

# features

## 'Lollipop Power' publishes new kind of children's books

By KAREN BARBER  
Special to the Summer Tar Heel

Lollipop Power sounds like the name of a children's liberation movement. In a sense, that's what it is.

Lollipop Power, Inc. is a feminist collective that publishes children's books in an attempt to liberate them from the sex role and racial stereotypes found in most commercially produced children's literature. Since its founding in 1969, the collective has published 14 books for preschool and elementary age children. Lollipop Power is

located in Chapel Hill and sends books all over the United States and to foreign countries.

"Although our list of books is getting bigger, it's not our goal to become a big-time publisher," said Elizabeth Brownrigg, printer for Lollipop Power. "We are trying to be at the forefront of children's literature of this nature, though."

Only seven producers of alternative children's books exist in the United States. Lollipop Power is the only one located in the Southeast.

If the bigger publishers moved into non-

sexist literature, it would only be because they realize it would mean more money," said Brownrigg. "Our intent is to provide an alternative rather than take over the market."

Brownrigg said commercially produced children's books are improving only slowly, if at all. "In about 90 percent of these books, most boys are still depicted as active and the girls as passive. Bit by bit things are changing, but it will take a long time to do everything that needs to be done."

Besides trying to depict women more dynamically, Lollipop Power tries to present alternative lifestyles to children. For example, one of the collective's most popular books, *Joshua's Day*, is about the one-parent relationship between a little boy and his working mother, a photographer. Another book, *The Sheep Book*, is about a

woman farmer and how she manages her farm. Lollipop Power's books do not depict men in an aggressive, domineering role either. The collective's most popular book, *Grown-ups Cry Too*, is about a little boy who explains that both his mother and father cry sometimes, and that they always have a good reason to do so. Ethnic minorities are also presented in the books to help combat racism.

*Grown-ups Cry Too* and the other Lollipop Power publications are ordered mostly by public schools in the United States.

"The smaller liberal private schools don't have a big budget and really can't afford them anyway," Brownrigg said. Between 10,000 and 12,000 books are shipped out a year, she added.

"The demand for our books is on a plateau right now," Brownrigg said. "When the collective first started, the demand increased steadily over the years. But now, the larger publishers have started to move in on the market. Another reason for the plateau is that we didn't publish any new books last year. We intend to publish three new books this year, though, and I hope things will pick up."

Brownrigg doesn't think the leveling off in demand is due to a dying feminist movement.

Molly Cameron, the children's librarian at the Chapel Hill Public Library, said she thinks the claims of sex and racial stereotyping in children's books are justified.

"Through the history of children's literature, we can see these stereotypes existed and still exist. The library carries a lot of non-sexist children's literature, and it has all the Lollipop Power publications. These types of books are checked out quite a bit," she said. "Some people come in and ask for Lollipop Power books because it's locally based, but people don't usually come in and ask specifically for non-sexist literature for children."

"We try not to have propaganda in our books," Brownrigg said. "Our aim is to depict different ways of life being lived. In the future, people won't be able to believe these books were once considered radical."

"Publishers are slowly becoming aware of the problems with children's literature because of the whole social change taking place. And we're just a part of that social change. Our goals now are to keep publishing our books and to keep reaching more people."

## Stereo Sound guarantees to make you grin from ear to ear.

What other stores only promise, Stereo Sound guarantees. In writing.

Our 10-day moneyback guarantee says that you can return whatever you buy from us and get your money back, if our components don't sound as good in your home as you hoped they would.

Our 3-month exchange guarantee lets you live with your equipment for three entire months. And if you're not 100% pleased, we'll give you 100% credit towards any other component in our store.

We also offer you a 30-day defective exchange guarantee, 30-day price protection, 1-year loudspeaker trade-up, and extended warranties backed by our own



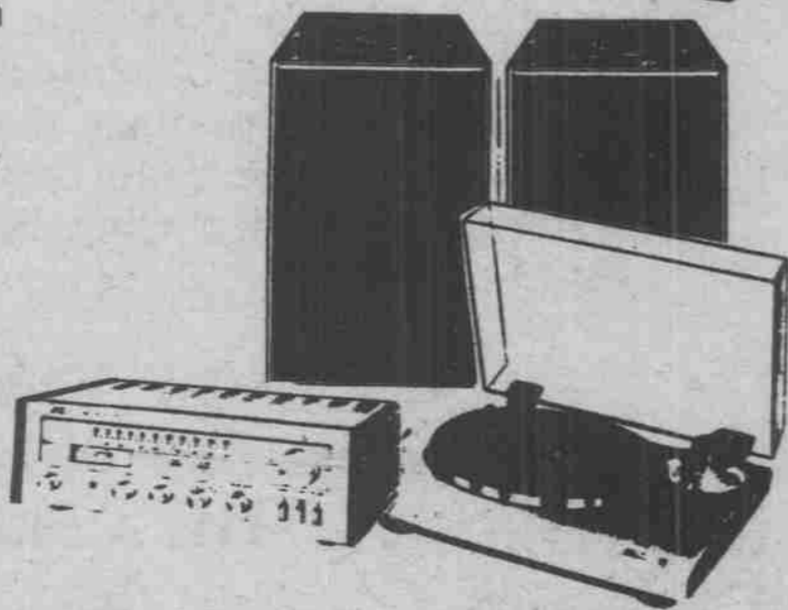
in-store service department.

In addition to our guarantees, Stereo Sound gives you another reason to smile. Our prices.

Consider what you can buy at Stereo Sound for just \$399 (shown below). It's a complete system featuring the top-rated JVC JRS61W receiver, the new handsome JVC LA-11 turntable (with Audio Technica AT12E cartridge) and the Avid 80a speakers.

The fantastic sound of these quality components will put a grin on your face. Our guarantees will keep it there.

JVC LA-11 Turntable  
JVC JRS61W Receiver  
AVID 80a Speaker  
audio-technica. AT12E Cartridge



IF YOU LIKE MUSIC, YOU'LL LOVE ...

# STEREO SOUND

Home of the Professionals

Mon., Thurs., Fri. 10-8  
Tues., Wed., Sat. 10-6

175 E. Franklin Street  
Chapel Hill

3443 Robinhood Rd.  
Winston-Salem

942-8546

## The Golden Dragon

a fine Chinese Restaurant



We Feature Authentic Chinese Food Meticulously Prepared

- Lunch, Dinner, or Snack
- Carry-out Service
- Catering for all occasions

Open Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Saturday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Closed Sundays  
Downtown  
130 E. Franklin St.  
929-5728