



THE EDITORS

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P.O. Box 567,
Neutral Bay Junction 2089

NEXT MEETING....NEXT MEETING....NEXT MEETING....NEXT MEETING....

The next meeting will be held at the Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre at 16 Fitzroy Street, on Wednesday 3 October at 6.30pm.

Guest speaker: Les Murray

Subject: Poetry and editing

As Monica Ardill will be holidaying on the North Coast, would you please phone Ann Clifton on 406.4288 by Tuesday 2 October, if you are attending.

Christmas Dinner

Date: Friday 30 November, 7.00pm.

This year a banquet at Choys Inn ranging from such delicacies as deep fried squid and honey king prawns to Mongolian lamb and pork spareribs with ginger and shallots.

\$21 a head (includes wine and/or beer)

Choys Inn is at the corner of Hay Street and Harbour Street in the Haymarket. Close to public transport for those who wish to abandon their cars, parking for those who cling to them.

Our guest speakers during the year will be invited to join us.

Your personal guests/friends are also welcome. Please fill out the enclosed form and mail with cheque to The Editors by 20 November. Eighty only seats available.

TAFE Editorial Course

A copy of the conclusions to the TAFE analysis is enclosed for your interest. Further discussion between TAFE personnel and The Editors has taken place: Sue Butler will report to the meeting on 3 October.

Workshop

Skill area: Copy editing

Date: Saturday 20 October

Location: Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education

Time: 9.30 - 4.00

There will be two groups, one led by Jacki Kent to do general illustrated books, another led by Jackie Gaff to do educational books. Registration form is enclosed.

Last meeting

At the last meeting of the Editors on 22 August the speaker was Hester Eisenstein, Assistant Director in the Office of the Director of Equal Opportunity in Public Employment, and author of Contemporary Feminist Thought. She spoke about her book and the position of women in the workforce today.

Hester explained that her book was deliberately limited in scope, being an intellectual history of second-wave feminism in the United States from 1970-82. It was written not only as a history but also for political reasons. Programs for change often contradict each other and Hester felt that clarification was necessary and would be salutary. The book queried the intentions of feminism. It presented some elements of the debate in order that the debate may be continued.

The second wave of feminism was marked by an explosion of books. At the same time there was an amazing variety of political intervention all round the world. It is of the first importance, said Hester, to realise that women are dissatisfied and have started to organise. Inevitably in this descent from theory to practice women have dirtied their hands.

The intervention has been political and legal, e.g. in changes to the law of rape, but it has also been more broadly based and has attempted to make general cultural changes, notably in the field of language. A third aspect of change has been in personal relationships. Private struggles in marriage and other relationships are in fact discussions about re-allocating power.

There is by no means a consensus about what feminists are doing and where they are going. The changes are puzzling, confusing and frightening to many people. The old ideas were familiar and not necessarily oppressive even to all women, let alone men. Feminists must acknowledge that these are difficult times.

In Australia now we are in the midst of a wave of official feminism. Hester pointed out that she herself was paid to be a feminist activist. The government has espoused this policy. Why? Because to some extent it's been forced to; the economy is changing. But perhaps it wants only to win votes or to shut the feminist up? Hester issued a timely warning to watch the Hawke government. Be suspicious.

Women are being effective, which is something they're not used to. They're not used to power, especially overt political power. With power goes responsibility and it is heavy. It is hard for women to think of themselves as agents. It is a momentous change and it is not obvious how to proceed, but women must not give away their opportunities.

It is important to talk about the issues. The experience of empowerment is still a tiny minority experience, but it is not only an individual experience. It's about the category of women in the workforce, and it's difficult for women to see themselves as a category.

In spite of the fact that feminism is trendy and official, it hasn't made an impact everywhere. Australia has the most sex-segregated employment in the Western world. The public sector is highly regulated but the private sector is another world.

Affirmative action is an attempt to manage the new militant women in the workforce. How is it to be implemented? The U.S. quota system has been condemned, but it is in fact a punishment for not trying. In Australia the targets for women in occupations and employment levels where they are under-represented are not enforceable. In this connection Hester has encountered what she calls 'male arithmetic'. Men balk at figures when they are about women in the workforce but any other management objective has to be measured. However, organisations are now being compelled to survey their present employment of women so that as the years pass the position can be reviewed and the hoped-for improvement can be assessed in real terms.

There were only three men in the keenly interested, one might say rapt, audience for this talk, which was logical, cogent and not polemical.

Authors/Editors

Redress Press is preparing a short story anthology and a novella anthology, for which submissions are invited. Details from Suzanne Falkiner 28 Holdsworth Street Wollahra NSW 2025 (326 1667) or Redress Press 16 Darghan Street Glebe NSW 2037 (692 0421).

Position Vacant

McGraw-Hill Australia requires an experienced editor to work on their growing list of primary, secondary and tertiary titles. Duties include copy editing, liaison with authors and sponsoring editors, checking artwork, indexes, etc. An eye for detail, good organisation and communication skills are essential.

Applicants with 2 - 3 years experience in editing educational texts preferred.

Applications in confidence giving personal details, qualifications and experience should be forwarded to Ken Preece, Director of Product Development, McGraw-Hill Book Company Australia, 4 Barcoo Street Roseville NSW 2069, or telephone (02) 406 4288.