

## BOOKS

Continued from Page 7D

premise that women must learn and teach others about their bodies so they can teach other women and avoid victimization and intimidation by the health care system.

The federation was born out of the women's health movement of the 1970s, pioneered by federation founder Carol Downer.

It started when Downer who accompanied a friend to the gynecologist's office. From that office she swiped a speculum, the instrument used to hold open the vaginal walls for an examination.

At home, Downer gave herself a self-exam using the speculum and a mirror. Then she brought the speculum to her women's consciousness-raising group and then, said Megan Thomas, the federation's program director, "she just plopped down on the table and taught the women how to do self-exams."

The Feminist Women's Health Center in Eugene offers an internship and practicum credit program for students and accepts volunteers as well. For more information, contact Sally Sheklow at the FWHC in Eugene.

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Photo from Men and Whales

Men peeling blubber from the head of a sperm whale aboard a boat in 1951.

## WHALING

Continued from Page 17D

papers and flashed around the world on television.

It was a masterful manipulation of the media, and entire groups started to spring up with only one purpose: to save the whales. While the conservation organizations were producing articles, having rallies and collecting signatures, more radical elements were beginning to marshal their forces.

This was the period of the anti-war movement in the United States, and it was clear — at least to some people — that working within the system was not the way to get things done.

With the passage of the Marine Mammal Protection Act by the U.S. Congress in 1972, the United States officially retired from the whaling business and publicly dedicated itself to the conservation and protection of all marine mammals.

The U.S. position on whale conservation was further strengthened by the passage of the two additional pieces of legislation, the Pelly and the Packwood-Magnuson amendments, which were designed to enhance the economic sanctions against those nations that diminished the effectiveness of the 1946 Whaling Convention.

Today, President Bill Clinton has to decide if he wants the United States to force these amendments upon Norway, or acknowledge the new catches. Boycott actions and insulting attacks singled out against one nation are a very serious matter in itself. When such actions are repeated often enough, the public may have difficulties in evaluating what is right and wrong.

No country has ever boycotted or sanctioned the United States for the aboriginal subsistence whaling in Alaska, where the Eskimos harvest the bowhead or Greenland right whale in much the same way their ancestors have for at least 1,000 years.

This kind of whaling has long been a problem for the IWC, in relation to the moratorium and special quotas. At the IWC meeting in June 1977, the Scientific Committee recommended that a moratorium should be declared on all harvest, because the bowhead whale was near extinction. The IWC adopted this recommendation and asked the U.S. government to enforce the ban on Eskimo whaling but the United States sided with the Eskimos, requesting the aboriginal catches be continued based on subsistence and cultural needs.

With far better knowledge on the status of many whale stocks than just several years ago, the whale conservation movement needs now to decide whether all stocks of whales should be totally protected.

Meanwhile, Norway will continue with minke-whaling, conducted on the basis of fair and reasonable catch limits, ensuring sustainable management in accordance with the principles adopted at the United Nations Conference for Environment and Development.

For the IWC, the next year will be a turning point where the commission will have to form a policy on future whale conservation and management. The assessments of the Scientific Committee of the IWC included a draft-revised management procedure that allows for the resumption of commercial small-type minke whaling in the northeast Atlantic, but the complete procedure is not yet finalized.

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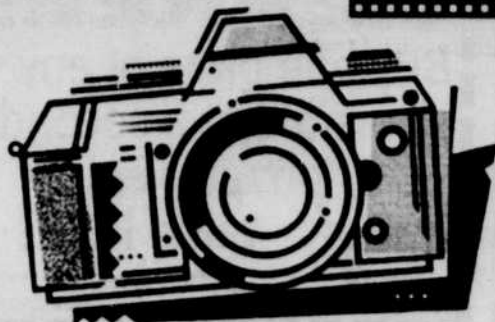
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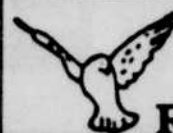
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