



Women in Libraries

Volume 22, Number 3

June 1993

ALA Annual Conference New Orleans 1993

Feminist Task Force Meetings

Sunday, June 27, 2-5:30pm

Monday, June 28, 8-9:00pm

Introduction to Women's Groups

Saturday, June 26, 2-4:00pm

Find your Voice and be Heard: getting more women into print

Tuesday, June 29, 9:30-11:00am

The introductory speaker (GraceAnne A. DeCandido) will discuss the current status of women and publishing within the library profession, the underrepresentation of women as authors of letters to the editors of our professional journals, book reviews and articles, possible reasons for this, and what we can do about it. Other speakers will examine the nuts-and-bolts of getting published. FTF is co-sponsoring this COSWL Program.

Women's Night Out

Monday, June 28, 9pm— location to be announced.

Feminist Author Breakfast

Sunday, June 27, 8:30am

Tickets for the second annual Feminist Author Breakfast

sponsored by the Feminist Task Force are available NOW from Celeste Tibbets, Atlanta Fulton Public Library, One Margaret Mitchell Square, Atlanta, GA 30303. You can also call Celeste at 404-730-1910 to make a reservation and send her the check later.

Tickets are priced as follows: \$12.00 in advance of the conference; \$15.00 in New Orleans; \$7.50 for Library School students. Last year there were only a few tickets left by the time of the conference.

Our author this year is Charlotte Watson Sherman, author of Killing Color published by Calyx Books of Corvallis, Oregon. The following is a quote from the introduction to Killing Color:

"In the tradition of Buchi Emecheta, Simone Schwarz-Bart, ToniCade Bambara, Isabel Allende and a host of other women writers who are story tellers, Charlotte Watson Sherman spins tales that are part magic, part song. In eleven stories of magnificent presence, Watson Sherman casts reflections of a world too often turned upside down by its own special vision, a world in which passions quicken and fold, resting palpable upon the page."
Colleen J. McElroy

Please join us in this breakfast. The Feminist Task Force sponsors this event as part of its goal to increase librarians' involvement with small feminist presses. Holders of breakfast tickets will receive discounts at the feminist press tables in the exhibits. TT

Patriarchy on Electronic Lists?

"Gender and Democracy in Computer - Mediated Communication" appeared recently in the EJC (Electronic Journal of Communication). The author is Susan Herring and she maintains that despite claims of democratic interaction on electronic lists the same old patriarchal practices appear to

prevail in the lists she studied. E-mail to either Comserve@Rpitsvm or Comserve@Vm.Its.Rpi.edu the following message: SEND Herring V3N293 to access the article. SH

Acquisitions Notes

Women, Information Technology, and Scholarship edited by H. Jeanie Taylor, Cheris Kramarae, and Maureen Ebben (128 pages, paperback, \$10, ISBN 1-882875-00-1)

What does the information revolution hold for women and feminist scholarship? While new information technologies are exploding onto the academic scene and are changing the face of scholarly research and practice, will women share equally and beneficially in the promised benefits of the new technologies?

There is as yet little literature which addresses directly the ways that gender, race, and class hierarchies are made part of the circuitry in the new information technologies used on campuses. The writers in the volume address issues of concern to women. By focusing on the social and political aspects of new information technologies, including computer networks, electronic mail, computer databases, electronic publishing and distribution systems, the authors make an important feminist intervention into this largely mail-dominated area. Women, Information Technology, and Scholarship includes articles by Cheris Kramarae, Dale Spender, Ann Okerson, and others who have collaborated with WITS (Women, Information Technology, and Scholarship Working Colloquium, UIUC). In addition, the volume includes a comprehensive annotated bibliography of "Women and Technology" materials.

"All women must live by our wits, but this collection of WITS will be a vital tool for our survival on the "electronic frontier". This is one of the first collections to address the global, ethical, and workplace consequences of the information infrastructure from a feminist perspective. A book for everyone who loves or hates computers." Susan Leigh Star, co-editor, Computer-Supported Cooperative Work; author, Regions of the Mind: Brain Research and the Quest for Scientific Certainty.

Women, Information Technology, and Scholarship is available by mail from WITS, The Center for Advanced Study, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 912 West Illinois Street, Urbana, IL 61801 USA. Prepayment (\$10 plus \$2 shipping and handling) in U.S. dollars must accompany the order. For more information call (217)-333-6729.

WAVE:WOMEN'S AUDIO-VISUALS IN ENGLISH

The Office of Women's Studies Librarian University of Wisconsin System has just published WAVE: WOMEN'S AUDIO-VISUALS IN ENGLISH; A GUIDE TO NONPRINT RESOURCES IN WOMEN'S STUDIES. WAVE fills a unique niche in the reference literature on women. It is an interdisciplinary, annotated listing of 800 films, videos, audiocassettes, and filmstrips by and about women produced between 1985-1990. WAVE is an 88-page guide, arranged in broad discipline-based categories such as "Education," "Health/Medicine/Biology," "Sociology/Social Issues" — using the same format as NEW BOOKS ON WOMEN & FEMINISM from the same Office — with an extensive, detailed subject index for easy access to a wide range of topics. A title index and up-to-date list of distributors names and addresses are also provided.

The cost per copy is \$2.00. If you or your library would like one, please send a request to the address below and enclose a check for \$2.00 payable to the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

We hope to update WAVE with a SECOND WAVE next year and welcome suggestions on format and content.

The Office of Women's Studies Librarian also offers three women's studies resource periodicals on joint subscription (FEMINIST COLLECTIONS: A QUARTERLY OF WOMEN'S STUDIES RESOURCES; FEMINIST PERIODICALS: A CURRENT LISTING OF CONTENTS; and NEW BOOKS ON WOMEN & FEMINISM) as well as other bibliographic publications. For further information contact Phyllis Holman Weisbard at the email or street address below.

Phyllis Holman Weisbard; Acting Women's Studies Librarian; University of Wisconsin System; Room 430 Memorial Library; 728 State Street; Madison, WI 53706; (608) 263-5754; pweis@wiscmac (Bitnet); pweis@mac.wisc.edu (Internet) PHW

Job Hotlines USA: the national telephone directory of employer joblines A unique telephone directory that uncovers over 1000 employer jobline telephone numbers nationwide. Each employer's jobline provides access to a pre-recorded list of available jobs that can be reached from

any job seeker's telephone. Completely updated and expanded edition. (\$24.95, 8.5 x 11, softcover, 128 p., ISBN: 1-881587-02-9) To order, contact Career Communications, Inc., 298 Main Street, PO Box 169, Harleysville, PA 19438. (800) 942-2417. Distributors: Baker & Taylor Books and Midwest Library Service.

American Directory of Job and Labor Market Information
One-stop source to pinpoint federal, state, and major city government job and labor market information. The directory features free and low-cost sources of career publications, government job databases anyone can access from their own computer, and the location of key employ-

Reviews

In the Garden of Dead Cars by Sybil Claiborne. ISBN: 0-9349416-66-2 \$9.95 paper; ISBN: 0-9349416-65-4 \$24.95 cloth.) Cleiss Press, PO Box 8933, Pittsburgh, PA 15221 (412) 937-1555.

Imagine New York some time in the future. A plague has ravaged society, leaving the survivors terrified of human contact. Beset by scarcities of every kind, the city has become a place of burnt-out buildings, abandoned streets and junk yards. The government is so fearful of sexuality that even *The Joy of Cooking* is banned. Sex is a capital crime and executions, carried out by governmental comedians, are by plastic wrap.

Like Margaret Atwood's *A Handmaid's Tale*, Claiborne's In the Garden of Dead Cars concerns the not-so-distant future and asks a not-so-paranoid question: In post-AIDS society, who will control sexuality?

Claiborne's novel centers around a feminist physician who longs for the past and her daughter, Emma, who dreams of real butter and rebuilt Subarus and is sick of hearing about life before the plague. But for this mother-daughter dyad, the politics of sexuality explodes into revolutionary proportions, taking Emma on a journey both filled with self-discovery and dangerously criminal.

Born in Liverpool, England in 1923, Sybil Claiborne spent most of her life in the United States. She started writing fiction in the 1970s and her work appeared in *Esquire*, the *New Yorker*, *StoryQuarterly*, *Transatlantic Review*, and many other publications. She received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and from New York State. The *San Francisco Chronicle* called her first novel, A Craving for Women (Dutton, 1988), a "witty, provocative novel." Publishers Weekly called Loose Connections (Academy Chicago, 1988), a collection of Claiborne's stories, "vibrantly expressive tales." Loose Connections was chosen as an Alternate Selection by the Literary Guild. Sybil died of cancer in late 1992.

Sybil Claiborne was always a writer who grappled with important political issues. Of her work, Eve Merriam

ment centers nationwide. (\$29.95, 8.5 x 11, softcover, 160 p., ISBN: 1-881587-01-0) To order, contact Career Communications, Inc., 298 Main Street, PO Box 169, Harleysville, PA 19438. (800) 942-2417. Distributors: Baker & Taylor Books and Midwest Library Service.

Scenarios in Self-Defense

Reviewed last fall by *Library Journal*, *Video Librarian*, and *Booklist*. This personal safety video program is used by universities, police departments, rape crisis center, libraries, and corporations across this country and Canada. For more information, contact BPS Communications, PO Box 19187, Minneapolis, MN 55419; ph: (800) 365-4277. ●

writes, "Sybil Claiborne has sustained— and sustaining— wit, plus social conscience: a rare and enlivening combination. Brava!" She was active in the War Resisters League during the Vietnam War and the feminist movement. Writing a novel about the social and political impact of AIDS was for her a natural response to her son's death from AIDS. (publisher's review) ●



Women in Libraries

Women in Libraries, the Newsletter of the American Library Association's Feminist Task Force, is published four times a year, from September to June.

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Subscriptions are \$5 for individuals, \$8 for institutions prepaid, or \$10 for invoiced subscriptions. Make check payable to *Women in Libraries*.

Preliminary Conference Announcement

"Women, Information and the Future: collecting and sharing resources world-wide a conference sponsored by Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America, Radcliffe College June 17-21, 1994."

Purposes:

1. To advance collecting and sharing of information on women.
2. Share information about the existence and holdings of libraries, archives, documentation centers throughout the world.
3. Offer workshops on collecting strategies, uses of technology, methods of classification and organization of all types of materials, preservation issues, publication programs, use of oral history and other aspects of operating libraries, archives and documentation centers.
4. Foster creation of additional libraries and documentation centers by identifying and sharing strategies to overcome obstacles to their creation and development.
5. Foster cross-cultural communication about information policy and identify policy issues for discussion at 1995 UN Conference on Women in Beijing.
6. Work toward on-going exchange of information among

women's libraries, archives, and info centers throughout the world.

Who should attend: librarians, archivists, information specialists and others who collect, classify and redistribute information on women and those who plan to establish such libraries or centers.

Conference will be held at Radcliffe; accommodations will be available in dorms and local hotels; registration fee is estimated to be \$275.00

There is also a call for papers. Themes of special interest: uses and users of women's information; information policy; institution building; collection development; communication; technical issues.

Please submit proposals in duplicate by July 1, 1993 to the address below.

If you want more information contact: Women, Information, and the Future; Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe College, 10 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138. DM

Librarians Attend International Women's Conference in Costa Rica

Over 1600 women from all over the world attended the 5th International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women, held at the University of Costa Rica, February 22 - 26, 1993. Scholars, activists, students, and professional women participated in sessions on a wide variety of topics, including health, sexuality, human rights for women, AIDS, women's history, domestic violence, the status of women's studies in different countries, indigenous women, etc.

These congresses, held every three years in a different location, are unique for their international and interdisciplinary focus. There is usually no specific agenda or theme; the idea is to bring women from around the world together and give them a forum to address any and all issues concerning their lives and work. The first congress was held in Israel and was so successful that the organizers and participants decided to meet again in three years. Subsequent meetings have been held in Dublin, the Netherlands, and New York.

Librarians were among the professional women attending the Congress in Costa Rica. About fifteen of us met regularly throughout the week, attending sessions on women's libraries and information, and, most importantly, getting together informally to network. The opportunity to make contacts with librarians from the Netherlands,

Denmark, Finland, Venezuela, Costa Rica, India, as well as the U.S., was invaluable. A variety of libraries was represented, ranging from well-funded women's libraries in Europe to struggling women's documentation centers in India and Central America.

With the help of two volunteer translators, the librarians planned a day trip to Heredia, a small city near San Jose, to visit the Universidad Nacional's office for women's studies (Casa de la Mujer) and its new center/library for women, health, and development, REDIM (Red de Informacion Mujer, Salud, y Desarrollo). Cora Ferro, administrator of the Casa de la Mujer, informed us that the Universidad Nacional, which has offered women's studies classes for several years, is beginning a new master's program in women's studies, jointly sponsored with the University of Costa Rica.

For librarians, the experience of visiting a new, growing women's library was exhilarating. REDIM has one full-time coordinator, several new computers, and an extremely small book collection (a couple of hundred volumes, mostly donated and out-of-date). They have a computer database and card catalog, using software from UNESCO and ISIS. The database includes journal articles from their holdings, as well as a catalog of their books.

After we visited the Universidad Nacional, we headed back to San Jose in time to participate in a women's rights march from the University to the Democracy Plaza. Thousands of women took over the streets of San Jose at rush hour, without official police escorts or security. The most thrilling moment came when march volunteers stopped traffic on a highway simply by linking arms, so that those of us marching could cross.

Other highlights of the Congress included meeting

Margarita Penon, Oscar Arias' wife, who is now running for President; hearing Claroscuro, a Costa Rican all-women rock band; finding San Jose's women's bar: unmarked, with no street address; and the incredible kindness and generosity of the Congress organizers and volunteers, who met us at the airport, took us to our hotels, provided transportation when needed, acted as guides and translators, and became friends. WT

Call for Papers

Politics and Ethics: a graduate student conference at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, October 23-24, 1993.

This conference is motivated by a growing sense that analyses of the ethical must inform politics and criticisms. It will investigate what 'ethics' or 'the ethical' mean and how and why those categories might be used in political and critical practices. Therefore, the conference will also interrogate the 'political,' a concept which itself seems to be in crisis at present.

Questions the conference will address include: What are the ethical concerns of specific political movements such as feminism, lesbian/gay activism, or marxism? In these cases, does the ethical function as just a 'dogmatic moralism' or is it a fundamental factor marking a distinction from other types of theoretical practice? How can students continue to do theoretical and/or political criticism in an

academy under attack for its multicultural agendas? How and why do radical or multicultural initiatives 'fail' in an undergraduate classroom? What is our pedagogical or political responsibility and how do we exercise it? What strategies can be used in this climate of backlash? How can coalitions with other political groups outside the academy be built? Is it possible to construct strategies, practical philosophies, pragmatic interventions from currently occupied positions and identities?

These and other questions will be addressed in an informal atmosphere to encourage plenty of discussion. 'Nontraditional' modes of presentation are welcome. Presentations should be no longer than twenty minutes. Please send two one-page abstracts by August 1, 1993 to: Jon Beasley-Murray or Kathy Green, Dept of English and Comparative Literature, Curtin Hall, UWM, PO Box 413, Milwaukee, WI 53201. For further information, call (414) 562-2399.

New WIL Editor

Kate Wakefield of the Nebraska Library Commission will take over the editorship of this newsletter beginning with the post-conference issue. Please contact her to offer your assistance in making *WIL* worthwhile.

Her addresses are: K. Wakefield, Nebraska Library Commission, 1420 P Street., Lincoln, NE 68508-1683 or KWAKEFIELD@CRCVMS.UNL.EDU (Internet).

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