NOTES

1. Some of the research reported in this paper was supported by small scale research grants from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. An earlier version of the paper was presented as an invited address to the women's studies program, University of Ottawa, November, 1986.


7. Mary McCarthy, The Group. (New York: Signet, 1964). Lakey Eastlake is a major— attractive, aloof and mysterious—character in this novel about the lives of a group of women who graduated from Vassar in the class of 1933. Towards the end of the novel it becomes apparent that Lakey is a lesbian who has led a glamorous, if clandestine, lifestyle.

8. American Psychiatric Association, Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, 2nd edition. (Washington, D.C.: APA, 1974). In this second edition of the DSM, homosexuality was removed as a pathological condition from the diagnoses used by psychiatrists, but only after massive, well-organized protests by the gay liberation movement.


Leda's Swan

After he leaves, flames darting from his mouth, the long wing lifted free,

her bruised flesh throbs. She thinks of penny-royal, or shepherd’s purse, abortants,

or the child will grow, she thinks, now frozen in my bone, will grow, needing lies of love and marriage,

she thinks, until she hears a heartbeat split the cracking shell shatter her thoughts of dark night, blood heat, continuous birthing through her thighs and of the long, drooping wing.

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