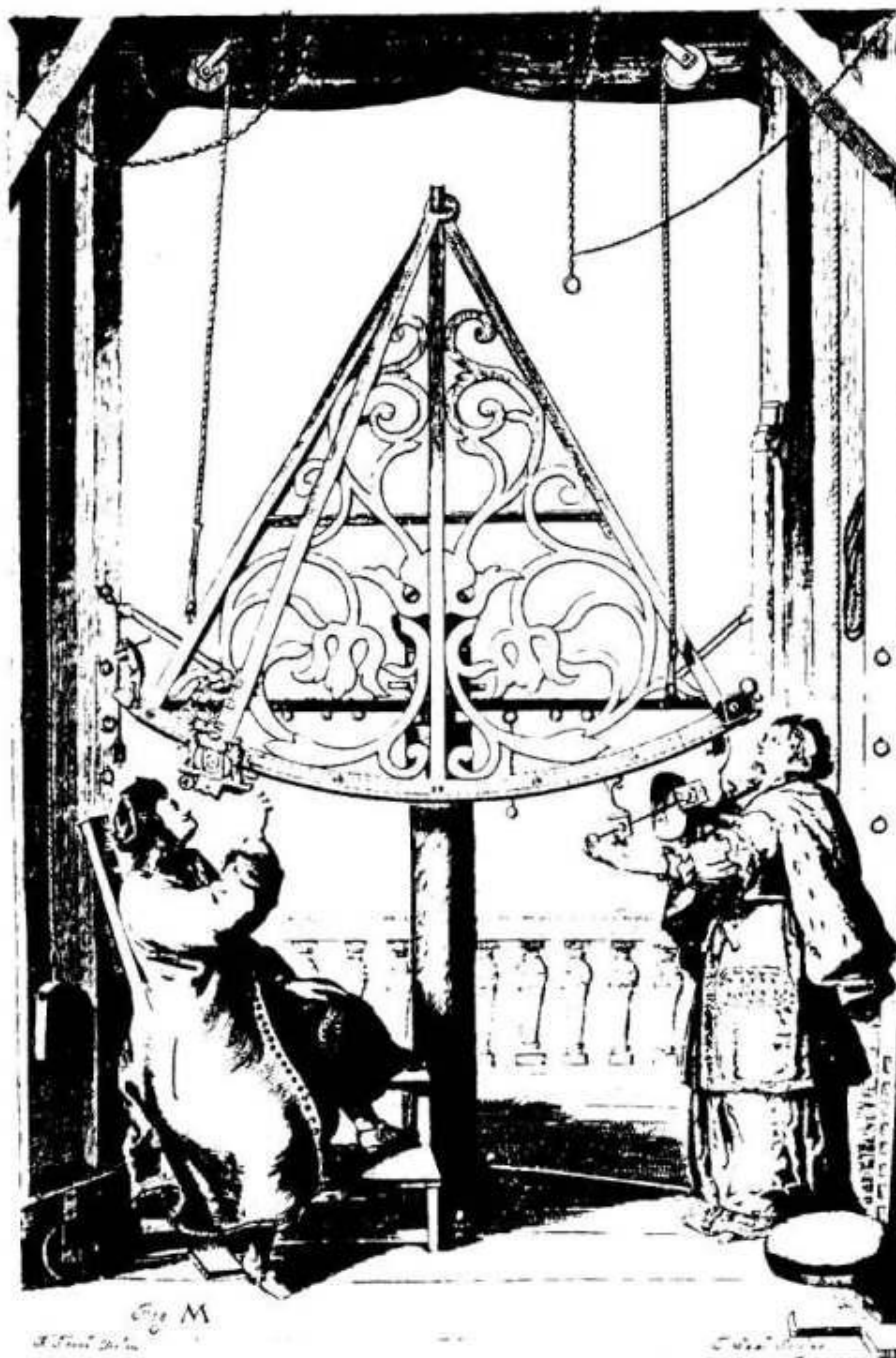


Feminist Scholarship Review

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From: *The Mind Has No Sex?* Londa Schiebinger.
Harvard University Press, 1989.

Feminist Scholarship Review



Deborah Rose O'Neal

(Visiting Lecturer in the Writing Center)

Contributors:

Linda McKinney

(Reference Librarian)

Michael A. Smith

(Gallows Hill Bookstore)

Dr. Ralph Morelli

(Assoc. Professor of Eng. and Computer Science)

Jennifer Guy

(Class of 1997)

Produced by:

Jennifer Guy

(Class of 1997)

Feminist Scholarship Review

is a project of the Trinity College Women's Center

Table of Contents

Letter From the Editor

Women's Center: Reviewed Sources

Report: Status of Women in the Sciences at Trinity College

Trinity College Library: Additional Sources

Gallows Hill Bookstore: Additional Sources

Women's Center: Additional Sources

Spring 1994

Letter from the Editor

To the recipients of *Feminist Scholarship Review*:

The ship has gone to Red Alert. There's a dangerous anomaly showing up on the view screen (a quantum filament? a cosmic string?). The call goes out on the Captain's communicator, "Science Officer to the Bridge?" Who shows up?

If you're watching Star Trek (no matter whether it's Old Generation or Next Generation), a totally emotionless male is the one who appears, either a Vulcan, whose entire way of life eschews emotion, or a man-like machine who is, as he often tells us, "incapable of feeling emotion." If you're watching the Star Trek spin-off, Deep Space Nine, the one who appears on the Bridge is a woman--in this lifetime, at least, though she's had several lifetimes and is affectionately called "old man" by the Captain because of his association with her in a former lifetime--who possesses a genderless soul and who has reached a level of Zen-like enlightenment in which emotion appears in her as little more than occasional, mild bemusement. These are the images we have of the theoreticians who inhabit the highest levels of scientific understanding.

There are always the scientific practitioners, of course. These are the Chief Engineers on these space vessels--Scotty, Geordi and O'Brien, respectively--who are sometimes irascible, always men "in the ranks". They'd be lying on their backs underneath the kitchen sink shouting for the pipewrench if they existed in the twentieth century. The practitioners also take the form of doctors--Bones, Crusher and Bashir (do these names sound particularly violent or is it just me?)--who are a highly emotional lot, all dedicated to saving the single human life, no matter what the cost to the ship as a whole. "Highly illogical," as Spock, the Vulcan Science Officer, would say. And they are, often ludicrously so.

So, assuming that these polished, popular sci-fi images tell us something important about what present day society thinks of science and the people who practice it, where does all this leave women in the sciences? As practitioners, not theoreticians, I'd say. As nurturing doctors and not engineers. And, certainly, if woman's image as the "emotional" half of the human equation is as strong and persistent as we all know it is, it leaves women out of a profession that is seen as requiring logic so intense and highly honed that it is even beyond all human capability (witness: the Vulcan, the Machine, the genderless, Zen-like alien).

Do these space age images reflect the true nature of women's role in the sciences? And, perhaps, equally as important, what are we doing right here on Earth to change images that might limit women's role in this crucial area of human endeavor? This issue of *FSR* details some of the resources which explore these questions. Read on--this issue may even take you "where no man has gone before."



--Deborah Rose O'Neal

Women's Center: Reviewed Sources

Scientific American 269:94 Nov. '93

It is significant that, in the midst of the proliferation of journals entitled "Women and..." just about every profession on Earth, I could not find a journal, or even a single issue of a general journal, devoted to women in the sciences. It is also significant that, when I finally located a single article on the status of women in the sciences, I opened this scientific journal to a full page ad which featured a beautiful blond woman in a black velvet dress with a side seam cut up to the hip.

Nevertheless, I moved forward into "A Lab of Her Own" in Scientific American, Nov. '93. The article, written by Marguerite Holloway, a staff writer for the journal (that's the good news), is summarized in this way: "After decades of sincere, earnest effort to engage women in science, the profession resists their admission into its informal clubs and networks more completely than does almost any other. The reasons range from sexism and the traditions of mentoring to the expectations that teachers and other adults harbor for girls and boys in the earliest years of school." (which, of course, is the bad news).

In all this, though, there is hope, and Holloway's article is, I think, a hopeful article. Inspiring anecdotes of active scientists out in the field, scientists who just happen to be women, begin the article and support the idea that "the fight that women wage so that they and their daughters can practice science *remains unfinished*" (*italics mine*). This particular phrasing reveals an optimism without which women might not persevere in this inhospitable profession.

Much of "A Lab of Her Own" is devoted to data which indicate degrees of success in the field: doctorates awarded, PhD's employed, salary levels of those employed. I found the most informative part of the piece to be the short biographical sketches (eighteen modern, eighteen historical) which frame the text. The historical bios range from Hypatia (c.370-415) who was murdered by a group of monks for her renowned expertise in mathematics and philosophy, to Rachel Carson, whose death from cancer may not be unrelated to her study of pesticides. The modern bios highlight living women who are oceanographers, astronomers, neuroscientists, mathematicians and more.

The article, as are all Scientific American articles, was complete, thorough and intelligently written. I'm delighted that the journal saw fit to explore the subject. The article is worth reading for its wealth of information alone.

---Deborah Rose O'Neal

Mothers of Invention

By Ethlie Ann Vare and Greg Ptacek. New York, 1987

O.K. Here's the quiz. If you get both answers right, you don't have to read the book. (Though you might want to, anyhow--it's a great one!)

1. Who invented the cotton gin? (Hint: it's not Eli Whitney, no matter what your sixth grade history book said.)
2. Who was the first to conceive of the complex structure of the DNA molecule? (Hint: it's neither Watson nor Crick. It's not even Wilkins who was the third member of the group that received the Nobel Prize for this discovery).

According to the authors of Mothers of Invention, the inventor of the cotton gin was "Mrs. Catherine Littlefield Greene, a Georgia belle who, unlike her Massachusetts-born house guest [now this is where Eli comes in] was quite familiar with the cotton boll." It is clear that Mrs. Greene allowed or maybe even requested that Eli Whitney build the machine that she had conceived of. She shared the production with him, though her name is lost to history. The story of Rosalind Franklin, the discoverer of DNA, is much more tragic. Watson and Crick, the men who are commonly thought of as the discoverers of DNA, stole Franklin's ideas and then would not even allow her into their discussions of her findings. The dishonest process was started by Maurice Wilkins, Franklin's supervisor and an eventual winner of the Nobel Prize along with Watson and Crick, who was affronted by her femaleness while astounded by her discoveries. He reconciled this conflict by stealing her work, handing it over to his colleagues, Watson and Crick, and then letting the world believe that these two men had conceived the notion of their own.

There's a lot in this book to make you proud. And a lot to make you angry.

Mothers of Invention, written by two former editors of Rock magazine, is comprised of dozens of easy to read, one-to-two page biographies of women inventors. Among the nearly one dozen sections in this book is a section on women in healing professions who have invented everything from penicillin to the Apgar Score, women in nuclear research, as well as women who have made inventions for everyday life such as Melitta Bentz (drip coffee), Marion Donovan (disposable diapers), Martine Kempf (the voice-controlled wheelchair) and clever Margaret Knight who, though best known for inventing the flat-bottomed paper bag, invented at the age of twelve a stop-motion device which prevented serious accidents in textile factories. The story is that Mattie witnessed such an accident in a factory where she had come to apply for work and invented the device on the spot.

I recommend this book for easy, interesting and informative reading. The beauty of the book is that, although much scholarship has gone into its writing, the result is accessible to all readers of almost any age. It will surely change some of your understandings and assumptions of the way the modern world has been constructed, and, by the way, since

it's that time of year, I should say that it's one of my mother's favorite Mother's Day gifts that I've given her. I don't know which she likes better--the title, or the fact that the book is dedicated by the authors "to our mothers...from two of their more dubious inventions". This book is serious, surprising and charming--a "good read".

---Deborah Rose O'Neal

Women's Center: Reviewed Sources

Living Laboratories: Women and Reproductive Technologies (1992)

Robyn Rowland

Robyn Rowland's Living Laboratories: Women and Reproductive Technologies takes a close look at the intervention of reproductive and genetic engineering in today's Western societies. Highly charged with emotional and ethical issues, this book examines the values of medical science and its resulting relationship to women and to political policy. Rowland's view is firm and clear, arguing forcibly against the proponents of unqualified technological control in patriarchal societies.

This book brings to light several common yet hushed practices in the world of reproductive technologies, practices that consciously harm or exploit unsuspecting patients. For example, it is noted that financial incentives encourage doctors to carry out caesarean section deliveries unnecessarily, and that it is common to falsely portray failed technologies (e.g. in vitro fertilization) by discussing only 'success rates' rather than 'failure rates' when 92 percent of clients go home without a child. Commenting on our masculine-dominated society's hold on women, Rowland reveals that legislation excluding lesbian and single mothers from reproductive technologies reflects "men's anxiety that women may take childbearing out of the heterosexual/family structure; a structure which has institutionalized women's economic dependence towards men (physically, sexually and emotionally)." (251) The author also points out the hidden grasp society has on the existence of women's so-called 'biological clocks' and 'maternal instincts.' Thus arises the question: Is it so unnatural for a woman to choose not to have children? Rowland argues: "Women must have the right not to reproduce and mother because the alternative would mean that they are compelled to do so. Coerced motherhood is an assault on woman and child." (277) The author persuasively states that the continued support of new reproductive procedures (IVF, surrogacy, genetic engineering) ensures the subordination and control of women by a male-dominated society.

Living Laboratories critically explores the techniques and social repercussions of modern reproductive technologies. The author provides numerous personal accounts, as well as commentaries from professionals in the field, that add to the depth of her discussion. Although this book takes a strong stance against these new technologies, this perspective still allows for an objective analysis by the reader. Robyn Rowland's argument that new reproductive procedures do not enhance a woman's procreative choice and freedom is masterfully presented.

---Jennifer Guy

later switching to a non science field.

Table 2. Sloan Report Survey Results (Hewitt & Seymour)

	Women	Men
Why women choose science		
Family pressure	52%	30%
Encouraged by high school teachers	24%	9%
Enjoyed/Excelled in high school	16%	48%
Early career choice	8%	13%
Why women switched from science		
Conceptual difficulties with SME	50%	24%
Loss of self esteem	78%	43%
Poor teaching/unapproachable faculty	25%	30%
Overload and pace	36%	43%
Career goal	7%	24%
Rejected SME lifestyle	68%	46%
More appealing career option	32%	24%
Competitive culture	7%	12%

Importantly, although 50% of women in the Sloan study cited "conceptual difficulties" as a reason for switching, Hewitt and Seymour's analysis showed that "a more significant factor in explaining women switchers was the discouragement and loss of self-esteem they experienced from low grades in their freshmen and sophomore years." Hewitt and Seymour found evidence that because they often felt less secure in their own abilities, women were much more likely than men to feel demoralized by low grades and may have a bearing on attrition. These include the lack of sufficient female role models and mentors and "the 'old-boy network,' which draws promising male students into research projects and mentored relationships with faculty." They also noted that most of the women surveyed had no knowledge of programs intended to help them overcome these difficulties.

What Trinity and other schools are doing

As a result of the awareness gained from studies such as Hewitt and Seymour's, science faculty are beginning to develop ways to keep more students enrolled in science and to assure equity for men and women. Trinity and a number of other schools in the New England Consortium for Undergraduate Science Education (NECUSE) are currently pursuing a number of initiatives designed to support women science students. The seminal activity was an April 1993 Brown University meeting of 40 female students from NECUSE schools. This meeting featured talks by prominent women scientists and discussions on topics ranging from assertiveness in the classroom to starting Women in Science programs at their home institutions.

Jean Hoffman '95, one of the Trinity students who attended the Brown meeting started the Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) program at Trinity in the Fall 1993. Relying entirely on volunteer effort, WISE has established a mentoring network that pairs upper class science majors, both male and female, with first year students

who have indicated an interest in science. Mentors and mentees meet regularly to discuss problems and talk about their various goals and interests. WISE has also sponsored campus visits by Trinity alumnae. In December, WISE sponsored a lecture by Trinity alumna **Karen Fink Kupferberg**, a '73 mathematics major who is now chief financial officer of Digital Equipment Corporation. Ms. Kupferberg talked about the importance of her mathematics education and her experiences as a woman in the corporate world. Not surprisingly, many of the questions following her talk focused on how she was able to balance her career and family obligations. More recently, WISE sponsored a panel discussion featuring five Trinity alumnae who have pursued careers in sciences. WISE is also attempting to expand its alumnae support network by compiling an "Alumnae Directory" that will present occupational profiles and contact details. Although less than a year old, WISE's mentoring relationships and efforts to inform the Trinity community about possible career and lifestyle paths for women science majors already appears to have had a significant impact.

During the next year or so Trinity will be participating together with other NECUSE schools in a project entitled :*"Women and Science in NECUSE: Making a Difference."* In February 1994, a small group of Trinity faculty and WISE students attended a workshop at Middlebury College. **Sue Rosser**, author of *Female Friendly Science*, gave a talk about making science instruction more attractive to females, after which several brainstorming sessions were held to address specific strategies that faculty can employ to change the classroom climate. A summary of the recommendations emerging from these sessions will be distributed to participating NECUSE schools.

The primary focus of this project will be a mid-fall working conference at Wellesley College. The conference, which will be hosted by Wellesley's Center for Research on Women, the source of much important research on women in science, will provide an opportunity for the NECUSE institutions to share information about their efforts to address women in science issues. Trinity will send four faculty and student representatives to the Wellesley conference. In anticipation of the conference Mathematics Professor **Paula Russo**, who will head the Trinity contingent, has already begun planning activities aimed at raising awareness of women in science issues at Trinity. In March the science chairs met with members of WISE, the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) and other female science majors to discuss what the students saw as some of the main issues and concerns here at Trinity. As a result of this meeting the science chairs are pursuing a number of initiatives aimed at building awareness of opportunities for women in the sciences at Trinity. These include (1) helping WISE with its effort to provide incoming freshmen with information about the sciences at Trinity; (2) helping WISE transform itself into a recognized student organization; (3) increasing access to Trinity's Interdisciplinary Science Program; and (4) exploring ways to improve the orientation and advising of the first year students interested in science.

Hopefully, these and related efforts at Trinity and other schools will lead to a climate in which women feel as comfortable as men in pursuing careers in mathematics, science and engineering.

Trinity College Library: Reviewed Sources

Science and Women: An Historical View

Were there women in science during antiquity or the Middle Ages? How successful have women been in physics? Have there been any notable Polish or Irish female scientists?

These and similar questions can be researched using Marilyn Ogilvie's Women in Science: Antiquity through the Nineteenth Century: A Biographical Dictionary with Annotated Bibliography.

In Ancient Egypt women attended medical school with men or their own exclusively female school. Hypatia, the best known woman scientist of antiquity, lived in cosmopolitan Alexandria. Medieval women participated in science-related activities in nunneries and medical schools, especially those connected to universities. Women's involvement in science during the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries varied greatly by country and was hindered by class bounds. As political and educational systems in both the United States and Europe underwent upheaval during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the likelihood of women becoming involved in all areas of science increased.

Marilyn Ogilvie is a professor in the history of science who has taken advantage of special library collections and archives. She has organized her discoveries in this reference book with a variety of access routes.

There are three main sections in Women in Science: an introductory essay which places the biographical accounts in a historical context, individual biographical accounts of women, and a classified, briefly annotated bibliography, which may be used in conjunction with the biographical sketches or by itself as a research tool for locating resources.

The individual biographical accounts include basic descriptive information: dates, nationality, branch of science, positions held, etc., a discussion of the subject's science, and assessment of her significance. Each account lists major or representative works by subject and includes for further information items that are entirely or in part concerned with the subject. The biographical accounts also list the subject's inclusion in one or more of five reference works: American Men of Science, Dictionary of American Biography, Notable American Women, British Dictionary of National Biography, and Dictionary of Scientific Biography. Trinity library owns a significant portion of the primary works, all the reference books listed, and will gladly get copies of any other work cited through Inter-Library-Loan.

There is an appendix to the main biographical accounts of additional nineteenth century women who merit further study but for whom current data is sparse. This appendix presents a starting place where further research is needed.

There is also a list of the subjects of the biographical accounts which sorts out the names by period, field and nationality for ease of access depending on your project.

The annotated bibliography of Women in Science has been divided into seven sections according to type of work and historical period. The sections are A. Bibliographic and reference works, B. General histories with biographies on women and collection biographies, and C-G divided by chronological period (antiquity, the Middle Ages, fifteenth through seventeenth centuries, eighteenth century, nineteenth and early twentieth centuries). These works can be used alone in research or as keyed to the particular women with biographical accounts.

If you are having a difficult time finding information about Willamina Fleming or are interested in knowing who were women scientists in the Middle Ages, Women in Science is an excellent first stop. You can find it in the Trinity library Reference section shelved under Q 141 .O34 1986. We are in debt to Ms. Ogilvie for her thirteen year effort.

---Linda McKinney
Reference Librarian

Gallows Hill Bookstore: Additional Sources

Great Women in Science

Recent years have brought to the forefront the many scientific advances made by women. Recognition is now being given to those women whose efforts have been overlooked over the years.

Foremost among those whose accomplishments have gone unrecognized is Rosalind Franklin. Working in Paris, this brilliant, Cambridge-educated physical chemist developed new techniques in X-ray crystallography (a process enabling scientists to view the chemical structure of molecules). In 1951, Franklin brought her skills to King's College in London, joining a team of scientists in the new and exciting field of DNA research. She began a series of X-ray studies that would lay the foundation for the theories of James Watson and Francis Crick. Much controversy surrounds their discoveries, as their access to Franklin's unpublished research was absolute and, until 1968, never publicly acknowledged. In 1962, Watson, Crick and Maurice Wilkins received the Nobel Prize for their discovery. Their three Nobel Prize lectures contain a total of 98 references, and not one of Franklin's papers is specifically mentioned. Rosalind Franklin's contributions to DNA theory are fully examined in *Rosalind Franklin & DNA*, by Anne Sayre, published in 1978 by W.W. Norton & Co.

One of the most famous and accomplished scientists of the 20th century is Barbara McClintock. Winner of the 1983 Nobel Prize in Medicine and Physiology, McClintock is responsible not only for much that is considered classical genetic theory, but also for what has just now come to be recognized as a fundamental and revolutionary concept of gene functioning. Her principal research (for which she was awarded the Nobel Prize) was the study of genes that shift their position, apparently in response to external stimuli. In a time where most genetic research was done using *Drosophila*, the fruit-fly, McClintock observed the changes in color patterns in kernels of Indian corn and correlated these changes with changes in chromosome structure. The story of this remarkable woman's life and career is told in *A Feeling for the Organism: The Life & Work of Barbara McClintock*, by Evelyn Fox, published by W.H. Freeman.

Published in 1962, Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* spurred revolutionary changes in government policy toward the environment and was instrumental in launching the environmental movement that has made "ecology" a part of everyone's vocabulary. *Silent Spring* deals with the poisoning of the Earth with man-made chemicals, and the long term effects of such abuse.

Among modern women scientists, two have had successful careers in publishing, as well. Diane Ackerman has published two books: *A Natural History of the Senses* and *Whale by Moonlight*, both national best-sellers.

Perri Klass is a Harvard-trained pediatrician who has written books about how being a woman and a mother affects her relationships with her patients and the medical establishment. Her books include *Other Women's Children*, *A Not Entirely Benign Procedure*, and *Baby Doctor*.

For an excellent overview of the role played by women in science throughout history, take a look at *Women of Science: Righting the Record*, edited by G. Kass-Simon and Patricia Farnes, published by Indiana University Press.

---Michael A. Smith

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VOLUME 24/NUMBER 11

MARCH 1994

FEATURES

SISTER ACTS

These new girl groups are taking care of business. By Deborah Gregory

74

WINNING IN THE WORKPLACE

Strategies that will help you beat the odds. By Andrea Davis Pinkney

79

HOLLYWOOD: THE DARK SIDE

Racism still plays big in TV land. By Sylvester Monroe

82

FICTION: AGOUTI

Learning to accept another culture can be a mouthful. By Brenda Williams

87

BEAUTY

SOFT TOUCH

Three hospital coworkers get spring makeovers.

17

ROOTS: NEW FREEDOM

Sophisticated 'do's, versatile locks and a massaging brush.

22

SKIN SENSE

Help for moisture-zapped skin.

24

ANSWERS

Your questions about creamy lip liners and alternatives to tweezing eyebrows.

26

PRODUCTS: SCENT FROM ABOVE

The latest in heavenly fragrances. Float on!

28

FASHION

STYLE: GO TRACY!

ESSENCE presents designing Seventh Avenue sister Tracy Reese.

30

WE WEAR THE PANTS

Eight executives who are "cutting some slacks"! By Joy Duckett Cain

92

CONTEMPORARY LIVING

SPECIAL MONEY MAKEOVER SECTION

LIFESTYLE: A FLIGHT TO FINANCIAL FREEDOM

Saving and investment advice to help young women like Pauline Ritchie, our makeover subject, live their dreams.

105

FOOD: EASY ONE-POT MEALS

Dinners that defy time and space. By Jonell Nash

112

RECIPES: ONE-POT COOKING

Single-skillet sensations and other delicious dishes. Edited by Jonell Nash

118

WANTING: BACK TO BASICS

A fresh look at natural childbirth. By Kimberley Knight

122

DEPARTMENTS

LETTERS

12

HEALTH

Prevention Nutrition on a Budget

38

Between Us

42

ESSENTIALS Self-publishing savvy, low-cost funerals, snack stunts and much more!

46

INTERIORS My Choice Was Pro-Me

54

BROTHERS Hand in the Hand

59

PEOPLE Jody Watley, Jacqui Mofokeng, Lisa Summerour, Nikki Giovanni, new books

62

IN THE SPIRIT Listen to Your Life

73

SHOP

139

GRAFFITI

141

HOROSCOPE Pisces

142

BACK TALK A Message to Michael

146

Judy Smith, a senior vice-president at TV's NBC, suits herself!
92



ON THE COVER: Model Spirit evokes Jazz Age sass with a winning smile, glossy waves and a snappy suit! Photographer, Kip Meyer. Hair, Daryle Bennett for The Pyramid Salon. N.Y.C. Makeup by L'Oréal: Colour Riche Hydrating Lipcolour in Mousse Cafe. Makeup, Roxanna Floyd/Zoli Illusions, N.Y.C. Suit and suspenders, DKNY by Donna Karan. Shirt, Ike Behar. Earrings, Alchemy at Apropos. Necklace, Imani, N.Y.C. Stylist, Elaine Wallace. **On this page:** Photographer, Warren Mantooth. Hair, Jeffrey Woodley/Zoli Illusions, N.Y.C. Makeup, Eric Spearman/Zoli Illusions, N.Y.C. Suit, Aron Abady Collections. Earrings, CYN Collections. Ring, Galeria Cano. Shoes, Robert Clergerie. Stylists, Sharon Miller and Patti Arrington.

Women's Center: Additional Sources

AUTUMN 1993

VOLUME 19

NUMBER 1

SLASH

JOURNAL OF WOMEN IN
CULTURE AND SOCIETY

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

CONTENTS

Nancy M. Theriot	1	Women's Voices in Nineteenth-Century Medical Discourse: A Step toward Deconstructing Science
Vera Taylor and Lella J. Rupp	32	Women's Culture and Lesbian Feminist Activism: A Reconsideration of Cultural Feminism
Denise A. Segura and Jennifer L. Pierce	62	Chicana/o Family Structure and Gender Personality: Chodorow, Familism, and Psychoanalytic Sociology Revisited
Bruce Wood Holsinger	92	The Flesh of the Voice: Embodiment and the Homocritics of Devotion in the Music of Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)
Janet Liebman Jacobs	126	Victimized Daughters: Sexual Violence and the Empathic Female Self
Sueann Caulfield	146	Getting into Trouble: Dishonest Women, Modern Girls, and Women-Men in the Conceptual Language of <i>Vida Policial</i> , 1925-1927
Carolyn Allen	177	The Erotics of Nora's Narrative in <i>Djuna Barnes's Nightwood</i>
		REVIEW ESSAYS
Helen E. Longino	201	Feminist Standpoint Theory and the Problems of Knowledge
Amy Kaminsky	213	Issues for an International Feminist Literary Criticism
		BOOK REVIEWS
Cynthia Cockburn	228	"Hello Central?" Gender, Technology and Culture in the Formation of Telephone Systems by Michele Martin; <i>Technoculture</i> edited by Constance Penley and Andrew Ross; <i>Feminism Confronts Technology</i> by Judy Wajcman

Josephine Donovan	232	Conflicting Stories: American Women Writers at the Turn into the Twentieth Century by Elizabeth Ammons; Rebecca Harding Davis and American Realism by Sharon M. Harris; Sentimental Modernism: Women Writers and the Revolution of the Word by Suzanne Clark
Kath Weston	235	<i>Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers: A History of Lesbian Life in Twentieth-Century America</i> by Lillian Faderman; <i>Romantic Longings: Love in America, 1830-1980</i> by Steven Seidman; Homosexuality: Research Implications for Public Policy edited by John C. Gonsiorek and James D. Weinrich
Judith Halberstam	241	<i>The Courtship Novel: A Feminized Genre</i> by Katherine Sobba Greene; <i>Fictions of Modesty: Women and Courtship in the English Novel</i> by Ruth Bernard Yeazell
Rickie Solinger	244	<i>Women and Social Action in Victorian and Edwardian England</i> by Jane Lewis; <i>Women of the Klan: Racism and Gender in the 1920s</i> by Kathleen M. Blee; <i>The Pro-Choice Movement: Organization and Activism in the Abortion Conflict</i> by Suzanne Stagenborg
Riv-Ellen Prell	248	<i>Women in the Sanctuary Movement</i> by Robin Lorenzen; <i>Rachel's Daughters: Newy Orthodox Jewish Women</i> by Debra Renee Kauffman
Claudia Card	252	<i>Essentially Speaking: Feminism, Nature and Difference</i> by Diana Fuss; <i>Identity Politics: Lesbian Feminism and the Limits of Community</i> by Shane Phelan; <i>Epistemology of the Closet</i> by Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick; <i>Twice Blessed: On Being Lesbian, Gay, and Jewish</i> edited by Christine Balka and Andy Rose
Rachel Bowlby	257	<i>The Reading of Silence: Virginia Woolf in the English Tradition</i> by Patricia Ondek Laurence; <i>The Appropriated Voice: Narrative Authority in Conrad, Forster, and Woolf</i> by Bette London

VOLUME 17 NUMBER 1, 1995

Women's Center: Additional Sources

WOMEN'S STUDIES INTERNATIONAL FORUM



PERGAMON

WOMEN'S STUDIES INTERNATIONAL FORUM

VOLUME 17 NUMBER 1 1994
JANUARY-FEBRUARY

CONTENTS

- EGGY TAI-P-KNOWLES
1 Androcentric bias in science? An exploration of the discipline of forest genetics
- USAN E. BELL
9 Translating science to the people: updating *The New Our Bodies, Ourselves*
- LIZABETH GARNSEY
19 Enacting inequality: structure, agency, and gender
- ING-YING CHIEN
33 Revisioning "new women": feminist readings of representative modern Chinese fiction
- BOUSIA TEMPLE
47 Constructing Polishness, researching Polish women's lives: feminist auto/biographical accounts
- EDNO-LIM NAM
57 Women's role in export dependence and state control of labor unions in South Korea
- JAYNOR DAWSON
69 Development planning for women: the case of the Indonesian transmigrant program
- LIZABETH ETTORRE
83 Women and drug abuse with special reference to Finland: needing the 'courage to see'

REPORT

- CHILLA BULBECK
95 Sexual dangers: Chinese women's experiences in three cultures: Beijing, Taipei and Hong Kong

BOOK REVIEWS

- PATRICIA ADAR GOWATY
105 *Biology & Feminism: A Dynamic Interaction* by Sue Rosser
- ADALDISA GIORGIO
106 *Women on the Italian Literary Scene: A Panorama* by Alba della Fazio Amola

(Continued on inside back cover)

WOMEN'S STUDIES INTERNATIONAL FORUM

VOLUME 17 NUMBER 1 1994
JANUARY-FEBRUARY

(Contents—continued from outside back cover)

- ROSALIND EDWARDS
106 *Literacy, Gender and Work: In Families and in Schools* by Judith W. Solsten
- MARILYN HODDER-SALMON
107 *Reflecting on The Bell Jar* by Pat Macpherson
- MARILYN HODDER-SALMON
108 *Collecting Souls, Gathering Dust: The Struggles of Two American Artists: Alice Neel and Rhoda Metody* by Gerald L. Belcher and Margaret L. Belcher
- 109 Biographical Statements
- 1 Feminist Forum: News, Conferences, Reports

The Vendetta
Against Anita Hill's
Supporters

VOLUME IV, NUMBER 4

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Women's Center: Additional Sources

Ms.

The Best
And Worst
Of '93

PORN

Stop it? Use it? Ignore it?

OGRAPHY

Does women's equality depend
on what we do about it?

Andrea Dworkin, Marilyn French, Norma Ramos,

have their say



CONTENTS

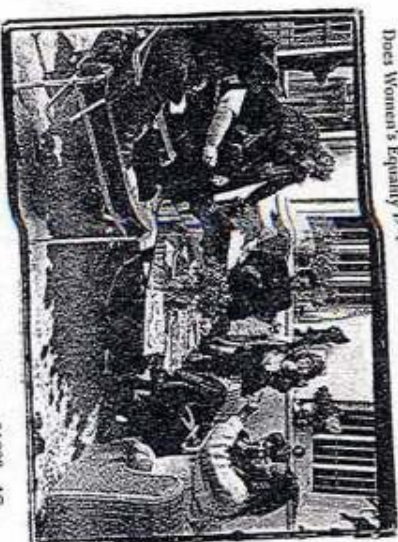
FEATURES

COVER

POINCLAPIN

Andrea Dworhin, Marilyn French, Norma Kamus, and
Nizkor Strange Speak Their Minds 32

Does Women's Equality Depend on What We Do About It? 42



Remembering Some of the Highs and Lows of 1993 46

Extending Family: Making Room for Those We Love and Loved
and Their Loves Too by Jovette Hochman 52

A Calendar of Women's Events for 1994 94

NEWS

INTERNATIONAL

The Human Cost of Free Trade by Elizabeth Keady 10

An Uneasy Peace in the Middle East
For an Israeli... by Naomi Alon 18

For a Palestinian... by Rita Chazan 18

Dispatches 16

U.S.

The Right's Vendetta Against Anita Hill's Supporters by Karen Humm 62

The Ugly Face of the Cosmetic Lobby by Sarah Kaplan 88

Clippings by Kate Rowlands 90

BOOKS

Creative Tension: On Being a Writer and a Mother
by Judith Pierce Rosenberg 66

Bad Type: Meena Alexander's Poetry of Multiple
Migrations by Homa M. Mior 71

International Bookshelf 68 • Reviews 72

FICTION AND POETRY

Fiction: Karma by Anna Lee Villanueva 62

Poetry: The Tired Poem: Last Letter from a Typical Unemployed
Black Professional Woman by Kate Rushin 30

But the Difference by Janet Fisher 51

Tape by Ingrid Winkler (inside back cover)

ARTS

Asian Women in Film: No Joy, No Luck by Jessica Hugheson 74

Honoring Home Places by Lisa Kormanik 79

Altruism by Suzanne Stahl 80 • The Guerilla Girls Sound Off 80

HEALTH

Who's Protecting Bad Doctors? by Judith Warner 56

CancerFax: Use with Care by Maryann Nagel 60

A Natural Medicine Check by Dana Dietrich Buchanan 61

Health Note 56

DEPARTMENTS

Editorial: Look Who's Talking by Aurora Ann Gillette 1

Letters

Inner Space: Struggling Alone with Myself by Faith Adice 22

Prison: First They Changed My Name... by Coughlin Allen 26

Ecofeminism: Saving Native Lands by Valerie Tuleason 28

Media: Right Beal, Wrong Angle by Bonnie Allen 92

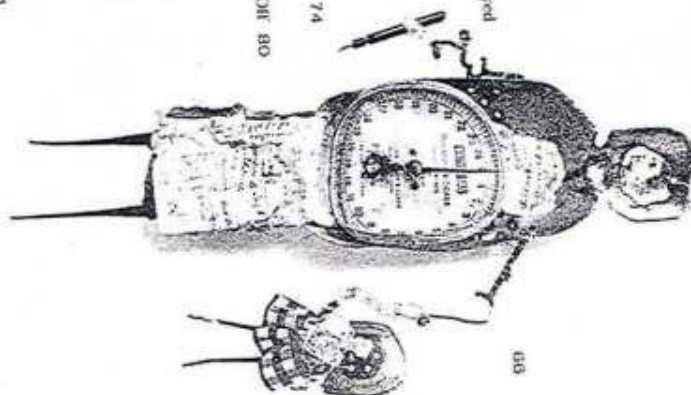
Guest Room: Measuring Up by Amy Rose 96

No Comment (back cover)

SNAPSHOTS



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The Women of Books

Women's Center: Additional Sources

Vol. XI, No. 7

April 1994

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Inside:



Wanda Gág, printmaker and "New Woman," in a 1928 portrait by Hal Phye. Her prints are reproduced, with revealing letters and journal entries, in a new study by Audur Winnan; Norma Steinberg reviews it, p.24.

◆ Judy Chicago's latest multimedia work raises disturbing questions about how—and whether—to represent genocide in art: Carol Zemei looks at *Holocaust Project: From Darkness into Light*, p.6.

◆ Asian American writers and critics are breaking out of the conventions of Western cultural traditions to create a literary world of their own: Karin Aguilar-San Juan reads two innovative studies of Asian American writing by Sau-ling Wong and King-kok Cheung, p.17.

◆ *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was only the most famous achievement of Harriet Beecher Stowe, whose long life as writer and activist has now been chronicled by Joan Hedrick: her *Harriet Beecher Stowe* "places the full sweep of Stowe's life and work within the America in which she lived," as Sandra Zagarell finds, p.13.

The right not to remain silent

by Nan Levinson

Sex, Sin, and Blasphemy: A Guide to America's Censorship Wars, by Marjorie Heins. New York: The New Press, 1993, 210 pp., \$22.95 hardcover, \$11.95 paper.

Americans used to like the First Amendment. Sure, sometimes we added a "but" at the end of our declaration of faith, but we had a real soft spot for the principle of speech free of interference by those in power. The first of our rights, freedom of expression was almost a civil religion, fundamental to how we defined ourselves as a culture and as individuals.

No longer. Now, with increasingly frequent and creative arguments, it is said that the First Amendment is not just inconvenient but downright wrong when applied to speech "we" don't like. Over the past decade, free expression has been recast as one of many competing rights—civil rights, commercial rights, the right to unruffled feathers—until determining what will be tolerated in its name has become America's defining controversy.

Enter Marjorie Heins, founding director of the ACLU's Arts Censorship Project and firm believer that the First Amendment means what it says—even when that means defending "art that is offensive, insulting, outrageous, or just plain bad." In *Sex, Sin, and Blasphemy*, she draws on her considerable experience as a lawyer and advocate to survey recent attacks on creative expression.

"Censorship happens," Heins writes, "whenever some people succeed in imposing their political or moral values on others by suppressing words, images, or ideas that they find offensive." But artistic expression has been tucked under the First Amendment blanket since a 1948 Supreme Court ruling, and bad taste, for better or worse, has never been a crime. Tolerance of words and images we find unpalatable, Heins insists, is "a small price to pay for the liberty and diversity that form the foundation of a free society."

She finds no shortage of efforts to censor, since moral indignation plays well with the

and more...

continued on p.3



CONTENTS

- 1 Nan Levinson • Sex, Sin, and Blasphemy: A Guide to America's Censorship Wars by Marjorie Heins
- 4 Letters
- 6 Carol Zemel • Holocaust Project: From Darkness into Light by Judy Chicago
- 7 Sheila Bienenfeld • When Boundaries Betray Us: Beyond Illusions of What is Ethical in Therapy and Life by Carter Heyward
- 8 Margaret Rogers • The Less Noble Sex: Scientific, Religious, and Philosophical Conceptions of Woman's Nature by Nancy Tuana; Nature's Body: Gender in the Making of Modern Science by Londa Schiebinger
- 10 Deborah Kent • Feminism and Disability by Barbara Hillyer
- 11 Molly McQuade • The Diary of Emily Dickinson by Jamie Fuller
- 12 Alicia Ostriker • Carnal Israel: Reading Sex in Talmudic Culture by Daniel Boyarin
- 13 Sandra A. Zagarell • Harriet Beecher Stowe: A Life by Joan D. Hedrick
- 15 Marie Wasserman • In the food chain: the role of book reviews in the cultural marketplace
- 17 Karin Aguilar-San Juan • Reading Asian American Literature: From Necessity to Extravagance by Sau-ling Cynthia Wong; Articulate Silences: Hisaye Yamamoto, Maxine Hong Kingston, Joy Kogawa by King-kok Cheung
- 18 Alison Townsend • Between the Sea and Home by Almitra David; Open Heart by Judith Mickel Sornberger; Singing Underwater by Susan Wicks
- 20 Sarah White • Bodytalk: When Women Speak in Old French Literature by E. Jane Burns
- 21 Jeanne Kay • Gender on Ice: American Ideologies of Polar Expeditions by Lisa Bloom
- 22 Jean McNeil • The Restorationist: Text One, a Collaborative Fiction by Jael B. Juba by Joyce Elbrecht and Lydia Fakundiny
- 24 Norma S. Steinberg • Wanda Gág: A Catalogue Raisonné of the Prints by Audur H. Winnan
- 25 Sherri Broder • Sacrificed for Honor: Italian Infant Abandonment and the Politics of Reproductive Control by David I. Kertzer; And Sin No More: Social Policy and Unwed Mothers in Cleveland, 1855-1990 by Marian J. Morton; Fallen Women, Problem Girls: Unmarried Mothers and the Professionalization of Social Work, 1890-1945 by Regina G. Kunzel
- 26 Phyllis Hotch • Two Poems
- 28 Leonore Fleischer • Publish and flourish: a secretary's success story
- 29 Jane E. Schultz • New Women of the New South: The Leaders of the Woman Suffrage Movement in the Southern States by Marjorie Spruill Wheeler
- 30 Books Received

CONTRIBUTORS

KARIN AGUILAR-SAN JUAN is the editor of *The State of Asian America: Activism and Resistance in the 1990s* (South End Press, 1994).

SHEILA BIENENFELD, a psychotherapist since early childhood, is an associate professor of clinical psychology at San Jose State University, CA.

SHERRI BRODER teaches American social and women's history at Boston College. She is currently completing *Fallen Women, Tramp, and Neglected Children: Negotiating Family Values in Late Victorian Philadelphia*, forthcoming from the University of Illinois Press.

LEONORE FLEISCHER has worked as a clerk, editor and freelance writer while raising a son and working at night for a BA in Classics from Hunter College. A grandmother today, she has had 50-plus books published, most of them novelizations of film scripts, including *Rain Man* and *Shadowlands*.

PHYLLIS HOTCH moved to Taos, New Mexico from Massachusetts four years ago and has been able to write on the mesa looking at the mountains, part of a warm community of artists and writers. She is president of SOMOS, a writers' organization. Her work has been published in several journals, including *The Threepenny Review*. A chapbook, *A Little Book of Lies*, will be forthcoming later this year from Blinking Yellow Books.

JEANNE KAY is professor of geography and Dean of Environmental Studies at the University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada.

DEBORAH KENT has been thinking and writing about disability and women's issues for the past fifteen years. For her day job, she writes young-adult novels and children's nonfiction. She keeps her summers free to work on an adult novel, which she hopes to complete sometime before the turn of the century.

NAN LEVINSON is the US correspondent for *Index on Censorship*, the international magazine of free expression. She was an

arts administrator for ten years, and now teaches fiction writing and journalism at Tufts University, Medford, MA.

JEAN MCNEIL is a Canadian who works as a writer and editor in London, England.

MOLLY MCQUADE is an editor and writer in New York. Her work has also appeared in the *New England Review*, the *North American Review* and elsewhere.

ALICIA OSTRIKER is a poet-critic whose most recent book is *Feminist Revision and the Bible*. Her own re-readings of sacred scripture will appear in *The Nakedness of the Fathers: Biblical Visions and Revisions*, forthcoming this fall. She is a professor of English at Rutgers University, NJ.

MARGARET N. ROGERS is an assistant rare book librarian in the Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, Cornell University Library, where she specializes in the history of science and Anglo-American literature collections. She recently published an article on gender bias in subject headings which persuaded the Library of Congress to change some of the headings.

JANE F. SCHULTZ is assistant professor of English, American studies and women's studies at Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis. She will complete *Women at the Front: Female Hospital Workers in Civil War America* later this year.

NORMA S. STEINBERG is a modernist art historian whose specialty is prints and printmakers. Her doctoral dissertation on William Gropper examined the issue of art and censorship from the 1930s through the Cold War era. At present the Lynn and Philip A. Strauss Inners in Prints at the Fogg Museum, Harvard University Art Museums, she has taught at Wheaton College, Boston University Metropolitan College and the University of Massachusetts, Harbor Campus.

ALISON TOWNSEND is a poet, essayist and reviewer who lives in Madison, Wisconsin. Her work has appeared in a number of literary magazines, including *Prairie Schooner*, *The Georgia Review* and *Calyx*. She has also been frequently anthologized,

most recently in *Loss of the Ground-Note: Women Writing About the Loss of Their Mothers* (Clothesline Press) and *The Next Parish Over: A Collection of Irish-American Writing* (New Rivers Press).

MARIE WASSERMAN spent fifteen years at Rutgers University Press, most recently as Associate Director and Editor in Chief, with responsibility for books in sociology and anthropology, as well as a large part of the women's studies and regional lists. She has been active in the Association of American University Presses and serves on the Association of American Publishers' Freedom to Read Committee. Since speaking at the *Women's Review of Books Tenth Anniversary Conference*, she has become executive editor at Routledge with responsibility for books in anthropology and religion.

SARAH WHITE teaches in the Department of French and Italian at Franklin and Marshall College, PA. She is collaborating with Maïda Bruckner and Laurie Shepard on a bilingual edition-translation, *Songs of the Women Troubadours*, forthcoming in the Garland Medieval Library. She has published poetry and prose in a number of literary journals, and is working on a memoir about dreams and history.

SANDRA A. ZAGARELL is a member of the Northeast Nineteenth-Century American Women Writers Study Group and a professor of English at Oberlin College, OH. She writes on nineteenth-century American literature and is completing a study of representations of community in nineteenth-century American narrative.

CAROL ZEMEL is associate professor of art history at the State University of New York at Buffalo. Her book, *Utopian Promises: Themes of Modernity in the Work of Vincent Van Gogh*, will be published in 1995 by the University of California Press. She is currently writing about photographs of Eastern European Jews, and is preparing a biography of Vincent's feminist sister, Willemine van Gogh.

The Women's Review of Books

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*We especially need imagination in science.
It is not all mathematics, nor all logic,
but it is somewhat beauty and poetry."*

*--Maria Mitchell
(diary, 1866)*

(Beacon Book of Quotations by Women)