

W in LESBIAN & GAY CONCERNS / Women's Organization Newsletter

National

Newsletter

for Women

# WOMEN'S NETWORK



EDITED BY DOROTHY FEOLA

WRITTEN BY YOU

WOMEN ONLY (212) 597-7091

Dorothy Feola  
2137 Quimby Ave.  
Bronx, New York  
10473



\$1.50

ISSUE #16 1983/4

I have never been so close to giving up the newsletter as I am at this point. Sacrificing the writing I really enjoy doing, and reading all the things I have to, not because I want to, has never seemed to be taking its toll on my patience, time, and energy as it has now that I have thrown myself into long fiction, via my novel. I can't keep up with most of the exchange reading anymore, which bothers me, and getting the review books done is becoming a hassle due, for the most part, to all of our busy schedules. Also, though it is far from the main reason, I am tired of being broke because it's hard keeping up with the prices of whatever it takes to put this newsletter out even twice a year. I don't mind all the free rides, believe me---I always felt we made up on it with our exchanges and the books sent to us for reviewing anyway---but it really bugs me that it takes a few months to get out our whole mailing list because we can't get all the money together for postage at one time once we take care of the printing and envelope costs. Don't get me wrong, I never started this newsletter for financial gain to begin with---but I'm tired of feeling guilty because I feel like taking out money to buy a particular book (that's not from Women's Small Press) or a tape (that's not put out by a woman's music company) or spending \$27.50 on 5 8x10s of Linda Evans (in place of a video tape recorder so I can sit and just watch her scenes for hours) when I haven't gotten out all of the mailing list yet for lack of money for postage.


NETWORK



Women's Network will be coming out periodically from now on, when time and money permits, but we hope to be getting out some shorter supplements in between, where we hope to be printing more poetry and reviews of books of poetry, to leave more space for information and other book reviews in our regular issues. Since the supplements will be less money, you can figure out

CHANGES

(continued on page 2)

Together  
we can  
Build A 

# NETWORK

Editor/Publisher: Dorothy Feola

Special Consultant/Proofreader: Sylvia Moore  
 Special Consultant/Reviewer: Mia Albright  
 Special Consultant/Reviewer: Desi Seagull  
 Staff Consultant/Reviewer: Debbie Della Piana  
 Third World Correspondent: "Lou"

(continued from page 1) the amount of money you would like to send in for a subscription. We'll still accept contributions of work, press releases, etc., including books for reviewing, and we will try to get as much as possible into a regular issue, as well as the supplements. In the same respect, we'd like to keep up our exchanges, but you have no obligation to send us an issue of your publication other than when you receive an issue from us. I'm not sure when or how often we'll be out, but the only other alternative was to give up the newsletter altogether. Still make out your checks directly to your editor, Dorothy Feola, and, as usual, have patience. I'm sure trying.



MENOPAUSE, CHANGING ROLES, AND THE JOB MARKET ARE JUST SOME OF THE TOPICS COVERED IN

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**BROOMSTICK**  
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 San Francisco, CA 94110

**SAPPHO**

On Lesbos  
 craggy island mix  
 sea earth sky  
 Sappho lived.  
 Reputed exile for  
 reasons of state  
 described amorphously  
 dark small schoolmistress  
 vibrant ill-favored prodigal  
 human  
 she drew disciples  
 like so many wind harps  
 played them with liquid flame  
 darted moist orange tongues  
 at favorites  
 upheld  
 rites wrapped in  
 rose-textured  
 Aeolian warmth.  
 Left an impression  
 off a cliff  
 stop Leucas and the world.

I lament there are only  
 scraps of remembrance;  
 rejoice even they breathe  
 morning's triune;


Goddess the mother  
 daughter  
 holy spearhead.




**ELSEN  
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HIGHLAND MILLS, NEW YORK

Gay Women 

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A Women's Newsletter



**TELEWOMAN**  
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 send \$1.00 for sample issue

Circles On The Water: Selected Poems of Marge Piercy, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1982, \$8.95, 294 pages. (cover design by Virginia Tan)

Stone, Paper, Knife, poems by Marge Piercy, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1983, \$12.95, 144 pages hard cover.

Superficiality is an American problem. Feministically speaking, it is a problem for American womyn. Our poets don't help.

Poets are supposed to be profound. Feminist poets are no exception to this dictum. However, Marge Piercy's poetry is humanist poetry, not feminist poetry.

Both Stone, Paper, Knife and Circles On The Water defy classification by theme. Therefore, no poem taken from these volumes exemplifies them. The reader must rely on the poems, individually, to tell her what Marge Piercy thinks.

"The Matrimonial Bed," from Stone, Paper, Knife, does not tell us anything about the author's policy towards men. Does she like them or doesn't she?

That first winter in the middle  
of the night you could not sleep

....

You bear

the same name and wear  
the same face, man who pretends

....

....vainly I rub  
my breasts against your back  
.... (page 10)

These lines, brutally excerpted stand out, representative of whatever the poem has to say, sharply. Piercy has that trait that an American student who manages to shuffle through American university poetry will be given doses of, piles of, small mountains of. And that is this combination, toughness, or rather, sharpness, on the one hand, and a kind of surrender with a sneer on the other. I believe it is the American version of man and woman.

Other types of man and woman dialectics, such as man/treachery vs. woman/innocence, or man/capitalism vs. woman/leftism, or man/success vs. woman/meaningfulness, etc., found in European Marxist tradition, for example, are not typical to American Marxist culture.

In Circles On The Water, the first stanza of a poem ("For Strong Women"), that would obviously attract feminist readers, includes assertions like:

A strong woman is a woman who is straining  
A strong woman is a woman standing  
on tiptoe and lifting a barbell  
while trying to sing Boris Godunov.

(continued on page 4)

**double**



**POETRY REVIEW**

A strong woman is a woman at work.

....  
and while she shovels, she talks about  
how she doesn't mind crying, it opens  
....  
(page 257)

MIA  
ALBRIGHT

Compare this to lines from "The Secretary Chant":

My hips are a desk.  
From ears hang  
chains of paper clips.  
Rubber bands form my hair.  
My breasts are wells of mimeograph ink.  
My feet bear casters.

....  
File me under W  
because I wonce  
was  
a woman.

(page 77)

Doesn't Marge Piercy know how many American womyn are working as secretaries because they can't get paid to be writers, dancers, personalities? This is not Piercean superficiality. It is American superficiality. And, ironically, it means not that American womyn are superficial about Vietnamese womyn or Ecuadorian womyn, but that American womyn are superficial about American womyn.

Education means more than having an opinion about the news or the holocaust. It requires more than "hippiesque" posturing. The Liberal-Leftist poseur/e.

I trust Marge Piercy's sincerity implicitly. The problem is: she does. And no writer can afford to trust only their own sincerity. Not implicitly.

The problem for the humanist poet is that because she is not a feminist poet, she cannot save herself from what the American malist literati deserve to wallow in: informationalism, to coin a term, that in practice finally delivers the humanist over to an objective hypocrisy. Not that Marge Piercy has totally surrendered to humanism, since any American woman can always become a feminist-even those who believe they already are.

INSURANCE COMPANY SUPPORTS NOW  
PROTEST: Consumers United Insurance Company (CUIC) announced its unqualified endorsement of the National Organization for Women's nationwide protest against sex discrimination in insurance. Robert T. Freeman, Jr., president of CUIC, said, "The question is not one of actuarial data, but one of dignity. This is not a debate over equations. It is one, rather, of equality." Freeman emphasized that the issue must be resolved on moral, philosophical, and ethical grounds: "All American citizens should be treated equally. We should have one experience table showing the over-all experience of all Americans and not one for Blacks, not one for women, not one for different ethnic groups or any of the dozens of other ways Americans can be sub-divided on arbitrary grounds."  
CUIC supports premium rates based on all-American experience tables for life, accident, health, and other kinds of insurance. The deviation from the standard premium rates should be based on sound underwriting practices that include factors like life and health styles, smoking and exercise habits, weight, occupation, and other personal choices that directly affect mortality and morbidity tables.  
The Washington-based insurance company---the largest worker-owned and worker-managed firm in the country---practices what  
(continued on page 8)

ME: Recently I had the mis---I mean, good fortune of meeting with 2 of our country's most colorful female sports figures: tennis player Martini Popinovenover and has-been---I mean, ex professional basketball player Nancy Leaveawoman. I caught them in the garden of the house they share together---purely Platonically, Nancy has asked me to remind you---as they frolicked in the grass together. ---Purely Platonically, of course. As soon as I could pin them down---figuratively speaking, I'm sure Nancy would want me to point out---I dragged them into the house, sat them down, and conducted this short interview, asking some questions the answers to which I thought might prove interesting.

ME: Martini, lets start with you, as you seem to be the more controversial and less predictable than Nancy.

NANCY: Thank you.

ME: Don't mention it, but, actually, it wasn't meant to be a compliment. Now, Martini, how was your relationship with your mother as you were growing up, was it warm and loving?

MARTINI: (too quickly) I never had a warm and loving relationship with a woman. Nancy made me realize that. (Nancy kicks her discreetly) Oh ---I mean---except for Nancy, of course. (Nancy kicks her again discreetly) ---I mean, of course, it was easy with Nancy because she is less like a woman.

NANCY: (almost out of her seat) What-?!

MARTINI: (flustered) I mean, you're strong, competent, secure---you have a lot of confidence and you know your own mind---yet you are every inch a woman in spite of it.

NANCY: (adjusting her halo) Well, I try. It takes a while---Martini is not exactly what you would call a quick study---but she's learning very well. In fact, she's becoming more and more socially acceptable every day.

ME: And soon she'll be just like you.

NANCY: Yes. Don't you just love it?

ME: And you'll both be a perfectly matched set.

NANCY: (false modesty) Well---nobody's perfect---not even me.

ME: Dictators think they are. (to Martini) How does it feel to be hooked up to one?

MARTINI: Nancy says I have the 2 Nancys to live up to as role models: her and Nancy Reagan.

ME: From tennis to the White House, huh?

MARTINI: Nancy would like to be president.

NANCY (too quickly) She means Nancy Reagan.

MARTINI: No, I don't. ---You said if things were different I could be your first lady.

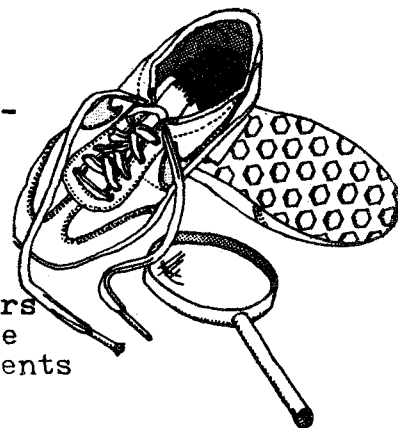
NANCY SHAKES HER HEAD, SIGHING, EYES CLOSED IN DISGUST.

(continued on page 6)

DOROTHY FEOLA

ME: Nancy Leaveawoman for president. Has a certain unrealistic ring to it somehow.

NANCY: (recovering) She means president of the Women's Athletic Association, of course. (to Martini) Martini, please, you must always be aware of the language barrier. Remember to pick and choose your words carefully at all times, especially while speaking to members of the press. Remember the things I told you about the differences between our 'private' talks and the statements made in public.



MARTINI: (lost in thought) Oh, yes---I remember now---I can be deported for saying the right things---

NANCY: (sharply impulsively) The wrong things-! (short pause, then to me, with too wide a grin) Why don't we talk about women's professional sports.

ME: Why not? Martini, to what do you attribute the fact that you seem to have your best rapport with the tennis fans when you're playing your worst?

MARTINI: Perhaps they relate to my new vulnerability now that I have become what Nancy calls "a real woman." Perhaps they see my true self, the one I could never see until Nancy helped me find it. Find her.

ME: And if they don't, Nancy's always around to tell them about it. Right, Nancy?

NANCY: How do you figure that?

ME: I figure it by way of you always being around for press and TV interviews, explaining your own version of Martini to anyone who will listen.

NANCY: And what's wrong with that? Everyone needs all the support they can get---especially women.

ME: I can't argue with that, but, I don't know, something just doesn't feel right here, between you two.

NANCY: Seems to me you're letting your imagination run away with you.

ME: So I've been told more than once. But in this case I think it's more like instincts. Most women have them you know.

MARTINI: But you don't understand--- I am a better tennis player now because I am more feminine looking, thanks to Nancy, and because I sometimes go out with men now this makes me more relaxed and confident as a person and less as a tennis player, which makes me a better player because I try harder. (thoughtful) ---Or something like that. It says so in all the articles and interviews that Nancy helped me with.

ME: But, Martini, don't you see how you are feeding, even unwittingly, right into all this traditional, homophobic crap? Don't you know that each time this happens it makes it all the more difficult for the next woman to come out.

NANCY: This is pure nonsense; she can't be responsible for all womankind.

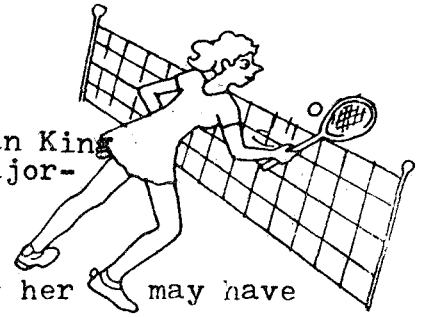
ME: You stay out of this for once, Pygmalion.

MARTINI: Wait---I don't think you should call Nancy a pig---she is a very neat and clean person---

ME: (offhandedly) Inside and out, no doubt.

NANCY: I try my best.

(continued on page 7)



ME: How do you figure the fact that although Billie Jean King lost out on some financial deals and promotions, the majority of vocal public opinion seemed to be on her side?

NANCY: She was just lucky.

ME: But don't you think that respect and admiration for her may have played a good part in that?

NANCY: (offhandedly) A lot of contriteness and an unusually stable marriage under the circumstances didn't hurt her any.

ME: I won't argue with you there. (thoughtfully) Maybe Martini should get married---then she could do whatever she wants--- Anyway---people, including the press, have noticed your change in appearance, Martini---and while Billie Jean still has that androgenous look, you seem to have become more traditionally feminine in appearance.

MARTINI: It was Nancy's idea.

ME: Somehow I guessed that. Good thing she didn't try it with Billie Jean ---I'd like to think she's one of the ones who would kick her butt around the room.

NANCY: (impulsively) ---No, she didn't--- (catching herself) I mean--- (phony grin) Why don't we just talk about women's professional sports.

ME: (ignoring her) Martini, is sharing a house with Nancy much different than sharing a house with a woman who is out of the closet?

MARTINI: ---No--- (Nancy kicks her discreetly) Oh---I mean---yes---

NANCY: (to me) Could you just rephrase that a bit? Remember the language barrier.

ME: Sure. How is Nancy any different than the other lesbian you shared a house with?

NANCY: (annoyed) I must protest-

ME: (to Martini, quickly) Does she snore?

NANCY: (clapping hand over Martini's mouth) Next question. And it better be the right question.

ME: Why don't I just ask you all the questions, since you seem to be the expert at putting words into Martini's hesitant mouth.

MARTINI: (quickly) No, Nancy never puts anything into my mouth---read all the articles and listen to the interviews---and you will see what she has made me into.

ME: A puppet?

NANCY: Anyone can plainly see what I've done for Martini since I've taken her under my wing. She is now everything a woman and a tennis player could aspire to. Ask any of her coaches---ask Renee Richards---

ME: About the tennis part or the woman part?

NANCY: You, my friend, have a one-track mind.

ME: Thank you. Now, Martini, who do you think you would like to see play you if there was ever a movie made on your life?

MARTINI: Donny Osmond.

NANCY: Marie! Marie, Martini, Marie. (to me) She (continued on page 8)

means Marie Osmond.

MARTINI: Oh, yeah, her too.

ME: Maybe Donny can play you, Nancy.

NANCY: (passed caring) Well, I don't know--- (shrugs) How's his dribble?

ME: Touche. You know, Nancy, after all is said and done, you just may not be as obnoxious as you appear in print. After all, Martini loves you.

MARTINI: (too quickly) How did you find out-?

ME: I rest my case.

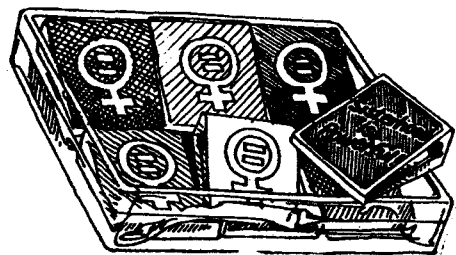
NANCY: I need a long rest.

ME: Well, I think we're finished now.

NANCY: You can say that again.

ME: Well, I think we're finished now.

NANCY: Cute.



.....  
(continued from page 4) it preaches. It offers life and health insurance policies that conform to the proposed non-discrimination legislation now before Congress. CUIC is the only insurance company in America that has testified in favor of the legislation before subcommittees of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. (Press Release)

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**REVIEW**

Reading this book was like eavesdropping on some women who are incredibly strong and who know how to express their feelings in a very forceful manner, and it amazed me at times because the "Letters" that make up the book are not from real women but are all a part of this novel. The novel is an exploration of issues concerning women: monogamy, communal living, relationships with men, lesbianism, and boy children in the lesbian community, in the form of letters to and from several women who are each quite different in their feelings on those subjects. The sense of "real-ness" about the letters is startling, and several times while reading this book I found myself thinking that it just couldn't be fiction---because it is too real. It definitely had me thinking that all those letters, and the women who wrote them, were real.

The women who are the "writers" of the letters are very different and sometimes they clash violently over their differences on some of the women's issues, most notably about maintaining relationships with men, if doing so is worth it, and about whether or not boy children belong in the lesbian community. I found myself siding with some of the women against the women they were having the differences with, and I think the fact that it made me feel so strongly is the sign of an enjoyable, true-to-life book. I wouldn't be surprised if most of the women reading this book felt the same way I did.

Besides enjoying the reading of this book, I think I learned a lot about writing, believe it or not. It has shown me how to express my feelings better in the letters I write to women and to my few male friends, and the issues raised by the women in those "Letters" has made me think more about my own (continued on page 9)

**BETWEEN FRIENDS**

\$5.95 175 pages



(continued from page 9) stands on some of those issues. This is a very real and strong book and is one of the few books I have read that uses this format, something author Gillian E. Hanscombe should get a lot of credit for.

REVIEW BY DESI SEAGULL

"Dear Desi Seagull: Thank you for your thoughtful and supportive review of CHOICE CENTERED TAROT in the Summer-Fall, 1983 edition of the Women's Network. I really appreciate this kind of coverage on the book since ads are pretty expensive.

"Enclosed is a copy of the revised edition of the book. I think you will find the additional 40 pages of interpretation to be of interest. I've expanded quite a bit on the basic meanings of the cards.

"In addition, I wanted to let you know that my mailing address has changed. I'd appreciate it if you would make the correction in the next issue of Women's Network. THANKS!"

Gail Fairfield,  
CHOICE CENTERED TAROT, P.O. Box  
31816, Seattle, Washington,  
98103

"Dear Dorothy: Would you believe I have found you after seeking you for the two and 1/2 yrs since I have been sending out my poetry (and being published). I first found you, I think, in an old copy of Writer's Market and then couldn't find you again. Same with a recently inherited 1980-81 copy of the Int'l Directory of Little Magazines. Recently I saw a letter from you in Broomstick that I neglected to follow up on since I didn't know your address or publication. But now, aha, I caught you in the latest issue of a small Canadian magazine, Voices (where I had one of several poems they've published). I think my interest was piqued originally by the fact that you lived in the Bronx, where I spent most of my life.

"I am 66, writing 3 years, published over 2 in feminist, anti-nuclear, pro-better society, anti-agism periodicals. Hope you can use (continued above)

the enclosed poems."

Elsen Lubetsky, Highland Mills,  
New York

"Dear Women's Network Staff Members: This is in reply to your letter to the Secretary of the Air Force concerning the sentence of Second Lieutenant Joan C. Newak.

"On March 11, 1982, Second Lieutenant Newak was convicted by general court-martial of transferring marijuana to enlisted subordinates on numerous occasions, attempting to violate an Air Force regulation by transferring what she believed to be amphetamines to an enlisted subordinate, using and possessing both marijuana and what she believed to be amphetamines in the presence of enlisted subordinates on numerous occasions, engaging in sodomy with a female

enlisted subordinate on 3 occasions, and engaging in conduct unbecoming an officer by calling another female enlisted subordinate a bisexual and kissing her without consent. Her approved sentence was a dismissal, total forfeitures, and confinement for 6 years. On March 23, 1983, The Judge Advocate General reduced the period of confinement in Lieutenant Newak's case to 3 years. This action will in no way limit Lieutenant Newak's ability to seek further appellate review of her case.

"Lieutenant Newak's case has now been submitted to the United States Court of Military Appeals in Washington, D.C. for appellate review. As her case is presently under appellate review, it would be inappropriate to comment on the merits of her particular case.

"After completion of the appellate review process established by Congress, the Secretary will consider the appropriateness of the sentence under the provisions of Article 71(b), Uniform (continued on page 11)



# We're heading for a world without men say scientists

IT WILL be a world without men someday as technological changes cause man's role to diminish and finally bring about a disappearance of all males.

"Genetic engineering has put the female so far ahead in the battle of the sexes that one day males may no longer be required," says Dr. Jonathan Beckwith, professor of and molecular genetics at Harvard Medical School.

William Moore, an evolutionary biologist at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, claims there are many examples of all-female races in nature. Moore claims there are 50 species consisting entirely of females that produce clones of themselves.

Scientists have already developed a variety of techniques — including chemical shock and radiation — to trigger embryonic development and virgin birth in the unfertilized eggs of several of these species.

Moore adds that sperm — and the males that produce them — may not be as important for procreation as we believe.

Other radical breakthroughs will allow the women of tomorrow to:

- Freeze her eggs while she is young and healthy, then fertilize them when she's ready, financially and emotionally, for motherhood.
- Pick out desirable genetic traits for her children by choosing among various types of artificially-produced sperm at a sperm bank.
- Watch her offspring develop in an artificial womb.
- Employ robots to do the child-rearing.

This startling new freedom from child care will enable women to pursue a wide range of previously unavailable career goals where they will have a distinct advantage over men.

Women are biologically superior, scientists say. They live longer, can better withstand a wide range of diseases — including cancer — and are generally smarter.

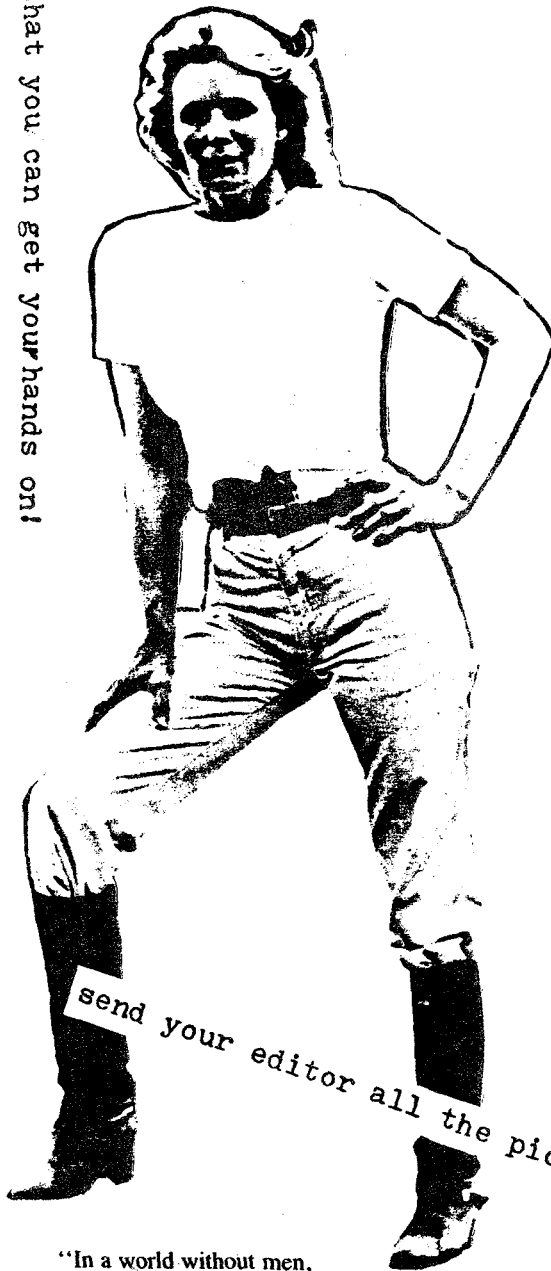
"Since women have superior reflexes and endurance capability, they will have the edge as the spaceship drivers of the future," says futurologist Kathy Keeton of New York.

They're better suited for zero gravity, and they eat and breathe less than men do.

"Within three generations, women will have major decision-making capabilities in most companies, and form a majority in Congress and the Supreme Court," adds Elizabeth Nickles, another futurologist.

And, some believe, a world without men will be a better place to live.

that you can get your hands on!

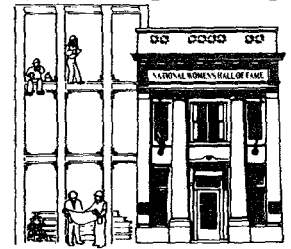


"In a world without men, women would stop competing with each other," says feminist Pat McDaniel, "and, instead, channel their energies into more positive areas."

"Advances in genetic engineering, I'm sure, would also compensate for the 'biological need' most women feel for members of the opposite sex."

August 16, '83/GLOBE

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118 W. Sparks St.  
GALENA, KS 66739

(continued from page 9) Code of Military Justice, if the conviction is sustained, "Your interest in Lieutenant Newak's case is appreciated."

Keith E. Nelson, USAF, Director, USAF Judiciary, Office of The Judge Advocate General, Department Of The Air Force, Headquarters United States Air Force, Washington, D.C.

.....  
"Dear Dorothy: I was glad to hear about your decision.

Barbara and Donna's determination and resolve are an inspiration to us all, and I know the publications will be tenderly cared for. I will try to pull together a list of lesbian and feminist publications that we've been trying to collect. Generally we want to locate feminist titles that originated in the western U.S. which we don't already have. For instance, our holdings of Everywoman, from L.A., I know are not complete. There are a number of specifically lesbian titles that we don't have, especially titles that originated in the South. We really appreciate your desire to share your collection.

"I am enclosing a copy of our newsletter, In The Life, although I hope you received it already. We're pleased the exchange with Women's Network is on again. My work (separate from WCLC) with the Lesbian Periodicals Index is finally drawing to a close after 3 years. I am surrounded by thousands of 3x5 cards and very anxious to get the information out to the world. Again, thanks for letting us know your decision. Continued good energies for your work on the Women's Network.

Claire Potter for the West Coast Lesbian Collections, Box 23753, Oakland, California, 94623, (415) 465-8080

.....  
"Greetings, Dorothy! Do hope you shall enjoy this 8th annual edition. Where does the time go!?! Thanks 100000 for your help, support & reviews over the years! Special thanks to Desi Seagull for her last review also!

"Any way you can pass-the-word of our (continued) existence is deeply appreciated & timely. Thank you.

"Happy Summertimes & Luminous Blessings!"

Nancy Passmore, Editor & Publisher, The ('84) Luna Calendar, Luna Press, 511 Kenmore Station, Boston, Mass., 02215

## Shocking New Study Reveals:

# Men Don't Like Women

Men clearly don't like women very much — even their own mates, according to a shocking new study.

"In fact, most husbands — 52 percent of those surveyed — don't even consider their wives to be their friends," said Dr. Gerald Phillips, professor of speech communication at Pennsylvania State University.

"And less than 20 percent of the husbands answered flatly, 'Yes, my wife is my friend,'" said Dr. Phillips, who analyzed the essay-type questionnaires from 2,036 men and 2,215 women in an eye-opening 10-year study.

"It's doubtful that men will ever actually like wom-

By MICHAEL GROSS

en because they are both caught in different value systems.

"When men speak of friends they talk of allies and team members.

"They don't like women because they don't regard them as potential allies — instead, they see them as threats."

The study also found that

men resented women because they believed they couldn't count on them when the chips were down. The men felt that sooner or later every woman was likely to betray them.

For example, wives find out about their husbands' weaknesses and shortcomings over the years. "Men secretly resent that. They're afraid their wives will someday expose them," explained Dr. Phillips, coauthor of "Loving and Living: Improve Your Friendships and Marriage."

"The men have no evidence that their women are betraying them, but they feel it's likely to happen sooner or later because

women are mentally weak," Dr. Phillips said.

"A big reason men said they don't like women is because they see them as being both physically and mentally weak and therefore not good allies."

And men also can't figure out the games women play — or their rules.

"This is not to say men don't want to have anything to do with women — quite the contrary," Dr. Phillips said.

"Men like women in the way they love french fries and ice cream. At least two-thirds of the men indicated they still want their women to be blonde, blue-eyed Miss America types who are deaf and dumb."

NATIONAL

**ENQUIRER**

THE WOMAN WHO SLEPT WITH MEN TO TAKE THE WAR OUT OF THEM & TREE,  
Two Works In One Volume, by Deena Metzger, PEACE PRESS, 3828  
 Willat Ave., Culver City, California, 90230, hard cover, 220  
 pages, \$13.95.



Both these pieces, THE WOMAN WHO SLEPT WITH MEN TO TAKE THE WAR OUT OF THEM & TREE, come across very personal in their own way, TREE being the more personal of the two, as it deals with Metzger's own bout with breast cancer, taken from the journal she kept to record her thoughts and feelings during that period of time. THE WOMAN WHO... is written like a Greek drama, complete with (the) "Chorus" "The Narrator" "The Witness" and other assorted characters in this play of dialogues and short tales and descriptions of actions and gestures that the accompanying literature describes, at one point, as "an allegory for all that transpires in society." It's basic tale of a woman in a village held captive, who gives herself willingly, though not joyfully, to the general whose army is responsible for the deaths of all the able-bodied men in the village, including her husband, is not too hard to follow, though all these voices popping in and out of the dialogue caused me a bit of confusion here and there, mainly because I wasn't sure who a few of them symbolized. But I found it interesting just the same and, after a while, got pretty comfortable with all these intriguing voices that usually had pertinent and/or interesting things to say or tales to tell.

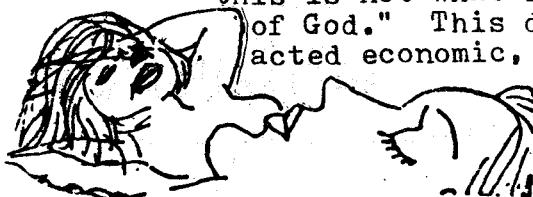
TREE really gave me pause, thinking about how cancer in women---especially breast cancer, since it's so prevalent---can be, and probably is, a political issue, something Metzger thinks of, in effect, as an attack on women by/from the State Department. The following thoughts and statements are from TREE:

What are the causes of cancer? Why are surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation the only treatments? Why do we cure by assault? Who are the culprits? Are they the FDA, the AMA, the NIH, the BIA, the CIA, the FBI, all the initials you combine? (page 156)

Our lives are constantly threatened. Cancer and madness. (page 165)

"Listen, this wound is a political wound. I am a political prisoner. I am a soldier wounded in a war you didn't know we were fighting." And at the same time, she is somehow ashamed of her bandages, of the thin little strips of adhesive which hold the flesh together on an almost absolutely flat chest. But a soldier should not be ashamed that a bullet has struck her. (page 211)

I tell you this disease is not accidental. It is untimely and unexpected-but that is not it entirely. The important thing for all of us to know is that this disease is not accidental, this is not what is meant in the insurance policies as "an act of God." This disease is a consequence of deliberately enacted economic, political and social policies. (page 212)



I've had enough women in my own family die of cancer so that I thought very soberly about the indications, political and social, psychological  
 (continued on page 14)

**Buy Books!**

Remembering Who We Are, Barbara Deming in dialogue with Gwenda Blair, Kathy Brown, Arthur Kinoy, Bradford Lyttle, Susan Sherman, Leah Fritz, Susan Saxe, Pagoda Publications, 1981, distributed by Naiad Press, P.O. Box 10543, Tallahassee, Florida, 32302, 208 pages.

Remembering Who We Are documents theoretical dialogues between the author and other feminists that follow an introductory history of feminist theory in which passages from, for example, Shulamith Firestone are cited. It provided another example of how the plethora of feminist views turns out not to be such a plethora if I compared them to my own simple feminism, i.e., I want man dumped.

So I ask of Barbara Deming and those in and about her school of feminist thought the question I ask any woman: Does she want to dump man or not? Let's see.

Shulamith Firestone thought that "childbearing could be taken over by technology" (page 12) and Jane Alpert sees reproduction as a source of womyn's "special consciousness" (Ibid.). I react---whose technology? And consciousness of what? But what about Barbara Deming? I want to know what the author thinks.

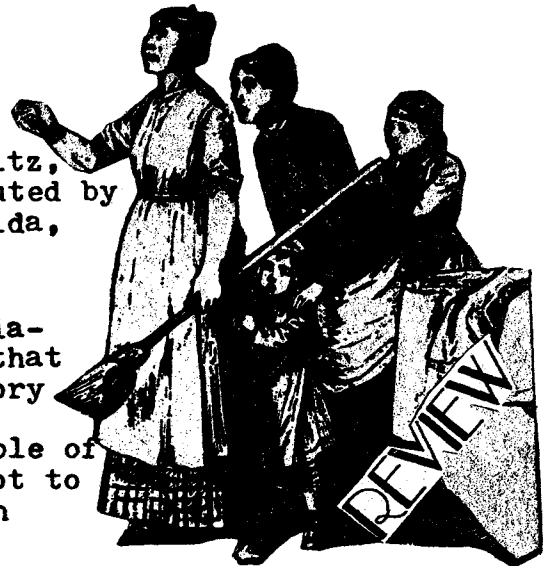
In her response to Arthur Kinoy's response to her letter she cites Marx, Bachofen's Mother Right, and Andrea Dworkin, and arrives at one point to sum things up: "The overthrow of mother right, says Engels, spelled the defeat of the female sex. I think it spelled a great defeat for humankind." (page 57) She concludes her letter: "Yes, to be both God and Child---this has been man's dream. But it is time for him to wake," (page 61) and asks her male interlocutor, "Can you agree at all with what I have written?" (page 67)

Picture the situation. I, a feminist reader, am watching this "radical" ask a man to agree with her. There is an intellectual insult going on here that the liberal, arguing with ferocious sincerity in theoretical battle with other liberals, liberals accusing one another of being liberals as though they were radicals, simply doesn't assume is felt by the real radical reader.

I close the book. It's not that there are not names and quotes. There is that. I admire that. It's useful. But like all liberal radical literature, which the feminist presses have handed us for a good decade with the regularity of a General Motors plant, it is like making the expansive schematic escapade into the Hegelian or Kantian erection that can demonstrate that a large curd mentality is preferable to the small curd variety when they are both, in fact, cottage cheese.

The problem is, I don't care about the liberal radical's problems. She likes men. She doesn't want to dump man. And if we were in the feminist front lines together, I wouldn't trust her to cover my ass, regardless of her expostulations in the name of Sisterhood qua Humanity qua the male sex we all know and love as Mankind.

"...to be both God and Child---this has been man's dream." If Barbara Deming could approach Pius II, pope in the XV century, or Wilson, Mulcahy, and Terpil, CIA gunrunners in the XX, and informed them as to her theories of male psychology, like a wife with no Karate to her (continued on page 14)



(continued from page 13) credit, tapping one irate foot at her husband and squawking that, "it is time for him to wake," the feminist field sergeant in me tells me that the gentlemen wouldn't be impressed enough to abdicate. No man would.

The feminist movement has navigated between false theories of man (and I mean man---male), and no theories about man. The true theory, if not a simple theory, can be expressed simply: the male sex has the world in his grip because he likes to have the world in his grip. It is not our job as feminists leaders to dicker about what the male feels about his grip; it is our job, as feminist leaders, to get the male's paw off what our people give birth to---people. You want to talk Humanism; I can talk Humanism.

REVIEW BY MIA ALBRIGHT

(continued from page 12) cal and spiritual, that Metzger brings out or alludes to. Most women, in general, can relate to Metzger's ordeal, but most of you reading this will be able to relate to ALL she has to say, as she is one of US, being (a) writer, poet, dramatist, and feminist activist. She is one of us and her ordeal is ours, every last bit of anger and fear, (her) desire to live on to fight and share, etc. She seems to handle it all very well. It least, she writes about it like she does. And that in itself is an accomplishment. One can only hope that we can all be courageous enough to get through, and perhaps record, our own greatest ordeals. And we can also hope for the love and support from our own network of women/friends, just as Metzger received from hers.

REVIEW BY DOROTHY FEOLA

THE '84 LUNAR CALENDAR, Published by LUNA PRESS,  
Box 511, Kenmore Station, Boston, Mass., 02215,  
\$10 plus \$2 shipping and handling.

This is the eighth Lunar Calendar and, as always, I was very excited to read it and see what has been added, what new aspects of lunar lore would be included. It is something I have come to look forward to; I've always found it interesting and exciting, and this year has been no exception. The calendar includes the thirteen lunar months, the daily phase of the moon, instructions for moon-gardening, mythology, astrology, and a bit about the effect of the moon on women's fertility cycles. There is also an extensive bibliography on these subjects for women who wish to learn more about them. It is very complete and is updated annually.

The drawings and poetry are beautiful and go well with the lore and natural histories of the trees. The most striking thing about the calendar is the "tree alphabet," which is the naming of the months in accordance with the ancient Celtic/Druidic tree alphabet; each Lumination corresponds to a sacred tree, which is represented by leaf-rubblings and written lore. It is very interesting and it may be the first time women have encountered it.

I was most impressed by how the graphics and the poetry and the prose all came together so well and formed a very strong and powerful whole. It is totally unlike any of the other women's calendars I've seen; it's a lesson in education, and, not least of all, very, very beautiful.



**DESIGN**

desi seagull

# THE

# HOMOPHILE

# HOUSEWIFE

Very little has changed for the better since my article on the homophile housewife appeared in The Advocate almost twenty years ago. She calls herself a homemaker now and has, in most cases, demanded and gotten respect and recognition from her family and friends for her essential contribution to the American lifestyle, but she is still ignored or disparaged by her homophile sisters.

While homophile feminists loudly condemn their brothers for abandoning heterophile spouses, they deride their sisters for remaining with theirs. The pain-filled, "You're married? Then you're not a lesbian." still echoes discordantly.

In fairness, it must be pointed out that the majority of self-proclaimed feminists accept all of their sisters at face value regardless of their living situations and/or stumbling blocks. To them I say, "Brava!" This article addresses the others; those who insist that a true homophile would extricate themselves from a heterophilic relationship regardless of the cost to innocent loved/loving ones.

The homophile homemaker suffers the prejudice of society no less than her out-of-the-closet sisters, albeit she suffers in silence. To assign her to ridicule and obscurity, isolating her even farther from emotional fulfillment, is a disgrace and a waste. She is among the most loyal of all creatures; a champion copier in a world where everyone copes with something or other not quite to their liking. Her sense of honor is to be envied.

Admittedly, to proclaim oneself different in an antagonistic society takes courage. To be different, to be condemned for it by one's sisters and remain sane takes a degree of fortitude few of us could match. The loss of potential value to the movement and to that lonely soul from whom she might be the perfect answer is sad, to say the least. Deplorable in its implications.

Feminism celebrates the right to be different but equal. Dare we continue to specify that our sisters must be different only according to narrow rules? Are we still so far from our goals that we cannot accept the fact that different means exactly that, welcoming all who reach out to us regardless of the particular circumstances of their individual lives? To say, "You're married and are therefore not a true homophile," is to say, "You can be different, but you must be different our way."

It is disheartening, in this age of learning how to be full-fledged adults, that so many seemingly intelligent feminists cling to adolescent attitudes.

PEGGY  
ULLMAN  
BELL

Don't step on my feelings, Fearless Woman,  
Who think you know the world.  
You retreated from it so long ago,  
It's no wonder that you're bold.  
Don't send me back to bifurcation,  
With only dregs to fill my reaching cup.  
Don't step on my feelings, Fearless Woman.  
Just love me and shut up.

MARRIED LESBIAN IN A WOMON'S BAR



Talk Back!: The Gay Person's Guide To Media Action, Alvson Publications, P.O. Box 2783, Boston, Mass., 02208, \$3.95

Talk Back gives the reader background in how the major media organizations are put together; this includes the newspapers, magazines, broadcast networks, the two major wire services in the U.S. (AP and UPI), and the national news services of major newspapers like the L.A. Times and The N.Y. Times.

Certain facts are especially interesting and illuminating, like, for example, "60% of all TV programming is centrally controlled." (page 22) There is also the issue of quoting the facts. A reporter can quote verbatim, but if those interviewed are, for example, the police, obviously, the facts state one side of the story, not both; however, the reader will often read these facts as the facts of the story, not the facts of half the story.

The section of the book titled "Continuing Media Work" makes an important point in that the job of the media-conscious is to "expand the media's definition of what is news." (page 63) A sample press release, how-to's on press conferences and interviews, and sample questions to expect from the media representative, as well as important addresses, make the book especially handy.

REVIEW BY MIA ALBRIGHT

Rocking The Cradle! Lesbian Mothers, A Challenge In Family Living, by Gillian E. Hanscombe & Jackie Forster, Avison Press, \$5.95, 153 pages

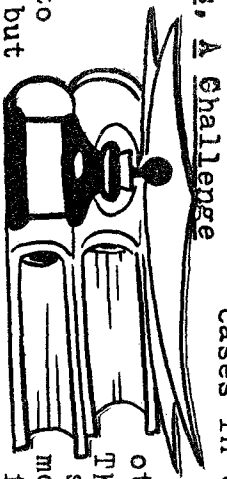
This is a book that went deeper into the issue than I thought it would, but seems to be focused on the (continued above)

# 4 REVIEWS

lesbian mothers' situation in England and the options for lesbians there to become mothers. It gives a great deal of information on A.I.D. or Artificial Insemination by Donor, and how to go about it, but it seems to me that that option, judging from the book, is more readily available (though not easy to obtain) to English lesbians than it is to lesbians here or in other parts of the world. It gives a full account of how to go about selecting the donor and finding the most fertile part of a woman's cycle so as to raise the chances of conception, which I found interesting, hoping, as I read it, that it would become more available to women in other parts of the world also. It is a definite option for lesbians who want children, but do not want to adopt (even if they could), and it avoids the need for sexual intercourse with a male just for the sake of conception.

The book also contains interviews with lesbian mothers, who talk about their lives and why they chose to have children, and goes on to include interviews with the children of lesbian mothers, that part seeming particularly matter-of-fact, giving the impression that the children are much more open-minded than the courts that try to take them away from their mothers on the grounds that her lesbianism will cause the child to become in some way perverted. The children simply see their mothers as "my mother," not "my lesbian mother." Those interviews were a good touch and I think they should be read by all those in the court system, including the social workers. There is a chapter on custody cases in the courts, but that too seems to be geared more toward the English system than in America or any other country.

The book was interesting, giving me some new insights into lesbian motherhood. It will be helpful, I feel, to lesbians considering having children, as well (continued on page 17)





Survival Manual For The Independent Woman Traveler, Roberta Mendel, The Pinprick Press, 2664 Green Road, Shaker Heights, Ohio, 44122, \$12.95.

This is a very interesting and, I feel, useful book, one that tells you, step by step, how to have a good and safe trip whether you are traveling on business or pleasure. It is written by a woman who is obviously a seasoned traveler and, thus, has "been there" and knows the hassles involved in preparing for a trip, with the unexpected things that can crop up en route and offers women good, solid advice on how to deal with it all. She goes through all the preparations necessary for a successful trip, giving advice on what to pack and how, including an appendix of selected travel resources. There is also information on hotels, different types of tours, reading the travel literature, how to stay well on your trip, and taking care of yourself in various emergency situations.

I found the book not only interesting, but warm and human to read, not at all stiff or formal. At the same time, it does not insult the reader's intelligence or make her feel like an imbecile because she does not already know what Ms. Mendel, as a seasoned traveler, is sharing with her in these pages. The book is also a lot of fun to read, and I've found it has fueled my own imagination and continuing daydreams of being able to do some real traveling of my own someday.

REVIEW BY DESI SEAGULL

PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER, Women's Lives and Writings, School of Humanities, Thames Polytechnic, Wellington Street, Woolwich, London, SE18 6PF. 50 pages (1982)

Putting The Pieces Together is the most personable anonymous collection of womyn's writings that I have ever read. There is no editor, although Wendy wrote the Preface, and the names of the womyn contributors (there are eight) are listed and a circle of miniature portraits is provided on the facing page.

What happens in these pages is that the reader gets an insider's detailed look at what it was for womyn to grow up in Britain in the late 50's, 60's, and 70's. The topics are basic: "Houses," "Mothers," "Fathers," "Keeping it nice," "Food," among others. The feel that the reader gets from Putting The Pieces Together is that this is the oral tradition written down; this is womyn telling each other stories.

For an American reader, two characteristics of the book are particularly striking. One, I was struck with the fact that even though England and America are cognate cultures, both English-speaking, both with many of the same social systems and beliefs, that we are different womyn. And second, I found that the differences have to do with things that are universal among the world of womyn.

For example, the story about Miss West (p. 31), "spiritualist, faith-healer and rightwing philosopher," who filled her classroom with cats, describes how many eccentric womyn in America? But eating rice with treacle poured over it is not exactly Fritos Corn Chips.

What is universal, especially, about these stories is the realistic accounting for the tragic boredom that adolescence represents to girls with no inspiring feminist models. Womyn who can be used as heroes by young womyn. There are some political mothers in these pages. One daughter, ironically, is incensed that some womyn got involved in community politics,

(continued page 18)

I did enjoy it, learning quite a bit from it and a bit from the review by Desi Seagull. I read it and enjoyed it very much. (continued)

(continued from page 17) and it turned out to be her own mother (p. 35). But "Local Housewife Says Ban Cars in Marlow," is not exactly the thrill of feminist revolution, and since adolescents above all want to feel life as they grow into being able to think about it, what the young woman needs is a strong leader image in the best sense of the word. The aimlessness of young womyn everywhere, America, Britain, around the world, is the feminist tragedy since these generations represent the future of womyn. As one of the contributors said very well, "I'm certainly glad you don't have to go backwards..." (p. 50) True. For womyn as individuals. But with no good feminist example for the younger generation of womyn to follow, isn't this what happens to us as a group? Putting The Pieces Together, literally, means we learn from one another's stories so that we can go forward.

REVIEW BY  
MIA ALBRIGHT

*Letters*

"Dear Dorothy Feola: I am writing to request a sample of Women's Network. I found out about your subscription through "Voices"\* in Kenora, Ontario. I myself write a column on Lesbian literature for "The Body Politic" and write reviews for a number of periodicals. For that reason, Women's Network caught my eye. Would you be interested in having Women's Network reviewed in my column? Also, do you accept book reviews from writers? If so, I'd be interested in writing reviews for your publication. I've enclosed a list of the work I've done so you can see that any book you might suggest for review would be in experienced hands. Take care, keep up the good work and I look forward to seeing my review copy of Women's Network."

Joy Parks, Downsview, Ontario, Canada

\*VOICES, one of our exchanges, calls itself "A Lesbian Survival Manual," and it has all kinds of "survival" material in it, some of it purely emotional. 4 issues/\$6, single issue \$1.50, back issues \$1. From: VOICES, c/o I. Andrews, R.R.#2, Kenora, Ontario, Canada, P9N 3W8

"Dear Dorothy Feola: On behalf of Alice James Press, I want to tell you how happy we are to find Women's Network in our mail. It's just what we need! I wish you and all those who work with you continued success.

"I enclose a copy of BACKTALK, my most recent collection which was published in April, 1982, by Alice James Press in Cambridge. This year Alice James celebrates its 10th year of publishing poetry for women! I hope you will consider it for review in Women's Network."

"Once again, best wishes from everyone at Alice James Press. We look forward to seeing forthcoming issues."

Robin Becker for ALICE JAMES PRESS

"Dear Dorothy: Not too long ago I wrote to you inquiring about "Women's Network." When I received a sample issue, I was very impressed; as a result, your efforts have helped bring to life "Feminine Connections."

"Feminine Connections" is a feminist newsletter dedicated to developing female consciousness and intuition. It is a brand new project that will contain information from all feminine sources. I want to tap into as many possibilities and pass these possibilities onto other women. In this way, we can exhibit all the opportunities available to what I refer to as the "New Age Woman."/You contributed to this project by helping me reach a commitment. I would like to make mention of your publication in the FREE introductory issue of "Feminine Connections." With your consent, I would present you as being one of the links in the growing chain of women's support. ---I hope I can count on your support."

Donna L. Havoc, Milford, Ct.

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WOMEN'S NETWORK

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