

# Rape Case Conflict . . . Counselor-Police Differences Unresolved

By **SUSIE KAMB**  
Bee Staff Writer

The Sacramento Rape Crisis Center will be hard put to settle its differences with law enforcement agencies, despite an admonition from the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors last month.

Interviews with center officials and investigators from the city police and sheriff's department clearly indicate the three-year dispute over handling of rape cases is not about to end in the near future.

Under contention are deeply felt suspicions held by law enforcement investigators about the competency and attitudes of rape center counselors. And, while center directors are wary about openly criticizing police investigators, supporters of the center have said police agencies too often are insensitive to the immediate emotional needs of a rape victim.

"I feel I can no longer in good conscience refer a rape victim to the center," sheriff's detective Carol Daly said last week. "The worst thing I can do is refer a woman to a center which is openly antimale.

"It's not just the question of counseling; there's the issue of lesbianism in dealing with them. What kind of counseling is a woman going to get there?"

Center director Kate Guzman does not deny that a few lesbian counselors are employed. "We support a variety of lifestyles here. A person's lifestyle doesn't affect the kind of counseling he or she does."

She and outreach coordinator Theresa Corrigan like to think that training outweighs any objection to a counselor's sexual preference.

Prospective counselors receive six-to-eight-week training sessions in crisis intervention, referral and role-playing before going on the line with a trained counselor, Ms. Corrigan said. Once on the line, the initiate is subject to "ongoing evaluations."

"In the past when funding was available," Ms. Corrigan said, "we were able to retain a psychiatrist and psychologist." Now those two professionals are donating their time, she said.

City police and the sheriff's department are still skeptical.

"We would question their professionalism," said Detective Daly. "We all agree that rape victims have a need for counseling," she said, but she also feels the center is not doing an adequate job.

Ms. Corrigan's own preparation is a master's degree in English from California State University, Sacramento, a degree she freely

admits is "irrelevant" to her work at the center.

Ms. Guzman graduated from CSUS with a corrections major and is attending graduate classes in counseling at her alma mater.

"We have not, and do not claim to be a professional organization," Ms. Corrigan said, pointing out "the concern of our ability to counsel has

never come from mental health agencies."

The most serious accusation, however, is that the center has actually interfered with an investigation.

Detective Daly recalls an incident that involved a call from the Sacramento Medical Center, the

normal practice when a rape victim arrives at the hospital. A woman had been taken there by a Rape Crisis Center counselor.

"Very important evidence was left at home unsecured," claims Detective Daly. "My thinking was that the Rape Crisis woman was so interested in not being left out, she forgot about the evidence."

The detective said such negligence could have jeopardized the case against the rapist who went on to commit four other rapes.

Ms. Corrigan responded, "We're not a law enforcement agency. Our first duty is to the victim."

Sheriff's investigators, in Ms. Guzman's opinion, have had their own

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**CAROL DALY**  
... they are antimale.



**KATE GUZMAN**  
... preference is unimportant.



**MICHELLE CHIDESTER**  
... victims frightened.



**THERESA CORRIGAN**  
... training is the key.

# Rape Conflicts Remain

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lax moments. "They don't have all the training they can use either. On occasion we've had to advise officers of particular evidence they have missed." Beyond that, center officials are wary about criticizing the police agencies. Others are not so tight-lipped.

Supervisor Ted Sheedy is one who has cast doubts on police rape investigatory practices. "Women are asked all kind of questions (by police) as if it were their fault for the rape. Why should they go to the police department for help?"

Sheedy made his remarks at a Sacramento Regional Area Planning Commission meeting two weeks ago as a \$30,000 federal grant to aid the Rape Crisis Center was cleared.

Also critical of law enforcement was SRAPC member Russ Waltrip, a Roseville councilman, who charged the police "are a paramilitary organization and are paranoid as hell. They're reluctant to refer anything to anyone that they don't control."

And Yolo County Supervisor William Duncan, also a SRAPC member, said, "A lot of people won't report a rape to an official agency."

Rape investigators bristle at such talk.

"I think Ted Sheedy should go along on a ride with me," said Detective Daly. "He's not being realistic about us at all. The welfare of the victim is uppermost in our minds."

Protests police detective Flossie Crump: "Law enforcement all-around is becoming sensitive to the victim."

Even the center agrees. "We tell rape victims treatment by police has improved tremendously," Ms. Corrigan said.

An effort is first made to establish rapport with the victim by the law agencies. To illustrate, investigators outlined the procedure used by the sheriff's department.

"We explain what is going to be done and why," Detective Daly said. Then, a medical exam is suggested. "The victim needs the exam to establish that a sex crime did occur," said Anna Schock, a corporal in the sheriff's youth division.

"We usually take them to the Sacramento Medical Center, unless they request to see their own doctor," she said. "They are treated for any injuries and anything that might appear later like venereal disease."

After medical attention, the victim is questioned for information which could help identify or apprehend the rapist.

"Once a rape victim understands why you have to ask questions, she is more than willing to cooperate," said sheriff's detective Sandy Carlson, who is responsible for the handling of sex crimes.

"Your job is to find out what happened, but not in a way that's

demeaning to the victim," Detective Daly said. "Some could call it prying or getting the gory details, but it's important to ask the questions."

Other violations of the penal code may have occurred during the attack that the victim is oblivious to because of the rape, Detective Daly said.

Detective Crump said, "The victim is usually only thinking about the sexual assault. If you don't ask, she won't initially tell you she was forcibly taken at gunpoint or with a knife.

"That's the purpose of going into a detailed report."

Often the interview is postponed until the victim can gather up her thoughts and is calm enough to speak. Investigators say they have bought countless cups of coffee and sandwiches for victims after transporting them home from the hospital.

Once a rape victim has reported to the Rape Crisis Center, the question remains: Should or does that information get passed on to police agencies?

Criticism from police has fallen heavily on the center for not instructing their callers to report the rapes. Its directors feel this is not their function.

"We don't tell the victims whether or not they should report," Ms. Guzman said. "Sometimes we encourage reporting, but some women have had bad experiences with law enforcement before and don't trust it."

"Our responsibility is to give women as much information as we can," said Ms. Corrigan. "Some women are not emotionally capable of going to court.

"We try to tell them what they can expect, by going through the legal process, but we don't tell them what to decide," she said. But officers say they know of incidences that center counselors have frightened victims into not reporting. "I don't know what they hope to gain," said Michelle Chidester, a sheriff's corporal in the youth division. "Our goal is apprehension of a person who commits a rape."

Nor do the investigators coerce a victim into bringing charges. Detective Daly said. "I have advised victims not to go through the legal process," she said.

"The fallacy is that just because you report a rape, you're going to end up in court testifying. Some victims don't want to have anything to do with the rapist again. That's their prerogative," Detective Daly said.

In a sense, the Rape Crisis Center is being buffeted by two forces, Ms. Corrigan said. "We have to deal with the sheriff's criticism and then with others who complain we push them too hard to report.

"We're between the rock and the hard spot, caught in the middle," she said.

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# The Women Speak.



Jean LaMotte hosts an important program for and about women.

Guests are: Bruce Eastly, author;  
Theresa Corrigan, Rape Crisis Center;  
Beverly Fitch McCarthy, National  
Commission on the Status of Women;  
Eleanor Curti Smeal, president of N.O.W.

## 30 MINUTES

Tonight, 6:30PM

KXTV **10**



## The Sactivist

by Melva Arditti

### *Fear Equals Anger Equals Action*

**"D**on't forget . . . women have a very valuable weapon right at their fingertips — their fingernails. Use them! Scratch his eyes out!"

The women in the audience recoiled in disgust at the suggestion, but the police officer persevered. He went on to encourage a fast kick to the groin, and a can of hairspray kept on the night-stand to temporarily blind. Giggles and groans alternated from the audience in response to his suggestions, but the furrowed brows and clenched fists revealed the depth of fear present.

What this scene at a self-defense class for women illustrates is a simple equation: Fear equals anger equals action. The fear of crimes of violence against women has always been there, but the increase in rapes has intensified into anger, and, finally, action. Women are mad, damned mad. They've been robbed of their freedom, especially at night, and you're going to hear more and more about it.

Tomorrow night an anticipated 500 women will gather at 8 p.m. at the State Library circle on Capitol Mall (between Ninth and 10th streets). Wearing black and white and carrying candles, they will march down the K Street Mall and return to the library steps at 9:15 for a rally. The march, called "**Women Take Back the Night,**" is a symbolic effort to show that the community is committed to reducing violence against women. Music, chants, songs and skits will unite the marchers in a collective demonstration of controlled anger.

To channel that anger into productive action, signup sheets will be available at the rally for workshops on self-defense to be offered Nov. 8 and 15 at the YWCA. Co-sponsored by Women in Politics, the "Trade Your Fear for Action" workshops cost \$3 and last three hours. **Theresa Corrigan**, education and research coordinator for the Sacramento Rape Crisis Center and a faculty member in Women's Studies at California State University, Sacramento, will discuss the myths and facts about rape at each workshop and CSUS self-defense instructor **Midge Marino** will illustrate physical defense tactics and escape techniques and provide information on psychological preparation and laws regarding self-defense and weapons. If the two workshops fill up, a waiting list will be taken so more can be scheduled.

Women in Politics long has been active in advocating a legislative response to the problem of violence against women. The organization's major lobbying victory this past session, according to WIP lobbyist **Carol Conti**, was a bill to provide special training for police officers and district attorneys in handling sexual assault cases. The bill also provides \$400,000 in funding to rape crisis centers and establishes a statewide advisory committee. WIP also supported bills to provide \$1.5 million to fund domestic violence centers, and to eliminate the use of psychiatric examinations and polygraph testing of rape victims.

Focusing on victim services and protections, the organization is expanding beyond a strictly legislative approach by helping to coordinate tomorrow's march and by co-sponsoring the follow-up self-defense classes. "We're talking to groups of women we've never reached before," said **Anne Gressani**, chair of WIP's Justice Task Force. "I wanted to find ways to communicate about the problem with people like my mom and her friends," she added, explaining her interest in WIP's new outreach program.

The march, similar to demonstrations held in Hollywood, Fresno, Chico, San Francisco, New York and Los Angeles, has received broad support from local officials, including a Sacramento City Council/Board of Supervisors resolution endorsing it. Gressani noted the police department's reaction has been, "We've got to let women know we can't have a cop on every corner," hence, it also supports the march and its goal of increasing sensitivity to the problem.

WIP's next legislative goal is to address the problem of treatment of victims in hospitals. "We looked at the chronology of rape legislation," explained Gressani, "and found a deficiency in this area." The training of hospital personnel in the correct collection of evidence will be a priority for WIP during the next legislative session.

As noted in one of the fliers advertising the Women Take Back the Night march, "Women walk around parks, never through them. We risk a ticket sooner than a midnight trek from a legal parking place. We organize our lives around a sense of fear; a fear of random sexual violence. We spend our lives watching out . . ."

Tomorrow night, all that fear and anger will change into action.

For details of the march, call 452-1748, 456-5480, or 457-8269. Child care and sign language interpreting will be available.



## The Sactivist

By Melva Arditti

# It stocks a 'Lioness' share of good reading

**W**hich Sacramento business is 10 years old but having its grand opening Saturday?

Lioness Books is the old/new enterprise, borne of a peripatetic past but now anchored at 2224 J St.

Initiated in 1972 as a service of the Sacramento Women's Center, the feminist bookstore was more an afterthought than a business. A small selection of books was hauled around each time funding cuts and unsympathetic landlords forced the Women's Center to move, and by the time Theresa Corrigan volunteered to manage the bookstore in 1980, it was failing financially.

"I knew the literature, and I'd always had an interest in seeing Sacramento have a good women's bookstore," recalled Corrigan, who teaches women's studies at California State University, Sacramento.

As her interest in the bookstore escalated, she realized it was going to take more than a volunteer effort to make it

succeed. With partners Kathy Haberman and Karie Wylie, she offered to buy the business from the Women's Center, and an amicable agreement was reached.

With no capital, minimal experience, scant stock and no location, Lioness meowed into existence. A home was found only after Haberman sold her own home for financing and a silent partner chipped in.

A long search located the J Street house, which needed rehabilitation. Haberman, a professional carpenter, directed the work which ranged from jackhammering the concrete front steps to installing a \$10,000 fire sprinkler system.

Corrigan estimates that Haberman put 2,000 hours in the project, and approximately 30 volunteers added another 3,500 hours of labor.

"It was a rewarding experience that I wouldn't want to do again," Corrigan said of what she described as a madcap renovation.

For book browsers the house is a rewarding experience. The fresh smells



Bee photo by Richard Gilmore

### Theresa Corrigan organizes books in the Lioness bookstore.

of new paint and carpeting greet you at the front door. Finely crafted wooden shelves tilt upward so titles are easy to read, and spacious glass cases display a variety of women-made crafts.

The upstairs offices, equally spiffy, are occupied by Women's Employment Services and Training, the Sacramento Rape Crisis Center and Women Changing Directions.

"Kathy and I had a strong sense that women's agencies don't have to settle for less," said Corrigan. "We put in a lot of extra time and expense, and I'm glad."

Lioness stocks the largest selection of women's literature north of San Francisco. One of the nicest compliments it has earned is continual referrals from other local bookstores, a recognition of its special niche.

**C**orrigan orders the books, and her guideline is simple:

"You're not going to find anything

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# Sactivist

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here that is offensive to women." From Barbara Woodhouse's "Dog Training My Way" to Ellen Goodman's "At Large" to Penelope Russianoff's "Why Do I Think I Am Nothing Without A Man," a full spectrum of books, from the benign to the radical, is offered.

Corrigan emphasized that Lioness is a women-centered space, but not a women-only space. Records, greeting cards, T-shirts and buttons are also sold, and a coffeehouse section will open in the fall.

A discount sales punch-card system has yielded a 2,000-person mailing list which will be utilized to advertise future musical, literary, political and art events.

Saturday's dedication, billed as the grand opening celebration of the first Sacramento Women's Building, will include tours, food and socializing. Comedian Ruth Felnoy, novelist Ann Bannon and singer Judy Fjell will entertain, followed by Councilwoman Anne Rudin, Supervisor Illa Collin and Women's Center co-founder Kate Guzman conducting the 2 p.m. dedication ceremonies. Madrigals, poets, a theater troupe, a women's art show, raffle and sock hop will round out the day's activities.

Corrigan smiled after reciting the impressive agenda. "It's a 10-year fantasy come true," she purred.

Lioness is wheelchair accessible; hours are Tuesday-Friday, noon-8 p.m., Saturday noon-6 p.m. Telephone is 442-4657.

# First Women's Building true labor of love

'We wanted the space to be really attractive because women deserve it'

By Alison apRoberts  
Neighbors staff writer

Just two months after opening, the First Sacramento Women's Building is thriving.

The move into the turn-of-the-century house at 2224 J St. marks a step up in comfort and prominence for the city's only woman's bookstore, Lioness Books, and the three groups that make up the Sacramento Women's Center: Women's Employment Services and Training, Sacramento to Rape Crisis Center, and Women Changing Direction.

It also marks a new level of investment in a long-term dream as well as months of hard work — with 14-hour plus days — for the team of women who renovated the building.

"It's been a fantasy of mine for a long time to have a women's building. It means a woman needing service can come to one building and be referred from program to program," said Theresa Corrigan, one of three owners of Lioness Books and co-owner of the building with partner Kathy Haberman.

The attractive interior and the location on the up-and-coming, chic stretch of J Street, where foot traffic is spurred by gelati and other specialty shops, have made patronage jump, according to Corrigan.

Haberman and Corrigan had figured they would buy a building within five years for the bookstore they purchased, along with another partner, from the Women's Center corporation two years ago. But, having to move from rental space to rental space, which was always a little smaller and dingier than hoped for, encouraged them to move up their timetable.

After borrowing from family and friends, they were able to purchase the two-story 5,000-square-foot building nine months ago.

"We thought it would take about two months to fix up," said Corrigan. "It took seven months."

Haberman, who is skilled in carpentry and construction work, directed a team of about 35 volunteers, almost all women, in restoring the building. About a score worked seven days a week, usually to midnight, for months.

"Many of our friends put in 200 hours or more and they did it essentially out of the goodness of their



Theresa Corrigan, co-owner of the First Women's Building, says the next project is painting the building's exterior.

Neighbors photo  
by Clifford Oto

hearts — and because they believed in the project," said Corrigan.

The project stretched out for two reasons: The city code required more extensive work than expected and the insistence on quality restoration was time-consuming.

For instance, Haberman pieced together fragments of old moulding to fit along the tops of doorways. The fragments were then joined and the joints carefully sanded by hand. In addition to knocking down walls to the

studs and replastering, the project also included hefty jobs such as changing the locations of bathrooms.

Building an interior stairway where there had been none also represented a monumental task. The building originally only had two exterior stairways. For the new stairway, each riser had to be hand measured and cut because old walls just don't line up perfectly.

In addition, a rear exterior stairway was added and a new front porch, in-

cluding a \$5,000 wheelchair elevator to bring people up to the front door. Also, doorways were widened from 32 inches to 36 to allow wheelchair passage.

The new facilities include 10 upstairs office spaces and a ground floor shared by the bookstore and a coffeehouse space. The coffeehouse is yet to be completed although its meeting room

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## Women's bookstore, services have a home

Tenants of the First Women's Building are:

Women's Employment Services and Training, which offers training and assistance to women seeking employment, including classes, on-the-job training and job listings. Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Phone: 441-4207.

Women Changing Direction, which provides emergency services,

including housing, child care, transportation, and counseling. Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Phone: 444-8050.

Rape Crisis Center, which operates a 24-hour crisis line, 447-RAPE, and offers a variety of services including emergency counseling and hot line for sexual assault victims. It also conducts prevention and education seminars.

Business office hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Business office phone: 447-3223.

Lioness Books, which features a large selection of feminist literature, in addition to children's books and crafts. Hours: noon to 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays and noon to 6 p.m. Saturdays. A meeting room is available for use. Phone: 442-4657.

# Women

**Continued from Page 5**

space is finished and available to outside groups.

The decidedly snazzy digs — complete with wall-to-wall carpeting, lavish amounts of restored woodwork and touches of floral wallpaper — raise staff morale and make communication among the separate groups simple.

“We wanted the space to be really attractive because women deserve it,” said Corrigan. “Before, we always felt we couldn’t afford it.”

The results are so positive Corrigan is already thinking about the possibility of starting another building in the midtown area so that a larger network of women’s service groups could be found in one neighborhood. But finishing the coffeehouse, painting the exterior, and also taking a little time for a break will come first.

“It’s our fantasy to do the same thing in the future,” Corrigan said. “But right now, I’m just learning to relax after working seven days a week for months.”



# Bastion of feminism found in midtown

By Rick Martinez  
Neighbors staff writer

## Business

If you're looking to become a loving adult to your inner child or are seeking to recover the feminism in American Indian traditions, the best place to start is the Lioness Bookstore in midtown.

Since it opened its doors in 1981, this outlet for feminist and alternative literature at 2224 J St. has become a landmark for bookish types.

Where else can you find short stories on the American gay male experience titled "I've a Feeling We're Not In Kansas Anymore," or encounter aids for tackling the blues like "The Depression Workbook?"

The shelves at Lioness are filled with such publishing wonders as well as 12,000 other titles. About two-thirds of the store's stock is

non-fiction.

"Someone once said I'm more like a librarian than a bookseller when it comes to deciding what to carry," said Theresa Corrigan. "But I like to stock some esoteric disciplines."

Corrigan is the owner of Lioness and a part-time lecturer in Women's Studies at California State University, Sacramento. She is a native of Philadelphia who moved to Sacramento 25 years ago and found the city a "just

right" blend of small town and big city.

Corrigan said the store's name derives from her advocacy for animal rights and the weak public relations the queen of the jungle has had to endure. The lioness is, Corrigan reminds, the hunter and nurturer of the pride.

Corrigan, who lives in Colonial Heights, labels her business as feminist, socially progressive and alternative but not all-encompassing. Mention the infamous anti-feminist author Camille

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# Lioness

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Paglia, whom she calls a female Rush Limbaugh, and Corrigan reacts with a grimace and audible "Yuck!"

"I don't carry writers like Camille because the whole rest of the world is anti-feminist," she said. "We don't need any more like her."

The same sentiment holds true for bad-boy author Bret Easton Ellis, whose torturous narratives of skinning women alive in "American Psycho" ensured his absence from this bookstore's shelves. Corrigan also passes on bodice-ripper romance novels and pornography.

"I want to use my space to represent literature not found everywhere else," she said.

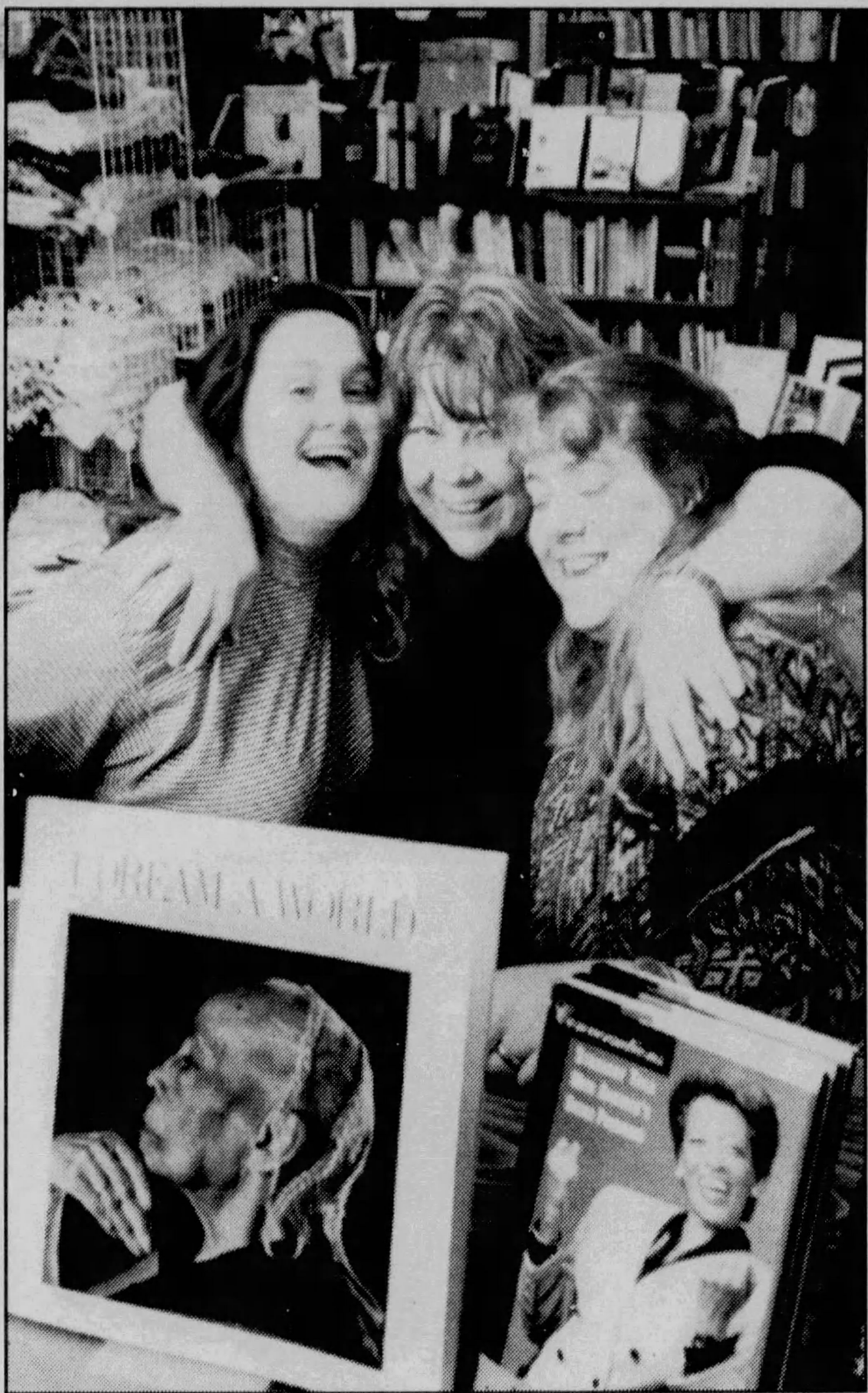
From her vantage point of buying and selling books that are often on the cutting edge of trends, Corrigan has been able to gauge the effects of American popular culture on people's tastes in literature.

The most recent trend she has noted is the dramatic decrease in sales of recovery literature. The books on co-dependency, incest survival and 12-step programs that once were her biggest sellers now languish on the shelves.

While interest in Alcoholics Anonymous may be waning, there is a growing interest in books written by women of color.

"Lately I've noticed people are much more likely to reach out from their own cultural base," Corrigan said. "I've added a whole section on books by women of color."

Besides the huge stock of feminist literature, Lioness also has sections devoted to animal welfare, ecology, birthing books, gay and lesbian novels and a whole room reserved for children's titles.



Chris Crewell/Neighbors

**Lioness Bookstore owner Theresa Corrigan is flanked by employees Kelly Bootes, left, and Debbie Warne.**

Corrigan said her own literary tastes run to "odd and different" types of books that are well-written. She enjoys mysteries and occasionally picks up science fiction.

She said she has never held a job that she didn't feel helped people. To that noble end,

Lioness offers book and poetry readings, community gatherings, book signings, an events bulletin board and a housing board for people looking for shelter.

"This business involves both my love of books and political activism," Corrigan said. "It is a perfect blend of all the things I like."

# SCENE



**It's a party**  
Larry Augusta, left, and Jim Thyken head the CSUS Alumni Association's 50th anniversary celebration.  
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Boe photographs/Owen Brewer

Theresa Corrigan, co-founder and business owner of Lioness, will close the feminist bookstore at the end of this month. "I always said to myself that if I ever began to feel bitter, it was time to quit," she said. "The bitterness was beginning to creep in."

## Closing shop

By Alison apRoberts  
Bee Staff Writer

**C**all it the booklash: Sacramento's first and only feminist bookstore is closing.

Lioness, which opened in midtown in 1981, will close at the end of this month. Books and fixtures will be sold at a discount until then.

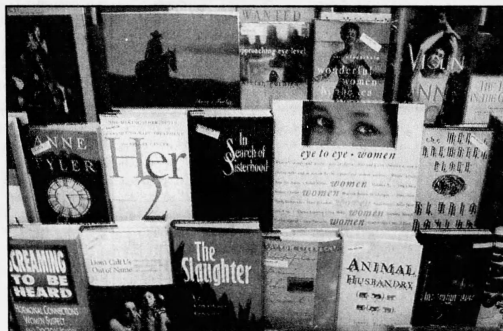
"People are not going to know what they've lost until it's gone," says owner Theresa Corrigan.

What Sacramento is losing is one of the biggest and oldest feminist bookstores anywhere. With 18,000 titles, its inventory is about three times that of the typical independent bookstore.

The store's closure also marks the end of a remarkable chapter in the modern women's movement in Sacramento. The denouement has been authored by the rise of the superstore book chains and the online book business, as well as a subsidence of the feminist movement.

Feminist bookstores have been hit hard throughout the United States and Canada. According to the trade journal Feminist Bookstore News, there were at

*With the demise of Lioness Books, Sacramento loses a gathering place for feminist thought*



Some 18,000 titles are stocked by Lioness, which first welcomed customers 19 years ago in a renovated 100-year-old house.

least 135 such stores with gross sales of more than \$30 million in the early 1990s in the two countries. By Corrigan's count, close to half have closed in the past five years.

Lioness is also the last vestige of the once-thriving Sacramento Women's Center, which ran several programs, including a rape crisis center, in the J Street

building. Today, the bookstore still serves as an informal women's center — community bulletin boards flutter with fliers for events and roommate-wanted postings.

Corrigan and other women with attitude and power tools spent a year renovating the 100-year-old house, which opened in 1981 as the Sacramento Women's

### AT A GLANCE

#### Lioness Books

11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, noon to 6 p.m. Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday; 2224 J St. (916) 442-4657.

Building. The City Council even proclaimed a Sacramento Women's Building Day to mark the occasion.

Today, the bookstore feels more like a home — complete with a wide porch and touches of floral wallpaper — than a business. And as she talks about its past, Corrigan seems less like a business owner and more like a mother recounting family history.

For her, Lioness is like a child, every memory of its bodacious birth and youth held close to her heart. She laughs as she recalls the all-nighter of last-minute construction before the grand-opening day. She points out the pesky ceiling beam that had to be raised several inches to get the building inspector's approval. There's the molding that she edged in dark blue paint using a teeny tiny brush.

# Lioness: 'Adios, Barbie' among the store's titles

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But mostly there are books — more than \$100,000 worth of them — all paid for. Corrigan figures about half the titles you just won't find anywhere else. Look around and you believe her.

In the children's section, you'll find "Tech Girl's Internet Adventures" and "Cinder Edna" (just one of the many retellings of Cinderella that the store has carried over the years), along with books for kids in families with two moms and other alternative parental arrangements.

Titles elsewhere range from the theoretical, like "Black Feminist Thought" and "The End of Patriarchy," to the pop-cultural "Adios, Barbie" (an anthology of young women's writings about body image). There's the purely practical "Guide to Pregnancy for Lesbians" alongside the whimsical "Sheroes: From Susan B. Anthony to Xena" and the in-your-face comic book "Dykes To Watch Out For."

There are also shelves and shelves of mysteries and science fiction and novels of every description.

There are even books by men. "Every once in a while, I came across a novel written by a man, and it was so well-written it went on the shelves," Corrigan says. Among the titles that made the gender cut: Simon Mawer's "Mendel's Dwarf" and David Guterson's "Snow Falling on Cedars."

As Corrigan surveys the shop, she says: "Every one of these books is like a foster child — they have to go to loving homes."

**T**he closing is, in part, a case of the personal overriding the political.

"I always said to myself that if I ever began to feel bitter, it was time to quit. The bitterness was beginning to creep in," Corrigan says.

At 50, Corrigan says she's ready for a less-hecktic workload. She works full time as a client services director for Child Action Inc., a local child-care resource and referral agency. She also works part time teaching women's studies classes at California State University, Sacramento.

"The bookstore never supported me, but it did support itself, and it paid staff and paid its own way for a while," she says. There was even a time when she received \$200 a week in salary. But for the past several years, the cost of running the store just grew and grew.

Corrigan says she'll continue to

use her expertise in some way — maybe by starting a book-buying club or even some sort of online service.

She insists that it's not time to write the epitaph for feminism or feminist bookstores.

"There has been a tremendous backlash against feminism in the '90s, but we're not in a post-feminist decade, and feminism hasn't gone away. It feels like the ranks shrink and swell, and we're at an ebb period."

The customers are not just baby-boomer women reliving the joys of discarding their bras and raising their consciousness in the '70s. There are young women here who have found refuge in the quiet aisles, and there are plenty of publications here by and for younger readers, including a compilation of articles from *Bust*, an edgy feminist magazine with 20-something appeal.

For Dean Dier, the bookstore was the key to surviving adolescence in the '90s. She started coming in five years ago, when she was about 15 and feeling plenty confused.

"When I was a sophomore in high school, I found out I was probably a lesbian. You can't mention that in high school without getting your a-- kicked," she says. "I would come here and like sit in the aisles and read the books; it was a place I could go where people wouldn't bug me about who I was."

Today, Dier is 20 and works here as well as at a coffee shop downtown. She has embraced her ambition to be an artist — she does comics and abstract works — and lives an openly alternative lifestyle. Her hair is buzz cut, her nose pierced, her plaid work shirt large and comfy, her smile confident and friendly.

"If this hadn't been here, what would I have done?" she says.

Next month, women won't have these shelves to browse. Corrigan worries about how hard it will be the next time around.

"One of the saddest parts of closing the store — I can barely talk about it without crying — I wanted to keep the store alive so we didn't have to invent the damn wheel again. There will be another feminist bookstore again. My fear is somebody will have to start it from scratch."

On the front window of Lioness, there's a small, handwritten sign that says, "Support your local feminist bookstore." Next time, maybe.