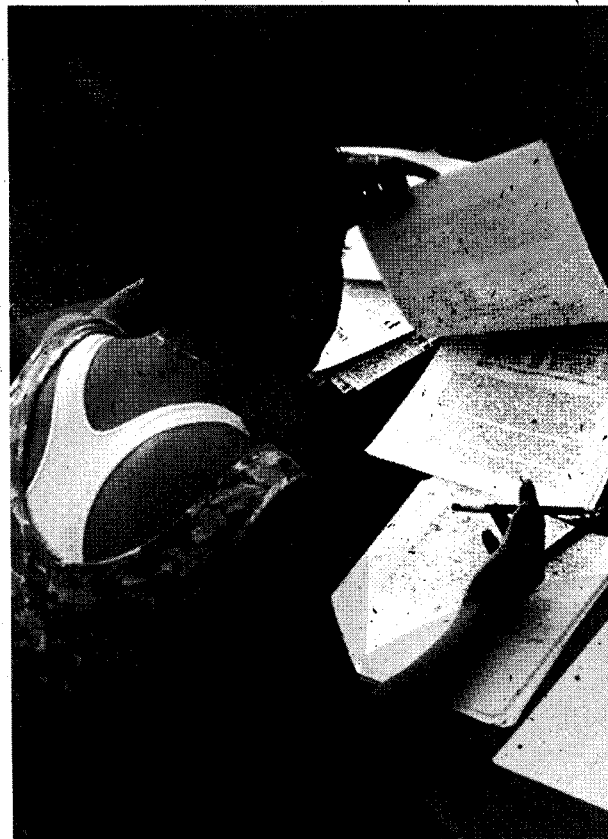


The University of Wisconsin System

Feminist Collections



A
Quarterly of
Women's
Studies
Resources

WOMEN'S
STUDIES



LIBRARIAN

Volume 20, Number 1, Fall 1998

Published by Phyllis Holman Weisbard

Women's Studies Librarian

Feminist Collections

A Quarterly of Women's Studies Resources

Women's Studies Librarian
University of Wisconsin System
430 Memorial Library
728 State St.
Madison, WI 53706
Phone: 608-263-5754
Fax: 608-265-2754
Email: wiswsl@doit.wisc.edu

Editors: Phyllis Holman Weisbard, Linda Shult

Drawings: Miriam Greenwald

Staff assistance from: Ingrid Markhardt, Valerie Brink, Jennifer Kitchak,
Christina Stross

Volunteer reader for taping: Helene Frank

Subscriptions: \$30 (individuals or nonprofit women's programs, outside Wisconsin); \$55 (institutions, outside Wisconsin); \$16 (Wisconsin individuals or nonprofit women's programs); \$22.50 (Wisconsin institutions); \$8.25 (UW individuals); \$15 (UW organizations). Wisconsin subscriber amounts include state tax, except for UW organization amount. Postage (for foreign subscribers only): surface mail (Canada: \$13; all others: \$15); air mail (Canada: \$25; all others: \$55). (Subscriptions cover most publications produced by this office, including *Feminist Collections*, *Feminist Periodicals*, and *New Books on Women & Feminism*.)

Numerous bibliographies and other informational files are available on the Women's Studies Librarian's World Wide Web site. The URL: <http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/WomensStudies/> You'll find information about the office, tables of contents and selected full-text articles from recent issues of *Feminist Collections*, many *Core Lists in Women's Studies* on such topics as aging, feminist pedagogy, film studies, health, lesbian studies, mass media, and women of color in the U.S., a listing of *Wisconsin Bibliographies in Women's Studies*, including full text of a number of them, a catalog of films and videos in the UW System Women's Studies Audiovisual Collection, and links to other selected websites on women and gender as well as to search engines and general databases.

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FROM THE EDITORS

While articles showing concern for the "digital divide" between computer haves and have nots have cropped up now and then in the mainstream American press, their point was driven home when Independent Prosecutor Starr's Report hit the Internet on Friday, September 11, 1998. The release "... raises thorny questions about inequality of access [to the Internet] - just who has it, and to what do they have access," wrote Amy Harmon in *The New York Times* the next day (p.A9). *Feminist Collections'* readers might well find it suspect that the right to information access among poorer folks - more given to voting Democratic - suddenly becomes of import when what they lack is full and immediate access to the sordid details of President Clinton's affair. Yet the divide is real, the figures far more pronounced when comparisons of availability are made between developed and developing nations, and the impact of the gap on the future for girls and women living in access-poor locales even more worrisome.

The gap was the major topic at the KnowHow Conference on the World of Women's Information held this August in Amsterdam (planned and hosted beautifully by the International Center and Archive of the Women's Movement). I was privileged to attend, along with close to three hundred other librarians, archivists, media specialists, and activists from women's organizations in eighty-three countries. We heard speaker after speaker call for improved dissemination of information to women in developing lands before the gap widens into an insurmountable chasm. Few thought that bringing women into the information loop required high tech connections to the Internet, however. In fact, the communication device most men-

tioned was radio, which is already available in towns and villages and most rural areas of the globe. The speakers urged participants to create more radio programs offering basic information for women on health care, legal rights, preventing abuse, etc. Primary work would need to be done within the countries themselves, but keynoters, panelists, and other attendees agreed that women's resource centers, libraries, and other information service providers elsewhere also have a role. We should find ways to use our resources to narrow the gap. For some this could take the form of purchasing gift subscriptions to women's periodicals for a women's information center in less fortunate circumstances, donating used books, or sending free copies of their own publications. For others it means stepping up the advocacy for women's information needs in international agreements, foreign aid programs, and organizational settings. For us, an option is offering more exchanges with our far-flung sister publications.

The conference had an activist dimension throughout. A declaration drafted during the conference took note of many aspects of women's relationship to the global information revolution. It reaffirmed the Platform for Action of the United Nations conference in Beijing, resolutions calling for the integration of gender data into governmental studies, and partnerships between international bodies and women's information service providers to generate and disseminate gender-specific information. The declaration also called for more space for women online, new terminology for collecting and preserving women's knowledge (particularly through oral histories), and empowerment of women by training them in media production

and in better ways to find and use information. Indigenous women, who were prominent among participants, reworded the draft to demand that they be the arbiters of what indigenous knowledge is collected and preserved and that their own centers be the homes for this material.

Mindful of both the barrier to communication raised by the many languages of the world and the hegemony of English, the declaration boldly stated that publication on the Internet should be multilingual. This is a difficult one. Would it be useful to have *Feminist Collections* articles for the Internet translated into Spanish (it seemed that fewer participants from Spanish-speaking countries knew even a minimal amount of English than did those from other areas and language communities)? Who would do this for us in a timely and accurate fashion (and realistically, as a volunteer)? Any takers?

What I took away from Amsterdam and relive as I look over the conference program, the many handouts describing the work of

centers throughout the world, and my photographs of smiling new friends eating breakfast on the hundred-year-old ship some of us stayed on together, is a strong sense of being connected to so many women (and a few men) all over. In numbers we may be few, but our global network - forged through personal contact at this conference and those that preceded it in Istanbul and Cambridge, Massachusetts, and continuing through email - is strong. It's a heady time to be a women's information specialist. We have many local responsibilities, but we also have the KnowHow to think and act globally.

○ P.H.W.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sisters,

I was saddened to read some old inaccuracies being resurrected in your report about The Women's Press (*Feminist Collections* v.19, no.3, Spring 1998).

You report that I 'oversee the publishing effort' of The Women's Press with Naim Attallah. It is hard to imagine a comment that could more understate my role. I am the Joint Managing Director of The Women's Press with Mary Hemming. Mary has worked steadfastly for The Women's Press for fifteen years. Together, in the last seven years, we have steered The Women's Press from the brink of collapse to a vibrant and successful feminist publishing house.

Naim Attallah is the financial backer of The Women's Press. Nothing more, nothing less. He has no involvement in the management of The Women's Press, nor in editorial, sales or marketing, whatsoever. Your piece suggests that his role changed in some nefarious way at some stage. But his role has never changed. It remains exactly as it was in 1978, when The Women's Press was founded by Stephanie Dowrick....

Your summary of the conflict at The Women's Press in 1991 misses out some key facts - that, at that time, losses ... had built to over £300,000. The reps felt unable to sell the books. There was a history of staff dissatisfaction and high staff turnover. Relationships within the Press had broken down.

When I joined The Women's Press, I decided I would not engage in refuting the inaccuracies that had begun to circulate. I wanted to concentrate my energies on getting The Women's Press back on track; on publishing good feminist books and ensuring that those books reached

readers through dynamic and successful publishing....

It is deeply unfortunate that coverage of a celebration of 20 Years of The Women's Press in a publication entitled *Feminist Collections* was marred by a false resurrection of a painful past. Your report rewrote history. Deliberate distortions of the truth were included. Women's achievements were rendered invisible. At least one woman - this woman - was hurt. This is the antithesis of feminism.

We can't change the past - I wish we could. But we can consciously try to transform the mistakes of the past into a more positive future.

Kathy Gale
Publishing and Joing Managing
Director
The Women's Press

inaccuracies in print, our brief article would have been able to use that, too.) Our intention was honestly to commemorate the founding of an important feminist publishing house, give our readers a bit of background (as even on this side of the Atlantic there was quite a hubbub over the shift in publishing managers), and note some of the many fine books the Press has produced.

For this brief "Feminist Publishing" column we generally can't do interviews and extensive research - it is simply a way to let our readers know, in brief announcements, that feminist publishing is out there striving to get and keep good women authors in print. We sincerely appreciate all your work for many years for feminist publishing.

Linda Shult
Coeditor, *Feminist Collections*

.....

The editors reply:

Dear Kathy,

Thanks for your letter in response to our announcement about the twentieth anniversary of the founding of The Women's Press, London. I'm truly sorry you found the information distressing and inaccurate. I tried to pull from several sources, mostly from your Web page and a 1992 article from *Women's Review of Books* (v.9, no.7, April 1992, pp.5-6) by Allison Henegan. (Perhaps had you or someone else refuted the

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FEMINISTS IN ACADEME

by Ellen Cronan Rose

Devony Looser and E. Ann Kaplan, eds., *GENERATIONS: ACADEMIC FEMINISTS IN DIALOGUE*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1997. 361p. bibl. index. \$49.95, ISBN 0-8166-2898-X; pap., \$19.95, ISBN 0-8166-2899-8.

Beth Mintz and Esther D. Rothblum, eds., *LESBIANS IN ACADEMIA: DEGREES OF FREEDOM*. New York: Routledge, 1997. 298p. \$69.95, ISBN 0-415-91701-8; pap., \$19.95, ISBN 0-415-91702-6.

Elizabeth G. Peck and Joanna S. Mink, eds., *COMMON GROUND: FEMINIST COLLABORATION IN THE ACADEMY*. Albany: SUNY Press, 1997. 298p. bibl. index. \$65.50, ISBN 0-7914-3511-d; pap., \$21.95, ISBN 0-7914-3512-1.

At the Modern Language Association's 1990 annual convention, the Women's Caucus and the Commission (now Committee) on the Status of Women commemorated their twentieth anniversaries, and in 2002 the National Women's Studies Association will celebrate its twenty-fifth. The generation of feminist academics who founded these organizations is writing memoirs and retiring, and the academy that young women with shiny new Ph.D.s are entering, though not yet a totally equal opportunity employer, boasts a much warmer climate than it did a quarter century ago, in large part because of those who founded both women's caucuses in the disciplines and the NWSA.

If a number of the contributors to *Generations: Academic Feminists in Dialogue* are to be believed, however, the current generation of feminist academics is not particularly grateful to its predecessors. The titles of many essays hint of anger and conflict (a few examples are Diane Elam's

"Sisters Are Doing It to Themselves," Rebecca Dakin Quinn's "An Open Letter to Institutional Mothers," and Lynda Zwinger's "Dancing Through the Mother Field: On Aggression, Making Nice, and Reading Symptoms"). In "Talking Across," Jane Gallop and Elizabeth Francis (who, though not a student of Gallop's, is a generation younger than she) succinctly characterize the conversation between academic feminist generations as a "mirror image" discourse (p.113), in which the young scholar sees herself being judged, dismissed, and even attacked by established scholars, and the senior scholar feels slighted and exploited by "aggressive, snotty" graduate students (pp.112-13). In the course of their dialogue, Francis and Gallop come to realize that it was ever thus in academe – young scholars prove their mettle by revealing the flaws in established constructions of knowledge (and those who fashioned them, who therefore are on the defensive). The difference, as Gallop points out, is that when her generation of feminists was in graduate school, the "masters" they had to find fault with were (in her case) Lacan and Derrida; now the

established scholars are the pioneering generation of feminists in academe, including – among the contributors to this book – E. Ann Kaplan, Nancy K. Miller, Judith Newton, Judith Roof, and Gallop herself.

After reading several similarly depressing accounts of senior and junior scholars' dismissing, ignoring, or just misunderstanding each other, it was very refreshing to come upon Linda Frost's "Somewhere in Particular": *Generations, Feminism, Class Conflict, and the Terms of Academic Success*. A first-generation academic from a working-class background, Frost remarks that if "generations define us," her first definition – as the daughter of working-class parents who emphasized the importance of "getting a job" – was supplanted by another in graduate school, where academic mentors taught her to think about her career in professional terms, and know the difference between books and "good" books, between racquetball and squash, between a midwest state university and the Ivy League. For Frost, these competing "generational influences intersect and configure one another, competing and jockeying for ideological space in my self-determination and my less

controllable subjectivity" (p.221). Unexpectedly, the work of certain older feminist scholars (she names E. Ann Kaplan, Janice Radway, and Jane Tompkins) showed her a way to use her scholarship to reconnect with her working-class roots, remembering, for example, her father's "abiding passion" for Civil War battlefields and memorabilia and her mother's love of popular romances and historical fictions as she works with mid-nineteenth century periodical literature (p.232).

Several contributors to *Common Ground: Feminist Collaboration in the Academy* suggest that the most fruitful collaborations may be those across differences. In "Beyond Feminism: An Intercultural Challenge for Transforming the Academy," Paula D. Nesbitt and Linda E. Thomas argue that the only way "transformative breakthroughs" (p.32) or paradigm shifts can occur in the academy is through collaborations between established scholars and those on the margins:

Collaborative research between those who are structurally dominant and those who have been historically marginalized is an important way to transform the academy. Assuming that those who have been structurally marginalized claim their history and insert its centrality in scholarly work and assuming that the structurally dominant person is teachable and open to shifting dominant paradigms, then the final project is bound to result in an original and distinctive contribution to the academy. (p.36)

In "Common Ground, Difficult Terrain: Confronting Difference through Feminist Collaboration," Mary Ann Leiby and Leslie J. Henson, a faculty/graduate student teaching team, reflect that while collaboration can afford comfort and support to women in academe, it can

also produce what Cherrie Moraga calls "collisions" when different subjectivities interact. Leiby's and Henson's differences – in social class, religious affiliation, sexuality, and disability – created collisions that taught them that genuine collaboration across differences can produce what Henry Giroux calls a pedagogy of and for difference, an educational praxis that opens up new discursive spaces in which to acknowledge and affirm cultural diversity. They give an inspiring account of how they used the differences between them to model for their students a way to "brave the difficult terrain of difference and to meet one another on the common ground of feminist collaboration" (p.189).

There are differences galore among the thirty contributors to *Lesbians in Academia: Degrees of Freedom*. They come from all sections of the U.S., range in age from the thirties through the sixties, and represent various ranks and disciplines. The task of taxonomizing the thirty narratives in this collection is simplified by the editors' decision to conclude the anthology with three "analytic" sections: "The Lesbian Experience: An Analysis," "Race, Class, Age: The Question of Identity Politics," and "Lesbian Studies, Queer Studies: Theorizing the Lesbian Experience." They asked a sociologist and a professor of writing to analyze the narratives' themes from their perspectives; a Chicana and an Asian-American to compare lesbian academics' experience to those of faculty of color; two faculty who have written about working-class women to compare lesbian academics' experience to those of working-class academics; and a clinical psychologist to compare the lesbians' concerns to

those of older women in general. Finally, they asked two scholars to examine the narratives from the perspective of queer theory.

My first response to this unusual editorial strategy was "what a great idea!" The additional overviews of the collected essays amplify and augment the editors' sense of what is salient or significant about them, thus giving the reader a choice of ways to approach and reflect on the individual narratives, which are for the most part very short (five to six pages). However, some of the issues raised in the concluding sections of *Lesbians in Academia* so radically deviate from the editors' motivating interest in understanding the "variability" and "complexity" of lesbian academics' experience that I found myself wondering why some of these essays were included in the final version of the book. For example, neither of the essays in "Lesbian Studies, Queer Studies: Theorizing the Lesbian Experience" – one celebrating the potential of queer theory "to negotiate the divisiveness of identity politics" (p.266), the other warning that "the appearance of queer theory and queer studies threatens to mean the disappearance of lesbians" (p.269) – can be even remotely construed as a commentary on the thirty personal narratives that comprise the first two hundred pages of this book.

In the final analysis, the real value of *Lesbians in Academia* resides in the raw, unanalyzed, uncategorized stories arranged (wisely) by the editors in no order except that provided by the alphabet (save that the one essay by "Anonymous" appears last, not first, thus beginning

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the entries with Dawn D. Bennett-Alexander's "Reflections on Being an Out Black Lesbian on a Southern Campus"). Readers will be drawn to one account because it resonates to their own experience or that of a friend, to another because it is stylishly written, to yet another because the institutional or geographical setting is familiar. My own favorite account is by my longtime friend and collaborator, Carey Kaplan. Although I have known Carey for twenty years and we have not only written books and articles together but shared intimate information about our personal lives—indeed, although I remember vividly her agonizing debate with herself seven years ago about whether or not to come out to her class—reading Carey's narrative in the context of the others made me understand her in a new way, not just as my friend who happens to be lesbian (also Jewish, also a gardener, also a great cook), but as a member of a community (excluding me) with whom she shares experiences, fears, and hopes.

At least since 1991 when Nancy K. Miller published *Getting Personal: Feminist Occasions and Other Autobiographical Acts* (New York: Routledge), the history of feminists in academe has been recorded through personal narratives and memoirs, like those that enliven *Generations, Common Ground, and Lesbians in Academia*. These three books and others like them that have recently appeared¹ demonstrate that feminists in academe have stories to tell that are often cautionary, frequently inspiring, always instructive.

NOTES

1. For example, Lois Benjamin, ed., *Black Women in the Academy: Promises and Perils* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1997); Mary Anderson et al., *Doing Feminism: Teaching and Research in the Academy* (Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 1997); Gayle Green and Coppelia Kahn, eds., *Changing Subjects: The Making of Feminist Literary Criticism*

(New York: Routledge, 1993); Phyllis Chesler et al., eds., *Feminist Foremothers in Women's Studies, Psychology, and Mental Health* (Binghamton, NY: Haworth Press, 1995); and Barbara Laslett and Barrie Thorne, eds., *Feminist Sociology: Life Histories of a Movement* (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1997).

[Ellen Cronan Rose is Director of Women's Studies at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Her most recent book, written with Carey Kaplan, is *The Canon and the Common Reader* (University of Tennessee Press, 1990), and she has published articles on feminist collaboration (with Carey Kaplan), feminist pedagogy, and feminist literary criticism in numerous journals, including *The Feminist Teacher*, *Signs*, and *New Literary History*.]



Miriam Greenwald

LOOKING TO THE RIGHT

by Barbara Spindel

Brenda Brasher, *GODLY WOMEN: FUNDAMENTALISM AND FEMALE POWER*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1998. 216p. bibl. index. \$48.00, ISBN 0-8135-2467-9; pap., \$19.00, ISBN 0-8135-2468-7.

Elinor Burkett, *THE RIGHT WOMEN: A JOURNEY THROUGH THE HEART OF CONSERVATIVE AMERICA*. New York: Scribner, 1998. 288p. index. \$23.00, ISBN 0-684-83308-5.

Sylvia Bashevkin, *WOMEN ON THE DEFENSIVE: LIVING THROUGH CONSERVATIVE TIMES*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998. \$47.50, ISBN 0-226-03883-1; pap., \$18.00, ISBN 0-226-03885-8.

Too little academic work has focused on right-wing women. Until recently, studies of women's political activism tended to center upon feminist activists, while studies of right-wing political or religious movements tended to center upon the activities of men. Three new books are situated at the intersection of such scholarship: two, Brenda Brasher's *Godly Women* and Elinor Burkett's *The Right Women*, seek to understand women's allegiance to conservative religious and political movements, respectively. The third, Sylvia Bashevkin's *Women on the Defensive*, focuses on the effects of conservative rule on the women's movements in Great Britain, the United States, and Canada during the 1980s.

In the past, it was de rigueur for scholars who acknowledged the existence of right-of-center women to attribute their activism to false consciousness, in effect suggesting that women who championed reactionary, antifeminist, or even conservative agendas must be the pawns of men. Witness Andrea Dworkin's argument in *Right-wing Women*: "The Right in the United States today is a social and political movement controlled almost totally by men but built largely on the fear and ignorance of women. . . . [S]elf-sacrificing women are perfect foot soldiers who obey orders, no

matter how criminal those orders are."¹

Both Brasher and Burkett reject this tradition. Brenda Brasher, a religion professor whose ethnographic study focuses on the women members of two fundamentalist Christian congregations in southern California, writes against scholarship that depicts fundamentalist women as "essentially dedicated to furthering the goals and ideas of fundamentalist men, and thus of ancillary importance to the fundamentalist movement as a whole" (p.3). Her extensive observations and interviews convince her that while fundamentalist Christianity is generally believed to be organized around women's disempowerment, women are, in fact, empowered by their participation in fundamentalist congregations.

To support this argument, Brasher describes in great detail the "female enclaves," women-only activities and events through which fundamentalist women, "faced with the ubiquitous male dominance of overall congregational life, . . . establish a parallel symbolic world in which they can be fully contributing participants" (p.27). Through the

networks created in the female enclaves, fundamentalist women become "empowered," a term Brasher uses again and again. They exercise their "power" in a number of ways. For instance, while women are forbidden from preaching to the overall congregation, they preach to each other – often quite movingly, by Brasher's account – in women's ministries. Women also exercise power as an "invisible organizational principle" (p.87): after a married male pastor began an affair with a female congregant whom he had been counseling, women congregants worked behind the scenes to ensure that in the future only women would counsel women (the male senior pastor who approved the change, however, was officially credited with making the decision). In some ways, these women's power is a matter of perspective. For instance, they accept that wives should be submissive to their husbands, but "declare that this submission is done out of obedience to God not men" (p.6).

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The thorny issue, one Brasher does not sufficiently examine, is that the "empowerment" she describes (as in the examples above) does not challenge the profoundly gendered doctrines and structure of fundamentalism. While she acknowledges that the female enclaves both undermine and support fundamentalist patriarchy (p.112), she emphasizes women's empowerment – perhaps a result of her desire to problematize the traditional explanatory models of her discipline. Brasher, herself a liberal Christian and a "committed feminist," does a good job of shedding light on the reasons women join and remain in fundamentalist congregations; I wished, however, for a deeper analysis of what it means – both for feminism's commitment to gender equity and for the women themselves – that women feel empowered by a restrictive religion that consigns them to subordinate, submissive roles.

Like Brasher, Elinor Burkett rejects the false consciousness explanation of conservative women, but much more egregiously than Brasher she overcompensates in the other direction. In *The Right Women*, a book for general readers, the journalist and former professor describes her two-year journey across the United States interviewing all sorts of right-wing women to determine why they have rejected feminism. The result is 258 pages that are long on gushing (conservative women are independent! they're spunky! they're sexy!) and painfully short on analysis.

Burkett's overall argument is that conservative women are strong, nonconformist, and empowered. A

self-described feminist, Burkett concludes that the prominence of conservative women is proof of the victory of feminism: "American women aren't talking about feminism. They aren't writing about it, theorizing about it or marching for it. They're just doing it. Women's rejection of feminism, the official movement, should not be a cause for dismay. It should be a cause for celebration" (p.258). In seeing the activism of conservative women as a triumph for feminism, simply because it is performed by spunky women, Burkett empties the term feminism of all meaning. In each chapter, Burkett focuses on a different type of conservative: young women ("the babes"), religious women ("the holy"), militia women ("the outlaws"), intellectual women ("the ideopreneurs"), gun-toting women ("pistol-packing mamas"), etc. While Burkett at times claims to oppose and even to abhor her subjects' politics, she is obviously captivated by the women she encounters. Burkett gushes over the women's good looks and fashion sense: Andrea has "frosted hair, hot pink fingernails and a miniskirt" (p.169). Whitney, "wearing a miniskirt and a gold necklace . . . taps her black patent leather open-toed heels" (p.230). April lectures teens in a "black mohair sweater and dark pinstriped trousers. Her lipstick and nail polish were dark" (p.33). She makes little effort to refute either their gross caricatures of feminism (she engages in a few herself, referring to feminists as "male-bashers" [p.93]) or their political views. For instance, she does not respond critically to the young Washington, D.C. activist who claims that she is not a feminist because she loves her ovaries (p.32) or to the Black gubernatorial candidate

who champions the death sentence for the rape of virgins (p.63). As a result, the book is a platform for rather than an analysis of right-wing women's views.

In her chapter on conservative congresswomen, Burkett quotes Idaho's Helen Chenoweth as saying, "The way I figure it, if you want to be liberated, why don't you just be liberated? Why do you have to talk about it all the time?" (p.181). Such a sentiment gets to the heart of Burkett's apparent attraction to the conservatives she meets. Describing conservative women business owners, Burkett admiringly declares, "While feminist leaders were busy complaining and litigating about hiring discrimination, glass ceilings and flextime, millions of practical, no-nonsense American women like Pat went out and dealt with these problems on their own" (p.127). In Burkett's equation, conservative women act, while feminists merely grumble and whine. Burkett evidently does not see any connection between feminist activism and the increased opportunities for women, feminist or not, to start their own businesses or serve in Congress. Nor does she consider the significance of other factors – class, race, sexuality – that might limit individual women's access to the resources necessary to participate in economic and political life.

While many of Burkett's subjects, in their individualist zeal, refuse to acknowledge the existence of "women's issues," Sylvia Bashevkin, a political scientist at the University of Toronto, well understands that changes in the labor force, marriage and divorce patterns, and government spending have disproportionately affected women, leaving them more economically vulnerable than men. Her *Women on the Defensive* compares

the effects of the Thatcher, Reagan, and Mulroney governments – which together “effected a major realignment of political ideas” (p.6) – on the women’s movements of Great Britain, the U.S., and Canada. Previous comparative scholarship suggests that the U.S. movement should have been the best insulated because of the “diffuse interests in a U.S. congressional environment.” Yet Bashevkin challenges the consensus in her field by arguing that the American women’s movement, in fact, “suffered the most decisive policy reversal of the three cases”; she cites as examples the intensified threats to abortion access, the failure to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, and the undermining of affirmative action (p.49). In all three countries, the impact of conservative government seems to be lasting: the “return of the liberals” brought three leaders, Tony Blair, Bill Clinton, and Jean Chretien, who have “all created new paths to the right of their partisan roots” (p.233).

Besides providing thorough and readable descriptions of the political climates of the three countries before, during, and after the conservative governments were in place, Bashevkin includes accounts by feminist activists who tell of the losses and limited gains that occurred during the 1980s. During a time when their governments were prescribing “lower taxes, reduced government spending, deregulation, and an emphasis on individual, voluntary effort” to resolve their nations’ problems (p.4), the women Bashevkin interviewed describe feeling isolated and on the defensive. The fifteen one- to two-page narratives appear in their own chapter, set off from Bashevkin’s text in bold print. While they are interesting to read, the format does not

facilitate much engagement with or analysis of the activists’ accounts.

Bashevkin complicates the notion of “women” as a homogeneous group suffering under conservative rule by pointing out that some women, especially those with access to advanced education, benefited from conservative policies during the 1980s; in Britain in particular, women supported the Tories in great numbers. Bashevkin sees women’s support of conservatism as ironic, but such backing reminds us that identity formation is a complex process: women do not live solely as gendered subjects, but experience their gender simultaneously with other factors – class, race, religion, sexuality, and age. Also important is recognizing that conservative political and religious movements offer rewards to women, both material (prestigious positions in political organizations) and psychological (the security of firm gender roles, or the confidence of believing that equal opportunity has been achieved). The future efficacy of the

feminist movement will depend, in part, on understanding how a variety of factors can contribute to the formation of feminist consciousness or militate against it. Brasher’s and Bashevkin’s studies suggest some answers; Burkett’s book, describing such a wide range of conservative women, suggests that there is much more work to be done.

NOTES

1. Andrea Dworkin, *Right-wing Women* (New York: Perigee, 1983).

[Barbara Spindel is working on her Ph.D. in American Studies at the University of Minnesota. She is also affiliated with the University’s Center for Advanced Feminist Studies.]



Miriam Greenwald

WRITING AND READING WOMEN'S LIVES

by Gretchen Flesher Moon

Trev Lynn Broughton and Linda Anderson, eds., *WOMEN'S LIVES/WOMEN'S TIMES: NEW ESSAYS ON AUTO/BIOGRAPHY*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1997. 281p. index. \$59.50, ISBN 0-7914-3397-8; pap., \$19.95, ISBN 0-7914-3398-6.

Linda S. Coleman, ed., *WOMEN'S LIFE-WRITING: FINDING VOICE/BUILDING COMMUNITY*. Bowling Green: Bowling Green State University Popular Press, 1997. 281p. bibl. \$49.95, ISBN 0-87972-747-0; pap., \$24.95, ISBN 0-87972-748-9.

Anna Neumann and Penelope L. Peterson, eds. *LEARNING FROM OUR LIVES: WOMEN, RESEARCH, AND AUTOBIOGRAPHY IN EDUCATION*. New York: Teachers College Press, 1997. 261p. bibl. index. \$46.00, ISBN 0-8077-3594-9; pap., \$21.95, ISBN 0-8077-3593-0.

Around the tables where women's autobiographical writings are discussed, one distinguishes, and then mistakes or blurs, and then, perhaps, re-cognizes a rich polyphony of voices and languages. The simple distinctions of public/private, self/other, author/reader, text/reader, text/life, subject/object, theory/practice one first hears invoked as paired opposites in the ubiquitous slash quickly give way and complicate one's reading and thinking. The sign, /, is inadequate to the complexity it needs to signify. Sitting at the table with these three collections on women's autobiography makes up for that notational lack.

The introductions by Linda Coleman and by Trev Lynn Broughton and Linda Anderson both credit Estelle Jelinek's *Women's Autobiography: Essays in Criticism*¹ with opening the male canon of autobiographical texts to women by extending the boundaries of the genre to include such forms as diaries and

letters. To the extent that it focuses on genre, *Women's Life-Writing* continues a line of familiar argument for feminist literary scholars: bringing new texts in new forms to the table. The fifteen essays she includes are arranged in three sections, each focusing on sub-genres of life-writing: first, "Lives Considered and Reconsidered Day by Day: Diaries, Letters, and Journals"; second, "Retrospective Constructions and Negotiations: Autobiographies/ Memoirs"; third, "Crossing the Boundaries: Appropriating Other Genres." Yet this classification by subgenres turns out not to be particularly important to her main theoretical claim. Adopting or adapting a form apparently means, in this collection, "finding voice." More interesting is the idea noted after the slash of her sub-title: "building community." Coleman theorizes a "fundamental and common strategy for coming to a meaningful understanding of the self and for establishing the needed authority and strength to negotiate or even to subvert external or internalized norms that might silence that self": "the construction of an empowering and sympa-

thetic other, a community of readers" (p.1).

In their preface, Broughton and Anderson shift and complicate a number of the critical terms Coleman has apparently assumed. Accepting as a given the now almost twenty-year-old reciprocal linking of genre to gender in autobiography, they move from "genre" to "discipline," from the binary distinction of private and public texts to the "complex interrelation between the personal, the theoretical, and the political" (p.xi), and from reading to practice. What most clearly distinguishes their theoretical claims from much recent literary theory is their very discomfort with "theory's tendency to generalize about the subject, to disenfranchise the 'bios,' the lived element of autobiography, and thus drown out the multiple voices of autobiography through the iteration of its own theme" (p.xii). Indeed, many of the essays in this collection explicitly struggle with deconstructive tendencies to abstract those lived elements as mere textual effects and insist instead on restoring a concept of agency to the women autobiographers they study.

Both collections introduce several new texts and writers to the canonical "greats" of women's autobiography (Maya Angelou, Gertrude Stein, Virginia Woolf, Maxine Hong Kingston, et al.), partly by extending the formal definition of genre. For example, Sylvia Bryant, reading the journal writings of Rebecca Jackson, (*Women's Life-Writing*, pp.63-79) makes the case for genre inclusivity: the *Gifts of Power*, she says, are "part religious tract, part doctrinal treatise, part intimate diary" (p.64) as well as slave narrative and spiritual autobiography (p.67). Both Margaretta Jolly and Johanna Alberti make convincing cases for the epistolary construction of autobiography in letters written over a woman's entire adult life (*Women's Lives/Women's Times*, pp.9-29 and pp.73-93, respectively). Each book also examines autobiographical writing by women already canonized in historical surveys or well-known in women's studies, though not always for the texts under scrutiny in these essays.

Because Coleman writes a very brief introduction (five and a half pages) to her collection and no further introductions, summaries, or suggested implications for further research and theorizing, readers are left almost entirely on their own to find connections between essays or to other discussions of women's autobiographical writing. To return to the table I set earlier, the essays in *Women's Life-Writing* often seem to make unanswered, though often very interesting, utterances. The idea most conducive to further study and reflection, I found, is that of the construction of a community of readers, taken up by the contributors rather irregularly. Where it does emerge, notably in Bryant's essay mentioned above, and Angela D. Jones's on Mary Wollstonecraft's

travel writing as autobiographical, it is most engaging.

Women's Lives/Women's Times enacts a genuine conversation precisely because Broughton and Anderson engage in both synthesis and connection for the essays they anthologize. Beyond the preface, their introductions to each of the four sections - "Historians of the Self," "Selves and Others," "Subjectivities," and "Lives in Practice" - set the interpretive problems of reading women's autobiography in perspectives drawn from the critiques of objectivity, abstraction, essentializing, naive historicism, cultural hegemony, and even restrictive formalism raised in their preface. The task they face, in ever more complex ways, is the problem of reclaiming the subject. The editors summarize the project of their first section as a cumulative suggestion that "it is only through an understanding of subjectivity in, and as, active engagement with the material world, rather than just as textual 'effect' or just as 'product' of historical determination, that we can restore to women life-writers their dignity as 'self-historians'" (p.6). The first essay, Margaretta Jolly's on *The Maimie Papers*, ends with a quotation from the pseudonymous Maimie that expresses a recurrent theme in the entire collection: "I have such a horror of writing to persons that I feel are not specially interested in me as a person, but in me as a question (if you know what that means)" (p.26).

The editors and contributors to this volume continually and explicitly struggle to maintain both that engagement with the material world which, reading, we apprehend as individual agency - "me as a person" - and the critical distance from which we question the construction of the

"I" as a unified individual - "me as a question." By the last section of the book, "Lives in Practice," the reader and critic are fully implicated in the critiques of both subjectivity and objectivity, of biography and autobiography. Marion Shaw, for example, reflects on her own practice as a biographer by considering the autobiographical necessities in Vera Brittain's *Testament of Friendship* (pp.243-257). Vicki Bertram offers a model of reading poetry that is subjective, but not "merely" autobiographical. That is, by the end of the volume, we are no longer considering whether particular texts should be included in the genre of autobiography, but how readings of texts can extend beyond autobiography. It is, I believe, a testament to the editors' work in facilitating or mediating or intervening in the conversation of these texts that we follow this unexpected progress through thirteen essays.

Broughton and Anderson acknowledge the lead of social scientists in critiquing the subject/object distinction, especially in research. The third text on my table here is a collection of autobiographical pieces, written precisely to the question of how personal and public are related in one's research life. Neumann and Peterson asked their eleven contributors, all researchers in education (pedagogy, learning, history of education), to "write personally and autobiographically about the place, meaning, and experience of research in their lives. . . . to look at any phase or instance of their research and to describe the webs of personal,

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social, and professional involvements and commitments in their lives associated with that research" (p.8). Like students of literary autobiography, their initial aim is to fill a gap in the record that has focused until now on the lives and work of male heroes in education. Yet they also raise epistemological questions about how "research - and the knowledge it generates as the substance of a field - draws from personal lives" (p.2). They are careful not to essentialize *the* woman's perspective on *the* woman's way of knowing.

Their introduction suggests some pairings of essays that respond to their own histories, career choices, and relationships in private and public/professional life. Reading through the narratives, though, I found even greater diversity than their introduction had suggested. As a reader outside my own primary discipline of literature, I found myself at first confused by what seemed unclear distinctions of personal and professional. Maxine Greene seemed to describe her life history as a series of research projects, for example. Similarly, Concha Delgado-Gaitan

seemed not to inhabit the "borderlands" she described so much as to alternate sides of that border. As I read further, I realized too rigid distinctions lingering in my own understanding between personal life and political activity: for many of these researchers, political activity has been at the center of both personal and professional life.

Several contributors describe the challenge of writing autobiographically after years of training out the personal, instructed to exclude the personal voice and experience from their research. Not surprisingly, then, the writing here is unequally fluent. Nel Noddings' account of the accidents of love that have composed her life is singularly beautiful and moving. In other pieces, the sense of "report" or even "interview" is stronger.

As if reading and learning from their own book along with their readers, Neumann and Peterson conclude with an essay that synthesizes the recurring themes. They note two patterns. First, "we came to see research as an extension of these authors' personal efforts to re-present their selves and their everyday lives. Second, we came to understand research as a means for these women to rethink and re-form their selves

and their worlds in their adult years, a process that, for some, began in their childhood or adolescence" (pp.238-9).

Learning from Our Lives and *Women's Lives/Women's Times* are both offered as anthologies for students - in women's studies, in literature, in education. Broughton and Anderson point to the growing use of autobiographical writing as means as well as object of study. In that sense, then, these books speak to each other and to readers in complementary ways. *Women's Lives/Women's Times* (and less directly *Women's Life-Writing*) problematize the assumed dichotomies of subject/object, personal/public, even writer/reader; the authors in *Learning from Our Lives* are exemplars of these dichotomies: they reflect on composing their experienced lives as well as published Lives.

NOTES

1. Estelle Jelinek, ed., *Women and Autobiography: Essays in Criticism* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1980).

[Gretchen Flesher Moon is Associate Professor and Chair in the English Department of Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minnesota. She is completing a manuscript on reading women's diaries from the Oregon Trail.]

FEMINIST VISIONS

LOSING MY RELIGION

by Andrea Jule Sachs

BATTLE FOR THE MINDS. Prod. and dir.: Steven Lipscomb. 1997. 52 mins. study guide. VHS rental: \$50; sale: \$225. New Day Films, Dept. WM, 22-D Hollywood Ave., Hohokus, NJ 07423; 800-343-5540 (ordering information); email: tmcndy@aol.com; website: www.battlefortheminds.com

The Southern Baptist Convention recently garnered public attention when it urged its members to boycott Disney because of the company's "pro-homosexual" policies. Last June it again made headlines when it revised the Baptist Faith and Message to proclaim that "a wife is to submit herself graciously" to her husband. These edicts have emerged from a denomination that, in its 150-year history, has not only emphasized the autonomy of individual worshippers and local churches, but also provided leadership roles for women. A recent video, produced and directed by Steven Lipscomb, explores the political shifts and internecine struggles within the nation's largest Protestant denomination.

Battle for the Minds documents the conservative fundamentalist takeover within the Southern Baptist Convention, which has some forty thousand churches across the U.S. and nearly fifteen million members. The film centers around the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, which was the last Baptist institution to fall under control of the religion's conservative wing. Lipscomb's moving and provocative documentary reveals the careful political manipulation behind this takeover, as well as the repercussions within the denomination. Ultimately, the film's relevance extends

far behind the grounds of the seminary and speaks to broader issues of gender, ethics, and politics.

The takeover of the Southern Baptist Convention began in 1979, when two conservative members, Paige Patterson and Paul Pressler, devised a plan to politicize the organization, which has historically embraced democratic principles. Unhappy with what they perceived as liberal trends within the SBC, they "stuffed the ballot box" by transporting busloads of fundamentalists to elect a conservative president. The leadership has since promoted a radical fundamentalist agenda, while curbing the democratic process within the organization. The takeover of Southern Seminary didn't come about until 1994, when Dr. R. Albert Mohler, Jr. was appointed president. A former advocate of women as leaders in the Baptist church, Mohler now aligns himself with those who decry "radical secularism" and exclude women from the pastorate.

At the core of the documentary is the question of women's proper roles within the seminary and the denomination. The most articulate participant in and witness to the drama is Dr. Molly Marshall, a professor of theology who has been

described by a former colleague as "the most intelligent and best-educated Baptist woman of the twentieth century." Despite her excellent reputation and unflagging commitment to her work, Marshall was forced to resign from her tenured position. Her "heresy trial" took place immediately after the conservative takeover, when the faculty and administration were placed under a gag order forbidding them to speak publicly against the new policies. Faculty members also had to proclaim their support for three key fundamentalist tenets: abortion is in all cases a moral evil, homosexuality is a sin, and women cannot serve as pastors.

Lipscomb's documentary gives voice to Marshall and others who felt the blows of the fundamentalist *putsch*. Footage of a campus vigil shows Marshall speaking frankly about the "misogynistic forces" that have removed all of the tenured women from the School of Theology. In other interviews, women seminarians tell of their rage and heartbreak in the wake of their disenfranchisement. They powerfully articulate their struggle to reconcile their faith with the political changes within the

"An institution has to decide, and it's not just an option, it's a responsibility, how much diversity can be tolerated."

Dr. R. Albert Mohler, Jr.

President, Southern Seminary

institution. One of the film's greatest strengths is its willingness to let the participants tell their own stories. Baptists from across the ideological landscape speak on their own behalf, with no added narrative or commentary. While the film contains some footage of campus gatherings and the 1995 Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta, it is dominated by talking-head interviews with a wide range of participants. This spare style, which lets viewers process the information and reach their own conclusions, makes the video an effective discussion tool in both academic and community settings.

It was only after I saw the film that I learned of Lipscomb's personal stake in the seminary drama. He became interested in the subject in 1995 when his mother, Dixie Petrey, was about to graduate from Southern

Seminary and become a pastor. As she and her son discussed the upcoming commencement, Petrey complained that she was excluded from certain meetings because she was a woman, and that she could not speak in chapel or other public forums. Lipscomb, an attorney who had fairly recently begun making films, felt "a moral imperative to go and tell a story that wasn't being told." His relatively even-handed treatment of the subject matter is admirable given his relationship to the narrative. In an era of rising fundamentalism and attacks on affirmative action, *Battle for the Minds* makes a valuable contribution to feminist discussions of American religion, politics, history, and culture.

[Andrea Jule Sachs is a doctoral candidate in the Program in American Studies at the University of Minnesota, where she is also affiliated with the Center for Advanced Feminist Studies. Her research interests include social welfare history and feminist theory.]

"The Bible is crystal clear that women are not to have the position of ruling and teaching over men."

Paige Patterson

CAMPUS CULTURE: WILD CARD IN DISTANCE EDUCATION

by Nancy Bayne

Not many semesters into my teaching career, I discovered that classes, even different sections of the same course, have different personalities. In recent years, I have participated in programs on Female Friendly Science and spent many hours discussing the climate differences between natural science classrooms and social science or humanities classrooms. Two years ago I helped my oldest son find the college that best fit his personality. Why then did it not occur to me that the two campuses of the University of Wisconsin System involved in a team-taught distance education Women and Science course would have quite different cultures that would be reflected in the personalities of the two groups of students?

I had plenty of information that should have alerted me to the existence of different campus cultures within one state. UW-Stevens Point's mission emphasizes programs in Natural Resources (Biological Sciences), Wellness, and Communicative Disorders while UW-Platteville's mission emphasizes programs in Engineering, Agriculture, and Criminal Justice. UW-Stevens Point enrolls over fifty percent women, UW-Platteville about thirty percent. However, it was not until the class began that I realized there were major campus culture differences and that these differences would create some of the biggest challenges of our distance education experience.

The Challenges

The problem became obvious early in the semester when students

began to participate in the class discussion list. Students were required to read the email entries and to provide at least eight entries of their own. On the first day of class we devoted considerable time to identifying the rules that would govern discussion list participation, including several relating to respect. Students from Platteville, who were primarily engineering majors, began to participate in the list immediately. As I read their initial entries, I was startled by the tone and language of some of the messages. For example:

"I think that you missed the entire point of the readings."

"Apparently, you have either spoken without much research into your topic...or you are trying to start an argument to gain e-mail discussion points."

"Stupid ass arguments and blunt ignorance is really annoying and filling up my mailbox with this crap is getting on my nerves." In the four prior semesters during which I had incorporated an email discussion into several classes, I had never encountered messages like this.

I took examples of messages that violated our rules to the next class and pointed out that these were not appropriate. I suggested that some students may hesitate to get involved in the discussion list after reading these messages. As I looked at students in the two classrooms, I found nearly all of the Stevens Point students nodding their heads, while most Platteville students were either shaking theirs or looking puzzled. At

that moment several pieces of the puzzle shifted into place and I realized the Stevens Point classroom reflected a social science/humanities culture, more accustomed to honoring and expecting different points of view, while the Platteville classroom reflected a natural science culture, more trained in rigorous inquiry focused on finding the singular correct answer. While the students could not articulate the difference in this way, it was also clear to them that there was significant cultural disparity.

Additional behavioral differences, reflective of these divergent classroom cultures, soon emerged. During the first part of the semester, discussion was led by teams of students at either the Platteville or Stevens Point campus. Platteville students were more likely to devise games in which there was one right answer, or to give mini-lectures, while Stevens Point students more often asked questions requiring an opinion or interpretation. Platteville students clearly enjoyed the competition involved in the games, while Stevens Point students showed ambivalence.

This difference was important because it was one of a number of factors associated with the use of distance education that contributed to the development of in-group bias and a number of related negative behaviors. With approximately equal numbers of students at two different locations, there was already a procliv-

ity toward two separate group identities rather than one group identity encompassing students at both campuses. Differences in sex ratio in the two classrooms (nine males and eight females at Platteville, one male and seventeen females at Stevens Point) visually reinforced this sense of difference. When the differences in behavior began to emerge, students were primed to develop a strong sense of "we" versus "they" that even I sometimes found hard to avoid.

As the group identities solidified, group processes began to operate. The in-group was seen as superior to the out-group. In-group members were seen as individuals, while out-group members were viewed as undifferentiated and stereotyped. For example, Platteville students were labeled as condescending engineering majors, while Stevens Point students were stereotyped as condescending women's studies minors. Each group saw the other as condescending. The development of this kind of mirror image in which each group views the other in the same negative terms is common as groups become more hostile toward each another.

Meeting the Challenges

How did the other instructor and I attempt to deal with this problem? In designing the course, we had included a one-day, face-to-face meeting of all students in Madison. At this meeting we paired Stevens Point students with Platteville students and had them interview each other; students then introduced their partner to the rest of the class. We also encouraged partners to sit with each other rather than with students from their own campus. This was an effective strategy in the short run but

was not powerful enough to significantly affect the rest of the semester.

Because having members of different groups work together toward a common goal is an effective strategy for overcoming group bias, we created cross-campus teams to lead discussion during the last third of the semester. Unfortunately, students circumvented our efforts by splitting the readings in half and continuing to work only with students from their own campus.

That these belated efforts to overcome in-group bias and the associated intergroup hostility were too little too late became clear when a student on one campus made a derogatory comment about gays, even though he knew that a student at the other site was gay. Students at the site with the gay student (Site 1) were unanimous in their support of the gay student and his immediate response that he found the comment crude and offensive. Students at the site from which the comment originated (Site 2) were split. A few excerpts illustrate both the different reactions and the intensity of the group bias:

Site 1

"...I think that the person in our class who is so outspoken represents everything that needs to be changed in our white, male-dominated, homophobic society. Any comments?"

Site 2

"Yes, I do have an idea. I think that this class is about, as you said, looking at things from a new point of view. That means that we should look at situations from EVERY available point of view. Just because you may disagree with a person's beliefs doesn't make their viewpoint any less valid. That is why we should value everyone's opinion, even if we do disagree with it."

"I have to agree with (the Site 2 student) on this one. Dismissing

someone else's views because you don't agree with them is not right. Not everyone thinks the same.

Site 1

"I believe (the Site 1 student) was very diplomatic about her statements and have to back her up... If some people would think things out before 'blurting' we'd all be better off, that way apologies wouldn't be needed or offense taken."

Conclusion

The development of in-group/out-group bias is *not* a fatal flaw in distance education. Many students spontaneously commented on how much they learned in the class. While some students prefaced their remarks with the statement "in spite of the distance education component," others actually commented that their learning was enriched by the interaction with students at another campus. Courses must be designed, however, with a constant awareness of the challenges created by different campus cultures. The creation of cross-campus teams, an early face-to-face meeting at which students engage in cooperative learning, reinforced by a second meeting midway through the semester, and educating students in the class about group formation and dynamics are some of the techniques I will incorporate into my next distance education course.

[Nancy Bayne is a Professor of Psychology and Coordinator of Women's Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. The distance education Women and Science course discussed here was funded by a University of Wisconsin Undergraduate Teaching Improvement Grant, "Using System-wide Collaboration and Distance Education to Improve Student Access to Courses and to a Major in Women's Studies: A Pilot Program.]

WORLD WIDE WEB REVIEWS

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WEBSITES

by Amy Shepherd

Victim Services Domestic Violence Shelter Tour and Information Site

URL: <http://www.dvsheltertour.org>

Developed/Maintained by: Victim Services

Last Updated: 6/16/98

Date of Review: 6/25/98

Advocates for Abused and Battered Lesbians

URL: <http://www.isomedia.com/homes/AABL/>

Developed/Maintained by: AABL

Last Updated: 5/16/98

Date of Review: 6/25/98

Minnesota Center against Violence and Abuse Electronic Clearinghouse

URL: <http://www.mincava.umn.edu/>

Developed/Maintained by: MINCAVA

Last Updated: 5/16/98

Date of Review: 6/25/98

While the Internet has a wealth of information on many topics, it can be difficult to find reliable, useful websites. In the following review, I will highlight three excellent websites that address the issue of domestic violence.

Victim Services is a New York-based, independent, not-for-profit organization that assists victims of crimes with a variety of financial, legal, and social services. In addition to their main site, they also have a separate site, the Shelter Tour and Information Site, which showcases their network of shelters and offers information about domestic violence. Rather than simply reproducing a printed brochure online or listing contact information, this easy-to-navigate site uses the medium to its advantage, combining well-written FAQs (frequently asked questions) such as "What is domestic violence? Does anyone ever have any fun in the shelter? What about security?", brief articles, personal stories, artwork, and links.

The main attraction is the interactive shelter tour. Virtual bedrooms feature photos and personal stories of residents such as Felicia, who left her abusive husband,

then got a green card and a new place to live through the shelter. Common rooms contain brief articles or FAQs about shelter programs, such as "Poetry at Passage House," which gives residents a chance to share their personal experiences through weekly poetry readings. This tour normalizes the shelter experience as it educates about domestic violence. Another thoughtful, well-designed part of the site is the Children's Art Gallery, which offers many pieces of artwork created by children who have stayed at Victim Services' shelters. The images are held together narratively by the lyrics to a song that describes finding a place "Far Away from the Storm." Included are links to a description of the program that yielded the song and artwork as well as a link to a brief, but more scholarly article on how children are affected by domestic violence.

Additionally, the site includes other components common to sites on domestic violence: information on making a safety plan and contacting police, short articles, contact information, and links to additional resources. Refreshingly, the links are not the main focus of the site, but rather a complement, directing readers towards additional information about national and international shelters and organizations. All of the links are annotated in the site's native language, whether that is English, Spanish, or Italian.

Overall, this site is useful not only as outreach to women living in violent situations, but also as an educational tool about violence and a promotional vehicle for Victim Services' shelter system.

Another organization that provides a very useful site on domestic violence is the Puget Sound (WA)-based organization Advocates for Abused and Battered Lesbians (AABL). This clear, consistent, attractive site distinguishes itself through its documentation. Choices within sections are annotated, articles are properly attributed, items are marked with the dates they were added or updated, and there is even a page with site specifications. Each page has a navigation bar on the left side, ensuring easy movement from one section to the next.

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The Power Tools section of the AABL site includes information on creating a safety plan, checklists to help readers identify abusive behavior, FAQs on domestic violence, and a nice mix of signed online articles and excerpts from printed sources. In addition, this section provides a recommended reading section featuring links to local and national libraries and bookstores as well as site visitors' recommendations. Another well-developed section of the site is Voices, a collection of well-written and insightful personal stories about violence in lesbian relationships.

In addition to a section with links to other online resources, AABL's site provides a Global Directory of domestic violence resources. Unfortunately, because the AABL staff relies on submissions, this listing is incomplete. Of more local interest is AABL's Mission Statement and information on their services in the Puget Sound area.

Though this site is designed to assist women currently in abusive relationships with other women, it offers good information to anyone seeking knowledge about domestic violence (emotional, psychological, or physical) within lesbian relationships.

For more scholarly interests, there is the Minnesota Center against Violence and Abuse (MINCAVA) Elec-

tronic Clearinghouse. MINCAVA is a well-known and respected organization. Their online site is an extension of their mission to aid higher education programs on violence, provide research on violence prevention, and act as an international resource for higher education, community-based programs, and professional organizations.

This site has much to offer: online searchable databases, syllabi and bibliographies, scholarly papers and reports, public and private funding sources, employment opportunities, a calendar of upcoming workshops and conferences, links, and news and discussion groups. Since the site is intended for use primarily by academics, the design resembles the appearance of other research tools; navigating this site and finding the information you need is much easier if you have previous experience with research methods and bibliographic tools such as catalogs and databases.

This frequently-updated clearinghouse is the definitive violence research site and will be enormously helpful to researchers and practitioners. Average Web surfers looking for basic material on domestic violence may be overwhelmed by the amount of information available.

[Amy Shepherd currently lives in Seattle and works as a computer tech at the University of Washington.]

WEBSITES ON WOMEN FROM DEVELOPING AND POST-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES

by Laura Parisi

Women in developing and post-communist countries have often been marginalized in world politics. Their invisibility as international political actors is highlighted by the fact that there exist very few websites that are a compilation of links focused solely on women in developing and/or transitional countries. In this review I will examine one site focused on broader issues facing women in developing and former Soviet Bloc countries, as well as sites that are more regionally specific.

The Mining Company's Guide to Women's Issues in the Third World

URL: <http://women3rdworld.miningco.com/>

Maintained by: Cecil Marie Cancel

Updated: weekly

Reviewed: July 8, 1998

This site is good place to start for those interested in exploring current issues facing women in developing countries. The site is regularly updated with thought-provoking topics/articles that serve as the focal point for discussion in the chat room and the bulletin board (however, these featured articles do not always credit their source, so it is difficult to know how reliable some of the information is). The best feature of this website is the many links it provides to different issues ranging from

politics to religion. Although uneven in its coverage of Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America, the site provides a useful starting point for those who may feel overwhelmed by searching for information about women in specific developing countries and regions.

For statistical information, a good list of development-related organizations, and other information across a range of nations, see: **Women In Development (WIDNET)** (<http://www.focusintl.com/widnet.htm>).

Several other websites contain news articles about women in developing and transitional countries (but not exclusively):

One World Gender News (http://www.oneworld.org/news/by_theme/index.html & then click on "gender"); and **Women's International Net (WIN)**: (<http://www.geocities.com/Wellesley/3321/>), an online magazine. Articles are written by women from all over the world.

Russian Feminism Resources

URL: <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/2533/russfem.html>

Maintained by: Elena Leonoff

Last Updated: June 7, 1998

Reviewed: July 8, 1998

This site is an excellent source of information on both Russian and Eastern European women, despite the name of the page. Links in both Russian and English are coded so viewers know which sites are in which languages. (Readers will need to install Cyrillic fonts to read the material in Russian.) What I really like about this site are the links to Russian women's magazines, organizations, and personal homepages because these shed needed light on the views of Russian and Eastern European women. There are links to the Arts, Life/Work, Health, Politics, Activism, and Academic topics. All of these links have well-documented sources from magazines, newspapers, and academic papers and syllabi, and provide a wealth of information. The only drawback is that within the subject categories' links there is sometimes little organization. Finally, given the vast amount of information on the site, a "search" function would make it easier to find more specific topics in the categories.

For more on Russian and Eastern European Women, see also the **Network of East-West Women** (URL: <http://www.neww.org>), which links together many women's movements and organizations from Central and Eastern Europe [CEE] and Former Soviet Union (FSU).

SAWNET: South Asian Women's Network

URL: <http://www.umiacs.umd.edu:80/users/sawweb/sawnet>

Maintained by: Susan Chacko and Jyothy Reddy

Last Updated: July 9, 1998

Reviewed: July 9, 1998

This website provides a wealth of materials by and on women from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burma, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Topics range from legal issues to health to cinema and books. There is also a special "News About South Asian Women" link that has newspaper articles, etc. grouped in categories such as "Government and Politics" and "Business." However, there were very few articles for 1998, which is disappointing considering what a tumultuous year it has been in Asia so far. One nice feature of this site is the search option. The page also provides links for each individual country to YAHOO's country search sites.

For two interesting websites on Chinese women, see **ASIAPAC's 100 Celebrated Chinese Women** (<http://www.span.com.au/100women/>) and very informative documents by the **Public Information Committee of the China Organizing Committee of the 4th World Conference on Women on IHEP** (<http://sun.ihep.ac.cn/women/cwomen.html>). For detailed (though dated) information on reproductive rights in China and India, see **Women of the World** (<http://www.echonyc.com/~jmkm/wotw/>).

Columbia University Middle East Studies: Women in the Middle East Page

URL: <http://www.cc.columbia.edu/cu/libraries/indiv/area/MiddleEast/women.html>

Maintained by: Frank Unlandherm, Middle East Studies Librarian

Last Updated: July 2, 1998

Reviewed: July 9, 1998

This is the only website I found that seems to compile links solely related to the study of women and the Middle East. However, many of the links are outdated or no longer exist. Also, there appears to be only cursory organization of the page - the links are arranged by country (but not all Middle Eastern countries are represented) then alphabetically by individual topic. My

WEB REVIEWS

experience with searching for a broad "Women in the Middle East" website leads me to conclude that using one of the many search engines for the Middle East more generally, or by a specific country, is a better way to go.

For a selection of more academic works, see the **Association for Middle East Women's Studies** (<http://humanitas.ucsb.edu/~gallaghe/amews.html>), which is also linked at the top of the Columbia site. This page, unfortunately, does not have links to related Women in the Middle East websites, and primarily carries articles from the *AMEWS Review*.

Finally, for an informative link on Women and Islam, visit **Huma Ahmad's Muslim Sisters Homepage** (<http://www.albany.edu/~ha4934/sisters.html>).

Latin America Network Information Center (LANIC) at the University of Texas: Women and Gender Studies Page

URL: <http://www.lanic.utexas.edu/la/region/women/>

Maintained by: The University of Texas

Last Updated: June 26, 1998

Revised: July 9, 1998

With links on a variety of topics in both English and Spanish, this page is divided into sections: General Latin American resources on women, Country Resources (including a section on U.S. Chicana and Latina Issues), and International Resources. While the website offers numerous resources, it is hindered by lack of a search option. Also, the links are not annotated and it would be helpful to know whether some of the Spanish-language sites have an English-language option and vice-versa. The page appears to be updated often, and the general LANIC website offers a tremendous amount of information as well.

For an informative overall assessment: **Social Watch: Latin American Women at the End of the Century: Family and Work**, by Irma Arriagada (<http://www.chasque.apc.org/socwatch/latamw.htm>).

Africa-Women

URL: <http://www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/women.html>

Maintained by: Stanford University Libraries/Academic Information Resources

Last updated: October 23, 1998

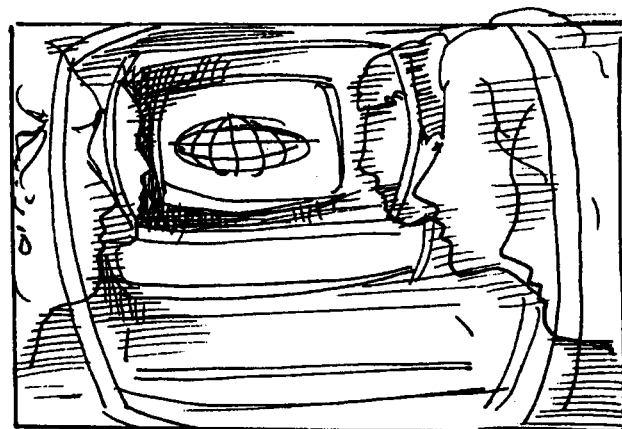
A lengthy listing of links to all sorts of collections, articles, and agencies with information on African women is pulled together on this Web page - from the African Policy Information Center's reports on African women's rights to a brief biography on Sudanese doctor/activist Zahir Khalda

Another page, though somewhat disappointing, is **African Women Global Network** (URL: <http://www.osu.edu/org/awognet/>), as there is actually little information about African women. Only a few links are directly related to African women; most connect to more general sites on Africa.

For news articles from 1994-1998 about African women, try the **Mail & Guardian**, a South African newspaper in English (<http://www.mg.co.za/>) and search their archives. For an excellent source on women in South Africa see the **Centre for Gender Studies at the University of Natal** (<http://www.unp.ac.za/UNPDepartments/politics/gender/genlinks.htm>)

After spending a lot of time on the Web looking for good sources about women from developing and transitional countries, I have concluded that more effort is required in promoting the visibility of women in these countries. More websites like SAUNET's are needed to centralize information about women and gender issues.

(Laura Parisi is a Doctoral Candidate in the Department of Political Science at the University of Arizona and a visiting instructor in the Departments of Women's Studies and Political Science at Hollins College in Roanoke, Virginia.)



L. PARIS

COMPUTER TALK

WORLD WIDE WEBSITES

ABANTU, "A Human Resource Network Promoting a Gender and African Perspective," is a nongovernmental organization whose main focus is on training, with a goal of "mobilising resources towards sustainable development in Africa." Offices are located in London, UK; Nairobi, Kenya; and Kaduna, Nigeria. Website: <http://www.abantu.org/>

AFRICA ONLINE: WOMEN website includes several documents and periodicals on African women (though some are no longer available) and links to related sites, plus a chatroom. Web address: <http://www.africaonline.com/AfricaOnline/coverwomen.html>

The **ALAI WOMEN'S PROGRAM** (Agencia Latinoamericana de Informacion) "gathers documentary material on gender issues" in serving women in Latin America and the Caribbean. Its brief Web page offers its objectives and publications. Its address: <http://www.ecuanex.apc.org/alai/women.html>

ANALIZE: JOURNAL OF FEMINIST STUDIES is a new quarterly Romanian journal available online in both Romanian and English. (See description in "Periodical Notes" column of this issue.) URL is: <http://ana.ong.ro/contents.html>

BIOGRAPHIES OF WOMEN MATHEMATICIANS is an ongoing Web project of students in mathematics classes at Agnes Scott College, Atlanta, Georgia. The biographies are listed in both alphabetical and chronological order, and each carries a portrait or photo, most also include references. Links to other resources, including "prizes, awards, and honors for women mathematicians," offer more information. The site address: <http://www.agnesscott.edu/lriddle/women/women.htm>

CALIFORNIA OPINIONS ON WOMEN'S ISSUES, 1985-1995 is a teaching module, complete with downloadable text, exercises, codebooks, and datasets, for use with statistical software. It is part of the Social Sciences Research and Instructional Council Teaching Resources Depository from California State University. Website address: <http://www.csuak.edu/ssric/Modules/ModFirst.htm>

The **CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF ELIZABETH FRY SOCIETIES** Web page provides not only information on the Society, but a number of links to articles on

women within the justice system, including why women may be perceived as committing more violent crimes than they actually do, the defense of battered women, alternatives to incarceration, and literacy in prisons. Address is: <http://www.elizabethfry.ca/>

The new **CENTER FOR WOMEN AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**, directed by Joan Korenman at University of Maryland, Baltimore County, is a specially funded project that includes curricular resources, links to related websites, news on women and information technology, and other online resources. Web address: <http://www.umbc.edu/cwit/>

CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE UNDER WELFARE REFORM: EARLY RESPONSES BY THE STATES by Sharon K. Long, Robin Kurka, Shelley Waters, and Gretchen G. Kirby, is a multi-year project of the Urban Institute analyzing the "devolution of responsibility for social programs from the federal government to the states." Case studies from thirteen states are considered. Web address: <http://newfederalism.urban.org/html/occ15.html>

The **ECOFEMINISM** home page put together by a class of Professor Gloria Orenstein of the University of Southern California offers commentary and links to a number of websites on the topic. Though slow-loading and hard to read (a gawdy background!), it includes some nice photos and is subdivided into: Women's Spirituality, Conservation, Reproductive Technologies, Treepeople and Earthships, Abortion, and Militarism and the Environment. Address: <http://www-rcf.usc.edu/~orenstei/ecofem/>

EUROPEAN DATABASE: WOMEN IN DECISION-MAKING "provides information about women in political decision-making positions in the European Union. Data are collected on national and regional levels...as well as on the European level." The website offers searching by election, government, parliament, party, or particular women, and for all or some of the EU member states. Website address: <http://www.db-decision.de/english/default.htm>

COMPUTER TALK

EVENINGS WITH EVA, a longtime AOL women's chat forum hosted by Eva Shaderowsky, is now available via the **WOMEN2WOMEN** website (which Shaderowsky also co-founded). Chats are open each Tuesday at 9 p.m. Eastern time. Go directly to the Evenings site at: <http://www.women2women.com/evenings-with-eva/>

EVERGLADES BOOK COMPANY specializes in lesbian and gay literature that is hard to find or out of print. Included on the company's website is a listing of "Most Important Lesbian Books, Published Prior to 1980, Excluding Pulp Titles" (not quite 1,000 books) and, of course, a companion list, "Lesbian Pulp Fiction" (about 1,100 titles). Start at <http://www.evergladesbookcompany.com/>, and move on to "Main Menu" (keep scrolling) and "I Buy Books," where the bibliographies are located. (It takes awhile to load these listings, so have patience.)

While not specifically focused on women, **FALLING THROUGH THE NET II: NEW INFORMATION ON THE DIGITAL DIVIDE** tells us that since the first such report in 1994, the disparity between those who do and do not have access to the "Information Superhighway" has grown larger. The "least connected" groups are the rural poor, rural and central city minorities, young households, and female-headed households. The report is available at: <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome/net2/>

Being somewhat partial to women's libraries and because **FAWCETT LIBRARY** will be moving to entirely new and vastly improved quarters over the next couple of years, we'd like to take note that the library has an updated Web page. Keep up with building/fundraising progress, investigate their special collections and archives, or access their catalog, at: <http://www.lgu.ac.uk/fawcett/main.htm>

A factsheet on **FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION** is available on the website of the World Health Organization. It includes basic definitions, health consequences, prevalence and distribution of the practice, and more. Address: <http://www.who.int/inf-fs/en/fact153>

FEMINET ASIA began operation in 1997, seeking "to improve the status of women through information technology" by setting up information resource centers; conducting research, education and training in informa-

tion technology; and enhancing cooperation among women's groups. Member groups in Korea, China, Malaysia, and Mongolia each have their own websites within Feminet. Main website is: <http://www.feminet.org/introduction.html>

FEMINIST MOTHERS AT HOME is a website connected closely with an email list for the stay-at-home moms whom Web creator Ann Allen calls "Bettys with Modems" (after Flintstone cartoon character Betty Rubble, apparently). Links to other feminist pages, to parenting sites, and to individual members' websites add to the interest. Address is: <http://www.lollygag.com/fmah/>

The **FEMINIST PRESS AT THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK** now has a website that includes a bit of its history as well as a catalog, a guide to books for young people, information on its Women Writing Africa project and on Women's Studies Quarterly and Women's Studies International periodicals. Web address is: <http://web.gsuc.cuny.edu/feministpress/>

FINDING DATA ON WOMEN: A GUIDE TO MAJOR SOURCES AT STATISTICS CANADA by Marcia Almey is a 144-page handbook explaining how to find information on women in Statistics Canada on such topics as demographics, housing and wealth, family status and living arrangements, paid and unpaid work, income, health and well-being, and violence and the justice system. The publication is free in print and may also be downloaded from Status of Women Canada's website: <http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/>

FIREBRAND BOOKS now has its own website, listing the more than ninety titles this publisher has produced on lesbian and feminist topics. Searchable by title, author, or subject, books may be ordered for same-day shipment with secure credit card ordering, and an extra perk to the site is a "Dykes to Watch Out For" page featuring new cartoons monthly by Alison Bechdel. Website address: <http://www.firebrandbooks.com/>

The **GENDER PERSPECTIVES WORKING GROUP** of the Virtual Conference on the Right to Communicate and the Communication of Rights (June 1998) discussed such issues as commercialized media's "right" of free expression versus women's right to communicate, access to the Internet, first world domination, using the Internet as a tool for activism, and more. Archives of the discussion as well as papers submitted for comment may be found at: <http://commposite.uqam.ca/videaz/wg/genderen.html>

GENDERS is now available only online (beginning with the July 1998 issue) and is free to all. Editor Ann Kibbey notes there will be opportunity to run film clips and videos, provide enlarged color images for art essays, and use other web-based innovations. Find their website at: <http://www.genders.org/>

GENERATION WOMAN ONLINE MAGAZINE arrived on the Internet on August 5, offering an "objective news magazine for women of the United States and Canada," and targeted primarily to Generation Xers. (See description in "Periodical Notes" column of this issue.) Website address: <http://www.generationwoman.com/>

GOLF DIGEST WOMAN is a supplementary publication of **GOLF DIGEST** that "offers profiles on leading woman players, equipment and accessories updates, and instruction geared just for women." (See further description in "Periodical Notes" column this issue.) Address: <http://golf.com/pub/gdwoman/>

GRADUATE WOMEN IN SCIENCE (Sigma Delta Epsilon) "is an interdisciplinary society of scientists who encourage and support women to enter and achieve success in science." The society's Web page includes fellowships, activities, publications, an online discussion group, plus links to other websites related to women in the sciences. Address: <http://www.gac.edu/People/orgs/gwis/>

Students of the **GREEK AND ROMAN WORLDS** may want to look at two new sites related to women. Professor Barbara Goff of the Department of Classics at University of Texas-Austin offers a site developed for her Spring 1998 course, "Women in Classical Antiquity": <http://www.utexas.edu/depts/classics/faculty/Goff/women/women.html>. A website on "Women in the Greek and Roman World" from Professor Laurel Bowman of the Greek and Roman Studies Program at the University of Victoria, British Columbia, also offers a syllabus, notes, bibliography, and the like: http://web.uvic.ca/grs/bowman/course_info/GRS335.1997/index.html

GYN 101 is a helpful tool for women about to have their first gynecological exam or perhaps for someone who hasn't had one in awhile. A young woman takes the viewer through preparation (such as when to schedule), things to ask about, the exam itself (breast and pelvic), and questions to consider. There are also a glossary of terms, suggested reading, and reassurance about bringing a friend or family member along with you. Address: <http://www.gyn101.com/>

HIP MAMA zine's website offers connections to its online forum, tips on sex and pregnancy, "Maternal Matters," with both "expert advice" and "practical resources," as well as subscription information and more. Web address: <http://www.hipmama.com/home.asp>

The **INTERNET RESOURCE GUIDE**, from Michigan State University's Women and International Development program, offers websites on the topic of women and development, categorized by region and/or topic. There are two large gathering points (International Organizations, North American and European resources; and Area Specific Resources, including Africa, Asia/Pacific, Eastern Europe, Latin America, and Middle East). The main website is at: <http://www.isp.msu.edu/WID/wwwresgui.html>

The inaugural issue of **INTERSECTIONS: GENDER, HISTORY AND CULTURE IN THE ASIAN CONTEXT** is now online from Murdoch University, Australia. (See description in "Periodical Notes" column of this issue of Feminist Collections.) Website address is: <http://www.she.murdoch.edu.au/hum/as/intersections/>

JEWISH FEMINIST RESOURCES website includes "ritual, liturgy, Torah commentary, divrei Torah, and sermons," as well as several message boards, a bookstore linked through Amazon.com, and links to a Jewish music site, email discussion lists, and other related sites. Address is: <http://www.jew-feminist-resources.com/>

JOUVERT: A JOURNAL OF POSTCOLONIAL STUDIES offers an online special issue on "Postcolonial Masculinities," v.2, no.1, Summer 1998. For details see the "Periodical Notes" column in this issue of Feminist Collections or the online journal itself at: <http://social.chass.ncsu.edu/jouvert/i1v2/conthre.htm>

PEOPLE WITH A HISTORY: AN ONLINE GUIDE TO GAY, LESBIAN, AND TRANS HISTORY, maintained by Paul Halsall, offers extensive background on LGBT people, from the Ancient Mediterranean to Medieval Worlds to Europe Since World War I, and including Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Oceania. Try either <http://corky.fordham.edu/halsall/pwh/>

PLACES WHERE WOMEN MADE HISTORY: A NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

TRAVEL ITINERARY is a terrific resource from the U.S. National Parks Service. Featuring historic buildings in Massachusetts and New York, the site includes a map, links to each of the seventy-four historic sites with background information for and photos of each, plus a brief bibliography of both print and Web-based resources on women's history. A real gem! The address: <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/pwmmh/index.htm>

PRINCESS BASMA WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE opened its doors in Jordan in March of 1996, based on ideas gleaned from the 1995 World Conference on Women held in Beijing, China. The Centre is now online, with documentation about its objectives, programs, and progress. A page on Women's Political Participation, for example, chronicles gains made by women in politics since 1978 and the changes still needed. The address of the Centre is: <http://www.nic.gov.jo/jmaw/pbwrc.htm>

RE/PRODUCTIONS is a new online journal on the topic of reproductive health and rights of women in South Asia. (For details of content see the "Periodical Notes" column in this issue of *Feminist Collections*.) Web address: <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/Organizations/healthnet/SAsia/repro/issue1.html>

Musician Gerri Gribo's **RESOURCES FOR WOMEN'S FOLK MUSIC AND HISTORY** website lists both print and Internet songbooks, documents, discographies, and other items. She is careful to include mostly sites with "actual content" (and largely, but not totally, dedicated to music) and has personally visited each site. Website address: <http://www.dct.com/~gribi/resources.html>

SPEAKOUT: THE NORTH AMERICAN STUDENT COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE "recognizes, unites, and enhances the efforts of campus activists throughout North America, working to end sexual violence," according to the organization's Web page. The group promotes annual student conferences and maintains an electronic network, a national database of member schools, and a newsletter (*OutSpoken*, available online). Address: <http://members.aol.com/nascasv/home.html>

SUNSHINE FOR WOMEN offers a truly impressive bibliography of "Pre-modern and Early Modern Foremothers" and their writings, as well as an interesting biographical dictionary on "many other women of

accomplishment, many of whom are today quite obscure," compiled based on the writings of Matilda Joslyn Gage, plus a long listing of links to "Feminist Foremothers On-Line." Check out this website at: <http://www.pinn.net/~sunshine/main.html>

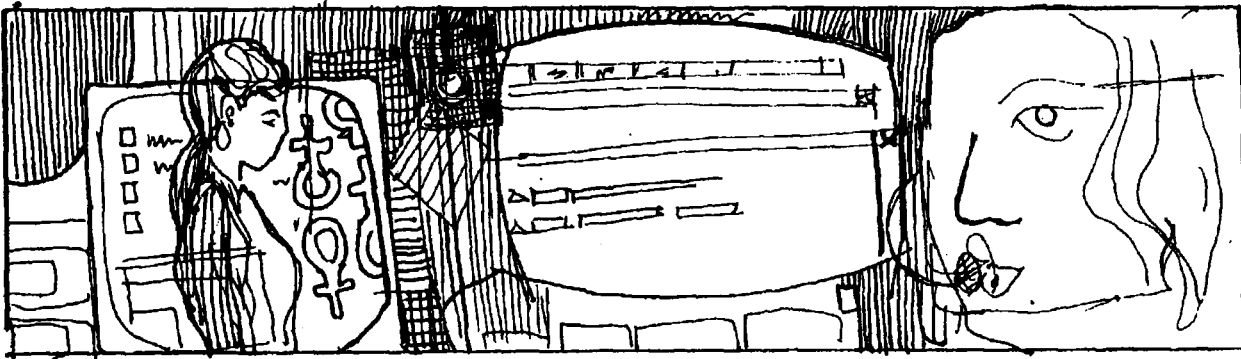
THROUGH A GENDER LENS: RESOURCES FOR POPULATION, HEALTH AND NUTRITION PROJECTS is a report from the Family Health Institute (FHI) focused on "models and methodologies for incorporating a gender perspective into U.S. Agency for International Development (US AID) development initiatives," particularly in the areas of population, health, and nutrition. Access is at: <http://www.fhi.org/wsp/wspubs/thrugen.html>

Several sites tracking **WELFARE REFORM** and its consequences offer statistics as well as anecdotal information. A very rich site is the **INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN'S POLICY RESEARCH** project on Welfare Reform Research Coordination (<http://www.iwpr.org/WRNN.HTM>). This nonprofit, independent group offers a monthly newsletter, a monitoring listserv, and a number of online resources. The **NATIONAL WELFARE MONITORING AND ADVOCACY PROJECT** (<http://www.nwmap.org/>) is a coalition of groups interested in how welfare "reform" is and is not working. Up-to-date reports and analysis offer a wealth of information and statistics. **WELFARE REFORM WATCH** (<http://www.igc.apc.org/handsnet2/welfare.reform/index.html>), though no longer being updated, carries a number of fairly recent reports on the problems with welfare reform implementation.

WOMAN: CANADIAN WOMEN'S QUARTERLY NEWSMAGAZINE celebrates its second anniversary with a new online presence carrying tables of contents to all issues and many articles in full. There are also some Internet links of interest. Site address: <http://www.womannewsmagazine.on.ca/>

WOMEN AND PRISON, part of "The Prison Issues Desk" website, needs a bit of updating but still carries some good information, including "Women and Imprisonment in the U.S.: History and Current Reality," a lengthy piece by Nancy Kurshan, and a special issue of Forum Magazine on women in prison. Web address: <http://www.prisonactivist.org/women/>

WOMEN ARTISTS IN CANADA includes 1,482 works of art by 131 women artists in media such as ceramics, computer arts, fibre arts, glass and jewelry making, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and video. An alphabeti-



Miriam Greenwald

cal listing, text in both French and English, a bibliography, and essays by the artists whose work is also displayed make this an interesting site on current Canadian artists. Web address: <http://www.schoolnet.ca/collections/waic/waic.htm>

WOMEN IN NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS, a Web page within the website of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), carries statistics on the numbers and percentages of women in representative-type governments around the world -also broken down by region and by nation. It's quite up-to-date, though data is missing on many smaller nations. Website: <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/world.htm>

WOMEN ON THE NET is a collaborative project between the Society for International Development (SID) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Its intent is to examine how men and women use the Internet and how this varies across regions, to highlight different cultural issues and change the current "gender biased cultural view of the Net." Discussion groups on such topics as ethical values, impact of new technologies on women's lives, Net language, and how to move toward multiculturalism offer everyone a chance to participate in the ongoing conversations. Not updated very recently. Website address: <http://www.waw.be/sid/won/won.htm>

WOMENHOUSE "explores, through the virtual language of the web, the intersecting issues of race, class, gender, and sexuality as they are articulated in the psychic arena of the home." This creative space by twenty-four artists, architects, poets, art historians, and cultural theorists offers the "spaces" of each contributor (from porch to laundry to closet to mailbox) and connects most of them in web fashion. Site address: <http://www.cmp.ucr.edu/womenhouse/>

WOMEN'S BUSINESS ENTERPRISE NATIONAL COUNCIL promotes a "nationally recognized certification standard" for WBE's (women's business enterprises), hoping to remove "barriers in the market place that impede the progress and growth of businesses owned and managed by women." An online newsletter and access to the WBENC database (for corporations wanting to connect with women-owned businesses) are part of the website. Address: <http://orgs.womenconnect.com/wbenc/>

The **WOMEN'S NETWORK**, though very slow-loading and totally graphics-based, carries lots of information in twelve departments ranging from Better Health (ten warning signs of diabetes), Book Club, and Career (the informational interview) to Money, Parentsplace, Travel, and Work from Home (telecommuting). There's also an open-mike type comment section. Website address: <http://www.ivillage.com/>

WOMEN'S STUDIES EUROMAP website carries links to a number of women's studies sites across Europe, such as NOISE (Network of Interdisciplinary Women's Studies in Europe), WINGS (an exchange program), and SIGMA (an overview of women's studies programs). Some documents are available in the "virtual library," and another section lists conferences and calls for papers. Address: <http://hgins.uia.ac.be:80/women/>

WOMENZNET is part of the Pegasus Networks, with the mission of providing "access to women using computer networks for information sharing, broadcast and collaboration." The group offers training, profiles on successful women and their jobs, web development, and links to other women's sites, as well as the opportunity of joining a number of online women's conferences. You can find them at: <http://www.womenz.net.au/main.html>

EMAIL LISTS

CAREERMOMS list is for mothers also working outside the home. Subscribe via the website: www.onelist.com/subscribe.cgi/careermoms

A new discussion list on **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** is administered by the Women's Rights Network (WRN) with the intent of focusing on ideas about the issues involved, effective strategies for dealing with such violence, and information sharing leading toward global action. Send to LISTSERV@TIL.ORG the message *subscribe actglobal firstname lastname* (or the name of your organization).

FEMVIEWS is an issue-oriented discussion list for undergrad and graduate students in women's studies classes. To join, send personal email to Angela (Iana) Pattatucci, list moderator, at ampatt02@athena.louisville.edu

Discussion moderator Jennifer Gagliardi notes some changes in several lists she administers. **ABIGAILS-L** (an activist discussion list) has moved. Subscribe now to LISTSERV@HOME.EASE.LSOFT.COM with the message *subscribe abigails-l your-email-address*

Irene Stuber's **CATTS-CLAWS** online newsletter as well as her Women of Achievement & Herstory list (**WOAH**) are both back after a ten-month absence. Subscribe to each at MAJORDOMO@NETCOM.COM with the message *subscribe catts-claws your-email-address* or *subscribe woah-herstory your-email-address*

QUEERGIRLIES is a new list for young women (approximately fifteen to twenty-five) with disabilities who are also lesbian, bisexual, or transgender. Email Jen Panattoni at: birdie@gimpgirl.com or check the website at: www.gimpgirl.com/queergirlies.html

WINVET (Women's Network for Technical and Vocational Education and Training) is for women in the Asia Pacific region for discussion of issues, ideas, and achievements in the technical and vocational education fields. Send the message *subscribe winvet* to MAJORDOMO@SUNSITE.ANY.EDU.AU

WLDADD is focused on adult women with learning disabilities or attention deficit disorder in higher education and may be of interest to counselors, educators, disability support staff, as well as women with learning differences. To join, send the message *subscribe wldadd firstname lastname* to LISTSERV@HOME.EASE.LSOFT.COM

○ Compiled by Linda Shult

WISCONSIN BIBLIOGRAPHIES IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

A new bibliography compiled by Elizabeth F. Dill, **SELECTED RECENT BOOKS AND ARTICLES ON THE STATE OF WELFARE AND THE SINGLE MOTHER: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY**, is now part of our ongoing series "Wisconsin Bibliographies in Women's Studies." Dill's four-page bibliography includes the voices of welfare moms themselves, as in *The New Uprooted: Single Mothers in Urban Life* by Elizabeth Mulroy (Auburn House, 1995); their survival strategies, as in Kathryn Edin and Laura Lein's *Making Ends Meet: How Single Mothers Survive Welfare and Low-Wage Work* (Russell Sage Foundation, 1997); and more analytical works such as *Welfare's End* by Gwendolyn Mink (Cornell University Press, 1998). Journal articles offer some of the very latest information on the topic. The bibliography is available on our website at <http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/WomensStudies/welfdill.htm>; or for those without convenient Internet access, single print copies from our office.

NEW REFERENCE WORKS IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

ART

Penny McCracken, *WOMEN ARTISTS AND DESIGNERS IN EUROPE SINCE 1800: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY*. New York: G. K. Hall Library Reference/Simon and Schuster Macmillan, 1998. 1059p. bibl. indexes. \$200.00, ISBN 0783800916.

Within the last twenty years there has been renewed interest in the history of crafts and design groups such as the Bauhaus and Wiener Werkstaette. These movements are particularly relevant today because many of their members were women. Unfortunately, while female painters are finding a place in the hierarchy of art history, craftswomen, with a few exceptions, remain inaccessible due to lack of source material and historical documentation. This is the first bibliography in English to bring together women working in a variety of disciplines, eradicating the traditional boundaries between fine art, crafts, and design.

Volume one includes women working in general crafts, design, bookbinding, ceramics, fashion, garden design, glass, stained glass, interior design, furniture, lighting, metalwork, and textiles. The second covers mixed media, the graphic arts, illustration, printmaking, photography, performance, video arts, painting, and sculpture.

Finding a specific woman out of over two thousand is surprisingly easy using either the index for names or the one for countries. These include

places frequently overlooked such as Greece, Estonia, Wales, Roumania, Portugal, and the Ukraine. Information about Sonia Delaunay (1885-1979) can be found under the headings for France and Russia since she was active in both countries. Her name is also listed under painting, textiles, and design, the three areas in which she was most well known. Entries also may include a brief statement, publications written by the individual, exhibitions, main and other sources.

Students may be intimidated by the references in over fifteen languages. Approaching these two volumes with a specific goal in mind might make their tasks easier. As titles shift abruptly, however, from Germanic to Slavic and Romantic languages, even an experienced researcher could be frustrated as she skims through the entries.

Nearly all densely packed bibliographies have the potential of being dry or tiresome. Extending a metaphor borrowed from the author's preface, archaeological digs also seem tedious and dusty to the uninitiated. This much-needed reference may be an important guide in the discovery of gifted women whose lives and work will enrich canons of Women's Studies and Art History.

[Ellen Winson Meyer is Lecturer in Art History at Edgewood College, Madison, Wisconsin.]

GIRLS' BOOKS

Archie Givens, ed., *STRONG SOULS SINGING: AFRICAN AMERICAN BOOKS FOR OUR DAUGHTERS AND OUR SISTERS*. New York: Norton, 1998. 144p. index. \$22.00, ISBN 0-393-02745-7.

When (not if!) you pick up this guide to recommended books for African American girls and young women (and everyone else, since reading them will be worthwhile and a pleasure to all listeners and readers), don't miss the introduction by Marian Wright Edelman. A graduate of Yale Law School and the founder of the Children's Defense Fund, Edelman is herself the subject of one of the biographical works included (*Marian Wright Edelman: The Making of a Crusader*, by Beatrice Siegel, 1995). Her childhood in segregated South Carolina was in a home full of books, where reading ran a close second to the demands of the family's Baptist faith. Reading opened the world to her, and she urges parents, grandparents, teachers, and librarians to provide the same atmosphere for the children they know - "especially for girls, who face the double barriers of race and gender, reading shines a

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spotlight on women who have broken free from these restraints to reach for their dreams" (p.5).

The majority of the books covered in *Strong Souls Singing* are novels and short stories, but there are also historical and biographical works, drama, and poetry on all reading levels, from picture books through high school/adult readers. The well-known African American women writers Zora Neale Hurston, Toni Morrison, Gloria Naylor, Jamaica Kincaid, and Alice Walker are all represented. Those familiar with children's/young adult literature will recognize stars of the genre such as Virginia Hamilton and Mildred Taylor and award-winning picture books like Faith Ringgold's *Tar Beach*.

The layout of *Strong Souls Singing* is quite attractive. Each book is described on a new page, leaving room for personal annotations or call number information in libraries. Green-and-black woodcuts by William Raaum illustrate several of the entries.

This and a companion title, *Spirited Minds: African American Books for Our Sons and Our Brothers*, also edited by Archie Givens, are both products of the Minnesota-based Givens Foundation for African American Literature, of which Archie Givens is the Director.

LANGUAGE

European Commission, *ONE HUNDRED WORDS FOR EQUALITY: A GLOSSARY OF TERMS ON EQUALITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN*. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 1998. 57p. ISBN 92-828-2627-9.

The nations of Europe forming the European Union recognize that they must surmount their babel of languages in order to succeed at economic unification. While English, French, and German predominate in the EU documents, these are but three of the eleven major languages in the fifteen EU countries (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom). In order to address issues such as the promotion of equality between women and men, there needs to be a common understanding of terms among policy makers, and for their policies to take hold in the populace, such terms need to be accessible and understandable to all. This glossary is an interesting attempt to define important gender concepts and list equivalents in each of the eleven languages. The arrangement of the words and phrases is by their English manifestation, and the definitions are also in English. The glossary is very up-to-date and can be used by English speakers simply for finding definitions of usages that have yet to make their way into English dictionaries. I had occasion to do this recently with a student searching for a precise definition of "gender mainstreaming," which we found here as: "The systematic integration of the respective situations, priorities, and needs of women and men in all policies and with a view to promoting equality between women and men and mobilising all general policies and measures specifically for the purpose of achieving equality by actively and openly taking into account, at the planning stage, their effects on the respective situations of women and men in implementation, monitoring and evaluation" (p.29). This is perhaps

the longest definition in the glossary, and it is one of several that also bears a citation to an EU document. More typical in length is the definition of "democratic deficit": "The impact of, for example, inadequate gender balance on the legitimacy of democracy" (p.16). While there are literal equivalents provided for "affirmative action," a *see reference* leads to "positive action," which appears to be the preferred term in Europe.

The equivalents are listed in order of the official abbreviations for the eleven languages, nowhere explained in the pamphlet. They are ES (Spanish), DA (Danish), DE (German), EL (Greek), EN (English), FR (French), IT (Italian), NL (Dutch), PT (Portuguese), FI (Finnish), and SV (Swedish).

One Hundred Words for Equality can be found in academic libraries either in separate documents' collections or cataloged and integrated into general collections.

LITERATURE

Lynette Carpenter and Wendy Kolmar, *GHOST STORIES BY BRITISH AND AMERICAN WOMEN: A SELECTED, ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY*. New York: Garland, 1998. 187p. index. \$50.00, ISBN 0-8240-5540-3.

"Hello, I'm a descriptive listing of stories and short novels about ghosts," squeaks a voice from inside the covers. "Give me a positive review."

"GHOST stories?" shudders the reviewer. "I'll put you away until Halloween and then use the holiday mood for inspiration."

"No, WAIT," shouts the voice, "You must have me confused with creepy vampire tales - blood dripping all over, misty scenes in cemeteries,

terrorizing screams. Those are HORROR stories. I'll admit that I dabble with evil sometimes, but mostly to avenge worse deeds. I'm really pretty marvelous once you get to know me. How about writing it now?"

"O.K.," agrees the reviewer, somewhat reluctantly, "but I'd like to interview you in a nice airy place outdoors. How about the Union Terrace, overlooking the lake?"

"It's not the setting I'd prefer. Homes are my sphere. I'm very good at helping inhabitants connect to a previous owner, a relative they've lost, or someone else with a score to settle. Since you aren't ready yet to come to my place, how about the library? My friends tell me it's a nice quiet place if you get away from the computers. Too many gremlins near them."

"Fine. Actually we are in the library now, so let's begin. Please tell me about your authors. I guess I should refer to them as your *ghost* writers. Sorry about that, but I get carried away sometimes."

"I understand. I was written by Lynette Carpenter and Wendy K. Kolmar, English professors who study women's fiction. Your library probably has their 1991 critical work, *Haunting the House of Fiction: Feminist Perspectives on Ghost Stories* (University of Tennessee Press). They've been working on ghost stories for ten years so they really understand me thoroughly."

"I see. Does that mean that I have to find that book in order to get any analysis of women's ghost stories?"

"Not entirely. I have a good introduction that surveys the origin of the genre in gothic novels mostly written by women and its growth during the nineteenth century, through magazines aimed at women readers and serial anthologies in the twentieth. It also defines the distinc-

tive elements of women's ghost story tradition."

"That's helpful. What's your basic content and arrangement?"

"I'm a selected bibliography of stories in English, mostly from writers in England and the United States, but with a few from other English-speaking countries. My entries are arranged by author. A first publication in a magazine is briefly cited, with fuller citations to a work's appearance in anthologies. Annotations summarize the stories."

"Who are some of the authors included? I'm wondering if any are writers known in other genres."

"Yes, if you are familiar with women writers, I think you will have heard of many of them. Harriet Beecher Stowe and Sarah Orne Jewett each wrote several ghost stories more than a century ago, but the format is very appealing to modern writers as well. Margaret Atwood's *The Robber Bride* falls into this category and so does a significant portion of the work of African American writers, such as Toni Morrison (*Beloved*, *Song of Solomon*, *Tar Baby*) and Gloria Naylor (*Mama Day*).

"You are a reference book, so you'd better have an index. Do you?"

Yes, I have an index of themes and motifs, such as "Ancestress/namesake relationships," "Child ghost seers," and "Relationships between women ghosts and women residents."

"That's definitely useful. What about an index to the story titles?"

"Oops. Don't have one of those. Should I?"

"It would make it easier for someone who remembers a story and wants to check who wrote it or where it was published, but presumably if she remembers the plot, she can use the thematic index. Has anyone written a guide like you before?"

"I knew you'd ask that one so I looked it up. There's only been one other reference work on women's writing that shares some territory. It's *Women's Gothic and Romantic Fiction: a Reference Guide*, by Kay Mussell (Greenwood Press, 1981). You can see that we may discuss some early works in common, but I don't go in for romance much, and I cover many works published since 1981."

"Then you really fill a niche pretty much by yourself. You seem so good. I hope you won't be lonely in your slot in libraries, because I'm definitely recommending that you be acquired."

"Hardly. I have the spirits of so many unsung writers as well as their better known peers to keep me company, along with students who pick me up to find examples of women's ghost stories – and maybe Lynette and Wendy will visit and add to me from time to time. I've got to be going now. Thanks for the review."

"Thank you. It's been a surreal experience reviewing you."

MYSTERIES

Jan Grape, Dean James and Ellen Nehr, eds., *DEADLY WOMEN: THE WOMAN MYSTERY READER'S INDISPENSABLE COMPANION*. New York: Carroll & Graf, 1998. 366p. index. pap., \$19.95, ISBN 0-7867-0468-3.

Victoria Nichols and Susan Thompson, *SILK STALKINGS: MORE WOMEN WRITER OF MURDER*. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 1998. 635p. \$49.95, ISBN 0-8108-3393-X.

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Deadly Women, a collection of essays by and about leading female mystery writers is a bit difficult to categorize unless "grab bag" is a category. The essays, averaging two-three pages in length, are arranged in no particular order, and some are grouped under themes that bear no resemblance to the essays therein. One, included under the section "A Brief Look Back," is actually about *current* writers considered undeservedly obscure. The reader gets the feeling the editors compiled this book by asking their mystery writer and fan friends to contribute whatever they could spare as long as it had something to do with women, bundled up the results, and sent it off to the printers. The editors admit as much in their rather ungrammatical foreword: "Writers were chosen at random with the only design to try to have a cross-section of styles and a diversity of sub-genres. If that criteria was not met, usually it was because an author was too pushed for time to meet the deadline or someone was unintentionally overlooked" (p.1).

Nevertheless, *Deadly Women* does include some gems for fans of the genre. There are interviews with writers who span the spectrum, from the lesbian hard-boiled Mary Wings to the traditionally cozy Charlotte MacLeod (the diversity criterion). Craig Rice, one of America's most popular mystery writers in the 1940s and now almost unknown, gets well-deserved homage. Lynda Robinson, author of a series set in Ancient Egypt and featuring a male protagonist, writes about the problems with making a woman the principal detective in a story set in an era when women were severely restricted. Writers who impose Twentieth-

Century sensibilities on characters set in other times and editors who rush these anachronisms into print to cash in on the interest in women's mysteries would do well to read her essay. Liza Cody tells how she came to create one of the more interesting mystery characters around today, professional wrestler Eva Wylie.

Its organizational and thematic chaos makes *Deadly Women* a poor choice as a reference book, but this same chaos plus cheerful style and lavish illustrations make it an entertaining browse for a mystery fan . . . which seems to be its intent, after all.

Silk Stalkings, an update of the first version published in 1988, is a selected, annotated list of series characters created by current women mystery writers, divided into eighteen subgenres, including historical, police (metropolitan and provincial), medicine, lawyers, etc. The authors have wisely added the category "senior sleuths," since, as the Baby Boomers age, this subgenre, well, booms.

The entries in each category include name of character, time span of publication, number of books published so far, name of author, and about a page of narrative, mainly an overview of story lines with a minimum of always positive critical analysis. The authors seem not to have met a mystery they didn't love, and their analyses run to such helpful comments as "suffice it to say that murder and its solution play a major role in each story" (p.176).

This is obviously a collection of personal choices by two devoted fans of the genre. They do not claim to be comprehensive and admit other readers would make different choices but conclude with a *vive la difference*. Although they do not defend their choices, the sheer number of entries

in this book make it a reasonably good tool for readers' advisory work or gift for an avid mystery reader, especially if that reader is willing to take pot luck on quality of writing.

Silk Stalkings' value as a reference tool is hampered by its lack of cogent criticism or background information on the authors included, but the appendices may compensate. There is a master list, claimed to be "the most comprehensive and most accurate listing of series characters created by women authors in crime and mystery fiction extant" (p.299). Perhaps so. It is impressive. Covering 225 pages and arranged alphabetically by author name, it lists series character, book titles and publication dates, alternate titles, and author pseudonyms. Another appendix lists series characters chronologically by the dates when they appeared in print, supposedly so a reader can place a character with fictional counterparts of the same era. Another lists series characters alphabetically by *first* name and links them to their creators. Though as odd arrangement, it did confirm my suspicion that there are far too many detectives named Kate. A truly useful appendix lists author pseudonyms and links them to real names.

[Helene Androski is Reference Librarian for Memorial Library, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and avid reader of mysteries.]

PROVERBS

Lois Kerschen, *AMERICAN PROVERBS ABOUT WOMEN: A REFERENCE GUIDE*. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 1998. 200p. bibl. indexes. \$59.95, ISBN 0-313-30442-4.

"Wherever there is a woman, there is gossip." "A woman's hair is long; her tongue is longer." "Trust

your dog to the end, and a woman to the first opportunity." "The man earns and the woman spends." "Never marry a widow unless her first husband was hanged." "Old houses and old ladies always need repairing." These are some of the many, mostly negative sayings about women embedded in American folklore and assembled by Kerschen from a variety of published sources. She does an excellent job of categorizing the proverbs and summarizing the messages in each category, and rightly worries about a culture where such ideas run deep.

Behind every great man is a great woman.

Though the majority of proverbs are not about women at all, those that are fall into patterns. Most are like those above – witty complaints. The majority, according to Kerschen, see Woman as a "sharp-tongued, long-winded, empty-headed, toylike creature who is faithless to the man by whom she should be ruled and to whom she belongs like property or livestock" (p.6). Contradictions abound among the proverbs. For each that denigrates the mind of Woman, there's another that warns of her cunning. Not all are disparaging. Some put women, particularly mothers, on a pedestal ("A mother's love will dash up from the depths of the sea"), or give them credit for the accomplishments of others ("Behind every great man there is a great woman" – though, as Kerschen points out, the success is his, not hers).

After a general introduction in which she discusses proverbs as an element of folklore and describes the periodical and book sources from which she culled her entries, Kerschen divides the rest of her guide

into chapters according to subject groupings. Each chapter opens with an essay about the themes expressed in the proverbs for that category. She begins with the group for which she found by far the largest number of sayings, those that concern Wives and Marriage and Brides; next is Woman's Nature, also replete with a goodly number. Some of the other categories are A Woman's Looks, Mothers and Daughters, Women as Property, Bad Women Versus Virtuous Women, Whores and Old Maids, and Sex. She lists variant forms of proverbs and notes the first known publication year and geographic/ethnic origin for proverbs for which these facts have been determined. An alphabetical index lists each proverb in the book, and a subject index offers such specific terms as "eyeglasses," "pants, wearing of," and "lust."

In her conclusion Kerschen reminds readers that language and its elements, including folk sayings repeated to children, strongly influence young people's perceptions of the world. Just as sexist words required gender-neutral replacements, her proverbs are offered as texts to be studied for their meaning, reinterpreted where possible, and supplanted by new pro-female expressions. Here she misses an opportunity to comment on examples where feminists *have* co-opted old proverbs for new purposes. "A woman's place is in the house," says one [Kerschen uses "home"] – and feminists add "and in the Senate." Perhaps "A man without a wife is like a fork without a knife" is what now resonates as "A woman without a man is like a fish without a bicycle." Yet these feminist revisions would only better demonstrate her point – they do not alter her excellent analysis.

American Proverbs About Women can give students and others a quick grasp of the deeply internalized mindset still part of our cultural heritage.

**WOMEN'S STUDIES -
TEACH YOURSELF**

Joy Magezis, *TEACH YOURSELF WOMEN'S STUDIES*. Chicago: NTC Publishing Group, 1996. 228p. index. \$10.95, ISBN 0-8442-3113-4. (First published in the U.K. by Hodder Headline Plc., London, 1996.)

Women's Studies has become respectable. It has joined the ranks of the venerable "Teach Yourself" series, in company with *Origami: The Art of Paper Folding* (R. Hardin, 1969), *Lenin and the Russian Revolution* (C. Hill, 1947), *Milton and the English Mind* (F.E. Hutchinson, 1946), introductions to Sanskrit, Gaelic, and many other languages, and guides to getting published such as *Writing Fantasy and Science Fiction and Getting Published* (B. Stableford, 1997). *Teach Yourself Women's Studies* could be used as intended by someone unable or unwilling to take a college-level introductory course who nonetheless is interested in finding out what women's studies is all about. Because it provides an overview of the gamut of topics within women's studies – from definitions of different brands of feminism and answers to the questions "Who makes history," and "Is non-sexist language possible?" to summaries of the literary critiques of Virginia Woolf, Simone de Beauvoir, Kate Millet, and more recent writers, discussion of the representation of

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women's bodies in the media, family arrangements, health concerns, and employment issues – *Teach Yourself Women's Studies* is also a good basic reference work. It could be useful to high school students exploring women's issues and contemplating courses to take in college. This would also be a good book for women's studies students to give their parents, who may have gone to college before the field developed and are curious or quizzical about it.

I have not examined other *Teach Yourself* books, so cannot say if the practice is typical or not – and I suspect it isn't – but Magezis writes as an activist insider, using "we" statements, such as "We began meeting in Consciousness Raising Groups" (p.2) or "We believed that we could have some control by creating non-sexist language" (pp.51-52), and often speaks even more directly to the reader with "I" statements and personal vignettes. In the section on women's history, for example, after describing the Uprising of the 20,000, the 1909 strike in New York City led by Jewish women garment workers, she mentions that her grandmother was an organizer of the Women's Trade Union League, a leader of the Ladies Waist Makers' Union, and a participant in the strike. Magezis says that her grandmother died before she could tell the author about any of the women's movements that had meant so much to her, but that writing this chapter has brought her closer to understanding her grandmother's life. The personalization enriches the book immensely, and as a subtext helps readers grasp that Women's Studies validates women's experiences and is different from other academic

disciplines.

Teach Yourself Women's Studies was not rewritten for an American audience when it was published in the United States, and betrays its British origin throughout. This is most obvious in the literature chapter, which Magezis confines to British women writers (including Black British women writers), due to space limitations, making do with a one-page listing of writers from elsewhere. The bias also permeates the other chapters. The discrimination in employment section, for example, cites British statistics and laws. American readers may also be puzzled at unfamiliar references, such as "strong women's actions like Greenham Common" (p.101) – perhaps Greenham Common is discussed in more detail elsewhere in the book, but I could not find it through the subject index. Because this book is a good one, useful in many settings, I hope the publisher will consider issuing an Americanized edition.

WRITERS

Harold Bloom, ed., "WOMEN WRITERS OF ENGLISH AND THEIR WORKS" series. Philadelphia, Chelsea House, 1997-. Series titles to date: *AMERICAN WOMEN FICTION WRITERS, 1890-1960*, *ASIAN-AMERICAN WOMEN WRITERS*, *BRITISH WOMEN FICTION WRITERS, 1900-1960*, *BRITISH WOMEN FICTION WRITERS OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY*, *CARIBBEAN WOMEN WRITERS*, *JEWISH WOMEN FICTION WRITERS*, *LESBIAN AND BISEXUAL FICTION WRITERS*, *NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN WRITERS*, *WOMEN MEMOIRISTS*, and

WOMEN WRITERS OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE. Each volume \$29.95 in cloth and \$16.95 in paper.

Can the unrepentant, self-styled "Bloom Brontasaurus," champion of aesthetical standards exemplified by Milton, do a creditable job of selecting "the most important women writers of English" (back covers) in the categories evident in the book titles? Will he choose critical excerpts useful to readers wishing simply to understand the works of the writers as well as to those deepening their appreciation for the range of views critics hold? These were some questions I mulled over while searching the book stacks for the ten books issued so far in this new series from Chelsea House. Perhaps it is a mark of their immediate usefulness that I could not find three of the volumes because they had already been checked out. My guarded conclusion is that the books are actually quite suitable, especially for undergraduate researchers. In terms of choice of authors, the selections are indisputable members of the new canon. *Native American Women Writers*, for example, boasts Paula Gunn Allen, Louise Erdrich, Joy Harjo, Mourning Dove, Leslie Marmon Silko, Sarah Winnemucca, Zitkala-sa, and a few others. *Lesbian and Bisexual Fiction Writers* features not only Djuna Barnes, Rita Mae Brown, Gertrude Stein, Virginia Woolf, and Radclyffe Hall, but also Dorothy Allison, a new star in this firmament. There are excerpts from five to thirteen critical responses to each author, and the entries end with short bibliographies of works by the authors. Some authors appear in more than one volume, and the brief biographical introductions are repeated. None of the comments from critics is repetitious, however. Even

where Bloom has used the same critics, he chooses different sections of their works. The paperback editions sport attractive paintings by women artists.

There are a few annoying aspects to these books. Bloom's equivocal preface to the series is repeated verbatim in each. His introductions to each volume are scant and idiosyncratic. In *Native American Women Writers* he does nothing to link the themes, experiences, or styles of the writers. In fact, he discusses only Silko. In *Women Memoirists* he eschews defining the genre and again focuses on only one of the authors, Alice James. At least he makes passing reference to the question of what constitutes a "Jewish writer" in his introduction to *Jewish Women Fiction Writers*, but never attempts an answer and trots off to discuss a single story ("Envy; or, Yiddish in America"), by Cynthia Ozick. In contrast, his biographical sketches are formulaic and read as if he parcelled them out to his graduate students, instructing them to write "Just the facts...nothing but the facts." Bloom never tells us why he's chosen particular critics, beyond his statement in the Preface that "Each volume in this series contains copious refutations of, and replies to, the traditionally aesthetic stance that I have advocated."

For modern writers, readers looking for critical excerpts should also consult Lillian S. Robinson's mammoth *Modern Women Writers* (4 vols., Continuum, 1996). In spot checking, I found only modest overlap of critics included and only one selection that was the same in both (the same passage by Elaine H. Kim on Maxine Hong Kingston). Watch for more blooms in this series.

SHORT TAKES

Joan Nordquist, Recent bibliographies in Nordquist's "Contemporary Social Issues" bibliographic series (ISSN 0887-3569) cover *The Asian American Woman: Social, Economic, and Political Conditions* (series number 48, 1997) and *Violence Against Women: International Aspects* (series number 49, 1998). *Asian American Woman* lists material on Asian American women in general, but also citations on specific groups - Chinese, Japanese, Korean, East Indian, Cambodian, Vietnamese, and Hmong. The bibliography on Asian American women could have easily also included a section on videos, since many by and about Asian American women have been produced in recent years. Nordquist has examined *Violence Against Women* before, but concentrating on the international aspects is a good choice, paralleling the globalizing interests of women's studies. She uses both topical (eg., dowry death/sati and sex trafficking) and regional divisions, which work well for this material. Matthew Kalastro contributed sections on websites to both titles, a useful addition to the formats covered in Nordquist bibliographies. Added of late to Nordquist's other series, "Social Theory" (ISSN 0887-3577): *Hannah Arendt II* (series number 46, 1997), updating her last compilation on Arendt (number 14, 1989), and her first covering *Queer Theory* (number 48, 1997). There are few reference sources on queer theory to date, or theoretical aspects of bisexuality, transsexualism, and transgenderism, all covered in this bibliography. Nordquist also takes up several

academic disciplines one-by-one, listing material on the interplay of queer theory and that field. Both series are published by Reference and Research Services, Santa Cruz, California, and are available by subscription (4/year for \$55) or individually (\$15.00 each).

Mary Ellen Zuckerman, *A HISTORY OF POPULAR WOMEN'S MAGAZINES IN THE UNITED STATES, 1792-1995*. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 1998. 272p. bibl. index. ISBN 0-313-30675-3.

Women's magazines are a major fount for students of the history of advertising, fashion, courtship/marriage/childrearing customs, and numerous elements of popular culture. Analyzing the ups and downs of the individual publications is another topic that has caught the eye of many researchers, with *Women's Periodicals in the United States: Consumer Magazines*, edited by Kathleen L. Endres and Therese I. Lueck (Greenwood, 1995), serving as an excellent reference resource for those pursuits. Yet to date there's been no monograph narrating the history of American mass market women's magazines from its first publications to the present era. Users of Zuckerman's earlier reference tool, *Sources on the History of Women's Magazines, 1792-1960* (Greenwood, 1991), will be glad that she's produced such a work and extended its time frame to the present.

- Reviewed by Phyllis Holman Weisbard (except where noted)

PERIODICAL NOTES

NEW AND NEWLY DISCOVERED PERIODICALS

ANALIZE: JOURNAL OF FEMINIST STUDIES 1998- . Ed.-in-chief: Laura Grunberg. 4/yr. Free to AnA members. Nonmembers: 30\$. Single copy: 10\$. Shipping: 4\$/copy (Europe); 7\$/copy (North Am.) AnA Centre, Bd. Ferdinand 24, Apt. 11, 70313 Bucharest, Romania; email: ana@ana.sbnet.ro or cecilia@cepes.ro; website: ana.ong.ro/contents.html (Issue examined: v.1, no.1/2, 1998)

"The first Romanian journal for feminist studies," says one of the Web pages for this journal produced by AnA (The Romanian Society for Feminist Analyses). Abstracts of the articles are included on the journal's website, which is available in either Romanian or English. Among the topics in the first issue: Women's studies in France, contemporary issues in American feminism, the transition of rural Romanian women into the modern world, conductor/composer Carmen Maria Carneci.

ANGRY YOUNG WOMAN 1997? - . Ed.: Gloria. P.O. Box 50167, Fort Wayne, IN 46805. (Issue examined: No.7, Summer/Fall 1997)

A newsprint seven-by-eleven-inch 'zine, this publication includes a variety of genres, from "Lillehammer's Curse" on failed Olympians to a substantial listing of other 'zines with critiques and addresses, "Those Rag Time Blues" on the problems with periods, and "Product Plugs" on three items the author loves. The thirty pages also include brief book and music reviews and several pages of poetry.

CANADIAN WOMEN'S HEALTH NETWORK 1997- . Ed.: Rachel Thompson. 4/yr. \$20 (indiv.); \$35 (inst.). Single copy: \$8.75. ISSN 1480-0039. 203-419 Graham Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3C 0M3; email: cwhn@cwhn.ca; website: www.cwhn.ca

Published in both French and English (back-to-back in each issue), this new quarterly offers graphically interesting pages with a lot of information. The sample issue looks at the issues of caregiving, biotechnology, home care for women with disabilities, and the breast cancer/hormone connection. There's also a good section on resources (including websites on caregiving), and short pieces cover such topics as the female urinary chute (a flushable funnel allowing women to urinate standing up) and breast implants.

DAWN 1997- . Osaka Gender Equality Foundation, 3-49, 1-chome Otemae, Chuo-ku, Osaka, 540 Japan; email: dawn@mbox.mydome.or.jp; website: www.dawncenter.or.jp/dawnhtml/edawn/index.html (Issue examined: November 1997)

The Dawn Center in Osaka, established in 1994, serves as a "base for creating a new partnership between women and men as we enter the 21st century" (Jan. 1997 issue, on website). The Center's newsletter carries information about activities in the building, such as a men's festival ("Japanese Men - They are Changing" by Tadashi Nakamura) and a program for helping women beginning businesses, as well as more general topics, including surnames of married couples, and Shinya Eiko, a woman actor depicting a Korean-Japanese woman.

THE DAWN 1994- . Ed.: Veronica Schwarz. 6/yr. AU\$30 (indiv.); AU\$40 (inst.); AU\$45 (overseas airmail). Sample copy: \$5. ISSN 1324-7573. 203 Great Ocean Road, Anglesea, Australia 3230; email: veronica@mypostbox.com; website: www.ozemail.com.au/~thedawn (Issue examined: No.26, August/September 1998)

Named after the first newspaper for women in Australia, published in 1888, this twenty-three-page compilation includes many short articles such as "The Dying Music of Xhosa Women," "In Search of Colina Campbell Macleod" (the small daughter of a nineteenth-century prison superintendent on a lonely island), "Finesse with Finance," "The Hidden Costs in Overseas Travel," and "So You Want to Be a Farmer's Wife." Many columns (on careers, health, astrology, etc.), poetry, and newsy tidbits fill the pages.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES MAGAZINE 1997?- . Ed.-in-chief: Soledad Blanco. 4/yr. ANIMA, Rue de Spa, 61, B-1000, Brussels, Belgium; email: anima@skynet.be; website: www.anima.org (Issue examined: no.4, May 1998)

From the European Commission's Programme on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, this quarterly carries a report from the Legal Experts Group on European Community sex discrimination law about progress during 1996 in areas such as equal pay, job classification schemes, part-time work, parental leave, pregnancy

discrimination, and sexual harassment; news of two new equality laws and the changes they have required; a feature titled "Women in the Media: Are Images and Attitudes Really Changing?"; a "News in Brief" section; and reports of other activities of the Programme. Also available in French or German.

GENERATION WOMAN ONLINE MAGAZINE 1998- . Ed.-in-chief/Webmaster: Heather M. Ross. 12/yr. Free. Website: www.generationwoman.com (Issue examined: No.4)

Though targeted to Generation Xers, this online publication hopes for a broader audience, offering "a place to turn for the facts about important political, health, and social issues," with no "fiction, poetry, true-romance, diet fads, fashion, or rumors." Mid-term election results, alternative weddings, an outdoor column on avoiding frostbite, "Women and the Internet," dealing with too much debt, and several personal musings by contributing writers make up the sample issue we viewed.

GIRLS' COALITION 1992- . Ed.: Katie Wheeler. 3/yr. Free to subscribers. c/o PTGSC, 95 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116; email: t1kwheeler@wellesley.edu; website: www.girlscoalition.com/ (Issue examined: v.5, no.3, Spring 1998)

A coalition of Boston-area groups including Big Sisters, Junior League, Wellesley Centers for Women, YWCA programs, and others puts together this regular publication, which lists resource books, conferences and workshop-type gatherings, offers news of a mentoring program, and Project Imani (to build confidence in young girls). The project's goal is "to promote education about girls' issues and networking to increase and enhance services for girls" (announcement). Good ideas for other locations.

GOLF DIGEST WOMAN 1998- . 9/yr. Available online: <http://golf.com/pub/gdwoman/> (Issue examined: June 1998)

Issued as a supplement to *Golf Digest*, the sample online issue we viewed includes a guide to the fifty best golf courses for women, a feature on Nancy Lopez, a look at "how the top U.S. Women's Open contenders will tackle four pivotal holes," golfing accessories, "the world of LPGA Tour professional Emilee Klein," tips from some pros, a "Woman-to-Woman" advice forum, and more.

INTERSECTIONS: GENDER, HISTORY AND CULTURE IN THE ASIAN CONTEXT 1998- . Eds.: Anne-Marie Medcalf, Carolyn Brewer. 2/yr. Available free online: <http://www.she.murdoch.edu.au/hum/as/intersections/> (Issue examined: Inaugural issue, September 1998)

Now online from the School of Asian Studies, Murdoch University, Western Australia, this refereed electronic journal is intended as "an interactive forum for new research and teaching in the area of Gender Studies in the Asia-Pacific region." The September issue includes "Crossing Gender Boundaries in China: Nushu Narratives" (Anne McLaren); "The Language of Liberation: Gender and Jiefang in Early CCP Discourse" (Harriet Evans); and "Ethnography and Video: Researching Women in China's Floating Population" (Tamara Jacka, Josko Petkovic), among other articles and reviews.

MOXIE 1998- . Ed./Publ.: Emily Hancock. 4/yr. \$10. Single copy: \$2.95. 1230 Glen Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94708; email: emily@moxiemag.com; website: www.moxiemag.com (Issue examined: Premiere issue, Summer 1998)

"Designed for recent college graduates," according to the publisher, this slick magazine's subtitle is "For the Woman Who Dares," taking its title from a popular 1920s tonic and promising "a refreshing alternative to fashion, sex and beauty." With bold but not outlandish graphic design, the pages offer "profiles of a pastry chef, a Hollywood script-writer, a brick-layer, a stripper, two women who paw through men's closets to create ads for pants, and other women in their 20s who are carving out a place in the world" (announcement).

RE/PRODUCTIONS 1998- . Eds.: Sushma Joshi, Tal Halpern. 2/yr. Available online: <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/Organizations/healthnet/SAsia/repro/issue1.html> or via email: harvard@mos.com.np; available in paper format in South Asia only. (Issue examined: No.1, 1998)

Focused on reproductive health and rights in South Asia, the introductory issue of this online journal includes current articles on the "population myth," authority vs. traditional birth attendants in Nepal, medical termination

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of pregnancy in India; several works in progress; and "watches" on contraceptive technologies (such as quinine, Norplant, and Depo-Provera), and on population (a "legal watch" is also regularly scheduled). A link to online discussion is available as well.

SPEAKING UP 1994. Ed.: Ridgely duPont. 26/yr. \$35. Family Violence Prevention Fund, 383 Rhode Island St., #304, San Francisco, CA 92103; email: speakingup@prolutionsdc.com (Issues examined: v.1, nos.12-15, August 17 - Sept. 10, 1998)

Subtitled "The Family Violence Prevention Fund's News and Tips for the Domestic Violence Community," this frequent newsletter aims to keep advocates supplied with "insight, information, and practical solutions" for their work, and offers "free information resources, provides strategies about public education and helps generate fundraising ideas" (renewal form). Among the topics in the four sample issues are workplace crime, emergency treatment, and new domestic violence centers for African American women and Native Women. Nearly every issue includes media tips, and one lists a range of ways to move public awareness into action.

THIS IS ABOUT SUICIDE 1997? - . Ed.: Claudine O'Leary. 6349 N. Magnolia Ave., Apt. P1, Chicago, IL 60660.

Anguished over the death of her good friend Terri, O'Leary put together this 'zine with details of the days leading up to Terri's death, excerpts from Terri's diary, suggestions on recognizing your own suicidal tendencies, how to help suicidal people and the people left behind by suicides, and book and article resources. She also offers a couple of movie reviews and asks for more articles, poems, or other writings for a compiled 'zine.

WOMEN'S HEALTH NEWS & VIEWS 1991- . Ed.: Marion Stevens. 4/yr. Free. Women's Health Project, P.O. Box 1038, Johannesburg, 2000, South Africa; email: womenhp@sn.apc.org (Issue examined: no.27, August 1998)

Based in the Department of Community Health at the University of the Witwatersrand, the Women's Health Project offers this well-organized newsletter full of information on what's happening globally and in South Africa. Coverage of the World Health Organization's Global Forum 2 for Health Research, the Cairo Confer-

ence on Population and Development, and a Roundtable on sexual and reproductive rights provides international updates, and a "Policy Watch" section in the sample issue carries news of tobacco-related illnesses, new maternity benefits, and a new population policy in South Africa.

ZARD 1994. Ed.: Collective. Irregular. US\$10 (indiv.); US\$20 (inst.). 1st Floor, Design House, Dar es Salaam Place, Cairo Road, P.O. Box 37836, Lusaka, Zambia; email: zard@zamnet.zm (Issue examined: v.5, no.1, April 1998)

Within its twelve pages this newsletter of the organization ZARD provides information on a recent decision to allow pregnant girls' readmission to school, the Zimbabwe International BookFair, portrayal of women in the media, the debut of the organization's video *Aftermath* about the rights of a surviving spouse, a sample will, and an excerpt on conducting a literature search. Other organization news, letters, and upcoming events are included.

SPECIAL ISSUES OF PERIODICALS

AMERICAN LITERATURE v.70, no.3. September, 1998: "No More Separate Spheres!" Ed.: Cathy N. Davidson; Guest eds.: Houston Baker, Dana D. Nelson. Subscriptions: \$39 (indiv.); \$100 (inst.); \$39 (secondary school library); \$15 (students). Single copy: \$12(indiv.); \$25 (inst.). ISSN 0002-9831. Duke University Press, Box 90660, Durham, NC 27708-0660.

Contents: "Circling the Spheres: A Dialogue" (Lawrence Buell); "'My Sister! My Sister!': The Rhetoric of Catharine Sedgwick's *Hope Leslie*" (Judith Fetterley); "Sex, Class, and 'Category Crisis': Reading Jewett's *Transitivity*" (Marjorie Pryse); "Contradictory Impulses: María Amparo Ruiz de Burton, Resistance Theory, and the Politics of Chicano/a Studies" (José F. Aranda, Jr.); "Manifest Domesticity" (Amy Kaplan); "Native Daughters in the Promised Land: Gender, Race, and the Question of Separate Spheres" (You-me Park, Gayle Wald); and "Poor Eliza" (Lauren Berlant).

DEVELOPMENT IN PRACTICE v.8, no.2, May 1998: articles/viewpoints on women/gender. Ed.: Deborah Eade. Subscriptions: £136/US\$248 (inst.); £52/US\$88 (indiv.); £25/US\$39 (subsidized rate in developing countries). Carfax Publishing Ltd., PO. Box 25, Abingdon,

Oxfordshire, OX14 3UE, UK; or 875-81 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02139 USA; or P.O. Box 352, Cammeray, NSW 2062, Australia; email: sales@carfax.co.uk; website: www.carfax.co.uk

Partial contents: "Sanctioned Violence: Development and the Persecution of Women as Witches in South Bihar" (Puja Roy); "Men's Violence Against Women in Rural Bangladesh: Undermined or Exacerbated by Microcredit Programmes?" (Sidney Ruth Schuler et al.); "Institutionalizing Gender in UK NGOs" (Tina Wallace); "Assessing Autonomy Among Sahelian Women: An Analytical Framework for Women's Production Work" (Paule Simard); "Economic Crisis Helps to 'Demarginalize' Women" (Catherine Lema Forje).

INTERTEXTS v.2, no.2, Fall 1998: "French Feminism Across the Disciplines." Guest eds: Hafid Gafaïti, Paul Allen Miller, Sharon Diane Nell. Subscriptions: \$19 (indiv.); \$33 (inst.). Outside U.S.: \$26 (indiv.); \$42 (inst.). ISSN 1092-0625. Texas Tech University Press, Sales Office, Lubbock, TX 79409-1037.

Contents: "Looking into the Mystic Mirror" (Sharon Hackett); "The Sexual Politics of *The Election*: French Feminism and the Scottish Playwright Joanna Baillie" (Marjean D. Purinton); "'The Low and Delicious Word Death': The Acquisition of Language in 'Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking'" (Beth Jensen); "Psychoanalytic Feminism Beyond the Phallus" (Catherine M. Peebles); and "The Linguistics of French Feminism: *Sémanalyse* as Critical Discourse Analysis" (Katherine Arens).

JOUVERT: A JOURNAL OF POSTCOLONIAL STUDIES v.2, no.1 [1998?]: "Postcolonial Masculinities." Guest eds.: Lahoucine Ouzgane, Daniel Coleman. Available online: <http://social.chass.ncsu.edu/jouvert/i1v2/contre.htm>

Partial contents: "Cashing Out the Patriarchal Dividends: An Interview with R. W. Connell" (Lahoucine Ouzgane, Daniel Coleman); "Cool Politics: Styles of Honour in Malcolm X and Miles Davis" (George Elliott Clarke); "(Re)sexualizing the Desexualized Asian Male in the Works of Ken Chu and Michael Joo" (Joan Kee); "Fela and His Wives: The Import of a Postcolonial Masculinity" (Derek Stanovsky); and "Learning to be Men at a Teachers' College in Zimbabwe" (Rob Pattman).

NEW COMPARISON No.22, Autumn 1996: special section: "A Feminine Difference?" Guest ed.: Elaine Jordan. Subscription: £14 (indiv.); £27 (inst.). ISSN 0950-

5814. Dr. Leon Burnett, Dept. of Literature, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester CO4 3SQ, UK; email: Burne@essex.ac.uk

Contents: "Prophetic and Realistic Voices in the Writings of Margaret Cavendish and Madame de Lafayette" (Robert Ignatius Letellier); "Alejandra Pizarnik's 'Acerca de la Condesa Sangrienta' and Angela Carter's 'The Lady of the House of Love': Transgression and the Politics of Victimization" (M.A. Seabra Ferreira); "Shifting Sands: Gender and Identity in the Writing of Marguerite Yourcenar" (Francesca Counihan); and "Aboriginal Women's Writing: Charting the Dreamtime" (Gina Wisker).

PARALLAX no.8, July-September 1998: "Julia Kristeva 1966-1996: Aesthetics, Politics, Ethics." Guest ed.: Griselda Pollock. Subscriptions: \$198/£120 (includes online access). Personal subscription available by application to Taylor & Francis Ltd. ISSN 1353-4645. One Gunpowder Square, London EC4A 3DE, UK; website: <http://www.tandf.co.uk/>

Contents: "Dialogue with Julia Kristeva"; "Experiencing the Phallus as Extraneous, or Women's Twofold Oedipus Complex" (Julia Kristeva; also in the original French); "Strangers in Analysis: Nationalism and the Talking Cure" (John Mowitt); "Three Images for Kristeva: From Bellini to Proust" (Stephen Bann); "To Inscribe in the Feminine: A Kristevan Impossibility? or Femininity, Melancholy and Sublimation" (Griselda Pollock); "Transcendence, Fixation and Belief in the Vicissitudes of the Imaginary" (John Lechte); and "Julia Kristeva and Her Histories" (Adrian Rifkin).

THE SERIALS LIBRARIAN v.35, nos.1/2, 1998: "Women's Studies Serials: A Quarter-Century of Development." Ed.: Kristin H. Gerhard. Subscriptions: \$45 (U.S. indiv.); \$59 (Canada); \$63 (outside U.S. and Canada); \$140 (U.S. inst.); \$182 (Canada); \$196 (outside U.S. and Canada). Online version also available for extra charge - inquire. ISSN 0361-526X. Haworth Press, 10 Alice St., Binghamton, NY 13904-1580. (Issue examined)

Partial contents (of 14 total articles): "Using Periodicals in Women's Studies: The Faculty Experience" (Lynn Westbrook); "Citations to Women's Studies Journals in Dissertations, 1989 and 1994" (Rita A. Marinko); "From Zero to Four: A Review of Four New Women's Studies

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CD-ROM Products" (Ruth Dickstein et al.); "Academic Women's Studies Serials on the Web: A Pilot Study" (Jeanne M.K. Boydston); "Indexing Patterns of Periodical Literature on African American Women and U.S. Latinas" (Susan A. Vega García); "Still Unheard by the Mainstream: Locating Serial Articles on Women in Science" (Tanya Zanish-Belcher); and "The New Asian Woman: Women's Magazines and the Spread of Mass-Culture in Southeast Asia" (Carol L. Mitchell). [Eds. note: Watch for a review of this anthology in an upcoming issue of Feminist Collections.]

TRANSITIONS

SINISTER WISDOM is publishing again after a two-year absence from the scene. No.58 (Spring/Summer 1998) is the latest, and editor for the issue is Akiba Onáda-Sikwoia. Address: P.O. Box 3252, Berkeley, CA 94703.

PUBLICATIONS CEASED

COMMON LIVES/LESBIAN LIVES No.1, 1980 - No.56, 1995/1996. P.O. Box 1553, Iowa City, IA 52244. (Notice from publisher.)

CONCERNS: WOMEN'S CAUCUS FOR THE MODERN LANGUAGES v.1, no.1, 1970 - v.25, no.2, Spring 1995. Joan E. Hartman, Dept. of English, College of Staten Island, Staten Island, NY 10301. (Information from former editor.)

TRIVIA: A JOURNAL OF IDEAS No.1, 1982 - No.22, 1995. P.O. Box 9606, N. Amherst, MA 01059-9606. (No response to claims since 1996.)

○ Compiled by Linda Shult

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ITEMS OF NOTE

A new study by the National Council for Research on Women (NCRW), *THE GIRLS REPORT: WHAT WE KNOW AND NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GROWING UP FEMALE*, synthesizes research on issues of health, sexuality, violence and victimization, schooling, and economics and makes recommendations about girls' development in these areas. Send \$20 plus \$3.50 for postage and handling to NCRW, Publications Department GR1, 11 Hanover Square, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10005. Phone: 212-785-7350; email: ncrw@ncrw.org

Part of the European Employment Strategy process is the European Commission's report, *RECONCILIATION BETWEEN WORK AND FAMILY LIFE IN EUROPE* (15p.). Research shows that in order to achieve gender balance in the workforce and better reconciliation between work and family life, general caretaker issues need to be addressed, such as training of caretakers, allowances for care, time off/flextime, and working at home. These issues relate to care of both children and older persons. Contact: Division of Employment & Social Affairs, 200 rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium. Phone 32-2-2953570; fax: 32-2-2957629; email: sabine.gruener@dg.12.cec.be. In the U.S. contact: Bernan Associates, 4611-F Assembly Drive, MD20706 Lanham. Phone: 800-274-4447; fax: 800-865-3450; email: query@bernan.com; URL: <http://www.bernan.com>

Commissioned by the American Association of University Women Educational Foundation, *GENDER GAPS: WHERE SCHOOLS STILL FAIL OUR CHILDREN* (20p.) assesses the progress and failure of schools in providing a fair and equitable education since AAUW's 1992 report "How Schools Shortchange Girls." Research on girls in K-12 is synthesized and recommendations are made on issues such as math and science enrollment, standardized testing, extra curricular activities, health and development risks, School-to-Work programs, and especially technology. To order, contact AAUW Sales Office, Dept. 478, P.O. Box 251, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701-0251. Phone: 800-225-9998 ext. 478; fax: 301-206-9789.

Prepared by Alison Brookes and Robyn Rowland and offered by the Faculty of Arts School of Social Inquiry in Deakin University's postgraduate Open Campus Program is *FEMINIST ETHICS: STUDY GUIDE* (32p.). The guide includes exercises and bibliographic references. For

more information, write to: Faculty of Arts School of Social Inquiry, Open Campus Program, Deakin University, Geelong, Victoria, Australia.

TEACHING/LEARNING GENDER EQUITY: AN OVERVIEW OF THREE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS PROJECTS looks at different ways of planning pre-service teacher training and ongoing professional education to make classrooms more gender equal. The University of Western Ontario produced *Taking Action: Negotiating Power Relations in the Practicum* and *Taking Action: Reworking Gender in School Contexts* (video and manual). From Laurentian University comes *Equality in Education: A Course Designed for Teacher Education* (and a companion student manual). The University of Ottawa produced *Words Can Change the World: A Gender Education Manual for Pre-service Teaching*. The overview report is available in both English and French and can be accessed from Ontario Women's Directorate's website: <http://www.gov.on.ca/owd> under "resources". For more information, contact OWD, Mowat Block, 900 Bay Street, 6th Floor, Toronto ON M7A 1L2. Phone: 416-314-0300; fax: 416-314-0256. The resources themselves are available from the Althouse Press, Faculty of Education, the University of Western Ontario, 1137 Western Road, London, Ontario N6G 1G7. Phone: 519-661-2096; email: press@edu.cauwo

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN WOMEN IN HIGHER EDUCATION: CLAIMING VISIBILITY & VOICE, is the newest title in a three-book set from the Women of Color in the Academy series by Shirley Hune. The others are "Black Women in Academe" and "Hispanic Women: Making Their Presence on Campus Less Tenuous." Cost is \$7.00 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling. Contact Network Registration, Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), 1818 R Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE PART 1: SUFFRAGE CORRESPONDENCE OF ROSE SCOTT (1847-1925) FROM THE STATE LIBRARY OF NEW SOUTH WALES, offers the correspondence of Rose Scott regarding Womanhood Suffrage, 1877-1920. Scott was instrumental in gaining the vote for women in New South

Wales by 1903, far ahead of women in Britain and the U.S., and campaigned for suffrage and feminist issues throughout Australia. Cost is \$355.00. Available on 3 reels of 35mm microfilm from Adam Matthew Publications, 8 Oxford Street, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 1AP, ENGLAND. Phone: (01672) 511921; fax: (01672)511663; email: Adam_Matthew@msn.com

The Wisconsin Labor History Society's *Women of Wisconsin Labor Oral History Project* was initiated in 1988 to insure that contributions of women to the labor movement were fully documented. Written by Jamakaya, **LIKE OUR SISTERS BEFORE US; WOMEN OF WISCONSIN LABOR** (93p.), profiles the life stories of ten of the twenty-seven women interviewed in the Oral History Project. These women played prominent roles in the Wisconsin labor movement from the 1930s through the 1970s. Their testimonies reveal how workplaces have changed for women and convey the struggles with employers and union brothers to gain respect. Among the women profiled are battery worker Evelyn Gotzion of Madison, who risked dismissal to organize battery workers at Rayovac's Madison plant in the 1930's and autoworker Doris Tom of Janesville, who broke free from sex-segregation to open jobs previously denied to women at the General Motors plant. The audiorecordings and related documents are in the archives of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin in a special collection entitled *Women of Wisconsin Labor. Like Our Sisters Before Us*, has been distributed free of charge to all academic and numerous public libraries in Wisconsin. For others interested, copies are \$5.00 each plus shipping. Contact: Wisconsin Labor History Society, 6333 West Blue Mound Road, Milwaukee, WI 53213. Phone: 414-771-0700.

For women who want to participate in the struggle for women's human rights comes **RIGHTS OF WOMEN: A GUIDE TO THE MOST IMPORTANT UNITED NATIONS TREATIES ON WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS** (148p). Produced by the International Women's

Tribune Centre, this manual makes UN conventions more accessible to those who do not know about them and assists women in developing their own materials and programs. As the global community prepares for the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in December of this year, this manual can be a valuable contribution. For more information, write: Women, Ink., 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017. Phone: 212-687-8633; fax: 212-661-2704; email: wink@womenink.org; website: www.womenink.org

Part of the regional Alpe-Adria project, **DIRECTORY OF WOMEN'S GROUPS IN CROATIA** (45p.), offers proof of the existence of forty women's organizations, initiatives, institutions, and formal and informal groups in Croatia. With the help of a questionnaire, the presentation of all groups is standardized in terms of terminology and described activities. Write: Zenska infoteka, Varsavska 16/1, 10 000 Zagreb. Email: zenskainfozg@zamir-zg.apc.org; website: www.zamir.net-zinfo

Five women's documentation centres in Belgium have put together **WOMEN'S DOCUMENTATION: BELGIUM**, which offers in English, Dutch, and French descriptions of the information on women available in the various documentation centres. Part II introduces the reader to their collections by imagining a fictitious reader looking for information about women and political decision making. Contact: Chris Zwaenepoel, RoSa, Gallaitstraat 86, 1030 Brussels, Belgium.

WOMEN OF COLOR IN CORPORATE MANAGEMENT: DYNAMICS OF CAREER ADVANCEMENT (46p.) is a report from Catalyst "designed to assist companies in their efforts to manage and value an increasingly diverse workforce." Based on findings from a sample of women-of-color managers and professionals in *Fortune* 1000 companies, the discussions range from barriers to advancement to satisfaction with current position to the role of affirmative action. Recommendations for corporations are included. Write to Catalyst, 120 Wall St., 5th Flr., New York, NY 10005-3904. Phone: 212-514-7600; fax: 212-514-8470.

○ Compiled by Christina Stross

BOOKS RECENTLY RECEIVED

- 5TH WHEEL.** Calloway, Kate. Naiad, 1998.
- 1998 EUROPEAN WOMEN'S THESAURUS: LIST OF CONTROLLED TERMS FOR INDEXING INFORMATION ON THE POSITION OF WOMEN AND WOMEN'S STUDIES.** Boere, Marianne, ed. International Information Centre and Archives for the Women's Movement (IIAV), 1998.
- AFRICAN AMERICAN MIDWIFERY IN THE SOUTH: DIALOGUES OF BIRTH, RACE, AND MEMORY.** Fraser, Gertrude Jacinta. Harvard University Press, 1998.
- AMANDA BERRY SMITH: FROM WASHINGTON TO EVANGELIST.** Israel, Adrienne M. Scarecrow Press, 1998.
- AMERICAN PROVERBS ABOUT WOMEN: A REFERENCE GUIDE.** Kerschen, Lois. Greenwood Press, 1998.
- THE AMERICAN WOMAN 1999-2000: A CENTURY OF CHANGE-WHAT'S NEXT?** Costello, Cynthia B., et al., eds. Norton, 1998.
- ANGELA CARTER: THE RATIONAL GLASS.** Day, Aidan. Manchester University Press, 1998.
- ANNE FRANK AND ETTY HILLESUM: INSCRIBING SPIRITUALITY AND SEXUALITY.** De Costa, Denise; trans. by Mischa F. C. Hoyinck & Robert E. Chesal. Rutgers University Press, 1998.
- AROUSAL: BODIES & PLEASURES.** Roth, Martha. Milkweed, 1998.
- BODY TALK: PHILOSOPHICAL REFLECTIONS ON SEX AND GENDER.** Zita, Jacquelyn N. Columbia University Press, 1998.
- THE BOOK OF ELEANOR.** Liederman, Erica. North Fork, 1995.
- THE BUSINESS OF CHARITY: THE WOMAN'S EXCHANGE MOVEMENT, 1832-1900.** Sander, Kathleen Waters. University of Illinois Press, 1998.
- CHRISTABEL.** Adams, Laura. Naiad, 1998.
- CLOSED IN SILENCE.** Drury, Joan M. Spinsters Ink, 1998.
- THE COMPLETE WORKS OF HARRIET TAYLOR MILL.** Jacobs, Jo Ellen, ed. Indiana University Press, 1998.
- CONTEMPORARY FEMINIST THEORIES.** Jackson, Stevi & Jones, Jackie, eds. New York University Press, 1998.
- CRITICAL ESSAYS ON TONI MORRISON'S BELOVED.** Solomon, Barbara H. G.K. Hall, 1998.
- CROSS-CULTURAL MARRIAGE: IDENTITY AND CHOICE.** Breger, Rosemary & Hill, Rosanna. Berg, 1998.
- CULTURE: A PROBLEM THAT CANNOT BE RESOLVED.** Nuckolls, Charles W. University of Wisconsin Press, 1998.
- THE DAUGHTERS OF DEVELOPMENT: WOMEN IN A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT.** Sittirak, Sinith. St. Martin's, 1998.
- THE DEFIANT MUSE: DUTCH AND FLEMISH FEMINIST POEMS FROM THE MIDDLE AGES TO THE PRESENT: A BILINGUAL ANTHOLOGY.** Meijer, Maaik, et al., eds. The Feminist Press at the City University of New York, 1998.
- DELIA'S WAY.** Essex, Olga Berrocal. University of Houston Press, 1998.
- DELINQUENTS & DEBUTANTES.** Inness, Sherrie A., ed. New York University Press, 1998.
- DISSENTING WOMEN IN DICKENS' NOVELS: THE SUBVERSION OF DOMESTIC IDEOLOGY.** Ayres, Brenda. Greenwood Press, 1998.
- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: FACTS AND FALLACIES.** Davis, Richard L. Greenwood Press, 1998.
- DOROTHEA DIX: NEW ENGLAND REFORMER.** Brown, Thomas J. Harvard University Press, 1998.
- ECOFEMINIST LITERARY CRITICISM: THEORY, INTERPRETATION, PEDAGOGY.** Gaard, Greta & Murphy, Patrick D., eds. University of Illinois Press, 1998.
- ELIZABETH SPRAGUE COOLIDGE.** Barr, Cyrilla. Schirmer, 1998.
- AN ENCYCLOPEDIA: WOMEN ARTISTS OF THE AMERICAN WEST.** Kovinick, Phil & Yoshiki-Kovinick, Marian. University of Texas Press, Austin, 1998.
- EQUAL AT THE CREATION: SEXISM, SOCIETY, AND CHRISTIAN THOUGHT.** Martos, Joseph & Pierre Hegy, eds. University of Toronto Press, 1998.
- FALLING TO EARTH: A NOVEL.** Brownrigg, Elizabeth. Firebrand, 1998.
- FEMINISM AND ITS FICTIONS: THE CONSCIOUSNESS-RAISING NOVEL AND THE WOMEN'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT.** Hogeland, Lisa Maria. University of Pennsylvania Press, 1998.
- FEMINISM AND MEN: RECONSTRUCTING GENDER RELATIONS.** Schlacht, Steven P. & Ewing, Doris, W., eds. New York University Press, 1998.
- FEMINISM AND POLITICS.** Phillips, Anne. Oxford University Press, 1998.
- THE FEMINIST STANDPOINT REVISITED & OTHER ESSAYS.** Hartsock, Nancy C.M. Westview, 1998.
- FEMINIST TEACHING IN THEORY & PRACTICE: SITUATING POWER & KNOWLEDGE IN POSTSTRUCTURAL CLASSROOMS.** Ropers-Huilman, Becky. Teachers College, 1998.
- FERTILITY POLICY IN ISRAEL: THE POLITICS OF RELIGION, GENDER, AND NATION.** Portugese, Jacqueline. Praeger, 1998.
- FINDING FRAN: HISTORY AND MEMORY IN THE LIVES OF TWO WOMEN.** Banner, Lois W. Columbia University Press, 1998.
- THE FORGOTTEN QUEEN.** Garwood, Haley Elizabeth. The Writers Block, 1998.
- FROM STUMBLING BLOCKS TO STEPPING STONES: THE LIFE EXPERIENCES OF FIFTY PROFESSIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN.** Slevin, Kathleen F. & Wingrove, C. Ray. New York University Press, 1998.
- GHOST STORIES BY BRITISH AND AMERICAN WOMEN: A SELECTED, ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY.** Carpenter, Lynette & Kolmar, Wendy. Garland, 1998.

- GLOBAL OBSCENITIES: PATRIARCHY, CAPITALISM, AND THE LURE OF CYBERFANTASY.** Eisenstein, Zillah. New York University Press, 1998.
- GRASSROOTS WARRIORS: ACTIVIST MOTHERING, COMMUNITY WORK, AND THE WAR ON POVERTY.** Naples, Nancy A. Routledge, 1998.
- THE HISTORY OF LOUISA BARNES PRATT: MORMON MISSIONARY WIDOW AND PIONEER.** Ellsworth, S. George, ed. Utah State University Press, 1998.
- A HISTORY OF POPULAR WOMEN'S MAGAZINES IN THE UNITED STATES, 1792-1995.** Zuckerman, Mary Ellen. Greenwood Press, 1998.
- INDIAN SINGING.** Tremblay, Gail. Calyx, 1998.
- INTERDISCIPLINARY INFORMATION SEEKING IN WOMEN'S STUDIES.** Westbrook, Lynn. McFarland, 1999.
- JUST YESTERDAY.** Hill, Linda. Naiad, 1998.
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