

herland newsletter

November 1984 a publication of Herland Sister Resources, 1630 N.W. 19th OKC, OK 73106

HERLAND NEWS

Herland News is front page this month Sisters and Friends. She is expanding. Community support is building and so are we. The Bookstore has become Herland Sister Resources, a primary center supporting Women in times of creativity and stress. Now, not only do the Women and Men of OKC and its surrounding communities have a Woman centered source of information, they also have a counselor (Cassia Mealor) and a new collective of women dedicated to opening the flower of WomanVision before the eyes of OKC. Such events as poetry readings, films, workshps, and women's music concerts will continue. Plus, we hope to have a Herland calendar ready for you by Christmas time, designed and photographed by Jana Birchum, a nationally known photographer.

In this, and so many other ways, we now dedicate the new Sister Resources by listening to the words of her founder, Barbara Cleveland, as she hands Herland to the collective and an ever growing community of supporters and friends:

Dear Sisters and Friends of Herland,

For two and a half years I've worked toward a dream: making a bookstore a center for the women's community. Its been an interesting time, full of excitements and disappointments. But through it all, we've continually moved forward.

Herland will continually move forward, but not under my ownership. She will be taken over in January by a Feminist collective. I do not foresee any changes, except for the better. Please continue to support their efforts. Oh, and thanks for a very enlightening past two and a half years.

Barbara Cleveland

MESSAGE FROM NOVEMBER'S GUEST EDITOR

This month's Herland Newsletter has been organized around two themes: Domestic Violence and Native American Women's Resources. These two themes may seem unrelated, and in most ways they are, but there is a connection.

As you may know, October was the month for Domestic Violence Awareness, and we have seen a long series of conferences, rallies, marches and television programs geared to educating the public. During one such conference, Searching For Solutions, coordinated by our own Elaine Barton, I was womanning Herland's booth, and overheard two Native American women talking. They mentioned the general lack of literature on Native American Women's lives. This statement oiled the gears in my mind and I immediately began to wonder just what was available. What I found is here-by shared with you this month. And to finish making the connection between DV and Native American Resources, just read this quote from Agnes Whistling Elk, whose wisdom points the way to an understanding of a basic imbalance in our culture and our minds which lies at the root of violence:

"It is law that all things must be born in woman, even things invented by men. All the stars were born from the void, and the void is woman. Creation invented the male to balance that. Agnes said that men have taken the void and said it was theirs, and that as a result our Mother Earth is now in a state of great imbalance."

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PROTESTED

"Women don't have to be victims, we're not powerless. We're angry about rape and we're doing something about it."

What OU student Mary Long and approximately 40 other women and men did about rape Thursday night (Nov. 8) was "Take Back the Night," a march and rally.

Long has been taking part in "Take Back the Night" since 1981. This year, she was one of

the leaders of the event, which was put on by OU's Women's Studies Student Association in Norman.

The women walked together through Campus Corner to protest not being able to safely walk alone at night.

"(We're) here to make a problem that is hidden visual," Long said. "Women are so used to being afraid that they don't even think about it."

"They're not safe on the streets, so they stay off them. It really promotes... a feeling of powerlessness."

"I don't know if you can directly correlate this (the march) to... rape going down," Long said, "but the positive, long-term effect of this is that people see women in an empowered role, they don't see women as victims and as passive."

Men and women gathered in the parking lot between Fontanelli's and Harolds on (OU's) Campus Corner around 9p.m. Leeann Morrow, an OU employee who participated in the rally for the first time came on the spur of the moment, after talking with her roommate about a woman who lived down the block from them that was raped last week.

The women and men listened to speakers, singers and poetry readers, all protesting violence against women.

The crowds cheers for the speakers brought men and women out of the bars on Campus Corner to see what was going on. Then the protesters began marching, waving anti-rape banners and singing.

Not all spectators were sympathetic to the marchers. Two middle-aged men in business suits standing in a dark alley leading out of two Campus Corner strip joints stood with their hands in their pockets and watched the line of women yelling slogans go by.

"Maybe we should join them" one said. "Man, I'll give the bitches something to yell about," his friend answered." (by Ellen Knickmeyer in The Oklahoma Daily, Nov. 9, 1984, p. 1).

FLORIDA VICTORY AGAINST MARITAL RAPE

MIAMI, FL - - This September 17, William Rider became the first man in American history to be sentenced to prison for raping his wife while they were still living together. Rider, who was found guilty on two counts of rape and one count of kidnapping, was sentenced to fourteen years in jail.

According to figures cited by Robin Kovat in the Guardian, feminists still have a long way to go before legal protection against rape is extended to all married women. At least 37 states still have a "marital rape exemption" based on the assumption that a woman who marries grants her husband the right to unlimited sexual access, even by rape. What is more, a woman need not take out a marriage license to legally grant a man the right to rape her: in twelve states it is enough that she live with him. Joanne Schulman, an attorney for the National Center for Women and Family Law, told the Guardian that five states "have even provided partial exemption to 'voluntary social companions,' thereby to an extent legalizing 'date rape.' The effect of the exemption is that if a woman lives with a man or agrees to have intercourse once, or in some states if she goes out on a date, she has lost the protection of the criminal laws."

As the Rider case demonstrates, however, progress is being made. Beginning with Oregon in 1978, eight states have moved to absolutely deny men the legal right to rape their wives. Ten more offer married women limited protection against legalized rape. District attorneys are still unwilling to prosecute any but the most extreme cases, The National Clearinghouse on Marital Rape reported to the Guardian, but there have been 147 arrests for marital rape since 1982, and the conviction rate so far has been extremely high.

info. from upi, the Guardian as printed in Off Our Backs, Nov. 1984, p. 7.

i am the fire of time.
the endless pillar
that has withstood death.
the support of an invincible nation.
i am the stars that have guided
lost men.
i am the mother of ten thousand
dying children.
i am the fire of time.
i am an indian woman!

Niki Paulzine in I Am The Fire of Time: Voices of Native American Women.

RESOURCES FOR NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN

All of these can be found in the Women's Studies Library, Room 530 Physical Sciences Center, 601 Elm, Norman, OK; or ordered via Herland Sister Resources in OKC:

THE TEN GRANDMOTHERS by Alice Marriott

"A monument of folklore, a fascinating collection of modern Indian stories, an impressive contribution...Seldom have I come upon anything so interesting... Cleveland Plain Dealer. 306 pages, calendars, map, Paperback, \$9.95. University of Oklahoma Press.

MANY TENDER TIES: WOMEN IN FUR-TRADE SOCIETY, 1670-1870. by Sylvia Van Kirk. "The essential and hitherto neglected role of women in fur trade society of the Canadian west is the subject of this masterful treatment... An important contribution to Indian, fur trade, women's and Canadian studies." 314 pages, 48 illus., map, paper, \$9.95. University of Oklahoma Press.

SARAH WINNEMUCCA OF THE NORTHERN PIAUTES by Gae Whitney Canfield. "A compelling story of a remarkable woman...This is the first full-scale biography of an activist at home in two cultures". Publishers Weekly. 336 pages, 36 illus. \$19.95. University of Oklahoma Press.

I AM THE FIRE OF TIME: THE VOICES OF NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN, edited by Jane B. Katz. Dutton, 6.95, c. 1977. ISBN: 0-525-47475-7. "...the first collection of Native American women's voices. I Am the Fire of Time contains 90 examples of songs, poetry, prose, prayer, narrative, and oral history." from the book jacket.

NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN: A BIBLIOGRAPHY compiled by Rayna Green, Edited by Ohoyo Resource Center Staff, Owanah Anderson, Director. Produced by the U.S. Department of Education, c. 1981. 107 pages. INVALUABLE.

WORDS OF TODAY'S AMERICAN INDIAN WOMEN: A FIRST COLLECTION OF ORATORY BY AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE WOMEN. Addresses from the 1981 Ohoyo Resource Center Conference on Educational Equity Awareness in Tahlequah Oklahoma; and other selected speeches. Compiled by Ohoyo Resource Center Staff.

Produced by the U.S. Department of Education. 177 pages.

OHOYO IKHANA: A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF AMERICAN INDIAN-ALASKA NATIVE CURRICULUM MATERIALS by the Ohoyo Resource Center, 1982 and the U.S. Department of Education. 261 pages.

OHOYO ONE THOUSAND: A RESOURCE GUIDE OF AMERICAN INDIAN ALASKA NATIVE WOMEN, 1982 by U.S. Department of Education and Ohoyo Resource Center. 290 pages.

INDIAN WOMEN CHIEFS, by Carolyn Thomas Foreman University of Oklahoma Press, 1954. 86 pages. Biographies of some of the great Indian women leaders.

THIS BRIDGE CALLED MY BACK: WRITINGS BY RADICAL WOMEN OF COLOR, Editors: Cherrie Moraga and Gloria Anzaluda, Foreword: Toni Cade Bambara. Persephone Press, c. 1981. This collection, containing prose, poetry, personal narrative and analysis intends to reflect and uncompromised definition of feminism by women of color : Afro-American, Asian American, Latina, and Native American, in the United States. from the jacket back.

SOME PERIODICALS FREQUENTLY GIVING SPACE TO NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN WRITERS/THINKERS:

13th MOON.

CONDITIONS.

CALYX, especially the Spring 1984 issue which features the work of Native American and Latina Women.

SIGNS

TRIVIA

EVENT OF INTEREST TO ALL

HOMEcoming DANCE 2:00p.m. November 17, 1984 Norman, Oklahoma (Arts & Crafts Booths available). This is the annual benefit for the American Indian Student Association at the University of Oklahoma. It will take place at the Lloyd Noble Center, Highway 9 at Jenkins exit. Head Man Dancer: Tim Ramsey, Cheyenne; Head Woman Dancer: Bunty Anquoe, Kiowa; Head Singer: Joe Fish Dupointe, Kiowa; Emcee: Hammond Motah, Comanche; Arena Director: James Powell. OPEN DRUM - ALL SINGERS WELCOME. Gourd Dance, 2:00 p.m. All Gourd Dancers Welcome. Supper served, 5:30 p.m. Grand Entry: 7:00p.m. War Dance - Social Dancing - Two-step. For more information Contact: Stephanie Wickliffe, AISA President: 325-4965; Kyle Taylor, Indian Cultural Center: 325-2951 or Glenn Solomon, Sponsor, 325-3163.

Teresa Long - Guest Editor
Herland Sister Resources - Publisher

EXPRESSION OF SURVIVAL

Michele Gorcey and Peggy Sanders of Tucson, Arizona are looking for writings, stories, journal entries, poetry, or drawings related to personal experiences of sexual assault, molest, incest, rape, or any other type of sexual abuse for what is called The Book Project.

Gorcey and Sanders are wanting the works to publish in Rebirth of Power: Overcoming the Effects of Sexual Abuse Through the Experience of Others. The book will examine the powerful consequences of sexual abuse and the ways many have overcome its effects.

It is well known that habitual silence perpetuates the myths and obscures the realities of these issues. Gorcey and Sanders are attempting to break this silence by collecting any material describing the experience of sexual abuse, the aftermath of that experience, and the process of healing and recovery.

All information will be kept confidential. When your material is received by Gorcey and Sanders, you will be contacted to acknowledge receipt of the work. Don't forget to include your name and an address &/or phone so you can be reached. The deadline for sending work is through January, 1985.

Send submissions to:
THE BOOK PROJECT
c/o Michele Gorcey and Peggy Sanders
P.O. Box 43055
Tucson, AZ 85733

If you have any questions, call Roni at (602) 624-7273 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. (from Women's Resource Newsletter, Nov. 1984).

WERE YOU SEXUALLY HARASSED IN HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE?

Feminist researcher working to prevent sexual harassment in education wants to hear your story. Send it (or a request for further information) to: P.O. Box 7703, Ann Arbor, MI 48107. Return address or phone helpful for additional research contact. All information kept strictly confidential.

CONFERENCE - PROMOTING ALTERNATIVES:

"Promoting Alternatives: Grassroots Media & Social Change" will be held at State U. of New York at Albany on Jan. 18-20. There'll be separate workshops on the use of media in specific movements, using film for outreach and more on film. The conference will be limited to 200 with aid for low-income individuals and organizations. Call (212) 620-0877 for details...WEEKEND WORKSHOP FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE and a day-long TRAINING SEMINAR FOR PEOPLE WORKING WITH SURVIVORS will be held in Washington, D.C. with Ellen Bass, editor of I NEVER TOLD ANYONE leading. The dates are Dec. 1 & 2 for the first workshop and Nov. 30th for the second. Call (202) 328-0897 for information or write Survivors, P.O. Box 43243, Washington, D.C. 20010.

SEMINAR

Child Sexual Abuse: Victims & Offenders

Investigation & Assessment - Thursday, Jan. 24, 1985. Management & Treatment - Friday, Jan, 1985. These workshops are by A. Nicholas Groth, Ph.D. and Suzanne M. Sgroi, M.D. and examine the sexual abuse of children in regard to the dynamics of the offender and the impact on the victim from a clinical perspective and will address issues of identification, investigation, validation, intervention, disposition, and treatment.

The Seminar is in Austin, Texas at the John Winters Human Services Center, First Floor Ballroom, Corner of 51st and Lamar.

For more information, or to register, write Sue James, Forensic Mental Health Associates, 442 Everest, Cedar Hill, Texas 75104.

WORKSHOP

Psychotherapy With Adult Victims of Incest

This is a one day workshop for professionals interested in the diagnosis and treatment of the persisting negative effects of incest in the personality, experience and behavior of adult women. It is sponsored by Clinical Psychology Consultants, Inc., 3017 Browne Stone Road, OKC, OK 73120.

For further information, contact: Jane Temerlin, 405-751-2772.

BOOK

SKILLS FOR VIOLENCE-FREE RELATIONSHIPS, written by Barrie Levy for The Southern California Coalition on Battered Women in conjunction with The Junior League of Los Angeles. This book is an approach to domestic violence prevention education for junior & Senior high aged youth. It is designed for teachers and other educators, shelter workers, and youth advocates. These educational materials provide background information and activities that will stimulate teenagers to confront pervasive misinformation about battering in intimate relationships. The materials offer techniques for engaging youth in thought-provoking discussions of ways to cope, communicate and resolve conflicts in relationships so that violence is unlikely. This curriculum explains what is known about the problem of battered women and why this abuse occurs, and teaches skills we can all develop to make it less likely that any of us will be abused or abuse someone we love. This book is highly recommended and can be ordered through the bookstore.

OKLAHOMA COALITION ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AND SEXUAL ASSAULT - ACTIVE MEMBERS
STATEWIDE

CHICKASHA

WOMEN'S SERVICE CENTER OF CHICKASHA
P.O. Box 1539
Chickasha, OK 73018
Crisis Line: 405-222-1818

ADA

ADA SERVICES FOR BATTERED WOMEN
P.O. Box 2274
Ada, OK 74820
Crisis/Business: 405-436-3504

ALTUS

ACMI HOUSE
P.O. Box 397
Altus, OK 73521
Crisis: 405-482-3800

BARTLESVILLE

WOMEN & CHILDREN IN CRISIS
P.O. Box 2016
Bartlesville, OK 74005
Business: 918-336-1188

CLINTON

A.C.T.I.O.N. ASSOCIATES, INC.
P.O. Box 1534
800 Avant
Clinton, OK 73601
Crisis: 405-323-2604

ENID

OPTION HOUSE
525 South Quincy
Enid, OK 73701
Shelter: 405-234-7644

LAWTON

NEW DIRECTIONS
P.O. Box 1684
Lawton, OK 73501
Shelter: 405-353-2647

MIAMI

COMMUNITY CRISIS CENTER, INC.
Seven S. Main
Miami, OK 74354
Crisis: 918-542-1001

NORMAN

NORMAN SHELTER FOR BATTERED WOMEN
P.O. Box 5089
Norman, OK 73070
Crisis: 405-360-0590
Shelter: 405-360-0306

OKLAHOMA CITY

YWCA CRISIS INTERVENTION SERVICES
129. N.W. Fifth Street
OKC, OK 73102
Shelter: 405-528-5558
Crisis: 405-528-5508
Rape: 405-524-7273

STILLWATER

STILLWATER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SER., INC.
P.O. Box 1059
Stillwater, OK 74074
Crisis: 405-624-3020 or 405-624-3028

TAHLEQUAH/MUSKOGEE

HELP-IN-CRISIS, INC.
P.O. Box 1975
Tahlequah, OK 74464
Crisis: 918-456-4357

TULSA

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTERVENTION SERVICES
1331 E. 15th Street
Tulsa, OK 74119
Crisis: 918-585-3143
Shelter: 918-584-0096

TULSA
CALL RAPE, INC.
P.O. Box 47007
Crisis: 918-744-7273

WOODWARD
WOODWARD DOMESTIC CRISIS SERVICES, INC.
124 Colorado
Woodward, OK 73801
Crisis: 405-256-8712

THE GUEST EDITOR SPEAKS AGAIN

It is not in a spirit of gloom, but of hope that the information in November's Newsletter has been selected. It is only by knowing, by understanding, by analyzing that we can effect a change in whatever situation we find ourselves.

As women today, we find ourselves in a world in which our bodies are targeted for violence by public sanctions such as laws, movies, magazines, (see Hustler, etc.) religion, custom, tradition. If we are to transform this mountain of purient refuse into daisies someday, we must open our minds to these terrible truths, step out into the light and plant the seeds of our openness to understand, and believe like hell that future generations will see the flowers of these, our healing actions.

FREEHAND: FOR WOMEN WRITERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

Study in an environment of disciplined and unrestrained lust for art and freedom. Poetry, prose, feminist and political theory, photography, bookmaking, body-work, meditation and performance. Resident faculty: Broumas, Miller, Roth, Speicher, Vold; Visiting Artists. P.O. Box 806-0, Provincetown, MA 02657, (617)487-3579.

WOMEN'S SCHOLARSHIPS

Women who want to enter or reenter the labor market or upgrade their skills are eligible for 42 \$1,500 fellowships to pay for training costs. Preference is given to women over 30 years of age who are heads of households or who have dependents and are completing undergraduate programs or entering vocational or technical training. Fellowships are offered by the Soroptimist International of the Americas. For more information call 325-5869. Deadline for applications is Dec. 15, 1984.

WOMEN: LEARNING TO LEAD

Women: Learning to Lead, a seminar for office professionals, technical professionals, supervisors and managers, will be presented Dec. 14 by Pam Shockley, Ph.D., and Constance Staley, Ph.D. at the University of Oklahoma.

The seminar will be an opportunity to explore, to exchange, to learn about what has traditionally been labeled "male territory." The workshop will be from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Oklahoma Center for Continuing Education, Forum Building, Conference Room A, the University of Oklahoma, Norman.

Some of the topics of the seminar will be re-defining leadership, profiling leadership, envisioning change, influencing others and developing a leadership style that works.

The fee for the seminar is \$125 and includes course fee and materials, refreshment breaks and lunch.

For information on enrolling in the seminar, contact Mickie Yeager at 405-325-1931.

WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY NIGHT

...a time out from work...from family...from the usual routine...FOCUS: Self Esteem... is not a therapy group...is a time and place for women to talk about a common concern...SPEAKING FOR OURSELVES...SELF ESTEEM... Time: 5:30 - 6:30 Wednesday nights...Place: 5500 N. Western, suite 102, OKC...Fee: \$20.00 per month...call: Pat Walke at 848-0050... suggested reading: Women & Self Esteem by Linda Tschirhart Sanford and Mary Ellen Donovan.

Group begins January 9, 1985 and ends March 27, 1985.

WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER 10th ANNIVERSARY PLANS

The Women's Resource Center will be celebrating 10 years of service to the Norman community beginning Jan. 1985. Because WRC is one of the oldest diversified women's centers operating continuously in the United States, the celebration will be an important one.

WRC has planned a wide range of events to celebrate the special anniversary. The theme for the year long celebration will be "Women Celebrate...". Events planned include a women's art show, women's theatre production, women's concert, seminars and lectures focusing on women in politics, in education, women's contribution to medicine and others. WRC is hoping to work with other women's organizations in collaborative effort

so that the special events will truly express the spirit of all women.

Chair for the 10th Anniversary celebration is Joan O'Brien, former Vice-president of the Board of Directors of the WRC. WRC is inviting persons wishing to work on the 10th Anniversary Celebration to call the WRC at 364-9424.

OTHER NEWS

Supreme Court Weighs Teacher's Right To Speak About Gays

WASHINGTON, DC -- Oklahoma teachers, who have been banned from "advocating..encouraging or promoting public or private homosexual activity" if their actions could "come to the attention of school children or school employees, must now turn to the Supreme Court to discover the limits of their freedom of speech.

During its first day in session for 1984, the Supreme Court agreed to hear Board of Education v. The National Gay Task Force, its first gay rights case in years, and one of a number of First Amendment cases. The Oklahoma City Board of Education claims that teachers' right to freedom of speech is "not absolute and may be subjected to certain restrictions." Such restrictions are aimed, it says, at allowing a school system to eliminate teachers who are "unfit." The Board of Education lost its last round, in Oklahoma's 10th Circuit Court of Appeals. How it will fare in the increasingly conservative Supreme Court remains to be seen. by tal in OFF OUR BACKS, Nov. 1984,p 6, info from the Washington Post.

ARE WOMEN ALLOWED SELF-DEFENSE?

A woman's right to self-defense is once again being challenged as Karen Norman stands trial for the murder of her rapist. Raped in her own house, her two children asleep in the next room, Norma stabbed the attacker,who had several times threatened to kill her. After reporting the incident to the police, Norman was arrested,charged with first degree murder, and jailed for a month before bail could be raised.

Though she has no funds of her own,Norman has recently been able, through donations to the Karen Norman Defense Committee,to

replace her court-appointed lawyer with lawyer Marjorie Cohen, a woman with a great deal of experience in this type of case. She will argue that the murder was "a justifiable response to a life-threatening situation," according to Abbe Weinstein, chairperson of the KNDC Fundraising Committee. If Norman is convicted on the present charge, she will face a life sentence in jail. The trial date is set for December 10.

The real crime of the case is not this woman's act of self-defense but, in the words of Abbe Weinstein, the fact that "she's being prosecuted and so many rapists aren't."

The Defense Committee is still in desperate need of financial contributions. If you would like to donate, organize fund-raising, or offer an organizational endorsement, please write to: Karen Norman Defense Committee, P.O. Box 3312, Highland Park, MI. 48203.

info from Washington Post as printed in Off Our Backs, November 1984, p. 8. by kr.

PREGNANCY NO DISHONOR

SPRINGFIELD, IL -- Two and a half years ago, after Brown County High School officials discovered that one of their senior students was pregnant, they expelled her from the National Honor Society. She got her diploma, had her baby, and went to court. "I worked ten,eleven years to get where I was...I worked hard.They let me have membership in the National Honor Society, and they took it away from me. I just didn't think it was right for the reason they did it."

Her judge agreed. U.S. District Court Judge J. Waldo Ackermann recently ruled that Brown County graduate Loretta Wort must be reinstated in the National Honor Society. Rejecting the school district's attempt to prove that removing Wort had contributed to her fellow students' "moral development," Ackermann found that Wort's expulsion had violated federal laws prohibiting discrimination against pregnant women and constitutional guarantees of equal protection.

info from upi, as printed in Off Our Backs, November 1984, p. 8, by ruth trevarrow.

STOCK REDUCTION SALE. EVERYTHING MUST GO.
GOOD BARGAINS FOR SOLSTICE AND CHRISTMAS.
HERLAND IS PHASING OUT HER CURRENT STOCK SO AS
TO FACILITATE THE CHANGE TO COLLECTIVE MANAGE-
MENT. MANY ITEMS REDUCED 15 to 30%.SALE BEGINS
NOV. 24 AND CONTINUES THROUGH DEC. 30. HURRY!!!

WOMEN FOR GUATEMALA

This will be a monthly report on the learnings of a new group here in Oklahoma. That new group is Women For Guatemala. The group is a chapter of National Women For Guatemala and exists to educate the people of the United States about the lives of the women of this small Central American country. Here in Oklahoma Sister Leona Luecke of the Benedictine Peace House in OKC is our coordinator.

At the last meeting we learned of several newsletters pertaining to Guatemala and its women. One of the most interesting and informative is Ch' Abuj Ri Ixoc, or, The Voice of the Women. This newsletter is printed and distributed by the Washington D.C. Chapter of Women for Guatemala, but contains first hand reports from, not only observers, but from Guatemalan women themselves. Here is an example of such a personal account, found in Ch' Abuj Ri Ixoc, No.2, 1984, p.8:

Elections Day: Emelina's Testimony

I am an Indian woman from the Cakchiquel region. I had to leave my hometown in order to earn some money and go to school, the two things I had wanted to do since I was little.

The authorities obliged me to vote because otherwise I could have had many problems and also, it is very dangerous not to do so.

I was supposed to go to the polls located at Parque de la Industria, where most young people between eighteen and thirty-five years of age vote. For me, that was the first time I had voted. Those were the elections in 1982.

At the park, all around it and at the entrance of every room, there were many soldiers. They seemed nervous and uneasy. That caused confusion in the people that were lined up. I felt it, too.

Doors opened at eight o'clock, a.m. People began to go in. All of a sudden we heard some gunshots. We ran outside screaming. The soldiers said they had shot in order to maintain order. We finally went back in where we were supposed to vote. We again formed a line and once again heard shots. We looked around and saw a wounded man falling. We all wanted to leave but nobody did because that would have meant losing our jobs. So we went back, formed the line, voted and left as quickly as possible. At home we thanked God every time any one of us came

back alive.

The testimonies in Ch' Abuj Ri Ixoc come from many women's lives and experiences. This one is only an example, but one, that at this election time, caught my eye. These women live in an atmosphere of open, unashamed violence. Freedom, there, lives in defeat before the gun. Yet their system is defined and supported by ours as Democracy. Our government aids their government, our businesses use their resources, employ their people, profit from their presence in this tiny country. Their lives and ours are intertwined in such ways that can we afford not to look deeply into their fates for ours?

This question and others can be thought about and discussed with Women For Guatemala at their weekly meetings. These occur on Monday's at 3:00 p.m. at 2920 N. Robinson. (The Benedictine Peace House) For more information on this new group, call Sister Leona at 524-5577.

And for more information on Ch' Abuj Ri Ixoc, write Women For Guatemala, P.O. Box 53421, Washington, D.C. 20009.

DECISION IN OREGON CASE OF NEARING V. WEAVER WILL INCREASE SAFETY AND SECURE RIGHTS OF BATTERED WOMEN

A decision of interest to the legal services community was handed down on Oct. 4, 1983 in the Oregon case of Nearing v. Weaver. This decision by the Oregon Supreme Court holds that police officers who knowingly fail to enforce court orders by failing to arrest and take into custody perpetrators of domestic violence are potentially liable for the resulting psychic and physical harm to the intended beneficiaries of the order.

The widespread refusal or failure of officers to arrest persons who commit acts of domestic violence led to a tightening of the law covering these matters culminating in the Abuse Prevention Act passed by the Oregon legislature in 1977. (Oklahoma needs such a law) This act strengthened the legal protections of battered women by a mandatory provision for the warrantless arrest upon probable cause of persons believed to have violated a restraining order. (from The Women's Advocate, Vol.V, No.1, Jan. 1984, p. 3.)