledgeable about that area.

"We pay \$50/month for site fees (which include domain name ownership and email accounts). I set up the site and maintain it for the store but don't charge for my labor. I wanted the experience of setting up a commercial site, and having this site gets my name and a sample of my work out there, so it's good advertising for the work that I do. Our service provides the program that counts visitors to the site. I have a scanner, so we can scan and put up book covers and other images at no additional cost. It would be great to have a "shopping cart," but shopping cart software is expensive. I've seen packages for \$400 plus a monthly fee and

\$1,200 to buy the package outright. Maybe a group of feminist bookstores could buy a shopping cart package with multiple licenses as a way to cut the cost."

<http://www.bookgrrls.com/bookgrrls/>

*Maybe a group
of feminist bookstores
could buy a
shopping cart package
with multiple licenses
as a way to
cut the cost.*

— Full Circle

Publishers Use the Internet

The *Women's Review of Books* and Mother Tongue Ink both report satisfactory results from their Web sites.

"We currently get two or three messages a week, mostly subscription orders," Linda Gardiner wrote from the *Women's Review of Books*. "We take these on a bill-me basis and almost everyone pays up. We've acquired about 30 new subscribers (\$20 each for a total of \$600) over the six months the site has been up. We've also had a few inquiries and a couple of actual orders for advertising space. We decided not to offer a credit card payment option since people are still dubious about security, but we may try it soon.

"Our site is free, so our only cost is the time to update the site, which we do once a month. We post the contents of each new issue and the opening paragraphs of three or four reviews, letters to the editor, and 'teasers' of classified ads. And, of course, our subscription rates and our advertising rates. This takes about three hours a month.

"We've had subscribers congratulate us for having the site, even though there's really nothing there that isn't in the paper edition of *WRB*. My sense is that simply having a site is a good thing because it shows you're not lagging behind the times."

"*WRB* is in the process of setting up links with feminist bookstores to facilitate orders for people who wish to order books that are reviewed in each issue."

<http://www.wellesley.edu/WCW/CRW/WROB/welcome.html>

Mother Tongue Ink publishes the *We'Moon* date book, which they sell on their Web site. Beth Freewomon wrote, "We've had a Web page since summer '95 and it has been a successful tool for us. The site has generated over \$500 in trackable sales during that time, so it has more than paid for itself. We pay \$90 every six months to our Internet server. Our other expenses have been nominal — we had an intern here two summers ago who designed our page and now does the upkeep on it. We could do

a lot more upkeep, and should, but even so, it's still generating sales. We use an address code to track people who find *We'Moon* on the Web and then order by mail. We also get lots of inquiries from the built-in email program on our page.

"Beginning in January we'll do a monthly astrological update and our astrologist, Musawa, may do a more interactive program to correspond with our Womyn in Community theme for 1997."

<http://www.teleport.com/~wemoon/>

New Victoria just put up a site a few months ago. "We pay \$20 a month for it," Beth Dingman wrote. "There's no way to order direct from the site — we ask people to call or to write for a complete catalog. We've had catalog requests from Australia and South Africa, among other places, so I see it as a good way to reach that foreign English-speaking market. Shipping costs aren't that high if people are willing to wait for surface mail. We've been advised that we need a way to let women order directly, but we haven't looked into that possibility yet. We've had the page for about three months, so it is still new. We won't be doing much more with our page until the first of the year."

<http://www.opendoor.com/NewVic/>

Spinsters' site is very developed and rich. It's the result of "a wonderful collaboration with Amy Goodloe, who donated space for us on her lesbian.org site, and Virtual Sisterhood, a global electronic support network dedicated to increasing women's access to and effective use of electronic communications. A team of Virtual Sisterhood volunteers helped us get our catalog online," Liz Tufte wrote to *FBN*.

"It doesn't seem that Web sites can 'pay their own way' in concrete terms [yet]. So far we seem to be serving as an information resource more than we seem to be selling books through the Web site, but we look at it as a way to get our name

out there. I compare it to paying for things like business cards and stationary — a necessary expense of running a business these days.

*The challenge is to
keep the cost low
and be patient.
It will take time for us
all to figure out
the best ways to use
this new medium.*

— Spinsters

"We're hoping that the new, interactive part of the site — a conference room — will help us to know our audience better so we can focus our marketing strategies more effectively, as well as help to build community. It's taken several months for people to discover it because we haven't had the time or energy to send out PR or to set up more links with other sites. We rent the conferencing software for \$50/month. It has a phenomenal database program, which we eventually hope to use for demographic info, other marketing uses, and community building.

"I think there's a great potential here as a marketing tool and as a feminist community-building tool. The challenge is to keep the cost low and be patient. It will take time for us all to figure out the best ways to use this new medium."

For more information about the development of Spinsters' site, see "Sisterhood Online: How a Feminist Press Wove Its Place on the Web" at (<http://www.igc.org/igc.womensnet/feature/9611201449/feature3.html>).

<http://www.lesbian.org/spinsters-ink>

Papier-Mache has taken a different approach.

"We decided to affiliate with an area that is devoted to publishers in hopes that it would receive more traffic than a site of our own would generate," Sandra Martz wrote. "ReadersNdex set up our home page and loaded the first 20 books for us, then came to our office to give us the software so we could do it ourselves from here. It's a pretty 'vanilla' site, but it was designed to be simple for people to use. Each publisher's setup is the same. ReadersNdex provides the statistics and does all the work re: search engines. We signed up under a first-year special of \$2,000 for 100 titles. They put up lots of information for each title and [browsers] can send email directly to the authors who have an email addresses. The program allows publishers to sell directly or to have sales routed to a group of participating bookstores, including Tattered Cover. We chose the latter.

"Other publishers on their site include Conari and IDG.

"We don't expect heavy sales as our titles are niche-oriented and our best-sellers are widely available through bookstores. We do hope to get attention of rights buyers, reviewers, etc. I also think it could be a good way to do surveys, solicit writers, etc. My personal opinion is that it will take another three to four years

before access is available widely enough (the way everyone has phone and TV now) for sales to be substantial for general trade titles.

"We are also investigating another Web service that will post 'remainder' items, books and otherwise, for a reasonable fee. They claim to attract foreign buyers.

"I love the concept, love email, enjoy browsing from time to time, and find that the amount of information is often overwhelming. We have a book coming out this Spring written by Sandy Dennis (the deceased actress), who adopted stray cats (she had over 40). I searched the Web for cat-related sites and got back more than 50,000!

There were a whole bunch that looked promising — organizations that might be interested in the book for fundraising, etc., but 50,000! Whew!"

<http://www.readersndex.com/papiermache>

Spinifex, physically located in Australia but now as handy as your own computer, is the feminist publisher that seems to be making the most thorough use of the Internet's possibilities. Spinifex launched a home page a year ago. "It wasn't fantastic," Susan Hawthorne wrote, "but Libby Fullard, our fantastic office manager, has reworked the pages and created a whole new set of images." Spinifex has acquired a scanner, Photoshop, and a small digital camera to make it easy to put up new material.

"We get about 5,000 hits a week, but we don't know exactly what people are there for, although we can see which book or page or hotlinks have been most active.

"Our entire catalog is on the home page — including scans of covers and photographs of authors. It's better than a print catalog because we can have the books in multiple categories (at no extra cost).

*"I love the concept,
love email,
enjoy browsing from
time to time,
and find that the
amount of information
is often overwhelming.
— Papier Mache*

"Another page lists our distributors [by continent], which is, potentially, quite a time saver. We also have a news page with information about awards, launches, seminars, conferences, etc. This has worked quite well — a lot of people have come in and looked at the Cyberfeminism Conference abstracts, for example. When we launch the Women's Circus book we'll have information on where they're performing, etc.

"We also have a couple special pages linked to authors' sites. The two active ones at present are *The Internet for Women* site, which contains an updated Resource Section and the *Babel Building* site, which is an integral part of Suniti Namjoshi's novel, *Building Babel*, will be released in the U.S. in 1997.

"The Babel Building site is an interactive site. Invitations to visit the site are included in the novel. When a visitor enters the site, [s/he] is given a wide range of choices. Readers are invited to help build the culture and the site. [Visitors have responded with] contributions of poetry, photographs, drawings, music and stories that expand the site. As more people hear of the book, the Babel Building Site will continue to expand and increase in complexity.

"These sites have been extremely effective as promotional tools. The main hook for the publicity is the interactive final chapter and its Web site. The book has already had substantial media coverage in Australia and New Zealand, and Spinifex' home page and the Babel Building site addresses have been widely promoted in all kinds of media. This promotional tool is a significant innovation!

"The most recent thing we've developed is an *Asian Feminist Publishers* site [where we] have put up books from [Asian feminist publishers'] catalogs. This is our way of doing something political to ensure that readers know what is going on outside their own region and circles. So far we have put up books from Kali for Women (India) and Narigrantha Prabatani (Bangladesh). The process

has taken much longer than we anticipated as communication has been difficult.

"Why all this time, money and energy? The Internet is new and I think feminist presses need to be amongst the innovators. Small presses, if they get the time and equipment, are better able to do this at present because the job is not so huge. We don't have 10,000 books to promote, more like 20-100, and this is doable.

"Most important, for us, have been the promotional possibilities. This has worked in several ways: Because we were one of the first Australian publishers to get on the Net, this has given us a lead in an area where there will soon be huge competition. Internationally, it allows us to publicize what we do on a daily basis. We've made some direct sales through the Internet. We've been able to pass information quickly

to overseas readers; we've been able to receive messages also, and to pass information on through various LISTSERVs to people we wouldn't otherwise have contact with.

"Email has helped enormously with our overseas work — we are saving a substantial amount on faxes, phones and mail.

"And the last thing — when cybercash hits it's going to be a free-for-all! As people make the cultural transition, it will help to have shared the learning curve from the beginning, since it will, no doubt, change again and again."

<http://www.publishaust.net.au/~spinifex>

And then there are a growing number of Internet book "stores" and services that want to sell books to readers, as well as providing various services to publishers and writers. Some of these services promote books (some for a fee, a few not), some sell Web sites to authors, a few are linked to women-owned (but not necessarily feminist) book-

stores, some are linked to Amazon.com, and others do their own fulfillment (oftentimes not stocking the titles until an order comes in.) But that's another article.... ○

*When cybercash hits
it's going to be
a free-for-all!
As people make
the cultural transition,
it will help to
have shared the
learning curve
from the beginning,
since it will,
no doubt, change again
and again.*

— Spinifex

Cybergrrrls Book List

By Dorothy Holland

Here's a list of great books for a cybergrrrls and for your Women & Computers section. Two-thirds of them are from feminist presses. Surprised? I don't think so!

○ A favorite Internet book that you just have to stock is **The Internet for Women**, Rye Senjen and Jane Guthrey, \$16.95 trade, 0-875559-52-3, Spinifex Press. A step-by-step guide to the Internet, the do's and don'ts, the how-to of email, 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 this book constantly as I teach women about on-line communication and the Internet.

✕ **Nattering On The Net: Women, Power & Cyberspace** by Dale Spender. Probably the best overall look at what the internet is and how it's changing our world. Spender compares the creation of the Internet with the invention of the printing press — and sees that it will change our world at least as much. Fascinating reading. \$19.95 trade, 1-875559-09-4, Spinifex.

○ **Net Chick: A Smart Girl's Guide to the Cyberworld** by Carla Sinclair is a wild and wacky guide to the Internet. Much like the *Woman's Guide* (see below) but with an attitude. Chock full of marvelous places to visit, usenet groups you just have to check out and all the best mailing lists to join. \$19.95 trade, 0-8050-4393-4, Henry Holt.

○ Another useful Internet book is **Surfer Grrrls: Look Ethel! An Internet Guide for Us!** by Laurel Gilbert and Crystal Kile. My favorite sections are



Illustration by Juliet Breese, from *Women'space* magazine.

“Surfergrrrl Scout Merit Badges,” “The CyborGrrrl Oath” (see sidebar) and the interviews with legendary grrrls on the net. \$15.00 trade, 1-878067-79-6, Seal Press.

✕ **Wired Women: Gender and New Realities in Cyberspace** edited by Lynn Cherny and Elizabeth Weise is a collection of essays that examines the roles that women are playing in cyberspace and the kinds of communities and culture that women are daring to create in cyberspace. Covering topics from e-mail courtship to on-line sexual harassment, this is a lively and informative read for folks interested in the transforming power of the wired world. \$16.00 trade, 1-878067-73-7, Seal Press.

Of course I have a bit of feline help with computer matters: Shorty, the black-and-white tail-less wonder that owns me, gets quite a kick out of **Internet for Cats** by Judy Heim. It's a humorous Internet book for cats, with side bars for people. I've used several of Heim's sources for cat type info — from emergency first aid for my felines to info on breeds of cats. \$8.95, 1-886411-07-7, No Starch Press.

✕ **The Women's Guide to Online Services** by Judith Broadhurst is a great collection of information specially tailored for feminists about the world on-line. I consider myself quite a Web surfer and I still found more information than I could possibly digest in this book! New sites to visit, new ways to get there. And yet, Broadhurst

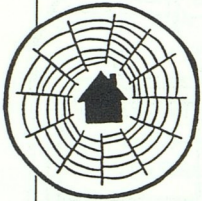
still manages to make the whole process easily accessible to beginners. Highly recommended for women setting out to explore the world on-line. \$19.95 trade, 0-07-024168-6, McGraw Hill.

A Few More Suggestions...

Sisterhood Bookstore keeps two additional titles in their On-line/Computers section:

○ **Gay & Lesbian Online** by Jeff Dawson, \$15.95 trade, 0201884534, Peachpit Press.

○ **Clicking In: Hot Links to a Digital Culture** edited by Lynn Hershmann Leeson, \$24.95 trade, 0941920429, Bay Press.



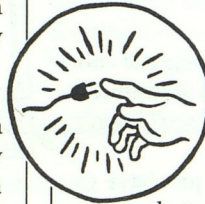
○ Another book you might want to stock is **Life on the Screen: Identity in the Age of the Internet** by Sherry Turkle, sociology of science professor at MIT, a philosophical exploration of the impact of computers and the on-line virtual world upon human psychology. Turkle has been at the forefront of those studying the ways in which people's ways of thinking about and experiencing the world have been altered by the increasingly prominent role computers are taking in our lives. Solidly researched, this provocative and fascinating book is also highly readable. While the hardback has been out since November '95, the paperback is not scheduled for publication until September '97. \$25.00 cl, 0684803534, Simon & Schuster. —LM

And a Magazine...

○ Put this on your Women & Computers shelf and watch it move! *Women'space* is a print-based women-and-the-Internet magazine. Juliet Breese's illustrations alone are worth the price of admission! *Women'space* is a perfect anecdote for computerphobia and for that tension that settles into the back of the neck after hours on the Net. Each issue includes reports on who's doing what on the Internet (and, oftentimes, how they do it). My favorite features in the last issue include a report from The Sunshine Coast Online Women's Center, a report from the Spinifex Press-sponsored Politics of Cyberfeminism Conference in Australia, an article on taking a university course via computer and the four-page pull-out about getting online.



I can't stress enough how very, well, *cheery* it is. Friendly. Womanist. Like a friend leaning over the front counter sharing what she knows and knows you want to know.... The excitement is contagious. It's readily accessible and easy-to-read — even if you think you're too old to be a cybergrrrl. And, unlike almost any other computer publication I've seen, that tiresome assumption that the Internet is for/by white folks is simply absent. *Women'space*, RR #1, Scotsburn, Nova Scotia, B0K 1R0; tel/fax 902-351-2283, email (diamond@fox.nstn.ca). Distributed in Canada by the Canadian Magazine Publishers Association. Distributed in the U.S. by Desert Moon and Koen. —CS ○



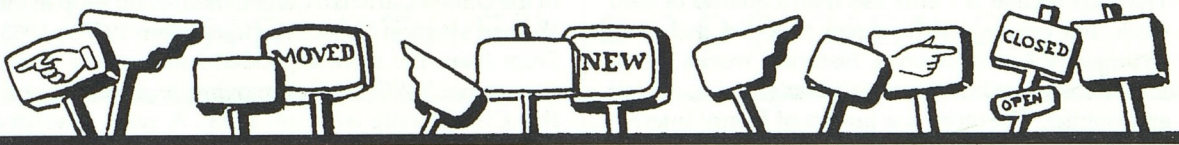
The CyborGrrrl Oath

...place one hand on your machine, one hand over your heart and repeat after us. Ahem...

We are wired women. We would rather be cyborgs than goddesses. We have made a special vow to help guide our sisters, our mothers, our daughters and our friends into a cyberscape of our own. We promise to support them — however initially technophobic — as they apprentice themselves in that realm. We live by the geekgirl code: "The keyboard is a greater equalizer than a Glock .45." We are wired in to Chaos and Gaia. We swell the listerves, we proliferate in the Usenet groups, we weave the Web, we chat and MOO, we upload and download, we help build and nurture our chosen on-line communities. We help imagine and create new applications and forms, always looking to that next horizon, always thoughtful about the interface of embodied humankind and the electronic projection of the highest mental faculties of our species. In the name of global good and human freedom, we vow never to surrender the Internet and its successors to dangerous, self-perpetuating myths of the technological incompetence of women.

Oath and Surfergirl Scout Merit Badges reprinted from Surfer Grrrls: Look Ethel! An Internet Guide for Us! ○

THEY WENT THAT-A-WAY



By Jenn Tust and Carol Seajay

Textures Lives!

At the last possible moment before closing Textures owner and founder Martha Cabrera found two women ready, willing, and able to buy the store and keep it running.

"Neither of us had retail experience, but it took San Antonio forever to get this store and we knew that if it closed, it would be gone forever," said new owner Frankie Jones, who bought the store on November 1 with Peggy Herring, her partner of 21 years. Both women have vivid memories of San Antonio without a feminist bookstore and also remember the so-very-closeted days in the 70s when San Antonio had a women's bookstore, Las Mujeres, which they heard about but never could find.

The new owners are expanding their selections of books and sidelines to broaden their appeal to straight feminists and gay men. "We sat down with *FBN's* Sidelines' Issue and stocked the store!" Frankie told *FBN*. "We want to make the store something everyone can be proud of and feel comfortable in."

T E X T U R E S

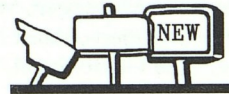


Neither woman quit her day job to run the store — Frankie is a senior typist for the telephone company; Peggy is a training specialist and a writer who has two books with Naiad and a third, *Hot Check* due out in March. Karen Phemister staffs the store during the week, Jena Recer keeps the store open on Sundays

(as she has for the last two years), and Peggy and Frankie work Saturdays. They also come in every afternoon after work to cover the new, later evening hours (7 pm until Christmas, 6 pm thereafter) to close the store and read the mail and new catalogs. Then they leave for home — a small town 35 miles south of San Antonio. While Peggy drives, Frankie turns on the overhead light and reads catalogs, and the two discuss the new titles and make buying decisions all the way home. Wasting no time, Frankie calls in the orders on her break in the morning.

"I don't know how Martha did it [alone]," Frankie concluded. "But I'm real grateful to her!"

Martha continues on, informally, in a coaching position. She's looking for work in corporate retail-land.



New Stores

Adelaida Bautista, Patricia De Robles and Katarina Roy are the owners of *Café con libros*, a new bookstore and art gallery focusing on women and children of color and scheduled to open in late January or early February in Pomona (30 miles east of Los Angeles and close to Montclair, which both have their share of chain bookstores). The owners have already signed a lease for a huge space (3,100 square-feet) with a mezzanine type set-up: the downstairs area will be for books and gourmet coffee beans and the upstairs for the gallery. *Café con libros* will be located in the redeveloping downtown area of Pomona called the Arts Colony, between two art galleries. It will fill a need not being met by the other two bookstores in town, which will help to prevent competition. *Café con libros*, 252C South Main Street, Pomona CA 91766; 909-623-4492.

De Colores is a nonprofit craft and bookstore in downtown Davis, California, an area that receives a lot of foot traffic all week long. The crafts are from Native and Indigenous cultures all over the world. The book section is a little less than a quarter of their stock, but covers a wide range of topics including writings by Native women, historical works, literature, poetry, multicultural children's books, novels and politics. The store is a project of Plenty International, an organization similar to the Peace Corps. They have been open six years. *De Colores*, 218 East Street, Davis CA 95616; 916-758-9417.



For Sale

Pokey and Annise are looking for new owners for Inklings. Inklings is the second oldest lesbian/feminist bookstore in the South Central region of the U.S., and has cumulatively grossed well over \$1 million in sales. But after eight years, Inklings needs more capital and energy in order to compete in the marketplace. If this sounds like it might be up your alley, contact Pokey at Inklings Bookshop; 713-521-3369.

It's Your Pleasure in Muskegon, Michigan, is also for sale. For more information contact Barb Thomas at It's Your Pleasure, 3228 Glade Street, Muskegon MI 49444; 616-739-7348.

Store Changes

The new owners of A Woman's Place in Park City, Utah, are Sharon and Ed Banton...they are keeping things pretty much the same. A Woman's Place, 1890 Bonanza Drive, Park City UT 84060; 801-649-2722.

Stores Close

Wichita's gay and lesbian store, Visionz and Dreamz, closed this fall after several near-closings and attempts to reinvent themselves in new images, including changing their name from Visions and Dreams and opening a cafe.

Women's Words: Books, Gifts & Gatherings, formerly known as Fan the Flames Feminist Bookstore (Columbus), will be closing in January after 22 years. The store had been struggling with increasing

superstore competition and declining sales for several years. The Fan the Flames Feminist Book Collective was launched 22 years ago by six women, each of whom contributed \$100. The store was briefly located in the United Christian Center, then set up shop in the Women's Action Collective House from 1977 to 1983. From there the store expanded into a space at the downtown YWCA before moving to a storefront in the Clintonville area in 1993. A new advisory board/staff structure was implemented two years ago. The new board, the new manager, and the new volunteers brought a tremendous amount of new energy and vision to the store, generated a membership/fundraising drive and a new look to the store but declining sales sabotaged their efforts. The difficult decision to close was made in October. The advisory board writes, "The book collective was formed to bring books 'by, for, and about women' to Columbus because they weren't otherwise available. In that sense, the bookstore was quite successful in helping to create a market for feminist books that today is reflected on every superstore's shelves."



Stores Move

Sappho's Garden moved to a location "off the beaten path," but customers have been loyal. The store is doing well and the owners are feeling better prepared for things as they are into their second year of bookselling. 78 Tow Path, New Hope PA 18938; 215-862-1326.

Whispering Wisdom is now at 141 Hawks Court, Suite D, Salt Lake City UT 84102; 801-328-2594.

Electronic News

Lesbians in Print edited by Margaret Gillion is now on the Web — in its entirety — 1,700 titles listed. Visit it at: (<http://home.earthlink.net/~griffgill/index.html/>). It's a terrific resource and it can be constantly updated! This is what the Web does best.

Sue Grafton has a Web site. And booksellers will be pleased to know that Henry Holt decided not to sell books directly on the site — readers interested in

See That-A-Way, page 66.

BACK TO PRESS

AND OTHER GOOD NEWS

By Jenn Tust

Back to Press

Knowledge, Ideas and Trends recently released the third revised edition of *Button, Button Who Has the Button?*, a two-act play in which Ruth Harriet Jacobs combines poetry and prose bringing to life the interwoven lives of 20 women.

Forthcoming

Wrapped in Rainbows is a proposed biography of Zora Neale Hurston by journalist Valerie Boyd recently picked up by Scribner for six figures. An update of *Zora Neale Hurston: A Literary Biography* by Robert Hemenway is also planned by University of Illinois Press.

Watch for *Freeing Fauziya: The Story of One Woman Who Defied Tribal Custom and Fought for Her Freedom in America* written by Fauziya Kasinga and Layli Miller Brashir, with Gini Kopecky, in June. Also sold for six figures to Delacourte, this is the story of 17-year-old Kasinga who fled her homeland to avoid female genital mutilation after being sold to an older man as his fourth wife in Togo, Africa. Law Student Brashir took extraordinary measures to free Kasinga from her 16-month stay in U.S. immigration detention centers and prisons, and worked toward the groundbreaking decision that female genital mutilation is grounds for asylum.

Awards

Toni Morrison received this year's National Book Foundation Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters. At the November 6 gala, novelist Walter Mosely introduced Morrison saying, "Many Black writers are no longer silent, no longer objectified because of the passionate locutions of Toni Morrison. She has brought art and truth back to literature." This distinction includes a bronze medal and a \$10,000 cash award. Andrea Barrett won the

National Book Award for fiction for her book of short stories *Ship Fever* (Norton).

Lesbian feminist activist, writer and publisher, Susan Hawthorne (Spinifex Press) won the prestigious Hall of Fame Award in Australia's 1996 Rainbow Awards, which are made to members of the lesbian and gay community for community service.

The Women's National Book Association (WNBA) awarded their 1996 WNBA Award for "distinguished service to the world of books" to author/teacher Carolyn Heilbrun. Donna Paz, WNBA president, presented Heilbrun with the award October 16 in New York.

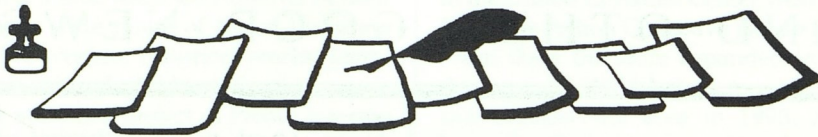
The Hall Closet Book Company, the nation's only publisher specializing in gay and lesbian audio books, has been awarded a "Golden Headset" from Audio World. Carol Jordan Stewart was selected as "Best Audio Reader—Unabridged Book" for her reading of Ellen Hart's *Hallowed Murder*, published as an audio book by Hall Closet in 1995.



Booker Prize Nominees for 1996 were *Alias Grace* by Margaret Atwood, *Every Man for Himself* by Beryl Bainbridge and *The Orchard on Fire* by Shena Mackay.

Teen Voices Magazine, an alternative publication by Women Express, Inc., received a PASS Award, which recognizes the connection between violence and violence in the media, from the National Council on the Prevention of Crime and Delinquency. Alison Amoroso, editor-in-chief of *Teen Voices*, explained, "Adolescent girls go through the system a long time without getting adequate help. A lot of people don't think girls are capable of violence. *Teen Voices* helps girls deal with issues of anger and confrontation (among other things) by honoring their sensibilities and experiential insights." ○

WRITING WANTED



Compiled by Jenn Tust

Feminist Nature Writing: HerBooks Publishing is seeking novels or creative nonfiction manuscripts by women. The central theme should be women's relationship with land/nature/environment/place. What are the landscapes that speak to us of home? What places have we been exiled from? What places do we have an enduring relationship with? We are particularly interested in work by lesbians and women of color. Deadline: December 1, 1997. Send manuscripts with SASE to HerBooks, PO Box 7467, Santa Cruz CA 95061.



How has running transformed your life? We are looking for fiction, poetry, essays, interviews, cartoons and photographs by women runners of all ages, sizes and speeds (from occasional joggers to marathoners) for *Women Runners: Stories of Transformation, An Anthology*. We are particularly interested in work by women of color, lesbians, young women and girls, older women, disabled women and working class women. Possible topics include: running as a form of adventure/travel; friendships formed by running; running and body image; running and self-esteem/self-confidence; running as a form of healing from illness, grief or loss; running as part of recovery from alcoholism, smoking and other addictions; and the history of women in running. Deadline: December 1, 1997. Send to: Irene Reti/Shoney Sien, HerBooks, PO Box 7467, Santa Cruz CA 95061.

Lindsay Elder is seeking true, first person stories for an anthology in which lesbians in long-term relationships talk about the first time they met their

partners. First meetings can be extraordinary or mundane, sexy or subdued, earthshaking or familiar and comfortable. Stories should be about 500–1,000 words, typed and double-spaced. Deadline: March 31, 1997. Send stories, or send SASE for guidelines, to: Lindsay Elder, PO Box 159, Laurel MT 59044.

Queer Press is calling for submissions for two upcoming anthologies of essays, short fiction and poetry on religious identities, spiritual practices, and queer communities from those who remain within and those who have withdrawn from religious affiliations of their upbringing, from those who developed their own spirituality and those who work in queer communities to respond to spiritual and religious needs. Queer Press wants contributions from queers of all religious backgrounds. And for the second, *Traveling between Worlds: Queer Migrations*, Queer Press is seeking contributions concerning queer migration. "Where do queers call home and how do we experience leaving/coming home? What stories do we tell of traveling in and between a multiplicity of worlds? How do our stories of migration shape ourselves, our sexualities and our communities?" Deadline was announced as December 31, 1996, check with Queer Press for extensions. Queer Press, PO Box 485, Station P, Toronto ONT M5S2T1 Canada; e-mail (luhmann@yorku.ca).

Pillow Talk: An Anthology of Erotic Lesbian Short Stories edited by Lesléa Newman to be published by Alyson Publications seeks sexy, breathtaking, hot stories, written by women who identify as lesbian or bisexual. All serious, funny, tender, angry, lusty stories about sexual encounters (or near encounters) will be considered. Deadline: January 10. Before submitting stories send SASE for complete guidelines to: Lesléa Newman, PO Box 815, Northampton MA 01061. ○

BESTSELLERS

NOVEMBER BESTSELLERS

Book•Woman Austin TX

FICTION

1. **The Key To Everything: Classic Lesbian Love Poems**, edited by Gerry Gomez Pearlberg, St. Martin's Press, \$10.00 cl, 0312118422
2. **Stir Fry**, Emma Donoghue, HarperPerennial, \$11.00 pb, 0060926244
3. **The Arc of Love: An Anthology of Lesbian Love Poems**, edited by Clare Coss, Scribner, \$20.00 cl, 0684814463
4. **Martha Moody**, Susan Stinson, Spinsters Ink, \$10.95 pb, 1883523079
5. **Unnatural Dykes to Watch Out For**, Alison Bechdel, Firebrand Books, \$10.95 pb, 1563410672

NON FICTION

1. **Between Us: A Legacy of Lesbian Love Letters***, edited by Kay Turner; illustrated by Sheri Tornatore & Kay Turner, Chronicle Books, \$17.95 cl, 0811814424
2. **Two or Three Things I Know for Sure**, Dorothy Allison, Plume/Penguin USA \$8.95 pb, 0452273404
3. **Second Coming: A Leatherdyke Reader**, edited by Pat Califia and Robin Sweeney, Alyson Publications, \$12.95 pb, 1555832814
4. **Nothing But the Girl**, Susie Bright and Jill Posener, Cassell Publications, \$29.95 cl, 1860470017
5. **And Then I Met This Woman**, edited by Barbee Cassingham and Sally O'Neil, Mother Courage Press, \$9.95 pb, 0941030250

My Sisters' Words Syracuse NY

1. **Sweetbitter Love**, Rita Schiano, Rising Tide Press, \$10.99 pb, 1883061156
2. **I'm a Girl**, Lila Jukes; illustrated by Susan Keeter, Cool Hand Communications, \$5.95 pb, 1567905188
(This used to be distributed by Atrium; now, order direct: 561-750-9826)
Note: This is a children's book.
FBN: "Ages?"
Mary Ellen: "1 to 100. This is the most wonderful book I've had the pleasure of selling in the past nine years. Tell booksellers to buy by the dozen, put on the shelf, and don't worry about it."
3. **Pay Dirt**, Rita May Brown, Bantam Books, \$5.99 pb, 0553572369
4. **Women, Knowledge and Reality: Explorations in Feminist Philosophy**, edited by Ann Garry, Routledge, \$22.95 cl, 0415917972
5. **History of Lesbian Hair**, Mary Dugger, Doubleday, \$10.95 pb, 0385480377
6. **Smoke and Mirrors: A Helen Black Mystery**, Pat Welch, Naiad Press, \$10.95 pb, 1562801430
7. **Surfergrrrls: Look Ethel! An Internet Guide for Us!**, Laurel Gilbert and Crystal Kile, Seal Press, \$15.00 pb, 1878067796
8. **Blackwater Spirit**, Miriam Grace Monfredo, Berkley, \$5.99 pb, 1878067796
9. **Running Rhino Journal**, Running Rhino, \$9.95
10. **Totally Private & Personal: Journaling Ideas for Girls and Young Women**, Jessica Wilber, Free Spirit Publications, \$8.95 pb, 1575420058

Mother Kali's Books

Eugene OR

1. **Off the Rag: Lesbians Writing on Menopause**, edited by Lee Lynch and Akia Woods, New Victoria Publishers, \$12.95 pb, 0934678774
2. **Inner Circle: The 8th Inspector Carol Ashton Mystery**, Claire McNab, Naiad Press, \$10.95 pb, 1562801354
3. **Silent Words**, Joan Drury, Spinsters Ink, \$10.95 pb, 1883523133
4. **Listen to Women for a Change**, Lee Byrd, Uppity Women, \$10.00 pb, 0964494205
5. **Solo: On Her Own Adventure**, edited by Susan Fox Rogers, Seal Press, \$12.95 pb, 1878067745
6. **The Oldest Sin: A Sophie Greenway Mystery**, Ellen Hart, Ballantine Books, \$5.99 pb, 0345402022
7. **Artist's Way**, Julia Cameron, Tarcher (Dist: Putnam), \$14.95 pb, 0874776945
8. **Dark Fields of the Republic**, Adrienne Rich, W. W. Norton, \$10.00 pb, 0393313980
9. **Into the Forest**, Jean Hegland, Calyx Press, \$13.95 pb, 0934971498
10. **Sunnybrook: A True Stories with Lies**, Persimmon Blackbridge, Press Gang Publishers, \$21.95 cl, 0889740682

Charis Books and More

Atlanta GA

PAPERBACK

1. **Takes One to Know One**, Kate Allen, New Victoria Publishers, \$10.95 pb, 093467874X
2. **Early Embraces: Women Describe Their First Lesbian Experiences**, edited by Lindsey Elder, Alyson Publications, \$11.95 pb, 1555833543
3. **Memory Mambo: A Novel***, Achy Obejas, Cleis Press, \$12.95 pb, 1573440175
4. **Pay Dirt**, Rita Mae Brown, Bantam Books, \$5.99 pb, 0553572369
5. **Cookin' with Honey: What Literary Lesbians Eat**, edited by Amy Scholder, Firebrand Books, \$13.95 pb, 1563410761
6. **Killing Rage: Ending Racism***, bell hooks, Henry Holt, \$12.95 pb, 0805050272

7. **So You Want to be a Lesbian: A Guide for Professionals and Amateurs**, Liz Tracy and Sidney Pokorny, St. Martin's Press, \$10.95 pb, 0312144237
8. **Reel to Real: Race, Sex and Class at the Movies***, bell hooks, Routledge, \$16.95 pb, 0415918243
9. **Time and Time Again**, Catherine Ennis, Naiad Press, 10.95 pb, 1562801457
10. **If You Had a Family**, Barbara Wilson, Seal Press, \$12.00 pb, 1878067826

HARDCOVER

1. **Dance of the Dissident Daughter: A Woman's Journey from Christian Tradition to the Sacred Feminine***, Sue Monk Kidd, HarperCollins, \$20.00 cl, 0060645881
2. **Bone Black: Memories of a Girlhood***, bell hooks, Henry Holt, \$20.00 cl, 0805041451
3. **Liberty Square: A Kate Delafield Mystery**, Katherine V. Forrest, Berkley, \$21.95 cl, 042515467X

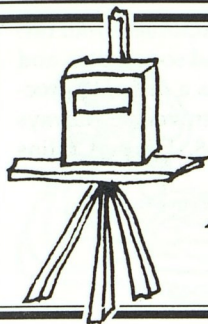
Womansline Books

London ONT

(Note: Canadian prices)

1. **Alias Grace**, Margaret Atwood, McClelland & Stewart, \$32.50 cl
2. **Nattering on the Net**, Dale Spender, Spinifex Press, \$21.95 pb
3. **Law of Love**, Laura Esquivel, Crown, \$32.00 cl
4. **Ex Utero**, Laurie Foos, HBC \$15.00 pb
5. **Memory Mambo: A Novel**, Achy Obejas, Cleis Press, \$18.25 pb
6. **Restricted Entry**, Janine Fuller, Press Gang Publishers, \$18.95 pb
7. **Early Embraces: Women Describe Their First Lesbian Experiences**, edited by Lindsey Elder, Alyson Publications, \$16.95 pb
8. **Tamarind Mem**, Anita Rau Badami, Penguin Canada, \$19.99 pb
9. **Why Cats Paint**, Heather Busch, Ten Speed Press, \$23.95 pb
10. **Butches of Madison County**, Ellen Orleans, Laugh Lines Press, \$9.50 pb

*Note: Stores had signings for these authors/books. ○



ART BOOKS

By Tee A. Corinne

Strong Hearts, Inspired Minds: 21 Artists Who Are Mothers Tell Their Stories by Anne Mavor, photographs by Christine Eagon, is a terrific book — broadly inclusive in terms of race, ethnicity and sexual orientation. Mavor was part of the L.A. Women's Building scene in the 70s and her feminism permeates the book, not dogmatically, but as a supportive under-structure. The photographs of writers and visual artists with their children are warm and perceptive. The interviews are riveting. \$24.95 pb, 0-9653724-0-5, Rowanberry Books. Distributed by B&T, Ingram, Pacific Pipeline, BP.

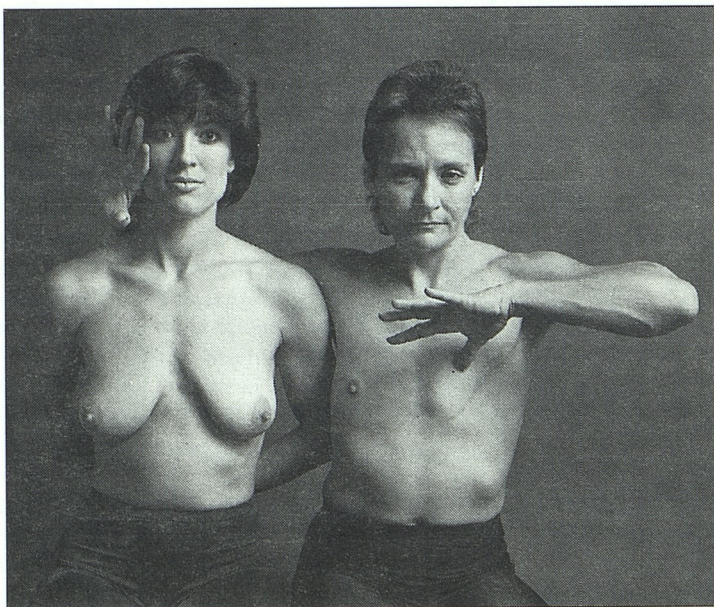
The Wild Good: Lesbian Photographs & Writing on Love edited by Beatrix Gates is an extraordinary, sensitive collection featuring 66 artists and writers including JEB, Shu Lea Cheang, Diana Davies, Kleya Forté-Escamilla, Alicia Gaspar de Alba, Morgan Gwenwald, Zoe Leonard, Margaret Randall, Saskia Schef-fer and Cheryl Dunye (whose film/video work won a Victor Russo Award). Everything about this book is finely done: reproductions, credits, contributors' notes, cover and price. It will sell well in women's bookstores and be collected by libraries as a major reference. \$19.95 pb, 0-385-48172-1, Anchor/Doubleday.

The Art of Reflection: Women Artists' Self-Portraiture in the Twentieth Century by Marsha Meskimmon is made up of a series of intricately interwoven discussions: "Emasculating the Tropes in Self-Portraiture," "Self-Portraiture Read as Traditional Autobiography," "The Significance of the

Body in Self-Representation" and much more. Fascinat- ing historical and contemporary imagery reproduced and contextualized. \$18.50 pb, 0-231-10687-4; \$49.50 cl, -10686-6, Columbia University Press.

Borrowed Time, photographs by Caroline Vaughan, foreword by Reynolds Price, is a beautiful book with breathtaking images of landscapes and flowers juxtaposed with dramatic, intimate, revealing portraits. Some of the images are of the artist's family, others — perhaps family too — show women lovers and men putting on drag makeup. \$24.95 pb, 0-8223-1817-2; \$69.95 cl, -1825-3, Duke University Press.

Lesbians Are So Chic by Laura Cottingham is a slim volume of fire and brimstone essays (60 pages)



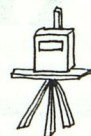
Photograph by Caroline Vaughan, from *Borrowed Time* (Duke University Press)

about lesbian images in contemporary culture. Lucid, pro-lesbian, subversive, anti-assimilationist, these essays will warm the hearts of older radicals and focus the dissatisfaction of younger lesbians who have been marginalized by academic theories that dissolve their existence. \$4.95 pb, 0-304-33721-8, Cassell.

The Sex of Architecture edited by Diana Agrest, Patricia Conway and Leslie Kanen Weisman presents 25 essays ranging from "Diversity by Design: Feminist Reflections on the Future of Architectural Education and Practice" and "Housing for a Postmodern World" to "Investigating the City: Detective Fiction as Urban Interpretation." Complex and very interesting. \$19.95 pb, 0-8109-2683-0, Abrams.

A Feminist Critique: How feminism has changed American society, culture, and how we live from the 1940s to the present by Cassandra L. Langer begins with a chapter on "What is Feminism?" and goes on to discuss subjects such as "The Origins of Sexism," "Second-Wave Feminism" and "Understanding Feminism's Concerns." Langer writes, "It's hard to imagine a word that elicits a more wide-ranging set of beliefs than does *feminism*.... Feminism

challenges us to examine our assumptions about difference, gender, sexuality, power and social roles, and this can be a frightening, as well as a difficult, process." Provocative, sometimes controversial, always stimulating. \$26 cl, 0-06-435025-8, HarperCollins IconEditions.



The Power of Feminist Art: The American Movement of the 1970s, History and Impact edited by Norma Broude and Mary D. Garrard is a large, colorful overview and major reference, now available in paper. Sixteen essays, useful bibliography. \$24.95 pb, 0-8109-2659-8; \$49.50 cl, -3732-8, Abrams.

I am sure you are all carrying **Imagery: Women Writers**, portraits by Jean Weisinger, Aunt Lute's Weekly Planner, 1996/1997 as a calendar, but I encourage you to continue shelving it in your art book section past its usefulness as a datebook. Thirty-three photos of women writers, many of them women of color, by a prominent African American lesbian photographer. \$13.95 spiral bound, 1-879960-48-6, Aunt Lute. Distributed by Consortium, BP, SPD.

The Gendered Object edited by Pat Kirkham is an eclectic collection of 19 essays covering Barbie dolls, women and guns, the meaning and function of clothing, cosmetics, hearing aids and much more. Lively writing. Some of the illustrations are wildly funny. \$24.95 pb, 0-7190-4475-8; \$69.95 cl, -4474-X, Manchester University Press. Distributed by St. Martin's.

The Photomontages of Hannah Höch with essays by Peter Boswell, Maria Makela and Carolyn Lanchner is a fabulous resource on a bisexual German artist (1889-1978) best known for her work with photocollage. \$35 pb, 0-935640-53-3; distributed through the Walker Art Center Shop, Attn: Robert Brake, Vineland Pl, Minneapolis MN 55403-1195; 40% for 3-9; \$55 cl, 0-935640-52-5, distributed by D.A.P./ Distributed Art Publishers, 155 Avenue of the Americas, 2nd Floor, New York NY 10013.

Sakhiyani: Lesbian Desire in Ancient and Modern India by Giti Thadani is a cultural history containing ten reproductions of lesbian-themed artwork. \$17.95 pb, 0-304-33452-9, Cassell. ○

Nomi



Goddess Ritual Vase 1" tall x 3/4" deep

Exceptional artifact jewelry from matriarchal times, women's herstory and the earth.
Sterling, bronze and 14kt.

PO Box 15702
505-989-3880

Santa Fe, NM 87506
Fax 505-820-7635



KIDS' LIT

By Linda Bubon
Women & Children First/Chicago

Greetings from Chicago. Sorry to have missed my column last issue; I was deep in moving misery. Hope you all had a fabulous holiday and sold thousands of dollars' worth of children's books. We always clear a whole display table up front in the store for kids' holiday books for three reasons: they sell better; their selling time is limited; and the children's section is chock full of books at the holidays anyway. We put them on sale after Christmas and make returns mid-January.

K I D S

I want to catch up on some Fall 96 books that missed my last column as I hadn't yet seen a few of my favorite kids' book publishers' reps. From Farrar, Straus and Giroux is a young adult novel, *Nell's Quilt* (\$4.95 pb, 0374-45497-3) by Susan Terris, about a young Massachusetts woman in 1899 who takes a courageous stand against an unwanted betrothal. FSG has some real quality in its YA paperback list, including Nancy Garden's lesbian novels.

Harcourt Brace Jovanovich always publishes beautiful children's books, and this Fall's list was no exception. Our favorite picture book for ages 3-7 is veteran folklorist Diane Wolkstein's *White Wave: A Chinese Tale*, illustrated by Ed Young. (\$16 cl, 015-200293-6.) Haunting and dramatic, this is a profoundly simple tale of love, loss, grief and rebirth. Harcourt also has a Japanese tale for older children

(12 and up), which feminist stores should represent. *Little Sister* by Kara Dalkey (\$15 cl, 015-201392-X) concerns the mythical quest of a young noblewoman for her sister's spirit in the netherworld. Her transformation from shy little sister to unwitting hero will be inspirational for young girls. Two other HBJ books for the YA audience are worth mentioning: *The Amazon Papers* by Beverly Keller (\$5 pb, cloth also available, 0-15-201346-6), a funny and exciting contemporary novel about a hotshot athlete and straight-A student who has a wild time when her mom goes on vacation; and a fictional biography of Phillis Wheatley, *Hang a Thousand Trees with Ribbons* by Ann Rinaldi (\$6 pb, cloth also available, 0-15-200877-2), which deals with what must have been incredible identity problems for America's first published Black poet.

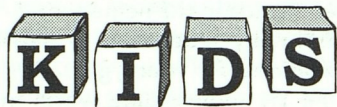
R E A D

Little, Brown has brought out a new book by the wonderful feminist artist Faith Ringgold, *Bonjour Lonnie* (\$15.95 cl, 0-7868-0076-3), a complicated but quite fascinating story of cousin Lonnie's family tree. You might remember Lonnie from Faith Ringgold's *Dinner at Aunt Connie's* (now in paperback, \$4.95, 07868-1150-1); he's the dark-skinned boy with red hair and green eyes. Tracing his heritage involves discussing race relations in Paris and the U.S. from the twenties through WWII. Teachers like it for those "family tree" projects, especially teachers willing to deal with mixed-race families.

Two feminist picture books from Hyperion came out this Fall for the 5-9 age group. *Tatterhood and the Hobgoblins* (\$5.95 pb, 0-316-57334-5) is a

Graphic by Laura Irene Wayne, in *Journey to Feel* (Jora).

spirited retelling, by Lauren Mills, of a wild little girl and her grand adventures against the goblins. **The Woman in the Moon: A Story from Hawai'i** (\$15.95 cl, 0316-73446-2) is a beautiful retelling by Jama Kim Rattigan about how Hina, the best cloth maker on the island, came to live in the moon. The story shows how a woman can rise above the restrictions placed on women through her imagination and skill at an art typically considered "women's work." Also worth noting from Hyperion is a YA non-fiction, **Voices from the Street: Young Former Gang Members Tell Their Stories** (\$17.95 cl, 0-316-05634-0). Includes interviews, photographs, poems, journal entries and scrapbooks that reveal their lives and reasons for joining gangs.



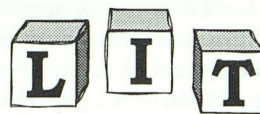
The voices of African American children ring out in Lee and Low Books' **The Palm of My Heart** (\$15.95 cl, 1-880000-41-5), 20 poetic reflections strikingly illustrated by Gregory Christie and introduced by Lucille Clifton. Here's a sample:

"Black stride? It's:
the arch of my back
the curve of my spine
the way I stand
and my stance
is
pride." —Pre'Chezz Rudolph.

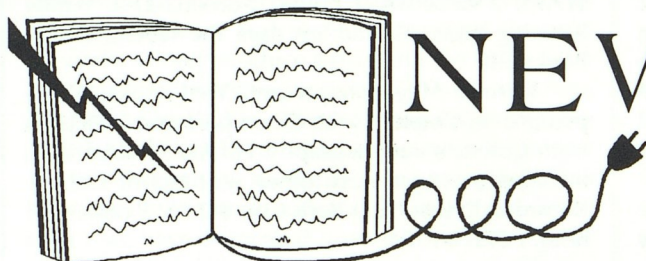
More delightful poetry can be found in Orchard Books' **Where Jamaica Go?** by Dale Gottlieb (\$14.95 cl, 0531-09525-8), a funny, exuberant picture book about a Caribbean girl and her adventures — told in infectious rhymed verse inspired by reggae music and illustrated in glowing colors. Also from Orchard this past Fall is a lovely dog story told by Appalachian storyteller George Ella Lyon. **Ada's Pal** (\$14.95 cl, 0531-09528-2) is narrated by a young child who tells of her dear dog Ada, and Ada's best doggy friend, Toublesome. When Toublesome falls sick and can't be saved, Ada grieves nearly to heartbreak. In the end it is the child narrator who sees how to help Ada — a very satisfying conclusion children will love.

I told you last time to be sure to look at Candlewick Books, a purely wonderful children's-only publisher from England, but I missed recommending

books from their Fall list. Absolutely the best Mother Goose collection is Ione Opie's **My Very First Mother Goose** (\$19.99, 1-56402-620-5), which inspired Rosemary Wells to create some of the best illustrations she has ever done. This book is so beautiful, lively and substantial, it's a cinch to sell as a new baby gift. But don't stop there; nursery rhymes are a wonderful way for young children to learn the physicality of language, to learn memorization and rhythm, and to build pre-reading skills. Also for the under-threes, Candlewick has brought out two of their best picture books in board book format: **Owl Babies** (\$6.99 board, 1-56402-965-4); and **Guess How Much I Love You?** (\$6.99 board, 0-7636-0013-X) are both loving, warm, reassuring bedtime stories. Hopefully you've encountered Lucy Cousins' witty art in her nursery rhyme books or her *Maisy* books; she just makes us smile at Women & Children First. Her Fall offering is a big lift-the-flap book for ages 2–4, **Katy Cat and Beaky Boo** (\$14.99 cl, 1-56402-884-4). And also from Candlewick is a story I hope Chicagoans and women's history folks everywhere will appreciate, **Nobody Owns the Sky: The Story of "Brave Bessie" Coleman** (\$15.99 cl, 0-56402-533-0). Bessie Coleman was the first licensed African American aviator (she had to go to France to get licensed). The story, told in verse by Reeve Lindbergh, the daughter of Charles and Anne Morrow Lindbergh, emphasizes how Bessie held on to her dream and showed others that they could, too. Bold, bright, befitting illustrations by Pamela Paparone. Here's to Bessie gaining the name recognition of Amelia Earhart or Charles Lindbergh!



There are so few books about religion and/or spirituality for children that are not preachy or didactic, so I must tell you about Holiday House's **What I Believe: Kids Talk About Faith** by Debbie Holsclaw Birdseye and Tom Birdseye with photos by Robert Crum (\$15.95 cl, 0-8234-1268-7). It features six kids, all about 12–14: Janina, a Hindu; Min, a Buddhist; Carmel, a Jew; Alex, a Christian; Aly, a Muslim; and Kaila, a Native American. They each discuss their faith and practice in simple language and the result is both informative and moving. For ages 8 to 14. ○



NEW MEDIA

AUDIO • VIDEO • CD-ROM
ELECTRONIC BOOKS

By Dorothy Holland

SOFTWARE

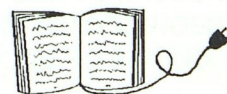
In the department of "I don't like this, but you just have to hear about it:" Mattel makes one-third of its \$4 billion in sales from the Barbie doll! And now they have released software aimed at the millions of Barbie owners, hoping to "get girls as hooked on computers as boys are," they say. Watch (out) for a program to design clothes for this anatomically impossible creature, a program to make movies and one to produce cards and stationary. Mattel is spending \$2 million to advertise the Barbie software on TV this season with the theme "Computers Are Cool for Girls." Mattel's CEO, Jill Barad is exploring ways to create multimedia toys for other company brands, Polly Pocket, Cabbage Patch and such. Along the same line, Phillips Media has already launched a CD-ROM based on the Baby Sitters Club.

But, here are some computer titles that are good, not very expensive, and definitely non-sexist and non-racist. The company, IMHO, is women-owned and worth supporting. They produce nine titles, and sent copies to Jackie and me recently. We spent an evening creating all kinds of "stuff" — calendars, pop up greeting cards, T-shirt transfers, refrigerator magnets and even pinwheels. These programs are absolutely simple to install and use. The titles I saw are: **Pop-Up Greetings Kit**, **Personalized Pinwheels Kit**, **Create A Book Kit**, **Party Fun Kit**, **Awesome Iron Ons Kit**, **Magnet Kit**, **Window Art Kit** and the **Calendar Kit**. PrintPaks Inc, 513 NW Thirteenth Avenue # 202, Portland OR 97209; 503 295-6564, fax 503 295-6578, e-mail <katherine@printpaks.com>, and on the Web (<<http://www.printpaks.com>>).

Another "kids" title that I loved is **Sim Park** (\$39.95 Win CD, 1-56754-347-2) — a kids version of

the immensely popular Sim City series. I plugged in the CD, just to review of course, and came to about three hours later, having been totally enmeshed in the world I had created. The producers, Maxis Co., have worked hard to be inclusive and non-sexist — with great success. Maxis has another kids title that's also great fun — **Sim Tunes** (\$34.95 Win CD, 1-56754-360-X). After all these great words, I can't figure out where to purchase this for your store! Ingrams doesn't carry it. Maxis Co., 2121 N. California Blvd. #600, Walnut Creek CA 94596; 800-336-2947.

Home In Three Days. Don't Wash by Linda Smukler. Smukler's first book of poems, *Normal Sex* was published in 1994 by Firebrand, and was a finalist for the Lambda Literary Awards. **Home In Three Days. Don't Wash** is a literary and erotic new collection of lesbian prose poems and images with Smukler taking the prose poem off the page and putting it into the world of sound and image by performing her poems on the CD. \$12.95 trade, 0-9638433-8-9, CD non stock; \$24.95 with CD-ROM, 1-889097-00-4, Hard Press. Distributed by Consortium, Ingram, BP, LPC/InBook.



AUDIO

All available at Ingram for sure, probably also at BP and others....

Anais Nin Herself, reads selections from her diaries, 1931-1934. Nin is invaluable for her ability to describe the internal drama of women who wish to be something besides the invention of men. Very nice to hear her voice and emotions. \$15.95, 2 cassettes, 100 minutes, 0-945353-71-5, Audio Partners.

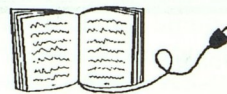
Herotica 2: A Collection of Women's Erotic Fiction edited by Susie Bright and Joani Blank is a feast of stories to tantalize both the libido and the imagination, spicy stories that celebrate sex and sensuality — not for the faint of heart! \$16.95, 2 cassettes, 3 hours, multivoice reading, 1-886238-05-7, Passion Press.

Zora Neale Hurston: Stories, read by Renee Joshua-Porter. I love this recording. Hurston's stories were already some of my favorites, and Joshua-Porter does them good. Try it. \$22.95, 2 cassettes, 3 hours, 1-883332-22-2, Audio Bookshelf.

Rachel Carson: Voice for the Earth by Ginger Wadsworth, read by Melissa Hughes, gives the listener a chance to go behind the scenes of the writing of *Silent Spring*, to learn about Rachel Carson — woman, scholar, author, devoted daughter, friend.

\$17.95, 2 cassettes, 2 hours, 1-883332-21-4, family listening (ages 10 and up says the label!), Audio Bookshelf.

Victoria Magazine presents Well Spoken Companions. In **Colette** Leslie Caron performs selections from Colette's autobiography, *Earthly Paradise*. Also includes passages from other writings of Colette. Recorded live in New York City. \$11.95, 1 cassette, 1 hour, 1-57270-028-9.



Whose Body: The Singular Adventure of the Man with the Golden Pince-Nez by Dorothy Sayers, one of the best mystery writers — not particularly feminist — but impressive for her achievements. Read by David Case, British actor, who reads many of the tapes I've heard, all well done. \$22.95, 5 cassettes, 6 hours, unabridged, 1-57270-018-1, Audio Partners.

The Male & Female Within: Meditations with Shakti Gawain is a step-by-step guided meditation designed to bring intuition and action into partnership for a more meaningful and satisfying life. For those Shakti Gawain lovers in your store. \$10.95, 1 cassette, 45 minutes, 0-931432-54-5, New World Library.

I Was Amelia Earhart by Jane Mendelsohn, read by Blair Brown. I enjoyed listening, although it's nothing special. \$18, 2 cassettes, 3 hours, unabridged, 0-679-45805-0, Random House.

More Random Acts of Kindness, by the editors of Conari Press, is read by an assortment of great folks: Ed Asner, Pat Raley, Elizabeth Roby and more. It is the sequel to *Random Acts of Kindness* and has a sparkling ensemble reading. \$17.95, 2 cassettes, 3 hours, 1-57453-059-3, Audio Literature.

Kitchen Table Wisdom: Stories That Heal by Rachel Naomi Remen, read by the author, has funny, moving and enlightening stories. Well read. Shows the listener the power and joy of life. \$17.95, 2 cassettes, 3 hours, 1-57453-063-1, Audio Literature.

AND MORE . . .

I just found a company you probably already know about! It's KidsRights in Charlotte, North Carolina. They produce a wonderful video, **Journey into Courage**, a documentary exploring healing

SIGNS OF PRIDE
 P.O. BOX 762
 SIMPSONVILLE, SC 29681

STATIC CLING DECALS & OTHER PROUD STUFF

WE OFFER THE WIDEST SELECTION OF GAY/LESBIAN STATIC CLING DECALS INCLUDING:

- * RAINBOW PRIDE
- * PINK TRIANGLE
- * BLACK TRIANGLE
- * RAINBOW TRIANGLE
- * RAINBOW DECALS WITH SILHOUETTE OF EACH STATE

GREAT QUALITY, GOOD PRICES & SUPER FAST SERVICE

FREE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL CATALOGUES

(864) 862 - 7833 VOICE
(864) 862 - 6944 FAX

processes of six Vermont women, survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse, and the risks they take as they produce a play and the video. Very powerful and very expensive. (\$250, 57 minutes.) However, KidsRights' other materials are much more affordable: **When Mommy Got Hurt** by Ilene Lee and Kathy Slywester is a simple story with large line drawing illustrations, addressing issue for children who may have witnessed domestic violence. (\$4.95 trade, 1-55864-042-8.) **Into the Light: A Guide for Battered Women** by Leslie Cantrell covers the basics — what is abuse, has it happened to you, what to do, how to get out and such. Easily read, clear and positive help for those in need. (\$4.95 trade, 1-55864-030-4.) 40% for 5+. KidsRights, 10100 Park Cedar Drive, Charlotte NC 28210; 800-892-KIDS, fax

704-541-0113. And ask for a complete catalog.

Talking About Sex: A Guide for Families is a kit that promotes open, honest discussions about sexuality at home, designed for families with kids ages 10–14. From the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, this video is upbeat — I'm very impressed. I'm passing this kit on to our nieces and nephews, who are just entering puberty. It includes a parents' guide, a kid's activity guide and a great video. The parent materials provide adults with the basic information that preteens should know about human sexuality and development. The kids' activity book is made up of fun, thought-provoking activities. \$29.95, 30 minutes, 0-934586-75-6. Planned Parenthood Federation of America; 800-669-0156; visit on the Web: www.ppfa.org/ppfvideo. ○

VIDEO

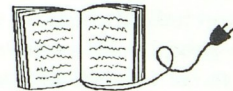
By Jennifer Hinchey
Full Circle Books / Albuquerque NM

For my introduction to reviewing videos for *FBN*, I was given some wonderful, beautiful films to watch: **Antonia's Line**, **Cyanara** and **I Shot Andy Warhol**. In most cases, I could not have been happier.

Antonia's Line, winner of the Academy Award for Best Foreign Film, was a delight to watch. Engaging, the film tells the story of Antonia and her circle of social rejects who fight the small mindedness of the small town, and the tyranny of the nuclear family. Any woman with the faintest feminist inkling is going to love it. Queers will too, because it celebrates non-traditional families that come together because of love, not necessarily blood relationship. This film is sure to be a hot rental or seller for any bookstore. \$79.95, available from Wolfe.

Next up is **Cyanara**, the new film from Nicole Conn, director of *Claire of the Moon*. A simple love story set in the Old West may not take you to new cerebral heights, but it has almost a perfect mix for me. Half of the film is dialogue and half of the film is just plain sex. (Celia, who also works at Full Circle, also thought it was a perfect mix.) Maybe not a party movie, but one that may help you and your lover stay warm in the coming months. From a retail

stand point, Conn has a touch of gold when it comes to sales, so this video is another must-carry for feminist/queer bookstores everywhere. \$29.95, available from Wolfe and Naiad.



The last film I had the pleasure to watch was **I Shot Andy Warhol**. First, I am an unashamed Lily Taylor fan. I think she rules and no one can convince me otherwise. I had the pleasure of watching this with a few friends who span the spectrum of feminism. There were some younger riotgrrl types and a few older "I lived through the 70s and I am holding on to my flannel" types. They had completely different reactions to the film. The older feminists thought it was a wonderful celebration of the righteous Solanas who would not take any shit. The younger ones wanted her to stop waving the manifesto around and shoot him already. Of course, I fell in the middle. Lily does a fabulous job as Solanas and she kept me mesmerized for quite some time. And, of course, the whole story of SCUM is fascinating, but the truth is — it went way too long. Even I said, as I came out of my Lily stupor, "Enough already." Still, it's a great movie on the whole and sure does get women talking. I feel everyone should see it twice and then argue vehemently with their friends. \$79.95, available from Wolfe. ○

GAY MEN'S LIT FOR FEMINIST BOOKSTORES

By Richard Labonte
A Different Light Bookstores

It's an uncertain new world for booksellers, this computer-related merchandise: some sells, lots is trendy or trashy but not very useful, and it seems from my experience that because of the relatively limited audience for lesbian/gay-specific product (a larger market exists for women's/feminist material, I trust), the cost of production of quality material keeps retail prices high.

At A Different Light, we've developed a 35-title bookshelf, about half of which are titles that could be found in any good bookstore (*Internet for Dummies*, *Rough Guide to the Internet*, *Internet Culture*, *Modem Nation*) — all how-to titles, which were ordered in ones and have sold, in the course of several months, up to a dozen copies.

Here's a list of the more specifically gay titles:

Gay & Lesbian Online by Jeff Dawson — It's been out about six months, and is easily the best-selling cyber-related book; the publishers say they'll update it next year. \$15.95 pb, 0-201-88453-4, Peachpit Press, Alamo Square/BP.

Well, actually, that's it.

Women seem much more together, book-wise — other titles we carry are: **Woman's Guide to Online Services** (\$19.95 pb, 0-07-024168-6, McGraw Hill); **Nattering on the Net** by Dale Spender (\$19.95 pb, 1-875559-09-4, Spinifex); **Wired Women** by Lynn Cherney and Elizabeth Reba Weise (\$16 pb, 1-878067-73-7, Seal Press); **Internet for Women** by Rye Senjen and Jane Guthrey, (\$16.95, -52-3, Spinifex); and **Surfergirls** by Laura Gilbert and Crystal Nile (\$12 pb, -79-6, Seal Press).

And when it comes to CD-ROMs, sex does best: our topselling silver disk features photos of Colt calendar model Steve Kelso; it's basically a series of

on-screen photos and poses, to my mind much less functional than a magazine or calendar. A lot of what else sells — with names like *Dynastud* and *Cowboys Get the Blues* and *Prime Beef* and *View to a Thrill* — is little more than video porn on disk, originally stocked for its novelty value but now being phased out of stock, as the thrill wears off.

But for art mavens, stores might consider stocking, as high-end gift items, two Robert Mapplethorpe packages, each available in MAC or PC format. The **Controversy** package (\$89.95, 1-886664-08-0 MAC, -09-9 PC), contains images of and discussion of the work that gave the NEA the vapors; the **Overview** package (\$59.95, -00-5 MAC, -01-3 PC) is a more general look at the artist's work, with all the pistils and stamens included. Both available from Chronicle Books.



And as a harbinger of what there might be that's useful in the future of computer offerings, there is **Lab Tracker**, a program designed to help the HIV-positive keep track of such things as medications, dosages and test results. It's been updated several times since its introduction in May of 1995. Ground Zero; 415-558-9861, fax 415-558-9862.

In a more literary vein, there's also Laura Esquivel's **Law of Love** from Crown, a lyrical novel packaged with a CD-ROM, which provides music and images related to the book. It's a great idea, and friends who have popped it into their drives like it. But from a bookseller point of view, the packaging is a problem — customers want to touch what they buy, and all that wrapping gets in the way — as it did last year with the book/cassette packaging of Adrienne Rich's book.

Next issue: the by-now traditional year of best-sellers, and a few dozen of the better Spring titles. ○



MYSTERIES



By Nan Cinnater
Cape and Dagger/Provincetown MA

You know you're burned out when...the prospect of a new alphabetical outing with Kinsey Millhone barely raises a yawn. Sue Grafton's **M is for Malice** has not yet hit the stores at this writing, but it will probably be a mere pre-holiday memory when you read this. \$25 cl, 0-8050-3637-7, Holt.

On the other hand, I snapped up the reading copy of **Three to Get Deadly** by Janet Evanovich and zipped through it. Evanovich's tales about novice bounty hunter Stephanie Plum have all the juice and edge and attitude that Grafton had a decade ago, plus lots more laughs. (This is high praise from someone who thinks Grafton is next to goddess.) In contrast to that extreme loner Kinsey, Stephanie is surrounded by a comic chorus of relatives, old flames, friends from as far back as grade school, and unlikely new allies, including an ex-hooker named Lula and a bounty hunter who's a consummate pro named Ranger. The complicated plot begins with Stephanie trying to bring in candy store owner "Uncle Mo" Bedemeier, convicted of "carrying concealed," but beloved in the neighborhood. The Trenton, New Jersey, ambience

feels utterly authentic; the suspense is intense; and I literally laughed out loud. What more could one ask? (\$23 cl, 0-684-82265-2, February, Scribner.) If you really can't sell hardcovers, by all means stock and sell Stephanie's earlier adventures, **One for the Money** (\$5.99 pb, 0-06-100905-9, Harper) and **Two for the Dough** (\$5.50 pb, 0-671-00179-5,



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

Pocket). Note to art directors: enough with the bullets/lipstick visual metaphors, which have been old since feminism met pacifism in the 60s.

The other female crime fighter I'm excited about these days is Manchester, England, private eye Kate Brannigan, the creation of feminist author Val McDermid. It seems as though McDermid is poised for a breakthrough in the U.S., with two paperbacks and two hardcovers following each other in rapid succession. Taking the last first, in **Lethal Genes** Kate deals simultaneously with several cases that, refreshingly, have nothing to do with each other. One of the cases comes to her through her pot-smoking rock critic boyfriend, and involves heavy-handed harassment of a punk band who is using the "wrong" promoters. Another is brought to her by her best friend, a lesbian reporter, and this one involves the very possible scenario of a doctor experimenting with all-female reproduction (test tube babies from two eggs). Kate is smart, hip, and given to outlandish puns. (A suspect is "shaken, not stirred," by questioning.) She knows her business; she doesn't waste her time or ours; and it's good to be reminded that real female competence can be remarkably compelling in literature, as in life. \$22 cl, 0-684-83398-0, February, Scribner.

McDermid won Britain's top mystery award, the Gold Dagger, for her previous Kate Brannigan novel, **The Mermaids Singing**, recently published in the U.S. by Harper (\$22 cl, 0-06-101174-6). In addition, two paperbacks in the Brannigan series appeared last year: **Clean Break**, about art theft (\$4.99 pb, 0-06-104393-1, Harper) and **Crack Down**, about a car theft ring, in which the boyfriend gets involved somewhat disastrously (\$4.99 pb, 0-06-104394-X, Harper). Note that McDermid also has another series, about lesbian reporter Lindsay Gordon. The only novel of that series

in print in the U.S. is **Common Murder**, about the feminist peace camp at Greenham Common. (\$10.95 pb, 1-883523-08-7, Spinsters Ink.)

Patricia Cornwell is full of surprises, not all of them fodder for the tabloids. In her latest crime novel, **Hornet's Nest**, she departs from her enormously popular Kay Scarpetta series for a police procedural about the (female) police chief of Charlotte, North Carolina, and her (female) deputy chief, as well as a young (male) crime reporter. If this is complete news to you, don't assume you missed the boat, or even last-minute holiday sales. My Putnam rep says **Hornet's Nest** won't ship until early January. \$25.95 cl, 0-399-14228-2, Putnam.

Amanda Cross may be "Master of the Literary Mystery," as it says on the cover of her new **Collected Stories**, but I'd nominate her for "First Lady of the Feminist Mystery." As everyone knows, Cross is really superb literary critic Carolyn G. Heilbrun, author of *Writing a Woman's Life*, as well as the creator of academic sleuth extraordinaire Kate Fansler, perhaps the first feminist detective to appear in fiction since Dorothy Sayers' Harriet Vane. Unfortunately, Cross

can go for years between novels, so the short stories — all of them featuring Kate Fansler — are very welcome. \$20 cl, 0-345-40817-9, Ballantine.



Murder in Scorpio by Martha C. Lawrence features a private eye with a difference. She's a Ph.D. parapsychologist who also is psychic, and she uses both her paranormal expertise and her psychic insights to help the San Diego police solve crimes. **Murder in Scorpio** was nominated for Edgar and Agatha awards for best first novel, and it comes recommended by Linda Barnes and Janet Dawson, two of my favorite feminist private eye writers. (\$5.50 pb, 0-312-95984-2, St. Martin's Press.) In the follow-up, **The Cold Heart of Capricorn**, the psychic sleuth uses hypnosis to help victims of a serial rapist recall clues to his identity. (\$21.95 cl, 0-312-14569-1, St. Martin's Press.)

The Exile Way: A Mystery of Ancient Japan by Ann Woodward looks great. The heroine, Lady Aoi, survives harem intrigue and power politics in the *See Mysteries, page 72.*

Have you
seen your
MAGAZINE
Girlfriends
lately?



800-GRL-FRND



SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY



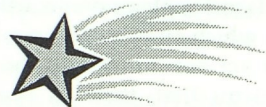
By Julie Mitchell
Sisterhood Bookstore/Los Angeles

Women in cyberspace. Wilhelmina Baird. Pat Cadigan. Lisa Mason. Melissa Scott. Amy Thomson. Joan D. Vinge. From Baird's "cyber-films" to Scott's "wildnet" and "crackers" (criminal hackers) to Thomson's "virtual girl," sf writers are doing with computers what sf writers do best: stretching current trends in science and technology into possible, often even probable, futures. Now, I must admit that I've read little in the subgenre of cyberpunk, and some of Scott's descriptions of the Net I find baffling or tediously detailed. In fact, I'm one of those old-fashioned gals who uses a computer as a word processor and has yet to get a modem, CD-ROM, or e-mail address. Yet I love sf, and sf is filled with machines — robots, space stations, implants, suspended animation pods, human/spaceship interfaces, and so on, ad infinitum. So, I say, viva grrrl computer nerds, scientists, and sf devotees (who often, *but not always*, are one and the same)!

On the screen of my life, I have been clicking frequently on trilogy...immersing myself in "The Mage Storms" by Mercedes Lackey (Daw), "The Riddle-Master" by Patricia A. McKillip (Del Rey), and "The Cloudships of Orion" by P.K. McAllister (Roc). I'm a sucker for Lackey's world of magical deities, animals, ghosts, and humans, finding Valdemar et al. as engaging and sophisticated a place as I once found Bradley's Darkover to be. Yes, she's done six trilogies (yes, that's 18 books) in the same world, but I still find them lots of fun, not to mention pleasantly escapist (and just plain addictive!). Reviewing McKillip's *Winter Rose* and *Book of Atrix Wolf* for the last issue sent me straight to the shelves for her earlier work, craving more of her lyrical, deliciously vivid prose and the organic, almost elusive quality of her f

images. McAllister's was a whole different landscape: sf, for starters, and highly scientific sf, at that. From my previous delving into mystic realms, I "jumped" into her world of starships and astrology, replete with a fascinating societal network of relationships based on culture and country. A delectable dialogue and character designer, visionary McAllister puts gypsies into space and soars off with them to prospect for new possibilities.

And while I'm in a praising mode, I'll mention a few singlets I got around to reading and found quite engaging, since last I wrote. From the goddess of romantic lesbian fantasy — Ms. Chris Anne Wolfe — is **Bitter Thorns** (\$10.95 tp, 1-886383-12-X, Pride, distributed by BP). This unusual twist to the beauty and the beast tale provides one of the better literary lesbian romances, by a first class storyteller. Alison Sinclair's **Legacies** (\$5.50 pb, 0-06-105699-5, HarperPrism) is a multi-layered, intricately crafted sf epic with a profound exploration of personal and communal guilt, responsibility, evolution, and reconciliation. And sf debut **Reclamation** (\$5.99 pb, 0-446-60292-2, Aspect) by Sarah Zettel captivated me not only with its clever plot but also with its ability to gather together the stories of character after character into a cohesive, grand, and surprising resolution.



Yet more sf/f literary awards have come to my attention since last column's deadline. The female winners of the 1996 Nebula Awards are: for Best Novella, "Last Summer at Mars Hill" by Elizabeth Hand; for Best Novelette, "Solitude" by Ursula K. Le Guin; and for Best Short Story, "Death and the Librarian" by Esther M. Friesner. The sole 1996 female Hugo

Award winner is, for Best Short Story, "The Lincoln Train" by Maureen F. McHugh. Congratulations to all!

I wanted to include as many January and February releases as I could in this issue, making up for the virtual post-holiday publishing paucity. However, though I spotted a number of forthcoming titles in *Locus*, I had no more substantial info than the bare minimums plus my own informed guesses. I've included a sentence or two about these books and promise to try for more details in later issues. So, without further ado, the good stuff....

ACE (BERKLEY)

The third collaboration between Connie Willis and Cynthia Felice is the sf hardback **Promised Land** (\$21.95 cl, 0-441-00405-9, February). Due to the death of her mother, Delanna has returned to her home planet to settle the estate. The hitch: to sell the farm she must live on it for one year. The clincher: the farm comes with a man named Tarleton, heir to the adjoining farm, who automatically turned into Delanna's husband when her mother died. Sounds, well, complicated.



ASPECT (WARNER)

I'm practically ecstatic that Octavia Butler's amazing works of sf are slowly, one by one, coming back into print with the help of this publisher. I acquired a first edition hardcover of **Clay's Ark** a few years back and am still searching for a reasonably priced copy of *Survivor* (which I did locate once...for a whopping \$200!), the only book of Butler's now left to be reprinted. **Clay's Ark** (\$5.99 pb, 0-446-60370-8) is set in a violent, anarchist near-future in California (which could exist contemporaneously with *Parable of the Sower*) in which an alien life form has taken hold. These aliens are not humanoids, however, but tiny micro-organisms that, through symbiosis, change humans irrevocably into something else. Attempting to contain the "disease" and protect humankind, a group of altered people isolate themselves in the desert, selectively bringing in others to "infect" only as needed. In typical Butler style, we meet surprisingly real protagonists faced with the most amazing of circumstances — the microcosm of individual lives

and choices faced with the macrocosm of world-altering metamorphosis and the attendant obstacles to that evolution. Tied-in with *Patternmaster* (\$5.50 pb, 0-446-36281-6), **Clay's Ark** is chilling, compelling, and complex. Maybe Aspect will do *Survivor* next and my Butler library, and yours, will be complete!

AVONOVA (MORROW)

Following *Snow White, Blood Red* (\$5.99 pb, 0-380-71875-5) and *Black Thorn, White Rose* (\$5.99 pb, 0-380-77129-2), **Ruby Slippers, Golden Tears** (\$5.99 pb, 0-380-77872-6) is the most recent f anthology in the series of "fairy tales retold with a twist." Editors Ellen Datlow and Terri Windling have gathered stories by Nancy Kress, Joyce Carol Oates, Jane Yolen and others.

Though the theme isn't original, the publicity for **The Sacred Seven** (\$5.99 pb, 0-380-78186-7) by Amy Stout caught my eye with the phrases "a young mercenary" and "*her dragon*" [italics mine]. A tale of humans, elves, witches, and other mythic folk, this f novel traces the heroic efforts of a female mercenary, a dwarf, a dragon, and a royal spy to save their land and the human/dwarf/elf alliance from a destructive Elfwitch and a band of trolls.

BAEN (SIMON & SCHUSTER)

For Margaret Ball's contemporary f **Mathemagics** (\$5.99 pb, 0-671-87755-0), I couldn't help but lift this it-would-lose-something-in-the-translation publicity quote: "[j]ust because mild-mannered suburban mom Riva Konneva was a warrior woman from an alternate reality didn't mean she could just slash and hack her way through parent-teacher meetings. Riva had come to our world — the Planet of the Paper-Pushers — to give her daughter an education, and now she was going to have to learn to fight with paper. On the other hand, when old enemies arrived out of nowhere, all the paper in the world would not prevent Riva from protecting her child." You go, mom!

BALLANTINE (RANDOM)

There's something taking flight on the horizon for fans of that vampire-creatix extraordinaire, Ms. Anne Rice. Edited by Katherine Ramsland, **The Anne Rice Reader** (\$12 tp, 0-345-40267-7, February) includes articles, essays, and interpretations of Rice's complete works by various scholars and journalists. This latest companion volume (Ramsland also did *The*

Anne Rice Trivia Book, The Vampire Companion, The Witches Companion, and the biography *Prism of the Night*) covers a history of vampire literature and the making of the *Interview with the Vampire* movie.

BANTAM

Shirley Jackson, author of *The Haunting of Hill House* and various others, has a new short story compilation entitled **Just an Ordinary Day: The Uncollected Stories of Shirley Jackson** (\$23.95 cl, 0-553-10303-2).

BOREALIS (WHITE WOLF)

The Sword of Mary (\$5.99 pb, 1-56504-936-5) is the dark f sequel to *The Psalms of Herod* (\$5.99 pb, 1-56504-916-0) by Esther M. Friesner. Becca of Wiseways Stead has escaped her rural, oppressive home and travels to the seemingly magical city to join her brother. Upon arrival, she finds herself surrounded by the Coop citizens and their unfamiliar ways. Once certain her brother's knowledge would save both her and her kin, now Becca "learns that everyone, including her brother, has ulterior motives." 44% for 1+, free freight. 780 Park North Blvd. #100, Clarkston GA 30021, 800-454-9653. Distributed by Ing, Koen.

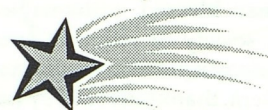
CIRCLET

Editor Cecilia Tan is at it again, this time with **Erotica Vampirica: Sensual Vampire Stories** (\$11.95 tp, 1-885865-08-2). Ten sex-positive stories, half by women (such as the widely anthologized Renee M. Charles and Raven Kaldera), explore vampires as villains, heroes, lesbian, gay, bi, kinky, misunderstood, and more. As Tan advises, "[d]rink deep." Distributed by Alamo, BP, Koen.

CLEIS

Hopefully you already have on hand **Women Who Run With the Werewolves: Tales of Blood, Lust and Metamorphosis** (\$12.95 tp, 1-57344-057-4) edited by Pam Keeseey. But, in case you missed it over Halloween, this mixed-gender collection includes lycanthropic pieces by writers such as Suzy McKee Charnas and Ursula K. Le Guin. The back cover explains it all: "[I]ike the femme fatale, the female werewolf is dangerous and alluring, often using her sexuality to destroy men. But while the vampire

employs seduction to capture her prey, the werewolf is most often associated with raw lust and animal instinct. Her desires literally turn her into an animal." Yow! Keeseey also edited two lesbian vampire story collections by the same publisher: *Dark Angels* (\$10.95 tp, 1-57344-014-0) and *Daughters of Darkness* (\$9.95 tp, 0-939416-78-6). Distributed by PGW.



DAW (PENGUIN)

C.J. Cherryh's **Inheritor** (\$6.99 pb, 0-88677-728-3, February), following *Foreigner* and *Invader*, is available in mass market. This sf cycle tells the story of the lone human emissary Bren Cameron, residing in the alien and perilous atevi society. Now, six months after the human starship has returned to orbit around the atevi's world, throwing the planet's balance of power off, Bren is caught in the middle of the maelstrom.

The "Dance of the Rings" by Jane S. Fancher continues with **Ring of Intrigue** (\$6.99 pb, 0-88677-719-4, February), the f sequel to *Ring of Lightning* (\$5.50 pb, 0-88677-653-8).

Sword of Ice and Other Tales of Valdemar (\$5.99 pb, 0-88677-724-0) edited by Mercedes Lackey is the author's first spin-off anthology from the numerous-trilogy f series set in Valdemar and the surrounding realms. I haven't seen a copy yet, but it will probably resemble Marion Zimmer Bradley's Darkover anthologies, featuring stories set in her world by various writers.

DEL REY (RANDOM)

The "Trillium" high f saga lives on, this time with **Sky Trillium** (\$12.95 tp, 0-345-38000-2) by Julian May. May also co-authored the original *Black Trillium* with Marion Zimmer Bradley and Andre Norton and authored *Blood Trillium*.

Anne McCaffrey returns to Pern after a three year hiatus. Unfortunately, **Dragonseye** (\$24 cl, 0-345-38821-6, February) doesn't look like anything readers haven't seen before and is only in cloth, though die-hard McCaffrey lovers may ask for it. Pern has been peaceful for 200 years but the second pass of the Red Star looms near, with turbulent winter storms and erupting volcanoes preceding it. Weyrs and Holds

must prepare for the destructive Threadfall, but the old technology has largely been lost over the years and one Lord Holder refuses to believe in the phenomenon at all.

Wheel of Dreams (\$4.99 pb, 0-345-39430-5) by Salinda Tyson is one I missed last Fall. Reviewed in *Locus* as "an exceptional first novel," this follows a young woman blessed with magical dreams and cursed by a society of religious fanatics who burn witches and deny rights to women (i.e., "half-souled" property). Kiera, thankfully sold by her abusive father as a bride to a foreign mercenary, nonetheless dons men's clothing and heads north alone to find the witches.

In mass market is Barbara Hambly's vampire sequel to *Those Who Hunt the Night: Travelling with the Dead* (\$5.99 pb, 0-345-40740-7).

GROVE

Pussy: King of the Pirates (\$12 tp, 0-8021-3484-X), Kathy Acker's girl-studded, loosely historical, fantastical twist on Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*, is out in a paperback edition. Distributed by PGW.



HARPER

Journalist Tananarive Due has written a taut, intricate, psychologically compelling thriller in her first full-length fiction effort. Released last Summer, **The Between** (\$12.50 tp, 0-06-092726-7) is a well-plotted, African American work of horror and the supernatural set in Miami. In the tradition of E. Lynn Harris and Connie Briscoe, Due delivers believable, well-to-do, urban, professional Black protagonists. Hilton was rescued from drowning as a child by his beloved grandmother/caretaker, who tragically died in the process. Now, he is being haunted by unrelenting nightmares whenever he is forced to succumb to sleep, and his family is being haunted by a racist stalker who his wife, the only elected African American judge in the county, once prosecuted.

JOVE (BERKLEY)

The mass market version of the historical Roman f novel **The Light Bearer** (\$7.99 pb, 0-515-11966-0) by Donna Gillespie is currently available.

OVERLOOK (PENGUIN)

The first two volumes of "The Secret Books of Paradys" by World Fantasy Award winner Tanith Lee are in new editions. **The Book of the Damned** (\$13.95 tp, 0-87951-697-6, February) and **The Book of the Beast** (\$13.95 tp, 0-87951-699-2, February) collect Gothic, dark f/horror linked stories set in "the strange, magical city of Paradys — a timeless French city forgotten by cartographers."

PENGUIN

With 38 stories by new and known women writers from 1941 to 1995, **The Penguin Book of Modern Fantasy by Women** (\$13.95 tp, 0-14-024336-4), edited by A. Susan Williams and Richard Glyn Jones and introduced by Joanna Russ, is a shoe-in for your anthology and/or f sections. To fill those shoes, in various sizes, are: Margaret Atwood, Angela Carter, P.D. James, Muriel Spark, Fay Weldon and others. Cover art from "The Giantess" by European Surrealist Leonora Carrington.

ROC (PENGUIN)

F novelist Gael Baudino's latest offering is **Spires of Spirit** (\$5.99 pb, 0-451-45568-1).

SEVEN STORIES PRESS

Bloodchild and Other Stories (\$10, 1-888363-36-3), Octavia Butler's complete shorter works, is another must-carry. Now in its trade edition, this collection includes "Crossover," Butler's first published story; the novella "Bloodchild" (her self-proclaimed "pregnant man story"), winner of both the Hugo and Nebula Awards; "Speech Sounds," another Hugo Award winner; "Near of Kin," Butler's only non-sf story; and two autobiographical pieces — quite a treat for those of us intrigued by this usually private woman. Distributed by PGW.

TESSERACT (THE BOOKS COLLECTIVE)

Tesseract (Q) (\$8.95 pb, 1-895836-21-2), edited by multi-award winning author Elisabeth Vonarburg and translator Jane Brierley, represents "the best speculative writing by Quebec authors over the last twenty years." This mixed-gender (majority male) sf compilanot contains short stories by 22 upcoming and established writers, here translated into
See Science Fiction & Fantasy, page 66.

Books in Canada:

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



By Suzanne Buffam
Women in Print/Vancouver BC

Since most small presses put out only two catalogues per year, my list is smaller this issue, but what it lacks in quantity is more than made up for in quality. I've listed the titles according to genre, and included both the Canadian and U.S. distributors, as well as the particular small press addresses. Hopefully that should cover all the bases.



Starting with fiction:

The stories in Barbara Parkin's first collection, **Woman with a Man Inside**, are funny and touching and thoughtfully rendered explorations of the lives of women struggling to belong in the external world and to confront the ubiquitous internalized masculine gaze through which women's existence is so commonly measured and mis-measured. The writing is sharp and insightful, articulating with a strong feminist sensibility the dark and quiet corners of women's most intimate battles. (C\$15.95 pb, 0-88971-162-3, Nightwood Editions.) The popular and prolific best-selling author Anne Cameron has a new novel out this Winter entitled **Selkie**, which chronicles the surreal and tumultuous journey of a woman whose life takes a drastic turn one morning when it starts raining inside her house and no one can get it to stop. What follows is a highly imaginative and fiercely original account of a woman's endeavors not only to survive a difficult marriage but to triumph in her pursuit of freedom, which includes an encounter with the selkies, those mythical creatures — half-seal, half-woman — who "swim through the deepest waters of

every woman's heart." (C\$17.95 pb, 1-55017-152-6.) Harbour Publishing, PO Box 219, Madeira Park BC V0N 2H0, Canada; 604-883-2730. Distributed in Canada by General Distribution Services, 30 Lesmill Road, Don Mills ONT M3B 2T6, Canada; 800-387-0172, 416-445-3333, and in the U.S. through BP, Newleaf, Pacific Pipeline and others.

Reminiscent of the most powerful of Southern writing, Susan Bowes' debut novel, **Crazy Sorrow**, is a fast-paced and evocative story about prejudice and the tragic consequences of cowardice. The characters in this psychological mystery/love story are eccentric, colourful outcasts in a sleepy Nova Scotia town during the late 50s and early 60s who learn how a moment of weakness and indecision can lead to a lifetime of misery. The novel is a study of the human need to move beyond the "twisted reach of crazy sorrow." C\$14.95 pb, 1-896095-19-4. Polestar Press, 1011 Commercial Drive, Vancouver BC V5L 3X1, Canada. Distributed in Canada through General and in the U.S. through Orca Book Publishers, PO Box 468, Custer WA 98240-0468; 800-210-5277.



Hot off the press and already into its second printing, **Eye Wuz Here** edited by Shannon Cooley, is a remarkable and vibrantly diverse anthology of short fiction by some of Canada's most exciting young women writers. Covering a tremendous range of culture, experience and voice, these stories combine to form something of a composite sketch of a new generation of literary talent. Some of these writers have already published books of their own, while others appear in print for the very first time, but all demonstrate a deep commitment to exploring new terrain

and asserting their voices in a world that, as their stories reveal, is seldom easy to inhabit. C\$19.95 pb, 1-55054-524-8. Douglas & McIntyre, 1615 Venables Street, Vancouver BC V5L 2H1, Canada; 604-254-8218, toll free 800-667-6902, fax 800-263-9099. Order direct.

After publishing three startling, quirky and formally innovative collections of short fiction, M.A.C. Farrant now brings us a novel that certainly lives up to the precedent she has set. **Word of Mouth** focuses on Sybilla, whose life is clearly drawn against a background of social inequity, poverty and desire. Recounted in short vignette-like segments, which reflect the dense and fragmented nature of memory, the novel reveals the experiences of a family struggling to find its identity amidst a profusion of muted emotional strain and taut relationships. C\$13.95 pb, 1-895449-60-X. Thistledown Press, 633 Main Street, Saskatoon SK S7H 0J8, Canada; 306-244-1722, fax 306-244-1762. Canadian orders through General, address above. From the U.S. order through General Distribution Services, 4600 Wilmer Industrial Estates #4, Niagara Falls NY 14305; 800-805-1083, fax 416-445-5967.



Moving on to non-fiction:

Deanna Kawatski's **Clara and Me: The Story of an Unexpected Friendship** is a truly inspiring autobiographical account of the sometimes difficult bond that grew between Deanna and her mentally disabled neighbour, Clara, who also happens to be the only other woman living within close contact of Deanna's family's remote wilderness home. After Deanna's initial awkwardness subsides, she begins to see Clara as a baffling blend of simple-mindedness, ancient wisdom, child-like mirth, and angry woman, through whom Deanna experiences the tastes of freedom that ultimately give her the strength to leave a difficult marriage. C\$16.95 pb, 1-55110-489-X. Whitecap Books, 351 Lynn Avenue, North Vancouver BC V7J 2C4, Canada; 604-980-9852, fax for orders only: 800-557-6677. In Canada, order direct. Distributed in the U.S. by Graphic Arts Centre Publishing Co., PO Box 10306, Portland OR 97210; 800-452-3032, fax 503-294-9900.

Judy Rebeck, past-president of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women and current host

of *Face Off*, CBC Newsworld's nightly national debate show, is one of Canada's best-known feminists and political commentators. Kike Roach, a young woman of colour fed up with accusations of apathy among her fellow "Generation Xers," is an energetic and outspoken community organizer and experienced public speaker who first encountered Rebeck at a NAC meeting she attended as a teenager. Together, they have assembled a year's worth of debate and discussion into a penetrating and highly relevant book that re-examines some of the past decade's most troubling issues: racism, identity politics, the power of media, the changing nature of work, violence against women, the future of the women's movement and the political Left. Lively and challenging, **Politically Speaking** is a refreshing antidote to the right-wing perspective that currently dominates the political scene. C\$18.95 pb, 1-55054-515-9. Douglas & McIntyre, 1615 Venables Street, Vancouver BC V5L 2H1, Canada; 604-254-8218, toll free 800-667-6902, fax 604-254-9099, toll free fax 800-263-9099.



And last, but never least, there is poetry:

Autobiography is award-winning poet Marilyn Bowering's latest collection containing a stunningly beautiful series of long, lyrical poems full of revelations and meditations on the fluid nature of the self, its origins, its transience and its evolution in combination with the natural world, the soul and the community. Resonant with multiple meanings, her crisp, original images and wonderfully flowing narrative probes an esoteric subject making it tangible and meaningful to the everyday. C\$12.95 pb, 0-88878-369-8, Beach Holme Publishers. Available in Canada through General, address above, and in the U.S. through LPC/InBook, 1436 West Randolph Street, Chicago IL 60607; 312-432-7650, fax 312-432-7601.

Suzanne Buffam has worked at Women in Print (Vancouver BC) for the last two years. She is a fiction writer and is currently working on a collection of short stories. Suzanne's writing has appeared in the anthologies Eye Wuz Here (Douglas & McIntyre) and Breathing Fire (Harbour Press). ○



MUSIC NEWS

By Jennifer Einhorn
Goldenrod Distribution and Promotion

This past summer, buyers witnessed an unusually high number of new releases from independent artists (see Barb Smalley's music column in the November/December issue of *FBN*). Unfortunately, as winter descends, they'll experience something quite different. Seems like our indie girls have taken a hiatus and given way to their major label friends. We are obviously partial to indie music and we attempt to introduce you to as much of it as possible as often as possible. On the other hand, you as buyers should be well informed as to who is out there, who's making waves, and most importantly, who has potential to sell in your store.



We constantly hear from buyers claiming that they maintain a small but lucrative customer base willing to absorb the cost of buying major labels from independent retailers. Furthermore, many buyers insist on stocking majors — regardless of the (absurd) mark-up, so that their new release section of women artists rates with even the best of the chains. Take note: If you *do* carry a number of these commercial titles, it is important to stock them as close to the street date as possible.

POP/ROCK

more joy, less shame/Ani DiFranco. The secret is no longer. While maintaining a monopoly in the integrity arena, our indie queen managed, nonetheless, to garner some serious mainstream exposure. She's graced the covers of both *Ms.* and Tower Record's

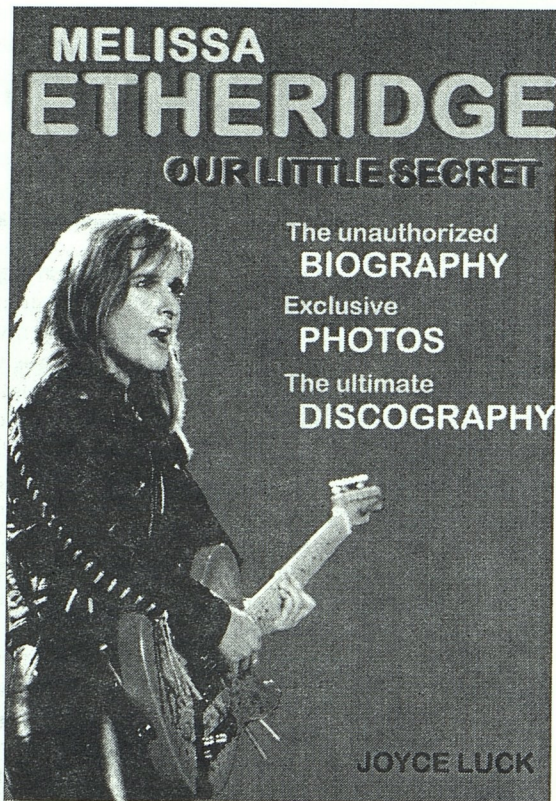
Pulse, been the subject of a prominent NPR feature, and was a scheduled November guest on "Late Night with Conan O'Brien." And as if *nine* releases were not enough, she just issued a six-song EP of previously *unreleased* material. Featuring four versions of her latest single, "Joyful Girl" — one with the Buffalo Philharmonic, conducted by Doc Severinson (I love it) — the collection is a must for fans. Also included: a "bathtub" mix of "Shameless" and a concert version of her most impressive song done live, "Both Hands." Forget what you've learned about limited sales on EPs for this one and stock it facing out. Disc only and tons of promos. Righteous Babe 10.

A Place in the World/Mary Chapin Carpenter. Carpenter is at her very best...when she's miserable. Unfortunately, girlfriend seems pretty chipper these days. Frankly, it shows. Release number six is heavily laced with upbeat, cliché-ridden pop and short-sighted in the thoughtful and witty arena. "I Can See It Now" — one of the most heartbreaking break-up songs of all time — is clearly the highlight of this otherwise innocuous collection. Ultimately, it will sell just like all other MCC discs. But true fans, however, will lust in their hearts for *The Chape* to share just a little of hers. Columbia 67501.

This Fire/Paula Cole. The unlikely love child of Sarah McLachlan and Jane Siberry, whose debut *Harbinger* won her big commercial and critical points. It wasn't until Cole shared the stage with Melissa Etheridge on VH1's *Duets* last year that word began to spread. A former back-up singer for Peter Gabriel (who appears on this record), Cole's vignettes of strong, independent women are even more politically charged on this go 'round. Ani D. fans are likely to buy. Imago 46424.

Sheryl Crow/Sheryl Crow. Armed with a savvy, virtually unheard of in the deep thoughts of top-40

THE FIRST BIOGRAPHY



PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW

Growing up in Leavenworth, Kansas. Discovered while performing in a California women's bar. Rising to international stardom. Announcing with partner Julie Cypher the imminent birth of their child. *Our Little Secret* covers these key events and many others in the life and career of Melissa Etheridge, the First Lady of Rock-and-Roll. In this richly illustrated, full-length biography, Joyce Luck offers us a compelling tribute to Melissa and her music.

ISBN 1-55022-298-8
225 pages, 6.75" x 9.75"
50 photos, \$16.95

DISTRIBUTED BY:
LOGIN PUBLISHERS CONSORTIUM
1436 West Randolph Street
Chicago, Illinois 60607
1-800-243-0138 or 1-800-626-4330
Fax: 1-800-334-3892

artists, Crow is going to do more to further the cause of gun control than anyone in America thus far. "Watch our children while they kill each other/ with a gun they bought at Walmart discount store..." is just one of the many politically astute lyrics that distinguish this record from all Fall releases. And thanks to Walmart's very public boycott of this self-titled collection, Crow's getting the best press of her career, while the conglomerate is earning the most scathing of theirs. Best known for her pop anthems ("Leaving Las Vegas" and the new "If It Makes You Happy"), Crow has proven that she's one of the most formidable rockers of the 90s. Really infectious stuff for your senses and spirit. AM540587.

Early Recordings/Joan Osborne. *The* rocker of the 90s. Fans have been searching, groping and *writhing* for this early live recording from overnight sensation, Osborne. After (What if God Were) "One of Us" gripped the video and radio airwaves in 1995, Osborne earned the very deserved rep as a bright, witty, gritty, politically on the mark songwriter. Her appearance (like Cole) with Etheridge on VH1 singing "Somebody Bring Me Some Water" is, hands down, one of the best moments in girl music history. (*Find it on tape!*) Initially released on Osborne's now defunct Womanly Hips label, **Early Recordings** features eight tunes from a 1991 live show, including an incomparable version of "Son of a Preacher Man." Mercury 534235.



Bilingual/Pet Shop Boys. The long awaited Euro/techno dance release from the most successful *out* band in the world. Best known for their hit, "West End Girls," on this project their ability to recount a rather poignant coming out story amidst high-energy industrial music is both amusing and touching. "What I wanted to be was family man but nature had some alternative plans...." Heavily flavored Latin influence throughout the disc, hence the title and occasional bilingual printed lyrics. Face this out, as the packaging and texture of this disc is one of the most innovative I've seen. Atlantic 82915.

Women For Women (Proceeds benefiting breast cancer research)/Various. We love this project and despite the fact that it mostly consists of re-released

tunes, customers love it too. Volume One proved to be one of the bestsellers of the year, particularly in women's stores, and its follow-up is likely to do just as well. Featuring an impressive cast, Volume Two has not strayed from the initial formula, boasting such popsters as Jann Arden, Amy Grant, Joan Osborne, Indigo Girls, Carole King, Sheryl Crow and Celine Dion. The National Alliance of Breast Cancer Organizations (NABCO) is behind the project along with some cool folks at Mercury Records. Mercury 535671.



Music From and Inspired By the Motion Picture *Beautiful Thing*. While I have yet to see this much-hyped flick, there are three very compelling reasons why I intend to. The feel-good young-love story between two working-class teenage boys is, I'm told, delightful — as is the film's lesbian director, Hettie MacDonald. But real kudos go to the film's screenwriter, Jonathan Harvey, who had the smarts to weave Mama Cass' music throughout the film. Says boy-wonder Harvey, "'It's Getting Better,' through 'Make Your Own Kind Of Music' to 'Dream A Little Dream Of Me,'...the songs felt as right and appropriate to this play as the score of a musical." MCA 11552.

REGGAE

Holding Up Half the Sky/Variou. The first in the label's new groundbreaking Women In Reggae Series, this collection focuses on the classic roots of the genre. Features lots of the heavy hitters including Rita Marley, Judy Mowatt, Sister Carol and more. Shanachie 45027.

What A Bam Bam!/Variou. The next release in the label's new Women In Reggae Series covers the modern dance hall scene from the early 80s through the 90s. Includes (my favorite) Shelly Thunder, Sister Nancy, Marcia Griffiths and a reggae version of Tracy Chapman's "Sorry." Shanachie 45028.

SINGER/SONGWRITERS

(Or, what used to be called FOLK)

Hits/Joni Mitchell; Misses/Joni Mitchell. "Over my dead body," was Mitchell's rote response to the multitude of people who, over the years, urged her to put out a "best-of" collection. Hence,

the amusing photos encasing her two "best-of" collections. A greatest-hits collection with a twist, the two disc compilation (each sold separately) features 29 songs personally selected by Mitchell. Her best-known material on **Hits** features fairly obvious choices including: "Both Sides Now," "Chelsea Morning," "Woodstock" and "The Circle Game." The more interesting **Misses** features "A Case of You," "The Arrangement," "Harry's House" and more. One of the best and seriously overdue collections of the decade. Reprise 46326; Reprise 46358.

Kind Hearted Woman/Michelle Shocked; Mercury Poise/Michelle Shocked. Shocked has recovered from her long feud with her former record label, Mercury, and is now recording on the pseudo-indie Private Music. The once overtly politico has opted this time for a much more subtle yet powerful vocal and musical delivery, which in some cases, works well. Folk and blues with stark electric guitar propelling most of the stories and their sometimes painfully desolate characters. **Mercury Poise** includes nine tunes from her three releases on this label and also features her tune from the *Dead Man Walking* soundtrack. Private Music 2145; Mercury 532960.



Women Live From Mountain Stage/Variou Outakes from the live National Public Radio weekly broadcast featuring quite the line-up: kd, Ani DiFranco, Joan Baez, Indigo Girls and more. Blue Plate 308.

Women's Work/Variou. The Putumayo label releases are actually designed for in-store play. The clothing-store-turned-record-label released their first of many compilations so that their staff had something good to listen to during store hours. A few years later Dan Storper and company have made a serious dent in bringing all sorts of genres into the mainstream. Their "best-of" collections include "World," "Reggae," "Celtic" and more. Their latest compilation features some of the best independent singer/songwriters of the day: Toshi Reagon, Barbara Kessler, Laura Love, Ferron, Catie Curtis and others. Putumayo 128.

My Father's Only Son/Carrie Newcommer. She can do no wrong in my book. Smart, no frills, sturdy and hip, Newcommer is one of the most insightful

contemporary folkies on today's acoustic circuit. Features former vocalist of The Story, Jennifer Kimball. Perfect in-store music. Philo 1203.

Flesh and Bone/Lucy Kaplansky. Listen closely to the best voice in contemporary Folk today, and you'll understand who taught Shawn Colvin how to sing. Indeed, Kaplansky and Colvin were a duo way back when, and Colvin produced Kaplansky's excellent debut, *The Tide*. Former bandmate of Suzanne Vega, Anton Sanko produced the follow-up, keeping the spotlight on Kaplansky's gripping, captivating vocals. Promos available — great in-store material. Red House 92.

The Best of the Decca Years/The Weavers. Ronnie Gilbert, when she's not touring the country in support of her new release with Holly Near (*This Train Still Runs*), or performing her one-woman musical, *Mother Jones*, may recall that she was once a member of the most popular singing group in America. The Weavers' impact on Folk music simply cannot be measured, although this compilation is a good sketch. Featuring legendary tunes, "Goodnight Irene," "Kisses Sweeter Than Wine," "So Long, It's Been

Good to Know Ya," it'll delight longtime and new-found fans alike. Promos easily available. MCA 11465.

Circus/Mary Black. Hypnotic vocals guaranteed to soothe just about anyone — silky, breathy, they take hold of your shoulders, sit you down and say, *listen*. It doesn't much matter what she's singing about either. On her latest release, she's chosen the best songs from some of the best acoustic writers around, giving them a Celtic/Folk flavor all her own. Highlights include John Gorka's "All That Hammering" and MCCs "The Moon and St. Christopher." Perfect in-store play. Curb 77832.



R&B/HIP HOP

Peace Beyond Passion/Me'Shell Ndegéocello. The smartest and most musically satisfying record of the year. Ndegéocello is queen of whatever genre this is that she's fused together from R&B and Hip Hop. Once an employee in a New York City indie bookstore, she's defied all notions of what's what. That this no-nonsense, unglitzy and unusually gifted artist, who pays not an iota of deference to the commercial viability of her product, should be released on a label that *Madonna* owns, is just fabulous. The songs are woven with Biblical and erotic references — "Mary Magdalene," "Deuteronomy: Niggerman" — and "Leviticus: Faggot," a tale of gay bashing, was banned from the video station BET. Bass player extraordinaire, Me'Shell has more creative and artistic integrity than we're likely to see anywhere else for a long time. Maverick 46033.

Epiphany: The Best of Chaka Khan/Chaka Khan. Eleven classic cuts plus one previously unreleased track (a duet with Ndegéocello) comprise this long overdue collection from the unparalleled Chaka Khan. Includes "Tell Me Something Good," "I Feel For You" and "Through The Fire." Having just appeared on VH1's Lifebeat Concert to raise money for AIDS research, Kahn is gaining increasing visibility. Face this out. Reprise 45865.

Go Girl! Soul Sisters Tellin' It Like It Is/Various. A true fix. Features Aretha, and more importantly, a handful of others: Ann Peebles, Mable John, Irma Thomas, Betty LaVette, Betty Wright and more. Rhino 72506.

Can You Afford Not to Call?

(800) 634-6044

The Most Extensive Selection of Recordings by Women

Feminist/Women's Music ♦ Comedy ♦ World

Drumming/Percussion ♦ Rock/Pop ♦ Spoken

Alternative ♦ Soundtracks ♦ Men's Music

Blues ♦ Spirituality ♦ Jazz ♦ Classical

Country ♦ International ♦ and much more...

LADYSLIPPER MUSIC
Nationally Distributing Music By Women Since 1976

The Soundtrack To Girls Town/Various. Suga, Salt-N-Peppa, Yo-Yo and more. Mercury 56492.

The Past Didn't Go Anywhere/Utah Phillips with Ani DiFranco. Yup, that's right. Ani D. and Folk God, Utah Phillips filed smack dab under Hip Hop. Just listen to it. Righteous Babe 9.

COMEDY

Taste This/Ellen DeGeneres. As a rule, comedy records do not do well. How many ways can you interpret the same joke? DeGeneres, then, is an exception. To lots of rules apparently. Apart from the whole hubbub of whether or not her sitcom character will come out as a lesbian, DeGeneres happens to be the funniest stand-up in the country. Her impeccable sense of timing and her impossibly sexy intellect make her irresistible. This timeless material, which should be dated *two* years later, translates flawlessly onto disc. Only in CD format, the release comes with a screen-saver for computers with CD-ROM. Atlantic 92724.



KIDS

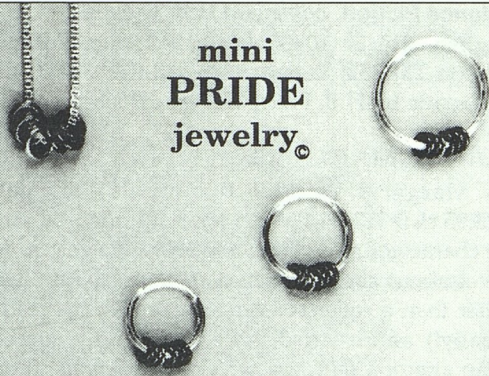
For Our Children Too/Various. With proceeds benefiting the Pediatric AIDS Foundation, this second release in the Kid Rhino series is dedicated to the memory of the foundation's founder, Elizabeth Glaser. The album art was created by Glaser's late daughter, Ariel, who died from AIDS at age 7. Artists include some heavy hitters: Elton John, Celine Dion, Toni Braxton, James Taylor and Carly Simon among other mega-pop stars covering kid tunes. Rhino 72494.

Music From The Motion Picture Harriet The Spy/Various. Artists include Eartha Kitt, James Brown and Jill Sobule. Castle 121.

Celtic Twilight 3, Lullabies/Various. Vocal and instrumental lullabies from the third in one of the best Celtic compilation series out there. Niamh Pasons, Anuna, Mairead Sullivan, Noirin Ni Riain and others. Hearts Of Space 11107.

OUT MUSIC

Various genres packaged with photos prominently featuring naked men. I shall reserve comment on this 'round, save to say that they are selling a lot. Everywhere.



**mini
PRIDE
jewelry®**

*available in a variety of sizes & styles
sterling • gold-filled • 14k
with brilliant niobium rings*

DÍANA MANLEY
(510) 527-0511
Fax (510) 527-0511-33
PO Box 14867 • Berkeley, CA 94712

- **Out Classics II**/Various. BMG 68430.
- **Free To Be Volumes 1-5**. DCC 121-125.
- **Broadway Compilations-Broadway For Lovers**/Various. Inter 3574.
- **Over the Rainbow 3**/Various. Blast 4.

JUST RELEASED

- **Fall From Grace**/Les Sampou. Flying Fish 657.
- **Move On**/Tracy Nelson. Rounder 3143.
- **The Way I Should**/Iris DeMent. Warner Brothers 46188.
- **Nine Objects of Desire**/Suzanne Vega. AM 540583.
- **Between the Covers**/Cris Williamson and Tret Fure. Wolf Moon/Goldenrod.
- **At Carnegie Hall**/Debbie Friedman. Sounds Write 612.
- **Shana Tova: A Good Year**/Debbie Friedman. Sounds Write 613.

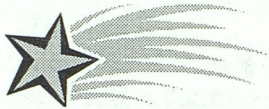
For more extensive reviews of these releases, see Einhorn's article in the January or February issue of Sojourner: The Women's Forum. ○

Science Fiction, continued from page 58.

English. 214-21 10405 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton Alberta T5J 3S2, Canada; 403-448-0590. Distributed in Canada by H.B. Fenn; 800-267-3366.

TOR (ST. MARTIN'S)

Margaret Wander Bonanno's **Preternatural** (\$23.95 cl, 0-312-86209-1) is one wild ride! With multiple characters, story lines, and narrative voices, this sf novel about aliens within a sf novel about aliens is better than a roller coaster. At page 85, the reader is (finally!) addressed directly in a mildly successful recap attempt, repeated at various intervals throughout the book, thank the Goddess. Too complicated a story to even recount, suffice it to say that this novel's plummets and sharp turns do resolve themselves by the end and the journey — whimsical, breathtaking, meandering, sometimes smooth, sometimes jerky — is well worth the ride.



An ALA Best Book for Young Adults, **Finder** (\$14.95 tp, 0-312-86291-1, February) by Emma Bull returns in a trade edition. A city is cursed with dark sorcery, a seductive new drug luring the young, a mysterious plague, and a slain Prince. The Finder, a young man called Orient with the magical skill to discover lost objects, teams up with a female cop to "embark on an odyssey through the darkest corners of the city to save those he loves from devastation."

Candas Jane Dorsey is the head of the Canadian sf publishing house of Tesseract Books. Her first sf novel to date, **Black Wine** (\$22.95 cl, 0-312-86181-8) is being billed as "ambitious, feminist...in the tradition of Joanna Russ and Suzy McKee Charnas." I can't wait to see a copy of this book about a mother and daughter who escape from the female slavery of a savage land.

From the Tiptree Award winning Gwyneth Jones comes the sf follow-up to *Divine Endurance*, which sounds simply fascinating. Set in a future Malaysia with matriarchs as rulers, **Flowerdust** (\$14.95 tp, 0-312-86292-X, February) traces the activities of women who plan a revolt against the technically advanced, off-shore Rulers on whom the country is dependent. Unfortunately, the spreading of the drug

flowerdust may jeopardize their machinations and create more turmoil in their already chaotic land.

Elizabeth Kerner's **Song in the Silence** (\$23.95 cl, 0-312-85780-2, February) seems a fairly standard sf adventure, probably not worth carrying in cloth. Lanen Kaeler, about whom prophecies were told since before she was born, journeys far and wide, avoiding multifarious human and non-human enemies and perils, seeking out the great dragons and the legendary Dragon Isle. Ho hum?

Shards of Empire (\$5.99 pb, 0-812-54817-5) by Susan Schwartz, co-editor of the recent volumes one and two of *Sisters in Fantasy*, is a "tale of romance and magic set against the fall of the [tenth century] Byzantine Empire." The hardback version was reviewed quite favorably by Susanna Sturgis in the May/June 1996 issue.

Jane Yolen presents the next mixed-gender volume of "tales of fantasy and delight" in **Xanadu 3** (\$15.95 tp, 0-312-86303-9), 34 pieces of short fiction by the likes of Ruth Berman, Jo Clayton, and Midori Snyder. ○

That-a-way, continued from page 40.

ordering Grafton's books are directed to the ABA listing of bookstores. Visit it at: (<http://www.sue-grafton.com>).

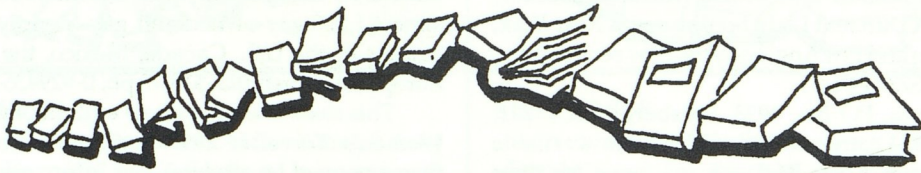
If you are a lesbian, and write lesbian fiction (short stories or novels), or have published lesbian fiction, you can subscribe to the lesbian-fiction writers list on the Web. E-mail (majordomo@theriver.com), and in the body type "subscribe lesbian-fiction (your email address)."

**Corrections**

Four Walls Eight Windows titles are distributed by PGW, not Consortium. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

The correct fax number for Suzana Tratnik and the group publishing the Slovenian anthology is 386-61-329-185. ○

FROM OUR OWN PRESSES



Compiled by Jenn Tust

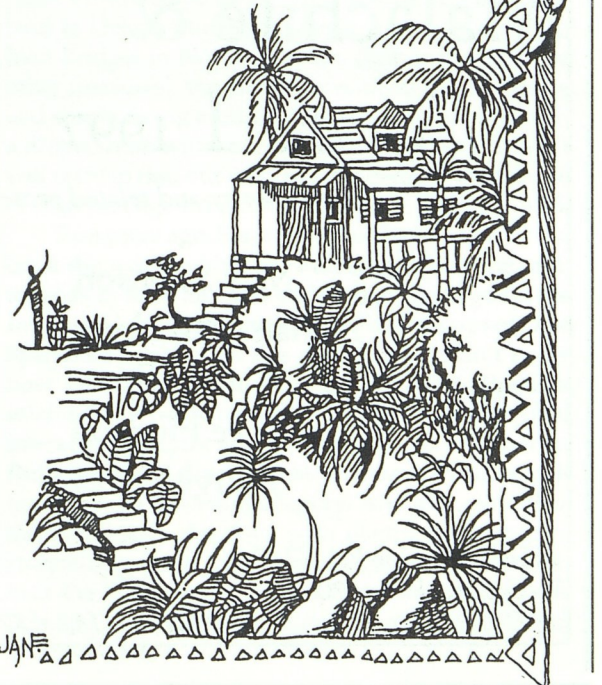
CLEIS PRESS

Our lead title for Winter 1997 is a second edition of a women's memoir so dear to our hearts that we could not let the book go out of print. **On the Rails: A Memoir** is Linda Niemann's "on-the-road" adventure of working the rails of the American West. Originally published in cloth by University of California Press (1990) and in paper by us (1992) as *Boomer: Railroad Memoirs*, the new edition features an introduction by Leslie Marmon Silko and an exciting new cover. Niemann's story — of going to work on the railroad and, in the process, transforming her life — is a favorite of of ours, we believe that it will appeal to women who have also embraced huge life transformations in their 30s and 40s. As Sarah Schulman said, [Niemann's autobiography] "is really an interior version of *On the Road* with the rails serving as the metaphor for one woman's life." The result is a highly crafted, lyrical memoir of a woman's experience in the brutal, macho rootless world of the rail yards of the West and Southwest. \$14.95 pb, 1-57344-064-7, February.

We are also pleased to offer the 1997 editions of the *Best Gay and Lesbian Erotica*, the second annual releases in Cleis' new series featuring sexy, high-quality gay and lesbian writing. Each year guest judges selected from the queer literary world review submitted stories and choose the final collection — representing a wide range of styles and voices and, of course, the steamiest, most thought-provoking sexual writing of the previous year. Guest judge for **Best Lesbian Erotica 1997** is Jewelle Gomez (*The Gilda*

Stories, Forty-Three Septembers and Oral Tradition) and this year's edition features work by Chrystos, Cherríe Moraga, Laura Antoniou, Donna Allegra, Heather Lewis, Carol Queen, Beth Brant, Jenifer Levin, Cheryl Clarke, Red Jordan Arobateau, Cecilia Tan, Kitty Tsui and others. The series editor is Tristan Taormino (*Ritual Sex*). \$14.95 pb, 1-57344-065-5.

The guest judge for **Best Gay Erotica 1997** is Doug Sadownick (*Sacred Lips of the Bronx* and *Sex Between Men: An Intimate History of the Sex Lives of Gay Men*) and the



Drawing by Jane Evershed in *Refuge from Insanity*
(Jane Evershed Card Collection).

1997 edition features work by Jack Fritscher, Pansy Bradshaw, D. Travers Scott, Scott O'Hara, Simon Sheppard, Lawrence Schimel, Gary Bowen, Justin Chin, Kevin Killian and others. Richard Labonte, manager of A Different Light bookstores in New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles is the new series editor. \$14.95 pb, 1-57344-067-1.

Cleis Press, PO Box 8933, Pittsburgh PA 15221; 412-937-1555. Distributed by PGW, also available from BP, Ingram, Koen, B&T. —Cleis Press



DAMRON COMPANY

For 33 years, gay travellers have trusted the **Damron Address Book** to give them the most accurate information on accommodations, bars, restaurants, bookstores, retail stores, gyms, travel agencies, spiritual groups, men's clubs and erotica. This new edition, covering the U.S., Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean, features many new listings in an attractive, easy-to-use format. \$14.95 pb, 0-929435-21-4.

The only full-color lesbian and gay accommodations guide on the market, **Damron Accommodations, Second Edition** sets a new industry standard. Lavishly illustrated and packed with information, it features almost 1,100 gay-owned and gay-friendly accommodations in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, Europe and Australia. \$18.95 pb, 0-929435-23-0.

This sleek and savvy new edition of the **Damron Women's Traveller 1997** features in-depth essays (some penned by readers), city information, and festival and tour dates along with updated and expanded listings for lesbian travellers of all ages, races, sizes and abilities. Camping and RV information is also included. The new design includes photographs by San Francisco Bay Area artist Rebecca McBride. \$11.95 pb, 0-929435-22-2.

Damron Company, PO Box 422458, San Francisco CA 94142-2458; 800-462-6654. All titles available from PDC (800-464-4574), Ingram, BP.

— Damron Company



FEMINIST PRESS

We just came across a copy of the Feminist Press' Spring/Summer issue of the *Women's Studies Quarterly* on the subject of *Beijing and Beyond: Toward the Twenty-First Century of Women*. This issue includes a report on the Fourth United Nations Conference on Women and essays and speeches from women all around the world on "Experience and Expectations," "Making of the Platform for Action," "Toward the 21st Century" and Women's Studies Programs founded in the last three decades. \$22 pb, 1-55861-142-8. Feminist Press at CUNY, 311 East 94th Street, New York NY 10128. Distributed by Consortium. —JT

JANE EVERSHERD

If you don't yet have Jane Evershed's third journal **Refuge from Insanity** in stock you must get it! This 8½" by 11" sized journal has a full-color cover of Jane's wonderful painting, brown and creme perforated inside pages with drawings and meditations by Jane (32 meditations total). \$6 pb, spiral bound. Jane Evershed, PO Box 8874, Minneapolis MN 55408; 612-377-6355, fax 612-377-0417, e-mail (evershed@aol.com) and on the Web: (http://members.aol.com/evershed/jane/jane.html). —JT

Malachite & Agate I 1997

lesbian poetry and related prose

May Swenson
Adrian Oktenberg
Laurel Speer
Lee Hudson
Marge Piercy

6558 4th Section Rd. #149
Brockport, NY 14420

ISSN 1090-7157 / \$7



NAIAD PRESS

Love on the Line by Laura DeHart Young (*Family Secrets* and *There Will Be No Goodbyes*) is loaded with high-powered romance and suspense. Harassed by an angry ex and about to leave on a dangerous survival mission, Alaskan park ranger Kaye Westmore is convinced that there isn't room in her stress-filled life for a lover — especially not a lover ten years her junior! \$10.95 pb, 1-56280-162-7, February.

Kaye Davis' **Devil's Leg Crossing** is the debut novel in a compelling new mystery series featuring independent crime scene specialist Maris Middleton. Frustrated by incompetent police work, a young woman hires Maris to help find her missing niece. Maris isn't sure which is more disconcerting — the dearth of evidence, or her growing attraction to her enigmatic client. \$10.95 pb, 1-56280-158-9, February.



In Saxon Bennett's new romance **Old Ties**, the heat between protagonists Frankie and Cleo is undeniable. Frankie wants to do more than just warm Cleo's bed, but Cleo is still hung up on her manipulative ex-lover. Following the success of her bestselling debut novel, *The Wish List*, Bennett puts a sexy new spin on that old lesbian horror story — the relationship that would not die. \$10.95 pb, 1-56280-159-7, March.

Peggy Herring's **Hot Check** is another sizzler from the author of romantic potboilers *Once More With Feeling* and *Love's Harvest*. Band leader Ricky Conrad brings a whole new meaning to the word "hot" — but is the rising young rock star too hot to handle? If workaholic restaurateur Alice Collins can't take Ricky's heat, we suggest she get out of the kitchen. \$10.95 pb, 1-56280-163-5, March.

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

SEAL PRESS

We ran a listing for **Solo: Women Going it Alone** edited by Susan Fox Rogers in our March/April Spring Announcements issue. The title has been changed to **Solo: On Her Own Adventure**. \$12.95 pb, 1-878067-74-5. Seal Press, 3131 Western Avenue #410, Seattle WA 98121; 206-283-7844. Distributed by PGW. —FBN

SPINIFEX PRESS

Spring releases from Spinifex Press:

Wee Girls: Women Writing from an Irish Perspective edited by Lizz Murphy. Lizz, the Australian publicist for Spinifex, has been keeping us entertained for years with her humorous faxes, so when she approached us to do an anthology of writing by Irish women, we leapt at the chance. The Irish diaspora extends to every corner of the world and the legendary facility for language is evident on every page. From Maeve Binchy and Ailbhe Smyth in Ireland to Helena Mulhern, Muala Archer, Mary Daly, Joan Bridget in North America, (not to mention the other treasures), the words flow, dress up, challenge and sheela na gig around. This is a book anyone with a drop of Irish will want to read, and those who don't will want to find out why, five generations later, those of Irish heritage maintain it. \$14.95 pb, 1-875559-51-5.

Two years ago, Suniti Namjoshi told us about the book she was working on, **Building Babel**. She said, it needs to have an open-ended chapter, to go on the Internet. I knew (from reading the manuscript of Dale Spender's book) what this meant, but I didn't know how we would do it. But, in early 1996, Spinifex established a home page and Suniti's dream of a final interactive chapter on the Internet has come true. **Building Babel** describes the process of building culture through fable and allegory. And alongside this, the home page develops with poetry, photographs, storytelling, music and visual imagery. Read the book, visit the home page and send your contribution in. Perhaps, we will build Babel together. \$13.95 pb, 1-875559-56-6.

Beryl Fletcher, the winner of national and international awards, brings us her third novel, **The Silicon Tongue**, which weaves a marvelous narrative of five generations of women. Seventy-five-year-old Alice, tells her life story to a mysterious woman with a tape-recorder, her memory as keen as a knife. Pixel, of dubious origin, spends her life surfing the Internet. Pixel distrusts the body and reality, preferring the company of electronic companions. Each has something to learn from the other. Beryl Fletcher is a consummate storyteller and her story has much to say about how we can maintain our culture. \$13.95 pb, 1-875559-49-3.

Spinifex Press, 504 Queensberry Street, PO Box 212, North Melbourne Victoria 3051, Australia; +613-9329-6088, fax +613-9329-9238, e-mail (spinifex@publishaust.net.au), and on the Web: (http://www.publishaust.net.au/~spinifex). In the U.S. contact Michele Karlsberg 718-351-9599, fax 718-980-4262, e-mail (MKPubServ@aol.com). —Spinifex Press



WOLFE VIDEO

Seattle zanies Dos Fallopia (Lisa Koch and Peggy Platt) serve up a stew of hysterical and dysfunctional characters in their debut video, **Pretty Girls, Not Too Bright**. Shot from live performances, the duo brings their hilarious sketch comedy and music to life through their twisted alter egos. SRP \$19.95.

What "That's Entertainment" did for movie

musicals, **The Celluloid Closet** does for Hollywood homosexuality, as this exuberant, eye-opening movie serves up a dazzling hundred-year history of the role of gay men and lesbians on the silver screen. Narrated by Lily Tomlin. SRP \$99.95, special 40% off this month.

An Early Frost now being re-released by Wolfe Video! The landmark 1985 Emmy and Peabody Award-winning drama about one family's struggle with the news their son (Aidan Quinn) is gay and has AIDS. Also stars Gena Rowlands, Ben Gazzara, Sylvia Sidney and John Glover. SRP \$19.95.

On CD at last, Cynara is the erotic soundtrack from the enormously successful video. \$15.95.

Wolfe Video, PO Box 64, New Almaden CA 95042; 408-268-6782, fax 408-268-9449, e-mail (www.wolfevideo.com). —Wolfe Video



Periodicals

BookWomen: A reader's community for those who love women's words is a "bookletter" aimed to be "a gathering in print of book lovers, a conversation among readers of women's words," according to Glenda Martin, publisher. *BookWomen's* goals include: building a community of readers, celebrating the joys of living with books, exploring the place of reading and books in women's lives, spreading the word about women writers and their work. Created by The Center for Feminist Reading of Minnesota Women's Press, Inc, every issue

Sarah Aldridge's



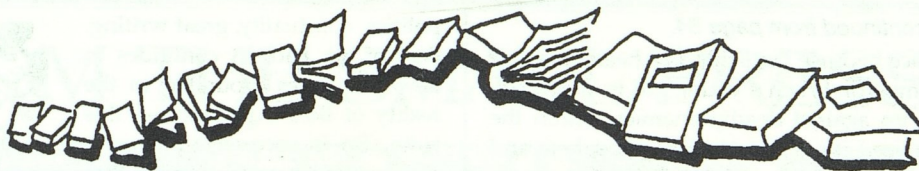
Amantha

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.



of *BookWomen* will feature recommendations from Martin of books "for coordinated mini-reads," books "across generations," and Martin's Five Favorites ("something old, new, fiction, true and poetry, too"). Martin also writes the popular "book gossip by Glenda" column in the *Minnesota Woman's Press* newspaper. The bimonthly, 28-page *BookWomen* is available for \$2 for 5+. *BookWomen*, Minnesota Women's Press, Inc., 771 Raymond Avenue, St. Paul MN 55114; 612-646-3968.



Volume XIV of the feminist literary magazine *13th Moon* is packed with fiction, poetry, drama, translation and more by first-time and occasional writers as well as established writers including Julia Alvarez, Esperanza Cintrón, Cheryl Clarke, Marilyn Hacker, Eileen Myles, Marge Piercy and Linda Smukler. 20% for 10+. \$10 pb. *13th Moon*, Department of English, University at Albany State, State University of New York, Albany NY 12222; 518-442-4181.

The Real Girls Papers is a neat little progressive/political monthly 'zine. Volume 1 Number 3 is on organizing a killer boycott. It gives lots of information and tips in its articles and reviews — plus addresses of organizations, news and miscellaneous tidbits of information. I like it a lot, but it is rather pricy for an eight-page, 8½" by 11" 'zine: \$2.50 each, but bookstores get a 40% discount. *The Real Girls Papers*, PO Box 13947, Berkeley CA 94712; e-mail (Rgirls@aol.com).

Metis: A Feminist Journal of Transformative Wisdom is named for the Greek Goddess of Wisdom. *Metis* remembers and calls forth a creative energy that integrates the wisdom of heart, body and mind. *Metis* is concerned with the role of knowledge and wisdom in women's lives. The first issue, Winter/Spring 1996, has an underlying theme of praxis, "the practical application or exercise of a branch of learning" and includes articles by Charlene Spretnak and Carol P.

Christ. *Metis* will be an annual publication for 1995–1996 and 1996–1997 and a biannual thereafter. \$10 pb, 1087-5433. *Metis*, Attention: Candice Chase/Editor, California Institute of Integral Studies, 9 Peter Yorke Way, San Francisco CA 94109; 415-674-5500, ext. 454, e-mail (candicec@ciis.edu). Distributed by BP.

So To Speak: A Feminist Journal of Language and Art is a biannual publication of poetry, fiction and personal essays. The editor's goal is to create an international forum for positive, empowering feminist voices. \$10/year/2 issues. *So To Speak*, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Sub 1 Room 254A, Fairfax VA 22030; 703-993-3625. *So To Speak* doesn't have a distributor at this time. —JT ○

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

Mysteries, continued from page 54.

imperial palace because her skills as a healer are valued by the emperor. When a young girl is murdered, Lady Aoi is up against deadly enemies within the court. *PW* praised its rich historical atmosphere and explicit feminism(!). \$5.99 pb, 0-380-78497-1, Avon.

If you decided to carry **In the Cut** by Susanna Moore in hardcover, you will probably want to pick up the paperback as well. For those who missed the hardcover, beware! **In the Cut** is a controversial, genuinely literary thriller so dark and chilling that it sent several friends into clinical mental states (panic, depression, disassociation). Moore is a truly gifted writer of mainstream novels who here uses the genre format to explore difficult issues, including the line between victimization and complicity. If you carry and sell disturbing literary fiction like Joyce Carol Oates' *Zombie* or A.M. Homes' *The End of Alice*, then you may want to try this. \$6.99 pb, 0-451-40722-9, Onyx.

Recent paperbacks in reliable series include **Hard Christmas** by Barbara D'Amato, in which investigative journalist Cat Marsala looks into a suspicious death on a Christmas tree farm (no kidding! \$5.99 pb, 0-425-15265-3, Berkley); and **The Oldest Sin** by Ellen Hart, latest in her "non-lesbian" series featuring food critic Sophie Greenway, who now owns a hotel (\$5.99 pb, 0-345-40202-2, Ballantine). **A Fall in Denver** by Sarah Andrews is the follow-up to *Tensleep*, featuring a woman geologist and lots of gritty atmosphere in the oil industry of the American West. (\$5.50 pb, 0-451-18793-8, Signet.) A complete unknown that looks interesting is **The Murder Lover** by Ellen Rawlings, in which a reporter investigates the murder of a young Jewish woman, and her suspicions fall on a white supremacist and a charismatic church. (\$5.99 pb, 0-449-14988-9, Fawcett.)

Abigail Padgett has a new hardcover and a new paperback in her outstanding series about manic-depressive social worker Bo Bradley. I'm halfway through **Moonbird Boy** and it's shaping up to be her best yet, effortlessly bringing together Kumeyaay Indian rituals, shark attacks, a multinational medical conspiracy, and of course murder. These books have everything:



politics, spirituality, great writing. Best of all, Padgett continues to keep the series grounded in the reality of Bo's experience — this time, Bo is recovering from a depressive episode — and that serves, like a compass, to keep the series on track. (\$5.99 pb, 0-446-40513-2, February, Mysterious Press/Warner.) In the new hardcover, **The Dollmaker's Daughter**, Bo investigates the case of a fearful fifteen-year-old who always carries a baby doll. (\$22 cl, 0-89296-614-9, February, Mysterious Press/Warner.)



Two women of color have new mysteries this Spring, both strong on sense of place. Carolina Garcia-Aguilera brings back her Cuban-American private eye in **Bloody Shame**, sequel to the well-received *Bloody Waters*. (The author was a private investigator in Miami, where she sets her books.) Critics praised the "feisty and engaging" heroine, who is surrounded by family and friends, including a sister who's a nun, and a cousin who serves as her assistant. (\$22.95 cl, 0-399-14256-8, February, Putnam.) **If I Should Die** by Grace Edwards introduces African American Maili Anderson, ex-cop and graduate student who never goes anywhere without her Great Dane, in a mystery set in Harlem. (\$21.95 cl, 0-385-48523-9, May, Doubleday.)

Linda Barnes brings back Boston cab driver/PI. Carlotta Carlyle in her first case since *Hardware*. In **Cold Case**, pages from a new manuscript are being sent to the family of Thea Janis, a young literary sensation who disappeared 24 years ago. The manuscript is unmistakably Thea's; but is she alive? I'm hooked already. \$20.95 cl, 0-385-30614-8, April, Delacorte/Dell.

This column usually sticks to fictional crime, but here's a true story made for feminist bookstores. **The Trials of Maria Barbella** by Idanna Pucci, translated by Stefania Fumo, is about the first woman sentenced to the electric chair, an Italian seamstress in 1895 New York. In a sensational and biased trial, she was convicted of killing the man who had raped her, promised to marry her, and was about to abandon her. Barbella's life was saved by the advocacy of an Italian countess. Critics called it "a crackling page-turner" that also explores the larger social issues raised by the case: class, prejudice, feminism, capital punishment, to name just the obvious. \$13 pb, 0-679-77604-4, March, Vintage/Random House. ○

FROM THE SMALL PRESSES

By Lisa McGowan

Our Names Are Many: The Black Woman's Book of Days is the project that Terri Jewell was working on when she died in 1995. Completed by her friend Stephanie Byrd and just published by The Crossing Press, this beautiful perpetual calendar contains numerous quotes and photos as well as herstorical facts for every day of the year. While the calendar does feature many photos of famous Black women, it was important to Terri that it also include images that "Black women do not see and would love to see more of — Black women who look like the Black women in our lives! The majority of us are not *visible* at all, even when we are standing in front of someone's eyes. These are women we Black women recognize and know so very well because they truly belong to us!" The daily facts are fascinating, the photos are striking, and the quotations inspiring and provocative — this is a wonderful book. \$15 pb, 0-89594-801-X.

The unexpected death of her husband left Tangea Tansley alternating between panic and despair, at a loss for how to move through this experience and get on with her life. **For Women Who Grieve: Embracing Life After the Death of Your Partner** is the book she wrote for other women who, like herself, have been surprised by the death of a (male) partner. The book addresses such issues as dealing with the grief of family and friends, with the legal and financial aspects of such a loss, and coping with one's

sexuality, in warm and friendly manner. A down-to-earth and practical guide to rediscovering the rewards of living. \$12.95 pb, -832-X.

The Herbal Menopause Book: Herbs, Nutrition & Other Natural Therapies by Amanda McQuade Crawford is a practical guide for those interested in natural therapies for menopausal conditions. The book devotes a chapter to each of four main areas of concern: premenopause, menopause, hormone replacement therapy and its related concerns, and postmenopause. Each chapter includes general discussions of conditions and their causes followed by effective natural health-care recommendations. Thorough and easy to use. \$16.95 pb, -799-4. The Crossing Press, PO Box 1048, Freedom CA 95019; 800-777-1048. Distributed by Ingram, B&T, BP.



Photo by Elizabeth Williams, in *Our Names Are Many* (Crossing Press).

"*Al-Fatat* is the only journal for women in the East; it expresses their thoughts, discloses their inner minds, fights for their rights, searches for their literature and science, and takes pride in publishing the products of their pens." So wrote Syrian Hind Nawfal in her editorial to the first issue of her journal, which was published on November 20, 1892. While it will undoubtedly be surprising to most Westerners, Arab women have a long tradition of publishing and feminism. Between 1892 and 1940, Arab women writers printed their own journals, in which they published poetry, fiction and criticism, as well as essays aimed at promoting women's role in society. This image of Arab women as strong, capable women who speak for themselves is in stark contrast with the contemporary Western stereotype, which casts these women as mere victims of the beastliness and backwardness of Arab men. **Arab Women: Between Defiance and Restraint** edited by Suha Sabbagh is a collection of essays that will do much to dispel this simplistic and reductive stereotype. While women in most Arab countries today do face constricting laws and social customs, the perpetuation of this stereotype denies Arab women

recognition for the serious daily battles that each wages to meet her needs in the fields of education, work and family. The Arab women writers in this collection examine feminism, women's education and daily lives, women's views of Islam and women Islamists, and women's roles in war and literature. The collection overall provides unprecedented insight to the complex realities facing the women of today's Middle East. \$18.95 pb, 1-56656-187-6; \$39.95 cl, 1-56656-199-X. Interlink Publishing Group, 46 Crosby St., Northampton MA 01060; 413-582-7054. Direct: 5+ copies for 40%. Distributed by Ingram, B&T.



Forget *Mutant Message Down Under*, a depiction of aboriginal culture that is officially listed as "fiction" but is portrayed by its author as fact: **Murawina: An Authentic Aboriginal Message** by Roberta Sykes is the real thing. In their own words, 34 Aboriginal women from both deeply traditional and urban communities tell of their experiences combatting racism, sexism, poverty and loss. Each piece opens with a black-and-white photograph of the woman profiled and a brief biographical sketch noting her accomplishments. These are followed by the women's life stories, told in their own words, which fascinate, move and inspire. \$18.95 pb, 0-9652539-0-2. Smith & Taylor, P.O. Box 2202, Aptos CA 95001; 408-462-5548. 2-10: 40%; 10 and over: 45%. Distributed by BP.

Featuring incisive, provocative and extremely well written original essays by gay, lesbian and bisexual writers born after 1969, **Generation Q** edited by Robin Bernstein and Seth Clark Silberman is an anthology which explores the experiences and perspectives of queers born at the beginning of the modern gay rights movement. In their essays the writers look at such subjects as family; pop culture; love in an age in which AIDS has always been a conspicuous presence; the use of pornography and other eroticized gazing in this age of dangerous sex; the violence present in their lives and their responses to it; and how the word queer, adopted by this generation to embrace lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgendered people, both unites and divides the community. Often stereotyped as politically apathetic, consumeristic, alienated and irreverent, the

NEW!

Clicking In

Hot Links to a Digital Culture

Edited by Lynn Hershman Leeson

Includes a free Macintosh and PC-compatible CD-ROM!

"With its all-star cast . . . (Clicking In) provides as wide-ranging and exciting an introduction to digital culture as a year's subscription to *Wired*."
—*Publishers Weekly*

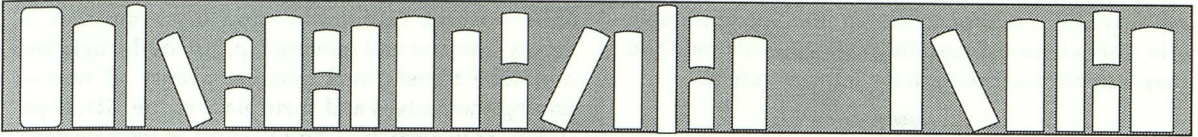
The contributors include Pattie Maes, Sandy Stone, Sherry Turkle, Sadie Plant, Söke Dinkla, Catherine Richards, Diana Gromala, Mette Strømfeldt, and more.

Available now
384 pages,
illustrated
\$24.95 paper
ISBN
0-941920-42-9

Bay Press books are distributed to the trade by the LPC Group/Inbook
1436 W. Randolph Street, Chicago, IL 60607
Phone orders 800.626.4330 or 800.243.0138
Fax orders 800.334.3892

Bay Press

115 West Denny Way, Seattle, WA 98119-4205
E-mail Bay Press@aol.com



young writers in this anthology portray themselves as an articulate and thoughtful generation. \$11.95 pb, 1-55583-356-X.

Lucy on the West Coast and Other Lesbian Short Fiction by Mary Beth Caschetta is a collection of delicately woven yet powerful stories featuring distinctly individual women facing the vagaries of contemporary life. "These beautiful stories, haunted and haunting, mark the debut of a bold new literary voice. In Mary Beth Caschetta's vivid fictions, Catholic fervor, lesbian longings, and the shapes and voices of the dead all mingle with scrupulous regard for the ordinary rhythms and nuances of life. The result is mysterious, unsettling, and absolutely convincing." —Paul Russell, *Sea of Tranquility*. A first book, a short story collection, a hardcover: three reasons you might be inclined to skip this book. If, however, you can handsell good fiction, you really should give this a chance. It's wonderful. \$18.95 cl, -374-8.

In brief (two to four pages) first-person pieces, the women contributors to **Early Embraces: True-Life Stories of Women Describing their First Lesbian Experience** edited by Lindsey Elder write about their first sexual experience with a woman. The pieces reflect all the passion, humor and awkwardness that are an integral part of "the first time." An illuminating look at just how lesbians begin the process of exploring their sexuality. Featured in the Feminist Bookstores' Fall Catalog. \$11.95 pb, -354-3.

Alyson has just released a paperback edition of **Amnesty**, the acclaimed novel by Lambda Literary Award nominee Louise A. Blum. "A superbly written chronicle of a soul's passage through the dark caverns of a childhood riddled with psychological pitfalls and emotional abandonment." —*Rapport*. \$9.95 pb, -381-0. Alyson Publications, 6922 Hollywood Blvd., Ste. 1000, Los Angeles CA 90028; 213-871-1225. Distributed by Consortium.

Described by Octavia E. Butler as her "pregnant man story," "Bloodchild," which explores the paradoxes of power and inequality, is a good introduction

to the richly imaginative and provocative work of this award-winning African American science fiction writer. It is also the title piece of **Bloodchild and Other Stories**, just out in paperback. Butler is renown for her sharp, literate and lucid prose and her exploration of feminist and racial themes. A brief afterword follows each story in this collection. Here, Butler discusses the impetus of the stories, what she was thinking about when she wrote them, and what she intended to convey. These provide a fascinating glimpse into the mind and methods of this uniquely talented author. \$10 pb, 1-888363-36-3. Seven Stories Press, 632 Broadway, 7th F., New York NY 10012; 212-995-0908. Distributed by PGW.



Blue Monday, a psychological suspense novel by Charlotte Higgins. \$11.95 pb, 0-9650608-0-2. Sky Ladder Press, PO Box 151346, San Rafael CA 94901; 415-453-5885. Distributed by BP. I'm giving you all the details at the beginning because now I'm going to commit the offense of giving away the secret of the book. I do this because I think it's an important element which may make a difference in your decision of whether or not to stock it. The book opens with the suicide of a 23-year-old woman, Carrie Covington, who jumps off the Golden Gate Bridge. This comes as a total surprise to her mother, Margaret, who returns to San Francisco to find out how this could have happened. Margaret sets off on a quest to piece together the last months of Carrie's life and learns that her deep unhappiness had its roots in her adolescence: Margaret's (now deceased) husband had sexually abused Carrie from the time she was eleven until she was in her early 20s. As the details of Carrie's life are slowly revealed, the reader comes to know and care about this young woman; to feel her despair as well as anger and outrage that this should happen to her, and that those that should have been protecting her just weren't there. I thought I was picking up a light

mystery and was instead drawn into this sensitively told story about a devastating subject. Well done. You may also want to shelve in the lesbian section.



Arte Público Press, a publisher which focuses on Hispanic women's literature, has a number of recent books out that are of interest. **Suffer Smoke** by Elena Díaz Björkquist is a compelling collection of tales which reveals the lives and culture of the Mexican families that were recruited to work in the copper mining town of Morenci, Arizona. While this book is a work of fiction, four generations of the author's family worked in the mines at Morenci and so she is able to bring this piece of recent history to life. The town was razed by the company in the late 60s to expand the open pit mine, obliterating over 90 years of Morenci's history and culture. Björkquist's lucid, ardent stories about the families and the lives they created in this town portray a people's battle for equality and dignity. \$11.95 pb, 1-55885-168-2. **The Red Camp** by Debra Díaz is a collection of inter-connected short stories which relates the life of one family in a California barrio. In richly textured and enchanting narratives, the women of the Cruz family — Carmen and her daughters Emily, Gloria, Rita and Laura — tell of their lives and hopes in the Red Camp

amid poverty, exploitation and discrimination. A deeply humane and moving tapestry of the ugly and mundane transformed into the beauty of women finding themselves and their place in life. \$11.95 pb, -169-0. **Stowaway** by Carol Códoba is the true story of Nicolás Códoba's attempt to smuggle his way from his native Columbia into the United States in a submerged airpocket above the rudder of an oil tanker. Discovered by frogmen working with the police and customs agents, he landed in prison where he met and eventually married his G.E.D. teacher, Carol Códoba, who has become the chronicler of his life and the advocate for his release. \$19.95 cl, -166-6.

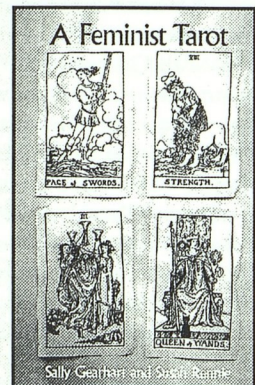
Firefly Summer and **Fitting In** are two new YA titles in the Piñata Books imprint from Arte Público, an imprint launched in 1994 to provide literary materials for children and young adults that authentically portray themes, characters and customs unique to U.S. Hispanic culture. In **Firefly Summer**, written in the 40s by Afro Puerto Rican librarian and children's author Pura Belpré, Teresa and her best friend Mercedes unravel a mystery while spending the summer on her parents' plantation. Relating the traditional rites and celebrations that mark the passing seasons of the year as well as various stages in people's lives, **Firefly Summer** is a delightful and poetic recreation of life in rural Puerto Rico at the turn of the century. \$7.95 pb, -180-1; \$14.95 cl, -174-7. Drawing on her own experience of immigrating to the United States from Cuba

"This is a powerful and important book, a timeless book, its impact not diminished over the years.... A classic." —Diane Stein



available from
alyson books

\$9.95
1-55583-393-4





with her family in 1961, Anilú Bernardo's **Fitting In** is a poignant collection of short stories about Cuban immigrant girls coming of age on the fragile bridge between two cultures. \$7.95 pb, -173-9; \$14.95 cl, -176-3. Arte Público Press, University of Houston, 4800 Calhoun, Houston TX 77204; 800-633-2783. Distributed by Ingram, B&T, BP.

Claribel Alegría's **Thresholds/Umbrales**, a lyric meditation in nine parts, distills the life and thought of this beloved Salvadoran poet whose work spans nearly fifty years. Richly symbolic, this poem celebrates the joy of poetry but also evokes the trauma of Latin American history. While Alegría's work has long been taught in universities in the United States, her appearance on Bill Moyers' "Language of Life" series last year brought her to the attention of a much wider audience. This bilingual edition will enhance the reputation of this deeply engaged poet who has been a major voice in the struggle for liberation in El Salvador and Central America. \$10.95 pb, 1-880684-36-5. Curbstone Press, 321 Jackson Street, Willimantic CT 06226; 860-423-5110. Distributed by Consortium.

Poet and writer Denise Levertov's **Tesserae: Memories & Suppositions** is a collection of brief, brilliantly drawn remembrances organized chronologically to create a unique self-portrait. Tesserae are the small individual pieces of glass or stone that make up a mosaic. As in any good mosaic, these collected fragments reflect light at different angles, giving this memoir its living complexity. "As in her poetry Levertov's descriptions and characterizations can be flawless; her ability to relate an incident is at once timeless and immediate, boundless and searingly personal." —*Publishers Weekly*. \$9.95 pb, 0-8112-1337-4.

Selected Crônicas by Brazilian novelist and short story writer Clarice Lispector is another work of unconventional autobiography. The chronicle is a literary genre peculiar to Brazil which allows poets and novelists to address a wide readership on any topic or theme they like. Available for the first time in the U.S.,

this book is a miscellaneous collection of aphorisms, diary entries, reminiscences, travel notes, interviews, serialized stories and essays and gives English speaking readers a new perspective on "the premier Latin American prose writer of this century." —*The New York Times Book Review*. \$12.95 pb, -1340-4.

Proper Names and Other Stories by Bernadette Mayer collects for the first time the stories of this innovative writer who the *San Francisco Chronicle* describes as, "a well-kept secret everywhere but on the fringes of the literary avant-garde — where she's already at least a semi-deity." In these stories Mayer finds both endless difficulty and endless delight in the diversity and disorder of everyday experience. \$13.95 pb, -1325-0. New Directions Publishing, 80 Eighth Ave., New York NY 10011; 212-255-0230. Distributed by W. W. Norton.



American Notebooks: A Writer's Journey by Marie Claire-Blais is the fascinating autobiographical account of this widely acclaimed Quebec author's growth to maturity as a writer. In 1963 Blais won a Guggenheim fellowship and traveled to Cambridge, Massachusetts to begin her writer's apprenticeship with Edmund Wilson, her mentor. Here, in 51 episodic "notebooks," she creates a rich album of portraits of the writers, artists, intellectuals and activists who find their way into her circle of companions, including Mary Meigs, Maud Morgan, Truman Capote and Barbara Deming. \$13.95 pb, 0-88922-358-0.

While we now think of saints as kind, gentle souls, there is an older tradition of saints as obnoxious strong-minded rabble-rousers who battle against authority in order to serve their cause. The "saint" in the title of **Saint Frances of Hollywood: A Play in Two Acts** by Sally Clark hails from this earlier interpretation of the term. Frances Farmer was an idealistic, raucous and non-conforming movie star who was pursued by the U.S. government for her alleged communist connections and was finally

From Cybergrrrl to Wired Woman

Just a taste of what Bookpeople has in stock for the savvy and the curious:

- The Internet For Women Rye Senjen, Spinifex Press 1-875559-52-3 \$16.95
Wired Women: Gender and Cyberspace Lynn Cherny, Seal Press 1-878067-73-7 \$16.00
Nearly Roadkill: Infobahn Erotic Caitlin Sullivan, Serpent's Tail 1-85242-418-4 \$13.99
Your Creative Rights in the Digital Age Catherine Kirkman, N.A.L. 0-452-27689-6 \$12.95

You can always count on Bookpeople to come through with:

Over 30,000 Titles

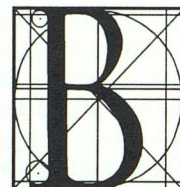
Our selection represents more publishers than any other independent wholesaler.

Over 3,000 Publishers

From bestselling Trade to hard-to-find Independent presses and everything in-between, plus regional hits and thousands of calendars, we have what you need.

Outstanding Service

As always, orders received by noon ship that day, with next day delivery for most of California. We extend free freight to California orders of 100 units or more.



BOOKPEOPLE

Employee-Owned & Operated

7900 Edgewater Dr.
Oakland, CA 94621

Orders—(toll free) 1-800-999-4650

Fax—(510) 632-1281

WWW—<http://www.bponline.com>

incarcerated at a Seattle psychiatric hospital, where she was "cured" by lobotomy. Sally Clark's dramatization of Farmer's life encompasses the primary obsessions of the 20th century — atheism, Communism, media manipulation and psychiatry. The book includes eight pages of color set designs from the play. \$11.95 pb, -366-1. Talonbooks, #104 - 3100 Production Way, Burnaby B. C. V5A 4R4 Canada; 604-444-4889. Distributed by LPC Group.

First published in 1990, **Cleaned Out**, Annie Ernaux's tough and uncompromising novel about abortion, growing up, and coming to terms with one's childhood, has just been reissued. "*Cleaned Out* is more than a powerful evocation of the class system in France in the 1950s and of one woman's struggle to move up in the class hierarchy and forget her past. It is also a novel that serves as a haunting contribution, both in subject matter and literary form, to the project of the culturally disenfranchised speaking in their own voice." —*Bloomsbury Review*. \$10.95 pb, 1-26478-

139-9. Dalkey Archive Press, Illinois State University, Campus Box 4241, Normal IL 61790; 309-438-7555. Distributed by Chicago Distribution Center; 800-621-2736. Also available at Ingram.

Serpent's Tail / High Risk Books is reissuing two of Lydia Davis' titles in paperback. In **Break it Down**, her debut collection of short stories, Davis' keen and certain prose style seems to assure the reader that reality is orderly and reasonable. But as the characters in her books, sympathetic in their fallibility, contend with themselves and others, it becomes clear that for them misunderstanding is inherent in daily life and the language thereof. \$12.99 pb, 1-85242-421-4. An unnamed woman attempts to piece together the fragments of an unresolved love affair and turn them into a novel in **The End of the Story**. "A marvelously rich meditation on the writing process and the mutability of memory." —*Boston Globe*. \$12.99 pb, -420-6.

The stories in **Back Rubs: Transitional Tales by Women** edited by Alison Campbell, Caroline Hallett,

Jenny Palmer and Joanna Rosenthal are about celebrating change, marking change and separating out a "still point" where one can savour and mourn what has passed and is lost and celebrate what is about to become. Grappling primarily with internal transformations and changes of identity, the characters in these stories confront polygamy, death, orgasm, gender-bending, puberty, separation and the borders of madness. \$13.99 pb, -394-3.

Originally published in 1932, Olive Moore's *Fugue* is the story of one woman's struggle to resolve the relationship between artistic and biological reproduction, exile, and the (for Moore) puzzling dependence of women on men. Olive Moore is the pseudonym of Constance Vaughan, a journalist, writer, and onetime member of the Bloomsbury circle whose writing has been compared to that of Djuna Barnes and Jean Rhys. \$13.99 pb, -304-8. Serpent's Tail, 180 Varick Street, 10th Fl., New York NY 10014; 212-741-0424. Distributed by Consortium.

Red Jordan Arobateau (*Lucy and Mickey, Dirty Pictures*) has carved herself a niche as a foremost chronicler of working class dyke life. *Boys Night Out* is her new collection of stories: no sweet romances here; these stories reveal a gritty, tough existence rarely described by other writers. \$6.50 pb, 1-56333-463-1. Rosebud/Masquerade Books, Distributed by BP, Alamo Square.

Body & Soul: Sexuality on the Brink of Change by Anne Stirling Hastings identifies how sexual shame and unease are culturally driven. Addressing such subjects as specific ways to overcome sexual addictions, fears and misconceptions; why so many people can only address sexual issues through humor; the effects of childhood sexual experiences, including rape and incest; and how the cultural shaming of homosexuality multiplies the effects of sexual shaming received by all, Hastings helps the reader distinguish the deep-seated roots of the shame and anxiety our culture so often associates with sexual behavior and thought. \$26.95 cl, 0-306-45400-9. Insight Books/Plenum Press, 233 Spring St., New York NY 10013; 212-620-8000. Distributed by B&T, Ingram.

According to *Accepting Ourselves & Others: A Journey into Recovery from Addictive and Compulsive Behavior for Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals*

by Sheppard B. Kominars, Ph.D. and Kathryn D. Kominars, Ph.D., lesbians, gay men and bisexual people develop addictive and compulsive behavior at a rate three times that of heterosexuals; often, their recovery issues differ significantly. This revision and expansion of *Accepting Ourselves* (Harper & Row, 1989) offers a broad range of materials with a positive, intimate, lesbian/gay friendly perspective for those seeking to recover from addictive and compulsive behaviors. The book is based on the 12-step model and includes many exercises that will be especially helpful to people living outside urban centers who may not have access to such programs. \$18.95 pb, 1-56838-120-4. Hazelden Publishing Group, PO Box 176, Center City MN 55012; 612-257-4010. Order direct: 45%, no minimum.



The essays in *Our Gift of Love: Personal Stories of Breast Cancer Courage* by Hollister & Company (a group of breast cancer survivors) describe almost all aspects of the breast cancer experience — from recollections of the first moment of diagnosis to difficult decisions regarding treatment and reconstruction to practical advice about living with uncertainty to the struggle to come to terms with metastasized cancer. The writers relate how they have coped with the disease and its attack on the body and spirit. Family members also offer their insight on dealing with the disease in their families. "This is a powerful collection of women telling the truth of their lives. It is brave, honest, and loving. If there is to be healing among us, it will come from the personal strength of stories like these." —Terry Tempest Williams. \$14.95 pb, 0-87905-791-2. Gibbs Smith Publisher, 1877 E. Gentile St., Layton UT 84041; 801-544-9800. Distributed by B&T.

Books like *Reviving Ophelia: Saving the Selves of Adolescent Girls* and *Schoolgirls: Young Women, Self-Esteem and the Confidence Gap* brought much popular attention to the severe pressures and dangers that diminish girls' self-esteem as they approach adolescence. *Celebrating Girls: Nurturing and Empowering Our Daughters* by Virginia Beane Rutter takes this discussion one step further, offering a wide variety of everyday ways one can strengthen a girl's sense of

Generation Q

edited by Robin Bernstein and
Seth Clark

Cutting-edge insights from the members of Generation Q—queers born after or shortly before the Stonewall riots of 1969—who have inherited a joyously visible and powerfully diverse culture. This anthology is the first to collect the unique perspectives and experiences of young queers.

PB \$11.95
1-55583-356-X

ALYSON PUBLICATIONS

Graywolf Forum 1

*Tolstoy's Dictaphone:
Technology and the Muse*

edited by Sven Birkerts

In the tradition of the *Graywolf Annual Series*, the first *Graywolf Forum* presents opinions from a wide array of literary writers, this time on the role of individual creativity in the technological age.

PB \$16.00
1-55597-248-9

GRAYWOLF PRESS

Distributed by

Consortium Book Sales & Distribution
1045 Westgate Drive, Suite 90
Saint Paul, MN 55114

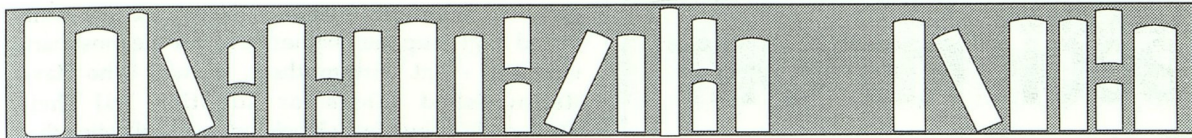
800-283-3572

autonomy, instill pride in being female, and ensure confidence throughout her lifetime. Featured in the Feminist Bookstores' Fall Catalog. \$10.95 pb, 1-57324-053-2.

Facing Fear, Finding Courage: Your Path to Peace of Mind by Sarah Quigley with Marilyn Shroyer, Ph.D. is a guidebook that teaches readers to work with and through fear, rather than against and around it. The authors, both of whom lead workshops on facing fear, provide proven suggestions, techniques, encouraging quotes and essays that can help those crippled by chronic fears. It can also help people whose self-confidence masks fears that prevent them from feeling truly fulfilled. \$10.95 pb, 0-943233-72-0.

No Mountain High Enough: Secrets of Successful African American Women by Dorothy Ehrhart-Morrison, Ph.D. profiles 32 successful Black American women; it looks at their life circumstances to reveal the factors involved in their success. Little has been written on successful Black women (apart from Black women entertainers) thus far. The premise of this book is that solutions to poverty and the problems of the Black underclass in America are much more likely to be found by researching the lives of Black Americans who have succeeded than by following the general method of social scientists who tend to focus exclusively on those who have failed. The women in this book, raised by loving and supportive families and extended families that fostered self esteem, ambition, honor and a sense of responsibility, have a great deal to say about what it takes to make personal dreams come true. Available in early February. \$14.95 pb, -98-4. Conari Press, 2550 Ninth St., Ste. 101, Berkeley CA 94710; 510-649-7175. Distributed by PGW.

Another book that explores the role of Black women and families is **The Strength of Our Mothers: African & African American Women & Families**, an anthology of essays and speeches by Niará Sudarkasa. Over the years female-headed families have been among the most maligned and misunderstood of all Black families. The author's experience — and that of many other African American professionals — says otherwise: the successes of African Americans can be attributed in large measure to the strength of their mothers, the stability of their households, and the support of the extended families around them. The author also explores the genesis of the African American family, a synthesis of African cultural patterns put through



the mill of enslavement and the pressure-cooker of poverty. \$18.95 pb, 0-86543-497-2. Africa World Press, PO Box 1892, Trenton NJ 08607; 609-844-9583. Order direct: 10+ copies for 40%, bookseller pays shipping.

No Fat Chicks: How Women are Brainwashed to Hate Their Bodies and Spend Their Money by journalist Terry Poulton examines how propaganda put out by the weight and beauty industries (with annual profits of \$43 billion in North America) turns prejudice into profit while creating an epidemic of eating disorders that now affects more than 11 million girls and women in the U.S. and Canada alone. Well-written and researched, this book has been recommended by a friend of FBN who calls it, "A women's issue book with a strong feminist vein" and says it has an "interesting starting point, assuming fat acceptance and a fat positive viewpoint." \$22.95 pb, 1-55013-740-9. Key Porter Books, 70 The Esplanade, Toronto ONT M5E 1R2 Canada; 416-862-7777. Distributed in Canada by General Distribution Services. Available in the U.S. in Fall 1997, when it will be published by Carol Publishing Group.

WritersCorps is a federally funded community service program in which poets and writers from diverse backgrounds lead workshops with groups such as the homeless, at-risk youth, incarcerated women, substance abusers, children and adults living with mental illness, and women and children in temporary shelters from domestic violence. **I Have Arrived Before My Words: The Autobiographical Writings of Homeless Women** edited by Deborah Pugh and Jeanie Tietjen is a collection of writings from five women who were homeless and two women who were their teachers in this program. The women in the workshop come from a variety of backgrounds and, while they share some common experiences (homelessness, substance abuse, sexual abuse), their stories — and the voices they tell them in — are distinctly different. In the workshop the women learn that the power to speak one's experience is the beginning of the power to change one's world. A fascinating, unique and humane book that opens a

window on the often glimpsed yet seldom understood issue of homelessness. \$14 pb, 0-9647124-2-3. Charles River Press, 427 Old Town Court, Alexandria VA 22314; 703-519-3544. Direct: 2+ copies for 45%, free freight. Distributed by BP, B&T.

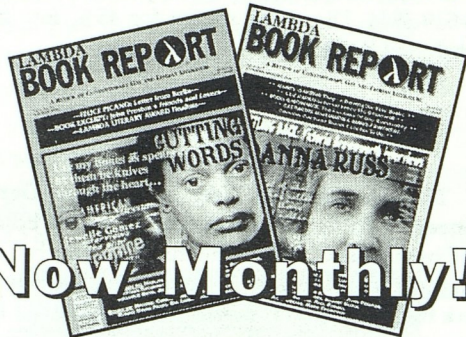


The Sex Side of Life: Mary Ware Dennett's Pioneering Battle for Birth Control and Sex Education by Constance Chen is the first biography of this extremely accomplished yet little-known woman whose work had a profound impact on this country's history. Dennett (1872–1947) left a career as a leading figure in the American Arts and Crafts Movement after an emotional divorce and embarked on a new life of public service. She was a suffragette, a peace activist, a founding member of the National Civil Liberties Bureau (later to become the American Civil Liberties Union), and a crusader for the right to obtain and distribute information about contraception. It was Mary Ware Dennett, not Margaret Sanger (as is widely credited), who founded the National Birth Control League. Her 1915 pamphlet, "The Sex Side of Life: An Explanation for Young People," written to give young people the "self control that is born of knowledge, not fear, the good taste and finesse that will make their sex life, when they reach maturity, a vitalizing success" was widely distributed by doctors, parents, church leaders, social workers and teachers. Because of this pamphlet, Dennett was charged with obscenity in a trial that became a landmark case in censorship law. "A beautiful and moving account of a remarkable woman. Completes yet one more missing tile in the mosaic of women's history." —Boston Women's Health Book Collective. \$25 cl; 1-56584-132-8. The New Press, 450 W. 41st St., New York NY 10036; 212-629-8802. Distributed by W. W. Norton.

Each year hundreds of thousands of women surrender babies for adoption. While much has been written about adoption from the perspectives of the

LAMBDA BOOK REPORT

**THE LOVE THAT DARE NOT
SAY ITS NAME NOW SPEAKS
WITH A THOUSAND VOICES**



Now Monthly!

2000 lesbian and gay titles are published every year; let *Lambda Book Report* reviews guide you and your customers to all the new fiction, politics, poetry, drama, erotica and non-fiction.

Recent/upcoming interviews:

- Achy Obejas
- Linda Smukler
- Victoria Brownworth
- Nancy Bereano

Plus "On Publishing" • "Behind the Scenes" • and Kathleen DeBold's ever-popular "Wordgaymes" puzzles

\$4.95/issue

Available through: Anderson, Armadillo, Bookazine, Bookpeople, Desert Moon, Don Olson, Doormouse, Fine Print, Ingram, Koen, Small Changes & Ubiquity

The 9th Annual Lambda Literary Awards will be held in Chicago, IL, May 30, 1997. Call 202-462-7924 for nominating form, Lammy & subscription information.

child and the adoptive parents, the women who were forced to give up their babies have, for the most part, remained silent. **Birthmothers: Women Who Have Relinquished Babies for Adoption Tell Their Stories** edited by Merry Block Jones is a collection that gives voice to these woman too long hidden from view. In candid and compelling accounts, more than 70 women who differ from one another in age, background and personality, relate their experience of giving birth to a baby and relinquishing that child for adoption. The stories are filled with anguish, rage, grief, fear and shame, and should dispel many commonly held stereotypes and prejudices about birthmothers. \$14.95 pb, 1-55652-300-9. Chicago Review Press, 814 N. Franklin St., Chicago IL 60610; 312-337-0747. Distributed by Independent Publishers Group. Also available from Ingram, B&T.

A Small Bit of Bread and Butter: Letters from the Dakota Territory 1832-1869 edited by Maida Leonard Riggs is a vivid and dramatic depiction of the life of her great grandmother, Mary Ann Longley Riggs. The mid- to late- 1800s were a time of great turmoil in the history of the west — entire tribes of Native Americans were being displaced, their way of life destroyed by U.S. government policies. In over 250 letters written to her grandfather, parents, siblings children and friends Mary Ann Longley provides an intimate account of one woman's life with her husband and children as they worked with the Dakota Sioux. \$17.95 pb, 1-886172-22-6. Ash Grove Press, 19A Elm Street, South Deerfield MA 01373; 800-834-4200. Distributed by LPC Group.



Women in the Mines: Stories of Life and Work by Marat Moore is a collection of two dozen oral histories of coalfield women from 1914 to 1994. Early women miners describe handloading coal to help their families survive. The 70s generation talks about sexual harassment, community attitudes, pregnancy, health and safety, racism, aging and unemployment. The stories demonstrate the strength and resilience of women who accepted the challenge of nontraditional work and the changes in their lives brought by that decision. Illustrated with documentary photographs



and complemented by a historical introduction, afterword and appendices, this book describes a unique and important chapter in U.S. social and labor history. \$32.95 cl, 0-8057-7834-9. Twayne Publishers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Macmillan (and sold by the Macmillan General Reference division), 1633 Broadway, New York NY 10019; 800-428-5331.

In 1986 a minister in the small Florida town of Lake City tried to get the school board to ban a high school humanities text book that contained *Lysistrata* and "The Miller's Tale" because, he claimed, they promoted women's lib and pornography. **Stifled Laughter: One Woman's Story about Fighting Censorship** by Claudia Johnson is the authors story of her struggle to restore literary classics to the public classrooms of rural north Florida. "...a deeply personal, wry, funny, intelligent account of how a woman decided to stand up for freedom of expression." —*The Atlanta Journal Constitution*. \$14.95 pb, 1-55591-337-7. Fulcrum Publishing, 350 Indiana St., Ste. 350, Golden CO, 80401; 800-992-2908. Distributed by B&T, Ingram.



Olympics Out of Cobb Spiked by Pat Hussain and Jon-Ivan Weaver tells the story of how a group of lesbian, gay and other human rights activists took on the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games over their decision to hold women's volleyball events in Cobb County, where the County Commission had previously passed a resolution stating that "lifestyles advocated by the gay community...are incompatible with the standards to which this community subscribes and are directly contrary to state laws." A dramatic story, told with immediacy by two people who spearheaded the protest. "Imagine a ragtag bunch of queers standing up to the biggest of big-money politico-athletic cartels in the world — and winning." —*The Village Voice*. \$19.96 cl, 1-883793-18-1. Hussain/Weaver, PO Box 29487, Atlanta GA 30359;

770-663-7145. Available direct only: 10% for 2-4 copies; 30% for 5-9 copies, 40% for 10+ copies. Bookseller pays shipping. Orders also accepted by fax (404-212-9060) and e-mail (OOCSpiked@aol.com).

Poetically written by Jen Benka and illustrated with engaging black and white art by Kris Dresen, **Falling** is a comic that portrays an one woman's response to a close friend dying of AIDS and facing her own mortality. This comic is the third by the author/artist team to feature the young female character, Many. \$3.50 pb, no ISBN. Vagabond Press, 2300 N. Clybourn Ave., Ste. 2, Chicago IL 60614; 312-862-6345. 50% discount, no minimum for direct orders. Publisher pays shipping. Also available from Last Gasp, 777 Florida St., San Francisco CA 94110; 415-824-6636.

Based on a detailed study of the European Union's policy on women's rights, **Integrating Gender: Women, Law and Politics in the European Union** by Catherine Hoskyns draws together approaches from international relations and feminist theory to develop a powerful critique. "This important book provides the first full-length study of a crucial and fascinating subject. It explores the unexpected development — within the distanced bureaucracy of the European Commission — of policies for women's equality, and assesses the impact of women's organizations on this development." —Anne Phillips, Professor of Politics, London Guildhall University. \$20.00 pb, 1-85984-078-7; \$65.00 cl, -953-9.

Mapping the Women's Movement: Feminist Politics and the Social Transformation in the North edited by Monica Threlfall is a collection of essays that provides key pointers on the political and ideological forces that shape women's lives today. \$19.00 pb, -120-1; \$60.00 cl, -984-9. Verso, 180 Varick St., New York NY 10014; 212-807-9680. Distributed by W. W. Norton.

Violence against Women in South Africa: State Response to Domestic Violence and Rape, a publication of Human Rights Watch/Africa and the Human

Rights Watch Women's Rights Project, is a bleak report on the status of women in this country where it is estimated that one in every three women will be raped and that one in six women is in an abusive domestic relationship. South African women victims of violence, regardless of race, are treated with hostility or indifference by a criminal justice system that is often ignorant of the laws protecting women from violence. While the South African government has pledged to address these human rights violations against women and has even launched some encouraging initiatives, their response remains sporadic and often discriminatory. \$10 pb, 1-56432-162-2.

In a 1989 report, the most recent year for which nationwide statistics are available, the Chinese government's own statistics showed that the majority of abandoned children admitted to China's orphanages were dying in institutional care. **Death by Default: A Policy of Fatal Neglect in China's State Orphanages** by Human Rights Watch/Asia documents the pattern of cruelty, abuse and malign neglect that is pervasive in China's orphanages. \$20 pb, -163-0. Human Rights Watch, 485 Fifth Avenue, New York NY 10017; 212-

986-1980. Available direct only: 10% for 1-4 copies; 30% for 5-49 copies; returnable.



An Intimacy of Equals: Lesbian Feminist Ethics edited by Lilian Mohin is a collection of essays that examine the ways lesbians can, should, and do interact with mainstream culture, and what (if anything) they gain through those connections. Many of the essays included here first appeared in *Gossip*, a British journal that was in print from 1986 until 1988 and whose mission was to reactivate a radical lesbian feminist movement that the publishers felt was being subsumed into existing heterosexual systems. The essays, on subjects such as religion, psychology, sexual practice, femininity, disability and community, are original and provocative. Lilian Mohin is the woman behind Britain's Onlywomen Press. \$19.95 pb, 1-56023-881-X.

Addressing a long-neglected but important topic, **Classism and Feminist Therapy: Counting**

Subscribe!

Check all the boxes you can and mail to Feminist Bookstore News, P.O. Box 882554, San Francisco CA 94188 or fax 415-626-8970. Please make checks payable to Feminist Bookstore News.

Name _____
 Business Name or Affiliation _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

- 1 year — \$70. * Check enclosed.
- 1 year — \$75. Bill us.
- Plus \$20 for international postage.
- Plus \$10 for Canadian postage.
- Half year — \$35.
- Sample copy — \$6.

- Publicist
- Reader/Bibliophile
- Writer
- Other _____

- General independent
- Alternative/political
- Spiritual, Wiccan, New Age

I am/We are:

- Bookseller (see also column 3)
- Publisher
- Periodical
- Librarian

Bookstores, Publishers, and Periodicals:

Is your focus primarily:

- Feminist
- Lesbian
- Lesbian & Gay
- Gay

Bookstores:

We have one store only
 Multiple locations: # of stores: _____
 Owned by:
 women men both
 _____% of stock by/for/about women
 _____% of staff are women
 Year opened: 19 _____

*Individual and single store rates



the **Costs** edited by Marcia Hill and Esther D. Rothblum covers the intersection of race, class and gender and how it applies to therapy. This book will help therapists be more aware of their own class biases, helping them to provide treatment that is more sensitive to women's class backgrounds and, therefore, more effective. \$14.95 pb, 1-56203-092-4; \$34.95 cl, 1-56024-801-7.

Gay and Lesbian Mental Health: A Sourcebook for Practitioners edited by Christopher J. Alexander, Ph.D. is a practical guide for health care professionals that covers eleven principle issues that lesbians, gay men and bisexuals may face during their lifetimes; it also offers suggestions and steps for effective intervention, support and guidance. \$24.95 cl, 1-56023-879-8.

In the anthology **Lesbian Therapists and Their Therapy: From Both Sides of the Couch** edited by Nancy David, M.D., Ellen Cole, M.D. and Esther D. Rothblum, Ph.D., the authors describe how being a lesbian has affected their own therapy — as a client and as a therapist — to enable other lesbian therapists to work more effectively with lesbian clients. \$9.95 pb, 1-56023-082-7; \$24.95 cl, 1-56024-800-9.

Sexual Identity on the Job: Issues and Services edited by Alan L. Ellis, Ph.D. and Ellen D. B. Riggle, Ph.D. offers suggestions for creating a positive psychological environment of inclusion for all workers, accomplished through policies of non-discrimination, the availability of domestic partner benefits, and solid efforts to eliminate on-the-job discrimination towards lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender people. \$12.95 pb, 156023-076-2.

Educating readers about the special needs of lesbian and gay patients, **Health Care for Lesbians and Gay Men: Confronting Homophobia and Heterosexism** edited by K. Jean Peterson, DSW provides an overview of critical health care issues for lesbians and gay men and offers concrete suggestions for addressing these issues in order to guarantee the best care for patients and clients. \$9.95 pb, 1-56023-079-7. Harrington Park Press [an imprint of the Haworth

Press] 10 Alice St., Binghamton NY 13904; 607-722-5857. Distributed by Koen, New Leaf, B&T, Ingram.



The Rape Reference: A Resource for People at Risk edited by Maureen Harrison and Steve Gilbert is exactly what it says it is: a well organized, easy-to-use source of information on America's plague of sexual violence. Part one contains U.S. rape laws, listed state by state, translated from legalese into plain English. This is followed by chapters on rape statistics, a very complete list of books for the lay reader on every aspect of rape as well as other forms of sexual violence, a thorough glossary of rape terms, and a list of rape hotlines across the country. An important resource. \$16.95 pb, 1-880780-07-0. Excellent Books, P.O. Box 927105, San Diego, CA 92192; 619-598-5069. 3+ copies for 40%.

Beyond Gay or Straight: Understanding Sexual Orientation by Jan Clausen (*Sinking, Stealing, The Prosperine Papers*), the latest in Chelsea House's Issues in Lesbian and Gay Life series, explores how sexual categories developed through history, and how our current definitions relate to old ideas about sex and nature. Clausen presents a straightforward, well-crafted discussion on the significance of sex and its relationship to gender across cultures and through time — from ancient Greek homoeroticism to the Native American *berdache* tradition, and from the fiction of Radclyffe Hall to the 90s 'zine scene. In addition to historical and anthropological perspectives, Clausen examines the most recent scientific research into the possible biological roots of sexual orientation, as well as scientific criticisms of those claims. While the book is accessibly written for teens, it will be of interest to anyone concerned with understanding sexual orientation. \$12.95 pb, 0-7910-2956-5; \$24.95 cl, -2606-X. Chelsea House Publishers, 1974 Sproul Road #400, Broomall PA 19008; 610-353-5166. Distributed by National Book Network. Available through Ingram, B&T.

The illness and eventual death from AIDS of David, the brother of Liz and John Sherblom prompted, for first time, discussions of sexuality, homosexuality and AIDS in their family. **Much More Than Sexuality: Listening to 70 Gay People Talk About Their Lives**, a collection of first-person accounts of lesbians and gay men from a range of ages, social and economic backgrounds, was compiled and edited by the Sherbloms in an effort to introduce a number of lesbians and gay men to people of all sexual orientations and show them to be people whose lives and values are no different from those of most others in our society. A resource for people just discovering that a family member, co-worker or friend is gay. Though the experiences and voices represented in this collection are various, with one exception all the people interviewed for the book are white. This omission limits the scope the book. \$13.00 pb, 1-879418-90-8. Audenreed Press, P.O. Box 1305, #103, Brunswick ME 04011; 207-833-5016. Distributed by LPC Group.

In the late 70s Karen Vogel, whose academic background was in anthropology and biology, and Vickie Noble, who had a degree in women's studies, got

together and created *The Motherpeace Round Tarot*, a deck whose images are gathered from ancient goddess and other earth-based peoples' cultures. There are now 150,000 decks in circulation. Unlike Noble's *Motherpeace: A Way to the Goddess Through Myth, Art and Tarot*, **Motherpeace Tarot Guidebook** by Karen Vogel is a slim guide for the tarot reader who wants only a brief history of the tarot and is then ready to move on to readings. The books are also different in that Noble and Vogel have their own particular perspectives on the meanings of the cards. \$9.95 pb, 0-88079-747-9. U.S. Games Systems, 179 Ludlow St., Stamford CT 06902; 203-353-8400. Distributed by BP, New Leaf.



Clicking In: Hot Links to a Digital Culture edited by Lynn Hershman Leeson is a collection of essays and interviews exploring the interactions between art, technology and culture from some of the most provocative voices of the Digital Age. In this collection, Sherry Turkle and Joichi and Mizuko Ito discuss the construction of identity, gender and social practices in cyberspace; Guillermo Gómez-Peña discusses the populist bias that implies "third-world" types don't need and don't get the Net; Sheldon Renan muses on the changing form of narrative and storytelling in the wake of the digital revolution; and Sandy Stone speculates on the use of intelligent agents in the phone sex industry. Macintosh and PC-compatible CD-ROM included. \$24.95 pb, 0-941920-42-9. Bay Press, 115 West Denny Way, Seattle WA 98119; 206-284-5913. Distributed by LPC Group.

Ask a Woman: Power-Up Your Basketball IQ by G. Dawn Smith is a 50-page brochure-sized paperback which includes answers to any questions the reader might have about the game of basketball: What are the players' job titles or positions? What is a screen play? How do I read the NBA player statistics? Just in time for the start of the Women's Basketball League, this little booklet will make a perfect impulse buy with next-to-register display. \$5.95 staple-bound, no ISBN. Smith Enterprises, P.O. Box 132303, Tyler TX 75707; 903-565-0064. Available direct. No minimum; prepaid orders get 50% discount/free freight, others get 40% and bookstore pays shipping. ○

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

FROM THE UNIVERSITY PRESSES



By Mev Miller

The trend this time around seems to be books that focus on the military — women's past roles in and current gay struggles with. I won't venture to guess why — but I *really* wish someone would start writing strategies about the ways we can dismantle the military altogether. (Oh Mev, don't go there!)

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESS

Creating GI Jane: Sexuality and Power in the Women's Army Corps During World War II by Leisa D. Meyer offers a historical perspective on the controversies surrounding the gendering of the U.S. military. Meyer also weaves together issues of race, gender, sexuality and class to illustrate how Americans define and reconcile the categories of "woman" and "soldier." Don't miss the chapter on the "Lesbian Threat!" \$29.50 cl, 0-231-10144-9. For a different perspective, see *One Woman's Army*, from Texas A&M, below.

As writers use autobiography, memoir or diary genres for self-exploration, so artists use performance art or self-portraiture. **The Art of Reflection: Women Artists' Self-Portraiture in the Twentieth Century** by Marsha Meskimmon examines a wide variety of women's self-portraiture — including performance and body art. This study reclaims work by women, who are often marginalized by a cultural fixation with male self-portraiture. It's the first book of its kind. \$18.50 pb, 0-231-10687-4; \$49.50 cl, -10686-6.

Also of interest: From the Between Men-Between Women Series comes a new perspective on independent and mainstream film and video for those with a strong emphasis in this area...**Deviant Eyes, Deviant Bodies: Sexual Re-Orientation in Film and Video** by Chris Straayer. \$17.50 pb, 0-231-07979-6; \$49.50 cl, -07978-8.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY PRESS

Of interest: **Land of Women: Tales of Sex and Gender from Early Ireland** by Lisa M. Bitel. \$32.50 cl, 0-8014-3095-X.



DUKE UNIVERSITY PRESS

We all know discrimination against women exists in the health care system. In **Man-Made Medicine: Women's Health, Public Policy, and Reform** — a book praised by Susan Faludi as insightful and important and by Patricia Williams as "destined to become a classic" — Kary Moss, the editor, presents essays underlining how women's exclusion from health care policy-making also results in the exclusion of women-specific health care priorities. These are further affected by hidden assumptions about color, class and culture. **Man-Made Medicine** also covers other populations too-long neglected: women in prison, women and girls with HIV, women with disabilities and immigrant women. \$15.95 pb, 0-8223-1816-4; \$49.95 cl, -1816-4.

As a feminist who believes in the ethical connections between women and animals, I have always found Carol Adams' work provocative. Once again, she — along with Josephine Donovan — has edited a thought-provoking study on this topic. **Animals and Women: Feminist Theoretical Explorations** contains pioneering essays arguing persuasively that both the social construction and oppression of women are inextricably connected to the ways in which we comprehend and abuse other species. This focus does *not* distract from the struggle for women's rights, but rather contributes to it. \$17.95 pb, 0-8223-1667-6.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS

Who is to blame? Who is the perpetrator? Who is the victim? Is it always so easy to decide? Is it always as simple as right and wrong? How do we come to clarity if we can't say who's to blame? These questions are handled in **The Trouble with Blame: Victims, Perpetrators, & Responsibility** by Sharon Lamb, which clarifies the social cost of letting perpetrators off too easily and points out the dangers of over-emphasizing victimization — two problems that eclipse our dire need for accountability and recovery. \$22.95 cl, 0-674-91010-9.

Also of interest: **Dubious Conceptions: The Politics of Teenage Pregnancy** by Kristin Luker has been highly praised as one of the best books to appear in recent years on this complex topic. \$24.95 cl, 0-674-21702-0.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY PRESS

Laura Mulvey, a writer and filmmaker, is recognized as one of the most challenging and incisive contemporary feminist cultural theorists. **Fetishism and Curiosity** is a collection of her most recent

The renowned novelist began her writing career with this gripping account of an actual strike and its impact on local women.

BARBARA KINGSOLVER

"The women tell remarkable stories. . . . This book pays [them] powerful tribute." —*Publishers Weekly*

HOLDING THE LINE

WITH A NEW INTRODUCTION

WOMEN IN THE GREAT ARIZONA MINE STRIKE OF 1983



An ILR Press Book / 0-8014-3340-1 \$39.95 cloth / 0-8014-8389-1 \$14.95 paper

TO ORDER CALL (800) 666-2211 OR FAX (800) 688-2877

CORNELL UNIVERSITY PRESS

writings, ranging from analyses of *Xala*, *Citizen Kane* and *Blue Velvet* to a look at the work of feminist photographer Cindy Sherman. \$17.95 pb, 0-253-21019-4; \$39.95 cl, -33211-7.



JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY PRESS

Writing Women's Literary History by Margaret J. M. Ezell examines the success of women's literary histories and applies to them the same self-conscious feminism that critics have applied to more traditional methods. Best suited for stores with strong literary criticism sections. \$14.95 pb, short discount, 0-8018-5508-X.

Now available in paper: Available only in cloth since 1984, **The Life of Jane Austen** by John Halperin, reveals a robust, vigorous, and at times difficult woman with a large and diverse circle of family and acquaintances. \$16.95 pb, 0-8018-5509-8.

Also of interest: **What Goes without Saying: Collected Stories of Josephine Jacobsen** by Josephine Jacobsen. \$29.95 pb, 0-8018-5455-5.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Remember *Are We There Yet?* and *Everyday Acts and Small Subversions*? Well, here's another enjoyable book in a similar vein: **In the Company of Women: Voices from the Women's Movement** by Bonnie Watkins and Nina Rothchild collects humorous and compelling stories by 83 women describing how they became feminists and how the women's movement changed the way they see themselves and the world around them. It's refreshing to have something more reflective and less analytical. \$16.95 pb, 0-87351-329-0.

Dancing the Cows Home: A Wisconsin Girlhood by Sara DeLuca is a memoir in which she recalls her early years growing up as a twin on a 50s Wisconsin dairy farm. This is a story filled with pride and humor as well as a deep sense of loss. \$15.95 pb, 0-87351-325-8.

And if you have an audience of Jewish women who feel stranded in the Midwest, recommend "**And Prairie Dogs Weren't Kosher**": **Jewish Women in the Upper Midwest Since 1855** by Linda Mack Schloff. \$17.95 pb, 0-87351-338-X.



NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY PRESS

I tend to think that the description of "post-feminist" actually means "anti-feminist" — just said differently. And the desire and need to look beyond woman as victim by encouraging her to take some self-responsibility sometimes feeds a twisted sort of blaming the victim for her victimization. This was my immediate reaction when reading the catalog copy for **Chick-Lit 2: No Chick Vics** edited by Cris Mazza, Jeffrey DeShell and Elisabeth Sheffield. I quote, "Believing women aren't only what society has made of them and that there is some individual identity to work with, the editors of **Chick-Lit 2** set out to compile a book of stories by and about women where the movement or tension or intensity stems *primarily* from who a character is and what she wants...and while it could be said that a patriarchal society or neglectful parents or any number of evils may have [affected them], the collection asks: If we're smart enough to recognize these forces, aren't we also smart enough to resist them?" Regardless of your viewpoint, the women still end up victims. So what do you expect from "chicks?" \$11.95 pb, 1-57366-020-5.

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS

For stores with active and politicized communities of midwives, you'll want to know about this second edition of **Making Midwives Legal: Child-birth, Medicine & the Law** by Raymond De Vries. This edition includes an updated preface that situates the themes of the book in the current debate over health care and midwifery, an epilogue that examines the major issues of the 90s, and an updated bibliography. \$18.95 pb, 0-8142-0703-0.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

Thanks to Laura Zimmerman from New Words for the tip on this one. **The Adman in the Parlor: Magazines and the Gendering of Consumer Culture, 1880s to 1910s** by Ellen Garvey explores readers' interactions with advertising during a period

when not only consumption but advertising itself became established as a pleasure. Advertisers "taught" consumers to like ads — this book looks at that cultural learning process. Gendered aspects include differences in language used toward men and toward women, differences in criticizing women based on class, and how women's magazines shaped editorial content to suit advertisers. \$17.95 pb, 0-19-510822-1.

RUSSELL SAGE FOUNDATION

Want to have updated information on the trends in women's roles? Do you like statistics on such things as the growing number of older women with children or the comparison between women's wages to men's? **Balancing Act: Motherhood, Marriage, and Employment Among American Women** by Daphne Spain and Suzanne Bianchi answers these questions and more. \$16.95 pb, 0-87154-815-1.

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY PRESS

There seems to be a lot of interest these days in women's role in the military (see also Columbia University Press and Texas A&M). **It's Our Military, Too! Women and the U.S. Military** edited by Judith Hicks Stiehm includes accounts by women on active duty, retired officers, civilians who have worked for the armed forces, and civilian academics. Issues such as status of minorities and lesbians, women in combat, the role of gender in weapons design, and the changing mission of the military are covered. \$19.95 pb, 1-56639-456-2; \$59.95 cl, -455-4.



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY PRESS

One Woman's Army: A Black Officer Remembers the WAC by Charity Adams Early describes, in candid detail, how she and a group of committed African American women "rose point" in the battle to serve their country. Early was the first Black officer commissioned

Bernadette J. Brooten

LOVE BETWEEN WOMEN

Early Christian Responses to
Female Homoeroticism

“A landmark book on homoeroticism. Brooten’s careful scholarship and incisive reflection inform every page. Above all, her compelling honesty about the sources advances the discussion well beyond the apologetic stance of even important earlier work, including that of John Boswell.”

—Elaine Pagels, Princeton University

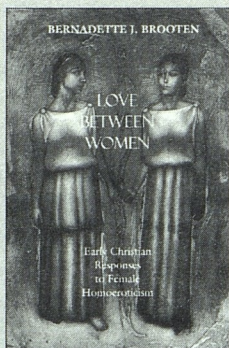
Cloth \$34.95 433 pages

Chicago Series on Sexuality, History, and Society

THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO PRESS

5801 South Ellis Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60637

Visit us at <http://www.press.uchicago.edu>



in the WACs and she faced many obstacles, including court-martial charges filed by a general who made a racist remark to her. \$15.95 pb, 0-89096-694-X.



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESS

Steps Under Water by Alicia Kozameh is a compelling novel drawn from Kozameh’s experiences as a political prisoner in Argentina during the “Dirty War” of the 70s, a time when thousands of Argentines were “disappeared” by repressive military regimes and countless more were forced to languish in prison. While reading it, I was once again reminded of Alicia Portnoy’s moving story told in *The Little School* published several years ago by Cleis Press. \$12.95 pb, 0-520-20388-7.

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

The Second Signs Reader: Feminist Scholarship 1983–1996 reflects some of the best work in U.S. feminist scholarship that has appeared since the first *Signs Reader* 13 years ago. Ruth-Ellen B. Joeres and Barbara Laslett, editors of *Signs* from 1990 to 1995, have collected essays that reveal the nuances of feminist work as an interdisciplinary venture; and they address the complexities of gender and the intricacies of race, class and sexuality. Contributors include: Marilyn Frye, Nancy Chodorow, Maria Lugones and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham. \$18.95 pb, 0-226-40061-1; \$35 cl, -40060-3.

First there was John Boswell — now there’s Bernadette Brooten. **Love Between Women: Early Christian Responses to Female Homoeroticism** examines female homoeroticism and the role of women in the ancient Roman world. Brooten establishes that condemnations of female homoeroticism were based on widespread sexual love between women; clitoridectomy was used to control female homoeroticism; and there had been marriages between women. \$34.95 cl, 0-226-07591-5.

Wanna know what your state considers illegal sex? You can find out in **A Guide to America’s Sex Laws** by Richard Posner and Katharine Silbaugh. \$26.95 cl, 0-226-67564-5.

It seems odd to me that I’m writing this review on election night! The prez says “don’t ask, don’t tell.” But that sure isn’t going to stop scholars from theorizing strategies for integrating gays and lesbians into



the military. Here is yet another book on the subject: **Out in Force: Sexual Orientation and the Military** edited by Gregory Herek, et al., refutes the notion that homosexuality is incompatible with military service. \$17.95 pb, 0-226-40048-4.

Also of interest: **After Suffrage: Women in Partisan and Electoral Politics Before the New Deal** by Kristi Andersen (\$13.95 pb, *text discount*, 0-226-01957-8); **Eva Perón: The Myths of a Woman** by J. M. Taylor (\$12.95 pb, 0-226-79144-0).

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS PRESS

Breaking free of the family and culture that prepared her to be a proper southern lady, Dorothy Markey became a feminist, a communist, and, under her pen name Myra Page, a radical journalist and novelist. In **A Generous Spirit: A First-Person Biography of Myra Page** by Christian Looper Baker recounts Page's activism on behalf of social justice, racial equality and women's rights, which lasted from the 20s until her death in 1993. \$15.95 pb, 0-252-06543-3.

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS PRESS

In **Diversity: Gender, Color, and Culture** Philomena Essed looks beyond the presupposed American context of contemporary discussions on race, gender and cultural identity pointing out that migration creates ever more diverse societies. Essed further argues that the erosion of traditional national identities has sparked a backlash against racial and ethnic minorities. \$12.95 pb, 1-55849-026-4; \$40 cl, *short discount*, -025-6.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN PRESS

Our Sisters' Promised Land: Women, Politics, and Israeli-Palestinian Coexistence by Ayala Emmett places women at the center of the discussion regarding the broader political issues of Israeli-Palestinian relations and the new peace process in the Middle East. Through women's peace activism in Israel, Emmett traces local political divisions, conflicts, and struggles

inviting U.S. readers to consider similar social situations in the U.S. \$32.50 cl, 0-472-10733-X.

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA PRESS

At the time I wrote this column, news was just coming from Afghanistan about the ways in which women's rights have been dramatically reversed by the extreme religious right that recently came to power. **Searching for Saleem: An Afghan Woman's Odyssey** by Farooka Gauhari is an account of a similar time in 1978 when a communist coup disrupted her family's life. Gauhari's story reflects the sufferings of Afghans under successive totalitarian government rule and on-going experiences of human rights violations. \$35 cl, 0-8032-2156-8.

Automatic Woman: The Representation of Woman in Surrealism by Katharine Conley confirms feminist allegations that claim Surrealism is misogynist — while qualifying and overturning other such criticisms. Not for the casual reader, this work is best suited for those already familiar with the intricacies of the Surrealist movement. \$35 cl, 0-8032-1474-X.

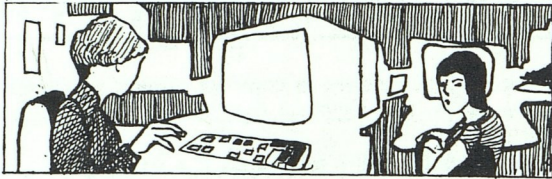
Also of interest: **Budapest Diary: In Search of the Motherbook** by Susan Rubin Suleiman (\$25 cl, 0-8032-4256-5); **The Road to Auschwitz: Fragments of a Life** an autobiography by Hedi Fried (\$10 pb, 0-8032-6893-9).



UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA PRESS

A Matter of Black and White: The Autobiography of Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher by herself, of course, is the personal story of this Oklahoma woman's fight to gain an education and how it formed a crucial episode in the civil rights movement. Born of parents only one generation removed from slavery, Fisher later became the plaintiff in a landmark U.S. Supreme Court case that laid the foundation for the desegregation of schools in the U.S. \$19.95 cl, 0-8061-2819-4.

Information Technology and Women's Studies: Reports from the Field



This special issue of *FEMINIST COLLECTIONS: A QUARTERLY OF WOMEN'S STUDIES RESOURCES* (vol.17, no.2, Winter 1996) brings together the perspectives of professors, librarians, and cyber-activists from Eastern Europe to the U.S. to New Zealand. Here's a partial table of contents:

"Where Did the Feminist Teacher Go: Reconsidering Authority in the Multimedia Classroom" by *Allison Fraiberg*

"Interactive Video and Female Learning: Implications for a Feminized Profession" by *Debra Gold Hansen and Sheri D. Irvin* (about a distance education library school course at San Jose State)

"Internet Resources and Women's Studies: Expanding the Horizons of a Rural Campus" by *Ann Donihue Travers*

"Electronic Witches: Women Using E-mail in the Former Yugoslavia" by *Kathryn Turnipseed*

"Feminism and Linguistics: How Technology Can Prove Our Point" by *Fabienne Bader* (a computer analysis of sexism in a 16th-century Latin-French dictionary in electronic text form)

Cost for the special issue is \$3.50 per copy (make check payable to University of Wisconsin-Madison and send to the address below):

Women's Studies Librarian, University of Wisconsin System, 430 Memorial Library, 728 State St., Madison, WI 53706. Email: wiswsl@doit.wisc.edu
Feminist Collections Web page: <http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/WomensStudies/fcmain.htm>

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA PRESS

My first response to this book was to not review it—I thought it was too expensive and too general for many women's bookstores. Closer examination proved me wrong—you can't, after all, necessarily judge a book by its cover. *Caregiving: Readings in Knowledge, Practice, Ethics, and Politics* edited by Suzanne Gordon, Patricia Benner and Nel Noddings (clue enough right there?) explores the financial, emotional and physical demands of giving and receiving care as well as the strengths and rewards inherent in the world of caregiving. Caregiving is most often provided by women (as mothers, as nurses) and, therefore, has strong ramifications on how care is delivered. It includes a chapter on feminism and caregiving. \$22.95 pb, 0-8122-1582-6.

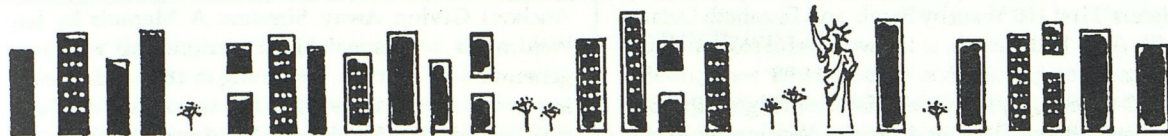
UNIVERSITY PRESS OF NEW ENGLAND

Autobiography of a Generation: Italy, 1968 has received high praises from Grace Paley, Juliett Mitchell and Graziella Parati. In a combination of oral history and personal memoir, Luisa Passerini explores and documents the social upheavals that shook Italy in the 60s. Internationally known for her use of oral histories to explore Fascism, Passerini now turns her attention to a series of social movements in which she was directly involved. Paley notes that though the book is about Italy it could very easily be about the U.S.! \$21.95 cl, 0-8195-5286-0.

Couples: A Photographic Documentary of Gay and Lesbian Relationships by John Gettings includes dozens of black-and-white photographs of lesbian and gay couples taken during the New York City Stonewall 25 and Gay Pride Celebrations in 1994. The couples are people from many backgrounds representing the spectrum of contemporary gay culture. Each couple reflects on their relationship as well. \$25 cl, 0-87451-791-5.

Sex and Existence: Simone de Beauvoir's The Second Sex by Eva Lundgren-Gothlin, preface by Toril Moi, offers a historical and feminist analysis of de Beauvoir's classic, setting the work in its ideological and political context. It's a study that takes de Beauvoir seriously as a philosopher removing her from the shadow of Sartre. The book is intended for serious scholars of de Beauvoir's work. \$17.95 pb, 0-8195-6303-X; \$45 cl, *short discount*, -5295-X. ○

AND ON PUBLISHER'S ROW



ADDISON-WESLEY

Folks in education will appreciate **A Life in School: What the Teacher Learned** by Jane Tompkins. Tompkins looks at our current educational system and offers suggestions. "What I would like to see...is a more holistic...way of teaching and learning that is not just task-oriented but always looking over its shoulder at everything that is going on around...interested in experience as much as in book knowledge..." \$22 cl, 0-201-91212-0.

The Feminine Economy and Economic Man: Reviving the Role of Family in the Post-Industrial Age by Shirley P. Burggraf suggests that "getting 'women's work' done when women are no longer volunteering their unpaid or underpaid labor is what much of the public discussion of 'family values' is really about." Burggraf suggests some provocative and controversial solutions while showing we cannot continue to carry on business as usual. \$24 cl, 0-201-47961-3.

Larousse, Dictionary of Women: 3000 A-Z Entries from Eve to Oprah Winfrey edited by Melanie Parry is exactly what the title says — very comprehensive, a wonderful and expensive collection. Includes many photos and illustrations. \$40 cl, 0-7523-0015-6, Larousse. —Dorothy Holland

BALLANTINE

Maiden Voyage by Tania Aebi, with Bernadette Brennan, is a tale of travel and adventure. Tania recounts her two-and-a-half-year trip circumnavigating the globe alone in a 26-foot ship. A good read for armchair travelers. \$10 trade, 0-345-41012-2.

Errands by Judith Guest is a novel about a family that finds the fabric of their lives unraveling. Guest's *Ordinary People* was a bestseller. \$24 cl, 0-345-40904-3.

Now in paper: **The Clock Winder** by Anne Tyler

centers around a grieving widow. (\$12 trade, 0-449-91179-9.) Reissued: **Cakewalk** by Lee Smith collects short stories by this Southern woman writer. (\$11 trade, 0-345-41042-4.) —Dorothy Holland



BANTAM DOUBLEDAY DELL

The big book from Doubleday this Spring will be **Mothers & Daughters: A Celebration** by Carol Saline and Sharon J. Wohlmut. In it the authors repeat the photo/essay formula that worked so well in *Sisters*. The preview includes stories of families in remarkably different circumstances but there wasn't enough in it to tell if it includes the diversity our communities demand. \$29.95/C\$42.95 cl, 038548125X, May, DoubleDay.

The Hand I Fan With by Tina McElroy Ansa should be a good title for feminist stores. Ansa's *Ugly Ways* was a hit at both Full Circle and the Book Garden. Bantam also thinks **The Hand I Fan With** will sell well — they are offering a ten copy dump. \$23.95 cl, 0-385-47599-3, DoubleDay.

The Princessa by Harriet Rubin will probably get lots of attention with its subtitle, **Machiavelli for Women** and its catchy phrases like "power anorexic." Robin argues that women can learn to use conflict to claim what they want and deserve. \$22/C\$28, 0385475373, April, DoubleDay.

Checklist for Your First Baby by Susan Kagan Podell is a pregnancy book with user-friendly lists to ensure that prospective parents stay calm. \$6.99/C\$8.99 pb, 038547797X, February, DoubleDay.

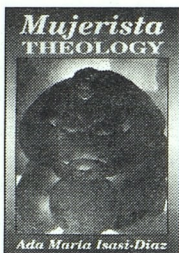
As Francesca by Martha Baer is a novel about a woman and her alter ego Francesca, who cruises the Web. \$22.50 cl, 0-553-06754-0.

EveryWoman's Guide to Prescription and Non-Prescription Drugs by Kathleen Cahill Allison provides information on drugs of interest to women. \$15 trade, 0-553-06906-3, DoubleDay.

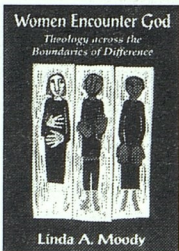
Now in paper: **Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years** by Sarah and Elizabeth Delany, with Amy Hill Hearth, is the wonderful story of these two amazing women's lives. (\$11.95 trade, 0-385-31252-0, February.) **Divided Sisters: Bridging the Gap Between Black Women & White Women** by Midge Wilson and Kathy Russell is filled with first-person accounts and anecdotes examining the relations between black and white women throughout their lives. (\$14 trade, 0-385-47362-1, February.) **Inside Edge: A Revealing Journey into the Secret World of Figure Skating** by Christine Brennan is the first behind-the-

scenes look at figure skating. (\$12.95 trade, 0-385-48607-3, February, Anchor.) **In the Wilderness: Coming of Age in Unknown Country** by Kim Barnes is a poet's memoir about growing up in the Idaho forest lands. (\$12.95 trade, 0-385-48721-6, March, Anchor.) **Giving Away Simone: A Memoir** by Jan Waldron is a personal history examining why five generations of women, beginning in 1886 and extending to the author in 1969, didn't keep their children. (\$12.95 trade, 0-385-48599-9, May, Anchor.) **In Red Hot Mamas: Coming into Our Own at Fifty** by Colette Dowling, dozens of women talk about discovering their power and vitality at midlife. (\$13.95 trade, 0-553-37495-8, February.) **Understanding & Preventing Sexual Harassment: The Complete Guide** by Peter Rutter was originally titled *Sex, Power & Boundaries*. It

Boundaries of Difference

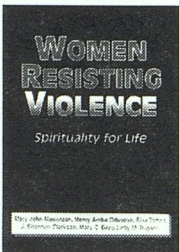


MUJERISTA THEOLOGY
A Theology for the Twenty-First Century
 ADA MARÍA ISASI-DÍAZ
 Focuses on the lives of Hispanic women to develop a theology that empowers their struggle for meaning. 224 pp \$16.00 paper



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
 ELISABETH SCHÜSSLER FIORENZA
 and M. SHAWN COPELAND, Editors
 Examines the varied contexts of violence against women as well as strategies of resistance and sources of healing. \$15.00 paper

WOMEN HEALING EARTH
Third-World Women on Ecology, Feminism, and Religion
 ROSEMARY RADFORD RUETHER, Editor
 Latin American, Asian, and African women illuminate the consequences of eco-theological issues for women in the first world. 175 pp \$17.00 paper



MY SISTER, MY BROTHER
Womanist and Xodus God-Talk
 KAREN BAKER-FLETCHER
 and GARTH BAKER-FLETCHER
 Two creative theologians in a lively dialogue about womanist theology and the new generation of Black theology by males. 325 pp \$18.00 paper

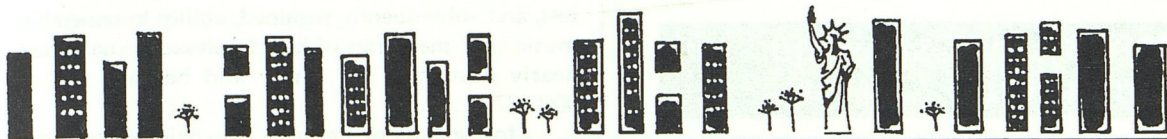
WOMEN ENCOUNTER GOD
Theology across the Boundaries of Difference
 LINDA A. MOODY
 Explores how different types of feminist theologians perceive God. 180 pp \$16.00 paper

THE POWER OF NAMING
A Concilium Reader in Feminist Liberation Theology
 ELISABETH SCHÜSSLER FIORENZA, Editor
 Essays from the international theological journal *Concilium* reflect the character of feminist liberation theology. 300 pp \$20.00 paper

WOMEN RESISTING VIOLENCE
Spirituality for Life
 MARY JOHN MANANZAN,
 MERCY AMBA ODUYOYE, ELSA TAMEZ,
 J. SHANNON CLARKSON, MARY C. GREY,
 LETTY M. RUSSELL, Editors
 The impact of economic, military, cultural, ecological, and domestic violence against women. 192 pp \$16.00 paper



From your distributor or direct
 MC/VISA 1-800-258-5838
ORBIS BOOKS
 Dept. FA6, Box 302
 Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302



has pretty thorough coverage of the issue, but a male author may deter some of our buyers. (\$13.95 trade, 0-553-37877-5, February.) **The Conversation Begins: Mothers and Daughters Talk About Living Feminism** by Christina Baker and Christina Kline. I enjoyed seeing how other mothers and daughters are looking at how feminism shapes their relationship. (\$13.95 trade, 0-553-37524-5, March.)

—Dorothy Holland, Linda Mowry



BEACON

Apocalypse Now & Then: A Feminist Approach to the End of the World by Catherine Keller looks at ways the idea of the apocalypse has affected our society's thoughts, beliefs and actions. Fairly heavy theology, with a definite feminist slant. \$28 cl, 0-8070-6778-4.

In **Waging Peace in Our Schools** not only do the authors Linda Lantieri and Janet Patti show the need for peace training, but they also show how to do it by giving real-life examples for teachers and parents to use daily. Wouldn't it be great if we taught peace as well as we teach history/war? \$22 cl, 0-8070-3116-X.

Feminism and Religion: An Introduction by Rita Gross is a survey of how the feminist movement has changed the way we practice and understand religion around the world. Not light reading, but an important resource. \$17 trade, 0-8070-6785-7.

Making Gender: The Politics and Erotics of Culture by Sherry Ortner collects essays covering the 25 years Ortner has been writing and theorizing on women's roles and the meaning of gender. Ortner is a MacArthur "genius," and helped to launch the field of feminist anthropology. \$25 cl, 0-8070-4632-9.

Claiming the Spirit Within: A Sourcebook of Women's Poetry edited by Marilyn Sewell is a wonderful collection of poems celebrating the sacredness of women's lives. \$18 trade, 08070-6835-7.

—Dorothy Holland

HARPERCOLLINS

The new novel by Sigrid Nuñez (*Feather on the Breath of God*), **Naked Sleeper**, is about the love triangle between Nona, her husband, Roy, and Lyle, a married professor who Nona meets during a month in the country. As Nona works on a book about her father, trying to understand why he abandoned her and her mother, several stories begin to unfold simultaneously. Nona must deal with her relationships with Roy and Lyle, her mother and her phantom father. \$23 cl, 0060172762.

A new collection of short stories by Rebecca Brown, **What Keeps Me Here**, addresses relationships between childhood friends, lovers and the warring parts of the self. Brown's last novel, *The Gifts of the Body*, won much praise. She has received the Lambda Literary Award for Fiction, *The Boston Book Review* Award for Fiction and a PNBA Award. \$20 cl, 0060174404.

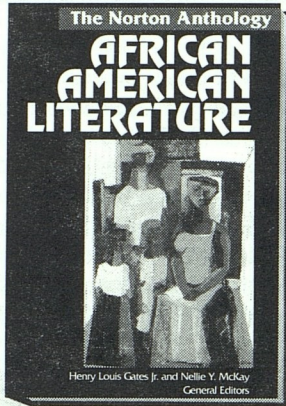
American Pie by Micheal Lee West is a colorful and humorous novel about three sharply contrasted sisters separated by personality extremes, circumstance and geography, but who are tied by the strong pull of common roots. Freddie, who left the South and never looked back, is practical and serious and a marine biologist; Eleanor is an agoraphobic pie maker who barely ventures outside of Tallulah, Tennessee; and Jo-Nell is a sharp-tongued free spirit. When a freak accident brings them back together, they are forced to make peace with their pasts, their futures and one another. \$24 cl, 006183578.



Kim Chernin celebrates the 29-year-old Grammy Award-winning opera superstar in her biography, **Cecilia Bartoli**. With the help of Cecilia's manager, conductors, singers, stage directors and others close to Bartoli, Chernin reveals the woman behind the voice. \$25 cl, 0060186445.

Memory Slips by Linda Katherine Cutting is a remarkable and inspiring story of this concert pianist's

"A classic of splendid proportions." —Cornel West



HENRY LOUIS GATES Jr.
and
NELLIE Y. MCKAY,
General Editors, *et al.*


A dazzling, comprehensive overview of the African American literary tradition that includes the work of 120 writers, from 1746 to the present, writing in all genres—poetry, short fiction, novels, drama, autobiography, journals, and letters.

Included complete are thirteen major works, from Frederick Douglass's *Narrative* to Toni Morrison's *Sula*.

"Extraordinary... no one can ever again claim ignorance of the rich, rewarding legacy of the African-American literary tradition—and especially of Black women's preminent contribution to this heritage." —Letty Cottin Pogrebin

"I pray every American home will boast of owning at least one copy." —Maya Angelou

Much of the material is included on the Audio Companion CD, which can be ordered through the coupon in the book.

NORTON  Independent publishers since 1923

Visit our Web site at <http://www.wwnorton.com>

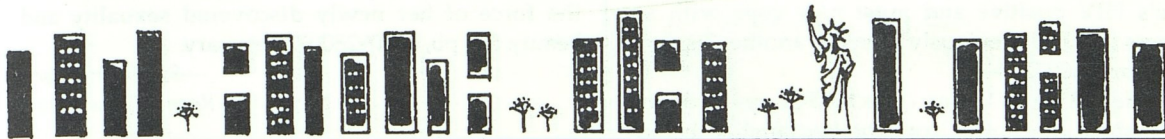
lost, and subsequently regained, ability to remember music after memories of her childhood sexual abuse nearly destroyed her career and her life. \$24 cl, 0060187301.

Money King by Patricia Chao tells the story of a young Chinese-American woman whose mental breakdown and sojourn in a hospital sets her firmly on the path of remembering. Through recollections of her childhood and the stories of her extended Chinese family, Chao manages to find the strength to pull herself back to the land of the living. \$24 cl, 006018681X, February.

Charlotte Watson Sherman (*Killing Color, Calyx, Touch*/Harper, see below) addresses the depression that is the voice of silent despair for many Black women and debunks the myth of the Black superwoman in her new book **The Blues Ain't Nothing But a Good Woman Feeling Bad**. Black women have been conspicuously absent from the discussions of women and depression — stereotyped as having more than enough strength for themselves and everyone around them, Black women have been pressured to deny their depression as an embarrassing weakness and suffer in silence. A mental health specialist who suffered through depression herself, Sherman examines the root causes of depression among Black women and offers ways through the challenging times and everyday experiences and struggles of Black women today. \$23 cl, 0060172088, March.

Janice Daugharty's new novel, **Earl in the Yellow Shirt**, is the haunting story of a family in crisis, set in the backwoods of Georgia. The Scurvy family is an impoverished clan that is the scourge of its small white-trash community. Mother dies and leaves behind her newborn baby and four uneducated children. The only daughter, 15 years old, realizes that the newborn infant is now hers to raise, and finally something has put meaning in her life. Her brothers run moonshine for the town's corrupt bigwig to earn money to bury their mother. \$22 cl, 0060187506, March.

Natural Woman, Natural Menopause by Marcus Laux and Christine Conrad is a comprehensive and authoritative look at natural menopause offering a safe, sensible and effective alternative to Premarin and Provera with plant-derived hormone replacements. \$24 cl, 0060173416, April. —Sandi Torkildson
A Room of One's Own



HARPERBASIC

Pigeonholing Women's Misery by Hannah Lerman critiques mainstream psychology's diagnosis techniques and points out the difficulties that arise from using classification systems such as the DSM-IV in the treatment of women. \$32 cl, 046509533X.

Knowledge, Difference and Power by Nancy Goldberger, Mary Field Belenky, Lynne A. Bond and Jacqueline Weinstock is a follow-up to *Women's Way of Knowing*, a book that changed the way we understand gender and knowledge. The authors show how their theory revolutionized the fields of law, education, psychology, women's studies and more. They also expand their argument beyond gender to address the complicating factors of color, class and culture. \$26 cl, 0465090982.

Also from three of the authors of *Women's Ways of Knowing* comes a new book that shows how nurturing community groups can help impoverished, undereducated women "find their voice" and become articulate and empowered thinkers. **A Tradition That Has No Name** by Mary Field Belenky, Lynne A. Bond and Jacqueline Weinstock looks at a number of projects and organizations that were successful in bringing excluded groups into leadership in public life. The authors started Listening Partners to help isolated young mothers living in rural poverty. **A Tradition That Has No Name** suggests why theirs and other similar projects have been remarkably effective in getting marginalized women to transcend their circumstances. \$26 cl, 0465026052.



Stranger in the Midst: A Memoir of Spiritual Discovery by Nan Fink is a memoir of life change that explores how one woman defied her upbringing by converting to Judaism in her quest for spiritual meaning. As a Jew, Fink became deeply involved in Jewish political and intellectual circles, co-founded the

magazine *Tikkun* and found herself becoming alienated from her family and discouraged by anti-Semitism from outside the Jewish community and sexism within it. \$23 cl, 0465082009.

In **The Way We Really Are: Ending the War over America's Changing Families**, Stephanie Coontz turns her attention to the mythology that surrounds today's family. She argues that while it's not crazy to miss the more hopeful economic trends of the 50s and 60s, few of us would want to go back to the gender roles and race relations of those years. Mothers are going to remain in the workforce, family diversity is here to stay and the nuclear family can no longer handle all the responsibilities of elder care and childrearing. Coontz rejects the notion that the new diversity in family form is a sentence of doom. \$22 cl, 0465077570, April.

—Sandi Torkildson
A Room of One's Own



HARPERCANADA

Teaching Pigs to Sing by Cordelia Strube brings us the world of single-parent Rita who does battle with the mice in her cupboard, the fibroids gnawing in her belly, her mother suffering from dementia and a sister whose failing marriage is sliding into sordid domestic details of terminal body hair disgust. Rita faces her life of pain, longing and loneliness with a dark wit, deadpan irony and surprising glimmers of hope. \$15 pb, 0006480985, February.

—Sandi Torkildson
A Room of One's Own

HARPERPERENNIAL

Touch, a novel by Charlotte Watson Sherman offers the haunting story of a 35-year-old African American artist supporting herself as a telephone hotline counselor at a clinic in Seattle. She lives a routine and sheltered existence until she meets Theodore, a caring man. Finally it seems as though she might break free of her shell when she learns that

she's HIV positive and must now cope with an illness that had previously been just another "issue." \$12 pb, 0060927534.

High Tide in Tucson collects 25 essays by novelist Barbara Kingsolver, covering her familiar themes of family, community, the common good and the natural world. \$12.50 pb, 0060927569.

White Rabbit by Kate Phillips is a first novel that received remarkable praise when it was published last year. It is the story of Ruth Caster Hubble, a feisty, cantankerous and irreverent old woman struggling to maintain order in the modern world. This novel follows Ruth's progress, minute by minute, on the last day of her life as she copes with the breakdown of her household appliances and her own vital organs but holds onto her faith in romantic love. \$12 pb, 0060977191.

Unlocking the Air and Other Stories is a stunning collection of mainstream fiction by Ursula K. Le Guin. These stories, written over a span of twelve years, are connected in the way they approach reality while diffusing the traditional boundaries of realism, magical realism and surrealism. \$12 pb, 0060928034.

A new book, which claims to smash the stereotype that women aren't morally superior to men, **Lip Service** by Kate Fillion, tells women that the myth of the fairer sex has trapped women in an ivory tower of their own making. Since when have realities of women's lives ever matched the myths and stereotypes? Isn't that why they are called that? \$13 pb, 006092795X.



A new novel by a Latin American author that's been compared to *Like Water for Chocolate* is **Señora Honeycomb** by Fanny Buitrago, a tale of food and sexual awakening. When innocent Teodoara Vencejos marries handsome ne'er-do-well don Galaor, she doesn't notice that he has married her for her money. His spendthrift ways force her to leave her beloved Colombian village to work at a Madrid catering firm, which bakes anatomically correct confectionery and other erotic goodies. There she receives an education both culinary and carnal. When she returns to her home after two years, the entire town is awakened by

the force of her newly discovered sexuality and beauty. \$11 pb, 006092800X, February.

—Sandi Torkildson
A Room of One's Own



HARPERREGAN

Jullian Medoff's debut novel, **Hunger Point**, tells the story of a young woman struggling to come to terms with her sister's eating disorder, her own obsession with food and dieting, and the pressures of growing up. \$23 cl, 0060391898, February.

—Sandi Torkildson
A Room of One's Own

HARPERREFERENCE

Handyma'am by Beverly DeJulio proves to women that home improvement is not just a man's domain. Her book covers the full range of home improvements including plumbing, electrical, refurbishing furniture, painting and tips for fixing annoying everyday problems such as, squeaking floors, loose handles, door knobs, sticking doors and cracked windows. DeJulio has two TV shows: "Easy Does It" and "HomeWise," a weekly radio show in Chicago, and writes a syndicated weekly column, "HandyMa'am." \$23 cl, 0060391588, April.

—Sandi Torkildson
A Room of One's Own

HARVILL PRESS

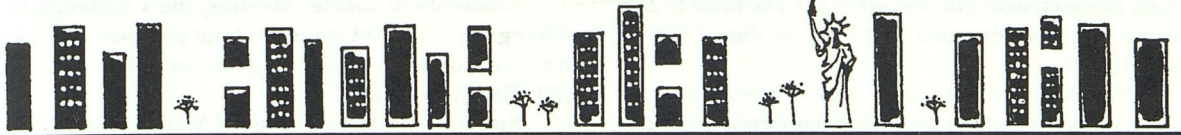
(Distributed by HarperCollins)

Violet: The Life and Lovers of Violet Gordon Woodhouse is the biography by Jessica Douglas-Home of a gifted musician whose salon became a rural match for the metropolitan "Bloomsberries." Violet's talent inspired devoted passion from both sexes. \$28 cl, 1860462693, March.

—Sandi Torkildson
A Room of One's Own

PENGUIN

The Duty Trap: How to Say "No" When You Feel You Ought to Say "Yes" by Vera Peiffer. This little wonder could save the sanity (if not the lives) of some of us feminist booksellers. Peiffer explains how our sense of duty can be a trap that keeps us from living full and rich lives. Let's check it out! \$12.95 trade, 1-85230-856-7.



Self-Esteem for Women: A Practical Guide to Love, Intimacy and Success by Lynda Field. Field's previous title, *The Self-Esteem Workbook*, is a solid seller for many stores. **Self-Esteem for Women** is essential reading for all women who need a self-esteem boost. \$10.95 trade, 1-85230-936-9, March.

In Search of Women's Passionate Soul: Revealing the Daimon Lover Within by Caitlin Matthews examines the inner male, the counterpart to the muse — he has a positive role that Matthews believes is central to understanding women's sexuality, creativity and spirituality. \$14.95 trade, 1-85230-942-3, April.

Sounding the Inner Landscape: Music as Medicine by Kay Gardner, one of our best loved musicians, traces the historical, cultural, sacred and theoretical components of the musical experience, interweaving Native American beliefs, the Chinese Meridian system, the properties of Chakras and more. \$16.95 trade, 1-85230-973-3, April.

Plus Style: The Plus Size Guide to Looking Great by Suzan Nanfeldt is for those of us who are large and still fashion conscious. Gives ideas for planning, buying and caring for a wardrobe. \$15.95 trade, 0-452-27596-2, Plume.

British Women Poets of the 19th Century edited by Margaret Higonnet includes both "forgotten" and famous poets. \$14.95 trade, 0-452-01161-2, Plume.

Now in paper: **The House on the Lagoon** by Rosario Ferre was nominated for the National Book Award. It's a story of both a family and a nation, Puerto Rico. (\$12.95 trade, 0-452-27707-8, Plume.) In **The Beast: A Reckoning with Depression** Tracy Thompson recounts her struggles with depression, but with the twist of her journalistic background. Besides her personal experience, this is an inquiry into the source and cure of depression. (\$12.95 trade, 0-452-27695-0, Plume.) **Rat Bohemia** by Sarah Schulman is a lesbian-positive novel about a young woman who kills rats for the NYC Department of Health and survives her family's lesbo-phobia as best she can. (\$10.95 trade, 0-452-27182-7, Plume.) **The Sun, The Sea, A Touch of the Wind** by Rosa

Guy evokes the beauty and culture of the Caribbean while portraying an African American woman's struggle to define herself. (\$11.95 trade, 0-452-27551-2, Plume.) **The Other Side, El Otro Lado** by Julia Alvarez offers beautiful poetry by one of my favorite novelists. (\$10.95 trade, 0-452-27341-2, Plume.) **Bedrock** by Lisa Alther is a novel about a woman ripe for radical change, who moves to a small town in Vermont. (\$12.95 trade, 0-452-27776-0, Plume.) **Autobiography of My Mother** by Jamaica Kincaid is a novel of loss, longing, loving and survival. (\$10.95 trade, 0-452-27466-4.) **Breaking Down the Wall of Silence: The Liberating Experience of Facing Painful Truth**, revised edition, by Alice Miller continues Millers' study of the roots and results of child abuse. (\$9.95 trade, 0-452-01173-6, Plume.) In **The Company of My Sisters: Black Women and Self-Esteem** by Julia A. Boyd discusses the reasons that African American women have suffered from low self-esteem and provides advice for self-care and recovery. (\$9.95 trade, 0-452-27246-7, February, Plume.) **Appetites: On the Search for True Nourishment** by Geneen Roth takes the themes of longing, self-denial and nourishment and puts them into the broader context of women's experience. (\$10.95 trade, 0-452-27679-9.) **The Penguin Book of Modern Fantasy by Women** edited by A. Susan Williams and Richard Glyn Jones, introduction by Joanna Russ, collects 38 short stories written by women from 1941 to the present. (\$13.95 trade, 0-14-024336-4.)

—Dorothy Holland



RANDOM HOUSE

Love Invents Us by Amy Bloom is a stunning novel following Elizabeth Taube from childhood to middle age as she finds herself through love — good, bad and dangerous. Dorothy Allison calls this novel marvelous: "**Love Invents Us** contains the most extraordinary lyrical descriptions of the loved body,

Amy Bloom makes you feel what it is like to be 17 and know you have to touch that body or die...." \$21 cl, 0679441093.

New York Times reporter Alex Witchel's book of short stories about the women in her family grew out of a series she did for the *Times*. **Girls Only** is the story of Alex's relationships with her mother and younger sister, and how these three women formed their own family within a family with all the guilt, neuroses, frustrations and great love that come with their various roles and generational points of view. \$22 cl, 0679437770.

Dr. Susan Love's Hormone Book: Making Informed Choices About Menopause by Susan Love helps readers sort through the confusing media reports, complex and contradictory scientific evidence, and medical bias regarding hormone therapy. Love discusses what we do and don't know about hormone therapy and reviews all the alternatives to it, including both making lifestyle changes and choosing other medications. \$23 cl, 0679449701, February.

Women on the Hill by Clara Bingham looks at the ambitions and fates of four women elected to Congress who tried to change its patriarchal culture and the nation's agenda. Among them were Cynthia McKinney from Georgia, the youngest African American to be elected to the House, and Patty Murray, a housewife from Washington State who was elected to the Senate. After two years that began in optimism and idealism but ended in a disconcerting mix of disappointment and compromise, the women of the 103rd Congress were instrumental in passing 66 bills benefiting American women and their families — among them the Violence Against Women Act and the Family and Medical Leave Act. \$21 cl, 0812963512.

—Sandi Torkildson
A Room of One's Own



RH-Crown

Only Twice I've Wished for Heaven by Dawn Turner Trice garners praise from Tina Ansa and Louise Erdrich. A story of a young African American girl growing up and pushing the edges. Sounds strong. \$23 cl, 0517704285.

Moments of Grace: Meeting the Challenge to Change by Patricia Gaines is about personal change; by the author of *Laughing in the Dark*. \$21 cl, 0517704331, February.

Sugar in the Raw: Voices of Young Black Girls in America edited by Rebecca Carroll allows young women to speak directly about their lives. \$12 pb, 0517884976.

Race: An Anthology in the First Person edited by Bart Schneider is filled with intensely personal pieces by writers including Adrienne Rich, Audre Lorde and Bharati Mukherjee. A good book for discussion as we continue to work against racism. \$14 pb, 0517887282, February.

The Hormone of Desire: The Truth About Sexuality, Menopause, and Testosterone by Susan Rako looks at hormonal imbalance and how it affects women's health. \$12 pb, 0517888289, February.

—Linda Bryant
Charis Books & More/Atlanta



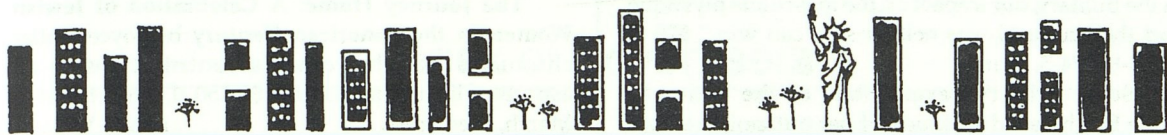
RH-Knopf

A History of the Breast by Marilyn Yalom considers how the breast has been perceived in the Western world from ancient days to the present. Yalom looks at how the breast has been understood in religion, medicine and psychoanalysis and how bare-breasted women have been used in propaganda from the French Revolution through the two World Wars. An authoritative and richly allusive work in cultural history. \$30 cl, 0679434593, February.

Personal History by Katharine Graham is a frank autobiography by the publisher of *The Washington Post*. Graham tells the story of her privileged yet lonely childhood; the tragic drama of her marriage to Phil Graham, a brilliant, charismatic man who suffered from manic depression and eventually committed suicide; and the challenges of her life as the head of a great newspaper and company. \$29.95 cl, 0394585852, February.

Marge Piercy has a new collection of poems coming out soon, **What Are Big Girls Made Of?** \$15 pb, 0679765948; \$25 cl, -450653, February.

—Sandi Torkildson
A Room of One's Own



RH-Pantheon

Last House by M.F.K. Fisher is the final volume in a trilogy of selections from her journals, short stories and correspondence. Gathered together in this volume are 68 pieces written between 1943 and 1991 in which Fisher describes her adventures in France as a young wife and student and recalls her return to California where she spent the last 20 years of her life. \$13 pb, 0679774114, February.

In Gini Alhadeff's memoir, **The Sun at Midday: Tales of a Mediterranean Family**, she traces her family from its Sephardic Jewish roots to the Italian colony on Rhodes where her paternal grandfather was a merchant banker until Mussolini's racial laws forced him out and later prompted her father's conversion to Catholicism. Alhadeff evokes the Egypt of her mother's family in the early decades of this century and summons up an amazing array of relatives, among them her worldly monsignor cousin and her physician uncle, who survived both Auschwitz and Buchenwald. \$23 cl, 067941763X, February.

—Sandi Torkildson
A Room of One's Own

RH-Shambhala

When Things Fall Apart: Heart Advice for Difficult Times by Pema Chodron, an American Buddhist teacher, looks at how to have peace and happiness in the midst of hard times. \$20 cl, 1570621608.

—Linda Bryant
Charis Books & More/Atlanta

RH-Vintage

A Schoolteacher in Old Alaska: The Story of Hannah Breece edited by Jane Jacobs is an eyewitness account of America's last frontier and an important work of women's history. It is the memoir of Breece who, from 1904 to 1918, taught Aleuts, Native Americans, Inuits and Russians in the desolate wilderness of Alaska, a job that entailed traveling by kayak, braving attacks by wild dogs and diplomatically disposing of dinners of boiled bear paw. Jacobs retraces her great-aunt's footsteps

and fills in the gaps in her narrative while preserving its mixture of high adventure and compellingly observed detail. \$13 pb, 0679776338.

In Anita Brookner's new novel, **Incidents in the Rue Laugier**, a young French woman yearns for an escape from the cocoon of bourgeois modesty. In the summer of 1971, she falls in love and is easily seduced by the caddish David Tyler. When Tyler disappears, it is up to his friend Edward to rescue Maud. Their love affair would seem destined for failure, but Brookner demonstrates love's ability to defy predictions. \$12 pb, 0679765123.

The Right to Privacy by Ellen Alderman and Caroline Kennedy looks at hundreds of cases in which ordinary citizens have battled the intrusions of government, industry, the news media and their own neighbors. A timely and historically informed look at the state of our right to be left alone. \$14 pb, 0679744347, February.

Art Objects: Essays on Ecstasy and Effrontery by Jeanette Winterson collects ten intertwined essays on subjects ranging from the Mona Lisa and Virginia Woolf's *The Waves* to the demands paintings make on their viewers and the shocks that even the most familiar novels deliver to their readers. Winterson challenges gay and lesbian writers to emerge from the ghetto of queer literature, and she reveals the origins of her own defiant love affair with language. \$11 pb, 0679768203.

—Sandi Torkildson
A Room of One's Own



SIMON & SCHUSTER

Necessary Hunger by Nina Revoyr is a novel about two teenage jocks in Los Angeles — *but* — these are girls, and definitely lesbians. An easy, intense read — I enjoyed it. Even though it's cloth, take a chance. \$23 cl, 0-684-83234-8, February.

Ground Zero: The Gender War in the Military by Linda Bird Francke is an in-depth look at women

in the military, our impact on the masculine mystique, and the "cultural war neither side can win." \$25 cl, 0-684-80974-5, March.

Susie Bright's Sexual State of the Union by Susie Bright is a distillation of her outspoken views, analyzing the sexual issues of our day. \$24 cl, 0-684-80023-3, March.



The Healing Choice: Your Guide to Emotional Recovery After an Abortion by Candace De Puy and Dana Dovitch offers supportive, step-by-step plans to help with the emotional problems many women face even years after an abortion. In these times of "family values" this book provides affirming, comfortable ways to heal. \$12 trade, 0684831961, March, Fireside.

Succulent Wild Women: Dancing with Your Wonder-Full Self by Sark exults in the pleasure of living life to its fullest. Offers us keys to expressing ourselves freely in every dimension of our lives. Sark's images alone are worth the price! \$15 trade, 0-684-83376-X, May, Fireside.

Chocolate for a Woman's Soul: 77 Stories to Feed Your Spirit and Warm Your Heart by Kay Allengaugh. "True stories celebrating life in voices that capture the essence of what it means to be a woman." Like chocolate, these stories are meant to soothe, satisfy and delight. \$11 trade, 0-684-83217-8, May, Fireside.

In Without Lying Down: Frances Marion and the Powerful Women of Early Hollywood Cari Beauchamp offers a fresh look at Hollywood history through the lives of the powerful (and neglected) women of its Golden Age. \$25 cl, 0-684-80213-9, March, Scribner.

The Women Artists Book of Days is a perpetual journal, with space for names and addresses and 32 full-color works of art. Updated from the 1987 edition. \$10.95, 0-88363-089-3, March, Levin Associates.

Life and Death: Unapologetic Writings on the Continuing War Against Women by Andrea Dworkin brings together Dworkin's current essays, from commentary on the murder of Nicole Brown Simpson to the atrocities committed against Bosnian women in Serbian death camps. \$23 cl, 0-684-83512-6, March, Free Press.

The Journey Home: A Celebration of Jewish Women in the American Century by Joyce Antler chronicles Jewish women's contributions to all aspects of life in this century. \$27.50 cl, 0-684-83444-8, March, Free Press.

Now in paper: **Tumbling** by Diane McKinney-Whetstone is a novel about the troubled relationships and destinies of an African American community in South Philadelphia in the 40s. (\$12 trade, 0-684-83724-2, April, Scribner.) **Solar Storms** by Linda Hogan is a novel about four generations of Native American women. Wonderful. (\$12 trade, 0-684-82539-2, February, Scribner.) **Yellow Woman and a Beauty of the Spirit: Essays on Native American Life Today** by Leslie Marmon Silko collects 22 essays. (\$11 trade, 0-684-82707-7, March, Touchstone.) **Still Life with Rice** by Helie Lee is about a young American woman who discovers the life and legacy of her Korean grandmother. (\$13 trade, 0-684-82711-5, April, Touchstone.) **Caught Up in the Rapture** by Sheneska Jackson is "a gritty, glamorous love story set in South Central L.A., which will appeal to fans of Terry McMillan and April Sinclair." (\$11 trade, 0-684-83153-8, June, Scribner.) **It Takes a Village**, Hillary Rodham Clinton. (\$10 trade, 0-684-82545-7, Touchstone.) **The River to Pickle Beach** by Doris Betts is a good light read. (\$12 trade, 0-684-81860-4, Scribner.)

—Dorothy Holland



WARNER

Scenes from a Sistah by Lolita Files is a funny and poignant novel about two best friends. \$22 cl, 0-446-51200-0, April.

Kill the Body, The Head Will Fall: A Closer Look at Women, Violence and Aggression by Rene Denfeld presents the view that women are just as assertive and aggressive as men, using her research and interviews with experts. \$23 cl, 0-446-51960-X, February.

Searching for Everado: A Story of Love, War and the CIA in Guatemala by Jennifer Harbury is the true story of Harbury's struggle to find her husband, a Mayan guerrilla leader, while the CIA interfered with her every move. \$24 cl, 0-446-52036-5, March.

—Dorothy Holland ○

Index of Advertisers

A&M Books 70	Ladyslipper 64
Alyson Publications 76	Lambda Book Report 82
Avon 8	Malachite & Agate 68
Bay Press 30, 74	Ms. Magazine C2
Bookpeople 10, 78	Naiad Press 14
Consortium 80	Nomi 46
Cornell University Press 88	Northeastern University Press 2
Diana Manley 65	Orbis Books 94
ECW Press 62	Papier-Mache Press C3
Feminist Collections 92	Signs of Pride 50
<i>Girlfriends</i> Magazine 54	Spinifex Press 6
Koen Book Distributors C1	University of Chicago Press 90
LPC Group/InBook 4	W.W. Norton 96

Classified Ads, continued from page 104.

Wall-mounted goddesses. Affordable signed artworks. Retail price range \$9-120, Sample available. Free wholesale catalog. Slitherings, 733 Ormewood Avenue, Atlanta GA 30312; 404-627-2328.

MUSIC

Ladyslipper Music — the oldest national distributor specializing in recordings by women — invites you to join us in celebrating our 20th anniversary in 1996! All genres, including feminist, lesbian/gay, women's spirituality, international, alternative, folk, classical, spoken, and children's music, plus songbooks, videos and more. For free annotated wholesale/retail catalog of over 1,500 CD and cassette titles: phone 800-634-6044, fax 919-383-3525, PO Box 3124, Durham NC 27715, e-mail (ladyslip@nando.net181).

FOR RENT

Simple Addition. Your Private Paradise on the Gulf of Mexico at Alligator Point, Florida. Luxurious two bedroom, two bath house available for weekly or monthly rental. Full kitchen, microwave, washer and dryer, all linens and dishes provided, pool table, screened in porch, large open deck and outside

shower. 150' boardwalk from house to eight miles of white sand beach. Call Barbara Grier at 800-533-1973.

SERVICES

Inventory Specialist for Feminist Bookstores. Hire me to review your catalogs and make recommendations to you based on your store's inventory and sales. Services available on an hourly basis or monthly contract. Inventory recommendations can be made to fit your style. Dorothy Holland: 505-867-9077; 53 Perdiz Canyon Road, Box 943, Placitas NM 87043.

Publicist/Marketing Consultant specializing in feminist and/or lesbian book promotions. Experienced and knowledgeable in many aspects of book retailing, publishing and distribution. Creative and flexible services. Reasonable rates. Committed to the women's movement as well as business concerns. Mev Miller, 1483 Laurel Avenue., St. Paul MN 55104; 612-646-0097.

FBN Classified Ads — New Rates — \$10 for first 50 words, 15 cents per word after that. 25% discount for 3+ insertions paid at one time. Payment must accompany ad. No charge for "Help Wanted" listings up to 100 words. Send to FBN, PO Box 882554, San Francisco, CA 94188.

CLASSIFIED ADS

& LITERARY PERSONALS

BOOKSTORE FOR SALE

Established lesbian/feminist bookstore for sale. Enjoy mild winters in a diverse, forward-looking metropolitan city. Inklings Bookshop is eight years old, with a customer list over 2,200. Inklings needs additional capital and energy to compete and grow to the next level. Call Pokey at 713-521-3369, or 713-526-7828.

HELP WANTED

New Words Bookstore is looking for an experienced bookseller to coordinate front desk customer service and sales. Strong organizational and interpersonal skills, affinity for details and numbers, knowledge of women's lit, flexibility, and ability to work independently. A great chance to work in a stimulating feminist environment and learn all about the book biz! Send cover letter and resume by December 30 (call to check if position still open) to New Words, 186 Hampshire Street, Cambridge MA 02139; 617-876-5310.

Naiad Press has immediate openings for an Administrative Assistant to Barbara Grier and a Maintenance Warehouse/Groundskeeper. Hourly wage plus benefits. If interested call Barbara Grier at 904-539-5965 for more information.

South End Press is seeking applicants for a full-time collective member position, a complex job involving all aspects of publishing, from manuscripts acquisitions and editing to desktop publishing and business management. One year of professional editing, publishing or writing experience is required as is a commitment to progressive politics and collective work environment. We are particularly interested in candidates with a strong background in the social struggles

of U.S. communities of color and/or gay/lesbian communities. Benefits: \$28,300 per year (+\$6,000 for those with dependents), 32-hour work week, vacation and health insurance. Send a letter describing your political and publishing experiences, along with a resume. People of color are encouraged to apply. South End Press, 116 Saint Botolph Street, Boston MA 02115.

SIDELINES

Celebrate Woman! Hand-crafted porcelain jewelry with fun, inspiring designs. Best-selling "Sisterhood" pin available in six beautiful glaze colors, wholesale \$6, and with colorful gemstones \$8. Wonderful gifts, easy to display, no minimum order for CODs. Free sample with wholesale catalog. Celebrate Woman, 3237 SE 14th, Portland OR 97202; 503-239-7015.

The Mighty Queer Pack — it's back! Playing cards with a lesbian bent, drawn by Paula Clayton. Now available to bookstores. (Suggested retail: \$6.00. 1-24 gets 40% discount. 25+ gets 50% discount. Plus postage. Non-returnable.) Contact Mev Miller, 612-646-0097, fax 612-646-1153 or e-mail (mev@winternet.com).

The Thinking Woman's **Safer Sex Tool Kit**. Current, clear, concise, attractive, informative brochure by a feminist sex educator. Great handout if you sell sex toys. Reprint it yourself. For lesbians, bisexuals, heterosexuals — everywoman. 3/\$1, 25/\$7, 100/\$24 postpaid. M. Munson, PO Box 40666, San Francisco CA 94140.

Slitherings Goddesses are healing and empowering. Many new goddesses: Goddess Fountains, Goddess Bird Feeder, Goddess Bird Bath. Hand-made, womyn-made Garden Goddesses, Goddess Figurines, and

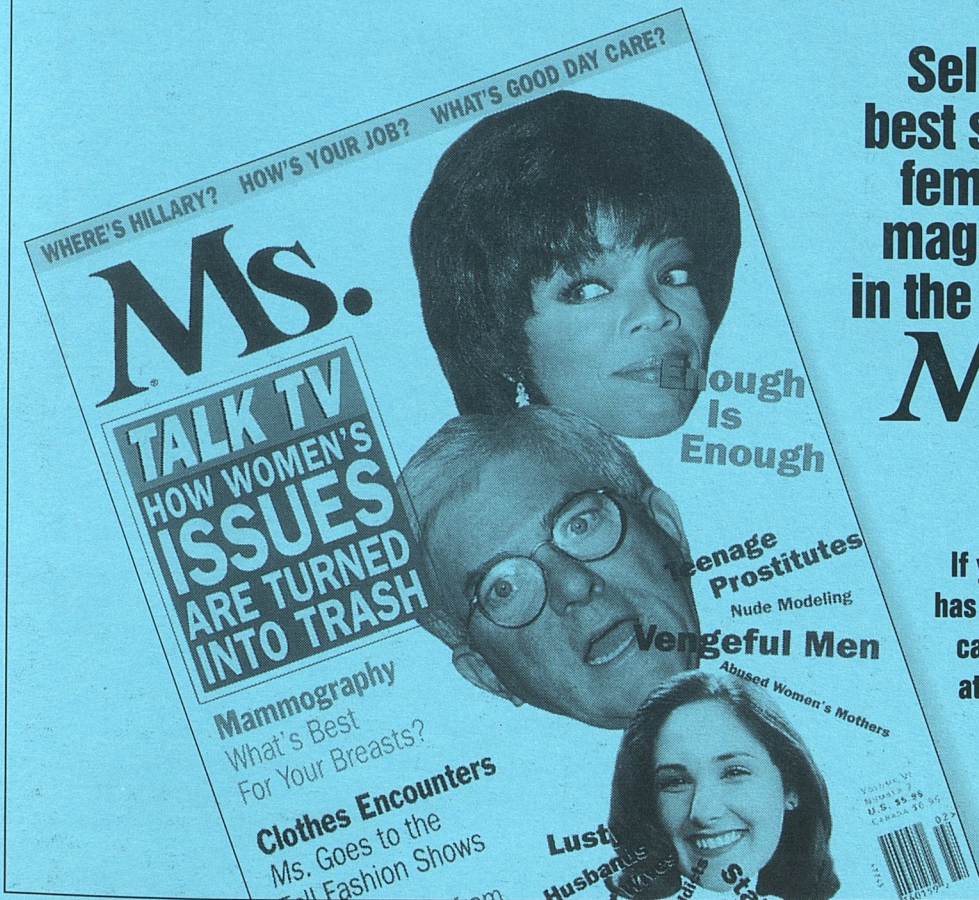
See Classified Ads, previous page.

More feminist energy per page...

With 100 pages of editorial in every issue—and no advertising—that's a lot of energy! *Ms.* has grown fresher, feistier, more life-relevant and reader-friendly than ever. Display it prominently, and watch sales take off!

Sell the best selling feminist magazine in the world!
Ms.

If your distribution has been interrupted, call Mary McEvoy at 212-551-9571.



- » monthly features
- » catalog of books
- » author info, appearance schedules
- » submission guidelines for authors, agents, artists and photographers
- » company background
- » editorial vision
- » purple parties
- » discussion guides
- » ordering info
- » and more

papier mache

<http://www.ReadersNdex.com/papiermache>



AMERICA'S FAVORITE
PUBLISHING HOUSE
FOR WOMEN & AGING