

HERLAND SISTER

r e s o u r c e s

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HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES, INC.
1630 N.W. 19, Oklahoma City, OK 73106

WORKSHOP FOCUSES ON YOUTH SERVICE

(Editor's Note: The University of Oklahoma Juvenile Personnel Training Program is to be commended for sponsoring the workshop from which the following column is written. The workshop, "Issues and Problems in Service Delivery to Gay and Lesbian Youth," was held April 16-17 in Tulsa. The presenters from the Institute for the Protection of Lesbian and Gay Youth, New York City, were Emery Hetrick, A. Damien Martin and Joyce Hunter.

"Most service care providers don't know anything about the lesbian and gay community--that it even exists," said Dr. Emery Hetrick, Clinical Assistant professor of Psychiatry at New York University Medical Center, and co-founder of the Institute for the Protection of Lesbian and Gay Youth. The community structures which exist today have increased the visibility of lesbians and gay men, he explained, and include: political organizations, local self-help groups, professional organizations, business organizations, fund-raising groups, the media (lesbian and gay publishers, presses, newspapers and books), cultural and social activities, clinics and medical services, social service agencies and religious organizations.

St. Thomas Aquinas began writing anti-gay materials in the 1300s which resulted in pillary and hangings. The first laws against buggery were enacted in 1533. Karl Ulrich, in Urning and Urnings, 1862, began thinking of the homosexual as a whole person and not just a sexual act. The gay movement was sufficiently active in Germany that two weeks after Hitler took power, he ordered the death of all gays. Approximately 400,000 gays died in the Holocaust and were the only victims of the death camps which weren't compensated by the U.S. government.

At times during World War II, every available man was needed by the U.S. military. They were recruited and tolerated and dishonorably discharged when they weren't. Bars sprang up around bases and, after the war, they remained because people didn't want to go back to small towns without any community.

"In 1953, Alfred Kinsey et al. reported 12-13% of the male population had been homosexual for at least three years of their lives, and 8% of his sample had reported a homosexual lifestyle across their lifetimes. It is from the Kinsey Report that the figure of 10% identifying homosexuals is derived," Dr. Hetrick said.

The Mattachine Society began in 1950 as a socialist organization and evolved into a primarily educational group. It faded out in the mid-70s but there is still one chapter in Washington, D.C. Also in the 50s, the Daughters of Bilitis was founded by Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon. In June of 1969, at Sheridan Square, the police came to harass the Black and Hispanic drag queens and street people who hung out at the Stonewall bar. They had had enough and locked the police in the bar. For three days the community gathered in strength and numbers to protest in the Stonewall Riots, which Hetrick believes was the turning point for gay and lesbian activism.

"Prejudice is an overall, overly stated generalization and is usually negative," according to Damien Martin, Associate Professor of Communication at New York University and Director of Education and Research at the Institute. "Prejudgment is a negative attitude which is a generalization; however, the person has had no previous knowledge or contact with the situation which they are prejudging. If the person who has negatively prejudged doesn't change (his or her) mind after (he or she) learns what goes beyond general knowledge, (he or she) has a prejudice," according to Martin.

"If you believe that homosexuals are contagious, you have to keep them separate, and you separate people by discriminating against them," said Martin. "You have to believe that people are less than human to justify the less-than-human acts perpetrated against them."

Martin believes prejudice can be classified in four ways: Antilocutions are negative verbal attacks against a group and can range from denigratory terms to religious or pseudo-scientific attacks implying defect or danger. Trivialization or making

(Continued on page 4)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An Open Letter to the Honorable Leamon Freeman:

I am writing you regarding Donna Bechtel, who is scheduled to be sentenced by you on a First Degree Murder conviction on Monday, April 29.

As I understand the case, Mrs. Bechtel shot and killed her husband, who had a history of violence towards her. The First Degree Murder charge was predicated on the fact that she was not in imminent peril at the time of the shooting. Also, the newspaper reported that an argument of prosecution was that she could have just left and divorced Mr. Bechtel, and would have done so except that she did not want to lower her standard of living.

I hope you will consider what has come to be accepted as a basic psychological response of a victim of abuse, beatings and violence: that a victim perceives her peril, even if not immediate, as inevitable; so inevitable that it might as well be imminent; and that only a permanent stop will end it.

Victimization of this sort also leads to a dependency which does not allow for rational thought, including thought of divorce; spousal abuse is found throughout the social and financial strata of society, as are the varying responses to it. I feel that it was facile, and considering what is at stake, contemptible, for the prosecutor to suggest that a person with a desperate mindset of an abused wife would have the main eye out on her comfort or luxuries. Surely, freedom from fear, violence and intimidation is not a luxury.

I appeal to you for justice and mercy in your sentencing of Donna Bechtel.

Sincerely yours,
Margaret Cox
Co-coordinator

Metro OKC NOW, National Organization for Women

(Editor's Note: For current information about the status of Donna Bechtel's sentencing, contact Dreama Moon, YWCA Crisis Intervention Services, 232-6199.)

Dear Herland Sister Resources,

I am looking for business women with leadership abilities to open and manage a chapter of Leads Club in the Oklahoma City area for a period of six months.

Leads Club is a networking and advertising service for serious-minded business women who understand the value to the personal leads and referral method to increase their business.

If you would like more information, please contact me at 14531 E. 36th Street, Tulsa, OK 74134, (918) 437-9542.

Lorice O'Keefe
Executive Director

Dear Herland,

I really appreciate receiving the newsletter. I like the variety and information, nationally and locally, along with new books.

Thanks,
J.
Edmond, OK

On Viewing My First Drag Show

by Caring Woman

No one made me stay,
I could have walked out
But, deciding to remain,
I tried to understand what was happening.

Now, I've been put down by the best of 'em
So I know that feeling, unlike no other,
But, why was I feeling it now?

I was in a room full of women
In what was usually a safe place,
the few men there seem harmless,
Yet I and all those of the female persuasion
Were being put down in a deadly manner.

The scary thing was that
I seemed to be the only one concerned.
Why do mature, intelligent women
Carry on so over men in drag?

The contrasting Friday night scene
Of sister artists performing their own works
At HSR haunts me,
For our crowds have been smaller
And not as generous as this one,
With dollar bills flashing every man
Who rode on the musical and physical coattails
of some woman.

This does not speak well of our culture,
With what we choose to do in leisure time,
For it is placing emotional and financial
Rewards on other-than-real-objects and ideas,
Sanctioning once more the patriarchy's
wont to take advantage of us.

No more first Fridays will find me there,
Nor, I hope, you, if you understand this plea,
For, surely, we can take our presence and
cash somewhere it will benefit
Those of our ilk.

HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES, INC.

announces
our next Collective meeting
Open to Public

Sunday, June 16 6:30 p.m.
at Herland, 1630 N.W. 19
Call 524-3017, 946-5395

TULSA WOMEN SHARE MORE THAN MUSIC

by Marian Hulsey

If we listen to ourselves, thinking that we really believe some of the things we say, then sooner or later we are going to have to eat our words. It's inevitable!

Friday, May 17, and Saturday, May, 18, were two such days. I had made some rather catty remarks about a high school in the City, and Friday was assigned there for next year. Then, I really got sarcastic about the coffeehouse planned for Sat. night, with jabs at "the thoughts of spending a whole evening with the five-tone scale," and ended up wanting to learn to play the Koto.

Kim Oswald sits behind her Koto, a six-foot long instrument, made of cypress (that has been aged for three months), supported by two stands, and in a voice almost as soothing as some of the sounds made by the instrument, tells about spending three years in Japan, studying this and other Oriental instruments. "The traditional Koto has 13 strings, but this has 20, to accommodate more different types of music," related Kim. By moving the plastic bridges under the individual strings, she can tune it to any key, any mode.

The first part of the program featured Kim, playing some traditional Koto pieces, with Norma Burton reading Haiku to introduce or illustrate the music. Kim uses picks on three fingers of her right hand; the left hand is used to pluck, or to depress strings above the bridges to get the half-tones. By moving the strings, a lovely vibrato is achieved. On several numbers, she approximated a balalaika, by rapidly strumming the higher strings with the picks. I did not want for this portion of the program to end.

After an intermission, Toodles Johnson joined Kim, and their combined strings, plus Toodles' lovely voice brought us Elton John's "Come Down in Time," Joni Mitchell's "All I Want" and "Shades of Scarlet," and Chris Williamson's "Wild Things," which was my favorite of this part of the program. Toodles, who is equally adept on 8 and 12 string guitar, shared her own "Morning Comes," which was beautiful.

Kim was joined by Norma on flute to delight the audience with a more traditional Japanese number, "Spring Sea," with haunting melody and counterpart lines. Norma also read a poem she had written while Kim was practicing a song in another room; they later discovered that the rhythms were very close, so now they perform them together.

Jimmy Spheeris' "We are the Mercury" and Ferron's "Our Purpose Here" ended the evening of musical discovery. An encore of Ferron's

"Testimony" allowed the audience to sing along and reaffirm some of the things that bring us together.

I definitely learned some things, about music and about myself. The next time I am overly critical before experiencing something myself, I will try to remind myself of that magical Saturday evening in May.

SOUTHWEST INVIT. SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

Tulsa Oklahomans for Human Rights is sponsoring its 5th annual Southwest Invitational softball tournament, to be held over Labor Day weekend, August 31-Sept. 1.

Entry fees are \$125 per team, with 16 men's and 16 women's teams participating from across the country. Send \$35 refundable deposit, payable to Southwest Invitational by July 1. Include your team name, team manager and phone number, address, and whether you need private housing. Mail to P.O. Box 52729, Tulsa, OK 74152, (918) 446-1881.

ARKANSAS WOMEN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL

Electric Woman Productions is sponsoring an Arkansas Women's Music Festival in July. Anyone interested in performing, please contact Debbie Phillips at 501-676-2477.

SISTERFIRE CELEBRATES WOMEN ARTISTS

Roadwork is presenting Sisterfire, a two-day open air festival, featuring Ferron, Susan Freundlich, Sweet Honey in the Rock, Kate Clinton and many, many more.

The Festival will be Saturday and Sunday, June 22-23, from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., in Takoma Park, Maryland, just outside Washington, D.C. One day is \$16, both for \$24, payable to Roadwork, Dept. SF, 1475 Harvard St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

BATTERED WOMEN'S SHELTER NEEDS

\$\$\$	Towels
Pampers (all sizes)	Deodorant
Blankets	Washcloths
Pillows	Nightgowns (all sizes)
Pillowcases	Vaporizer
Hair care products	Volunteers
for black women	

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c/o YWCA Crisis intervention Services
129 N.W. 5th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73102
232-6199

The Battered Women's Support Group meets at the Metro YWCA (129 N.W. 5th Street) every Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m.

jokes is an important antilocution. Discrimination, which sets up the targeted group as being maintained as less in the workforce, the family, etc., is corrosive to the individual and the society. Violence naturally follows, endemic to the group set up by discrimination and antilocutions. Finally, oppression is the total effect of all of the above on the minority group, as well as the dominant group.

"Adolescents 'discover' more often than 'become or grow up' homosexual," said Martin. "So, it's sudden. You don't run the risk of being thrown out of your family, church or school if you're Jewish or Black, because you've been that all along and your family and community knows that. A fallacy is that homosexuals aren't members of a minority group because they can hide. The hidden are discreditable who always run the risk of being found out. The people who can't hide are the discredited, because of the way they look, for example."

Martin outlines four criteria to think about before discriminating against a group. (1) Is it true? (2) If it is true, does it distinguish between groups? (3) If it is true, and if it does distinguish between groups, is it intrinsic to the group or is it the result of society's actions against the group? (4) If it is true, if it does distinguish between groups and if it is intrinsic to the group, is it important?

"Gender is learned by the age of two or three," according to Hetrick. "Gender is embedded in culture and society to identify your exact role. Sexuality emerges as a progression beginning in early childhood. A majority of gay people know or have experienced an orientation toward same-sex interest before the age of 14. By adolescence, sexual orientation is formed or discovered, though may not be acted upon. The discovery occurs usually three years before any sexual experience."

"Personal identity refers to inner-self, self-worth and continuity," Hetrick continued. "Social identity has to do with presentation of self in a social context. Peer groups, in adolescence, have fluid boundaries and are independent of adult control. They have a great effect on social identity. Impression management skills are how you develop how you influence your hierarchy in a group. There is also an acquisition of knowledge which is residual having not to do with sex, but sexuality derived from one's age group. Peer groups may reinforce the compartmentalization of certain feelings very early until we learn how to control everything we say and do. Within the compartment we learn the codes and can go across to other systems and easily back to the peer group. However, there are no structures for peer interaction appropriate for gay and lesbian youth. Dissimulation occurs very frequently, but through the process of 'coming out,' it is modified. Socialization is troublesome in adolescent development because it tends to move young

people toward sexualizing their feelings before understanding them and developing relationships/friendships."

"Adolescence is not that sexually ambiguous a time," according to Hetrick. "Usually when young people doubt and deny and ask, 'Am I gay?' they may be saying, 'I don't want to be.' You don't decide to be homosexual. You do choose what you then do with yourself after you have come to this recognition. You can't choose sexual orientation--you don't prefer one sex to another. You do choose behavior. The orientation may seem like a discovery, but it not happen all in one day."

"The first question asked is, 'Who to tell?'" said Hetrick. "Young people who consider telling their mom or dad should ask themselves if they can tell, and, secondly, if they should tell. I would never recommend young people's telling their parents if they do not have any other place to stay and a way to support themselves. I have seen too many kids as young as 13 on the street."

"The first question often asked by parents is, 'What did I do wrong?' followed by, 'Can therapy help?'" Hetrick continued. "Parents will not deal with their guilt over having a homosexual child until they give up the idea that their child will change."

"The effect of fear for young people who are considering telling their parents is the loss of their home, education, their parents' love, their religion (this may not be such an issue as abandoning the church as it is leaving behind some of the familial values)," according to Hetrick. "The effect of guilt may be attention to whether they will hurt their parents and siblings. The effect of shame may involve what the impact will be in the community. The effect of anger may be determined by when the young person chooses to tell. If kids feel they must tell, they should choose a time which is least stressful for the family, which never includes family holidays, times of illness or money problems."

"Many families live with a counterfeit secret," Hetrick believes. "This may serve as an alternative to telling. That is to say, 'It's okay to be gay or lesbian, but don't talk about it.' One of the hardest things for parents to understand is that parental attitudes do not affect sexual orientation."

"Families seem to be more likely to throw gay males out of the house, while young lesbians are more likely to be physically or emotionally abused in the home," said Joyce Hunter, M.S.W., Program Director for the Institute, and Human Rights Commissioner of New York. "The child who is different (in any way) may be a more likely victim of violence and incest in the home. It is important to remember that 95%-96% of incest is perpetrated by a heterosexual father on a minor daughter."

YOUTH WORKSHOP

Twenty percent of gay men have attempted suicide and 80% have thought about it before the age of 20, according to a study conducted by the Institute, derived from a sample of over 500 self-referred clients. After 20 years of age, the suicide rate goes down dramatically. The rate for lesbians is much, much lower.

"Most juvenile prostitutes are gay or lesbian," according to Hunter. When they come to agencies, they often lie that they are straight and only prostitute because they need the money, because they know they will receive better treatment by the agency. What we found at the Institute is that if you don't get to the kids entering juvenile prostitution within 3-4 days, you can't get them out until they burn out (get too old, or sick or drugged out or tired of the danger). In New York, 2-4 kids who are involved with prostitution are killed each week. Many end up in institutions and few escape alive or to lead normal lives."

"The strength of resistance to providing services to gay men is optimized by the reality of promiscuity," said Hetrick. "They can have sex anywhere, (by the way--most Johns are married) in public bathrooms, parks, in dangerous areas and unhealthy conditions. What gets national headlines are two boys who want to go to the prom together. The community involvement, instead of offering positive services, consists of prostituting kids, child pornography, drugs, shoplifting, etc."

"Kids, especially lesbians, want most often an alternative way to meet people other than the bars," said Hunter. "But since there are none because they are unacceptable to family and community, they end up on the street. Young gay men sexualize their lifestyle by having multiple sexual encounters, while young lesbians tend to isolate themselves in one monogamous relationship--both lacking a support network or community. They ignore health issues because they are afraid of being mistreated medically by doctors. They don't fear their homosexuality, they fear the professional. Young lesbians and gays do not trust most professionals because of the way they have to hide. Even when you are supportive in an agency, they may not go if they do not trust the agency or any aspect of its services, referrals, etc."

"Teenagers think they're immortal," added Hetrick. "They don't believe in AIDS seriously. They don't believe in Hepatitis B, which is a very serious epidemic. They don't believe they can be killed."

"One hundred percent of the intakes at the Institute identify problems with socialization and isolation," Hunter concluded. "They have no one to talk to. Of the young people who have entered our office, 45% say they have problems with their families. They have experienced violence 33% of the time. Gang rape by heterosexual kids on homosexual kids is common. The fallacy is that homosexual

kids seduce heterosexuals. The sissy or effeminate boy engaged in gender-deviant behavior is a prime target for violence within a peer group."

Agencies within the lesbian and gay communities must provide educational information to the counseling and service care providers. Education is the key.

The Institute for the Protection of Lesbian and Gay Youth, Inc., 112 East 23rd St., 4th fl., New York, NY 10010, (212) 473-1113. The Institute is a non-profit social service agency that helps over 4000 gay and lesbian youths annually, through counseling, education, advocacy, research and peer support. Their brochure is available at Herland in addition to a bibliography covering homosexual and heterosexual comparisons, counseling and treatment, child development, gender, family, theoretical models, history, religious issues, sociological aspects, general information and fiction for youth.

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Friday, June 28, 1985

8:00 p.m.

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WOMEN & CREATIVITY RETREAT

Women's Wednesday Night is sponsoring this Women & Creativity Retreat, September 20-22, 1985, at Ghost Ranch Conference Center, Abiquiu, New Mexico (approximately 1½ hours north of Santa Fe).

This will be a self-directed, non-demanding retreat for women who are interested in developing their creative selves psychologically, artistically, spiritually.

The cost is \$90, which includes three nights lodging and meals. Rooms have two twin beds: two participants per room. Mail \$30, non-refundable deposit to Pat Walke, M.S.W., 5500 N. Western, Suite 102, Oklahoma City, Ok 73118. The balance of the fee will be due at the time of a meeting Walke will call in late August or early September (date to be announced).

For additional information, contact Walke at 848-0050.

Stephanie Judson, ed., A Manual on Nonviolence and Children (New Society Publishers, \$9.95)

As adults we now have the responsibility to inspire in our children the determination to resolve conflicts without the use of weapons. Helps children become sophisticated in the skills of problem-solving, dialogue and negotiation.

Susan Browne, D. Connors, N. Stern., eds., With the Power of Each Breath: A Disabled Women's Anthology (Cleis Press, \$9.95)

Four years in the making, this is the comprehensive anthology documenting the lives of disabled women. No women's studies course, feminist, lesbian or social service organization can effectively represent the position of women in a patriarchal society without addressing the huge realities of disabled women's lives.

Jeanne Jullion, Long Way Home: The Odyssey of a Lesbian Mother & Her Children (Cleis Press, \$8.95)

The intimate account of the custody case that mobilized the emerging forces of the lesbian, gay and feminist movements.

Lillian B. Rubin, Just Friends (Harper & Row)

Rubin exposes the lack of clearly defined norms for behavior, the ambivalence, contradiction and paradox with which friendship in our society is hedged, yet shows that friends are central actors in the continuing developmental drama of adulthood.

Also, by Rubin, Intimate Strangers and Women of a Certain Age.

Lonnie Barbach, Ph.D., Pleasures: Women Write Erotica (Harper & Row)

A refreshing, breakthrough anthology of erotica written by and expressly for women. These 31 candid stories are based on true experience and reveal the importance of trust, love and friendship.

Gena Corea, The Mother Machine: Reproductive Technologies from Artificial Insemination to Artificial Wombs (Harper & Row)

"Documenting the historical background of each technology, the author asserts that medicine, more than just a healing art, is also a method of social and political rule." --Mary Daly

Willyce Kim, Dancer Dawkins and the California Kid (Alyson Press, \$5.95)

True to life adventures of young dykes moving to San Francisco in the high days of the Haight-Asbury.

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NEW ACQUISITIONS

A Guide to Psychotherapy with Gay and Lesbian Clients, John C. Gonsiorek ed., New York: Harrington Park Press, Inc., 1985, \$8.95.

Covers diagnostic concepts, sexual orientation of the therapist and therapeutic effectiveness with gay and lesbian clients, developmental stages of coming out, lesbian client/lesbian therapist interaction, internalized homophobia, issues for lesbian and gay couples, bisexual and gay men in heterosexual marriage, group treatment, sexual dysfunction, counseling parents of young gay men, males as sexual assault victims, religious and moral issues, organizational and staff problems in gay/lesbian mental health. Available in the Herland library.

NEW RELEASES OF WOMEN'S MUSIC

Spiritsong, Mary Watkins' third album, is a stunning collection of solo piano pieces which eloquently reflect her complete knowledge of the keyboard and its potential.

Holly Near, Arlo Guthrie, Ronnie Gilbert and Pete Seeger produced HARP, a live recording from their '84 tour. It's a classic collection of folk and progressive music by these famous performers.

Secrets, Linda Tillery's long-awaited second solo album, shines with jazz on "Basin Street" and "Fever." Her pop sound is contemporary and infectious on "Special Kind of Love" and "The Chosen Ones."

Highly recommended! \$8.95, also on cassette. Order from Herland.

Gerri Gribi's new album Womansong is a hit with feminist folksong enthusiasts, offering traditional, modern-traditional and original creations focusing on women's roles, energies and talents.

Harriet Goldhor Lerner, Ph.D. The Dance of Anger: A Woman's Guide to Changing the Patterns of Intimate Relationships (Harper & Row)

Shows women how to use anger productively to clarify and change relationships rather than remaining stuck in patterns of ineffective fighting, blaming or emotional distancing.

Germaine Greer, Sex and Destiny: The Politics of Human Fertility (Harper & Row) (now in paper)

Greer leads the reader to challenge the ethos of the nuclear family: Do we in the West hate our children? Then why do we segregate them, ignore them and repress them until they reject us in old age?

Robin Morgan, ed. Sisterhood is Global: The International Women's Movement (Doubleday, \$12.95)

A feminist historical landmark including literally thousands of women from more than 70 countries--an important fact-filled reference for engaging reading.

Carol Ascher, L. DeSalvo, S. Ruddick, Between Women: Biographers, Novelists, Critics, Teachers and Artists Write About Their Work on Women (Beacon, \$11.95)

"This is a wonderful book in breadth and variety...a big read to be taken in chunks and dreamingly digested." -Grace Paley

Annie Dillard, Living by Fiction (Harper & Row)

Examination of the contemporary field of fiction, its resistance to revolution and its dominance by readers, publishers and critics.

Also by Annie Dillard - Pilgrim at Tinker Creek, Holy the Firm, Teaching a Stone to Talk.

Jane Cooper, Scaffolding (Anvil, \$7.95)

Cooper's most recent collection of poetry spans 35 years of writing by women.

Zora Neale Hurston, Dust Tracks on a Road: An Autobiography (Univ. of Illinois Press, \$8.95)

This new edition restores chapters not published in the original 1942 edition. The New Yorker hailed it in 1942 as a "warm, witty, imaginative, rich and winning book by one of our few genuine, grade A folk writers."

Eva C. Keuls, The Reign of the Phallus: Sexual Politics in Ancient Athens (Harper & Row)

This illustrated history of Athenian sexual relations draws together all the elements which made up the reign of the phallus--the blatant claim by men to general dominance, its codification by law, the myths of rape and conquest of women and the final result: the reduction of sex to a game of dominance and submission.

Pat Barker, Union Street (Putnam, \$13.95)

"If the stories in Union Street remind you of The Women of Brewster Place or The Color Purple, it's no accident. The cultures may be different but the poverty is the same, and if there's still anybody out there who thinks all feminist novels are about careers and sexual liberation and CR groups, you can start reading here." --Meredith Tax, The Village Voice.

Also by Pat Barker, Blow your House Down (Putnam, \$13.95)

This new novel is about working-class women who work as prostitutes in a northern English town.

Norma Broude, M.D. Garrard, Feminism and Art History (Harper & Row, \$15.95)

A long-needed corrective and alternative view of western art history. While several of the essays deal with major women artists, the book deals essentially with western art history and the extent to which it has been distorted, in every period, by sexual bias.



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