

Aboriginal Women: Reclaiming their Memory

When the Pelican Laughed
by A. Nannup, L. Marsh and
S. Kinnane

When the Pelican Laughed is the story of Alice Nannup. Born on a Northern station in 1911 of an aboriginal mother and European father, Alice Nannup was taken South at the age of 12 and trained in domestic service. After a full and eventful life that included many battles with authority and raising the children, Nannup returned 64 years later "to make peace with (my) country."

While very much a personal account of Alice's life story, *When the Pelican Laughed* illuminates many aspects of the experiences of aboriginal people who were taken from their family and community in the 1920s and 1930s. (Australia: Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 1992. 224p. RN LIT 02210.00B)

For inquiries, contact: Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 193 South Terrace (P.O. Box 320), South Fremantle, Western Australia 6162 Australia

My People by Oodgeroo.

Oodgeroo's writing has a unique place in Australian literature. She describes it herself as "pure propaganda" and "not the

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best but the best selling." But it is more than that. Not only are the poems a provocative and emotional plea for justice that is still to come for Australian Aborigines, but when the poems were first published in the 1960s it began a new phase in the communication between peoples in Australia. For the first time, a black Australian had analyzed and judged white Australians as well as her own people.

Oodgeroo passed away in 1992. This 1990 print of *My People* is the third edition of her poetry collection and the first to bear her aboriginal name. Oodgeroo used and was known by her Christian name, Kath Walker. (Australia: The Jocandra Press, 1990. 120p. RN LIT 02173.00B) For inquiries, contact: Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 193 South Terrace (PO Box 320), South Fremantle, Western Australia 6162, Australia

My Place by Sally Morgan

In 1982, Sally Morgan traveled back to her birthplace and what started as a tentative search for information about her family turned into an emotional and spiritual pilgrimage. Confronted

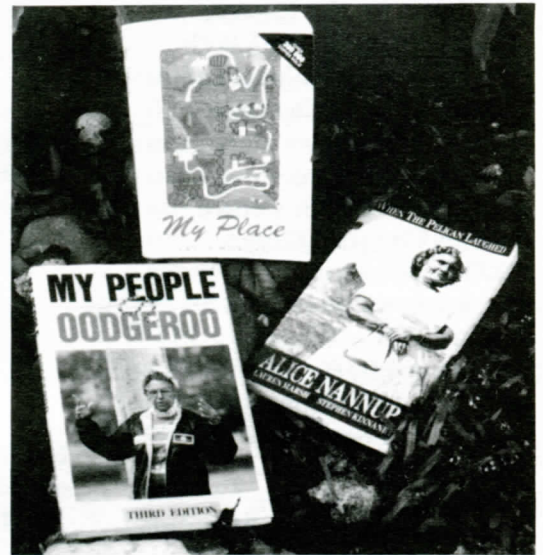
with their own suppressed history and questions about their identity, Sally Morgan and her family struggled together to reclaim their memory and the memory of their forebears.

My Place is Sally Morgan's retelling of her and her family's long journey. In it the voices of her mother and grandmother are finally and vividly heard. (Australia: Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 1993. 358p. RN LIT 02171.00B) For inquiries, contact: Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 193 South Terrace (PO Box 320), South Fremantle, Western Australia 6162, Australia

Korean Combination

Where is My Country? by
Keun-Wook Huh

Born and raised in Seoul, Korea, Keun-Wook Huh comes from a politi-



Books by aboriginal women.

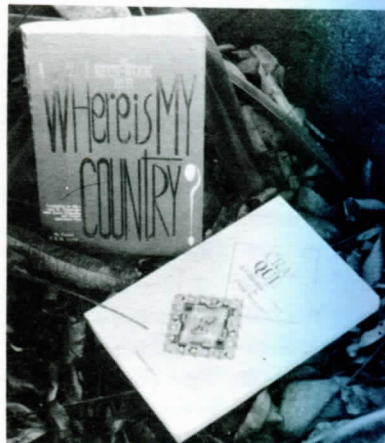
cally progressive family. Her father, Huh Hun was a lawyer who took part in the Korean Independence Movement during the Japanese occupation period (1919-1945), a time of great national suffering for Korea. He also participated in the post-World War II coalition of moderates of the left and right. In 1948, the Huh family went North to participate in the North-South Leaders' Conference in Haeju, Hwanghae Province. They later settled there when Huh Hun got elected in the North Korean legislative body.

During the Korean War, Keun-Wook Huh fled to the South in search of freedom. Fearful of being persecuted, she lived in hiding for nine years. But in 1959, she was arrested on suspicion of being a spy. She was found innocent and acquitted the same year.

Keun-Wook Huh made her debut in the Korean literary world in 1961 with this book, an autobiographical novel. In this revised edition, her prison diary has been included. (Seoul: The P.E.N. Centre, 1984. 452p. RN LIT 022300.B)

For inquiries, contact:
Korean P.E.N. Centre
Sinmoonro B/D, 909
238, 1-ga, Sinmoonro
Jongroku, Seoul, Korea
Tel: (02)720-8897

Crazy Quilt by Chang Young-hee
Written from 1985-1990, the essays in



Two from Korea.

Korea and the author's transition from student to teacher. Most of the essays have already appeared in print in the author's column "Crazy Quilt," in *The Korea Times*, and in college newspapers or English-language magazines. (Seoul: Dongmoon Press, 1990. 283p. RN LIT 02226.00B)

For inquiries, contact:
Dongmoon Press
380-22, Mangwon-dong,
Mapo-ku, Seoul, Korea
Tel: (02)336-6615

Feminist Theories

Femininity and Domination: Studies in the Phenomenology of Oppression
by Sandra Lee Bartky

In a self-critical and confident voice, Sandra Bartky—one of the founders of the Society of Women in Philosophy—examines women's anxieties, fears and obsessions, locating these in the internalized consciousness of the inferi-

ority of the feminine. She also mines the resources of several European philosophical traditions, critiquing and revising these to shed light on aspects of women's subordination that are often dismissed as merely personal. She debates with the "ghosts" of Aristotle, Marx, Sartre and Foucault among other dead white male philosophers on the links between society, morality and psychology, and attempts to turn the discourse to feminist ends. (London: Routledge, 1990. 139p. RN IDE 02162.00B)

For inquiries, contact:
Routledge
29 West 35th Street
New York, NY 10001-2299
U.S.A. or
11 New Fetter Lane
London EC4P 4EE
United Kingdom

Naturalizing Power: Essays in Feminist Cultural Analysis, edited by Sylvia Yanagisako and Carol Delaney

Differences of power often appears to be natural or given in nature or ordained by God. *Naturalizing Power* shows that these differences are not logical extensions of a natural order, but are an integral part of narratives about the order of things. The essays focus on these domains that are crucial for people's identity—family, kinship, gender, sexuality, race, nation and religion.

This critical collection

also explores ways in which differences of identity and power are embedded in a wide variety of cultural narratives: popular, legal, and medical discourses about American kinship and the “natural” unit of the family; classification schemes about the relation between humans and animals, such as the “birds and the bees”; stories about the origin of nations that draw on ideas about sex, reproduction and the family; and celebrations of the American Dream of moving up the social ladder. (New York: Routledge, 1995. 310p. RN IDE 02185.00B)

For inquiries, contact:
Routledge
29 West 35th Street
New York, NY 10001-2299
U.S.A.

or
11 New Fetter Lane
London EC4P 4EE
United Kingdom

The Anatomy of Freedom: Feminism in Four Dimensions by Robin Morgan
In *The Anatomy of Freedom*, Robin Morgan

reviews the changes that have occurred in the political and scientific worlds, in her personal life and in what she calls the “fourth dimension” or the “readiness for freedom.”

What are these dramatic changes? According to *The Anatomy of Freedom*, the political dimension has been the site of a “millennial shift” in which causes of celebration, such as the fall of totalitarian governments, the end of the Cold War and others occurred alongside a proliferation of conflicts on tribal, ethnic, language, religions, cultural, political, and territorial grounds. In the scientific dimension, many of the book’s projections when it first came out in 1982, such as the birth control drug RU486, have already come true. In the personal dimension, Robin Morgan had gone through divorce, mourning and other such major personal and intimate upheavals. Finally, in the fourth dimension, Morgan describes the current juncture as a world acutely ready for more changes and greater freedom. (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1994. 369p. RN IDE 02178.00B)

For inquiries, contact:
WW Norton & Co.
500 Fifth Avenue,
New York, NY 10110
U.S.A.

Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism, edited by CT. Mohanty, A. Russo and L. Torres

This collection is about

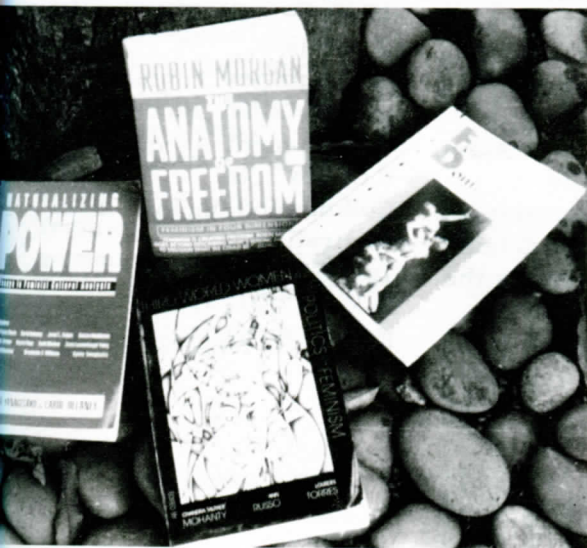
the third world women’s engagement with feminism—in the context of decolonization, national liberation, state regularization, multinational capitalism, and discursive practices. The essays here present provocative analyses of the simultaneous oppressions of race, class, gender, and sexuality, as well as the role that imperialism plays in the production of knowledge and of persons. (Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1991. 338 p. RN IDE 02159.00B)
For inquiries, contact:
The Indiana University Press Publicity Department
601 N. Morton Street
Bloomington, Indiana 47404
U.S.A.

Books on the Pacific

The Sacred Remains: Myths, History and Polity in Belau by Richard Parmentier

The Sacred Remains is the product of two years of fieldwork in Belau in Micronesia. In it, Parmentier uses semiotic methods to analyze both linguistic and non-linguistic signs representing and embodying Belauan history, showing that these signs also organize social and political structures. Parmentier contends that the history of Belau cannot be understood without taking into account indigenous categories of space, time and transformation and without recog-

Readings on feminist theories.



nizing the role of Belauan social actions that construct, interpret, and transmit historical knowledge. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987. 341p. RN CUL 02149.00B)
For inquiries, contact:
The University of Chicago Press
5801 South Ellis Avenue
Chicago, Illinois
60637, U.S.A.

Never and Always: Micronesian Legends, Fables and Folklore, edited by Gene Ashby

Students of the Community College of Micronesia collected and wrote the materials in *Never and Always*, which contains 86 stories and fables from Micronesia about the origins of islands and peoples; reefs, waters and landmarks; and about customs, skills and values. (Oregon: Rainy Day press, 1989. 124p. RN CUL 02150.00B)
For inquiries, contact:
Rainy Day Press
P.O. Box 574
Kolonias, Pohnpei, F.S.M.
96941
or
1147 East 26th Ave.
Eugene, Oregon 97403
U.S.A.

Some Things of Value: Micronesian Customs and Beliefs, edited by Gene Ashby

Some Things of Value describes a wide range of Micronesian customs and

beliefs, including superstitions that relate to childbirth, land and food, marriage, traditional legends and beliefs, the practice of skills, and funerals. Maps and physical and cultural data as well as interesting illustrations of aspects and objects of Micronesian culture add dimension to the collection. (Oregon: Rainy Day Press, 1993. 246p. RN CUL 02158.00B)
For inquiries, contact:
Rainy Day Press
P.O. Box 574
Kolonias, Pohnpei, F.S.M.
96941
or 1147 East 26th Ave.
Eugene, Oregon 97403
U.S.A.

Pacific Women's Directory, published by the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau
The Pacific Women's Directory lists 500 women's

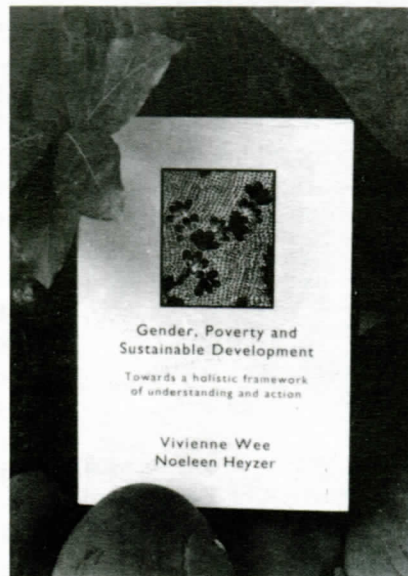
associations, clubs, offices and organizations in 21 of the island-member countries and territories of the South Pacific Commission. The directory has details such as the address, phone and

fax numbers, objectives and activities of these organizations. (New Caledonia: South Pacific Commission, 1993. 199p. RN REF 02203.00B)
For inquiries, contact:
The South Pacific Commission
B.P. D5
Noumea Cedex, New Caledonia
Tel: (687)262-000
Fax: (687)263-818

Beneath Paradise: A Collection of Poems from the Women in the Pacific, edited by Grace and Mera Molisa

Beneath Paradise is a collection of poems by Pacific women, many of whom are first-time writers. Reflecting some aspects of the lives of Pacific women, the poems are grouped according to the following themes: violence against women, women and the environment, status of women, political participation of women, and peace.

(Australia: Women in Pacific NGOs Documentation Project, 1995. 84p. RN LIT 02198.00B)
For inquiries, contact:
International Women's Development Agency
P.O. Box 1680
Collingwood, Victoria 3066, Australia
Tel: (613)941-71388
Fax: (613)941-60519
E-mail: IWDA@peg.apc.org



FORGING IDENTITIES

Gender, Communities
and the State

Edited by
ZOYA HASAN

Chinese Women Across the Centuries

The Virtue of Yin: Studies on Chinese Women by Lily Xiao Hong Lee

The Virtue of Yin consists of short but substantive profiles of Chinese women—as individuals or as part of a group—who live at various times in history, who come from diverse backgrounds, and who challenged tradition and played a role that was not normally for a woman. Faced with seemingly insurmountable obstacles, these women had to be better than their male counterpart in order to be recognized. Hence, courage, endurance and perseverance are qualities common to all these women. (Australia: Wild Peony, 1994. 117p. RN SEX 02182.00B)

For inquiries, contact:
University of Hawaii Press
2480 Kolowalu Street,
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Fax: (1-808)988-6052

The Chinese Femme Fatale: Stories from the Ming Period, translated by Anne Mc Laren

Fears of unbridled female sexuality and female dominance have long played a part in Chinese thinking. A common expression for “femme fatale” is “one who ruins city and state.”

The stories in this selection from the 17th century reflect a particular strain of misogynistic thinking: that women who pursue their own sexual desires have a catastrophic effect on family and society. The stories, translated for the first time in English, are also the earliest examples of realistic fiction in China. Originally intended to reinforce Confucian morality, the stories in *The Chinese Femme Fatale* nevertheless have heroines who are active participants in their own destiny. They take the initiative in seduction, show considerable ingenuity and strength of mind, and often dominate their husbands and lovers. (Australia: Wild Peony, 1994. 102p. RN LIT 02183.00B.)

For inquiries, contact:
University of Hawaii Press
2480 Kolowalu Street,
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Fax: (1-808)988-6052

Contemporary Chinese Women Writers Part III, edited by Wu Zonghui

Reflected in this collection of eight stories are some of the pressing issues that have preoccupied Chinese women over the past decade. The stories include an affecting tale of stifled aspirations in the countryside (Scatter Brain), an exhausting description of a factory worker's day (Trials and Tribulations), an airing of the frustrations at bringing up a child in the consumer age (Broken Transformers), and a probing of anxieties of a successful Shanghai business woman (Happy Birthday). The stories portray women from all walks of life bound together by a common desire to exert some control over their destinies. (Beijing: Chinese Literature Press, 1993. 322p. RN LIT 02163.00B)

For inquiries, contact:
China International Book Trading Corporation
35 Chegongzhuang Xilu,
Beijing 100044, China
P.O. Box 399, Beijing, China

Filling Mix

The Comfort Women: Sex Slaves of the Imperial Japanese Forces by George Hicks

In 1938, the Japanese Imperial Forces established a “comfort station” in Shanghai. This was the first of many officially sanctioned brothels set up

across Asia to service the needs of the Japanese forces. It was also the first comfort station where women, many in their early teens, were coaxed, tricked and forcibly recruited to act as prostitutes for the Japanese military.

Using official documents and other original sources never before available, *The Comfort Women* tells how well-established and well-organized the comfort system was across the Japanese empire, and how complete was its cover-up. It also traces the fight by Japanese and Korean feminist and liberal groups to expose the truth and tells of the complicity of the Japanese government in maintaining the lie. *The Comfort Women* is an account of a shameful aspect of Japanese society and psychology as well as an exploration of Japanese racial and gender politics.

But above all, *The Comfort Women* allows the victims of this unacknowledged war crime to tell their own stories and to speak of the full magnitude and brutality of the system that enslaved them. (Thailand: Silkworm Books, 1995. 265p. RN VAW 02181.00B)

For inquiries, contact:
Silkworm Books
P.O. Box 76, Chiang Mai
50000 Thailand



Another good read from Shiva.

Gender, Poverty and Sustainable Development: Towards a Holistic Framework of Understanding and Action by Vivienne Wee and Noeleen Heyzer

Global resource depletion is increasing by the day, and the gap between rich and poor is steadily widening. Women have been particularly affected by this crisis; 70 percent of today's 1.3 billion absolute poor are women.

This book shows how economic growth and impoverishment are two sides of the same coin. Money gives the power to buy up the resources of the world. As a result, 20 percent of the world's population consumes 80 percent of the world's resources. This leads not just to environmental degradation, but also to widespread rural poverty as local communities, especially women, lose their livelihood resources. In a world of finite resources, the growth of some leads to the deprivation of

others. A strategy for achieving sustainable development and economic equity is advocated by the book's authors. (Singapore: ENGENDER, 1995. 168 p. RN DEV 02223.00B)

For inquiries, contact:
Centre for Environment,
Gender and Development
Pte. Ltd. (ENGENDER)
14c Trengganu Street,
0105 Singapore
Tel: (65)227-1439
Fax: (65)227-7897
E-mail:
engender@technet.sg

Monocultures of the Mind: Perspectives on Biodiversity and Biotechnology by Vandana Shiva

Monocultures of the Mind examines the current threats to the planet's biodiversity and the environmental and human consequences of its erosion and replacement by monocultural production. Shiva shows how the new Biodiversity Convention has been gravely undermined by a mixture of diplomatic dilution during the process of negotiation and the North's hi-tech interests making money out of the new biotechnologies. In conclusion, Shiva calls for a halt—at international and national levels—to aid and market incentives both to the large-scale destruction of habitats where biodiversity thrives and to the introduction of centralized, homogenous systems of cultivation. (Penang: Third World Net-

work, 1993. 183p. RN ENV 02143.00B)

For inquiries, contact:
Third World Network
87, Cantonment Road,
10250 Penang, Malaysia

Forging Identities: Gender, Communities and the State by Zoya Hasan

This volume challenges the assumption that Muslims in India constitute a homogenous community, with specific characteristics deriving from Islam. Instead, it locates the community within the social, economic and political developments that have taken place in the subcontinent, before and after the Independence, in order to examine how exactly the delineation of minority identity takes place.

Through an examination of law, history, politics, work and culture, this book looks at how the formation of community identity has affected Muslim women in India and how the position of gender and community identity intersects with the State's discourse on equality and secularization. (New Delhi: Kali for Women, 1994. 264p. RN CUL 02109.00B)

For inquiries, contact:
Kali for Women
B 1/8 Hauz Khas
New Delhi 100016, India

Beyond Bonding: A Third World Women's Theological Journey by Virginia Fabella

Fabella, a Filipina Catholic nun, traces the

theological journey of African, Asian and Latin American women within the Ecumenical Association of Third World Theologians (EATWOT). She reveals the progressive growth in the theological consciousness of EATWOT women from a general acceptance of the association's theological direction and methodology to a gradual awareness of the male bias in the emerging theologies of EATWOT members, and from a limited male-defined liberation viewpoint to a more inclusive women's liberation perspective. (Manila: Institute of Women's Studies, 1993. 155p. RN REL 02116.00B.)

For inquiries, contact:
Institute for Women's Studies
St. Scholastica's College
931 Estrada Street
Malate, Manila, Philippines

Women, Health and Environment compiled by Jacqueline Sims

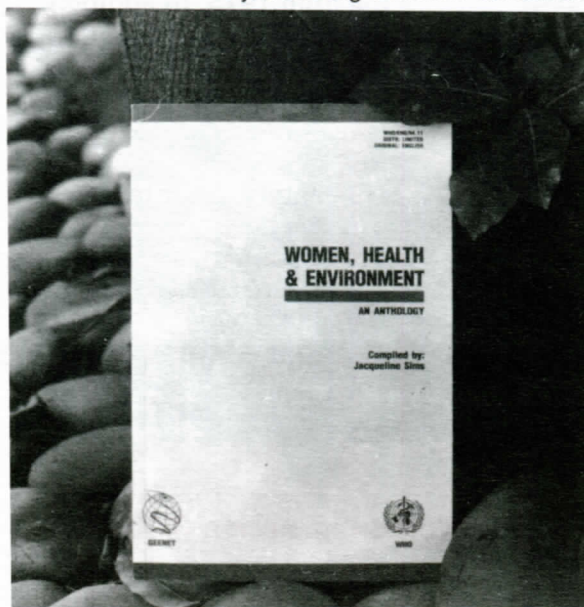
The linkages between women and health and

between women and environment are already widely acknowledged, although there is less understanding of how all three areas interrelate. The slim volume provides basic information on women, health and environment and raises issues and questions on a broad range of areas. However no attempt is made to provide answers. Instead, what *Women, Health and Environment* does is to synthesize the common issues and concerns of women in the areas of health and environment. (Geneva: World Health Organization, 1994. 162p. RN HEA 02092.00B) For inquiries, contact:
Environmental Epidemiology
Office of Global and Integrated Environmental Health
World Health Organization
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland
Tel: (022)791-3760
Fax: (022)791-4123

Silk and Steel: Asian Women Workers Confront Challenges of Industrial Restructuring by the Committee for Asian Women

Silk and Steel binds together the research papers and recommendations discussed and forwarded during the Committee for Asian Women's (CAW) Regional Workshop and Consultation on the Impact of Industrial Restructuring on the Women

Synthesizing common concerns.



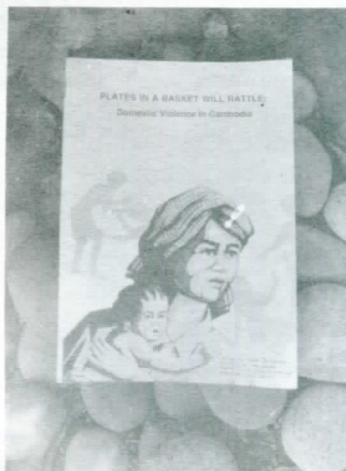
Workers in Asia. Aside from a discussion on the theoretical underpinnings of the current industrial restructuring in Asia, there are also six country case reports: Hong Kong, Korea, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, and the Philippines. *Silk and Steel* shows women are the first contributors to, as well as the first victims of the ongoing industrial restructuring in Asia. (Hong Kong:

Committee for Asian Women, 1995. 304p. RN ECO 02231.00B)

For inquiries, contact: Committee for Asian Workers Room 4032, 4/F, No.57 Peking Road, Kowloon Hong Kong
Tel: (852)2722-6150
Fax: (852)2369-9895

Plates in a Basket will Rattle: Domestic Violence in Cambodia by Cathy Zimmerman

Plates in a Basket will Rattle is an exploratory study on the nature of domestic violence in Cambodia, and its causes and effects and focuses on the situation of the women victims. However, given the nature of the subject matter, the research also touched on related social, cultural, educational, public policy and medical issues. Much of *Plates in a Basket will Rattle* is based on interviews with 50 victims of domestic violence and a mother of one woman who was killed by her husband.



(Phnom Penh: Zimmerman, 1994. 263p. RN VAW 02232.00B)

For inquiries, contact: The Asia Foundation P.O. Box 536 PTT Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Helping Books

Compendium of Social Development Indicators in the ESCAP Region: Quality of Life in the ESCAP Region

The present *Compendium of Social Development Indicators in the ESCAP Region* consists of 100 tables covering nine major subject areas, namely: demography, health, human settlements and environment, education, transport, communications, employment, output and income, and national social expenditure. The data in most cases are presented in five-year intervals starting from 1975. In addition, demographic projections are included in some population tables. (New York: UNESCAP, 1993. 152p. RN REF 02212.00B)

For inquiries, contact: UNESCAP UN Building Rajadamnern Avenue Bangkok 10200 Thailand
Tel: (662)228-1234
Fax: (662)282-9602

The NGLS Handbook

A consolidated overview of the principal economic and social development institutions of the United Nations system, *The NGLS Handbook* has 24 entries which cover the UN Secretariat; 15 agencies, programs and funds; and seven specialized agencies. (Geneva: UN-NGO Liaison Service, 1994. 254p. RN REF 02214.00B)

For inquiries, contact: United Nations NGO Liaison Service Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland or Room 6015, 866 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017 U.S.A.

Economic and Social Development in the United Nations System: A Guide for NGOs

Contains a directory of UN Secretariat offices, agencies, programmes, funds and specialized agencies as well as a directory of UN regional economic and social commissions, information centers and the UNDP's field level and country offices. There is also a directory of UN publications and statistical offices. (Geneva: UN-NGLS, 1995. 160p. RN REF 02215.00B)

For inquiries, contact: United Nations NGO Liaison Service Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland; or

Room 6015, 866 UN Plaza,
New York, NY 10017
U.S.A.

National Perspectives on Population and Development

A total of 168 national reports were prepared for the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, 125 by developing countries and 43 by industrialized countries. This document reflects the collective perspectives of the national reports. It does not attempt to restate or expound on the reports, but rather to highlight their most interesting and salient features. It also attempts to illustrate the variety and complexity of situations and experiences across countries and regions, drawing conclusions as to current priorities wherever possible. (New York: United Nations Population Fund, 1995. 112p. RN DEV 0228.00B)
Available from
UN Population Fund
220 East 42nd St.,
New York, NY 10017
U.S.A.

Women, Science and Technology for Development: A Preliminary Guide to Who's Doing What

This guide is a survey and directory of organizations, projects and programs in women, science and technology. (Jamaica: The Once and Future Action Network, 1994. 126p. RN REF 02207.00B)

For inquiries, contact:
The Once and Future
Action Network (OFAN)
Secretariat
Business District
40 Duke St., Kingston,
Jamaica
Tel: (1-809)967-2399)
Fax: (1-809)967-2397)

ISIS VIDEO COLLECTION

Khush

A film by Pratibha Parmar
1991, 24 min (SEX 067)

Khush means ecstatic pleasure in Urdu. For South Asian lesbians and gay men in Britain, North America, and India (where homosexuality is still illegal) the term captures the blissful intricacies of being queer and of color. Inspiring testimonies bridge geographical differences to locate shared experiences of isolation and exoticization but also the unremitting joys and solidarity of being khush. Accentuated by beautifully

Khush



lit dream sequences, dance segments and a dazzlingly sensuous soundtrack, this uplifting documentary conveys the exhilaration of a culturally rooted experience of sexuality.

Underexposed: The Temple of the Fetus

A film by Kathy High
1992, 72 min (REP 065)

Combining drama and documentary, *Underexposed: The Temple of the Fetus* is a savvy and creative probe into high-tech baby-making. The fictional framework of a TV journalist who unearths the ethical complications associated with new reproductive technologies allows the video to present complex documentary information about this issue in a clear and insightful way. The film tracks the history of the treatment of women's sexual and reproductive systems as "diseased," requiring the intervention of medical institutions to "save" them from their own bodies as well as the social and political context in which contemporary reproductive technologies exploit women's bodies. An extraordinary new feminist analysis of women and medicine from the director of *I Need Your Full Cooperation*.

Japanese American Women: A Sense of Place

A film by Rosanna Yamagiwa
1992, 28 min (SEX 069)

The stereotype of the polite, docile, exotic Asian

'woman is shattered in this documentary where a dozen women speak about their experiences as part of the "model minority." *Japanese American Women* explores the ambivalent feelings that the women have—towards Japan and the United States. The underlying theme is the burden of being different, of being brought up as "one of a kind" as opposed to growing up as part of an ethnic community. An uneasy feeling prevails out of being neither Japanese nor American, and the documentary ultimately becomes the story of Japanese American women and their search for a sense of place.

Open Letter: Grasp the Bird's Tail

A film by Brenda Joy Lem
1992, 16 min (VAW 059)

A gracefully composed film by Canadian Chinese artist, writer and filmmaker Brenda Joy Lem, *Open Letter* explores the issue of sexual violence in a racist society in a personal and direct way. Sylvester (played by Lem), writing to her new lover, contemplates her desire for him and the vulnerability she feels because of her experiences of sexual abuse and racial violence. Her metaphor for her fear is that of a contortionist trapped in a box and being lanced by a sword. By exploring and confronting

this fear, she is able to emerge from the box holding the weapon. Poetic yet disturbing, this film is a sophisticated contemplation of race, gender and violence.

Seven Lucky Charms

A film by Lisa Mann
1992, 16 min (VAW 060)

"Husbands kill their wives because of bruised egos; wives generally kill their husbands because of bruised bodies." This stylish and imaginative documentary weaves animated

imagery with statistical information to provide an environment for understanding the reality of battered women, especially those who kill their batterers in self-defense. Violence and retaliation, inadequate police response,



gender inequities in the legal system and prison sentencing are all examined in a clear and inventive way.

Rate It X

Directed by Lucy Winer and Paula de Koenigsberg
1986, 93 min (SEX 065)

What do men really think of women? This provocative, highly acclaimed documentary looks unflinchingly at sexism in America. A series of disturbing though sometimes amusing portraits uncover obvious culprits such as advertising firms and porn shops, as well as often overlooked pockets of sexist imagery which promote gender stereotyping and reinforce negative conceptions of women and sexuality. With great humor and compassion, the film reveals men's deeply imbedded attitudes, showing how sexism becomes rationalized through commerce, religion and social values. Hotly controversial upon its release, *Rate It X* is a challenging, invaluable film that illuminates crucial issues of censorship, advertising, pornography and violence against women.

Like any Other Lovers: A Pacific Lovestory with a Difference... AIDS

Produced by The South Pacific Commission
1993 (HEA 072)

Like Any Other Lovers is the story of Chris and

Linda, a young couple whose relationship is threatened when Chris learns he is infected with HIV—the virus that can lead to AIDS. Together their love overcomes the prejudice and rejection of those around them. This is a story about facing fear with love, courage and hope.

The Impossible Dream

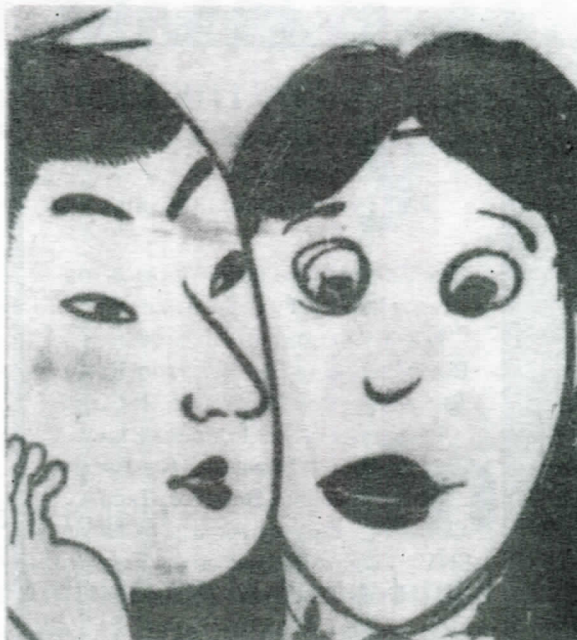
A film by Tina Jorgenson
Produced by the United Nations and Kratky Films Prague. 1983, 10 min (SEX 027) 3 copies

Made by award-winning Kratky Films in Czechoslovakia, Dagmar Boubkova's classic animated film is a wry, humorous look at a universal problem faced by many women—the “double day” which involves coming home from a day's paid employment to undertake unpaid housework in the home. Boubkova's story revolves around an average family, with two working parents, two school-age children and a baby. The wife works the same hours as her husband but for less money. On top of her work, she has all the responsibilities for the children and the housework.

Slaying the Dragon

A film by Deborah Gee
1988, 60 min (SEX 068)

Slaying the Dragon is a comprehensive look at



From a *Sense of Place*.

media stereotypes of Asian and Asian-American women since the silent era. From the racist use of white actors to portray Asians in early Hollywood films, through the success of Anna May Wong's sinister dragon lady, to Suzie Wong and the '50s *geisha* girls, to the Asian-American anchorwoman of today, this fascinating videotape shows how stereotypes of exoticism and docility have affected the perception of Asian-American women.

Surname Viet Given Name Nam

Produced by Jean-Paul Bourdier
Directed by Trinh T. Minha
1989, 108 min (SEX 070)
Of marriage and loyalty: “Daughter, she obeys

her father/ Wife, she obeys her husband/ Widow, she obeys her son.”

Vietnamese-born Trinh T. Minh-ha's profoundly personal documentary explores the role of Vietnamese women historically and in contemporary society. Using dance, printed texts, folk poetry and the words and experiences of Vietnamese women—from both North and South Vietnam—and the United States, Trinh's film challenges official culture with the voices of women. A theoretically and formally complex work, *Surname Viet Given Name Nam* explores the difficulty of translation, and themes of dislocation and exile, critiquing both traditional society and life since the war.

Thank God I'm a Lesbian

A film by Laurie Colbert and Dominique Cardona
1992, 55 min (SEX 066)

Thank God I'm a Lesbian is an uplifting and entertaining documentary about the diversity of lesbian identities. Dionne Brand, Nicole Brossard, Lee Pui Ming, Becki Ross, Julia Creet, La Verne Monette, Sarah Schulman, Chris Bearchell, Chris Phibbs, Christine Delphy and Jeannelle Laillou speak frankly and articulately about issues ranging from coming out, racism, bisexuality and SM to the evolution of the feminist and lesbian movements,

*Three women learn to dance.
They learn to
dance in the light.*

*Muey, a former slave
in a Thai brothel.
Uant, a single woman
defying social expectations.
Ceceu, a gifted dancer
forbidden to dance by her father
and husband.
Three women living diverse lives
gathered in a far village
and find healing.*

DANCING IN THE LIGHT

A FILM BY AVIC ILAGAN

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outing and compulsory heterosexuality. Inclusive of various and often contradictory points of view, *Thank God I'm a Lesbian* successfully proposes an alternate vision of self and community that is realistic and positive. This fast-paced documentary was edited by Geraldine Peroni who was nominated for an Academy Award for the *The Player*.

Voices of the Morning

A film by Meena Nanji
1992, 15 min (SEX 073)

Inspired by *The Hidden Face of Eve* by Nawal El Saadawi, *Voices of the Morning* is a poetic exploration of Muslim women's lives. It follows the socialization process of a young woman living under Orthodox Islamic law.

Resisting traditional definitions of a woman's role in society as only a dutiful daughter or wife, she struggles to find a space for her existence amidst the web of conditions imposed upon her by restrictive familial and societal conventions. Although *Voices of the Morning* is about the experiences of Muslim women, it resonates for all women who feel the effects of repressive social laws on their bodies and psyches. ♪



Top to bottom: Scenes from *Voices of the Morning*, *Slaying the Dragon*, and *Thank God I'm a Lesbian*.