



JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The City University of New York

315 Park Avenue South, New York, N. Y. 10010

212 533-7800

Mr Bernard Bell
85 Leverett Road
Amherst, Mass, 01002

Dear Mr Bell:

If your book's budget cannot afford the poems in which you are interested, then that is a far more understandable reason for requesting a change in my fee than is your inference that I overvalue my work.

It is not clear to me by what factors you judge one poet "comparable" to any other in your financial considerations. What terms other poets make for their permission to reprint is their own affair: I have asked for and received \$50 a poem from the last three anthologies in which my work has appeared. In the same time period, I have also granted permission to reprint asking no fee at all.

Surely you must agree that whereas you have the right to choose your selections, I have the right to value my poems.

Perhaps you could use a shorter selection of my work, solving in this way what I am sure is merely a budgetary problem, rather than a question of worth.

Sincerely

Audre Lorde
Audre Lorde

Arts & Languages